

The Minnesota

Legionnaire



AMERICAN
LEGION
AND
AUXILIARY

Volume 100, Number 8

For God and Country

August 2018

Welcome to Minneapolis!

Minnesota hosts the 100th National Convention

Grab your flags and head for Minneapolis this month.

The 100th annual convention of The American Legion will be held at the Minneapolis Convention Center. It will be held just a few blocks from where the first convention was staged in 1919.

All kinds of special plans are in place for the convention, which will be held August 24-30.

One goal for the Department of Minnesota will be to have as many flags in the annual parade as possible. It is traditional for Minnesota to march with massed flags in the national parade.

The record was set at the 1994 convention in Minneapolis when Minnesotans carried over 700 flags in the parade.

The parade will begin at 4 p.m. on Sunday, and will head south down Nicollet Avenue, starting at 5th Street, and ending at 13th Street. It's the same street where the first national parade was held.

There will be 14 Minnesota high school bands in the parade, and six American Legion bands including the Ninth District Band. Minnesota, as host, will march last in the parade.

Parade attire is gold shirts and shorts. Department has a limited amount of the official Minnesota parade yellow/gold shirts available. Call 651-291-1800.

(More information on the parade is on page 17.)

The Department will also have two gifts for the 10,000 or so expected to attend the event. Each delegate, alternate and guest will receive a replica of the 1919 convention badge.

They also will receive a 24-page booklet from the Department containing historical information about the first convention, and advertising from those Minnesota companies that have supported the Minnesota effort.

The Department plans to have four displays of historical artifacts, including George Washington Bentley's uniform and other memorabilia. Bentley, from Montgomery, Minnesota, was the last living founder of the Legion.

Much of the convention is limited to those who have registered, but guests can register for \$25 if they are a member.

There will be a host of meetings and events on the weekend prior to the actual convention proper, which starts on Tuesday, Aug. 28.

◆ A band contest will be held Saturday, Aug. 25, at the convention center auditorium at 1 p.m.

◆ The Color Guard competition will be held Friday, Aug. 24, at 5 p.m. in Hall B.

◆ The ANAVICUS breakfast will be Sunday at 7 a.m. Sunday in Room 200.



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Redepenning takes helm of state Legion

ROCHESTER -- The 100th annual convention of the Minnesota American Legion featured a historical first.

Darrel Redepenning of Fridley was installed by his father, Past Department Commander Bud Redepenning in an emotional ceremony to conclude the convention.

Darrel Redepenning becomes the 102nd state commander. Bud Redepenning served from 1986-87.

Redepenning named Mike Maxa of Le Center as his Membership Director.

The convention worked through one controversial resolution along the way. Resolution 2 called for all participants in Legion youth programs to provide proof of citizenship, legal residency or visitor status.

The reading of the resolution brought quick disagreement. Bill Johnson said it sounded like an instant lawsuit for the

Legion with possible charges of discrimination. It was moved to return the resolution to the executive committee for more study of the legal implications.

The challenge of enforcing the resolution could be difficult, it was pointed out. The baseball program alone has nearly 6,000 participants.

Al Davis of Princeton pointed out that the National Executive Committee had already passed a similar resolution.

In the end, the resolution was tabled. After lunch on Friday, a re-written motion was brought back to the floor.

In the new version, only those participants who are actually advancing to national competition need to meet the citizenship, residency or visitor status.

It was passed on a voice vote.

The convention was the first in memory

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A FAMILY AFFAIR -- New Commander Darrel Redepenning was installed by his father, Past Department Commander Duane "Bud" Redepenning at the state convention in Rochester. It's the first time in Minnesota Legion history that commanders from two generations of the same family have served.

Department does well in NALPA annual awards

The winners of the National American Legion Press Association Awards have been announced.

The Minnesota Legionnaire was the first place winner for Department publications for Departments over 40,000 in size. The Legionnaire also won a second prize for photography.

The Department's Facebook Page was judged the best in the nation. Jennifer Havlick, chairman of the Public Relations Committee, will accept the honor at the awards banquet in Minneapolis.

The Star-Tribune took second place in "external editorials" for an opinion piece on veteran's issues.

In addition, Department Adjutant Randy Tesdahl was presented with the President's Award for his efforts in public relations for The American Legion.

DEC has some good discussions

ROCHESTER — In a busy Department Executive Committee meeting, some of the hotter discussions were saved for the end.

First, a proposal to add a temporary Department Vice Commander ran into some controversy.

Vice Commander Bill Stump moved and Vice Commander Dan Williams seconded a motion to make Membership Director Larry Ryan a temporary vice commander. Stump said that

Continued on Page 2



SPECIAL GUEST -- Minnesota Convention Corporation President Jeff Olson introduced Bridget Robinson, the national director of conventions, to those at the Department Executive meeting.

DEC meets at convention

Continued from Page 1

one vice commander (Eric Wilkins) is deployed and another is ill (Steve Klinkner) and having a temporary vice commander for the convention would be a great help.

Vice commanders help man the dias at the convention, and take the place of the state commander when he's not there.

The proposal was immediately challenged. Alternate Executive Committeeman Bill Barbknecht wondered if the motion would "set a bad precedent."

He said, "We just don't need it, there are plenty of officers here that can help out."

The makers of the motion changed it to say that the temporary officer would not be a vice commander, and a voice vote was taken. It was difficult to determine who prevailed and a hand vote as asked.

The motion failed by a 19-9 vote.

Next up, Second District Commander Randy Olson and District Vice Commander Brad Pagel came forward with a list of nine problems with the Department's operation.

The first one, the fact that National has already posted the topics for the Oratorical Contest this coming year, but the state website has no new information on the contest. Pagel said now is the time when potential high school contestants need to get the information, not after the first of the year when it's too late.

Questions about oratorical seemed to open up a vigorous general discussion about Legion programs, the committee system and the health of the organization in general.

Adjutant Randy Tesdahl said many state programs are failing because the committees that run them are non-functional. Tesdahl asked, as an example how many applications there were for the Peace Officer awards, and was told there were three for the police award and one for the fire fighter award.

"If there are no nominees for these programs, why the hell do we have a program?" Tesdahl asked.

Pagel reminded everyone that younger veterans are very reliant on technology, and the Department's technology is not helpful. "The information simply isn't there."

Olson said in many cases the Department was unable to even process a credit card transaction.

Several mentioned these should be topics for the Department's Strategic Planning Committee, but Judge Advocate Greg Colby said that may not be the solution as the committee is presently organized.

Colby, who serves on the Northfield City Council, said strategic planning "is go, go, go. It takes a ton of time and it's very laborious."

Colby said, "I know one thing, you can't do strategic planning by meeting quarterly (as the state committee does.) You have to meet often. You have to meet all the time."

The Judge Advocate noted that the Legion is "one hell of an organization, and the programs are terrific."

"But there are structural problems. The time to make changes is now. But you don't have a blueprint." He said a strategic committee should include younger members who are inheriting the Legion's future.

Olson also noted that Legion meetings and conventions tend to be tedious, and younger veterans have trouble taking time off for an event that does not have an excitement factor to it.

In the end, Olson and Pagel didn't make it through their list of nine problem areas before the DEC wound up its business.

The meeting began with the DEC approving a new policy for disciplining its own members.

The policy was called "standards of conduct and disciplinary procedures," and Colby said at this time the DEC doesn't have the power to deal with its own members.

The policy outlined reasons a member might be removed from the DEC. They included being charged with a felony, engaging in acts of sexual harassment, or someone who engages in discrimination.

Barbknecht moved and Past Department Commander Tom Conway seconded to approve the new policy.

Past District Commander Sy Fix noted that language was "vague." Colby said that was intentional since it's up to the DEC to determine how serious a breach of conduct is.

Fix also wondered what a district would do if the DEC removes their commander from its membership.

The DEC voted unanimously to adopt the policy.

In other business at the Department Executive Committee:

Robin Picray said the Finance Committee was investigating ways to increase revenue or cut expenses.

The 100th annual National Convention is "good to go" according to Convention Corporation President Jeff Olson. He introduced National Convention and Meetings Director Bridget Robinson. She advised that delegates to the national convention be in their seats for the beginning of the pro-

gram on Tuesday, Aug. 24. She also noted that both a Vikings game and Twins game were offering reduced tickets.

Legionnaire Insurance Trust Chairman Bill Barbknecht said LIT would return \$57,000 to the Minnesota Legion this year. Next year will be a bonus year, and the state should get over \$100,000.

Membership Director Larry Ryan said he has conceded the membership contest to Wisconsin, and will attend their national caucus and sing "the worst rendition ever" of "Go Pack Go." He said Minnesota was just shy of 98 percent of goal for the year.

Strategic Planning Chairman Merlin Ellefson said that last year the committee created an ad hoc committee. He said five people have been identified as candidates for the committee.

Legionville was forced to cancel its training this year, President Wayne Gilbertson said. The good news, though, is that the bog has been moved. He said the bog has been a financial burden to the camp and he said that Legionville's financial situation was in "dire straits." He said the new kitchen at the camp should be ready in two or three weeks.

Rich Oelschlager said the Legion Riders' goal of \$250,000 for the Legacy Scholarship was within reach.

National Convention committee member Jim Kellogg said volunteers are needed for the Minnesota Nice booth at the National Convention. He said his email address is jamesckg@gmail.com.

The Public Relations Committee is selling Legion logos with a magnetic attachment for \$5, Jennifer Havlick, chairman, said.

Independent Rural Living

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Local Doctor Helps Legally Blind to See Again!

Dr. Chris Palmer helps those with vision-limiting diseases read, drive, watch tv, and maintain their independence again

Pete T., an 83 year-old retired engineer from Marshall thought that his driving days were over. "I could not read the street signs soon enough and it made me nervous."

Helen T. retired teacher, 74, from Minneapolis wanted to be able to read and write more easily. She wanted to see her grandchildren singing in the church choir. But she thought those days were over when she was diagnosed with macular degeneration. Neither of these patients knew that a low vision optometrist could help with some of those issues.

"Bioptic telescopic glasses can be used to see signs further down the road," said Dr. Chris Palmer, Low Vision Optometrist and member of the International Academy of Low Vision Specialists (IALVS).

"This can allow some people

with conditions like macular degeneration to continue driving."

"Amazing!" said Pete. "I can read the street signs and even see



the television better!"

Veronica K. Driving With Bioptic Telescope Glasses

Carole B., 71, of St. Cloud came on the advice of a friend. "I wanted to be able to keep driving and do the fun things in life. One of those fun things is baseball. I can see those close plays again," said the patient.

Bioptic telescopic glasses were prescribed to read signs and see traffic lights farther away. As one patient put it, "These telescopic glasses not only allow me to read signs from a farther distance, I've also used them to watch television so I don't have to sit so close; definitely worth the \$2500 cost. I don't know why I waited two years to do this."

Macular Degeneration is the most common eye disease causing vision loss among the senior population. As many as 25% of those over 65 have some degree of degeneration. The macula is one small part of the entire retina, but it is the most sensitive and gives us sharp images. "Our job is to figure out everything and anything possible to keep a person functioning visually," said Dr. Palmer. "Whether

it's driving, reading, watching television, or seeing faces, we work with whatever is on the persons 'wish list.'"

Telescopic and microscopic glasses cost between \$500 and \$3,000. It is a small price to pay for the hours of enjoyment you can have with better vision and more independence.

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Endorsements

Dvorak runs for commander

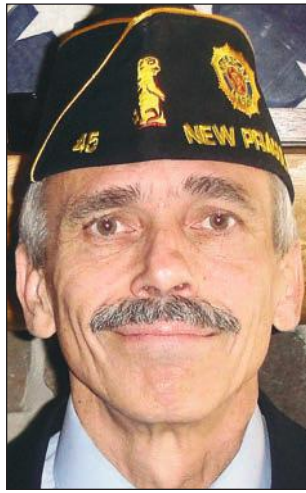
Mark J. Dvorak has been endorsed by Charles Borak Post 45, New Prague, and the Third District for Department Commander for 2019-2020.

Dvorak has been a PUFL member for over 22 years and is the current Post Commander for Post 45. At the District level, Dvorak was the Adjutant 2010-2013, 2018-2019, Commander 2013-2014.

He has held the following positions at the Department level, Hospitalized Veterans Committee 2014-2016, Sgt-At-Arms 2015-2016, Membership Director 2016-2017.

He has been a member of the National Americanism Council since 2016.

Dvorak served 22 years on Active Duty; six years in the Air Force and 16 years in the Minnesota Air National Guard on Active Duty, retiring from the Air Force in 1995. Mark has a BS Degree in Accounting and retired in 2010 as a Senior Accountant for United Health Group. He is a 2017 graduate of The American Legion College and completed The American Legion Basic Training Course in April 2018.



MARK DVORAK

Olson endorsed for commander

The Melvin E. Hearl American Legion Post 21 of Moorhead and the 9th District has endorsed Gary H. Olson as a candidate for Department Commander for 2019-2020.

At the post level, Olson was Commander twice.

He joined the Wheaton Post 80 in 1968 and Roseau Post 24 in 1971 before joining Post 21 in 1978.

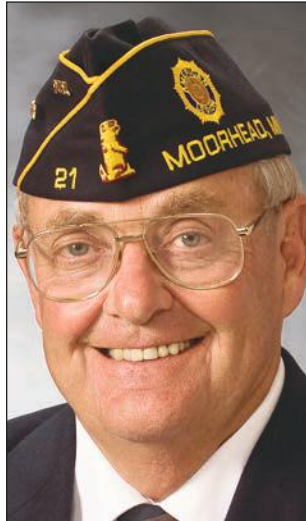
At the District level he has served as commander, 2010-11 and membership director.

At the Department level he served as Chaplain for 2011-12, Sergeant At Arms for 2013-2014 and Historian for 2014-2015.

He served on the Brain Science Committee for 2015-2018 as Vice Chairman.

At the National level he has served as National Assistant Sergeant At Arms for seven years.

He has 37 years of military service, including eight years in the North Dakota Air National Guard and 29 years in the Air Force Reserve retiring in 1993. In his personal life, he and his wife Becky have three sons and six grandchildren. Gary operates an insurance agency.



GARY OLSON

The highest-ranking enlisted soldier to ever serve in Congress is running for Governor. As governor, Tim Walz will continue fighting to ensure veterans are treated with the dignity they deserve.

VOTE FOR TIM WALZ on August 14th

WALZ FLANAGAN

FOR MINNESOTA

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

4 FANTASTIC WAYS TO EXPERIENCE MNHS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE AMERICAN LEGION FOR 100 YEARS OF SERVICE TO VETERANS!

1

VISIT HISTORIC FORT SNELLING

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



2

RECEIVE DISCOUNTED ADMISSION

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



3

MEET THE GREATEST GENERATION

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



4

REMEMBER THE YEAR 1968

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



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COMMANDER'S COLUMN

By Darrel Redepenning



Greetings Legion Family,

I'm Darrel Redepenning and I am very honored and humbled to be your new Department Commander. This year marks our 100th year of serving our fellow veterans, our children and our communities. A great time to look at our history and the impact our organization and our local posts have made in Minnesota. A time to celebrate, a time to say; look at what a difference we've made. Because that is exactly what we do, we make a difference and we have for 100 years. Thus my theme this year: "100 years of Making a Difference."

My election this year created a little history in and of itself. I am the first Department Commander in Minnesota,

to be the son of a Department Commander. My Dad served in 1986-1987 and needless to say, was thrilled to have me follow in his footsteps. Dad is 91 and Mom is 87 and I've been concerned for the months leading up to the convention, if they would be healthy enough to be there. Then much to my surprise, I had to rush my wife Donna to the emergency room 10 days before the convention.

For the first time ever, I went to a convention alone. But by Saturday morning the three of them and the rest of my family were all there. As you can imagine, emotions were running high and after my Dad spoke, I doubt that there was a dry eye in the place. I'll be forever grateful to the American Legion for such a wonderful memory for myself and my family.

I've had a whirlwind of activities since then, as we approach the 100th National Convention here in Minneapolis. As of this writing, I have just finished making all appointments of the important committees in our Department. The first DEC and Membership Meeting is August 4th. Off to Indianapolis for National Training on August 9th. Then back for the state and national Legacy Runs, both ending at my home post in Anoka on the 12th and 23rd. In between I will be picking up the city and county Proclamations commemorating our centennial.

Then the 100th National Convention. Wow, what a fun month August will be. What a great time to be in The American Legion Family. Fun can be habit forming. Don't miss out on it, tell your friends. There has never been a better time to join The American Legion.

Chaplain's Corner

By Bonnie Hanson



First, I want to thank my Post, Buffalo 270 and the 10th District that endorsed me to be your Minnesota Department Chaplain for 2018-2019. I am so honored. I was honored to be on stage and see all the other new officers that I will be with and realize how much can be learned from all of them.

I have a sign hanging as you walk into my house that says, "live well, laugh often and love much." No matter what is going on around us, for a minute think how we can try and make a difference. I have tried to think about that and about the wording in the "The Golden Rule:" do unto others and as they would do unto you. There are so many phrases that come to my mind this Sunday afternoon. How can I help those that just want to talk and just remember sometimes that might be all that they want to do. Through the years and the jobs that I have held I had been very good at just listening and not judging.

We all have had heartache in the years and I have looked to God to help me understand and get through it, he is always in our hearts and mind. The prayer that I have in my heart is: Psalm 23: 1.the Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2. He maketh me lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. 3. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. 4. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff thy comfort me. 5. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. 6. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

I just want to put this out to all my American Legion Family that if you would like me to come to any of your events or rallies I will be open to them. Just email me or send me a card. Please keep the members that are sick in your prayer or give them a phone call or a message sometimes. When they hear from others it lifts them up right.

God Bless America. Keep our servicemen and women safe for they are keeping our country safe.

Mail Call

Coincidence

To the Editor:

My name is Chris Bladl and I recently read your article in the Minnesota Legionnaire – Fighting in Italy With The 34th Division. My Grandfather served in the Red Bull Division during WWII and a friend of mine gave me the paper to read. As I read about Don Halverson I had this feeling I knew that name from somewhere. As I read further I realized he was from the 168th Infantry – G Company

which was same as my Grandfather. I couldn't believe the coincidence but was thrilled to read the story and how many similarities it had to some of the information I had about my Grandfathers service.

I felt compelled to share this picture with you which was given to me by my Grandma with some other collectables from my Grandpa's time in the war. In the bottom right of the picture is none other than Don Halverson. My Grandpa had been wounded just prior to the end of the war and was in a hospital when they took the picture. They sent it to him with the words "End of the 34th" on the back.

Chris Bladl
Janesville, WI



The photo was taken at camp Patrick Henry near Norfolk, Virginia, on Nov. 4, 1945. Top row: John E. Gallegher, Joe E. Donegon, Major C. Feeman. Bottom row: Walter J. Czekanski, Ray Schall, Donald J. Halverson. Titled "End of the 34th."

District	2019 Goal	Total 2018	Total 2019	Months Gain	Total Posts	Goal Posts	% Of Goal	
District 1	8,553	8,495	1,088	1,088	58	0	12.72%	1,306
District 2	6,793	6,709	930	930	84	0	13.69%	746
District 3	11,262	11,197	1,652	1,652	65	0	14.67%	1,721
District 4	2,281	2,263	383	383	18	0	16.79%	357
District 5	2,340	2,318	201	201	22	0	8.59%	223
District 6	11,342	11,271	1,603	1,603	71	0	14.13%	1,848
District 7	6,089	6,013	706	706	76	0	11.59%	896
District 8	3,998	3,958	390	390	40	0	9.75%	895
District 9	6,482	6,417	904	904	65	0	13.95%	828
District 10	9,539	9,485	1,542	1,542	54	0	16.17%	1,693
District 11		2,084	38	38	2	0		186
Totals		70,210	9,437	9,437	555	0		10,699

Same Date Last Year

Redepenning elected at 100th convention

where there were no contested elections.

The five Department Vice Commanders elected were: Wayne Hammond Jr., Richard Wog, Dick Ward, Tom Fernlund, and Jennifer Havlick.

Bonnie Hanson will be the new chaplain, Dennis DeLong will be the historian, and Ryan Hill will be the sergeant-at-arms. Don Amundson was elected to a new three-year term on the Board of Publications.

The three delegates-at-large will be Gary Olson, Tom Sanders and Chuck Stone.

Redepenning told the convention, "The American Legion has had 100 years of making a difference. We must preserve this great organization."

He said he was Legion Family friendly, noting that his wife, Donna, and his mother were very active in the Auxiliary and his father was a past commander.

He said that like many Vietnam veterans, he was not happy with the reception he got when he came home. But he said his experience in the Legion helped heal the wounds.

He spoke glowingly of his father. "When I was small, I felt 10-feet tall when I walked by his side. My heart was full of pride."

And father Bud returned the sentiment: "I'll tell you, Darrel, from the time you were a baby in my arms, I've been proud of you. I want to thank you for being my son."

Maxa said he hoped to get membership off to a fast start,

and he promised "to work my tail off."

"We need to get the whole Family together to stop the decline."

Maxa will promote the three Rs: Recruit, Retain, Renew. He didn't promise to end the slide this year, "but I want to set us up for success in the following years."

Redepenning, a member of Anoka Post 102, has been active in the Legion for 45 years. He served as post commander, district commander, Department vice commander, and Membership Director.

He has served on the national Veterans Education and Employment Commission.

He served in the Army from 1970-73.

He and Donna have been married for 41 years. She is a past 10th District President. They have two sons.

He retired in 2016 from Hennepin County Medical Center where he was a senior planning analyst and manager of orthopedic products, working in surgery for 25 years.

The convention featured a picnic and fireworks following the annual parade, put on the the host, Rochester Post 92.

On the Auxiliary side, Jean Walker of Warren was elected Department President. Mary Hendrickson of Cloquet was elected first vice president and Patti Coleman of Circle Pines was elected second vice president.

The Minnesota **Legionnaire**

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

Al Zdon, Editor

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What's Happening

Mental Health Summit

The 6th annual Veterans Administration and Community Mental Health Summit will be held at the University of St. Thomas on Monday, Aug. 20. It will focus on mental health issues for veterans and military. For more information, contact Amy at amy.wood1@va.gov.

Meat Raffle

There will be a meat raffle at the Montgomery Post 79 on Friday, Aug. 10, starting at 6 p.m.

Fall Conference

The Fall Conference will be held at Marshall, hosted by Post 113, on Oct. 26-27. Headquarters and registration will be at the Ramada. The Legion meetings will be at Southwest Minnesota State University and the Auxiliary meeting will be at the Ramada. Hospitality will be held at the college on Friday night. Shuttle transportation will be available. Rooms should be reserved as soon as possible. Any questions, call 507-933-4576 or email: jlymang@gmail.com.

Golf Outing

The 4th annual Como Boys Legacy Golf Tournament will be held on Friday, Sept. 7, at Island Lakes Course in Shoreview. Proceeds go to the Veterans Resilience Project. For more information, call 612-269-8248.

Post 1 Comedy Club

The Eagles Aerie 34 and Minneapolis Post 1 has created the Post One Comedy Club with monthly shows on the third Thursday from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Doors open at 6 for dinner.

The venue has a new kitchen and new staff. General admission tickets are \$10 in advance. Every Legion member who shows an ID will receive a coupon worth \$5 toward food and drinks. For more information: facebook.com/PostOneComedyClub.

Town Hall Meeting

The American Legion will sponsor a town hall meeting

at the Richfield Post 435 on Monday, Aug. 6, at 7 p.m. Veterans and family members are invited to talk about VA health care.

Staff of The American Legion National Headquarters and the state offices will be on hand in addition to VA staff. Representatives from the congressional delegation will also be present. If you are unable to attend, you can send your questions or comments to MNTownHall@legion.org.

VA Summer Games

The 4th annual VA Summer Games will be held Saturday, Aug. 4, at Building 96 at the VA Medical Center in St. Cloud. They are open to all veterans enrolled at the St. Cloud system. For more information, call 320-252-1670.

Lanesboro Calendar

Lanesboro Post 40 is offering a special calendar for sale to raise funds for preservation of the post's historic post home. The building, built in 1873, is on the National Historic Register.

The calendar honors the 100 years of The American Legion and was designed and created by the post. It is in full color.

The cost is \$10 each. For more information, call 507-951-9759 or 507-259-1968 or email drjanmeyer@yahoo.com.

Air Force Musicians

The Air Force group Starlifter will perform on Thursday, Aug. 16, at the Rotary Pavilion, Veterans Memorial, Levee Park in Hastings at 7 p.m. The seven-piece band plays a variety of music.

Montevideo Town Hall

There will be a town hall meeting and a ceremony honoring Vietnam veterans in Chippewa County on Tuesday, Aug. 21, at 5 p.m. at the Montevideo VA Clinic. The event is sponsored by the St. Cloud VA Health Care System.

For more information, call 320-255-6353.

MACV events

Two legal clinics and a stand down are coming in

Minnesota sponsored by the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans.

The clinics, offering counseling on housing, employment, benefits and more will be held Thursday, Sept. 6, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Anoka County Government Center and on Sept. 26 at the Fargo VA HCS Third Floor Auditorium from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information call 651-200-4750.

A Stand Down for Veterans will be held Tuesday, Aug. 14, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Target Center. All veterans are welcome.

Services include: meals, VA benefits, Legal Aid, housing support, clothing, public benefits, haircuts, employers, healthcare screening, and mental health support.

Round Table, vets needed

The World War II History Round Table is looking for veterans who would like to share their experiences, and has also announced its program for the coming year.

Veterans are needed for programs on:

Guadalcanal

Those who guarded German POWs

Pearl Harbor veterans, any service

German veterans

Intelligence veterans

Women veterans

Supply and logistics veterans

Normandy veterans.

Please contact Don Patton, 612-867-5144, if you are such a veteran or know of one.

The meetings of the Round Table will once again be at the Fort Snelling Visitor Center. They will begin at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month except for October and March when two programs will be held. Admission is \$5 at the door.

Sept. 13 -- Guadalcanal with author Trent Hone; Oct. 11 -- Nazi Prisoners in America with author Arnold Krammer; Oct. 25 -- Deutsch Lecture with Geoffrey Wawro, author of *Sons of Freedom*; Dec. 13 -- Pearl Harbor; Jan. 10, Nazi Military high command; Feb. 14 -- FDR's advisors; March 14 -- Intelligence from the skies; Mar. 28 -- Women in the war; April 11-- Logistics in Europe; May 9 -- Normandy Landings.

A complete schedule will be in the September Legionnaire.

Notes from the 2018 Department Convention

Notes from the Department Convention:

-- Communications Director Ralph Huessner said the Minneapolis VA is going through a major renovation and all primary clinics will be on the 4th floor. He said use of the hospital dropped in 2017, for the first time in many years. He said many Vietnam veterans did not have a good VA experience after the war, and the VA is now working to get them back in the system.

-- Al Lund, the director of Allied Charities in Minnesota, said that in the past, charitable organizations could count on making six percent on each wager, and that is now down to 3.5 percent because of state taxes. "You can't squeeze the golden goose too much before you kill the goose. We're overtaxed." If the trend continues, it could kill the gaming industry in Minnesota, and veterans projects and communities will suffer when those funds are no longer available. He said two to three posts in Minnesota each year turn in their gaming licenses.

-- No representatives from the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs were on hand to speak at the convention.

-- Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans's Neil Loidholt said the organization is focusing on housing and help for women veterans.

-- Lakeland Manufacturing of Alexandria won the Employer Award for small companies.

-- Sons of the American Legion Detachment Commander Shawn Davis said the SAL had reached 11,409 members, but was still seeking a goal of 12,000.

-- Tom Nelson, Director of Boys State, said the numbers were up slightly this year, but could improve. He said those boys who have gone to Boys State are the best salesmen.

-- Oratorical Winner Emily Parker of Lino Lakes said, "Our nation is in need of a generation which will preserve our freedoms."

-- Don Pankake gave a lengthy history of the Big Island Camp and the V4V program. He said V4V has \$5.4 million in its fund, more than it had when it was created several years ago. Since it was originated, it has given out over \$2 million just using the interest from the fund.

-- Lloyd Ricker said the Minnesota American Legion Foundation has \$3.2 million in the bank, including \$1.4 million in dedicated funds.

-- The Armed Forces Service Center at the Twin City International Airport will be moving this coming year,

according to the representative Joe Jansen. It will be on the C concourse near the walkway for the new hotel.

-- Department Judge Advocate Greg Colby warned that there are many veterans charities out there that give very little to the causes they espouse. He said if you are approached by a charity, check it out on Charity Navigator.

-- The winners of the Children and Youth awards for the year were Johnnie Baker Post 291, Big Lake Post 147, Nisswa Post 627, and Park Rapids Post 212.

-- Bowling Chairman John Torma said if the numbers don't improve, the Department should perhaps discontinue the state bowling tournament. He said the break-even number is about 650 bowlers, and that 470 bowled this year. The tourney will be sponsored by Osseo this coming year.

-- The Pat Cliff Award for outstanding post service officer went to Steve Eisenreich of Crosslake, Fifty Lakes Post 500.

-- Robin Picray, chair of the Finance Committee, said the committee is looking at cuts in Department spending, or increase in revenues that don't include a dues increase.

-- Next year's state convention will be at Willmar.

-- Marie Goede said the American Legion Family Hospital Association honored 14 claims this year, and gave out over \$28,000. The association has \$268,000 in the bank.

-- The Patriotic Awards for this year's parade went to Rochester Post 92, Kasson Post 333 and Minneapolis Post 1.

-- Commander Mike Schaffer offered his thanks to his post and family, and noted that he had traveled 40,000 miles during his year as commander.

The final credentials report included:

District	Posts	Delegates	Voting Strength
1.	24	43	100
2.	16	18	55
3.	23	50	117
4.	5	17	20
5.	10	21	38
6.	16	32	73
7.	10	17	41
8.	4	6	23
9.	9	14	48
10.	16	39	84
Total	133	257	599

HELP WANTED

Legionville Camp General Manager

The Camp GM will be responsible for the overall operations and maintenance of the camp.

Resumes can be sent to:

The American Legion
Department of Minnesota
Room 300A
20 West 12th Street
St. Paul, MN 55155-2000

Attn: Legionville Board

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

By
Heather Larson



Growing up I always knew I wanted to follow in my Grandpa's footsteps in joining the military. That dream became a reality when I was 17 years old and made the decision to join the Minnesota Army National Guard. In March 2004, while still a Junior in high school I made the decision that joining the military at a young age was the best for me. I went to MEPS and was sworn in. I enlisted in the Army National Guard as a 92G a Food Service Specialist with the dreams of becoming a pastry chef one day. Since I had joined while being a junior, I attended basic training between my junior and senior years of high school. Once I graduated basic training I returned to high school and did what normal 18 year old seniors did; worry about homecoming, what colleges to apply to and hanging out with my friends before our senior year was completed. June 2005, I graduated high school and was off to AIT to become a Food Service Specialist. Shortly after completing AIT, I was informed that my unit was deploying. I was deployed 2005-2007 with the 34th Infantry Division to Iraq. This was one of the longest deployments that units have seen since World War II.

After my deployment in Iraq, I attended school at Normandale Community College for Criminal Justice. This is where I had met Jeremy Wolfsteller at the Veteran Service Center. Being a young female veteran, it was not the easiest to navigate the whole world of benefits. There were other veteran students at school that managed to make this transition easier. While attending Normandale, I began working in the Veteran Service Center as well as assisting other veteran students with their education benefits. While I was able to gain a better understanding of the different educational benefits for Veteran students, I had a difficult time understanding health benefits and service connect claims.

I first started using the VA Health Care System when I was 20 years old and at the time, had a tough time navigating the VA system. I have seen how much the VA Health Care System has changed in the last 10 years for women

Veterans. I am amazed at the difference of care. When I first started using the VA, I was often times asked by staff members if I was there to pick up other old male veterans. I was always frustrated when I had to explain to some staff members that I was in fact a veteran of the war in Iraq and was there for an appointment myself.

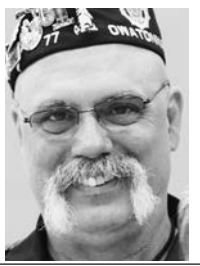
I am fortunate that I have been serving in the Army National Guard since I was 17 years old and still continue to serve currently; I have been grateful for the experiences and deployments that I have been on. Having the experiences as a young female veteran who has navigated educational benefits and the VA Health Care System, it has given me opportunities to assist other young Veterans (both male and female) and Soldiers in my unit.



MINNESOTA MILITARY RADIO -- Department Adjutant Randy Tesdahl creates the latest 30 second spot on Minnesota Military Radio. Tesdahl promoted the upcoming national convention in Minneapolis.

American Legion Riders

By Chuck Stone
Department Director



Greetings American Legion Family,

Wow. That was one awesome celebration our 100th convention turned out to be. It is true, a celebration of that magnitude is 100 years in the making. Hats off to the Rochester Legion Family for all hard work in planning and pulling of our Centennial Convention. Next up, see you in Minneapolis, but not before the Department of Minnesota Legacy Ride.

The Department of Minnesota Ride will take place the first two weekends in August, 3, 4, & 5 and 10, 11, and 12. Kickoff party will be at Forest Lake Post 225 Thursday August 2nd. Our Stand down celebration will be at Anoka Edward B. Cutter Post 102 Sunday, August 12th.

If you can not be on the ride, grab a friend and come meet us at one of our many stops. Heck, bring a car full of friends along.

I would like to extend a big "thank you" to "Tokyo" Mike Grooms and the Riders at Rushford Chapter 94 for their work in honoring U.S. Navy Seaman First Class Joseph Johnson. Joseph was killed on the U.S.S. Oklahoma during the attack on Pearl Harbor.

The Rushford Post bears his name. After the ceremony I had the privilege of listening to Norm Ebner talk about his experience as part of the landing on D-Day. Norm went ashore on the beaches of Normandy. Norm is the brother-in-law of Johnson and was presented the flag from Johnson's casket.

I also learned that day that other previously unidentified remains that have now been identified will be returning home, four from Minnesota.

I would like to thank all the Riders for their confidence in me by electing me to another year as their leader. It is a great honor and privilege to lead the best group of Riders in the country.

Keep the chrome side up and the rubber side down.
Chuck Stone

Minnesota Sons of the American Legion News

Sons of The American Legion

By
Shawn Davis



Because of the problems at Legionville with the infamous bog, the St. Augusta American Legion Post welcomed us when they heard of the problems. They were terrific hosts, and all went well. There were 35 squadrons represented by 75 delegates. Several guests were also on hand including the National Vice Commander of the Sons of The American Legion for the Central Region Jay Marsden of Missouri and his wife Kris, Department Commander Mike Schaffer, Department President Donna Arends and St Augusta Post Commander Mike Zenzen.

The following officers will serve the detachment this coming year: Shawn Davis, Commander; Douglas Bible, Adjutant; Dave Vulcan, Membership Director; Joe Niesen, Vice Commander; Hal Meyer, Vice Commander; Mickey Ostrum, Vice Commander; Robert Foss, Vice Commander; Dennis Blue, Vice Commander; Casey Lenort, Chaplain; Lou Michaels, Historian; Michael Fernlund, Sergeant at Arms; Cliff Teigland, Judge Advocate; Bruce Kuiper, Finance Officer; Dennis Henkemeyer, National Executive Committeeman and Bill Goede, Alternate National Executive Committeeman.

A total of \$5,205.00 in donations were collected at the convention and will distributed as follows: Fisher House, \$100; Girls State, \$125; Boys State, \$125; National Convention Fund, \$100; CWF, \$1,500; NEF, \$100; Pheasant Dinner, \$500; Legionville, \$575; Family Hospital Association, \$100; Brain Science, \$580; NEF, \$125; Endowment Fund, \$125; Detachment Commander's Project, \$500 and SAL Disabled Deer Hunt, \$650.

We would like to remind everyone that we will have two different style Christmas ornaments at the national convention. We will also be selling The American Legion 100th Anniversary coins at the convention as well.

Cdr. Shawn Davis: salshawndavis@gmail.com
Adjutant Doug Bible: saladjmn@gmail.com
Website: www.mnsal.org

100th Annual Convention

Welcome to August, and the Centennial Convention of The American Legion. For us Sons of The American Legion, this is a time when we can truly be 'proud processors of a priceless heritage.' This convention should hold some additional pride for use as well, since the convention is being held here in Minneapolis, the location of the First American Legion convention. I challenge each member to make some time to attend part of the convention.

Yes there is an entry fee of \$25. But spend some time on the exhibit floor, visit with the vendors, find out about the programs, see some history come alive! There may be some surprises in store for the attendees. Or come to the parade on Sunday, August 26th at 4 PM in downtown Minneapolis. Bring your American Flag, and let us make sure that we have the largest massed US colors in a parade ever!

See, this convention is in our home state and it is an opportunity for us to showcase The American Legion Family to the statewide community. So reach out to your neighbors, your local press. Tell them about the convention, about what we do as a family, and how we help our veterans, their families, and those in the communities that we live in. Tell them how we make a difference, and why people should consider joining our family to continue to make a difference for the next 100 years.



NATIONAL VICE -- Jay Marsden, National Sons of the American Legion Vice Commander, was a speaker at the SAL annual convention.

NEWLY ELECTED DETACHMENT OFFICERS -- Front row: Joe Niesen - Detachment Vice Commander, Hal Meyer - Detachment Vice Commander, Shawn Davis - Detachment Commander, Mickey Ostrum - Detachment Vice Commander, Robert Foss - Detachment Vice Commander, Lou Michaels - Detachment Historian. Back row: Bruce Kuiper - Detachment Finance Officer, Casey Lenort - Detachment Chaplain, Michael Fernlund - Detachment Sergeant at Arms, Dennis Henkemeyer - National Executive Committeeman, Bill Goede - Alternate National Executive Committeeman, Tim Heuer - 7th District Commander, Douglas Bible - Detachment Adjutant.

District Commanders

FIRST DISTRICT

Gary Miller
Commander



First I would like to thank the First District for allowing me to represent the First District as your First District Commander. (I think I got the First in plenty.) We are now past the State Convention and will be past the picnic by the time you read this. Also thanks to Post 92 for a very good convention and great fireworks display, and thanks to Jim Kellogg for cooking a great meal at the picnic (as always) and all the others that helped to make it a great time in Austin.

Also the E- Board & membership will be meeting Aug. 4 in Anoka. So my first meeting will be very soon as your Commander. Plus a very exciting month of August, I can start the 100th National Convention as a First District Delegate as the First District Commander. The last one I attended was in Indy. 2013 (that's plenty of firsts.)

Now that everyone has had a breath of fresh air we can start membership all over again because that's what will keep us going for another 100 years, and with out NEW members we can not survive, I know I will not be around for that next 200 year convention but I would hope The American Legion will be. So get busy again and get those members in to your Post or anybody's Post. Lets give the other Posts a run for the top again.

SECOND DISTRICT

Cindy Brunk
Commander



Hello American Legion Family Members.

The American Legion has hit an exciting time and cornerstone of this great organization. I sincerely hope as a Post you are telling your story or stories by going on line and getting your post registered for the Centennial Celebration. Please do not miss this opportunity.

I am looking forward to our celebration in Dundee as Joseph Suding Post 386 celebrates its first 100 years on July 28th. What a wonderful time it has been meeting such great people and coming together to make this celebration happen. Many Legion Riders will be taking their Saturday to participate in the parade. Thank you.

The National Convention will start on August 24th. If your unable to go for the entire time, catch the bus and come up for the day, call Jim Mertens 507-627-3868 or myself 507-360-7116 for more details.

A big thank you to our own Mike Schaffer from Fulda and his wife Nina the "boss" for the countless hours of hard work and leadership during his term. Again, a big thank you Mike. Watching the new Commander Redepinning and his dad, as he introduced him and he was sworn in, was truly the example of an Legion Family.

I personally want to thank my Membership Director Ryan Hill, the vice commanders and the 2nd district post membership directors for helping us to get the membership packets delivered. Some of you had to send someone else to pick them up, some of you drove out of your way, and mailed them in. Whatever you did to help us get off the goose egg many, many thanks. CPR reports, the deadline has been extended to August 14th so please send those reports in now.

My theme this year is "Got Freedom? Thank a Vet!" and I look forward to coming out to meet each and every one of you at a post meetings, and to thank you and tell you about my project.

THIRD DISTRICT

Carla Tappainer
Commander



I want to start by saying thank you for putting your trust in me to represent the Thundering 3rd District of Minnesota. I am truly humbled, and I will do everything in my power to make this a great year. We already are off to an awesome start. We are the first district to get off the goose egg and have all our officer reports in by convention. Thanks to all my Vice-Commanders who really did all the hard work to get that done.

My theme for this year is "Our Future Depends on Our Veterans." It's very important for us to stick together, grow in membership and make sure we keep pushing for legislation to help our veterans. We need to educate our younger veterans and make sure they know what we are and what we do. My project for this year is the Hastings Veteran's Home Recreation Room. We will be remodeling and building a new coffee bar for all to enjoy. Please consider donating so we can get this done right away.

I would like everyone to know that I'm always available for anything you need, even if it's just to sit and talk over a

cup of coffee.

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."

-- John Quincy Adams

FOURTH DISTRICT

Lane Stunkel
Commander



Greetings Fabulous 4th District.

A new year has started for The American Legion Department of Minnesota with the conclusion of the Department Convention July 19th through July 21st. I want to thank all of the District Officers and Committee Chairs for all of your hard work last year, and I am looking forward to a great 2018 - 2019 year of work.

First of all we are off of the Goose Egg and all Officer Reports are in to the Department - thank you Commanders, Adjutants and Officers - great job.

With the 2019 membership packages out, let's work hard to find new members, most importantly retain our existing members. Make phone calls, door knock, whatever it takes to get those members who did not renew their 2018 memberships.

Keep these dates in mind:

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

RCCC is August 8th, 7PM at Arcade Phalen Post 577.

American Legion National Convention, Minneapolis Convention Center August 24th - 30th. There are many events and meetings days before, including the Parade which is something to look forward to see and participate in.

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

Still Serving America

FIFTH DISTRICT

John Austin
Commander



Greetings and salutations from the Fighting Fifth.

Congratulations to all the newly elected Department, District, County, Post Officers as well as Auxiliary, Junior and SAL officers. A huge thank you to the people of Rochester and to McCoy Post for hosting the convention. I, along with my bum knee, were grateful for the shuttle buses they provided for us. (Getting old isn't for sissies.)

I wish to thank my district for the support they have shown me for the past year. It has been a humble and large learning experience. As I pass the gavel on to John Austin, I know he will have a successful year.

Here's to a great National Convention in our home state.

Retiring commander,

Walt Lyndsley

SIXTH DISTRICT

Richard Cross
Commander



Hello American Legion Family.

Membership is upon us again. We as a Legion must expand our numbers to survive. We have heard this time and time again. As everyone knows, it is everybody's responsibility to sign up new memberships. I could go on about this for hours, but there is no sense in beating a dead horse. You know what to do, so let's do it.

The upcoming year is starting with a lot of energy in the Legion community. Things at Legionville are moving along at a fast pace. Some posts have some new leadership, some have the same leaders as last year. The American Legion has its 100 Year Anniversary start. Events are being conducted and conferences and conventions are being planned. It is going to be an exciting year.

May God Bless the veterans.

SEVENTH DISTRICT

Jeffrey Gay
Commander



"That was then, this is now and what we do today will influence tomorrow." With that in mind our plan for the future of The American Legion must include today's Veterans so they can continue making more tomorrows after we are gone.

The future of our programs rest in our membership melding the existing with the new, welcoming a cohesion

and unity working together in our communities to invoke excitement for all ages and reestablishing our worth and our ideals within our host communities.

We need to embrace Family by providing events for all ages, wholesome in nature, which are all inclusive. Our younger Veterans are busy with "life", doing things with their families as well as themselves, why not make the Legion that center point for them.

Let them know that this is their Post as well as ours. Allow them to express their own values and ideas and provide them a chance to gain experience before holding an office. Make it clear that we need them and help them realize "what's in it for them" teaching them the benefits, programs and history of not just The American Legion but of their post as well.

Together we can make this centennial year a year of education, excitement and growth in the 7th District. Spread the word. We can only be done as a team.

EIGHTH DISTRICT

Wilbur Swanson
Commander



Greetings to the Legion family of the Eighth District. Here we are at the start of a new year with our conventions behind us. In the future, I hope to see better participation in the District functions, as this will get our messages out to more of our members. The membership packages should have been received by now but if not, contact Jennifer. If any post has not sent in their officers list, please do so. Please send in your membership reports in a timely manner so we can meet our targets as the year progresses. I encourage all Posts to encourage members to seek out new members. We need to let people know what our available programs are. As a support organization for all veterans, our actions are for their benefit. Remember, the goal of The American Legion is the Four Pillars. We need to support our elected officers in the successful completion of their duties. Our officers have a responsibility to meet the requirements of their positions with dedication and involvement. Let's all work to get the 8th District more active and involved in our mission. Thank you, in advance, for your time and efforts. God bless the Legion family and the USA.

NINTH DISTRICT

Arlo Rude
Commander



Greetings from the Roaring 9th.

I am looking forward to this year of serving the 9th District and the Department of Minnesota.

Our organization meeting is August 18 in Fosston. I encourage all posts in the 9th District to have a representative attend. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. at the school.

Thank you to all membership directors for getting the 9th District to third place in the membership standings. Let's work to increase the membership and be in first place in 2019.

Enjoy your summer. For God and Country.

TENTH DISTRICT

Paul Orson
Commander



Greetings from the Mighty 10th District. I want to thank the district membership for electing me your 2018-19 District Commander at our District Convention in Clearwater 16 June. It is going to be a fun and exciting year.

The rest of the 2018-19 10th District family leadership team is SAL Commander Jeremy Copher of Mound, Riders Director Jeremy Christenson of Delano and Auxiliary President Sandy Locker of Fridley. I want to thank last year's team of Commander Paul Hassing, President Jodi Hassing, SAL Commander Steve Sullivan and Riders Director Diane Sullivan for a job well done.

I want to congratulate our 2018-19 Department Commander Darrel Redepinning, President Jean Walker, SAL Commander Shawn Davis on their elections.

The coming year starts out with a bang as we celebrate our 100th National Convention in Minneapolis this month and our 100th year as an organization. If you can make it down for only one thing, I say the National Parade down Nicollet Ave. starting at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Aug 26, would be it, as we are looking at massing 1,000 U.S. flags when Minnesota brings up the rear of the parade. I expect it to take close to 3 hours. It would be awesome if all 54 District 10 posts carried at least one flag.

My project is veterans' suicide awareness and prevention.



Instead of hospitality rooms, Rochester Post 92 sponsored a picnic with live music following the parade. Several hundred Legion Family members enjoyed the free food and hospitality just outside the Mayo Civic Center.

Annual Parade and Picnic



World War I hats were issued to districts as part of the celebration of Minnesota's 100th Department Convention.



Department Juniors and families enjoyed the picnic.



At the conclusion of the parade, the Legion Family was treated to the Dixieland Pickup Band and banjoist Debbie Schreyer.



Soon-to-be-elected Department Commander Darrel Redepenning rode in the parade with Legacy Run Director Sully Sullivan.



Fifth District dignitaries got a lift at the parade.



The picnic included free food to all who attended, from the Legion or the community.



Minnesota's Ninth District Band, the only district band in the nation, paraded down the street in Rochester.



Department officers marched the route.

Auxiliary Installation

Tears were flowing when Past Department President Lori Skallerud presented Arends with a historic pin.



Installing Officer Karen Thygeson reads the oath to the new officers.



Installing Officer Karen Thygeson had a hug for incoming President Jean Walker of Warren.



Outgoing President Donna Arends presented incoming President Jean Walker with the gavel.

Memorial Service



President Donna Arends and Commander Mike Schaffer lit memorial candles during the ceremony.



Tenth District President Jodi Hassing and District Commander Paul Hassing place roses in the vase.



Gene Eiden played taps on the trumpet.



Department Chaplain Ralph Schneekloth



Keynote Speaker Bishop Dan Williams



Soloist Diane Toogood



Auxiliary Chaplain Carol Holmgren

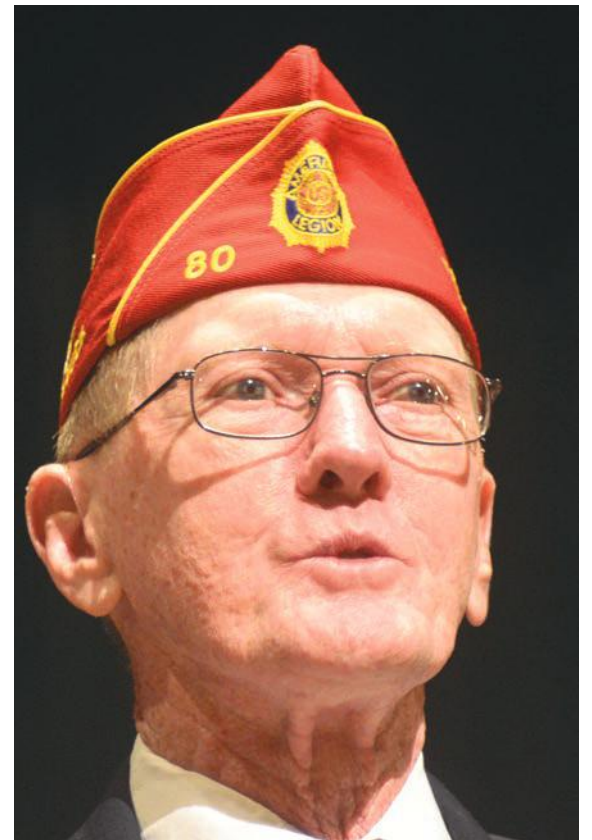
100th annual convention in Rochester



Commander Mike Schaffer donned his World War I doughboy hat during the convention. The hats were a souvenir of the 100th Department Convention.



The Ninth District Band provided a wake up call on Saturday morning at the Civic Center.



National Executive Committeeman Terry Nelson of Wyoming brought greetings.

Parade marchers started on the far side of the river and wound their way to the Civic Center for the picnic.





The Bella Voce Young Women's Choir of Rochester sang during the opening of the convention.



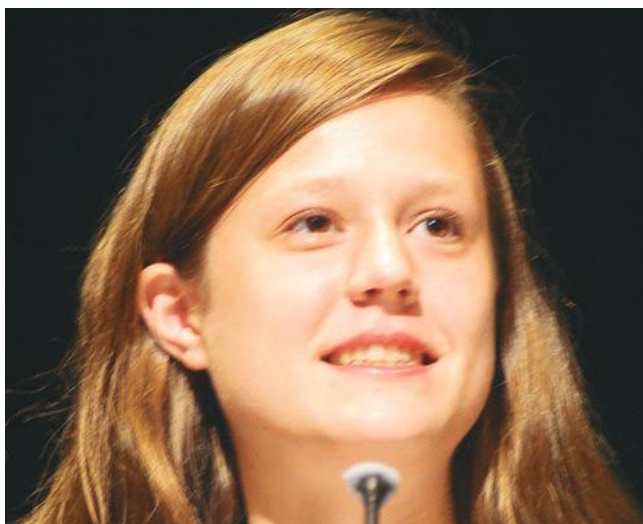
Department Judge Advocate Greg Colby made several rulings at the convention.



President Donna Arends and Honorary Junior President Courtney Rogat visited the Legion meeting.



It's not all business and formality. Seventh District Membership Chair Pam Gades and President Karla Minnick got with the them of 'rescuing membership' at the Auxiliary Convention.



National Oratorical Contest Runner-up Emily Parker of Lino Lakes thanked the Legion for what they do for youth in America.



Boys State Governor Jack Slavik addressed the Department Convention.



Sons of the American Legion Detachment Commander Shawn Davis was elected to a second term.

Law Officer and Fire Fighter award winners are honored



BRIAN FINKE
Firefighter of the Year



DAVID WATSON
Regional Law Officer of the Year



CURT BOEHME
Law Officer of the Year



Officers line up to take the oath from Installing Officer Marland Ronning.

Legion Installation



Installing Officer Marland Ronning instructs newly-elected Department Commander Darrel Redpenning on his duties. Ronning did the entire installation ceremony from memory.



Past Department Commander Bud Redepenning posed with his son Commander Darrel Redepenning with the traditional gold nameplates of all the commanders in Minnesota's 100 years. Bud said the badge is a lot longer than when he was commander.



Past Department Commander Denise Milton presents outgoing Commander Mike Schaffer with his miniature set of colors.



Nina Schaffer attaches the past commander's pin to her husband.



Donna Redepenning places the commander's hat on her husband.



Newly named Membership Director Mike Maxa outlined his membership plan for the year.



Stapling Party

Minnesota will be giving high-quality replicas of the first 1919 convention badge to those attending this year's 100th convention. A card needed to be stapled to each badge, though, explaining the gift. Eagan Post 594 stepped forward to do the job. Over 10,000 pieces were stapled. At left, Past National Commander Dan Ludwig joined the crew. At bottom, Kenny Peterson, left, and Gary Gruett volunteered.



Bog-gone-it!

Volunteers win the battle of the bog

About nine months after a wandering bog settled in front of the Legionville Camp swimming beach, it has gone home.

The bog broke loose from the Legionville property last October, cruised around the lake driven by wind, and then settled in for the winter at the beach.

Too late to mount a major effort to remove the bog before North Long Lake iced over, a group of volunteers gathered in May to move the four-acre bog.

It didn't work. The volunteers, mainly the Lake Property Owner's Association and Adjutant

Randy Tesdahl, settled on a new plan of cutting the monster bog into bite-sized pieces and moving those one by one.

Part of the bog helped by breaking loose again, but it was soon corralled back to

its former home.

In July, the last piece was removed.

It was too late for this year's camp, which was canceled, but Legionville officials promise a better Legionville next year.

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Online Legacy Run registration

With less than two weeks remaining for registration, more than 460 participants have signed up to take part in this year's American Legion Legacy

Run. Online registration for the 2018 Legacy Ride will end Aug. 11. All riders and passengers who register online before Aug. 1 will be

mailed the registration packet with patches and map book materials before national staff departs. Those who register on or after Aug. 1 will be mailed their registration packets on or after Sept. 1 (while supplies last) as staff returns from convention duties.

The Legacy Run will leave Hutchinson, Kan. — where Post 68 will host kickoff events — on Aug. 19 and arrive in Minneapolis for the 2018 National Convention. The ride will make stops in Missouri, Iowa and Wisconsin before finishing Aug. 23 at Anoka Post 102 in Minnesota.

The 2017 Legacy Run raised a record \$1,224,653 — the fourth straight year the ride raised more than \$1 million.

For more information about this year's Legacy Run, go to the national website: legion.org.

WHERE THEY FOUGHT WWII EUROPEAN TOURS

Oct. 25th, 2018...

Germany, Holland & Belgium
Hitler's Eagle's Nest; Nuremberg;
"A Bridge Too Far" Route;
Flanders Field, 100th Anniversary
2019 75th Anniversary TOURS...
June—D-Day Normandy; Sept—Holland;
Dec—Battle of the Bulge

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MP2772 1/12

USAA and Legion sign new contract

The National Executive Committee of The American Legion signed a new contract with USAA extending through 2023.

The national headquarters as allocated up to \$1 million to share with the departments who continue to participate in the USAA program. States must contribute free advertising and other promotions.

The credit card program with the insurance company, however, has been canceled. States will no longer receive money from this program.

How will you pay for expenses that Medicare doesn't cover?

With the high cost of healthcare today, Medicare Supplement insurance is becoming a necessity for more and more Americans. That's why it's good to know that you now have a choice of Standardized Medicare Supplement plans at affordable group rates, offered to members like you. And, all plans are underwritten by a company known for its prompt, personal, responsive service.

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Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Telephone (____) _____

Send to: Medicare Supplement Processing Dept.
P.O. Box 1341
Valley Forge, PA 19482-9946

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Awards and presentations made at the 2018 convention



COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS -- Posts that contributed the most volunteer hours and money to their communities were honored. From left: Carl Renalls for 3M Post 599, both hours and money, Category I; Rich Cross, Melrose Post 101, both hours and money spent, Category III; Roger Stoick, St. Michael Post 567, most dollars spent, Category II; Joe Tappainer, Apple Valley Post 1776, most dollars spent, Category IV; Tom Fernlund, Waite Park Post 428, most volunteered hours, Category IV; Tom Burns, Hamline Post 418, most volunteered hours, Category II.



EMPLOYMENT AWARD, MEDIUM-SIZED COMPANIES -- The winner of the Employment Award for medium-sized companies went to Bic Graphic Co. of Sleepy Eye. From left, Commander Mike Schaffer, Betty Jass, representing the Sleepy Eye Post 7; Blake Seas, representing Bic; and Employment Chair Carl Moon.



EMPLOYMENT AWARD, LARGE COMPANY -- Fagan Inc. of Granite Falls won the Employment Award for large companies. From left: Commander Mike Schaffer, Chelsea August, human resources director for Fagin, Chairman Carl Moon.



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE -- Rushford Post 94 and St. Charles Post 190 were honored with national awards for Distinguished Service. From left: Commander Schaffer, Chairman Glenn Mueller, Art Tobkin, Americanism Chair.



AMERICANISM -- Nashwauk Post 307 won a national Certificate of Meritorious Service Award. From left: Commander Schaffer, Americanism Chair Art Tobkin, and Larry Pocrnich, accepting for the Nashwauk Post.



BOYS STATE -- Boys State Governor Jack Slavik was presented a plaque, along with Anoka Post 102 who sponsored him. From left: Commander Schaffer, Boys State Director Tom Nelson, Slavik, Anoka rep.



BOYS STATE -- An Appreciation Award was given to Spicer Post 545 for sponsoring Joseph Hillenbrand, Boys State Director's award winner. Richard Wog accepted for the post.



BOYS STATE -- An Appreciation Award was presented to Wayzata Post 118 for sponsoring Boys State Director's Award winner Colin Dosedel. Accepting for the post was District Commander Paul Hassing.



BOYS STATE -- New Ulm Post 132 was given an Appreciation Award for sponsoring Peter Spengler, winner of the Myron and David Way Award. Bert Marth accepted for New Ulm.



BOWLING TROPHY -- The team winner of this year's Minnesota American Legion Bowling Trophy was Brainerd Post 255. From left: Commander Mike Schaffer, Bowling Chairman John Torma, Bowling Secretary Cari Lamb and Post Adjutant Paul Edwards.



ORATORICAL CHAMPION -- Emily Parker was honored with a plaque. She finished second in the national Oratorical Contest. From left: Commander Schaffer, Parker, Chairman Linda Dvorak and Vice Chairman Sy Fix.

More honors and awards from the 2018 Department Convention



BLOOD AWARDS -- Certificate winners for the Department's Blood Program gathered on the stage at the Rochester Mayo Civic Center.



SILVER BRIGADE -- Barb Olson of Forest Lake Post 225 was the Silver Brigade winner for top recruiter. From left: Commander Mike Schaffer, Forest Lake's Terry Larson, Membership Director Larry Ryan.



REGIONAL WINNER -- David Watson, a detective from the Lakeville Police Department was honored as The American Legion Law Office of the Year for the Central States Region. From left: Commander Mike Schaffer, Watson, Committee Chair Tom Conway.



POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR -- Curt Boehme, a police officer with the Lino Lake Public Safety Department, won this year's Law Officer of the Year. From left: Commander Schaffer, Boehme, Tom Merino, accepting an award to Lino Lakes Post 566 for sponsoring Boehme, and Law and Order Chair Tom Conway.



RECRUITER OF THE YEAR -- John Lenvik of Apple Valley Post 1776 once again earned honors as the top membership recruiter in the state. During the year, he recruited 82 new members. It is the fourth time Lenvik has earned the honors. He was also honored as a Gold Brigade winner. From left: Commander Mike Schaffer, Lenvik, Membership Director Larry Ryan.



POST EXCELLENCE -- 3M Post 599 earned a national certificate for Post Excellence. From left: Vice Commander Dan Williams, Commander Mike Schaffer, Post Commander Carl Renalls, and NECman Marland Ronning.



TOP FIREFIGHTER -- Brian Finke, a fire lieutenant for the Lino Lakes Fire Department, earned the Legion's Fire Fighter of the Year Award. From Left: Commander Mike Schaffer, Finke, Tom Merino, accepting a plaque for Lino Lakes Post 566's sponsorship, and Law and Order Chairman Tom Conway.



THIRD PLACE COLOR GUARD -- Eyota Post 551 took third place in the Color Guard competition. From left: Vice Commander Bill Stump; District Commander Gary Miller; Parade Coordinator Dave Bode.



SAFETY PATROL AWARD -- Jim Kellogg was awarded the Safety-School Patrol special award for his work for the Legionville Camp. From left: Commander Mike Schaffer, Past Department Commander Jim Kellogg, and School Safety Patrol Chairman Jim Blakesley.



POST REHABILITATION AWARDS -- Rehab award winners gathered on the stage to accept their certificates at Rochester. Winners of the awards included: Gerald McConkey, Brewster Post 464; John Weiss, St. Paul Arcade Phalen Post 577; Charles Wesley, Minneapolis Johnnie Baker Post 291; Steve Eisenreich, Cross Lakes Fifty Lakes Post 500; John Smith, Kingston Post 483; William W. Hanegmon, Chisholm Post 247; Terry Buraas, East Grand Forks Post 157; Frank Menter, Anoka Post 102.

More honors and awards from the 2018 Department Convention



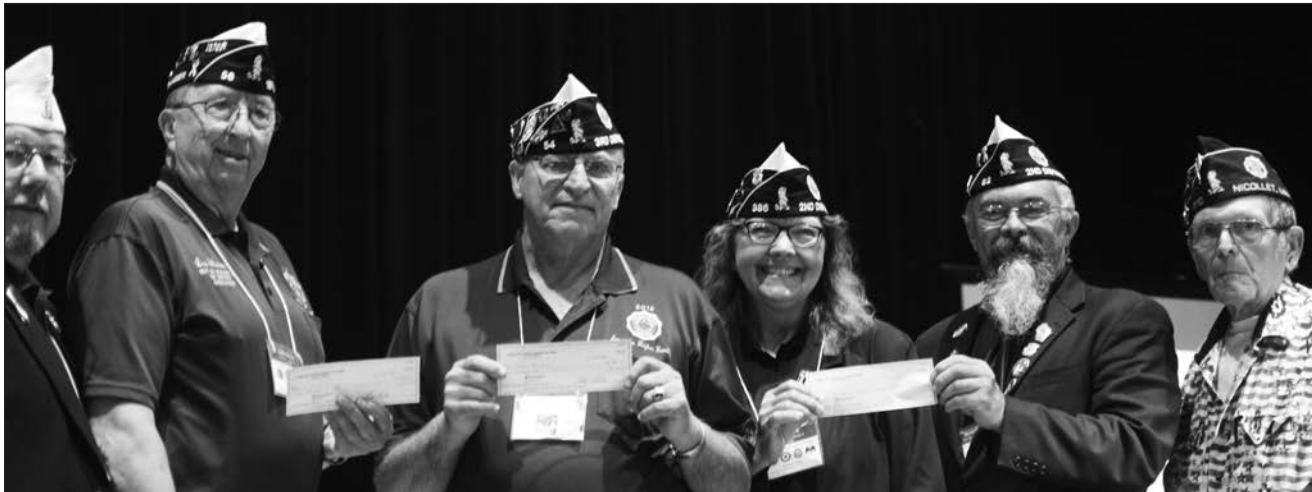
FINAL MEMBERSHIP AWARDS -- Membership Director Larry Ryan gave out the final certificates for awards won during the year by the Membership Team. From left: Vice Commander Bill Stump; Commander Mike Schaffer, Third District Commander Gene Leifeld, Checkered Flag Award; Eighth District representative Jennifer Havlick, Pole Position Award; Sixth District Commander Ken Johnstone, Lap Leader Fall Rally, Lap Leader Pearl Harbor Rally, Lap Leader Sweetheart Rally, Lap Leader Appreciation Rally, Premier Race Winner; Second District Commander Randy Olson, Kaisersatt Derby Winner; Fifth District Commander Walt Lindsley, New Member Award; Ryan.



GOOSE EGG AWARDS -- The Districts that got off the Goose Egg were presented certificates. From left: Commander Mike Schaffer, Third District Commander Gene Leifeld, First District Commander Les Shaunce, Sixth District Commander Ken Johnstone, Fifth District Commander Walt Lindsley, Fourth District Commander Lane Stunkel.



SECOND PLACE COLOR GUARD -- District Commander Gene Leifeld accepted the trophy for second place color guard for Silver Lake Post 141. From left: Vice Commander Bill Stump, Leifeld, Parade Coordinator Dave Bode.



PARADE DISTRICT WINNERS -- The District winners in the annual convention parade received checks. From left: Vice Commander Bill Stump; First District Commander Les Shaunce, second place; Third District Commander Gene Leifeld, third place; Second District Commanders Cindy Brunk and Randy Olson, first place; Parade Coordinator Dave Bode.



TOP COLOR GUARD -- Waite Park Post 428 again won the top color guard award and will be this year's official state color guard. From left: Vice Commander Bill Stump; Veronica Fernlund, Tom Fernlund, Wes Thompson, Ken Johnstone, Bob Mace, Parade Coordinator Dave Bode.



LEGACY RUN REPORT -- Steve Sullivan gave a report on the Riders 2018 Legacy Runs in Minnesota. The Minnesota Legion Riders are aiming at collecting a quarter million dollars for the Legacy Scholarship.

Minnesota hosts 100th convention

Continued from Page 1

◆ The National Commander's Banquet will be Tuesday in Hall E at 6:30 p.m. There are no tickets available at this time.

An exhibition hall will be open from Friday through Tuesday at the Convention Center. Minnesota will have a "Minnesota Nice" booth where Minnesota items can be purchased including a special SPAM can, made just for the convention.

Those who would like to volunteer to work at the booth should can contact Jim Kellogg at jamesckg@gmail.com.

There will also be a Legion Family night with the Twins on Saturday, Aug. 25, at 6:10 a.m. National Commander Denise Rohan of Wisconsin will throw out the first pitch. To order tickets, call 1-800-33-TWINS and hit "0" to get an attendant. Please reference the Legion promotion.

And there will be a night with the Vikings. The pre-season game will be Friday, Aug. 24, at 7 p.m. at U.S. Bank Stadium with tickets at \$20. Tickets are through Ticketmaster, promo code: LEGION.

After parade on Sunday, there will be a post parade party at the Convention Center, Ballroom B, Level One.

It will feature Minnesota's own Ninth District Band. It will be co-sponsored by Resource One and will also feature the American Bombshells.

Minnesota delegates will be staying at the Hyatt Regency, but all rooms are booked.

Minnesota volunteers will be handling many of the chores around the convention, including stuffing the gift bags and staffing the distinguished guests lounge.

Parade Information

Sunday August 26 2018 Starts at 4:00 PM

The National convention parade will start at Fifth St. S. and proceed south on the Nicollet Mall to 13th Street S. At the disbanding area, marchers will take a left and proceed to the Minneapolis Convention Center while vehicles will continue down Nicollet Mall.

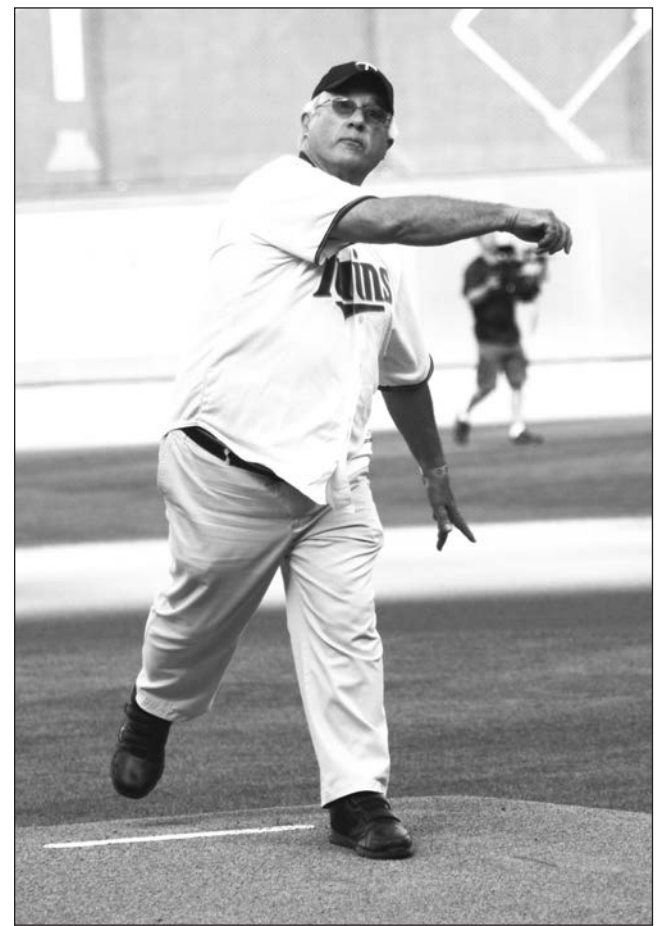
Directions for buses bringing marchers and bands to the parade, drive North on Hennepin Ave. and take a right into the North terminal parking lot (The Staging Area) just before Washington Ave. Unload and exit onto Washington Ave. Proceed to 3rd Ave. S. and take a right and proceed to 16th Street E, take a right and proceed into the bus area behind the Convention Center.

For the Department of Minnesota, we are in Division 6 and do not stage till 5:45 pm. DO NOT show up early. Please adhere to the Parade Order of March assembly times.

There will be a parade department chairmen meeting on Saturday August 25 at 2:00 PM at the Minneapolis Convention Center Room 103, Sections D & F. There will be a Department of Minnesota parade committee meeting following that meeting. I would think about 3 - 3:30 pm.

For information about the Department of Minnesota unit in the parade call the Minnesota Department Parade Chairman Bill Stump Jr. at 612-201-5151. For information on other units in the parade, contact Bridget Robinson, Director National Convention & Meetings at 317-630-1292.

Tom Schottenbauer
National Parade Chairman



ON TARGET -- Department Commander Mike Schaffer delivers a perfect strike as he threw out the first pitch at the Legion Day at the Twins in July. More pictures in the September issue.

Taps

Hirmer, Robert C., 89, Army veteran of World War II, died June 24, 2018. He was a medical technician, and served in occupied Japan. He was active in The American Legion since 1948 and served as Marshall Post 113 Commander, Seventh District Commander in 1991-92, Department Vice Commander, 1994-95, and was currently serving as 7th District Judge Advocate. He also served on the Board of Publications and the LIT Committee.

Wigen, Orwill Jr., 74, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Monday, July 9, 2018. He was a cook who served in Minnesota. He was 7th District Commander from 2001-02. He was Seventh District Adjutant from 2001-2014. He was a Department Vice Commander from 2002-03. He was a past commander of Tracy Post 173.

Anderson, Erling, 91, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 27, 2018. He served at Fort Chaffey in Arkansas. He was a member of Clarkfield Post 559.

Borgen, David "Jerry," 89, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died July 7, 2018. He was a member of Red Wing Post 54.

Hoffbeck, Francis "Fritz," 95, Navy veteran of World War II, died July 3, 2018. He was a member of Milroy Legion Post 274.

McCarty, James H., 87, Air Force Reserve veteran of the Korean War, died July 5, 2018. He was a member of Mora Post 201.

Stoel, Jacob J., 89, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 30, 2018. He served in Virginia. He was a past commander for many years of Chandler Post 338.

Sloan, Norbert Jr., 84, Air Force veteran of the Korean and Vietnam Wars, died June 17. He served for 22 years, retiring as a master sergeant. He served in Japan and Europe. He was a member of West Duluth Post 71.

Whitcomb, Jerry L., 65, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 25, 2018. He served aboard the USS Mississinewa as a radioman. He served as a 10th District county vice commander. He was a member of Princeton Post 216.

Nichols, Dennis R., 70, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 10, 2018. He was a member of Hutchinson Post 96.

Stueve, Lowell Vernon, 79, Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 1, 2018. He was an aircraft mechanic. He was a member of Winona Post 9.

Muirray, Duane Maxime, 84, Marine veteran of the Korean War, died July 27, 2018. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 212.

Erbstoesser, Charles, 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 18, 2018. He was a member of Little Falls Post 46.

Engbretson, Conrad O., 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 15, 2018. He served in Alaska. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 212.

Schroeder, Roger C., 67, Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 20, 2018. He was a member of New Ulm Post 132.

Tvedt, A. Lowell, 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 1, 2018. He trained with the Sixth Armored

Division and served as a cook in Korea. He was a sergeant. He was a member of Kasson Post 333.

Howe, Bert H., 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 26, 2018. He was a member of Zimmerman Post 560.

Poole, Thomas Michael "Mike," 78, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 14, 2018. He served in the 82nd Airborne. He was a member of Hackensack Post 202.

Thompson, Thomas "Richard" R., 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 1, 2018. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Elseth, Harlin P., 91, Army veteran of World War II, died July 9, 2018. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Simons, Edwin Carl "Butch," 77, Army National Guard veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 19, 2018. He was a member of Chisholm Post 247.

Seeman, Donald F., 86, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 14, 2018. He was the commander of Arlington Post 250.

McManus, William, 80, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 13, 2018. He was a member of Pine City Post 51.

Fellegly, Ronald, 61, Army veteran Panama-Grenada war era, died June 4, 2018. He was a member of Bowlus Post 642.

Hendricks, Dewey A., 86, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 24, 2018. He was a member of Jackson Post 130.

Phillips, John C., 93, Army veteran of World War II, died June 26, 2018. He parachuted into Germany during Operation Varsity with the 17th Airborne Division. He was wounded and earned a Purple Heart. He was a member of Austin Post 91.

Cordes, Clifford, 94, Army veteran of World War II, died June 9, 2018. He was a longshoreman, and the ship he was working on was attacked by a Kamikaze plane in New Guinea. He was a member of New Ulm Post 132.

Grussing, Daniel, 90, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 26, 2018. He was a prisoner of war for two years. He was a member of Clara City Post 485.

Meyer, Raymond E., 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 24, 2018. He served in Germany. He was a member of Gaylord Post 433.

Nash, Michael Ray, 70, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 29, 2018. He was a member of Red Wing Post 54.

Cieminski, Nicholas Joseph, 78, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 20, 2018. He served in Germany. He was a member of Rush City Post 93.

Werness, Richard W., 66, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 24, 2018. He served 20 years in the National Guard and retired as a sergeant first class. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

Petersen, Guy George, 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 4, 2018. He was in the Army missile program. He was a member of Monticello Post 260.

Markling, Walter J., 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 18, 2018. He served in Japan working on telecommunications. He was a past commander and finance

officer for Monticello Post 260.

Murphy, Thomas, 72, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 29, 2018. He was a member of Caledonia Post 191.

Larson, James R., 70, Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 2, 2018. He earned a Purple Heart. He was a member of the Department Baseball Committee. He was a member of Minneapolis Hellenic Post 129.

Kiedrowski, James E., 89, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died June 21, 2018. He was part of the Berlin Airlift. He served in the 1500th A.T. Ground Maintenance Squadron. He was a past member of Bloomington Post 550, and a member of Apple Valley Post 1776.

Link, Richard, 83, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 26, 2018. He spent 16 months in Korea serving as a military policeman and a courier of classified information. He was a member of Breckinridge Post 53.

Broekhuis, Arthur, 91, Army veteran of World War II, died June 19, 2018. He served in Europe and fought in the Battle of the Bulge. He was a member of Edgerton Post 42.

Vorel, Bernard A., 82, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died July 2, 2018. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 212.

Henshaw, Richard Dean, 92, Army Air Corps and Air Force veteran of World War II and the Korean War, died July 5, 2018. He was a radio man in both wars. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 212.

Bollig, Jean, 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 7, 2018. He was a member of Gary Post 505.

Babinski, Francis H., 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 30, 2018. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

Hruby, Edward J., 97, Army veteran of World War II, died June 26, 2018. He was a past commander of Lonsdale Post 586.

Hron, James Benjamin, 92, Army veteran of World War II, died July 10, 2018. He served in Europe and was a military policeman in the 267th Infantry. He was a member of Chaska Post 57.

Tholen, Robert, 86, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died July 10, 2018. He served in Naval Air. He was a member of Marshall Post 113.

Tesch, Wilbur, 90, Army veteran of World War II, died July 25, 2018. He went to cook school. He was a member of Long Prairie Post 12.

Fluegel, Albert, 88, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died July 1, 2018. He was a member of Cambridge Post 290.

Correction

Moe, Darrell Ivan, 83, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 14, 2018. He served as a helicopter mechanic. He was a three-time past commander and finance officer for Viking Post 493.



The Auxiliary Bulletin

No. 18-1

President Jean Walker

August 2018

Secretary Sandie Deutsch

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

The President's Column

By Jean Walker



First off, I will be the first to admit that I am not a good article writer. So here it goes. This past year just flew by and here we are at our 99th Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary Convention. President Donna did a fantastic job and I commend her for it. The fireworks were great and being installed on Saturday by my good friend Karen was so special.

The Installation went so fast. I would again like to thank the 9th District for their support and all of the members of the Department of Minnesota. I would not be holding this office without your support. The Past Presidents have left some big shoes to follow. They are my mentors. I have all of your numbers on speed dial. Especially the ones on the advisory committee.

My theme this year is "Veterans Are Our Stars." My symbol is the Star. This year I am going to focus on: Who We Are, What We Do and Why We Matter.

We matter because our Veterans matter. We want to be around for a long time to continue to support our Veterans, their families, and our communities.

My Department Project: Collecting \$25,000 to create Patriot's Park at the Minnesota Veterans Home, Fergus Falls. It will have benches, bushes and vines growing over the pergolas, a dock, and a monument with matching granite benches.

The monument will have three soldiers and the motto: "No One Left Behind" with the emblems of all the branches of service. The reason for the short dock is for maintenance of the pond, plus the recreational staff plan to do remote control boat races with the Veterans. A place for our Veterans to go with their families or friends.

Any additional funds will be split between the other four Veterans Homes: Hastings, Minneapolis, Luverne and Silver Bay for their Recreational Fund.

So far this year, I had the honor to ride in the Hopkins Raspberry Festival Parade along with the Honorary Junior President Harley Donnelly. It was a great day and it was so nice to see the entire American Legion Family in the parade.

I am so looking forward to working with the members of The American Legion Family to promote Who We Are, What We Do and Why We Matter.

God Bless America, our Military, their Families and all of you.

Walker elected Department President for 2018-19

On Saturday, July 21, we closed another chapter of the American Legion Auxiliary and "Lighting Veterans Paths" under the inspirational direction of President Donna Arends. The annual Department Convention was held at the Kahler Grand Hotel in Rochester, hosted by The American Legion Post and Unit 92 of Rochester and approximately 215 Delegates, Alternates and Guests representing 101 Units hearing the various reports and conducting the business of the Auxiliary over the three days of the convention.

Our special congratulations to newly elected Department President Jean Walker, Department First Vice President Mary Hendrickson, Department Second Vice President Patti Coleman and National Executive Committeewoman Raleen Tolzmann who assumed their duties at the close of the Department Convention. Walker went on to appoint Alternate NEC Karen Thygeson to a one year term to replace newly elected NEC Raleen Tolzmann.

President Walker has chosen "Veterans Are Our Stars" as her theme for the 2018-2019 Auxiliary year. Her symbol is a Star. The ratification and election of 27 delegates and 27 alternates to the 2018 National Convention in Minneapolis brought the business portion of the convention to a close.

Donna Arends will serve as our Delegation Chairman, Sandie Deutsch will serve as our Delegation Secretary and Shirley Frederick will be representing us as our National Executive Committeewoman.

Our appreciation and congratulations are given to Donna for her dedicated service as Department President this Auxiliary year. She travelled to all areas of the state and did her best to honor all of her invitations. Donna represented our organization with grace and dedication and I can't thank her enough.

SPECIAL THANKS

Our special thanks to Evelyn Lyke and Shirley Oberle, Auxiliary Convention General Chairman and Co-Chairman and all of the members of the Rochester and 1st District American Legion Family who helped make this a successful convention. Their many hours of planning were reflected in the smooth operation of our 99th annual convention.

AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

At the Department Convention President Donna was most pleased to present her special "Presidents Awards of Excellence" to those Unit members in each of the following programs. These awards were based on the Unit's annual report and the activities it carried on under the program. Each recipient was given a gift from President Donna.

- The recipients were:
- Americanism – Rosie Court, St. Joseph Unit 328, District 6
 - AEF – Diane Lechner, Park Rapids Unit 212, District 6
 - Children and Youth – Bonnie Dupre, Hackensack Unit 202, District 6
 - Community Service – Debra Bigelow/Cheryl Nymann, Plainview Unit 179, District 1
 - Constitution/Standing Rules – Lesley Christoffer, Okabena Unit 608, District 2
 - Education – Tammy Eggerglass, Mound Unit 398, District 10
 - History – Nancy Stanton, Mahtomedi Unit 507, District 3
 - Junior Activities – Michelle Towey, Hayfield Unit 330, District 1
 - Leadership – Shirley Frederick, Hackensack Unit 202, District 6
 - Legislation – Janice Evans, Elysian Unit 311, District 3
 - Memorial – Mary Jane Haukom, Hayfield Unit 330, District 1
 - National Security – Doris Kampsen, Spicer Unit 545, District 7
 - Past Presidents Parley – Karen Orr, Anoka Unit 102, District 10
 - Poppy – Cathy Rossing, Madelia Unit 19, District 2
 - Public Relations – Cheryl Fredenburg, Bemidji Unit 14, District 6

- Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation – Barb VanEyll, Chaska Unit 57, District 3
- Service to Veterans – Shirley Frederick, Hackensack Unit 202, District 6

DEPARTMENT APPOINTMENTS

The following Department President Jean's appointments for the 2018-2019 Auxiliary year of "Veterans Are Our Stars" were approved by the Department Executive Committee:

- Americanism – Bethany Dickert
- Children and Youth – Sandy Wersal
- Community Service – Theresa Rudnicki
- Constitution and Standing Rules – Marsha Bible
- Education – Linda Kropuenske
- Finance – Carol Barbknecht, Chairman
Becky Nelson
Judy Ackerman
Cheryl Schauman
Jody Hassing

- Girls State – Mary Kuperus, Chairman
Peggy Tesdahl, Director
Amelia Tesdahl, Educational Director
Bethany Dickert, Americanism
Lesley Christoffer, Committee Member
Kelli Frederickson, Committee Member

- Junior Activities – Kristen Donnelly
- Leadership – Dee Dee Buckley
- Legislation – Mary Hendrickson
- Membership – Robin Dorf
- Memorial/Chaplain – Margee Keller
- National Security – Vicki Bibeau
- Parliamentarian – Carol Kottom
- Past Presidents Parley – Karen Thygeson
- Poppy – Shaaron Barnes
- Public Relations – Cheryl Nymann
- Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation – Patti Coleman
- Service to Veterans – Jean Pedersen

- Gift Shop – Linda Deschene, Chairman
Mary French, Committee Member

- Audit Committee – Lynn Spilman, Chairman, Suzette Maluchnik and Vida Bacon

- Special Appointments:
Auxiliary Emergency Fund – Teri Richardson
Armed Forces Center – Chris Ronning
Brain Science Foundation – Jill Mueller
Jessie Hoppe
Maureen Gustafson

- Hospital/Home Representatives
Fargo VA – Lynette Andel
Fergus Falls Veterans Home – Doris LaFayette
Hastings Veterans Home – Darlene Wondra
Luverne Veterans Home – Jeannette Mertens
Minneapolis Veterans Home – Sandy Gibson
Minneapolis VA – Mary Ann Davis
Silver Bay Veterans Home – Phyllis Mealey
Sioux Falls VA – Naomi Hill
St. Cloud VA – Jan Benson

LEGIONNAIRE AUXILIARY PAGES

Ladies, I am looking for your help this year. I would like to make our two pages, YOUR two pages. Please get me items you would like to share with other members. Please send your documents to me via email in the word version and any pictures send as jpeg attachments. It makes both my life and our Editor Al's life much easier. I would like to showcase what your Units are doing to promote President Jean's "Veterans Are Our Stars" this year.

AUXILIARY WEBSITE – mnala.org

You will all see a new look to our Department website. Many hours went into developing a new site and we hope

July 11, 2018, Auxiliary Membership

District	Goal	Membership To Date	Percent of Goal	Membership Last Year 7/7/17
One	5,000	4,447	88.94%	4,681
Two	4,924	4,334	88.02%	4,542
Three	4,411	3,999	90.43%	4,081
Four	720	692	96.11%	695
Five	824	654	79.55%	712
Six	6,042	5,510	91.19%	5,714
Seven	3,934	3,486	88.61%	3,602
Eight	1,628	1,440	88.45%	1,527
Nine	4,344	3,788	87.20%	4,021
Ten	5,159	4,425	85.77%	4,815
1982	160	157	98.13%	159
Totals	37,146	32,932	88.64%	34,549

Auxiliary Bulletin

Continued from Preceding Page

you use it. If there is anything you want posted, please be sure to contact the Department Office and we will get it on there. Anything you want on the calendar can be added as well.

2018 FALL CONFERENCE

Our annual Fall Conference will be held in Marshall, Minnesota, October 26 & 27, 2018. More detailed information will be in next month's Legionnaire and on our Department website.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS

Elections were held and appointments were ratified and following will be leading your Auxiliary for 2018/2019:

- Department President Jean Walker
- Department First Vice President Mary Hendrickson
- Department Second Vice President Patti Coleman
- National Executive Committeewoman (2 year term) Raleen Tolzmann
- Alternate NEC Karen Thygeson (1 year term)
- Department Secretary Sandie Deutsch
- Department Treasurer Jan Lauby
- Department Chaplain Margee Keller
- Department Historian Karla Otterness
- Department Parliamentarian Carol Kottom
- First District President Michelle Weaver, LaCrescent Unit 585
- Second District President Kristen Donnelly, Northrop Unit 522
- Third District President Lynn Duffy, St. Paul Park Unit 98
- Fourth District President Lynn Olson, Rosetown Unit 542
- Fifth District President Cari Lamb, Minneapolis Unit 1
- Sixth District President Sharon Thiemecke, Bemidji Unit 14
- Seventh District President Pam Gades, Morris Unit 29
- Eighth District President Zandra Kessler, Two Harbors Unit 109
- Ninth District President Lynn Carr, Thief River Falls Unit 117
- Tenth District President Sandra Locker, Fridley Unit 303

These ladies have been elected to serve you for the upcoming Auxiliary year - you put them in office, please do not hesitate to contact any of them with questions and/or concerns.

SECRETARY SANDIE'S NOTES

Just like a bad penny I'M back. I just keep showing up. So another Auxiliary year is in the books and I have bitter-sweet feelings. President Donna is now Past President Donna and I will miss working with her so - she has become such a wonderful friend to me. I only wish good things for her in the future. On a brighter side, I now get to work with President Jean. I remember way back when, I just started my job and Jean was the 9th District President. I remember her and I often looking at each other like deer in the headlights, having no idea of what was going on. We laugh now, she has "come a long way baby" and will be a wonderful leader. I would personally like to thank Evie and Shirley from Rochester for all the hard work they, and their committee members, did for the Department Convention. I don't know about The Legion side but ours couldn't have



NEW DEPARTMENT OFFICERS -- Front, left to right: Sandie Deutsch, Department Secretary, Mary Hendrickson, 1st Vice President, Jean Walker, President, Patti Coleman, 2nd Vice President and Jan Lauby, Department Treasurer. Back row: Michelle Weaver, 1st District President, Kristen Donnelly, 2nd District President, Lynn Duffy, 3rd District President, Lynn Olson, 4th District President, Cari Lamb, 5th District President, Sharon Thiemecke, 6th District President, Pam Gades, 7th District President, Zandra Kessler, 8th District President, Lynn Carr, 9th District President and Sandra Locker, 10th District President.

gone smoother. I just have to tell you, last night I went to my 45th class reunion and had a fabulous time. The old gang was all together, remembered what we did and what we did and shouldn't have done and why some of us are still alive. I remember back in the day seeing pictures of class reunions in our paper for 25 and 30 years and thinking to myself, my goodness - those people are OLD. Guess where that leaves me? I'm not ready to push daisies yet but 45 years since high school seems like a long time ago. Kudos to my classmates - it seems like many of them haven't aged a bit, or they just have good hairdressers. Until next month - enjoy the rest of your summer.

UPCOMING EVENTS THIS YEAR

August 3-5 - Junior Fun Weekend - Legionville

- August 11 - August Workshop - Department Executive Committee Meeting - Waite Park Post
- August 24-30 - National Convention - Minneapolis, Minnesota
- September 4 - Labor Day - Department Office Closed
- September 8 - Harvest Rally - Membership - Legionville
- October 8-9 - Mission Training & National Junior Meetings - Sioux Falls, SD (please go to www.alforveterans.org for more locations and dates)

SPECIAL THANKS

Mary Ann Davis, who is our Hospital/Home Representative at the Minneapolis VAHCS would like to thank everyone for the donations you left for her in Rochester. She collected over 300 bottles of assorted toiletries for our Veterans. She truly appreciates it and hopes you keep collecting them. You can bring them to Fall Conference in Willmar and we will make sure she gets them.



CIVIC HONOR -- The League of Minnesota Cities honored The American Legion and Auxiliary for developing tomorrow's leaders through Boys State and Girls State

Thank you!

To the Minnesota Posts that contributed to and in honor of the 100th National Convention!

<p>Posts of Distinction (\$5,000 and up)</p> <p>Bayport Post 491 Merton-Dale Post 80 North St. Paul Post 39 Rudolph Priebe Post 172</p> <p>Posts of Patriotism (\$1,000 to \$2,499)</p> <p>Austin Post 91 Chatfield Post 197 Cloquet Post 262 East Grand Forks Post 157 Ecklund-Holmstrom Post 117 Everett H. Hale Post 68 Fairmont Post 36 Frank Lundberg Post 282 Ham Lake Post 2000 Hamline Post 418 Hinkley Post 388 John Bridges Post 15 Marshall Post 113 Minneapolis Post 1 Nelsan-Horton Post 104 North Branch Post 85 Pine Island Post 184 Princeton Post 216 Robbinsdale Post 251 St Michael Post 567</p> <p>Supporting Posts (Below \$1,000)</p> <p>Aitkin Post 86 Albany Post 482 Alvarado Post 35 Anoka Post 102 Argyle Post 353 Arlington Post 250 Audubon Post 339 Aviation Post 511 Backus Post 368 Bagley Post 16 Beatty-Humphries Post 323</p>	<p>Becker Post 193 Belle Plaine Post 144 Bellingham Post 441 Big Lake Post 147 Bigelow Post 496 Billie Brown Post 627 Blooming Prairie Post 052 Blue Earth Post 89 Boyd Post 198 Bruno Post 563 Buffalo Post 270 Caledonia Post 191 Cass Lake Post 2001 Ceylon Post 529 Clinton Post 258 Charles Borak Post 45 Cold Spring 455 Coon Rapids Post 334 Currie Post 322 Dan Patch Post 643 Deer Creek 283 Dovin-Wilcox Post 313 Dundee Post 386 Eagan Post 594 Eden Valley Post 381 Effie Post 182 Elk River Post 112 Elysian Post 311 Eugene Earley Post 121 Falldin Post 555 Flensburg Post 136 Forest Lake Post 225 Foster-Bernhardt Post 373 Franklin Post 308 Glencoe Post 95 Glenville Post 264 Gonvick Post 304 Good Thunder Post 616 Gopher Post 440 Graceville Post 297 Grand Meadow Post 140 Gust F. Holden Post 253</p>	<p>Hackensack Post 202 Hardwick Post 478 Harris Post 139 Hastings Post 47 Hawley Post 382 Hills Post 399 Hopkins Post 320 Hugo Post 620 Hutchinson Post 96 Ironton Post 443 Janesville Post 281 Jeffers 401 Joseph A. Gates Post 78 Kaleb E. Lindquist Post 24 Karlstad Post 445 Kellogg Post 546 Kerkhoven Post 223 Kramer Berg Post 507 Lake Crystal Post 294 LaCrescent Post 595 Lamberton Post 41 Le Center Post 108 Lee Goldsmith Post 201 Lee-Osborn Post 59 Lester Prairie Post 463 Lewiston Post 90 Lino Lakes Post 566 Lismore Post 636 Lonsdale Post 586 Madison Lake Post 269 Mc Veigh-Dunn Post 60 Melvin Daskam Post 38 Middle River Post 444 Monticello Post 260 Mountain Lake Post 389 New Germany Post 601 New Ulm Post 132 Nicollet Post 510 Northrop Post 522 Northside Post 230 Norwood Young Post 343 Okabena Post 608</p>	<p>Ostrander Post 544 Peter Leuze Post 420 Porter Post 457 Prior Lake Post 447 Prudent Van Risseghem 395 Public Safety Post 449 Richard Howard Ferrell 46 Richmond Post 292 Rosetown Memorial Post 542 Rush City Post 93 Russell Post 460 Sherburn Post 356 Sioux Valley Post 614 Silver Star Post 428 Sleepy Eye Post 7 Spicer Post 545 Springfield Post 257 St Cloud Post 76 St James Post 33 St Joseph Post 328 St. Paul Post 8 St Stephen Post 221 Stewartville Post 164 Storden Post 391 Taconite Post 301 Truman Blakesley Post 432 Tyler Post 150 U of M Post 548 Underwood Post 489 Waconia Post 150 Waldorf Post 587 West Duluth Post 71 White Bear Lake Post 168 Wm. T. Lewis Post 12 Wold-Chamberlain Post 99 Woodbury Post 501 Worthington Post 5 Zimmerman Post 560</p>
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October 22-29, 2018

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

\$1,499.00 per person double occupancy

New York City

November 7-11, 2018

Tour Includes:

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

\$2,599.00 Per Person Double Occupancy

Panama Canal

February 28- March 17, 2019

Tour Includes:

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

\$5,779.00 Balcony

Hawaiian Islands Cruise

January 28- February 10, 2019

Tour Includes:

- 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Larry Alvey
- Roundtrip airfare from Minneapolis to Honolulu, Hawaii
- Overnight at Minneapolis Airport Hotel
- 4 nights at the Aston Waikiki Beach Hotel
- Breakfast daily at the hotel
- City Tour of Honolulu and Pearl Harbor
- Circle Island Tour of Oahu
- Lei Greeting upon arrival in Honolulu
- Transfer between hotel, airport & pier
- 8 day cruise aboard the PRIDE OF AMERICA
- All meals and entertainment aboard the ship plus onboard ship gratuities
- Luggage handling for one suitcase per person

\$5,399.00 per person double occupancy

Holiday Branson 2

November 7-11, 2018

Tour Includes:

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

\$799.00 per person double occupancy

Monuments of Washington D.C.

May 17-21, 2019

Tour Includes:

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

\$1,499.00 Per Person Double Occupancy

Northern Rocky Mountains

September 5-17, 2018

Tour Includes:

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

\$2,159.00 per person double occupancy

A Tennessee Christmas

December 1-10, 2018

Tour Includes:

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

\$1,849.00 per person double occupancy



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