



# Legionnaire

Volume 99, Number 6

For God and Country

June 2017

## Legacy Ride reaches for new goal at this summer's outings

By Al Zdon

So what do you do for an encore after you've raised \$148,000, the most of any Department in the nation, for the Legacy

Scholarship Fund?

Well, you shoot for \$200,000.

The Minnesota American Legion Riders has set that lofty goal for

this year, and hope to accomplish it on two Legacy Runs in late July and early August.

"Everybody seems to think I need therapy," said Steve "Sully" Sullivan, the director of the Legacy Runs for the Riders. "But we're keeping our fingers crossed."

Sullivan is determined that Minnesota will once again take to the stage at the national convention, this year in Reno, and make the biggest contribution of any state toward the Legacy Fund, which provides college scholar-

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## June Training session aims at being fast, informative, fun

By Jeff Gay

There have been several questions brought up about the training. I hope that this will help to clear things up for you.

The event begins the evening of Friday June 23rd. At this time there will be registration and turn-in of District iPads and PR kits by District Commanders. A social gathering and an overview of what to expect at the training on Saturday.

Saturday is the main training event. It will be hosted by American Legion Post 255 in Brainerd, MN and begin at

8 a.m. A working lunch will be served at the post and a social and meal will be hosted at Legionville Saturday night by Commander Milton.

Sunday morning will be at Legionville. There will be a recap, question and answer on the training. There will also be

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## Legislature okays Legionville, bridge funding

By Al Zdon

Two major funding bills for veterans passed the Legislature during the recently completed session and were signed by the governor.

One bill will provide \$222,000 out of the Legacy Fund for the Legionville School Safety Patrol Camp near Brainerd.

The money will be used to update the dining hall and other aspects of the camp, which is a Minnesota American Legion project. Legionville provides training, in cooperation with the Minnesota State Patrol, for grade schoolers on school safety patrol techniques.

Legionville is a full-service camp – including canoing,

swimming, outdoor sports — and also instructs campers on other safety procedures and Americanism.

The Legionville portion of the allocation almost disappeared from the final bill, but support from Rep. Bob Dettmer, R-Forest Lake, and other legislators kept it in the final Legacy bill.

The bill also provided \$278,000 to develop and build a welcome center at the Veterans Rest Camp at Big Marine Lake.

Department Adjutant Randy Tesdahl was a key lobbyist for the Legacy funding.

"Sometimes you have to get their attention and remind them you're still here and watching through the process,"

Tesdahl said. "We are all in this together, and in the end we are all pulling for veterans. As Representative Dettmer said, 'We speak with one voice.'"

The other major funding bill that was heavily supported by the Minnesota American Legion was \$7.85 million to fix the truss bridge at the Minnesota Veterans Home in Minneapolis.

At present, the truss bridge over Minnehaha Creek on the west side of the property has been closed for several years because of safety concerns. There is only one entrance to the campus – on a two-lane park road.

If there was an emergency or a need to evacuate, only

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## Peace officer, fire fighter awards announced

### Madelia's Denn is top Legion firefighter

Mark Denn, chief of the Madelia Fire Department, has been chosen the Minnesota American Legion Firefighter of the Year for 2017.

Denn has been a volunteer at the Madelia Fire Department for 18 years and has been the chief since 2011.

Denn was in charge on Feb. 3 this year when a major fire gutted a large portion of downtown Madelia. Under blizzard conditions with winds hitting over 30 miles per hour, Denn calmly led the effort that included eight adjoining fire departments and dozens of firefighters.

His quick and accurate decision-making ability probably saved many other buildings.

Denn is a graduate of Madelia High School and the University of Minnesota, Morris. He is a branch manager of Citizens Bank, LaSalle, a



MARK DENN  
Madelia

member of Faith Lutheran Church, assistant Madelia High School Football Coach, chairman of the Watonwan County Economic Development Authority and he also farms 500 acres.

He has taken dozens of training courses to improve his fire fighting and leadership skills.

He was nominated by Madelia Post 19 in the Second District. He will be honored at the July state convention.

### Watson named top state peace officer

David Watson, a detective for the the Lakeville Police Department who has been involved in police work for 24 years, was named Law Enforcement Officer of the Year for Minnesota.

Watson is a graduate of Hibbing High School and got his BA and master's degrees from St. Thomas University.

He is married and a member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Hibbing, and of the Fraternal Order of Police.

He has been the lead detective in many complex crimes for over 20 years.

Watson has also done a great deal of volunteer work including the "Fire on Ice Golf Tournament," Star of the North volunteer, a ballistic vest donation program for soldiers in Iraq.

While working part-time with the Metro-Transit Police

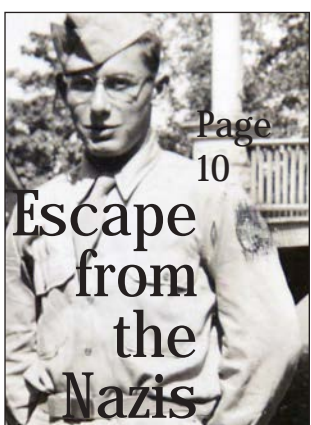


DAVE WATSON  
Lakeville

Department, Watson apprehended one of the ten most wanted offenders in Minneapolis. He sustained wounds that sidelined him for six months. He earned the Legion of Purple Heart for the United States Police Hall of Fame.

He will be honored for his lifetime achievement at the Department of Minnesota Convention in July.

He was nominated by Lakeville Post 44 in the Third District.



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Escape from the Nazis

# 2017 Legacy Run routes are announced

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ships for the children of those military who died since 9-11. This year's kickoff event will be in Walker with a celebration from 5-10 p.m. on Thursday, July 27. The next morning at 8 a.m., it will be kickstands up for the first weekend of the ride.

The route includes Park Rapids, Detroit Lakes, Moorhead for lunch, the Minnesota Veterans Home at Fergus Falls, Long Prairie, Sauk Centre and Willmar for the night.

The next morning, Saturday the 29th, the motorcyclists will journey to Spicer-New London to be part of the opening ceremonies at the Minnesota American Legion Division II Baseball Tournament.

The route then takes the Riders to Cosmos, Silver Lake, Glencoe, Arlington, New Ulm and Springfield. They will overnight at Jackpot Junction.

On the final day of the first run, they will hit St. James, Mankato for the SAL Detachment Car Show, Cleveland, Montgomery and end up at Owatonna. Sullivan says he hopes to finish up by 1 or 2 in the afternoon.

"Everybody wants to know the exact times we'll be somewhere, and I understand why, but it's a run and you just can't be that accurate."

The second weekend begins with an overnigher in Onamia at Eddie's on Thursday, Aug. 3, and on Friday the group will travel to Brainerd, Bovey, Virginia, Two Harbors, Duluth, and Cloquet. The Riders will overnight at Black Bear Casino.

On Saturday, they will head out to Pine City, Chisago City, Foley, Monticello, and then overnight at Chaska. The final day, Sunday, Aug. 6, they will make stops at Apple Valley, the Hastings Veterans Home, Chanhassen, and winding up with the final celebration at Delano. Again, the group will be shooting for between 1-2 p.m.

In addition, districts are also planning their own Legacy Runs, and Sullivan said there are at least three posts in the state raffling off motorcycles to raise money for the fund.

The ride will include young and old, new riders and experienced riders. He said the group could include over 100 bikes at times. Some join the group for a while and then go home.

And there are also some cars trailing behind. "Dennis Sculthorp is our new chaser, and I always have to tell him. If you look in front and there's motorcycles, that's okay. If you look behind and there's motorcycles, that's not okay. And Dennis says, 'But I have such a beautiful car.' And I say, 'This ain't a car show.'"

The run will take mainly smaller highways, and Sullivan said the demeanor of the group will be "Minnesota American Legion Family Nice." Drinking is not allowed until kickstands down.

And if anyone has a problem, they can take it to Sullivan. "I charge \$5 a minute with a five minute maximum for the Complaint Department."

There will also be a "cuss bucket" for those who use less than the King's English. "I usually just throw \$10 in at the beginning of the day, and say, 'I hope that covers me for a while.'"

Sullivan noted that the Legacy Scholarships had previously been awarded only to fallen post 9-11 service members. As of this year, the scholarships will be available to the children of service members who have a disability rating of 50 percent or more.

This past year, over \$670,000 in scholarships were awarded, and over \$1.1 million has been awarded since the program began.

This past year, \$1.3 million was raised for the Legacy Scholarship Fund. Minnesota accounted for over 11 percent of that total.

# Training

Continued from Page 1

short presentations by select individuals and the issue of the iPads and flag kits to the incoming District Commanders.

Pre-registration is important! This allows us a headcount for planning meals and refreshments.

LODGING: Lodging at Legionville will be at no charge. Use of the campground or communal lodging is available. There will be designated Male and Female accommodations. Area hotel lodging is at your cost.

Reimbursement: We are urging Posts and/or Districts to provide mileage for attendance at this event. The importance of the training and what those attending will bring back to their Posts will be well worth that cost.

The curriculum: This is all geared toward helping you host and conduct the best business meetings possible as well as promote the Legion and your Post. Training will include, but not be limited to, conducting a meeting per the Legion manual, importance of the annual timeline, fund raising, Membership (recruiting, retention). There will be an emphasis on communication to help promote your Post (Basic Communications, preparing news articles, history, social media, web sites, etc.), Post finances and much more.

If you cannot arrive Friday? We urge you to come Friday evening but if you cannot you can report on Saturday directly to the Post in Brainerd and register there, but we insist that you be prompt and on time so trainings not delayed.

There will be time for discussion. Time will be given for question/answer throughout the day but they have to be kept on topic and short. Trainers will be available after the event for specific questions and on Sunday morning.

The presentation of this information will be in a format that you may not be accustomed to in comparisons to previous trainings. It will be fast paced, no-nonsense, fact filled and fun. This ain't your grandad's Legion training, this is your training. You just might be surprised...

Registration form on [mnlegion.org](http://mnlegion.org).

## TRAINING QUESTIONS

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[www.brainerdlegion255.org](http://www.brainerdlegion255.org)

# State convention slated for Mahnomen

Northwestern Minnesota will once again be the destination for this year's Legion and Auxiliary state convention-goers.

The 2017 Department of Minnesota Convention will be held at the Shooting Star

Casino Events Center in Mahnomen on July 13-15.

The annual convention is where the elections are held for Department officers including commander, vice commanders, chaplain, historian, sergeant-at-arms and

a three-year term on the Board of Publications.

The convention will also conduct other business of the state organization such as the passing of resolutions.

An executive committee meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, July 12, at the casino.

The Gambling Seminar will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, July 13, in the Bejou Room.

There will be a joint memorial Service at 11:15 a.m. on Thursday.

The parade will be held Friday evening in Mahnomen.

The official hotel for the Legion and Auxiliary is the Shooting Star Casino and Hotel. Those attending the convention must make their

own reservations by calling 1-800-453-7827 and referencing Block 1738. The room rate is \$85 a night.

The facility also has an RV park. Those interested should call the same number.

Registration is \$15 in advance, and a registration form is on this page of the *Legionnaire*.

Registration will be \$18 at the door.

Bill Eck, convention chairman for host Mahnomen Post 31, said there will be a lunch at the post on Thursday and Friday, and that Ronnie Cash will perform on Thursday.

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VETERANS, DISABLED GENERAL  
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## Armed Forces Services Center marks 47 years

The Armed Forces Services Center at the Twin City International Airport has been in business for 47 years.

It was founded by Maggie Purdum in 1970 in honor of her son who died in Vietnam. The center provides free food, shelter and services for military who are in transit.

In those years, it has served over one million service men and women.

The center accepts donations and is interested in adding to its volunteer base of 200 people who staff the center on a 24/7 basis.

For more information, call 612-726-9156 or go to the website at [mnafsfc.org](http://mnafsfc.org).

## OFFICIAL CONVENTION PRE-REGISTRATION

A registration fee of \$15 for each person attending, whether a delegate, alternate or a guest, must accompany this form. Make this check payable to CONVENTION CORPORATION. No credit cards will be accepted.

Registration at the door will be \$18.

Mail to:  
Ron Hendrickson, Box 31, Waubun, MN 56589.

Legion Post # \_\_\_\_\_ SAL Sqdn. \_\_\_\_\_ Auxiliary Unit \_\_\_\_\_

District \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Please, only one registration blank per person.**

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# Endorsements

## Mueller endorsed for Department Historian

The First District of The American Legion Department of Minnesota along with Hugh Watson Post 190 American Legion of St. Charles, has endorsed Glenn Mueller for Department Historian for the year 2017-2018.

Mueller has been involved with the St Charles Post for over 15 years and has volunteered for a variety of post posi-

tions. He has participated in many legion events which include eight national conventions, 10 district conventions, many District Rallies and all post meeting for the past 10 years.

He is currently Post 190 Commander and has also held Department 1st and 3rd Vice Commander, Department

Chaplin, District Commander, District Vice Commander, District Membership Chairman, District Historian, District Sargeant-at-Arms.

He has also been active in the Sons of the American Legion.

At the present time, he is the chairman of the Department's Operation Post Home.



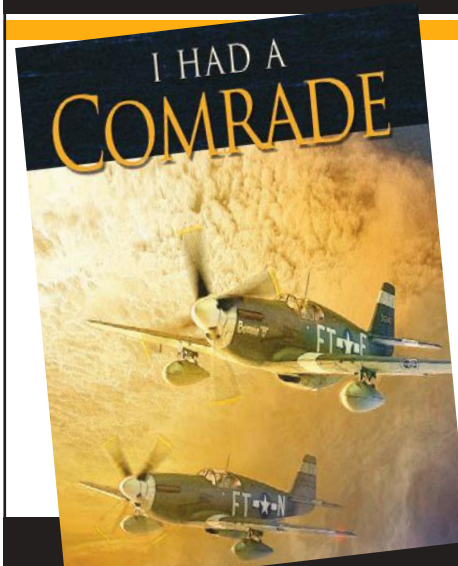
GLENN MUELLER



MEMORIAL DAY MESSAGE -- Department Commander Denise Milton records the Memorial Day ad for the Twins Radio Network at Target Field.



GOVERNOR'S FISHING OPENER -- Department Adjutant Randy Tesdahl volunteered to be a guide for the Governor's Fishing Opener at St. Cloud. Aboard his boat were, from left, St. Cloud Mayor Dave Kleis, Tesdahl, former Viking Todd Baumann and, in back, Baumann's son Aiden. All caught fish.



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Explore what freedom means today and in 19th-century America at our Independence Day Celebration, Tue., July 4, Historic Fort Snelling, St. Paul.

1



2

#### JULY 4 ON THE FARM

Bring the family for a day of speeches, games, crafts, and more at Farmer's Fourth of July, Tue., July 4, Oliver Kelley Farm, Elk River.

#### AN 1899-STYLE CELEBRATION

See an old-time baseball game and enter a pie-eating contest at the 1899 Independence Day Celebration, Tue., July 4, Historic Forestville, Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park.



4

#### FREE OUTDOOR CONCERT

Enjoy music and dancing with Salsa del Soul at 9 Nights of Music, presented by Xcel Energy on Tue., July 4, 6:30 pm. Come early and take advantage of free admission to our exhibits from 3-8 pm! Minnesota History Center, St. Paul.



#### LIFE ON THE HOME FRONT

Get insight into life in Minnesota during the war, at Families on the WW1 Home Front Tour, Sat., July 1 & 15, Charles Lindbergh House and Museum, Little Falls.

**COMMANDER'S  
COLUMN****By Denise Milton**

Greetings.

Summer is around the corner and the conclusion of another year of Legion business and activities. This doesn't mean that we have completed our drive for 100% membership. We still have time.

We've been in the top three positions Nationally all year till now. I watch us slip every week-why is this happening? Are you still actively "asking" our members to renew their membership or are you hoping that they will just send in their dues? That is unlikely as they have received several dues reminder postcards since last summer. Now is the time to get your post membership team together, go over your membership roster and make those personal visits and "ask."

Remind them of the benefits they will lose if their membership lapses. Also, recruit a few new members too. Let's get this done before our department convention. I know we can do it as you have proved it over the past several months-now is not the time to be complacent.

Only a few more days to sign up for our new Department Leadership training session that is scheduled for June 23-25th at Legionville and the Brainerd post. This is geared for all levels of Legionnaires who wish to know more about the Legion and become effective leaders. Contact Jeff Gay at 507-933-4576 to make reservations. This is highly recommended for incoming district leaders. We do have a special guest speaker-none other than our own PNC Daniel Ludwig. Mark your calendars for this important event. I look forward to seeing you there.

Great News. Our legislative skills and perseverance have paid off. A big thank you to all who have made calls to their legislators or made an appearance in St. Paul. A special thank you to Randy and Peggy for making that extra trip and testifying to get the grant for Legionville: \$220,000.

That's an awesome shot in the arm for such a wonderful program that affects so many of our youth in Minnesota. Bonding was also passed for the historic truss bridge at the

Minneapolis Veterans Home. We now can breathe a sigh of relief knowing that any emergency vehicle can gain safe and quick access to the home if needed.

Monies have been approved for a new veteran's home in Minnesota-the ultimate decision of location will be left to the Commissioner of Veterans homes. It will be a difficult decision as there are three areas that are vying for the new home. The State Cemetery in Duluth has been included as well.

The Commanders Task Force which is represented by nine veteran service organizations throughout the state and has been working hard on presenting nine different initiatives deemed important throughout the year and four of them have passed: the bonding bill as mentioned above and Homestead Market Value Exclusion (up to \$300,00) for Surviving Spouses of Greater than 70% Service-Connected Veterans and those spouses that are receiving DIC. (Please contact your County Veteran Service Officer or check the MDVA website for the particulars.)

This is a big win. A big thank you goes to Trent Dilks, DAV Legislative Chairman for working many hours on this. Minnesota GI Bill Amended & Uses Expanded-those that go through Apprenticeships, OJT and require certifications, licensing, exams, etc. will now be included. The Disclosure Statement, a written disclosure statement and waiver that the veteran must sign if they are seeking Veteran Benefit services from a private, for-profit provider to let them know that the services are free through their local CVSO's or VA. These too would not have passed except for the perseverance of concerned veterans who took the time to call or contact their legislators. Thank you so much.

I just received a report on the current statistics for CPR turn-in. We currently sit at 37.18%. We are lagging behind last year by 5.24%. This is a vital report to complete as it justifies our requests for Veterans benefits to Congress. National Commander Schmidt personally asked every department commander to have 100% by National convention. Let's get it done. If you have questions please contact your District Commander/Adjutant or your respective Department Vice Commander. I have assisted in compiling the data for my post CPR for the past few years and this year was the first time that I have filled it out online. We were done in less than one hour. I printed a copy for our post and then doublechecked the Department website and it had already posted in a matter of minutes.

I look forward to seeing you at the Department Convention in Mahanomen. We have planned a fun and memorable convention for you. Don't forget to register for the parade. It is one of best attended department parades we have in the Legion.

Remember our military and their families in your prayers and those veterans that continue to fight the battle.

For God and Country.

# Mail Call

**Interesting Reading****To the Editor:**

I have just finished reading Gregory Burt's account of Pearl Harbor, "Eyewitness to History," and Bob Maynard's "Spooks in China." (Legionnaire, May, 2017) What wonderful articles. I thoroughly enjoyed both. Thank you for searching out such interesting reading. And I thank both men for their stories.

**Richard Carlson**  
Little Falls

**Personal accounts****To the Editor:**

I wanted to write and express my gratitude to you for the personal accounts given by veterans in your publication. I enjoy especially the World War II and World War I life experiences. As a wife of a veteran of the Vietnam Era, I am a member of our Post 151 Auxiliary.

At our May meeting, I brought a World War I uniform to "show and tell." We have also collected a signalling metal mirror and a "Soldier's French Phrase Book" which we keep in the uniform pockets. As I am chaplain of our unit, I gave a little talk about the 100th anniversary and shared the story you published in the March 2017 issue about George Leach of Minneapolis. How fortunate it was that Mr. Leach went against the rules and kept a journal of events he and his comrades experienced in that terrible "War to end all wars." If only that had proven to be a true prophecy.

Stories of our brave veterans should be shared before they are gone, or we will never know what they went through for our freedom.

**Patt Makela**  
Finlayson

**Do your memoirs****To the Editor:**

To go through the box of items your veteran brought home is fine. However, my father served with the 82nd Infantry Division in World War II (he at least met Sgt. York) and brought back a gas mask. A note in the carrier or case showed two hours use under shell gas in July 1918. When his grandson (ex-Marine, age 58) opened up the canister, the mustard gas was still there. (So is much of the ordnance

being dug up in France today.) Caution advised. Two hours is the useful life of a gas mask cannister. Why didn't Ordnance collect the used cannisters and issue replacements?

I am also a vet. I wrote my memoirs a few years back. I would recommend that more do this. Also have donated 2,000 books to a local library with some other items. I am still at it. Military history and other subjects. This project continues.

**Sheldon Roningen**  
Fisher

**Alice Anderson****To the Editor:**

I want you to know that my family and I deeply appreciated your kind thoughts and words you printed in the Legionnaire. Alice thought very highly of you also. I know she was very happy to help. Yes, she worked very hard and did her very best.

I want to thank all of the Legionnaires for the many cards and prayers and memories. She was happy to be active in the many programs, post, state and national. To the many of the Legion Family I missed saying thanks to, please forgive me.

**Ralph Anderson**  
Owasso, Oklahoma

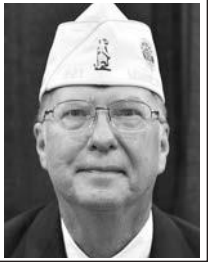
**Brown County****To the Editor:**

My husband and I are American Legion members in Post 132, New Ulm, and had the opportunity to attend the opening of the WWI "Loyalty and Dissent" exhibit at the Brown County Museum on May 6th. It is a very interesting exhibit with the local stories from Brown County as well as state and national events.

I saw the Minnesota Historical Society page in the May issue, and would encourage you to check into Brown County's exhibit. Dan Hoisington, the historian who worked on the exhibit, said it is the largest and best exhibit on WWI in the state after the MN Historical Society.

You can find more information at the browncountyhistoricalsociety website, or at [nujournal.com](http://nujournal.com).

**David & Anita Hoffmann**  
New Ulm

**Chaplain's  
Corner****By  
Bill Brockberg****A Penny for Your Thoughts**

Several years ago when I was serving in the Army Reserve I was hired by a Finance Company to be a loan manager.

After my first week on the job I got to interview with the Finance Company President-Glenn, to give a review of my training and I mentioned that I particularly liked a story of two bankers going into the dining car of a passenger train. The president said he liked that story too, but he told me of an old story from his wife, Arlene, about one of her former employers that he thought was even more compelling. Arlene and Glenn had just been invited by her very wealthy employer to his home for the weekend. The employer had a home on the waterway with the cars costing more than her house. The first day and evening went well and Arlene was delighted to have this rare glimpse into how the very wealthy live.

Her employer was quite generous as a host and took them to the finest restaurants. Arlene knew she would never have the opportunity to indulge in this kind of extravagance again so was enjoying herself immensely. As the three of them were about to enter an exclusive restaurant that evening, the boss walked slightly ahead of Arlene and Glenn. He stopped suddenly, looking down on the pavement for a long, silent moment. Arlene wondered if she was supposed to pass him. There was nothing on the ground except a single penny amidst a few cigarette butts. Still silent, the boss reached down and picked up the penny. He held it up and smiled, then put it in his pocket as if he had found a great treasure.

How absurd. Why did this man need a single penny? Why would he even take the time to stop and pick it up? Throughout dinner, the entire scene nagged at Arlene. Finally, she could take it no longer. She casually mentioned to her boss that her daughter once had a coin collection and asked if the penny he had found had been of some value. He smiled as he reached into his pocket for the penny and held it out for her to see. "Look at it," he said. "Read what it says." She read the words, "United States of America." "One cent?" "In God we Trust?"

"Yes!"

"And," Arlene asks. Her boss answered. "And if I trust in God, the name of God is holy, even on a coin. Whenever I find a coin I see that inscription. It is written on every single United States coin, but we never seem to notice it. God drops a message right in front of me telling me to trust him. Who am I to pass it by? When I see a coin, I pray, I stop to see if my trust IS in God at that moment. I pick the coin up as a response to God; that I do trust in him. For a short time, at least, I cherish it as if it were gold. I think it is God's way of starting a conversation with me. Lucky for me, God is patient and pennies are plentiful."

Since I was told that story, I have found pennies on the sidewalk and parking lot. I stopped to pick one up just last month and realized that I had been worrying and fretting in my mind about things I cannot change. I read the words, 'In God We Trust,' and had to laugh. Yes, God, I get the message. Since I've been Department Chaplain, it seems I have been finding an inordinate number of pennies, but then, pennies are plentiful! And, God is patient.

# The Minnesota Legionnaire

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The American Legion, Department of Minnesota

**Al Zdon, Editor**

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# What's Happening

## Historic photos sought

The Minnesota American Legion will be publishing its annual calendar with a Centennial theme for 2018. The 100th National Convention will be held in Minneapolis that year.

Historic photos are being requested from posts or Legion Family members, particularly those images that go back to the 1920s, the first decade of the organization.

This is not a photo contest, and those chosen will be selected based on how well they fit the theme of the calendar. All images should be scanned at a high resolution and submitted electronically to the Department Headquarters. Photos may be sent to [azdon@mnlegion.org](mailto:azdon@mnlegion.org).

All submissions must be received by the time of the Department Convention in mid-July.

## Writer's Group

A writer's group is being organized at the Bemidji VA Clinic that will meet once a month. It will be staffed by members of the clinic and Bemidji State University and by Wendell Affield, who has written a book about his experiences in Vietnam.

It has been shown that returning veterans who are experiencing reintegration can be helped through expressive writing. The program is accepting donations.

For more information, contact Affield at 218-368-4221.

## Traveling Wall

The AVTT Traveling Vietnam Wall will be on display in Herman from noon on July 20 to 3 p.m. Sunday on July 23. The display will be in conjunction with the Grant County Fair. It is free for everyone. It will be open and staffed 24 hours a day. The wall is sponsored by the Herman Post 378, the Grant County Fair Association and others.

## Say Thanks Day

The Minnesota Military Appreciation Fund is sponsoring a Say Thanks Day on Saturday, Aug. 19, at the Boy Scout Base Camp at Fort Snelling. The day has been held since 2005, and was first planned by Eugene Sit of Sit Investment.

The day includes a 5K run, a one-mile walk, a parachute exhibition, military displays, music, climbing walls, a kid's carnival, and the Marine Recon challenge. For more information or to register for the walk or run, go to [thankmn-troops.org](http://thankmn-troops.org).

## Flag Dedication Ceremony

The Minnesota Veterans Home at Minneapolis will have a Flag Dedication Ceremony at the home's Circle of Honor on Wednesday, June 14, at 10:30 a.m. The circle is at the main entrance to Building 19, 5101 Minnehaha Ave. S.

There will be refreshments following the ceremony. RSVP to Sandy Larson at 612-548-5993.

The flag area was made possible in part by donations from Bloomington Post 550 and the Minnesota American Legion Foundation.

## Support the Troops Golf

The annual Support the Troops Golf Tournament will be held Saturday, June 17, at the Ponds Golf Course in St. Francis. It will be a four-person scramble, with an 11 a.m. shotgun start. The cost is \$100 per golfer and includes the cart, green fees, dinner and a gift bag. All money goes to support local veterans.

For more information or to register, contact Nicole Giesie at 763-795-6235.

## Auxiliary grants

The American Legion Auxiliary will award up to 50 grants of \$1,000 each to American Legion Family entities or organizations working with the Auxiliary to conduct Sept. 11 Day of Service remembrance activities.

Grant recipients must chip in an additional \$250 in money or services for the project. Projects might include reintegration projects, employment projects, higher education projects, and others. Deadline for application is June 30.

For more information, call 202-861-1351.

## M1 Garand Maintenance

An M1 Garand Operation and Maintenance Manual is

available for veterans service organizations that use the rifle for ceremonial purposes. A website has also been created to offer information on the upkeep of the rifle and use of the blank cartridges.

Organizations including Legion Posts can go to [www.m1garandtraining.com](http://www.m1garandtraining.com).

## SAL Convention

The Sons of the American Legion Campout and Convention will be held June 23-25 at the Legionville School Patrol Camp. Arrival will be no earlier than 4 p.m. on Friday, with registration beginning at 5. Check out is no later than noon on Sunday. Cost is \$20 per person pre-registration, and \$25 at the door.

The finance and executive committees will meet Friday night, and the convention will convene at 9 a.m. Saturday. Election of officers, changes to the constitution and bylaws, judging of reports and other business will take place.

Participants are encouraged to pre-register because there is another event being held at the camp that weekend. Deadline for reservations is June 10.

For more information, email: [saladjmn@gmail.com](mailto:saladjmn@gmail.com).

## MACV legal clinics

The Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans is sponsoring several Drop-in Legal Clinics in the coming weeks. The clinics will offer veterans assistance on housing, employment, benefits, debt collection, expungement, family law, child support. For more information, call MACV at 651-200-4750.

The clinics will include:

June 13 -- Minneapolis VA Medical Center, Flag Atrium Balcony Room, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free parking.

June 15 -- Anoka County Government Center, Room 237, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

June 22 -- County Administration Building, Conference Room 108, Bemidji, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

June 23 -- Hibbing Memorial Building, Serviceman's Quarters, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

June 29 -- Redwood County Government Center, Redwood Falls, 8 a.m. to noon.

## Keewatin, Redby veteran turns 100

(This story is reprinted by permission of the Hibbing Daily Tribune.)

By Tony Potter

KEEWATIN — He's often asked what's his secret to living a long life.

"I just keep breathing," joked Gordon Bailey.

Bailey, of Keewatin, turned 100 years old on Tuesday, April 4. He's also his tribe's oldest elder in Red Lake, Minn.

Longevity is in Bailey's genes. His maternal grandmother lived to be 103 years old, his mom lived to be 96 years old and one of his grandfathers lived to be 95 years old.

"They had to work hard," he said. "For me, I think a lot of it is because I've raised my own garden, which is healthy."

Bailey was born in Red Lake, Minn., and grew up in Redby, Minn., where he lived for 38 years. The only exception was during the 3 years and 10 months that he served the U.S. Army during World War II. He spent his first 2.5 years of service with a gun company before being stationed in Germany in the European Theater as a master sergeant in charge of battalion maintenance.

"I was selected by the Army," he said. "I didn't even know where Pearl Harbor was. I was meeting my future in-laws and it came on the radio that Pearl Harbor was bombed, and a month later I was drafted already."

From the 1980s until a couple years ago, Bailey would travel to a different state each year to attend reunions to visit those whom he served in the Army with.

"There are so few of us left that we don't have reunions anymore," he said.

Bailey has also traveled to Germany to visit three people who he saved as kids during the war, and one of them has even traveled to Keewatin to visit him. During the war, the kids' home was being robbed and destroyed so they took to the streets for help where they met Bailey.

"They were so thankful for what I did for them that they took care for me when I went to visit," he said. "They wouldn't even let me buy a postcard."

After the war, Bailey and his wife of 64 years, Florence, began raising their family. Together they raised two sons, Gordon and Greg Bailey, and three daughters: Bette Bailey, Candy Petron and Cathe Bozich. They have 16 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and six great-great-grandchildren.

"I've lost count," he said. "I'll sit down and count them

once in awhile, but then another one gets born."

In 1955, Bailey moved to the Iron Range at age 38 looking to earn a decent living for his family. He had a difficult time finding an apartment to rent, so he stayed at the El Motel in Hibbing for nine months. His first job in the area was working for a sawmill, which he did for three years.

"I moved here for livelihood," he said. "The highest pay I ever had before moving here was \$1.40 per hour."

Bailey was eventually hired by Hanna Mining Co., where he held several positions including having worked in the research center and as lead technician.

"It was interesting," he said. "I liked working in research because the job wasn't the same day after day, so I didn't get bored."

Bailey retired from Hanna Mining after 28 years of service, but remained working for the company as a consultant. In that role, he'd travel throughout the United States and to other countries such as Canada, Colombia and Brazil.

"By then all of my children were grown up so I enjoyed traveling and meeting very interesting people," he said, noting he met the presidents of every company he consulted for.

Shortly after being hired by Hanna Mining, Bailey purchased a house in Keewatin and still resides there today. His family joined him in 1956.

He said he chose to settle down in the small, Central Iron Range town because it was located in the middle of Hanna Mining's territory, which spread from Virginia to Grand Rapids.

Bailey has been living alone since Florence passed away in 2006. His daughter, Cathe Bozich, said he's still very active.

"He cooks, cleans and does his laundry," she said. "He still drives without any problems, and brings us our mail everyday because we don't get home delivery."

Bozich said that Bailey began letting his kids and grandchildren help him around the house just last year.

"He finally lets us do more of his lawn mowing and snowblowing — even though he sneaks out with his snowblower," she said.

Bailey even managed to tend a garden on his own last summer.

"It's going well," he said of living at home. "My granddaughters stop by for breakfast every morning to check on me, which is really nice."

## Veterans ability to visit Big Island will continue with grant

(Story from the Veterans 4 Veterans Trust Fund)

Orono — Thanks in part to a grant from IBM, the dedication of volunteers and the love of a fallen brother, Minnesota veterans will continue to visit Big Island on Lake Minnetonka in 2017.

After a winter that left some doubt about the future of access to veterans who have been visiting the island for more than 90 years, plans and funding are secure for at least one more summer on the lake.

Gerry Falkowski and Dean Ascherman, both IBM retirees, applied for a \$2,000 grant from IBM Corp to support the Veterans 4 Veterans organization in sponsoring and funding outings for veterans on Lake Minnetonka and specifically to tour Big Island and discuss its history this coming boating season.

Additionally, former Orono Mayor and Big Island advocate Gabriel Jabbour offered to match the IBM grant to ensure any veteran who wants to visit the lake and island may do so. Excursions have been privately funded for more than 30 years.

For Falkowski, securing funding for the veterans is important. His brother, Ronald Falkowski was a veteran who served on the USS. Midway from 1959 to 1962. "This is very important to me to honor Ron's memory," said Falkowski. "We will never know all the sacrifices our vets have made for us. This is a very small way of saying thank you to Ron and all of the other veterans."

Funds will be used for the costs involved in these outings, including shore lunches and other expenses.

The relationship between Minnesota's veterans and Big Island dates back more than 90 years when the island was home to The Big Island Veterans Camp. The camp closed in 2003 and proceeds from the 2006 sale to the City of Orono are used to fund veterans programs. A condition of the sale was that veteran's would have access to the island in perpetuity.

Last winter a new administration in Orono nearly killed this almost-century old tradition. But thanks for many vocal supporters and volunteers funds were discovered for maintenance and upkeep of the island's docks. With access assured, Falkowski and Ascherman went to work to fund the visits.

# Veterans legislation

Continued from Page 1

having one narrow entryway to the veterans home could have been a serious safety problem.

The funding was not originally included in this year's bonding bill.

Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs Legislative Director Ben Johnson explained why: "The legislators used last year's bonding bill, which was not approved, as the template for this year's bill. The funding for the bridge was not in last year's final bill."

Fixing the bridge, though, was a high priority with the MDVA, the governor, the state's veterans organizations and with veterans throughout the state, Johnson said.

He said conversations with Rep. Dean Urdahl, R-Grove City, who chairs the House Capital Investment Committee, and Sen. David Senjem, R-Rochester, the Senate Capital Investment chair, were fruitful. "We emphasized that this was a very important issue that had statewide support," Johnson said.

It helped too, he said, that fixing the bridge was a "shovel ready" project that could be acted on quickly. The Legislature in 2015 approved \$650,000 for pre-design and design work on making the bridge safe again. That design work has been done.

Overall, Johnson said it was a good session for veterans issues. "We didn't get everything we wanted, but we got more than we expected."

Johnson said there was a "spirit of compromise" during the session that helped many veterans projects get passed.

Another success story, he said, was getting staff funding for the new State Veterans Cemetery at Duluth. The construction project is being funded by the federal government with the understanding that the state will staff the cemetery.

The Legislature approved \$500,000 for each of the next two years to staff the third veterans cemetery in the state. The other two are at Camp Ripley and Preston.

Other bills that passed the 2017 session, in a list compiled by Johnson, include:

❑ MDVA Agency Funding: About \$150 million per FY2018-19 biennium was appropriated to the agency for operations of the Programs and Services division and the Veterans Health Care Division.

❑ MN GI Bill Changes: Beneficiaries can use the money for apprenticeship and on-the-job training funding and other professional and educational assistance. This will allow increased flexibility for users.

❑ Veterans Journey Home: One-time \$700,000 grant that must be used to support the development of new or rehabilitated affordable housing dedicated for low-to-moderate income Veterans and their families.

❑ Veterans Defense Project: One-time \$500,000 grant through the Minnesota Humanities Center. This money must be used to support, through education and outreach, Veterans who are involved with the criminal justice system.

❑ Medal of Honor Memorial: \$250,000 to aid in building a memorial on the grounds of the Capitol. The funds will be available once matching funds have been raised through non-state donations.

❑ Veterans Voices: \$200,000 to the Minnesota Humanities Center for their Veterans focused programming.

❑ Vietnam: Minnesota Remembers: \$650,000 grant to Twin Cities Public Television to produce content telling the stories of Minnesota's Vietnam Veterans.

❑ Rice County Veterans Memorial: \$30,000 to aid non-state funding in finishing a memorial in Faribault. This is in addition to the \$30,000 in money from the bonding bill.

❑ Waseca County Veterans Memorial: \$50,000 to aid non-state funding in finishing a memorial in Waseca.

❑ Helmets to Hardhats: \$400,000 from the workforce development fund for grants to the Construction Careers Foundation.

❑ Disabled Veterans State Park Permit: A Veteran with any level of service-connected disability shall be issued a free annual park permit.

❑ Bear Hunt raffle: If there is a limit for bear hunting permits in a certain area, first preference must be given to a resident of a Minnesota Veterans Home to obtain a permit.

❑ Veteran to Agriculture: \$250,000 funds a pilot program to facilitate the entrance of Veterans into careers related to agriculture and food production, processing and distribution through intensive four to eight week academic trainings.

❑ Disabled Veteran Homestead Market Value Exclusion: Extends the homestead market exclusion to an eligible Veteran's surviving spouse and allows for a surviving spouse of an eligible Veteran to apply for the homestead market value exclusion following the death of that Veteran (dying after December 31, 2011) for up to eight taxable years or until the spouse remarries, sells, transfers or otherwise disposes of the property.

❑ Disabled Veteran Homestead Market Value Exclusion - Annual application: Beneficiaries of the disabled Veterans' exclusion will no longer have to apply every year. Notice is still required for eligibility changes and requires annual certification of a Veteran's disability rating and permanent address.

❑ Veterans' Service Organizations: Property owned by

## Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

By  
Jeremy Wolfsteller



### Property Tax Exclusion

Home ownership is something dreamt about as a child. When purchasing a home there can be many challenges to go through before the keys are handed over.

These challenges can be qualifying for a bank loan and finding a low interest rate. Twenty to thirty years ago banks were charging around 25% interest rates on 30 year mortgages. The thought of how anyone can afford a property at such high interest rates from banks was astonishing. For veterans who served honorably there is a Veterans Affairs Home Loan that can guarantee a veterans mortgage upwards of \$400K serving as a co-signer for the loan.

This is a great benefit for our veterans and the economy, and in addition to backing the loan, using the VA Home Loan the veteran is not required to put down the minimum amount down, usually around 3.5%.

In Minnesota, the State legislature made it easier for veterans to become home owners by passing legislation in 2008 that enacted property tax market value exclusion for honorably discharged veterans with a service-connected disability between 70%-100%.

This legislation, (MN Statue, Sec 273.13 Subd. 34.) has shown huge success with veterans by assisting them in pursuing their dream of buying a home and attracting possible veterans to Minnesota.

This market value exclusion is \$150K for 70%-90% SC veterans and \$300K for 100% (P&T) permanent and total SC veterans. Veteran caregivers can receive the qualifying veteran's exclusion for their home as long as they continue to deliver the service to the veteran.

Surviving spouses can qualify for the deceased veteran's exclusion for up to 8 years as long as they meet some additional criteria.

There are two applications for disabled veteran homestead exclusion (CR-DVHE70 & CR-DVHE100), one for 70%-90% and another for 100% P&T. Veterans can find the application on the Minnesota Department of Revenue's website.

The application must include supporting documentation, DD Form 214 showing honorable service, and VA award letter showing level of disability compensation receiving.

The Veterans Administration sends out a VA summary of benefits letter to every veteran around June 1st of each year, the veteran can use this VA document when applying.

The deadline to mail application and documentation to your county assessor's office is July, 1st of each year for taxes payable for the following year.

Veterans that qualify by 70% rule must reapply each year. Veterans with 100% P&T do not have to reapply every year unless they sell and purchase a different property.

Recently the State legislature passed amendments to house file one in the tax bill. These changes extend disabled veterans property tax exclusions to any surviving spouse of an eligible veteran that is receiving VA dependents indemnity compensation (DIC).

These changes will go into effect later this year.

If you have any questions about this State of MN benefit, contact your local County Veterans Service Office, MDVA or the Department Service Officer.

[jwolfsteller@mnlegion.org](mailto:jwolfsteller@mnlegion.org)

VSOs will have a reduced class rate for property taxes.

❑ MDVA Asset preservation: \$5 million to repair critical infrastructure projects at Minnesota Veterans Homes throughout the state.

❑ Rice County Veterans Memorial: Another \$30,000 to aid non-state funding to finish a memorial in Faribault. This is in addition to the \$30,000 in money (mentioned above) from the Legacy bill.

❑ Benefit Disclosure Act: The bill will require that attorneys who are representing a veteran in a claim appeal must provide a form telling the veteran that the same service is available for free from government claims representative and veterans service officers. Attorneys who advertise their services must put such a disclaimer in their ads.

One bill that did not pass was an effort to establish a World War I plaque in the Court of Honor at the mall on the Capitol grounds.

## TPT seeking Vietnam stories

Twin Cities Public Television is seeking veterans of the Vietnam War to submit their stories. Those who are willing to share can go to [www.mnvietnam.org](http://www.mnvietnam.org).

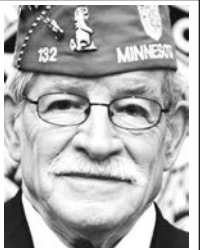
The Minnesota Public television stations will have a story wall that will launch this September.

Photos, videos, audio will be accepted.

The project is in conjunction with the Ken Burns Special on the Vietnam War that will be broadcast nationally this fall.

## Sons of The American Legion

By  
Gene Olsword



Another year going by very fast. We are now in our 6th month of 2017 already and our weather has not really settled down yet. Hopefully the best is yet to come.

This, also, is my last article as your Detachment Commander. My last two years have gone by very fast, with many challenges, meeting many new friends, meeting the many goals National puts out, but more importantly, seeing the growth of the Sons within the state with the new squadrons which have been started and are doing very well with the great support from the posts that chartered them. I want to thank all you posts for seeing a need for a squadron and how it has strengthened your posts. As a dual member, I see how important a squadron is to a post and the community it serves. If you are a post without a squadron, please ask us how we would be able to help you. It only takes 10 members to start a squadron and a qualified Legion member can also be a Son.

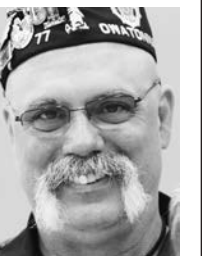
On June 23-24, we will be having our annual 2017 Campout/Convention at Legionville. Our general meeting will be held on Saturday June 24 where reports of the years activities will be read but the highlight will be the nomination and election of our Detachment Officers for 2017-2018. All current and members in good standing should be present for this convention to cast your vote as to who you want to represent you this coming year. Your vote counts so plan on attending and let your vote be known. I want to see a room full of Sons for this important Convention. It is also, a fun weekend with camping either in your tent, camper or in one of the dorms that are available. There are many campfires on Friday evening for all to enjoy and make new and everlasting friends. If you are a camper, the only service available is electricity, however, there are restroom and showers facilities available. Now is the time to try it and see how much fun you can have. Reservations include meals. Look for the registration materials on the Sons of the American Legion website: [mnsal.org](http://mnsal.org).

A request for all you Legionnaires. The Legionnaire is not mailed to the Sons, therefore, they miss out on this article. I ask that you share this newspaper with your squadrons so they are informed of the great articles printed each month. We are an important part of The American Legion Family.

As a Farewell, I want to thank The American Legion Family for all your support in making the Sons a strong organization and supporting me as your Commander these past two years. This has been a great privilege and honor for me and one I will never forget. Always remember all our troops that continue to be in harm's way every day for their return home and God bless America. May you all have fair winds and following seas.

## American Legion Riders

By Chuck Stone  
Department Director



Greetings American Legion Family,

This will be short as I will leave room for Steve (Sully) Sullivan, Legacy Ride Chairman, to say a few words in the story on the front page. I have received a large number of invitations for District Conventions and Memorial Day festivities. Thank you to all and I wish I could make it around to each and everyone of them. As you know only Superman can accomplish a feat of that magnitude, so I will attempt to take in as many as travel time will allow. It is awesome that some of you place videos of your events on Facebook.

I would like to thank all of the Riders who attended Commander Denise's testimonial up in Mahanomen. Your procession with Uncle Sam holding the American flag was GREAT. I hope that someone out there has some pictures, as I would like to get a few copies.

I hope everyone took a few minutes to participate in a Memorial Day event. Remember our Veterans every day not just Memorial Day. God bless one and all. Keep the chrome side up and the rubber side down.

## Thank you

Thanks to all who sent me a card of sympathy on the death of my World War II husband, Don. Really appreciated hearing from everyone. He was a great man, which his family accepted and loved him for. Thanks again to all the American Legion Family members who remembered me.

Dolly Zitur  
Brainerd

# Annual Call for Meeting for the 2017 Department Convention

THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA  
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55155

## CALL FOR THE 99th ANNUAL DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

The 99th Annual Convention of The American Legion, Department of Minnesota, is hereby called in conformity with provisions of the Department Constitution and By-Laws, and by action of the Department Executive Committee, sponsored by Mahnommen American Legion Post 31 and held at Shooting Star Casino, Mahnommen, Minnesota, July 13, 14, 15, 2017.

### PURPOSE OF CONVENTION

The Convention is called for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing year, amending the Constitution and By-Laws, and for the transaction of such other business as may be brought before it.

### REPRESENTATION AT CONVENTION

The Department Convention shall be composed of delegates from each Post, members of the Department Executive Committee, the Department Chaplain, Treasurer, Historian, and the District Adjutants, but only delegates from Posts shall be entitled to vote at such Convention, (Sec.2, Article Five, Department Constitution). Each Post shall be entitled to two delegates and to one additional delegate for each hundred members or major fraction thereof, whose Department dues have been received by the

Department Treasurer and whose District dues have been paid to their respective District officers, 30 days prior to the Convention for which they are chosen. The final voting strength of each Post shall be determined 30 days prior to the Convention. Each Post shall choose its own delegates, who shall be members in good standing of such Post. In addition, each Post may choose alternate delegates to serve in the absence of the principal delegate, (Sec. 3, Article Five, Department Constitution). Delegates or alternates must register in order to vote.

### GAMBLING SEMINAR MEETING

The Gambling Seminar will be at 2:00 PM on Thursday, July 13, 2017 at Shooting Star Casino, Bejou Room, Mahnommen, MN.

### DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

A meeting of the Department Executive Committee has been called and will be held at 7:00 P.M on Wednesday, July 12, 2017, in Mahnommen, MN at Shooting Star Casino as specified in the upcoming Call to Meeting.

### STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Standing Department Committee Meetings will be held at the Shooting Star Casino in Mahnommen, Minnesota, in the meeting rooms to be determined. These rooms will be confirmed in each committee's Call to Meeting.  
AMERICANISM -- 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, July 12, TBD  
CHILD AND YOUTH -- 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, July 12, TBD

NAT. SECURITY -- 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, July 12, TBD  
REHABILITATION -- 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, July 12, TBD  
GENERAL SESSIONS -- Bejou Room, Thursday-Saturday

### HOUSING AND REGISTRATION

For the 2017 Department Convention, hotel reservations will be done "on your own" directly with the Shooting Star Casino & Hotel. Please call the hotel directly. Shooting Star Casino & Hotel - 1-800-453-7827 block #1738, Shooting Star RV Park - 1-800-453-7827. A registration fee of \$15.00 for each Delegate/Alternate and/or Guest must be sent to: Ron Hendrickson, Box 31, Waubun, MN 56589. This check should be made payable to "Convention Corporation". Registration will be \$18.00 at the door.

### DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS OFFICE

A temporary Legion Department Headquarters office will be at the Shooting Star Casino in a room still to be determined starting Thursday, July 13, 2017 for convention service and business during convention business hours only. Meetings will start ON TIME as scheduled unless otherwise announced.

**Denise Milton**  
**Department Commander**

**ATTEST: RANDY TESDAHL**

**Department Adjutant**

**Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this 1st day of May, 2017**

# Rules for the 2017 Department Convention submitted

To the Post Commanders:

The Rules Committee submits the following proposed Rules for the Convention to be held at Mahnommen, Minnesota, July 13, 14, 15, 2017.

1) With the following modifications, Robert's Rules of Order, revised, be adopted for this Convention.

2) (a) That the speech of any Delegate, recognized by the Commander, shall be limited to three (3) minutes and no more.

(b) Where a motion is made to table a resolution, the sponsor shall be entitled to speak to the Convention for three (3) minutes on the subject, and three (3) minutes rebuttal be granted to the maker of the motion to table before the motion is put. 3) That the Floor be permitted but once to any individual on any subject, except with the unanimous consent of the Convention.

4) (a) That all resolutions, with the exception of those prepared by Convention Committees, must be presented in writing signed by the author thereof, not later than 9:00 A.M. the first day of the Convention, to the Department Adjutant who shall refer them to the Resolutions Assignment Committee without debate. Each District Delegation Chairman or Secretary will meet with the Department Resolutions Assignment Committee at 9:00 A.M. of the first day of the Convention to be informed as to the resolutions assigned to each Convention Committee, then provide copies of those resolutions to the representatives they have appointed to said Convention Committee. The Resolutions Assignment Committee is responsible for receiving, registering and accounting for all resolutions forwarded to it by the Department Adjutant and all committee originated resolutions.

(b) Resolutions containing matters of legislation shall be cleared by the Convention Legislative Committee.

5) On matters where voting has been by roll call vote, when the poll of any Post Delegation is demanded by the Delegate of any Post, the Secretary of the Convention shall poll the vote of that Delegation by Delegates, without debate or discussion.

6) That on Roll Call, the Chair or Acting Chair of each Delegation on the Floor shall announce the vote of this Delegation.

7) No person, not duly accredited, shall participate directly or indirectly in debate on any subject before the Convention, but Past Department Commanders and members of the Department Executive Committee shall have the privilege of speaking from the Floor, but not of voting, except as Delegates.

8) That no Delegate be permitted on the Convention Floor unless certified by the Delegate's Post as Delegate or Alternate and that every Delegate or Alternate, to be duly accredited, must be registered.

9) That the published program be approved by this Convention.

10) No person or Delegate shall act by proxy for any Post. No Post shall vote unless at least one registered and accredited Delegate or Alternate be present on the Convention Floor.

11) The voting shall be by acclamation, except when a Roll Call is demanded by the Chair or Acting Chair of at least three Delegations; and except for elections which shall be as follows:

(a) The election of Department Officers, NEC positions, and the Member of the Board of Publications shall be by written ballot unless there is but one candidate or, in the case of election of Vice Commanders, there are but five candidates.

(b) The election of candidates for other positions shall be by District as set forth in Rule 14 below. Candidates receiving the highest number of votes in one round of voting shall be elected to the positions.

If there are more than five candidates for Vice Commander, those five receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected. Cumulative voting shall not be allowed.

The printed ballot shall include the names of all candidates who have notified the Department Office of their candidacy at

least 30 days prior to the first day of the Convention.

For the election of Department Officers and NEC positions, the Tellers shall issue to the Delegation Chair of each registered Post the number of written ballots equal to the delegate strength of that Post. Said Chair shall sign for the ballots.

Ballots shall be issued and the polls shall be open during the following times:

(a) Friday, for one half hour after recess of the Convention.

(b) Saturday, from 8:00 A.M. until 9:00 A.M.  
No ballots shall be counted before Saturday morning. No ballots shall leave the polling place.

The District Commander of each District shall appoint a Teller. Tellers shall elect among themselves two Tellers from the Districts which have no candidate for Commander. These two Tellers, and the Judge Advocate, shall tabulate and total the election results. The result of each contest shall be confidential and shall be placed in a separate envelope and delivered to the Commander.

If there is a written ballot contest which has not resulted in a majority vote (except for Vice Commanders), the Commander will be informed immediately. Then, written ballots for that contest shall be distributed immediately in accordance with these Rules and be cast within one-half hour of completion of the distribution. Tabulation and reporting shall be in accordance with these Rules.

Results of the vote count shall be reported to the Convention. All ballots and results shall be destroyed immediately following the close of the Convention, unless there is a motion to preserve.

12) Nominations for Department Officers and NEC positions shall be held on the afternoon of Friday of the Convention. Nominations shall be made from the Floor on Roll Call by Districts, in ascending order starting with the District whose number matches the last digit of the year of the Convention; each District may present as many candidates as it chooses. Thereafter, nominations may be made from the Floor.

13) Nominating speeches for Department Officers shall be limited to five (5) minutes. There will be no seconding speeches allowed for any candidates.

14) When the convention has adopted a Motion to suspend the rules and vote on a matter by District, each District may vote its entire voting strength. If the matter is the election of individuals for any open positions (such as Department Delegate at-Large), each District may vote its voting strength times the number of open positions, but shall not vote more than its voting strength for any one individual. The call for District votes shall be in ascending order starting with the District whose number matches the last digit of the year of the Convention.

15) In the event more than two candidates are nominated for any office, the balloting shall continue until one candidate shall have received a majority of the votes cast. In elections where there are more than two candidates, the candidate receiving the fewest votes in each round of voting shall be eliminated.

16) No personalities or partisan politics shall be discussed or indulged in on the Convention Floor, and the Department Commander shall prohibit such indulgences.

17) (a) Rules Committee approves the following list of Convention Committees to be chosen at this Convention, each District to choose one representative on each Committee:

Americanism, National Security/Foreign Relations, Children and Youth, Public Relations, Constitution-By-Laws, Recreation-Sports, Employment, Rehabilitation, Energy and Conservation, Resolutions, Legislative, Safety-School Patrol, Membership

(b) The following Department Standing Committees are approved as Convention Committees:

Finance, Next Meeting Place (Convention Corporation Committee), Resolutions Assignment, Credentials

18) The order of business of the Convention shall be in accordance with the printed program, except that the election of

officers shall be a special order of business, to be held in accordance with Rules 11 and 12. The order of election of Department Officers shall be as follows:

Commander, Five Vice Commanders - without numerical designation, Chaplain, Historian, Sergeant at Arms, Member of Publication Board - for three-year term, Delegates-at-Large to the National Convention, Five Alternates-at-Large to the National Convention, National Executive Committeeman and Alternate National Executive Committeeman (when appropriate)

19) The Committee Chairman shall inform the Department Commander when the report is ready to be presented, and the Department Commander shall recognize it as an order of business. The committees reporting action on Resolutions must read all approved Resolutions. It is sufficient to report all rejected Resolutions by number, unless requested by a Delegate to set a Resolution aside for separate consideration.

20) All printed reports, which shall have been handed to the Convention Committees, shall be referred to the proper Convention Committee for action.

21) No Band, Drum Corps or other musical organization shall be permitted in the Convention Hall without the invitation of the Department Commander.

22) (a) Any Guests who are not on the official program as speakers shall be introduced by the Department Commander only, and shall be limited to an address of not more than three (3) minutes.

(b) The Commander is to adhere as nearly as possible to the printed program so that guests, and others to be honored, are presented without undue delay.

23) No elective political office holder shall be permitted to speak during the Convention except the Chief Executive of the State of Minnesota, and the Chief Executive of the Convention City, or such persons as are on the official printed and published program.

24) All major speeches shall be limited to fifteen (15) minutes and all others not to exceed five (5) minutes.

25) No intoxicating liquors shall be sold or dispensed in the building of the Convention meeting, except as authorized by the Convention Corporation.

26) The Roll Call of Posts shall be called in numerical sequence in accordance with Post numbers assigned, including the city or town, beginning with Post No. 1, except in odd numbered years the order of call will be reversed, but only those Posts having one or more duly registered and accredited Delegates or alternates accredited prior to 9:00 a.m. as confirmed by the Credentials Committee, shall be included in the Roll Call at any time.

27) Posts challenging exclusion from the Roll Call shall consult with the Credentials Committee for resolution of the problem.

(Members Present)

DISTRICT	MEMBER	TOWN
First	Sylvan Fix	Brownsville
Second	Mark Coney	Hardwick
Third	Michael Maxa	Montgomery
Fourth	Randon Bastyr	Oakdale
Fifth	Raymond Eiden	Minneapolis
Sixth	Veronica Fernlund	Saint Cloud
Seventh	Garylee Davenport	Atwater
Eighth	Kenneth Oliver	Duluth
Ninth	Eric Wilkens	Detroit Lakes
Tenth	Bonnie Hanson	Rockford

# Outdoor Activities



At the Turkey Hunt at Camp Ripley, Tom Schottenbauer and Roland Hanson show off the tail of tom turkey.



Department Veterans Service Officer Jeremy Wolfsteller and Commander Denise Milton talked with veterans at the Ely fishing outing at Veterans on the Lake Resort.



At the Trolling for the Troops event at Camp Ripley, Commander Milton talked it over with Hak Albertson, National Vice President of the Paralyzed Veterans of America and Ken Kline, President of the Minnesota PVA.

# Testimonial



The testimonial dinner for Department Commander Denise Milton was held at Shooting Star Casino. Milton greeted the well wishers with the speaker, Past National Commander John Brieden, on the left, and husband Dennis at right.



Milton greeted the attendees.



Past Department Commander Jim Kellogg surprised Milton with a gift.



Hubby Dennis, Past Department Commander, had a smooch for his bride.

Photos by Michelle Leonard and Ralph Schneekloth

# Legion at the Twins



After delivering a strike to the plate for the first pitch of the ballgame, Commander Denise Milton was greeted by TC Bear. American Legion Family Day at the Twins was held in May.



World War II veteran and Past Fifth District Commander Wayne Glanton was the official American Flag raiser for the game.



Chanhassen Post 580 Adjutant Teri Hlavka was the official Twins Territory flag raiser at the game. The Twins put her picture on the big screen in center field.

# Memorial Day



Department Commander Denise Milton brings a wreath to the front at the annual Memorial Day ceremony at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.



Bill Magistad sang patriotic and folk songs at the Memorial Day program at the Vietnam Memorial at the Capitol. The event is put on by Anoka County Chapter 470 of the Vietnam Veterans of America.



Commander Milton spoke at the Memorial Day program at the Minnesota Veterans Home at Minneapolis. Rep. Bob Dettmer also spoke.



Memorial Day at Elk River Post 112 featured a polka band and singer.

# Escape from the Nazis

By Al Zdon

When Paul Thompson was a prisoner of war in Stalag 11A in Germany during World War II, he decided to relieve the tedium of the camp by visiting the French compound in the camp.

The French prisoners worked at a nearby factory, and so their food and conditions were much better than that of the regular Allied prisoners in the camp.

The problem was that to get to the French compound, Thompson had to scale a 12-foot barbed wire fence that was illuminated by searchlights and covered by machine guns.

Thompson, who had started college at age 15, did a study of the fence. He was able to time the searchlight sweeps, make a mad dash for the fence and then scamper over it in the few seconds that darkness ruled. It also meant cutting up his hands pretty badly.

He got along well with the French, and was able to trade for many items during his occasional forays over the wire.

He quit making those daring visits, though, the day the German guards brought dogs into the French compound to catch the American visitors. He got away, but a fellow American didn't.

□□□□□□

Paul G. Thompson was born in Aurora, Illinois, but grew up on the south side of Chicago. "It was the low rent district," he recalled.

His father was a clerk for a railroad, and the family owned a house on the corner. "It was an interesting neighborhood. We called it the 'valley' because any way out of it was up."

Thompson said there were a dozen nationalities in the neighborhood, "and they were all hard-working, respectable people. Although, it wasn't unusual to see the paddy wagon coming down the street."

The O'Learys lived in one neighboring house. "Mrs. O'Leary was a great, big red-headed woman, and Mr. O'Leary was a leprechaun right out of central casting. One day, Mr. O'Leary came flying out of the house and Mrs. O'Leary was right behind him with a meat cleaver in her hand.

"She threw the cleaver, and barely missed her husband. The cleaver ended up in our yard. My dad picked it up, and after that he used it to chop the kindling for the fire. Like I say, it was an interesting place."

Thompson was advanced two grades in his public schooling and began high school at Calumet High School nearby. "I was always the youngest and smallest kid in the class. Those were not advantages in public high school. I had to learn to defend myself."

He was also a bookworm and loved learning, which was somewhat unusual among his peers. Part of his interest in being a scholar came from his father. "All the other radios in the neighborhood would be turned to the ball game, but my father, when we got a radio, would listen to the Metropolitan Opera."

When the chance to take a competitive exam to get into the high school at the University of Chicago, Thompson jumped at the chance.

He did well on the exam, but got letter saying thank you, but they had no openings. "That was a black day in my

life." But a week later, another letter came saying they had made an error, and Thompson had won a scholarship. "That was a bright day."

Thompson took a street car to high school after that, graduated two years later, and then started college at the University of Chicago at age 15. "It was wonderful. The learning was fostered and encouraged. I just loved it."

In early 1943, with the war raging in Europe and in the Pacific, Thompson was in his third year of college and about to turn 18 in a couple of months. "I knew I'd be drafted. Plus, my nation was at war and I didn't want to be left out."

The University of Chicago at that time had a policy of requiring very rigorous year-end exams for classes. Getting credit for a class depended on passing that final exam.

"I went down to the recruiter and he told me that if I enlisted, he would delay calling me up until June so I could take those final exams and not waste a whole year of college."

His student job at that time was working in an experimental laboratory at the university that was studying the brain. One of Thompson's duties was to paste the electrodes to the patient's head so the brain could be evaluated by an electroencephalograph. It was cutting edge technology.

"That same day that I enlisted, I went to work and my boss said to me, 'Oh, by the way, the work you're doing is war-sensitive and I can get you a deferment.' I've often wondered if he had said that the day before how my life would have changed."

As it was, the Army being the Army, Thompson was called up on May 5 and had to skip his exams and watch

*Paul Thompson went through several Army programs and trainings before finding himself a soldier on the Siegfried Line on the border between Germany and Belgium. It was supposedly a safe spot on the front line for the green 106th Division. But a few days later, the German Army came crashing across the perimeter, and the Battle of the Bulge had begun.*



that year's worth of study go for no credit.

He was given one choice, though: "They said I could go to basic training and become a rifleman, or I could go as a civilian under Army orders to train as a radar repairman. That took about 30 milliseconds of determination."

Radar school was in Ashland, Wisconsin. "It was a good place with a lot of interesting guys. It was where I learned



**PAUL THOMPSON**  
At home in Richfield



**PAUL THOMPSON**  
In the 106th Division during World War II

that math could be useful. I could design and build a radio using mathematics, and it would work. It was great stuff, and it was probably why I always stayed in engineering.”

In November of 1943, though, the Army shut down the radar school. “I was disappointed, of course, but it may have saved my life. As the years went by, all those guys who graduated from the school and went on to become radar repairmen had major health issues. The radar was not well shielded in those days, and all those guys got cancer or other bad diseases.”

Thompson found himself in basic training at Fort Benning. It was another exposure for Thompson to the variety of American life. “I think my generation, or at least me, was terribly naïve. I never knew people could be so different. There were people from Texas and Montana and Appalachia. It was a revelation.”

Another major shock was going camping with the Army. “You’d get out in the boonocks, and it was totally dark. You couldn’t see your own hand. I’d always lived in the city, and there were always lights. I couldn’t understand complete darkness.”

It was at Fort Benning that Thompson began a romance that has lasted his entire life. “There was a girl who lived across the street from me in Chicago, but I didn’t know her that well. My mother wrote to me that her mother had died. I read that letter on the rifle range, so I pulled up an ammunition case and wrote a letter, ‘Dear Laura...’”

Paul and Laura were married after the war and this year will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary.

Thompson also got a lesson in Army regulations at Fort Benning. “All of us thought that there were too many Army regs, and that sometimes they just made them up. There was one regulation that forbade us from going near this stream that went through camp.

“So on one Sunday afternoon when we didn’t have anything to do, a bunch of us went swimming in the creek. It turned out that the banks were lined with poison oak.

“I spent the next two weeks in the hospital.”

Thompson missed graduating with his class. “Again, it might have been blessing. All those guys went to the Pacific and there was pretty bad fighting over there.”

He was first slated to join the Army’s ASTP program, a college program for soldiers, but when that was shut down, Thompson was assigned to the 106th Division at Camp Atterbury in Indiana. “That was a great thing. I was a lot closer to Laura.”

The visits home to Chicago were strenuous, though. “I’d get on a train in Indianapolis, and it was usually standing room only. It was 12 hours to Chicago. I’d get in on Saturday morning without any sleep. On Sunday night I’d head back and try to get to camp before reveille. Then I’d try to stay awake all day.”

He was assigned as a rifleman in the 424th Infantry Regiment, part of the 106th, and he soon convinced his sergeant that with his radar training, he should be assigned to the regiment’s signal corps.

“I was assigned to the radio repair crew, but I had never seen any of these radios. I didn’t even know how to get the cover off them. I could fix them, but it took a lot of time. There was an old sergeant, and now he had a victim. I took it for two weeks, and then I blew up.

“After I got done peeling potatoes, I was assigned to recon.” It was officially known as the cavalry reconnaissance troop (mechanized). “It was our job to go out and find the enemy, then turn around and run like hell and tell our guys where they were.”

The division was moved to Camp Miles Standish in Massachusetts and Thompson and his comrades went aboard the SS Wakefield, a converted luxury liner, for their trip overseas. “We were double loaded so we’d spend 12 hours up on deck and then go grab a bunk for 12 hours, while the guys who were sleeping came up on deck.

“We were a fast ship so we didn’t have an escort. I had never seen the sea. I’d stand on deck and watch those great, green swells of water. I was amazed.”

The ship landed in Liverpool and the troops were moved to an area near Cheltenham in England. “We embarked in early December, 1945, on LSTs (landing ship-tank) to head across the channel. It was choppy. At one point I was sitting on the end of the barrel of 37 millimeter cannon. It was just like a carnival ride. But then a lieutenant came along and said, ‘Private, you’re not supposed to have that much fun.’

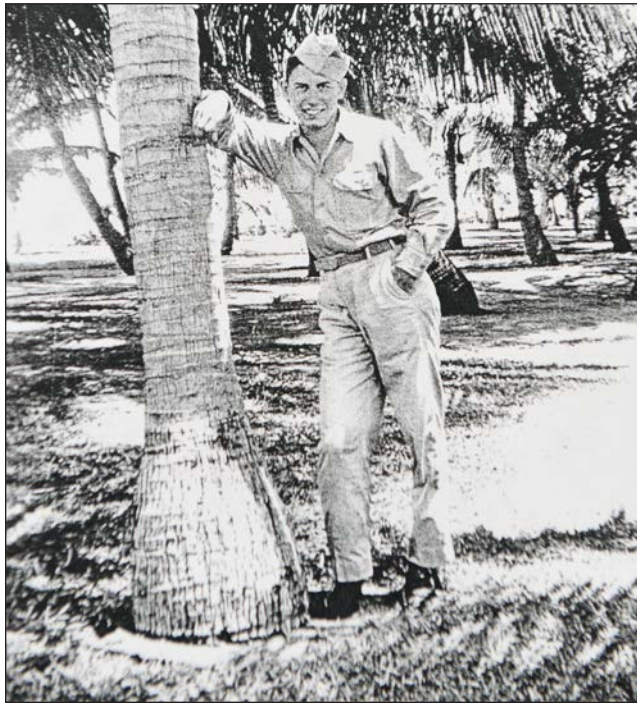
“When we got there, we lost an anchor and we had to go back. We finally arrived at Le Havre on Dec. 8. Le Havre was totally devastated, and there were sunken ships all over the harbor.”

The division moved through Belgium towards the front, and was occasionally besieged by local children who were delighted to see the American troops. “They’d say, ‘Hey, chum, got some gum?’”

The division’s destination was the Ardennes Forest to replace the 2nd Division. “It was Christmas card country, with the symmetrical pines covered with snow and the pretty little roads winding through the valleys.

“But it lost its luster fast. You’d have to tramp through the snow, and every time you brushed a tree, you’d get a load of damp snow down your neck. You’d often be standing in chilled water.”

The men set up camp with shelter halves, with two soldiers each contributing a shelter half to make a tent. “Then



Paul Thompson, looking a little like Frank Sinatra, was sent to Miami Beach as his last posting in the war.



Paul knew Laura from their childhood neighborhood, but the romance blossomed after he wrote her a letter from training camp. They married in 1947.



A postcard view shows camp at Altengrabow, probably when it was a German Army camp prior to World War II. During the war, it was Stalag 11A, where Thompson spent most of his POW time.

we got the idea to use six shelter halves for a larger tent. The two guys in the middle were nice and warm, but the two on the outside got cold feet. We had 15 or 20 of us get trench foot.”

The recon unit had been assigned as regular rifle troops at Grosslangenfeld, on the Siegfried Line between Belgium and Germany. It was supposed to be a quiet sector of the front, a good way to break in a division that had never seen combat.

The 106 guarded 21 miles of the front, and the 424th was responsible for 6 of those miles. To the north was the 423rd Regiment, and between them was a 4,000-yard gap that was filled thinly by the recon unit and the 424th’s cannon company. The recon unit was occupying the Belgian town of Grosslangenfeld.

Only one of the men in the tent had an M-1 rifle. “The rest of us had carbines, and we hated them. They wouldn’t stop a rabbit.”

Things improved dramatically a few days later when Thompson, whose regular job was to fix radios, and his partner were assigned to operate a .30 caliber machine gun at a bunker overlooking the A-60, a major road. Next to the bunker was a house.

“We settled into the master bedroom. The guy with the M-1 got sent back, and I got his rifle, and I got a couple of spare blankets. My roommate was something of a scrounger, and he had a metal trunk filled with food. We were prepared to ride out the war in luxury. We had it made.”

But not for long.

On December 16, 1944, the Germans began what they called the Ardennes Offensive, and what the Allies called the Battle of the Bulge.

“Early that morning, the Germans started shelling. There were 88s and screaming mimis and I was sure the next shell was going to come through the wall of the house and get

me. I tried and I tried, but I couldn’t get my trousers on. Finally I just put on my boots and ran for the bunker. It was pretty lively. As we fought off that first German attack, I was in my underwear.”

The American troops had little ammunition. Some of them only had what they had carried with them from the United States.

Thompson decided to save the ammunition for the machine gun until they really needed it, and so he was firing at the enemy with his newly acquired M-1.

“But the lieutenant could hear that M-1, and he came and took it away from me. He gave it to a sniper who was sitting higher up on the house guarding a ravine. So I began using the machine gun.”

The Americans fought off the first assault, and Thompson had time to go back to the house and get his pants.

The first day ended with that part of the 106th still holding its position despite several German attacks. Thompson said the action that morning was another lucky break in his Army career. “We had a guy in a foxhole way in front of our lines as kind of a first warning of an attack. I was scheduled to relieve that guy at 6 a.m., but the German attack came a half hour earlier. If I’d been in that fox hole, I’d have been the first casualty.”

What Thompson and the rest of his unit didn’t know was that the units fighting on either side of them had been destroyed or withdrawn from their position, leaving them exposed.

Making matters worse, a mortar shell hit the troop’s ammunition cache during the night, and blew up most of their reserve ammo.

“At 10 a.m. the next day, the Germans came with 600 men. We ran out of ammo almost right away. The captain called all the lieutenants in and the decision was made to try to escape. We were going to make a break, but in an ordered sequence.”

Thompson did his best 200-yard dash for a vehicle. "I left the house heading for an armored car. All I had was a belt full of hand grenades. One of the Germans had me in his sights with a burp gun. There was just a cloud of bullets snapping all around me. It doesn't do any good to duck from a burp gun because it just sprays bullets and you'll probably duck right into one. I threw my grenades, but I don't think they did much good.

"I dove into the gunner's seat in the armored car and the driver was yelling at me how to load the 37 millimeter cannon. I had just shoved a shell into it, when the Germans were all around us. We were trapped."

Thompson paused in his account of the surrender.

"I just want to say something about our officers. We had first rate officers all around. But I want to say something about Lt. Leonard Prosnick. He was the least likely of all officers. He was like an overgrown teenager. He was just a kid. He didn't get much respect. But when the fighting started, by golly, he was there. He went to every fox hole bringing them ammunition and sandwiches. He was just incredibly brave.

"After we got captured, he was on a train that was bombed by the British Air Corps, and he was killed."

There were 148 men who went overseas in the recon unit, and all but 17 were captured on that day.

"I got down out of the armored car, and they disarmed me. All I had left was my bayonet and a trench knife. There was a little German guy holding a pistol on me and he was shaking. I think he thought I was going to attack him with that knife.

"We were put in a pig sty. It was then that I looked down at my trousers. I had a bullet hole in the material by each leg above the knee. But I didn't get a scratch from either bullet."

Surrendering is not fun. "We had been awake for about 30 hours, and we were dead tired. We were demoralized."

At about that time, Thompson saw another sight that demoralized him even more. "We saw my buddy's metal trunk, with all that food in it, go by carried by two Germans. One of them had a can of chicken opened, and he was eating it. That really hurt."

The men were marched to the German city of Prum. "Along the way, we saw what the Germans had left in reserve. There were just rows of tanks, and the tanks were as big as houses. They didn't want to waste what little gas they had, so they let the infantry do the first assaults. Thank God we didn't have to face those tanks.

"These were long marches and we learned how to sleep as we marched. You'd put your hand on the soldier next to you, and he'd put his hand on the next soldier. That way you could doze on your feet without falling behind. If you fell behind, they'd shoot you or bayonet you. One of our guys, his name was Harry Nash, couldn't keep up and he didn't survive. They shot him I guess."

From Prum, they were taken to Gerelstein, deeper into Germany. "That's where we were divested. They took our helmets, overcoats, wrist watches and anything in our pockets. We had been envious of the guys who had rubber boots, but the Germans took those boots and they had to march in their stockings."

They were also interrogated at Gerelstein. Thompson was questioned by an officer who spoke perfect English. As he had been taught, he only gave his name, rank and serial number. He was asked what division he was in, and again he responded with his name, rank and serial number.

The officer looked at him and said, "Hey, jerk, I can see your patch on your shoulder and I know you're in the 106th."

"He didn't question me much longer. He knew that privates didn't know anything anyway." Thompson was given a French army overcoat.

The Americans were put aboard small boxcars, usually called 40 and 8 boxcars in the world wars because they could hold 40 men or eight horses. "They were so full, everybody couldn't sit down. At one point they gave us some rye crackers and Limburger cheese."

The sanitary accommodations amounted to a five-gallon bucket near the boxcar door. "But a lot of the guys had dysentery by this time and soon that bucket was overflowing. The guys sitting next to it had to sit in the sewage."

Aboard the train, Thompson made a friend whose name was Carlton Schilcher from New Hampshire. "He was a jeep driver in the second platoon. He had somehow got through the search with a pocket knife with a broken blade. We used that knife to dig a hole through the floor in the farthest corner from that bucket. That was our latrine."

After a few more stops, the Americans arrived at Stalag 12A near Limburg An Der Lahn. It was to be their home for the next week or so before transferring to 3A near Luckewalde.

Thompson's final destination was Stalag 11A near Altengrabow. More than 60,000 Allied troops were registered there, although many were housed at surrounding work camps.

"Our problems were mainly neglect and malnutrition and boredom. Occasionally we'd be attacked by some power crazy guard. I got hit in the back twice by a rifle butt because I wasn't moving fast enough. I can still feel that."

One of the meals each day was a loaf of bread for five men, mixed heavily with wood fiber. "If you couldn't digest

the wood fiber, you'd just die. One great big strong guy just wasted away until he was just a skeleton. Then he died."

Thompson had somehow acquired three or four playing cards, and because you could cut the bread with a card, he became the official bread cutter for his five-man group. "You had to cut it carefully with all those eyes on you. And the bread cutter got the last piece."

There were no medical facilities at the camp. "If you got sick and you couldn't heal yourself, you died."

Thompson and his friend Schilcher heard somewhere that it was a good idea to chew up a piece of charcoal every few days. "It seemed to bind you up. I don't know the logic or if it even worked, but we thought it saved our lives."

We were just starved for something to do. I saw one guy had a New Testament, and he was ripping out the pages and using it for toilet paper. I took it away from him. I mean, this was reading material. It was like gold to me."

To pass the time, the men made things out of scraps they found around the camp. Thompson's specialty was drinking cups. "I think twice we got Red Cross parcels, and they had these small tin cans. I used the 10-in-one can opener to fashion a drinking cup. It was something to do."

His boredom and sense of adventure led him to want to visit the French compound nearby in the camp. It was protected by barbed wire on the ground, and then a 12-foot barbed wire fence, highly guarded.

"I studied the random pattern of the searchlights for a long time, and I finally figured that even in the shortest blackout, I could get over that fence. So one night he tried it, and he made it, although he cut up his hands pretty badly.

The French had many more amenities than the Americans, and Thompson found that he could trade with them for food and other items. They also gave him one glove which helped protect his hands in the climb up the fence.

"I had made a knife out of a band of metal, and some wood I found and some thread from my sock. I thought it was pretty good, but when I showed it to the French soldiers, they couldn't stop laughing. They gave me a real knife. I used it for cutting the bread." Thompson still has the knife.

He's not sure how many excursions he made to the French compound, but his exploits caused other Americans to emulate his derring do. The Germans finally figured out what was going on.

"I was over with the French guys, when the Germans came around with dogs. The French had created a fake wall and they put me and another American named Larry behind it and hid us. The dogs searched the whole compound, but didn't find us."

The Germans guards left, but now the problem was getting back to the American part of the camp, knowing that the Germans were alerted.

The two Americans waited until almost dawn, and then made a run for it.

"I got up and over the fence, but they saw Larry. They shot him. They killed him. It demonstrated to me how foolish that move was." It was the last trip to the French compound.

The first week of April, as the war came closer to the camp, some of the prisoners were organized into an "arbeit commando" group, or work team. Their task was to fix the rail lines near the front. "We were all privates, so under the Geneva Convention they could make us work.

"I thought it was great. We were ready for anything to get out from behind the barbed wire. And it was springtime, and it was lovely outside. We were all pretty sick and weak, but we were happy to be out.

"The front was coming closer, and the horizon was just on fire with the fighting."

The men were under the control of an older German soldier who was a local man. Just before the work group got to his town, the town was bombed by the Americans. "When we got there, his house was destroyed and his family was all killed. He just fell apart. It was our fault. We were the enemy. That was so sad."

On April 11, the work party was camped out in section of woods. Across the road was an open field with nary a tree on it.

"At one point, we could hear some shots. They didn't sound random. We wondered if they were shooting the prisoners. We decided not to wait."

Thompson and his buddy Schilcher figured that the Germans would be guarding the woods, the more likely escape route, so they decided to head out into the open field under the cover of darkness.

"We just walked across the road, and took off across that field, and we were scot free. Other guys who tried to escape through the woods were shot that night."

As they got further and further from their captors, they began to think they had it made. But then, right in front of them, was a tank.

"We felt as naked as babies. I thought, 'My God, we're cooked.'

"It didn't look like a Sherman tank, but we found out later it was the new style American tank. There was a Jeep following the tank, and we approached it. We must have been quite the sight, and we were afraid they'd think we were the enemy.



Thompson posed in front of his house in Chicago when he was home on leave.

"I was wearing a German field jacket and a Serbian barracks cap. My buddy had on a French overcoat. The men in the Jeep just looked at us, and then they just burst out laughing. One of them said, 'You guys are the sorriest looking soldiers I've ever seen.'"

The two were taken to an army mess hall. "I still remember that meal today. It was ham with raisin sauce and sweet potatoes with brown sugar. We were smart enough to eat very carefully, but it was so good. Mess sergeants aren't used to getting many compliments, but we praised him up and down."

Freedom was also delicious. "How do you describe it? It's just wonderful."

The Army, though, had a war to win and the two escapees were left on their own as the American troops advanced. They teamed up with a small group of British soldiers who had also escaped and spent five days with them.

"We were in a hilltop town about a mile away from this thick woods. All of a sudden we could see this group of soldiers coming out of the woods in black shirts. They began firing a mortar at the town. I never have figured out why. They were behind the American lines."

Thompson and the others watched in horror as the SS unit advanced on the little town. "But then the cavalry came to our rescue. It was in the form of an American tank. It was a beautiful sight."

The tank scattered the troops and they ran away. One of the outcomes of the aborted attack, though, was that one mortar shell had killed a sheep. "One of the British guys was a butcher and he prepared the meat. I flagged down a supply truck and got some 'meals for ten' packages. We had roasted mutton and white bread. It was glorious."

After a couple more days of enjoying their freedom, Schilcher and Thompson thought it would be a good idea to go home, and so they flagged down a truck heading the right direction. They made it to the town of Hildesheim.

"The army there sent me in one direction and Schilcher in the other. We never saw each other again.

"There's no doubt we saved each other's lives. When one of us went somewhere, the other would guard our stuff. If you left a pair of boots out unattended, they were gone. I hate to say it but it's true. We shared our food. We kept each other going."

Thompson caught a flight to Camp Lucky Strike, an Army base that was a staging area for sending troops back home.

The Army wanted to make sure the troops they were sending home, particularly the former prisoners, were clean and presentable. The men were stripped down to their shorts, covered with DDT, and their clothes and other belongings were burned. They were given new uniforms.

"I lost everything," Thompson said. "They even took my pants with the bullet holes in them."

He sailed home on a Navy transport. "Best food I ever had." And he got 30 days leave in Chicago, just in time to be home for his 20th birthday. His next duty station was Miami Beach, Florida.

"I was in the 35th Battalion, which was all combat vets. When the war ended, they restricted us to quarters. They thought we might celebrate too much."

He finally was discharged in late November of 1945 at Camp Ripley and returned to the University of Chicago where he earned his degree in philosophy. "I tell my kids that a degree in philosophy and 50 cents will get you a cup of coffee."

He went back to school and earned a degree in engineering from Purdue University. He and Laura had four children in the ensuing years. The family has grown to 11 grandchildren and eight great grandchildren with two on the way. He and Laura will celebrate their 70th anniversary on Aug. 2.

Thompson moved to Minnesota and worked as an electrical engineer for Honeywell, then moved to Michigan, then back to Honeywell, and finally retired from Control Data Corporation.

The Thompsons have lived in the same house in Richfield for the past 55 years.

# Listening Post

# News from around the State



**DEPARTMENT WINS NATIONAL PLAQUE** -- The Legionnaire Insurance Trust presented the Department of Minnesota with a plaque honoring the state for the best promotion of LIT programs this past year. Adjutant Randy Tesdahl accepted the plaque from Department LIT Chairman Bill Barbknecht.



**VETS HOME MINNEAPOLIS** -- The Minnesota Veterans Home at Minneapolis recently celebrated its Fishing Opener. The family of Harry Ostendorf presented a check to Muskies Inc. to sponsor next year's Fishing Opener.



**PRESTON CEREMONY** -- Memorial Day was observed at the new Minnesota Veterans Cemetery at Preston.



**TYLER HELPS OUT** -- The Life Fit Training Center at Tyler did exercises and raised money for the Minnesota Veterans Home at Luverne on Memorial Day. Tyler Post 185 provided matching funds, as did Southwest Family Chiropractic.



**BACKUS MEMORIAL DAY** -- Rev. Judy Reitz Gustafson, pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Hackensack, spoke of harmony at the Backus Post 368 Memorial Day Service.



**DASSEL HONORS KERMIT** -- Dassel Post 364 recently honored Kermit Swanson with a certificate for 70 years membership. From left; Brad Swanson, Joanie Swanson, David Pearson, Beverly Pearson, Kermit, Aileen Swanson, and Legion members Dale Hultgren, George Schwinghammer, Chuck Ailie.



**OSSEO-MAPLE GROVE BIRTHDAY DINNER** -- Allen Kilmer, 95, was honored by Osseo-Maple Grove Post 172 at the annual Birthday Dinner. He is the longest living continuous member of the post. From left, NECman Marland Ronning, Doug Town, Kilmer, Post Commander Tom Olson.

## Membership Chart As of May 31, 2017

District	2017 Goal	Total 2016	Total 2017	Percent of Goal	Same Date '16
1	9,380	9,322	8,834	94.18	9,271
2	7,572	7,488	7,170	94.69	7,460
3	11,977	11,912	11,608	96.92	11,862
4	2,592	2,572	2,396	92.44	2,509
5	2,679	2,657	2,441	91.12	2,637
6	12,109	12,038	11,680	94.46	11,922
7	6,695	6,619	6,286	93.89	6,597
8	4,417	4,377	4,190	94.86	4,351
9	7,015	6,950	6,649	94.78	6,916
10	10,611	10,557	9,957	93.84	10,531
At-large	1,953	2,710	2,333	119.46	2,682
<b>Totals</b>	<b>77,000</b>	<b>77,202</b>	<b>72,643</b>	<b>94.34</b>	<b>76,738</b>

# Taps

**Danielson, David**, 88, Marine veteran of the Korean War, died May 14, 2017. He was a member of New London Post 537.

**Black, Richard**, 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 18, 2017. He managed a mess hall and earned three service stars. He was a member of New London Post 537.

**Allen, Larry J.**, 71, veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 22, 2017. He served in Vietnam. He was a member of Little Falls Post 46.

**Brown, Charles**, 91, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died May 23, 2017. He was a member of Caledonia Post 191.

**Heaney, Harold**, 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 23, 2017. He was a member of Caledonia Post 191.

**Posch, Leonard J.**, 96, Army veteran of World War II, died May 19, 2017. He served in Tunisia and Italy. He was a member of Little Falls Post 46.

**Beckman, Arthur E.**, 86, Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War, died May 7, 2017. He was a member of Mora Post 201.

**Whiteford, Patrick L.**, 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 14, 2017. He was a member of Mora Post 201.

**Dahl, Alvin E.**, 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died April 4, 2017. He laid cable for communications in Germany. He was a member of Middle River Post 444.

**Nelson, Donald Nels**, 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died April 21, 2017. He was a member of Middle River Post 444.

**Notsch, Ralph J.**, 84, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 12, 2017. He was a member of St. Joseph Post 328.

**Buland, Maynard G.**, 86, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died April 29, 2017. He served on the battleship USS Missouri (BB-63). He was a member of Waseca Post 228.

**Boehm, Carl A.**, 91, Army veteran of World War II, died April 18, 2017. He was a Jeep and truck driver in Japan.

**Hess, Phil**, 92, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died May 4, 2017. He was a radio operator. He was member of Thief River Falls Post 117.

**Stensrud, Dan**, 59, National Guard veteran of the Persian Gulf War, died May 8, 2017. He was trained as a medic. He was a member of Thief River Falls Post 117.

**Kiewatt, Robert William, Sr.**, 91, Army veteran of World War II, died April 8, 2017. He served in Italy and Europe, and earned the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. He was a member of Verndale Post 326.

**Campbell, Mason R.**, 66, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died April 23, 2017. He was a member of Willmar Post 167.

**Skare, Lynn A.**, 80, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 12, 2017. He was a member of Willmar Post 167.

**Holthaus, George J.**, 90, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 3, 2017. He served in Korea. He was a member of Millerville Post 527.

**Brundin, Donald K.**, 93, Army veteran of World War II, died April 23, 2017. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

**Deinken, Jerome**, 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 5, 2017. He was a member of Redwood Falls Post 38.

**Riley, Duane M.**, 91, Army veteran of World War II, died April 18, 2017. He was a member of Prior Lake Post 447.

**Jorgensen, Richard**, 89, Army veteran of World War II, died April 15, 2017. He was a member of Marshall Post 113.

**Puetz, Englebert**, 85, Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War, died April 15, 2017. He was a member of Marshall Post 113.

**Nelson, Val**, 75, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died April 24, 2017. He was a member of Marshall Post 113.

**Kemper, Richard William**, 84, Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War, died April 8, 2017. He was a member of Bloomington Post 550.

**Perkins, Jack M.**, 90, Coast Guard veteran of World War II, died April 5, 2017. He was a member of Bloomington Post 550.

**Walsh, Ryland**, 85, Marine Corps veteran of the Korean and Vietnam Wars, died May 2, 2017. He served for 17 years.

**Griffith, Ronald Dean**, 74, Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, died April 28, 2017. He was a flight instructor at Reese Air Force Base. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 212.

**Crook, James R.**, 87, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died May 5, 2017. He served aboard the USS Cavalier, attack transport, delivering men and supplies to Korean beachheads. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 212.

**Novak, Francis E.**, 90, Army veteran of World War II, died May 5, 2017. He was a member of Lonsdale Post 586.

**Lightner, Larry M.**, 84, Army veteran of the Korean War, died April 23, 2017. He was a member of Brainerd Post 255.

**Hanson, Orville B.**, 90, Navy veteran of World War II,

died May 10, 2017. He was a member of Brainerd Post 255.

**Loscheider, Leo**, 96, Army veteran of World II, died May 15, 2017. He served in Africa and Europe and earned a Bronze Star. He was a member of Little Falls Post 46.

**Nolan, James Joseph**, 93, Navy veteran of World War II, died May 10, 2017. He was a member of Austin Post 91.

**Poynter, Ralph Arnold**, 79, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died May 6, 2017. He was a member of Windom Post 206.

**Soderbloom, Gerald E.**, 94, Army veteran of World War II, died April 28. He was a member of Cloquet Post 262.

**Danger, Charles William "Bill,"** 85, Air Force veteran of the Korean War. He served 35 years in the Air Force Reserve and retired as a lieutenant colonel. He was a member of St. James Post 33.

**Sweep, Theodore**, 87, Army National Guard veteran of the Korean War, died April 22, 2017. He was a member of Long Prairie Post 12.

**Strelow, Marlyn**, 86, Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War, died April 24, 2017. He was a jet mechanic at Cherry Point. He was a member of Mora Post 201.

**Mattson, Alden "Bud,"** 89, Army veteran of the Korean War, died April 30, 2017. He served in the Seventh Division, 32nd Infantry. He was a member of Windom Post 206.

**Schons, Gary Dean**, 71, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died April 26, 2017. He was a member of Windom Post 206.

**Robinson, Richard Luverne**, 95, Navy veteran of World War II, died April 19, 2017. He served as a medic attached to the Marine Corps and served in the Southwest Pacific. He was a member of Windom Post 206.

**Schoolmeester, Lester C.**, 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died April 27, 2017. He was a member of Chandler Post 338.

**Flor, Dr. Albert G.**, 96, Army veteran of World War II, died April 23, 2017. He was a dentist at many Army posts. He was a past commander of New Richland Post 75.

**Thompson, Frank**, 85, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died April 22, 2017. He was a member of Cloquet Post 262.

**Foster, Lois**, 68, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died April 18, 2017. She was a member of Zimmerman Post 560.

**Eiden, James**, 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died April 8, 2017. He served in the 8th Cavalry Regiment. He was a member of Apple Valley Post 1776.

**Zobava, John**, 87, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died April 24, 2017. He was a member of Little Falls Post 46.

**Thorson, Howard C.**, 88, Coast Guard and Army veteran of World War II, died April 24, 2017. He was a member of Hackensack Post 202.

**Fitzgibbons, John T.**, 82, Army veteran of the Korean War, died April 22, 2017. He was a member of Cold Spring Post 455.

**Hereid, Clifton**, 92, veteran of World War II, died April 13, 2017. He was a member of Hackensack Post 202.

**Schwindel, Warren**, 94, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died April 30, 2017. He was a member of Cold Spring Post 455.

**Stommes, Alois G.**, 98, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died April 29, 2017. He was a member of Cold Spring Post 455.

**Novotny, John**, 84, Army veteran of the Korean War, died April 19, 2017. He fought in the 9th Infantry Regiment. He was a past long-time adjutant of Motley Post 124.

**Huniker, Craig A.**, 65, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died April 22, 2017. He was a member of Austin Post 91.

**Oien, Melvin P.**, 86, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died April 22, 2017. He was with the 603rd Aircraft and Warning Squadron. He served in German. He was a member of Milaca Post 178.

**Pool, Herb H.**, 88, Army veteran of World War II, died April 14, 2017. He served in Germany. He was a member of Milroy Post 274.

**Webb, Lonnie**, 86, Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War, died May 6, 2017. He was a first lieutenant. He was a member of New Prague Post 45.

**Bednar, Robert J.**, 84, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died May 8, 2017. He served stateside. He was a member of New Prague Post 45.

**Fitzke, Thomas**, 74, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 16, 2017. He was a military policeman. He was a member of New Prague Post 45.

**Brosseau, Lynn**, 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 18, 2017. He was a member of Thief River Falls Post 117.

**Pfannenstien, Harold**, 84, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 16, 2017. He was a member of St. Joseph Post 328.

**Buss, Allen D.**, 91, Navy veteran of World War II, died May 26, 2017. He served on the battleship USS New Jersey (BB-62). He was a member of Claremont Post 422.

**Fitzgibbons, John T.**, 82, Army veteran of the Korean

War, died April 22, 2017. He was a member of Cold Spring Post 455.

**McNeal, Herbert R.**, 84, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died May 24, 2017. He was a member of Chisholm Post 247.

**Danielson, Roger D.**, 70, Minnesota National Guard veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 27, 2017. He was in the First Battalion, 135th Infantry. He was a member of Lanesboro Post 40.

**Schmidt, Avit F.**, 80, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 22, 2017. He also served in the Minnesota National Guard. He was a member of Little Falls Post 46.

**Clark, Wayne Albert**, 88, Navy Reserve veteran of the Korean War, died May 21, 2017. He served on a naval supply ship that went to Japan, Korea and the Philippines. He served two years as a commander of Lakefield Post 4.

**Straus, Vernis C.**, 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 26, 2017. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

**Moe, Osmund**, 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 2, 2017. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

**Zimmer, Albert**, 98, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died May 23, 2017. He was in the 315th Bomb Wing at Guam. He was a member of St. Joseph Post 328.

**Bird, Royce D.**, 83, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died June 1, 2017. He was a member of Keewatin Post 452.

**Grabuski, Henry**, 92, Army veteran of World War II, died May 26, 2017. He was a member of Sauk Rapids Post 254.

**Ekstrom, Virgil E.**, 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 30, 2017. He was a member of Red Wing Post 54.

## Correction

**Reznechek, Duane A. "Dewey,"** 68, Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, died Feb. 20, 2017. He served in Thailand and England. He was a member of Maple Lake Post 131.

## Obituary policy for submissions

Updated: February 2006

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

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

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

1. Complete name of deceased.
2. Age at death.
3. Branch of service and war or wars the veteran served in.
4. Exact date of death.
5. Additional information about the veteran's service background including unit, type of service, place of service, medals, etc.

6. The post, unit or squadron the deceased belonged to.

7. Additional information about Legion service including officer posts held.

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

## Legion slams VA budget

WASHINGTON — National Commander Charles E. Schmidt of The American Legion expressed extreme disappointment in the Trump administration's 2018 budget for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

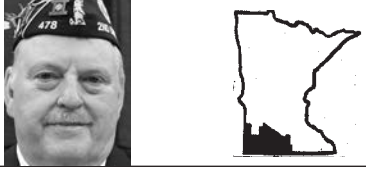
"The administration's budget for the VA would effectively lower the earnings of our most vulnerable veterans by reducing or eliminating disability payments from veterans who are the most in need," Schmidt said. "This is absolutely unacceptable to us."

The budget would stop higher disability payments to veterans once they become minimally eligible for Social Security. Veterans currently enrolled in the Individual Unemployability program, which is available to those who cannot work and receive the maximum disability compensation from VA, will see their benefits slashed by nearly two-thirds in some instances.

Another disturbing provision caps working age unemployment at age 62. Schmidt pointed out that many members of Congress continue to work past 70. "This plan breaks faith with veterans," Schmidt added. "Moreover, it's an assault on TRICARE benefits, which were earned by veterans who spent decades of their lives serving and defending the Constitution of the United States. We are also alarmed by the cannibalization of services needed for the Choice program. It is a 'stealth' privatization attempt which The American Legion fully opposes."

# District Commanders

**SECOND DISTRICT**  
Mark Coney  
Commander



Hello Legionnaires.

I hope that everyone had a fun and safe Memorial Day weekend and that you were able to partake in some of the numerous Memorial Day activities around the District and the State. I was asked to be the speaker for Mountain Lake's program this year. I am so proud of how the small towns in America pull together to keep these traditions alive. This reflects on our core values and beliefs which is evident in all the unique veteran's memorials I see as I travel through the district and state. It is refreshing to see communities take time to remember our lost brothers and sisters rather than seeing Memorial Day as a day for great sales at the Mall or it to be the official first day of the summer travel season. A special thank you to Mountain Lake for giving me the opportunity to speak.

What is coming up in the District in June? June 7: Veteran's Home fishing outing at Becker's Resort in Lake Benton; 9 a.m. until about 3 p.m. Burgers and fish will be served, Officers of the 2nd District, please bring a salad or dessert to pass around. Coffee and Rolls will be served first thing until gone.

June 9-10: District Convention in Madelia. Exec board starts Friday night with dinner and social, then meeting starts at 7 p.m. Convention is Saturday June 10, Coffee and rolls at 7 a.m., Roll Call at 8 a.m. You can still register at the door. I encourage you to attend so you can see what we are doing in the District.

Thank you everyone for your service and God Bless America.

**THIRD DISTRICT**  
Mike Maxa  
Commander



By the time you read this your new Third District Commander Eugene Leifeld will have been elected your Commander for the coming year. I wish Gene the best of luck and I know he will have a successful year. I also want to wish his newly elected officers a great successful year also. The "Thundering Third" will continue to be heard in the coming year.

I want to remind all our Legionnaires to keep asking our Veterans to join our organization. We need members now more than ever. Our elected officials keep trying to cut our benefits that were promised to us when we raised our right hand and took the oath to protect this great United States of America! Our voice needs to be loud by our membership numbers and we need more than 2.2 million voices to be heard on capital hill. We have established many great programs and we continue to work them but to keep these programs alive we need members. After signing them up we need to mentor them, continue to ask and they will get involved. So, "Ask" a Veteran to join and our Legion family will grow.

**FOURTH DISTRICT**  
Randy Bastyr  
Commander



Greetings to all members of the Fabulous Fourth. We are still in 9th place in the Department membership race. It may be too late to reach our 100% goal this year, but that doesn't mean we stop recruiting new members or getting our current members to renew. We just need to contact our unpaid members and get them to send in their dues. Also, ask everyone you meet if they are a member. If not, ask them to join.

Our 4th District Convention was held at the North St. Paul Post 39 on May 20th. We had several speakers, a moving Memorial Service and elected our new Commander for 2017-2018. Congratulations to Lane Stunkel from Arcade-Phalen Post 577, our 4th District Commander Elect. Please show Lane the same support you have shown me. He will do an excellent job and has some new ideas to lead us into the next year.

Upcoming District events: Dignified Flag Disposal Ceremony at the Disabled Veterans Rest Camp on June 10th at Noon, - VA Hospital visitation June 18th @ 12:30 p.m.

Thank you all for this opportunity to serve the Fabulous Fourth District. Thank you all for your service to God and Country.

**FIFTH DISTRICT**  
Ray Eiden  
Commander



Greetings from the Fighting Fifth.

Here we are in June already and the year is almost over. I hope everyone attended a service somewhere on Memorial Day to honor our fallen Veterans. Our District had its Testimonial Dinner on April 15th at Post #1. It was a good celebration rewarding our leaders for their fine year. A delicious beef pot roast dinner was served. Department Commander Denise Milton's Testimonial Dinner was well attended. I hope she found a way to get all her gifts home safely. I congratulate her on having a good year and showing strong leadership.

It was an honor for me to be with Department Vice Commander Curt Norenberg at the U of M on April 29th to help give out ROTC awards. A nice program was put together honoring recipients from the Army, Navy and Air Force ROTC units.

Our 4th & 5th District picnic this year will be held on June 11th at the Veteran's Camp on Big Marine Lake. It will start at noon with food being served at 1:00 p.m. This year our District will supply the meat and man the grill. For membership we are currently at 90.85% of goal. It would be nice to see us surpass last year when we finished at 93% of goal. Don't let up. We can do it.

Our next Hospital Visitation is June 4th at 2:00 p.m.

**SIXTH DISTRICT**  
Vernonica Fernlund  
Commander



Congratulations 6th District on winning the Premier Membership Race. The Premier Race is the series of Department membership contests which result in one District being the annual winner. It takes all the Posts in the District working together to make the achievement - Great Job Team.

Thank you to everyone at Park Rapids Post 212 for all the great hospitality and hard work making our convention a great success.

The time for the Department Convention in Mahanomen is fast approaching. All Posts need to make sure they have a representative at the convention so they can have a voice in decisions and the elections. The convention is scheduled for July 13-15, 2017. This has been a fantastic year and I want to thank all the District officers and chairmen for all their hard work. I am honored to be your Commander and enjoyed all the hospitality throughout the state and all the new friends. Even though my term as Commander is coming to an end, the 2016-2017 membership year does not end until December 31, 2017. Never give-up asking veterans to be a member of our great organization.

**SEVENTH DISTRICT**  
Garylee Davenport  
Commander



Greeting Mighty 7th

I hope that everyone had a good Memorial Day with family & friends. Hopefully everyone was able to attend a Memorial Day service in one way or another to pay respect to Fallen Comrads. I was able to attend the Memorial Day Service in Marshall and would like to say Thank You to the Marshall Post for their hospitality.

The Mighty 7th still has some work to do on our membership. As of the last up-date from the Department of Minnesota, we are in 7th place and I think we can do better.

Just a reminder that the District Convention is June 10th in Spicer and the Department Convention is coming up in July. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Convention.

**NINTH DISTRICT**  
Eric Wilkens  
Commander



Greetings from the Roaring Ninth District. We will hold our District Convention on June 10th at Moorhead Post 21 starting at 8:00. Membership continues to trickle in with 21 Posts making goal. Several members from the District attended the testimonial for Department Commander Denise Milton in Mahanomen the beginning of May. It was great to see many of the other District Commanders in attendance. I recently returned from a short military activa-

tion and had the opportunity to see the fine men and women of the Air Force doing great things to protect our nation. Regardless of the political climate of the time, veterans have stood strong and steadfast in their commitment to defending the Constitution and the homeland. Let us continue to do the many great things we do across our communities to support our fellow veterans and the programs of The American Legion.

For God and Country.

**TENTH DISTRICT**  
Bonnie Hanson  
Commander



Hello from the Mighty 10th District

So this is my last article for the Legionnaire wow how time flies. I think writing these articles has been one of the toughest job I have had. It is easier to get up and talk to everyone but to put down my thoughts and words on paper just wow.

The last article as the 10th District Commander and it has been a good year with some bad parts but we got through it. Meeting all the other District Commanders and talking with them on how they were doing and different things like events, membership (oh yah Membership) that is the most important thing because if we didn't have teams and the phone to contact them we would not have The American Legion. Having the revitalization times but again it is the phrase "just ask." That is still the best way and then telling them about the 4 Pillars and what The American Legion is all about.

Next year will be the 100th year that we have been The American Legion and we have to stand up and be proud when it is here in Minnesota. We can show all our strength in numbers.

Most likely in May and June the Posts will be electing new officers and will be telling them you have certain things that you can do but it is still the fun things and all the miles you will be put on your vehicle and again remember who you are. Adjutants, you did receive a packet with forms that you needed to fill out and one of the important ones is the Consolidated Post Report form so I hope this was done. Commander Denise would like the State of Minnesota at 100%, we can do it.

Good luck to the new officers and always remember: Family first, God bless America, and keep our troops safe.

## Legion criticizes White House VA plan

WASHINGTON - National Commander Charles E. Schmidt of The American Legion expressed extreme disappointment in the Trump administration's 2018 budget for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

"The administration's budget for the VA would effectively lower the earnings of our most vulnerable veterans by reducing or eliminating disability payments from veterans who are the most in need," Schmidt said. "This is absolutely unacceptable to us."

The budget would stop higher disability payments to veterans once they become minimally eligible for Social Security. Veterans currently enrolled in the Individual Unemployability program, which is available to those who cannot work and receive the maximum disability compensation from VA, will see their benefits slashed by nearly two-thirds in some instances.

Another disturbing provision caps working age unemployability at age 62. Schmidt pointed out that many members of Congress continue to work past 70. "This plan breaks faith with veterans," Schmidt added. "Moreover, it's an assault on TRICARE benefits, which were earned by veterans who spent decades of their lives serving and defending the Constitution of the United States. We are also alarmed by the cannibalization of services needed for the Choice program. It is a 'stealth' privatization attempt which The American Legion fully opposes. Choice should not be advanced to the detriment of cost of living increases for veterans. We hope all veterans, families and supporters of veterans call their elected officials and tell them that they can do better than this misguided plan. Our veterans deserve no less."

With a current membership of 2.2 million wartime veterans, The American Legion, www.legion.org, was founded in 1919 on the four pillars of a strong national security, veterans affairs, Americanism, and youth programs. Legionnaires work for the betterment of their communities through more than 13,000 posts across the nation.

# State Legion Bowling Tournament for 2017

## Auxiliary Team

PLACING	POST	CITY	NAME	SCORE	PRIZE
1	377	DELANO	SANDI VASS CAROL DANIELS BONNIE BRANDENBURG JAN HENNING	2514	\$160.00
2	85	N. BRANCH	BETTY BOATMAN SHERRI PIERCE NANCY CLEVELAND SHARI CARLSON	2453	\$100.00
3	254	SK. RAPIDS	KAREN KRAEMER BEV GROSE AMY WENTZLAFF JUDY CAGLE	2445	\$80.00
4	94	RUSHFORD	DEB CARLSON KALLIE CARLSON CHERIE HEGLAND STEF HEGLAND	2425	\$40.00
				<b>TOTAL—10</b>	<b>\$380.00</b>

## Auxiliary Singles

PLACE	POST #	POST AND NAME	SCORE	PRIZE
1	144	BELLE PLAINE, SHARI GIESEN	696	\$100.00
2	377	DELANO, JAN HENNING	681	\$80.00
3	254	SAUK RAPIDS, BEV GROUSE	679	\$60.00
4	377	DELANO, BONNIE BRANDENBURG	675	\$50.00
5	455	COLD SPRING, D. SCHRKOEDER	671	\$40.00
6	94	RUSHFORD, STEF HEGLUND	657	\$30.00
7	377	DELANO, CAROL DANIELS	654	\$25.00
8	255	BRAINERD, TAMMIE JOHNSON	652	\$25.00
9	85	NORTH BRANCH, SHARI CARLSON	650	\$25.00
10	85	NORTH BRANCH, BETTY BOATMAN	649	\$20.00
11	85	NORTH BRANCH, KELLY FEDUN	646	\$20.00
12	320	HOPKINS, DEB CARLSON	641	\$20.00
13	428	WAITE PARK, KELLY WILLIAMS	639	\$20.00
14	85	NORTH BRANCH, N. CLEVELAND	636	\$20.00
14	254	SAUK RAPIDS, KAREN KRAMER	636	\$20.00
16	40	LANESBORO, SUE LANCE	635	\$15.00
16	85	NORTH BRANCH, SHERRI PIERCE	635	\$15.00
18	94	RUSHFORD, DEB CARLSON	633	\$15.00
18	428	WAITE PARK, PATTI HENNEN	633	\$15.00
20	455	COLD SPRING, DOREEN LEMKE	631	\$10.00
21	455	COLD SPRING, NORMA TRAMM	622	\$10.00
22	56	ALBERT LEA, JULIE KOHL	614	\$10.00
23	320	HOPKINS, CAROL WACH	612	\$10.00
23	428	WAITE PARK, LORE BENKOWSKI	612	\$10.00
			<b>TOTAL-70</b>	<b>\$665.00</b>

## Auxiliary All Events

PLACE	POST	NAME	SCORE	PRIZE
1	377	DELANO JAN HENNING	2004	\$43.00
2	377	DELANO BONNIE BRANDENBURG	1982	\$30.00
3	94	RUSHFORD STEF HEGLUND	1947	\$20.00
4	85	N. BRANCH KELLY FEDUN	1938	\$10.00
5	491	BAYPORT BRENDA RYDEEN	1929	\$7.00
6	94	RUSHFORD DEB CARLSON	1920	\$7.00
6	38	RED. FALLS ROBERTA JENNIGES	1920	\$7.00
			<b>TOTAL 62</b>	<b>\$124.00</b>

## Auxiliary Doubles

PLACE	POST	NAME	SCORE	PRIZE
1	455 COLD SPRING	NORMA TRAMM CINDY GOEPFERD	1306	\$150.00
2	377 DELANO	BONNIE BRANDENBURG JAN HENNING	1303	\$100.00
3	94 RUSHFORD	DEB CARLSON KALLIE CARLSON	1300	\$72.00
4	144 BELLE PLAINE	CONNIE ZURN SHARI GIESEN	1275	\$50.00
5	40 LANESBORO	DEE ANN HIMLI LORI ANDERSON	1257	\$40.00
6	428 WAITE PARK	LINDA WILLIAMS KELLY WILLIAMS	1235	\$30.00
7	85 NORTH BRANCH	BETTY BOATMAN SHERRI PIERCE	1233	\$30.00
8	254 SAUK RAPIDS	KAREN KRAMER JUDY CAGLE	1232	\$20.00
9	40 LANESBORO	SUE LANCE ELLEN WAGNER	1226	\$20.00
			<b>TOTAL-27</b>	<b>\$512.00</b>

## Legion Team

PLACE	POST	TEAM	SCORE	PRIZE
1	320, HOPKINS	GARY KULL CAROL WACH LARRY WOODS GARY ZIEBA	2668	\$700.00
2	274, MILROY	LANNY SIK JORDY BEEK LEROY SIK LYDELL SIK	2643	\$600.00
3	257, SPRINGFIELD	JOHN MORITZ CHUCK ROIGER CURT ERICKSON DENNY GENTZ	2638	\$500.00
4	431, TWIN VALLEY	CORY HANSON BEN FALL JODY BUENG LYNN CHRISTIANSON	2626	\$300.00
5	40, LANESBORO	ROBERT THOMPSON STEVE RAHN JEFF NORSTAD JERRY POST	2615	\$100.00
6	172, OSSEO	CORY MILLER STEVE ERICKSON GENE PREHATNEY ROBERT MIKA	2590	\$100.00
7	377, DELANO	JOEL THINER PETE LARSON CHRIS DANIELS ROGER VASS	2588	\$100.00
8	164, STEWARTVILLE	ANTHONY LILLY ROGER PETERSON LANCE PETERSON CHRIS PUGH	2585	\$90.00
9	104, LITCHFIELD	JESSE JOHNSON BRYAN KRUEGER ROGER BIELKE MATT BIELKE	2582	\$80.00
10	281, JANESVILLE	DAVE BLASING	2581	\$80.00

11	38, REDWOOD FALLS	ROBERT JANNIGES TYLER JENNIGES ROBERTA JENNIGES DOUG MOODY	2566	\$80.00
12	108, LE CENTER	KEN BLASCHKO MIKE HUONDER DANNY STEPKA LARRY NELSON	2558	\$80.00
13	71, WEST DULUTH	KEN HOLETS RON HOLETS CARL HENDRICKSON DAVID OLYNYK	2552	\$80.00
14	428, WAITE PARK	RANDY THEIS RAY THEIS LARRY JOHNSON TRAVIS THEIS	2549	\$80.00
15	85, NORTH BRANCH	JIM HUNT SCOTT STENGER ANDREW MASELTER JOSH POTTSMITH	2544	\$80.00
16	428, WAITE PARK	DUANE WALZ DEAN WALZ DAVE WALZ DOUG WALZ	2530	\$80.00
17	85, NORTH BRANCH	ROD BOATMAN SCOTT MILLER FLOYD CHRISTOPERSON MITCHELL CHRISTOPERSON	2527	\$80.00
18	164, STEWARTVILLE	DALE MELDAHL PETE FISCHER KEVIN HEYDT BRETT BUSHMAN	2522	\$80.00
19	172, OSSEO	MATT GANSTEE JEFF RASMUSSEN CHAD MUNDHAHL SCOTT GIESEMANN	2518	\$80.00
20	255, BRAINERD	DAVE NELSON FAYE NELSON TAMMIE JOHNSON LLOYD JOHNSON	2505	\$60.00
21	507, MAHTOMEDI	ROGER LEONARD JR JACOB BENDER TOM LEONARD COLE DUPRE	2496	\$60.00
22	255, BRAINERD	RON MICKEVIEIUS DAVE JOHNSON DAN JOHNSON DARREL JOHNSON	2489	\$60.00
23	260, MONTICELLO	AL SCHMIDT RICK SWANSON BRUCE THIBODEAU KEVIN NEU	2469	\$60.00
24	377, DELANO	PAT THINER DAVE ANDERSON JEFF WENDT DAVE WENDT	2467	\$60.00
25	270, BUFFALO	JOHN ZERELL TOM ZERELL DAVID LINDEMANN LEO POSPICAL	2462	\$60.00
26	112, ELK RIVER	LENNY WIRTZ JR TIM HILLER SR LENNY WIRTZ SR TYLER HILLER	2461	\$60.00
27	418, HAMLINE	BOB BROBERG BRAD RARDIN ADAM GOETZKE JEFF BROBERG	2460	\$60.00
28	433, GAYLORD	RYAN EVERS KEN SEEMANN MIKE WITTHUS MYRON NELSON	2456	\$60.00
29	365, HANSKA	MIKE PEARSE SHELDON PEARSE GARY SCHNEIDER BOB ROTH	2451	\$60.00
30	641, PLATO	VERNON WILKENS DENNIS KRUSCHKE ORLIN HERNEMANN RALPH PREHN	2446	\$60.00
31	43, FARIBAULT	DAVE DEFRIES KYLE VOEGELE PAUL PIRAMI TIM BLOM	2445	\$60.00
32	507, MAHTOMEDI	JACK EBERHARD ED LIECK KIM LAGOON KEN LAGOON	2438	\$40.00
33	104, LITCHFIELD	BRAD ZIEGENHAGEN BRIAN ZIEGENHAGEN GERALD IDE GARY HOLTZ	2432	\$40.00
34	126, COSMOS	JIM LIES GERALD PETERSON DEVIN FREDERIKSEN MARK BAKKE	2431	\$40.00
35	491, BAYPORT	JON MONTY SCOTT SCHMIDT TED LARSEN JEFF GALLOWITZ	2420	\$40.00
36	96, HUTCHINSON	ROD NORDLING JOHN KUBOW DENNIS KARNIK DON HOLTZ	2415	\$40.00
37	206, WINDOM	TERRY FIFE DAVE HOFKER NATE VANNOTE GENE HEIROMUS	2414	\$40.00
37	428, WAITE PARK	TOM FERNLAND WES THOMPSON CHRIS GOHMAN DAVE STEICHEN	2414	\$40.00
			<b>TOTAL-115 TEAMS</b>	<b>\$4,370.00</b>

## Legion Singles

PLACING	POST	NAME	SCORE	PAYOUT
1	507, MAHTOMEDI	TOM LEONARD	767	\$250.00
2	320, HOPKINS	LARRY WOODS	766	\$180.00
3	431, TWIN VALLEY	JODY BUENG	763	\$150.00
4	104, LITCHFIELD	JESSE JOHNSON	747	\$125.00
5	377, DELANO	PAT THINER	740	\$100.00
6	507, MAHTOMEDI	RON ANDREOTTI	734	\$90.00
6	523, GOLDEN VALLEY	BRAD OSGOOD	734	\$80.00
8	104, LITCHFIELD	MATT BIELKE	728	\$80.00
8	535, BABBITT	KEN FRANK	728	\$80.00
10	43, FARIBAULT	KYLE VOEGELE	726	\$70.00
11	428, WAITE PARK	RANDY THEIS	725	\$70.00
12	40, LANESBORO	GAVIN WANGEN	724	\$60.00

13	126, COSMOS	LANCE HENTGES	722	\$60.00
14	523, GOLDEN VALLEY	JASON OSGOOD	721	\$50.00
15	40, LANESBORO	STEVE RAHN	719	\$50.00
15	377, DELANO	CHRIS DANIELS	719	\$50.00
15	431, TWIN VALLEY	LYNN CHRISTENSON	719	\$50.00
18	428, WAITE PARK	LANCE HENGEL	715	\$40.00
19	344, MORTON	DELL HEDERMAN	710	\$40.00
19	365, HANSKA	MIKE PEARSE	710	\$40.00
21	112, ELK RIVER	JOHN WIRTZ	708	\$40.00
21	344, MORTON	JACK RUDEEN	708	\$40.00
21	365, HANSKA	ROBERT LINDEMANN	708	\$40.00
24	96, HUTCHINSON	JOHN KOBOW	706	\$35.00
24	418, HAMLINE	BOB BROBERG	706	\$35.00
24	507, MAHTOMEDI	COLE DUPIE	706	\$35.00
27	94, RUSHFORD	MIKE MONSON	704	\$35.00
27	126, COSMOS	NATHAN FREDERIKSEN	704	\$35.00
29	108, LE CENTER	MIKE HUONDER	702	\$35.00
30	328, ST. JOSEPH	DAVE LOSO	701	\$35.00
31	428, WAITE PARK	CHRIS GOHMAN	700	\$35.00
32	418, HAMLINE	BRAD RARDIN	696	\$30.00
33	255, BRAINERD	RON MICKEVIEIUS	695	\$30.00
34	281, JANESVILLE	CHAD BLASING	693	\$30.00
34	428, WAITE PARK	DUANE STEFFES	693	\$30.00
36	104, LITCHFIELD	BRAD ZIEGENHAGEN	692	\$30.00
37	172, OSSEO	DAVE BROWN	691	\$30.00
38	428, WAITE PARK	RICK SAATZER	690	\$30.00
39	255, BRAINERD	LLOYD JOHNSON	689	\$30.00
39	418, HAMLINE	HARRY PEKA	689	\$30.00
41	274, MILROY	LEROY SIK	688	\$30.00
41	377, DELANO	SCOTT ARNDT	688	\$30.00
43	320, HOPKINS	GARY KULL	687	\$25.00
44	257, SPRINGFIELD	BUTCH KREBS	684	\$25.00
45	254, SAUK RAPIDS	JAKE SCHUMACKER	683	\$25.00
45	257, SPRINGFIELD	JOHN MORITZ	683	\$25.00
47	550, BLOOMINGTON	KEVIN KICK	681	\$25.00
48	507, MAHTOMEDI	KEN LAGOON	680	\$25.00
49	85, NORTH BRANCH	SCOTT MILLER	679	\$25.00
50	43, FARIBAULT	PAUL PIRAMI	678	\$25.00
51	428, WAITE PARK	DAVE WALZ	677	\$25.00
52	104, LITCHFIELD	GARY HOLTZ	675	\$25.00
52	172, OSSEO	CORY MILLER	675	\$25.00
52	333, KASSON	JASON BENNEROTTE	675	\$25.00
55	38, REDWOOD FALLS	TYLER JENNIGES	673	\$25.00
55	206, WINDOM	JOHN MADSON	673	\$25.00
57	38, REDWOOD FALLS	DALE JANSSEN	672	\$25.00
57	550, BLOOMINGTON	GARY GUGGENBERGER	672	\$25.00
59	428, WAITE PARK	JASON MOHS	670	\$25.00
59	550, BLOOMINGTON	CHRIS THOMSON	670	\$25.00
61	172, OSSEO	JOHN TORMA	669	\$25.00
61	365, HANSKA	MIKE FAHEY	669	\$25.00
63	94, RUSHFORD	GARY QUARVE	668	\$25.00
64	104, LITCHFIELD	ROGER BIELKE	667	\$20.00
65	164, STEWARTVILLE	MARK STEVENS	666	\$20.00
65	172, OSSEO	TIM LIND	666	\$20.00
67	535, BABBITT	JIM LASSI	662	\$20.00
68	172, OSSEO	STEVE ERICKSON	661	\$20.00
68	206, WINDOM	FRED MEYER	661	\$20.00
68	428, WAITE PARK	DAVE STEICHEN	661	\$20.00
71	94, RUSHFORD	STEVE QUARVE	660	\$20.00
71	344, MORTON	VINCE OPHEIM	660	\$20.00
73	56, ALBERT LEA	DAVE ALLARD	659	\$20.00
73	344, MORTON	NORBERT KONZ	659	\$20.00
75	428, WAITE PARK	DOUG WALZ	658	\$20.00
75	580, CHANHASSEN	NICK REIN	658	\$20.00
77	104, LITCHFIELD	GERALD IDE	657	\$20.00
78	333, KASSON	MARTY SACKETT	656	\$20.00
79	164, STEWARTVILLE	PETE FISCHER	654	\$20.00
79	377, DELANO	PETE LARSON	654	\$20.00
79	550, BLOOMINGTON	RON MOEY	654	\$20.00
82	206, WINDOM	JEFF HEILING	652	\$20.00
83	85, NORTH BRANCH	CHRIS FEDUN	651	\$20.00
83	328, ST. JOSEPH	JAY KRAUS	651	\$20.00
85	38, REDWOOD FALLS	TOM ANDERSON	650	\$20.00
85	290, CAMBRIDGE	BRIAN HALL	650	\$20.00
85	428, WAITE PARK	RAY GERADS	650	\$20.00
88	40, LANESBORO	LOREN BORGE	649	\$20.00
88	550, BLOOMINGTON	MIKE KARROS	649	\$20.00
90	85, NORTH BRANCH	ANDREW MASELTER	648	\$15.00
90	94, RUSHFORD	MIKE CARLSON	648	\$15.00
90	119, BYRON	CHRIS HOUGH	648	\$15.00
90	274, MILROY	LANNY SIK	648	\$15.00
94	40, LANESBORO	JEFF NORSTAD	647	\$15.00
94	377, DELANO	TODD ARNDT	647	\$15.00
96	104, LITCHFIELD	RYAN BEICH	645	\$15.00
97	71, WEST DULUTH	JOE RICH	644	\$15.00
97	104, LITCHFIELD	TIM KOELLN	644	\$15.00
97	119, BYRON	KEVIN SANNES	644	\$15.00
97	254, SAUK RAPIDS	BRANON REESE	644	\$15.00
97	433, GAYLORD	RYAN EVERS	644	\$15.00
102	108, LE CENTER	LARRY NELSON	643	\$15.00
102	428, WAITE PARK	NATE WILLIAMS	643	\$15.00
104	94, RUSHFORD	STEVEN WESTBY	641	\$15.00
104	104, LITCHFIELD	BRYAN KRUEGER	641	\$15.00
104	126, COSMOS	JOHN FREDERIKSEN	641	\$15.00
104	254, SAUK RAPIDS	PETE KR		

# Legion All Events

PLACE	POST	NAME	SCORE	PRIZE
1	377, DELANO	CHRIS DANIELS	2208	\$75.00
2	431, TWIN VALLEY	JODY BUENG	2198	\$54.00
3	43, FARIBAULT	KYLE VOEGELE	2192	\$40.00
4	418, HAMLIN	BRAD RARDIN	2167	\$30.00
5	320, HOPKINS	LARRY WOODS	2148	\$25.00
6	377, DELANO	PAT THINER	2128	\$25.00
7	431, TWIN VALLEY	LYNN CHRISTENSON	2122	\$25.00
8	40, LANESBORO	STEVE RAHN	2106	\$25.00
9	418, HAMLIN	HARRY PEKA	2096	\$20.00
10	38, REDWOOD FALLS	TYLER JENNIGES	2095	\$20.00
11	328, ST. JOSEPH	DAVE LOSO	2083	\$20.00
11	428, WAITE PARK	RANDY THEIS	2083	\$20.00
13	281, JANESVILLE	CHAD BLASING	2052	\$20.00
14	104, LITCHFIELD	JESSE JOHNSON	2046	\$20.00
15	104, LITCHFIELD	BRAD ZIEGENHANEN	2042	\$20.00
16	418, HAMLIN	BOB BROBERG	2041	\$20.00
17	172, OSSEO	STEVE ERICKSON	2033	\$20.00
18	40, LANESBORO	GAVIN WANGEN	2024	\$20.00
19	290, CAMBRIDGE	BRIAN HALL	2023	\$20.00
20	428, WAITE PARK	CHRIS GOHMAN	2012	\$20.00
21	550, BLOOMINGTON	KEVIN KICK	2009	\$15.00
22	172, OSSEO	CORY MILLER	2005	\$15.00
23	255, BRAINERD	LLOYD JOHNSON	2003	\$15.00
24	365, HANSKA	MIKE PEARSE	1995	\$15.00
25	108, LE CENTER	KEN BLASCHKO	1994	\$15.00
26	104, LITCHFIELD	ROGER BIELKE	1993	\$15.00
27	40, LANESBORO	JEFF NORSTAD	1991	\$15.00
27	377, DELANO	SCOTT ARNDT	1991	\$15.00
29	104, LITCHFIELD	TIM KOELLN	1986	\$15.00
29	255, BRAINERD	RON MICKEVIEIUS	1986	\$15.00
31	104, LITCHFIELD	MATT BIELKE	1984	\$15.00
32	126, COSMOS	NATHAN FREDERIKSEN	1980	\$15.00
33	172, OSSEO	JOHN TORMA	1974	\$15.00
34	274, MILROY	JORDY BEEK	1970	\$15.00
35	85, NORTH BRANCH	ANDREW MASELTER	1969	\$10.00
36	71, WEST DULUTH	CARL HENDRICKSON	1967	\$10.00
37	164, STEWARTVILLE	KEVIN HEYDT	1966	\$10.00
38	94, RUSHFORD	MIKE MONSON	1960	\$10.00
39	428, WAITE PARK	TRAVIS THEIS	1958	\$10.00
40	550, BLOOMINGTON	GARY GUGGENBERGER	1956	\$10.00
41	119, BYRON	CHRIS HOUGH	1952	\$10.00
42	274, MILROY	LYDELL SIK	1951	\$10.00
<b>TOTAL—417</b>				<b>\$829.00</b>

# Legion Doubles

PLACE	POST	NAME	SCORES	PAYOUT
1	377, DELANO	SCOTT ARNDT ROBBI ARNDT	1455	\$400.00
2	431, TWIN VALLEY	LYNN CHRISTENSON JODY BUENG	1434	\$280.00
3	38, REDWOOD FALLS	ROBERTA JENNIGES TYLER JENNIGES	1426	\$200.00
4	418, WAITE PARK	BOB BROBERG BRAD RARDIN	1420	\$107.00
5	255, BRAINERD	RICHARD GREENWALT TODD OLSON SR	1418	\$90.00
6	328, ST. JOSEPH	TIM LOSO DAVE LOSO	1400	\$90.00
7	418, HAMLIN	ANGIE PERRIZO HARRY PEKA	1388	\$90.00
8	41, LAMBERTON	PAUL PIRAMI KYLE VOEGELE	1377	\$90.00
9	333, KASSON	BRUCE LUDWIG MARTY SACKETT	1367	\$80.00
10	255, BRAINERD	BETTY JOHNSON LLOYD JOHNSON	1362	\$80.00
10	172, OSSEO	JOHN TORMA DAVE BROWN	1362	\$80.00
12	290, CAMBRIDGE	DICK HALL BRIAN HALL	1359	\$80.00
13	377, DELANO	CHRIS DANIELS ROGER VASS	1341	\$80.00
14	104, LITCHFIELD	BRAD ZIEGENHAGEN BRIAN ZIEGENHAGEN	1338	\$70.00
15	418, HAMLIN	TROY LEINEN DENNIS ROSS	1334	\$70.00
16	507, MAHTOMEDI	MARK MORSE DENNIS SWANSON	1331	\$70.00
17	281, JANESVILLE	CLINTON ROGERS FLOYD HERME	1330	\$70.00
18	85, NORTH BRANCH	WILLIAM ROBISON KELLY FEDUN	1327	\$70.00
19	172, OSSEO	TIM LIND CHUCK ARBOGEST	1319	\$70.00
19	418, HAMLIN	STEVE BROBERG SHAWN FLINN	1319	\$70.00
21	320, HOPKINS	DEB CARLSON CRAIG SKORHEIM	1317	\$60.00
22	85, NORTH BRANCH	JIM HUNT SCOTT STENGER	1314	\$60.00
23	164, STEWARTVILLE	LANCE PETERSON CHRIS PUGH	1313	\$60.00
24	172, OSSEO	STEVE ERICKSON CORY MILLER	1311	\$60.00
25	274, MILROY	LEROY SIK	1305	\$60.00

26	104, LITCHFIELD	LYDELL SIK KENNETH KOELLN	1301	\$60.00
27	112, ELK RIVER	TIM KOELLN LENNY WIRTZ SR	1298	\$60.00
28	328, ST. JOSEPH	TYLER HILLER MARVIN SCHWITZ	1291	\$50.00
28	40, LANESBORO	TERRY LOSO ROBERT THOMPSON	1291	\$50.00
30	377, DELANO	STEVE RAHN PAT THINER	1290	\$50.00
31	260, MONTICELLO	DAVE ANDERSON RICK SWANSON	1288	\$50.00
31	320, HOPKINS	KEVIN NEU LARRY WOODS	1288	\$50.00
33	126, COSMOS	GARY ZIEBA NATHAN FREDERIKSEN	1287	\$50.00
34	428, WAITE PARK	TRAVIS THEIS LARRY JOHNSON	1285	\$50.00
34	71, WEST DULUTH	TRAVIS THEIS JIM CHRISTENSON	1285	\$50.00
36	172, OSSEO	RON LALIBERTE CHAD MUNDAHL	1283	\$50.00
37	290, CAMBRIDGE	JEFF RASMUSSEN GENE WEST	1282	\$50.00
38	281, JANESVILLE	GORDY FRANZ DAVE BLASING	1279	\$40.00
39	550, BLOOMINGTON	CHAD BLASING EVERT GONZALEZ	1278	\$40.00
40	491, BAYPORT	TRAVIS FREDERIKSEN LARRY JOHNSON	1274	\$40.00
41	104, LITCHFIELD	JON MONTY SCOTT SCHMIDT	1274	\$40.00
42	377, DELANO	ROGER BIELKE MATT BIELKE	1272	\$40.00
42	377, DELANO	JEFF WENDT DAVE WENDT	1271	\$40.00
43	507, MAHTOMEDI	JERENE ROGERS TODD ROGERS	1269	\$40.00
44	257, SPRINGFIELD	BUTCH KREBS BRYANT KREBS	1267	\$40.00
45	164, STEWARTVILLE	DALE MELDAHL PETE FISCHER	1266	\$40.00
46	580, CHANHASSEN	NICK REIN PAUL DIFFERDING	1264	\$40.00
47	428, WAITE PARK	JON WILLIAMS NATE WILLIAMS	1263	\$40.00
47	85, NORTH BRANCH	ANDREW MASELTER JOSH POTTSMITH	1263	\$40.00
49	365, HANSKA	MIKE FAHEY ROBERT LINDEMANN	1262	\$40.00
50	428, WAITE PARK	CHRIS GOHMAN DAVE STEICHEN	1257	\$30.00
51	257, SPRINGFIELD	JOHN MORITZ CURT ERICKSON	1250	\$30.00
52	257, SPRINGFIELD	COLLEEN JENNIGES DEREK KREBS	1249	\$30.00
53	254, SAUK RAPIDS	TREVOR WENTZLAFF TOBY WENTZLAFF	1248	\$30.00
54	365, HANSKA	GARY SCHNEIDER BOB ROTH	1247	\$30.00
55	507, MAHTOMEDI	JACOB BENDER COLE DUPIE	1245	\$30.00
56	428, WAITE PARK	DAVE WALZ DOUG WALZ	1244	\$30.00
56	71, WEST DULUTH	CARL HENDRICKSON DAVID OLYNYK	1244	\$30.00
58	344, MORTON	DELL HEDERMAN VINCE OPHEIM	1243	\$30.00
58	550, BLOOMINGTON	CHRIS THOMSON RICK THOMSON	1243	\$30.00
60	112, ELK RIVER	EMILY KAPPEL JOE STOLTZ	1242	\$20.00
60	104, LITCHFIELD	JESSE JOHNSON BRYAN KRUEGER	1242	\$20.00
60	38, REDWOOD FALLS	ROBERT JENNIGES TOM ANDERSON	1242	\$20.00
63	164, STEWARTVILLE	ANTHONY LILLY ROGER PETERSON	1240	\$20.00
64	94, RUSHFORD	GARY QUARVE STEVE QUARVE	1239	\$20.00
64	431, TWIN VALLEY	BEN FALL COREY HANSON	1239	\$20.00
64	535, BABBITT	BRAD BUSCHMAN ROGER SALO	1239	\$20.00
67	85, NORTH BRANCH	ROD BOATMAN SCOTT MILLER	1238	\$20.00
68	550, BLOOMINGTON	MIKE KARROS CHRIS BLY	1235	\$20.00
69	641, PLATO	VERNON WILKES DENNIS KRUSCHKE	1234	\$20.00
70	507, MAHTOMEDI	RON ANDREOTTI NORM MORSE	1233	\$20.00
70	418, HAMLIN	LAURIE BURNS KEN COY	1233	\$20.00
72	428, WAITE PARK	DUANE WALZ DEAN WALZ	1232	\$20.00
73	255, BRAINERD	RON MICKEVIEIUS DAVE JOHNSON	1231	\$20.00
74	550, BLOOMINGTON	GLEN RAMTHUN DAVE ANDERSON	1230	\$20.00
<b>TOTAL—223</b>				<b>\$4,237.00</b>

# Delano and Hopkins win 2017 Minnesota Legion bowling titles

Hopkins Post 320 won the men's team competition in the 2017 Minnesota American Legion Bowling Tournament held at the Sundance Lanes in Dayton.

Gary Kull, Carol Wach, Larry Woods and Gary Zieba rolled 2,668 to take the title.

On the women's side, Delano Unit 377 bowled a 2514 to win the state title. Sandi Vass, Carol Daniels, Bonnie Brandenburg and Jen Henning were on the championship team.

The bowlers from Delano captured several first places in the 2017 tournament.

The top singles bowler for the men was Tom Leonard of Mahtomedi Post 507 who rolled a 767.

For the women, the top scorer with a total of 696 was Shari Giesen of Belle Plaine Unit 144.

Norma Tramm and Cindy Goepford of Cold Spring won the women's doubles with a score of 1,306.

Scott Arndt and Robbi Arndt of Delano Post 377 rolled a 1,455 to win the men's doubles.

In the all events, Chris Daniels of Delano Post 377, rolled a 2,208 for the title.

Jan Henning of Delano Unit 377 scored a 2,004 to win the women's all events.

There were 477 bowlers in the tournament.



# MDVA Commissioner Shellito recipient of Ellis Island Medal of Honor

NEW YORK, NY – Today, the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations (NECO), announced the recipients of the 2017 Ellis Island Medals of Honor. Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs Commissioner and Retired Major General Larry Shellito of Woodbury, Minnesota along with legendary former astronaut Buzz Aldrin, Chairman and CEO of PepsiCo Indra Nooyi, TV host and journalist Fareed Zakaria, CEO of HSN Mindy Grossman, former actress and film studio executive Sherry Lansing, chef and restaurateur Thomas Keller, are amongst the one-hundred outstanding Americans in business, government, medicine, art, and education, as well as honorees from all branches of the military, who will receive the 2017 medal.

In its 31st year, the Ellis Island Medal of Honor ceremony will once again be held on Ellis Island on May 13, starting at 6:30pm ET. The ceremony, which will be followed by a black-tie Gala Dinner in the historic Great Hall, will take place in the original registry room, a symbolic and literal gateway for 12 million immigrants to the U.S.

Commissioner Shellito began his military career in 1968 when he enlisted in the United States Army, where his active duty service included serving in Vietnam as a Mobile

Advisory Team Leader. Commissioner Shellito retired as the Adjutant General of the Minnesota National Guard in 2010 after 37 years of service. During his seven years as Adjutant General, Major General Shellito helped build a national reputation for the Guard. He was instrumental in establishing the nation-leading "Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Program" in Minnesota to reintegrate service members following deployments. In his current position as Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs, Shellito is charged with assisting the state's 353,000 Veterans and their families.

"Ellis Island remains an iconic symbol of hope, new beginnings and freedom. NECO's Medals of Honor stand to remind citizens to support ethnic inclusion, diversity and the pursuit of the American Dream for all, something especially needed today's current political climate," said Nasser J. Kazeminy, Chairman of NECO.

The medal recognizes individuals who have made it their mission to share their wealth of knowledge, indomitable courage, boundless compassion, unique talents and selfless generosity with those less fortunate; all while maintaining the traditions of their ethnic heritage as they uphold the ideals and spirit of America. Since the Medal

was founded in 1986, NECO has honored such distinguished and diverse Americans including: seven Presidents of the United States; Nobel Prize recipient Elie Wiesel; Generals Norman Schwarzkopf and Colin Powell; Justice Sandra Day O'Connor; Secretaries of State Madeline Albright, Condoleezza Rice and Hillary Clinton; Bob Hope; Muhammad Ali; Frank Sinatra; Rosa Parks; Mike Wallace and Mia Farrow. All of whom have distinguished themselves through their significant philanthropic and humanitarian contributions to this country.

"Nothing compares to the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. Not only is the award itself incredibly prestigious, but the recipients each year reflect America's diversity, across background, ethnicity, occupation and more. The medal is such a reminder that we may have different backgrounds and stories, but we're all united in this country together," said NECO board member and legendary former congressman Charlie Rangel.

The Ellis Island Medal of Honor ranks among the nation's most renowned awards. The U.S. Senate and House of Representatives have officially recognized the Ellis Island Medals of Honor, and each year the recipients are listed in the Congressional Record.



# The Auxiliary Bulletin

No. 17-10

June 2017

President Carol Kottom

Secretary Sandie Deutsch

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

## The President's Column

By Carol Kottom



District conventions will soon be over for 2016-2017. Hard to believe that in another few weeks we will be at Mahanomen for the Department Convention. Did you make your reservations?

National President Mary Davis will be here the middle of June and we are all excited to see her. Hopefully a lot of our members, American Legion Family members, will get an opportunity to visit with her. Yes, this is an Auxiliary event and a lot of the events are not open to all members to attend, but we are looking forward to our Legionnaires, Sons of the American Legion and Legion Riders along with our Auxiliary members attending the events. President Mary is from a strong military family and enjoys all facets of our organization. Hopefully, you will be there.

There is still time to reach your membership goal. The American Legion Auxiliary has been dedicated to serving veterans, military and their families for nearly 100 years. Auxiliary members exemplify Service Not Self through countless volunteer hours, programs, conferences and an increased presence in Washington D.C. Although things have changed since the American Legion Auxiliary's establishment in 1919, the one thing to remain the same is the unwavering commitment to honor those who serve. Now is an exciting time to be part of the largest women's patriotic service organization. Take time to visit the American Legion Auxiliary "Decades of Making a Difference" web page and watch the video. It is awesome and is a great tool every member should use to recruit membership. We need to step up to the plate and sign those new members up so that we, the American Legion Auxiliary, can remain dedicated to supporting our veterans and their families. But, remember, we also need to retain the members that we have now. They are the ones who can mentor our new members and share ideas. Yes, you are still and always will be, a very important part of our organization. So hang on – you're in it for the long ride.

We need to always keep in mind the "Mission Statement" of the American Legion Auxiliary in our minds and actions. If we do this, we shouldn't have to look for members. They should be looking for us.

### Mission Statement

In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

For the first time in many years, I missed the Memorial Service at my home post. I did, however, have the most memorable day that anyone could ask for. Memorial Day is set aside to remember those who died while in the service. I spent the morning at Ft Snelling where I hung a wreath in honor of those veterans and listened to some fabulous speakers. Then we went on to the Minneapolis Veterans Home for lunch and their service, also with some great speakers. Both were wonderful memorials. The services always make me grateful for the life that I have. The freedoms that I enjoy. The friends, many of them veterans, that I have gained through this past year. Let us never forget those who died to give us these things – and those who are with us still and fighting to allow us to keep them. It was by God's will that the remains of Glaydon Iverson were identified and returned to his family to be put in his final resting place. May he now RIP.

Remember to always "Thank a Veteran". Because as we all know, "all gave some, some gave all". It doesn't hurt to hand them a pocket angel too.

## Girls State returns to Bethel for 71st annual session

The 71st session of American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State will convene on Sunday, June 11th, at the Bethel University, St. Paul. Some 360 young women will participate by learning about Minnesota government by actually running a government.

The counselors and staff are looking forward to returning to Bethel this year.

Thank you to all the units for making this program possible for those young women who will be attending. We are all looking forward to an exciting week. The Committee has worked very hard making very positive changes to the program. Make sure and stay in touch with the citizens you have sponsored so you can report next year in your Annual Reports.

June 12 – 14. Please see the schedule of stops at the bottom of this page. Let's make Minnesota proud and support our National President.

### POPPY CONTESTS

Don't forget to get going on creating your entries for our Poppy contests. Department Poppy Chairman, Karla Otterness, is holding two Poppy contests at the Department Convention. They are: 1) Table Centerpiece 2) Tri-fold Educational Board on Poppies. Please read the Trophy and Awards booklet for rules. There will be a People's Choice Award, votes by donation with all proceeds going to the President's Project Fund.

### 2017 POPPY NEWS

The totals to date for 2017 are as follows: the Department office has shipped out 317,000 small poppies and 7,944 large poppies. Thanks to all Units for supporting this project. The wonderful news is that out of 439 active units 382 ordered poppies this year.

### 2018 DUES NOTICES

We have been advised by our National organization the first dues notices for the 2018 membership dues will be sent out no later than September 15. All Senior members will receive this first notice. If National Headquarters has an email on file for you, the first notice will be sent via email only. Please share this information in your Unit via your Unit newsletter or at your next meeting. Remember that members can pay their Unit dues before that time, they do not have to wait for the notice from National.

### 2018 MEMBERSHIP

Though we are still in search of our members who have not yet renewed for the current year thoughts are already turning to the 2018 membership year. We are handling membership the same as last year for two reasons, the first being that you will get your membership packets earlier this year and the second is to save on costs for the Department. All Unit Membership packets will be available at the Department Convention in Mahanomen. Pick them up in the Auxiliary Office. If your packet isn't picked up there, they will be given to the District Membership Chairman at August workshop on August 12. It will be up to those Chairmen to get the packets to your Unit. Please remember that all members can still pay their 2017 dues to retain their years of service. Let's make another big push to get those renewals turned in.

### DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

Has your Unit elected its delegates and alternates to the 2017 Department Convention? The Convention is coming up very fast and will be held July 13-15 at the Shooting Star Casino in Mahanomen. Information on housing and registration is found in this issue of the Minnesota Legionnaire.

Only two delegate and two alternate cards were sent to each Unit in the May Unit mailing. If your Unit needs additional delegate and alternate cards for the Department Convention, please contact the department office. Please note: The Department does not have the delegate/alternate cards for district conventions. These must be obtained from your district.

District caucuses will start at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 13, with the Convention being called to order at 9:00 a.m. All Auxiliary functions will be held in the Richwood Pinebend Room. Following is an abbreviated schedule of events for this year's Convention. A more complete schedule will be in the next issue of the Legionnaire.

Wednesday July 12 - Executive Committee Meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 13- Registration opens at 7:00 a.m. - District Caucuses Meet at 8:00 a.m. - Convention begins at 9:00 a.m. - Memorial Service at 11:15 a.m. Entertainment in the evening by Billy Underwood, one of our Veterans from St. Cloud.

Friday, July 14 - Registration opens at 7:00 a.m. - Convention Call to Order at 9:00 a.m.

Saturday, July 15 - Registration opens at 7:00 a.m. - Convention Call to Order at 9:00 a.m. - Announcement of Election Results at 10:00 a.m. along with installation of new Officers.

### NATIONAL PRESIDENTS TOUR

Just a reminder that our National President Mary Davis will be on a mini-tour of parts of Minnesota the week of

## National president's tour schedule, contacts

Monday, June 12, 2017						
Location	Time	Event	Phone	Cost	Deadline	
Grand Rapids Unit 60	5:45 p.m.	Color Guard	218-326-0410	\$12.00	6/7/2017	<a href="mailto:Sharon.voltz@state.mn.us">Sharon.voltz@state.mn.us</a>
828 1st Ave. NE	6:00 p.m.	Social	218-259-4711			
	6:30 p.m.	Dinner	Contact is Sharon Voltz for reservations or more information			
Tuesday, June 13, 2017						
Location	Time	Event	Phone	Cost	Deadline	
West Duluth Unit 71	12:00 noon	Lunch	218-628-1495 or 218628-2181	\$8.00	6/7/2017	<a href="mailto:suepshoes@aol.com">suepshoes@aol.com</a>
5814 Grand Ave						
North Branch Unit 85	5:30 p.m.	Social	651-674-8164	\$15.00	6/8/2017	<a href="mailto:orvey@msn.com">orvey@msn.com</a>
6439 Elm St.	6:00 p.m.	Dinner	<b>Prepaid Reservations should be sent to:</b> <b>Beverly Otterness, 38544 Grand Ave, North Branch, MN 55056</b>			
Make checks payable to ALA Unit 85						
Wednesday, June 14, 2017						
Location	Time	Event	Phone	Cost	Deadline	
Wayzata Unit #118	11:30 a.m.	Social	763-475-3257	\$11.00	6/5/2017	Contact is Jeanne Jessen or <a href="mailto:judystein@outlook.com">judystein@outlook.com</a>
949 Wayzata Blvd E	12:00 noon	Lunch	Judy Stein at			
Buffalo Unit 270	5:30 p.m.	Social	<b>Prepayment only</b>		\$13.00	6/7/2017
304 10th Ave So.	6:00 p.m.	Dinner	<b>Mail payment to: Buffalo American Legion, %Marilyn Miller, Presid</b> <b>304 10th Ave. S., Buffalo, MN 55313</b>			

# Auxiliary Bulletin

Continued from Preceding Page

## NATIONAL CONVENTION

Reno, Nevada is the site for our annual American Legion Auxiliary National Convention, August 19 - 24. Delegates and alternates to the Convention are elected at each District Convention. Your District's representation is based on your District's total membership. If you are elected a delegate or alternate, you will receive a convention mailing from the Department the latter part of June, giving you all the particulars.

If you are elected a delegate or alternate and find you are not able to attend, please notify the department office immediately.

## 2017-2018 OFFICERS' LIST

We are in need of the Unit officers' list for 2017-2018 from every Unit. Each Unit was sent two copies of the list in the May mailing. Please return one copy to the department office; the duplicate copy is for your District President-Elect. All lists should be in no later than June 15th. So far I have received 209 out of 439 Officer's lists. The form is posted on our website - you can fill it out and email it to the Department Office immediately.

Please be certain to check all addresses before sending in your list. The Department mailing list is compiled from what you send in for your Unit. Also, if you prefer items via email, please make sure and fill out the email address area.

Please note that if we don't have your Officers List, you will not be getting your membership packet - please, if you have already sent yours in, do so today.

## NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP ENTRIES

Our Department Education Chairman, Diane Hayes, is pleased to announce the following Department winners were entered into Divisional competition for National scholarships. If selected the Northwestern Division winner for the National President's Scholarship, the Spirit of Youth for Junior Members Scholarship or the Non-Traditional Students Scholarship, they will receive a National scholarship. If not a National winner, they will receive a \$1,000.00 scholarship from the Department.

Children of Warriors, National President's Scholarship - Aliea Lange of Eagle Lake. Aliea is competing with six other Departments in the NW Division for a \$3,500, \$3,000 or \$2,000 scholarship. Spirit of Youth for Junior Members Scholarship - Jules Efta, a member of the Argyle Unit 353. Jules is competing with six other Departments in the NW Division for a scholarship of \$5,000.

Non-Traditional Student Scholarship - Ashly Willis, member of Waite Park Unit 428, is competing with six other Departments in the NW Division for a \$2,000.00 scholarship.

We have been informed that Ashly Willis was awarded a \$2,000.00 scholarship by National Education Chairman Norma Tramm. Our congratulations go out to you Ashly.

## PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY

Through the Department's Past Presidents Parley program up to ten \$1,000.00 scholarships can be awarded each year to members of the Auxiliary here in Minnesota. Chris Ronning, Department Past Presidents Parley Chairman is pleased to announce that five scholarships were awarded this year. The recipients are: Aliea Lange of Eagle Lake, Ashly Willis of Waite Park, Bailey Scanlan of Houston, Jacquelynn Reinhardt of Montgomery and Debra Oelkers of Hayfield.

Congratulations to each of you as you pursue a career in a health care field.

## SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Diane Hayes, Education Chairman has awarded eight scholarships for the Department of Minnesota Scholarship program. Each scholarship is in the amount of \$1,000.00. The following is a list of the recipients: Audrey Stilin of Caledonia, Ciera McCarty of Mahtomedi, Isaac Hertling of Springfield, Isaac Lillehaug of Clinton, Kaysie Allen of Dexter, Michaela Reidell of Deerwood, Miranda Scherer of Paynesville and Sara Asmus of Spicer. Congratulations to all winners and we wish you the best in your educational futures.

## ADDITIONAL WINNERS

Following are the winners for the Poppy Jewelry/Accessory contest. They were missed in last month's column.

Class I: 1st place: Sylvia Dunaway - Forest Lake Unit 225 - District 3. 2nd place: Kaylee Bauer - Westport Unit 638 - District 7.

Class II: 1st place: Alivia Corbet - Forest Lake Unit 225 - District 3. 2nd place: Kimberly Johnson - Westport Unit 638 - District 7.

Class III: 1st place: Elizabeth Spoden - Kimball Unit 261 - District 6, 2nd place: Johanna Welter - Stewartville Unit 164 - District 1.

## SECRETARY SANDIE'S CORNER

So the first part of my news is an ad for all members of the Auxiliary. I found another fundraiser for the Department thanks to my buddy Secretary from Wisconsin Bonnie. Much of the Auxiliary clothing is quite expensive to purchase so we are offering an American Legion Auxiliary emblem with a magnet that you can attach to any piece of clothing. You can take it off and put it on another jacket or blouse anytime - what a great way to show off our emblem. Explain to people who we are and what we do. We are offering these through the Department Office for \$5 each. These do include the emblem and magnet. We would like to see if there is interest in this endeavor before investing in the project, so get us your thoughts. Either call or use the contact on our website if this is something you would like. They will be available at the Department Convention if there is an interest.

On to the real important stuff - as you should know by now (as I have shouted it around the world) that Shorty and I are very proud and happy grandparents to Elizabeth Mary Deutsch who was born on May 24. By the time you read this we will have been to Texas to meet this precious gift. There is nothing better than grandchildren. The Deutsch's hit another milestone - one of us is a real Senior Citizen - Happy Birthday to my best friend in the whole world. In other words, it isn't me. The Department Office has been pretty crazy trying to getting everything set for Girls State, work on Department Convention and also facilitate the National President's Tour. There is never a dull moment around here. Please try and get to Mahanomen for Department Convention. It really is a fun time to meet fellow members and the entire American Legion Family. This year we will have a special treat as Billy Underwood, a Veteran from St. Cloud will be entertaining us on Thursday night. Come and show President Carol your support for the wonderful year she has provided us.



LEADERSHIP TRAINING IN GRAND RAPIDS -- Robin Dorf held, by request, another one of her very successful Leadership Training Sessions at the Grand Rapids Post 60.

## Auxiliary Representative Needed at St. Cloud VAHCS

The Department of Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary is in need of a Hospital Home Rep to work at the St. Cloud VAHCS. Our organization is a very important part of the St. Cloud VA Hospital and our current representative Jan Benson is retiring from the position after many years of service. If you are interested in this volunteer position, please contact Carol Kottom at 763-682-3465 or Sandie Deutsch at the Department Office, 651-224-7634. Carol can also explain the position and hours required. Again, it is very important that we get this position filled.



AUXILIARY EMBLEM



MAGNET ATTACHMENT



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## May 24, 2017, Auxiliary Membership

District	Goal	Membership To Date	Percent of Goal	Membership Last Year
One	5,000	4,646	92.92%	4,791
Two	4,924	4,530	92.00%	4,713
Three	4,411	4,058	92.00%	4,225
Four	720	689	95.69%	687
Five	824	711	86.29%	800
Six	6,042	5,666	93.78%	5,813
Seven	3,934	3,579	90.98%	3,795
Eight	1,628	1,486	91.28%	1,527
Nine	4,350	3,998	91.91%	4,183
Ten	5,159	4,763	92.32%	4,964
1982	160	159	99.38%	153
<b>Totals</b>	<b>37,152</b>	<b>34,285</b>	<b>92.28%</b>	<b>35,651</b>

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### New York City Tour

November 8-12, 2017

**Tour Includes:**

- 4 Seasons Tour Director, Sue Barber
- Roundtrip Delta flight from Minneapolis to New York City
- 4 nights at The Millennium Broadway Hotel in Times Square
- Broadway Musical
- Radio City Music Hall: "The Rockettes Christmas Spectacular"
- Manhattan Island City tour
- 9/11 Memorial and Museum
- Harbor cruise with lunch
- Lunch at Carmine's
- Luggage handling for one suitcase per person

**\$2,499.00** Per Person Double Occupancy

### Heart of Alaska

July 14-21, 2017

**Tour Includes:**

- 4 Seasons Tour Director, Sue Barber
- Round trip Delta flights Minneapolis to Anchorage
- 7 nights accommodations
- 13 Meals (including an Alaskan Salmon Bake)
- Denali Park Natural History Tour
- Alaska Railroad between Talkeetna & Denali Park
- Riverboat Discovery Cruise
- Gold Dredge #8
- Prince William Sound Cruise
- Meares Glacier
- Luggage handling for one suitcase

**\$3,299.00** per person double occupancy

### Smoky Mountains

October 23-30, 2017

**Tour Includes:**

- 4-Seasons Tour Manager, Cindy Meany
- 7 nights accommodations
- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- 11 Meals: 7 breakfasts, 4 dinners
- Dollywood Theme Park
- Nashville Highlights tour
- Guided tour of Smoky Mountains National Park
- Grand Ole Opry, Hatfield and McCoy dinner show and Music Mansion
- General Jackson Showboat tour
- Ole Smoky Moonshine Distillery tour

**\$1,289.00** Per Person Double Occupancy

### Holiday Branson

November 16-20, 2017

**Tour Includes:**

- 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Cindy Meany
- 4 nights accommodations
- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- 7 Meals: 4 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 2 dinners
- Luggage handling for one suitcase
- Titanic Museum
- 6 Shows: Dutton Family, Dixie Stampede Dinner Show, Andy Williams Christmas, Daniel O'Donnell Holiday, Christmas Wonderland, Hits of 50's and 60's Christmas

**\$789.00** Per Person Double Occupancy

### New York City & New England/Canada Cruise

September 15-24, 2017

**Tour Includes:**

- 4 Seasons Tour Director, Sue Barber
- Roundtrip Delta flights from Minneapolis to New York City
- All transfers from airport, hotel and pier
- 2 nights stay at the Millennium Hotel in Times Square
- Circle Line Cruise of Manhattan with lunch
- A Broadway performance
- 9/11 Memorial Museum
- 7 night cruise on the Crown Princess
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### San Francisco City by the Bay

October 19-24, 2017

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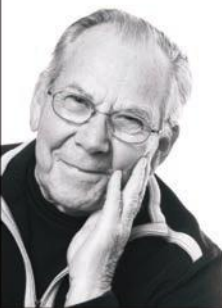
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