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A note to our readers: U.S. Postal Service increases for periodicals have hit The Minnesota Legionnaire hard. The Postal

Service raised rates by 8 percent in May 2021, and it is raising rates for periodicals again by 8.5 percent this month. Postage costs us about \$13,000 each month — by far our largest expense. The Legionnaire is its own nonprofit organization and is applying for grants and intends to hold a special fundraiser next spring, rather than merely pass on our expenses to you.

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## Special 2022 Department Convention Issue

The Minnesota

# Legionnaire

**AMERICAN LEGION**

A PUBLICATION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY

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For God and Country

July 2022

## 2 seek role of state cmdr.

State Convention to feature reports, resolutions and live entertainment

WILLMAR — The 103rd Convention of The American Legion Department of Minnesota takes place July 13-16 at the Willmar Conference Center, and it will have a little bit of everything — including head-to-head competition for department commander and sergeant-at-arms.

It is Garylee Davenport of Spicer Post 545 versus Jennifer Havlick of Duluth Post 28 for commander, and, for sergeant-at-arms, it is Carla Tappainer of Apple Valley Post 1776 vs. Dean Knutson of Ashby Post 357.

In unchallenged races, Larry Otto of Ellendale Post 296 is seeking the chaplain spot, and Teresa Ash of St. Paul Christie DeParcq Post 406 is running for historian. William Barbknecht and Peggy Moon are incumbents on the ballot for NECman and Alternate NECman, respectively.

For vice commanders, the ballot has Duane Anderson of Le Center Post 108, Ryan Hill of Brewster Post 464, Randy Bastyr of North St. Paul Post 39, Gary H. Olson of Moorhead Post 21 and Paul Orson of Fridley Post 303.

The ballot doesn't list the districts, but that would be Anderson in districts 1&3, Hill in 2&7, Bastyr in 4&5, Olson in 6&9 and Orson in 8&10.

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# Hello from Legionville



Micah Chuol, 10, of Faribault and other boys and girls jump off the Legionville dock on June 15. The dock was installed in fall 2020 with funds raised through Past Commander Mark Dvorak's Project.

See more photos from Legionville's first week of summer camp on Page 2.

Photos by Tim Engstrom



State Trooper Troy Christianson adjusts a school patrol flag. Crossing guard safety is among the types of safety taught.



Girls at Legionville Education Center prepare for the day by raising the American flag.



Girls from one of the cabins enjoyed a larger-than-life slip-n-slide on June 15.

## Minn. Boys State delegates hear from a police chief and a sheriff

By Tim Engstrom

COLLEGEVILLE — Minnesota Boys Staters on Thursday, June 16, got to interact with the heads of two law-enforcement agencies, and they heard about many of the present-day issues.

“Right now, we're not being very civil in how we treat one another in this country,” said St. Cloud Police Chief Blair Anderson.

Joining him on the stage that afternoon at St. John's University, where Minnesota Boys State is held after a five-year contract was penned during the winter, was Morrison County Sheriff Shawn Larsen.

Boys State often brings in state and local officials as part of the civic-oriented week-long camp. Secretary of State Steve Simon, for example, spoke that very morning.

The boys at Boys State are called delegates. One delegate asked Larsen and Anderson what they thought of defunding law enforcement.

Larsen said more law officers would quit the profession, worsening the existing labor shortage.

“We would just be in a state of chaos, worse than we are now.”

Anderson said defunding police would

Continued on Page 3



St. Cloud Police Chief Blair Anderson speaks June 16 on the topic of law enforcement. With him on stage at Boys State is Morrison County Sheriff Shawn Larsen.

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One of the Minnesota State Patrol helicopters stops by on Wednesdays of the Legionville Education Center summer camp. Campers stay for a week, and there are seven weeks of camp. Pilot Trooper Michael Olson said the State Patrol has two choppers, Trooper 8 and Trooper 9, and they are based at Holman Field, also known as St. Paul Downtown Airport. He and Trooper Daniel Britz, shown here with the campers and Trooper 9, answered questions about night-vision cameras, the power-line cutters on the front, the stinger, and, of course, speed. The Bell 407 helicopter can reach speeds of up to 139 knots (about 160 mph) but it usually flies around 120 knots (138 mph). The blades rotate at 395 rpm, and it has a Rolls Royce turbine engine doing 5,200 rpm. It sucks fuel at a rate of 45 gallons per hour. Trooper 8 and 9 are used in assisting ground troopers with traffic enforcement, aerial searches, aerial photography, firefighting, personnel or emergency blood transportation and moving equipment.



Here is your Legionville 2022 summer camp counselors and staff. From left in front are Jamie Woods, Averie Foss, Haillie Timmerman, Tori Narlock and Camp Manager Adam Felton. In the back are Robert Paitich, Peyton Freeman, Jack Paitich, Trooper Troy Christianson and Christy Ball.



Campers learned how to give a pen injection for when someone is reacting to a severe allergy.



Campers pull hard during a tug-o-war in the northern Minnesota evening air of June 15.



A counselor nudges a canoe in the right direction during canoe training at Legionville on North Long Lake.



Counselors make a tunnel as campers enter the main hall at Legionville for an evening talent show.



Campers enjoy a meal in the sparkling-clean dining hall at Legionville. Registration is still available for sending kids ages 10-12 to the camp. Visit [legionville.weebly.com](http://legionville.weebly.com). Posts can use gambling funds to pay to send children to the camp.

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The participants in Boys State compete in the sport of their choice for volleyball, basketball and softball.



Ben Bugbee of Paynesville runs for office in the Boys State pretend city of St. Cloud.




Garylee Davenport for Dept. Commander

Greetings, Dept. of Minn., This last year of campaigning has given me the opportunity to visit many posts and members across the state. The ideas and suggestions have been monumental. Thank you for your excellent input. I would ask everyone for their support in this election, and I look forward to working with you.

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# Police chief: 'This isn't the U.K.'

Continued from Page 1

lead to anarchy. There would be record spikes in violent crimes never seen in present-day lifetimes.

"Some colleagues are telling officers not to do pro-active police work, like not pulling over cars for taillights," he said. "The criminals, they will pull out the bulb before they get in the car because that's how their minds work."

One delegate mentioned unarmed police in the United Kingdom and asked if that would work in the United States.

Anderson replied that many British police departments, even in London, where the Bobbies are known for not wielding firearms, they now have special units that have firearms.

"This isn't the U.K." Anderson said. "I'm not going into that dark warehouse to search for a bad guy without a friend."

Law-enforcement officers, Larsen said, do not get up in the morning wanting to shoot someone.

A delegate asked about no-knock warrants.

Anderson told how one of his officers knocked at a door, and a man inside began shooting at the door. It led to an eight-hour barricade.

"A no-knock warrant would have prevented it," the chief said. "We were lucky no one died."

The sheriff spoke about societal changes in how people view and trust officers of the law.

He recalled how, as a 17-year-old, someone put a beer in his hand at Bowlus Days. He took two sips and saw an officer coming toward him. He ran between two buildings, then heard his father. He had a choice: Go to Dad or go to the officer. He chose the officer.

"Trust has changed. Parents' expectations of kids has changed," Larsen said.

Anderson said he believes American societal values are cyclical, and the direction will go the other way eventually. He said, as police chief, he doesn't hire officers who are about the car, the sirens and the gun. The job is about serving others, and he tells his 116 sworn officers and 56 civilians at the St. Cloud Police Department: "Never strip humans of their dignity."



Boys Staters conduct a mock criminal trial after one participant delivered a message of war written on a window blind from one city to another. He was found guilty and sentenced to write individual apologies.



A trumpeter performs "The Star-Spangled Banner" in Pellegrene Auditorium at St. John's University.



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# Grateful for friendships and hospitality

*Editor's note: This is Commander Tom Fernlund's annual report. You can find this and the other annual reports online at [mnlegion.org](http://mnlegion.org). In the past, they were in the Legionnaire. We have moved them online to save costs and to reserve more space in the Legionnaire for post activities.*

The National Membership Workshop was held virtually last July. Our leadership team missed out on traveling to our National Headquarters in Indianapolis and interacting with national leadership and other departments.

The leadership team improvised and got together for a weekend in St. Cloud the same time and place as the American Legion Baseball Div. 1 State Tournament. We met and watched a few games.

The membership director and five vice commanders and I held our own training, had an educational tour of the St. Cloud Stand Down and a driving tour of St. John's University, where Boys State is held.

We ended the weekend by handing out trophies at the baseball tournament. This was just one of the many memorable events that kicked off the year.

One of my goals this year was to be visible, display our logo and make the most of our opportunities for in-person events. We had some new, historic committees start this year.

## Commander's Column

Tom Fernlund



The first is the Media & Communication Committee. Chairman Teresa Ash and the rest of the members brought talent and enthusiastic energy to our organization. Their live-streaming and photos on social media brought instant awareness and interaction of our events and members to a mass audience.

A long overdue program, Minnesota American Legion Girls Fastpitch Softball is currently underway. SAL member Mike Arvidson volunteered to take the challenge of being the committee chairman. His experience and talents helped make the program a reality.

The Department of Minnesota American Legion consistently maintains our organizations motto, "Veterans Strengthening America," by our involvement with the Minnesota Commanders' Task Force. We witnessed the signing of the Veterans Restorative Justice Act last summer and, most recently, the historic Veterans Omnibus Bill by the governor.

These were legislative priority items brought to the table through the combined efforts of the congressionally chartered organizations that make up the CTF and the Minnesota Department

of Veterans Affairs. We continue to be proud partners of the Minnesota Veterans Outdoors Program.

This group of dedicated volunteers make it possible for veterans with disabilities to participate in outdoor activities. My project was to raise \$10,000 for each of the five Veterans Homes' recreation funds, \$5,000 for a new dishwasher at Legionville and \$5,000 for a new utility trailer at Legionville.

We surpassed our goal for the projects thanks to all of you. The donations directly enhance the quality of life for our veterans and continued success of a treasured youth program.

I am grateful for every visit and opportunity to meet so many of our American Legion Family members this past year. Your smiles and hospitality my wife and I encountered will be remembered forever. Thank you all for what you do for "Veterans, Family, Community!"

*Tom Fernlund of Waite Park Post 428 is the commander of The American Legion Department of Minnesota.*

# Be prepared for the coming change

Change is coming.

It is that time of the year again for leadership change. At the end of the Department Convention there will be new people wearing white hats. My gratitude runs deep for the privilege to have represented the spirituality of the Department of Minnesota American Legion this past year. My prayers over all will continue.

Allow me a few thoughts on the decline in membership in the American Legion. The Silent and Baby Boomer generations are now aged 59 to 90-something. The Millennials and Zoomers are in their 20 to early 40s. All are eligible to be members.

The Boomers have been at the helm for a long time. I have heard horror stories of how many Vietnam veterans were "welcomed" back into the U.S. and our posts. The television had a lot to do with Americans seeing what only a veteran knew before.

Each generation brings change. Some of you probably remember Elvis Presley's swinging-hips dilemma. I am also reminded of the not-too-long-ago common practice of polygamy and minor marriages. Not all changes are bad.

How we carry out the myriad of programs to fulfill our mission is morphing into places

## Chaplain's Corner

Kelley Adelsman



the younger generation is comfortable with but unknown for others. I was reminded at Department Commander Tom Fernlund's Testimonial Dinner by Past National Commander Denise Rohan that it was the Legionnaire's foresight to open the doors for women veterans to membership before women had the American right to vote.

It was our Legionnaires who also advocated for the G.I. Bill to ensure veterans could buy homes and get a higher education. These changes did not come easy but have proved their value in the fabric of our American culture. The old ways were challenged to make way for what was not yet known.

I was in the U.S. Army when the black-screened, green-lettering computer arrived. In the Division CSM and General at 1st AD offices, Ansbach, West Germany, I figured out how to create and print documents out without a manual. It was so basic and large compared to my cellphone that fits in my back pocket. Change.

Current culture is also mobile with jam-packed schedules. What has remained the same

throughout all millennia is our desire to be in a welcoming community where one feels valued and given room to contribute who they are.

Doing good is in our spiritual DNA. We are an organization of hope and healing. Change is here and once again, will benefit and be challenging. The people of our American Legion belong and give of themselves because of the belief that good will prevail today and into the future.

Let us all trust that God is aware and responds by bringing new life — babies into this world. They don't come with manuals and they change our world. May we each invite others into the fold and ask, "How can I assist you to be a part of our mission?"

*Kelley Adelsman of Pine Island Post 184 is the chaplain for The American Legion Department of Minnesota.*

# Mail Call

Send letters to the editor for Mail Call to [tengstrom@mnlegion.org](mailto:tengstrom@mnlegion.org).

*Editor's note: All letters are the opinions of the writers and not necessarily The American Legion or The Minnesota Legionnaire. We do favor dialogue as key to the American form of government.*

## Thanks for covering ship commissioning

As a Navy Reservist and Legionnaire, I wish to state my appreciation for the article in last month's edition about the commissioning of the USS Minneapolis-St. Paul.

It's recording a great day in Minnesota's history, as the easternmost port in Navy Region Northwest to host a ship commissioning. Despite the weather not cooperating, and the brow falling off, I am happy to have participated in the ceremonies, and to see your coverage.

Michael Thompson  
St. Cloud Post 76

## Kudos to post's last WWII veteran

American Legion Post 149 in Morristown would like to recognize H. David Schmidtke for his contributions to our local Legion and for his 75 continuous years of membership. Such an incredible accomplishment!

Dave is the last remaining WWII veteran with our post. He graduated from Morristown High School in 1944 and immediately enlisted in the Marines Corps. After boot camp, he was transferred to Camp LeJeune for additional training and then was sent to Quantico Marine Base in Virginia in 1945. At that time, President Franklin D. Roosevelt died, and Dave was "hailed up" to Washington to be in the funeral procession.

Later, he was transferred to Puerto Rico to train in amphibious landing drills as the U.S. was preparing for an invasion

of Japan. When this training was completed, David was assigned to a ship docked on the Hudson River in New York. This is where he was when Japan surrendered and WWII came to an end. This was 1945, and he was sent back to his base camp and was issued out in August 1946.

When he returned home, Dave enrolled at Dunwoody, and in 1948, he was licensed to run a radio station. His first gig was a radio station in Winona, and he stayed there for about six months. He left Winona and went to Faribault to work for KDHL. In 1957, he went into

business for himself running Dave's Electronics and D&L Specialties. He specialized in communication towers, and he had several such towers all over southern Minnesota, including Faribault, Red Wing, Wanamingo, Lake City and Chanhassen.

In the late 1940s, Dave had a relatively minor medical procedure at St. Lucas Hospital in Faribault. He was in the hospital for a little over a week, and he had a very pretty nurse named Lila. He admits flirting with her quite a bit. His flirting must have been pretty good as she ended up being his bride. She was by his side during this interview.

Dave joined Post 149 when he returned home in 1946. The post is 103 years old, and he has been a member of his post for all but 28 years of its existence. He has held several offices including

adjutant. He has seen the organization move from being housed in an old shoe store to its current building in Morristown. He smiled as he remembered the old steak fries that paid off the building's mortgage.

"We'd get 250 people on a regular basis," he said. "They'd come by truck and snowmobile and hang their suits wherever they could. You couldn't get through the building it was so

crowded."

Presently, Dave is 96 years old and sharp as a tack. The American Legion can be proud of men like H. David Schmidtke. Post 149 is certainly proud and appreciative of him.

Charles K. Larsen  
Adjutant  
Morristown Post 149



Dan Morgan/North End Post 474

**Yes, sergeant, I was properly relieved, but my relief is in the latrine properly relieving himself!**

# The Minnesota Legionnaire

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

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Name of Deceased	Age	Date of Death	Branch	Era	Cont. Years	Post
<b>Addison, Curtis J.</b>	93	6/1/22	Navy	Korea	34	Coon Rapids Post 334
<b>Akers, William R.</b>	73	5/25/22	Navy	Vietnam	6	Park Rapids Post 212
<b>Albers, Vernon J.</b>	96	6/11/22	Navy	WWII	33	Redwood Falls Post 38
<b>Aleckson, Wayne A.</b>	92	12/24/21	Army	Korea	48	Bloomington Post 550
<b>Arnold, Walter M.</b>	93	11/1/21	Army AF	WWII	13	Coon Rapids Post 334
Note: He trained in electronics for the B-29 and B-36 aircraft.						
<b>Arts, George H.</b>	79	5/10/22	NG/Reserves	Korea	54	Walker Post 134
Note: He was in the Wisconsin National Guard, then transferred to the Army Reserve in Minnesota. He was a firearms safety instructor for 30 years.						
<b>Barth, Ervin R.</b>	96	4/17/22	Marines	WWII	21	Caledonia Post 191
<b>Bartholomew, Charles R.</b>	82	5/20/22	Army	Vietnam	10	Rochester Post 92
<b>Beach, Robert J.</b>	95	8/21/21	Navy	World War II	37	Moorhead Post 21
<b>Befort, John W.</b>	92	6/7/22	Army	Korea	69	Mazepa Post 588
<b>Bialka, Arthur J.</b>	93	6/8/22	Marines	Korea	61	Waite Park Post 428
<b>Boren, Robert B.</b>	90	1/13/22	Army NG	Vietnam	66	Ashby Post 357
<b>Born, Robert E.</b>	86	6/1/22	Army	Vietnam	4	Stewartville Post 164
<b>Briggs, Robert G.</b>	89	5/19/22	Navy	Korea	46	Waite Park Post 428
Note: He served aboard the USS Ticonderoga aircraft carrier.						
<b>Bruender, Douglas J.</b>	73	5/14/22	Army	Vietnam	1	Le Sueur Post 55
<b>Cooper, Robert D. Sr.</b>	91	4/4/22	Navy	Korea	38	Deerwood Post 557
<b>DeBates, Michael K.</b>	78	1/9/22	Marines	Vietnam	9	Walnut Grove Post 267
<b>Doll, Melvin M.</b>	90	6/2/22	Air Force	Korea	25	Aitkin Post 86
<b>Ecklund, Eugene H.</b>	89	5/15/22	Army	Korea	12	Moorhead Post 21
<b>Fagerman, Roger D.</b>	91	5/28/22	Army/AF	Korea	52	Walker Post 134
<b>Fairbanks, James J.</b>	90	6/18/22	Air Force	Korea	26	Red Wing Post 54
Note: He was a past post commander.						
<b>Fennern, Steven W.</b>	71	5/30/22	Army	Vietnam	38	New Ulm Post 132
<b>Fuerstenberg, William L.</b>	80	5/30/22	Navy	Vietnam	56	Fulda Post 318
<b>Germain, Bertan J.</b>	80	3/3/22	Navy	Vietnam	19	Minnesota Post 1982
<b>Glaeser, Steven R.</b>	77	5/31/22	Navy	Vietnam	30	Marshall Post 113
<b>Greer, Earl H.</b>	90	5/5/22	Army	Korea	33	Elk River Post 112
<b>Hahn, Merle H.</b>	95	5/25/22	Navy	WWII	76	Boyd Post 198
<b>Hansen, Roy O. Sr.</b>	87	1/20/22	Army NG	Korea	31	Walnut Grove Post 267
<b>Hastings, Donald R.</b>	87	5/20/22	Air Force	Korea	8	Wadena Post 171
<b>Huerd, Gordon L.</b>	74	6/8/22	Army	Vietnam	19	Roosevelt Post 371
<b>Isaacson, Linton E.</b>	102	3/4/22	Army	WWII	74	Dassel Post 364
<b>Jackson, Russell A. Jr.</b>	75	12/31/21	Army	Vietnam	54	Bemidji Post 14
<b>Jahnke, Ralph G.</b>	96	5/5/22	Navy	WWII	39	Parkers Prairie Post 219
<b>Jensen, Richard C.</b>	89	6/10/22	Army	Korea	62	Hayfield Post 330
Note: In addition to several post positions, he served as commander of the 1st District in 1993-94 and was chaplain for the Department of Minnesota in 1994-95. His obituary said he organized his post's color guard and said he often could also be found in the Post 330 kitchen frying up steak or fish to feed hundreds.						
<b>Jeziarski, Joseph T.</b>	69	1/15/21	Navy	Vietnam	17	Minnetonka Post 398
<b>Jones, Ronald R.</b>	81	12/8/21	Army	Korea	10	Pequot Lakes Post 49
<b>Justin, Ronald J.</b>	72	4/24/22	Army	Vietnam	22	St. Stephen Post 221
<b>Kajer, William B.</b>	91	5/21/22	Army	Korea	30	New Prague Post 45
<b>Kelm, Fred C.</b>	74	4/29/22	Army	Vietnam	6	Bemidji Post 14
<b>Kester, Ronald W.</b>	90	6/17/22	Marines	Korea	13	Austin Post 91
<b>Kluzik, Richard J.</b>	91	5/13/22	Navy/AF	Korea/VN	33	Winona Post 9
Note: He served aboard the USS Leyte aircraft carrier as a gunner's mate and later with a bomb nav squadron with Strategic Air Command.						
<b>Knieff, Bruce A.</b>	74	5/25/22	Army	Vietnam	14	Marshall Post 113
<b>Konken, Walter H.</b>	89	5/25/22	Army	Korea	3	Austin Post 91
<b>Kroneberger, Andrew</b>	93	6/3/22	Army	Korea	45	Spicer Post 545
<b>Losen, Paul J.</b>	89	2/8/22	Army	Korea	55	Anoka Post 102
<b>Lunz, Rodney L.</b>	79	5/13/22	Army	Vietnam	20	Shakopee Post 2
<b>Martin, John E. Sr.</b>	80	5/31/22	Army	Vietnam	3	Bemidji Post 14
<b>Meld, Roger E.</b>	70	1/13/22	Army	Vietnam	32	Walnut Grove Post 267
<b>Najjar, Wilbur G.</b>	92	4/22/22	Army	WWII	3	Bemidji Post 14
Note: He served in Japan immediately after the surrender.						
<b>Nelson, Reginald R.</b>	75	12/8/21	Army	Vietnam	6	Brainerd Post 255
<b>Nelson, Warren D.</b>	82	5/13/22	Army	Vietnam	35	Ashby Post 357
Note: He was trained in cryptography in the Signal Corps.						
<b>O'Connor, Edward B.</b>	89	5/11/22	Army	Korea	59	Anoka Post 102
<b>Portner, Marlin R.</b>	73	5/22/22	Army	Vietnam	36	New Ulm Post 132
<b>Randall, Ralph N.</b>	88	3/20/22	Army	Korea	37	Albert Lea Post 56
<b>Rauch, Joshua J.</b>	41	5/6/22	Army NG	Iraq	2	Little Falls Post 46
<b>Rolloff, Elmer H. Jr.</b>	91	6/18/22	Army NG	Korea	37	New Ulm Post 132
Note: He was awarded the Bronze Star while serving with the 7th Infantry Division in Korea.						
<b>Schmidt, Vincent J.</b>	91	5/14/22	Army NG	Korea/VN	50	Cloquet Post 262
<b>Smith, Eugene R.</b>	92	5/24/22	Air Force	Korea	50	Cloquet Post 262
<b>Soland, Daniel H.</b>	75	6/4/22	Marines	Vietnam	11	Anoka Post 102
<b>Speckel, Gerald L.</b>	89	5/15/22	Army	Korea	20	Coon Rapids Post 334
<b>Stachowski, Lloyd A.</b>	90	4/22/22	Army	Vietnam	40	Pierz Post 341
<b>Wahl, Harley O.</b>	91	5/28/22	Army	Korea	64	Tracy Post 173
Note: He was the 7th District commander 2010-11 and Department of Minnesota vice commander 2016-17.						
<b>Waldvogel, Jerry L.</b>	75	5/15/22	Air Force	Vietnam	30	Keewatin Post 452
<b>Wenner, Charles N.</b>	91	5/8/22	Marines	Korea	67	Cold Spring Post 455
<b>Witte, Marvin V.</b>	92	5/23/22	Army	Korea	45	Hutchinson Post 96
<b>Yanish, Ronald J.</b>	79	5/30/22	Army	Vietnam	4	Rochester Post 92
<b>Zabel, Gerald E.</b>	85	3/5/22	Army	Korea	28	Wells Post 210
<b>Zimmerman, Wayne D.</b>	78	5/10/22	Army	Vietnam	28	Waite Park Post 428

## All-Family Events Calendar

**July 13-16:** Department Convention, Willmar  
**July 28-31:** Div. I Baseball State Tournament, Alimagnet Park, Burnsville  
**July 28-31:** Div. I Jr. Baseball State Tournament, Red Haddock Field, Bloomington  
**July 29-31:** Div. II. Baseball State Tournament, Luverne  
**July 30:** Fund 85 Run, St. Peter Post 37  
**July 30-31:** State Fastpitch Softball Tournament, Jaycee Park, Mankato  
**Aug. 3-7:** Div. I Baseball Regional, Rapid City, S.D.  
**Aug. 5-6:** Div. II Jr. Baseball State Tournament, Ely  
**Aug. 5-7:** Department Junior Fun Weekend, Legionville  
**Aug. 11-16:** Baseball World Series, Shelby, N.C.  
**Aug. 20-23:** Minnesota Legacy Run  
**Aug. 21-25:** National Legacy Run, ending in Milwaukee  
**Aug. 26-Sept. 1:** National Conventions, Milwaukee  
**Sept. 8-11:** Legionville Camporee, Legionville  
**Sept. 10:** Harvest Rally, Legionville  
**Oct. 8-9:** SAL Fall Meetings, Legion HQ, Indianapolis  
**Oct. 10-13:** TAL Fall Meetings, Legion HQ, Indianapolis  
**Oct. 27-29:** Department Fall Conference, River's Edge Convention Center, St. Cloud  
**Dec. 10:** Pearl Harbor Rally, location TBD  
**Dec. 11-16:** National American Legion College, Indy

## What's happening?

### Fund 85 Ride takes place on July 30

ST. PETER — The Fund 85 Ride is all set for July 30. The motorcycle ride raises funds for the Department of Minnesota Veterans Assistance Fund, which is classified as Minnesota American Legion Foundation Fund 85. The ride begins at St. Peter Post 37, with registration beginning at 8:30 a.m. and kickstands up at 9:30 a.m. The ride ends at 4 p.m. Check with organizers about after-event activities.

Jeep owned by Post 89 Commander Paul Kafka. Davis speaks at the Main Street stage at noon. Breakfast tickets are available for \$10 each, with proceeds to the Rural Renaissance Project. Send check, quantity and names to Sammy L. Davis Breakfast, 120 S. Main. St., Suite C, Blue Earth, MN 56013. A commemorative T-shirt is available for \$20. To get one, include that in the order. In the film, the image of Tom Hanks' face was superimposed on Davis, but the Medal of Honor ceremony shown was his.

### Packet pickup will be at the convention

ST. PAUL — Packet pickup that typically involves stopping at Department HQ in St. Paul in late June has been postponed. The delivery of membership cards on time was in jeopardy this year as a result of the nationwide paper shortage, particularly cardstock. After discussion, department leadership decided to distribute the 2023 membership-year packets to the districts at 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 13, in Gallery 5-7 of the Willmar Conference Center, at the onset of the Department Convention. The convention, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the Executive Boardroom, will feature a Q&A session with New Prague Post 45 Commander Linda Dvorak and Department Membership Coordinator Misty Padilla on MyLegion.org and other membership issues. Be sure to get a seat.

### Band Blitz set for Buffalo

BUFFALO — Buffalo Post 270 and GreenCare for Troops will salute military families on Sept. 10 with Band Blitz VI for the Military. This is the sixth year for the fundraiser, but the first at Buffalo. It has been at Delano and Shakopee in the past. GCFT is a program of Project EverGreen, a national non-profit organization committed to bringing people together to create healthy green spaces. It offers free lawn and landscape services for families of deployed military personnel. The proceeds from the concert benefit Post 270's efforts to benefit veterans and military and to GCFT. The Twin Cities-based zydeco and blues act Everett Smithson Band opens, followed by New Prague-based 60s and 70s cover horn band Little Chicago. Tickets go on sale in mid-July at Buffalo Post 270 or at [ProjectEvergreen.org](http://ProjectEvergreen.org).

### 'Forrest Gump' is coming

BLUE EARTH — The real Forrest Gump is coming to Blue Earth Post 89 for a breakfast at 7 a.m. July 9. Medal of Honor recipient Sammy L. Davis also will be featured in the Giant Days Parade at 10 a.m. that day in a

### Your car ready for July 3?

MINNEAPOLIS — A decorated vehicle parade is slated to take place at 11 a.m. July 3 to celebrate the Fourth of July, albeit the day before. The parade begins at the VA parking lot and will go past the Minneapolis Veterans Home. **Continued on Page 7**

## Department of Corrections

In the "Taps" entry for Robert E. Feuer in the June issue, in the note about his service, the USS Rupertus was spelled incorrectly. In the "Taps" entry for Maurice H. Weber in the June issue, his war era was incorrect. He served in World War II, in the Navy during the Okinawa campaign and survived kamikaze attacks. The editor attributed an incorrect SAL squadron on Page 8 of the June issue. Michael Wille, who sent in a report about his experience delivering food to refugees in Poland in April, is a member of Golden Valley SAL Squadron 523.

## Silver Bay home to celebrate 30

SILVER BAY — The staff and residents of the Silver Bay Veterans Home plan to celebrate the home's 30th birthday. There will be refreshments, a program and entertainment from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, July 9. Ely-based musical act Pat Surface and the Boundary Water Boys will perform. The home opened Oct. 10, 1991, after being converted from Campton Elementary School, which was constructed in 1953 during the North Shore's mining boom.



Jennifer Havlick



Garylee Davenport



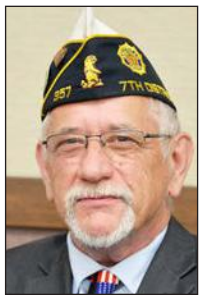
Larry Otto



Teresa Ash



Carla Tappainer



Dean Knutson

# Wilmar Post 167 to have live music, dinner specials

Continued from Page 1

Outgoing 7th District Commander David “Chip” Manson is on the ballot for a three-year term on the Board of Publications, which oversees The

Minnesota Legionnaire.

The 3rd District has endorsed Kelley Adelsman for national chaplain. That will not be a ballot item. Candidates for national office are nominated from

the floor of the convention.

Also not a ballot item are selecting delegates at-large and their alternates to attend the National Convention in Milwaukee.

The Department Executive Committee meets at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 13, at the conference center and, starting this year, it will meet again — under the slate of new officers — a half hour after the end of the convention on Saturday, July 16. This meeting will replace the first-Saturday-in-August meeting that took place in past years.

Adjutant Mike Maxa said this is meant to reduce travel costs and to free up a weekend for local efforts during the Legion’s busy summer schedule.

Live music will be available Thursday and Friday at Wilmar Post 167, 220 19th Ave. SW. Watch for dinner specials, too. Transportation from the conference center to the post is available.

The full conference schedule and the annual committee reports are not being printed in the Legionnaire any longer, but they will appear online at mnlegion.org, as part of the Department of Minnesota’s growing web presence.

Some highlights of the schedule are:

- Announcement of election results on Saturday morning.

- Awards and presentations for Firefighter, Law Officer and Eagle Scout of the Year on Friday morning.

- Awards and presentations for Outstanding Post Service Officer and for Physician of the Year on Friday morning.

- An update on the Minnesota American Legion Family Suicide Prevention Coalition on Friday morning.

- A visit from the state Oratorical Contest champion on Friday morning.

- The annual Joint Memorial Service late Thursday morning.

- A Q&A session on MyLegion.org, in the Executive Board Room, on Thursday afternoon. (Bring laptops.)

- An update from Minnesota Veterans Affairs Commissioner Larry Herke Friday morning.

- Legislative reports from key state lawmakers on Thursday morning.

- Visits from Minnesota Disabled American Veterans’ commander and legislative director Thursday morning.

- Committee reports throughout the convention, from Fastpitch Softball to Legion Riders and from Blood to Americanism, they are all there.

- A charitable gambling seminar at 2 p.m. Thursday afternoon, in Gallery 7.

- A report from National Vice Commander Angel Narvaez of Puerto Rico on Friday morning.

- Donations and presentations on Saturday morning.

- A presentation Thursday morning by Judge Advocate Greg Colby on rules regarding suspending or banning an individual from a post.

This year, for the first time, the booths at the convention are helping to offset costs. Watch the program for a listing of convention sponsors.

Resolutions are a major part of any American Legion convention. Per the state bylaws, they are officially printed in the Legionnaire. Find them on Page 8 for all members to review.

The resolutions:

- Encourage suicide awareness and prevention at the post level.

- Strike the 10-year limitation rule from VA presumption for veterans in the Southwest Asia theater suffering from chronic asthma, chronic rhinitis or chronic sinusitis.

- Resolve wait time problems for veterans in the VA system who are seen at community health providers after VA appointments are canceled.

- Call on the VA to revise disability ratings to not be based on the effects of treatment and be in line with World Health

## OFFICIAL BALLOT

The American Legion, Dept of Minnesota  
Election of Officers 2022-2023

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

Like This:

Department Commander (vote for one)	
Garylee Davenport	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jennifer Havlick	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write In	<input type="checkbox"/>

Department Vice Commander (Vote for 5)	
Duane Anderson	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ryan Hill	<input type="checkbox"/>
Randy Bastyr	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gary H. Olson	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paul Orson	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write In	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write In	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

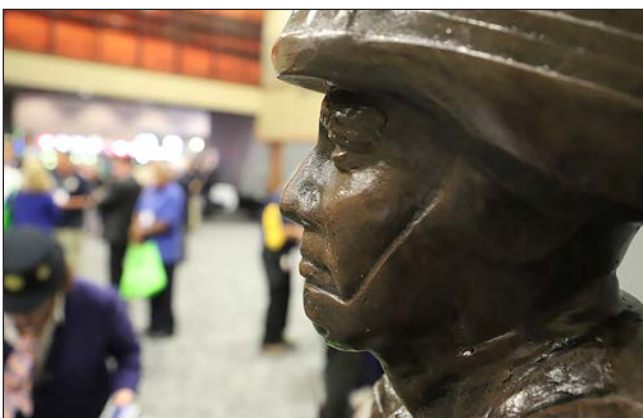
Alt NECman (vote for one)	
Peggy Moon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write In	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

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

Sergeant-at-Arms (vote for one)	
Dean Knutson	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carla Tappainer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write In	<input type="checkbox"/>

Board of Publications (vote for one)	
David "Chip" Manson	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write In	<input type="checkbox"/>



### Convention exhibitors this year will help offset some of the convention costs. Be sure to support them.

Organization criteria.

- Rename the Law Officer of the Year Award to include correction officers.

- Add a fifth member to the Media & Communications Committee.

- Increase the scholarship prizes for the state Oratorical Contest from a total of \$3,700 to \$7,500.

- Call on Minnesota to issue license plates for retired military servicemembers.

- Restructure the Fastpitch Softball Committee to represent

districts across the state and to have three commander-appointed leaders. This aims to make it more like the Baseball Committee.

Registration for the Department Convention remains open. The form is on Page 7.

The National Convention is Aug. 26-Sept. 1 in Milwaukee. Legionnaires wishing to attend the National Convention, and typically sponsored by their post, need to contact Program Coordinator Jennifer Kelley by July 15. Call 651-291-1800.

## PROJECT NEW HOPE

Military Family Retreats at no cost to Veterans



### UPCOMING MINNESOTA RETREATS

Visit [projectnewhope.net](http://projectnewhope.net).

**28-30 OCTOBER 2022**  
GOOD EARTH VILLAGE  
NEAR SPRING VALLEY, MINN.

**2-4 DECEMBER 2022**  
INSPIRATION POINT  
NEAR CLITHERALL, MINN.

# WANTED

## Gambling Manager

METRO LEGION POST LOOKING TO HIRE A GAMBLING MANAGER

#### Desirable qualifications:

- Be or be eligible to become a member of The American Legion (i.e: be an honorably discharged veteran).
- Have previous documented manager experience.
- Able to pass a criminal and financial background check.
- Qualify for and obtain a Gambling Control Board Manager’s License.
- Be bondable and maintain “qualified” status.
- Possess a working knowledge of Microsoft Word and Excel.
- Be a team-oriented person who is able to work with our assistant gambling manager, who has extensive experience and can assist in learning the ropes of the job.
- Possess leadership skills (ability and experience to supervise, direct and evaluate staff).
- Possess communication skills both verbal and written.

Our post is known for our friendly camaraderie and our charitable giving to the community. Please help us continue our legacy.

This is a part-time salaried position that would be ideal for a semi-retired or retired veteran. It really is a well-paying part-time job. For additional information, contact 763-544-9047. Leave a message.

# 40 years of Boys State produces memories

## Minn. Boys State

Neil Kruse



This was my 40th week working Minnesota American Legion Boys State. (To be sure, in 2020, we did the preparation work, but we had to cancel the camp. It depends on whether you count that year.)

I'd not heard of Boys State when in high school. My hometown didn't have a Legion post. The rivalry with the neighboring town was intense, so I doubt that an invitation was presented to our high school juniors.

A good friend, Brad Brandt (who served as the choir director with Boys State), encouraged me to become a counselor. It took three years for him to convince me to give it a try.

In 1983, we were hosted at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter. Gene Shiek was the director and Chuck Ferguson the adjutant.

I was superbly trained in by my lead counselor, John Ruononiemi, who later became the Dean of Boys State. Learning about caucuses, conventions, political offices and flag etiquette was fascinating. As a teacher and coach, I saw another side of the young men who participated. The counselors played basketball and softball versus the league-winning delegate teams. Lifelong friendships were made with fellow counselors. All that kept me coming back.

We moved to St. Olaf in Northfield, Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall and now at St. John's in Collegeville.

Dedicated directors included Ambie Koll, Jerry Postier and Mike Bredeck (who integrated

many innovative ideas into the program). Our numbers peaked near 500.

Dale Carlson kept us abreast on the political process.

Enrollment isn't what it was, but we still get highly talented and motivated young men from across Minnesota to participate in this extremely valuable program promoting citizenship. As someone with no previous knowledge or experience of Boys State, my passion for the program continues.

Some of our alumni have become presidents, vice presidents and secretaries of state at American Legion Boys Nation, held in Washington, D.C. Some have served in local and state government roles in Minnesota and other states. Others have used their experiences in jobs and family situations. It's always fun to see second and third generations of Boys Staters spend a week with us and return as counselors.

Thank you, American Legion, for sponsoring this program and allowing me to be a part of it! Let's keep promoting it and working to improve it each year. Encourage Boys Staters who have the opportunity to ride in their local parades or set up booths at local celebrations to share the merits of this annual Americanism project.

*Neil Kruse is a counselor for Minnesota American Legion Boys State.*

# We have good news, and we have bad news

## National Report

Bill Barbknecht



Are we all enjoying the hot weather? I feel it sure is better than shoveling snow.

All our district conventions are done and new leadership will be in place shortly. BUT the year is NOT done.

Is your post and district over a 100 percent in membership? Have all posts sent in their Post Consolidated Reports? Have you been doing Buddy Checks and seeing those that have not renewed their membership? Please go visit them. Korean War started June 25, 1950.

There are a lot of those veterans who still have NOT joined The American Legion. Have you asked them?

The Fourth of July is coming quickly. What is your post doing for its members?

Forest Lake Post 225 puts on one of the biggest parades and celebrations in the state. Thank you, Forest Lake American Legion Family.

The Department of Minnesota American Legion Family Convention is July 13-16 at the Willmar Conference Center, hosted by Willmar Post 167. Please try to attend this central location this year.

Also, the American Legion National Convention is going to be in Milwaukee this year. It is Aug. 26-Sept. 1. That is

also a few hours down the road. Please try to attend at some point throughout that time frame.

New membership cards will be coming out at the state convention. Another excuse at National — cardstock paper shortage.

Our legislative session is closed, with no tax relief in gambling, with that \$9 billion surplus? Be sure to vote this fall. We have a few that don't seem to care much about our veterans.

Thank you to all the volunteers for Boys State and Girls State, as well as Girls Fastpitch Softball and Boys Baseball. We have over 400 ball teams in MN. Great job, Tim Engstrom, Randy Schaub, Mike Arvidson and all.

Donna and I look forward to seeing you all again at the Department Convention in Willmar. As always if I can be of any help, please call me at 218-770-6264.

*Bill Barbknecht of Underwood Post 489 is the Department of Minnesota's National Executive Committeeman.*



# It's great that Minnesota now has 86 chapters

## Legion Riders

Ted Berg



The past two months have been very busy with bike runs, district conventions and testimonials.

I would like to congratulate Redwood Falls, St. Augusta and Aitkin Legion posts for starting up new Legion Riders chapters. We are now at 86 chapters in the state. It's kind of unique that Aitkin Post 86 is the 86th chapter in the state.

Fund 85 run has been set for July 30 out of St Peter, so I look forward to seeing a lot of Riders and bikes that day as we raise money to help Minnesota veterans in need

The Minnesota Legacy Run route has been put together and is being fine-tuned. We are looking forward to many bikes and Riders for this run, also. Feel free to ride the whole run or the days you can or even if you can only ride a couple

legs of one of the days. It is greatly appreciated.

For all the runs that have been done by chapters, and districts, I want to thank all of you for your hard work and dedication to your projects. This really shows the Legion Family the Riders' dedication to veterans and their families

In closing, we have three months of riding season left, and I look forward to seeing you all at one point or another. Keep the rubber down and chrome up. Ride safe and live to ride another day.

*Ted Berg of Bloomington Post 550 is the director of the Minnesota American Legion Riders.*

# Department of Minnesota donates to Uvalde Post 479

UVALDE, Texas — The American Legion Department of Minnesota donated \$250 on May 27 to Uvalde American Legion Post 479 to help with their relief efforts.

At least four members of Tomas Valle American Legion Post 479 in Uvalde have lost relatives in the horrible tragedy that unfolded May 24 at Robb Elementary School.

Post Commander Jose Saucedo did not lose a family member, but his granddaughter was in the school and his son-in-law was at the scene as a law enforcement officer.

It would have been understandable if Post 479 skipped Memorial Day this year given the circumstances. Yet, members of the post still took time to place flags at the graves of veterans and held an observance featuring a bugler at the post flagpole.

"Memorial Day is important and we would never forget that," Saucedo said. "At the same time, we will continue to be there for the families affected by what occurred. We are about community. We have heard from Legionnaires across the country, including Oklahoma, Minnesota and California. Veterans need to be there for each other."

# What's happening?

Continued from Page 5

Anyone can spectate.

Contact Greg Arrigoni to have a vehicle in the parade by calling 651-248-1604.

## Classic car fun set for July 10

NORTH ST. PAUL — American Legion Post 39 is set to host its annual Classic Car Show from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, July 10.

A maximum of 50 cars will be allowed. The lot opens to participants via the southwest driveway at 10 a.m. No bikes, strollers or pets.

Admission is free for spectators. Food and beverages will be available. Spectator parking is across and along the street.

## Post to host golf tourney

NORTH ST. PAUL — North St. Paul Post 39 will hosts its

annual golf tournament Saturday, Aug. 6, at Goodrich Golf Course, 1815 Van Dyke St., Maplewood.

The tournament is an 18-hole scramble with individual tee times starting at 10 a.m. Tee times are on a first-come, first-served basis.

Teams compete for cash prizes. In addition, teams from the Legion's 4th District compete for a traveling trophy.

The dinner and awards program will be at Post 39 at 5 p.m.

Sponsorship opportunities include donation of a door prize for the raffle and hole sponsorship, and sponsorship of the putting contest at a cost of \$100. Besides signage, hole and putting contest sponsors, may pass out information, play games and award prizes at their site. For an additional \$200, sponsors can enter a four-person team in the tournament (regular team entry is \$300).

For questions or more information, email Ken Giannini at [kenn5822@hotmail.com](mailto:kenn5822@hotmail.com).



Shown above is a parade model of a Gato-class diesel submarine. Snorkels became part of the Gato subs after World War II.

## Submarine veterans are selling medallions for grave markers

U.S. Submarine Veterans Inc. are selling 3x3-inch medallions that can stick to grave markers (where allowed) for \$10, plus a \$3 shipping fee if applicable.

Medallion sales go toward the organization to pay for model submarines the organization takes to parades through the summer.

The remainder goes to veterans organizations.

To get one, touch base with Kenneth Tibesar at 651-263-0522 or email [retsubman@yahoo.com](mailto:retsubman@yahoo.com).

The medallions cannot go on markers at national cemeteries, and always check with loved ones before placing them on a grave.



## DEPARTMENT CONVENTION REGISTRATION

— Official Form —

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 167" with "Dept. Convention" written on the memo line. No credit cards will be accepted.

Please mail this form with your check to:

Willmar Post 167  
Attn: Greg Krause  
220 19th Ave. SW  
Willmar, MN 56201

Registration at the door 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.

# Resolutions of the 2022 convention

(Note: The Department Executive Committee passes resolutions during the year, so that's why the first one starts with 4.)

## Department of Minnesota Resolution No. 2022-4

Received: 11 May 2022  
**Title: Law Officer of the Year**  
 Author: Minnesota American Legion College  
**Subject: Law Officer of the Year Title Change**  
 Summary: A resolution to change the eligibility of the American Legion National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award.

WHEREAS, Corrections officers are operated by County, State or Federal agencies: and  
 WHEREAS, Correction officers work on daily basis with inmates that law enforcement officers arrest and  
 WHEREAS, Corrections officers sometimes have arrest authority: and  
 WHEREAS, Corrections officers can have a meaningful impact on the lives of incarcerated people: and  
 WHEREAS, Corrections officers put their lives on the line everyday they go to work: and  
 WHEREAS, There are approximately 500,000 corrections officers who supervise 2.5 million inmates, and  
 WHEREAS, In many jurisdictions, corrections officers are considered law enforcement officers, and  
 WHEREAS, The award eligibility is for living, full-time and paid, sworn law enforcement officer entrusted with full authority and the powers of arrest, and  
 WHEREAS, Be assigned to, or fully recognized by, Municipal(city), County, District or State Police (e.g., University Police, etc.) or Highway Patrol, Sheriff's office, or as a sworn Federal Law enforcement officer (e.g., FBI or Secret Service Agent, United State Federal Marshal, National Park Police, Capital Police, etc.), now, therefore be it  
**RESOLVED, By the 2022 Department of Minnesota American Legion College Class that the award eligibility be changed by the National Department to include those employed as corrections officers at facilities operated by Municipal (city), County, District or State, or Federal Facilities and be it further**  
**RESOLVED, That the name of the American Legion National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award be retitled to American Legion National Law Enforcement and Correctional Officer Award and be it further**  
**RESOLVED, That this resolution be forwarded to Department Adjutant of Minnesota for presentation at the Department Convention July 13-16, 2022, in Willmar, MN and be it finally**  
**RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded to the National Adjutant for presentation during the 104th National Convention in Milwaukee, Aug 29-Sep 1, 2022 for consideration and action.**

## Department of Minnesota Resolution No. 2022-5

Received: 12 May 2022  
 Author: Department Media and Communications Committee  
**Subject: Media and Communications Committee, Resolution to increase the size of the Department of Minnesota Media and Communications Committee**

WHEREAS, The Department of Minnesota Media and Communications Committee was formed in 2021 with a total of four members, and  
 WHEREAS, The Media and Communications committee was extremely busy during its initial year and has been spread very thin, and  
 WHEREAS, The services of the Media and Communications must remain available whenever and wherever requested, and  
 WHEREAS, The Media and Communications committee was extremely Successful now, therefore be it  
**RESOLVED, Communications Committee add an additional member (for a total of five members), and, be it finally**  
**RESOLVED, that this resolution be presented at the Department Executive Committee at the Department Convention convened in Willmar, Minnesota July 13-16, 2022.**

## Department of Minnesota Resolution No. 2022-6

Received: 24 May 2022  
**Title: High School Oratorical Scholarship Program Prize Amounts**  
 Author: Daniel R. Olson American Legion Post 594  
**Subject: Increase the amount of prize scholarship monies.**  
 The following Resolution was adopted by Eagan American Legion Post 594 at its regular meeting on March 15, 2022

WHEREAS, the American Legion High School Oratorical Program is one the most valuable youth activities and opportunities offered by the American Legion; and



WHEREAS, this National prize level has been increased by 40% in the last three years; and  
 WHEREAS, the Department of Minnesota prize level is a total of \$3,700 and has not been increased for several years; and  
 WHEREAS, at this time there is \$12,000 held by the Department and dedicated to the Oratorical Program. These funds are not needed for the Department contest because the Minnesota Legion Foundation separately underwrites and pays the expenses of the contest. These funds are available to increase the Department prize level; and  
 WHEREAS, in 2019, the Third District passed a resolution at its convention to increase the district prize level to \$5,000, but the district finance committee overruled that action because the amount exceeded the level of the Department.  
**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by American Legion Post 594, meeting in regular Post meeting in Eagan, Minnesota, on the 15th day of March, 2022, that the Department of Minnesota increase the annual prize level for the Department contestants, starting in 2023 to \$7,500, and be it further**  
**RESOLVED, that the annual prize level for the Third District contest, starting in 2023 be increased to \$5,000, and be it further**  
**RESOLVED, that this Resolution be forwarded to the Third District Convention in Forest Lake, Minnesota, May 20 – 21, 2022, for adoption, and be it finally**  
**RESOLVED, that, if adopted by the Third District, this Resolution be forwarded to the Department Convention to be held in Willmar, Minnesota, July 14 – 16, 2022, for concurring action.**  
 The foregoing Resolution was adopted by Daniel R. Olsen American Legion Post 594, Eagan, Minnesota, at its regular membership meeting on March 15, 2022.  
 Attest: John Rayman  
 Adjutant, Post 594  
 The 3rd District approved this resolution at convention 21 May 2022 and has forwarded to the Department of Minnesota for action.  
 Attest: Mike Maxa  
 Resolutions Committee Chair, 3rd District

## Department of Minnesota Resolution No. 2022-7

Received: 6 Jun 2022  
 Title: Retired Military License Plates by Branch of Service  
 Author: Roger Sinning, Post 333, Kasson, Minnesota  
**Title: Retired Military License Plates by Branch of Service**  
 Submitted By: Roger Sinning, Post 333

WHEREAS, From the VA Special Report of State Summaries for Minnesota dated 9/30/2019, there were 321,809 veterans in Minnesota. (Https: l/www.va.gov/vetdata/dacs/ Special Reports/ State Summaries Minnesota.pdf, page 2); and  
 WHEREAS, from the VA Special Report of State Summaries for Minnesota dated 9/30/2019, there were 19,523 retired veterans in Minnesota. (Https: f/www\_va.gov/vetdata/docs/ Special Reports/ State Summaries Mirmesota.pdf, page 2); and  
 WHEREAS, there are no license plates for retired military in Minnesota. There are 12 other states which have retired military license plates, Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas and West Virginia; and  
 WHEREAS, not all veterans can get the Veterans War plates “Gulf War (Desert Storm) or Global War on Terrorism (Service) or Global War on Terrorism (Expeditionary) or others” as they were not awarded any war medals “SW Asia Service Medal or Global War on Terrorism expeditionary or Global War on Terrorism service” as they were not deployed or stationed in war areas but still supported the wars from stateside or other areas, (DD 214 required); and  
 WHEREAS, the veterans’ plates “ Proud To Be A Veteran or Support Our Troops “ does not display any retired status for the veterans who served this country for 20 or more years; now, therefore it  
**RESOLVED, the Department of Vehicle services develop and make available, “Retired Military License Plates by Branch of Service” to bring greater significance to our retired military as a symbol of the sacrifice our veterans make for our freedom and country; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, The American Legion Department of Minnesota ask the Minnesota Department of Veteran Affairs to support the Military Retiree license plate; and, be it finally**  
**RESOLVED, this resolution is forwarded to the First District for concurring action and upon their approval forwarded to the Department of Minnesota convention in 2022 for concurring action.**  
 Approved and submitted to the First District for action on 19 August 2021.

Attest:  
 Christy Eischens, Post 333 Commander  
 Richard Denny, Post 333 Adjutant  
 Approved by the 1st District and submitted to the Department of Minnesota for concurring action on 31 May 2022.  
 Attest:  
 Michael A. Parry, 1st District Commander  
 Wayne Hammon Jr., 1st District Adjutant

## Department of Minnesota Resolution No. 2022-8

Received: 9 Jun 2022  
**Title: Restructure Fastpitch Softball Committee**  
 Author: Department Minnesota Fastpitch Softball Committee  
 The following resolution originated from the Department of Minnesota Fastpitch Softball Committee and is submitted for consideration to the American Legion Department of Minnesota Executive Committee.

WHEREAS, the four-person structure of the existing Minnesota American Legion Fastpitch Softball Committee was intended to be nimble enough to take swift action and get a new program up and running when there was no prior structure in place, and  
 WHEREAS, a handful of American Legion districts, though not all, have begun to form softball leadership either through directors or committees, and  
 WHEREAS, the Minnesota American Legion Fastpitch Softball Committee has been successful in launching its inaugural season and in planning a postseason and anticipates further growth next season, and  
 WHEREAS, it would be unreasonable to expect a committee of only four Legionnaires to handle the local, regional and state responsibilities that would come with a growing, statewide program, and  
 WHEREAS, switching to a structure more like the existing Minnesota American Legion Baseball Committee would be more suitable for handling growth, garnering buy-in among communities and sustaining the program with enthusiasts for the long-term; now, therefore, be it  
**RESOLVED, effective at the end of the 2022 softball post-season, the Department Fastpitch Softball Committee shall consist of one (1) member appointed or elected by each eligible district, with a district being eligible only if it possesses at least two softball teams, and with each district determining its own policy regarding American Legion Family affiliation and length of terms, and be it further,**  
**RESOLVED, three (3) members appointed by the Department Commander, each with a three-year term on a staggered basis so that one of the three is appointed annually, all of whom must be active members of The American Legion Family, and one of them shall be the director, and the other two shall be vice directors, with one of the vice directors taking official minutes and turning those minutes into the Department, and be it further,**  
**RESOLVED, non-voting ambassadors as deemed by the Fastpitch Softball Committee itself, and a non-voting Department of Minnesota staff member who provides guidance and coordination to the committee, and be it finally,**  
**RESOLVED, the Department of Minnesota Fastpitch Softball Committee upon approval of this resolution, forwarded to the Department of Minnesota convention in 2022 for concurring action.**  
 Distributed to Department Fastpitch Softball Committee for approval on June 6-8, 2022. Results: 3 ayes, 0 nay, 1 abstain.

Approved by Michael Arvidson  
 Chairman, Department Fastpitch Softball Committee  
 Attested to by Tim Engstrom  
 Program Coordinator, Department Fastpitch Softball Committee

## Department of Minnesota Resolution No. 2022-9

Received: 8 Jun 2022  
**Title: Veteran Suicide Awareness & Prevention Training**  
 Author: Post 82, Randy Olson  
 Origin: Post 82/District 2/Department of Minnesota  
 Submitted by: Randy R. Olson

# Resolutions

Continued from Page 8

WHEREAS, One of the basic purposes of The American Legion is “our devotion to mutual helpfulness”; and

WHEREAS, Part of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission’s purpose is to ensure that veterans and their families receive the highest quality of care for their injuries and illnesses incurred from their military service; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion motto is “Veterans Strengthening America”; and

WHEREAS, As members of The American Legion, we have a sacred obligation to leave no veteran behind ensuring that our veterans are cared for; and

WHEREAS, Current veteran suicides average 22 per day and the 2021 Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Suicide Prevention Report indicated that in 2019, the adjusted rate for veterans was 52.3% greater than nonveteran U.S. adults; and

WHEREAS, The 2021 VA National Suicide Prevention Report stated that 45,861 U.S. adults committed suicide and 6,261 of these were veterans; and

WHEREAS, The White House released a national strategy on November 3, 2021, for preventing veteran suicide, purporting that it would harness the full breadth of the federal government to tackle the issue; this strategy aims to limit barriers to mental health care; and

WHEREAS, The VA has a gatekeeper training program provided by VA suicide prevention coordinators to veterans and those who serve veterans; and

WHEREAS, Other organizations have developed very successful and valuable suicide awareness and prevention training programs; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is developing an action-oriented campaign to change the narrative of veteran suicide; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion encourages suicide prevention training; Resolution No. S8(NEC, May 7-8, 2003), Subject: “Youth Suicide Prevention Education” resolves to increase youth suicide awareness by encouraging schools to implement youth suicide prevention programs; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 238 (NEC, August 30-31, September 1, 2016), Subject: “Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act” urged the U.S. Congress to pass and the President to sign into law an Act to expand and improve care provided to veterans at risk for suicide; and

WHEREAS, There is an urgent need for trained Legionnaires at the post level to intervene in veteran suicide situations in their community; and

WHEREAS, This will enhance awareness and increase the likelihood of recognizing signs of veterans and community members at risk of suicide; and

WHEREAS, Posts can be empowered to prevent as many veteran suicides as possible while working with national and local agencies to return veterans to their community with a sense of belonging and purpose for a safe and productive life; and

WHEREAS, Legionnaires and members of the American Legion Family have the desire and the ability to save lives; they need to be given the appropriate tools so they can make a difference in saving a life; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Executive Board of American Legion Post #82/District 2/Department of MN in regular meeting assembled in Winnebago, MN on January 17, 2022, That Post #82/District 2/Department of Mn. strongly encourages suicide awareness and prevention training at the post level; and, be it

RESOLVED, That posts are strongly encouraged to seek out qualified trainers and invite them to provide training for their Legionnaires and members of the American Legion Family and, be it

RESOLVED, That this Resolution be forwarded to the 2nd District Convention assembled in New Ulm, MN on June 3rd and June 4th, 2022 for Concurring Action and, be it further

RESOLVED, That this Resolution be forwarded to the Department of MN Convention assembled in Willmar, MN on July 13-16, 2022, for Concurring Action and, be it finally

RESOLVED, that this Resolution be forwarded to the National Convention assembled in Milwaukee, WI. on August 26th- September 1st, 2022 for Concurring Action.

## Where to find annual reports from each of the committees?

To save printing costs and space for post-level submission, the annual committee reports will be published online at the department’s award-winning website, mnlegion.org. Look for them under the “Media” tab, then find “Committee Reports.” You will find them as a downloadable PDF in printable booklet form. A limited number of these booklets will be distributed to delegates at the 2022 Department Convention in Willmar, but printing them to bring is recommended.

## Department of Minnesota Resolution No. 2022-10

Received: 9 Jun 2022

**Title: VA Air Particulate Presumptive Time Frame Elimination**

Author: Department Service Officer, Jeremy Wolfsteller

**Subject: VA Air Particulate Presumptive Time Frame Elimination**

WHEREAS, effective August 5, 2021, claim adjudicators began processing disability claims for asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis on a presumptive basis related to exposure to particulate matter in the Southwest Asia theater and other areas, and

WHEREAS, to be eligible for presumption, a Veteran must meet the following basic entitlement criteria: Has manifested chronic asthma, chronic rhinitis and/or chronic sinusitis, to include rhinosinusitis, within 10 years of separation from the last period of military service; and

WHEREAS, served any length of time in the Southwest Asia theater of operations, as defined in 38 CFR §3.317(e), beginning on August 2, 1990, through the present, as well as Afghanistan, Syria, Djibouti, or Uzbekistan on or after September 19, 2001, now be it,

**RESOLVED, that the 10-year limitation rule be stricken from the regulation allowing any veteran that served in the listed area of operation from August 2, 1990, forward that develops chronic asthma, rhinitis and/or sinusitis to include rhinosinusitis be eligible under presumption and be it finally**

**RESOLVED, that, if passed, by The Department of Minnesota Convention, this resolution be forwarded to The National American Legion Convention in 2022 for action.**

## Department of Minnesota Resolution No. 2022-11

Received: 9 Jun 2022

**Title: Inequity Community Care Wait Times**

Author: Department Service Officer, Jeremy Wolfsteller.

**Subject: Inequity with the Veterans Health Administrations Care in the Community Wait Time Access Standards**

WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) launched its new and improved Veterans Community Care Program on June 6, 2019, implementing portions of the VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks Act of 2018 (MISSION Act) and

WHEREAS, under the new Veterans Community Care Program, Veterans can work with their VA health care provider or other VA staff to see if they are eligible to receive community care based on VA’s new Access Standards criteria which includes wait times and

WHEREAS, veterans are only considered for wait time eligible if the create date and the clinically indicated date the provider wants the Veteran to be seen are outside the 20/28 days and VA has no availability to see the Veteran and

WHEREAS, 20 days from the date of request for primary care, mental health care and noninstitutional extended care services, unless the Veteran agrees to a later date in consultation with his or her VA health care provider and

WHEREAS, 28 days for specialty care from the date of request, unless the Veteran agrees to a later date in consultation with his

or her VA health care provider and

WHEREAS, veterans are not wait-time eligible based on access standard criteria when VA cancels/reschedules including any return to clinic order/follow-up that is greater than 20/28 from the date it is entered and therefore be it

RESOLVED, when VA cancels a veteran’s appointment and the next availability to be seen is outside the wait time Access Standard, the veteran becomes eligible for care in the community and be it further

RESOLVED, that, if passed, by The Department of Minnesota Convention, this resolution be forwarded to The National American Legion Convention in 2022 for action.

## Department of Minnesota Resolution No. 2022-14

Received: 13 Jun 2022

**Title: Changes to VA Rating for Disabilities**

Author: Department Service Officer, Jeremy Wolfsteller.

**Subject: Inequities in Changes to the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities (VASRD) specifically pertaining to the respiratory/auditory conditions and mental disorders.**

WHEREAS, VA’s rating schedule is primarily a guide in the evaluation of disabilities resulting from all types of diseases and injuries encountered as a result of or incident in military service, and the percentage of ratings represent as far as can practically be determined the average impairment in earning capacity, resulting from such diseases and injuries and their residual conditions in civil occupations, and

WHEREAS, The degrees of disability specified are considered adequate to compensate for considerable loss of working time from exacerbations or illnesses proportionate to the severity of the several grades of disability, and

WHEREAS, In September 2017, VA began updating the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities for the first time since 1945, which are the federal regulations used by claims processors to determine the severity of disabilities related to military service and decide claims, and

WHEREAS, On February 15, 2022, VA updated its Schedule for Rating Disabilities (VASRD) specifically pertaining to the respiratory/auditory conditions and mental disorders, and

WHEREAS, On February 15, 2022, VA updated its sleep apnea rating criteria that only consider the effectiveness of the treatment rather than basing it on severity of symptoms and the effects of using equipment like C-PAP machines for the rest of their lives, and

WHEREAS, On February 15, 2022, VA updated its regulation to remove tinnitus as a stand-alone condition and only award a 10 percent evaluation for tinnitus when a non-compensable hearing loss evaluation is awarded, and

WHEREAS, On February 15, 2022, VA updated its disability rating criteria for mental disorders, placing greater emphasis on a disabled veteran’s ability to function in a work setting, rather than focusing on symptoms, like frequency, intensity and duration alone, now, be it

RESOLVED, That disability ratings should not be based on the effects of treatment, regardless of whether such treatment results in improved earning capacity and that many veterans can only obtain gainful, substantial employment because their symptoms are mitigated through treatment and continuing oversight, but the condition is not cured, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the tinnitus diagnostic code 6260 be retained in VASRD, representing a stand-alone condition that is consistent with several Court decisions that recognize tinnitus as a stand-alone condition, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That disability ratings for mental health disorders should continue to be based on the frequency, severity, and duration of symptoms, which can have serious effects on a veteran’s quality of life and, be it further

RESOLVED, That VA justify in detail the appropriateness of VA rating the disabilities of U.S. veterans using the World Health Organization’s criteria, based on the entire world population rather than veterans who have experienced traumas and disabilities from military service, and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That, if passed by The Department of Minnesota Convention, this resolution be forwarded to The National American Legion Convention in 2022 for consideration.

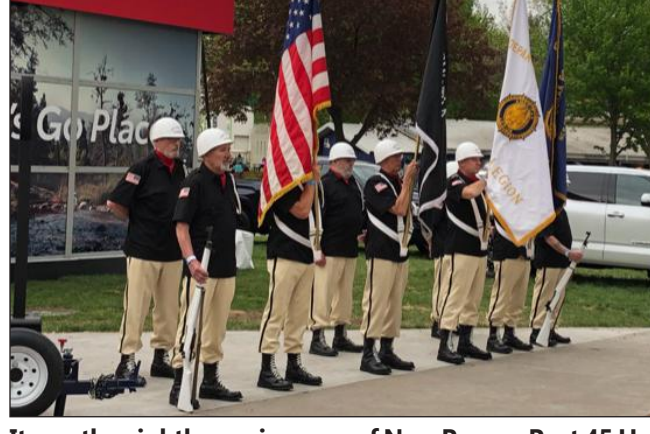


Meet the state elected officials from Minnesota Boys State 2022. From the right are Gov. Nate Janssen of New Ulm, Lt. Gov. Michael Rascher of Mound, Secretary of State Leon Luo of Maple Grove, State Auditor Sidarth Gazula of Maple Grove, Attorney General Ryan Engstler of Rochester, Chief Justice Michael Berg of New Brighton, Associate Justice Rylan Hunt of Wayzata and Associate Justice Emmett Wolf of Bloomington.

# Listening Post



Legionnaire Insurance Trust provides a check for \$93,893 to the American Legion Department of Minnesota in April. Department LIT Chairman Bill Barbknecht accepts.



It was the eighth year in a row of New Prague Post 45 Honor Guard posting colors at the Twin Cities Auto Show. The show gave Post 45 a \$1,000 check from a contest for one of the best posts assisting their communities and veterans.



Fairmont Post 36 Commander Steve Fosness hands a \$1,000 check to Janet Charneck, director of the Options Pregnancy Center, for the Second Story Housing Project.



North Mankato Post 518 has honored deceased veterans at 10 a.m. every first Saturday of the month since July 2008. Member Don Stemper started the Veteran of the Month ceremony after learning of it at a Legion conference. If your post would like to do them, too, contact Mark Conrad at 507-380-8405 or Lefty48597@gmail.com.



From left are Foley Post 298 Gambling Manager Bob Abfalter, Foley High School's Darwin Fleck and Post 298 Commander Gary Gruba. Post 298 donated flags to Foley High School to replace worn-out ones.



Glenville Post 264 members heard Army veteran J.R. Martinez speak at Albert Lea Post 56 on May 11. From left are Arlene Hayek, Martinez, Kathy Fredrickson, David Fredrickson and Janet Svoboda.



Elk River Post 112 gathers to celebrate the 96th birthday of Doug Stillwell.



From left are Lake City Post 110 members Dick Grobe, Judy Burfeind and Melvin Blattner, honored for 50 years of continuous membership.



Milaca Post 178 Commander Matthew Kruschke, left, hands a 2022 Hansen-Hayes All-Stars plaque to Travis Hall. Other winners were David Johnson and Dorothy Leaf.



Rochester Post 92 Commander Jeffrey Van Galder, right, and Adjutant Lee Freeman, left, present 2022 Americanism Scholarships to two of the three Post 92 recipients: Hans Xu, second from left, and Phoenix Krzykowski, second from right.



Milaca Post 178 Commander Matthew Kruschke, left, hands a 2022 Hansen-Hayes All-Stars plaque to Travis Hall. Other winners were David Johnson and Dorothy Leaf.



Ashby's Pederson-Tripp Post 357 has donated \$5,000 to Partners For Patriots, a nonprofit who trains and provides service dogs to disabled veterans around the country free of charge. Visit partnersforpatriots.org for more info.



On May 16, Albert Lea Post 56 Commander Ole Olson and SAL member Scott Kallberg present \$500 from the Legion golf event and \$500 from the Legion Gambling to the Albert Lea High School Robotics Team coach Burke Egner. This young team took 30th in their division of 80.



Jenny Nelson of North St. Paul Unit 39 and 4th District Commander Dave Dahl hold a sign that says "We Support Our Troops" during the 4th District Convention in May.



Ashby's Pederson-Tripp Post 357 has donated \$5,000 to Partners For Patriots, a nonprofit who trains and provides service dogs to disabled veterans around the country free of charge. Visit partnersforpatriots.org for more info.

# Listening Post



On Flag Day, the Bagley American Legion retired old flags. Attending the barrel is Post Sergeant-at-Arms Mike Hromidko, assisted by the Bagley Boy Scouts.



Perham High School students received scholarships from Dent Post 148.



Eagan Post 594 volunteers performed street cleanup along Duckwood Drive on May 7, picking up winter trash and debris. Visit [post594.org](http://post594.org) to learn more about this post.



Farmington Post 189 held its 2nd annual Flag Day retirement ceremony on June 14, burning close to 100 unserviceable flags, then properly burying the ashes.



At St. Aiden's Cemetery in rural Ellendale, servicemen were surprised when each veteran was presented with a personalized wooden flag inscribed with the Pledge of Allegiance and service affiliation. They were presented to show gratitude for their years of service to the site.



From left are St. Paul 3M Post 599's Andy Putman, Len Labonski and Commander Carl Renalls at Poppy Days in front of Fleet Farm.



North St. Paul Post 39 dedicated a new patio on June 12. It was completed last fall and seats about 40. It was built with funds from a \$291,000 federal grant. A mural is schedule to be painted this summer.



Bob Rubin, right, was recognized as a 50-year member of Stewartville Post 164. Presenting him with the certificate is Post 164 Commander Ron Moore.



Underwood Post 489 Commander Frank McKensie recognizes Meritorious Award winner Linda Dyman, for all the years of service for alterations on Firing Squad uniforms and many quilts.



University of Minnesota Post 548 Chaplain Jay Eberth and Post Commander Kay Bauer ring a Salvation Army bell at Cub Foods in Roseville.



The American Legion Department of Minnesota Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation staff received a donation today of six brown bags full of 1-pound Ziplock bags filled with hygiene items and snacks. They came from Kelly Beaudoin, an event planner for wineries who frequently donates to veteran efforts to support troops. With her in this photo is Department Service Officer Jeremy Wolfsteller.



Woodbury Post 501 Commander Bob Dolan attended an award ceremony in May at Woodbury High School. It recognized Woodbury students for their achievements during the school year. Commander Dolan awarded Post 501's Stafford Scholarship to AFJROTC cadets McKenna Brustad and Joseph Worth.



Placing a wreath at a cemetery during Albert Lea Post 56's Memorial Day ceremony was Arlyn Anderson. With him is Paulette Anderson of Unit 56.

# The SAL Update:

## 53rd annual Camporee is coming up

BRAINERD — Thursday Sept. 8, through Sunday Sept. 11, is the annual Camporee, organized by the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Minnesota.

Fliers, registration and Harvest Rally meal tickets are available at Department Convention.

Help offset the operational cost of Camporee by sponsoring a golf cart for \$250, and the Detachment will advertise your sponsorship on the golf carts.

Please note that gambling funds cannot be used for this sponsorship. Please contact the organizing committee at Legionvillecamporee@gmail.com for more information.



Images sent in to the Legionnaire from Montevideo Post 59.

## A word from Montevideo Post 59

Fellow Legionnaires, Greetings from the American Legion Post 59 in Montevideo! In the "post Covid" era, we thought it wise to inform you as to how we have been recovering from such an unprecedented occurrence.

As membership in post members is unfortunately on the decline, our associate families including the Auxiliary, the American Legion Riders and the Sons of the American Legion have stepped up their efforts in post operations and events.

The women of the Auxiliary, during the winter months, serve a Norwegian dinner (Klub) on one Sunday a month. It is always a sell out! They also take their turn in serving the monthly Post Steak and Shrimp Dinner and use one of these dinners to exclusively raise funds for their yearly scholarship. Several Auxiliary members also volunteer their time in assisting during Legion events such as bingo and with bar tending.

Since most of the American Legion Riders are joint members of the Sons of the American Legion, their activities are always a joint cooperative nature. In the

past year, they have participated in organizing the distribution of over 70,000 pounds of food to neighboring county food shelves including Native American Food Shelves in several South Dakota reservation areas. They are actively raising funds for a local (Montevideo) veteran memorial and participated in the successful lobbying for a new Minnesota Veterans Home facility.

Other activities include running meat raffles, serving dinners, putting on entertainment events, providing security at the local WWII Fagen Air Show, the county fair, the Ice Castle Fishing Tournament and working closely with their American Legion Rider friends in Morris. Many more supportive members volunteer work for the Legion and, most importantly, assisting and supporting our veterans in need, which is always their number one priority. The highlight of their year is the annual Summer Fun Run, which takes on a different venue every year.

Post 59 active members were also very instrumental in the acquisition and construction of the new Veteran Nursing Home.

They also provide dignified Honor Guard and flag presentation ceremonies for the families of deceased area veterans, maintain and assist with the in-house gambling (pull tabs, bingo), lend their expertise in building maintenance and organize the Memorial Day Ceremonies at our local cemeteries. The Post, through its gambling fund, contributes generously to several local organizations and private entities, including scholarships, veterans programs, school and community functions.

Obviously, the American Legion Post 59 of Montevideo, MN is recovering from the social mandates of the previous year and with the dedicated teamwork of all families, looks forward to a prosperous and successful 2022 and beyond!

**Everett H. Bain**  
Commander SAL 59,  
Director ALR 59

**Cheryl Bain**  
President, American Legion  
Post 59 Auxiliary

# Endorsements

## Adelsman backed for chaplain on nat'l level of The American Legion

Please accept the below endorsement resume for submission to the upcoming Legionnaire from the 3rd District Executive Committee and Post 184 Charles Cowden, Pine Island:

The Rev. Kelley Adelsman has been endorsed for American Legion National Chaplain by the Minnesota 3rd District Executive Committee and Charles Cowden Post 184, Pine Island.

Adelsman served in the U.S. Army 1984-89 and the Minnesota Army National Guard 2006-12. She is a Paid Up For Life member of The American Legion.

From 2021-22, she has served as the Minnesota Department Chaplain. She was 3rd District Vice-Commander 2019-21, Post 184 Chaplain 2012-13 and Post 184 Service Officer 2012-13 and again 2020-21. She will be serving as 3rd District Historian 2022-23.

She has been an active member of the Department of Minnesota Training Committee

since 2020. She also is part of the newly formed Minnesota American Legion Suicide Prevention Coalition. In 2019, Kelley was selected and attended National American Legion College.

She is an ordained minister (Master of Divinity, Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary and Graduate School) with ecclesiastical endorsement through Converge Worldwide and six units of Clinical Pastoral Education (Mayo Clinic and St. Cloud Veterans Administration Health Care System). She has been a hospice chaplain and bereavement coordinator in southeast Minnesota and in the Minnesota Army National Guard.

She has served as the Mayo Clinic Veteran Mayo Employee Resource Group co-vice chair, where she was actively involved in presenting, writing



**Kelley Adelsman**

and developing programs on who serves and what is U.S. Armed Forces.

In 2014, she participated in the Minnesota Suicide Prevention Task Force. She has served as the board chair for the American Foundation Suicide Prevention, Southeast Minnesota Chapter.

At the 2021 National American Legion Convention, as part of the National College education sessions, she presented on volunteering. She also presented this at the Minnesota Fall Conference of 2021. Kelley started Pine Island Chaplain Services in 2022, which will support a podcast, individual grief support and conversations that highlight how we connect faith in everyday life.

Adelsman resides in Pine Island with her spouse, Mike, of 27 years. They enjoy their three grown children.

## Davis endorsed for delegate

Al Davis has been endorsed by the 10th District for a delegate at large to the 2022 American Legion National Convention in Milwaukee.

Davis is a U.S. Navy veteran of the Vietnam era. He is a 53-year member of Post 347 in Beroun.

He is a Past District Commander, Past Department Commander and

Past National Vice Commander. He currently serves the Department as Chair of the Resolutions Assignment Committee and is a member emeritus to the Baseball Committee.

Davis is a member of the National Americanism Commission, and a consultant to the National Baseball Committee.



**Al Davis**

## Orson is up for vice cmdr.

Shaddrick-LaBeau Post 303, Fridley, proudly endorses American Legion member Paul Orson for Department Vice Commander for the 2022-23 Membership Year. The 10th District endorsed Paul Orson at its District Convention in Milaca on June 4.

Orson is retired from the Minnesota Army National Guard with overseas deployments to Iraq in 2004-06

and 2009-10.

He has served in various positions with the 10th District as Commander 2018-19, Adjutant (currently), Vice Commander and Membership.

He is very active in Fridley Post 303 as Commander 2008-2011, Adjutant since 2013, Fridley Journal editor for eight years and the Post Executive Committee.



**Paul Orson**



From left are 5th District Auxiliary President Jill Davis, 5th District Judge Advocate Curt Norenburg, University of Minnesota Post 548 1st Vice Commander Mike Wyberiala and his daughter, Brenna. Post 548 eclipsed \$1,600 in Poppy donations, with Mike and Brenna the top team.

# District commanders

## 2nd District

**Steve Fosness**



Happy Fourth of July as you celebrate with family and friends during the dog days of summer.

District Conventions are completed and the newly elected officers are preparing to assume their duties. We are all preparing to elect a new department commander with vice commanders at the July Department Convention. Please plan to attend department and national conventions, as it is a great way to experience the business process and make personal contacts.

Remember to continue the Buddy Checks, our fellow veterans need your personal visits. Make it a personal goal to visit with a veteran once a day!

I want to thank department and 2nd District officers and posts for their assistance this past year in helping me carry out my duties as 2nd District commander. Please give full support to your new leadership.



## 6th District

**Jim Lucas**



Ladies and gentlemen, I am writing you today to thank each and every one of you for allowing me to be your district commander for the last year. Karen O'Bar is the district commander-elect, and she will take over at the Department Convention. I surely hope you work for her as hard as you worked for me.

Carl Moon will be the new membership director, and he will be great as a membership person. You will need to give him some time for his brain to get in membership mode because there is a lot to learn really fast. But he will do a good job. I will be around, so if he needs help, I will be able to help.

This year in our 6th District Project, the posts donated over \$36,000 to the Homeless and Wounded Warrior-Emily,

and they are going like gangbusters. They are helping veterans and their families everywhere. There is still a lot of money left, and they are working hard.

I talked to Russ Philstrom yesterday, and he was going to be on the road all day helping veterans with clothing and other things that were donated to them.

So, if you have any extra money, they will still need more help.

Well, I am going to go for now. *Keep up the good work*, and get to 100 percent this year. I will still be around to help if need be.

Remember to keep all the men and women in uniform in your prayers.

## 4th District

**David Dahl**



The 4th District recently hosted a very successful flag retirement ceremony at the Veterans Campground on Big Marine Lake. The event started with the arrival of a Vietnam-era Huey helicopter and 25 motorcycles from the American Legion Riders. There were approximately 8,000 flags retired and about 250 people in attendance. Five past district commanders had significant roles in the ceremony.

We also had a successful 4th District Convention. Vice Commander Bird Partridge and I are staying on for second terms. I was told when I agreed a year ago to serve as commander that I'd be much more effective during a second year. I can see now what they meant.

We will be joined by John Weiss as a vice commander. John will also be serving at a high level in the SAL. I expect that most other officers and committee members will agree

to serve again.

Past Commander Joe Jansen will be acting district commander during the Department Convention as I will be cruising the fjords of Norway!

Upon my return, we plan to renew our partnership with the JROTC units in the 4th District. For additional details on this partnership, see my column from last month.

The 4th District has its regular monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of each month. See Mike Ash's 4th District Newsletter for the location. I want to emphasize that these meetings are open to all Legionnaires and encourage everyone in the 4th District to attend.

Still serving — serving veterans and serving our communities!



## 7th District

**David "Chip" Manson**



Hi District 7! My year as district commander ends at the Department Convention and the newly elected district officers will begin their new duties.

My sincere hope is that all district American Legion Family members — including all Legion, Auxiliary, SAL and American Legion Riders members — will support, promote and participate in our many Legion programs. Programs that support Veterans, a strong National Defense, Americanism programs & Children & Youth activities.

We've all heard how our younger veterans are the future of our American Legion legacy. Without them our 103-year

experimentation dies. Each and every one of us need to talk about the positive aspects of our nationwide goals and then invite them into the fold.

We cannot, however, expect them to "adapt" to our idea of what we do. We need to ask them their ideas, *listen* to them, and ask them to use their opinions to better build the American Legion.

The 100 percent club is not a push to meet certain membership levels. It is all about replacing our Post Everlasting members and building our continuing legacy.

## 5th District

**Wade Larson**



The National Suicide Prevention Line is 800-273-8255. For a veteran's crisis, select option 1.

Veterans, troops or their family members can also text 838255 or visit VeteransCrisis-Line.net for assistance.

I encourage you to read the Adjutant's Corner at the state American Legion website, mn-legion.org, and to see the many suicide-prevention efforts Adjutant Mike Maxa references.

We had a wonderful convention and banquet for our 5th District convention. The election of officers is as follows: Commander Lynn Nottage, Vice

Commanders Andru Peters, Wade Larson, and Andrew Rose.

Finance officer is Dennis Delong. Membership officers are Gary Martin and Wade Larson.

Thank you for all the support to make this happen from the post donations and committee members and especially Gary Martin and Shawn Davis. This

couldn't have been accomplished without you guys

Thanks to Bill Bray from Richfield Post 435 for 80 years as a Legion member and World War II veteran and his large donation for vets homes. Thanks to another World War II veteran, Ernie Konstas, from Hellenic Post 129. Thanks to delegates that attended from various posts. You made the convention a huge success.

Thank you to University of Minnesota Post 548 for their poppy fundraising and large donation to the Auxiliary.

Keep in touch with each other and post members by email postcards and phone calls. You can "be the one" to brighten and uplift someone's day. Email me at wadealarson@yahoo.com for our e-flash.



## 8th District

**Larry Pocrnich**



Hello veterans, The summer weather is here and the Legion meetings for the most part are over.

That is not the truth. Veterans are still at work trying to get legislation going on related veteran programs. The Legion Boys State was in June with veterans and volunteers to teach. Girls State was going on at the same time as Boys State. Legionville is active all summer with safety programs for kids and then the Camporee comes this fall.

There is still a need for volunteers to fill in the spots. Now, we just had elections of officers for the Legion. They will be looking for volunteers to help with the *committees*. Please step up to help, more people are needed for the committees to fulfil the programs of the American Legion. That is only about two hours a month and coffee to help.

The districts have new and

retread commanders now, too. They are looking for a few veterans to step forward to help with committees. I know I am, yes, I am a retread. LOL.

Those in the 8th, I am looking for membership, adjutant and committee people. Call me or text if you are interested 218-969-2460.

Do not forget to check on the Wellness Program with the United Way in Chisholm for the activities going on this summer. There is the Renegade Run next September. It is a 5K and 25K run with a new route this year. They will be running around on the ridge of the pit for the 25k. Look for time and registration coming up.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as the 8th District commander.



**Commander Tom Fernlund and his wife, Veronica, take the field on May 27, when the commander threw out the first pitch for the Twins vs. Royals game. Many Legionnaires and their families were in attendance for American Legion Night at Target Field. Membership Director Paul Hassing and his wife, Jody, with help from Glenn Mueller, raised the American flag during the "Star-Spangled Banner."**

## PNC AT TESTIMONIAL



**Past National Commander Denise Rohan of Wisconsin spoke at Commander Tom Fernlund's Testimonial Dinner at the Moose Lodge in Waite Park on June 18.**



**Minnesota Auxiliary President Patti Coleman and her partner Larry Woods gift a hand-crafted wooden U.S. flag to Minnesota American Legion Commander Tom Fernlund at the Testimonial Dinner on June 18. It was made by a veteran at the Eagle's Healing Nest in Sauk Centre. On the back it says "Tom Fernlund, U.S. Air Force."**

## CTF AT BILL SIGNING



**Minnesota American Legion Commander Tom Fernlund spoke on behalf of the Minnesota Commanders' Task Force at Gov. Tim Walz's ceremonial bill signing June 2 for the Veterans and Military Affairs Omnibus Bill. The signing was held near the Minnesota World War II Memorial. A description of the bill was in last month's issue.**

## Picnic for local vets

FAIRMONT — Fairmont Post 36, along with the local DAV and VFW, are hosting

a picnic free to veterans from 4 to 7 p.m. at the shelter house in Gomsrud Park, 260 West Lair Road.

"This is not a recruiting event," said Commander Steve Fosness. "We welcome you

to have the chance to meet veterans from our area."

The food will be port, fruit salad, pop, potato chips and cake. There will be music and door prizes. Children are encouraged.



# The Auxiliary Bulletin

No. 22 Vol. 12

President Patti Coleman • Secretary Marsha Bible, marsha@mnala.org

Dept. HQ: Veterans Service Building, St. Paul, MN 55155

651-224-7634

July 2022

## Thank you, thank you and also thanks, everyone else

### President's Column

Patti Coleman



Greetings, American Legion Family!  
As I sit down to write my last column for my year of service as your Department president, I am reflecting on the whirlwind of events that have taken place over the past several months and how grateful I am.

done that. My year of service is almost complete, but I anticipate great things in the year ahead. I look forward to pinning my successor at the installation ceremony and passing the gavel to her. I will carry many memories with me as I leave this office and cherish every one of them.

Truly blessed!  
You have embraced my vision of "Honoring Tradition-Evolving to Endure." Some changes worked and some didn't, but unless we attempt to evolve, we will never know the possibilities where we can thrive.

Larry, Kiana and I wish to express our most sincere gratitude for the invitations, friendly hospitality and courtesies that have been afforded to us in our travels while serving the members of the American Legion Auxiliary. I can't thank you enough for treating me and my family like your family this year.

Your donations to Department President's Project to support the holistic therapies at the Eagle's Healing Nest in Sauk Center have been outstanding. The space where veterans can heal with honor and be mindful and present in their healing is becoming a reality thanks to you. I am most thankful.

Words cannot express the pride I have in my heart having the honor of serving alongside Department Commander Tom Fernlund, SAL Detachment Commander Tim Weaver, Honorary Department Junior President Ashley Stai and ALR Director Ted Berg. It has been a pleasure representing the Minnesota American Legion Family with these exceptional and dedicated leaders.

The veterans are working with life coach and yoga instructor Heather Zollman on this journey to holistic healing and finding their true spirit. I am grateful the American Legion Family is along on this journey and look forward to its evolution.

Forever and always — family. Members, thank you for this amazing opportunity and trusting me to serve you. It is you who make the impact. It is you who encompass the ideals of the ALA. Your kindness, dedication and commitment will carry the American Legion Auxiliary forward. Thank you for embracing our traditions and having the courage to evolve.

Our Department Convention July 14-16 in Willmar is just ahead of us where we can celebrate the accomplishments of the Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary for 2021-2022. I can confidently say that together we have made a difference in the lives of veterans, active military, their families, kids and our communities. I am looking forward to our members gathering to complete our business, present awards, exchange ideas and to socialize with one another.

May God bless each of you, our veterans, those serving our country, at home and abroad, and may God bless America!

Willmar has made for us and leaves the convention having gained additional knowledge of the ALA and an entirely new network of friends.

Honoring Tradition-Evolving to Endure

In my opinion, part of the responsibility of the president is to prepare those that follow to be better than you ever were. I hope in some small way I have

*Patti Coleman of Lino Lakes Unit 566 is the president of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota.*



### 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.

See Page 5 for the All-Legion Family Calendar.

## The 2022 Department Convention is weeks away

WILLMAR — Please join us at 102nd Department Convention at the Willmar Conference Center in Willmar. We hope to see Auxiliary members from throughout the state in attendance. Don't forget to register in advance with our hosts, the Willmar American Legion Family. Otherwise, they will be taking registrations at the door. See form on Page 7.

Department President: Mary Kuperus, New London Unit 537

Department 1st Vice President: Sharon Thiemecke, Bemidji Unit 14

Department 2nd Vice President: Judy Ackerman, Northrup Unit 522

NEC: Jean Walker, Warren Unit 2

Alternate NEC: Raleen Tolzmann, Minnesota Lake Unit 287

The following members have been endorsed for Department of Minnesota office:

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.

Please remember to bring your entries for the Poppy Contest. All entries must be at the convention by 9 a.m. on Thursday, July 14. Tables will be set up in the display area for the entries. Winners will be announced during the Poppy report on Friday.

### Department Convention Schedule

The detailed program will not appear in the Legionnaire this year. You will find it in the program at the convention. Here is a condensed version:

#### Wednesday, July 13, 2022

Pre-Convention Department Executive Meeting 1 p.m. Ruffs Restaurant

#### Thursday, July 14, 2022

District Caucuses (Auxiliary) 8 a.m.-9 a.m. Various locations

Convention Session 9 a.m.-11:15 a.m. Galleries 1-4

Joint Memorial Service 11:30 a.m. Galleries 5-7

Convention Committee Meetings (Auxiliary) 2 p.m.-4 p.m. Various locations

#### Friday, July 15, 2022

District Caucuses (Auxiliary) 8 a.m.-9 a.m. Various locations

Convention Session 9 a.m.-11:15 a.m. Galleries 1-4

Past Department Presidents Luncheon 11:30 a.m. Green Mill Restaurant

Convention Reconvenes 1:30 p.m.-4:15 p.m. Galleries 1-4

Please note that we will not have a Family Night this year at the Convention Center. It probably will be back next year. The Willmar American Legion Family will have a band on both Thursday and Friday evenings at Post 167, 220 19th Ave. SW. The post will have lunch and dinner specials both days and provide transportation between the post and the conference center. We encourage you to visit them on one or both of these days.

## National Convention coming up in Milwaukee

MILWAUKEE — The 2022 National Convention will be held in Milwaukee Aug. 27-Sept. 1.

Secretary Marsha Bible at the Department Office. All housing requests must go through The American Legion even if you are an Auxiliary delegate. We encourage Auxiliary members to register as Auxiliary delegates instead of guests.

All Auxiliary delegates and alternates elected at the district conventions should already have their information packets.

If you would like a packet, please contact Department

If you have been elected as a delegate or alternate at your

district convention and are not planning to attend, please notify Bible immediately and prior to the 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 pre-paid

housing reservations is July 20.

All reservations for the States Dinner (\$53) and the Public Spirit Award Luncheon (\$35) must be ordered through the Department Office. Deadline is July 23. If national allows for more reservations after that time, there will be a price increase for the tickets.

### Congrats to district cmdrs.

Congratulations to the 10 District Presidents who were elected at their respective district conventions to serve the 2022-2023 year:

District 1: Tonia Betterman – Owatonna Unit 77

District 2: Robin Olson, Winnebago Unit 82

District 3: Kim Carlander, Chanhassen Unit 580

District 4: Jenny Nelson – North St. Paul Unit 39

District 5: Jill Davis – Minneapolis-Richfield Unit 435

District 6: Dolly Zitur – Brainerd Unit 255

District 7: Wanda Seidler – Spicer Unit 545

District 8: Zandra Davenport – Two Harbors Unit 109

District 9: Cheryl Grover – Bagley Unit 16

District 10: Lorinda Kies – Coon Rapids Unit 334

### Updates on packets, forms

Unit officer lists were due in the Department Office by June 10. If you have not submitted yours, please email them immediately to deptoffice@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.

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. Any packets not picked up will be mailed out the week after Department Convention.

## Membership is about caring for each other

By Linda Kelly  
Membership Chairman

As I look back on my year as membership chairman, I see what I have learned. We have a lot of great members of the American Legion Auxiliary — we care for our veterans — we care for our youth — we care for each other.

membership and I thank each new member for joining this great organization.

I know that we have great district membership chairmen. Along with their district's officers, they provide help to the units and guide each of our districts forward. I thank them.

We have great department officers. They are guiding us into the future. I thank them for standing up for our organization. I thank Patti for the honor to serve as membership chairman this year.

has a regional/national chairman and they are so fun to listen to. Their enthusiasm is addicting.

Our Department of Minnesota staff is outstanding. They process our membership along with all of their other duties. Thank you to Marsha, Cathy and Jocelyn.

Even though my year is drawing to a close, I think I have a different outlook on membership. I always knew that membership was important, but I think I have gained greater insight. I look forward to continuing to help my unit,

my district, and our department to work towards goal. Membership is the lifeline of our American Legion Auxiliary.

I also encourage each American Legion Family to work together on membership, as well as other programs. There is strength in numbers. If one of us finds a new member, there are probably several other potential members that could go along with that new member — be sure to ask and refer them to the Legion, the SAL or the Riders.

It's only two small words, but *thank you* to all.



Participants in Minnesota Girls State fill the Minnesota House of Representatives Chamber at the State Capitol in St. Paul in mid-June.

# Raise your voices, raise them high

Girls State works thanks to many volunteers

By Sandy Wersal  
Girls State Chairman

ARDEN HILLS — The 75th anniversary session of the American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State began on Sunday, June 12, ended on Saturday, June 18.

It was an amazing week with 183 citizens saying goodbye to their new lifelong friends. It was a week that culminated intense study and learning all about our government, at the city, county and state level.

Citizens learned about the political process, Americanism and citizenship. I know that the girls left more informed and with an appreciation and understanding of Minnesota government and the anticipation of voting in their first real elections.

Many governmental officials made time in their schedules to be with us at American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State, and we are grateful to each of them. Attendees had the opportunity to hear many great speeches from governmental officials at all levels both in person and by zoom.

This year they campaigned by large screen TV set up on Bethel campus. Highlights included a law and order panel and a video interview and message from the 1st Minnesota Girls State Governor Kathryn LaBrasseur. She also attended the 1st Girls Nation in 1947.

The citizens also participated in poppy making, witnessed a flag retirement ceremony and held an outdoor evening candlelight service. On Thursday, the newly elected state officials participated in a meaningful Inauguration Ceremony with Chief Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court Lorie S. Gildea administering the Oath of Office.



Minnesota Girls State officers stand with Minnesota Chief Justice Lorie Gildae.

On Friday, the citizens traveled to the State Capitol to transact their bills and mock trials and put in to practice all they had learned throughout the week.

Thank you to the all the units and American Legion posts throughout the state for the work that you have done to bring these young women to our wonderful program. Special thanks to the 25 dedicated volunteers who spent the week at Bethel University with the citizens. This program cannot function without you.

And, finally, thank you to our 2022 American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State Committee: Director Peggy Tesdahl, Chairman Sandy Wersal, Education Director Amelia Tesdahl, Americanism Chairman Wanda Prescher, committee members Yolanda Dailey and Becky Nelson.

Thanks for a terrific 75th anniversary at American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State!

Here is a recap of the elected officials:

**STATEWIDE**

Governor: Malinh Khotsombath, Fridley 303  
Lt. Governor: Lily Trowbridge,

Barnesville 153  
Secretary of State: Emerson Whittemore, Osseo 172  
State Auditor, Zara Baig, Crookston 20  
Attorney General, Naasifaayee Bula, Roseville 542  
Chief Justice Supreme Court, Siya Shelar, Wayzata 118  
Justice Lauren P. Johnson, Cloquet 262  
Justice Kiana Koski, Cokato 209  
Ella Yates, Warroad 25

**SENATE**

President of the Senate: Elizabeth Pollard, Barrett 351  
Majority Leader: Katelyn DeLost, Walker 134  
Asst. Majority Leader: Emily Suess, Monticello 260  
Minority Leader: Erica Kyllonen, Buffalo 270  
Asst. Minority Leader: Lily Danielson, Effie 182  
Chaplain: Aubri Fahnel, Wabasha 50  
Secretary of Senate: Johnnie Zaharia, Lewisville 561

**HOUSE**

Speaker of the House: Ai Xing, Wayzata 118  
Minority Leader: Carissa Smith, Bloomington 550  
Majority Leader: Olivia Owen, Bloomington 550  
Chaplain: Diana Sargent, Lewisville 561

**AWARDS**

Samsung Scholarship: Raina Roemhildt, St. Peter 37  
Girls State Americanism Award: Bella Nawrocki: Lino Lakes 566  
Spirit Award: Sarah garvey, Moose Lake 379

**GIRLS NATION**

Senators to attend Girls Nation:  
Kinzie Carlson, Owatonna 77  
Courtney Graves, Coon Rapids 334



The staff of Girls State gathers in this screenshot of a photograph.



Kimball Unit 261 has three generations present at the 6th District Convention. From left are grandmother Teresa Stuart, granddaughter Chloe Dragan and mother Andrea Dragan.



In May, Aaron Folkert, president of Kasson Unit 333, presented a special plaque to their member, Donna Dutton. Donna has been a member of the Kasson unit for 80 years.

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# How to sign up for the post-9/11 bonuses

ST. PAUL — The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs will begin accepting applications for the Post-9/11 Veteran Service Bonus on July 7.

The final day to apply will be June 30, 2024, unless the funds have been exhausted by then.

In the Veterans and Military Affairs Omnibus Bill, the state Legislature approved \$24.9 million for bonuses to Minnesota residents who are post-9/11 veterans.

The Minnesota state government has given bonuses to veterans of World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War and the Persian Gulf War. This new round of bonuses is for the veterans of the Global War on Terrorism.

The American Legion has a long history of advocacy for bonuses for wartime veterans.

The bonuses are \$1,200 to veterans with a campaign badge from the post-9/11 era, \$600 to veterans who served at the time, and \$2,000 to Gold Star surviving beneficiaries.

Visit either [mn.gov/mdva](http://mn.gov/mdva) or [minnesotaveteran.org/service-bonus](http://minnesotaveteran.org/service-bonus) (no hyphen) on July 7 or after to begin applying.

The present eligibility requirements for the Post 9/11 Service Bonus require that veterans are a current resident and that they had a Minnesota address when they entered military service.

The American Legion will push next year for the eligibility

to include current residents who entered the military in other states. Many Legionnaires have noted the requirement that they entered the military while living in Minnesota is weighted in favor of Guard and Reserve veterans and against active-duty ones.

The qualifying campaign medals for the bonuses are:

- Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
- Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal
- Iraq Campaign Medal
- Afghanistan Campaign Medal.

Honorable discharge also is required.

Usually a DD214 will confirm the military requirements and address at entry in Block 7B.

Active servicemembers can get DD Form 4 and a Leave and Earnings Statement.

As for residency, the state accepts a driver's license, utility bill, voter registration card, rent receipt or other state-issued ID card.

You will need a signed W-9 form. The state is not taxing the bonus.

Beneficiaries will need other supporting documentation, such as DD1300 and possibly marriage license, court orders, attestation, VA rating, birth or death certificates. The veterans must have Minnesota residency at the time of death.

To be clear, this is from the state VA, not the federal VA.

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**Mike Petersen**  
 MN Ins. Lic# 1005666

I'm a 27-year Navy Veteran and a 40-year health insurance Veteran educating 1000s of families about health care choices. Contact me, **Mike Petersen**, today: Life Member of American Legion & VFW Owner, Health USA: 612-800-3934 P.O. Box 41 Chaska, MN 55318

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