

Special 2018 Minnesota Convention issue

The Minnesota

Legionnaire



AMERICAN
LEGION
AND
AUXILIARY

Volume 100, Number 7

For God and Country

July 2018

No contested elections at Department Convention

For the first time in many years, there are no contested elections foreseen at the Minnesota Department Convention, slated for Rochester on July 19-21.

Darrel Redepenning, Anoka, is the sole candidate for Department Commander.

Redepenning will succeed Commander Mike Schaffer at the convention.

Other state officers are also running unopposed:

Wayne Hammon Jr., Le Roy; Richard Wog, Willmar; Dick Ward, Minneapolis; Tom Fernlund, St. Cloud, and Jennifer Havlick, Two Harbors are candidates for Department vice commanders.

Bonnie Hanson, Rockford, is running for Department Chaplain and Ryan Hill of Brewster is running for Department Sergeant at Arms.

Dennis DeLong, Bloomington, is running unopposed for Department Historian after Lou Michaels, St. Paul, dropped out of the contest for personal family reasons.

Don Amundson, Blue Earth, will be seeking to be re-elected to the Department's Board of Publications.

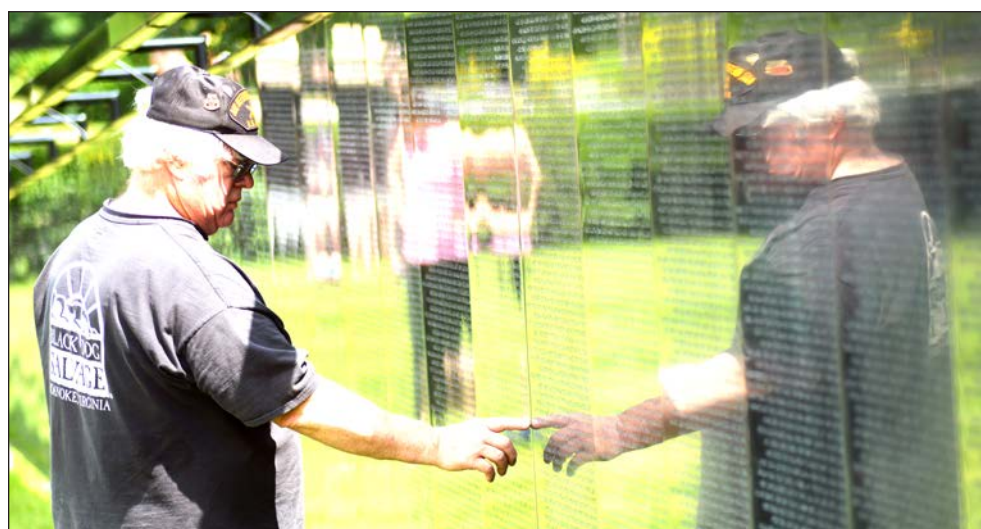
There will be nominations from the floor for three delegate-at-large positions to the National Convention.

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Girls State swearing in



Newly-elected Girls State Governor Lauren Honke takes the oath of office at Girls State from Supreme Court Chief Justice Lorie Skjerven Gildea as Department President Donna Arends holds the Bible. More pictures and news of Boys State and Girls State on pages 10, 12, 13, and 22.



WALL THAT HEALS -- A veteran finds a name on the Vietnam Wall that Heals at the Minnesota Capitol. Twin Cities Public Television brought in the scale-model wall as part of a weekend honoring Vietnam-era veterans.

Bring your flags to the 2018 National Convention parade

The 100th American Legion National Convention is less than two months away, and planning is in its final stages.

Minnesota, as it has done for decades, will have massed colors in the annual parade on Sunday, Aug. 26.

State leaders are hoping that posts will bring their colors to march in the annual parade.

When Minnesota hosted the National Convention in 1994, the Minnesota delegation carried over 1,000 flags through downtown Minneapolis.

"We're hoping the posts will again participate in large numbers," Commander Mike Schaffer said. "The sight of colors

extending as far as you can see will be a great patriotic gift from us to The American Legion during this centennial year."

The parade will begin at 4 p.m. and will travel south on the Nicollet Mall.

It is expected that at least a dozen Minnesota high school bands, in addition to the Ninth District Band, will march in the parade.

There will be a post-parade gathering at the Minneapolis Convention Center hosted by the Department of Minnesota. The Ninth District Band will play.

The 100th Convention will be part of a

Continued on Page 8

Legionville closed for the season; bog war goes on

Major progress was made in removing sections of the giant floating bog that settled in last fall at the Legionville Camp north of Brainerd.

But the gains, mainly removing a large section right in front of the beach, didn't come fast enough to prevent the closure of the camp for the year.

Legionville Board President Wayne Gilbertson said, "not enough progress has been made to ensure the safety of our campers."

Early efforts to move the whole bog at once, or large portions of it, failed. The new tactic is more of a "slice and dice" campaign, with small sections of the bog being cut off by a chain saw and then pushed and pulled about a quarter mile away by recreational boats -- to the area where the bog began its journey last year.

Even with the beach open in front, it was felt that

Continued on Page 2



BEACH IS CLEAR -- As the bog war continues, major hunks have been removed and dragged away from Legionville's swimming beach, in the foreground.

Legionville closed for 2018



A view from the camp's flagpole shows the progress made on the bog in front of the swimming beach.

Continued from Page 1 the huge bog sections to the right and left constituted a safety hazard for the campers.

The new dining hall at

the camp also was not quite finished in time for the camp's opening.

The bog proved to be a tough customer during the initial efforts by volunteers

to help it back to its wilderness home.

A winter at the Legionville beach and lower lake levels helped the bog attach itself to the lake bottom in places.

The new strategy has been effective, although it means slow, hard work.

As this edition of the Minnesota Legionnaire went to press, the entire right side of the bog had been cut into smaller pieces and was ready to be moved away from the beach area.

Legionville is a full-service camp that features intensive training of school safety patrol methods. The Legion and the State Patrol work together on that training, as well as bus safety training. The Minnesota AAA is also a partner.

The camp was first held in 1936 at a former CCC camp near Bemidji.

The name "Legionville" was voted on by those attending that first camp.

Legionville was not held during World War II, but it has been held each year since then until now.

A major part of the camp is the swimming and other water sports including kayaking and canoeing.

The camp received a major grant from the Minnesota Legislature this past year to improve the kitchen facilities.

The entire kitchen and dining room were gutted, and work continues on restoring the building to use.

Legionville is the only such program in The American Legion. It is expect to resume full operation in the summer of 2019.



100 HOLES -- Department Service Officer Jeremy Wolfsteller stops for a short break on hole 67 during the 100 Holes for Hope, a golf event sponsored by PGA Minnesota and Treasure Island Casino. Wolfsteller is a combat-disabled veteran for whom golf has been part of the healing process. The professionals and amateurs completed 100 holes on the longest day of the year. From left are Ian Lenard, Fox 9, and disabled veterans Wolfsteller and Martin Caraway.

Flag retirement ceremony at Big Marine



Patti Leko, on horseback, carries a symbolic flag in a procession at the Veterans Rest Camp on Big Marine Lake. Each year, the flag retirement ceremony held at the camp is one of the largest in the nation. It is sponsored by the Fourth District.

Below, 9,000 worn-out flags are respectfully destroyed during the ceremony. Photos by Lou Michaels.



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4 FANTASTIC WAYS TO EXPERIENCE MNHS

1 VISIT HISTORIC FORT SNELLING
 Don't miss a visit to Minnesota's first National Historic Landmark—a restored 1820s fort that tells the stories of soldiers, veterans, and many others who crossed paths here. **Historic Fort Snelling, St. Paul.**



2 RECEIVE DISCOUNTED ADMISSION
 Veterans and active military always get a **discount on general admission** at MNHS historic sites and museums, including **Mill City Museum** in Minneapolis and the **James J. Hill House** in St. Paul. Pay us a visit!



3 MEET THE GREATEST GENERATION
 Explore true stories from an inspiring generation of Americans in our **Minnesota's Greatest Generation** exhibit. On view at the Minnesota History Center, St. Paul.



4 REMEMBER THE YEAR 1968
 Experience the highs and lows of an unforgettable year in **The 1968 Exhibit**—including combat stories from Vietnam War veterans and a "Huey" helicopter. On view at the Minnesota History Center, St. Paul.

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COMMANDER'S COLUMN

By Mike Schaffer



My year as the Commander of the Department of Minnesota American Legion is nearly completed, and what a year it has been. At last year's Convention I told you then that you had given me a great honor by electing me as Department Commander, but also a greater responsibility. Trust I've lived up to those words, as I enjoyed every minute of it, this year.

Thank you to the ladies of the Legion Auxiliary, you gave me a great lady Donna Arends to serve with for the 2017-18 membership year. Can't begin to thank her and you the Auxiliary Units and Department Auxiliary staff ladies enough.

My travels representing you and the Department of Minnesota American Legion have taken me across this great state. With the aid of my GPS, I saw the four corners of Minnesota, and a host of towns and places I'd only heard of. One of my fondest memories will be the people I met and visited with along the way. Many had stories of involvement in community, and American Legion Family events.

I've had the honor to have represented you at more events than I can name, including disabled fishing outings, deer & turkey hunts and at more events than there is room to list here. Changes of Command at Camp Ripley and the Red Bulls headquarters at Rosemount. Veterans Day for me

lasted six days, at seven locations. The legislative session provided several surprises including the approval of three new Veterans homes at Brainerd, Montevideo, and Preston.

My first thank you has to go my bride of 40 years Nina, who allowed me to take this journey of involvement with The American Legion, which has spanned some 31 years of District and State activities to date. Thank you for doing a great job has to go to all the Posts and Districts of Minnesota. Yes, we still have a few goals to meet with membership, but we'll get there. To all who mentored me throughout these years, including my Commanders aide, I can't begin to thank each of you enough.

A special thank you to the greatest office staff in the world that any Commander could ask for. You kept me very well informed, where, and when I needed to be there, and Al Zdon for proofing my Commanders Columns for punctuation and length, and for insisting I write my own Commander's Columns. Thank you to all that accepted committee assignments, you make this American Legion better informed.

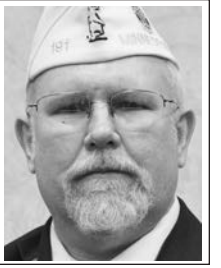
Thank you, thank you to Larry Ryan for the excellent job as my Membership Director, in spite of the dues increases of the last two years, I couldn't have asked for more. Thanks for a job well done to my "Band of Thugs," better known as your Department Vice Commanders Rosemary Niesen, Steve Klinkner, Bishop Dan Williams, Eric Wilkens and Bill Stump, Jr. It was indeed a grand year and my distinct pleasure to have served Minnesota in 2017-18 with each of you. Thank you to the Legion Riders for what you are doing and the leaders I know you can be in the future.

My Commanders Projects of Boys State and Veteran Suicide Prevention were successful. I don't have any final totals yet, but it's not too late to add more to these important causes. Learn, Mentor & Prepare, was chosen as my theme, because if we don't pass on our knowledge of our organization and what we've learned to the next generation of leaders they will not be as well prepared to lead.

In closing, a simple thank you doesn't somehow seem adequate, but it comes from the heart of this Veteran who only sought to make a difference. Hope I've lived up to what you expected from me.

Chaplain's Corner

By
Ralph Schneekloth



Greetings my Minnesota American Legion Family.

I would like to begin this month by thanking everyone who supported me over the previous year, your support is truly appreciated.

I was privileged recently to give the opening invocation at Boys State. It went well. This was followed the next day by a visit to the Eagles Healing Nest in Sauk Centre, where I spent a good bit of time listening and sharing and connecting with some of the veterans there. This enterprise is worthy of our wholehearted support to see they and we are successful.

I draw your attention to an excerpt from the installation charge, "There is no rank among us, for each serves as an equal; and all strive toward the same goal, which is the realization in the life of the Republic of the ideals of justice, freedom, democracy and loyalty. Ever remember the cardinal purposes of The American Legion are the rehabilitation of our disabled comrades; care of the dependents of those who have answered the final call and of those who are suffering the ravages of wounds, disease and want...and devoted service to the community, state and nation." The question is asked, "Am I my brothers keeper?" I wholeheartedly believe that yes we are, to the extent that we are able to help. Many of us refer to each other as brothers and sisters, members of the brotherhood of arms. We are family, mutually supportive and looking to each other.

Suicide is such an act of desperation in many cases, that how do reconcile yourself to the fact of so many surviving the trials of combat, deployments, family separation...and then come home and are for whatever reason unable to readjust and get oriented on the next objective. So many were leaders at various levels and once out of the zone, are unable to reorient. Many of us are fortunate that at a time of crisis, a hand was there, a kind word said and help received to keep us in the fight of life. I will help others get what they want and need, then they will help me get what I need, sounds like mutual helpfulness, eh?

A little talk of growth, it is the result of bad habits dropped, wrong priorities changed, and new ways of thinking embraced. The people who do not grow are unwilling to leave what they have known and practiced. They are not willing to admit wrong so they can discover what is right. Therefore, they cling to right and their lives turn out wrong. How sad, the surrender of being right is the prerequisite to finding right... -John C Maxwell

How do we do this? The first step is to examine your heart and see that it is filled with the best attitude and ideals of service. Always strive to take the high road and treat others better than you are treated. It begins with one, and can explode exponentially in application. Alexis de Tocqueville is quoted as follows; "America is great because America is good. If America ceases to be good, America ceases to be great." We can be successful, but only together as a team/family. Finally this month I say "Titles do not adorn men, but rather men adorn their titles..." How does each of you serve? Are we working to the servant leader concept or believing your title adorns you? Each can only examine themselves and know the answer. It has indeed been a sincere privilege and honor to have served as your Department Chaplain this past year. God bless you all and thank you.

Go with God and God be with you.

Editorial

Time for change

The American Legion has been since that first convention in Minneapolis in 1919 a non-political organization. That is to say, the Legion does not support or endorse candidates for political office.

The Legion does, however, support and endorse issues that affect veterans and the public in general. The GI Bill, the Veterans Administration, the Flag Code, and the new buildings at the Minnesota Veterans Home at Minneapolis are examples of causes that The American Legion supported and helped get passed.

There is a serious issue facing Minnesotans these days and it's one the Legion and every other organization in the state should be talking about.

The conclusion and outcome of the last session of the Minnesota Legislature was a travesty. It was an embarrassment to our democratic process. Some would say it was childish. It was a blow to the chances of doing good for some major issues that affect our state such as opioid use and the abuse of the elderly in care facilities.

We will not point fingers. According to our principles, we will not take a political stance. We will say that the governor and the legislators are equally to blame.

This past month, over 600 high schoolers from across the state gathered for Boys State and Girls State. They gave up a week of their precious summer to learn about American government, and how to create their own. They learned about the how the wheels of democracy work. They also learned about debate and political parties.

And we hope they learned about compromise and putting aside party politics when the greater need of the public

welfare is at stake.

In 2013, a Minnesotan, Simeon Toronto, was elected president of Boys Nation. His campaign was based on civility and respect. "You can't go wrong killing them with kindness," Toronto said. "It's a lost art in this world of dirty campaigns and people disrespecting each other. Kindness is just refreshing."

That's a message our elected leaders in Minnesota need to take to heart.

Hey, it's okay to feel strongly about your beliefs. It's okay to fight hard for what you believe.

But it's okay too to understand that the person across the aisle is also convinced they are right. It's okay to work things out. It's okay to compromise, to give a little. It's okay to put the good of everybody ahead of your feelings. It's okay to be decent, kind, respectful and mature.

Some would call it statesmanship.

This evil in our democratic process has been going on for years, but this year's stalemate took the cake. Minnesotans should be angry about what happened.

How do we fix it? Either the leadership on both sides needs to have an epiphany of how the democratic process is supposed to work, or we need new leaders.

Next time you talk to the candidate from your area, whether it be for city, county, state or national office, ask them their stance on working with the opposition to create laws and government that serve us all, take care of our problems, and assure our future.

Will they fight hard for what they believe in, but will they also try to understand the opposition and find a way that we can all be winners?

Mail Call

Minnesota Heroes

To the Editor:

I live in Idaho but am a Paid Up For Life member of Post 33 in St. James since that is still my hometown even after more than 50 years of living elsewhere.

I receive the national publications from the American Legion, Vietnam Veterans of America, VFW and the DAV, but the periodical I look forward to most is The Minnesota Legionnaire. I have been reading it for many years and enjoy browsing it for information regarding the Legion in my home state. I especially enjoy the articles highlighting the amazing Minnesota heroes who served in the wars.

Well done to you and your staff, please keep up the great work!

Bob Seal
Garden Valley, ID

Thank you

To the Editor:

My husband, Doug Johnson, a Vietnam veteran and American Legion member, and I look forward every month to reading the articles you write for the Minnesota Legionnaire.

The veteran biographies are so well written. These ordinary people are brought to life in a compelling way. Service to our country was considered everyone's duty.

I wish the World War II History Round Table articles could be required reading for voters. The Marshall Plan should be understood by current voters. We need our allies as much as they needed us. I learn so much from each of your articles.

Thank you for your inspired writing,
Doug and Nancy Johnson

Legionnaire

The Minnesota

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Al Zdon, Editor

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What's Happening

Family Day at Twins

The 18th annual Minnesota American Legion Family Day at the Twins will be Friday, July 13, at Target Field at 7:10 p.m.

The game will be against the Tampa Bay Rays.

Tickets are available at a discount of \$21 each in the Diamond View section. There will be scoreboard recognition for every post attending the game.

The Legion will also have representatives doing the American Flag raising and the Twins Territory Flag Raising.

Commander Mike Schaffer will throw out the first pitch.

To order tickets, go to 1-800-33-TWINS and hit "O" to get an attendant. At the start of the call, reference the special American Legion promotion.

A \$5 service fee is added for each order. Tickets will be mailed.

For more information, contact Brain Bessler at 612-659-4083.

Rosetown Centennial

Rosetown Post 542 will be celebrating its centennial with an event on Saturday, Aug. 25, (during the weekend of the National Convention) at the post. There will be free bar-b-que pork and chicken with sides and a live band on the deck. All veterans and active military are invited. There will be a commemorative can Koozi for \$1, and 100 of those will have a drink chip inside.

Drop-in Clinic

The Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans will have a free drop in legal clinic at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center on Tuesday, July 10, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

It will be in the Flag Atrium Balcony. Topics will include housing, unemployment, benefits, expungement, wills, debt collection, and family law including child support.

For more information, call 651-200-4750.

Coffee Talk

The St. Cloud VA Health Care System will offer a coffee

talk on July 14 from 9-11 a.m. at the Max Beilke Clinic in Alexandria. The talk will cover benefits to veterans and families, information on how to use the VA system, and information on how to enroll in the VA system.

For more information, call 320-255-6340.

Golf Tournament

The Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans will be sponsoring a Golf Tournament on Thursday, Aug. 30, at the Deer Run Golf Club in Victoria. There will be a shot-gun start at 1 p.m.

The goal is to raise \$15,000 to support homeless veterans in Carver County. There are various levels of support including an individual golfer at \$125 each.

The program will feature free golf range, a social hour, steak and chicken dinner and an awards presentation and live auction.

For more information call 612-310-8356 and ask for Mark.

Dundee Centennial

The Dundee Post 386 will be celebrating its 100-year-anniversary on Saturday, July 28. There will be a parade line-up at noon and posts are encouraged to bring their post and national flags. Legion Riders are invited.

There will be games, food stands, a pork chop supper, a program and a dance.

There will be a trailer for veterans to ride in if they can't march in the parade.

Mental Health Summit

The 2018 St. Cloud VA Veterans Mental Health Summit will be held in Sartell on July 10 from 8 a.m. until noon. The VA invites veterans, families, and professional health providers.

For more information, contact Julie Wolf at 320-252-1670, extension 7511.

State Convention slated for Rochester on July 19-21

Continued from Page 1

Redepenning is the son of Past Department Commander Duane Redepenning. He has served as Department Vice Commander and Department Membership Director. He was a past District 10 commander, and was commander of Anoka Post 102 twice.

Nationally, he serves on the Veterans Employment and Education Commission.

He is retired from the Hennipen County Medical Center in the orthopedic surgery department.

The convention will be preceded by a meeting of the Department Executive Committee at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, July 18 at the Marriott Hotel, Ballroom II.

The Auxiliary will have an executive committee meeting at 1 p.m. Wednesday at Windsor Hall II in the Kahler Grand Hotel.

The Legion convention session will begin at 9 a.m. Thursday at the Mayo Civic Center, and the Auxiliary session will begin at 9 a.m. at Heritage Hall at the Kahler Grand.

There will be a joint memorial service at 11:15 a.m. on Friday at the Civic Center, Presentation Hall.

The major change at this year's convention will be the post-parade activities on Friday night.

Instead of the hospitality rooms or hospitality area, the Rochester hosts will be doing a Centennial celebration in an area adjacent to the Civic Center.

The parade will begin at 7 p.m. and run from Silver Lake Park to the Civic Center.

Following the parade will be a picnic with free bar-b-que and a cash bar. There will be music from the the 9th District Band, the Turkey River All Stars and Booker Mini on the Riverfront Plaza.

No outside liquor may be brought into the picnic area, but candidates will be allowed to have tables containing brochures and treats.

At dusk, there will be fireworks on the Zumbro River.

(A complete list of Post 92 activities is on page 14 of this issue.)

The Legion convention will conclude with the installation of officers on Saturday morning.

Taps

Price, Robert, 89, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 6, 2018. He was a member of Mora Post 201.

Ness, John, 90, Army veteran of World War II, died June 8, 2018. He served in Japan on occupation duty with the 25th Division, Headquarters Company. He was a member of St. James Post 33.

Weiers, Flavian H., 91, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 20, 2018. He was a member of New Prague Post 45.

Busch, Oliver P., 86, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 25, 2018. He was a member of New Prague Post 45.

Jacobsen, Earl D. "Jake," 93, Army veteran of World War II, died June 4, 2018. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Giles, Donald R., 85, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died May 22, 2018. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Jenson, Clair F. "Terry," 81, Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War, died May 31, 2018. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Claussen, Forrest D. "Forrie," 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 31, 2018. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Deraney, George J., 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 8, 2018. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

Weisenburger, Malvin, 89, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 8, 2018. He was a member of Milaca Post 178.

Kolpin, Donald R., 90, Army veteran of World War II, died June 3, 2018. He served in Germany in the U.S. Army Band. He was a member of Austin Post 91.

McBride, Earl C., 93, Army veteran of World War II, died May 31, 2018. He served in the Asian-Pacific Theater in the Philippines and Guam. He was a past member of Hector Post 135, and a member of Hutchinson Post 96.

Werner, Wilbert H., Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 27, 2018. He served stateside. He was a member of Redwood Falls Post 38.

Johnson, Wesley R., 75, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 6, 2018. He was a member of Milaca Post 178.

Sharratt, Thomas, 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 13, 2018. He served as a forward observer of artillery. He was a member of Marshall Post 113.

Sletten, Norris, 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 24, 2018. He served in the artillery and attained the rank of first lieutenant. He was a member of Marshall Post 113.

Jacobson, Donald R., 98, Army veteran of World War II, died June 11, 2018. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Marquardt, Rolland R., 97, Navy veteran of World War II, died June 9, 2018. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Barclay, Robert L., 91, Army veteran of World War II, died June 13, 2018. He was a member of Austin Post 91.

Kubal, Don, 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 15, 2018. He was a member of Arlington Post 250.

Forsberg, Carl, 91, Navy veteran of World War II, died June 13, 2018. He was a member of Eagan Post 594.

Mattson, James L., 86, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died May 6, 2018. He was a member of Dassel Post 364.

Sundsvold, Lon D. "Suds," 65, Army and Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 24, 2018. He served for 14 years. He was a member of Keewatin Post 452.

Utecht, Roman J., 92, Army veteran of World War II, died June 6, 2018. He was a member of Eden Valley Post 381.

Jarcho, Craig S., 66, Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 29, 2018. He was a member of Hanley Falls Post 127.

Albertsen, Arvid Jerome, 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 12, 2018. He was a light vehicle driver. He was a member of Alexandria Post 87.

Schwerin, Harlan, 90, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 21, 2018. He was a member of Wood Lake Post 556.

Streseman, Harold Edmund, 83, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died May 19, 2018. He was a staff sergeant. He was a member of Brownston Post 143.

Liestman, Arthur J. "Skinny," 91, Navy veteran of World War II, died May 30, 2018. He was a member of Paynesville Post 271.

Peters, Wayne L., Jr., 74, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 19, 2018. He served in Europe and was a staff sergeant. He was a member of New Ulm Post 132.

Lien, Gary Arnold, 75, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 25, 2018. He was a member of Red Wing

Post 54.

Matheson, Harry S., 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 15, 2018. He served in Germany. He was a member of the Wilken County Color Guard. He was a member of Breckenridge Post 53.

Fennell, Donald J., 81, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died June 7, 2018. He was a master sergeant. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 212.

Parsons, Kenneth W., 75, Army National Guard veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 13, 2018. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 212.

Ledo, Daniel B. Jr. "Butch," 74, Marine veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 25, 2018. He was a member of North Branch Post 85.

Westergaard, Robert K., 75, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 14, 2018. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Obituary Policy

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

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

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

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

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

Legion

Convention Program

100th

The 100th Convention of The American Legion
Department of Minnesota
ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA
July 19-21, 2018

THURSDAY MORNING, JULY 19, 2018

- 7-8:00 a.m. CAUCUS OF ALL DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES BY DISTRICTS
- 8:30-9 a.m. Music
- 9:00 a.m. AMERICAN LEGION CONVENTION SESSIONS – Mayo Civic Center, Presentation Hall, Rochester
CALL TO ORDER: Mike Schaffer, Department Commander, Fulda
ADVANCEMENT OF THE COLORS -- 2017 Champions – Waite Park Post 428
POW/MIA FLAG: Jim Kellogg, NS/FR Committee, Taopi; Garylee Davenport, Department Sergeant at Arms, Atwater
INVOCATION: Ralph Schneekloth, Department Chaplain, Mabel
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
"THE PREAMBLE" -- Recital by Commander and Delegates
GREETINGS: The Honorable Ardell F. Brede, Mayor, Rochester
Joe Brown, Commander, Post 92
Lester Shaunce, First District Commander, Albert Lea
Reid Oberle, General Convention Chairman, Rochester
- 9:30 a.m. READING OF THE CONVENTION CALL: Randy Tesdahl, Department Adjutant, St. Paul
APPROVAL OF DEPT CONVENTION PUBLISHED PROGRAM BY CONVENTION ATTENDEES
REPORT OF CONVENTION CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE
REPORT OF CONVENTION RULES COMMITTEE
ADVANCE READING OF CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT RESOLUTIONS:
Greg Colby, Department Judge Advocate, Northfield
- 9:45 a.m. GREETINGS: Larry Shellito, Commissioner, MN Department of Veterans Affairs
Patrick Kelly, Director, Minneapolis, VA Health Care System
Other Veterans Service Organizations
Robby Robinson, President, Minnesota Association of County Veterans Service Officers
RESPONSE: Rosemary Niesen, Department Vice Commander, Cologne
- 10:00 a.m. "REPORTING NATIONALLY" – Marland Ronning, National Executive Committeeman, Maple Grove
- 10:10 a.m. Al Zdon, Communications Director, St. Paul
- 10:15 a.m. REPORT: Neal Loidolt, President/CEO, Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans
- 10:25 a.m. REPORT: Robin Picray, Finance Committee, Chairman, St. Paul
Finances in relation to Department Committee Structure
- 10:35 a.m. REPORT: Greg Colby, Department Judge Advocate, Northfield
Responsibilities of Post, District, & Department Officers
- 10:50 a.m. PRESENTATIONS BY:
Carl Moon, Employment Committee Chairman, St. Joseph
GREETINGS: Scott Mills, Federal Director, Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS)
Jim Finley, State Director, Veterans' Employment and Training Service
- 11:00 a.m. ANNOUNCEMENT OF DEPARTMENT CONVENTION COMMITTEES AND INSTRUCTIONS
Randy Tesdahl, Department Adjutant, St. Paul
- 11:05 a.m. RECESS
- 11:15 a.m. JOINT MEMORIAL SERVICE – Mayo Civic Center, Presentation Hall

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 19, 2018

- 1:00 p.m. MEETINGS OF ALL CONVENTION COMMITTEES.
- 2:00 p.m. GAMBLING SEMINAR, Mayo Civic Center, Presentation Hall
Moderator: Peggy Moon, Legislative Committee Chairman, St. Joseph

FRIDAY MORNING, JULY 20, 2018

- 7-8:00 a.m. CAUCUS OF ALL DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES BY DISTRICTS --
- 8:30 a.m. CALL TO ORDER: Mike Schaffer, Department Commander, Fulda
INVOCATION: Ralph Schneekloth, Department Chaplain, Mabel
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
"THE PREAMBLE": Recital by Commander and Delegates
- 8:45 a.m. REPORT: Credentials Committee, Lynne Nottage, Chairman, Minneapolis
- 8:55 a.m. YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES:
SAL REPORT: Shawn Davis, SAL Detachment Commander, Brooklyn Center
BOY SCOUT OF THE YEAR, Tom Hallett, Boy Scout Chairman, Mankato
2018 LEGION BOYS STATE REPRESENTATIVE
2018 ORATORICAL CONTEST WINNER, Linda Dvorak, Chairman, Le Center
- 9:15 a.m. REPORT: V4V, Don Pankake, Member, Hutchinson
- 9:20 a.m. REPORT: Brain Science Foundation, Jim Munson, President, Burnsville
- 9:30 a.m. REPORT: Legionville Corporation, Wayne Gilbertson, President, Zimmerman
REPORT: "The Bog", Randy Tesdahl, Department Adjutant, St. Paul
- 9:45 a.m. REPORT: Armed Forces Service Center, Joe Jansen, Representative, Arden Hills
- 9:55 a.m. AWARDS PRESENTATIONS:
Marie Goede, President, American Legion Hospital Assn., Plainview
Karen Welander, Children and Youth Chairman, Sunburg
Art Tobkin, Americanism Chairman, Bagley
Don Skow, Education Chairman, Lindstrom
James Blakesley, Safety-School Patrol Chairman, Aitkin
Tom Conway, Law and Order Chairman, Argyle
Tom Sanders, Blood Chairman, Pine City
Glenn Mueller, Yearbook and Narrative History Books, St. Charles
Jennifer Kafka, Community Service Chairman, Blue Earth
Glenn Mueller, Operation Post Home, St. Charles
Peggy Moon, Legislative Chairman, St. Joseph
John Torma, Bowling Chairman, Eveleth
- 11:15 a.m. NATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICE AWARDS:
Marland Ronning, National Executive Committeeman, Maple Grove
Wilson Spence, Rehabilitation Committee, Duluth
PAT CLIFF AWARD to Outstanding Post Service Officer
MN PHYSICIAN OF THE YEAR Award
- 11:35 a.m. PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE:
Jennifer Havlick, Chairman, Two Harbors
- 11:45 a.m. CONVENTION COMMITTEE REPORTS
- 12:00 Noon RECESS

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 20, 2018

- 1:30 p.m. CONVENTION COMMITTEE REPORTS
- 1:45 p.m. GREETINGS: Donna Arends, Department President, American Legion Auxiliary, Willmar
Sandie Deutsch, Department Secretary, American Legion Auxiliary, St. Paul
- 2:00 p.m. CONVENTION COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 2:30 p.m. FINAL MEMBERSHIP AWARDS: Larry Ryan, Department Membership Director, Oakdale
Gold Brigade Winners - Premier Plaque - Other Membership Awards
- 3:00 p.m. NOMINATIONS FOR DEPARTMENT OFFICE
- 4:30 p.m. BENEDICTION
RETIREMENT OF THE COLORS
RECESS

VOTING AT MAYO CIVIC CENTER FOR ONE HALF HOUR (30 MINUTES) FROM TIME OF RECESS

FRIDAY EVENING, JULY 20, 2018

7:00 p.m. CONVENTION PARADE - 6:00 p.m.
Parade Line-up

AFTER PARADE BBQ – Immediately following parade, food & cash bar, fireworks

SATURDAY MORNING, JULY 21, 2018

- 8:00 a.m. POLLS OPEN for voting at Mayo Civic Center
- 9:00 a.m. POLLS CLOSE
- 8:30 a.m. CONCERT: Ninth District Band
- 9:00 a.m. CALL TO ORDER: Mike Schaffer, Department Commander, Fulda
ADVANCEMENT OF THE COLORS:
2018 Color Guard Winner
THE NATIONAL ANTHEM - Led by Ninth District Band
INVOCATION: Ralph Schneekloth, Department Chaplain, Mabel
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
"THE PREAMBLE" - Recital by Department Commander and Delegates
"CONVENTION MEMORIAL SERVICE":
Ralph Schneekloth, Department Chaplain, Mabel
- 9:15 a.m. REPORT: David Bode, Parade Coordinator, Nicollet
FINAL REPORT OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE
REPORT AND PRESENTATIONS: Mike Schaffer, Department Commander, Fulda
- 9:25 a.m. REPORT: Mike Perry, American Legion Baseball Director, Minnetonka
- 9:35 a.m. REPORT: Bill Barbknecht, Legionnaire Insurance Trust, Chairman, Battle Lake
- 9:45 a.m. ANNOUNCEMENT OF ELECTION RESULTS AND INTRODUCTION OF NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS
DEPARTMENT COMMANDER
Presentation of Department Commander's Badge
Presentation of Past Department Commander's Insignia by Mike Schaffer's Family
Presentation of Miniature Department Colors to Retiring Commander
Denise Milton, Past Department Commander, Bagley
FIVE DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDERS - without numerical designation
CHAPLAIN
HISTORIAN
SERGEANT AT ARMS
MEMBER OF PUBLICATION BOARD - for three-year term
THREE DELEGATES-AT-LARGE TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION
FIVE ALTERNATES-AT-LARGE TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION
- INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS ELECT
BENEDICTION
RETIREMENT OF THE COLORS
ADJOURNMENT

Auxiliary Convention Program

99th

**2018 Department Convention
Kahler Grand Hotel
Rochester MN**

WEDNESDAY, JULY 18

9:00 a.m. Department Finance – Watson Room
10:00 a.m. Girls State Committee Meeting – Regency Room
1:00 p.m. Department Executive Committee Meeting – Windsor Hall II
4:00 p.m. Strategic Planning Committee Meeting – Heritage Hall II

THURSDAY, JULY 19 – HERITAGE HALL

7:30 a.m. Briefing and Rehearsal for the Processional – Heritage Hall
8:00 a.m. District Caucuses (10) meet
8:00 a.m. Convention Credentials Committee Meeting – Green Room (back)
8:00 a.m. Convention Rules Committee Meeting – Lord Essex
9:00 a.m. Daily Roll Call of District Presidents – Sandie Deutsch, Dept. Sec'y
9:00 a.m. Auxiliary session convenes – Sandie Deutsch, Dept. Sec'y
9:05 a.m. Processional – ALL COLORS (see processional line-up)
9:10 a.m. District Presidents will march with their colors and be introduced by Sandie Deutsch
9:10 a.m. Call to Order – Donna Arends, Department President
Invocation – Carol Holmgren, Department Chaplain
Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag – Joanie Krantz, Americanism Chairman
The National Anthem – Joanie Krantz, Americanism Chairman
Preamble to the Constitution – Marsha Bible, Constitution and Bylaws Chairman
9:20 a.m. POW/MIA Remembrance – Jean Horack, National Security Chairman
9:30 a.m. Response for the District Presidents, Second District President Kristen Donnelly
9:35 a.m. Welcome to Rochester
Evelyn Lyke, Auxiliary Convention Chairman, Rochester Unit 92
Shirley Oberle, Rochester Auxiliary Unit 92 President
Joe Brown, Rochester Post 92 Commander
Michael Hillestad, Post 92 SAL Commander
Cheryl Nymann, 1st District President
Lester Shounce, 1st District Commander
David Nelson, 1st District SAL Commander
Reid Oberle, The American Legion Convention Chairman Post #92
9:45 a.m. Response to Welcomes – Jean Walker, Department First Vice President
9:50 a.m. Greetings – Patches Presfield – VFW Auxiliary President
9:55 a.m. Greetings – The Honorable Ardell Brede, Mayor of Rochester
10:00 a.m. Presentation of the National Northwestern Division Vice President Peggy Miller
10:10 a.m. Presentation of Distinguished Guests – Donna Arends, Dept President
Jean Walker, Mary Hendrickson, Shirley Frederick, Chris Ronning, Lori Skallerud
Carol Holmgren, Joyce Olson, Beverly Otterness, Norma Tramm, Raleen Tolzmann, Tamara Opland, Marsha Bible
Carol Kottom, McKayla Hatfield
10:15 a.m. Response for the Distinguished Guests – Mary Hendrickson, Department 2nd Vice President
10:20 a.m. Greetings – Doug Hughes, Deputy Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs, Health Care
10:25 a.m. Preliminary Report of Convention Credentials Committee – Barbara Klehr, Chairman
10:30 a.m. Reading of the 2018 Call to Convention – Department Secretary Sandie Deutsch
Reading of the 2017 Department Convention Minutes – Department Secretary Sandie Deutsch
10:35 a.m. Report of the Convention Rules Committee – Jeannette Mertens, Chairman
10:40 a.m. Nominations of candidates for: Department President
Department First Vice President
Department Second Vice President
10:45 a.m. Remarks by candidates for Department Offices
11:00 a.m. Nomination of _____ delegates-at-large not included under Article IX, Section 1a, or elected at District Conventions
11:05 a.m. Announcements – Department Secretary Sandie Deutsch
11:10 a.m. Recess
11:15 a.m. Memorial Service – The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, and Sons of The American Legion – Rochester Civic Center

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 19

2:00 p.m. Meeting of the Convention Committees - Consult Room Assignment Sheet
2:00 p.m. Gambling Seminar – Mayo Civic Center-Presentation Hall -
Moderator: Peggy Moon, Legislative Committee Chairman, St. Joseph

THURSDAY EVENING, JULY 19 – ELIZABETHAN ROOM

6:00 p.m. A Social Gathering of all American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary And Sons of The American Legion and their guests – hosted by Department President Donna Arends – Elizabethan Room
Music by Wayne and the Boys – Cash bar will be available

FRIDAY, JULY 20 – HERITAGE HALL

8:00 a.m. District Caucuses (10) meet
9:00 a.m. Daily Roll Call of District Presidents – Department Secretary Sandie Deutsch
9:00 a.m. Call to Order – Donna Arends, Department President
Invocation – Carol Holmgren, Department Chaplain
9:05 a.m. Supplemental Report of Convention Credentials Committee Barbara Klehr, Chairman
9:10 a.m. Recognition of the Department Office staff – Donna Arends, Department President

PROGRAM REPORTS

9:15 a.m. Convention Committee Report – Constitution and Standing Rules, Marsha Bible, Chairman
9:20 a.m. Convention Committee Report – Resolutions, Karen Thygeson, Chairman
9:50 a.m. Convention Committee Report – Finance, Beverly Otterness, Chairman
9:55 a.m. Convention Committee Report – Audit, Louis Kleiboer, Chairman
10:00 a.m. Convention Committee Report – History, Karla Otterness, Chairman
10:05 a.m. Convention Committee Report – Past Presidents Parley, Linda Kropuenske, Chairman
10:10 a.m. Presentation of the Past Department Presidents – Donna Arends, Department President
10:20 a.m. Response for the Past Department Presidents – Carol Holmgren, Past Department President
10:25 a.m. Memorial Service for Past Department Presidents – Linda Kropuenske, Chairman
10:40 a.m. Americanism – Joanie Krantz, Chairman
Announcement of Americanism Essay Winners
10:45 a.m. Community Service – Joanne Joachim, Chairman
10:50 a.m. Education – Mary French, Chairman
10:55 a.m. Memorial – Carol Holmgren, Chairman
11:00 a.m. Convention Committee Report – Leadership, Sandy Wersal
11:05 a.m. Convention Committee Report – Membership, Mary Kuperus
11:10 a.m. Convention Committee Report – Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Cindy Nelson
11:15 a.m. Report on The Brain Science Foundation – Sue Nunnelee
11:20 a.m. Report on The American Legion Family Hospital Association – Marie Goede, President
11:25 a.m. Announcements, Department Secretary Sandie Deutsch
11:30 a.m. Recess
11:50 a.m. Past Department Presidents' Luncheon

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 20 – HERITAGE HALL

1:30 p.m. Call to Order – Donna Arends, Department President
1:35 p.m. Report on Legionville, Wayne Gilbertson, President, Legionville Corporation
1:40 p.m. Report on Convention Corporation, Pat Logan, President
1:45 p.m. Presentation - Auxiliary Bowling Trophy – Bob Mace, Legion Bowling Chairman
Children and Youth – Diane Hayes, Chair
1:50 p.m. American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State – Patti Coleman, Chairman
1:55 p.m. Greetings from Lauren Honke, 2018 Governor of Minnesota Girls State, sponsored by Wayzata Unit 118
2:00 p.m. Junior Activities – Tamara Opland, Chair
2:15 p.m. Greetings from Courtney Rogat – 2017/2018 Department Honorary Junior President, Bloomington Unit #550
2:20 p.m. Convention Committee Report – Public Relations, Robin Dorf, Chairman
2:30 p.m. Convention Committee Report – Legislation, Jean Walker, Chairman
2:35 p.m. Convention Committee Report – National Security, Jean Horack, Chairman; Chris Ronning, Armed Forces Center Representative
2:40 p.m. Convention Committee Report – Poppy, Sharon Thiemecke, Chairman
2:50 p.m. Announcement of the Poppy Contest Winners – Sharon Thiemecke, Chairman
2:55 p.m.

3:05 p.m. Convention Committee Report – Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, Mary Hendrickson, Chairman; Bonnie Wagner, Service to Veterans Chairman; Vida Bacon, Gift Shop Chairman, Linda Deschene, Gift Shop Committee Member
3:15 p.m. Recognition of the Hospital/Home Representatives Donna Arends, Department President
3:20 p.m. Presentation of Department President's Project – Donna Arends, Department President –, Luverne Veterans Home, Hastings Veterans Home, Minneapolis Veterans Home, Fergus Falls Veterans Home, Silver Bay Veterans Home, Armed Forces Center
3:45 p.m. Department Office Report, Sandie Deutsch, Department Secretary
3:55 p.m. Announcements, Sandie Deutsch
4:00 p.m. Recess

FRIDAY EVENING, JULY 19

7:00 p.m. Parade Time, lineup at 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 20 – HERITAGE HALL

9:00 a.m. Daily Roll Call of District Presidents – Dept Secretary Sandie Deutsch
9:00 a.m. Call to Order – Donna Arends, Department President
Invocation – Carol Holmgren, Department Chaplain
9:05 a.m. Supplemental Report of Convention Credentials Committee – Barbara Klehr, Chairman
9:10 a.m. Presentation of The American Legion, Commander Mike Schaffer and Adjutant Randy Tesdahl
Presentation of Sons of The American Legion Detachment Commander Shawn Davis and Adjutant Doug Bible
Presentation of The American Legion Riders, Director Chuck Stone and Secretary Jody Hassing
9:20 a.m. 9th District Band, Vernon Kuhn, President
9:30 a.m. Final Report of the Constitution and Standing Rules Committee – Marsha Bible, Chairman
9:35 a.m. Final Report of the Resolutions Committee – Karen Thygeson, Chairman
10:05 a.m. Presentation of the Department Convention Chairman and Committee Evelyn Lyke, Auxiliary General Chairman, Special introductions and thank-you's, Donna Arends, Department President
10:10 a.m. Announcement of Parade Winners, Tom Schottenbauer & Pat Logan
10:15 a.m. Unfinished Business
10:20 a.m. New Business
10:25 a.m. Final Report of the Credentials Committee – Barbara Klehr, Chairman
10:30 a.m. Report of the Election Committee - Judge of Elections, Lori Skallerud
Election of Officers
Department President
Department First Vice President
Department Second Vice President
Results of Election of _____ delegates-at-large not included under Article IX, Section 1a, or elected at District Conventions
1. Ratification of the 14 delegates financed by the Department (Article IX, Section 1a)
2. Ratification of delegates elected at District Conventions other than those financed by the Department
3. Ratification of alternates elected at District Conventions
4. Election of _____ alternates-at-large
Retirement of Department and Past National Presidents' Colors
Post Convention Executive Committee Meeting – Immediately following
Retirement of Colors for the 2018-2019 Executive Committee members – Windsor Hall II
Installation of Incoming 2018-2019 Department Officers and District Presidents – Karen Thygeson
Presentation of Department President's Pin to Newly Elected Department President – Donna Arends, Retiring Department President
Presentation of Past Department President's Pin – Lori Skallerud
Benediction – Carol Holmgren, Department Chaplain
Retirement of All Colors
Adjournment of 2018 Department Convention – Donna Arends, Department President

Resolutions to the Convention 2018

Resolution 1

The following Resolution originated from Rehabilitation Committee and is submitted for consideration by the 2018 Department Convention, to be held in Rochester, Minnesota, July 19-21, 2018.

Tricare Accepted as Affordable Care Act Coverage

WHEREAS, The Affordable Care Act requires you to maintain basic health care coverage, called minimum essential coverage; and

WHEREAS, TRICARE health plans including TRICARE Reserve Select meet the minimum essential coverage; and

WHEREAS, TRICARE is a health program for National Guard/Reserve members including Army National Guard, Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, U.S. Coast Guard Reserve and their families; and

WHEREAS, Members of the Selected Reserve (and their families) who meet the following qualifications are eligible, not on active duty orders, not covered under the Transitional Assistance Management Program, not eligible for or enrolled in the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) program; and

WHEREAS, Under current law Federal Agencies will not allow a currently serving National Guard or Reservists to use their Department of Defense Tricare health plan; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion strongly supports the hiring of veterans although employment with a Federal agency like the Veterans Affairs are less attractive for Guard/Reserve members because of losing their TRICARE benefit plan upon being hired, not therefore be it

RESOLVED, That TRICARE be an accepted coverage plan within Federal Agencies allowing National Guard and Reservist to use their Tricare health plan upon hiring and be excluded from having to elect from the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHB), and be it further .

RESOLVED, That this resolution be forwarded to the 2018 Minnesota American Legion Department Convention at Rochester, MN for concurring action, and be it finally

RESOLVED, That if approved, this resolution be forwarded on to the 2018 National American Legion Convention in Minneapolis MN for concurring action.

Resolution 2

The following Resolution originated from Mound American Legion, Post 398 and was adopted by the 10th District and is submitted for consideration by the 2018 Department Convention, to be held in Rochester, Minnesota, July 19-21, 2018.

Youth Program Participation

WHEREAS, The Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion includes a provision "To maintain law and order"; and

WHEREAS, The safety and security of all Americans depends on a civil and law-abiding society; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 24 of the National Convention of The American Legion held in Cincinnati, Ohio, August 30, 31, September 1, 2016, titled "Illegal Immigration Policy" states opposition to any person or persons being in this country illegally, regardless of race, sex, creed, color or national origin, and furthermore states the belief that current laws governing immigration should be enforced impartially and equally; and

WHEREAS, Immigration to the United States can be generally categorized as either legal or illegal; and

WHEREAS, Those non-citizens holding a valid passport, NEXUS card or visa have been granted authorization to be within the United States legally; and

WHEREAS, If someone comes into the U.S. without a visa or continues to remain in the United States by overstaying after their visa has expired, that person is breaking the law; and

WHEREAS, It is paramount that The American Legion maintain its responsibility to its members to uphold the Constitution of the organization and safeguard The American Legion brand; and,

WHEREAS, a similar resolution pertaining to National-level participation has been passed by the National Executive Committee, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That beginning in 2019, The American Legion of Minnesota will require that all youth participating in State-level youth programs of the organization be a legal United States citizen, or possess legal residency or visitor status to be in the United States; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion will require proof of legal citizenship, residency or visitor status from all potential youth participants prior to their acceptance for participation in a national-level youth program of the organization; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the following may be accepted as proof of legal status:

Records of birth that are an original or a document certified by a State Bureau of Vital Statistics, Department of Health or other governmental agency that's authorized to certify birth documents (notarized photocopies of birth certificates, hospital records, baptismal records, school records or certificates will not be accepted)

A court-certified copy of legal adoption papers showing place and date of birth

A state-issued driver's license or state-issued identification (ID) card that is in compliance with the federal REAL ID Act of 2005, Pub. L. 109-13, 119 Stat. 302

A government-issued passport with proper endorsement for visiting the United States

A U.S. government-issued military ID card or dependent ID card

In the case of a foreign birth, a potential participant may present any certificate or document duly issued to the bearer by the U.S. Department of State or the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, such as a NEXUS card

Other documents as may be reviewed and approved by the National Judge Advocate; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That potential participants will be denied participation in State-level youth programs of the organization if they do not comply with providing proof of legal citizenship, residency, or visitor status in the United States, or who are not a legal citizen, resident, or visitor in the United States; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to The American Legion State Convention July 19-21 in Rochester, MN for concurring action.

Resolution 3

The following Resolution originated from Dayton's Bluff Post 515 of St. Paul and was adopted by the 4th District and is submitted for consideration by the 2018 Department Convention, to be held in Rochester, Minnesota, July 19-21, 2018.

Funds for Radiated Veterans


WHEREAS, the Department of Energy collected \$31,000,000,000 from the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 between 1983 and 2014, charging utility companies a small electricity fee to fund construction and operation of a nuclear dump that was never built, and

WHEREAS, more than 200,000 American veterans were exposed to radiation during testing in the 1950's and 1960's and continue to be diagnosed with cancers directly related to this exposure, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, The American Legion support legislation to allow part or all of the monies collected and remaining unused be distributed to America's remaining radiated American veterans, and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution be forwarded to the 2018 Minnesota American Legion Department Convention at Rochester, MN for concurring action, and be it finally

RESOLVED, That if approved, this resolution be forwarded on to the 2018 National American Legion Convention in Minneapolis MN for concurring action.

OFFICIAL BALLOT	
The American Legion, Dept of Minnesota Election of Officers 2018-2019	
To Vote, Make an X in the box next to your choice Like This: 	
Department Commander (vote for one)	
Darrel Redepenning	
Write In	
Department Vice Commander (vote for one)	
Wayne	
Richard	
Dick Ward	
Tom Fernlund	
Jennifer Havlick	
Write In	
Write In	
Chaplain (vote for one)	
Bonnie Hanson	
Write In	
Historian (vote for one)	
Dennis DeLong	
Write In	
Sergeant-at-Arms (vote for one)	
Ryan Hill	
Write In	
Board of Publication (vote for one)	
Don Amundson	
Write In	

OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AMERICAN LEGION & AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY 2018 DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA CONVENTION	
I am registering as a representative of: (check only one and write in number)	I am registering as a: (check only one)
<input type="checkbox"/> American Legion Post #: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Delegate
<input type="checkbox"/> Auxiliary Unit #: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Alternate
<input type="checkbox"/> Guest	<input type="checkbox"/> Delegate at Large (Auxiliary Only)
District #: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Guest (No Vote Allowed)
Name: _____	
Address: _____	
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____	
Phone #: _____	
A \$15 registration fee and separate registration form is required for every person registering to attend the convention. If you are registering as a voting member of both the American Legion & American Legion Auxiliary, a separate registration form and \$15 fee is required for each organization.	
REGISTRATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN JULY 15, 2018. Same day registration will be \$18.	
Mail registration forms and payment to: The American Legion Wm. T. McCoy Post #92 403 East Center Street Rochester, MN 55904	Make checks payable to: POST 92 CONVENTION FUND (credit cards not accepted)

National Convention

Continued from Page 1
two-year celebration of the first century of The American Legion.

Minnesota will have other surprises for the 10,000 delegates and others expected at the convention.

Each visitor will get a metal replica badge of the first convention held in Minneapolis in 1919.

Each will also get a booklet with Minnesota advertising and history of the first convention.

A display in the convention corridors will feature George Washington Bentley, the last surviving founder of the Legion. His World War II uniform and other artifacts will be in a display case.

The convention will be presided over by National Commander Denise Rohan of Wisconsin.

State Legion Bowling Tournament results for 2018

Auxiliary Team

Placing	Post	Name	Score	Payout
1	40 Lanesboro	Sharon Post Gwen Harmon Ronda Latham Kim Wagner Lori Anderson Sue Lance Ellen Wagner Deeann Himli	2562	\$218.00
2	40 Lanesboro	Patricia Reilly Sharon Rein Ellen Diffending Laura Larson	2561	\$100.00
3	580 Chanhassen	Betty Boatman Sherri Pierce Naomi Christopherson Shari Carlson	2534	\$60.00
4	85 North Branch		2524	\$40.00
TOTAL			4	\$418.00

Auxiliary Singles

Placing	Post	Name	Score	Payout
1	94 Rushford	Karen Sorem	687	\$201.00
2	144 Belle Plaine	Shari Giesen	684	\$100.00
3	94 Rushford	Cherie Hegland	670	\$50.00
4	377 Delano	Jan Henning	668	\$25.00
4	40 Lanesboro	Lori Anderson	668	\$20.00
6	112 Elk River	Lori Norvitch	653	\$20.00
7	112 Elk River	Emily Kappel	647	\$20.00
8	254 Sauk Rapids	Judy Cagle	646	\$20.00
9	418 Hamline	Laurie Burns	642	\$20.00
10	328 St Joseph	Robyn Holland	638	\$10.00
11	333 Kasson	Rhonda Rhodes	630	\$10.00
12	333 Kasson	Debra Rupart	628	\$10.00
12	85 North Branch	Naomi Christopherson	628	\$10.00
14	144 Belle Plaine	Carol Barlage	626	\$10.00
15	144 Belle Plaine	Pat Koepf	623	\$5.00
16	40 Lanesboro	Sue Lance	622	\$5.00
17	377 Delano	Joy Stollenberg	620	\$5.00
17	580 Chanhassen	Patricia Reilly	620	\$5.00
17	274 Milroy	Marsha Anderson	620	\$5.00
TOTAL			19	\$551.00

Auxiliary All Events

Placing	Post	Name	Final	Payout
1	144 Belle Plaine	Shari Giesen	1969	\$51.00
2	254 Sauk Rapids	Judy Cagle	1956	\$25.00
3	580 Chanhassen	Laura Larson	1929	\$10.00
4	40 Lanesboro	Ellen Wagner	1914	\$10.00
5	85 North Branch	Naomi Christopherson	1910	\$10.00
Total			5	\$106.00

Auxiliary Doubles

Placing	Post	Name	Score	Payout
1	85 North Branch	Sherri Pierce Naomi Christopherson	1306	206.00
2	377 Delano	Joy Stollenberg Angela Winterhalter	1297	\$100.00
3	377 Delano	Bonnie Bradenberg Jan Henning	1296	\$50.00
4	292 Richmond	Doreen Lemke Dolores Schroeder	1295	\$40.00
5	40 Lanesboro	Lori Anderson Deeann Himli	1294	\$20.00
5	377 Delano	Sandi Vass Carol Daniels	1294	\$20.00
7	428 Waite Park	Linda Williams Kelly Williams	1293	\$10.00
7	377 Delano	Pam Hoshal Linda Tramm	1293	\$10.00
Total			8	\$456.00

Legion Team

Placing	Post	Name	Total	Payout
1	255 Brainerd	Dan Johnson Ron Micevicius Dave Johnson Darryl Johnson	2892	\$726.00
2	164 Stewartville	Anthony Lilly Roger Peterson Lance Peterson Chris Pugh	2721	\$600.00
3	112 Elk River	Tim Hiller Sr Trent Hiller Timothy Hiller Tyler Hiller	2713	\$500.00
4	550 Bloomington	Chris Bly Kevin Kick Scott Kick Ken Keller	2710	\$400.00
5	104 Litchfield	Jesse Duenow Dave Telecky Tyler Duenow Russell Duenow	2709	\$100.00
6	104 Litchfield	David Boll Kenneth Koelln Timothy Koelln Anthony Carlson	2706	\$100.00
7	365 Hanska	Craig Anderson Gary Schneider Rob Mosenden Bob Roth	2705	\$100.00
8	333 Kasson	Charles McFadden Dave Leth Bruce Ludwig Marty Sackett	2695	\$100.00
9	164 Stewartville	Pete Fischer Wayne Bamlet Kevin Heydt Brett Bushman	2692	\$100.00
10	172 Osseo/Maple Grove	Matt Gangstee Jeff Rasmussen Chad Mundahl Scott Giesman	2676	\$80.00
11	104 Litchfield	Brad Ziegenhagen Matt Bielke Brad Bruggemier Gary Holtz	2675	\$80.00

12	172 Osseo/Maple Grove	Robert Mika Gene Prehatney Cory Miller Steve Erickson	2670	\$80.00
13	85 North Branch	Chris Fedun Jim Hunt Justin Hunt Glenn Pierce	2669	\$80.00
14	206 Windom	Gene Hieronimus Dave Hoefker Kevin Bristow Nate VanNote	2644	\$80.00
15	270 Buffalo	John Zerull Jerry Malo Tom Zerull David Lindeman	2643	\$40.00
16	257 Springfield	Randy Roiger Chris Moritz Chuck Roiger John Moritz	2641	\$40.00
17	428 Waite Park	Vern Hieserich Jason Emerson Nick Seeman Lance Hengel	2638	\$40.00
17	418 Hamline	Bob Broberg Brad Rardin Adam Goetzke Steve Broberg	2638	\$40.00
19	550 Bloomington	Chris Thomson Kris Keller Rick Thomson Curt Gunderson	2624	\$40.00
20	104 Litchfield	Tony Schmitz Dan Ruerkert Bryon Kruger Jesse Johnson	2622	\$40.00
21	24 Roseau	Jean Pederson Steve Erickson Earl Anderson Richard Anderson	2616	\$40.00
22	71 West Duluth	Dave Olynky Ken Holets Ron Holets Neil Busch	2615	\$40.00
23	431 Twin Valley	Corey Hanson James Treu Jody Bueng Lynn Christianson	2613	\$40.00
24	251 Westphal	Robby Arndt Todd Arndt Dave wendt Scott Arndt	2600	\$20.00
25	274 Milroy	Lanny Sik LeRoy Sik Jordy Beek Lydell Sik	2597	\$20.00
26	108 LeCenter	Ken Blaschko Larry Nelson Mike Hounder Bob Weiland	2594	\$20.00
27	580 Chanhassen	Lee Pillatzki James Solheim James Kunz Scott Gordon	2592	\$20.00
28	94 Rushford	Mike Carlson Mike Monson Duane Hegland Donny Hegland	2588	\$20.00
29	507 Mahtomedi	Ken Lagoon Jon Thouwald Todd Rogers Mark Morse	2586	\$20.00
30	641 Plato	Vernon Wilkens Dennis Kruschke Orlin Hoerner Ralph Prehn	2576	\$20.00
31	85 North Branch	Rodney Boatman Lee Stream Doug Noack Greg Noack	2575	\$20.00
32	428 Waite Park	Duane Walz Dean Walz Dave Walz Doug Walz	2569	\$20.00
33	6 Pipestone	Ed Hanson Myron Koets Dean Ebsen Robert Douty	2563	\$20.00
Total			33	\$3,686.00

Legion Singles

Placing	Post	Name	Score	Payout
1	489 Underwood	Nick Dehler	795	\$300.00
2	431 Twin Valley	Jody Bueng	786	\$250.00
3	206 Windom	Gene Hieronimus	773	\$200.00
4	104 Litchfield	Matt Bielke	769	\$150.00
5	104 Litchfield	Brad Bruegermier	768	\$100.00
6	251 Westphal	Dave Persing	759	\$75.00
7	428 Waite Park	Doug Walz	758	\$75.00
8	254 Sauk Rapids	Brandon Reese	755	\$75.00
9	418 St Paul	Harry Peka	753	\$75.00
10	333 Kasson	Charles McFadden	750	\$60.00
11	254 Sauk Rapids	Jerry Vandeneide	745	\$60.00
12	260 Monticello	Rick Swanson	740	\$60.00
13	418 Hamline	Steve Broberg	736	\$50.00
14	507 Mahtomedi	Ron Andreotti	729	\$50.00
14	145 Howard Lake	Nicholas Schmidt	729	\$50.00
14	94 Rushford	Dan Moe	729	\$50.00
14	274 Milroy	LeRoy Sik	729	\$50.00
18	489 Underwood	Larry Overcash	727	\$40.00
19	104 Litchfield	Brad Ziegenhagen	726	\$40.00
19	172 Osseo/Maple Grove	Steven Erickson	726	\$40.00
21	431 Twin Valley	Lynn Christianson	726	\$40.00
22	108 LeCenter	Mike Hounder	724	\$30.00
23	489 Underwood	Eldy Martin	721	\$30.00
24	40 Lanesboro	Steve Rahn	717	\$30.00
25	172 Osseo/Maple Grove	Matt Gangstee	716	\$30.00
26	377 Delano	Chris Daniels	713	\$25.00
27	507 Mahtomedi	Bob Lagoon	709	\$25.00
27	206 Windom	Kevin Bristow	709	\$25.00
29	126 Cosmos	Lorlane Schmeling	708	\$25.00
30	43 Faribault	Matt Truman	707	\$25.00
31	104 Litchfield	Tyler Duenow	704	\$25.00
32	251 Westphal	Jeff Wendt	701	\$25.00
33	431 Twin Valley	Corey Hanson	700	\$25.00
34	550 Bloomington	Nick Rein	699	\$25.00
34	274 Milroy	Lanny Sik	699	\$25.00
36	328 St Joseph	Richard Halloran	698	\$25.00
36	377 Delano	Pete Larson	698	\$25.00

38	172 Osseo/Maple Grove	Nate Hubert	694	\$25.00
39	418 Hamline	Pat Meyer II	692	\$20.00
39	43 Faribault	Dave Defries	692	\$20.00
41	104 Litchfield	Gary Holtz	691	\$20.00
42	172 Osseo/Maple Grove	Robert Mika	691	\$20.00
43	255 Brainerd	Darrel Johnson	690	\$20.00
44	257 Springfield	Randy Roiger	690	\$20.00
44	428 Waite Park	Tom Fernlund	690	\$20.00
46	257 Springfield	Jeremy Brown	689	\$20.00
46	255 Brainerd	Sonny Klabo	689	\$20.00
46	104 Litchfield	Dave Telecky	689	\$20.00
49	251 Westphal	Scott Arndt	688	\$20.00
49	43 Faribault	Jim Enfield	688	\$20.00
51	489 Underwood	Scott Gordon	687	\$20.00
51	104 Litchfield	Russell Duenow	687	\$20.00
53	333 Kasson	Marty Sackett	686	\$20.00
54	550 Bloomington	Rick Thomson	685	\$20.00
55	257 Springfield	John Moritz	682	\$20.00
55	507 Mahtomedi	Cole Dupne	682	\$20.00
55	550 Bloomington	Kevin Kick	682	\$20.00
55	94 Rushford	Donny Hegland	682	\$20.00
55	6 Pipestone	Robert Douty	682	\$20.00
60	85 North Branch	Chris Fedun	681	\$20.00
61	102 Anoka	Tim Gray	680	\$20.00
61	94 Rushford	Mike Monson	680	\$20.00
61	6 Pipestone	Bob Buffington	680	\$20.00
64	333 Kasson	Dave Leth	678	\$20.00
64	320 Hopkins	Craig Skorheim	678	\$20.00
66	6 Pipestone	Myron Koets	677	\$20.00
67	255 Brainerd	Richard Greenwalt	674	\$20.00
67	24 Roseau	Earl Anderson	674	\$20.00
69	164 Stewartville	Anthony Lilly	673	\$20.00
70	428 Waite Park	Wes Thompson	671	\$20.00
70	550 Bloomington	Jay Yurecko	671	\$20.00
72	428 Waite Park	Brian Gohman	670	\$20.00
72	489 Underwood	Paul Buendiger	670	\$20.00
72	489 Underwood	Glen Anderson	670	\$20.00
72	102 Anoka	Steve O'Connor	670	\$20.00
76	43 Faribault	Paul Pirami	669	\$10.00
77	328 St Joseph	Dave Court	668	\$10.00
77	254 Sauk Rapids	John Schumacher	668	\$10.00
77	418 Hamline	Jim Bigelbach	668	\$10.00
77	164 Stewartville	Thomas Mullenbach	668	\$10.00
81	96 Hutchinson	Dennis Karnik	667	\$10.00
82	112 Elk River	Trent Hiller	666	\$10.00
82	112 Elk River	Tyler Hiller	666	\$10.00
82	126 Cosmos	Devin Frederiksen	666	\$10.00
85	257 Springfield	Chuck Roiger	665	\$10.00
85	281 Janesville	Clinton Roger	665	\$10.00
85	320 Hopkins	Craig Taylor	665	\$10.00
85	365 Hanska	Mike Pearse	665	\$10.00
89	104 Litchfield	Timothy Koelln	663	\$10.00
89	164 Stewartville	Kevin Heydt	663	\$10.00
91	542 Rosetown	Dennis Schwab	662	\$10.00
91	6 Pipestone	Ed Hanson	662	\$10.00
93	428 Waite Park	Chris Gohman	661	\$10.00
93	489 Underwood	Jim Lindenfelson	661	\$10.00
93	550 Bloomington	Doug Dare	661	\$10.00
93	104 Litchfield	Darol Husfeldt	661	\$10.00
93	104 Litchfield	Josh Karnik	661	\$10.00
93	164 Stewartville	Don Lyman	661	\$10.00
93	85 North Branch	Justin Hunt	661	\$10.00
93	85 North Branch	Rodney Boatman	661	\$10.00
101	112 Elk River	Chad Degroat	658	\$5.00
101	96 Hutchinson	Rod Nordling	658	\$5.00
103	257 Springfield	Cory Brown	656	\$5.00
103	328 St Joseph	Dave Loso	656	\$5.00
103	126 Cosmos	Braeden Lies	656	\$5.00
103	40 Lanesboro	Tim Anderson	656	\$5.00
103	550 Bloomington	Fred Meyer	656	\$5.00
108	24 Roseau	Steve Erickson	655	\$5.00
108	507 Mahtomedi	Jon Thouwald	655	\$5.00
108	85 North Branch	Lee Stream	655	\$5.00
111	40 Lanesboro	Blaine Harmon	653	\$5.00
112	328 St Joseph	Jay Kraus	652	\$5.00
112	112 Elk River	Timothy Hiller Jr	652	\$5.00
112	428 Waite Park	Jason Mohs	652	\$5.00
115	580 Chanhassen	James Solheim	651	\$5.00
115	164 Stewartville	Roger Peterson	651	\$5.00
117	71 West Duluth	Dave Olynky	650	\$5.00
118	164 Stewartville	Brett Bushman	649	\$5.00
119	257 Springfield	Denny Gentz	648	\$5.00
120	550 Bloomington	Curt Gunderson	647	\$5.00
120	274 Milroy	Jordy Beek	647	\$5.00
Total			121	\$3,430.00

Legion All Events

Placing	Post	Name	Score	Payout
1	108 LeCenter	Mike Hounder	2239	\$112.00
2	206 Windom	Kevin Bristow	2192	\$75.00
3	104 Litchfield	Matt Bielke	2175	\$50.00
4	489 Underwood	Nick Dehler	215	

Minnesota Sons of the American Legion News

Commander Shawn Davis: salshawndavis@gmail.com
 Adjutant Doug Bible: saladjmn@gmail.com

Sons of The American Legion

By Shawn Davis



Transition

That is what July is for many of us. June started the transitions with squadron, and District elections and the changing of officers and chairmen. The end of June brings Detachment Convention and yet another change of officers and chairmen. How many of us will accept a new officer/chairperson role in some capacity? How many of us will be the same officer/chairperson once again? How long have you been in that position? If all goes well, I will be your Detachment Commander for a second year.

But just because we are in the season of transition, it doesn't mean that we can slack off on our duties towards our programs and our membership. Officers and chairmanships may be transitioning, but this is the time of year when many of the programs and activities are in planning or active.

If you are staying on as chairman, keep your eye on your program/activity. How can you communicate, advertise, make it better? If you are transitioning off of this chair, do you have a plan to transition the planning, the work to whomever is taking it over? Will they be aware where you are in the planning or communication of the program? How will you mentor them so that they can hit the ground running to ensure the program or activity is a success?

Membership is a key activity that is easy to lose track of during this time of year. Membership renewals have slowed down, but have we done enough to reach out to those who still have not paid? Do we know why they have not renewed? This is the time when we are out and about, visible in public with fundraisers, rides, parades, and more. Are we doing all we can to recruit new members into the family now. I would think this would be when we see the largest number of new members.

So you see, even though we have transition there is still the mission. We need to keep our eyes on the big prize, the long-term goal, and not just a time served year-end. We are all in this mission together. Let's make a difference.

Website: www.mnsal.org

Motors Fall Quiet at the Minnesota Classic Car and Bike Show

After Four Years the Detachment Car Show Committee has decided to disband. While the Minnesota Veterans Classic Car and Bike show has grown each year in attendance as well as donate-able funds...the ability to muster workers each year has become too difficult of an obstacle to overcome. The concept of a statewide Car show event was sound and the upside was tremendous...it was soon discovered that the establishing of anchor locations makes the event, by default, a local one. That means the promotion, attendees and workers all come from the local area. The Committee realized this and grew locally and donated locally to Veteran's Causes each year. The Detachment had faith enough in the idea to support the formation of a statewide event. It was a success by all measures. Special recognition needs to go to Committee Members: Justin Mathis, Missy Haubrich, Lloyd and Lori Shaffer, Bob and Kat Benjamin, Casey Lenort, John and Carrie Pfiffer, and especially to Dave and Sue Krueger and their family.

Membership: What the Pillars Stand On

The beginning of all of our programs of service and honor begin with dedicated and motivated members. We often get caught up in the numbers, and they do tell a story, but not all of it. Making sure that your membership program focuses on Recruitment—ensures new ideas and personalities. And Retention keeps the ranks filled with enough members to make the phrase “many hands make light work” a reality. Contact any of your District and Detachment Leaders for help and ideas. It goes beyond issuing the membership cards...It's creating a culture of service and camaraderie that keeps SAL Members engaged. Check out www.mnsal.org for ideas or contacts. Spread the word on why you are a “Proud Possessor of a Priceless Heritage.....” Your Story is what keeps the 4 Pillars of The American Legion Standing.

PUFL—The Best Kept Secret

The Paid Up For Life or PUFL program is established as a self-sustaining membership program for those members who wish to have a life membership. It is designed to provide a more convenient option for those who move frequently or maintain both summer and winter mailing addresses. This program is also for those members who feel it is an honor or distinction to say they are a PUFL Member in the Sons. It's also a great way to recognize that SAL member who has dedicated years to the Squadron or District. It could be the ideal gift for parents or grandparents to give to their Son. When you become a PUFL member, you receive a pin signifying your status. Changes will

be made to our PUFL program due to Dues Increases and other factors. If you have any questions or would like more info...please contact Tim Weaver at timweaver595@gmail.com

Children and Youth

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

The Legion Family strongly supports traditional family values, assistance for at-risk children, and activities that promote their healthy and wholesome development. The Legion further recognizes that the natural family is the fundamental unit, inscribed in human nature and centered on the voluntary union of a man and woman in a lifelong covenant of marriage.

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

While these are just a few of the focus areas of Children and Youth, it is part of who we are as an American Legion Family.

Take Credit for all you do.

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

Web Master Wanted: Are you savvy working online? Can you work within the popular web templates? Our Detachment is looking for someone to invest a few hours each week updating provided content, forms and news on our website. Are you motivated by Veteran's causes and can you work with volunteers? Compensation is negotiable. Please email your qualifications to joel@axtoninnovations.com

Legion Doubles

Placing	Post	Names	Scores	Payout
1	108 LeCenter	Ken Blaschko Mike Hounder	1499	\$402.00
2	257 Springfield	Chuck Roiger Randy Roiger	1488	\$300.00
3	206 Windom	Ken Bristow Nate VanNote	1459	\$200.00
4	104 Litchfield	Darol Husfeldt Josh Karnik	1449	\$100.00
5	489 Underwood	Al Rochell Nick Dehler	1438	\$100.00
6	428 Waite Park	Nick Seeman Lance Hengel	1422	\$100.00
7	164 Stewartville	Anthony Lilly Chris Pugh	1421	\$100.00
8	333 Kasson	Bruce Ludwig Marty Sackett	1412	\$100.00
9	104 Litchfield	Brad Bruegermier Gary Holtz	1406	\$100.00
10	172 Osseo/Maple Grove	Robert Mika Gene Prehatney	1404	\$100.00
11	104 Litchfield	Anthony Carlson Tyler Duenow	1402	\$80.00
12	507 Mahtomedi	Cole Dupne Jacob Bender	1393	\$80.00
12	641 Plato	Vernon Wilkens Dennis Kruske	1393	\$80.00
14	274 Milroy	Lanny Sik LeRoy sik	1392	\$80.00
15	255 Brainerd	Darrel Johnson Dan Johnson	1390	\$80.00
16	112 Elk River	Timothy Hiller Jr Tyler Hiller	1380	\$80.00
17	104 Litchfield	David Boll Russell Duenow	1379	\$60.00
18	418 Hamline	Jim Bigelbach Pat Meyer II	1377	\$60.00
19	164 Stewartville	Roger Peterson Lance Peterson	1373	\$60.00
20	365 Hanska	Rob Mosenden Bob Roth	1370	\$60.00
21	94 Rushford	Duane Hegland Donny Hegland	1368	\$60.00
22	489 Underwood	Jim Lindenfelson Eldy Martin	1362	\$60.00
22	164 Stewartville	Pete Fischer Wayne Bamlet	1362	\$60.00
24	94 Rushford	Loren Berge Luther Berge	1357	\$60.00
25	104 Litchfield	Brad Ziegenhagen Matt Bielke	1353	\$50.00
26	523 Golden Valley	Dan Crews Brad Osgood	1350	\$50.00
27	507 Mahtomedi	Roger Leonard Jr Bob Lagoon	1348	\$50.00
28	254 Sauk Rapids	Jerry Vandeneide Brandon Reese	1344	\$50.00
29	126 Cosmos	Gerald Pederson Aarin Frederiksen	1343	\$50.00
30	328 St Joseph	Mike Twedt Dave Loso	1342	\$50.00
31	26 Ada	Skip Larson	1340	\$50.00

32	507 Mahtomedi	Craig Larson Ron Andreotti	1335	\$40.00
32	251 Westphal	Norm Morse Dave Wendt	1335	\$40.00
34	26 Ada	Scott Arndt Dan Ness	1329	\$40.00
35	377 Delano	Ken Pazdernik Chris Daniels	1327	\$40.00
35	40 Lanesboro	Roger Vass Steve Rahn	1327	\$40.00
37	164 Stewartville	Robert Thompson Trent Mullenbach	1325	\$40.00
38	96 Hutchinson	Don Lyman Daniel Clark	1323	\$40.00
38	85 North Branch	Don Holtz Josh Pottsmith	1323	\$40.00
40	43 Faribault	William Robison Matt Truman	1322	\$40.00
41	206 Windom	Kyle Voegele Ron Alm	1320	\$40.00
42	96 Hutchinson	John Madson Rod Nordling	1319	\$20.00
42	172 Osseo/Maple Grove	Dennis Karnik John Torma	1319	\$20.00
44	104 Litchfield	Dave Brown Jesse Duenow	1315	\$20.00
44	206 Windom	Dave Telecky Gene Hieronimus	1315	\$20.00
44	550 Bloomington	Dave Hoeffker Chris Thomson	1315	\$20.00
47	206 Windom	Kris Keller Fred Meyer	1314	\$20.00
48	255 Brainerd	Kevin Ella Gerry Greenwalt	1312	\$10.00
48	94 Rushford	Sonny Klabo Gary Quavre	1312	\$10.00
50	104 Litchfield	Jacob Highum Ryan Beich	1310	\$10.00
51	333 Kasson	Gerald Ide Charles Mcfadden	1308	\$10.00
52	94 Rushford	Dave Leth Mike Carlson	1306	\$10.00
53	145 Howard Lake	Mike Monson Nicholas Schmidt	1305	\$10.00
54	580 Chanhassen	Gary Schmidt Ken Larson	1304	\$10.00
55	428 Waite Park	Doug Dare Tom Fernlund	1303	\$10.00
56	251 Westphal	Wes Thompson Jeff Wendt	1302	\$10.00
57	104 Litchfield	Dave Persing Tony Schmitz	1300	\$10.00
57	6 Pipestone	Dan Rueckert Jim Hunt	1300	\$10.00
59	112 Elk River	Bill Brockberg Robb Kappel	1299	\$10.00
60	43 Faribault	Ed Anderson Glen Schwartz	1296	\$10.00
61	257 Springfield	Doug Truman Jeremy Brown	1290	\$10.00
62	428 Waite Park	Jerry Field Chris Gohman	1288	\$10.00
		Dave Steichen		
		TOTAL	62	\$3,582.00

Brainerd, Lanesboro win 2018 Minnesota Legion bowling titles

The Minnesota State Legion Bowling Tournament was held at Osseo-Maple Grove this year.

Brainerd won the Legion team competition with 2,892 score, far outdistancing second place Stewartville who finished with 2,721.

Bowling for Brainerd were Dan Johnson, Ron Mickevicius, Dave Johnson and Darryl Johnson.

The singles winner for the Legion was Nick Dehler of Underwood with a total of 795.

The Legion All-Events champion was Mike Hounder of LeCenter with a 2,339 total.

Doubles champs were Ken Blaschko and Mike Hounder of LeCenter with 1,499.

On the Auxiliary side, Lanesboro won the team title with a 2,562 total. Sharon Post, Gwen Harmon, Ronda Latham and Kim Wagner made up the team.

The singles winner was Karen Sorem of Rushford with a score of 687. The All-Events champ was Sheri Giesen of Belle Plaine with 1,969.

The doubles winners for the Auxiliary was Sherri Pierce and Naomi Christopherson of North Branch with 1,306.

Next year's tournament will be hosted by Osseo-Maple Grove Post again, and the bowling will be at the Sundance Lanes in Dayton.

For more information, contact the Bowling Secretary Cari Lamb at crlmb74@gmail.com.



Andover youth elected governor at 2018 Minnesota Boys State

Jack Slavik, Andover, was elected governor of Boys State at the 70th annual Boys State held at St. John's University at Collegeville.

He is the son of Steve and Sandy Slavik and he will be a senior at Andover High School.

He was sponsored by Anoka Post 102.

The annual Boys State session drew about 280 juniors from across the state to St. John's.

During the week, the boys form their own city, county and state governments, electing candidates and developing platforms based on issues.

They also hear from a host of speakers from state government and other places.

Chosen by the Boys State staff to represent Minnesota at Boys Nation in July were Joe Privratsky, Blaine, Spring Lake Park High School, and Peter Spengler, New Ulm, New Ulm High School.

The Samsung winner for this year is John Batterton,



JACK SLAVIK
Boys State Governor

Stillwater High School and sponsored by Bayport Post 491. He will have a chance a national scholarship in the coming year.



BOYS STATE OFFICERS -- The Constitutional Officers elected at Boys State included: Front row: Garrison Green, Lakeville, Chief Justice; Charles Maki, Bloomington, State Auditor; Pal Koak, Austin, Secretary of State; David Ruiz, Loretto, Attorney General. Back Row: Riley Berg, Bemidji, Lt. Governor; Emanuel Kassie, Woodbury, Associate Justice; Jack Slavik, Andover, Governor; Nathan Jenkins, Duluth, Associate Justice.

MVH room dedicated to Skip Schmidt



WALLACE R. 'SKIP' SCHMIDT



SHANNON MONOHAN
Representing the family



Department Commander Mike Schaffer was among the large crowd gathered in the community room of Building 22 at the Minnesota Veterans Home at Minneapolis for the dedication of the room in honor of Vietnam veteran Skip Schmidt. The building itself was dedicated in March.

Private First Class Wallace "Skip" Schmidt was a hero when he came home from Vietnam.

He had joined the Marines as part of the Twins Platoon, a group of Marines that had been sworn in together at Metropolitan Stadium before a Twins game in 1967.

Schmidt was in Vietnam as part of the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, known as the "Magnificent Bastards."

In fighting at Lam Xuan in March, 1968, he rescued four of his wounded comrades and dragged them to safety. He later received the Silver Star for his actions.

At the vicious battle of Dai Do in April, a month later, Schmidt was one of the few survivors when the battalion took on a division of North Vietnamese troops. Schmidt had the rifle shot out from his hands, losing a finger in the process.

As the battle progressed Schmidt was hit by mortar fire, and he ended up in a hospital ward on a ship. He was honorably discharged from the Marines for his wounds in October of 1968.

When he got home, as his story is told by Christy Sauro in his book on the Twins Platoon, he wore his uniform at first, proud of his service to his nation.

After a few days, though, he was back in civvies, and he told his family that wherever he went in uniform people would stare at him, or openly ridicule him for his time in Vietnam.

As time went on, he avoided people his own age because of their views on the war. As more time went by, his mental health deteriorated as he dealt with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. He withdrew more and more, and had trouble keeping jobs.

He was angry and finally forced his girlfriend away. He told his sister, "All my friends died. Some died in my arms. They're all dead. Everybody died," he said. "I shouldn't be here. I shouldn't even be alive."

Schmidt tried the VA, but the government didn't recognize PTSD at that time, and eventually he just walked away from the treatment.

In November of 1972, four years after he came home to what he thought would be a hero's welcome, he hanged himself in his one-room apartment.

The family was devastated, even more so when the Catholic Church refused to say a funeral mass for Schmidt because suicide is a mortal sin.

It's a sad story, one told about too many Vietnam veterans, but it had a redeeming quality in June as the community room at the brand new Building 22 at the Minnesota Veterans Home in Minneapolis was dedicated in Skip Schmidt's honor.

A host of speakers at the event told Schmidt's story. Sauro noted that his fellow Twins Platoon member was ranked in the top five of his infantry training. "He was a highly motivated young man."

Schmidt's sister Shannon Monohan told the large group gathered in the community room how when her brother was overseas, the family sent letters, "Care" packages, and how they lit candles on an almost daily basis at the church.

"He was always asking for socks, and we couldn't figure out why. We found out that he was giving them to his fellow Marines."

Monohan said her brother "was as much a combat casualty as those who died in the war."

"He was deeply wounded in more ways than we'll ever know."

She said those who have PTSD should not keep their pain to themselves. "We encourage them to tell your story. We are listening."

The dedication included words from Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs Commissioner Larry Shellito and Deputy Commissioner Douglas Hughes. The event was co-sponsored by the Vietnam Veterans of America.

A display greets visitors as they enter the community center in the building, showing off Schmidt's Silver Star citation and other memorabilia.

He is finally the hero he thought he was when he came home.

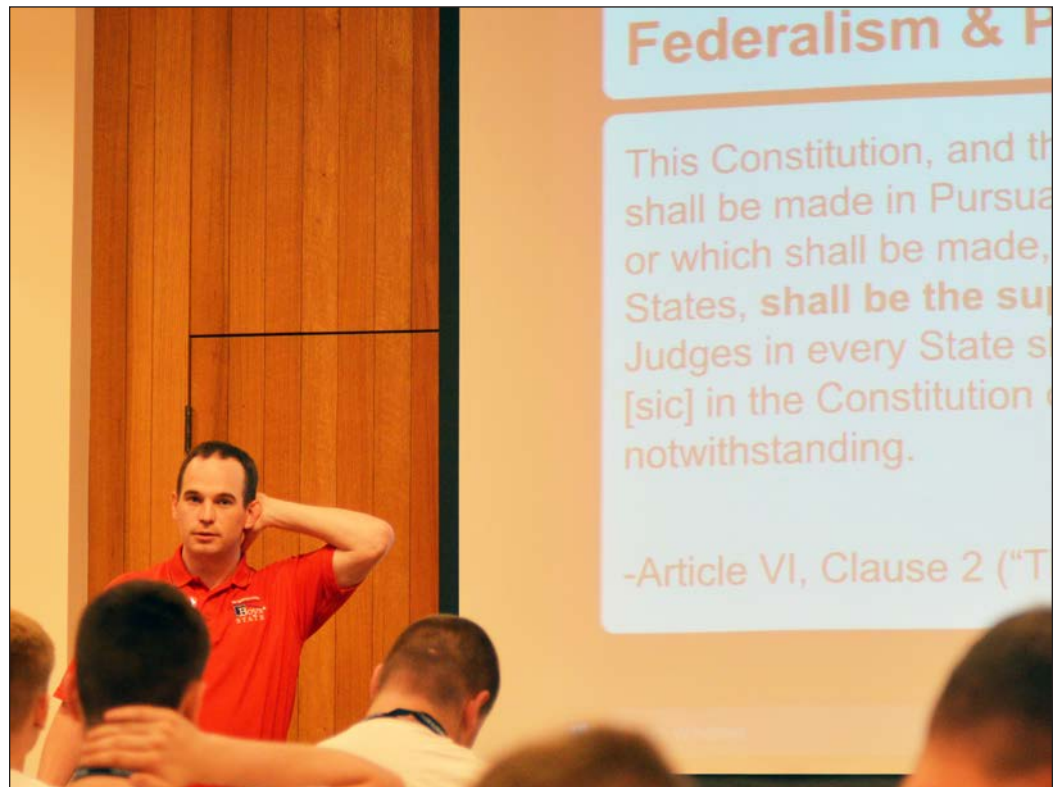


Past National Commander of the Sons of the American Legion Joe Mayne told the citizens about the power of public speaking.

Boys State



Meals are always a highlight at St. John's cafeteria.



Counselor Todd Hennen explained the concept of federalism.



When the Boys Staters gather as one large group, the session often begins with the Pledge of Allegiance.



Girls Staters at the Bethel University campus contributed to the Ralph Reeder Food Shelf in New Brighton.

Girls State



Dacia Hinkhouse, who works in the Minnesota House Chief Clerk's Office, has been a longtime volunteer when the Girls Staters come over to hold a legislative session at the Capitol.



Courtney Rogat, who was the honorary Junior President this year, read the new bills to the elected Girls State House members during their session. Behind her is Girls State Speaker of the House Ingrid Wilder.



Everyone has a chance to speak in the democratic process.



Girls Staters came over to the Capitol on Friday of their week to hold sessions in the House and Senate Chambers. They had a chance to introduce bills, debate them, make amendments and vote them up or down.

President signs sweeping veterans health care legislation

In a ceremony June 6, President Trump signed the John S. McCain III, Daniel K. Akaka and Samuel R. Johnson VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks Act, also called the VA MISSION Act, into law.

The comprehensive legislation impacts how veterans receive their health care through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). U.S. Sens. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., and Jon Tester, D-Mont., chairman and ranking member of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, along with Rep. Phil Roe, R-Tenn., chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, were instrumental in working with The American Legion and other veterans service organizations to get the legislation passed.

It also includes provisions to consolidate community care programs into a single, streamlined service; provides sufficient funding to extend the program through 2019; expands comprehensive assistance; strengthens ability to recruit, hire and retain quality medical personnel; and reforms the VA health-care infrastructure.

The legislative package is comprised of five titles that address major areas of deficit, including increased access to private-sector care, consolidation of community care programs, expansion of the Family Caregiver Program and the recruitment of qualified medical professionals.

Title I: Caring for our Veterans

Establishment of Community Care Programs One of the largest changes the legislation will bring to VA health care is the expansion of the community care program. The VA MISSION Act gives veterans more control when it comes to their health care

such as increased access to private-sector care, improvements to standards for quality, access to walk-in care, ensuring individuals can get appointments scheduled in a timely manner and continuity of care.

This section requires an individual have access to community care if the VA is unable to provide the care or services needed by an individual. Some of the considerations for access to community care include distance between the veteran and facility, type of service, timeliness of available appointments and whether the veteran seeking care faces an excessive burden.

An area addressed under the Establishment of Community Care Programs provision is the remediation of medical service lines. If a service line is determined to be non-compliant with the standards for quality, a plan of action must be submitted within 30 days that addresses the actions necessary to bring the medical service line into compliance.

The establishment of a comprehensive community care program is the subject of American Legion Resolution No. 46: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) non-VA care programs. The resolution states the VA must "develop

a well-defined and consistent non-VA care coordination program, policy and procedure that includes a patient-centered care strategy which takes veterans' unique medical injuries and illnesses as well as their travel and distance into account."

Paying Providers and Improving Collections

Another issue under the Act is the payment of service providers. The VA MISSION Act contains a clause requiring the prompt payment of providers. It directs that service providers be paid in under 45 days for paper claims and under 30 days for electronic claims.

Education and Training Programs

The Act states that the VA will develop a program to educate veterans about their health-care options within the VA medical system. An issue many veterans face is a lack of education in what benefits they are entitled to and what exactly those benefits entail. These programs will teach veterans about eligibility criteria for care under the VA, priority enrollment groups, copayments and other financial obligations that fall on the veteran, as well as how to utilize the standards for quality and access standards. Part of the

education and training program will provide veterans on information on what to do when they have a complaint about health care received through the VA.

Other Matters Relating to Non-Department of Veterans Affairs Providers

Additional matters relating to non-VA providers include a process to ensure

safe opioid prescribing practices, improved information sharing with community providers, competency standards for non-VA health care providers, and access to and participation in national and state-level prescription drug monitoring programs.

Other Non-Department Health Care Matters

Additionally, Title I includes provisions to use the remaining Veterans Choice Fund to pay for health-care services at non-VA facilities or through non-VA providers, as well as permitting VA health-care professionals to provide treatment with telemedicine. The Family Caregiver Program is also addressed in this section.



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

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

Posts of Distinction (\$5,000 and up)
 Bayport Post 491
 Merton-Dale Post 80
 North St. Paul Post 39
 Rudolph Priebe Post 172

Posts of Patriotism (\$1,000 to \$2,499)
 Austin Post 91
 Cloquet Post 262
 East Grand Forks Post 157
 Ecklund-Holmstrom Post 117
 Everett H. Hale Post 68
 Fairmont Post 36
 Frank Lundberg Post 282
 Ham Lake Post 2000
 Hamline Post 418
 Hinkley Post 388
 John Bridges Post 15
 Marshall Post 113
 Minneapolis Post 1
 Nelsan-Horton Post 104
 North Branch Post 85
 Pine Island Post 184
 Princeton Post 216
 St Michael Post 567

Supporting Posts (Below \$1,000)
 Aitkin Post 86
 Albany Post 482
 Alvarado Post 35
 Anoka Post 102
 Argyle Post 353
 Arlington Post 250
 Audubon Post 339
 Aviation Post 511
 Backus Post 368
 Bagley Post 16
 Beatty-Humphries Post 323
 Becker Post 193

Belle Plaine Post 144
 Bellingham Post 441
 Big Lake Post 147
 Bigelow Post 496
 Billie Brown Post 627
 Blooming Prairie Post 052
 Blue Earth Post 89
 Boyd Post 198
 Bruno Post 563
 Buffalo Post 270
 Caledonia Post 191
 Cass Lake Post 2001
 Ceylon Post 529
 Clinton Post 258
 Charles Borak Post 45
 Cold Spring 455
 Coon Rapids Post 334
 Currie Post 322
 Dan Patch Post 643
 Deer Creek 283
 Dovin-Wilcox Post 313
 Eagan Post 594
 Eden Valley Post 381
 Effie Post 182
 Elk River Post 112
 Elysian Post 311
 Eugene Earley Post 121
 Falldin Post 555
 Flensburg Post 136
 Foster-Bernhardt Post 373
 Franklin Post 308
 Glencoe Post 95
 Glenville Post 264
 Gonvick Post 304
 Good Thunder Post 616
 Gopher Post 440
 Graceville Post 297
 Grand Meadow Post 140
 Gust F. Holden Post 253
 Hackensack Post 202
 Hardwick Post 478

Harris Post 139
 Hastings Post 47
 Hawley Post 382
 Hills Post 399
 Hopkins Post 320
 Hugo Post 620
 Ironton Post 443
 Janesville Post 281
 Jeffers 401
 Joseph A. Gates Post 78
 Kaleb E. Lindquist Post 24
 Karlstad Post 445
 Kellogg Post 546
 Kerkhoven Post 223
 Kramer Berg Post 507
 Lake Crystal Post 294
 Lambert Post 41
 Le Center Post 108
 Lee Goldsmith Post 201
 Lee-Osborn Post 59
 Lester Prairie Post 463
 Lewiston Post 90
 Lino Lakes Post 566
 Lismore Post 636
 Lonsdale Post 586
 Madison Lake Post 269
 Mc Veigh-Dunn Post 60
 Melvin Daskam Post 38
 Middle River Post 444
 Monticello Post 260
 Mountain Lake Post 389
 New Germany Post 601
 New Ulm Post 132
 Nicollet Post 510
 Northrop Post 522
 Northside Post 230
 Norwood Young Post 343
 Okabena Post 608
 Ostrand Post 544
 Peter Leuze Post 420

Prior Lake Post 447
 Prudent Van Risseghem 395
 Public Safety Post 449
 Richard Howard Ferrell 46
 Richmond Post 292
 Rosetown Memorial Post 542
 Rush City Post 93
 Russell Post 460
 Sherburn Post 356
 Sioux Valley Post 614
 Silver Star Post 428
 Sleepy Eye Post 7
 Spicer Post 545
 St Cloud Post 76
 St James Post 33
 St. Paul Post 8
 St Stephen Post 221
 Stewartville Post 164
 Storden Post 391
 Taconite Post 301
 Truman Blakesley Post 432
 Tyler Post 150
 U of M Post 548
 Underwood Post 489
 Waldorf Post 587
 West Duluth Post 71
 White Bear Lake Post 168
 Wm. T. Lewis Post 12
 Wold-Chamberlain Post 99
 Woodbury Post 501
 Worthington Post 5
 Zimmerman Post 560

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

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

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



Post 92 offers food, music at convention

Rochester Post 92, the host of this year's Department Convention, has announced a schedule of activities at the post during the convention.

Wednesday, July 18

- 3-5 PM - Entertainment The Turkey River All-Stars
- 5-8 PM - Dinner, Regular Burger Night
- 7-11 PM - Entertainment, Colt 45

Thursday, July 19

- 11:30 AM-1:30 PM - Lunch Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Pasta/Potato Salad, Chips 1 for \$6 or 2 for \$8
- 2-5 PM - Entertainment, Mac & Rhino
- 5-7 PM - Dinner, Ribs & Chicken, Special Baked Beans, Pasta/Potato Salad, \$11
- 7-11 PM - Entertainment, The Gopher Tones

Friday, July 20

- 11:30 AM-1:30 PM - Lunch, Brats & Beans, Pasta/Potato Salad, Chips, 1 for \$5 or 2 for \$7
- 2-5 PM - Entertainment, Hank & Pete
- 5-7 PM - Dinner, Burger or Chicken Sandwich, Pasta/Potato Salad, Chips, 1 for \$7 or 2 for \$9
- 7:30-11:30 PM - Entertainment, DC Drifters Legends Show

The post will also be offering shuttles from the post, Mayo Civic Center and the hotels.

I BUY AND COLLECT VINTAGE MILITARY ITEMS

Including insignia, hats, helmets, and uniforms from WW I, WW II, Korea, Vietnam, (I have not started my collection on Southeast Asia yet). I collect Army, USAF, USN, USMC, patches, pins, pictures and souvenirs from all periods. CALL JOE, 612-801-4673 AFTER 6

District	2018 Goal	2017 Total	2018 Total	Months Gain	Total Posts	Goal Posts	% Of Goal	
District 1	8,960	8,902	8,475	26	58	17	94.59%	8,884
District 2	7,263	7,179	6,705	14	84	26	92.32%	7,186
District 3	11,624	11,559	11,170	33	65	16	96.09%	11,644
District 4	2,408	2,390	2,257	-1	18	6	93.73%	2,402
District 5	2,479	2,457	2,303	4	22	4	92.90%	2,464
District 6	11,784	11,713	11,247	32	71	29	95.44%	11,735
District 7	6,396	6,320	6,002	18	76	20	93.84%	6,318
District 8	4,243	4,203	3,951	8	40	7	93.12%	4,212
District 9	6,720	6,655	6,401	14	65	32	95.25%	6,661
District 10	10,021	9,967	9,454	26	54	14	94.34%	10,007
District 11	401	2,358	2,084	10	2	1	519.70%	2,358
Totals	72,299	73,703	70,049	184	555	172	96.89%	73,871

Same Date Last Year

Legacy Run routes announced for this summer

More information is available at mnlegacyrun.org.
Registration forms available at stops. Registration fee is \$30 per person.
(all stops tentative at this time)

Kick off party - Thursday, August 2nd, 2018

Forest Lake, MN American Legion Time to be determined.

First Weekend - August 3rd through August 5th
Stops subject to change without notice.

Friday, August 3rd

- Forest Lake American Legion
- Bayport American Legion
- North St. Paul American Legion
- Hastings Vets Home
- Red Wing American Legion
- Eyota American Legion
- Kiester American Legion
- Mankato American Legion
- Overnight hotel - River Hills Motel (507) 388-8688

Saturday, August 4th

- Mankato
- Lake Crystal American Legion(Breakfast)
- New Ulm (Oak Hills Living Center)
- Nicollet American Legion
- Eagle Lake American Legion (Lunch)
- Elysian American Legion
- Waseca American Legion
- Montgomery American Legion
- Faribault American Legion
- Overnight hotel - Boarder Inn (507) 334-9464

Sunday, August 5th

- Faribault American Legion
- Wayzata American Legion (Breakfast)
- Delano American Legion
- Buffalo American Legion
- Kimball American Legion
- St. Cloud VA
- Waite Park American Legion

Second Weekend - August 10th through 12th
Stops subject to change without notice.

Thursday, August 9th

Marshall - Sleep Inn (507) 337-0103

Friday, August 10th

- Marshall American Legion
- Montevideo American Legion
- Morris American Legion
- Lowry American Legion (Lunch)
- Elbow Lake American Legion
- Fergus Falls American Legion
- Detroit Lakes American Legion
- Overnight hotel Mahnomen - Shooting Star Casino 1-800-453-7827

Saturday, August 11th

- Shooting Star Casino
- Bagley American Legion (Breakfast)
- Walker American Legion
- Remer American Legion
- Bovey Memorial Balls Field
- Aitkin American Legion
- Ironton-Crosby
- Legionville School Patrol Camp
- Brainerd American Legion
- Overnight hotel Onamia - Eddy's Resort (320) 532-3657

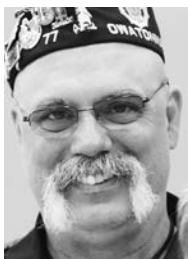
Sunday, August 12th

- Onamia American Legion
- Camp Ripley - Gold Star Family Weekend
- Little Falls American Legion
- Monticello American Legion
- Anoka American Legion (Final Stop)
- (end of the 2018 MN ALR Legacy Run.)

Notes: Times and stops are subject to change, This ride is rain or Shine. Extreme weather such as extreme heavy rain, hail, lightning, or dangerous winds would stop the run till it passes over.

American Legion Riders

By Chuck Stone
Department Director



Greetings American Legion Family,

Let the fun and excitement begin. As we gather in Rochester for the 100th Department of Minnesota Convention, be sure to bring a fellow Legion, SAL or Auxiliary member along who hasn't been to a convention. Commander Mike has promised that this is going to be BIG. Do you have a Department of Minnesota Centennial coin? If not come to Rochester July 19-21 and get one. They are really awesome and sponsored by none other then the Detachment SAL. Celebrating 100 years of existence only happens once in a lifetime. The Riders will be leading the Department of Minnesota Parade on Friday evening. More information will be available at the convention. Hope to see you there.

Now that riding season is in full swing, the calendar is filling up faster then my pen can write with all the rides, benefits, parades and fund raisers. The Department of Minnesota Legacy ride is back to the first two weekends in August. Festivities start Thursday August 2nd at Forrest Lake post 225. I have been told the Forrest Lake Riders there have been working in close relationship with the the rest of the Legion Family and have one big special evening planned. After many miles have been traveled and numerous Legion Posts visited we

will end the ride at Anoka post 102. Please come and

visit us as we come through or near your town. You can even join in and come celebrate with us.

I see some new faces taking over the controls in a couple of the districts. Congratulations the new officers stepping up. Your jobs are important otherwise you wouldn't have been chosen to them. It is

your job to lead the Riders through the next year and beyond. Those of you who have passed the gavel, your job is not over. You will be looked upon for guidance at times. It is your expertise the will help the new leaders grow.

Keep the chrome side up and the rubber side down.

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War Stories III _____	

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Annual Reports

To the Convention of the Department of Minnesota The American Legion

Adjutant

Despite the fact that we are adjusting in size along with the overall lower numbers of veterans today. Our programs continue to touch the lives of veterans, their families and youth from all across the state.

We continue to explore new ways to get our face and name out there thru promotional opportunities that incorporate our American Legion Logo. And relationships that bring the message of our organization to others in ways that we may have not explored in the past.

The organization is needing to make some serious changes in relation to processes and operations related to the size of the Department of Minnesota. No significant changes have been made other than lowering staff numbers from 12 to 7 staff since the days of 135,000 Minnesota Members. We still operate with just as many committees and committee members, just as many meetings and just as many services provided. We need to find ways to save funds and yet still maintain those programs that give to the 4 pillars that our organization standards for.

VA&R committee managed by our Department Service Officer Jeremy Wolfsteller met with the senior leadership at each state and federal VA facility that serves Minnesota veterans as they do each year. They ask the difficult questions relating to care, facilities and budget. They are respected in the veteran's community and work closely with all key stakeholders at the Local, State and National levels. They provided training to the County Veterans Service Officer (VSOs) through our National offices and to State VSOs by taking them to Indianapolis and Washington DC to attend our in-house VSO training.

Youth remain one of our focuses and many from all across the state participated in our American Legion Oratorical Contest where they prepared and gave oratory presentations on the Constitution of the United States of America. Several won scholarship money for their efforts.

We sent several hundred boys from all across the state to Boys State for one week where they learned firsthand from our states leaders how our government operates. They will form city, county and state offices and draft and move legislation that will run those entities.

The American Legion along with the Minnesota State Highway Patrol and AAA trained hundreds of boys and girls on road cross and school bus safety at our Legionville training center in the Brainerd Lakes area on North Long Lake.

The bog, oh boy, the bog has been a challenge but we are winning. There will be a swim area this summer. We will prevail on the clearing of the center portion of the bog.

On a good note, The American Legion and especially The American Legion School Safety Patrol Camp at Legionville have been in the news nearly nonstop from mid-May to early June. And the relationships that have strengthened as a result of the community coming together on moving the bog are awesome. The North Long Lake Association, the Minnesota DNR, Highway 3 Marine, Evinrude Outboard Engines, Peterson Towing of Brainerd. And many local contractors and heavy equipment operators have all freely donated their time and energy in this effort. For that, The Minnesota American Legion is grateful.

Americanism remains a top priority as we provided honors to thousands of veterans as final respects were given at military funeral honors all across the state. In addition to funerals and last honors we continue to be the leaders in the community when it comes to parades, flag etiquette, and the get out the vote programs.

Supporting a strong National Defense is ever so evident in our presence on the state and National Capitol steps whether fighting for the continued support of Minnesota's Active National Guard elements or in DC fighting for improvements for those currently serving like the new GI Bill.

My thanks to Minnesota's 70,000+ members of this great organization for all you do in your communities. And my heartfelt thanks to the staff of our Department Headquarters, Jennifer, Al, Misty, Laura, Jeremy, Heather, Tracy and Shawn. Your efforts to keep things rolling are so greatly appreciated.

Randy Tesdahl
Department Adjutant

Commander

Last July at the Department Legion Convention I said that you had given me a great honor by electing me Commander, and I also said there was a great responsibility and duty expected of me.

My year's travels have taken me to the four corners of Minnesota, to



2018

places, events and towns I'd only heard of. I've met so many veterans, young and well-seasoned alike, all with stories of pride in their posts and what their doing in the community. The OIF/OEF Veterans seem to want what attracted you and I when we first joined The American legion, community involvement and family events. Yes they have new and different ideas, but then didn't we also?

Many are joining through the Legion Riders, Legion, Auxiliary and SAL alike, but won't join otherwise. They're slowly finding out what The American legion, Auxiliary and SAL do, and now are becoming officers in the Legion Family.

My travels have taken me to events for disabled veterans at Camp Ripley, Veterans on the Lake at Ely for fishing, deer hunts at Legionville and Camp Ripley. Two changes of Command, first at Camp Ripley, the other at Rosemount with the Red Bull Division, truly an honor to observe this, and it seems hundreds of places too numerous to list here.

My theme for the year was Learn, Mentor & Prepare, which in its simplest form means be willing to work with those (mentor) that have been elected to serve the office you've given up. I've had many comments on my theme, please take it to heart and follow through on this. After all it's your posts future we're talking about here.

Absolutely need to thank Larry Ryan for serving with me as Membership Director of Minnesota. Well done, couldn't have asked for any better effort, first to achieve 95% by target date since I can't remember when. My Department Vice Commanders have been Rosemary Niesen (1 & 3), Steve Klinkner (2 & 7), Bishop Dan Williams (4 & 5), Eric Wilkens (6 & 9), Bill Stump (8 & 10). Couldn't have hand picked a better, more dedicated, hard working fun group to serve with. Why they were even planning things on the plane to Indianapolis for the Membership workshop. Thanks to my other Department Officers, Glenn Mueller- Historian, Ralph Schneekloth - Chaplain, Garylee Davenport - Sgt-at-Arms, Judge Advocate - Greg Colby, and Aide de Camp Richard Skillestad. Well done one and all.

Thanks also to the District Commanders for the hard work carrying out your duties as Commander. Thanks to all the Legionnaires that gave of their time & talents to serve on the many Committees this year. A super thank you must go to the best Department Staff a Commander could ask for. Thank you to Randy, Laura, Jennifer, Misty & Al for keeping this Commander informed, on time and where he needed to be, when he needed to be there.

Last, but certainly not least thank you to my bride of 40 years Nina, for allowing me to give of my time to a veterans organization I have truly enjoyed being part of.

It has been my distinct honor and pleasure to have served as your Department Commander for the 2017-18 year. I trust I've lived up to your expectations and served Minnesota well.

Mike Schaffer
Department Commander

Vice Commander 1st and 3rd Districts

What an honor it has been to serve as the 1st and 3rd District Vice Commander for the Department of Minnesota, Thank You. I can't begin to tell you how much I enjoyed working with Commander Mike Schaffer and Membership Director Larry Ryan. This 2017-2018 year has gone by so fast that I barely got time to really appreciate my co-horts, Department Vice Commanders Bill "Stumpy" Stump (8-10th), Dan "Bishop" Williams (4-5 th), Eric Willkens (6-9 th) and Steve "wonder" Klinker (2-7 th). My trip to Indianapolis with them all to meet with National Commander Denise Rohan and the other Department Vice Commanders from the various states was a rewarding fun trip. What an honor. I truly enjoyed going to The American Legion Posts on behalf of Commander Mike when he was unable to attend due to other events. As a Department Vice Commander you are always meeting and making new friends as I did, what a pleasure. The commaderie shared with 1st District Commander Les Shaunce and 3rd District Commander Eugene Leifeld was great. I also got to hear about all of the hard work the 1st District Gary Miller and 3rd District Jim Entinger Membership Directors were going through in getting and retaining the memberships in there respective Districts. To sum it all up it was a job well done by all and truly a Big Thank You to All. Congratulations Commander Mike, Membership Director Larry and to the 1st and 3rd Districts for a job well done.

For God and Country, bless you all.
Rosemary Niesen
Department Vice Commander

Vice Commander 2nd and 7th Districts

I was honored to serve the Department of Minnesota and Commander Mike Schaffer as one of the five Vice Commanders for the Department.

In July, I attended the leadership training in Indianapolis where the Vice Commanders bonded with Commander Mike to plan for a successful Veteran program year. In September, the membership rally at Legionville was an outstanding gathering. What a beautiful campsite and facilities! The 2nd District annually hosts a fishing outing for the Luverne Veterans Home which was held at Becker's Resort, Lake Benton. A beautiful perfect Fall day for the Veterans to enjoy riding the pontoons in the lake and a picnic.

The Department Fall Conference in October was held in Willmar, hosted by Post 167. The presentation by the Quilts of Valor was so impressive recognizing Veterans from all walks of life.

The Luverne Veterans Home hosted the November Pheasant Dinner which the meal was delicious and plenty. The Veterans have so much to share when you take the time to listen. I was invited to the Sleepy Eye Post 7 for their Veterans Day Dinner. A great meal, very interesting Veteran speaker, and recognition of the Veterans in attendance.

In January, the 2nd District Legion Mid-Winter Conference was held at Bricelyn Post 165. The National Commander, Denise Rohan, made a tour of Minnesota in February and I visited with her at the Fulda Post 318.

Judge Advocate

The Department Adjutant, Treasurer and Judge Advocate are each elected for a three-year term by the Department Executive Committee. These are staggered terms so that they all do not end the same year. The election takes place at the first Department Executive Committee meeting each year after the Department Convention.

My three-year term began with the Department Executive Committee meeting in August 2017. With the help of Department Adjutant Randy and the headquarters staff, I have been learning this job. As part of that learning process, I also took a day-long class in continuing legal education. Lesson #1: I represent the department and its executive committee, and I cannot advise individual Legion members or posts. Lesson #2: This is a big organization with lots of impressive projects for kids, communities and vets. It is going to take time to do a review of the organization and its various components, but we will get there. It is a pleasure and an honor to be part of the Department of Minnesota and our American Legion.

Greg Colby
Department Judge Advocate

Americanism

I would like to thank Department Commander Mike Schaffer for allowing me to serve as the Americanism Chairman for The American Legion, Department of Minnesota, and wish you a successful convention in Rochester.

I would also like to thank my Americanism Committee members Larry Pocrnich and Tess Davis, for their able assistance during the past year.

I would lastly like to thank the Chairpersons and their Assistants of the seven Sub-Committees of the Americanism Committee, for their dedication and hard work over the past year. They are; Boy's State representatives Thomas Nelson and Lee Tallakson; Community Service representative Jennifer Kafka; Education representative Don Skow; Junior Shooting Sports representative Leon Dahle; Boy's Scout representative Tom Hallett; Oratorical representatives Linda Dvorak and Sy Fix; Safety – School Patrol representative James Blakesley; and the District Americanism Chairpersons. Please see the individual committee reports for further information concerning these Americanism Sub-Committees.

The Department Americanism Committee met at the 2017 Fall Conference in Willmar, MN. The Americanism Sub-Committee Chairpersons, and the representatives from Boys State, Education, Shooting Sports, Oratorical, Safety-School Program, National Americanism Commission, and four District Americanism Chairpersons; and one guest, attended the meeting.

The Scholarship Selection Committee met at the Waite Park American Legion Post in April 2018. There were, three Minnesota Legionnaire Insurance Trust scholarships, and six American Legion Memorial scholarships awarded.

The Americanism Committee continues to promote the increased submittal of The American Legion Consolidated Post Report (CPR). There were approximately 399 CPR's submitted in 2017, equating to 73% submittal. We have continued to track the submittals of the CPR, and have recorded the information that is submitted under the AMERICANISM category of the CPR (Items 52 through 92). This Americanism information is then transmitted to the various Americanism Sub-Committees and to the respective District Americanism Chairpersons.

The Department of Minnesota 2017 Americanism averages exceed The 2016 American Legion National Americanism averages in the following categories:

- Legacy Scholarship Support
- Legion Baseball Involvement & Support
- Other Sports Involvement & Support
- Boy Scouts Support
- Oratorical Contest Support
- American Legion Education Week Involvement & Support
- Scholarship Involvement & Support
- Local Flag Presentation Support
- Memorial Day Activities
- Community Service Support
- Shooting Sports Involvement & Support

Needless to say, we are below The 2016 American Legion National Americanism averages in the following Americanism categories:

- Boys State Involvement & Support
- Oratorical Contest Involvement
- Vets in the Classrooms Involvement
- Flag Day, Get out the Vote, Veterans Day, 4th July, Legion Birthday Involvement
- Community Service Involvement
- Operation Comfort Warriors and Youth Cadet Involvement

Americanism is an unflinching love of Country, loyalty to its institutions and ideals, eagerness to defend it against all enemies, individual allegiance to the Flag, and a desire to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity. Our forefathers laid the foundation for a civilization that is the envy of the world. It has brought us greater spiritual and material wealth than any people has ever known. This is our heritage.

Art Tobkin, Chairperson
Americanism Committee

Boy Scouts

I first want to thank Department Commander Mike for reappointing me as the Department of Minnesota Boy Scout Chairman. I next want to thank all ten District Boy Scout Chairmen for their support and dedication to the Boy Scout programs. They have been outstanding with their help and knowledge; we make a great team.

Your post's support of your local Scout packs, troops and councils is also greatly appreciated. From its birth, The American Legion has supported the wonderful Scouting youth programs with both volunteers and financial assistance. Additional thanks go to all the posts that have donated to the Department Boy Scout Council Assistance Fund #81. Your donation certificates can be picked up at the Boy Scout booth. The fund's status as of May 19, 2018 stood at \$48,553.00. Please make a contribution to this fund each year as we are striving to raise additional interest in order to give more than a yearly donation of \$1,000.00 to a Minnesota Scout council project within the boundary of Minnesota. Current records show that no donations have been received from the 5th, 7th and 8th Districts so far this year.

Once again, thank you, one and all, for supporting Scouting in all its programs to advance the cause of freedom and its dedication to 100% Americanism.

Congratulations to Joseph Taylor from Troop 9323 in New Prague who is our Minnesota American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year for 2018.

Tom Hallett, Chairman
Boy Scout Committee

An amazing Veteran leader. The 2018 February Sweetheart Membership Rally was held at N. St. Paul Post 39 and had a great attendance inspite of the icy snowstorm. The ultimate gathering in April was for Commander Mike's testimonial recognizing this great leader.

I thank the 2nd & 7th Districts for giving me the opportunity to be a part of this organization as a Minnesota American Legion Department Vice Commander. God Bless America.

Steven Klinkner
Department Vice Commander

Vice Commander 4th and 5th Districts

I thank the Fourth and Fifth Districts for electing me and affording this Legionnaire the high honor of serving as one of five Vice Commanders for the 2017-2018 year. I have served you, the Department and our national organization to the best of my ability. Hopefully, I have added some degree of value to our great family: Legionnaires, Ladies Auxiliary, Junior Auxiliary, and Sons of The American Legion in the process. Family First and Mentoring are great themes and provided continuity at the national and department levels.

Over the past year, we have represented the Department and Commander Mike Schaffer at numerous events. In some cases, we had the privilege of being at the same event with our distinguished Department Commander and these were always great. During this year of service, we addressed a number of issues at the Department, District and Post levels. Some of these were as simple as communicating and sharing information. Others were a little more intricate but all were addressable. Together, we have done good work.

We represented you at events such as the Annual Pheasant Dinner hosted by the VA Health Center in Minneapolis. We also attended or took part in the dedication of the new building at the Minneapolis Veterans Home and the Memorial Day Ceremony on the same campus. We went to the State Capitol for meetings with House Members, Senators and their staff on several occasions. Each visit resulted in very good outcomes.

In this position, there are wonderful opportunities. One opportunity allowed me to serve shoulder to shoulder with outstanding colleagues from across the state. We formed very close bonds quickly. Through our regular communications we have been able to share insights and ideas from districts across the state. Our department has been well represented in membership efforts as we presented ideas and outcomes. In some cases, such as the Post that meets in the Minneapolis Veterans Homes; some memberships were paid by legionnaires from outside the district. This helped that post a great deal and was sincerely appreciated. This is only one of the many examples of members serving members throughout the 2017-2018 year.

The greatest events, however, were attending the meetings and functions at the Post and District levels. These opportunities facilitated dialogue and interaction in ways I will never forget.

Calendar year 2018 will be very significant for the Department of Minnesota and our entire organization as we host the historic national convention. The American Legion made history by holding the first National Convention in our great state. We will once again make history when the first female National Commander presides over the 2018 Convention. As members within our department, you have helped make this possible.

As we prepare to pass the torch to our successors, we are confident The American Legion Department of Minnesota will be in good hands and the mission will continue. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Dan Williams
Department Vice Commander

Vice Commander 6th and 9th Districts

2017 – 2018 was fantastic year across the 6th and 9th Districts. Membership is always a challenge but both districts did a fantastic job in renewing and recruiting. The past year was a very educational year for me in learning more about The American Legion from a Department level and for that I am grateful. I am proud to say that I was part of an excellent leadership/membership team with Commander Mike, Membership Directory Larry and the fellow Band-of-Thugs.

During the past year, I had the opportunity to represent the Department Commander at several events and speak at a variety of events across the 6th and 9th District area. It is inspiring to see that value that people see in the Legion and the direction we are headed.

Eric Wilkens, Ph.D.
Department Vice Commander

Vice Commander 8th and 10th Districts

It has been one of the most distinct honors and humbling times in my life to serve as the 8th and 10th District Department Vice Commander. It was a pleasure to visit both Districts for some of their annual events such as Mid-Winter and their Conventions.

It was also a great time visiting other various posts and events throughout the State of Minnesota on behalf of the Department Commander. I actually did more traveling outside of my districts than I did at their events. It was so humbling to meet so many people from many walks of life. Their stories of the Legion Family were outstanding.

In closing, it was a distinct honor to serve our State Commander, Mike Schaffer. He is truly a mentor of people. Thru his leadership, I was able to perform my duties as Department Vice-Commander. It will be a year in my Legion tenure that I will never forget. Commander Mike Schaffer is to be commended on his year as the head officer of the State of Minnesota. Thank you and God bless this great nation as we move forward.

W. V. Stump Jr.
Department Vice Commander

Treasurer

As Treasurer, I serve on the Department Finance Committee, Minnesota Legionnaire, and the Legionville Board of Directors. It has been my pleasure to serve you again this past year as your Department Treasurer.

The Treasurer is charged with the responsibility and administration of all Department funds and related financial affairs with direct responsibility to the Department Executive Committee. Some of the duties include overseeing accounting principles, and financial processes of the Department Headquarters, assisting the Department Finance Liaison, analyzing and prescribing financial reports, and investing the assets of the Department.

The following is an overview of the Department's investments between May 2017 and May 2018. Investment began the year with an allocation of 32% stocks and 68% bonds. Bonds in the account are primarily high grade

bonds and CDs. These bonds and CDs are laddered between one and five years. The stocks are diversified between large, medium, and smaller companies with a heavier weighting toward larger companies. Interest and dividends paid out between June 1st, 2017 and May 31st, 2018 to the Department's checking account totaled \$42,993.26. Again, thank you for allowing me to serve as your Treasurer and I look forward to serving you in the future.

Richard Horn
Department Treasurer

Chaplain

Serving as Department Chaplain this past year has been an incredible privilege and honor. The year overall has been very fulfilling, however interrupted by ongoing health problems. I would like to thank Al Zdon for his insight as well as patience. I will also state categorically that "Nondenominational" and "Nonsectarian" are very different in 2018 versus 1918, but that also the heart and spirit is still front and center in the work we do.

From the start, I stressed family, a team and team building as the best way we can be effective in executing the mission of The American Legion. The spirit, the heart must be center in what we do aka "What's your why." As Chaplain, I have stressed the need for unity along with the fact that we will not be successful until we realize that every member is important and that we absolutely need the entire team on the field to win. If truly united in spirit as well as actions, we are certainly more than just the sum total of our parts. Along with this also I have talked of the servant leader, that no matter the level, you are still a servant, "Titles do not adorn men, rather men adorn their titles..."

Another point was this year was the seventy-fifth anniversary of the sinking of the USAT Dorchester, and to bring greater focus to The Four Chaplains program in February, along with the Chapel of the Four Chaplains. Unfortunately, I was ill with the never ending bug during that time as well.

I was fortunate to speak at different Posts during the year, conveying the earnestness of my message and urging unity.

I believe the need under the First Pillar Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation is very important. I have begun to forge a relationship with the Eagles Healing Nest, along with the ALR and others. The unmet needs and veteran suicides are areas of special emphasis. If we send them, we must mend them, has never been more important. Friendship is based on societal norms- the more you like someone, the more likely you are to help. Brotherhood on the other hand, is an unspoken agreement among members of the group, that you will put their needs above your own. In essence you are saying that you love them more than you love yourself.

Upcoming is the Department Convention and the Department Memorial Service, concluding my service as your Department Chaplain. I have striven to bring honor and dignity to the position, and once again thank you all for the confidence placed in me to serve.

Respectfully submitted,
Ralph Schneekloth
Department Chaplain

Historian

First and for most, thank you to everyone on Commander Schaffer's team for the help in getting all the pictures and events captured. Also, thank you to all American Legion members who elected me and trusted me to do the Department Historian position. Historian is an important position in keeping our history at all levels. All posts and districts need to start or continue to capture all we do for our Veterans and our Community. Check out the New Ulm Post website for great ideas on getting your history down. Lastly, I would like to make one last call for pictures of Commander Mike. I am working on the books and would love to include everything I can. One more thank you I need to say to the Ninth District for the newspaper items of Commander Schaffer. Thank you.

Glenn Mueller
Department Historian

NEC Man

As I begin this report, I stop to think how fast this past year has passed. Also, you all know Chris and I always travel together, so, as I write this it's from both of us. Thank you, Chris, for the many miles of togetherness, help in driving and always being there.

I remember all the trips and the many miles driven to attend those many meetings, rallies, post functions, and all the conventions. There were times when it was difficult to be in two places at the same time. For those of you I missed I wish I could have been there.

As your NEC I've attended all functions as I represented each of you either in Indianapolis, Washington D.C at the National Convention in Reno or here in our great state of Minnesota. I never dreamed I would be in such a position when my neighbor signed me up some 44 years ago. It's been great working with our first female National Commander Denise Rohan. What a great person and truly a great leader supporting the veterans of our country. Remember "Who's going to fill our shoes". As always ask.

To Commander Mike and his team, I saw great effort. In the top three or four for several months. Commander Mike and I crossed paths many times this year. Thank you Mike and your team for everything you did. I know your team is still working very hard for that magic number. Go team. Tweak those motors and get another 3 or 4 RPM's.

Another team who is working very hard is your convention team. Preparing for the 100th convention is no easy job. Chairman Jeff Olson and the team are assuring us it will be a huge success. The 100th convention will mark the middle of our centennial celebration. Finishing up next year in Indianapolis for the 100th birthday.

Let us not forget our department staff led by Randy. I believe we have one of the best department staffs in the country. Speaking of Randy, I may start calling him Bog. Thanks Bog for taking the lead to clear it away from the winter mooring spot. Now, our school patrol attendees will be able to use the beach. As of this writing the bog was still there. Hope it's moved by the time you read this.

Thank you, Alternate NEC Bill. It is always great to be able to work with you. I know we share many things on a personal basis. Thank you and Carol for that.

Now, if you haven't heard the National organization is doing some restructuring. Down sizing about 50 in head count. I'm sure this will effect every department some way. Stay tuned for more info at our department convention

Lastly as a point of personal privilege, thank you to Past National Commander Dan Ludwig. Minnesota is very blessed to have a person as you. But the National organization is equally as blessed. For all you do Thank You.

Marland Ronning
National Executive Committeeman

Boys State

This year has been a year of stabilization for the Boys State program. Continued turn over in staff and my absence from the week of the program forced us to focus on ensuring all necessary rolls are filled. We returned to St. John's University for the 70th year of the program that will be held on June 10th through June 16th. Thank you to St. John's University President Dr. Michael Hemesath for hosting us. A special thank you to the Dean of Boys State, David Way for his exceptional leadership during this year's program and for his 44 years of service to the program.

I want to thank my entire staff for their hard work and dedication. All the volunteers that helped this year gave a week of their time to help continue impacting the lives of the young men who attend. I would also like to thank the Department Headquarters staff: Jennifer Kelley, Laura Weber, and Al Zdon for the countless hours put towards Boys State. This program is only possible because of the dedicated individuals that selflessly give their time. We are always looking for more Legionnaires that want to help make a difference in young men's lives. Following the 2018 program my focus will be building a well-organized staff that is able to push this program to new heights. Three staff members hit milestones this year with it being Nate Trembley's 10th year, Drew Hood's 15th year and Tom Johnson's 35th year as staff members. All three are exceptional men that are truly dedicated to the program.

District	Reg. Delegates	Change From Prev. Year
1	20	-5
2	27	+5
3	39	-10
4	8	+5
5	8	+0
6	34	+0
7	45	+9
8	13	+4
9	22	+2
10	67	-3
Total:	283	+7

I am proud to announce that we are up from 2017 by 7 delegates. Last year the number of delegates dropped by 43 with all but three districts dropping in numbers. This year only three districts sent fewer delegates than they did last year. Our program relies on the districts and post for recruitment, I ask that every district do what they can to continue sending young men to Boys State. Minnesota Boys State teaches these young men about State and Local Government as well as instilling in them an appreciation for our form of government. This type of program is needed now more than ever. Throughout the year if any post would like assistance with recruiting please reach out to Boys State staff.

Thomas Nelson, Director
Minnesota Boys State

Education

The Scholarship Committee met Friday, April 20, 2018 at the Waite Park Silver Star Post in Waite Park.

Six American Legion Memorial Scholarships and three Minnesota American Legion Foundation Scholarships were awarded.

The six Memorial Scholarships were awarded to Jarret Merschman of Bagley, MN sponsored by Bagley Post 16; William Jon Butkovich III of Chisholm, MN sponsored by Chisholm Post 247; Grace Hall of Cannon Falls, MN sponsored by Cannon Falls Post 142; Clare Kasten of Eitzen, MN sponsored by Caledonia Post 191; Brooklyn Mickelson of St. James, MN sponsored by St. James Post 33; Jamie Schumacher of Eden Valley, MN sponsored by Eden Valley Post 381. The three Minnesota American Legion Foundation Scholarships were awarded to Tanner Garity of Rochester, MN sponsored by Eyota Post 551; Kendra Djonne of Marietta, MN sponsored by Marietta Post 156; Sarita Hook of Tracy, MN sponsored by Tracy Post 173.

I would like to thank the other members of the selection committee: Art Tobkin and Tess Davis. We congratulate the scholarship recipients and wish them well in their continuing education. I would also like to thank Commander Mike Schaffer for this appointment. It's been a pleasure serving the Department of Minnesota.

Don Skow, Chairman
Education Committee

Junior Shooting

The 2018 JSSP American Legion Match is now underway. Sadly, no one from Department of Minnesota qualified for The American Legion National Championship at the Olympic Training Center held in August. We currently have 17 posts that support a Junior Shooting Program. Air Rifle and Air Pistol are Gold Medal Olympic Sports, and one of the stated purposes of the program is to make the US more competitive in Olympic Shooting. There are other opportunities for competition also. NRA shooting, CMP and US Army matches. One of our Shooters from Morristown qualified for both the NRA and Civilian Marksman National Championships.

Anyone interested in starting a competitive shooting program, let me know and I will help.

Leon Dahle, Chair
Junior Shooting Sports

Oratorical Contest

The 2018 Oratorical Contest was held on March 3rd, 2018. Semi finals were held at Osseo Post and Anoka Post with the finals held at Anoka Post. Nine Districts had contests this year, with seven represented at the Department Contest.

Emily Parker from the 10th District was the Department winner and went on to the National Contest in Indianapolis, on April 14-15, 2018. The second-place winner was Ricky Erpelding from the 1st District, third place was Zavion Dillard from the 5th District and fourth place was Owen Mische from the 4th District.

The Department winner, Emily Parker, came in second place at the National Contest and received a \$16,000 scholarship. She is planning on being at the Department Convention in Rochester this year.

This year, I did something that was more in line with the National contest. For the Semi-finals, I had Legionnaires and Auxiliary members as judges, but for the finals I used non-Legionnaires as judges. We had four members of Toastmaster and one student from the Mitchell Law school as judges. They all were very impressed with the contestants that made it to the finals. They were also willing to spend time with each contestant to give them feedback on their performance.

I would like to thank all the volunteers, which is the hardest part of this job, because without you the program would not survive. We had several individuals that volunteered for the first time this year and they were very excited and brought back good information to their posts and districts to promote the program.

Thank you to the Vice Chairman, Sy Fix, for all he did and we both want to thank Commander Mike Schaffer for appointing us as Chair and Vice-Chair for this program.

Linda Dvorak, Chairman
Oratorical Contest

Safety Patrol

The Minnesota Twins again are playing exciting ball this year. They have been struggling to stay above .500. The games are still interesting. If you haven't treated your patrolers to a Twins game, consider doing it. The stadium is a great baseball facility to watch a game.

The Legionville Safety School Patrol Center is a valuable part of the Safety - School Patrol Program. It is the only facility ever developed for this purpose. Training sessions had to be cancelled this year due to safety concerns with the presence of "The Bog." The North Long Lake Association, Minnesota DNR, Legionnaires and other volunteers are working on moving "the Bog" back to where it came from. From what they tell us, this is the largest bog that has been attempted to be moved. Without the aid and assistance of many, part of Legionville would be lost.

This year saw an increase in fire deaths. There were 63 deaths compared with 36 residential fire fatalities in 2016 in Minnesota; 57 in 2015 and 44 in 2013. The state's all-time low fire-death figure was 35 in 2009; the high was 134 in 1976. Install smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. Test them monthly and replace the batteries twice a year. Use flameless candles instead of real ones. Never leave food cooking on the stove unattended. Keep flammable materials at least three feet away from any heat source.

Preliminary reports of traffic fatalities show 348 died in traffic related incidents compared to 392 deaths in 2016 and 411 deaths in 2015. This is the lowest number since 1943. There were 52 motorcyclists, compared with a final figure of 53 in 2016 and 61 in 2015. Alcohol-related crashes contributed to 98 deaths. Sixteen were distraction-related, 82 were speed-related and 80 involved motorists who were not wearing seat belts. It was reported DWI arrests were up in 2017, from 23,392 in 2016 to 25,190 last year. Six bicyclists died, compared to seven in 2016 and 10 in 2015. We had 38 pedestrians down from a total of 60 in 2016 and 41 in 2015. This decrease in pedestrian fatalities is showing Minnesotans are watching out for one another a little more carefully. Motorists must treat every corner as a crosswalk and stop for pedestrians crossing at all corners and crosswalks, whether marked or unmarked, drive at safe speeds and be alert for pedestrians and pay attention. Drive distracted free. Driver distraction is a leading cause of pedestrian/vehicle crashes.

Pedestrians can ensure their safety by crossing at a corner, a marked crosswalk or where a traffic light is present. Never cross in the middle of the road or walk down an interstate. Wear bright colored clothing when walking at night. Pay attention and look both ways before crossing. Even if you have the right of way, it's important to check for vehicles, especially those that might be making a right turn into your path. Make eye contact with all drivers before you cross, and as you are walking across the street, can ensure your safety.

I remind everyone too of the need for safety on the water and on recreational vehicles. We are known for our outdoors activities. I encourage everyone to think safety first. Nothing takes the joy out of an activity as much as would an injury or death at an activity designed to be enjoyable.

Safety is not just for our youth. I encourage Posts to invite your district State Patrol Safety Officer to a meeting to present a program on this and other issues. Fire, police and other safety program professionals are available most times just for the asking. I encourage you to use them. Every community has its own safety concerns. I encourage Legionnaires to identify these areas of concern and implement programs of safety education. I am aware of many posts that are hosting safety programs and networking with other groups to provide safety training in many areas. Let's all think safety.

As usual, the balance of my report will be given on the Convention floor at Rochester.

Jim Blakesley, Chairman
Safety-School Patrol

Armed Forces Service Center

Over the past 47 years American Legion Districts, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, American Legion Riders and Posts have supported the Armed Forces Service Center (AFSC). Your help has allowed the AFSC to remain open 365 days a year 24 hours a day. The AFSC offers current traveling members of the US Armed Forces—active duty, Reservists, National Guard, Purple Heart, Medal of Honor Recipients, PHO, & retirees free Wi-Fi, iPads, fax/printer/copier machine, bathroom and toiletries. It also has complementary snacks, beverages, etc. The men's bunk room sleeps 20, and the women's bunk room sleeps 6.

Additional services provided:

Fallen Service Members (KIA or Stateside) – The AFSC works with all branches of the local military to assist families of fallen service members enroute to their military installation or returning home to Minnesota. The Center coordinates an offsite staging area with the military, airport police and airlines to provide families needed privacy as they await the arrival of the fallen.

Staging Area provides central location for consolidation of troops who were on multi flights.

Meet & Greet: Mobile canteen is rolled out to gate area for troops on charter flights in transit through MSP.

Wounded Service: Our members escort them through the terminal to transportation to V. A. Hospital.

The Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) is relocating the AFSC in Sept. of 2019 to the North concourse near where the ramp for the new hotel enters the terminal. While MAC will continue to provide the space for our service personnel to relax while traveling (actually almost doubling our total square footage) the expenses associated with build out of the new space must be paid by the AFSC. Current estimates of those costs are \$125,000-\$200,000. Post # 1 of Minneapolis, & Tee It Up for the Troops have each already donated \$10,000. {Post #1 has indicated it will make additional donations.}

When your part of the American Legion Family makes a contribution please be sure you specifically state it is only to be used for the facilities relocation expenses and not the general operating fund. Thank You in advance for your donations for improving our service to our traveling service women and men.

P.S. new volunteers are always appreciated please go on line to www.mnafsc.org to learn who to become a volunteer.

Joseph Jansen, Representative
Armed Forces Service Center

Blood

This 2017-2018 year participation with Blood Drives and in voluntary Blood Donations amongst all the Districts, has just been amazing. I want to thank all the Small and Large Posts of each District and the District Chairmen for their hard work in this endeavor. To Department Commander Mike, my gratitude for appointing me Blood Program Chairman.

1st District, No Report
2nd District, No Report
3rd District, 1st Place-Forest Lake Post # 225, 2nd Place-Lonsdale Post #586, 3rd Place-Gaylord Post # 433

4th District, No Report
5th District, 1st Place-Richfield Post # 435, 2nd Place-Viking Post # 493, 3rd Place-Minneapolis Gopher Post # 440
6th District, 1st Place-Park Rapids Post 3 212, 2nd Place-Cold Springs Post # 455, 3rd Place-Nisswa Post # 627
7th District, 1st Place-Minnetonka Post # 199, 2nd Place-Spicer Post # 545, 3rd Place-Browns Valley Post # 58
8th District, 1st Place-Grand Rapids Post # 60, 2nd Place-Ely Post # 248, 3rd Place-Littlefork Post # 490
9th District, 1st Place-Moorhead Post # 21, 2nd Place-Dent Post # 148, 3rd Place-East Grand Forks Post # 157
10th District, 1st Place-Milaca Post # 178, 2nd Place-Princeton Post # 216, 3rd Place-North Branch Post # 85
Thomas J. Sanders, Chairman
Blood Program

Children and Youth

Since The American Legion adopted the first set of bylaws, Children and Youth has been one of the four pillars that the Legion was built on. We know that children are our future; they will be tasked with keeping America strong. The commitment of Legion is keeping our children and youth strong must be taken care of by all of us.

The post C&Y annual reports have been submitted. This is very important so the national office knows what this state has done.

There is a lack of understanding in the importance of this report.

This report lets our communities know what we are doing for them. Any post that has gambling funds should be reporting as all the information is on the LG1004 form that the post has to file. The formula for man-hours to report is on the form and a number of children is all that is requested. I would like to remind posts that all volunteer hours are also counted not just monetary contributions. I am sure someone at your post goes to youth sporting events or community events to support their local youths. Filling out this form does not take long.

This program is successful because of all the district chairman and department staff working together to make children and youth a priority. Successful children make successful citizens.

Karen Welander, Chairman
Children and Youth

Convention Corp.

The Convention Corporation Committee is pleased to announce the schedule for Conventions/Conferences for 2018/2019 (to include the 100th Anniversary National Convention in Minneapolis):

** Rochester – Department Convention – July 19-21, 2018
* Hotel accommodations, meeting rooms and Convention Center have all been confirmed

* Hospitality night will be held in the park behind the Convention Center, with tables and chairs available for each District (inclement weather provisions have been made for inside the Convention Center).

** Minneapolis – National Convention – 100th Anniversary – August 24-30 2018

* All American Legion Posts attending the National Convention are encouraged to bring the American Flags for the parade

** Marshall – Annual Fall Conference – October 26-27, 2018

* Committee members met with Marshall Post representatives finalizing details for the Fall Conference. We are pleased to announce that the entire American Legion Family will be accommodated at the Southwest State University Campus and the hotel.

** Willmar – Department Convention – July 12-14, 2019

* Willmar was awarded the hosting of the Department Convention after a very successful Fall Conference.

* We have made changes to the Hospitality night. It will be held at The American Legion Post 167 in Willmar, which is large enough to host this event.

The Convention Corporation Committee is looking for bids from Posts and Districts to host future Department Fall Conferences and Conventions.

Please contact the Convention Committee or Department Adjutant for further information.

Pat Logan, President
Convention Corporation Committee

Employment

This past year, the Employment Committee received over seven nominations for the Employer of Veterans Award. Of the top three companies selected, two were forward to the National Veterans Employment and Education Division for consideration and recognition. The company submitted by the Alexandria American Legion Post 87 for the small company category of having 50 or less employees was Lakeland Manufacturing, Inc. of Alexandria, MN. The company submitted by the Wheaton American Legion Post 80 for the large company category of having 201 or more employees was Fagan, Inc. of Granite Falls.

The third company that was submitted by the Sleepy Eye American Legion Post 7 for the medium size company having 50-201 employees was BIC Graphic Co. of Sleepy Eye, MN. Although this company did not meet the National qualifications for recognition, the Committee felt that they did deserve recognition from our Department for the exceptional work that they do with and for their Veteran employees.

All of these companies will be recognized and awarded a plaque or certificate, at the Department Convention in Rochester, MN.

I want to congratulate Commander Mike for his year as our Department Commander. I feel that he did an outstanding job of representing our organization.

I also want to thank Commander Mike for the appointment as the Chairman of the Employment Committee and allowing me to serve the Veterans of our state.

Carl R. Moon, Chairman
Employment Committee

Family Hospital Association

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, it is my pleasure to report on this fiscal year's activities. I am reporting on all activities from the beginning of the fiscal year August 1, 2017 through May 31, 2018. A complete fiscal year report will be provided to the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and the SAL at our annual meeting held at the Fall Conference. Application history from the beginning of the fiscal (August 1, 2017) through (May 31, 2018) can be seen below:

	FY-2017	FY-2018
Applications Received	15	13
Applications Approved	13	10
Total Dollars Disbursed	\$13,654	\$16,475

Listed below is a breakdown of the number of claims and amounts paid out by District:

DISTRICT	2017 APPS	2018 APPS	FY-2017 DOLLARS PAID	FY-2018 DOLLARS PAID
First	2	3	3,340	5,006
Second	2	2	916	0
Third	1	1	0	0
Fourth	2	0	3,710	0
Fifth	0	0	0	0
Sixth	0	0	0	0
Seventh	2	0	1,037	0
Eighth	0	1	0	2,800
Ninth	6	4	4,651	6,992
Tenth	0	2	0	1,677
TOTALS	15	13	\$13,654	\$16,475
Total Net Assets as of 31 May 2018				\$266,520

Special thanks to Roger Myren and Laura Weber for all the work they do for the American Legion Family Hospital Association. Also thank you to the board members who have served this past year. They are: Alberta Marth-Wohlfeil, Sharon Thiemecke, Mike Schaffer, Robert Bristo, Jennifer Havlick, Donna Arends, Roger Stoick and Shawn Davis.

A special thank you to the American Legion Family Hospital Association membership for allowing me the honor of serving as your President.

Marie Goede, President
Minnesota American Legion Family Hospital Association

Finance

The Department Finance Committee met at the Kelly Inn in St. Cloud on September 26, 2017, to set the budget for our Department for 2017-2018. Commander Schaffer determined the budget will be set based upon a 71,000 membership.

The budget was approved as follows: Budgeted Income - \$1,365,880 Budgeted Expense - \$1,270,141 Excess Income - \$95,739.

Our external revenue (insurance, cards, calendars, etc.) continues to be a very important part in maintaining our programs. These non-membership revenue sources contribute over 36% of our income. During our meeting, it was decided to continue to have Bill Goede to be the Finance Committee Liaison on these and new external sources.

The committee thanks Commander Mike Schaffer, Adjutant Randy Tesdahl and the office staff for their help. A special thank you goes to Laura Weber for her help. She is an invaluable resource for this committee.

Members of the committee are Chair Robin Picray, Bill Goede, Tom Burau, Floyd Komerow, Ray DeZurik, Command Mike Schaffer and Department Treasurer Dick Horn.

Robin Picray, Chairman
Finance Committee

Fund for Hosp. Vets

The Fund for Hospitalized Veterans meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike Maxa at 11:15hrs on 29 October 2017 at Department of Minnesota Fall Conference, Willmar Mn Convention Center. Roll call was conducted and the following were in attendance; Wes Thompson, Eugene Oswald, Mary Hendrickson, Roland Hanson was excused. Also in attendance was DVSO Jeremy Wolfsteller. Chairman Maxa agreed to take notes.

The mileage was set and approved at the Department rate. No mileage was paid out. The minutes were read and approved from the previous meeting. The financial report was read and accepted. Chairman Maxa would like to thank the American Legion Family for their generous donations to maintain this most needed fund in a healthy state. Old business was brought up and being none, new business was brought forward.

Chairman Maxa brought up the idea of paying for American Legion members who are hospitalized and have not renewed their membership. He felt the last thing on a hospitalized Veteran's mind was renewing their membership during their stay in the hospital. After much discussion it was approved to renew membership of an American Legion member in the hospital.

DVSO Jeremy brought up the subject of "Canteen Books" for hospitalized Veteran's. The current system is the DVSO office paid for them and it really should fall under this committee's responsibilities. He felt the funds he expends on these books could be better used to help our Veteran's. After much discussion it was approved the Fund for Hospitalized Veteran's would take over the responsibility of funding the cost of the Canteen Books.

The Legion Lounge was discussed as a budgeted item that has not been used in the past five years. The funds responsibility was to help pay for coffee and incidentals. It was discussed and decided to remove the budgeted line item for the lounge.

Committee member Mary Hendrickson brought up the subject of thank you cards and who is going to send them out. After discussion Mary volunteered to send thank you cards out to our donors.

The budget for the 2017-2018 year was brought forward. After a line by line review the budget was set. The Legion lounge line item was struck from the budget. The Canteen Books and Membership renewal line items were added to the budget. After a final review of the budget the committee made the motion to approve the budget as set. The motion carried. With no further business the Fund for Hospitalized Veterans adjourned at 12:00hrs. My report is respectively submitted to the Department of Minnesota Commander.

Mike Maxa, Chairman
Fund for Hospitalized Veterans

Law and Order

Law and Order consists of three members and is responsible for selecting the Law Enforcement Officer and Firefighter of the year. This year the committee received 3 candidates for Law Officer and 1 candidate for Firefighter. In April the committee reviewed the applications and Selected Curt Boehme a Police officer from Lino Lakes as Law Officer of the year, and Brian Finke as Firefighter of the year also from Lino Lakes, applications were submitted by Lino Lakes Post 566 from the 10 District.

Boehme is a 12 year veteran with the Lino Lake Police Department, a graduate of the University Of Minnesota at Duluth with a BA in. criminology. Boehme completed his training program with an AAS at Fond du Lac Triabl and Community College. Officer Boehme is also cross trained as a Firefighter. Along with his Duties he is also the training officer for new Police officers, and also was a school resource officer for a middle school, and worked with at-risk students.

Finke joined the Lino Lakes Fire Department as a paid on call member of the fire division in 2016. Finke is a native of Elk River and he and Jess have two girls, Hailie and Kayla. They are members of the St. Josephs

Catholic Church. Finke previously owned Unique Carpentry in Fridley. He obtained his building official license and became a certified fire inspector and closed his business. He became a building and fire inspector in Lino lakes in 2016. He responds at Fire Station 1.

Tom Conway, Chairman
Law and Order Committee

Legionnaire Insurance Trust

Nearly \$57,000 income was raised from the LIT this past year. It was a challenge to get to the spring meeting with the Minneapolis airport closed.

We ask every member to take a good look at all the programs that LIT has to offer such as cancer insurance, life-lock, hospital care, emergency travel and other insurance that may fit your needs.

Wonderful news at the annual meeting held in April, all Legionnaires, Auxiliary and SAL members over 18 years of age are eligible for \$5,000 accidental death benefit while on Legion, Auxiliary or SAL business, such as meetings, membership drives, girls and boys state and any other business for our organizations.

Again thanks to Jeremy Wolfsteller for all the help on the Rehabilitation work, as Minnesota once again made goal to be an honorable mention which consists of few select states. This follows winning the National Award last year.

Thank you to Gary Lee Davenport and Myron Enrich for serving on the LIT Committee. A big thank you to Jennifer Kelley and the Department Office for helping to promote the LIT Program.

Bill Barbknecht, Chairman
Legionnaire Insurance Trust

Legionville

This has been a challenging 2018 at Legionville. There were several items that confronted the board at the spring meeting on April 7, 2018.

First was the addition of the famous bog to the Legionville property. Little did we know the effect that it would have on Legionville for the 2018 training season. The location of the bog in the beach area presented a problem and somehow we had to deal with disposition of the bog. Starting in October of 2017 Randy Tesdahl has been researching options for removal of the bog. An all-out effort was put forth by the DNR, Long Lake Association, and the American Legion to move the bog on May 16 and 17. The end result was that it remained in place. With the water being down 10 inches and the weight of the bog, it proved to be too much for the boats to move. It was decided to cut the bog in pieces and move it little by little. A decision had to be made on whether camp would be held for 2018. The board decided due to the safety of the children involved that the training sessions for 2018 be cancelled. On June 9, 2018 they were able to move the first section of the bog to the east and free up some of the beach area. Plans are in place to have the entire bog moved to the east by the end of summer. I would like to thank everyone for all their efforts in getting it moved.

Second was the Legacy grant received to remodel the kitchen. The process of getting drawings was started in October of 2017. After receiving the shop drawing and after several modifications we were able to start getting bids in March 2018. With the help of Randy Tesdahl, Roger Myren, and Laura Weber we were able to get the grant process approved and to move forward with the project. I'm happy to report that the kitchen remodel is 90% complete. Due to a couple of items damaged in shipment we had to wait for it to be rebuilt and shipped to site for installation. By July the remodeled kitchen should be up and operational.

Work and play weekend went well. Several people from the 6th District cleaned cabins, dorms, and they split about 8 cords of wood. Three people from 6th District were able to complete installation of the insulation on the ceiling in the eating area. Awesome teamwork by all that took time to help.

The paver project is an ongoing project and we continue to order pavers as orders are received and get them engraved. We still have three granite benches on site that are looking for sponsorship. As they are purchased they will be installed in various locations and a granite paver will be installed to indicate in memory of.

Our sincere thanks to all the Legion Posts, Auxiliary Units, S.A.L. Squadrons, and Legion Rider Chapters for their continued donations to Legionville to help with the projects and maintenance. It is with these donations that we are able to continue to operate.

Legionville Camporee is scheduled for September 5th - 9th, 2018. This is a chance for everyone to come up and enjoy a great fun filled weekend. The American Legion Riders Romp will be held September 13th - 15th, 2018.

The representatives on the board are: 1st District - Glenn Mueller, 2nd District - David Hanson, 3rd District - Eugene Leifeld, 4th District - Joe Jansen, 5th District - Dennis Delong, 6th District - Wayne Gilbertson, 7th District - Victor Glades, 8th District Carl Hendrickson, 9th District - Dennis Henkemeyer, 10th District - Richard Oelschlager, Legion Representative - Roger Myren, Department Commander - Mike Schaffer, Department Adjutant - Randy Tesdahl, Department Finance Officer - Dick Horn, Department Auxiliary President - Donna Arends, SAL Commander - Shawn Davis, School/Safety Chair - Jim Blakesley, 40 & 8 Representative - Cliff Teigland, Finance Liaison - Laura Weber, and Legal Counsel - Greg Colby.

Wayne M. Gilbertson, President
Legionville School Safety Patrol Training Center Inc.

Legislative

The Legislative Committee is chaired by Peggy Moon and assisted by Robert Hart, Gary Larson, and Lyle Foltz, in addition to ten District Chairmen.

The American Legion works with eight other federally chartered veterans organizations along with the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) as part of the Commanders Task Force (CTF). The CTF crafted a legislative agenda which focused on establishing a lifetime homestead market value exclusion for surviving spouses, military beneficiary's pay or benefits protections, support of MDVA's request for asset preservation funding, free or reduced cost hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses for service-connected disabled veterans, and expansion of veterans courts statewide.

This was a short session for the legislature, as they convened February 20th, instead of January 2nd. During this time, 30 bills were heard in the House Veterans Committee, and 15 were heard in the Senate Veterans Committee. In the end, the following bills were signed by Governor Dayton:

- 1 HF 368/SF 327: Assignment of military Pay or benefits prohibited and remedies provided.
- 2 HF 4425: Omnibus Capital Investment (Bonding) bill which

included \$9 million for MDVA asset preservation projects, \$12.4 million for the Bemidji Veterans Home project, \$9.4 million for the Montevideo Veterans Home Project, and \$10.2 million for the Preston Veterans Home Project.

3 HF 3507/SF 3004: Veteran status data collected for state agency appointments.

4 HF 3477/SF 3262: Purple Heart City or Purple Heart County designation authorized.

5 HF 3750/SF 3461: GI Bill statutory language recodified, and technical corrections made.

6 HF 3608/SF 3793: Counties competitive bidding for small business enterprises or veteran-owned small businesses modification.

7 HF 2011/SF 1694: Designates June 29 as General John Vessey Day in Minnesota.

8 HF 2276/SF 1703: Designates July 16 as Atomic Veterans Day in Minnesota.

We were unable to pass the lifetime homestead market value exclusion, but were successful in providing for a one-time move to a homestead of equal or lesser value for the surviving spouse. Unfortunately, this was included in the Tax Omnibus Bill and was subsequently vetoed by Governor Dayton.

I was able to give testimony in both the House and the Senate on our 100th American Legion Convention, and both passed resolutions for The American Legion.

For those of you involved in charitable gambling, no bills were passed this year. With the advent of sports betting coming to Minnesota, I urge you to contact Al Lund with Allied Charities to see how this may affect your Post.

Veterans Day on the Hill was again very successful this year with a huge attendance. Thank you to Waite Park Honor Guard for escorting us from the Veterans Building to the Capital. Thank you all for participating.

On the national level, the Washington Conference was well attended, with great feedback from our representatives. There will be more changes for next year as three of our congressmen are resigning.

Thank you, Commander Mike for allowing me to serve our Department in this capacity.

Peggy Moon, Chairman
Legislative Committee

Membership

The 2018 Membership year started with the drop of the gavel closing the Department Convention at Mahanomen. With the election of the Department Commander, five Vice Commanders and myself being appointed as the Membership Director, the team was set. Within days, we set off for the National Membership Workshop in Indianapolis. Many ideas were presented, we were given the tools to try and stop the downward slide in the membership totals. Commander Mike, Adjutant Randy and I met with the National Membership Committee, and then leading candidate for National Commander Denise Rohan to set our membership goal for the 2017-2018 Legion year. Thanks to some amazing number comparisons and stats from over the past years that were compiled by our Department Membership Coordinator, Misty Padilla, the Chairman of the Committee basically conceded to us that Adjutant Randy had "beaten him down." They had no dog in the fight regarding realistic goals, so to speak. After some brief discussion, we settled at our goal of 72,500 members. When we returned to Minnesota we hit the ground running. The first membership meeting was held in conjunction with the DEC Meeting at Elk River. We presented the membership plan, and the theme "Racing for the Goal." Each District Commander and membership Director was given copies of the plan and the Strategic Membership Plan, the same that was presented to the National Committee in Indianapolis.

Membership Rallies were held at some common, and some new locations. The Harvest Rally was held at Legionville as always, in conjunction with the SAL Camporee. We headed north to Duluth for the Pearl Harbor Rally, North St Paul for the Sweetheart Rally, and Buffalo for the Family Appreciation Rally. We also attended as many Midwinters as we could. Some of the locations and scheduled dates made it logistically impossible for any one person to make to make it to all of them, but we split the duties between the team.

The tour by National Commander Denise Rohan was an absolute success. Our thanks to all the posts that hosted a stop during the tour. Commander Rohan and her Aide, husband Mike Rohan had nothing but praise for the posts and the people that turned out to meet and listen to her. Special thanks to Dept Adjutant Randy Tesdahl, he made all the reservations for hotel rooms along the way and acted as our chauffeur, or as he described it so well, he was "Batman's Alfred" for the tour. Every morning found the van gassed, washed and stocked, ready to go by 7 AM. Dept Communications Director Al Zdon acted as the copilot, which allowed Commander Mike and myself to discuss membership and Legion topics with the National Commander between stops.

After spending the majority of the year in the top five, then the top 10 places in the National Standings for membership, Minnesota hit the 95% of goal National target on time, something that had not been done in more years than most can remember. As of this writing, we are in 16th place, due to last minute surges from other Departments. It should be noted that none of them have goals anywhere near as high as ours. We did win the Midwest Region for the year.

In closing, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to every District Commander and Membership Director, to the 5 Department Vice Commanders, and especially the Dept Office Staff. The staff does volumes of work that most of us can't even imagine. Their performance is often unnoticed, and they deserve loads of credit.

Commander Mike, I want to apologize for not achieving the goal. All you asked was that we give it our best try, and I think I can speak for the team when I say we did our best, despite budget restrictions and personal limitations. Thank you for allowing me the chance to serve in this position.

Larry Ryan Sr., Director
Membership

National Security/ Foreign Relations

The National Security and Foreign Relations Committee began the year with our organizational meeting at Camp Ripley. The Department committee made their selections for the Enlisted Guards and Reservists of the year. Nominations were up from the previous year which showed the work being done by some of the District chairmen. We would like to see at least one from each District each year. All of our Districts have at least one Unit stationed in their District. This is where some of our potential new members spend their weekend drilling. We encourage every Post with an Armory in their town to at least make contact annually to show our ongoing support.

All District Committee Chairman and District Commanders were invited to attend our annual meeting at Camp Ripley. Attendance was good. As a group we had a briefing from the Post Commander and then toured the Base facilities and firing ranges. We are fortunate to have a Base like this in Minnesota. The facilities are all state of the art. The pre deployment training our soldiers have proven to save many lives in the field. Camp Ripley will host our National Security Foreign Relations National

Committee pre National Convention tour this year. We are excited to show off what we have here in Minnesota.

Following our Committee meeting on Sunday we worked a booth at the annual open house at Camp Ripley. This gave us a first hand experience on working an open house event. Hopefully we can attend an event like this in all of our Districts. Give it a try I know you will enjoy it.

Our Department Committee has continued to attend scholarship award events this past year. Our Enlisted person awards were presented at Fall Conference in Marshall. Two of us were able to attend the Washington Conference. We received briefings on several topics and found it to be very informational. The National Commander's testimony was the highlight of the event. National Commander Rohan did an excellent job of presenting our initiatives.

I want to thank all of our District Commanders and committee chairman for the work they have done this past year and look forward to seeing their nominees for Enlisted Person of the year. I also want to thank Commander Mike for the privilege of serving as Chairman this past year.

Jim Kellogg, Chairman
National Security Foreign Relations

Operation Post Home

Operation Post Home is a one member team and doesn't really get any information from Department. I have searched the Web pages of the districts and checked out a load of news channels both local and on the web for posts to give certificates and honor. I have asked district commanders for help through the Legionnaire newspaper but have had no luck. I know there are communities out there that do a ton of events for their Legionnaires but for some reason it's a secret. We do not toot our horn loud enough. If anyone has any special event that your community or Post did and it helped or honored a veteran, please shoot me an email, leave me a voice mail or event tag me on Face Book and let me know before the convention.

Thanks for this appointment.

Glenn Mueller, Chairman
Operation Post Home

Pheasant Dinner

The 76th Annual Hospitalized Veterans Pheasant Dinner Program was a great success. There were over 175 Posts, Units, Squadrons, Voitures and other donations contributing this year. Contributions came from all areas of the state and a few from outside Minnesota. There were a few new organizations which came forward with donations.

Over 1100 pheasants were used to feed the veterans and their guests in 14 hospitals and/or Veterans Homes involved which are: Minneapolis and St. Cloud VAMC's, Sioux Falls SD and Fargo ND VAMC's, Minnesota Veterans homes in Minneapolis, Fergus Falls, Hastings, Dresbach, Silver Bay, and Luverne, the veterans in St. Peter, and Good Samaritan Society Nursing Home in Brainerd, Post Home 167 - Wilmar and Post Home 602 - Hillman.

Donations taken in so far this year is \$26,173.80 at the time of this report. (The VFW is a joint sponsor of the dinners only). After expenses of \$12,250 the remaining \$13,923.80.49 is placed into The American Legion Hospitalized Veterans Dinner DEDICATED FUND which was established 37 1/2 years ago. The DEDICATED FUND is administered by the department and can only be used to benefit hospitalized and disabled veterans.

I wish to thank Bill Stump, Don Amundson, Richard Skillstad, the Pheasant Committee, Department and District Officers, the staff at the Department office, THE MINNESOTA LEGIONAIRE and to everyone in bringing this year's program to successful conclusion. A special thank you to all those behind the scenes that prepared, served and assisted veterans with their dinner.

Chuck Stone, Chairman
Hospitalized Veterans Pheasant Dinners

Post Development

The Post Development Committee met on October 26, 2017 with the following members present: Carl Hendrickson, Ray Eiden, Chuck Kruger and Victor Gades. Carl Hendrickson was elected Chairman with Ray Eiden elected as Secretary. Chuck Kruger expressed his interest in knowing the differences between this committee and the newly formed ad hoc Membership Revitalization Committee.

Some posts in the past and currently have had concerns about maintaining their home post or having a place to meet. Keep in mind that Minnesota State Statute (197.55) QUARTERS FOR MEETINGS OF VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS, directs that public buildings should whenever possible have an available space for meetings of such groups.

Carl Hendrickson, Chairman
Post Development Committee

Public Relations

The 2017-2018 Public Relations Committee has been working with districts across the department of Minnesota to get the mission of The American Legion out to both the Legion Family and the public. We have distributed equipment such as iPads, PR kits and magnet door signs designed to assist the district with their membership and community outreach. The committee is continuing to monitor and help with department and district social media and websites. We have also worked closely with local broadcasting networks to ensure that Commander Mike Schaffer has a platform to reach both veterans and their families along with the public. New this year is a photo contest with the winner receiving \$100.00. The Public Relations committee continues to work on new and innovative ways to get The American Legion mission out. Thank you to all those who have posted and participated on our social media pages. We look forward to working with all of you in the future. Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Haylick, Chairman
Public Relations

Rehabilitation

The Minnesota American Legion Department Rehabilitation Committee is a five-member committee comprised of organizational members with a background, knowledge, or professional experience related to the delivery of VA benefits, programs, and services. Committee members are appointed by the Department Commander to a five-year term or to the remaining portion of the term of a resigned member. Past and present Rehabilitation members have been former directors or administrators of VA Medical Centers, state Veterans Homes, County Veterans Service Officers, Vet Center Team Leaders, American Legion Sr. Organizational Leadership and Department Service Officer all with a working knowledge of the VA, MDVA, legislative process and the American Legion.

Currently our committee consists of Wilson Spence, Darrel Redepinning, Bill Brockberg, Roy Bressler, and Dan Tengwell. We work very closely with Jeremy Wolfsteller, our Department Service Officer, and

Heather Larson, our Department Administrative Assistant. District Rehabilitation Chairmen and the Post Service Officers are also integral members of our committee. Together we make up Minnesota Rehabilitation. Each segment of the Minnesota Rehabilitation has an important roll in providing services to each Minnesota Veteran, and protecting the well-earned benefits provided by the United States and Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs.

Rehabilitation is one of the four pillars on which The American Legion was founded and holds the roof above the head of all Legionnaires. Because of the roll we play in Minnesota, it is very important to keep the Minnesota Rehabilitation Committee very strong and functioning. This year we meet with every VA Medical Center who treats Minnesota veterans and nearly every Minnesota Veterans Home. We also visited VA Vet Centers, VA Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs), and Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV) facilities. We advocate to the United States Congress and the Minnesota Legislatures for the facilities contacted; and provide the Legion family with information gleaned from our facility visits. This year we selected Dr. Amy Candy Heinlein as the American Legion Department of Minnesota Physician of the Year. Dr. Amy Candy Heinlein was also selected as the National American Legion Physician of the year. The Rehabilitation Committee conducted an appreciation reception for the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs Claims office staff in appreciation for all they do for American Legion veteran claims.

The Minnesota Rehabilitation Committee members take pride in the American Legion Rehabilitation and are honored to serve the veterans of Minnesota.

Wilson W. Spence III, Chairman
Rehabilitation Committee

Resolutions

The Resolutions Assignment Committee is comprised of three (3) members, Chairman Jeff Olson, Stillwater; Al Davis, Princeton, and Jim Copher, Mound. Responsibilities of the committee include the review of all resolutions submitted to the department convention for consideration. After reviewing all resolutions the committee assigns them to a convention committee for action i.e. Approval, Rejection, Amended and approved. During the convention each convention committee chair reports the actions of the committee to the gathered delegates who have the final authority on all resolutions.

The resolutions assignment committee monitors all reports and prepares a final report on the actions taken by the delegates gathered.

We would like to thank Department Commander Mike Schaffer for appointing us to this committee. Also, many thanks to the Department Staff who assist so greatly in getting all resolutions properly completed prior to the presentation to the delegates at convention.

Jeff Olson
Chairman, Resolutions Assignment Committee

Sons of the American Legion

The Sons of the American Legion will again reach an All Time High with 12,000 members by the Camp-Out Convention. Way to go guys. The annual Camp-Out Convention is annually held at Legionville near Brainerd. All of the Legion Family is welcome to attend.

Another great year with a new squadron chartered from Slayton. Welcome to Slayton S.A.L.

Minnesota S.A.L. continues to do an excellent job of fundraising for the Legion Family Child Welfare program.

The Spring and Fall conferences are well attended and are given good information to be brought to the Squadrons.

We are saddened for the loss of Gene Olswold in April. He was a great Past Detachment Commander and a S.A.L. member.

A special thank you to Walt Folendorf in northern area and to Gary Weaver in the southern area. They do a great job helping squadrons to get started or to assist existing squadrons.

Thank You to the Legion Department Staff for their assistance.

Thank You to Commander Mike for asking me to chair this great program of the American Legion.

At the close of the Camp-Out, I will be retiring after serving as Department Advisor for the Sons of the American Legion for 30 years. It has been a great 30 years and I have worked with many great S.A.L. commanders and officers. It is time for me to step down and for some younger blood to be the advisor.

Thanks to all the American Legions Commanders who asked me to be advisor.

Raymond D. Ozmun, Advisor
Sons of the American Legion

Sports: Baseball

Once again, Minnesota is number 1 in the nation with 351 teams participating in Legion Baseball this year. This is the third year in a row that we have lead the nation and continue to distance ourselves from the likes of Pennsylvania, Nebraska and Wisconsin. I would like to thank all supporting posts, baseball associations and part time administrators who contribute to Minnesota Legion Baseball and makes it the most elite program in the country.

Our baseball committee has had three changes this past year. Jeff Miller from Ottertail is Vice Director for Division II, Tom Coombe from Ely is District 8 director and Kevin Nagel of Prior Lake is District 3 director. Other committee members are: Mike Perry, State Director, Mike Gort, Vice Director Division I. District Directors are: Scott McCready, District 1, Vern Kitzberg District 2, Gail Kalata District 4, Jim Larson District 5, Wes Thompson District 6, Randy Schaub, District 5, Mike Arvidson District 9, Jim Peck Junior Director.

State Tournaments for 2017 - were held in St. Paul for Division I with Tri City Red emerging as State Champion and Ham Lake as Runner-Up. Division II was held in New London-Spicer with Pierz as State Champion and Proctor as Runner-Up. Junior Division 1 was held in Apple Valley with Edina as State Champion and Excelsior as Runner-Up. The new Junior Division II Tournament was held in Bird Island with LaCrescent as State Champion and Holy Family Runner-Up.

2018 State Tournament sites: Senior Division I - Edina. Senior Division II - Pelican Rapids. Junior Division I - Apple Valley. Junior Division II - Montivideo.

A special thank you to Al Zdon and Laura Weber at State Headquarters for their work throughout the year.

Mike Perry, Director
Minnesota American Legion Baseball

Sports: Bowling

We want to thank Osseo-Maple Grove Legion for hosting the 2018 American Legion Bowling Tournament. They were a great host this year.

The 2019 Tournament will be hosted by the Osseo-Maple Grove Post-172. The board voted to have the tournament at the same place, Sundance Lanes in Dayton Minnesota. We will be choosing the 2020 site at the Fall Conference. If interested in hosting the Tournament, please send in the form to the Secretary Cari Lamb. We are doing the Tournament in 6 weeks. This is working out quite well, so get your reservations in, to save the spot you want. This year, we were down on the number of bowlers. We need to get the word out, so we can get more people interested in bowling. We cannot drop much more, or we will have to see about not having the tournament.

The winners this year: Legion: Singles Post-489-Nick Dehler-795; Doubles -Post-108-Ken Blaschko/ Mike Hounder-1499.

Team-Brainerd Post-255--2892; All Events-Post-108-Mike Hounder-2239 Auxiliary: Singles-Post-94-Karen Sorem-687---Doubles-Post-85-- Sherri Pierce/ Naomi Christopherson-1306-- Team-Post-40--2562----All Events-Post-144-Sherri Giesen.

Congratulations to all the winners this year.

We want to thank the new secretary this year Cari Lamb for doing a great job. She will be the secretary next year.

Thanks again for all that participated this year, and hope to see you next year same place.

Thank you Commander for allowing me to be the Chairman this year.

John W. Torma, Chairmen
Bowling

Strategic Planning

The Mission Statement of the Strategic Planning Committee is:

To Increase Membership and Post Development by Creating a Culture of Growth

Overall Objective: Grow membership progressively over the next five years and beyond using the following strategies; Create brand awareness, communication, training/education/leadership development, post development and revitalization, membership recruiting and retention.

The training committee that came out of last year's efforts has proven very effective. They have held some training sessions in different areas of the State and have had good results.

This year the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) held a meeting with District Commanders at the Duluth Legion Post in December. There was good representation despite the distance. Some great ideas were expressed and we found that not all District Commanders were aware of all their duties and responsibilities. The SPC presented the idea of an adhoc committee. Ideally this committee would be made up of younger Veterans to promote retention and recruiting plans for younger Veterans. This is the group we need to recruit for the Wellness of our Organization, The American Legion. Next year's meeting with District Commanders needs to include the District First Vice Commanders as in the past.

The SPC met in March at the Buffalo American Legion Post. We discussed the results of December meeting with District Commanders and felt meetings with the Commanders is very worthwhile. Membership remains a number one concern with the Department and Districts. We also finalized our proposal to the Department Executive Committee to form an adhoc committee comprised of at least one younger Veteran from each of the Districts. They will be asked to present ideas on engaging the younger Veterans. We are aware some posts are successful in bringing in the younger Veterans. The adhoc committee will be chaired by a member of the SPC.

The concept of an adhoc committee was presented to the DEC and received unanimous approval. For now the adhoc committee is a work in progress as we are receiving names of willing Legionnaires to join this worthwhile committee. It has been an honor to serve on the SPC for the past five years. The success of any committee is made possible by very competent and committed members including Merlin Ellefson, Chairman; Dan Williams, Secretary; and team members Tom Fernlund, Jim Lucas resigned due to health and member Mark Coney who has been hospitalized the entire year. Special advisor PNC Dan Ludwig, Commander Mike Schaffer, Junior Past Commander Denise Milton and Department Adjutant Randy Tesdahl.

Merlin Ellefson, Chairman
Strategic Planning Committee



WALL THAT HEALS -- A woman makes a rubbing at the replica of the Vietnam Memorial that was brought to the Capitol by Twin Cities Public Television in late June.

District Commanders

FIRST DISTRICT

**Les Shaunce
Commander**



Greetings from the First District:

This is it, no more words of wisdom. The year has come to an end.

It's been a good and very exciting year, full of fun and learning.

I just want to shout out a great big thank you to all the great people I have met and been associated with this past year. It's something I will never forget. I'm proud to have served with such wonderful people from the Posts, Districts and from the Department.

I want to wish all the newly elected officers throughout the Department of Minnesota an outstanding year. Enjoy your term, it goes by so fast. Always remember your fellow Veteran.

Make sure you attend the 100th Department of Minnesota Convention in Rochester, July 19-21. It will be a very interesting and enjoyable time. Let's make this the best Convention yet.

For God and Country.

THIRD DISTRICT

**Eugene Leifeld
Commander**



Greetings 3rd District and American Legion Family.

We are getting close to finishing another year and begin a new year for The American Legion. New Commanders and Officers are in place and we wish them all success and the best with program's this year. Membership has been a great challenge and I believe working together to achieve our goals is what is needed.

Membership is all of our responsibility so let's all continue to move forward with membership. We are in the seasons of parades and town festivals ask potential members and veterans what we can do to help out.

Remember the CPR reports Post Commanders, Adjutants, and Officers please complete for your Posts at mylegion.org and send in. If you need help please contact District Officers. We are here to help and assist.

On Saturday June 30, 2018 at Apple Valley Post 1776 is Membership Packet Pick up day for the 3rd District. Time is from 10:00 (AM) to 1:00 (PM). Remember Department Convention in Rochester July 19-21, 2018. The National American Legion Convention is in Minneapolis August 24th thru Thursday August 30, 2018.

This is my last article for the Legionnaire and serving as 3rd District Commander has been a great experience.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve!

Remember our veterans. Ask a veteran to join

FOURTH DISTRICT

**Lane Stunkel
Commander**



Hello Fabulous 4th District.

I want to thank the members of the 4th District American Legion for voting me in for a 2nd Year – thank you.

As of Bulletin 50 and Dept. Convention Delegate Bulletin, the 4th District membership is at 93.47%, we are less than 2 percentage points out of 1st Place, let's keep the pressure on, next month make it 1 point or better. Please reach out to your Vice Commanders and Membership Director Mickey or myself; let's work hard to find new members, most importantly retain our existing members.

CPR reports – Post Commanders, Adjutants and Officers – please complete the CPR report for your Post and send them in. Right now the Department has received CPR reports from 50% of our Post – for those Post's that have not filled one out yet please reach out to your Vice Commander or myself, we are here to help. We need to fill out the CPR and get it in to Department Headquarters by July 1.

Many Thanks to those who attended the Mini Shop Ship & Share at Bethel College – another successful mission – Thanks Teresa and Britney.

No RCCC in July, the next RCCC is August 8th, 7 p.m. at Arcade Phalen Post 577.

18th Annual American Legion Family Day with the Minnesota Twins – July 13th, 7 p.m.

Department Convention, Rochester MN July 19th – 21st, if you are not a Delegate or Alternate please register as a guest.

August 3rd, ALR Legacy Run, N St. Paul Post 39.

American Legion National Convention, Minneapolis

Convention Center August 28th – 30th. There are many events and meetings days before the Parade

God bless each and every one of you of the 4th District American Legion Family and please think of our ailing members in your prayers. Thank You ALL for everything you do in your Post and Community, and all of the Volunteer work you do!

FIFTH DISTRICT

**Walt Lyndsley
Commander**



Greetings and salutations from the fighting 5th.

We held our District Convention June 1st and 2nd which was very well attended. We begin on Friday evening with a memorial service

Honoring our heroes who have died during the year. Our chaplain Ray Eiden and Auxiliary Chaplain Bonnie Brenna did a great job of spear heading the service. It is a very moving service and a way to say "until we meet again." Elections were held and the commander for 2018-2019 is John Austin. I know he will do great things for the 5th district along with newly elected Auxiliary President, Cari Lamb. We ended the meetings with a banquet dinner Saturday evening and I must admit I became emotional while thanking everyone for the wonderful legion year I had. President Sunny Dauphin and I presented a check to Sandy Larson to purchase artwork for the new addition at the Minneapolis Veterans home. Thank you 5th district.

Our country will be another year old in July. Please remember to say a quiet thank you to the men and women who are defending our country. It's the least we can do as we are celebrating at the lake, parade or wherever.

Sunny and I had a german shepherd who loved to try to get the fireworks. How fun could that have been? She never did tell us.

Have a wonderful 4th and stay safe. God bless our veterans and God bless our nation.

SIXTH DISTRICT

**Rick Cross
Commander**



Hi Legion Family.

The year is starting with the 100-year National Convention in Minneapolis. It should be exciting to see and be there. As always, membership is the priority. We as the American Legion must put a large emphasis on maintaining membership. The younger qualified prospective new members need to be enticed to join by making our posts more interesting to that age group. If this is the way we ran the post 30 years ago, it is not going to make it with the Afghan and Iraq group. We must change to a more family based system at the post level. Lets not forget the upper middle aged vets that are in the towns and Cities. They are near retirement, the family has grown and gone, and they will have the time to be an active member. They are just waiting to be asked. The Legion is losing hundreds of members to attrition or death and must be replaced to maintain the American Legion and our support of the Veterans.

May God Bless the Veteran

SEVENTH DISTRICT

**Richard Wog
Commander**



Our year is coming to an end. However, we are not done. There is still a lot of work to do for our district and the American Legion. It was good news to hear that there are going to be three new veteran's homes. I know a lot of legionaries put a lot of work into this program and it is good for our district and the state.

Memorial Day has come and gone but that does not mean we forget about what it meant then and it still means the same today and every day. We must never forget what they have done. I saw written on the side of the legion Post in Sauk Center, Some Gave Some, and Some Gave All. By doing that we have what we have today, our freedom.

Our district convention is done. Congratulations to the new officers and a thank you to my officers of last year and all the committee members. Without each of you and your hard work we would not have been successful in meeting some of our goals. Membership will always be the top goal every year. Soon it will be starting again. Let's pull together and meet the goal of 100%. The Department Convention is being held in Rochester, I'm looking forward to seeing you there.

As always, keep our men and women who are serving today and their families in your hearts and prayers. Remember my theme, Never Forget; never forget who you

are, never forget what we stand for and be proud of being a legionnaire because you are still serving your country and the veterans of this great country.

For God and Country

EIGHTH DISTRICT

**Donovan Goblirsch
Commander**



Hi to all of the 8th District Legionnaires. The year has gone fast. My medical problem still exists. My leg is still a problem. The circulation is better. The Doctor said no long driving trips. I will not be at the State Convention and the National Convention in Minneapolis.

The membership has gone well. My Vice Commanders have done a great job for the 8th. Thank you very much. Also thanks to my Adjutant Carl, and Membership Chairman Jennifer. Great job!! The new year is upon us. Let us all do a great job in supporting the new officers for the coming year. Commander Donovan signing off.

NINTH DISTRICT

**Tim Haugen
Commander**



Greetings from the Roaring Ninth.

Where did the time go as my year has almost come to an end. This has been a fantastic year and I want to thank all the District officers and chairmen as well as all of the American Legion Family members for all their hard work. I have been honored to be your Commander and have thoroughly enjoyed all the hospitality throughout the 9th District and the state.

Congratulations to incoming 9th District Commander Arlo Rude, Vice Commander at Large Lowell Philp, Vice Commanders, Wayne Krantz, Albert De Leon, Steve Sundstrom & all other newly elected and appointed officers. We should have a very successful year under Arlo's guidance.

We had a successful District Convention and now it's on to the Department Convention and in between these 2 events will be the distribution of membership packets. It seems like just yesterday I was out passing these out to the Posts. The 9th has maintained a steady 3rd place in the Department membership standings but the gap between 1st & 3rd is very slim (0.20% separate the top 3 Districts).

God bless our Troops, their Families and our Veterans.

For God and Country.



FINAL RESTING PLACE -- The remains of Bill Stone, father of American Legion Riders Director Chuck Stone, were delivered to the Fort Snelling Honor Guard, appropriately, by motorcycle. Clint Bettermann, Owatonna SAL Squadron 77 vice commander, delivered the remains. Chuck Stone looks on.



The Auxiliary Bulletin

No. 18-1

President Donna Arends

July 2018

Secretary Sandie Deutsch

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

The President's Column

By
Donna Arends



Hello American Legion Auxiliary sisters, Legion Family and all others.

Wow this is just so unbelievable to comprehend that this is my very last letter as your Auxiliary President. It truly has been a remarkable year. I have tried to share with you all some of my travels and experiences this year. I have received very favorable comments about that so, I will continue with my last letter to you.

Since my last letter was not very informative as to my whereabouts since April, I will try to catch you all up.

After the National Presidents tour in mid April, I enjoyed a Unit meeting in the 7th District at Fairfax. What a wonderful group of ladies. Talk about getting things done for a smaller Unit, that is it. I was honored to witness your 7th District President, Karla do a wonderful job of installing their new officers for the year. Great job 7th District be proud of Karla.

Then Membership Mary along with others again your 3rd District President Kat for one was on deck and we got a new Unit in Eagan chartered. What a very exciting night for all of us. Welcome Eagan Unit.

From there I attended a Mother Daughter Dinner in Rochester Unit 92. A great event, again your 1st District President Cheryl was in attendance. Always a delight to be with District Presidents and Unit Members. Not forgetting the great camaraderie and delicious food from all.

May started with a Mother's Day Banquet at North Branch. Your 10th District President Jodie was in attendance there also. Always good to enjoy events with them. Great food and this Unit invited Units from the area, so it was a fun filled evening visiting with old and new friends.

From there off I went to the 8th District with your President Anna and a beautiful Memorial service in Nashauk Unit. Again a smaller Unit doing great things.

My thoughts were to travel across country and visit the Silver Bay Veterans Home that next day. However in checking the map, I would have to back track to go down to Duluth for a road I was comfortable in traveling to start the trek to Silver Bay. So that idea was put on hold for a day in June or July, promising to get a visit to Silver Bay before I am through with this year.

So I had a day off prior to the 6th District President Vicki's Testimonial in Walker. I leisurely began my trek from Hibbing to Walker. Beautiful country in the Iron Range of Minnesota. I must admit being from the open prairie in West Central Minnesota, I did feel a little claustrophobic with all the forests and trees up there. Beautiful at any rate. Such a difference of terrain in our own state.

Upon arriving in Walker, my shopping instincts kicked in. Very nice community to shop, relax, and of course the testimonial hotel being a casino, well you know the rest of that story. President Vicki's testimonial at the American Legion Post 134 in Walker was a very enjoyable night. Again good food camaraderie and a wonderful time.

Upon arriving home I was on the road again this time to Hanska in the 2nd District to attend a Membership Dinner for their Unit. Again good food and camaraderie meeting new friends from that Unit.

May still included the Volunteer Recognition Banquet for great volunteers at the St. Cloud VAHCS. Several of our friends were honored for their hours of service to the St. Cloud VA.

Wayzata Unit Spring Fling was an unknown what to expect for me. However my traveling companion Betty Underthun and I attended, and were so very glad we did. What a remarkable event. These ladies I understand have held this event for many years. I hope they will continue for many more. What a terrific fundraiser for our American

Lauren Honke elected Girls State governor for 2018

The 72nd session of the American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State ended on Saturday, June 16. Singing the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State song one last time, the 364 citizens, once strangers, now family, said a heartfelt goodbye. This culminated a week of intense study and learning all about our government, at the city, county and state level, the political process, Americanism and good citizenship. We know that the girls left more informed and with an appreciation and understanding of Minnesota government and the anticipation of voting in their first real elections. The citizens unofficial adopted mantra for the 2018 session was "Empowered women, empower women!"

The 2018 American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State Constitutional officers are:

Governor – Lauren Honke, sponsored by Wayzata Unit 118

Lt. Governor – Suad Mumin, sponsored by Rochester Unit 92

Secretary of State – Teresa Nowakowski, sponsored by Rochester Unit 92

State Auditor – Lauren Kelly, sponsored by Mound Unit



GIRLS STATE GOVERNOR LAUREN HONKE
Sponsored by Wayzata Unit 118

Legion Auxiliary Girls State. Great job ladies and I recommend if you get a chance to get some tickets for this event it will be worth your time.

Memorial Day was a memorable event at Fort Snelling National Cemetery. With a fly over and wonderful speakers. Such a beautiful serene cemetery with an American Flag on each grave stone. A remarkable task by many devoted citizens.

That Memorial Day afternoon a luncheon was served by the 5th District at the Mpls. Veterans Home. In attendance with others and myself was your 5th District President Sunny. Her name fits her to a tee. She is a sunny delight. Along with that the Mpls Veterans Home held a Memorial Day program. Again wonderful speakers.

Now we are into June I had the honor of installing newly elected officers in the Fairbault Auxiliary. Another new travel destination. Very friendly Unit, Post and community. Thank you all for that honor.

June also I traveled to East Grand Forks, for the 9th District Convention, with of course the 9th District President Doreen. So many familiar faces, and great time as I shared time with both the Auxiliary and the Legion there.

From there I was off the 7th District Convention in Ashby. Of course my home District. Again so many familiar faces, great food and of course the 7th District President Karla.

Then on to Bethel College in Arden Hills for the 72nd year of American Legion Auxiliary Mn Girls State. Always an exciting time. This year was so very different for me as I was not a Senior Counselor. I was on hand to welcome the Girls on Sunday, and run errands. Sunday evening Past Dept. Pres. Marsha Bible and I assisted the Citizens to make Poppies. They were all very excited to accomplish that and learn of the Poppy Story.

Now home for a couple days. Monday I arrived home and left again Thursday for Inauguration ceremonies at Girls State. Again a different experience then what I was used to at Girls State, as I had no Citizens. Actually kinda lonesome, being there and not getting acquainted with at least one city. Oh well there is always next year I hope.

Well that was a couple of months rolled into one. I was remiss by not thanking everyone again for your thoughts, your attendance and your gifts, to my testimonial. That was a night I will never forget. Thank you one all.

Please as I close this year, you all have provided for me, I will be eternally grateful to you all. If this year has had any impact on anyone of you, please I ask, work membership, work civility, and work our programs on whichever level you choose. As it has been said it takes a village to raise a child, it also takes a Department to raise our organization, so let's all work those tasks and raise our organization. □

God Bless our troops, military, family, communities and you.

398 Attorney General – Kailyn Pedersen, sponsored by Wayzata Unit 118

Chief Justice – Grace Hill, sponsored by Fridley Unit 303

Supreme Court Associate Justices –

Lily Burnside, sponsored by Detroit Lakes Unit 15

Day Catter, sponsored by Rochester Unit 92

Callie Stevermer, sponsored by Easton Unit 569

Other special honors/awards:

The President of the Senate – Amanda Cook, sponsored by Brainerd Unit 225

The Speaker of the House of Representatives – Ingrid Wilder, sponsored by Rochester Unit 92

Minnesota's entry into National competition for the Samsung Scholarship is Elise Sopelle, sponsored by Pequot Lakes Unit 49.

The Spirit Award was won by Kaylee Keck sponsored by Forest Lake Unit 225

The Ed Viehman Award was won by Sydney Richter sponsored by Albany Unit 482. Daniel Viehman, son of Ed Viehman, was on hand to present the award on Saturday morning.

Our 2018 Girls Nation Senators from Minnesota are:

Senior Senator – Ella Doyle, sponsored by St. Paul Unit 577

Junior Senator – Lisha Fairbairn, sponsored by Apple Valley Unit 1776

Many governmental officials made time in their schedules to be with us at American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State and we are grateful to each of them. Among the other highlights were the Law Enforcement and Judiciary Panels, the Flag Retirement Ceremony, the Thursday night Inauguration Ceremony with Chief Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court Lorie S. Gildea administering the Oath of Office, and the trip to the State Capitol on Friday which puts in to practice all they have learned throughout the week.

Thank you to the Unit American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State Chairmen throughout the state for the work that you have done to bring these young women to our wonderful program. Thanks as well is extended to the dedicated volunteers who spent the week at Bethel University with the citizens. This program cannot function without you. And finally, to our 2018 American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State Director Peggy Tesdahl, Chairman Patti Coleman, Education Director Amelia Tesdahl, Americanism Chairman Joanie Krantz, Committee members Zandra Kessler and Sally Strasser. Thanks for another terrific year at American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State.

JUNIOR FUN WEEKEND

The 10th Annual Junior Fun Weekend is scheduled to be held August 3-5, 2018. We will not have a definite answer

Auxiliary Bulletin

Continued from Preceding Page

as to holding it at Legionville until June 30. As soon as it is determined if the Legionville facility is safe to hold the Fun Weekend, we will post it on our website www.mnala.org and notify all District Presidents. A large portion of the bog has been moved but we want to make sure that the safety of our members comes first. As you know the entire Legionville Safety Patrol Camp had to be postponed this summer. Any information will be posted as soon as the Department Office receives it.

2018-2019 DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

Our Congratulations to the ten District Presidents-Elect who will be serving their respective Districts for the 2018/2019 year:

- 1st District – Michelle Weaver, LaCrescent Unit 595
- 2nd District – Kristen Donnelly, Northrop Unit 522
- 3rd District – Lynn Duffy, St. Paul Park Unit 98
- 4th District – Lynn Olson, Roseville Unit 542
- 5th District – Cari Lamb, Minneapolis Unit 1
- 6th District – Sharon Thiemecke, Bemidji Unit 14
- 7th District – Pam Gades, Morris Unit 29
- 8th District – Zandra Kessler, Two Harbors Unit 109
- 9th District – Lynn Carr, Thief River Falls Unit 117
- 10th District – Sandra Locker, Fridley Unit 303

May each of you have a most successful year of service as you assume the leadership of your District for the 2018/2019 Auxiliary year.

UNIT OFFICERS' LIST

All Units should have held their elections for the 2018-2019 Auxiliary year by now. Your incoming secretary and Membership Chairman should be appointed and ready to assume their duties.

Each Unit was asked to return their officers' list for the coming year to the Department office by June 12th. We are still missing officer's lists from 113 Units.

These lists are very important as we develop our mailing lists for the year from them. NO 2019 membership cards/packets will be given to your Unit until we have received your 2018-2019 list. You can download the form on our website mnala.org to your own computer, fill it out and email it in to us. It is as simple as that. We will have all membership packets at Department Convention.

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

Please note that there was an error in the June Legionnaire – the correct dates of Department Convention are July 19 – 21, 2018.

The 99th Annual Department Convention will be held at the Kahler Grand Hotel in Rochester with the Rochester American Legion Family 92 serving as hosts. Department President Donna Arends will call the Convention to order at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 19. We hope that your Unit plans to be represented. All Auxiliary sessions will be held in the Heritage Hall of the Kahler Grand Hotel.

The following members have declared their candidacy for Department office:

- Department President – Jean Walker, Warren Unit #27
- Department 1st Vice President – Mary Hendrickson, West Duluth Unit 71
- Department 2nd Vice President – Patti Coleman, Lino Lakes Unit 566
- National Executive Committeewoman – Raleen Tolzmann, Minnesota Lake Unit 287

Nominations for Department officers will be held Thursday morning. A secret ballot will be used for any office where there is more than one candidate. Balloting hours will be in the convention rules. Where there is but one candidate the vote will be by acclamation. There will be nominations for delegates-at-large to the National Convention, and election by secret ballot if there is more than one nomination. The same rules used for election of department officers will apply. There will be two Poppy contests at the Department Convention this year. The first is to make a Table Centerpiece and the second is Poppy Wreath. The criteria for both contests is in the Trophy and Awards booklet and also on our website; www.mnala.org. All entries must be at the Department Convention by 9:00 a.m. on Thursday the 19th. Tables will be set up in the Display area for your entries. Winners will be announced during the Poppy report on Friday.

Please see the complete convention program printed elsewhere in this issue of the Minnesota Legionnaire.

NATIONAL CONVENTION

Our 2018 National Convention will be held in Minneapolis, August 24 – 30, 2018. All Auxiliary Delegates and Alternates elected at the District Conventions should already have their information packets. If you would like a packet, please contact Sandie at the Department Office. You can register through the Auxiliary Department Office but housing requests must go through The American Legion.

Housing requests must be sent to: The American Legion, State Veterans Service Building, 20 W 12th St #300, St.



A TRUE LEGION FAMILY -- On Thursday, May 31, the Marvin Miner family from Spring Valley attended the Minnesota Twins game and Marvin, at 94 years of age and a 70+ year member of The American Legion along with his wife Pat, who was a First District President twice was invited to raise the American Flag prior to the game. Many of Marvin and Pat's family also attended the ceremony. You can see by the Twins Kiss Cam, everyone had a wonderful time. Thanks go to their daughter JoEllen Isenberg, also a Past First District President for submitting this to the Auxiliary office.



EAGAN DONATION -- Eagan American Legion Auxiliary Unit 594 donated \$553.25 to the Minnesota Veterans Home in Hastings. This money was collected when four members of this recently started Auxiliary unit handed out poppies in remembrance of our nation's fallen, during a four-hour period at Sam's Club Eagan. Unit President Sandy Smith and Unit Vice President Sue Flynn presented the check to Sue Register – Volunteer Services Coordinator, at the Veterans Home. This donation will be directed for the veteran resident's gardening activities, which includes the total cost of installing a heater in their greenhouse. The unit members who participated at Sam's Club were: Unit Treasurer Paulette Stark, Betsy Russomanno, Sandy Smith, and Sue Flynn.

Paul, MN 55155. If for any reason you are not planning to attend, yet were elected a Delegate or Alternate, please notify the Department Secretary immediately and prior to our Department Convention. There will be packets available at the Department Convention for those At Large Delegates and Alternates elected at the Convention. Please note that The American Legion will only make your housing reservations until July 24, 2018.

All registrations and reservations for the States Dinner, Women of the Year Luncheon must be received by July 26th. The credentials and housing lists as well as reservations for dinner and luncheon must be finalized and forwarded to our National organization.



June 13, 2018, Auxiliary Membership

District	Goal	Membership To Date	Percent of Goal	Membership Last Year 6/14/17
One	5,000	4,422	88.44%	4,668
Two	4,924	4,322	87.77%	4,540
Three	4,411	3,974	89.87%	4,076
Four	720	691	95.97%	693
Five	824	652	79.71%	711
Six	6,042	5,493	90.91%	5,691
Seven	3,934	3,483	88.54%	3,600
Eight	1,628	1,432	87.96%	1,507
Nine	4,344	3,779	86.99%	4,015
Ten	5,159	4,400	85.29%	4,784
1982	160	157	98.13%	159
Totals	37,146	32,805	88.30%	34,444

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- All day guided tour of Smoky Mountains National Park
- Shows: Grand Ole Opry, Country Tonite, Smoky Mountain Opry
- Luggage handling for 1 suitcase per person

\$1,499.00 per person double occupancy

New York City

November 7-11, 2018

Tour Includes:

- 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Larry Alvey
- Delta Airlines flights, Minneapolis to NYC
- 4 night stay at the Millennium Hotel on Times Square in New York City
- Broadway performance
- Radio City Music Hall: "The Rockettes Christmas Spectacular"
- Lunch at Carmine's
- Manhattan Island City tour
- 9/11 Memorial and Museum
- Harbor cruise with lunch

\$2,599.00 Per Person Double Occupancy

Panama Canal

February 28- March 17, 2019

Tour Includes:

- Services of 4 Seasons Tour Director, Larry Alvey
- Roundtrip air from Minneapolis to Ft. Lauderdale and return for Los Angeles to Minneapolis on Delta Airlines.
- All transfers to and from the airport, hotel and pier
- 1 pre-cruise night in Minneapolis
- 1 pre-cruise night in Ft. Lauderdale
- 15 Day Cruise on the CORAL PRINCESS
- All meals and entertainment onboard the CORAL PRINCESS
- Luggage handling at the hotel and on the ship (1 suitcase per person)
- Visiting 8 ports of call including Ft. Lauderdale and Los Angeles
- Onboard ship gratuities

\$5,779.00 Balcony

Montreal, Quebec & Ottawa, Canada

September 29-October 10, 2018

Tour Includes:

- 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Cindy Meany
- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- 11 nights accommodations & 15 meals
- Rock N Roll Hall of Fame
- Niagara Falls with Discovery Pass
- Guided tours of historic Montreal, Quebec and Ottawa, Canada
- Chicago Museum of Science & Industry
- Luggage handling for 1 suitcase per person

\$1,989.00 per person double occupancy

Holiday Branson

November 15-19, 2018

Tour Includes:

- 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Cindy Meany
- 4 nights accommodations
- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- 7 meals: 4 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 2 dinners
- Titanic Museum
- 6 Shows: Dutton Family, Dixie Stampede, Presley's Country Jubilee, Daniel O'Donnell, "Sampson" at the Sight & Sound Theater & Hits of the 50's & 60's
- Luggage handling for 1 suitcase per person

\$799.00 per person double occupancy

Monuments of Washington D.C.

May 17-21, 2019

Tour Includes:

- 4 Seasons Tour Director, Larry Alvey
- Round trip Delta Airlines flights Minneapolis to Washington D.C.
- 4 nights accommodations in the Washington D.C. area
- Evening Guided Memorial and Monuments Tours
- 4 Breakfasts, 4 Dinners
- Tram ride through Arlington National Cemetery
- Admission to George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate and Garden
- Two full-day guided tours of Washington D.C.
- WWII Memorial, Capital Hill, Embassy Row, the Korean War, Veterans Memorial, the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial, the Smithsonian, Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, and much more!

\$1,499.00 Per Person Double Occupancy

Northern Rocky Mountains

September 5-17, 2018

Tour Includes:

- 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Cindy Meany
- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- 12 nights accommodations including 7 nights in Mountain Lodges
- 20 Meals: 12 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 4 dinners
- Admission to all National Parks
- Mount Rushmore National Memorial
- Scenic cruise on Lake McDonald in Glacier Park
- Glacier Park Going to the Sun Road Vintage bus tour
- Scenic byways and highways
- Luggage handling for one suitcase per person

\$2,159.00 per person double occupancy

A Tennessee Christmas

December 1-10, 2018

Tour Includes:

- 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Cindy Meany
- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- 9 nights accommodations
- 14 meals: 9 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 4 dinners
- Luggage handling for one suitcase per person
- Las Posadas (re-enactment of the journey to Bethlehem)
- Christmas Parades
- Beale Street in Memphis
- Rock n Roll Hall of Fame
- Christmas in Graceland
- Nashville highlights
- Country Music Hall of Fame
- Grand Ole Opry
- Trace Adkins in concert
- Smoky Mountain Opry
- Christmas at Dollywood
- Louisville Slugger Factory & Museum

\$1,849.00 per person double occupancy



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