

Legionnaire



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For God and Country

July 2021

Candidates seek Department officer positions

Opposition exists in chaplain role; other spots remain unopposed

REDWOOD FALLS — The race for commander of the Department of Minnesota will be unchallenged at the annual convention. The Department of Minnesota Convention is slated for July 15-17 at Jackpot Junction Casino Hotel and is hosted by Redwood Falls Post 38. Some committees will meet on July 14.

Tom Fernlund is the lone candidate. He is the adjutant and past commander of Silver Star Post 428 in Waite Park. His endorsement

published in the Legionnaire last July.

At the National level, Fernlund serves on the Media and Communications Commission. He is a 2007 graduate of the National American Legion College.

On the Department level, he has served as vice commander, membership director and sergeant-at-arms. He presently is the chairman of the Strategic Planning Committee.

In the 6th District, Fernlund has been the commander, adjutant, vice commander,

County Council commander and membership director, along with multiple chairmanships.

He served in the Air Force from 1981 to 1992 and is a 29-year honorary life member at Post 428.

His wife, Veronica, is an Air Force veteran and a past commander of the 6th District. They have been married for 32 years and have two sons, two daughters and two grandsons. Three of their children serve in

the military.

The election will be held Friday, July 16. Other candidates are Bill Barbknecht of Underwood Post 489 for National Executive Committeeman, Peggy Moon of Zimmerman Post 560 for alternative National Executive Committeeman, Kelley Adelsman of Pine Island Post 184 and Larry Otto of Ellendale Post 296 for chaplain, Kenny Gibson of Rosetown Post 542 for sergeant-at-arms and Darrel Redepening for Minnesota Legionnaire Board of Publications.

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Tom
Fernlund

Capitol to host 9/11 events

20-year anniversary plans under way

By Kara Hildreth

CAMP RIPLEY — Two decades ago, Minnesotans answered the call to serve and protect our country after the life-changing terrorist attacks across our country shook many Americans' sense of security and took the lives of innocent Americans.

Minnesota soldiers signed up to fight the longest war on terrorism and sacrificed time with family and years of their lives.

This year marks the 20-year anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks that rocked the domestic safety that American veterans of many generations had secured.

Randal Dietrich, executive director of the Minnesota Military Museum & Library in Little Falls, is leading a state commemoration called the

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Boys State shines



Minnesota Boys State Director Kyle Oldre of Hardwick Post 478 congratulates Minnesota Boys State Gov. Devon Selmon on June 18. Oldre is the administrator of Rock County. Selmon attends the St. Agnes School in St. Paul.

2021 governor is from St. Agnes in St. Paul

By Tim Engstrom

COLLEGEVILLE — Minnesota Boys State took place this year with 132 boys participating from around the state June 13-18.

Devon Selmon, from the St. Agnes

School in St. Paul, was elected governor. He was sponsored by St. Paul Arcade-Phalen Post 577.

"I am beyond thankful for the opportunity to serve you all as governor," Selmon said in his remarks Thursday, June 17. "I just want to say thank you

to those who voted me, because without you I wouldn't be here. And for those who didn't, I hope you still feel I served you to the best of my ability."

Boys at Boys State hear from speakers and learn about branches of government. They create their own city, county and state governments, elect leaders and pass bills.

"I am deeply humbled by all I have

seen. You guys are amazing and deeply talented," said 2019 Gov. Lap Nguyen in his farewell address before introducing Selmon. "I am so very honored to have served as your Boys State governor."

Nguyen attended Rochester Marshall High School and returns to Harvard University this fall for his sophomore year.

Continued on Page 2



Participants at Boys State break into groups called cities. They then form counties and a state legislature. Ryan Lund of Rogers High School didn't win the Rochester mayoral election, but he did win other roles and eventually was nominated for governor. He lost to Selmon.

Arik Matson named Outstanding Officer

Legion awards honor to father of 2 shot in Waseca shootout

WASECA — The 2021 Minnesota American Legion Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer is none other than Arik Matson of Freeborn.

"Arik is our hero," wrote Waseca Chief of Police Penny Vought. "He responded to a call for assistance, tried to stop the threat and was severely injured in the process. He fought for his life and he won that battle. Therefore, it is with great pride and admiration,

I recommend that Arik Matson receive The American Legion Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer Award."

His story is a familiar one to much of the state.

Matson, a patrol officer with the Waseca Police Department since 2013, responded to a call at 8 p.m. Jan. 6, 2020, of a suspicious man prowling on Third Avenue Southeast, along with three other Waseca officers. When officers made

contact, they found him on the back balcony of a couple's home. The man fled to an attached garage roof.

The officers ordered him to come down. He refused, brandished a handgun, then began shooting at Matson, Sgt. Timothy Schroeder and Officer Andrew Harren. The officers returned fire. Capt. Kris Markeson was on scene, too.

Schroeder returned fire, and the Waseca Police Department believes Matson

fired back, as well. The suspect, Tyler Robert Janovsky, managed to shoot Matson in the head. The officers then shot him twice.

The homeowners huddled in the basement during the shootout until officers told them they were safe. Janovsky had a criminal record of drugs, burglaries and threats. He had an active arrest warrant at the time officers arrived and had been on the run for a month.

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Photo by Creative Flair Imagery
The Matsons from left: Audrina, Arik, Maklynn and Megan.

PHOENIX — The 102nd American Legion National Convention takes place Aug. 27-Sept. 2 in Phoenix. The convention itself will be at the Phoenix Convention Center. The SAL will hold its convention Aug. 27-29. Reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis and must be made through Jennifer Kelley at the Department of Minnesota Headquarters. The

Department phone number is 651-291-1800. Delegates will receive a packet via email from the Department with further details, such as the location for the Minnesota Caucus. Future convention sites: 2022: Milwaukee 2023: Charlotte 2024: New Orleans 2025: Tampa Bay 2026: Louisville



Department Commander Mark Dvorak greets two Boys State counselors on June 13. From left, they are Nate Trembley and Alan Booth.



Boys State counselors Isaac Logeman, left, and Gunnar Oldre guide the city of Winona past St. John's Abbey on the campus of St. John's University on June 14.

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Minnesota Boys State teaches civic engagement

Continued from Page 1

Minnesota American Legion Adjutant Mike Maxa on Friday, June 18, told the Boys Staters that their approved bills will be brought to the Department Convention for consideration, so that their work does not stop when they go home.

Speakers at Boys State this year were Nguyen, Department of Minnesota Commander Mark Dvorak, St. John's Transitional President James Mullen, Sons of The American Legion Past National Commander Joe Mayne, former Assistant U.S. Attorney Hank Shea, retired Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Paul Anderson, Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon, Minnesota Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka and a panel of local government officials.

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz and Minnesota House Speaker Melissa Hortman were invited.

Other boys elected to key roles at Boys State were:

- Matthew Monson, of New London-Spicer High School and Spicer Post 545, lieutenant governor.
- Maximillian Feist, St. Thomas Academy and Woodbury Post 501, secretary of state. St. Thomas is in Mendota Heights.
- Aiden Warne, Lincoln High School and Thief River Falls Post 117, state auditor. Lincoln High is in Thief River Falls.
- Colton Garity, Dover-Eyota High School and Eyota Post 551, attorney general.
- Michael Adejumo, Anoka High School and Anoka Post 102, chief justice.
- James Walsh, St. Thomas



Sons of The American Legion Past National Commander Joe Mayne delivers a speech on June 14 about the benefits and features of learning to speak publicly. Mayne is a public speaker himself. See more photos on Page 15.

Academy and Wayzata Post 118, and Anthony Berndt, Sartell High School and Waite Park Post 428, associate justices.

In the Senate, the president was Ryan Lund, Rogers High School and Osseo-Maple Grove Post 172. Martin Weiss Orono High School and Wayzata Post 118 was the chief clerk. Lewis Larson, Connection Academy and Eyota Post 551, was named secretary. Roman Knaggs of Heritage Christian Academy and Hamel Post 394, was sergeant at arms. Jacob Gareis Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg High School and Kerkhoven Post 223 was the chaplain. Brady Olson of Lincoln High School and Thief River Falls Post 117



Devon Selmon



Lap Nguyen

was postmaster. Will Privratsky of Spring Lake Park High School and Fridley Post 303 was majority floor leader. Feist and Kallen Hanzsek-Brill of St. Cloud Apollo High School and Waite Park Post 428 were the minority floor leaders.

The House speaker was Griffen Jarchow of Luverne High School and Luverne Post 123. The House majority leader was Ethan Del Val Perez of Anoka High School and Anoka Post 102. The House minority leader was Adejumo. Selmon was the recipient of the Chic & William Zweiner Award for Outstanding Boys Stater.

Noah Lippert of Maple River High School and Winnebago Post 82 was the recipient of the

Myron and David Way Award for Boys Nation Senator.

Lund received a Director's Award.

A second Director's Award went to Samuel Buan of Wayzata High School and Wayzata Post 118.

Aden Extrand of Brainerd High School and Brainerd Post 255 was the recipient of the Samsung American Legion Scholarship. He receives \$1,250 and is eligible for \$5,000 and \$10,000 scholarships handed down from National.

Selmon and Lippert will attend Boys Nation, happening July 23-31 in Washington.

The groups, named as cities, compete in sports contests, too. St. Cloud won basketball and volleyball. St. Paul won softball.

This was the 73rd session of Minnesota Boys State, and it was the fifth year at the campus of St. John's University.

Minnesota Boys State was cancelled in 2020 because of the pandemic. The window for registration was shortened this year, which resulted in a lower-than-usual attendance of 132 boys.

Councilors said they expect participation to rebound back above 200 in 2022.

Want your son to attend Boys State?

Attendance happens in the summer between their junior and senior years of school. The boy must be sponsored by a local American Legion Post. Visit the website mnboysstate.org in the springtime and fill out the registration form.

Boys State also has a page at mnlion.org.

GIFTS AT THE TESTIMONIAL



Auxiliary President Mark Hendrickson, Sons of The American Legion Commander David Vulcan, 3rd District Commander Linda Dvorak and Department Commander Mark Dvorak hold up Holstein-patterned boxer shorts from 6th District Adjutant Susan Edwards.



Department Commander Mark Dvorak receives a wooden U.S. flag with his name and years of his commander term on it from 1st District Commander Dale Wellik. The Joint Testimonial Dinner was held Saturday, June 19, at New Prague Post 45.

Photos by Shawn Davis

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No one is seeking the historian spot. (A sample ballot appears on Page 14.)

For vice commanders, the ballot will show Gary Weaver of La Crescent Post 595 for Districts 1 & 3, Hal Meyer of Marshall Post 113 for Districts 2 & 7, Ray Eiden of Minneapolis Fallain Post 555 for Districts 4 & 5, Carl Moon of Zimmerman Post 560 for Districts 6 & 9 and Wilbur "Gene" Swanson of West Duluth Post 71 for Districts 8 & 10.

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

This is the first convention the Department has held in two years, since the one at the Willmar Conference Center in July 2019. The 102nd Convention convenes at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, July 15, though delegates caucus from 7 to 8 that morning.

New Prague Post 45 will present the Department colors.

The Department Executive Committee will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 14, in the Dacotah Exposition Center.

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

The Gambling Seminar is at 2 p.m. Thursday in the Dacotah Exposition Center.

MyLegion.org training takes place at 3 p.m. Thursday in Tananka 4.

Some of the speakers are Jason Petti of the VA Midwest Health Care Network, Todd Kemery of the Commanders' Task Force, Greg Peterson of the Minnesota Association of County Veteran Service Officers, Neal Loidolt of the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans, Minnesota Veterans Affairs Commissioner Larry Herke and Raymond Douha and Barry Platt of the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development. Waite Park Post 428 will



DEPARTMENT CONVENTION REGISTRATION

A registration fee of \$15 for each person attending, whether a delegate, alternate or a guest, must accompany this form.

Make your check payable to "American Legion Post 38" with "Dept. Convention" written on the memo line. No credit cards will be accepted.

Please mail this form with your check to: Redwood Falls Post 38, P.O. Box 354, Redwood Falls, MN 56283. Registration after July 1 will be \$18.

Legion _____
 SAL _____
 Auxiliary _____
 District # _____ Post/Squad/Unit # _____
 Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Delegate _____ Alternate _____
 Guest _____
 Delegate at-Large (Auxiliary) _____
 (Choose Past Dept. President or Dept. Exec. Cmte.)

If additional registrations accompany this request, this registration form should be photocopied for each person. The \$15 registration fee must be enclosed for each person.



Larry Otto



Kelley Adelsman

retire the colors.

When convention-goers arrive, they register. Early registration is available at 4 p.m. Wednesday at the Redwood Falls Post 38 home, 100 Industrial Drive. From Thursday on, registration is at the casino. Post 38 will serve pulled-pork

sandwiches from 4:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesday. It has a taco bar available from 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday. It has burgers and bratwursts for sale from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday and a meet and greet Saturday following the adjournment of the convention.

There will be a shuttle service between Jackpot Junction and Post 38 between 5 and 9 p.m. Thursday and again Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. then between 4 and 10 p.m.

The first Department Executive Committee meeting of the new Legion year is at 10 a.m. Aug. 7 at Royalton Post 137.

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Matson and Janovsky were airlifted to North Memorial Health Hospital in Robbinsdale. There, Janovsky's wounds were listed as not life-threatening; Matson was listed as being in critical condition.

Matson's wife, Megan, received a knock on her door at 8:44 p.m. Three officers and a friend informed her Arik had been shot. A State Patrol helicopter flew her to Robbinsdale in 20 minutes.

Media reports say the bullet went through his skull, leaving him with a traumatic brain injury. He woke up five hours later.

According to the Albert Lea Tribune, Matson does not recall the details of the shooting, but he does recall waking up and being told he was shot while on duty.

He spent eight months in hospitals and rehab centers learning basic functions like walking, talking and eating. He returned home Oct. 19 to his daughters, ages 6 and 8 at the time.

In July 2020, Janovsky pleaded guilty to two counts of attempted murder. In November, Waseca County Judge Christine Long sentenced him to the maximum 35 years in prison — 20 for attempted murder of Matson and 15 for a second count of firing at Harren and Schroeder. He will serve two-thirds of his sentence behind bars, and the remainder on supervised release if he has no violations while in prison.

Waseca Post 228 nominated Matson for American Legion Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer.

Matson grew up in Albert Lea wanting to be a police officer, like his father, Tim, who is retired from the Albert Lea Police Department. Arik worked for the Freeborn County Sheriff's Office from 2010 to 2013 and attended Minnesota State University in Mankato for his law enforcement education.

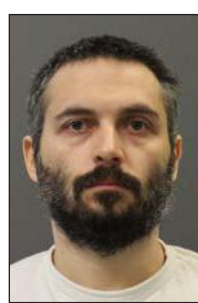
Arik and Megan Matson are active in their church, Hope Church, in Albert Lea. He is or has been a member of the Freeborn Fire Department, Freeborn City Council, Fraternal Order of Police South Central Lodge 16 and Ducks Unlimited. He was a DARE officer, a

crime-prevention officer and part of the South Central Investigative Unit SWAT Team.

He now is retired, due to being injured in the line of duty.

"Arik is an exceptional person. He will always help anyone at any time. He is a kind, compassionate, down-to-earth man who is dedicated to his family, friends and residents of Waseca and other communities he serves," said Waseca Post 228 Commander Lamar Kuster in nominating Matson.

Vought, the Waseca police chief, wrote a letter of recommendation for Kuster's nomination. In it, she adds, "Arik exemplifies what it means to be an outstanding officer. He was always available to help anyone



Tyler R. Janovsky

in any possible way at any given time. If I were asked to describe Arik, I would say he is a humble, quick-witted, enthusiastic man who was devoted and dedicated to his partners, his department and to the communities he served."

She said the department is hopeful Matson can return in some capacity.

Matson was the 2020 Officer of the Year by the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association and the Minnesota Police and Peace Officer Association. He received the Minnesota County Attorneys Association's Public Service Award. In April 2021, Matson received the Law Enforcement Purple Heart from the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

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Minn. Legionnaire editor wins 4 TALMA awards

ST. PAUL — The Department of Minnesota won several Department-category awards in The American Legion Media Alliance's 2021 Contest:

- Best Editorial News: "No Exit Wound" in the January 2020 Minnesota Legionnaire, about Department Service Officer Jeremy Wolfsteller's experience in the Iraq War, by Legionnaire Editor Tim Engstrom.
- Best Editorial Info: "Masks ... On the Double" in the July 2020 Minnesota Legionnaire, about the Quilts of Valor, Minnesota American Legion Foundation, Minnesota American Legion and Minnesota American Legion Riders working together to get masks to veteran-care facilities, by Engstrom.
- Best Public Relations: "A special honor for a fallen young veteran amid COVID-19 restrictions" by KARE 11, April 13, 2020. At the request of a family, Engstrom and Historian Mike Ash arranged with Paul and Jody Hassing of the American Legion Riders for a motorcycle drive-by of a veteran who died by suicide, and PR firm SnowGlobe's Kevin Olson coordinated the TV coverage.
- Best Website: mmlegion.org. Engstrom and volunteer Bart Fields manage the website.

Walter Ivie, chairman of the National Media and Communications Commission, congratulated Engstrom and said there were nearly 100 entries in the 2021 contest.

"Winners were selected by members of the three-person TALMA task force and Media and

The Minnesota Legionnaire

Volume 102 Number 1 Veterans Helping Veterans January 2020

No exit wound

Jeremy Wolfsteller leads the American Legion Department of Minnesota's efforts on care and rehabilitation of veterans, and he reflects on the fourth level of the VA Medical Center in Minneapolis. He is a veteran of the Iraq War and has found his passion in helping veterans get the health care they deserve.

Despite surgery and recovery, the hardest part is two soldiers who served his life in a Tal Afar battle never made it home

Tedshl retires as department adjutant

Bud Redepinning, past dept. commander, dies

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Bud Redepinning, past dept. commander, dies

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Thanks for a memorable 2-year term

Greetings, American Legion Family. I write this article with many emotions, reflecting on the last few weeks. The American Legion Family has been busy promoting, teaching and volunteering their time and talents.

We just concluded Boys State at St. John's University. I was able to give greetings and welcome the class of 2021 on Sunday evening, June 13. A sense of pride and commitment was in the air. The director of Boys State, Kyle Oldre, gave me a tour and introduced me to some of the staff. I was able to visit with many of them and was impressed with their professionalism. Many of them were members of the Sons of The American Legion and have been involved with Boys State for many years. Outstanding job and thank you all!

Legion Baseball has begun! Our last record-high number of teams was in 2019, with 366 registered. We have 372 teams registered for 2021, a new record. Minnesota is the No. 1 Department with registered teams. Great work, Minnesota American Legion Baseball Committee!

Legionville School Safety Patrol Camp in Brainerd has over 350 kids registered for summer sessions. The first training class began on June 13 and graduated on June 18. The report is the camp is in excellent shape and the kids are having a wonderful time.

It has been a pleasure working with Madam President Mary Hendrickson, Detachment Commander Dave Vulcan and Honorary Junior Auxiliary President Emily Sues. I feel our Joint Testimonial will be a memorable event for years to

Commander's Column

Mark Dvorak



come. It brought our Legion Family together. Thank you to all who attended, and a special thank you to Gold Star Mother Dalelyn Means, Gold Star Wife Andrea Means Lehman and Minnesota Military Radio Co-Host Doug Wortham for being a big part of the program.

A big, big thank you to the staff, who are keeping the Department of Minnesota operating each day in a professional manner.

Veterans Mike Maxa, Tim Engstrom and Rachael Hill have been great additions to the full-time staff. Rachael Hill manages all the financials for the Department and is doing a fantastic job! I receive regular comments about Tim Engstrom's work on the Legionnaire, and, yes, they are all praising his work. Tim and I have spent a lot of time with each other over the past two years and getting to know Tim, has been a wonderful experience! Tim loves what he does, and we are lucky to have him working for The American Legion.

The person I spent the most time with was my "wingman," Mike Maxa. He has had my back every step of the way. Mike was the assistant adjutant starting in the fall of 2019 and took over as adjutant in January 2020 and has not missed a beat. I will be forever grateful to Mike for all he has done for myself and the Department of Minnesota.

To all the Department and District officers who agreed to stay on for an additional year it was a huge commitment from all of you. Thank you! You took an extra year away from your

family and other commitments to support The American Legion.

I know I have said this before; I just want to say it one more time. In March of 2020 I personally talked with each Department officer and asked if you would consider staying on and you didn't hesitate to say yes! Words can't express what that meant to me.

The backbone of our American Legion is our programs, and the committee chairmen and committee members also agreed to stay on for an additional year, which kept the continuity within our programs. My heartfelt thank you to each and every one of you.

Our new leadership will take over in July on Saturday of our Department Convention. Let's all support them in any way we can and together have the best year ever for our American Legion Family!

One more thank you, my wife and best friend, Linda, was there for me each and every day. She always helped in any way she could with no hesitation. I have no idea how she managed to perform her many Legion responsibilities and put up with me. I love you!

For God and Country, The American Legion Family continues its mission.

Mark Dvorak is the commander of The American Legion Department of Minnesota.

Give glory to God in all things we do

This article will be the last one I'll write as chaplain for the Department of Minnesota, and during the last two years I realized that we have been through a lot especially with the COVID-19 pandemic.

I often think that we accomplished so much because we believed that "all things are possible with God." When things seem exceedingly difficult or even impossible God gives us prayer to ask for extra care.

God invites us to pray — no matter how big the mess is, no matter how impossible things seem and no matter how we've contributed to the wrongfulness at hand. We are reminded of this in Luke 11:9. Jesus says, "Continue to ask, and God will give to you. Continue to search, and you will find. Continue to knock, and the door will open for you." Sometimes saying an "impossible" prayer can seem unnatural at first, but can become empowering as we continue to pray by considering these 3 things:

1. Give glory to God. None of the things that God has provided are materialistic items. He brought forth life-giving water, saved lives, and created life. Nothing was produced in vain and solely for a profitable

Chaplain's Corner

Betty Jass



economy. Only God's power is sufficient and through his glory he teaches us prayerful dependence on Him. The impossible is accomplished for the good of the people.

2. Always put God first. Intentionally put God first and follow your heart. This means letting go of what your loved ones perceive as crazy and express yourself in a true way that puts God above all. Sometimes straying away from traditional prayer can feel strange. If you feel uncomfortable and unsettled, then you're probably doing the right thing.

The benefits of adopting a mindset of all things are possible with God translates to experiencing joy and happiness, understanding and accepting our purpose and the reasoning behind our lives and discovering real peace.

3. Help others whenever you can. You don't need to know someone's entire life story to be a good human being that treats an individual with kindness and care. Go the extra mile and pay

it forward. With God all things are possible and coming to the aid of others will reinforce this mindset in your life. Matthew 19:26 is a powerful verse that empowers the everyday person, like you and me.

I have witnessed our Minnesota American Legion Family accomplish the exceedingly difficult and almost impossible feats with their strong faith in God. All things are truly possible with God using our family as the instrument of that kindness and care. Our family was empowered during the COVID-19 pandemic to overcome the many obstacles that came our way.

Thank you for allowing me to be your Department chaplain for the last two years. It was an honor and privilege to serve you.

Betty Jass is the chaplain for The American Legion Department of Minnesota.

Mail Call

Send letters to the editor for Mail Call to tengstrom@mnlegion.org.

Don't surrender an inch when it comes to flag

We should all strive to live up to the ideals of the flag. The flag has never failed us. We have, at times, not lived up to what the flag represents.

Some have misused the Bible and Koran. That does in no way diminish either.

As Americans, we are a diverse people who unite under our flag. Those who want to reimagine America as a better China understand that in order to bring about the New Cultural Revolution the symbols which unite us must be diminished.

Dan Dorman
former state representative
Albert Lea

Thanks for helping out with Boys State

Dear Jennifer Kelley, I have looked forward to attending Boys State for many years. Being told I would be a nominee for my school a year ago made me even more excited for the opportunity. It was

disappointing to not hear back from my local Legion. Please accept my heartfelt gratitude for working extra hard to ensure my attendance. The lessons acquired will serve me and others for a lifetime since I anticipate a military service career.

Matthew T. Condon
Rosemount

Legion member goes above and beyond

This is about a Legionnaire who has given and is still giving more than any other Legionnaire I know.

It is about Mike Ash from the 4th District, Department of Minnesota.

There may be other like him, but I'm not sure. Let me explain why he is above and beyond. His history is like this: Post commander and vice commander, District commander and vice commander, Department commander and vice commander. If I were to list all the other offices and committees he has held, it would take about two pages.

The main reason I'm writing about Mike is that he just got voted as president of Unit 39.

Yes. President. Because his wife is a veteran, he can and did join the Auxiliary.

The ladies like having Mike in their Unit, so they voted him in as president. Mike is a member of The American Legion, Sons of The American Legion, American Legion Riders and now the American Legion Auxiliary. I think he may be the first to belong to all of the Legion families.

Mike is soft-spoken but leads by actions, not words. He has inspired members of the 4th District to hold offices and chair committees. This is just a brief about a Legionnaire who goes above and beyond.

Carroll "Bird" Partridge
St. Paul 3M Post 599



Mike Ash

A fine poem about this publication

I read the Legionnaire News today,
and it made me sad, I have to say.
Heroes listed, one by one —
on to Glory, their battles done.

I'm sitting here, just thinking on it —
and I'm troubled about it ...
more than a bit.

As I see the youth today, careless with their lives and play;
enjoying freedoms bought by blood, disrespecting God above.

Our vets have stories that must be told —
a rich-hued tapestry, yet to unfold.

Teaching true history of the battles won ...

The fight for freedom is never done.

We honor their service — to the U.S. of A,
Appreciating their sacrifices, right up to this day.

I remember them always;
they fought the good fight;
and they are why I sleep safe at night.

So thank you vets both here and passed on,

We all live free because of what you all won!

Linda Bartlett
proud wife of
Army service member
Craig V. Bartlett
Minneapolis



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The Minnesota Legionnaire

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

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Department of Minnesota

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What's happening?

Is this just volunteering or is it more?

REDWOOD FALLS — The Department Training Committee will offer a session on how being a member of The American Legion is different than volunteering. The session is set for 7-8 p.m. July 29.

Registration will be available through the Facebook page "Training Committee Department of Minnesota American Legion." A Zoom link will be provided.

"The goal of this time together will be to facilitate healthy dialogue on what it means to belong to The American Legion," said 3rd District Vice Commander Kelley Adelsman.

MyLegion.org training is available

REDWOOD FALLS — The Department Training Committee also is offering a training session at the Department Convention in July.

However, you can attend in person or through Zoom.

It is slated for 3 p.m. Thursday, July 15, in Tatanka Room 4. The Zoom link is available by emailing trainingcomm@mnlegion.org.

Legacy Run ready to ride

TWO HARBORS — The 2021 Minnesota Legacy Run

starts at Two Harbors Post 109, with a kickoff party at 5 p.m. Friday, Aug. 5.

Registration is \$30 per person, and registration forms are available at all the stops. Post 109 is at 614 First Ave. There is lodging at the AmericInn hotel. Call 218-834-3000.

The Legacy Run is a Legion Riders motorcycle ride that raises funds for the Legacy Scholarship Fund, which provides scholarships to children of U.S. military personnel killed since Sept. 11, 2001. These typically aren't small scholarships. Usually, they are full-ride or nearly full-ride scholarships.

Organizers say the ride happens rain or shine. In the event of extreme weather, the Riders would stop until the weather passes.

The first weekend is Aug. 6-8.

The ride leaves Two Harbors Aug. 6 and heads to the Silver Bay Veterans Home, then a lunch stop to be determined, then Walker Post 134. Lodging is at the Walker Hotel. Call 320-351-7256.

On Aug. 7, the Legion Riders roll out of Walker, go to a lunch stop, then to Sauk Centre Post 67 for the evening. Lodging is at Americas' Best Value Hotel. Call 320-351-7256.

On Aug. 8, they will leave town heading to a lunch stop, then that's the end of the first weekend. All times and stops are subject to change.

The second weekend starts in the evening of Aug. 12 at Rushford Post 94, 213 Highway 16. Lodging is at Rushford Lokens Hotel. Call 507-864-2222.

The ride departs Aug. 13 for a lunch stop, then to New Ulm

Post 132 for the night. Lodging is at New Ulm Microtel. Call 507-354-9800.

On Aug. 14, the ride goes from New Ulm to a lunch stop. Kickstands will go down at Montevideo Post 59. Lodging is available at Montevideo Grand Stay. Call 320-269-8000.

The ride concludes Aug. 15 by going to a lunch stop, then to Hopkins Post 320.

The Legacy Run website is mnlegacyrun.org.

World War II Round Table resumes in Sept.

ST. PAUL — The Dr. Harold C. Deutsch World War II History Round Table resumes action in September. Mark

Sept. 14 on your calendar to hear a talk by historian Rich Frank on the genesis of the Pacific Theater in a talk called "Tower of Skulls."

The University of Missouri graduate is the author of several books on the war in the Pacific and Southeast Asia. His most recent was published in 2020 and is called "Tower of Skulls: A History of the Asia-Pacific War, July 1937-May 1942."

The World War II series meets at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul and does not meet during the summer months. Its presentations had to limit audience sizes in fall 2020 and spring 2021 because of pandemic restrictions. It is expected the September presentation might be the first "back to normal" one.

Continued on Page 6

Taps



Ahness, Elton L., 100, Army veteran of World War II, died Feb. 13, 2021. He served in Italy and North Africa. He was a 67-year member of Springfield Post 257.

Anderson, Kenneth A., 94, Army veteran of World War II, died May 9, 2021. He was a 49-year member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Bailey, Roger L., 93, Navy veteran of World War II, died May 25, 2021. He left high school at 17 and served in the South Pacific. He returned to graduate in 1947. He was a past commander and 60-year member of Glenville Post 264.

Bauer, Clarence, 81, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 2, 2021. He was an aviation electrician's mate and served at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi and aboard the USS Salisbury Sound. He was a member of Adrian Post 32.

Bluhm, Lyle A., 90, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died April 28, 2021. He was a 45-year member of Park Rapids Post 212.

Bonfy, Buddy L., 89, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 8, 2021. He served as an officer with Battery C, 775th Field Artillery Battalion, 7th Army, in Korea. He was a 30-year member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Broderius, Lloyd M., 93, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 27, 2021. He served with the 11th Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Ky. He was a 67-year member of Hector Post 135.

Bruins, Richard A., 80, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died April 27, 2021. He was present at the Cuban Blockade. He was a member of Robbinsdale-Crystal Post 251.

Coe, R. Owen, 86, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died April 26, 2021. He was chief medical officer at Fort Greely, Alaska. He was a member of Virginia Post 239.

Daml, John M., Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Nov. 18, 2020. He was a 34-year member of New Brighton Post 513.

Erickson, Kenneth R. "Pinky," 94, Navy veteran of World War II, died. (Newspaper obituary did not give date of death.) He served at Pearl Harbor and Guam. He was an all-around athlete who especially liked golf and played with the likes of Ben Hogan, Sam Snead and Walter Hagen. He was a 55-year member of Austin Post 91.

Ernest, DeBoer, 90, Army veteran of the Korean War, died April 18, 2021. He was a 66-year member of Wayzata Post 118.

Ewoldt, Earl H., 95, Navy veteran of World War II, died May 30, 2021. He served in the Pacific Theater. He was a 41-year member of Willmar Post 167.

Fowler, Clarence, 73, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 21, 2021. He served in the 5th Mechanized Infantry, aka "Red Diamond," in Vietnam. He was a member of Holdingford Post 211.

Gaulrapp, Dwayne N., 95, Navy veteran of World War II, died Dec. 25, 2020. He was a 69-year member of Wheaton Post 80.

Griebel, Greg, 75, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 29, 2021. He served in Germany in the 6th Battalion, 59th Field Artillery, 7th U.S. Army. He was a fire control crewmember assigned to a HAWK missile unit. He was a 49-year member of New Ulm Post 132.

Halling, Leon C., 81, Navy veteran of the Cold War, died June 4, 2021. He was a member of Minneota Post 199.

Hammer, Ralph W., 73, Marine and Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 15, 2021. In the Air Force career, he served as a mechanic. He was the finance

Obituaries

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

Please send to tengstrom@mnlegion.org or in the mail to the Department of Minnesota.

The Minnesota Legionnaire portion of the Department website, mnlegion.org, now has an easy web form for submitting Taps by clicking a button.

officer and a member of Bruno Post 563.

Hovdestad, Harold, 90, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 24, 2021. He was a 32-year member of Park Rapids Post 212.

Johnson, Merle E., 93, Navy veteran of World War II, died May 6, 2021. He was a 61-year member of Caledonia Post 191.

Klimek, Raymond N., 89, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died May 9, 2021. He served in weapons handling with the Ships Service Department and was part of shore bombardment during the Korean War. He was a 42-year member of Millerville Post 527.

Knapp, Robert A. "Bob," 79, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 15, 2021. He served as a mechanic. Though his membership was not continuous in his final years, he did, in 2019, receive a 50-year certificate as a member of Redwood Falls Post 38.

Krippner, David G., 71, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 27, 2021. He was vice commander and a member of Rush City Post 93.

Kuchenbaker, Robert E., 74, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 18, 2021. He served with the 1st Cavalry Division, in B Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, in Vietnam. He was a 43-year member of Mora Post 201.

Larkin, Harry E., 88, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died June 3, 2021. He was a 41-year member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Madson, James L. "Jim," 87, Army and National Guard veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 3, 2021. He was the Post's 2017 Rider of the Year and a 54-year member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Marthaler, Cyril, 77, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 1, 2021. He served as a chief warrant officer. He was a 50-year member of Lake Henry Post 612.

McKinnon, Fred E., 90, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died. (No obituary was available to give date of death.) He was a member of Paynesville Post 271.

Minnick, Gregory "Greg," 67, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 23, 2021. He was stationed in Hawaii. He later spent a year in Iraq as an independent contractor driving a truck. He was a 30-year member of Hector Post 135.

Munson, Thomas E., 90, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Feb. 21, 2021. He was a 48-year member of Minneapolis-Richfield Post 435.

Nelson, Carl A., 96, Army veteran of World War II, died Feb. 17, 2021. He was a 38-year member of Park Rapids Post 212.

Nicoski, Raymond V., 89, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 1, 2021. After active duty, he served in the Army Reserves. He was a 38-year member of Little Falls Post 46.

Oliver, Kenneth J. Jr., 77, veteran, died May 31, 2021. (His membership data does not give branch or era, and he lacks an obituary as of press time.) He served as 8th District commander 2016-17. He was a member of West Duluth Post 71.

Pederson, Bruce A., 66, Minnesota National Guard veteran of wars in Iraq and Bosnia, died June 15, 2021. He

served in SFOR-14 in Bosnia and in Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq. He was a member of Little Falls Post 46.

Pilarski, Dewaine, 82, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 14, 2021. He was a 49-year member of Holdingford Post 211.

Plante, Clayton U., 89, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 17, 2021. He was a member of Little Falls Post 46.

Raether, Roger E., 75, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 25, 2021. He was a member of Waconia Post 150.

Rud, Robert V., 90, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died June 11, 2021. He served in Texas and Japan. He was a 41-year member of Hayfield Post 330.

Russell, Richard W., 80, Air Force veteran of Vietnam War, died Sept. 8, 2019. He was a 39-year member of Apple Valley Post 1776.

Ryan, James J., 73, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Dec. 10, 2019. He was a member of Anoka Post 102.

Ryan, James, 75, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Dec. 20, 2019. He was a 41-year member of Anoka Post 102.

Schieman, Clifford A., 89, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died Feb. 4, 2021. He was a member of at-large Post 1982.

Schnobrich, Eldor "George," 74, Navy veteran of the Cold War, died June 3, 2021. He served as a disbursing clerk aboard the USS Samuel B. Roberts. He was a member of New Ulm Post 132.

Schuhmacher, Mervin E., 87, Marine veteran of the Korean War, died April 23, 2021. He was a 30-year member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Skaja, Gerald D., 78, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 19, 2021. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 212.

Swanson, Harry, 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 22, 2021. He served in Japan during the war, then continued in the National Guard. He was a 44-year member of Flensburg Post 136.

Tapp, Gaylord H., 99, Army veteran of World War II, died June 8, 2021. He took part in five invasions — Attu, Kiska, Marshall Islands, Leyte and Okinawa — and was awarded four Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart with Oak Cluster. He was a 54-year member of Hayfield Post 330.

Thies, Lester, 91, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 2, 2021. He was a member of Little Falls Post 46.

Thompson, Ronald L., 87, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died May 21, 2021. He served stateside as an aircraft mechanic. He was a 46-year member at New Ulm Post 132.

Thornton, Edward, 95, Navy veteran of World War II, died May 17, 2021. He served in the South Pacific. He was a 51-year member of Cloquet Post 262.

Valentin, James "Jim," 82, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 3, 2021. He was a 38-year member of Marshall Post 113.

Von Eschen, James J., 83, Army Reserve veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 15, 2021. He was a 31-year member of Arlington Post 250.

Walsh, John F., 89, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died May 29, 2021. He was a 35-year member of St. Paul Hamline Post 418.

Woken, Mark G., 72, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 11, 2021. He was a member of Milaca Post 178.

Young, John "Jack," 67, Navy and Army veteran of the Persian Gulf War and Iraq War, died Dec. 4, 2020. He served in Kuwait during Desert Storm, and he had two tours of Iraq. He received a Bronze Star. He was a member of a North Carolina American Legion Post and was buried in Hayfield.

Let's get Riders to state convention

Summer is here! It is a great time to be a Legion Rider. There are so many things going on — parades, charity runs, dinners, conventions. It is impossible to get to them all, but it is great to be invited, and really great being involved in the ones we can participate in.

I can't say enough how wonderful it is to be a part of this great organization, and how proud I am of all of the Legion Riders in Minnesota. Keep up the great work that you do.

It looks like the route is almost finalized for the Legacy Scholarship Run for state, and this year we can even pre-register. For details and a link you can go to the MN ALR Legacy Fund page on Facebook.

Pre-register before July 5 to receive your year patch in the

Legion Riders

Paul Hassing



mail before the start.

A Minnesota Legacy Run schedule appears under "What's Happening?" on Page 5 of this issue of the Legionnaire.

We will have a Riders meeting on Friday, July 16, at Jackpot Junction in Redwood Falls during the Department Convention.

There has been a call to meeting sent out to all of the District representatives. There will be an election during the Minnesota Department Convention. It would be great to see more Riders attending the convention. Please be careful out there.

More and more drivers are not paying attention to the road, and definitely not looking out for motorcycles.

Looking forward to seeing all of you at one point or another. In the meantime, don't hesitate to call if you need anything: 612-598-0419.

Paul Hassing of Bloomington Post 550 is the director of the American Legion Riders for the Department of Minnesota.

Please play nat'l anthem at games

As we are into summer now, Legion Baseball is going on. Yes, we will have regional tournaments, as well as the World Series in North Carolina.

Minnesota has set a record for more baseball teams signed up than ever before.

We ask all teams to *please* play the national anthem prior to every game. If you do not have a PA system, a boombox, or even a downloaded recording of the national anthem on someone's phone, would work. If someone would start, everyone should join in as I am sure the words are not a problem for all in attendance.

District conventions were all very well-attended as the Legion Family is back stronger

National Report

Bill Barbknecht



than ever. I tried to get to as many as possible. A few were on the same day so travel to all was difficult as many of you are aware.

Girls and Boys State is currently in process, and they are both going well. Shooting Sports is going well also.

We are all looking forward to the Department Convention in July in Redwood Falls, and the National Convention in Phoenix in Aug. 27 to Sept. 2.

Please sign up a new member, they need the Legion Family

as well as we need them.

Thanks to all those that had a Memorial Day Program. Time to plan for a Veterans Day dinner.

Any questions for me please feel free to call me at 218-770-6264.

Bill Barbknecht of Underwood Post 498 is the Department of Minnesota's National Executive Committeeman.

Minn. American Legion Baseball Tournaments

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| Div. I | St. Cloud | Municipal Athletic Complex | July 29-Aug. 1 |
| Div. II | Sacred Heart | Sacred Heart Ballpark | July 30-Aug. 1 |
| Div. I Jr. | Bloomington | Red Haddock Field | July 28-Aug. 1 |
| Div. II Jr. | Montevideo | high school ballfield | Aug. 6-8 |

Reminder: Legion members receive free entry by showing membership card.

What's happening?

Continued from Page 5

Meanwhile, the presentations are available for full viewing on YouTube simply by searching "World War II History Round Table." Need a recommendation? Check out the May 18, 2021, one called "The Bombing Campaign in Europe." There are several images and illustrations to go along with the speaking.

Kopp, from Rosemount, became an Army Ranger only eight months after graduating high school. He did two tours in Iraq before beginning a tour of Afghanistan in May 2009. On July 10 that year, during a fire-fight with the Taliban, he saved the lives of six Rangers before he was shot in the leg. He died July 18. It is said his donated organs saved or enhanced the lives of 60 people.

\$447,613.

"As the nation continues its recovery from the pandemic, initiatives like these are more important than ever," said Labor Secretary Marty Walsh. "Our veterans deserve our best efforts to ensure they have a safe place to live, means to support themselves and their families and opportunities to pursue a fulfilling career."

Ben Kopp ride ready to roll

APPLE VALLEY — The 11th annual Ben Kopp Memorial Ride is set for 9 a.m. July 24 to 1 a.m. July 25 at Bogarts Entertainment Center, 14917 Garrett Ave., Apple Valley.

It is a 100-mile motorcycle ride organized by the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association Chapter 48-7 and Bogarts Entertainment Center. In addition, there will be an auction, raffles, dinner and live music.

Kickstands up at 11 a.m. The fee is \$25 a person. Proceeds go toward helping veterans.

MACV receives federal grant

ST. PAUL — The U.S. Department of Labor announced on June 1 the awarding of \$52 million in grants to help homeless veterans find gainful employment and address the problems of housing homeless veterans.

The Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program awarded \$378,750 to the St. Paul-based Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans.

It also awarded MACV a continuation grant for

Get involved in the Post-9/11 Project

CAMPRIPLY — Were you in the military after Sept. 11, 2001? Do you want to submit your Post-9/11 story for the Post-9/11 ceremony?

Go to mmilitarymuseum.org, then hover over "Exhibits" and click on "Post-9/11 Project."

You will find "Share Your Story" as the second link below the video.

Whether you went to the Sandbox or stayed in the States, all stories are welcomed.

Norenberg endorsed for delegate

University of Minnesota Post 548 and the 5th District have endorsed Curt Norenberg, a 64-year member of The American Legion, for delegate at-large for the National American Legion Convention for August 2021 in Phoenix.

Norenberg has served his Post in obtaining 100 percent membership for many years. He and U of M Post 548 raised over \$800 for the 5th District Auxiliary. He has been judge advocate for the 5th District for many years. He attends as many as 14 Zoom calls a week and still finds the time to attend our weekly Monday night Zoom meeting as well as our District meetings.

He has served on the National Security Council as well as the Department of Minnesota National Security & Foreign Relations Committee and helping the many Districts in Minnesota obtain ways to connect to active and reserve components for Outstanding Soldier of the Year awards given by The American Legion. His

efforts in keeping up funds for the ROTC scholarships to be given out yearly is commendable.

He has been known to stand guard at funerals for veterans just like they do at the Capitol Rotunda. Every Memorial Day, Flag Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, he is instrumental in gathering the veteran troops of his building to place 160 flags in his U-turn area of his residence building to be enjoyed by all visitors and family member and residents.

He also has a short, little ceremony of 65 people. In his dedication to the "community, state and nation," Norenberg exemplifies true commitment and dedication to the values we hold and cherish dear to our hearts. It is with great pride the 5th District endorses Curt Norenberg for delegate at large for Phoenix at 2021 National Convention for the Department of Minnesota.

Norenberg served two years active Army and 38 in the Army Reserve. He is a 64-year Legion member.



Curt Norenberg

THEY GAVE A VAN TO A VETERAN



The Hennepin County Sheriff's Office Color Guard was on hand May 25 when LaMettry's Collision, Glass and More in Minnetonka, in conjunction with American Family Insurance, donated a fully restored 2015 Honda Odyssey to a Marine Corps veteran.



The recipient was Teri Hlavka, member and former adjutant of Chanhassen Post 580 and a single mother to four children. She was once honored in the National Legion Magazine for her hard work and dedication to veterans and their families. Locals felt she had done so much for veterans that this time she deserved to be on the receiving end of kindness.



Here, Hlavka is pictured her children and with LaMettry's President of Operations Darrell Amberson.

The SAL Update:

Lots of fun had at Joint Testimonial

Greetings from your Sons of The American Legion.

I would like to say thank you to all who attended the first Joint Testimonial on June 19 in New Prague. A big thank you to Linda Dvorak and the New Prague American Legion for organizing and putting on a wonderful program and dinner.

I was able to attend a few District conventions this spring. Thanks to all for the hospitality.

As we move through the month of June and into July our membership is doing wonderful, but we could always use help from the American Legion Family. All because the

Detachment commander

Dave Vulcan



family that works together gets the job done.

On June 25 and 26, we held our annual convention at Legionville. I would like to say congratulations to all the new officers and wish them the best of luck.

Thank you for your support these last two years. Thank you to all my officers, chairman, and the entire family for all that we have done. This is not a "goodbye," but a "see you again soon."

As I've always said the family that works together will get the job done. Keep it up. Stay safe, stay healthy, and we will see you down the road.

Dave Vulcan is the commander of the Detachment of Minnesota for the Sons of The American Legion.

2021 Membership Report

| 2020 - 2021 MEMBERSHIP | | | | | 06/10/21 |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Region | Goal | Actual | Needed for Quota | Percent | Increase |
| 1 Southern | 42,775 | 40,348 | 2,427 | 94.33% | 456 |
| 2 Central | 132,706 | 119,633 | 13,073 | 90.15% | 1,510 |
| 3 Midwest | 30,377 | 26,954 | 3,423 | 88.73% | 540 |
| 4 Eastern | 146,287 | 128,707 | 17,580 | 87.98% | 1,873 |
| 5 Western | 26,405 | 22,937 | 3,468 | 86.87% | 620 |
| TOTALS | 378,550 | 338,579 | 39,971 | 89.44% | 4,999 |

Membership ahead/behind prior year date

N/A

| Detachment | Goal | Actual | Needed for Quota | Percent | Increase |
|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1 Iowa * ^ ~ ? ! # % \$ Q | 4,376 | 4,422 | (46) | 101.05% | 64 |
| 2 Wisconsin * ^ ~ ? ! # % \$ Q | 3,745 | 3,750 | (5) | 100.13% | 42 |
| 3 Ohio ~ ? ! # % | 31,134 | 28,725 | 2,409 | 92.26% | 246 |
| 4 Illinois * ^ ~ ? ! | 14,547 | 13,106 | 1,441 | 90.09% | 289 |
| 5 Minnesota ^ ~ ? ! | 11,749 | 10,501 | 1,248 | 89.38% | 95 |
| 6 Indiana * ^ ~ ? | 39,365 | 35,149 | 4,216 | 89.29% | 679 |
| 7 Michigan | 24,084 | 21,096 | 2,988 | 87.59% | 70 |
| 8 Missouri | 3,706 | 2,884 | 822 | 77.82% | 25 |
| TOTALS | 132,706 | 119,633 | 13,073 | 90.15% | 1,510 |

Q = Quota

* Met 09/10/20 goal of 10%

^ Met 10/15/20 goal of 25%

~ Met 11/12/20 goal of 35%

? Met 12/09/20 goal of 45%

! Met 01/21/21 goal of 60%

Met 02/10/21 goal of 75%

% Met 03/10/21 goal of 80%

\$ Met 05/12/21 goal of 90%

Q Met 06/09/21 goal of 100%

) Met 07/28/21 goal of 105%

| DETACHMENT | 2020 Donations | 2020 Membership (final) | 2021 CWF Goal (final) | 2021 Donations (final) | % of Goal | Donations Per Capita |
|------------|----------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------|----------------------|
|------------|----------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------|----------------------|

| Central Region | 2020 Donations | 2020 Membership (final) | 2021 CWF Goal (final) | 2021 Donations (final) | % of Goal | Donations Per Capita |
|----------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| ILLINOIS | \$ 5,693.78 | 14,548 | \$ 14,548.00 | \$ 33,953.53 | 233.4% | \$ 2.33 |
| INDIANA | \$ 16,635.27 | 36,522 | \$ 36,522.00 | \$ 27,291.00 | 74.7% | \$ 0.75 |
| IOWA | \$ 4,421.00 | 4,646 | \$ 4,646.00 | \$ 2,145.00 | 46.2% | \$ 0.46 |
| MICHIGAN | \$ 8,761.00 | 23,304 | \$ 23,304.00 | \$ 5,992.00 | 25.7% | \$ 0.26 |
| MINNESOTA | \$ 5,634.49 | 11,094 | \$ 11,094.00 | \$ 4,220.00 | 38.0% | \$ 0.38 |
| MISSOURI | \$ 1,740.00 | 3,175 | \$ 3,175.00 | \$ 2,013.00 | 63.4% | \$ 0.63 |
| OHIO | \$ 14,676.00 | 29,817 | \$ 29,817.00 | \$ 21,618.74 | 72.5% | \$ 0.73 |
| WISCONSIN | \$ 440.00 | 3,974 | \$ 3,974.00 | \$ 170.00 | 4.3% | \$ 0.04 |
| Total: | \$ 58,001.54 | 127,080 | \$ 127,080.00 | \$ 97,403.27 | 76.6% | \$ 0.77 |

2021 National Target Date

July 28, 2021

105%

Delegate Strength Target Date

Is a museum the iCloud of the times?

Continued from Page 1

Post-9/11 Project.

"We have launched a Post-9/11 Project as part of the museum's work to engage the 40,000-plus Minnesota 9/11 veterans in the state," he said. "We have taken a systematic approach, and almost all of us, we of a certain age, can remember where we were on that day," he added.

Gathering stories of Minnesotans in this project will be done collaboratively by the Minnesota Military and Veterans Museum and the Minnesota Department of Veteran Affairs 9/11 Task Force.

The public is invited to attend and take part in the all-day remembrance program that is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 11, 2021, on the Minnesota Capitol grounds in St. Paul, where speeches and music will honor veterans and allow a place for Minnesotans to gather and pay respects.

"There will be a special remembrance that morning to mark the time of the terrorist attacks and when the planes struck targets, and the rest of the day will be dedicated to honoring those who served in Iraq and Afghanistan and other places," he said.

A specific schedule will be released at a later date.

Leading the efforts to put together a documentary that will be broadcast on TV the week leading up to Sept. 11, Dietrich said, "As I have been editing this documentary and listening to all the camera footage we have, I guess one thing that was a re-occurring theme was the sense that those people who have participated in the interviews just reference the fact that being from Minnesota represents something."

"You grow up a certain way and you have a direction about yourselves and conducting yourself in service, and there is just something about being from Minnesota that seems extra special, and that is a bond we all share," he added, comparing this is Midwestern values.

"This is always doing what is asked of us and doing it to our best ability is something that I have heard people say often," during the interviews and compiling Minnesotans' stories, he said.

Dietrich began his work as the museum's executive director in 2017, and prior to that he dedicated 15 years interviewing veterans in projects at the Minnesota Historical Society. He loved talking with World War II and Vietnam veterans.

"I had the chance to meet and work with Gen. John Vessey Jr., who was the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for President Ronald Reagan. Vessey gave 46 years of his professional career to service in the military."

Now the museum is engaged in work to chronicle how 9/11 impacted Minnesotans families and the heartache after the long war took the lives of young soldiers. They gave the ultimate sacrifice after committing to protect freedoms all Americans enjoy each day.

The Minnesota Military and Veterans Museum has always worked to chronicle war, but today it serves to resemble an iCloud account that preserves photographs, artifacts and personal stories that tell the truth about the months and years that



Randal Dietrich is the executive director of the Minnesota Military and Veterans Museum, which is presently housed at Camp Ripley. The museum and the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs are planning a 20th anniversary 9/11 remembrance for the grounds of the Minnesota State Capitol. The museum is also raising funds necessary to move just off the base to a property along Minnesota Highway 371.



Photo by Kara Hildreth

This concrete blast wall section was painted by Minnesota military personnel while stationed at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. The "Desert Bulls" artwork commemorates the service of the 34th "Red Bulls" Infantry Division during 2006-08 during Operation Iraqi Freedom. It remained in Kuwait, and when the division returned for Operation New Dawn in 2010-11, soldiers painted the other side and brought it back to Minnesota. It stands at the Minnesota Military and Veterans Museum at Camp Ripley as a tribute to the 20 Red Bulls who didn't come home.

soldiers served away from home in the long wars waged in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"That is why we are here, and that is what we do, and our history within the state of Minnesota that goes back to the statehood and Civil War, and early photographs and letters dating back that far — those documents exist and are the current culture," he said.

"When folks are Skyping today back and forth and texting messages and having a hard copy record of what was said and exchanged is more ephemeral and it is permanent," said Dietrich.

"That makes our work all the more urgent because when you upgrade your phone, then some of your messages will disappear or your photographs will not be printed off and will be forgotten over time," he said.

"We are the iCloud of Minnesota military service, and that is what I am hoping people will respond to," he said.

The 9/11 documentary work is happening this summer.

"It is a commemoration and a remembrance of that morning as we have been doing many veteran interviews where they almost always go back to where they were that morning and how that morning shaped their experience," he said.

"Many say that day changed the direction of their lives, and we are trying to honor their service with this project," he said.

"My hope might be that on this day in September when we gather on the state Capitol grounds, it will certainly be a day veterans can join us, but as service members have been

deployed often multiple times after 9/11, my understanding and my appreciation is that many times it is the family who makes a sacrifice many times along with the veteran," Dietrich said.

"Then the neighborhood comes together and then the community comes together and I would love to see those people as a community join us at the Capitol, so it is not just a day for the veterans, but it is a day to honor them," he added.

"We shouldn't overlook the impact of deployments and multiple deployments have had on families with missing anniversaries, birthdays and graduations."

Minnesotans are encouraged to share photos, memories, letters or artifacts and can do so by going onto the museum's homepage at mnmilitarymuseum.org or email at connect@mnmilitarymuseum.org.

New museum update

As reported previously in the Legionnaire, plans are under way to build a new Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum with indoor and outdoor spaces.

A groundbreaking is slated to take place next year with hopes that a grand opening can be celebrated in spring 2024.

"We are in the process of raising some additional funds to make all that happen," he said.

A capital campaign is under way to secure funding to build the \$13 million facility.

"The funding from the state government was approved by the Legislature last year, and now we are in the process of raising some additional funds to make all that happen," he said.



Minnesota National Guard Brig. Gen. Sandra Best speaks on Memorial Day for a ceremony presented by Bayport Post 491. She is a member of Post 491, too.

'Remember those who have sacrificed everything'

Brig. Gen. Sandra Best gives Memorial Day presentation

BAYPORT — Let's not spend time in this story describing pandemic this, reopening that. You already know what's up.

Instead, let's get back to normal by getting to the point of Memorial Day — honoring the fallen.

"Although I have spent nearly my entire adult life in the military," said Brig. Gen. Sandra Best at the Bayport American Legion Memorial Day Ceremony on May 31. "I admit that only in the last decade or so has the full impact of Memorial Day moved me to somber reflection of our fallen heroes.

"Today, I think about these selfless veterans. Who were they? Why did they serve? When and where did they serve? And who did they leave behind?"

Best was the speaker at the ceremony in Bayport. People young and old gathered in lawn chairs on a hill in Hazelton Cemetery. She spoke about Memorial Day as a time to reflect on the sacrifices of more than 1 million servicemembers from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard and

Merchant Marines.

"Sadly, more than 6,000 names have been added to that roll call in the last 15 years," she said.

"Let us also not forget those who are still counted among the missing, including over 1,600 from action in Vietnam, 8,000 in Korea and well over 73,000 on the Second World War."

She noted how no other nation has dedicated as much time, effort and expense toward finding missing comrades and bringing them home. She said more than 80 missing servicemembers have been returned to their families since January 2010.

Recently, three missing from World War II missing and two missing from the Korean War were accounted for and interred.

"Even closer to home, just three years ago, Navy Fireman 3rd Class Glaydon I.C. Iverson, who died Dec. 7, 1941, aboard the USS Oklahoma at Pearl Harbor, was returned to his hometown of Emmons, Minnesota."

She read the 273 words of the Gettysburg Address and said she heeds President Abraham Lincoln's calling to honor the fallen by working in the best interest of the country by serving in the Minnesota National Guard.

Best is the chief of staff for the Minnesota Air National Guard and is the deputy adjutant general for the Minnesota National Guard.

She enlisted in the Minnesota Air National Guard in 1984 and received her commission in 1991. She is the first female general of the Minnesota Guard.

She is a member of Bayport Post 491.

"We are all so busy dashing about in our daily lives that our focus is often, 'Where are we going?' We pay little thought to, 'Where have we been?'" she said. "Memorial Day is that one day each year when we are reminded to stop for a moment and remember those who have sacrificed everything so that we can safely live our lives in relative peace and prosperity."



Members of Bayport Post 491 present a rifle salute.



The Minnesota Police Pipe Band lend the sounds of bagpipes and drums to the Memorial Day proceedings.



"Boom!" goes the cannon at Hazelton Cemetery in Bayport. A Civil War reenactment battery sounds off near the end of the ceremony.



Stillwater Area High School student John Schaefer plays "Taps" on his trumpet.



Mary Jo Vene, left, sang "The Star-Spangled Banner." Best stands in a blue Air National Guard uniform. Bayport Post 491 Commander Pat Logan, who also is a Department of Minnesota vice commander, stands in white. On the right is American Legion Auxiliary Unit President Jan Eder.

Moorhead firefighter honored by Minnesota American Legion



There is a new dock at Legionville School Safety Patrol Camp, all thanks to individual members and Posts that donated to Minnesota Department Commander Mark Dvorak's Project. The effort raised more than the \$40,000 for the new dock. The fundraising for the Commander's Project continues, with proceeds going to two causes: Legionville and Wounded Warriors Guide Service, which provides outdoor recreation experiences to disabled veterans. Final totals of the Commander's Project will be published after his term ends.



Somebody bought a new mower for Legionville School Safety Patrol Camp? Why, it is Bayport Post 491! Actually, the Post donated \$10,000 to Legionville, and a good share of those proceeds paid for this lawnmower.

MOORHEAD — The Moorhead Firefighter Department Firefighter of the Year for 2020 has been named the Minnesota American Legion 2021 Outstanding Firefighter.

Anthony Cross started in the field of information technology, providing his skills to an insurance company. He joined his local volunteer fire department in Mapleton, N.D., and came to enjoy the camaraderie, training and helping residents. He also met his eventual wife, Kayla Woodley (now Cross), who was fire chief in Mapleton at the time.

Mapleton is about 13 miles west of downtown Fargo.

His interest in becoming a career firefighter grew, and he and Kayla now work full time for the Moorhead Fire Department.

In November 2015, Cross made the local news for rescuing a young man from the Red River of the North. A pedestrian heard cries for help and called 911. The man clung to a tree branch about 5 feet from shore. Cross, in a cold water suit, went in and held the man as a ground crew pulled them to safety. He put the man in a stretcher, and the ground crew pulled the stretcher up a steep bank.

The man was taken to a hospital to be treated for hypothermia. Police said the man

might have fallen in the river while skateboarding on a bridge.

When Cross was with Mapleton, the department lacked a rescue squad for life support first response, and, to get one started, he took an EMT course — 100 hours of training at his own expense.

In Moorhead, on his off days, he responds to medical emergencies, vehicle crashes and other trauma. He purchases some medical supplies out of his own pocket, and the rescue squad never charges the patients for quick response.

He has worked for Moorhead for seven years. He also volunteers at his church, Prairie Heights Church in West Fargo.

Kayla described a time they went out for breakfast and were stuffed from the food.

"Anthony did not ask for a caramel roll or go for another cup of coffee. Instead, he had noted an elderly gentleman sitting by himself with a U.S. Air Force hat on," she wrote in the nomination. "He quietly whispered to the waitress and asked to include his tab on ours. Anthony quietly paid for the tabs and got up to leave."

When leaving, he asked the veteran how many years did he serve. The answer was 22, and it resulted in a nice conversation.



Anthony Cross

"I am beaming with excitement knowing this gentleman got the surprise of a free breakfast after we left," Kayla wrote.

Anthony Cross continues to work part time for the same insurance company. The Moorhead Fire Department contracts with the state to provide a regional hazardous materials response team, which includes high-tech chemical monitoring equipment, software, computers and communications equipment. Cross ensures the technology is updated and calibrated and makes sure any repairs done by vendors are finished on time.

In February, Cross received a letter of commendation from Moorhead Fire Chief Rich Duysen for his work on a summer youth program.

"Though you have always been a reliable, positive and diligent employee, your work on the summer youth program project surpassed our expectations. When the Moorhead Police Department arrived to film the video you were not aware of, both you and Firefighter McDonough did not hesitate to jump in and provide a remarkable product. You truly upheld our values of professionalism and cooperation," the chief wrote.

The Minnesota **Legionnaire**  ... is a member of ... **THE AMERICAN LEGION MEDIA ALLIANCE**

Do you produce media for your Post? Join by going to legion.org/talma. Dues are \$15 per year.

Delivery issues?

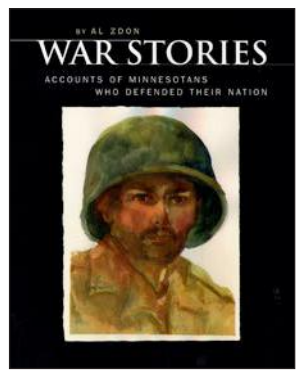
Know Legion members who didn't get the Legionnaire?

The new MyLegion.org has caused some good addresses to be marked as bad at National.

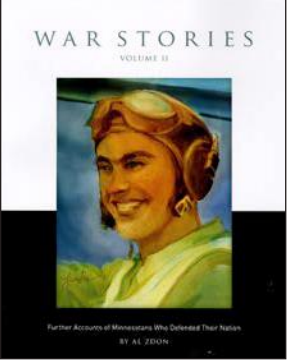
Email Ldvorak56@gmail.com or jennifer.havlick@outlook.com for assistance.

Early Christmas shopping?

Order yours today!



War Stories Vol. 1 \$40



War Stories Vol. 2 \$25



War Stories Vol. 3 \$20

Please cut out form, mail it in with the enclosed check

Select: Vol. 1 Vol. 2 Vol. 3

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Mail to:
 The American Legion Dept. of Minnesota
 20 W. 12th St. Room 300-A
 St. Paul, MN 55155-2000

Donate safely and securely

Help the Department Foundation ... and get great gear!



Look at all this cool Legion stuff!
 Donate \$50 to the "Department of Minnesota Foundation" and you can select any two of these five items as gifts from us to you.

For more donation amount and gift options, visit our website at mnlegion.org and click on "donate" over to the right. (We have a new page!)

Remember, The American Legion Department of Minnesota Foundation is where we house our youth programs: Baseball, Boys State, Legionville, Oratorical Contest and many scholarships. Your donation will go directly to benefit those programs and not to the wages of the Department staff.

Help us provide patriotic and respectful experiences for Minnesota's youth.

Select 2: Water bottle Coin Knife Totebag Book

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Cut out and mail \$50 to:
 The American Legion Dept. of Minn. Foundation
 20 W. 12th St. Room 300A
 St. Paul, MN 55155-2000

Legion Convention Program

**The 102nd Annual Convention
of The American Legion Department of Minnesota
Jackpot Junction Casino Hotel
REDWOOD FALLS, MINNESOTA
July 15-17, 2021**



Convention assembled on Friday, July 16, 2021.

THURSDAY MORNING, JULY 15, 2021

- 7-8 a.m. Caucus of all delegates and alternates by Districts
8:30 a.m. American Legion Convention Sessions:
Jackpot Junction, Dacotah Exposition Center
Call to Order: Mark Dvorak, Department
Commander, New Prague
Advancement of the Colors: New Prague Post 45
POW/MIA Flag: Jim Kellogg, NS/FR Committee,
Taopi
Richard Skillestad, Department Sergeant-at-
Arms, Eyota
Invocation: Betty Jass, Department Chaplain,
Lake Crystal
The Pledge of Allegiance
"The Preamble" recital by Commander and
Delegates
Greetings:
• Robert Larsen, President, Lower Sioux
Indian Community
• The Honorable Tom Quackenbush, Mayor,
Redwood Falls
• Dustin Hunter, Commander, Melvin Daskam
Post 38, Redwood Falls
• Brad Pagel, 2nd District Commander, Slayton
• Hal Meyer, Department Vice Commander,
Lynd
• Jim Mertens, General Convention Chairman,
Redwood Falls
- 8:50 a.m. Reading of the Convention Call: Michael J. Maxa,
Department Adjutant, St. Paul
Approval of 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
- 9:05 a.m. Report: Legionville Corp., Eugene Leifeld,
President, Zumbrota
Report: V4V, Don Pankake, Member, Hutchinson
& Marland Ronning, Member, Maple Grove
- 9:20 a.m. Jason C. Petti, Deputy Network Director,
VA Midwest Health Care Network (VISN 23)
- 9:35 a.m. Todd Kemery, Commander's Task Force
Chairman, and Vice President, Paralyzed
Veterans of America, Minnesota Chapter
- 9:45 a.m. Greg Peterson, President, Minnesota Association
of County Veterans Service Officers
- 9:55 a.m. Report: Neal Loidolt, President/CEO, Minnesota
Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV)
- 10:05 a.m. Report: Raymond Douha, Veterans Employment
Program Director & Barry Platt, Field Operations
Manager, Minn. Department of Employment
and Economic Development (DEED)
- 10:20 a.m. Presentation by: Carl Moon, Employment
Committee Chairman, Walker
- 10:25 a.m. National Report: William C. Barbknecht, National
Executive Committeeman, Battle Lake
Armed Forces Service Center Report: Joe Jansen,
Representative, New Brighton
Finance Report: Carl Hendrickson, Finance
Committee Chairman, Cloquet
Sale of Post Home: Greg Colby, Department
Judge Advocate, Northfield
- 10:55 a.m. Announcement of Department Convention
Committees and Instructions
Michael J. Maxa, Department Adjutant, St. Paul
- 11:05 a.m. Recess
11:15 a.m. Joint Memorial Service: Jackpot Junction,
Dacotah Exposition Center

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 15, 2021

- 1 p.m. Meetings of all Convention Committees

Instructions:

- Members serving on Convention Committees will please be prompt in attendance at assigned committee meetings.
- Each committee will elect its own Chairman and Secretary. When work is finished, the Chairman or Secretary, (or both) will report to the Convention Department Headquarters at the Jackpot Junction Hotel Suite 100, Legion Headquarters Office, for assistance in preparing a typewritten report for presentation to the

3. All Convention Committee reports should be presented and accepted in final form before adjournment on Friday, July 16, 2021, thus disposing of all business other than that which has been scheduled for Saturday morning.
- 2 p.m. Gambling Seminar, Jackpot Junction, Dacotah Exposition Center
Moderator: Bob Hart, Legislative Committee
Chairman, Oak Park Heights
- 3 p.m. Mylegion Training, Jackpot Junction, Tatanka 4

FRIDAY MORNING, JULY 16, 2021

- 7-8 a.m. Caucus of all delegates and alternates by Districts
8:30 a.m. Call to Order: Mark Dvorak, Department
Commander, New Prague
Respect to Colors
Invocation: Betty Jass, Department Chaplain,
Lake Crystal
The Pledge of Allegiance
"The Preamble" recital by Commander and
Delegates
- 8:40 a.m. Report: Credentials Committee, Lynne Nottage,
Chairman, Minneapolis
- 8:45 a.m. Youth Representatives:
SAL report: David Vulcan, 2020-2021 SAL
Detachment Commander, Mankato
Boy Scout of the Year, Tom Hallett, Boy Scout
Chairman, Mankato
2021 Legion Boys State Governor, Kyle Oldre,
Director, Luverne
2021 Oratorical Contest Winner, Cliff Newman,
Chairman, Blaine
- 9:10 a.m. Update: Larry Herke, Commissioner, Minnesota
Department of Veterans Affairs
- 9:25 a.m. Bruce Feuerbach, National Vice Commander, Iowa
introduced by NECman William C. Barbknecht,
Battle Lake
- 9:40 a.m. Awards Presentations:
Roger Stoick, President, American Legion
Hospital Association., 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
Susan Edwards, Law and Order Chairman, Brainerd
Law Enforcement Officer of the Year
Firefighter of the Year
Mike Ash, Yearbook and Narrative History
Books, St. Paul
Terry Larson, Blood Chairman, Shafer
Tom Clabo, Community Service Chairman,
Hutchinson
Bob Hart, Legislative Chairman, Oak Park Heights
Bob Mace, Bowling Chairman, Waite Park
- 10:10 a.m. National Rehabilitation Service Awards:
Wilson Spence III, Rehabilitation Committee,
Duluth
Pat Cliff Award to Outstanding Post Service Officer
Minnesota Physician of the Year Award
- 10:20 a.m. Convention Committee Reports, in order listed:

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

• Time & Place

- 11:10 a.m. Presentation: Upper Lakes Foods
11:25 a.m. Announcements: Mike Maxa, Department
Adjutant, St. Paul
11:30 a.m. Recess

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 16, 2021

- 1:30 p.m. Report: Baseball Committee: Randy Schaub,
Director, Danube
Remaining Convention Committee Reports
(as listed above under 10:20 a.m.)
- 1:45 p.m. Final Membership Awards: Sylvan Fix,
Department Membership Director, Brownsville
Gold Brigade Winners and other membership
awards
- 2:15 p.m. Greetings: Mrs. Mary Hendrickson, Department
President, American Legion Auxiliary, Cloquet
Marsha Bible, Department Secretary, American
Legion Auxiliary, St. Paul
- 2:30 p.m. Nominations for Department Office
3:30 p.m. Voting Rules: Greg Colby, Department Judge
Advocate, Northfield
- 3:40 p.m. Recess
VOTING AT JACKPOT JUNCTION FOR ONE HALF HOUR
(30 MINUTES) FROM TIME OF RECESS
IN CROSSED ARROWS C.

SATURDAY MORNING, JULY 17, 2021

- 8 a.m. POLLS OPEN for voting at Jackpot Junction,
Crossed Arrows C
- 9 a.m. POLLS CLOSE
- 9 a.m. Call to Order: Mark J. Dvorak, Department
Commander, New Prague
Pay Respect to Colors
Invocation: Betty Jass, Department Chaplain,
Lake Crystal
The Pledge of Allegiance
"The Preamble" recital by Commander and
Delegates
- 9:10 a.m. "Convention Memorial Service": Betty Jass,
Department Chaplain, Lake Crystal
- 9:30 a.m. Report: Legionnaire Insurance Trust: William C.
Barbknecht, Chairman, Battle Lake
Minnesota American Legion Foundation: Lloyd
Ricker, President, Paynesville
- 9:40 a.m. Final Report of Credentials Committee
9:45 a.m. Mike Maxa, Department Adjutant, St. Paul
9:50 a.m. Report and Presentations: Mark Dvorak,
Department Commander, New Prague
- 10:05 a.m. Announcement of Election Results and
Introduction of Newly Elected Officers:
- Department Commander
Presentation of Dept. Commander's Badge
Presentation of Past Dept. Commander's
Insignia by Mark Dvorak's Family
Presentation of Miniature Department
Colors to Retiring Commander Darrel
Redepinning, Past Department
Commander, Fridley
 - National Executive Committeeman
 - Alternate NECman
 - Five Department Vice Commanders, without
numerical designation
 - Chaplain
 - Historian
 - Sergeant-at-arms
 - Member of Publications Board for 3-year term
 - 2 or 3 Delegates at Large to the National
Convention
 - 5 Alternates at Large to the National
Convention

NOTE: The Department is entitled to five Delegates at Large and five Alternate Delegates at Large. The Department Constitution provides, under Article 8, Section 1, that: "The Delegates at Large to which the Department is entitled in the National Convention shall be elected by the Convention and shall include the incoming Commander, the incoming Department representative on the National Executive Committee, and the outgoing Commander." The National Constitution provides, under Article 7, Section 3, that the National Executive Committeeman shall be a delegate with vote, which shall be exercised with their respective Departments.

Installation of Officers Elect

- 11:30 a.m. Benediction
Retirement of the Colors: Waite Park Post 428
Color Guard
Adjournment

Auxiliary Convention Program

101st Annual Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota Jackpot Junction Casino Hotel REDWOOD FALLS, MINNESOTA July 15-17, 2021

WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 2021

- 8 a.m. Department Finance Committee, Tatanka 3
1 p.m. Department Executive Committee Meeting, Tatanka 3 (District Presidents Elect are invited to join the Executive Committee Meeting)
4 p.m. Registration Opens, Redwood Falls American Legion Post 38

THURSDAY, JULY 15, 2021: GRAND EAGLE BALLROOM

- 7:30 a.m. Registration Opens, Grand Eagle Hallway
7:30 a.m. Briefing and Rehearsal for the Processional, Grand Eagle Ballroom
8 a.m. District Caucuses (10) meet
8 a.m. Convention Credentials Committee Meeting, Sales & Catering Room
8 a.m. Convention Rules Committee Meeting, Thunderbird Room
9 a.m. Daily Roll Call of District Presidents: Marsha Bible, Dept. Secretary
9 a.m. Auxiliary session convenes: Marsha Bible
9:05 a.m. Processional, All Colors (see processional lineup): District Presidents will march with their colors and be introduced by Secretary Marsha Bible
9:10 a.m. Call to Order: Mary Hendrickson, Dept. President
Invocation: Cheryl Nymann, Dept. Chaplain
The Pledge of Allegiance: Joanne Joachim, Americanism Chairman
The National Anthem: Joanne Joachim, Americanism Chairman
Preamble to the Constitution: Carol Kottom, Constitution and Bylaws, Chairman
9:20 a.m. POW/MIA Remembrance: Dee Dee Buckley, National Security Chairman
9:30 a.m. Response for the District Presidents: 1st District President Wanda Prescher
9:35 a.m. Welcome to Redwood Falls:
• Jeanette Mertens, Auxiliary Convention Chairman, Redwood Falls Unit 38
• Carrie Werner, Redwood Falls Unit 38 President
• Dustin Hunter, Redwood Falls 38 Commander
• Robin Olson, 2nd District President
• Brad Pagel, 2nd District Commander
• Russ Lietzke, 2nd District SAL Commander
• Jim Mertens, The American Legion Convention Corp. Chairman, Post 38
9:45 a.m. Greetings:
• Robert Larsen, President, Lower Sioux Indian Community
• The Honorable Tom Quackenbush, Mayor, Redwood Falls
9:55 a.m. Response to Welcomes: Patti Coleman, Department First Vice President
10:20 a.m. Preliminary Report of Convention Credentials Committee: Jeannette Mertens, Chairman
10:25 a.m. Reading of the 2021 Call to Convention: Dept. Secretary Marsha Bible
Reading of the 2019 Department Convention Minutes: Dept. Secretary Marsha Bible
10:30 a.m. Report of the Convention Rules Committee: Vida Bacon, Chairman
10:35 a.m. Recognition of the Dept Office staff: Mary Hendrickson, Dept. President
10:40 a.m. Nominations of candidates for:
• Department President
• Department First Vice President
• Department Second Vice President
10:50 a.m. Remarks by candidates for Department Office
11 a.m. Nomination of ____ delegates-at-large not included under Article IX, Section 1a, or elected at District Conventions
11:05 a.m. Announcements: Dept. Secretary Marsha Bible
11:10 a.m. Recess
11:15 a.m. Memorial Service: The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion, Dacotah Exposition Center

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 15, 2021

- 2 p.m. Meeting of the Convention Committees
2 p.m. Gambling Seminar, Dacotah Exposition Center
Moderator: Bob Hart, Legion Legislative Committee Chairman

THURSDAY EVENING, JULY 15, 2021

DAKOTAH EXPOSITION CENTER (1st Floor)

- 6:30-10 p.m. A social gathering of all registered American Legion Family members hosted by Department of Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary & American Legion: Entertainment provided by Walters Wheelhouse Band, cash bar available

FRIDAY, JULY 16, 2021

GRAND EAGLE BALLROOM (2nd Floor)

- 8 a.m. District Caucuses (10) meet
9 a.m. Daily Roll Call of District Presidents: Marsha Bible
9:05 a.m. Call to Order: Mary Hendrickson, Dept. President
Invocation: Cheryl Nymann, Dept. Chaplain
Supplemental Report of Convention Credentials Committee: Jeanette Mertens, Chairman
9:15 a.m. Presentation of District Presidents
• Wanda Prescher, Roberta Elvecrog, Robin Olson, Susie Learing, Linda Kelly, Sue Korhonen, Sandy Gibson, Pat Hanson, Mary Younkin, Brandi Christensen
10 a.m. Presentation of Distinguished Guests: Mary Hendrickson, Dept. President
• Rhonda Larkowski, Patti Coleman, Mary Kuperus, Raleen Tolzmann, Jean Walker, Joyce Olson, Beverly Otterness, Lori Skaalerud, Norma Tramm, Sandy Fredrickson, Tamara Opland, Peggy Tesdahl, Carol Kottom, Shirley Frederick, Dee Dee Buckley
10:15 a.m. Response for the Distinguished Guests: Patti Coleman, Department 1st Vice President
9:30 a.m. Presentation of Rhonda Larkowski, Northwestern Division National Vice President
10 a.m. Convention Committee Report, Constitution and Standing Rules: Carol Kottom, Chairman
10:20 a.m. Presentation of The American Legion: Commander Mark Dvorak, Adjutant Mike Maxa
10:50 a.m. Presentation of Sons of The American Legion: Detachment Commander David Vulcan and Adjutant Dennis Henkemeyer

Program Reports

- 11:00 a.m. Convention Committee Report, Resolutions: Laura Wendt, Chairman
11:05 a.m. Convention Committee Report, Audit: Suzette Maluchnik, Chairman
11:15 a.m. Announcements: Dept. Secretary Marsha Bible
11:20 a.m. Recess
11:30 a.m. Past Department President's Luncheon

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 16, 2021

GRAND EAGLE BALLROOM (2nd Floor)

- 1:30 p.m. Call to Order: Patti Coleman, Department First Vice President
1:35 p.m. Convention Committee Report: Past Presidents Parley, Sandra Fredrickson, Chairman
1:40 p.m. Presentation of the Past Department Presidents: Mary Hendrickson, Department President
1:50 p.m. Response for the Past Department Presidents: Sandra Fredrickson, Chairman
1:55 p.m. Memorial Service for Past Department Presidents: Sandra Fredrickson, Chairman
2:10 p.m. Convention Committee Report, Auxiliary Emergency Fund: Joanie Krantz, Chairman
2:15 p.m. Convention Committee Report, Americanism: Joanne Joachim, Chairman
2:20 p.m. Convention Committee Report, Community Service: Diane Hayes, Chairman
2:25 p.m. Convention Committee Report, Education: Pam Gades, Chairman
2:30 p.m. Convention Committee Report, Leadership: Mary Kuperus, Chairman
2:35 p.m. Convention Committee Report, Legislation: Patti Coleman, Chairman
2:40 p.m. Convention Committee Report, Public Relations: Jean Horack, Chairman
2:45 p.m. Report on the Brain Science Foundation: Jessie Hoppe, Representative
2:50 p.m. Report on The American Legion Family Hospital Association: Roger Stoick, President
2:55 p.m. Convention Committee Report, Children and Youth: Robin Dorf, Chairman
3 p.m. Convention Committee Report, Girls State: Jean Walker, Chairman
3:05 p.m. Convention Committee Report, Junior Activities: Donna Barbknecht, Chairman
3:10 p.m. Greetings from Emily Suess, 2019-2021 Honorary Department Junior President and NW Division Honorary Vice President

- 3:15 p.m. Convention Committee Report, Finance Committee: Becky Nelson, Chairman
3:20 p.m. Convention Committee Report, National Security: Dee Dee Buckley, Chairman
Chris Ronning, Armed Forces Center Rep.
3:25 p.m. Convention Committee Report, Memorial: Cheryl Nymann, Chairman
3:30 p.m. Convention Committee Report, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation: Linda Kroppeunske, Chairman; Sandra Locker, Service to Veterans Chairman; Mary French, Gift Shop Chairman, Lynn Olson, Gift Shop Committee Member
3:15 p.m. Recognition of the Hospital/Home Reps.: Mary Hendrickson, Dept. President
3:20 p.m. Announcement of Department President's Project: Mary Hendrickson, Dept. President
Rachel Hammer, Acting Director Voluntary Service and Goldie Bosard, Program Support Assistant, Mpls. VA Health Care System
Daniel Ball, Voluntary Service Director, St. Cloud VA Health Care System
3:40 p.m. Convention Committee Report, History: Karla Otterness, Chairman
3:45 p.m. Convention Committee Report, Poppy: Sandy Wersal, Chairman
Announcement of the Poppy Contest Winners: Sandy Wersal, Chairman
4 p.m. Convention Committee Report, Membership: Sharon Thiemecke, Chairman
4:05 p.m. Announcements: Dept. Secretary Marsha Bible

SATURDAY, JULY 17, 2021

- 9 a.m. Daily Roll Call of District Presidents: Marsha Bible
9 a.m. Call to Order: Mary Hendrickson, Dept. President
Invocation: Cheryl Nymann, Dept. Chaplain
9:05 a.m. Supplemental Report of Convention Credentials Committee: Jeanette Mertens, Chairman
9:10 a.m. Report on Legionville: Eugene Liefeld, President, Legionville Corp.
9:15 a.m. Report on Convention Corporation: Phil Bellefeuille, President
9:20 a.m. Presentation of Auxiliary Bowling Trophy: Bob Mace, Legion Bowling Chairman
9:25 a.m. Presentation of Memory Book: Sue Korhonen, Chairman
9:30 a.m. Final Report of the Constitution and Standing Rules Committee: Carol Kottom, Chairman
9:45 a.m. Department Office Report: Marsha Bible, Secretary
9:50 a.m. Presentation of the Dept. Convention Chairman and Committee: Jeanette Mertens, Chairman
Special introductions and thanks: Mary Hendrickson, Department President
10 a.m. Final Report of the Resolutions Committee: Laura Wendt, Chairman
10:10 a.m. Final Report of the Credentials Committee: Naomi Hill, Chairman
10:20 a.m. Unfinished Business
10:20 a.m. New Business
10:25 a.m. Report of the Election Committee: Judge of Elections Chris Ronning
Election of Officers
• Department President, Department First Vice President, Department Second Vice President, Alternate NECwoman
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 Dept.
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 the Colors
Post Convention Executive Committee Meeting (immediately following)
Retirement of Colors for the 2019-2021 Executive Committee members
Installation of Incoming 2020-2021 Officers Presidents – Carol Kottom
Presentation of Department President's Pin to Newly Elected Department President: Mary Hendrickson, Retiring Department President
Presentation of Past Department President's Pin: Betty Manginen
Benediction: Cheryl Nymann, Dept. Chaplain
Retirement of All Colors
Adjournment: Mary Hendrickson, Dept. President

Call for 102nd Annual Department Convention

The 102nd Annual Convention of The American Legion, Department of Minnesota, is hereby called in conformity with provisions of the Department Constitution and Bylaws, and by action of the Department Executive Committee, sponsored by Redwood Falls American Legion Post 38 and held at Jackpot Junction, Morton, Minnesota, July 15, 16, 17, 2021.

PURPOSE OF CONVENTION

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

REPRESENTATION AT CONVENTION

The Department Convention shall be composed of delegates from each Post, members of the Department Executive Committee, the Department Chaplain, Treasurer, Historian, and the District Adjutants, but only delegates from Posts shall be entitled to vote at such Convention, (Sec.2, Article Five, Department Constitution).

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

must register in order to vote.

GAMBLING SEMINAR MEETING

The Gambling Seminar will be at 2 p.m. Thursday, July 15, 2021 at Jackpot Junction, Dacotah Exposition Center, Morton.

DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

A meeting of the Department Executive Committee has been called and will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 14, 2021, in Morton at the Dacotah Exposition Center, as specified in the upcoming Call to Meeting.

STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Standing Department Committee Meetings will be held at Jackpot Junction, Morton, in the meeting rooms to be determined. These rooms will be confirmed in each committee's Call to Meeting.

AMERICANISM

4 p.m. Wednesday, July 14, 2021 TBD

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

4 p.m. Wednesday, July 14, 2021 TBD

FINANCE

4 p.m. Wednesday, July 14, 2021 TBD

NATIONAL SECURITY

4 p.m. Wednesday, July 14, 2021 TBD

REHABILITATION

4 p.m. Wednesday, July 14, 2021 TBD

GENERAL SESSIONS

Dacotah Exposition Center: Thursday, Friday, Saturday

HOUSING AND REGISTRATION

For the 2021 Department Convention, hotel reservations will be done "on your own" directly with the hotel. Please call the hotel directly and use block #78196 or say "American Legion Convention": Jackpot Junction Casino Hotel – 507-697-8000 or 1-800-946-2274.

A registration fee of \$15 for each Delegate/Alternate and/or Guest must be sent to: Legion Post 38, P.O. Box 354, Redwood Falls, MN 56283.

Registration checks should be made payable to "AMERICAN LEGION POST 38" with "Department Convention" in the memo line. Registration will be \$18 at the door.

DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS OFFICE

A temporary Legion Department Headquarters office will be set up at Jackpot Junction in a room still to be determined starting Thursday, July 15, 2021, for convention service and business during convention business hours only. Meetings will start ON TIME as scheduled unless otherwise announced.

Mark Dvorak
Department Commander

ATTEST: Mike Maxa
Department Adjutant

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this 1st day of May, 2021

Rules for the 2021 American Legion Dept. of Minnesota Convention

To the Post Commanders:

The Rules Committee submits the following proposed Rules for the Convention to be held at Redwood Falls, Minnesota, July 15, 16, 17, 2021.

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

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

(b) Where a motion is made to table a resolution, the sponsor shall be entitled to speak to the Convention for three (3) minutes on the subject, and three (3) minutes rebuttal be granted to the maker of the motion to table before the motion is put.

3) That the Floor be permitted but once to any individual on any subject, except with the unanimous consent of the Convention.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The printed ballot shall include the names of all candidates who have notified the Department Office of their candidacy at least 30

days prior to the first day of the Convention.

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

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

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

(b) Saturday, from 8 a.m. until 9 a.m.

No ballots shall be counted before Saturday morning. No ballots shall leave the polling place.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

18) The order of business of the Convention shall be in accordance with the printed program, except that the election of officers shall be a special order of business, to be held in accordance with Rules 11 and 12. The order of election of Department Officers shall be as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

| THE COMMITTEE: (Members Present) | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| DISTRICT MEMBER | | HOMETOWN |
| First | Dale Wellik | Dodge Center |
| Second | Bradley Pagel | Slayton |
| Third | Linda Dvorak | Le Center |
| Fourth | Joseph Jansen | New Brighton |
| Fifth | Wade Larson | Prior Lake |
| Sixth | Paul Edwards | Brainerd |
| Seventh | Dean Knutson | Marshall |
| Eighth | D. Marvin Hill | Virginia |
| Ninth | Steven Sundstrom | Detroit Lakes |
| Tenth | Thomas Allen | Clearwater |

Resolutions

Continued from Page 13

WHEREAS: when laws are broken, there are consequences and the basics of ensuring our citizens obey the laws of the land should be inculcated in our youth, our communities, and our legislators until they have their day in court, now therefore it be
 RESOLVED: the second line of our preamble is “to maintain law and order” and The American Legion upholds the principles of our preamble and, be it further

RESOLVED: The American Legion Department of Minnesota supports all of the Law Enforcement Agencies in the State of Minnesota and, be it further

RESOLVED: The Department of Minnesota encourages our Districts and Posts to recognize and support their local law enforcement agencies and, be it finally

RESOLVED: this resolution be forwarded to The American Legion Department of Minnesota Convention floor in session 15-17 July for adoption and upon adoption this resolution is distributed to every Post in the Department by the Department staff.

Resolution number: 2021-14
 Received: 8 March 2021

Title: **Updated Department Training Committee Structure**
 Origin: Department of Minnesota Training Committee

WHEREAS, The American Legion, Department of Minnesota has a Training Committee divided into two sub-committees of Department Legion College and MyLegion.org sub-committees; and

WHEREAS, the Training Committee has had time to review the structure of the Training Committee and it’s sub-committees and found this committee structure to be too restrictive and inefficient to the training committee objectives; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by the Department of Minnesota Training Committee of the American Legion in a Special Meeting assembled virtually on February 26, 2021, that the Training Committee will have seven (7) members which will be responsible for developing and administrating Department of Minnesota Legion College and MyLegion.org in addition to all other training that maybe necessary for a well-trained American Legion Membership and their mission; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the incoming commander will appoint the members of the training committee for (1) 5-year term, (1) 4-year term, (1) 3-year term, (1) 2-year term, (3) 1-year term, with the committee electing their chairman at their organizational meeting following department convention; and, be it further

RESOLVED, the Training Committee will have the authority to maintain a list of instructors to assist them in training throughout the Department of Minnesota; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, that this resolution be forward to the American Legion Department of Minnesota Executive Committee on March 6, 2021 for concurring action.

Resolution number: 2021-15
 Received: 8 June 2021

Title: **Clarify and restate the intent of Article II, Section 2 of the National American Legion Constitution and By-Laws.**

Author: Paul Edwards, Executive Board Member, Post 627, Nisswa, MN

A Resolution to clarify and restate the intent of Article II, Section 2 of the National American Legion Constitution and By-Laws. Written by Paul Edwards, Executive Board Member, Post 627, Nisswa, MN.

WHEREAS the charter of the American Legion states under § 21706. Political activities, “The corporation shall be nonpolitical and may not promote the candidacy of an individual seeking public office”, and

WHEREAS Article II, Nature, Section 2 states, “The American Legion shall be absolutely nonpolitical and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment”, and

WHEREAS The American Legion uses political methods in support of its legislative agenda and priorities to support the four pillars of the American Legion, and

WHEREAS The American Legion has Legislative Committees and Chairs at the national, department and district levels whose function it is to use political methods to work with federal and state legislators to support The American Legion’s policies, legislative agenda and programs, and

WHEREAS many Legionnaires interpret Article II, Section 2 to mean that Legionnaires are forbidden to hold or express a political opinion on any topic, and

WHEREAS the definition and interpretation of the word “political” has changed since the Constitution was first written, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, by the members of Billie Brown Post 627 of Nisswa, MN, in regular meeting assembled on February 16, 2021, that Article II, Section 2 of the National Constitution be amended to state, “The American Legion shall use political tools and methods in pursuit of legislative action to support the furtherance of its legislative priorities and agendas but shall be absolutely nonpartisan and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment” and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded to the 6th District Adjutant for presentation to the 6th District Executive Board in regular meeting assembled at Park Rapids on March 21, 2021 for consideration and action to include presentation at the 6th District Convention to be convened at Nisswa, MN on June 3 – 5, 2021, and be it further

RESOLVED, that upon approval this resolution be forwarded to the Department of Minnesota Convention to be regularly convened

at Redwood Falls, MN on July 15-17, 2021, for consideration and action, and be it further

RESOLVED: that upon approval this resolution be forwarded to the National Adjutant for submission to the National Resolutions Committee for action and presentation at the National Convention, regularly convened at Phoenix, AZ on August 27 – September 2, 2021.

Approved Susan Edwards Post 627 Commander

Attested Bobbi Braden Post 627 Adjutant

Approved by vote of the delegates at the 6th District Convention on June 5, 2021 at Nisswa, MN

Approved Paul Edwards District Commander

Attested Susan Edwards District Adjutant

Resolution number: 2021-15
 Received: 8 June 2021

Title: **Clarify and restate the intent of Article II, Section 2 of the National American Legion Constitution and By-Laws.**

Author: Paul Edwards, Executive Board Member, Post 627, Nisswa, MN

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WHEREAS the charter of the American Legion states under § 21706. Political activities, “The corporation shall be nonpolitical and may not promote the candidacy of an individual seeking public office”, and

WHEREAS Article II, Nature, Section 2 states, “The American Legion shall be absolutely nonpolitical and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment”, and

WHEREAS The American Legion uses political methods in support of its legislative agenda and priorities to support the four pillars of the American Legion, and

WHEREAS The American Legion has Legislative Committees and Chairs at the national, department and district levels whose function it is to use political methods to work with federal and state legislators to support The American Legion’s policies, legislative agenda and programs, and

WHEREAS many Legionnaires interpret Article II, Section 2 to mean that Legionnaires are forbidden to hold or express a political opinion on any topic, and

WHEREAS the definition and interpretation of the word “political” has changed since the Constitution was first written, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, by the members of Billie Brown Post 627 of Nisswa, MN, in regular meeting assembled on February 16, 2021, that Article II, Section 2 of the National Constitution be amended to state, “The American Legion shall use political tools and methods in pursuit of legislative action to support the furtherance of its legislative priorities and agendas but shall be absolutely nonpartisan and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment” and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded to the 6th District Adjutant for presentation to the 6th District Executive Board in regular meeting assembled at Park Rapids on March 21, 2021 for consideration and action to include presentation at the 6th District Convention to be convened at Nisswa, MN on June 3 – 5, 2021, and be it further

RESOLVED, that upon approval this resolution be forwarded to the Department of Minnesota Convention to be regularly convened at Redwood Falls, MN on July 15 – 17, 2021 for consideration and action, and be it further

RESOLVED, that upon approval this resolution be forwarded to the National Adjutant for submission to the National Resolutions Committee for action and presentation at the National Convention, regularly convened at Phoenix, AZ on August 27 – September 2, 2021.

Approved Susan Edwards Post 627 Commander

Attested Bobbi Braden Post 627 Adjutant

Approved by vote of the delegates at the 6th District Convention on June 5, 2021 at Nisswa, MN

Approved Paul Edwards District Commander

Attested Susan Edwards District Adjutant

Resolution Number: 2021-16
 Received: 11 June 2021

Author: Department Service Officer Jeremy Wolfsteller.

Subject: **Inequity in the Veterans Health Administration Emergency Medical Transportation Authorities**

WHEREAS; The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) is the largest integrated health care system in the United States, providing care at 1,293 health care facilities, including 171 VA Medical Centers and 1,112 outpatient sites of care of varying complexity (VHA outpatient clinics) to over 9 million Veterans enrolled in the VA health care program, and

WHEREAS; the Veterans Health Administration states during a medical emergency a veteran should immediately seek care at the nearest emergency department (ED), a medical emergency is an injury, illness, or symptom so severe that a delay in seeking immediate medical attention would be reasonably expected to be hazardous to life or health, and

WHEREAS; the Veterans Health Administration has two legal authorities under which emergency treatment in a community facility may be paid for by VA: Unauthorized Emergency Treatment (Service-connected)–Title 38 United States Code (U.S.C.) §1728 and Unauthorized Emergency Treatment (Nonservice-connected)–Title

| | |
|--|--|
| OFFICIAL BALLOT | |
| The American Legion, Dept of Minnesota Election of Officers 2021-2022 | |
| To Vote, Make an X in the box next to your choice | |
| Like This: | |
| Department Commander (vote for one) | |
| Tom Fernlund | |
| Write In | |
| Department Vice Commander (Vote for 5) | |
| Gary Weaver | |
| Hal Meyer | |
| Ray Eiden | |
| Carl Moon | |
| Gene Swanson | |
| Write In | |
| Write In | |
| NECman (vote for one) | |
| William Barbknecht | |
| Write In | |
| Alt NECman (vote for one) | |
| Peggy Moon | |
| Write In | |
| Chaplain (vote for one) | |
| Kelley Adelsman | |
| Larry Otto | |
| Write In | |
| Historian (vote for one) | |
| | |
| Write In | |
| Sergeant-at-Arms (vote for one) | |
| Kenny Gibson | |
| Write In | |
| Board of Publication (vote for one) | |
| Darrel Redepenning | |
| Write In | |

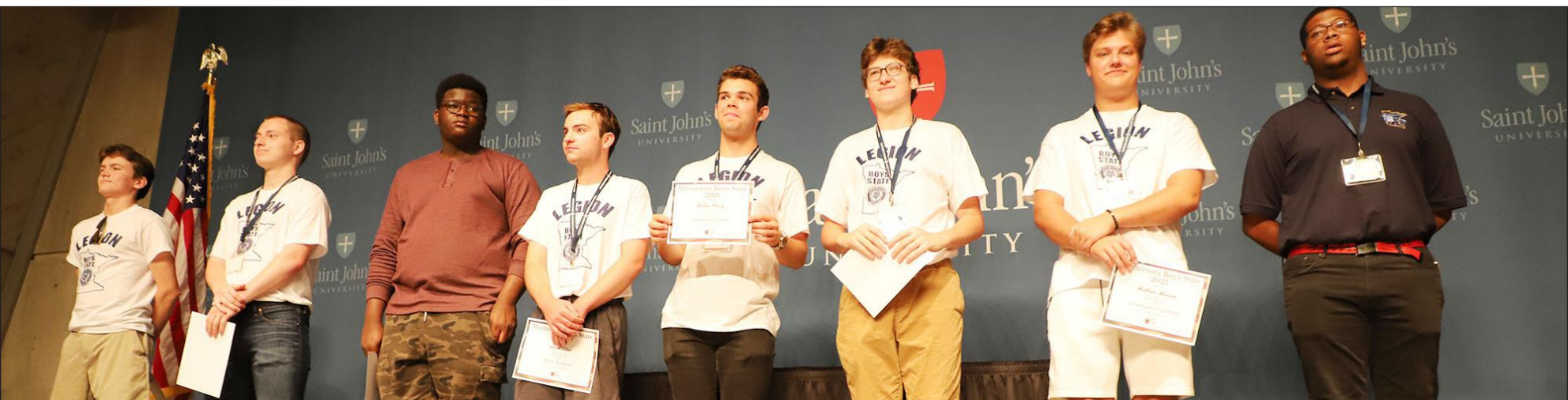
Sample Ballot

38 U.S.C. §1725, both laws include land or air ambulance transportation in the emergency episode of emergency care for payment, and

WHEREAS; the passage of the VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks Act of 2018 “VA MISSION ACT” gives eligible Veterans greater access to health care in the community including covering the costs for episodes of Authorized Emergency Treatment under a regulation change in Title 38 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §17.4020(c), although emergency medical transportation is NOT part of the emergency episode of care and is sent to the local Beneficiary Travel Office to determine eligibility for VA to pay, and

WHEREAS; the Veterans Health Administrations Beneficiary Travel eligibility states Veterans must meet the following administrative requirements to qualify for authorized transport: Have a service-connected disability or combined rating of 30% or more, or be in receipt of VA pension, or previous calendar year income does not exceed maximum VA pension rate, or projected income in travel year does not exceed maximum VA pension rate or travel is in connection with service connected disability or travel is for compensation & pension exam, or travel is to obtain a service dog, or travel relates to VA transplant care and VA clinician documents that special mode transportation is medically required, and

WHEREAS; VA’s Amended regulation changes under the MISSION ACT 38 (CFR) 17.4020(c) states that VA will determine veteran eligibility under this regulation first before considering for reimbursement under 38 (USC) 1725 or 38 (USC) 1728, with VA’s extensive community care network via Optum, majority of emergency episodes of care are authorized under this regulation leaving hundreds of thousands of veterans with unpaid emergency medical transportation bills because not all veterans are eligible for beneficiary travel, now, therefor be it



At Pellegrine Auditorium on the St. John's University campus on June 18, Minnesota Boys State state-level election winners are recognized. From left are Associate Judges Anthony Berndt and James Walsh, Chief Justice Michael Adejumo, Attorney General Colton Garity, State Auditor Aiden Warne, Secretary of State Maximillian Feist, Lt. Gov. Matthew Monson and Gov. Devon Selmon. The governor isn't always selected to go to Boys Nation. In this case, Selmon was selected.

ALSO GOING TO BOYS NATION



Minnesota Boys State Dean congratulates Noah Lippert of Maple River High School, Ryan Lund of Rogers High School and Samuel Buan of Wayzata High School for earning certificates (see story Page 1). Lippert, Lund and Buan also will attend Boys Nation. Minnesota received West Virginia's slots because West Virginia didn't hold a Boys State.

Resolutions

Continued from Page 14

RESOLVED; that the Veterans Health Administration amend regulation 38 (CFR) 17.4020(c) to include medical emergency transportation both air and land to the episode of emergency care, and be it further

RESOLVED; that Beneficiary Travel eligibility be removed from regulation 38 (CFR) 17.4020(c) for determining VA payment when a veteran has a medical emergency in the community that requires air or land emergency transportation and, be it finally

RESOLVED; that if passed at The Department of Minnesota Convention, July 15-17, 2021, this resolution be forwarded to The American Legion's National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona August 27-September 2, 2021, for concurring action.

Resolution Number: 2021-17
Received: 11 June 2021
Subject: **Resolution to Form An Ad Hoc Committee to Research and Recommend a Course of Action on Redistricting Within the Department**

The following Resolution originated by Falldin Post 555 from the 5th District at its Post meeting on June 10, 2021, and was adopted by the 5th District and is submitted for consideration by the 2021 Department Convention to be held in Morton, MN, on July 14-17, 2021.

WHEREAS, The American Legion, Department of Minnesota chartered in 1919; and WHEREAS, the first National Convention was held in Minnesota in 1919; and WHEREAS, The Department of Minnesota is organized into 10 Districts; and

WHEREAS, these 10 Districts were formed based on the 10 Congressional Districts found in 1930; and

WHEREAS, Congressional districts are redistricted ever ten years based on populations shifts, according to the US Census; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion, Department of Minnesota Districts have remained the same since; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion, Department of Minnesota District membership population (as well as eligible veterans within those Districts) has changed in the intervening 90 years; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion, Department of Minnesota Districts are facing challenges regarding membership, participation, active leadership, and geographical issues of the Districts; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By Falldin Post No. 555, 5th District, Department of Minnesota, The American Legion, in regular meeting assembled in Minneapolis, June 10, 2021, That...

The Commander of The American Legion, Department of Minnesota establish an ad-hoc committee to research the opportunities and problems of redistricting or not redistricting within the Department of Minnesota, and be it further

RESOLVED, That this ad hoc committee meet with past and present District Leadership to gather input and opinion from the leadership on the opportunities and difficulties of redistricting or not redistricting the Department of Minnesota, and be it further

RESOLVED, that this ad hoc committee include discussions with the rest of the Department of Minnesota American Legion

Family (The American Legion Auxiliary, The Sons of The American Legion, The American Legion Riders) to gather similar thoughts on opportunities and difficulties in redistricting or not redistricting, and be it further

RESOLVED, that this ad hoc committee prepare a report for the Spring 2022 Department Executive Committee meeting analyzing these opportunities and difficulties of redistricting or not, and provide a recommended course of action based on the findings within that report, and be it finally

RESOLVED, that The American Legion, Department of Minnesota Department Executive Committee take these recommendations and take action to prepare the Department of Minnesota American Legion Family for the next 100 years of service.

Resolution Number: 2021-18
Received: 16 Jun 2021
Author: Department Service Officer, Jeremy Wolfsteller.
Subject: **Elimination of the Gulf War Presumptive Sunset Date**

WHEREAS; VA presumes that certain disabilities were caused by military service, because of the unique circumstances of a specific Veteran's military service, and if a presumed condition is diagnosed or in certain instances undiagnosed in a Veteran in a certain group, they can be awarded disability compensation, and

WHEREAS; Veterans were coming back from service in the Southwest Asia theater of operations, they were experiencing unexplained illnesses and symptoms, as Congress passed S.2358 - Persian Gulf War Veterans Act of 1998 directing VA to administer a presumptive list of illnesses for Gulf War veterans under 38 CFR § 3.317, and

WHEREAS; for VA purposes, the Persian Gulf War refers to service in the Southwest Asian theater of military operations beginning on August 2, 1990, at the present time, the period for the Persian Gulf War extends to December 31, 2021, which means that service members who have served in the Southwest Asia theater of military operations after September 2001 are eligible for benefits under VA's Gulf War presumption, and

WHEREAS; Veterans in the following groups may qualify for "presumptive" disability benefits, former prisoners of war who have a condition that is at least 10 percent disabling, Vietnam Veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange and served in the Republic of Vietnam between Jan. 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975, Atomic Veterans exposed to ionizing radiation and who experienced one of the following, participated in atmospheric nuclear testing, occupied or were prisoners of war in Hiroshima or Nagasaki, served before Feb. 1, 1992, at a diffusion plant in Paducah, Kentucky, Portsmouth, Ohio or Oak Ridge, Tennessee, served before Jan. 1, 1974, at Amchitka Island, Alaska, Gulf War Veterans who served in the Southwest Asia Theater of Operations that have a condition that manifested to a level of at least 10 percent disabling for a period of 6 months or longer by Dec. 31, 2021, and

WHEREAS; the only presumptive period which VA administers that has a sunset date is the Gulf War era, stating conditions must manifest to a level of 10% disabling for a period of 6 months or longer by December 31, 2021, for a veteran to receive service-connected disability compensation, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED; That VA amends 38 CFR § 3.317, removing the

Gulf War presumptive sunset date and make it indefinite, and be it finally

RESOLVED; that if passed at The Department of Minnesota Convention, July 15-17, 2021, this resolution be forwarded to The American Legion's National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona August 27-September 2, 2021, for concurring action.

Resolution Number: 2021-19
Received: 21 Jun 2021
Author: Department Service Officer, Jeremy Wolfsteller.
Subject: **Include in-Network Emergency Care Providers to VA's Locator Tool Website**

WHEREAS; The Passage of the VA MISSION Act of 2018, Veterans now have better access and greater choice in their health care through in-network community providers via improved eligibility criteria, with the new eligibility criteria going into effect in June 2019 after final regulations were published, and

WHEREAS; VA added language in its community care regulations during the MISSION Act revisions to include authorizing emergency treatment, specifically, 38 CFR 17.20(c) which applies only to emergency treatment furnished to a covered veteran by an in-network emergency room provider and does not affect eligibility for, or create any new rules or conditions affecting, reimbursement for emergency treatment under section 1725 or 1728 of title 38, United States Code, and

WHEREAS; under the conditions set forth in this regulation VA may authorize emergency treatment after it has been furnished to a covered veteran, for purposes of this paragraph (c), "emergency treatment" has the meaning defined in section 1725(f)(1) of title 38, United States Code, VA may only authorize emergency treatment under this paragraph (c) if the covered veteran, someone acting on the covered veteran's behalf, or the eligible entity or provider notifies VA within 72-hours of such care or services being furnished and VA approves the furnishing of such care or services under paragraph (c)(3) of this section. (3) VA may approve emergency treatment of a covered veteran under this paragraph (c) only if the veteran is receiving emergency treatment from an eligible entity or provider, the notice to VA complies with the provisions of paragraph that it is submitted within 72 hours of the beginning of such treatment, and

WHEREAS; VA created a Locator Tool via website for enrolled veterans to find "in-network" community providers to help veterans find the closest place of treatment, and

WHEREAS; VA has not updated its locator tool to reflect the recent 2019 regulation changes which include in-network community emergency care providers, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED; VA should improve its transparency with veterans by adding a list of in-network emergency care providers to its locator tool website so veterans can find an in-network emergency room closest to them in case of a medical emergency knowing VA will cover the episode of care if notified within 72 hours, and be it finally

RESOLVED; that if passed at The Department of Minnesota Convention, July 15-17, 2021, this resolution be forwarded to The American Legion's National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona August 27-September 2, 2021, for concurring action.



Annual reports to the Convention of The American Legion Department of Minn.

Adjutant

We are back! We have an Oratorical Contest champion, Legionville is up and running, Boys State just finished, all the Districts had their conventions in-person, via Zoom or hybrid, and we are a couple of weeks from our Department Convention. We continue to be resilient and do the good for The American Legion Department of Minnesota.

After canceling all programs, meetings, conferences, conventions and after the inability to gather, the Department didn't shut down or stop. We conducted our Oratorical Contest using technology, and we were able to conduct the finals in person adhering to the restrictions placed upon us.

Our Oratorical Champion will be at convention to speak about her experience. Unfortunately, she couldn't compete at the National level, but she did receive \$5,000 from National for being our Department champ. The Districts conducted their mid-winter conferences using technology and met within the restrictions imposed upon us.

Next up was to figure out Legionville and Boys State. How can we bring the kids in to camp and to St. John's University campus? A lot of research and discussion went into how can we get these kids to attend and what will the curriculum look like, let alone how many will be allowed to attend. Thank the Lord the restrictions began to relax, and we were able to bring 132 Boys State delegates to St. John's and it was a huge success!

Legionville campers began to register, and we have seven sessions scheduled into August. This could not have happened without the dedication of the Legionville staff and the Boys State Committee.

In January the legislative session began for Minnesota. The Department Executive Committee endorsed an agenda of seven legislative bills to follow and support. I testified, Department Legislative Committee testified as well as a few Posts in support to pass the bills that affect our veterans and our Post homes.

I highly encourage our members to get involved and speak out to, not only keep the benefits we have but also improve our benefits to fit the changing times. Post leadership, if you want to change tax law, charitable gambling regulations, your voice needs to be heard. The Department can only go so far, and we walk a fine line when it comes to the business side of the Post. I am proud of our involvement this session, but we have only begun.

Suicide prevention is next on the radar for the Department. I conferred with senior Department leadership and to align with National Commander Bill Oxford's message, we have to seek out and help our veterans in need.

I recently attended a South-eastern Minnesota Suicide Prevention coalition kickoff meeting in southeastern Minnesota with the 1st District commander to learn more. The meeting was hosted by the VA community outreach coordinator, and there were many organizations represented to bring attention to this devastating concern. There are suicide prevention coalitions in the Twin Cities region and northeastern region.

We, The American Legion, need to be involved and be a part of the solution. Veterans are proud individuals, and we don't like to ask for help or look weak. We need to change that mind set and know it's OK to reach out and ask for help. If you see a veteran in need, anyone can call the Veterans Crisis Line, 1-800-273-8255, PRESS 1, to get guidance and help for the veteran in crisis.

Finally, the Department staff has worked tirelessly to keep The American Legion Department of Minnesota moving forward. We survived the restrictions, kept communication lines open, and your Department HQ office open for business. We still have our challenges, declining membership, technology (MyLegion.org update) but, if the last year is any indication, we have the talent and the know-how to overcome.

My report is respectfully submitted,

Mike Maxa
Adjutant

Commander

Last year at this time the Department of Minnesota was planning a virtual installation of Department officers and District commanders. All were installed during the first Department Executive Committee meeting on July 18 by National Executive Committeeman Bill Barbknecht via Zoom.

This was the beginning of our leadership serving a second consecutive year and the 102nd of The American Legion.

My projects remained the same: Legionville and Wounded Warrior Guide Service, a Minnesota nonprofit. My goal was to raise \$40,000, \$30,000 for the new dock at Legionville and \$10,000 for Wounded Warrior Guide Service. As of this writing, I've exceeded \$60,000.

By the time this article is published, the new dock will have been installed at Legionville.

As we entered our 102nd year, we were experiencing turmoil and riots in many cities in our country. Our belief in law and order, 100 percent Americanism, promoting peace and goodwill on earth, transmitting to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy have not wavered.

In my August 2020 column, an article was included by Past National Commander Dan Foley from Wabasha Post 50, written in January 1964. Hopefully, you kept his article.

The 57th annual Membership Workshop was held virtually. We were reminded that we are an organization of givers. We volunteer our time because we believe in the cause. It's not about what we receive but about what we give.

October 2020 we were able to have our first Minnesota American Legion College at Camp Ripley. The Training Committee did an outstanding job planning and providing the instruction during the three days at Camp Ripley. April 2021 a second Legion College was held at Camp Ripley. Most of

the planning for both sessions was held virtually using Zoom. Many nights were spent going over all the details!

Just before Thanksgiving we experienced our second partial shutdown. Again, the Legion Family stepped up and provided whatever was requested or needed for our communities, Veteran Homes and VA Medical facilities.

Here are a few examples: food drives at posts for families in need, making of items such as masks, Legion Riders involved with support for a deceased veteran and providing an escort for National Guard troops to an armory prior to deployment, blood drives and COVID testing held at posts and Buddy Checks, just to name a few.

In February and March we were able to have our Legion Family get-togethers. In February, we held our Sweetheart Rally in Paynesville, and March saw our Appreciation Rally in La Crescent.

For those who didn't feel comfortable attending, both were held virtually via Zoom. The attendance was excellent for both functions. Legion Family members were anxious to see each other in person!

On April 5, National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford arrived in Minnesota, along with Aide Larry Cline. Together, we met with the adjutant general of the Minnesota National Guard, Maj. Gen. Shawn Manke, Minnesota Veterans Affairs Commissioner Larry Herke, Camp Ripley Senior Commander Brig. Gen. Lowell Kruse and Minnesota Military and Veterans Museum Curator Doug Thompson.

We visited many American Legion Posts. The attendance was very good at all Posts and the hospitality shown our National Commander was heart-warming. Great job, American Legion Family!

There is a positive feeling in the air filled with enthusiasm and motivation as we plan our Legion Family programs in person. Legion Baseball registration has reached an all-time high of 372 registered teams. Minnesota is No. 1 in

the country in registered teams! Over 300 kids have registered for youth training at Legionville.

Planning continues for the Department Convention the end of July and the National Convention in Phoenix the end of August.

It was an honor and a privilege to be your Department commander for an additional year.

Together we accomplished so much good for our communities, state and nation. God bless you all!

Mark Dvorak
Commander

Vice Cmdr. 1st and 3rd Districts

What a two-year appointment this has been!

I have seen the challenges for the 1st & 3rd District as we have implemented plans through the COVID-19. The leadership from these two District Commanders has been exceptional.

The two District Commanders, Dale Wellik and Linda Dvorak, each had their own different logistical and administrative dilemmas that they had to overcome.

How many of us ever heard the word "Zoom" until COVID-19? Now that we have been there and done that, we have all become more skillful with our communications skills and The American Legion will benefit from this in the future.

My position is responsible for Membership in the 1st and 3rd District.

- I can honestly say my time that I spent in the Mighty 1st District (Red Coat) has been fantastic. The Posts that I visited always created a welcoming experience – and willing to listen to new ideas. Thank you all in the 1st District.

- The 3rd District, what can I say? The Thundering Third is presently leading the state in Membership totals. The leadership that comes from this district excels and challenges members to move on to Department leadership positions.

Because of COVID 19, many events were put on hold, postponed to later dates, held in a Zoom setting, or limited attendance (including 2020 Fall Conference, Department and National Conventions).

We all worked on continued forms of action, while responding innovatively during a pandemic. Many good ideas were discussed on how to maintain and grow membership.

Events attended:

- July 15: Zoom meeting gave us insight into the do's and don'ts for the coming year.

- October 2020: Dodge Center Rally for the 1st District

- March 6: Appreciation Rally in La Crescent

- April 6: As State Vice Commander for 1st and 3rd District, I attended the National Commander Lunch -St. Paul Park Post 98 and Dinner at North St. Paul, Post 39

- April 17: Dale Wellik Testimonial in Dodge Center

- May 14-15 District Convention in Faribault

- May 22: Joint 3rd District Testimonials in New Prague

- June 19: Joint Department Testimonials in New Prague

My "rock star" Membership Teams continue to provide strong leadership —

Linda Dvorak, Dale Wellik, John Flynn, and Sy Fix — I couldn't do my job without you.

For God and Country,

Patrick Logan
1st & 3rd Districts
Vice Commander

Vice Cmdr. 2nd and 7th Districts

No report.

Vice Cmdr. 4th and 5th Districts

Being the Department Vice Commander for the 4th and 5th Districts for two years was a real honor and I enjoyed (almost) every minute!

Together with help from members of the Legion Family, we accomplished a great deal during the two years. We had a lot of plans at the beginning of my tour as Department vice commander. We did a lot of the traditional things such as meetings and get-togethers.

But when the pandemic hit, it really showed the state of MN that veterans do not stop when the going gets tough, that is when veterans and their families step up.

The 4th and 5th Districts stepped up to show that business still gets done. We just found new ways of getting things accomplished. The weekly 4th and 5th District Monday night meeting for all who wished to attend to keep our members on top of the seemingly daily-changing "What Now?" updates.

With the generous help of our Department Membership Director Sy Fix, every district now has a Zoom account. The 4th and 5th District held the greatest joint Mid-Winter Conference in January. The Mid-Winter included the entire Legion Family, the Auxiliary, SAL and Legion Riders.

We had guests from National and Department virtually. Showing that nothing can stop The American Legion. Both Districts held their district conventions in a hybrid model (in person and via on line) they were very successful.

I represented the Department Commander with the Department Veteran Service Officer to distribute iPads to the Minneapolis VA Medical Center.

We worked to get resolutions to the legislators to address issues surrounding veterans. The COVID-19 ad-hoc committee that was set up in 2020 to bring the state online with Zoom accounts will come to an end at the end of this year. However, Zoom will not go away. I headed up an impromptu mini Shop Ship and Share between the 4th and 5th Districts.

We had a military group deployed rather quickly. People dropped off items at our house and left the items on the steps of the house to send overseas. The 5th District represented by Lynne Nottage worked really hard with the shopping and packing of items.

We sent out a lot of boxes.

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That felt really good!

I want to thank all those who assisted (and taught and supported) me during this amazing two years, it has been a grand time working with the Commander Mark Dvorak and our entire Legion Family.

Teresa Ash
Districts 4 & 5
Vice Commander

Vice Cmdr. 6th and 9th Districts

No report.

Vice Cmdr. 8th and 10th Districts

After the Legion year of 2020 we knew, we would have to think different and create new ways to help our communities and veterans and accomplish our mission.

We started with Membership Director Sy Fix giving each district a subscription to Zoom. What had to be done was trying various ways to how best to accomplish what we wanted to do. It took a while, but I think we did succeed. Now I believe we have a whole new set of tools to go forward with The American Legion Family's tasks.

I want to thank all the officers and membership in the districts for what they did during 2021. What I saw made me feel good that we have a good future and maybe these tools will help.

Next the 2021 year provided us all the task of trying to figure out how we were going to come out of the "lockdown" and move on electing and installing new officers so we could move on.

I want to thank Commander Mark Dvorak, Membership Sy Fix and Adjutant Mike Maxa for their stability and encouragement to help us.

I want to thank all those who worked hard to expand the training at the National, Department and Districts. It will take new people to continue what has been developed and grow what was put in place.

Yes, I did not get to do what I really wanted to do, which was getting out to posts and events, but that is not important compared to moving forward.

Thank you, Commander Mark Dvorak, for what you did and what you helped me do.

Robert Locker
District 8 & 10
Vice Commander

Treasurer

As treasurer, I serve on the Department Finance Committee, Minnesota Legionnaire, and the Legionville Board 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 the overseeing of 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, 2020 and May 31, 2021.

The current allocation is 70 percent bond and 30 percent stocks. Bonds in the account are primarily high-grade corporate bonds and FIDC insured CDs. The bonds and CDs are laddered between one and five years.

The stocks are diversified between large, medium and small companies with a heavier weighting toward large companies. Interest paid to the Department checking account June 1, 2020, and May 31, 2021, totaled \$52,301.31.

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
Treasurer

Chaplain

During this last year we all found ourselves under the continued restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of us have been affected by someone who contracted this disease, some recovered, others did not.

As a result, it was harder to support our American Legion Family and our loved ones in their time of need. I had four members of my family that contracted COVID-19 and recovered, but it wasn't easy to give them the support they needed from a distance.

We all may know fellow veterans who have passed away and were unable to get the military honors they deserved. I attended six funerals this year for deceased veterans because of the restrictions imposed because of the pandemic. Each funeral was reduced to a limited number of family members to pay their respects.

As American Legion Family members we were limited to either no face-to-face contact or extremely limited contact with others. We had loved ones in veteran homes, assisted living and medical facilities that we could not visit. All of this created additional stress and worries on our families and friends.

We promoted an expanded version of our Buddy Checks to check on, care for and give morale support to our friends, family and fellow veterans. We became the "contact" for many needing extra support in our communities. Thank you for caring!

Many American Legion Members, SAL, Auxiliary and Legion Riders continued to help purchase cloth and supplies, deliver, make and deliver thousands of face masks for our VA hospitals, Minnesota Veterans Homes and military support facilities. (MN Guard and Reserve units).

During the pandemic we all discovered Zoom conference meeting resource, and we could have more visual, communication and training time while we had restricted activities.

I gave a PowerPoint presentation on "The Four Chaplains" in February to expand Legion member's knowledge of the sinking of the SS Dorchester and the role these four chaplains played in helping others.

The presentation also explained how to do a "Four Chaplain" ceremony, complete an agenda, and proper times that this ceremony could be given.

Probably the most important thing about the Zoom conferencing was we could now see and talk to each other increasing our health and morale of our members and families.

Finally, I consider being your Minnesota Department of the American Legion Chaplain an honor. This experience has expanded my knowledge of God and our wonderful American Legion Family. I have met so many new and exciting friends while praying together, working together and writing my monthly articles.

I received much feedback on those articles and prayers. Thank you so much for allowing me to be your spiritual adviser for this last year. I find it to be bitter-sweet in leaving, but I know our next chaplain will proudly serve you too.
God bless you all!

Betty M. Jass
Chaplain

Historian

It's been quite a ride. It was a pleasure to serve as historian for Commander Mark Dvorak and to travel the Department (once we could again, after that "event" turned us all into virtual beings).

History will show the Posts, Districts and Department all stood tall in the face of adversity (as veterans most often do), and it was a pleasure to capture the multi-year event to present to the commander once he turns the reigns over to a new leader.

This second year was quite interesting as we started out with multiple cancellations of events due to COVID restrictions (and a Fall Conference ready to get us up and going again, only to be cancelled by a fluke — even for Minnesota — snowstorm), worked our way into the "hybrid" model with a combination of live meetings augmented with Zoom for those who couldn't make it to the Sweetheart Rally and Appreciation Rally and finally the all-live Joint American Legion Family Testimonial in New Prague.

I hope if we learned little else from these past two years, all of our Posts should have gathered some much-needed knowledge on being able to conduct virtual meetings, hopefully allowing a greater member participation at all future events.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your historian for the past two years.

Mike Ash
Historian

NECman

It has been a year all of us will remember. Fall meetings, D.C. Conference and many spring meetings were virtual or Zoom along with many conference calls.

There will *not* be any dues increases. Donations were very good for people down on their luck.

Riders will have directors or chairman as their title for their offices.

National Commander Bill

Oxford asks everyone to please sign up for, 100 Miles for Hope. Please go to the National American Legion website to learn more about this.

We were lucky enough to attend a few mid-winter conferences and getting back to more normalcy. I was also able to attend several District conventions as well as dinner meeting with National Commander Bill Oxford in April when he was on tour in Minnesota.

I feel the Legion is very strong, even though a few clubs had to shut down. Also, we will never forget losing many good Legionnaires to the virus, a year we never want to happen again.

I thank all the office staff for their help, Adjutant Mike Maxa and Commander Mark Dvorak for keeping Minnesota running smoothly.

I look forward to the coming year. If we work together, we will be a stronger American Legion. We must work every day to help those veterans in need.

Thank you all for allowing me to serve as your NEC.

Bill Barbknecht
NECman

Judge Advocate

During the last year, the JAG advised the DEC, the Department Commander and the Department Adjutant as required. The balance of time was spent advising various parts of the American Legion Family. COVID demands included reviewing and summarizing the governor's emergency executive orders. A lot of time and effort was devoted to understanding meeting by remote communication and voting on issues without meetings. Many of us learned the need for updated bylaws.

Greg Colby
Judge Advocate

Americanism

I would like to thank Department Commander Mark Dvorak for allowing me to serve as the Americanism chairman for The American Legion, Department of Minnesota, and wish you a successful convention in Redwood Falls.

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

I would lastly like to thank the Americanism Subcommittee chairpersons and their assistants for their dedication and hard work over the past year. They are:

- Boys State: Kyle Oldre and Lee Tallakson
 - Community Service: Thomas Clabo
 - Education: Don Skow
 - Junior Shooting Sports: Jared Sturgill
 - Oratorical: Cliff Newman and Amanda England
 - Safety School Patrol: James Blakesley
 - Scouting: Tom Hallett
 - Youth Law Cadet Enforcement: Larry Ryan
 - And the District Americanism chairpersons.
- Please see the individual committee reports for further information concerning these

Americanism Subcommittees.

The Department Americanism Committee did not meet at the canceled Department Convention and the canceled Fall Conference in 2020, due to COVID-19. The last meeting of the Americanism Committee was at the 2019 Fall Conference in Mahanomen. Attending the meeting were the Americanism Committee and the respective representatives from Boys Scouts, Community Service, Education, Oratorical, Safety-School Program and six District Americanism chairpersons.

The Scholarship Selection Committee met at the Pequot Lakes Post 49 in April 2021. There were three Minnesota Legionnaire Insurance Trust scholarships, six American Legion Memorial scholarships awarded and three Nurses Training scholarships awarded.

The Americanism Committee continues to promote the increased submittal of The American Legion Consolidated Post Report (CPR). There were approximately 392 CPR's submitted in 2020, equating to 71 percent submittal.

Districts 1, District 3 and District 5, achieved the goal of 100 percent CPR 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 Subcommittees and to the respective District Americanism chairpersons.

Americanism is an unflinching love of country, loyalty to its institutions and ideals, eagerness to defend it against all enemies, individual allegiance to the U.S. 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
Chairman

Boy Scouts

I first want to thank Department Commander Mark Dvorak for reappointing me as the Department of Minnesota Boy Scout Committee chairman. I next want to thank all 10 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.

The fund's status as of June 30, 2021, stood at \$62,719.30.

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 to a Minnesota Scout Council

project. Current records show that no donations have been received from the 4th, 8th and 10th Districts so far this year.

Congratulations to Karson Ferden, Troop 635 in Moorhead, who is sponsored by American Legion Post 21. He was selected as the Minnesota American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year for 2021. Please read the May issue of The Minnesota Legionnaire for the article about Karson's Eagle Scout of the Year award. He is a very deserving Scout.

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 percent Americanism.

Tom Hallett
Chairman

Boys State

No report.

Community Service

No report.

Junior Shooting

After a long summer of COVID cancelations, the juniors needed to practice from home. Match after match was canceled and competitions were few and far between. However, this has made people become very creative in creating "virtual" matches.

Through these methods, the Minnesota Centershots were able to stay in competitive form and even earn a few awards from them. For example, Granbury High School in Texas has a large match each season called the Granbury Pirate Cup. In this match the top three places are awarded a custom engraved belt buckle. Allison Buesseler was the second-place winner bringing a shiny Texas belt buckle here to Minnesota.

Midway USA and the CMP both created new matches of their own, as well. Both allowed athletes to shoot on their home ranges and submit their scores for a national ranking with top scores receiving door prizes. Julianna Hays was the third-place winner.

Because of Minnesota COVID mandates, some juniors chose to travel to other states to seek out matches. Tennessee and Indiana were a start, while a few went to Ohio for the Winter Airgun Match.

As restrictions gradually opened up, the Centershots were able to fire The American Legion Postal match. Minnesota Centershots won the Minnesota state title for precision, while Redwood Falls would take the sporter title. Allison Buesseler finished tied for first with a score of 593/600! This earned her a ticket to The American Legion Nationals in July at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs!

With restrictions in Minnesota loosening up, clubs from St. Thomas Academy, Anoka, Houston, Redwood Falls and Richfield met for the CMP State, CMP State JO and NRA Sectional matches. A few teams were not able to attend due to

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COVID protocols.

Results from the CMP State JO Match, The Minnesota Centershots, St. Thomas Academy and two individuals, Nathan Engman and Taylor Crane, qualified for the CMP 3PAR Nationals at Camp Perry this July.

USA Shooting had to move the Junior Olympics this season from Colorado Springs to Hillsdale College in Michigan. Of the six Centershots that were there for the competition, Parker Sullivan was the youngest to qualify at age 13! Julianna Hays had a great smallbore match finishing seventh in the finals match and first in her age class.

USA Shooting has finished up their Olympic Trial Qualifications for their run in Tokyo this July. Former Minnesota Centershot Patrick Sunderman, Farmington, was the top qualifier for Men's 50 Meter 3 Position Smallbore rifle. Be sure to watch and cheer him on at the Olympics this July! Congrats to him and his family who are very proud of his accomplishment.

Local area junior rifle clubs will be hosting a booth at the Anoka Game Fair in August. Juniors from The X-Men, Gopher and Minnesota Centershots will share this booth over the two-weekend event. The booth will consist of air rifles to use on a reduced distance range to give the sport more exposure and recruit new team members who may one day become Olympians themselves. This has been ongoing for many years and is a good place for juniors and their parents to learn more about the sport.

**Jared Sturgill
Chairman**

Oratorical Contest

The Oratorical Contest of 2021 was held on Feb. 27, 2021, at the Anoka American Legion.

Unfortunately, only four Districts had contestants. I believe COVID-19 had a lot to do with this. This year, it was decided to hold both the Semifinals and the Finals at one Post.

Litchfield's Hazel Chvatal, 12th-grader from the 7th District, was the Department winner. Eagan's Julia Schowalter, 11th-grader from the 3rd District, was the second-place winner. Kasson's Abigail Erpelding, 9th-grader from the 1st District, was the third-place winner. Falldin's David Vickers, also a 9th-grader from the 5th District, was the fourth-place winner.

Hopefully the 2nd, 3rd & 4th place winner will be able to return next year.

Thank you to Amanda England (Oratorical vice chair) for all her help with all aspects of the contest; also to the people who helped judge, timers, tabulator and escorts. A special thank you to Department Commander Mark Dvorak and Department President Mary Hendrickson for their attendance. Thank you to the Anoka Post 102 Family for all your help.

Thank you, Jennifer Kelley and Department staff, for all your help. Hopefully next year will be better.

**Cliff Newman
Chairman**

Safety Patrol

The Minnesota Twins are off to a slow start this year. Let us all hope for better ball as the season progresses. Having a year off because of COVID did no one any good.

The Legionville Safety School Patrol Training Center is a valuable part of the Safety School Patrol Program. It is the only facility ever developed for this purpose. After last year's shut down, they are up and running. When I last checked, there were still some openings available.

The latest preliminary data from the Department of Public Safety's State Fire Marshal division reports that 53 people died in fires in Minnesota last year. That is up from a final count of 47 the previous year. The leading cause of fire deaths in each of these years was careless smoking. The bulk of the deaths were in people 50 and over. A nonworking smoke detector was found in about a third of the fires that resulted in death. We are at 15 deaths for this year as I write this report.

The numbers will be confirmed later in 2021, after hospitals in the state report the last of their data to the Minnesota Department of Health.

Authorities are reminding Minnesotans to not leave their space heaters, candles, or food cooking on the stovetop unattended.

There are many little things we can do to prevent a devastating fire from happening in our homes. It is important to practice fire prevention and safety every day.

Officials recommend that homeowners test their smoke and carbon monoxide alarms monthly, and also create a family escape plan in the event of an emergency.

There were 372 traffic crashes in 2020 compared to 333 last year. Preliminary numbers show 397 people have been killed in traffic crashes in 2020, compared with 364 last year.

Of the 397 fatalities: 20 people died in distracted driving-related crashes, 120 people died in speed-related crashes, 121 people died in alcohol-related crashes, 103 people died who were unbelted, 287 were men, 110 were women, 46 were pedestrians, 10 were bicyclists, 64 were motorcyclist.

Police arrested 22,653 motorists for DWI in 2020 (January-December), compared with 27,975 in 2019. The number drivers ticketed for speed in 2020 was a marked increase over previous years. This is thought to be because of COVID shutdowns and reduced traffic on the roads.

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.

**Jim Blakesley
Chairman**

Armed Forces Services Center

The Armed Forces Service Center (AFSC) had to close down by two facts:

1. The military was not sending troops to different duty stations in any numbers.
2. The Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) was closing down all nonessential operations.

Fortunately, we have been able to reopen, with a reduced menu and no bunkbeds or children's play area available. Many of our volunteers were not able to get their COVID-19 shots quickly, and we were only able to staff the center from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Those veterans who are not eligible for admission to the center are asked if they want coffee, tea, soda, chips, bars, which the volunteers will bring out to them in the lounge area by the elevator. We plan on increasing our training staff to allow us to train new volunteers to replace the approximately 35 percent loss of volunteers who just do not feel comfortable at the AFSC due to COVID-19.

Our goal is to again be open 24/7 as we had been for 50 years. So any of you in the American Legion Family who would like to help us please go online to www.mnafsc.org and follow the steps to begin volunteering. The center could always use donations, it is a 501c3 nonprofit organization, it is not affiliated with the USO and does NOT receive any federal money.

That means the AFSC is eligible to receive gambling money.

**Joe Jansen
Chairman**

Blood

Thank you, Commander Mark Dvorak, for this appointment.

Hosting a blood drive is a partnership where everyone wins: Start a new tradition this year. A tradition that brings about togetherness and strength with your family, friends and community.

This year has been challenging with the pandemic changing the way blood was collected. Thanks go out to everyone who persevered and moved forward positively.

Organizations gain goodwill from their community and build morale and camaraderie as their members work together for a good cause.

Blood donors feel good about giving back together with colleagues, friends or peers.

Patients in the community and across the nation receive the gift of life.

1st District: Winona Post 9, 1,281 units; Waseca Post 228, 246 units; Dodge Center Post 384, 210 units; 20 Posts reporting total of 1,900 units.

2nd District: Round Lake Post 461, 62 units; Brewster Post 464, 43 units, Lake Crystal Post 294, 40 units; 13 Posts reporting total of 192 units.

3rd District: Montgomery Post 79, 475 units; Forest Lake Post 225, 311 units; Chanhassen Post 580, 300 units; 33 Posts reporting total of 2,255 units.

4th District: North St. Paul Post 39, 282 units; Rosetown Memorial Post 542, 37 units; St. Paul Post 8, 24 units; five Posts reporting total of 386 units.

5th District: Minneapolis Gopher Post 440, five units; Minneapolis Post 1, three units; Minneapolis Viking Post 493, three units; 10 Posts reporting total of 13 units.

6th District: Zimmerman Post 560, 252 units; Nisswa Post 627, 200 units; Little Falls Post 46, 137 units; 24 Posts reporting total of 1,097 units.

7th District: Willmar Post 167, 251 units; Minneota Post 199, (missing) units; Spicer Post 545, 112 units; 16 Posts reporting total of 817 units.

8th District: Virginia Post 239, 20 units; Cloquet Post 262, 12 units; Nashwauk Post 307, four units; 10 posts reporting total of 50 units.

9th District: Bagley Post 16, 217 units; Warren Post 27, 72 units Roseau Post 24 71; 13 Posts reporting total of 594 units.

10th District: Anoka Post 102, 540 units; Milaca Post 178, 258 units; Coon Rapids Post 334, 180 units; 15 Posts reporting total of 1,139 units.

Department of Minnesota: 8,443 total units reported.

Thank you to all the District chairmen for taking their time and energy to support this life-saving program of The American Legion.

**Terry Larson
Chairman**

Brain Science

No report

Children and Youth

We cater to every child and to every walk of life. We emphasis family as the cornerstone of the American society. The demands placed on family to support children and youth seek to promote the importance of family strength and integrity. Our most valuable resource is our children and we strive to support a child with a home, health, education, character and opportunity. Through the diverse Children and Youth programs we strengthen the family against today's complex society. We support organizations and facilities providing services to children. We maintain well-rounded programs that mets the needs of today's young people. I believe The American Legion Children and Youth Program has again played a significant role in the children and youth of our communities. Working together we can and did make a difference.

**Karen Welander
Chairwoman**

Convention Corporation

The Convention Corporation Committee consists of five members plus a treasurer. The names of the above can be found on the Departments website under committees.

Our main duty is to solicit and schedule future conventions and fall conferences.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, the 2020 Department Convention was canceled. Inclement weather resulted in the cancellation of the 2020 Fall Conference.

We have scheduled the 2021 Convention to be hosted by Redwood Falls, at Jackpot Junction July 14-17, and the 2021 Fall Conference hosted by Post 15 of Detroit Lakes at the Shooting Star Casino facility in Mahanomen, Oct. 21-23.

There could be meetings prior to these dates if called by the respective chairperson.

The Convention Committee has been involved in making arrangements for next year.

We have assigned Willmar the 2022 Convention. The committee is looking for a Post or District to host the following, 2022 and future Fall Conferences and the 2023 and up Department Conventions. Please consider volunteering for one of these. The Convention Committee will meet and work with you on things to do and help plan and carryout the event

If anyone has any questions or suggestions, please contact me or Department Adjutant Mike Maxa. Stay safe and we look forward to working with you. Thank you to all for understanding during this trying time.

**Phil Bellefeuille
Chairman**

Employment

During this past year, the Employment Committee received only one nomination for the Employer of Veterans Award. This nomination was submitted by George Gundersen, Dodge County commander, from Adolph Oiseth Post 333 in Kasson.

The name of the company that was submitted, representing the small category of having 50 or Less employees, was the KM Telecom Co. of Kasson. Their nomination was forwarded to the National Veterans Employment and Educational Division for consideration and recognition.

Presentation will be awarded at the Department Convention on July 15, 2021.

I would like to congratulate Commander Mark Dvorak for his dedication and for the outstanding performance of his duties for the last two years. I know he will continue to be a leader in our organization for years to come.

I also want to thank Commander Mark Dvorak for the appointment as chairman of the Employment Committee.

**Carl R. Moon
Chairman**

A.L. Family Hosp. Assoc.

No report

Finance

The Department Finance Committee met in September 2020 and set the budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Committee requests for funds were read and reviewed. Expenditures were down due to COVID-19 and less activity than we would experience in a normal year. We are going to finish the year in the black.

I would like to thank Commander Mark Dvorak for appointing me as Finance Committee Chairman when Chairman Tom Burau had to resign due to health issues.

Thank you to our Department Treasurer Bill Goede, Department Office finance liaisons Rachael Hill and Laura Weber who has retired and Adjutant Mike Maxa for their advise and guidance.

Members of the Finance Committee include Mary Jo York, Ray DeZurik, Richard Oelschlager and Richard Wog.

**Carl Hendrickson
Chairman**

Fund for Hospitalized Veterans

No report

Law and Order

Greetings, Legion Family.

It was again my great honor to serve Commander Mark Dvorak and his administration as the chair of the Law and Order Committee. Last year we were unable to give the awards in person, so I am looking forward to presenting at this Department Convention.

For the past two years, I have been humbled to read the bios of the firefighters and law enforcement officers who were nominated. The choices were very difficult as these nominees are the cream of the crop and are all worthy of being awarded for their excellence and dedication to their communities.

After careful consideration and conferring with the other members of the committee, Tom Conway and Jeff Brokaw, we have chosen Firefighter Anthony Cross of the Moorhead Fire Department and Officer Arik Matson of the Waseca Police Department.

Firefighter Cross has been a dedicated member of his department and active in the local community. Officer Matson was in law enforcement for over 10 years, active in his community and raising a young family when he was shot in the head in the line of duty. He has been powering back from his wounds for the past 18 months.

It will be a definite pleasure to meet these honorees and present them with their awards for Firefighter and Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

**Susan Edwards
Chairwoman**

Legionnaire Insurance Trust

Legionnaires Insurance Trust, or LIT for short, had a very good

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year, considering COVID-19 and a decline in membership. LIT offers a good hospital help plan, health and dental insurance, lifeline medical alert and emergency assistance, plus its ID Plan is growing, for when people try to steal identities.

Minnesota is still doing well as members sign up for the free accidental death policy of \$1,000 and \$5,000, if accidental death occurred on Legion Family business.

I would like to thank committee members Garylee Davenport and Eric Wilkens for all their efforts.

Minnesota received nearly \$49,000 from LIT this past year. Our annual meetings were held virtually for the past two years.

A big thank-you to our Department office staff: Jennifer, Misty, Rachael, Tim and Mike for referring all questions to our committee. If we can be of any help, please call me at 218-770-6264.

Bill Barbknecht
Chairman

Legionville

See report next month.

Legislative

Ongoing due to special session. See report next month.

Membership

This past year was indeed a tough one. COVID was obviously the prime factor. Yet Zoom kept us all in contact with each other and gave us a real perspective on what electronic media can do for us.

The membership team made use of Zoom. We had several with District leadership to go over ideas on membership. The 3rd District has a great program to aide with mailings. Maybe that's something that can be pushed in the coming year.

With all that took place this past year, I believe we were able to do well because everyone stepped up to the plate and kept their current position. I feel it would have been difficult to have someone taking a position and learn the job when there wasn't a lot of sitting across from someone and showing them the ropes or what to expect. What a great team!

As it always seems to be, Minnesota starts out extraordinarily strong every year and stays in the top five for several months. We made every goal except the 95 percent goal.

Then spring comes along as we start falling short. As of June 3, we were sitting in 14th nationally with 92.98 percent which is 4,705 short of 100 percent. How do we change that? Can it be changed?

We have already been afforded the opportunity with the LEGION Act, but that didn't push us to goal. Did we get some members because of the LEGION Act? I believe we did.

But as I stated over the past few months, there are 450,000 veterans in the state of Minnesota who are eligible. How many were contacted?

What are some of the obstacles that prevent us from bringing them on board? I am told that we are asked by possible

members "what's in it for me?"

Well, maybe just the satisfaction of belonging to an organization that prides itself in helping other veterans as well as our youth. Speaking of pride, we can show our pride by wearing those American Legion shirts that we all keep buying every year. They are not just closet decorations or shirts for meeting night.

On MyLegion.org, we were building up steam by providing amazing training sessions with 3rd District Commander Linda Dvorak leading the way. Then Personify 360 comes along and changed things a bit. Was it ready when it was rolled out? No. But we seem to overcome obstacles like this. We have an amazing ability to think outside the box. But, even then, sometimes it still gives us headaches.

Being Department membership director for two years was a bit challenging. Especially with COVID and trying to run a business, plus personal things, but it was all worth it. I think one of the perks of membership director is the National Commander's Tour, and I had the privilege to do two, with the same National and Department commanders. National Commander Bill Oxford is an amazing man to be around especially when you have him in the van and one can take your hat off.

The Commander's Tour will be a memory that will be cemented in my brain forever. My other unforgettable times is having the honor and privilege to be asked by Department Commander Mark Dvorak to be membership director. I couldn't have said yes to a better man than Mark.

So thank you, commander, for your friendship, your extraordinary leadership, and just being that all around good human being. It has indeed been an honor to serve under your leadership.

God bless you all.

Sy Fix
Membership Director

National Security & Foreign Relations

Our Department Committee along with your 10 District commanders and District chairman began the year with our kickoff meeting at Camp Ripley. Your Department committee met and made the selections for Enlisted Person of the year.

As usual arrangements were made and planning was done for the presentations at Department Fall Conference. An informative tour of Camp Ripley was given by base personnel. On Sunday, our annual meeting with the District commanders and their District chairman was held along with a planning session for the coming year that each District presented.

This year, our Department commander and adjutant were also invited and their input helped in the planning for the coming year. The normal activities of our committee at the District and Department levels makes for a busy year. We are a working committee throughout the year.

All seemed to go well, then came Department Fall Conference and nasty weather caused it

to be canceled. Our awards still needed to be presented. Plans were then made to present them at the various weekend drills throughout the state.

Your Department and District Committee members made it happen. I applaud them on their outstanding job. The can-do bunch did it again. Many of the plans for unit drill visits made at our annual meeting had to be cancelled. As things open up again, we hope to be back on board with visits again.

Even as COVID has presented its challenges our Guardsmen and Reservists are still being deployed on a regular basis. We must remember to support them and their families any way we can. We saw them firsthand in action at our State Capitol. a scene I will never forget. These troops are our neighbors, remember to thank them for all they do. They need our show of support as do their families. Show them we care!

All of our scholarships were presented to the ROTC units across the state. I received thank-yous from many of them. They do appreciate the help we give them. With your continued financial support, we will be able to continue

In closing, I want to recognize one of our retiring Department Committee members — Gen. Curt Norenberg. His work on this committee has been invaluable. I am sure Curt will continue support of our efforts. It is my hope Curt has an enjoyable retirement that lasts for years to come.

Thanks again, Curt. You will be missed.

Jim Kellogg
Chairman

Pheasant Dinner

Good morning, everyone, and thank you for your donations to Pheasants for Veterans. It was a good year, but we still can use more donations especially with new homes coming aboard. It was a different year with COVID-19 hitting us. I'm proud to stay that we had 500 full birds delivered to the veterans homes.

My wife, Jill, and I work hard to get it done on time. We had to use another vendor since I got a late start on it as our former vendor didn't have enough birds. Jill and I found one in Princeton that would work with us.

I got all of the veterans homes that I had from last year and went from there. The day came at the end of October and first week of November to get them picked up and delivered before Veterans Day dinners.

My wife and I took off a Friday and picked them up as there was no way to guarantee delivery. We picked up a check from the home office and proceeded to Princeton to get the birds. We got them loaded and started delivering them out.

The first one's went to St. Peter corrections facility. The next to Hastings veterans home, then Minneapolis Veterans Home. Then headed to Duluth and spent night. We then got up and went to the Silver Bay Veterans Home. Then headed home and took Monday off by myself and delivered to Laverne home.

Then the following Friday I took off again and headed to Fergus Falls but only had to go to Waite Park to finish the deliveries.

The only sad part is none of us were able to join them, but I have nothing but thanks for the great meal. Thank you, too, everyone for your support and help. God bless.

Thank you.

Glenn Mueller
Chairman

Rehabilitation

The Minnesota American Legion Department Rehabilitation Committee is a five-member committee comprised of organizational members with a background, knowledge, or professional experience related to the delivery of VA benefits, programs, and services.

Committee members are appointed by the Department commander to a five-year term or to the remaining portion of the term of a resigned member.

Past and present Rehabilitation Committee members have been former directors or administrators of VA medical centers, Minnesota Veterans Homes, county veterans service officers, Vet Center team leaders, American Legion senior organizational leadership and Department service officers all with a working knowledge of the VA, Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs, the legislative process and The American Legion.

Currently our committee consists of Gary Munkholm, Dan Tengwall, Jim Finley, Carol Gilbertson and me. We work very closely with Department Service Officer Jeremy Wolfsteller and Department Administrative Assistant Heather Larson.

District rehabilitation chairmen and the Post service officers are also integral members of our committee. Together we make up Minnesota Rehabilitation. Each segment of the Minnesota Rehabilitation has an important role in providing services to each Minnesota veteran, and protecting the well-earned benefits provided by the United States and Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs.

Rehabilitation is one of the Four Pillars on which The American Legion was founded and holds the roof above the head of all Legionnaires. Because of the roll we play in Minnesota, it is very important to keep the Minnesota Rehabilitation Committee very strong and functioning.

This year we are under a pandemic just like the rest of the world. Each member on the committee was extended one year in tenure. We continued our scheduled site visits with our VA and MDVA directors virtually.

Using Team and Zoom applications and phone conferences. It was extremely important to us to continue our work. We visited VA medical centers, the VISN-23 Office, VA Regional Office, Minnesota Veterans Homes, Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs leaders and MACV leaders.

At the end of our year, we were able to complete in-person site visits to the St. Paul Vet Center, the Silver Bay Veterans Home and the state Veterans

Cemetery in Duluth.

The three meetings were a refreshing change after COVID-19 protocols were relaxing. We advocate to the U.S. Congress and the Minnesota Legislature for the facilities contacted; and provide the Legion Family with information gleaned from our facility visits. All meeting minutes may be found on the Department website under Rehabilitation.

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

Wilson W. Spence III
Chairman

Resolutions Assignment

The Resolutions Assignment Committee is composed of three 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 committee reports on its actions 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.

Thank you to Commander Mark Dvorak for the confidence in us by appointing us to this committee. Also, thank you to the Department staff that assists 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

Again, this year we have seen many changes thanks to the pandemic. However, I am happy to see that we are getting back to some sort of normalcy. We all know some changes were made and will continue to be in force. We may never be back to the old way and in some ways that is good and some ways that is bad.

A special thank you to Joe Niesen, who is the assistant advisor to the South, and Walt Folendorf, who is assistant advisor to the North. These men are both highly active dual members of the American Legion Family.

I would like to congratulate Detachment Commander Dave Vulcan, his officers, and committeemen for a great year. The SAL has been an outstanding force in the Legion Family. The Detachment continues to prove if you want something done, give it to the Sons of The American Legion.

I would be happy to announce all the new officers this year, but the election is not for three days yet, so if you are not attending Detachment Convention stay

tuned for that announcement.

Finally, I want to thank the staff at Department Headquarters for all their help throughout the year. And thanks to Commander Mark Dvorak for the appointment to this position.

Gary L. Weaver
Department Advisor

Sports: Baseball

Minnesota American Legion Baseball is back and strong as ever. We currently have over 370 teams registered to play baseball this summer. That is a new all-time high!

The state tournament hosts for 2021 are St. Cloud Chutes for Division I, Sacred Heart for Division II, Bloomington for Division I Juniors, and Montevideo for Division II Juniors. A first-time All-Star series for select Junior Legion baseball players from across the state will take place in Bloomington in August.

Our baseball committee is made up of the following members:

Vice Director Jeff Miller of Ottetail oversees Division II and Vice Director Brandon Raymo of Montevideo is the administrative director.

The Junior-level director is Jim Peck of Chanhassen. Mike Perry of Minnetonka is the director for Div. I Juniors.

The following are the District Directors:

District 1: Scott McCready of St. Charles.

District 2: Vern Kitzberger of New Ulm.

District 3: Bruce Young of Shakopee.

District 4: Gail Kalata of St. Paul.

District 5: Kyle Nutting of Richfield.

District 6: Wes Thompson of Sartell.

District 7: Mike Gort of Marshall.

District 8: Tom Coombe of Ely.

District 9: Mike Arvidson of Parkers Prairie.

District 10: Luther Dorr of Princeton.

Brady Sweitzer coordinates the Tier I level. Many others, who are too numerous to be named, run the Substate leagues and tournaments leading up to the state tournaments.

I am the director, and I hail from Danube.

Much of our work is done by committee. Each District director is on one or more committees. These committees work to set teams into substates, coordinate budget and finance, plan for substate playoff and state tournaments, and work during each state tournament.

Tim Engstrom from the Department of Minnesota handles the media relations and many administrative tasks needed to be done at the state-level for baseball. Rachael Hill keeps track of expenditures and pays the bills.

We look forward to 2022 hoping that it brings girls fast-pitch softball to a start in Minnesota and the quest to grow to 400 teams or more in baseball. God bless our Legionnaires for making this program available to the youth of Minnesota!

Randy Schaub
Director

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Listening Post

REMEMBRANCE



Woodbury Post 501 and VFW Post 9024 jointly hosted a Memorial Day service at the Woodbury Veterans Memorial. Brig. Gen. Charles Kemper was the speaker.

CEMETERY FLAGS



On May 22, members of Rochester Post 92 were joined by Trail Life USA and American Heritage Girls Troops to honor those veterans buried at Oakwood Cemetery Rochester by planting American flags at their sites.

THANKS A LOT!

Alexis Hanson of Wheaton sent in this photo to show her appreciation for receiving a \$500 scholarship from the Minnesota American Legion Foundation. She plans to attend Lake Area Technical College in Watertown, S.D.



LOCAL GOOD DEEDS



Buffalo Post 270 awards scholarship funds to three seniors. From left are Commander Bob Larson, Alexis Trende, Rena Johnson, Halle Timm and Committee Chairman Paul Pokorny.

SALUTE



Bellechester Post 598 member Dan Banitt salutes after laying a wreath at St. Columbkil Cemetery on Memorial Day. The Post performs six services each year.

Editor's note: Thanks to the many members who submitted news about their Post activities during the past month. The convention information has limited our available space in this issue, but we hope to print what you sent in the August issue.

DONATING THE BIKE



Trudy Wenninger of New Ulm hands the keys for late husband Jeff's Gold Wing motorcycle to veteran LeRoy Weeres of Clear Lake. Jeff was an SAL member. CVSO Greg Peterson helped Trudy find recipient candidates.

A FITTING TRIBUTE



Dan Seanoa of Eagan Post 594 assisted Eagan Starbucks manager Jong Lee when Lee requested assistance in setting up a POW/MIA table for Memorial Day.

70 YEARS!



Lanesboro Post 40 honored Robert Thompson for 70 years continuous membership on Memorial Day. Thompson has held all the Post positions and leads the annual Famous Klube Feed.

NEW VETERANS PARK



Deer Creek Post 283 celebrated Memorial Day with a free-will breakfast at the Deer Creek Community Center, followed by the dedication of a new Veterans Park during the Memorial Day program. Congresswoman Michelle Fischbach was the speaker.

Committee Reports

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Sports: Bowling

The 2021 State Bowling Tournament went well this year thanks to our secretary, Cari Lamb.

We will be back at Sundance Lanes in Dayton in 2022, hosted by Osseo-Maple Grove Post 172. Fifty-four teams participated this year.

The team champs for 2021 are Bloomington Post 550 with a score of 2,825. Auxiliary Unit 377 of Delano won with a score of 2,476.

In singles, Chris Hieserich of Post 428 had 767. Auxiliary member Kim Breitung of Howard Lake Unit 145 had a 745.

In doubles, Bryan Krueger and Jesse Johnson of Post 104 had 1,448. Brandi and Jan Henning of Unit 377 had 1,281.

Bob Mace
Chairman

Strategic Planning

This past year was frustrating for us all to host meetings without being able to meet in-person.

The Zoom meetings were helpful, but there is a point of computer screen burnout and being effective.

The end-of year report is not the end of our committee meeting prior to Department Convention. Our committee did have some Zoom meetings to get our new members a chance to get acquainted with other committee members and to establish our objective for the year.

Two main objectives were discussed, survival of Posts and adapting to evolving values for membership. Many Posts are working hard to stay visible in their communities and for veterans.

Discussion was on marketing and branding and ways to assist so the message gets out to communities. Suggestions are to work on retrieving personal stories of members, non-members and other organizations positively affected by Post activities.

A goal is to understand the challenges and changes from the past year's interruption. Our organization needs to stand-out to catch members attention. Connect with families of deployed military and identify needs of members affected by isolation and current societal stresses.

Electronic communication became very useful in maintaining contact and lessons learned need to be documented and shared with all Districts and Posts.

Thank you, Commander Mark Dvorak, for the opportunity to be part of the Strategic Planning Committee once again.

Committee members are: Secretary Pam Krill, Ryan Sabinish, Paul Hassing, Carla Tappainer, Immediate Past Dept. Commander Darrel Redepening, Dept. Commander Mark Dvorak and Special Advisor and Past National Commander Dan Ludwig and I.

Tom Fernlund
Chairman

Training Committee

The Training Committee was established over the past year or so and in that time has gone to work and never slowed down.

Since being established, the National organization has reformatted the MyLegion.org platform. There continue to be updates and keeping with these changes the committee has trained and continue to train posts and districts throughout the department to use the program most efficiently.

As changes continue to occur, the committee (spotlight on Linda Dvorak and Jennifer Havlick) continues to remain on top of the changes and train in a most efficient manner.

Two classes of the Minnesota Department of American Legion College have been carried out. Held at Camp Ripley, these events have proven effective and enlightening tools for many members who attended. The graduates have given wonderful reviews and suggested excellent additions for future trainings.

If you're interested in knowing more or attending, please contact me for upcoming classes.

Mike Ash
Acting Chairman

Education Committee

The Scholarship Committee met Saturday, April 24, 2021, at Pequot Lakes Post 49.

Six American Legion Memorial Scholarships, three Minnesota American Legion Foundation Scholarships, and three Minnesota American Legion Nurse's Training Scholarships were awarded.

The Memorial Scholarships are \$500 each and were awarded to Bryce Fabian of Breezy Point; Matthew Tobkin of Detroit Lakes; Madalyn DeYoung of Eyota; Victoria Proulx of Crookston; Isaiah Biehn of Bemidji; and Melissa Honnold of Minnetrista.

The Minnesota American Legion Foundation Scholarships are \$500 each and were awarded to Lily Lorenson of Perham; Ava Provencher of Litchfield; and Alexis Hanson of Wheaton.

The Minnesota American Legion Nurses Training Scholarships are \$1,000 each and were awarded to Amber Linn of St. Cloud; Anna Kiminski of Duluth; and Kaitlyn Sanstead of Hoffman.

We congratulate the scholarship recipients and wish them well in their continuing education.

I would like to thank the other members of the selection committee: Art Tobkin, Tess Davis, and Larry Pocrnich. I would also like to thank Commander Mark Dvorak for this appointment. It's been a pleasure serving the Department of Minnesota.

Don Skow
Chairman



District commanders



1st District

Dale Wellik



Greetings from The American Legion Mighty 1st District American Legion Family.

Thank you for your service to our country!

It has been a privilege and honor to have served as The American Legion 1st District Commander these last two years. It has been rewarding and, yes, it came with the help of the other officers and cooperation of the membership and technology to keep things moving forward.

Thank you, everyone!

We need to now give our incoming officers our support.

Membership is the core of our organization. We need to continue to work on keeping our current members and have that application ready and with us for that opportunity to sign up new members.

The summer is here take the time to get out and take part in the activities, picnics, parades, community events, family gatherings and visit the shut-ins and homebound and elderly. Be safe, be careful! Thank the veterans

for their service that maybe sitting on the sideline wearing service-related clothing, it could cheer them up and strike up a conversation.

Veterans, sign up with the "VA" for your benefits that you rightfully earned.

Don't wait until it is too late and nowhere else to turn. It takes time to do the paperwork. Go see your veterans service officer, or post service officer to get started.

I plan to continue to see you at American Legion gatherings Post, District, Department and National or socially.

Pray for our deployed troops and their families. Continue to pray for the Gold Star families and those that gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country so we can enjoy our freedom that we have.

Pray for peace everywhere.
For God and Country!



5th District

Wade Larson



Happy Fourth of July. May we always remember the sacrifices of our military and those serving overseas in harm's way. When we are able to go shopping for our convenience items and enjoy our favorite pastimes, remember those troops who aren't able to have the same enjoyment pleasures.

I often think of the times around holidays and the sacrifices of active duty in a foreign land or isolated post. A great general once said: "I sacrifice and raise my right hand to serve my country for those who won't and those who can't."

With over 99 1/2 percent of

the United States who haven't served, remember to wear our Legion shirts when attending parades, fireworks, picnics, Indy racing events, community events.

You can order a new gray shirt \$9-99 from Emblem Sales with the racing logo of the car the Legion is sponsoring to get our name out there to the public at-large.

I hope to see many of you at the Department Convention in July.



Sixth District Commander Paul Edwards presents a Certificate of Achievement to Nisswa Post 627 member Master Sgt. Amy Barnum



3rd District

Linda Dvorak



Hello from the 3rd District We have finally come to the end of a long two years. I can't believe I'm writing this last article. So much has happened since I took on the role of 3rd District commander back in 2019; it has been an amazing experience.

I want to take this time to thank the 3rd District officers that served two years, as well as those that were able to serve one year. I truly appreciate all your hard work in keeping our District where it is. Joe Tappainer

and John Flynn — as the membership directors you were able to motivate the Posts so that we took the Premier Race both years I was commander. Thank you!

I also want to wish the new incoming 3rd District officers, Post and District, the best of luck. Please support the new officers and help them be successful.



4th District

Joe Jansen



Fellow members of the 4th District American Legion family, this will be my last story of what you did to help our fellow veterans. June was an active month with the flag retirement ceremony at Veterans Rest Camp on the shore of Marine on the St. Croix.

As most of you know some volunteers came over on Thursday, more came on Friday. One estimate of the number of flags given a dignified disposal was over 14,000. The 4th & 5th districts had their annual picnic on Sunday rounding off a great weekend.

Unfortunately, while we were invited to the Jewish War Veterans celebration, it was on Saturday the 12th, the same day as the flag retirement. On the 19th of June we were all invited to the Department Commander Mark Dvorak's party at the Park Ballroom in New Prague.

It is just so great to have the Post's activities starting back up and meeting in person with the members of the American Legion Riders, Sons of The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary.

While we still don't have word on when VA hospital visitations will begin again, Legionville is open for the summer. The Armed Forces Service Center at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily for active duty, retirees and traveling members of the National Guard and Reserves.

I want to thank all of you for helping me during these last two years and know you will help our new Commander David Dahl.



6th District

Paul Edwards



Greetings to the 6th District Legion Family.

Well, the District Convention has been completed, including the elections and for the next year, you will be hearing from Commander Jim Lucas in this space. All I have left to do is complete the delivery of a few awards to deserving individuals and file some last reports for the Department and National Conventions.

The Department Commander's testimonial is just past, and it was a lot of fun. The Cow Shorts tradition continues. While I am mentioning testimonials, thank you to all who attended the event for President Roberta Elvecrog, Commander Robert Foss and me at the Nisswa Post.

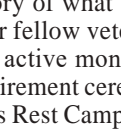
I also want to acknowledge all my fellow District commanders who stayed in harness and helped the Department weather the

COVID-19 storm. Well done, comrades!

I can see from the June 15 membership report that lots of Posts are still working on membership, despite the difficulties with the MyLegion.org system. As of the current report, we have 23 posts that have met or exceeded their goal and the number of post qualified for the National Commander's 103 percent award has grown to 10 with the addition of Park Rapids to the mix.

Good job, everyone! The deadline for those awards is June 30, so I will be anxiously waiting for the next reports and will get any new applications in right away. I am a firm believer in getting earned recognition to those who have earned it.

For God and Country.



7th District

Dean Knutson



Greetings to the Mighty 7th District!

It is hard to believe but another year has passed and it is time to begin a new year under new offices within the District.

The 7th District held its convention in Spicer on June 5, and it was very well-attended by members of the American Legion Family. Your new commander for the coming year is David Manson from Sunburg. Carol Jackson from New London will serve as adjutant.

We need to remember that the work of The American Legion does not just fall on the commander and officers of the District, but it is the responsibility of each and every one of us as

members to work to keep The American Legion a strong voice for all veterans.

Thank all of you within the District for the support you gave me over this past year, and it has been an honor to serve as commander of the Mighty 7th.

Have a safe spring and summer. God bless The American Legion and God bless America!



8th District

D. Marvin Hill



Greetings to the great 8th District family,

Thank you, Hibbing Post 222, for hosting our district convention on June 5. Guests present were: Department Commander Mark Dvorak, SAL Detachment Commander Dave Vulcan and Department Auxiliary President Mary Hendrickson, who is also a member of our District.

We are saddened by the passing of District Finance Officer Ken Oliver Jr. who died on Memorial Day. Ken was a member of West Duluth Post 71.

An endorsement was received and supported from Duluth Lakeview Post 342 for Jennifer Havlick to serve as 2021-2022 Department commander.

A motion from the floor was received and approved to have Larry Pocrnich, a member of Hibbing Post 222 as District Commander for 2021-2022. I was appointed to serve as Vice Commander for the Mes-

abi-Vermillion for the same period.

The election to fill the finance officer vacancy will be held at our mid-winter meeting. A complete 2021-2022 officer roster will be mailed to the posts.

I will be attending our Department Convention being held at Jackpot Junction Casino hosted by Redwood Falls Post 38 on July 14-17.

With the COVID-19 restrictions now being lifted, people are once again enjoying the outdoors and our Fourth of July celebrations are being held. Enjoy and be safe.

My thanks to our District officers and membership. With a compatible team we were able to accomplish our mission.

God bless our troops and God bless America!



10th District

Tom Allen



Greeting from 10th District Commander Tom Allen. I want to take this time to say thank you to everyone.

It has been an incredibly unique two years that I have had the honor and pleasure to serve as your 10th District commander. As I get ready to take on a new title of Past 10th District commander.

I will look back over how together we have stood shoulder to shoulder and stayed the course through the pandemic shutdowns, and the many losses we have all suffered together of friends, comrades, and family members.

Our federal charter requires us to submit an annual report to Congress on our activities for the year — the Consolidated Post Report or CPR.

Did you know that over one-third of all American Legion activity has not been captured and reported to Congress? This year only, you have to submit your paper or electronic copy to Department no later than July 1, 2021. We can see the 100 percent mark; I know together we can make that goal a reality.

Commanders and adjutants, just a note or reminder. Please send in your newly elected, re-elected and or appointed officers' names and contact information to incoming Adjutant Paul Orson paulorson@comcast.net.

This information will help us to communicate with each other and those in our state. We use this information to update the District and Department directories to send out our membership packages.

Having current Directory

information provides everyone the means to locate and communicate effectively. The definition of necessity is a condition of being essential or indispensable. Our Legionnaire newspaper and monthly newsletters are beneficial to our membership.

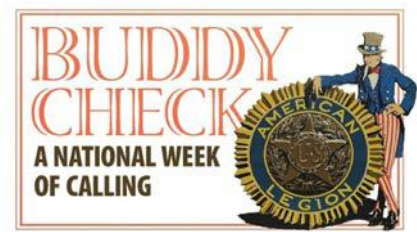
However, through the necessity of the pandemic, we have learned new ways to communicate in addition to those. Such as Zoom, Teams, websites and Facebook. We used electronic and social media networks to communicate with our fellow veterans and their families to hold meetings, do Buddy Checks and just get the word out to everyone.

You can honestly say "Necessity truly is the mother of invention" The pandemic did teach us that most of our young veterans and the public are plugged into social media. For that reason, many Posts are taking steps to update their websites, to make them more searchable, readable, and easier to navigate.

Please take a few minutes and test this out yourself. Type into your search engine — Google, Bing, or whatever site you use — "Legion near me."

If you cannot find your local Post, how can the public and new veterans locate you?

Congratulation to the new leadership team for 2021-22: Legion Commander Daryl Harmon, SAL Commander Chance Harmon, Riders Director Matt Berens and Auxiliary President Linda Deschene.





The Auxiliary Bulletin

No. 21 Vol. 10

President Mary Hendrickson • Secretary Marsha Bible, marsha@mnala.org

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July 2021

It's been a wonderful 24-month year of service

President's Column

Mary Hendrickson



As I write this column, our 74th annual and first-ever virtual Girls State is in session. I've enjoyed several of the presentations via Zoom. Thank you to the Girls State Committee for your dedication and a job well-done.

Department Convention. My Auxiliary daughters were so supportive.

This is my 24th and final article for The Minnesota Legionnaire as your Department president. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve you in this most interesting and challenging "24-month year."

The hugs, pats on the back and words of encouragement from members of the American Legion Family meant a lot to me as all of us traversed some new territory in our "turned upside down" lives. Your emails, letters and cards brought a ray of sunshine when times were dark.

Due to COVID-19 and weather issues, we lost the 2020 Girls State session, Department Convention and Fall Conference. On a positive note, we were able to hold our December Gift Shop and \$10 Bill Shower. Over \$47,000, which came mostly from poppy distribution donations allowed us to give a \$25 gift card to each resident and a person of their choice at our five veterans homes, as well as in house patients at the four VA medical centers where we have volunteer representatives.

On a personal level, I wouldn't have been able to serve in this position without the loving support of my husband, Carl. We were "treated royally" where ever we went in Minnesota. Thank you for your invitations to visit, gifts and donations to my project.

I'm very proud of our Auxiliary units who found new and creative ways to "Remember, Honor, Serve" our veterans, active duty military and their families during COVID-19 restrictions.

I've enjoyed working with American Legion Commander Mark Dvorak, SAL Detachment Commander Dave Vulcan, American Legion Riders Director Paul Hassing and our Honorary Junior American Legion Auxiliary President Emily Suess. We worked well as a team and helped cement the concept of the American Legion Family.

Saying goodbye is always difficult. There are a few people I must publicly thank. During my time in office I was blessed with the assistance and guidance of two incredibly knowledgeable Department Secretaries: Sandie Deutsch and Marsha Bible. I appreciated all the friendly advice I got from past Department presidents.

In many respects, this is just a goodbye to my service as Department president. My connection to the American Legion Auxiliary started in my preschool days and will continue until my life is over. I look forward to serving in other positions in the future.

Thank you to the Auxiliary members who willingly accepted chairmanships, committee appointments and special assignments at the 2019 Fall Conference and upcoming 2021

Hold dear to your hearts our purpose as an organization to "Remember, Honor, Serve" our veterans.

Mary Hendrickson is the president of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota.

Celebrate 100 years of Auxiliary

Please join us at Department Convention in Redwood Falls as we complete our celebration of the American Legion Auxiliary's 100th Anniversary.

encourage everyone to come to this event and wear clothes or at least a hat from your favorite era of choice. Some ideas include Rosie the Riveter, flappers, hippies or if you love the current era, come as you are.

Kuperus, New London Unit 537

Department 2nd Vice President: Sharon Thiemecke, Bemidji Unit 14

The 100th Anniversary Committee has been working for the past three years to celebrate this milestone, and we hope you can join us. There will be some interesting tidbits and surprises just for Auxiliary members throughout our sessions so please plan to stay to the very end including the Installation of Officers.

Thursday's evening events are open to registered attendees only. All others will be charged a cover charge of \$5 at the door with proceeds going to the American Legion Convention Corporation.

Nominations will be on Thursday morning. When there is more than one candidate nominated, election will take place by balloting. There will also be nominations for delegates-at-large to the National Convention.

Thursday evening, we will be celebrating with the entire American Legion Family at the musical entertainment. We

The following members have been endorsed for Department office:

Please remember to bring your entries for the Poppy Contest. All entries must be at the convention by 9 a.m. on Thursday, July 15. Tables will be set up in the display area for the entries. Winners will be announced during the poppy report on Friday.

Department President: Patti Coleman, Lino Lakes Unit 566

Department 1st Vice President: Mary

Virtual experience

Girls State happens online without a hitch

By Jean Walker
Girls State Chairman

The 74th session of American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State was held June 13-17.



We held our session virtually this year and it was a new experience for the staff, counselors, and our citizens. Sunday evening was the opening session and began with a prayer, the Pledge of Allegiance and "The Star-Spangled Banner" led by one of the 2019 Girls Nation Senators Kindra Peterson. Kindra also spoke to the citizens about her experience at Girls Nation and Girls State.

Girls and ALA staff members from across Minnesota participate in Girls State via Zoom. Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan is in the upper left corner.

After the opening our citizens went to breakout rooms for their first City Meetings via Zoom.



Once back into the general assembly we had greetings from The American Legion Department of Minnesota Commander Mark Dvorak, Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Minnesota Commander Dave Vulcan, our Department President Mary Hendrickson, and our Honorary Junior President Emily Suess. President Mary told the citizens our poppy story and that it is the official flower of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Minnesota Supreme Court Chief Justice Lorie Gildea offers the girls a virtual tour of her office and answers questions about the court system.

Rules and expectations were given by the Director Peggy Tesdahl and information on the upcoming week was presented by Education Director Amelia Tesdahl.

information that was provided by our speakers.

Justice of the Supreme Court Lorie Gildea and had a virtual tour of her office. The citizens reconvened their legislative meetings to formulate bills and then shared their content with our citizens. The evening session was spent with Attorney Kathy Kimmel and the Minnesota Women's Bar Association. The end of the evening included a Memorial Service dedicated to all the heroes who have served our great country during all wars.

Flanagan. The winner of the Ed Viehman award for Americanism is Laura Holstrom sponsored by Ely Unit 248, the Samsung Scholarship winner is Kaitlyn Kirchner sponsored by Lake Crystal Unit 294 and our Minnesota Senators to ALA Girls Nation are Helen Dombrock, sponsored by Minneapolis-Richfield Unit 435 and Clare Duffy sponsored by Cold Spring Unit 455. Congratulations to all the winners of this year's session.

Each day we had a different panel of speakers. One day, we had representatives from city governments in Minnesota and that afternoon we had a law and order panel ending with our Americanism Speaker Terry Redwing, a female Navy veteran and American Legion member from the 6th District. We had breakout sessions with the cities throughout the day to discuss the messages and

Tuesday at Minnesota Girls State we had a panel on county government, with elected officials and representatives from departments and agencies in one of Minnesota's counties.

On our last day the citizens held their final city meeting. Our guest speaker from the executive branch of government was Minnesota Lt. Gov. Peggy

Thank you to our staff, counselors, and our citizens. We did things differently this year and we had a great session.

Upcoming events

- June 13-Aug. 6:** Legionville School Safety Patrol Camps (visit legionville.weebly.com to register)
- July 14:** TAL, ALA DEC meetings at Redwood Falls
- July 15-17:** Dept. Convention at Jackpot Junction, Morton
- July 25:** American Legion Family Night at Target Field
- July 29-Aug. 1:** Div. I Baseball Tourney, St. Cloud MAC
- July 30-Aug. 1:** Div. II Baseball Tourney, Sacred Heart
- Aug. 5-8, 13-15:** Minnesota Legacy Run, starting at Two Harbors Post 109, ending at Hopkins Post 320
- Aug. 6-8:** Junior Fun Weekend at Legionville
- Aug. 7:** TAL DEC meeting, Royalton Post 137
- Aug. 14-15:** ALA August Workshop & DEC meeting, at Moose Lodge 1400, Waite Park, 1300 N. Third St.
- Aug. 22-26:** National Legacy Run, starting in Arkansas
- Aug. 27-Sept. 2:** National Convention in Phoenix
- Sept. 9-12:** Camporee at Legionville
- Sept. 30-Oct. 3:** John Zgoda Deer Hunt at Legionville
- Oct. 21-23:** Fall Conference at Shooting Star Casino, Mahanomen

MAKING HISTORY



American Legion Department of Minnesota Historian and Past Commander Mike Ash was recently elected to serve as the Unit president of North St. Paul Unit 39 in the 4th District. Mike is eligible for membership in the American Legion Auxiliary through the military service of his wife, Teresa Ash. Mike was installed by Past Department President Marsha Bible and was presented his president's pin by Past Department President Dee Dee Buckley. A veteran himself, Mike served as Department Commander in Minnesota in 2013-2014. We are eager to learn from his perspective as a veteran and are thankful that he is setting the pace for all Auxiliary Units in Minnesota! Pictured are Marsha Bible, Dee Dee Buckley, Mike Ash, Teresa Ash and departing Unit 39 President Jenny Nelson.

MEMORIAL DAY IN STEWIE



Memorial Day services from Stewartville Unit 164. From left are Auxiliary President Wanda Prescher, Poppy Princesses Payton Oeltjen, Hannah Meyerhofer, Madison Meyerhofer, all Junior Auxiliary members and Junior Leader Myrna Welter.

Finally, we will meet on membership

By Sharon Thiemecke
Membership Chairman

It is bittersweet as I write my last article for the Legionnaire as the ALA Department membership chairman.

Thank you to the Department office staff for answering all my questions and helping me keep on track through our planning and multiple covid cancellations.

Thank you to the District membership chairmen for your assistance throughout these 24 months as we tried to Round Up those Gems and Mined for Members.

Unfortunately, our Roundup got canceled by a snowstorm! What else could happen?

"Mining For Members, Each One Is A Gem."

The Covid Pandemic has made it hard for Units to work the membership program. We have learned new ways to work our programs and stay in touch.

Here's hoping we continue to move forward, onward and upward collecting those precious gems that help the American Legion Auxiliary to continue to work our mission.

| DISTRICT | # of Units | Goal | Period Gain | Membership To Date | Percent of Goal |
|-------------------------|------------|---------------|-------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| One | 48 | 3,994 | 22 | 3,729 | 93.37% |
| Two | 73 | 4,015 | 25 | 3,663 | 91.23% |
| Three | 47 | 3,870 | 18 | 3,585 | 92.64% |
| Four | 7 | 581 | 8 | 551 | 94.84% |
| Five | 7 | 572 | 7 | 495 | 86.54% |
| Six | 63 | 5,170 | 31 | 4,752 | 91.91% |
| Seven | 60 | 3,197 | 15 | 2,898 | 90.65% |
| Eight | 25 | 1,302 | 5 | 1,185 | 91.01% |
| Nine | 49 | 3,445 | 10 | 3,153 | 91.52% |
| Ten | 44 | 3,978 | 34 | 3,704 | 93.11% |
| 1982 Dept | 1 | 193 | 1 | 204 | 105.70% |
| District Totals: | 424 | 30,317 | 176 | 27,919 | 92.09% |

Remind your members of our mission as you ask for their dues, for they make working our mission possible.

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

Yes, there is still time to make those contacts reminding members that they are important in our ability to keep

working our mission.

Keep mining for those members old and new. Hope you will join us at our Department Convention as we finally have the opportunity to celebrate our centennial, elect our new leadership, have fun and hear some historical information throughout our convention.

We are starting to prepare for new leadership in our upcoming year from our grass roots Units holding their elections and installations, to our District conventions and soon our Department Convention. New ideas to continue our mission can come from our new or seasoned members. Membership is everyone's job.

National Convention is coming up

The 2021 National Convention will be held in Phoenix from Aug. 27 to Sept. 2. All Auxiliary delegates and alternates elected at the District conventions should already have their information packets. If you would like a packet, please contact Marsha at the Department office. All housing requests must go through The American Legion even if you are an Auxiliary delegate.

If you have been elected as a delegate or alternate at your District convention and are not planning to attend, please notify Department Secretary Marsha immediately and prior to our Department Convention. There will be information packets available at the Department Convention for anyone who is elected as a delegate or alternate-at-large at the convention. Please note

that the deadline for housing reservations is July 23, 2021.

All reservations for the States Dinner and the Public Spirit Award Luncheon (formerly known as the Woman of the Year Luncheon) must be ordered through the Department Auxiliary office and are very limited this year. Deadline is also July 23.

There have been many notifications concerning the national convention these last few months concerning COVID and any restrictions that attendees might have to adhere to. These have been greatly relaxed as of the end of June but are subject to change. All attendees must sign a COVID-19 Statement of Understanding in order to participate in this year's convention.

Junior Fun Weekend scheduled

The 12th Annual Junior Fun Weekend is scheduled to be held Aug. 6-8 at Legionville.

Registration forms were in the May/June Unit mailing. Please feel free to contact the Department office if you need a registration form or more information.

Cost is \$20 per person and includes all meals. This is open to Junior members and their advisors/chaperones. Everyone attending must pre-register and pre-pay.

Congrats to the 10 new District presidents

Congratulations to the 10 District presidents who were elected at their respective district conventions to serve the 2021-2022 year:

- District 1: Tonia Betterman of Owatonna Unit 77
- District 2: Tricia Pagel of Slayton Unit 64
- District 3: Cavalene Regan of Forest Lake Unit 225
- District 4: Jenny Nelson of North St. Paul Unit 39
- District 5: Jill Davis of Minneapolis-Richfield Unit 435
- District 6: Beverly Grose of Sauk Rapids Unit 254
- District 7: Susie Learing of Garvin Unit 273

- District 8: Renae Snow of Grand Rapids Unit 60
- District 9: Cecelia Sundstrom of Detroit Lakes Unit 15
- District 10: Linda Deschene of Wayzata Unit 108

Best wishes for a successful year of service as you assume this office in your District this year.

Packet pickup at convention

Membership packets will be available for pickup at the Department Convention. Please stop by the Department office any time Thursday or Friday to sign them out.

Unit officer lists past due

Unit officers lists were due in the Department office by June 10. If you have not submitted yours, please email them immediately to deptoffice@mnala.org.

mnala.org.

These lists are important as we develop our mailing list for the upcoming Auxiliary year. Your unit will not receive your membership card packet until we have a current list. This list is required each year even if you are keeping the same officers. This list was revised and asks for different information this year so make sure you use the current format.

Sending in content

When sending in photos and write-ups for the Auxiliary Bulletin part of the Legionnaire, please send JPGs and Word docs to Marsha Bible at marsha@mnala.org. Thank you.

JOINT TESTIMONIAL



Minnesota ALA President Mary Hendrickson stands beside Minnesota American Legion Commander Mark Dvorak on Saturday, June 19, during the Joint Testimonial Dinner. In past years, testimonials were held separately.



The Legionnaire coin stands out in a crowd!

Having this one in your coin rack sure looks good. Help celebrate the 100th anniversary of this monthly publication by, for and about veterans and their supporters in the Land of 10,000 Lakes.

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Phone (please include): _____

Amount of donation: _____

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St. Paul, MN 55155-2000

And thank you!

Donate to get yours

Donate \$25 or more to The Minnesota Legionnaire, and we will mail you this antique brass 1.75-inch-diameter brass challenge coin. Donate \$50 or more, we will send you two, \$75 for three, \$100 four and so on.

Your donation is tax-deductible!

With fewer ads right now, this fundraiser helps. The Minnesota Legionnaire is a nonprofit publication and is classified as a 501(c)4 organization.



Are you the son of a veteran? Maybe you are a veteran *and* the son or grandson of one? Either way, join your local Sons of the American Legion.

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