

Special 2019 Department Convention issue

The Minnesota

Legionnaire



AMERICAN
LEGION
AND
AUXILIARY

Volume 100, Number 7

For God and Country

July 2019

Dvorak, Olson face off for Department Commander position

The Commander's position for 2019-20 will be up for grabs at the 101st Department Convention to be held in Willmar July 11-13.

Gary Olson of Moorhead and Mark Dvorak of Le Center will be on the ballot at the convention.

Both are career military retirees. Olson served 37 years including eight years in the Air National Guard and 29 years in the Air Force Reserve. Dvorak served 22 years active duty, including six years in the Air Force and 16 years on active duty with the Air National Guard.

The election will be held Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. At this point the commander's position is the only contested race.

Other candidates include Bill Barbknecht of Battle Lake for National Executive Committeeman, Peggy Moon of St. Joseph for Alternate National Executive Committeeman, Betty Jass of Lake Crystal for Department Chaplain, Richard Skillestad of Eyota as Sergeant at Arms, and Pat Logan of Bloomington for a position on the Minnesota

Legionnaire Board of Publications.

Running unopposed for Department Vice Commanders are Mike Maxa of Le Center, Bill Brockberg of Worthington, Teresa Ash of St. Paul, Tim Haugen of Moorhead and Bob Locker of Fridley.

At the time this issue went to press, no one had been endorsed for the Department Historian position.

Don Hayden of Le Center and Tom Fernlund of St. Cloud have been endorsed for delegates-at-large to the National Convention. Three are allowed this year.

The convention is the annual business meeting of the convention and will include the election of officers, the consideration of resolutions, annual reports and other organizational items.

The convention will be held at the Willmar Conference Center in Gallery 7.

It will be preceded on Wednesday night by an Executive Committee meeting in the same location at 7 p.m.

Continued on Page 2



MARK DVORAK



GARY OLSON

Top state elected officials speak at Boys and Girls State



Governor Tim Walz spoke in front of a large electronic flag at Girls State at Bethel College. Walz said a future governor was probably sitting in the group of 350 Girls Staters who took a week to learn about government in the Auxiliary program.



Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan addressed the Boys Staters who were participating in the annual American Legion program held at St. John's University. Flanagan told of her political rise as a Native American woman.

Nine resolutions head for convention

Delegates to the 101st Department Convention in

Willmar will take on nine resolutions.

Two resolutions, one from the Sixth District and one from the Ninth District, call for the establishment of an American Legion College in the Department of Minnesota.

The resolutions, numbered 3 and 8, ask that the college be established "to include administration, finance committee, instructor cadre, and curriculum as well as a time and place of college sessions."

The resolutions said

Continued on Page 2

New Tele-ICU Center at Fort Snelling will enhance veteran care over six states

By Al Zdon

The doctor asks the nurse to remove the bandages on the severely injured right leg of a veteran.

He takes a close look at the wound, and has the nurse control the bleeding by applying pressure, and then by applying a tourniquet.

The doctor orders blood. He checks the patient's medical history and he monitors the patient's vitals. He encourages the patient to hang in there, that everything is under control.

It's a fairly routine – if serious — doctor/patient relationship in an intensive care unit except for one thing:

The doctor and patient are a thousand miles apart.

The new VISN 23 Tele-ICU Center of Operations at Fort Snelling had its official ribbon cutting in June.

The center, which was previously located at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center in Minneapolis, has a new, much larger home in a rehabilitated building at Fort Snelling. The \$10 million rehab changed a vacant supply

Continued on Page 10



Those attending the ribbon cutting for the new Tele-ICU at Fort Snelling got a chance to see the technology in action. The nurses and mannikin in the top view are at a remote site, a nurse at the Tele-ICU is at bottom, and the physician is in the corner. The patient's vitals and medical history are at the left and right of the screen.

National Convention will be held in Indy

The 101st National Convention will be held Aug. 23-29 in Indianapolis, Indiana, the home of the national headquarters of The American Legion.

The Minnesota delegation will be staying at the JW Marriott Hotel and the rate will be \$180.18 per day.

The convention itself will be held at the Indianapolis Convention Center.

The SAL will hold its convention from Aug. 23-25.

Reservations are on a first-come, first served basis and must be made through the Department Headquarters. Staff will need a check for \$181.18 plus a \$25 registration fee, made payable to The American Legion.

A registration form will be available soon on the website: mnlegion.org.

The Minnesota Caucus will meet at the JW Marriott on Monday, Aug. 26, at 8 a.m.

There will be no Minnesota Party this year, but there will be a post-parade gathering at the hotel with two kegs available.

State Convention

Continued from Page 1

A joint memorial service with the Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion will be at 11:15 a.m. Friday.

The annual parade will be held in Willmar on Friday at 7 p.m. and a post-parade party with a cash bar will be held at the post following the parade. Districts will supply the food.

There will be a meeting of all convention committees at 1 p.m. on Thursday, and a gambling seminar will be held at 2 p.m.

The convention will conclude on Saturday late morning after the installation of officers.

The Willmar post is gearing up activities for the convention.

On Wednesday, July 10, the post will have registration at the post home from 4-8 p.m.

On Thursday, there will be an evening spaghetti dinner at the post for \$8. The band will be Custom Made.

On Thursday and Friday, registration will be at the Willmar Conference Center from 7 a.m. on.

On Friday, there will be a noon lunch at the post, soup and sandwich. The past commander's dinner at the post will be at noon. Transportation is available for both events.

The parade will be a 7 p.m. on Friday and there will be a social hour following at the post.

Registration will begin at 7 a.m. again at the conference center on Saturday. There will be an afternoon reception for the new officers.

Free transportation will be available.

A convention registration form is just below.

Housing is filling up fast, and those interested should contact local motels in Willmar. The Holiday Inn number is 320-231-2601. The Best Western is 320-235-6060. Those who are having trouble booking after calling those numbers should call Laurie Barpness at 320-444-9480.

The Auxiliary will hold its 100th annual Department Convention at the same time.

The headquarters for both the Legion and the Auxiliary will be at the conference center.



WELCOME AT BOYS STATE — As Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan took the stage at St. John's University, the Boys Staters gave her a rousing welcome. More photos on Page 12.

Rochester Marshall student named Boys State governor

Boys State was held at St. John's University in June with 243 juniors from around the state gathering to create their own government.

Lap Nguyen, Rochester Marshall High School, was elected governor of Boys State. He was sponsored by Rochester Post 92.

He is the son of Binh and Loa Nguyen.

He is considering a career in international business or perhaps international relations as a diplomat.

"My experience at Boys State was overwhelmingly positive," Nguyen said. "I truly appreciated challenging myself with all the opportunities provided as well as making new friends.

He said he mostly appreciated the camaraderie. "Even if they were political opponents or have conflicting beliefs or back-

grounds."

He thanked his peers for a great program. "I truly am grateful for the counselors and The American Legion for establishing such a wonderful program that assists in preparing the next generation of leaders for the challenges of the future."

The other constitutional officers elected were:

Griffen Olson, Farmington, Academy of Holy Angles, was elected lieutenant governor. He was sponsored by Richfield Post 435.

Jordan Winter of Luverne, Luverne High School, was elected secretary of state. He was sponsored by Luverne Post 123.

Per Anderson, Watertown, Watertown Mayer High School, was elected state auditor. He was sponsored by Watertown Post 121.

Dominique Drake, Brooklyn Park, Park Center High School, was elected attorney general. He was sponsored by Osseo Post 172.

Ashler Benda, Albert Lea, Albert Lea High School, was elected chief justice of the Boys State Supreme Court. He was sponsored by Albert Lea Post 56.

Gunnar Oldre, Luverne, Luverne High School, was elected associate justice. He was sponsored by Hardwick Post 478.

Louis Saxton, Bemidji, Bemidji High School, was elected associate justice. He was sponsored by Bemidji Post 14.

Oldre was the winner of the Chic and William Zweiner Award and was chosen as a Boys Nation Senator.

Olson, was the winner of the Myron and David Way Award and will also represent Minnesota as a senator at Boys Nation.

Nguyen was selected for a Director's Award and will

be the first alternate senator.

Charles Schumer, Shoreview, Irondale High School, was also a winner of the Director's Award and will be the second alternate for Boys Nation. He was sponsored by Fridley Post 303.

The winner of the Dr. Kise Award, in the name of Dorothy Ferguson, was Noah Hampton of Sunrise, who attends North Lakes Academy. He was sponsored by Forest Lake Post 255.

The Samsung Scholarship Award winner was Joshua Vickers who is home schooled. He was sponsored by Falldin Post 555.

A highlight of this year's Boys State was a speaking appearance by Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan.

She told the Boys Staters, "You may not be into politics, but politics is into you." She noted that even the streets we drive down have been created out



LAP NGUYEN

of a political process.

During the week, the boys hear speakers from all branches of government and on other subjects.

The boys also create their own city, county and state governments, elect leaders, and pass bills.

**OFFICIAL REGISTRATION
AMERICAN LEGION & AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
2019 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"/> SAL Squadron # _____	<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.

Registration at the door will be \$18

Mail registration forms and payment to: Legion Post 167 Attn: Greg Krause 220 19th Ave. SW Willmar, MN 56201	Make checks payable to: AMERICAN LEGION POST 167 (credit cards not accepted)
--	---

Veterans Linkage Line™

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

Help for veterans and families



WAR STORIES II — Steve Hunegs, the director of the Jewish Community Relations Council, Minnesota and the Dakotas, holds up a copy of War Stories II at the annual Minnesota Aviation Hall of Fame Banquet. The collection of stories was published by the Minnesota American Legion. Hunegs was part of the induction of Leon Frankel, World War II Navy and Israeli Air Force pilot, into the Minnesota Aviation Hall of Fame. A painting of Frankel, who died a few years ago, is on the cover of the book and his story is featured in the book. Frankel, who grew up in St. Paul, earned a Navy Cross as a torpedo bomber during World War II.

GET YOUR WAR STORIES BOOK AT THE CONVENTION



ALL THREE BOOKS IN THE WAR STORIES TRILOGY WILL BE FOR SALE AT THE DEPARTMENT CONVENTION IN WILLMAR. AL ZDON WILL HAVE A TABLE SET UP AT THE POST-PARADE PARTY AT THE WILLMAR POST ON FRIDAY NIGHT FOR THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE A SIGNED COPY OF ONE OR ALL OF THE BOOKS.

Send to The American Legion
Room 300A, 20 W.
12th St., St. Paul, MN
55155

You can also order online at mnlegion.org

DOES YOUR LIBRARY HAVE THIS COLLECTION?

Name _____

Address _____

Number of copies	Amount enclosed
War Stories I _____	\$ _____
War Stories II _____	
War Stories III _____	

All books are \$29 each including shipping.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

4 FANTASTIC WAYS TO EXPERIENCE MNHHS

JOIN. MEMBERS GET THE BEST DEAL IN HISTORY.

1 CELEBRATE JULY 4 AT THE FORT

Veterans and active military will receive free admission to the **Independence Day Celebration** at Historic Fort Snelling on Thu, Jul 4. Explore the history of freedom in America with parades, cannon salutes, fife and drum music, and interactive learning stations.



2 LEARN ABOUT WWI LIFE

Costumed interpreters portraying the Lindbergh family offer insight into daily life during the war. **Families on the WWI Home Front Tour**, Jul 6 & 20, Aug 3, 17 & 31, Charles Lindbergh House and Museum, Little Falls.

3 TOUR CIVIL WAR HISTORY

Hear stories and see artifacts from Minnesota's Civil War history, from battle flags and art to memorials. **Capitol Civil War Tour**, Sat, Jul 6, Minnesota State Capitol, St. Paul.



4 MILITARY FAMILIES VISIT FREE!

Active-duty military members and their accompanying family members (up to 5), will receive **FREE general admission** at all MNHS 26 historic sites and museums this season. Visit soon!



PLAN YOUR VISIT OR PURCHASE ONLINE • MNHHS.ORG • 1-844-MNSTORY

COMMANDER'S COLUMN

By Darrel Redepinning



Greetings Legion Family,

Well here we are, my last article as Department Commander. I can't say that I'm exactly saddened by being done. It's a very busy, rigorous year and in my case, a physically demanding year. After accidents and arthritis, my old body reminded me several times that I'm not a kid anymore.

I've told myself several times that maybe I waited too

Editorial

We applaud the U.S. Supreme Court for its ruling to allow a 40-foot cross to remain standing on public land on a Maryland roadway.

The cross is a memorial to those who died in World War I, and so has been standing there for nearly 100 years.

The lawsuit, *American Legion v. American Humanist Association*, is considered an important ruling by the court. It lays the groundwork for protecting hundreds of other sites around the nation that depict religious symbols.

The court ruled 7-2, with even two of the liberal judges supporting the measure. Justice Samuel Alito wrote: "A government that roams the land, tearing down monuments with religious symbolism and scrubbing away any reference to the divine will strike many as aggressively hostile to religion."

Now we understand that times have changed in America, and there are many who feel their rights are being impinged upon when a religious symbol appears on public land, in a courthouse or other public place. Atheists do have rights.

But Alito is right. It should never be the role of government to try and erase the religious past of America in some kind of monument-cleansing campaign.

Like it or not, this nation was founded and nurtured by many people who were deeply religious. Many had fled their mother country for religious freedom.

Our Declaration of Independence, mainly written by Thomas Jefferson, is replete with the nation's connection to God: "The Laws of Nature and Nature's God...", "Endowed by their Creator..." "Firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence..."

Was this referral to a greater power because Jefferson was such a strongly religious person? Not really. Jefferson, throughout his life, had very independent notions about religion. But what his phrases did capture, though, was the climate in which America was born. The founders were overwhelmingly of one mind, and that mind was the inclusion

Mail Call

Girls State

To the Editor:

As I am writing this, we are beginning our second day at American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State. ALA MN Girls State is celebrating its' 73rd year.

ALA MN Girls State would not exist without our volunteers. Volunteers are necessary at every level to make this program happen. Our Unit members work hard to earn the money to send a citizen. They work hard in selecting deserving citizens, they work with our schools to determine which students might be a good fit with our program. We have a dedicated group of hard working counselors and staff who commit to our program for a full week. We have the staff at the Department Office who work tirelessly to answer questions from parents, schools, units, citizens, staff, and speakers. They get everything put together to send to Bethel University, our manuals, our supplies, our furnishings and when it's over they put it all away for next year. When the citizens arrive it's like magic.

The ALA MN Girls State Committee begins their work in August to put together the details to create a complete and exciting program. We try to stay relevant to today's young women while preserving the integrity of this program and it's long standing traditions. Balance is important from start to finish.

For the last few years we have watched the enrollment at ALA MN Girls State drop off. We are willing and able to accommodate many more. Our young people have many opportunities. I am asking everyone to rededicate ourselves to this very worthwhile program of educating our young people on the importance of the role of government in our lives. ALA MN Girls State is a program where we can shine

long to run for Commander. Maybe it would've been easier in younger years. But I'm such a strong believer that timing is everything and something's are just predestined to be the way they are.

I didn't purposely plan on being the Centennial Commander, timing just worked out that way. But what a wonderful, historic year it has been with our beloved American Legion. I so much wanted my dad to be a part of my year and was heartbroken when he went on hospice last fall. But we made it thru the year and the circumstances enhanced the experience beyond our wildest dreams. I would share with him the events and activities as he would reminisce about his year. The father-son relationship couldn't be stronger and I thank all of you for allowing it to happen.

I'll be forever indebted to The American Legion for this extremely memorable year. I had the opportunity to honor my dad along with all the other hard working members of The American Legion. It without a doubt is something I'll never forget. I always took the job seriously, realizing it wasn't about me but the hat I wore and the expectations that came with it. I was always proud to wear that hat, representing all of you and the great state of Minnesota.

Thanks for the memories.

of God in all we do.

We see that the St. Paul School Board has decided to drop the name of James Monroe from a school building. Monroe, the fifth president, was a slave holder. This is part of the wave of renaming that has gripped the country. Lakes, forts, schools, university buildings and more have come under attack because the names do not agree with current thinking.

Our question is when do we remove the names of Jefferson and Washington from our schools, streets, counties and even states? Both were slave holders.

Revisionism is at a high water mark, and really that's what's behind the attempt to remove the cross in Maryland.

But when that cross was placed there a hundred years ago, that was a normal thing to do. The idea was to honor the Great War dead, and what could be more fitting than the cross, the symbol of a great religious leader who had died that others may live?

Justice Alito notes that if that cross was suggested to be put there today, it probably wouldn't happen. Citizens groups, planning commissions and courts would not allow a religious symbol on public land. We get that.

On the other hand, as the justice said, we can't go running amok tearing down religious symbols across the land. They are historic, and they teach us about where the nation was a century ago. In fact, we need to embrace that part of our heritage.

When the founders of The American Legion sat down to write the preamble of the organization's constitution, they had no problem agreeing on the first four words: "For God and Country." It seemed to sum up the purpose of the Legion, with one hand to the Creator and one hand to the nation that protects speech, thought, equality and freedom to choose a religion.

These symbols are part of our American history and culture. Leave them alone.

and become more than a bar in the eyes of our communities. Let's make sure that we are promoting our program in a positive manner.

Peggy Tesdahl, Director
ALA MN Girls State
Elk River

Family Story

To the Editor:

As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of The American Legion, I would like to share a story of the early years of The American Legion and how it affected my family.

My grandfather, William C. Strube, was a WWI veteran. When he returned from the war, he married my grandmother who was a widow with three small children. They bought a farm north of Jackson, MN. Together they had two children. Agnes and Norman (my father).

William joined The American Legion after he returned from the war. In the summer of 1924, William died from an infection that antibiotics would have cured today. The Jackson American Legion came out to the farm and attended the body at the funeral and accompanied it to the Iowa border where the Terril, Iowa American Legion took over for the burial. Later, the Jackson American Legion went out to the farm and harvested all of the grain for my grandma.

And what happened to William's two children? They both went on to serve their country in WWII. William's daughter, Agnes, served as an Army Nurse in the 39th Field Hospital and his son, Norman served as an Army Medic.

Cathy Strube Buxengard
Worthington

Chaplain's Corner

By Bonnie Hanson



Serving as your Department Chaplain this year 2018-2019 has been a very rewarding privilege and honor serving you all. This will be my last column and just let me say it was challenging to say the least but again I will miss the contact that I received along the way.

We will be having our Department Convention in Willmar this July where we elect new Officers and please say a pray for them as they go into a new year 2019-2020.

I was at a Memorial Day Service this year and read some words that I would like to share with you.

Freedom is Not Free

I watched the flag pass by one day. It fluttered in the breeze. A young Marine saluted it, and then He stood at ease.

I looked at him in uniform so young, so tall, so proud with hair cut square and eyes alert He'd stand out in any crowd.

I thought how many men and women like him had fallen through the years? How many died on foreign soil? How many mother's tears? How many Pilots planes shot down? How many foxholes were soldier's graves?

No, freedom is not free.

I heard the sound of taps one night, when everything is still. I listened to the bugler play and felt a sudden chill. I wondered just how many times that taps had meant "Amen" when a flag had draped a coffin of a brother, sister or a friend.

I thought of all the children, of the mothers and the wives, of fathers, sons and husbands with interrupted lives. I thought about a graveyard at the bottom of the unmarked graves in Arlington.

NO, Freedom isn't free.

— by Kelly Strong

The Founders of the American Legion knew that God and Country must go together if our Country would remain great and permanent.

This is still the concept of those who lead and guide our great organization. The Four Pillars is something that we all need to read and remember what each one means.

GOD'S Promise –Whenever your heart is hurting, and you're filled with much despair, wherever you turn, friend, for solace, Remember that God's always there.

Whatever faith brings without warning, whatever the trails that you bear, God's love and grace will unfold you, if you turn to Him in prayer.

For He is the rainbow above us, awesome for all to see, reflecting His promise His promise and glory are ours when we seek Him implicitly.

I would like to again say that I have enjoyed serving the Department of Minnesota as your Chaplain this year. Thank you to all who say they have read my column and enjoyed it.

I have had many positive comments and that means so much to me. Giving the prayers for our many functions throughout the year. Let us continue to serve God and Country with a compassionate heart. Again, amen.

The Minnesota Legionnaire

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

Al Zdon, Editor

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

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

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

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

E-MAIL: azdon@mnlegion.org

WEBSITE: www.mnlegion.org

BOARD OF PUBLICATION MEMBERS: President Darrel Redepinning, Coon Rapids; Vice President Don Amundson, Blue Earth; Secretary Randy Tesdahl, Elk River; Treasurer, Bill Goede, Plainview. Board Members include: Bob Locker, Fridley; Joe Bayer, Minneapolis; Pat Logan, Bloomington; Carol Patridge, Oakdale; Mary Hendrickson, Cloquet; Patti Coleman, Circle Pines.

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

What's Happening

Mental Health Summit

The annual VA and Community Mental Health Summit will be held Monday, August 5, at the University of St. Thomas. Those who are interested in participating should contact Amy Wood, Department of Veterans Affairs, at amy.wood@va.gov.

Legionville Camp-O-Ree

The 50th annual Legionville Camp-O-Ree will be held at the Legionville Camp, North Long Lake, on September 5-8. There will be music, food, fun for the entire family. All profits go to the Legionville Safety Patrol Camp.

On Thursday, Sept. 5, there will be the First District Steak Fry. On Friday, there will be an SAL breakfast, SAL lunch and 10th District Pork Roast Dinner. On Saturday, there will be an SAL breakfast, the Sixth District Fish Fry Lunch, and the SAL Hot Dogs and Hamburgers Dinner. On Sunday, there will be the SAL Omelet Breakfast.

The weekend will feature pull-tabs, raffles, music on Friday and Saturday, bingo the first three days, kids movie night on Friday and Saturday nights, and a closest to the hole drive contest.

Boxes of firewood are available for a \$10 donation.

The cost is \$5 per person per day or \$10 for staying overnight. There is a maximum of \$75 per family for the event. Active duty and children under three are free.

Reading getting harder?

Veterans who are having trouble reading can take advantage of a benefit that includes talking books. Any honorably

discharged veteran is eligible for the National Library Service program that includes braille and talking books. The NLS maintains a vast catalog of title and publications. Veterans have preferential status in the lending of materials or equipment.

To apply, call the National Library Service at 1-888-657-7323 or go to their email site: www.loc.gov/ThatAllMayRead.

Career Resource Fair

The Minneapolis VA will conduct a Career Resource Fair on Tuesday, July 30, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Minneapolis VA Auditorium. Those attending can learn about the diverse career paths in the VA. There will be a meet and greet to learn about different career paths. This is informational only, and those attending do not need to bring their resumes.

Mental Health Stories

The national VA has launched "The Moment When" campaign, a nationwide effort that will feature veterans' personal experiences with mental health treatment and recovery.

Veterans and families are encouraged to go to www.maketheconnection.net/MHM to explore the stories of recovery and find local resources.

Classes at VA Clinics

VA clinics in Brainerd, Montevideo and Alexandria will

now offer Introduction to Whole Health educational classes the first Wednesday of every month, from 2-4 p.m. Veterans and families can contact their VA care teams to register.

The class equips veterans to take charge of their health by developing a personal system of health care.

MACV events

The Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans will stage two upcoming events.

A Stand Down will be held Friday, Aug. 16, at Target Field in Minneapolis from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. All veterans are welcome. The Stand Down will feature meals, hair cuts, VA benefits, dental checkups, legal support, housing support, public benefits, support services, employers and clothing. It is a kid friendly event and the whole family is invited.

A free legal clinic for low-income veterans will be held Tuesday, July 9, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center in the Flag Atrium Balcony Room. The clinic will offer help on housing, employment, benefits, debt collection, expungement, family law and child support.

Silent Auction

The annual Silent Auction will be held at the American Legion Auxiliary Silent Auction. New or like-new items are sought. All the funds raised will be used for the Auxiliary's 100th anniversary, to be celebrated throughout this year. It will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, July 12.

Birthday candles at \$5 each will also be available. Only 100 will be sold.

Taps

Affolter, Allen W., Marine veteran of the Korean War, died June 6, 2019. He was a captain in the 5th Marine Regiment. He suffered frostbite. He was a member of New Ulm Post 132.

Albrecht, Joel T., 83, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 25, 2019. He was a clerk/typist for the 514th Engineer Detachment in Virginia. He was a past commander of the Minnesota Disabled American Veterans. He was a member of New Ulm Post 132.

Bartz, Richard Elden, 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 12, 2019. He was an ammunition supply specialist in the 450th Ammunition Company in France. He was a member of Millville Post 579.

Bauer, Leo, 82, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died May 17, 2019. He served on the USS Alshain, USS Hollis, and the USS Monrovia. He was a gunner's mate third class. He was a member of Minneapolis Post 1.

Bausman, Wendell F., 91, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 31, 2019. He was a past commander of Benson Post 62.

Bomstad, Algene Earl., "Dude," 96, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died June 7, 2019. He served in the 1040th Base Unit in England. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 212.

Breems, Lowell H., 80, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 19, 2019. He was a member of Willmar Post 167.

Burmeister, Melvin H., 89, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 28, 2019. He was in the 2nd Infantry Division and fought at the Battle of Old Baldy. He was a member of Hutchinson Post 96.

Clover, Orrin S., "Bud," 81, Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 30, 2019. He was a member of North Branch Post 85.

Dahlof, Robert L., 99, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died June 18, 2019. He was a tech sergeant who served in Europe and earned a Bronze Star. He was a member of Mora Post 201.

Ebnet, Cyril, 89, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 10, 2019. He was a member of Holdingford Post 211.

Fitzgerald, Donald J., 96, Army veteran of World War II, died June 5, 2019. He served in the Pacific. He was a member of Hutchinson Post 96.

Frank, Jerome F., 84, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died June 22, 2019. He served in Japan as a carpenter. He was a member of New Ulm Post 132.

Gerard, Thomas, 69, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 9, 2019. He was a member of Cloquet Post 262.

Gerde, Robert A., 82, Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 20, 2019. He was a member of Bloomington Post 550.

Gerhardson, Karen, 53, Army veteran of the War on Terrorism, died June 2, 2019. She served in Germany as a private. She was a member of Marshall Post 113.

Goskeson, George S., 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 13, 2019. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Green, Gerald C., 82, Army veteran of the Korean War and the Vietnam War, died June 15, 2019. He was colonel who was awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and 13 Air

Medals. He was a pilot in Vietnam flying Apache helicopters. He was a project manager for the development of Blackhawk helicopters. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 212.

Hansen, Leslie, 86, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 2, 2019. He was a member of Tyler Post 185.

Hanson, Lloyd E., 91, Navy veteran of World War II, died June 12, 2019. He served in the Philippines. He was a member of Raymond Post 420.

Hoheisel, Roger, "Hulio," 68, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 23, 2019. He served in Vietnam. He was a member of Hillman Post 602.

Inselmann, Alfred L. Jr., 85, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 28, 2019. He was a member of Cosmos Post 126.

Johnson, Charles R., 73, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 1, 2019. He was in the 2nd Infantry Division. He was a member of Cambridge Post 290.

Johnson, Craig R., 71, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 31, 2019. He was a member of Red Wing Post 54.

Kable, Alfred Rolland, 94, Army veteran of World War II, died May 26, 2019. He was a gold star parent and a member of Park Rapids Post 212.

Kinney, Jerry L., 85, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died June 5, 2019. He was a member of Jackson Post 130.

Kohoutek, Walter W., 91, Navy veteran of World War II, died June 4, 2019. He was a Seabee, assigned to the USS J.P. Kennedy. He was a member of New Prague Post 45.

Kovach, John A., 75, Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 11, 2019. He was a member of Bloomington Post 550.

Kroona, Marlin L., Sr., 83, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 19, 2019. He was a member of Willmar Post 167.

Lage, Don George, 89, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 6, 2019. He fought along the 38th Parallel and into North Korea, suffering frostbite. He earned a Purple Heart. He was a member of New Ulm Post 132.

Loonan, Raymond Francis, 76, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 18, 2019. He was in Naval Air and served multiple tours in Vietnam. He was a member of Lismore Post 636.

Lukecart, Marjorie, 95, Navy veteran of World War II, died June 5, 2019. She served as a pharmacist's mate second class in New York. She was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Lyman, John, 92, Navy veteran of World War II, died May 25, 2019. He was a member of Hutchinson Post 96.

Magnuson, Terrance R., 92, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died June 20, 2019. He was a pilot. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

Malecha, Clarence Joseph, 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 28, 2019. He was a member of Lonsdale Post 586.

Mowers, Dale O., 93, Navy veteran of World War II, died June 6, 2019. He served in the Pacific. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Nerstad, John Everett, 76, Army veteran of the

Vietnam War, died June 5, 2019. He served in Germany. He was a welder and blacksmith. He was a member of Spring Grove Post 249.

Newgard, Frederick D., "Dale," 83, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died May 29, 2019. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Niemela, Roger Thomas, 73, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 3, 2019. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 212.

Olson, Landis J., Sr., 78, Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 26, 2019. He served in the Fleet Marine Force, Third Marine Division, as a light machine gunner. He earned a Purple Heart. He was a member of Zimmerman Post 560.

Peterson, John, 57, Army veteran of Lebanon/Grenada, died May 28, 2019. He was a member of Marshall Post 113.

Pexa, Leonard J., 80, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 25, 2019. He was a member of New Prague Post 45.

Ranbow, Glen H., 93, Navy veteran of World War II, died June 8, 2019. He served on the USS Copahoe, an escort carrier. He was a member of Raymond Post 420.

Rossmeisl, Andrew A., 80, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 31, 2019. He was a member of Eden Valley Post 381.

Sando, Robert, 82, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 15, 2019. He served in Germany. He was a member of Marshall Post 113.

Schleif, Lyle A., 92, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died May 23, 2019. He was a member of Zimmerman Post 560.

Simons, Lois, 101, Naval Reserve veteran of World War II and the Korean War, died May 15, 2019. She was discharged as a Lt. Commander. She was a member of Marshall Post 113.

Stiles, James R., 76, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 18, 2019. He was an SP4. He was a member of Winona Post 9.

Swanson, Dennis, 73, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 26, 2019. He was stationed in Germany. He was a member of Winona Post 9.

Tibor, Clifford, 87, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died June 9, 2019. He was a member of Rochester Post 92.

Turner, Arnold, 89, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 28, 2019. He was a member of Clarissa Post 213.

Vruno, Michael John, 86, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 25, 2019. He was a member of North St. Paul Post 39.

Watson, Larry, 70, Army veteran of the Gulf War, died June 10, 2019. He served for 21 years in the Army Reserves. He was a member of Lake City Post 110.

Young, LeRoy B., 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 12, 2019. He was the service officer of Holdingford Post 211.

Correction:

Galler, Gordon, 82, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 23, 2019. He was a member of Janesville Post 281.

Legion

Convention Program 101st

The 101st Annual Convention of The American Legion - Department of Minnesota WILLMAR, MINNESOTA July 11-13, 2019

THURSDAY MORNING, JULY 11, 2019

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 – Willmar Conference Center, Gallery 7
CALL TO ORDER: Darrel Redepenning, Department Commander, Fridley
ADVANCEMENT OF THE COLORS 2018 Champions Waite Park Post 428
POW/MIA FLAG: Jim Kellogg, NS/FR Committee, Taopi Ryan Hill, Department Sergeant at Arms, Brewster
INVOCATION: Bonnie Hanson, Department Chaplain, Rockford
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
"THE PREAMBLE" — Recital by Commander and Delegates
GREETINGS: The Honorable Marv Calvin, Mayor, Willmar
John Krouth, Commander, Austin F. Hanscom Post 167
Jeff Gay, Seventh District Commander, Jackson
DuWayne Underthun, General Convention Chairman, Willmar

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 Herke, Commissioner, MN Department of Veterans Affairs
Robert P. McDivitt, Director, VA Midwest Health Care Network
Other Veterans Service Organizations
Greg Peterson, President, Minnesota Association of County Veterans Service Officers
RESPONSE: Richard Wog, Department Vice Commander, Willmar

10:00 a.m. "REPORTING NATIONALLY" – Marland Ronning, National Executive Committeeman, Maple Grove

10:10 a.m. REPORT: Armed Forces Service Center, Joe Jansen, Representative, Arden Hills

10:20 a.m. REPORT: Neal Loidolt, President/CEO, Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans

10:30 a.m. REPORT: Robin Picray, Finance Committee, Chairman, St. Paul
Finances in relation to Department Committee Structure

10:40 a.m. REPORT: Greg Colby, Department Judge Advocate, Northfield
Responsibilities of Post, District, & Department Officers

10:55 a.m. PRESENTATIONS BY:
Carl Moon, Employment Committee Chairman, St. Joseph
GREETINGS: Raymond Douha, Acting State Director, Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS)

11:00 a.m. ANNOUNCEMENT OF DEPARTMENT CONVENTION COMMITTEES AND INSTRUCTIONS
Randy Tesdahl, Department

11:05 a.m. Adjutant, St. Paul
RECESS

11:15 a.m. JOINT MEMORIAL SERVICE – Willmar Conf. Center, Gallery 7

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 11, 2019

1:00 p.m. MEETINGS OF ALL CONVENTION COMMITTEES.

2:00 p.m. GAMBLING SEMINAR, Willmar Conference Center, Gallery 7
Moderator: Peggy Moon, Legislative Committee Chairman, St. Joseph

FRIDAY MORNING, JULY 12, 2019

7-8:00 a.m. CAUCUS OF ALL DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES BY DISTRICTS — CALL TO ORDER: Darrel Redepenning, Department Commander, Fridley
INVOCATION: Bonnie Hanson, Department Chaplain, Rockford
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
"THE PREAMBLE": Recital by Commander and Delegates

8:30 a.m. REPORT: Credentials Committee, Lynne Nottage, Chairman, Minneapolis

8:45 a.m. YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES: SAL REPORT: Shawn Davis, 2018-2019 SAL Detachment Cmdr, Brooklyn Center

8:55 a.m. BOY SCOUT OF THE YEAR, Tom Hallett, Boy Scout Chairman, Mankato
2019 LEGION BOYS STATE GOVERNOR, Thomas Nelson, Director, Jackson
2019 ORATORICAL CONTEST WINNER, Sylvan Fix, Chairman, Brownsville

9:15 a.m. REPORT: V4V, Don Pankake, Member, Hutchinson

9:25 a.m. Steve Sweet, National Vice Commander, Greenville, MS

9:50 a.m. REPORT: Legionville Corporation, Wayne Gilbertson, President, Zimmerman

9:55 a.m. AWARDS PRESENTATIONS:
Roger Stoick, President, American Legion Hospital Assn., Albertville
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
Dennis DeLong, Yearbook and Narrative History Books, Bloomington
Tom Clabo, Community Service Chairman, Hutchinson
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
Bill Brockberg, Rehabilitation Committee, Worthington
PAT CLIFF AWARD to Outstanding Post Service Officer
MN PHYSICIAN OF THE YEAR Award
Michelle Williamson, Owner & Co-Founder, Ship to Military and Shipthrift.com

11:35 a.m. CONVENTION COMMITTEE REPORTS

11:45 a.m. RECESS

12:00 Noon

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 12, 2019

1:30 p.m. CONVENTION COMMITTEE REPORTS

1:45 p.m. GREETINGS: Mrs. Jean Walker, Department President, American Legion Auxiliary, Warren
Sandie Deutsch, Department Secretary, American Legion Auxiliary, St. Paul

2:00 p.m. CONVENTION COMMITTEE REPORTS

2:30 p.m. FINAL MEMBERSHIP AWARDS: Mike Maxa, Department Membership Director, LeCenter
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 WILLMAR CONFERENCE CENTER FOR ONE HALF HOUR (30 MINUTES) FROM TIME OF RECESS

FRIDAY EVENING, JULY 12, 2019

7:00 p.m. CONVENTION PARADE - 6:00 p.m.
Parade Line-up
AFTER PARADE PARTY—
Immediately following parade, food & cash bar, Willmar Post 167

SATURDAY MORNING, JULY 13, 2019

8:00 a.m. - POLLS OPEN for voting

9:00 a.m. POLLS CLOSE

8:30 a.m. CONCERT: Ninth District Band

9:00 a.m. CALL TO ORDER: Darrel Redepenning, Department Commander, Fridley
ADVANCEMENT OF THE COLORS: 2019 Color Guard Winner
THE NATIONAL ANTHEM - Led by Ninth District Band
INVOCATION: Bonnie Hanson, Department Chaplain, Rockford
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
"THE PREAMBLE" - Recital by Department Commander and Delegates
"CONVENTION MEMORIAL SERVICE": Bonnie Hanson, Department Chaplain, Rockford

9:15 a.m. REPORT: David Bode, Parade Coordinator, Nicollet
FINAL REPORT OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE
REPORT AND PRESENTATIONS: Darrel Redepenning, Department Commander, Fridley

9:25 a.m. REPORT: Tim Burley, Public Relations Committee, Chairman, Hutchinson

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 Darrel Redepenning's Family
Presentation of Miniature Department Colors to Retiring Commander, Mike Schaffer, Past Department Commander, Fulda
FIVE DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDERS, CHAPLAIN, HISTORIAN
SERGEANT AT ARMS, MEMBER OF PUBLICATION BOARD
THREE DELEGATES-AT-LARGE TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION
FIVE ALTERNATES-AT-LARGE TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION
INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS
ELECT — (to be announced)
BENEDICTION
RETIREMENT OF THE COLORS
ADJOURNMENT

Auxiliary Convention Program

100th

**100th Department Convention
Willmar Conference Center
Willmar Minnesota**

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10

10:00 AM Department Finance – Executive Boardroom
1:00 PM Department Executive Committee Meeting – Ruff's Restaurant
3:00 PM 100th Anniversary Committee Meeting – Ruff's Restaurant

THURSDAY, JULY 11 – GALLERIES 1 - 4

7:30 AM Briefing and Rehearsal for the Processional – Galleries 1-4 (Convention Hall)
8:00 AM District Caucuses (10) meet
8:00 AM Convention Credentials Committee Meeting – Green Mill
8:00 AM Convention Rules Committee Meeting – Green Mill
9:00 AM Daily Roll Call of District Presidents – Sandie Deutsch, Dept. Sec'y
9:00 AM Auxiliary session convenes – Sandie Deutsch, Dept. Sec'y
9:05 AM Processional – ALL COLORS (see processional line-up)
District Presidents will march with their colors and be introduced by Sandie Deutsch, Dept. Sec'y
9:10 AM Call to Order – Jean Walker, Department President
Invocation – Margee Keller, Department Chaplain
Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag – Bethany Dickert, Americanism Chairman
The National Anthem – Bethany Dickert, Americanism Chairman
Preamble to the Constitution – Marsha Bible, Constitution and Bylaws Chairman
9:20 AM POW/MIA Remembrance – Raleen Tolzmann, NEC
9:30 AM Response for the District Presidents, Seventh District President Pam Gades
9:35 AM Welcome to Willmar
Betty Underthun, Auxiliary Convention Chairman, Willmar Unit 167
Melanie Dickman, Willmar Auxiliary Unit 167 President
John Krouth, Willmar Post 167 Commander
Pam Gades, 7th District President
Jeff Gay, 7th District Commander
Shawn Kosbab, 7th District SAL Commander
Duwayne Underthun, The American Legion Convention Chairman Post #167
9:45 AM Response to Welcomes – Mary Hendrickson, Department First Vice President
9:55 AM Greetings – The Honorable Marv Calvin, Mayor of Willmar
10:00 AM Presentation of the National Northwestern Division Vice President Barb Vetter
10:10 AM Presentation of Distinguished Guests – Jean Walker, Dept President
Jean Walker, Mary Hendrickson, Patti Coleman, Raleen Tolzmann, Karen Thygeson, Lori Skallerud, Joyce Olson
Beverly Otterness, Norma Tramm, Chris Ronning, Marsha Bible, Carol Kottom
Shirley Frederick, Tamara Opland, Jennifer Havlick, Peggy Tesdahl
10:15 AM Response for the Distinguished Guests – Patti Coleman, Department 2nd Vice President
10:20 AM Preliminary Report of Convention Credentials Committee – Naomi Hill, Chairman
10:25 AM Reading of the 2019 Call to Convention – Department Secretary Sandie Deutsch
Reading of the 2018 Department Convention Minutes – Department Secretary Sandie Deutsch
10:30 AM Report of the Convention Rules Committee – Jeannette Mertens, Chairman
10:35 AM Nominations of candidates for: Department President
Department First Vice President
Department Second Vice President
Alternate National Executive Committeewoman
10:45 AM Remarks by candidates for Department Offices
11:00 AM Nomination of _____ delegates-at-large not included under Article IX, Section 1a, or elected at District Conventions
11:05 AM Announcements – Department Secretary Sandie Deutsch
11:10 AM Recess
11:15 AM Memorial Service – The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, and Sons of The American Legion – Galleries 5-7 Willmar Conference Center

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 11

2:00 PM Meeting of the Convention Committees
2:00 PM Gambling Seminar – Willmar Conference Center, Gallery 7
Moderator: Peggy Moon, Legislative Committee Chairman, St. Joseph

THURSDAY EVENING, JULY 11 – GALLERIES 1-4

6:30 PM A Social Gathering of all American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary And Sons of The American Legion and their guests – hosted by Department President Jean Walker – Galleries 1-4 – Entertainment will be provided by Walters Wheelhouse Band
Cash bar will be available

FRIDAY, JULY 12 – GALLERIES 1-4

8:00 AM District Caucuses (10) meet - Consult Room Assignment Sheet
9:00 AM Daily Roll Call of District Presidents – Department Secretary Sandie Deutsch
9:00 AM Call to Order – Jean Walker, Department President
Invocation – Margee Keller, Department Chaplain
9:05 AM Supplemental Report of Convention Credentials Committee Naomi Hill, Chairman
9:10 AM Recognition of the Department Office staff – Jean Walker, Department President

PROGRAM REPORTS

9:15 AM Convention Committee Report – Constitution and Standing Rules, Marsha Bible, Chairman
9:20 AM Convention Committee Report – Resolutions, Diane Hayes, Chairman
9:50 AM Convention Committee Report – Finance, Beverly Otterness, Chairman
9:55 AM Convention Committee Report – Audit, Lynn Spilman, Chairman
10:00 AM Convention Committee Report – History, Karla Otterness, Chairman
10:05 AM Convention Committee Report – Past Presidents Parley, Karen Thygeson, Chairman
10:10 AM Presentation of the Past Department Presidents – Jean Walker, Department President
10:20 AM Response for the Past Department Presidents – Karen Thygeson, Past Department President
10:25 AM Memorial Service for Past Department Presidents – Karen Thygeson, Chairman
10:40 AM Announcement of Americanism Essay Winners
10:45 AM Community Service – Theresa Rudnicki, Chairman
10:50 AM Education – Linda Kropuenske, Chairman
10:55 AM Memorial – Margee Keller, Chairman
11:00 AM Convention Committee Report – Leadership, Dee Dee Buckley, Chairman
11:05 AM Convention Committee Report – Membership, Robin Dorf, Chairman
11:10 AM Convention Committee Report – Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Teri Richardson
11:15 AM Report on The Brain Science Foundation – Jill Mueller
11:20 AM Report on The American Legion Family Hospital Association – Roger Stoick, President
11:25 AM Announcements, Department Secretary Sandie Deutsch
11:30 AM Recess
11:45 AM Past Department Presidents' Luncheon – Green Mill

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 12 – GALLERIES 1-4

1:30 PM Call to Order – Jean Walker, Department President
1:35 PM Report on Legionville, Wayne Gilbertson, President, Legionville Corporation
1:40 PM Report on Convention Corporation, Pat Logan, President
1:45 PM Presentation - Auxiliary Bowling Trophy – Bob Mace, Legion Bowling Chairman
Children and Youth – Sandy Wersal, Chairman
1:50 PM American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State – Mary Kuperus, Chairman
1:55 PM Greetings from Kate Kapsner, 2019 Governor of Minnesota Girls State, sponsored by Osseo-Maple Grove Unit 172
2:00 PM Junior Activities – Kristen Donnelly, Chairman
2:15 PM Greetings from Harley Donnelly – 2018/2019 Department Honorary Junior President, Northup Unit 522
2:20 PM Convention Committee Report – Public Relations, Cheryl Nymann, Chairman
2:30 PM Convention Committee Report – Legislation, Mary Hendrickson, Chairman
2:35 PM Convention Committee Report – National Security, Vickie Bibeau, Chairman; Chris Ronning, Armed Forces Center Representative
2:40 PM Convention Committee Report – Poppy, Sharon Barnes, Chairman

2:55 PM Announcement of the Poppy Contest Winners – Shaaron Barnes, Chairman
3:05 PM Convention Committee Report – Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, Patti Coleman, Chairman; Jean Pederson, Service to Veterans Chairman; Linda Deschene, Gift Shop Chairman, Mary French, Gift Shop Committee Member
3:15 PM Recognition of the Hospital/Home Representatives Jean Walker, Department President
3:20 PM Announcement of Department President's Project – Jean Walker, Department President – Fergus Falls Veterans Home
Deanna Mounts, Volunteer Service Coordinator
3:30 PM Strategic Planning Committee Report – Cavalene Regan, Chairman
3:35 PM Department Office Report, Sandie Deutsch, Department Secretary
3:45 PM Announcements, Department Secretary Sandie Deutsch
4:00 PM Recess

FRIDAY EVENING, JULY 12

6:00 PM Parade Time – After Parade Party – Food and Cash Bar – Willmar Post 167

SATURDAY, JULY 13 – GALLERIES 1-4

9:00 AM Daily Roll Call of District Presidents – Dept Secretary Sandie Deutsch
9:00 AM Call to Order – Jean Walker, Department President
9:05 AM Invocation – Margee Keller, Department Chaplain
9:10 AM Supplemental Report of Convention Credentials Committee – Naomi Hill, Chairman
9:10 AM Presentation of The American Legion, Commander Darrel Redepinning and Adjutant Randy Tesdahl
9:20 AM Presentation of Sons of The American Legion Detachment Commander Shawn Davis and Adjutant Dennis Henkemeyer
9:30 AM Presentation of The American Legion Riders, Director Scott Phillips
9th District Band, Vernon Kuhn, President
9:30 AM Final Report of the Constitution and Standing Rules Committee – Marsha Bible, Chairman
9:35 AM Final Report of the Resolutions Committee – Diane Hayes, Chairman
10:05 AM Presentation of the Department Convention Chairman and Committee Betty Underthun, Auxiliary General Chairmen, Special introductions and thank-you's, Jean Walker, Department President
10:10 AM Announcement of Parade Winners, Tom Schottenbauer & Pat Logan
10:15 AM Unfinished Business
10:20 AM New Business
10:25 AM Final Report of the Credentials Committee – Naomi Hill, Chairman
10:30 AM Report of the Election Committee - Judge of Elections, Diane Sullivan
Election of Officers
Department President
Department First Vice President
Department Second Vice President
Alternate National Executive Committeewoman
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 2019-2020 Executive Committee members – Pool Area
Installation of Incoming 2019-2020 Department Officers and District Presidents – Marsha Bible and Betty Manginen
Presentation of Department President's Pin to Newly Elected Department President – Jean Walker, Retiring Department President
Presentation of Past Department President's Pin – Karen Thygeson
Benediction – Margee Keller, Department Chaplain
Retirement of All Colors
Adjournment of 2019 Department Convention – Jean Walker, Department President

Resolutions coming to the 2019 convention

RESOLUTION 1

The following Resolution originated from Leo C. Peterson Post 54, Red Wing, and was adopted by the Third District at their convention in and is submitted for consideration by the 2019 Department Convention, to be held in Willmar, Minnesota, July 11-13, 2019.

EXTEND VA HEALTH CARE BENEFITS ELIGIBILITY FOR WWII VETERANS

WHEREAS, The American Legion strongly supports the extension of U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Health Benefits to all Veterans, and

WHEREAS, Title 38, U.S.C., Chapter 17, Sect. 1710 (a)(2)(e) requires the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish needed hospital care and medical services without regard to the other eligibility requirements to Veterans of WWI and the Spanish American Wars, and

WHEREAS, No Veterans of WWI or the Spanish American Wars are alive today, and

WHEREAS, The Veterans of WWII have served our country honorably both in war and as exemplary citizens of our great nation and are reaching an age when such medical services are needed similar to that granted WWI and Spanish American Veterans in the aforementioned law, and

WHEREAS, The current medical services provided to WWII Veterans by the VA is based on a category and/or an income means test and is onerous for these aging Veterans to complete as well as being cumbersome for the VA to apply and thus blocks some WWII Veterans from accessing these services, and

WHEREAS, The funds the VA spends to apply this bureaucratic means test procedure could be better spent providing direct care to these WWII and other Veterans, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Title 38, U.S.C., Chapter 17 be amended to grant WWII Veterans the same hospital and medical entitlements as previously granted in this law to the now deceased WWI and Spanish American War Veterans, and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution be forwarded to The American Legion, Department of Minnesota Convention, July 11,12,13 in Willmar, MN for concurring action, and be it finally

RESOLVED, That, if passed, this resolution be forwarded to the 101st National Convention of The American Legion assembled in Indianapolis, IN, August 23-29, 2019, for concurring action.

RESOLUTION 2

The following Resolution adopted by the First District at their convention in Stewartville on May 18, 2019 is submitted for consideration by the 2019 Department Convention, to be held in Willmar, Minnesota, July 11-13, 2019.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

WHEREAS; Timely communication is essential to the success of The American Legion, Department of Minnesota, and

WHEREAS; The speed of delivery has decreased in recent years with the closing of regional distribution centers of the U.S. Postal system, and

WHEREAS; Electronic communication has been widely accepted as a legal form of communication, and

WHEREAS; Electronic communication is more cost effective which is essential for our long term success, and

WHEREAS; Communication between The Department Staff, The Department Executive Board and The Department Committee Chairman's needs to be more cost effective and timely therefore be it

RESOLVED; Heretofore whenever possible electronic communication shall be an accepted form between The Department Staff, committee chairman and their committee members, and be it finally

RESOLVED; That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to The Department of Minnesota 2019 convention to be held in Willmar, Minnesota, July 11, 12, 13, 2019 for concurring action.

RESOLUTION 3

The following Resolution originated from Bagley Post 16 and was adopted by the Ninth District at their convention in Detroit Lakes and is submitted for consideration by the 2019 Department Convention, to be held in Willmar, Minnesota, July 11-13, 2019.

MINNESOTA AMERICAN LEGION COLLEGE

WHEREAS, The members of The American Legion in Minnesota are the workforce that supports and implements the programs and policies of The American Legion, and

WHEREAS, An educated workforce is an empowered and enabled workforce better able to support those programs and policies, and

WHEREAS, American Legion College has provided an avenue for the education of American Legion members at the national and department level with great success; notably to California, New York and Wisconsin, and

WHEREAS, There is no established and consistent system present in the Department of Minnesota for the purpose of educating Legion members on the history, programs, policies and goals of The American Legion; now therefore

be it

RESOLVED, That American Legion Department of Minnesota support the establishment of a Department of Minnesota American Legion College; to include administration, finance committee, instructor cadre and curriculum, as well as time and place of college sessions and be it finally

RESOLVED; That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to The Department of Minnesota 2019 convention to be held in Willmar, Minnesota, July 11, 12, 13, 2019 for concurring action.

RESOLUTION 4

The following Resolution originated by Minneapolis Post No. 1, Wold-Chamberlain Post 99, Minneapolis/Richfield Post 435, University of Minnesota Post 548 was adopted by the 5th District Convention held June 1, 2019 at Bloomington, MN and is submitted for consideration by the 2019 Department Convention, to be held in Willmar, Minnesota July 11-13, 2019.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AUTHORITY OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

WHEREAS: The longest government shutdown in American history caused undue hardship in a discriminating manner by withholding pay to thousands of United States Coast Guard members, chartered in the Department of Homeland Security, while continuing to pay all other active duty members of the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS: 14 U.S. Code § 1 - Establishment of Coast Guard states: "The Coast Guard, established January 28, 1915, shall be a military service and a branch of the Armed Forces of the United States at all times."; and

WHEREAS: Every member of the Armed Forces of the United States shall complete a DD Form 4, Enlistment/Reenlistment Document Armed Forces, including Section H, Paragraph 22A

22a. IN A REGULAR COMPONENT OF THE ARMED FORCES:

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend The Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God; and

WHEREAS: U. S. Coast Guard members are members of a military service and a branch of the Armed Forces of the United States at all times; and

WHEREAS: U. S. Coast Guard members affirm the Confirmation of Enlistment Oath (DD Form 4); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: The American Legion advocates for the President of the United States and the United States Congress take measures to ensure all active duty members, of the U. S. Coast Guard, Armed Forces of the United States, shall not experience discrimination in the future., and be it

RESOLVED: This resolution be forwarded to the Department of Minnesota Convention to be held in Willmar, Minnesota, July 11-13, 2019, for concurring action, and be it finally

RESOLVED, That if approved this resolution be forwarded to the National Convention to be held in Indianapolis, IN, August 23-29, 2019 for concurring action.

RESOLUTION 5

The following Resolution originated from Department Rehabilitation Committee and is submitted for consideration by the 2019 Department Convention, to be held in Willmar, Minnesota, July 11-13, 2019.

PROPOSED VA DENTAL PROGRAM LANGUAGE & INEQUITY

WHEREAS, 38 C.F.R 17.38 states a medical need is a treatment, procedure, supply, or service considered medically necessary when, in the judgment of an appropriate clinical care provider, and in accordance with generally-accepted standards of clinical practice, the treatment, procedure, supply, or service: (1) Promotes health by: (a) Enhancing quality of life or daily functional level; (b) Identifying a predisposition for development of a condition or early onset of disease, which can be partly or totally improved by monitoring or early diagnosis and treatment; and (c) Preventing development of future disease. (2) Preserves health by: (a) Maintaining the current quality of life or daily functional level; (b) Preventing progression of disease; (c) Curing disease; and (d) Extending life span. (3) Restores health by restoring the quality of life or the daily functional level that has been lost due to illness or injury, and

WHEREAS, 38 CFR 17.160-17.166 states dental care for eligible Veterans must be provided in a manner consistent with the following core values: timely access, quality outcomes, cost effectiveness, evidence-based care, patient and provider satisfaction, and patient safety, and

WHEREAS, 38 CFR 17.160-17.166 The goal of VA

Dental Services is to provide high quality, cost-effective and evidence-based dental treatment to eligible Veterans. All VA dentists are to be knowledgeable regarding the scope of care to be provided under each dental classification, and

WHEREAS, 38 CFR 17.160-17.166 eligibility for dental care under Class VI (medical need) is under the authority of the VA Dental Chief to make eligibility determinations, and

WHEREAS, VA established an Outpatient Dental Program which is categorized into classifications; and Class VI was created to provide dental services to a veteran that is receiving care and requires dental care for a condition complicating a medical condition currently under treatment, and

WHEREAS, The following list identifies the patient categories that are to be provided dental care in compliance with applicable VA regulations and Directives: Inpatients with a compelling medical need, such as a defined dental condition which has a significant negative impact on the medical management of the patient, regardless of service connection; (d) Veterans for whom outpatient dental care is reasonably necessary to complete dental care that was initiated while they were inpatients; (e) Outpatient Dental Class I through VI beneficiaries; and (f) Individuals with dental emergencies who are provided outpatient dental care on a humanitarian basis, and be it

RESOLVED, If VA removes a veteran's teeth under Classification VI (Medical Need) that the VA is required to provide dentures in accordance with its medical benefits package promoting health, enhancing quality of life and daily function, and be it

RESOLVED, That this resolution be forwarded to The American Legion, Department of Minnesota Convention, July 11,12,13 in Willmar, MN for concurring action, and be it finally

RESOLVED, That, if passed, this resolution be forwarded to the 101st National Convention of The American Legion assembled in Indianapolis, IN, August 23-29, 2019, for concurring action.

RESOLUTION 6

The following Resolution originated from Department Rehabilitation Committee and is submitted for consideration by the 2019 Department Convention, to be held in Willmar, Minnesota, July 11-13, 2019.

PAYMENT OF EMERGENCY AMBULANCE TRANSPORTATION

WHEREAS, Veterans who encounter a medical emergency as defined by Public Law 106-117, Veterans Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act, can have their emergency ambulance transportation expenses paid by VA in accordance with the requirements set forth Title 38 United States Code 1725 and corresponding regulations, 38 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) 1000 through 1008; and

WHEREAS, 38 C.F.R. 1003, covers payment or reimbursement for ambulance services, including air ambulance services, if the conditions set forth in 38 C.F.R. 1003 (a) through (e) are met; and

WHEREAS, subsection (a) of 38 C.F.R. 1003 requires that the emergency treatment be provided at a non-VA facility; and

WHEREAS, Emergency Transportation companies are required by law to transport patients to the nearest medical facility; which can result in VA denying payment of a veterans emergency ambulance transportation expenses if the veteran is transported to a VA medical facility and the veteran is not eligible for payment of emergency ambulance transportation expenses under VA's beneficiary travel rules set forth in Title 38 U.S.C. 111 and corresponding regulations 38 CFR Part 70, Subpart A Beneficiary Travel and Special Mode Transportation; and

WHEREAS, a veteran whose emergency ambulance transportation would have been reimbursed by VA under Title 38 U.S.C. 1725 and VA's corresponding regulation 38 C.F.R. 1000 through 1008 if the veteran was taken to a non-VA facility; and;

WHEREAS, VA is denying payment of the emergency ambulance transportation expenses because the veteran was transported to a VA Medical facility, had no choice in the decision where they are transported, and does not qualify for payment under Title 38 U.S.C. 111 and VA's corresponding regulations 38 CFR Part 70, Subpart A Beneficiary Travel and Special Mode Transportation now; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Congress enact legislation to resolve the inequity between Title 38 U.S.C. 111 and Title 38 U.S.C. 1725 and allow VA to pay for a veterans emergency transportation when the veteran is transported by an Emergency Transportation company to a VA Medical facility, does not qualify for payment of emergency transportation expenses under Title 38 U.S.C. 111 but meets all of the payment requirements set forth under Title 38 U.S.C. 1725, and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution be forwarded to The American Legion, Department of Minnesota Convention,

American Legion Riders

By Chuck Stone
Department Director



Greetings American Legion Family.

Wow. Summer is now one third behind us. I guess the saying true - the older one gets the faster time passes by. In just a couple days we will be celebrating a birthday.

Not just any birthday but the birthday of America. As you gather with family and friends to celebrate please take a moment to silently thank all the brave men and women that are doing so now and those that have done so in the past that have made this birthday celebration of our Great Nation possible.

In a couple short weeks we will be traveling to Willmar for our annual Department Convention. I look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

Once again the Riders have been asked to lead the parade on Friday evening. Hopefully Mother Nature will bless with excellent weather much like last year in Rochester.

There will also be a Riders meeting before the parade, location to be announced. Nominations and elections for new officers will take place at this meeting.

Be sure that you are registered for the convention and that you have a current membership card for the appropriate part of the American Legion Family you belong to. Without these documents you will not be allowed into the meeting.

The 10th Annual Department of Minnesota Legacy ride is almost ready for release. A few hurdles need to be negotiated first. Heavy spring rains and flooding have put a few routes and stops in question.

Will roads be repaired in time is one of the biggest issues the planning committee is working on. Please be patient and bear with me as the committee scrambles to put together a route with an alternate just in case a road is closed.

Those of you that were on the ride a couple years ago will remember the detour we had to take on a gravel road that literally rattled our teeth out. Call it a lesson learned.

We have a limited number of Million Dollar coins for sale.

They commemorate the Department of Minnesota becoming the first nationally to contribute over one million dollars to the Legacy Fund.

I will have them at convention and on this year's ride until they are all sold out. The cost is a mere \$25 and is one any coin collector must have for their collection. In the next column is a picture of the front and back of our coin. It is nicely sized for such an occasion.

See you in Willmar.

Keep the chrome side up and the rubber side down.



MILLION DOLLAR COINS — A limited number of Million Dollar Coins are for sale from the Minnesota American Legion Riders. The front and back of the coins are shown above. The coins will be sold for \$25 each to commemorate the Department of Minnesota as the first Department to go over \$1 million in donations to the Legacy Fund. Chuck Stone will have them at the convention and on this year's ride until they are sold out.

OFFICIAL BALLOT

The American Legion, Dept of Minnesota
Election of Officers 2019-2020

To Vote, Make an X in the box next to your choice
Like This:

Department Commander (vote for one)	
Mark Dvorak	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gary Olson	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write In	<input type="checkbox"/>

Department Vice Commander (Vote for 5)	
Mike Maxa	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bill Brockberg	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teresa Ash	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tim Haugen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bob Locker	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write In	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write In	<input type="checkbox"/>

NECman (vote for one)	
William Barbknecht	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write In	<input type="checkbox"/>

Alt NECman (vote for one)	
Peggy Moon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write In	<input type="checkbox"/>

Chaplain (vote for one)	
Betty Jass	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write In	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historian (vote for one)	
Write In	<input type="checkbox"/>

Sergeant-at-Arms (vote for one)	
Richard Skillestad	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write In	<input type="checkbox"/>

Board of Publication (vote for one)	
Pat Logan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write In	<input type="checkbox"/>

Resolutions to the 2019 Department Convention, continued

July 11,12,13 in Willmar, MN for concurring action, and be it finally

RESOLVED, That, if passed, this resolution be forwarded to the 101st National Convention of The American Legion assembled in Indianapolis, IN, August 23-29, 2019, for concurring action.

RESOLUTION 7

The following Resolution originated from Wojciak-Talberg Post 602 and was adopted by the Sixth District at their convention in Brainerd and is submitted for consideration by the 2019 Department Convention, to be held in Willmar, Minnesota, July 11-13, 2019.

MINNESOTA STATE VETERANS CEMETERY COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, There are veteran burials being conducted at Minnesota State Veterans Cemeteries, and

WHEREAS, There are three existing Minnesota State Veterans Cemeteries located at Little Falls, Preston, and Duluth, Minnesota and

WHEREAS, There is another Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery being considered for the South West Minnesota and

WHEREAS, There are veteran families that are only knowledgeable of the Minnesota National Cemetery, at Ft Snelling and

WHEREAS, The existing Minnesota State Veterans Cemeteries may be in a closer proximity than the National Cemetery, and

WHEREAS, There is minimum information available to the veterans regarding these Minnesota State Veterans Cemeteries, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That a Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery Committee be established within the Department of Minnesota, and, be it finally

RESOLVED; That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to The Department of Minnesota 2019 convention to be held in Wilmar, Minnesota, July 11, 12, 13, 2019 for concurring action.

RESOLUTION 8

The following Resolution originated from Billy Brown Post 627 and was adopted by the Sixth District at their convention in Brainerd and is submitted for consideration by the 2019 Department Convention, to be held in Willmar, Minnesota, July 11-13, 2019.

MINNESOTA AMERICAN LEGION COLLEGE

This resolution is the same as Resolution 3.

RESOLUTION 9

The following Resolution originated from Billy Brown Post 627 and was adopted by the Sixth District at their convention in Brainerd and is submitted for consideration by the 2019 Department Convention, to be held in Willmar, Minnesota, July 11-13, 2019.

MEMBERSHIP EDUCATION COMMITTEE WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA

WHEREAS, The leadership and members of the American Legion in Minnesota are the workforce that supports and implements the programs and policies of The American Legion, and

WHEREAS, An educated workforce is an empowered and enabled workforce better able to support those programs and policies, and

WHEREAS, The leadership of The American Legion Department of Minnesota and all of its 10 Districts and all of its County Councils and all of its Posts can change on an annual basis, and

WHEREAS, Technology and means of communication are changing at a more rapid pace than ever in our history, and

WHEREAS, The American Legion Department of Minnesota Executive Committee, in regular meeting, held at Legionville, Brainerd, MN, on March 4, 2017 did establish an Education and Training Committee to educate and train the leaders and membership of the Department, County Councils, Districts and Posts of The American Legion, and

WHEREAS, American Legion Colleges have provided an avenue for the education of Legion members at the national and department level with great success, notably in California, New York and Wisconsin, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the membership of American Legion Post 627, regularly assembled at Nisswa, MN on April 16, 2019, supports the enhancement of the department level Education and Training Committee by the addition of two more members. Said Committee to be made up of five Legion Members, in good standing, of the Department of Minnesota to be appointed by the Current Department Commander for 1 five year term, 1 four year term, 1 three year term, 1 two year term and 1 one year term with future appointments to be made by the Department Commander upon their Election for a 5 year term with the Chairman being selected by the committee. Said committee members to be drawn from, to the greatest extent possible from National American Legion College graduates. Said committee to have responsibility for the establishment of curriculum and conduct of training sessions for a department level American Legion College, as well as time and place of college sessions. Additionally, the Department Membership Chairman will provide input to the committee related to rally and convention themes and desired training at those events; and be it finally

RESOLVED; That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to The Department of Minnesota 2019 convention to be held in Wilmar, Minnesota, July 11, 12, 13, 2019 for concurring action.

New Tele-ICU center will expand care for veterans in six states

Continued from Page 1

building into a high-tech center extraordinaire.

There are two such centers in the national Veterans Health Administration, one at the Cincinnati VISN 10 and one at Fort Snelling. The Minnesota program began as a pilot program 2011, the first in the nation, and has grown side-by-side with the Cincinnati Tele-ICU.

The Fort Snelling center will not just serve the Midwest territory of the Veterans Integrated Service Network 23, but six other VISNs including 19 medical centers. Between the Cincinnati and the Fort Snelling centers, 39 VA hospitals in 24 states from coast to coast will be served. It's the largest tele-health system in the U.S. for intensive care.

Between the two programs, 547 beds at intensive care units across the country will be equipped with the technology necessary to connect a critical care doctor, often call an "intensivist," with the patient.

"The VA is a leader in this type of technology," said Dr. Robert Bonello, who is the medical director of the VISN 23 center.

In the past year, VISN 23 handled over 7,000 calls, hooking up a specialist with a patient.

The center employs 43, which includes three or four critical care registered nurses and one or two intensivists on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Each of the 547 beds in the system has a camera, microphone, speaker, screen and other technology to connect the doctor and the veteran. The camera is a high resolution device that can rotate 360 degrees.

"The doctor can look at the skin tone, the respiration, the mental well-being of the patient, and he can talk to the patient, the nurses or others in the room," Bonello said.

"There will be a continuous stream of data, medical records, and vital signs."

The system can also hook up doctors from other VA hospitals in Chicago, Minneapolis and Iowa City. Las Vegas will soon follow.

Bonello said the next step for the system is to hook up doctors of other specialties such as cardiology of nephrology with the patient.

"That's the next step. That's where we're going. There's a lot of room for expansion in this program."

Dr. Robert McDivitt, the director of VISN 23 said the new center will allow the VA to be able to reach out to veterans in remote areas with top of the line care.

"The idea is to bring the center of excellence to the

patient, rather than the patient to the center of excellence," McDivitt said.

Dr. Laurence Meyer, national director of the VA's Special Care Services, said the new center is an example of the flexibility of the VA, allowing care centers across the nation to do what works best for the veterans in their area.

"What works in Boston may not work in Sioux Falls," Meyer said.

Dr. Neil Evans, Connected Care Chief Officer for the national VA, told those gathered at the ribbon cutting for the new building, that "this is great stuff, this is modern medicine."

Evans said that while the technology is important, the driving force behind the Tele-ICU is creating a team-based approach to care for the veteran.

The center will also be working with the U.S. Air Force in an effort to reach out to active duty personnel who may need remote critical care.

Col. Thomas Cheatham, chief of medical policy and operations at the office of the Surgeon General of the Air Force, noted that the new center will also serve active duty

personnel. He said that often military men and women are sent to remote locations, both in the United States and elsewhere.

"A soldier might be in a smaller community hospital where there is no backup. Or it might be under isolated or austere conditions. This will help us cover manpower shortages."

After the ribbon was cut, those attending got a chance to see the system in operation with a live hookup to Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada.

A doctor was able, using a mannikin as a patient, to talk to the nurses and the patient and direct the patient's care. Cameras could zoom in close enough to see the patient's wound clearly, to check his pupil dilation, and to read the writing on the medications and IV hookups.

Bonello called the system "extremely reliable."

"A core of people here can go across the country. They don't replace the team at the bedside, but they augment the care."

He said another use for the system would be for doctors to quickly get a second opinion on a difficult case.



Dr. Robert Bonello, right, oversees the grand opening of reconverted Building 222 at Fort Snelling to Tele-ICU Center. Doctors will be able to help veterans who are thousands of miles away.

Minnesota Sons of the American Legion News

Sons of The American Legion

By Shawn Davis



160 paragraphs, 9,299 words, 45,584 characters (not including spaces). That is the sum of the of articles I have written for you, the members of the Sons of The American Legion and for the whole American Legion Family over the last two years.

I have asked us to contemplate many questions. Some of these include:

- Have we failed in our mission?
- How do we measure success?
- What does success look like?
- Can we make things better?

But in the end, we will always have our mission. To support the four pillars of The American Legion and work with The American Legion Family to better our organization. This work goes beyond leaders since it is really you the member that keeps this organization going, and it is you that can make changes to the organization.

Just as our parent organization is facing change (The Legion Act (as of this writing) passing the Senate, and now pending before the house), we face change at the National level as well. The first dues increase in decades. The cost of living has gone up in the intervening time as we all know. The expenses of the organization have gone up as well. Additionally, we are being looked at to pay for more of the costs associated with running a national organization. Things including the printing of membership cards and other material (handbooks, pamphlets), the mailing costs associated with the national distribution of these, and the technology that we have all come to expect (website, social media, mobile applications). Additionally, there is a push to build up our reserve as well. Any final decision about the dues increase will be made at the National Convention of the SAL held this August in Indianapolis. This is due to the fact that the national dues are enshrined in our national constitution (Article X, Section 2). So, at this time we do not know how much the increase will be, nor when it will take

1	District	2019 Goal	Current at Dept	Total	% of goal	Rank
2	1	1839	1682	1682	91.46%	8
3	2	1375	1257	1257	91.42%	9
4	3	1995	1997	1997	100.10%	2
5	4	411	363	363	88.32%	10
6	5	403	374	374	92.80%	6
7	6	1513	1534	1534	101.39%	1
8	7	1030	985	985	95.63%	4
9	8	564	525	525	93.09%	5
10	9	836	803	803	96.05%	3
11	10	1687	1565	1565	92.77%	7
12	11	8	2	2	25.00%	
13	Detachment	11661	11087	11087	95.08%	

effect.

The funny thing about change is you do not have to like it, but you do have to accept that change will happen. What will happen, and to what extent, well, that is up to you. Remember that this organization gets the will and direction to change ultimately from you the members. It is the Squadron and the members that can influence and push the organization to change. How do you do that? Get involved. Attend meetings. If there is something that you feel needs to supported, or changed, write a resolution. Don't know how to write a resolution? Ask. Someone in your Post Family should know and if not reach out to your officers in the District for help. Feel free to research them online. You can find resources on how to write them, and the history of resolutions on the national website. Resolutions can make changes or direct action at all levels. That power comes from you. Make it count.

This article is the last one I will write as your Detachment Commander. It has been a fun, tiring, educational, proud, and stressful two years. I hope I have represented you well as your Detachment Commander. I hope you learned something, shared what you learned, recruited a new member to the family. I hope I have given you something to think about. We have started new Squadrons, and worked to revitalize old.

Thank you for your support, your encouragement, your comments. It is appreciated. I hope you show the same support to the incoming Detachment Commander as well.

So, let me leave you with this thought. "We are all just stories in the end. Make it a good one." — Doctor Who.

Shawn Davis
An Educatus Germic Per Communicationem



Detachment Commander Shawn Davis accepts a donation at the Ninth District Convention.



The Legion Family leadership says the pledge at Girls State.

Cdr. Shawn Davis: salshawndavis@gmail.com
Adjutant Dennis Henkemeyer: dennish56621@hotmail.com
Website: www.mnsal.org

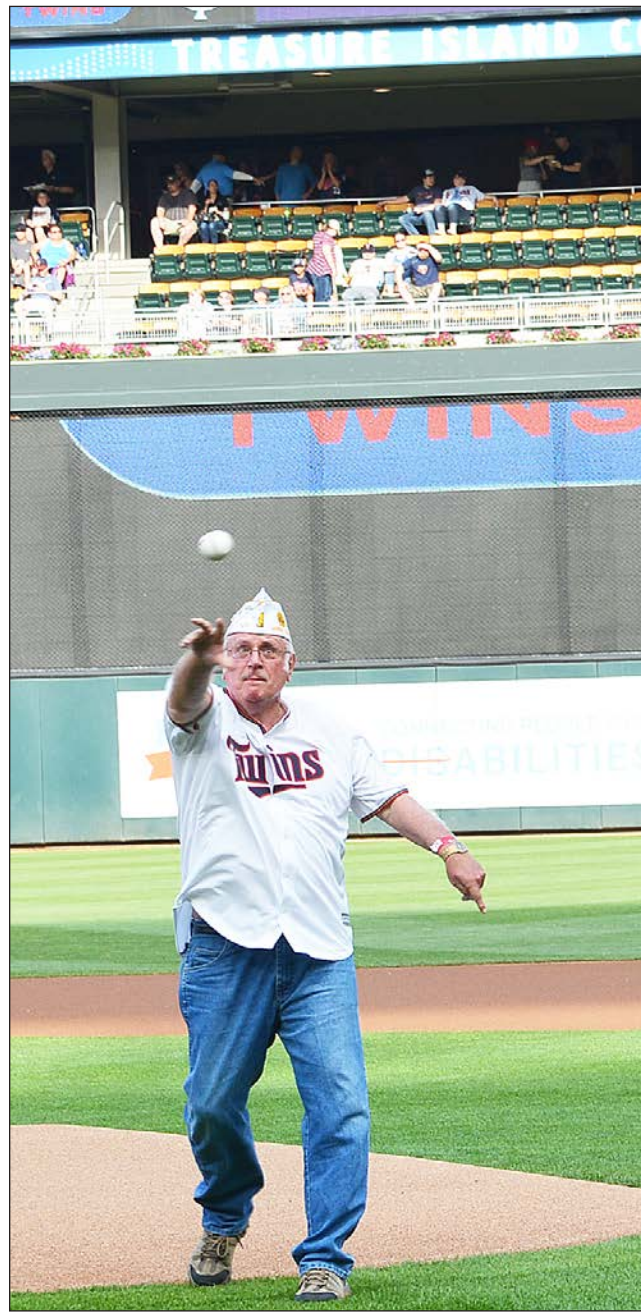
American Legion Family Day at the Twins



Department Commander Darrel Redepenning chats it up with Gov. Tim Walz and Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan prior to the first pitch at Legion Night at the Twins. The elected leaders were there to honor Joe Mauer.



TC Bear dances with the commander near the mound.



Commander Redepenning uncorks a mighty toss for the first pitch of the game.



Mike and Nancy Maxa and family are shown on the Target Field big screen prior to raising the flag.

Commander makes the rounds



Commander Darrel Redepenning poses with Dean of Boys State David Way at St. John's University.



Commander Redepenning has a conversation with Gen. MacArthur at the Windom Riverfest Parade. Redepenning was the grand marshal.



Hjeltson Johnson, celebrating his 100th birthday is flanked by Commander Redepenning and Vice Commander Dick Ward at a party. Johnson is a member of Golden Valley Post. Redepenning presented him with a certificate from the National Commander.

BOYS STATE



A statue of a Boys Stater? It's actually St. Benedict on the St. John's Campus.



During a county government session, a citizen raises his hand to get the floor as the chairman ponders the matter before the board.



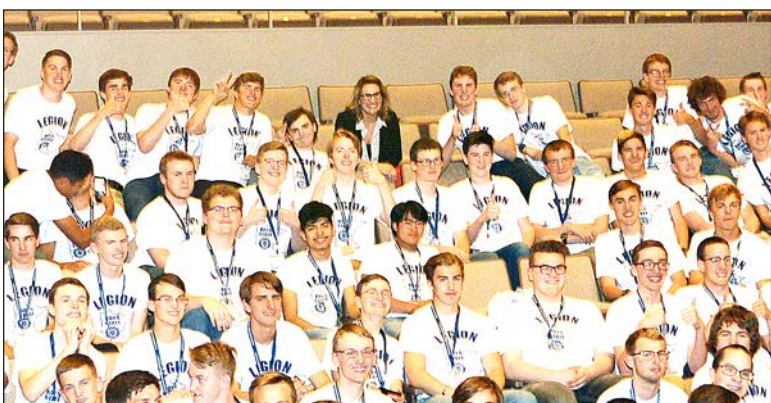
Boys Staters use a phone as a research tool during a debate on whether a county should offer a package deal to a developer.



Past National SAL Commander Joe Mayne talked to the young men about the importance of developing public speaking skills.



Counselor Adam Logeman appears to have grown cat whiskers by standing in front of the projector during a session on parliamentary procedure.



Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan takes part in a group photo.

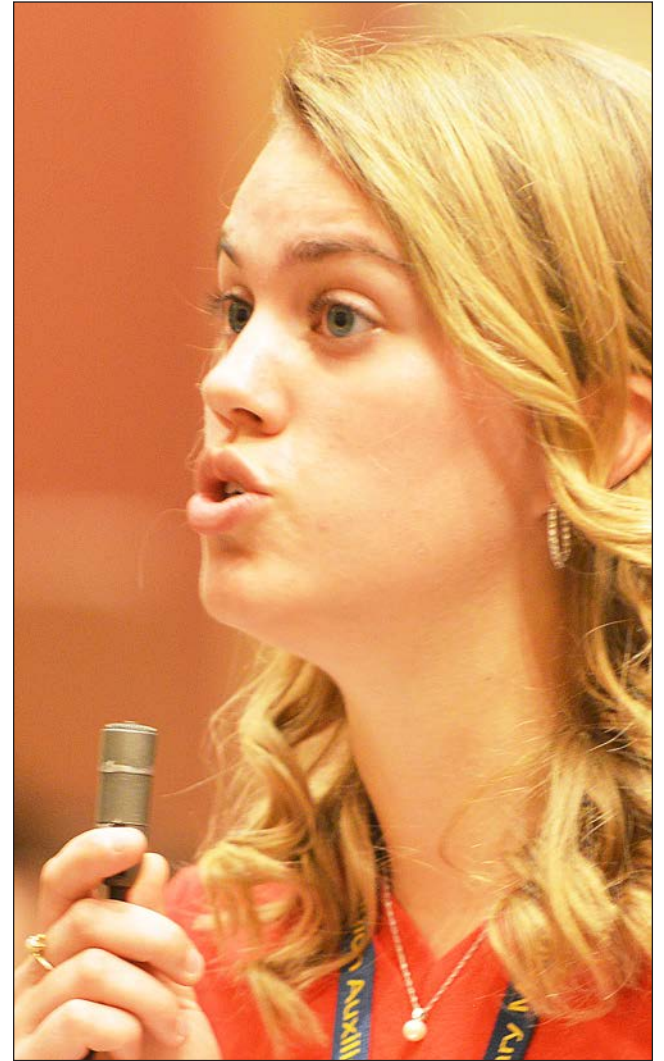
GIRLS STATE



Kiana Coleman-Woods addresses the Girls State House. Woods was also honorary Junior Auxiliary President last year.



Gov. Tim Walz, after his talk, went down to share in a group photo with the Girls Staters.



A Girls Stater speaks up in the Senate Chamber. The girls spent a day at the Capitol.



Girls State Governor Kate Kapsner of Maple Grove addressed a joint session of the Girls State House and Senate during the visit to the Capitol.



Those in the city of Elm emulated an elm while waiting for their city picture to be taken. Girls State is held at Bethel University.

Listening Post

News from around the State



NEW UNIT — Eagan Unit 594 has chosen as its first project to supply bed-sized tie blankets for two dozen veterans at the Minnesota Veterans Home at Hastings. Front left: Vice President Susan Flynn, Kim Ashland, President Sandy Smith and Karen Kirchenwitz.



DODGE CENTER — Commander Darrel Redepenning poses with Rhylan Peterson, the Minnesota Eagle Scout of the Year. Peterson is from Dodge Center.



JEWISH WAR VETERANS — The American Legion Family helped out with a recent installation for the Jewish War Veterans. From left: Detachment Commander Shawn Davis, Department Commander Darrel Redepenning, National Commander of the Jewish War Veterans Barry Schneider, 4th District Commander Lane Stunkel, and 4th District SAL Commander John Weiss.



ST. STEPHEN UPGRADE — St. Stephen Post 221 upgraded its memorial with the purchase of two life-sized cast soldiers with a bronze finish. Post members did the project.

American Legion
A.C. Hansen Post 185
 Tyler, MN 56178 Station
100th Anniversary
September 16, 2019

TYLER PICTORIAL POSTMARK — Tyler Post 185 recently received confirmation of the post's request for a pictorial postmark to commemorate the establishment of the post 100 years ago. The postmark can be used from Sept. 16-30. Other posts that want to secure a pictorial postmark should go to the USPS website to access the directions.



WHITE BEAR INSTALLS — White Bear Lake Post 168 installed new officers recently. Past Department Commander Mike Ash conducted the installation. The post is beginning a renewal program.



MILITARY BALL — The 15th annual Military Ball was held recently at the Fest Building in Spring Grove. Over 130 people attended. Retiring the colors at the end of the night are John Iverson, Robert Parshall and Lowell Stephas. The attendees later danced to the Cheers Big Band.

Membership chart for June 18, 2019

District	2019 Goal	Total 2018	Total 2019	Weeks Gain	Total Posts	Goal Posts	% Of Goal	
District 1	8,553	8,495	7,968	11	58	11	93.16%	8,368
District 2	6,793	6,709	6,355	18	84	9	93.55%	6,646
District 3	11,262	11,197	10,768	39	65	22	95.61%	10,995
District 4	2,281	2,263	2,095	5	18	5	91.85%	2,207
District 5	2,340	2,318	2,182	1	22	7	93.25%	2,255
District 6	11,342	11,271	10,705	19	71	25	94.38%	11,079
District 7	6,089	6,013	5,641	11	76	22	92.64%	5,940
District 8	3,998	3,958	3,682	14	40	6	92.10%	3,892
District 9	6,482	6,417	5,989	9	65	16	92.39%	6,287
District 10	9,539	9,485	8,894	26	54	10	93.24%	9,290
District 11	2,009	2,084	1,857	0	2	0	92.43%	2,053
Totals	70,688	70,210	66,136	153	555	133	93.56%	69,012

Same Date
Last Year

Listening Post

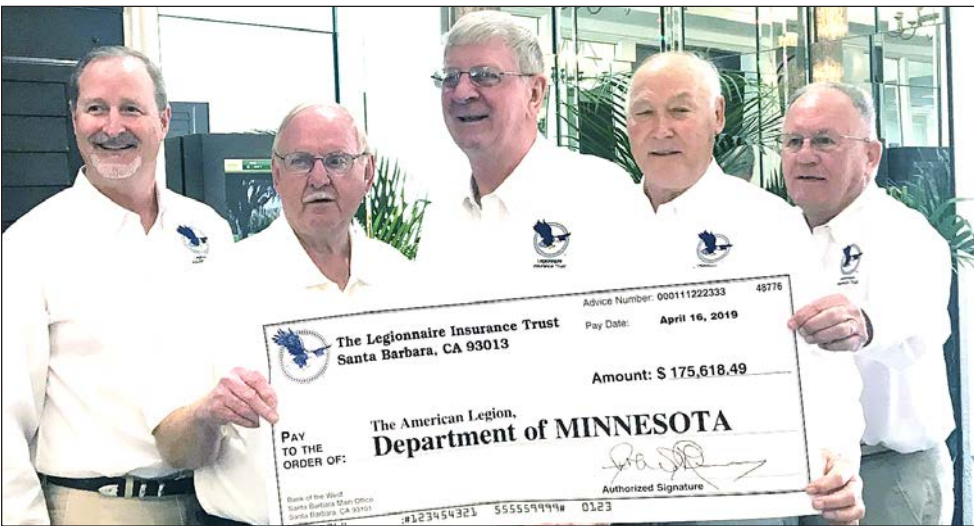
News from around the State



MILITARY MUSEUM — The Minnesota Military Museum at Camp Ripley recently acquired a new artillery piece for its collection. Workmen unload the 75mm French cannon. The museum is open during the summer.



ST. LOUIS PARK DONATIONS — Tom Schottenbauer presents six checks from St. Louis Park Post 282 for outdoor activities for veterans. From left: Dennis Erie, coordinator of the programs, Scott St. Sauver, Schottenbauer, and Commander Darrel Redepenning.



LIT DISBURSEMENT — The Legionnaire Insurance Trust presented its disbursement this year to the Department of Minnesota. The total was over \$175,000. From left: Chris Burke, Minnesota Treasurer Bill Goede, Minnesota LIT Chairman Bill Barbknecht, Braxton Bridger, and Wayne Stevens, managing director of LIT.



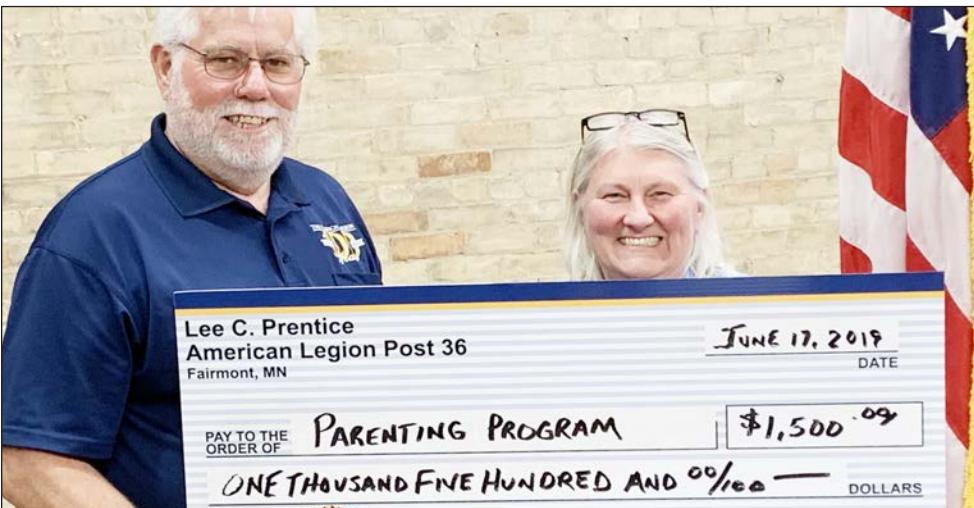
TRACY CERTIFICATES — Veterans at Tracy Post 173 were honored for longtime membership in The American Legion. From left: David Kosse, David Bosacker, Arden Swann and Jans Visker.



BRIDGE RENAMED — The Eisenhower Bridge at Red Wing has been renamed the Eisenhower Bridge of Valor to recognize veterans, first responders and others who sacrificed their lives for their country. Gov. Tim Walz signed the legislation.



BAND PLAYS ON — The Red River Valley Veterans Concert Band has been busy this year with performances in St. Cloud, Waite Park, Richfield and many other venues. The band is supported with donations.



FAIRMONT DONATION — Fairmont Post 36 Commander Steve Fosness presented a \$1,500 check to Prevent Child Abuse Minnesota's Kate Hawkins for the group's parenting program.



ALEXANDRIA HONORS LONGTIME MEMBERS — Alexandria Post 87 recognized longtime members including Roy Smetak for 75 continuous years.

Annual Reports

To the Convention of the Department of Minnesota The American Legion

Adjutant

This has been a year of change. I feel positive that we are turning the corner in many ways within our organization and here in Minnesota. More of those in officer and holding committee positions are learning the importance and seriousness of the positions that they take.

The responsibility to our fellow veterans, their families and our communities is not only a moral responsibility we take when we accept an office in the organization but it also carries a legal responsibility in most cases.

Our members are the voice of the organization. No one person is the dictator. Commanders report to an Executive Committee or Board, and the Executive Committee / Board answers to the membership and the membership answers to the Constitution and By Laws.

For some this is a hard lesson to learn, but none the less, it is being learned and exercised over and over around the state of Minnesota in The American Legion. We are not run by the Food and Beverage business, nor any other form of a business. If a business operation is getting in the way of serving veterans and following the aims and goals of The American Legion, then it is time to drop the business and get back to running an American Legion.

That does not mean to turn in a charter because you can't keep the doors open. It means: sell the building, the business, and continue to be an American Legion, which is what you have been intended to be all along. Meetings can be held in community centers, church basements, schools, restaurants, members' homes.

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.

VA&R committee managed by our Department Service Officer Jeremy Wolfstetter 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) thru 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 250 boys from all across the state to Boys State for one week where they learned firsthand from our state's leaders how our government operates. They formed city, county and state offices and drafted and moved legislation that will run those entities.

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 to 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 68,000+ 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, Tracy, Jeremy, Heather, your efforts to keep things rolling are so greatly appreciated.

Randy Tesdahl
Department Adjutant

Commander

We started our historic centennial year in Rochester with my dad assisting in my installation. Many times over the years I've heard commanders say, I wish my dad was here to see this. Mine was and assured that there wasn't a dry eye in the place. Proudly we are the first father/son team to have ever been Department Commanders in Minnesota and seemed fitting for our centennial year.

Dad's health steadily declined through the busy fall months and was put on hospice in November. December and January he suffered from



2019

infections and nearly lost his battle. Though weakened by them, he has returned to a slower but comfortable life. He has enjoyed his growing family, hearing of my adventures as commander and reflection on his own year 32 years ago.

The rigors of the job and caring for my parents were often very challenging to keep up with. But it has also made it all the more rewarding. Seeing The American Legion from this vantage has convinced and inspired me as to how vitally important our work is. We may have to accept working with less people but our relevance is as great as it's ever been. Our fellow veterans' children and communities need us as much now as they did after WWI. Our mission must continue on!

It has been a great pleasure working with this year's membership team and I thank you one and all for your hard work. I don't think you honestly know what everyone does until you are commander. Especially true with our department headquarters staff, who keep the commander looking good year in and year out. I've never posted a thing on Facebook but, thanks primarily to Randy Tesdahl and Jean Walker, I was on almost daily.

Without a doubt, the hardest part of the job is all of the miles. So a special thanks to Membership Director Mike Maxa for all his miles in helping with training and struggling posts. We may not have turned the ship around, but hopefully turned it in the right direction. Also, thanks to my wife Donna for riding shotgun on most of our miles. I couldn't have done it without you.

We were team 100, striving for another century of service after "100 years of Making a Difference".

Darrel Redepinning
Department Commander

Vice Commander 1st and 3rd Districts

Being a Department Vice Commander has been an honor this past year. I have met and made many, many new friends all over the state. As I have traveled though out the First and Third Districts, attending many events, I have seen the American Legion Family doing great work in their local communities and helping veterans and their families. I have had the honor to represent Commander Redepinning on a couple of occasions, helped with the Memorial Day Program at the State Cemetery in Preston and many other events too numerous to mention.

My wife and I would like to thank everyone for the wonderful hospitality we received wherever we went. It was simply a pleasure to attend all of these events and with that I would like to say a big thank you to the entire Minnesota American Legion for allowing me to serve in this way.

Wayne Hammon Jr
Department Vice Commander

Vice Commander 2nd and 7th Districts

I have had a lot of fun being the vice commander for the Department of Minnesota. It started from the the time of installation then going to Indianapolis for training. It has been an honor to be vice commander of the 2nd and the 7th Districts. I went to Lewisville for their membership dinner and the food was wonderful. I attended the 2nd district membership rally at the Tracy post, I attended the pheasant dinner and also the vension dinner at the Laverne veterans home. Both meals were excellent and it is a beautiful home for our veterans and they are taken care of very well. I attended the 2nd District mid-winter at the Bricelyn post and the 7th District mid-winter at the New London post. Lastly I attended the 2nd and the 7th Districts' conventions. I want to thank the 2nd and 7th districts for their support and the courtesy they have shown me this past year. I was told being a department vice commander would be the most fun I would every have. I had a lot of fun. It was most rewarding and educational. I learned a lot from the veterans I had the honor to meet and visit with. I look forward to seeing them again at conventions and rallies. It has been an honor to serve with and for Department Commander Darrel Redepinning and the other four vice commanders.

Richard Wog
Department Vice Commander

Vice Commander 4th and 5th Districts

When you have an opportunity to work with extraordinary people you have an opportunity for an extraordinary experience. This describes my tour this past year as the Vice Commander for the Fabulous 4th and the Fighting 5th Districts.

The year began as a whirlwind in Rochester, Minnesota, to Indianapolis, Indiana, and back across the entire state of Minnesota and from there it picked up momentum.

Indianapolis was a gathering of Legionnaires with a mixture of experience and new world wonder. Command Sergeant Major Randy Tesdahl paved the way with his knowledge of the 'corporate' system and soon we, the five Vice Commanders, were a team heading back home to do the job. Thanks Randy!

It all starts at the top and we had a great tandem of tutors. Commander Darrel Redepinning and Membership Chairman Mike Maxa.

Commander Darrel has been an inspiration in his relaxed leadership style and approachable manner. Both are key skills in developing a successful team. Thank you, Commander Darrel.

Team leader, Mike Maxa began to mold our new team into their strategic blueprint of 'Recruit, Retain, and Renew' (Triple-R) for 2018-2019. Mike was the architect of our Department master plan - Triple-R. He worked tirelessly throughout the entire year and each of us is indebted to him for his tenacity and his vision. Thank you, Mike.

To my Vice Commander teammates, Wayne Hammon, Richard Wog, Tom Fernlund, and Jennifer Havlick I have cherished our time together from our first dinner at Buca in Indianapolis and admired your sense of duty and loyalty to the fundamentals of The American Legion. I was proud to be a part of your team.

The 4th and 5th were loaded with experienced talent for which I was so thankful. District Commanders Lane Stunkel 4th, and Joe Bayer 5th, brought many skill sets to the table, from their tours as Past District Commanders. Thank you to them both. Membership Chairman, Mickey Ostrum - 4th and Andrew Rose Jr. - 5th, rolled up their sleeves and went to work. Mickey taught me the 'ins and out' of membership. Thanks Mickey. Andrew will lean on his experience as the incoming 5th District Commander. Thanks, and good luck to you Andy!

For sure, there are many awesome opportunities to meet and greet Legion Family members. And meet we did - Rallies, Mid-Winters, Conventions, District and Post meetings.

The 4th and 5th comprised two outstanding Legion Families. Posts, Units, Squadrons, and ALR, all working together to serve our Veterans and their families. Presidents Lynn Olson and Cari Lamb, 4th and 5th Units respectively, were great to work with on many issues. Minnesota SAL Detachment Commander Shawn Davis is a 5th District alum and working with SAL District Commanders, John Weiss - 4th and Leroy Gonzales - 5th, have been a super reliable team. Thanks guys!

Department President Jean Walker has been dubbed 'The Energizer Bunny'. A "term of endearment" describing her unlimited energy in support of the American Legion Auxiliary. President Jean has crisscrossed Minnesota for an entire year. I began to understand what that meant when I traveled to her testimonial in Warren, Minnesota. I realized I was nearer to Moose Jaw Saskatchewan than my home in Minneapolis. We all owe Jean a vote of thanks!

Finally, I wish to thank the 4th & 5th Districts for allowing me the opportunity to serve.

Dick Ward
Department Vice Commander

Vice Commander 6th and 9th Districts

What is The American Legion? Veterans and their sons, husbands, wives, and daughters mentoring youth, sponsoring wholesome programs in their communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting a strong national security and continued devotion to military members and veterans. I am blessed to have the opportunity to visit different Posts and events to hear about and witness all the special work and appreciation of our American Legion family. Representing the 6th and 9th Districts as a Department Vice Commander was a great honor. The long travels were always rewarded with quality time spent with great legionnaires. The weather created challenges this year but gave us opportunities to utilize technology and social media to communicate. Thank you Commander Redepinning for allowing me to represent the Department of Minnesota at some very special events. I am proud to be a part of your team.

Tom Fernlund
Department Vice Commander

Vice Commander 8th and 10th Districts

Vice Commander
8th and 10th District

I must admit when I was first approached to serve as a Department Vice Commander for The American Legion, I was very hesitant. I had no idea what the position did or what the expectations were, more over I wasn't sure that I was the person to best represent the 8th District and 10th District of The American Legion. My fears were quickly laid to rest by Department Commander Darrel Redepinning, Department Adjutant Randy Tesdahl, Department Membership Director Mike Maxa and my fellow Vice Commanders when we traveled to Indianapolis for the Membership Workshop. The guidance and knowledge I received at the workshop proved to be very useful during the course of the year.

I would like to thank everyone in the 8th District and 10th District for your support and hard work over the past year and for always welcoming me to your meetings and events. Your hospitality and meals were deeply appreciated. This year my Post along with others across the state had the honor of hosting a visit from National Commander Brett P. Reistad.

As we enter the next 100 years of service to our fellow veterans and families we will all need to work hard on reaching out to all our veterans including those on active duty, in the reserve to make sure they know we appreciate their service and welcome them into our American Legion Family.

Thank You again for all your support, we are strongest when we work together.

Jennifer L. Havlick
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 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 June 1, 2018 and May 31, 2019. The current allocation is 72% bonds and 28% stocks. Bonds in the account are primarily high grade corporate bonds and FDIC insured CD's. The bonds and cd's are laddered between one and five years. The stocks are diversified between large, medium and smaller companies with a heavier weighting toward large companies. Interest paid out of the Department's checking account June 1, 2018 and May 31, 2019 totaled \$51,140.55.

Again, thank you for allowing me to serve as your Department Treasurer and I look forward to serving you in the future.

William B. Goede
Department Treasurer

Chaplain

Serving as your Department Chaplain this year 2018-2019 has been a very rewarding privilege and honor serving you all. This will be my last column and just let me say it was challenging to say the least but again I will miss the contact that I received along the way.

We will be having our Department Convention in Willmar this July where we elect new Officers and please say a pray for them as they go into a new year 2019-2020.

I was at a Memorial Day Service this year and read some words that I would like to share with you.

Freedom is Not Free

I watched the flag pass by one day. It fluttered in the breeze. A young Marine saluted it, and then He stood at ease. I looked at him in uniform so young, so tall, so proud with hair cut square and eyes alert He'd stand out in any crowd. I thought how many men and women like him had fallen through the years? How many died on foreign soil? How many mother's tears? How many Pilots planes shot down? How many foxholes were soldier's graves?

No, freedom is not free.

I heard the sound of taps one night, when everything is still. I listened to the bugler play and felt a sudden chill. I wondered just how many times that taps had meant "Amen" when a flag had draped a coffin of a brother, sister or a friend. I thought of all the children, of the mothers and the wives, of fathers, sons and husbands with interrupted lives. I thought about a graveyard at the bottom of the unmarked graves in Arlington.

NO, Freedom isn't free.

— by Kelly Strong

The Founders of The American Legion knew the God and Country must go together If our Country would remain great and permanent. This is still the concept of those who lead and guide our great organization. The Four Pillars is something that we all need to read and remember what each one means.

GOD'S Promise –Whenever your heart is hurting, and you're filled with much despair, wherever you turn, friend, for solace, Remember that God's always there. Whatever faith brings without warning, whatever the trails that you bear, God's love and grace will enfold you, if you turn to Him in prayer. For He is the rainbow above us, awesome for all to see, reflecting His promise and glory when we seek Him implicitly.

I would like to again say that I have enjoyed serving the Department of Minnesota as your Chaplain this year. Thank you to all who say they have read my column and enjoyed it. I have had many positive comments and that means so much to me. Giving the prayers for our many functions throughout the year. Let us continue to serve God and Country with a Compassionate Heart. Again Amen

Bonnie Hanson
Department Chaplain

Historian

It has been a pleasure to serve as your Department Historian this past year.

Department Commander Derrel Redepinning has been very accommodating to allow me this great honor to capture history in the making during his participation in membership rallies, Post membership dinners, committee meetings, hosting of the National Commander Brett Reistad, District Conventions, Department Convention. I will be completing the Commander's History Book and memory sticks for him and his family to enjoy. If anyone has any pictures they want to have included let me know. Need the event, names and dates. I will be including photos of the upcoming Department Convention at Wilmer, Minnesota. The completed book/album will be presented to the Commander at the first Department Executive Committee Meeting. I would like to thank Mike Ash for his help in getting me pictures at the Fall Conference, due to my surgery on my right knee, the week before. Al Zdon has been a real help this past year. I wish him well in his retirement.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Department Historian 2018-2019 and your cooperation in doing so.

For God and Country
Dennis J. De Long
Department Historian

NEC Man

Greetings all,

Yes, it's that time of the year again to write my annual report. This one will however be my last report as your NEC. It's hard to believe how fast the time passes by and then its time to say goodbye. Holding the office of NEC has been a great privilege and an honor. I have tried very hard to represent Minnesota and each of you with dignity and respect. It's been four years since you elected me as your NEC. Seems like just yesterday. I have attended every function required of the office for those four years. I had the opportunity to meet many new friends. As I write this, there are mixed emotions. However, I know it's the right time.

Thank You, for all the curtsies you extended to Chris and I as we traveled throughout our great state. We always felt right at home wherever we traveled. No matter how hard we tried it was impossible to attend everything. Just too many functions at the same time. And Minnesota is a big state as you all know.

A big Thank You to the Department Officers and our Department staff. Your support for these last four years was truly appreciated. To my wife, Chris, Thank You for being there as secretary, traveling companion, best friend and wife. I couldn't have done it without your help and support. Love you. Thank you to Jody for your precious gift. Thanks Alt NEC Bill, for attending when I was not able.

I could go on and on, but Laura is waiting for my report. I leave you with this. Be nice to all, help each other, keep The American Legion strong. Help it grow...remember I'm watching you.

Believe and Succeed
Marland Ronning
National Executive Committeeman

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 Darrel Redepinning for allowing me to serve as the Americanism Chairman for The American Legion, Department of Minnesota, and wish you a successful convention in Willmar.

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

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

The Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee has also been assigned to the Americanism Committee. At the present time the Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee has been in-active and has had no Chairperson assigned thereto.

The Department Americanism Committee met at the 2018 Fall Conference in Marshall. The Americanism Sub-Committee Chairpersons, and the representatives from Boys Scouts, Boys State, Community Service, Education, Oratorical, Safety-School Program, National Americanism Commission, and three District Americanism Chairpersons attended the meeting.

The Scholarship Selection Committee met at the Waite Park American Legion Post in April 2019. 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 366 CPR's submitted in 2018, equating to 67% 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. This Americanism information is then transmitted to the various Americanism Sub-Committees and to the respective District Americanism Chairpersons.

The Department of Minnesota 2018 Americanism averages exceed The National Americanism averages in the following categories:

Boy's State Support
Legacy Scholarship Support
Legion Baseball Involvement & Support
Other Sports Involvement & Support
Boy Scouts Support
Oratorical Contest Support
American Legion Education Week Support
Scholarship Involvement & Support
Local Flag Presentation Support
Memorial Day Activities
Community Service Support
Shooting Sports Involvement & Support
Needless to say, we are below National Americanism averages in the following Americanism categories:
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 unending 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

Boy Scouts

I first want to thank Department Commander Darrel 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 31, 2019 stood at \$51,879.00. Please make a contribution to this fund each year because 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. Current records show that no donations have been received from the 1st, 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 Rhylan Peterson from Troop 458 in Dodge Center who is our Minnesota American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year for 2019. Rhylan was also the first runner-up for the National Eagle Scout of the Year. Unfortunately, Rhylan was unable to attend this convention.

Tom Hallett
Chairman

Boys State

While numbers continued to drop this year Boys State still had a very strong program. The addition of a number of new speakers to the program including Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan made for a great week. We returned to St. John's University for the 71th year of the program which was held on June 9th through June 15th. We are in the third year of a five year contract with St. John's University and will begin the process of looking at the next five year contract.

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. A number of Boys State staff members hit some significant milestones in regards to years served. Todd Hennen and Lary Poernich served their 10th year on staff, Perry Bock served his 20th year, W. Lee Tallakson and Mike Bredeck served their 25th year on staff and the dean of Boys State, David Way served his 45th year on staff.

Number of delegates sent by each district.

District	Reg. Delegates	Change From Prev. Year
1	24	+4
2	25	-2
3	34	-5
4	5	-3
5	9	+1
6	26	-8
7	28	-17
8	9	-4
9	31	+9
10	55	-12
Total:	246	-37

In 2018 we grew the program by 7 delegates but unfortunately we dropped by 37 delegates in 2019. This year only three districts sent more 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. Please reach out to myself or anyone involved with the program if you need assistance in recruiting delegates for next year. 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.

Thomas Nelson
Director

Community Service

Thank you to the Posts that have reported in their community service report. This year we had 116 Posts send in their reports. Unfortunately we have only received 21% of all Posts.

Report Summaries are as follows:

Children & Youth: 9772 hours \$257,657 dollars spent

Veterans Affairs: 30,361 hours \$312,457 dollars spent

Americanism 21,043 hours \$479,262 dollars spent

Military Funerals 24,957 hours \$249,115 dollars spent

Community Service 49,715 hours \$840,040 dollars spent

This years grand totals are 135,848 hours and \$2,138,531 dollars spent.

Thomas Clabo
Chairman

Education

The Scholarship Committee met Friday April 19 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 Garrett Westerlund of Aitkin, MN sponsored by Aitkin Post 86; Grant Johnson of Eden Valley, MN sponsored by Eden Valley Post 381; Nathaniel Wosmek of Emily, MN sponsored by Crosslake Post 500; Skyler Swenhaugen of Currie, MN sponsored by Dovray Post 632; Nicholas Zabroski of Evansville, MN sponsored by Brandon Post 278; Kiale Brand of Blackduck, MN sponsored by Blackduck Post 372.

The Three American Legion Foundation Scholarships were awarded to Chandler Ecker of Comfrey, MN sponsored by Comfrey Post 244; Sonya Schroeder of Rochester, MN sponsored by Rochester Post 92; Ashley Wagner of Heron Lake, MN sponsored by Heron Lake Post 224.

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

Don Skow
Chairman

Junior Shooting

- A few team members attended the Winter Airgun Match at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs
- This is an 'open' match. meaning any age competitor can enter-college athletes as well as current and former Olympians-
- Some Junior shooters qualified and attended the US Army Marksmanship Unit Rifle Championship at Fort Benning, GA
- the top 30 teams qualify the 3 day event
- MN Centershots finished 14 in qualification and 22 at the nationals
- Gavin Barnick broke the National NRA Record for 4 Position Outdoor smallbore and tied another record in prone air rifle.
- Some Junior Shooters set an unofficial NRA National Record, pending approval, for the NRA Intermediate Junior Team Standing Position
- Some Junior Shooters auto-qualified for the Civilian Marksmanship Program 3 Position Air Rifle National Championship (CMP 3PAR) at Camp Perry, OH in July,
- Auto qualifying score was 2280 they qualified with a score of 2313.
- We had 5 juniors qualify for Junior Olympics at the USA Shooting/Olympic Training Center, Colorado Springs, CO
 - Gavin Barnick, Ryan Hudson, Nathan Engman, Tanner Barth, Allison Buesseler
 - 2 former Centershots juniors, Partick Sunderman and Samantha Peterson qualified and attend the World Cup Rifle match in Beijing, China.
 - Both shot the MQS (minimum qualifying score) to make them eligible for the 2020 Olympics should they win at the select match later this year.
- 4 Targets and 5 stands were purchased from donated funds through American Legion Junior Shooting Club and a 5th Target was donated by the NRA.

Minnesota State Results:

Sporter Class: 38 individuals and 7 teams participated (in Minnesota)
Individual State Champion: Lillian Carlson, Post 423 Houston, MN
Score: 520-9

Team State Champion: Post 38, Redwood Falls, MN Score 1888-26

Precision Class: 12 Individuals and 2 teams (in Minnesota)

Individual State Champion: Grace Taschuk, Post 334 Coon Rapids, MN Score 594-39

Team State Champion: MN Centershots: Post 102 Anoka, MN Score 2311-125

MN has 2 juniors attending the American Legion National Championship.

This match consists of a round 1 postal match. A match is 20 shots in 3 positions (prone, standing and kneeling). From these match results, only the top 25 are selected for a round 2 set of postal targets. From the round 2 results only the top 15 are selected to attend the nationals at The Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, CO.

Gavin Barnick Mora, MN Anoka Legion Post 102

Round 1 results: Score 590-43 (5th of 428 competitors)

Round 2 results: Score 584-34 (15 of 25 competitors)

Grace Taschuk Andover, MN Coon Rapids Legion Post 334

Round 1 results: Score 594-49 (2nd of 428 competitors)

Round results: Score 598-53 (1st of 25 competitors)

Anyone interested in starting a Junior Shooting club, contact me and I will assist you.

Jared Sturgill,
Chair
Junior Shooting Club

Oratorical Contest

This year's Oratorical Contest took place on March 2. 7 Districts had contests with 6 Districts represented. Unfortunately, due to some inclement weather one contestant was unable to attend. The contest went ahead as scheduled. Olivia Flack 12th grader from the 2nd District was the Department winner and went on to the National Contest held in Indianapolis on April 6-7. Madelyn Eickhoff 10th grade from the 3rd District was second, Jonathon Vickers 9th grade from the 5th District came in 3rd and Shaohanna Eney 11th grade from the 7th District came in 4th. As you can see 3 of the contestants would still qualify to compete again in 2020.

I would like to thank our Vice Chairman Cliff Newman and everyone who assisted with the 2019 Department of Minnesota Oratorical contest. It is our volunteers and participants that make our programs a success. A special thank you to President Jean and Commander Darrel for attending and giving the kids a word of encouragement. Also, to the Toastmasters who do such an outstanding job judging the finals. They are interested in continuing this relationship into the future. The 2 Posts who did a magnificent job hosting the contest, Osseo/Maple Grove Post 172, and Anoka Post 102. Semi-finals were held at both Posts and the finals were held at Anoka Post 102. The Anoka Post also provided everyone with a wonderful lunch.

There is one person who did so much of the work behind the scenes and sent out the letters to the contestants, made room reservations, made sure the certificates and travel funds were available, just to name a few of her tasks so, thank you Jennifer Kelley. And last and certainly not least, Al Zdon for always being at the ready with pictures and interviews. Thanks so very much each and every one of you.

Sy Fix
Chairman

Safety Patrol

The Minnesota Twins again are playing real exciting ball this year. They are well above .500 and winning on the road. The games are exciting. If you haven't treated your patrollers 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 are scheduled and the camp is ready. The dining hall is set to go with new equipment following the remodel. The new classrooms are ready and staffed. I commend the board for its actions in providing a quality facility to train our patrollers in crosswalk safety, school bus safety and first aid. The State Patrol provides our young patrollers with a quality training experience and the licensed training staff at Legionville do a wonderful job with first aid and water safety.

This year saw a decrease in fire deaths. There were 37 reported fatalities in 2018, down from 63 deaths in 2017. There were 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 for traffic fatalities show 381 died in traffic related incidents compared to an adjusted figure 358 in 2017, 392 deaths in 2016 and 411 deaths in 2015. This is an increase over last year. Due to the timing of convention and the need get this report filed, further statistics are not yet available to be included as I write this report. Beginning August 1, cell phone use will be hands free. Better yet, just don't answer the call. If you have to, find a safe place to pull over and stop.

I encourage everyone to watch for pedestrians, bicyclists, motorcycles and yes - farm equipment.

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 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 Willmar.

Jim Blakesley
Chairman

Armed Forces Service Center

The Armed Forces Service Center (AFSC) is moving inside Terminal 1 in October 2019. The larger facility will be located on level 2, across from the Blue Door Pub, at the end of Concourse C, where the rotunda connects with the A and B Concourses. The increase in space from our current 1900 sq. ft. to over 4900 sq. ft. will allow us to offer the following improvements:

- * flight monitors
 - * a business center by the entry 4 chairs, outlets/connections, a work surface etc.
 - * a baggage room next to the reception desk to store items a guest carries on a plane.
 - * a children's playroom with TV, books and riding toys.
 - * expansion of the lounge area to 4 sofas, 6 recliners, a large TV and power outlets by the sofas.
 - * a dining room with two tables and chairs, a pass through counter from the kitchen.
 - * The men's bunk room expands to 30 bunks and a crib. The women's bunk room expands to 10 bunks, a crib and an semi private area for nursing mothers.
 - * bathrooms increase from 1 to 4 unisex bathrooms.
 - * a conference training will be added to our space.
- The AFSC will continue to have a reception desk, a supply room, a kitchen, and two offices for the part time employees who manage the day to day operations of the AFSC.

Joseph Jansen
Representative

Blood

First I want to thank all the Posts and American Legion Family Members that participated in donating and having Blood drives this 2018-2019 year. To all the District Blood Chairs thank you for your hard work and great reports. There was a lot of activity across the state this year and the following are the top three winners from each District:

1st District:	6th District:
1st Place LaCrescent Post #595	1st Place Melrose Post #101
2nd Place Winona Post #9	2nd Place Park Rapids #212
3rd Place Albert Lea Post #36	3rd Place Nisswa Post #627
2nd District:	7th District:
1st Place Winnebago Post #82	1st Place Willmar Post #167
2nd Place St. James Post #33	2nd Place Graceville Post #297
3rd Place Pipestone Post #6	3rd Place Olivia Post #186
3rd District:	8th District:
1st Place Forest Lake Post #225	1st Place West Duluth Post #71
2nd Place Lonsdale Post # 586	2nd Place Virginia Post #239
3rd Place Nicollet Post #510	3rd Place Grand Rapids #60
4th District:	9th District:
1st Place North St. Paul Post #39	1st Place East G. Forks #157
2nd Place 3M Post #599	2nd Place Warren Post #27
3rd Place Arcade Phalen #577	3rd Place Bagley Post #16
5th District:	10th District:
1st Place Richfield Post #435	1st Place Princeton Post #216
2nd Place Viking Post #493	2nd Place Anoka Post #102
3rd Place Minneapolis Post #1	3rd Place Coon Rapids #334

Thomas J. Sanders
Chairman

Children and Youth

The objectives of Pillar 4: Children and Youth are to strengthen the family, work to provide services for children and provide programs that meet the needs of young people. We are accomplishing this by grants to individuals and organizations to benefit young people that are facing many societal pressures. We are sustaining the American family to support growth in youths development by improving the well-being of all children. We use gambling funds to advance family values, educate on risky behavior and promote healthy and wholesome development. The success of our young people are our future.

Karen Welander
Chairman

Convention Corp.

The Convention Corporation Committee is pleased to announce the schedule for Conventions/Conferences for 2019-2020.

Willmar Department Convention - July 11-13, 2019

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

We have made changes to the Hospitality Night.

Hospitality Night will be held in the backroom of the Willmar Post.

Tickets for drinks will be sold there for \$2.00 apiece.

These tickets may be purchased in advance through the District Commanders and District Presidents or at the Post.

Tickets will be used from 7-9 p.m. only.

Districts need only to bring food for the Hospitality Night.

Mahnomen Fall Conference - October 25-26 2019 with Executive Board and Committees Meetings on October 24, 2019. Housing and meetings will be at the Shooting Star Casino in Mahnomen.

The Bagley Post will be hosting the 2019 Conference.

The Convention Corporation Committee is looking for bids from Posts and Districts to host future Department Fall Conferences and Conventions. Please contact the Convention Corporation Committee or Department Adjutant for further information.

Pat Logan
President

Employment

This past year, the Employment Committee received two nominations for the Employer of Veterans Award. Both of these companies were selected and forwarded to the National Veterans Employment and Education Division for consideration and recognition.

The company submitted by the Forest Lake American Legion Post 225 for the small company category of having 50 or less employees was Madsen Fixture and Millwork, Inc. of Forest Lake.

The second company that was submitted by the Virginia American Legion Post 239 for the medium size company having 50-201 employees was Lake Country Power of Grand Rapids.

Both of these companies will be recognized and awarded a plaque at the Department Convention in Willmar.

We will also have the opportunity to meet and hear from Mr. Ray Douha, the Field Operations Manager for the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, Veterans Employment Program.

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

Carl R. Moon
Chairman

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, 2018 through May 31st, 2019. A complete fiscal year report will be provided to The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary and The Sons of the American Legion at our annual meeting held at the Fall Conference. Application history from the beginning of the fiscal (August 1st, 2018) through (May 31st, 2019) can be seen below:

	FY-2018	FY-2019
Applications Received	14	27
Applications Approved	11	25
Total Dollars Disbursed	\$ 17,454	\$ 39,953

Listed below is the breakdown on the number of claims and amount of payouts by District:

Dollar Payout	District	# of Claims
First 2	\$ 4,845	
Second 1	\$ 1,414	
Third 1	\$ 3,520	
Fourth 2	\$ 3,662	
Fifth 1	\$ 384	
Sixth 1	\$ 0	
Seventh 4	\$ 8,271	
Eighth 1	\$ 2,668	
Ninth 8	\$ 7,611	
Tenth 6	\$ 7,578	
TOTALS	27	\$ 39,953

Listed below is the financial picture for the ALFHA as of the end of May 2019:

Total Assets as of 31 July 2018:	\$ 258,325
Total Income YTD:	\$ 41,927
Total Expense YTD:	\$ 782
Net Assets Reduction YTD:	\$ 10,855

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: Jennifer Havlick, Sharon Thiemcke, Alberta Marth-Wohfeil, Robert Bristo, Diane Hayes, Darrel Redepenning, Jean Walker and Shawn Davis.

Also special thanks to the entire American Legion Family for allowing me the honor of serving as your President for the American Legion Family Hospital Association.

Roger Stoick
President

Finance

The Department Finance Committee met at the Kelly In in St. Cloud on September 20, 2018 to set the budget for our Department for 2018-2019. Commander Redepenning determined the budget will be set based upon a 68,000 membership, our National goal.

The budget was approved as follows: Budgeted Income - \$1,332,981 Budgeted Expense - \$1,312,839 Excess Income - \$20,142.

Our non-membership revenue (insurance, labels, MNDVA grant, calendars, etc.) continues to be a very important part in maintaining our programs. These non-membership revenue sources contribute over 34% 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 Darrel Redepenning, 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, Tom Burau, Floyd Kumerow, Ray DeZurik, Richard Oelschlager, Command Darrel Redepenning and Department Treasurer Bill Goede.

Robin Picray
Chairman

Fund for Hosp. Vets

The Committee for Hospitalized Veterans meets once a year and the last couple of years this meeting was held at the Department Fall Conference. Meeting was held in Marshall at the Southwest Mn State University Conference room. Committee members in attendance: Mark Dvorak, Wes Thompson, Tim Haugen. Committee members absent: Roland Hanson and Patti Coleman. Also, in attendance was State American Legion VSO Jeremy Wolfsteller. Meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Dvorak at 11:35 am. Tim Haugen was elected Secretary.

This was a one-day meeting and mileage was paid at .30 cents a mile according to the Department Schedule for the members on the committee. There was no old business to discuss. Minutes from the previous meeting were read by Chairman Mark Dvorak and a motion to approve the minutes was made by Wes Thompson and seconded by Tim Haugen, was passed.

The Draft Budget for October 1st, 2018 thru September 30th, 2019 was discussed per each line item. Jeremy went over each line item and we discussed the history of each item to familiarize each committee member. Mark Dvorak agreed to talk with Bob Bowen of the 4th District and Ray Eiden from the 5th District about the funds allocated for each District. Funds that are allocated for each of these Districts is used to purchase items for Hospitalized Veterans at the VA Hospital in Mpls-St Paul. Motion was made by Wes Thompson to approve the Budget for 2018-2019 as presented and was seconded by Tim Haugen, motion passed.

Tim Haugen volunteered to take care of sending Thank You cards out to the various organizations that donate money to the Hospitalized Veterans Fund. Meeting was adjourned by Chairman Mark Dvorak at 12:10 pm. My report is respectively submitted.

Mark J. Dvorak
Chair

Law and Order

The Law and Order Committee consist of three members and is responsible for the selection of the Law enforcement Officer of the year and Firefighter of the Year applications are reviewed and selection is made following the criteria set by National which has four categories Community service.....35 points II Professional Career.....40 points III Heroism.....20 points IV other substantiating documents 5....points. Selection Law Officer and Firefighter is by unanimous vote. This year the committee received 8 applications for Law Officer and 3 applications for fire fighter. selection for Law Enforcement Officer of the year Nate Kendall Garland is a 8year veteran of the Mounds view Police department as Patrol Officer and Bike Patrol Officer and training officer. Nate is married to Kelly and has a 2/12 year old daughter Vera.

Firefighter of the Year Pat Heinen is a 21-year veteran currently serving 11 years with the North Branch Fire District currently as the training officer for the North Branch Fire Department. Pat is married and he and his wife have raised two great daughters.

Law Officer and Firefighter selected by unanimous vote.

I thank all Posts that submitted a candidate and urge you if your candidate was not chosen to submit again next year.

Tom Conway
Chairman

Legionnaire Insurance Trust

It has been another great year for the Legionnaire Insurance Trust. We ask every member to sign up for the free Accidental Death insurance and look at all the other products they offer. Thank you to the Sons of the American Legion, Auxiliary, and Legion Riders for their support and help. With the help of Jeremy Wolfsteller, Heather, Laura, Misty, Jennifer, Al and Randy we have one of the best Legionnaire Insurance Trust programs in the nation. I would like to thank committee members Gary Lee Davenport and Dr. Eric Wilkens for their involvement. Minnesota received over \$178,000 this past year from the program that is used to help many of our veterans. A special thank you to everyone who has purchased Legionnaire Insurance Trust products. If you have any questions, please call me at 218-770-6264.

Bill Barbnecht
Chairman

Legionville

This has been a great year so far. The bog is gone. With the hard work and long hours of several people of leveling, raking, seeding, and hauling out debris the beach area is in usable shape for the upcoming campers. The entire camp is in great shape. There was a lot of hard work put in by many of the staff on site.

The kitchen area remodel is finally complete. We have a couple of items we would like to make in dining area, but will do as money allows.

At the fall meeting held on October 20, 2018 it was decided by the board to hire a Camp Manager and a Camp Director for the upcoming year. November 2018 we hired a Camp Manager, Bob Bischof and March 2019 we hired a Camp Director, Tom Sanford. When you get a chance, welcome both of them.

Work and play weekend went well. Several people from the 6th District cleaned cabins, dorms, and they split about 15 cords of wood. We had a 40 yard dumpster delivered and with everyone's help we filled it to the brim with debris from around the camp.

The paver project is an ongoing project and we continue to order pavers as orders are received and get them engraved. We still have two 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.

The S.A.L. Convention weekend will be held June 28-30, 2019. Auxiliary Junior fun weekend will be held August 2-4, 2019. Legionville Camporee is scheduled for September 5 - 8, 2019. 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 13 - 14, 2019.

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 Gades, 8th District Carl Hendrickson, 9th District - Dennis Henkemeyer, 10th District - Richard Oelschlager, Legion Representative - Roger Myren, Department Commander - Darrell Redepenning, Department Adjutant - Randy Tesdahl, Department Finance Officer - William Goede, Department Auxiliary President - Jean Walker, 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

Legislative

The Legislative Committee is chaired by Peggy Moon and assisted by Robert Hart, Lyle Foltz and Randy Olson, 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 home-stead market value exclusion for surviving spouses. After working on this for five years, it was finally included in this year's Omnibus Tax Bill. It also includes changes in the application date from July 1 to December 15, and allows the permissibility of sharing information between the County Service Veterans Officers and County Tax Assessors.

The Omnibus State Government Finance Bill included full funding for the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal years 2020-2021. These appropriations fund agency operating budgets for the Programs and Services and Health Care divisions, as well as their underlying activities such as our Minnesota Veterans Homes, State Veterans Cemeteries and Memorial Affairs, State Soldiers Assistance Program, Education and Unemployment, Federal Claims Assistance and Statewide Veterans Outreach, Gold Star and Women Veterans Program, and Homelessness Prevention and Assistance efforts. It also includes recurring funding for partners and stakeholders in the form of grants to the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans, and Congressionally chartered Veterans Service Organizations, such as The American Legion.

Included in this bill is \$100,000.00 in one time funding for the Armed Forces Services Center remodeling project at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, as well as one-time funding for the Minnesota Medal of Honor Memorial on the State Capitol grounds in the amount of \$150,000.00.

This bill also includes the establishment of POW/MIA Recognition Day (third Friday in September each year), Veterans Suicide Awareness Day (first Saturday of October each year), American Allies Day (June 30 of each year), and Hmong Special Guerrilla Units Remembrance Day (May 14 of each year).

The Legacy Bill included funding to the Minnesota Military Museum at Camp Ripley to document the service of post-9/11 Veterans in anticipation of the 20th anniversary in 2021. Funding is also appropriated to the museum to care for, catalog and display the collection of General John Vessey.

The Jobs, Energy and Commerce finance bill includes a grant to the Construction Careers Foundation for the Helmet to Hard Hats initiative which helps Veterans participate in apprenticeship programs in the building and construction industry. The apprenticeship program must be registered with the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry.

Veterans Day on the Hill was again very successful this year with a huge attendance. Thank you to everyone who took the time to attend and talk with your representatives. It is important for them to know that we are watching what is happening at our Capitol, and we also vote.

On the national level, the Washington Conference was well attended, with great feedback from our representatives.

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

Peggy Moon
Chairman

Membership

The membership year started off strong. Department of Minnesota was ranked in the top three nationally for most of the year. Then the 95% goal was missed and we have been in a nose dive ever since missing that cutoff date. As of today, 8 Jun 19 we are ranked nationally at thirty-three and 94.62% of goal. We still have time to make 95% or higher we all just need to do the work and make the connections one last time.

The year saw a few different ways of doing things. The first change made was how we conduct our membership rallies. New this year each component of the Legion Family was in charge of a rally. This change was well received and a lot of positive comments. The idea of each telling their story and educating the rest of the family on what they do and how they accomplish their goals was interesting and inspirational. Membership workshops were held in each of the five Vice Commanders areas of responsibility. These workshops were designed to open up the dialogue on the membership decline we are in and to create ideas to grow membership. The discussions were great and great ideas were exchanged. The time is now to take action! We all know the problem and we all have talked to death about the decline in membership and talked about going into the college Veterans Service Centers and Guard/Reserve Units, set up informational tables at retail stores and the list goes on. I want to thank the few Posts and Districts that took the talk to heart and put into action these ideas. Please continue to reach out and build the relationships with our younger Veterans. Your efforts will pay off. Thank you! For the Posts and Districts that want to continue to talk about declining membership you need to take notes from those who are trying to make a difference. The days of Veterans knocking on your door to join have ended. We need to go where they are, knock on their door and educate them in what the American Legion is all about. They will join us when they know our programs and what we do. The National Commanders tour also saw a couple of changes. We visited the 148th Fighter Wing in Duluth. This was a fantastic stop and the mission briefing and tour were interesting and they were great hosts. It was also a great time for the troops to see us and hear about the American Legion. We also stopped by the Veterans Service Center at St Cloud State. The opportunity to have lunch with our younger Veterans and ROTC cadets was a perfect time for us to tell the American Legion story. The biggest eye opener was when they found out the American Legion was responsible for the G.I. Bill of Rights and how we are committed to protecting the programs promised to us.

The Post at Large 1982 I didn't push hard enough and this is the one area I should have worked and pushed harder. There is a gold mine of memberships to move out of 1982AD and into posts. If we could have moved about two-thousand members out of 1982AD we would be at 97% of goal. A lesson learned too late, but not too late for the 2020 membership year. Another eye opener for me is the number of posts that need help. This is an area the Department leadership needs to keep their ear to the ground and take action to help the posts. Also the posts need to reach out to the department and ask for help. There is a lot of experience and knowledge available to help get the posts back on track and doing what the American Legion does best, our Four Pillars.

In closing I want to thank Commander Darrel for the appointment. It has been a very educational year and if I had to do it all over again there would be a few things I would do different. I wish my numbers would be better and this was the year we stopped the slide. But we did do a few good things and hopefully next year's team can take us to the next level. Thank you Commander Darrel and the Vice Commanders for all you do for the American Legion.

Mike Maxa
Membership Director

National Security/ Foreign Relations

Greetings Minnesota from your National Security and Foreign Relations Committee.

Your Department Committee Members had another busy year. We began making selections from the applications that were submitted for Enlisted Person of the year. Thanks to all of you who worked submitting the application. The selections were made and arrangements for the awards to be presented at Department Fall Conference. If you have an Enlisted National Guardsman or Reservist in your area that does an outstanding job in your community contact your District Commander or Committee Chairman and put together a nomination. This has been a long standing program in the Department of Minnesota and has recently spread to the national level.

Our annual organizational meeting was held last September at Camp Ripley. The weekend event was well attended by the District Commanders and their District Chairman. A tour of the base and their state of the art facilities was held on Saturday. We are fortunate to have this facility here in Minnesota. This Camp has provided instructional areas for troops from across Minnesota and the Nation. Once again we all learned new things being done there and were able to use their state of the art training rooms for our meeting. All of your District Commanders and chairman pledged to submit at least one nominee for the Enlisted person of the year from their districts this year and we look forward to seeing these.

The reports submitted to me by your District Chairman has shown activity in your District this past year. Many of you Districts have been busy contacting their local Armories and working at their open houses and other activities. I congratulate you on your efforts and look forward to hearing more about these. Every District has several armories in their boundaries. We encourage your participation at their events. These Soldiers are your neighbors who are protecting our freedoms. They need your support.

Your department Committee members have continued to present scholarships to ROTC units across the State. Thanks to all of the Posts who donate to this fund. It is only with your continued support that we are able to offer these scholarships to our future Military leaders.

Two of your Department Committee Members were able to attend the Washington Conference this past year. We received several briefings at the Federal level. One of interest was the POW MIA briefing. We learned that President Trump was able to negotiate for the release of 50 boxes holding multiple remains from the Korean War. Their families can now have some closure. Our forensic teams were also offered for the first time entrance to North Korea to search for more remains.

Thanks to all of you who made the effort to work on our program. We look forward to your continued support.

Jim Kellogg

Pheasant Dinner

The 77th Annual Hospitalized Veterans Pheasant Dinner Program was a great success. There were over 160 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 quests 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 \$26,522 at the time of this report. (The VFW is a joint sponsor of the dinners only). After expenses of \$10,479 the remaining \$16,043 is placed into the American Legion Hospitalized Veterans Dinner DEDICATED FUND which was established 37 ½ 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 LEGIONNAIRE 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

Post Development

The Post Development Committee works to help Posts with problems and concerns and to help obtain positive results. If you have questions or need some help please contact one of our members Victor Gades, Carl Hendrickson, Ray Eiden, Arlo Rude, or Eugene Leifeld.

The Post Development committee met on October 25, 2018, with all members present. Victor Gades was elected Chairman with Ray Eiden remained as Secretary.

No new issues were brought up. We had short discussion about charter turn-ins and the process. Noting that there is a process and we would assist when possible or needed.

We welcomed the good news of a new Post in Nowthen in the 6th District, Congratulations.

Victor Gades
Chairman

Public Relations

Like many teams, a rebuilding time period often leads to greater goals and results. With the Chairman of the Public Relations Committee experiencing some personal issues this year we started rebuilding some of the core directives and results needed for successful public relations campaigns.

The Committee did have several requests from Posts this year. Those were centered on the Centennial Post Pages, News releases for Centennial programs, and regular day to day event planning and positive media marketing.

The Committee also reviewed the initial goals of the Strategic Planning Committee and await further reports from the Committee.

After reviewing the various new venues in creative marketing, advertising, and researching media outlets and costs, several new marketing and public relations plans are in the works.

After securing a significant discount in digital billboard advertising we were able to secure two locations in the North Metro. These billboards displayed the Join the Legion and Continuing Service message. The billboards were displayed every minute for 8 seconds from the hours of 6 AM until 10 PM daily in May 2019. Traffic patterns by these two billboards exposed over 100,000 vehicles and their occupants to the Legion message each day. The Committee also worked with the Membership Committee to secure a 100 Year Centennial Billboard along I-94 near St. Cloud. These locations were chosen due to traffic and visibility.

The Public Relations committee is working with CCX Media in Brooklyn Park to develop a 1/2 hour Legion Informational Program which will be distributed to all public access channels in the 7 county metro area and made available to all communities in MN with local public access channels. The program will also be made available via On-Demand for Posts to broadcast in their meeting spaces or clubs.

We would like to take the opportunity to assist all of our Posts with any help they may need. The power of relating your activities and concerns to your community will increase membership, membership retention, and community involvement. Please make sure you review the American Legion's National and Department Websites and Social Media sites for a plethora of ideas, news releases, and fill in easy forms for you to use in your efforts.

Thank you and have a great year.

Tim Burley
Acting Chair

Rehabilitation

The Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation committee represents the needs and interests of today's current and future veterans by ensuring Minnesota's veterans are afforded timely access to quality medical care as well as benefits administered by the Federal and State Departments of Veterans Affairs. The Rehabilitation Committee engages in discussions and efforts which promote Veteran well-being by actively participating in activities which strive to identify Veteran's health and wellness needs. The Committee provides input consistent with our national views on matters which identify areas of needed improvement within the total VA system of care and benefits.

Committee members are appointed by the Department Commander to a term of five years or to the remaining term of a resigned member. Gary Munkholm of Ramsey was appointed to fill the fifth year of former committee member--now Commander Darrel Redepinning. Bill Brockberg of Worthington, in his fourth year was elected Chairman. Roy Bressler of Lakeville is on his third year, Dan Tengwall of Chaska his second year, and reappointed to his third 5-year term on the committee is Wilson Spence of Duluth.

Past and present members of the Rehabilitation Committee have been directors of VA Medical Centers, State Veterans Home leaders, County Veterans Service Officers, Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs leaders, and all with a working knowledge of VA, MDVA, legislative processes and the American Legion.

Our committee works in tandem with Department Service Officer Jeremy Wolfstetter and Assistant Service Officer and Administrative Assistant Heather Larson. Rehabilitation is one of the four pillars on which the American Legion was founded and holds the roof above the heads of all Legionnaires.

Because of the roll the Rehab Committee plays in Minnesota it is imperative that the Department keep the Rehabilitation Committee strong and functioning.

This past year the Committee paid site visits to all five Veterans Homes in Minnesota. We visited the four VA Health Care Services Centers in Minneapolis, St. Cloud, Sioux Falls, SD and Fargo, ND. Discussions were held with the Directors and staff of the VA Regional Office and Insurance Center in Fort Snelling, VISN 23 in Eagan, MN, Fort Snelling National VA Cemetery at Fort Snelling and the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans Office in Minneapolis.

Our Committee conducted its Annual Appreciation Reception for the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs Claims Office staff for all they

do for American Legion Claims and MDVA support to veterans.

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

Bill B. Brockberg
Chairman

Resolutions

The Resolutions Assignment Committee is composed of three (3) members, Chairman Al Davis, Jim Copher of Mound, and Jim Munson of Richfield. 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 of Approval, Rejection, or Amend and approved. During the Convention each convention committee reports the actions of the committee to the 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 delegates to the Convention.

We would like to thank Commander Redepinning for the confidence in us by appointing us to this committee. Also, thank you to the Department staff who assist us greatly in getting all the resolutions properly completed prior to the presentation to the delegates at convention.

Al Davis
Chairman

Sons of the American Legion

With Ray Ozmun as the Department Advisor to the Department of Minnesota leaving after twenty-five plus years, I had some very large shoes to fill. However, with the help of Ray and the two assistant SAL advisors, things slowly came together. And now the trust test as the Minnesota Detachment Convention is just around the corner. The detachment convention will be held on 28 and 29 June 2019 on the beautiful banks of North Long Lake at Legionville. All American Legion Family members are always welcome to join us that weekend. The convention/campout packets went out in the mail this past week. A big thanks to Tracy Myren at department headquarters for the hard work that she did assembling the packets.

As of 17 April 2019, I have another big pair of shoes to fill. After thirty plus years as the Detachment Adjutant stepped down from that position. I was appointed to that position for the remainder of the year. A huge thank you to PNC Bible for all of his devoted years to the Detachment. Also, a huge thank you to his wife Marsha Bible for all of the behind the scenes work that she did as well. Doug has promised that he is not going away and will continue to be very active on the squadron, district, detachment and national level.

A special thank you goes out to Walt Folendorf who is the Assistant Advisor for the North and to Gary Weaver who is the Assistant Advisor for the South. Both of these gentlemen are very dedicated DUAL members of The American Legion Family.

I would like to congratulate Detachment Commander Shawn Davis, his officers and committeemen for a great year. This is Shawn's second consecutive year at the helm and now will be stepping down, but probably on to bigger and better things in the future.

Finally, I want to thank the staff at department headquarters that assisted me throughout the year. And thanks to Department Commander Darrel Redepinning for appointing me to this position.

Dennis J Henkemeyer
Department Advisor

Sports: Baseball

Number one, once again. Minnesota is number 1 in the nation with 366 teams participating in legion baseball this year. This is an increase of 15 teams over 2018. This is the third year in a row that we have lead the nation and continue to distance ourselves from the likes of PA, NE and WI. 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. Luther Dorr is District 10 director Casey Ludewig is District 5 director and Bruce Young 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 2018 – were held in Edina for Division I with Tri City Red emerging as State Champion and Wayzata as Runner-Up. Division II was held in Pelican Rapids with Lesueur Henderson as State Champion and LaCrescent as Runner-Up. Junior Division I was held in Apple Valley with Excelsior as State Champion and Wayzata as Runner-Up. The Junior Division II Tournament was held in Montevideo with Holy Family as State Champion and Aitkin Runner-Up.

2019 State Tournament sites: Senior Division I – Cold Spring. Senior Division II – Ely Junior Division I – Bloomington. Junior Division II – St. Charles

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

Mike Perry
Director

Sports: Bowling

This year's 2019 State Bowling Tournament went very well. The number of bowlers was down again from last year. The winners from each event were announced in the Legionnaire last month.

We want to thank the Osseo-Maple Grove Legion Post 172 for hosting the tournament. They will host the 2020 tournament also, as we did not get any bids for the tournament. If your post would like to host the 2021 tournament, please contact the secretary and she will get you the registration form to fill out. Have the paperwork to her before the Fall Conference, as the committee meets to decide where it is held. The financial statement from this year will decide if we stay at six weeks or we go down to four weeks or we close the tournament because not enough bowlers are bowling. The Auxiliary side has dropped down considerably.

Thanks to the Sundance Bowling Lanes for hosting the 2019 tournament and also to host the 2020 tournament. They have done a great job. Thank you again to all your staff there.

Thanks again to our secretary Cari for a great job.

I want to thank the Commander for allowing me to be Chairman this year.

John W Torma
Chairman

Strategic Planning

Mission Statement: "To Increase Member and Post Development by Creating a Culture of Growth."

Objective: Grow membership progressively over the next five years and beyond.

Strategic Tactics: 1. Creating Brand Awareness, 2. Communication, 3. Training/Education/Leadership Development, 4. Post Development and Revitalization, 5. Membership Recruiting and Retention.

During the 2018-2019 year the SPC focus was to design and develop two key strategies for immediate implementation throughout the Department. First, attract new and younger veterans. Consider our old model was that of an ownership mentality. Our new model should be that of a franchise mentality. Second, help stop the slide, (close the back door), retain new and long-term members. Identify interim steps for districts and posts to maintain current levels without slipping in membership. Upon stopping the slide, set new attainable goals for future initiatives for growth.

We held our organizational meeting in Marshall during the Fall Conference. At that meeting, we reviewed our meeting schedule and position descriptions (PD) for the Chair, Secretary and Committee Members. These PDs are now posted on the Facebook Page. The 2018-2019 members are: Dan Williams, Tom Fernlund, Dan Ludwig, Mike Schaffer, DC Darrel Redepinning, Brad Pagel, Jennifer Havlick and Paul Hassing. Jennifer Havlick was appointed to replace Mark Coney who transferred into Post Everlasting, may he rest in peace. Furthermore, we appointed members to the Sub-Committee that was approved during the 2017-2018 year. Paul Hassing serves as the Liaison between the SPC and Sub-Committee. Additional members of the Sub-Committee are Jennifer Havlick, Thomas Nelson, Eric Wilkens, Jennifer Kafka, John Flynn and Joseph Bayer.

We published the initial 5-Year Department Strategic Plan. This may be downloaded from the SPC Facebook Page. Templates for District and Post level plans will be accessible in August 2019. These documents are living documents and customizable. The Department Plan is the high-level guiding document and will remain consistent with the National Strategic Plan. The District's plan must be modified by each district with relevant strategies as a guide for posts within the District. Finally, the Post plan is the most granular and is where the "rubber meets the road". For our organization to realize sustained membership and growth our posts must survive and thrive. Our districts and department must grow if we are to survive through the next century.

How will this be accomplished? We must, at every level, use a franchise mindset. This will include using technology, marketing and messaging to re-recruit and engage current members. While at the same time, marketing and messaging to active military, veterans on college and university campuses, plus veterans within veteran friendly organizations whether campus or corporate based. Remember this MUST BE AN ONGOING PROCESS. You are one of the MOST VALUABLE PARTICIPANTS within the process! Thank you in advance.

We wish Tom Fernlund and incoming SPC and Sub-Committee Great Success in the 2019-2020 year.

Finally, Commander Redepinning, thank you for the opportunity to serve on this vital committee. PNC Ludwig, thank you for your advice and guidance.

Dan Williams
Chairman

Resolutions

Continued from Page 1

that at this time there is no consistent or established system to teach the history, programs, policies and goals of the organization.

All the resolutions are presented in full on pages 8 and 9 of this special convention edition.

Another resolution, number 7 sponsored by the Sixth District, calls for the establishment of a state veterans cemetery committee within the Department. The state has three veterans cemeteries and one more being planned, and the district said it would be helpful in providing information about state cemeteries.

Resolution 9, from the Sixth District, calls for adding two more members to the three-member Education and Training Committee, serving staggered five-year terms. The committee members would be drawn from, as much as possible, Legion College graduates.

It also called on the Education and Training Committee to establish a Department Legion College.

Other resolutions include:

1. To extend VA health care benefits to eligibility for World War II veterans. Previously, the VA provided unlimited medical care, without regard to eligibility, to veterans of the Spanish American War and to World War I veterans. The resolution would expand that to World War II veterans.

2. Electronic Communication. Calls for electronic communication between Department staff, committee chairs, and committee members whenever possible.

4. Department of Defense Authority of the United States Coast Guard. Calls for the President and the Congress to make sure Coast Guard members do not experience discrimination. During the recent government shutdown, other branches of the military received pay and benefits, but not the Coast Guard.

5. Proposed VA Dental Program Language. Asks that if the VA removes a veteran's teeth, that it be required to provide the veteran with dentures.

6. Payment of Emergency Ambulance Transportation. Calls for Congress to change laws to allow the VA to pay for a veteran's emergency transportation to a VA facility.

Resolutions are usually sent to a committee, and from the committee they could go to the convention floor for action.

District Commanders

SECOND DISTRICT

**Cindy Brunk
Commander**



Hello American Legion Family,

It's bittersweet, but my time as serving as 2nd District Commander will soon come to an end. I am so thankful to all the wonderful people that helped me this past year. I'm not going to get myself in trouble by trying to call off names but you know who you are. Thank you so much.

I do want to mention my Post and members in Dundee, the District Officers and Chairmen.

To the wonderful Posts that were so kind and supportive to me this year: thank you. It has been an honor and so much fun, with many wonderful memories.

We reached our goals for my projects and I am so thankful and humble in saying thank you so much. The unveiling of the ice cream machine with lunch and of course ice cream will be July 28th, 2 p.m. at the Luverne Veterans Home. Everyone welcome, please come.

Please continue to send the names of veterans in nursing homes to me, so I can deliver them the quilts that are being made. Special thanks for those donations as I continue with this ongoing project.

Thank you to the Pipestone Post including Scott Park, CMDR Swenson for all the hard work they did to host the 2nd District Convention. Congratulations to Brad Pagel, the newly elected commander, and his team as we move into the new year for the American Legion and taking care of our veterans and their families.

Change over of Officers will be July 27th, at 2:30 p.m., at the Legion Post in Okabena.

Remember not all of you can do everything, but each one of you can do something.

Again for all your hard work I couldn't do it by myself, the phone calls, the hand shakes, the invites, you attending events, the driving, wonderful food, the donations, giving me directions, telling me thank you, I am so appreciative and thankful to all of you.

God Bless you and thank you for your service.

THIRD DISTRICT

**Carla Tappainer
Commander**



Greetings to Everyone.

Wow. What a great Thundering Third Convention. A great time was had by all and I want to personally thank Forest Lake Post 225 for hosting. Everything went off without a hitch and the food was incredible. We have a new set of officers and I know we will have a great year.

I hope everyone had a nice Memorial Day Weekend. Remembering our fallen comrades who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom is something we can never forget. We must always honor their memory. The day we stop is the day this country will cease to exist as a free nation. We have to teach the future generations how they got their freedoms and what was sacrificed for them. We must teach them about Flanders Fields and where our beautiful poppies came from. Every year I get tons of poppies and lay them on my co-workers desks with a copy of 'In Flander's Field.' It's so sad that most of them have no idea what that simple little poppy means. I know I will always do my part to educate everyone around me so they will never forget. I would ask that you do the same.....remember....

"In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends." — Martin Luther King Jr.

SEVENTH DISTRICT

**Jeffrey Gay
Commander**



Today and every day is great day to be a Legionnaire. This is probably my final letter as I'm passing the gavel this month to Dean Knutson. It will be bittersweet as I turn the page to another chapter.

At a darker time in my life I was introduced to the Serenity Prayer, many of you know what I'm talking about. The prayer lends order from chaos and I have found it especially relevant to Legion leadership.

"God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference."

We intend to make the best better as we become leaders, guiding through example and providing strength and hope. I know that my efforts have reached some but others I doubt and at times I feel as though I have failed, naught for a lack of trying.

We must remember that regardless, we do not fail. We

leave our mark and plant a seed that will grow one day into greatness. Change is difficult and we all become tired as our Posts continue to shrink. We have to consider everything and then plan and restructure, possibly combining Posts or Post meetings but none-the-less embrace the Legion Family concept. We're all in this together so we need to share the load.

The final thing I wish to impart to you is that you really can "teach an old dog new tricks," if you have the right reward.

With respect, thank you for allowing me to act on your behalf as Commander of the Seventh this past year. Stay strong and keep an open mind.

EIGHTH DISTRICT

**Wilbur Swanson
Commander**



Greetings from the 8th District. I want to thank the District for allowing me to serve for the past year. I sincerely appreciate all the help from the membership which has given me a much better understanding of the American Legion. I will continue to work to promote the efforts of the American Legion, District and Posts in our Department.

I encourage our District membership to make every effort to support our Department Convention in Willmar this July 10-13. This can be a learning experience for all those attending.

I would like to thank our 8th/10th District Department Vice Commander, Jennifer Havlick, for an outstanding job during this past year. She has done much traveling and worked all over the state, constantly supporting all efforts of the Districts and the American Legion Family.

I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer. Also, I hope to see everyone in future functions. God bless the American Legion Family and the U.S.A.

NINTH DISTRICT

**Arlo Rude
Commander**



Greetings,

Congratulations to District Commander Elect Lowell Philp of Bagley Post 16. Commander Lowell will provide thoughtful, diligent caring and strong leadership to the Roaring 9th District. I ask all Posts to support and follow Lowell through the next year. Lowell and I have traveled together to various Legion events and I can confirm that he can keep conversation up for hours. Give support and collaboration with all the elected Officers and Committee Chairman in the year ahead.

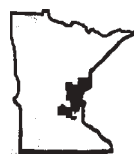
It is goose egg time again. Goose egg cutoff will be July 24 at 12:00 noon. Submit your Post Officer Report and have one membership submitted to Department by that date and time. Remember that an online renewal to National dues payment has to be given 9 days for processing.

Enjoy the summer.

For God and Country

TENTH DISTRICT

**Paul Orson
Commander**



Thank you, fellow Legionnaires, for letting me serve as your 10th District Commander for the 2018-19 membership year. It has been an honor to represent you at Department and National.

It has been a great year with all the activities and events that I was able to attend, and I look forward to more years serving our veterans and our District.

Summer is here, at least that is what the calendar says. Mother nature is reminding us Minnesotans that she has some control of what we do.

A few weeks ago we celebrated Memorial Day as we remember those that gave the ultimate sacrifice. My hat is off to them and our freedom is due in part to them. I hope every one of you paid tribute to our fallen by attending one of the many ceremonies across the state and nation or a moment of silence for reflection.

The 2019 District Convention at Fridley was a success and I am proud to pass the torch on to another well deserving Legionnaire Tom Allen of Clearwater Post 323 to lead this great district for the upcoming year.

Membership still trickles in and I encourage those who have not renewed to do so. We are at almost 95%, unfortunately this equates to another 400 plus members who have passed away or not renewed. We have over 240 new members, but this has not replaced our losses. This puts the District in 4th place in Department. Keep up the good work.

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

By
Jeremy Wolfsteller



VA Clothing Allowance

The VA is currently accepting applications through July 31, 2019 aimed at a special payable benefit for veterans with certain service-connected disabilities. Veterans that have a service-connected disability that requires a prosthetic device, orthopedic device or certain skin medication can apply for a VA clothing allowance. The VA clothing payment is an annual payable amount each year. If a veteran qualifies, they will receive the annual payment between September and October 31st. The VA uses this language:

"Has your clothing been damaged by your prosthetic or orthopedic device (such as a wheelchair) or by the medicine you're taking for a skin condition? If it has, you may be able to get money each year to help you buy new clothes. This is a disability compensation benefit known as an annual clothing allowance."

For veterans that meet multiple qualifications they can receive double the amount payable for clothing allowance. The current payable amount is \$817.48 for a single qualifying condition. These rates can be found here: https://www.benefits.va.gov/COMPENSATION/special_Benefit_Allowances_2018.asp

The VA clothing allowance is administered by the Veterans Health Administration. This means the application, which can be found here: <https://www.va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/10-8678-fill.pdf> needs to be turned in to your VA Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service (PSAS) Department, which leads me to my little rant about the bureaucracy of this program.

If you're not enrolled in the VA Health Care System, you'll simply not qualify for this benefit. Also, if you're enrolled in VA Health Care but have the determining medical documentation or evidence from a private provider outside the VA for one of the qualifying conditions, you'll not qualify for the clothing allowance. Basically, what I'm trying to say is the only way to be found eligible for the VA clothing allowance is that you have one or more of the qualifying conditions and that they're diagnosed by a VA clinician and in your VA electronic health record. The reason VA does this is because the PSAS Dept. uses the veteran's electronic health record to determine and establish eligibility.

I'll finish up with, that VA offers a complexity of benefits to veterans that go unused because veterans are simply unaware or confused because of the complexity of accessing them. Granted VA has been doing a much better job advertising these ancillary benefits via social media like Facebook but still have a lot of ground to make up. Remember these benefits, or what I like to say "entitlements" are being administered by the VA but available because of our successful lobbying of Congress. Remember to receive your yearly clothing allowance payment you must qualify by Aug 1st of that year.

For more information:

<https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/special-claims/clothing-allowance/>
jwolfsteller@mnlegion.org

2019 Minnesota American Legion scholarships listed

The Minnesota American Legion Memorial Scholarships have been announced:

— Garrett Westerlund, Aitkin, University of Minnesota, Duluth, Aitkin Post 86.

Grant Johnson, Eden Valley, North Dakota State University, Eden Valley Post 381.

Nathaniel Wosmek, Emily, Northern State University, Crosslake Post 500.

Skyler Swenhausen, Currie, Ridgewater College, Dovray Post 632.

Nicholas Zabroski, Evansville, Alexandria Technical Community College, Brandon Post 278

Kiale Brand, Blackduck, University of Minnesota, Blackduck Post 372.

The Consolidated Post Report (CPR), is especially important and is available online at mylegion.org along with the traditional paper copy. Please, please fill this out Post Adjutants or Commanders. I know members are doing great things that we can capture but it is not getting reported. We severely underestimate the work our members due in support of our 4 pillars. This report is what national compiles and uses when they head to our Nation's capitol fighting for our benefits and programs. Every member and every posts activities are important.

This is my last newsletter as Commander, so I am signing off. God bless our Veterans.



The Auxiliary Bulletin

No. 19-4

President Jean Walker

July 2019

Secretary Sandie Deutsch

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

The President's Column

By
Jean Walker



To my American Legion Family, this is my last article as your American Legion Auxiliary Department President. The year just flew by for me and it has been an awesome year. One that I will never forget. Everyone provided the greatest courtesies to me and my family as I traveled throughout the state. As I told you in the past about my travels throughout the year, here are the events for the past month and upcoming events. I attended the Eighth District Convention in Duluth and I would like to thank Zandra Kessler and Garylee Davenport for taking time out of their day and taking me up to the Minnesota Veterans Home in Silver Bay for a tour. This was the last Veteran's home that I wanted to visit before my year was over and they took the time to take me there. My next event was attending the Ninth District Executive Committee meeting before their District Convention in Detroit Lakes. I only had time for the meeting and the Past Commander/Past District President Banquet.

Right after that I headed to the cities for a week at the 73rd American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State at Bethel University. It was an awesome week. I spent the week as a Senior Counselor. I also did a welcome on Sunday and helped with the Inauguration Ceremonies. The citizens donated to my project. They were asked to bring in pennies, dimes and quarters for the City, County and State taxes. There was a total donation of \$564.26 collected. Thank you to the citizens for their donation to my project. Then, onto Hutchinson Unit 96 to speak at their meeting. I had the honor of installing their new officers for 2019-2020 and speak to the Legionnaires and the Auxiliary. Then, this last weekend I stopped at the Moorhead Legion Post 21. They have been celebrating their 100th Birthday and the day I stopped in they were having a fundraiser for the ND/MN Honor Flight. What a great cause. They are raising funds so our heroes can go to Washington DC to visit the memorials dedicated to honor the service and sacrifices of themselves and fellow Veterans. I have one last item on my calendar. It's to ride in the parade at Forest Lake on the 4th of July and then onto the Department Convention the next week. I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the Department Convention.

Again, I would like to thank all the Posts, Units, Squadrons and members that donated to my project this year. My project this year was to collect donations to create Patriot's Park at the Minnesota Veterans Home Fergus Falls, it will have benches, bushes and vines growing over the Pergolas, a dock, and a monument with matching granite benches, the monument will have three soldiers and the motto: "No One Left Behind" with the emblems of all the branches of service. The reason for the short dock is for maintenance of the pond, plus the recreational staff plans to do remote control boat races with the Veterans. A place for our Veterans to go with their families and friends.

The hardest thing for me is going to be to thank you all at the Convention. It has been an honor traveling the state representing you, our members. Our American Legion Family means the world to me and you made me feel a part of the team.

As I focused on "Who We Are, What We Do and Why We Matter" I want us to be here in the next 100 years to advocate and support our veterans, their families, our active duty military and our communities. I am very confident that we will be here for what I have seen as I traveled. Our American Legion Family cares about our veterans. Thank you once again and always remember "Veterans Are Our Stars and Our Heroes."

God bless each one of you and God Bless America.

Kate Kapsner elected governor at 2019 Girls State

The 73rd session of the American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State ended on Saturday, June 15. 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 2019 American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State Constitutional officers are:

Governor – Kate Kapsner, sponsored by Osseo Unit 172
Lt. Governor – Bethany Janssen, sponsored by New Ulm Unit 132

Secretary of State – Sky Ronstad, sponsored by Two Harbors Unit 109

State Auditor – Megan Marzolf, sponsored by Wayzata Unit 118

Attorney General – Mariam Zewdu, sponsored by St Paul Park Unit 98

Chief Justice – Aracelis Sepulveda, sponsored by New Richland Unit 75

Supreme Court Associate Justices – Princess Ofori, sponsored by Richfield Unit 435

Claire Zack, sponsored by Little Falls Unit 46

Other special honors/awards:

The President of the Senate – Lauren Diede, sponsored by Apple Valley Unit 1776

The Speaker of the House of Representatives – Talia Williams, sponsored by Moorhead Unit 21

Minnesota's entry into National competition for the Samsung Scholarship is Lydia Steinhaus, sponsored by Lewisville Unit 561.

The Ed Viehman Award was won by Sonja Nelson sponsored by Chanhassen Unit 580

Our 2019 Girls Nation Senators from Minnesota are:

Senior Senator – Sophia Fennell, sponsored by Hutchinson Unit 96

Junior Senator – Kindra Peterson, sponsored by Underwood Unit 489

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 American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State Unit 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 2019 American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State Director Peggy Tesdahl, Chairman Mary Kuperus, Education Director Amelia Tesdahl, Americanism Chairman Bethany Dickert, Committee members Lesley Christoffer and Kelli Frederickson. Thanks for another terrific year at American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State!

JUNIOR FUN WEEKEND

The 11th Annual Junior Fun Weekend is scheduled to be held August 2-4, 2019. Registration forms were sent out in the May Unit mailing. If you need a registration form or more information, please go to our website mnala.org and everything is there.

2019-2020 DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

Our Congratulations to the ten District Presidents-Elect who will be serving their respective Districts for the 2019/2020 year:

District 1 - Wanda Prescher – Unit 164 Stewartville

District 2 - Robin Olson – Unit 82 Winnebago

District 3 - Linda Kelly – Unit 184 Pine Island

District 4 - Sandra Gibson – Unit 542 Rosetown

District 5 - Mary Younkin – Minneapolis Gopher Unit



Girls State Governor Kate Kapsner

440

District 6 - Roberta Elvecrog – Aitkin Unit 86

District 7 - Lorraine Wigen – Tracy Unit 173

District 8 - Susan Korhonen – West Duluth Unit 71

District 9 - Pat Hanson – Middle River Unit 444

District 10 - Brandi Christensen – Delano Unit 377

May each of you have a most successful year of service as you assume the leadership of your District for the 2019/2020 Auxiliary year.

UNIT OFFICERS' LIST

All Units were to have their Officers Lists into the Department Office some time ago. We are still in need of many Units. Please email them immediately to deptoff@mnala.org.

These lists are very important as we develop our mailing lists for the year from them. NO 2020 membership cards/packets will be given to your Unit until we have received your 2019-2020 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

The 100th Annual Department Convention will be held in at the Willmar Conference with the Willmar American Legion Family #167 serving as hosts. Department President Jean Walker will call the Convention to order at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 11. We hope that your Unit plans to be represented. All Auxiliary sessions will be held in Galleries 1 – 4 of the Willmar Conference Center.

The following members have declared their candidacy for Department office:

Department President – Mary Hendrickson, West Duluth Unit 71

Department 1st Vice President – Patti Coleman, Lino Lakes Unit 566

Department 2nd Vice President – Mary Kuperus, New London Unit 537

Alternate National Executive Committeewoman – Jean Walker, Warren Unit 27

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

Auxiliary Bulletin

Continued from Preceding Page

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 Potted Plant or Terrarium and the second is Stuffed Animal. 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 11th. 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 2019 National Convention will be held in Indianapolis, August 23 - 29.

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. 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 23, 2019.

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.

SECRETARY SANDIE'S NOTES

To say the least, the Department Office has been a flurry of activity lately. Julie came back for a short stint to help us out through Department Convention – when you see her in Willmar give her a hug and a huge thanks. Your Department Secretary just hasn't had time to find her replacement yet – a huge role to fill. I am looking forward to seeing you all at Department Convention. We are having two exciting happenings this year and hope you all will participate.

On Thursday evening President Jean will be hosting a gathering for all American Legion Family members. We have Walter's Wheelhouse Band playing from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. in Galleries 1-4 of the Willmar Conference Center.

Snacks will be provided and there will be a cash bar set up. I encourage everyone to come and help Jean celebrate her wonderful year as Department President.

Also, our 100th Auxiliary Anniversary Committee is hosting a Silent Auction on Friday, July 12. Please see the flyer on our pages of this issue for details.

My two sisters and I made our first sister only jaunt a couple weeks ago to see the family in Texas. What a trip, 2300 miles in 5 days.

I should have been a chauffeur.

We saw my grandchildren show their goats and pigs, both won Grand Champion placings, couldn't be prouder. Then of course there is baby Elizabeth who cried her eyes out when "Mom" had to leave.

Of course "Mom" was crying harder. We got to see my son, who started an Honor Guard for his Police Department carry in the colors for a function that was held. Again, many tears were shed by "Mom" (as Elizabeth calls me).

Good to see you again Leon, Until next month, back to the trenches.

June 12, 2019, Auxiliary Membership

District	Goal	Membership To Date	Percent of Goal	Membership Last Year 6/13/2018
One	4,907	4,069	82.92%	4,422
Two	4,924	4,086	82.98%	4,322
Three	4,422	3,968	89.73%	3,974
Four	720	609	84.58%	691
Five	788	594	75.38%	652
Six	6,032	5,253	87.09%	5,493
Seven	3,934	3,289	83.60%	3,483
Eight	1,628	1,314	80.71%	1,432
Nine	4,344	3,542	81.54%	3,779
Ten	5,129	4,189	81.67%	4,400
1982	160	175	109.38%	157
Totals	36,988	31,088	84.05%	32,805

WALTERSWHEELHOUSE.COM

BLEND AT ITS BEST

Walter's WHEELHOUSE

BOOKING INFO • Janelle@J-Kendall.com

Walter's Wheelhouse will be the entertainment at President Jean Walker's reception on Thursday evening of the Department Convention. They will play from 6:30 to 9:30 at Galleries 1-4 of the convention center.

SILENT AUCTION

WHERE: American Legion Auxiliary Department Convention Willmar Conference Center

WHEN: Friday, July 12, 2019 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

WHY: To raise funds for the Auxiliary's 100th Anniversary Celebration throughout the 2019-2020 year

ITEMS NEEDED: New or Like New Items – Theme Baskets – Tools – Household Items – Baby Items – Crafts – Jewelry – Jellies & Jams – Home Canned Items – Etc. – Anything you would be interested in bidding on yourself

Please help us by including a note with a description of your donation. If your donation has a higher value, please let us know when you drop it off.

We need everyone to bid – bid – bid. Bid often!

There should be lots of items you would like to own or purchase as a gift for someone else.

If you say you don't need more "STUFF" consider being a sponsor of one of our limited edition Birthday Candles for our Auxiliary Celebration Cake.

Only 100 candles will be available at \$5 per donation. Let's put all of the candles on the cake early in the day so we can start the celebration!

Innovation Comes Standard

Driven to be Different

WE SUPPORT OUR VETERANS

CUMMINGS MOBILITY

VISIT OUR LOCATIONS

Albertville: 763-497-0103
Burnsville: 952-435-8889
Roseville: 651-633-7887
Des Moines: 515-207-3555

Versatility Meets Value

BraunAbility
Life is a Moving Experience

Independent Rural Living

Senior apartments for elderly and those with disabilities. Safe, convenient, comfortable, and affordable rural living in Southeast Minnesota.

Also available: Housing with Services, Nursing Home, Subsidized Rent, Homemaker services

Contact: Samantha 507-864-7714 or www.goodshep-rushford.org

Good Shepherd Lutheran Services



A Girls Stater makes a point in the Senate Chambers at the Minnesota Capitol. The girls make an excursion to the Capitol at the end of their week.

Purple Cross

Funeral Plans for Veterans

Purple Cross has been serving America's Veterans since 1948 and continues to offer the best funeral plans available. With **Funeral Preplanning** you:

- Protect your burial funds from nursing home expenses
- Protect your family from financial burden in time of grief
- Gain peace of mind knowing your funeral is taken care of

Yes, I would like to know more about:

Traditional Funeral Cost Cremation Cost
 Payment Plan Options Discount Plans

For a free **Funeral Preplanning Cost Estimate**, please return this coupon to Purple Cross, 15116 Manitou Rd NE, Prior Lake, MN 55372 or call Jerry Albrecht at 952-226-6393. **Absolutely no obligation!**

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State: _____
Phone: _____ Birth Date: _____



4 Seasons Vacations, Inc.
GROUP TOURS AND VACATIONS FOR PEOPLE GOING PLACES
1-800-328-4298 or 507-373-4705
www.4-seasonsvacations.com

SINCE 1967
130 West Clark Street
Albert Lea, MN

Serving our communities for over
52 Years

4 Seasons Travel is a full service Travel agency. We have an Independent Travel Department that can help with ALL your travel needs. Stop in or call and let our team of Professionals guide you to the trip of your DREAMS!

Anniversary Birthday All Inclusive Cruises Reunions

San Francisco by the Bay
October 16-20, 2019

Tour includes:

- 4 Seasons Tour Director, Tammi Haney
- Round trip non stop Delta flights from Minneapolis and San Francisco
- 4 nights accommodations at Holiday Inn Express Fisherman's Wharf
- 4 breakfasts
- Deluxe Motorcoach transportation
- San Francisco City Tour
- All sightseeing inclusions: Muir Woods, Sausalito, Napa Valley, Sonoma, Monterey, Carmel, Pebble Beach and Treasure Island
- Dress attire : smart casual
- Luggage handling for 1 suitcase per person

\$2,699.00
per person
double
occupancy

Smoky Mountains
October 28—November 4, 2019

Tour includes:

- 4 Seasons Vacations Tour Manager, Joyce Langerud
- Deluxe Motorcoach transportation
- 7 nights accommodations
- 15 Meals: 7 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 7 dinners
- Grand Ole Opry
- Country Music Hall of Fame / Ryman Theater
- All day tour of Smoky Mountains
- Dollywood theme Park, Country Tonite, Comedy Barn & Smoky Mountain Opry Shows
- Flood Walls of Paducah
- Luggage handling for 1 suitcase per person

\$1519.00
Per person
double
occupancy

Lake Superior Circle Tour
September 9-14, 2019

Tour Includes:

- 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Joyce Langerud
- Deluxe Motorcoach transportation
- 6 nights accommodations
- 8 meals
- Guided Tours of Thunder Bay & Sault Ste Marie
- Pictured Rocks Cruise
- Soo Locks Dinner Cruise
- Beautiful Scenery and Stunning Water Falls
- Luggage handling for 1 suitcase per person

\$949.00 per person double occupancy

PASSPORTS REQUIRED

Wild West
September 15-23, 2019

Tour Includes:

- 4 Seasons Tour Director, Cindy Peterson
- Deluxe Motorcoach transportation
- 13 Meals: 8 Breakfasts, 1 Lunch, 4 Dinners
- 8 nights accommodations
- Buffalo Bill State Park
- Tour Stanley Hotel
- Bison Ranch & Train Tour
- Old West Museums
- Wyoming Territorial Prison
- Gun fight & Trial of Jack McCall
- Little Bighorn Battlefield
- Mount Rushmore & The Badlands
- Luggage handling for 1 suitcase per person

\$1,899.00
Per person
Double
occupancy

Ark Encounter & Creation Museum
October 22-27, 2019

Tour Includes:

- 4 Seasons Tour Director, Cindy Peterson
- Deluxe Motorcoach transportation
- 5 nights accommodations
- 9 Meals: 5 breakfasts, 4 dinners
- Judge Davis Mansion
- Ark Encounter & Creation Museum
- Diner Cruise
- Dana Thomas House
- Illinois State Capital
- Lincoln Boyhood Home, Museum and Tomb
- Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption
- Luggage handling for 1 suitcase per person



Accompanying on this tour:
Pastor and Mrs. John Holt

\$899.00 per person double occupancy

NYC, New England Fall Colors Canada Cruise
October 24-31, 2019

Tour Includes:

- 4 Seasons Tour Director, Tammi Haney
- Roundtrip Delta flights from Minneapolis to New York
- 2 night stay at Millennium Hotel in Times Square
- Circle line cruise of Manhattan with lunch
- A Broadway performance
- Welcome dinner @ Carmine's Times Square
- 5 night cruise on the Regal Princess
- Cruise Gratuities
- Luggage handling at the hotel and on cruise

PASSPORTS REQUIRED

\$2,699.00
per person
double
occupancy

Civil War Battlegrounds
October 7-15, 2019

Tour Includes:

- Services of 4 Seasons Tour Director, Cindy Peterson
- Deluxe Motorcoach transportation
- 8 nights accommodations
- 12 meals, 8 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners
- Admission to all parks museums & battlefields including Vicksburg, Shiloh and others
- Jesse James, Patee House, Pony Express, Vicksburg Old Depot & Mississippi Civil Rights Museums
- Old Warren County Courthouse
- McRaven House & Anchuca Mansion, and Rosedown & Myrtles Plantation
- Elvis Presley Center
- Luggage handling for 1 suitcase per person

\$1,499.00
per person
double
occupancy

Trust our experience. Love your vacation.


I BUY AND COLLECT 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

Attention Veterans!
This is your northern Minnesota resort. Barrier-free and open 12 months a year. Gateway to the BWCA. 800-777-7538 email: vetlake@frontiernet.net www.veteransonthelakeresort.org All cabins have a lake view.

VETERANS on the LAKE RESORT

Ely, Minnesota

RESORT FOR DISABLED VETERANS, ACTIVE DUTY AND ABLE BODIED VETERANS, DISABLED GENERAL PUBLIC AND FAMILIES.

 **PEARLS** Evidence-Based Independent

Veteran Disability Evaluations
[not affiliated with the VA]
Depression, Anxiety, Trauma, TDIU
FREE Total Disability Screening

Kenneth L. Dennis, Ph.D.
Ken.Dennis@Juno.com • 800-595-4053



Minnesota DRIVE HOME YOUR SUPPORT!
SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

Purchase a "Support Our Troops" Plate.
Call: 651-4TROOPS
Visit: www.minnesotaveteran.org

Reverse Mortgages

The future doesn't have to be uncertain.

The lower the Margin, the more you qualify for. Call for our low rates. Libor Margins as low as 1.5%. Call or email me for a free consumer guide and a personal quote.

Let a retired active duty veteran you can trust show you how you may benefit from a Reverse Mortgage.



MIKE KRAUS
Loan Officer
NMLS ID #283509

MORTGAGES UNLIMITED

guiding families home


Mike Kraus Serving MN and WI
7365 Kirkwood Court North, Suite 300
Maple Grove, MN 55369
763-355-8540 mkraus@muihomeloans.com

Mailbox full?



Get your Legionnaire by email.
Go to: mnlegion.org
Click on "Legion Publications"



All Legion, Auxiliary and SAL members can receive the Legionnaire via email.



I SERVED FOR Honor

At USAA, the same values that guide our military inspire us to go above and beyond for our members. When you join USAA, you'll be part of an organization where we have everything you need to make your membership a lifelong bond.

JOIN USAA TODAY AND GET A QUOTE.
CALL 877-699-2654
OR VISIT USAA.COM/LEGION

USAA is proud to be the Preferred Provider of Insurance and Financial Services to The American Legion

USAA means United Services Automobile Association and its affiliates. Use of the term "member" or "membership" refers to membership in USAA Membership Services and does not convey any legal or ownership rights in USAA. Restrictions apply and are subject to change. The American Legion receives financial support from USAA for this sponsorship. © 2019 USAA, 257612-0119-TAL