



Dvorak elected Department Commander for 2019-20

Mark Dvorak of Le Center, a member of the New Prague Post 45, was elected Department Commander at the 2019 convention held in Willmar.

He defeated Gary Olson of Moorhead.



SY FIX
Membership Director

Dvorak is an Air Force veteran, and a career non-commissioned officer in the Air National Guard, retiring in 1995.

He later was a senior accountant with United Health Group. He has a bachelor's degree in accounting from Minnesota State University at Mankato, and he is a graduate of the American Legion College.

He has served the Department as Membership Director and Sergeant-at-Arms. He was District Three commander in 2013-14 and served as district adjutant numerous times. At National, he has served on the Americanism Council.

Dvorak's wife, Linda,

was elected Third District Commander for the coming year, one of the rare instances of two commanders in one family. The last time it happened was when Peggy Moon was Department Commander and Carl Moon was Sixth District Commander.

Mark and Linda have six children, thirteen grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

"It will be an honor and a privilege to serve as Department Commander," he told the convention. "No matter what, we move forward together."

His theme for the year will be "For Love of Country," and he will announce his project for the year at the August Department Executive Committee meeting.

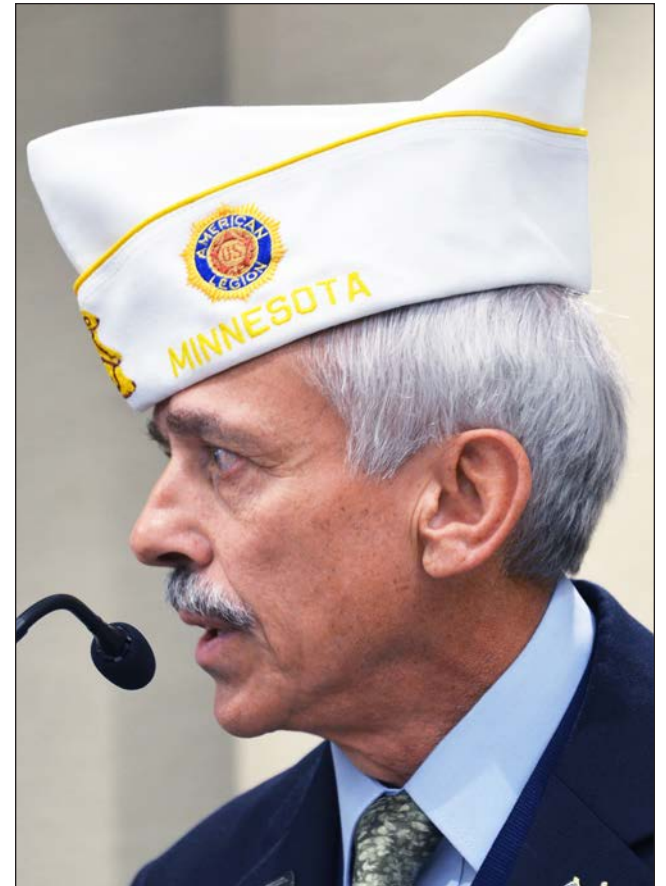
Dvorak named Sy Fix of Brownsville as his membership director. At present, Fix is the chair of the Oratorical Contest.

Fix said he will continue with the program of last year under Mike Maxa, emphasizing the 3 R's: Recruit, Renew, Retain. Fix said he will also add the Three C's: Communicate, communicate, communicate.

In other elections, none of them contested, Bill Barbknecht of Battle Lake will be the new National Executive Committee member, replacing Marland Ronning who held the post for the last four years.

Peggy Moon of Walker was elected to replace Barbknecht as Alternate National Executive

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NEW COMMANDER — Moments after being elected Department Commander, Mark Dvorak addressed the state convention at Willmar.

100th Birthday Nat'l Convention slated for Indianapolis

Last year the American Legion Family descended on Minneapolis for the 100th national convention.

This year, Indianapolis will keep the celebration going by hosting the 100th birthday convention.

The convention activities in Indy will begin the weekend of Aug. 23, and the annual parade, perhaps the last national parade will be held Sunday, Aug. 25

The actual convention will begin Tuesday, Aug. 27, and end on Thursday with the election of Bill Oxford of North Carolina as commander.

Minnesota's delegation will be staying at the JW

Marriott.

There will be a Minnesota caucus at the Marriott from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday, Aug. 26 in Ballroom 2-3.

Registration packets can be picked up on Friday, Aug. 23, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. in Room 312 at the Marriott, and on Saturday from 8 a.m. until noon. If a delegate cannot pick up their packet, they should arrange for another delegate to pick it for them.

There will be no Minnesota Party this year

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Seven resolutions pass convention

A motion to create a Legion College for the Department of Minnesota ran into a flurry of debate on the convention floor during the Department Convention at Willmar.

The motion was one of seven that were passed by the delegates to the 101st state convention.

The establishment of the Department college, similar to the Legion College at the national level, seemed to have overwhelming support, but the language in the resolution was called into question.

Part of the resolution said "to include administration, finance committee, instructor cadre and curriculum."

Some at the convention wondered if that meant there would be a separate committee set up to run the college, and others wondered where the money would come from.

A delegate from the 4th District wondered, "Will this be an open book on money. Will it be an open

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Adjutant gives frank talk on his future

By Al Zdon

Department Adjutant Randy Tesdahl took time during the Department Executive Committee meeting at the state convention in Willmar to give a frank report on his health and its future implications.

Tesdahl told the DEC that he has been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease.

He said the diagnosis was a blessing in one sense in that he now knows the cause of his physical problems, and so he can receive the proper treatment.

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RANDY TESDAHL
Department Adjutant



LEADING THE WAY — Legionnaires march down 2nd Avenue in downtown Minneapolis leading the Aquatennial Torchlight Parade.

Henry B. Melrose hospice program has extra for veterans living their last days

In 2016, Kendrick Melrose wanted to honor his father, three-war veteran Henry B. Melrose with a gift that would help veterans.

Henry B. Melrose served in World War I, and then re-enlisted as a Marine Corps captain and served in both World War II and the Korean war before retiring as a Lt. Colonel in 1955.

Kendrick, his son, had a remarkable business career, serving as the chairman and CEO of Toro.

His million dollar gift to honor his dad was the creation of the Henry B. Melrose Veterans Honor Program at the Park-Nicollet/Health Partners to support veterans in the last days of their lives.

The hospice program is open to all veterans in the Twin Cities metro area and, at the present time, serves over 700 veterans.

"We honor veterans by providing the best hospice care we can," said Beth Werner, senior manager of hospice and palliative care for Health Partners, the parent organization of Park-Nicollet.

Megan Gibbs, a social worker in the program, said veterans have unique experiences and needs. "We have to be sensitive to veterans needs. We need to be respectful. The first thing we do is say, 'Hello, tell us about yourself.'"

Werner said part of the process is to review the veteran's life, but being aware that some memories can trigger PTSD. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder makes veterans different, and Gibbs said that delirium at the end of life can often be about military experiences.

Gibbs said one of the first things the staff will try to do is establish whether the veteran is receiving VA care, or to get them enrolled in the VA if the veteran is eligible. The VA has hospice benefits the veteran or their family might need.

A problem is establishing the VA connection quickly. "Sometimes it can take months, and we don't have months."

Nancy Gelle, the manager of hospice care for Park-Nicollet, said the Melrose fund allows the staff to do extra things for veterans. It often covers a gap in benefits for veterans.

Some of the ways veterans can benefit is to get medical

transportation paid for, or special equipment they may need. At home hospice care can often cost \$500 a day, and the Melrose fund can help. "Being at home in the final days with family can be very important," Gibbs said.

Hearing devices and even razors and other minor items can help. For some families, keeping the veteran's power and water turned on at home is critical.

Werner noted that many in the final stages of life lose a great deal of weight. "We have purchased new clothing for the veteran. It's part of the respect and dignity they deserve."

She remembered one case where a veteran had worn out his CD player listening to Hank Williams, and the program got him another one.

Gibbs said aromatherapy, weighted blankets and staff training are also some things the fund pays for.

An event that is open to all veterans in the program is called the Gratitude Ceremony. The veteran receives a pin and a plaque thanking them for their service. It can be a very private ceremony with only a few people, or it can be a major event with patriotic music, a chaplain, wearing of the uniform, food and extended family participating.

Gelle said that Park-Nicollet has a music therapist, and she recalls how one veteran who was near death and not responding, was tapping his foot to the music.

Gelle said the service that can be provided through the Melrose program is unique. "We don't think there's anything like it in the country."

"What it boils down to is what people need at this time of their life, they need it now. It's a great gift to see what we can do."

The program started with the gift from the Melrose family, and has been supported in the last three years by donations from families who have had a loved one benefit from the program.

Gelle said the program is always looking for volunteers, veterans who can talk to veterans about common experiences.

If anyone has questions, or would like to enroll a veteran in the program, they should contact Park-Nicollet at 952-993-6087, or Health Partners at 952-883-6877.

Legion Act passes; Cold War veterans are welcome to join

The head of the nation's largest veterans organization, welcomed the passage by the House of Representatives of a bipartisan act which will recognize veterans who served during periods not previously considered "wartime."

The Let Everyone Get Involved In Opportunities for National Service Act (LEGION Act) opens the door for hundreds of thousands of veterans to access American Legion programs and benefits for which they previously had not been eligible.

As a congressionally-chartered organization, the legislation was required for The American Legion to change its eligibility criteria.

"Today's passage of the LEGION Act is a victory for veterans who until now have not had their service to our nation fully recognized," American Legion National Commander Brett Reistad said. "These veterans and their family members can now enjoy all the benefits of their service which they so richly deserve."

The gaps in the war eras were largely during the Cold War, a time when threats to U.S. national security was real, especially to the men and women serving in uniform.

Overall, estimates show that about 1,600 U.S. servicemembers were killed or wounded in hostile operations during periods that were not previously recognized as times of war by the federal government.

On Feb. 14, Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz., introduced the LEGION Act, along with Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C. It passed the Senate by unanimous consent on June 11. Reps. Lou Correa, D-Calif., and Ben Cline, R-Va., introduced the House version.

Reistad evoked the memories of The American Legion's founders who launched the organization 100 years ago this year.

"As we celebrate our centennial anniversary, we hold to the same truths that our founders appropriately crafted a century ago," Reistad said.

"Among those: a veteran is a veteran. It does not matter whether a veteran fought enemies on foreign soil, protected our interests in an ocean far away or secured our national defense here at home. Their service is what matters most. Now, thanks to this legislation, all veterans will be properly remembered for their service."

With a current membership of nearly two million wartime veterans, The American Legion was founded in 1919 on the four pillars of a strong national security, veterans affairs, patriotic youth programs and Americanism.

Legionnaires work for the betterment of their communities through nearly 13,000 posts worldwide.

From the drafting of the original GI Bill to the creation of the Department of Veterans Affairs, The American Legion is the most influential voice for America's veterans.

The American Legion, www.legion.org, will be celebrating its centennial through Veterans Day.

Broadening the membership criteria has been proposed at Legion national conventions for years, but it has only been recently that the Legion sought permission from Congress to do so. All veterans who served after Dec. 7, 1941, are now eligible for membership.

Fall Conference slated for Mahanomen

2019 Fall Conference Official Registration

Mail to:

Dennis J Henkemeyer

PO Box L

Bagley MN 56621

Preregistration Sliding Fee:

Registration received by 01 Oct **\$15.00**

Registration received after 01 Oct **\$18.00**

Registration at the door **\$20.00**

Registration is for each person attending except for Junior SAL and Junior Auxiliary members. Please copy and send a separate form for each person attending. Please make checks payable to:

Bagley American Legion Post 16

Conference Dates:

25 – 26 October 2019

Headquarters Hotel:

Shooting Star Hotel

777 SE Casino Road

Mahanomen MN

1-800-453-STAR

Contact the hotel directly to make your reservations

District	Post	Unit	Squadron
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Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ zip _____

Email Address _____

Cell Phone _____

The 2019 Fall Conference will be held at Shooting Star Casino in Mahanomen from Oct. 24-26.

Participants should make their own hotel reservations and should ask for Block 6536 to get the Legion rate of \$95 per night.

The Fall Conference is the Legion Family's annual school of instruction.

Please see the registration form to the left.

National Convention

Continued from Page 1

However, there will be a post parade party. The parade will be held Sunday at 4 p.m., and the party will follow immediately at the Marriott. Two kegs of beer will be available, and doors will not open until the marchers arrive.

Indianapolis will also host a post-parade party from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the American Legion Mall. There will be a beer garden, food, soft drinks and a band.

Parking at the hotel is \$44 a night, but additional parking has been arranged at American Legion Posts 64 and 500. There will be shuttle service.

The ANAVICUS Breakfast will be Sunday morning at 7 a.m.

There will be tours available, and the Legion will have special prices on an Indianapolis Colts game on Saturday night.



Veterans Linkage Line™
minnesotaveteran.org | **1-888-LinkVet**
 (546-5838)

Help for veterans and families



GOING OUT WITH A BANG — Robbinsdale Westphal Post 251 has decided to close its post home, once one of the most active in the state. The post decided to go out in style with a day-long party that featured, among other bands, the Del Counts (above). In the evening, the post officials had a ceremony to retire the flag and the post home.

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Number of copies	Amount enclosed
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War Stories III _____	
All books are \$29 each including shipping.	

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COMMANDER'S COLUMN

By Mark Dvorak



Congratulations to the following individuals: Mary Hendrickson, Department Auxiliary President; Dave Vulcan, Detachment Commander Sons of the American Legion; Bill Barbknecht, National Executive Man; Peggy Moon, Alternate NEC; Paul Hassing, Minnesota American Legion Riders Director; all the individuals that have accepted committee appointments, and the 10 District Commanders and supporting Officers. We represent the American Legion Family to help make a difference at our Post level through our MESSAGING and MENTORING!

Editorial

Flag abuse

We looked out the window today and we were surprised to see the flag flying at the top of the flag pole.

It seems there are few days when the flag is not at half-mast.

Under the Dayton Administration, we got used to the flag being lowered again and again and again to honor this or that. We were hoping that under the new, enlightened Walz Administration, the practice of over-using the symbol of flying the flag at half-staff would be curtailed.

But we were wrong. In fact, it seems like the new governor is hell bent on breaking every flag lowering record that Dayton established.

Don't get us wrong. There are times to lower the flag. There are times when this honor is necessary and appropriate.

But let's look back at a couple of the flag lowerings in Minnesota in recent weeks. One was for Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens. Hey, we're sure Justice Stevens was a great guy who served his nation well. In the post mortems, the writers say that he made some good decisions and the made some bad ones. He did his best. But do the people of Minnesota need to lower all the U.S. and Minnesota flags because he died?

Or let's take the case of Rep. John Dingall from Michigan. Is his passing of such momentous impact upon us Minnesotans that we need to lower the flag? How many people have even heard of Rep. Dingall?

We suppose that lowering the flag is a tricky business, but Gov. Walz seems to be erring on the side that says we'll

Thank you to Darrel Redepenning and his Leadership Team for a successful year! Your new Department Membership Director is Sy Fix, let's all do what we can to support his plan through communication to make a difference in membership. Thanks Sy, for accepting this very important position!

As I mentioned throughout the past year of traveling around the state, MESSAGING will be my emphasis. We do so many wonderful things in our communities that we take for granted. Let's all make a concerted effort to share what we do to help make our communities, state and nation a better place to live. Committee appointments will be announced at the first Department Executive Committee Meeting on Saturday, August 3rd in Osseo. Several of the committees will be helping with timely messaging to assist the Districts and Posts. More information to follow!

I will announce my project at the DEC meeting on August 3rd. My theme will be 'For Love of Country'. As a Legion Family member, we support the founding principles of our country. Through the American Legions '4 Pillars' we carry on our countries legacy. As we begin our 101st year of making a difference, lets all take a moment to praise our successes and remind ourselves that our mission continues!! Thank you all for your support, I am honored and humbled to be your Department Commander.

For God and Country.

lower it for just about anything.

Better to lower the flag than to offend some political or other group. After all, what's the big deal?

Well, here's the big deal, and we'll say it as plainly as we can:

If you over-use this symbolic gesture, it tends to lose all its meaning. It loses its impact. It loses the power of calling attention to something really important. It becomes trivial.

We can imagine a Minnesotan walking down the street and noting that the flag was at half-mast. "Oh," he says, "Another congressman from Michigan must have died."

A source on the rights of governors to lower the flag says this: "Governors of U.S. states and territories are authorized by federal law to order all U.S. and state flags in their jurisdiction flown at half-staff as a mark of respect for a former or current state official who has died, or for a member of the armed forces who has died in active duty. The governor's authority to issue the order is more restricted than the president's, and does not include discretion to issue the order for state residents who do not meet the criteria stated."

How about congressmen from Michigan?

We would suggest to the governor or the Legislature that a clearly-stated set of guidelines be established as to who or what will be honored by this solemn act. The goal of these guidelines will be to severely cut back on the lowering of the flag.

The process is out of whack and needs to be fixed.

If the flag is lowered to half-mast a few times a year, it has meaning. If it is lowered several times a week, the symbolic act loses its ability to center our attention on a truly significant loss to our state or nation.

one and all.

We made a great statement; The American Legion is alive and well in the State of Minnesota. They want us back in 2020, so stay tuned for next summer's "The Party is On!"

Dick Ward
Fifth District



Peggy and Carl Moon wave to the thousands lining Second Avenue South in Minneapolis during the Aquatennial Torchlight Parade. The Legion led the parade and had massed flags, dignitaries in shiny new trucks, and Legion Riders.

Chaplain's Corner

By Betty Jass



Wow. What a wonderful and exciting time during the Minnesota Department Convention this last month. Congratulations to our new Commander Mark Dvorak and all our other new officers for 2019-2020. We have so many layers to the American Legion working for just one thing: taking care of our veteran families. One goal, many ideas to achieve our goal resulting in unity.

So, what is unity? The Free Dictionary defines unity as:

1. The state or quality of being one or united into a whole: "The Founding Fathers had abhorred the concept of parties, fearing that they would undermine the unity of the nation through factionalism" (Julian E. Zelizer).

2. The state or quality of being in accord; harmony: (The judges ruled in unity on the matter.)

3. The state or quality of being unified in an aesthetic whole, as in a work of literature: the novel's thematic unity.

4. A whole that is a combination of parts: a group of ideas that taken together constitute a unity.

We can also see these attributes of unity in our daily lives like a high school basketball team working together so that they can win the big game. They practice, practice and practice to hone their skills and coordination on the team. As such, each of our faiths' good principles enable us to become better people throughout our lives.

Unity is strength:

Once upon a time, there was a flock of ducks that flew in search of food led by their leader. One day, they had flown a long distance and were very tired. The Leader encouraged them to fly a little further. The smallest duck picked up speed and found some wheat scattered beneath an old oak tree and all the ducks landed and began to eat. Suddenly a net fell over them and they were all trapped. They saw a hunter approaching carrying a huge club. The ducks desperately fluttered their wings trying to get out, but to no avail. The Leader had an idea. He advised all the ducks to fly up together carrying the net with them. He said that there was strength in unity.

Each duck picked up a portion of the net and they flew off carrying the net. The hunter looked up in astonishment. He tried to follow, but they were flying too high. They flew to a place where a friendly mouse lived who could help them. Even though the mouse knew the Leader he had to call his friends to help the flock get out of the net. The Leader insisted that he first free his flock and the Leader last. They began to cut the net and one by one all the ducks were freed including the Leader. They all thanked the mice and flew away together, united in their strength.

Legionnaire wins award

The National American Legion Press Association has chosen an editorial in the *Minnesota Legionnaire* as the best editorial in a Legion publication this past year. "Relevancy in Changing Times" appeared in the February issue, and was in response to a story about The American Legion in the *New York Times*. The presentation will be made at the national convention in Indianapolis.

The Minnesota Legionnaire

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Al Zdon, Editor

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Mail Call

Torchlight Parade

To the Editor:

The headline was: "The party is on." The Department of Minnesota participated in this year's Minneapolis Aquatennial Torchlight Parade. We had a great turnout and participation by many Legion Family members. Thank you to all who joined us on that perfect summer evening in downtown Minneapolis.

Special thanks goes out to Lupient Chevrolet, Bloomington, for providing new Chevrolet Silverados enabling our officers to ride in comfort – Thanks! Many thanks to our safe drivers too; Jim Munson, Dennis DeLong, Woody Anderson, John Weiss, Andrew Rose, and Joe Bayer. Eugene Nichols was the man behind the scene providing direction and support. So many others lent support and provided donations to cover all costs – Thank you

Thank you

We would like to thank the entire American Legion Family for all your prayers, thoughts, visits, phone calls and cards while I underwent kidney transplant surgery. It has been a few rough weeks but so far we have good news about the kidney doing its job. We also especially want to thank Jody Hassing who so unselfishly gave me the gift of life. Paul, you are lucky to have such a wonderful wife; she truly is an angel. To Jody's children and family, thank you for supporting her throughout this journey. We will always be connected because of her selfless act.

Thank you again.

Chris and Marland Ronning
and Family

What's Happening

Veterans' Choir

The Veterans Choir from the Minnesota Veterans Home at Fergus Falls will be singing the national anthem at the Minnesota Twins game on August 10. The game is at 6:10 p.m.

The appearance is part of a larger event called "Harmon's Heart," a fundraising event to benefit people with disabilities. The event, named after the Twins player Harmon Killebrew, will feature a tailgate party and other activities. For more information, go to harmonshheart.org.

MACV events

The Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans will sponsor two stand downs and two legal clinics soon.

The stand downs will feature meals, VA benefits, legal aid services, haircuts, mental health services, healthcare screenings, clothing and other services to help all veterans.

A stand down will be held in Duluth on Friday, Aug. 23, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Bayfront Festival Park. There will be a welcome ceremony at 11:30 a.m.

A stand-down will be held at International Falls on Thursday, Aug. 22, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Backus Community Center. There will be a welcome ceremony at 11:30 a.m.

Veterans are advised to bring their DD-214 or a VA identification card for faster registration. Families are welcome, and it's a kid-friendly event.

The legal clinics for low-income veterans include help on housing, employment, benefits, debt collection, expungement, and family law including child support.

A clinic will be held in Anoka at the Anoka County Government Center on Thursday, Sept. 5, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

A clinic will be held at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center on Tuesday, Sept. 10, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Flag Atrium Balcony.

For more information on the clinics, call 651-200-4750.

WWII Round Table new venue

The World War II History Round Table will have a new venue this year. The Round Table, a monthly meeting featuring historians and veterans who talk about their experi-

ences, was previously at the Fort Snelling Visitor Center, which is being demolished. The new venue will be at the Minnesota Historical Society History Center in St. Paul.

The Round Table will also be meeting on the second Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. The meetings previously were on Thursday. A schedule for this year's programs, which begins in September, will be in the next Legionnaire.

Credit to Expire

Veterans who served in a combat zone in 2015 are eligible for a credit, but that credit will expire on Oct. 15. Veterans must have received combat pay.

For more information on how to apply for the credit, which pays \$120 per month or partial month served, go to the Minnesota Department of Revenue website: revenue.state.mn.us.

Coast Guard Reunion

The seventh annual U.S. Coast Guard Reunion will be held on Saturday, Sept. 21, in Minneapolis. For more information, contact Chris Kalogerson at 952-935-9065 or email chriskalogerson@gmail.com.

Veterans Lake event

Disabled military veterans are invited to the annual fishing event at Veterans Lake in Ramsey. It will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 14, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be lunch, fishing, music, bingo and door prizes. All equipment is provided, and no license is necessary.

For registration, email enstrom06@msn.com, or kristinadahlin@yahoo.com or call 763-441-4086. If it rains, it will be held the following day.

Women business conference

Women veterans and spouses of veterans are invited to a free women's business mini-conference designed to help women start or grow a small business. It is hosted by SCORE Minnesota, and experienced business professionals will be on hand. It will be held Saturday, Aug. 17, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Thrivent Financial, 9220 Bass Lake Rd. in New Hope. The conference will feature networking,

resources, and tips on how to get a professional headshot taken. Register at <http://bit.ly/militarysmallbizsuccess>.

Instructor needed

The Minnesota Transitions Charter School and General Colin Powell Leadership Academy are seeking a senior army instructor within the schools' JROTC program. The instructor will teach leadership, citizenship and character development at the high school level. The school is located in South Minneapolis.

The candidate must be a retired army officer, warrant officer of NCO, active, Guard or Reserve.

For more information, contact Steve Chapman, schapman@emailmtns.org or call 651-399-4190.

Starlifter concert

Starlifter, a seven-piece group of U.S. Air Force musicians, will play a free concert in Hastings on Wednesday, Aug. 28, beginning at 7:30 p.m. The concert will be at Levee Park-Rotary between Sibley and Ramsey Streets. Bring a chair or a blanket.

The band recently did a three-month deployment to the Mid-East. They are a component of the Band of Mid-America, stationed at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri.

Greencare for Troops

Delano Post 377 will host the third annual GreenCare of Troops Band Blitz on Saturday, Sept. 7, from 2 p.m. to 11 p.m. The event will feature music, food, a Toro equipment raffle and games and will raise money to provide lawncare and snow removal for deployed military.

For more information, call 440-290-4522.

Women's Expo

The St. Cloud VA will host a Women's Veterans Expo on Saturday, Aug. 17, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Whitney Senior Center in St. Cloud.

The Expo will celebrate the service of women's veterans and provide information about the VA and other services and resources for women veterans. For more information, call Amber Willert at 320-252-1670, ext. 6655 or 7625.

Legionville Safety Patrol Camp needs your financial help

The Legionville Camp on North Long Lake, for years one of the premiere programs of the Minnesota American Legion, has run into financial difficulties.

The cash shortfall is mainly due to the fact that the camp was closed last year because of the bog that settled on the swimming beach. While the camp still had expenses this past year, it had no income from the campers.

There was also the expense of removing the bog.

Department Executive Committee

Continued from Page 1

Tesdahl said he has been in treatment for two weeks and can already sense the improvement.

He noted that Parkinson's is not fatal, but it is also not curable. "No one ever dies of Parkinson's, they die with Parkinson's."

The illness will have an effect on his professional future, though. Tesdahl said that he will be running for a new three-year term as adjutant at the August DEC meeting.

However, he said, "I probably won't finish the term." He said it was his intention at this time to only fulfill a year or perhaps two years of that term, as his health dictates.

"It's important to this organization that it has a strong, vibrant adjutant. But until I retire, I will continue to do my best for the organization."

Tesdahl is a retired Marine gunnery sergeant, and has been adjutant for eight years.

In other business, the DEC:

— Approved a resolution regarding Past National Commander Dan Ludwig of Red Wing and sent it to the Resolutions Committee. Judge Advocate Greg Colby, Northfield, said that a state law prohibits persons from serving on the board of a non-profit organization for more than 10 years. As a Past National Commander, Ludwig has a lifetime appointment to the DEC. The resolution would make Ludwig an ex-officio member of the DEC with voting privileges.

— Wayne Gilbertson, Zimmerman, said that Legionville has new expenses with the start up after last year's closure because of the bog. He asked that posts and districts consider donations to Legionville.

— Chuck Stone said the Legion Riders' Legacy Run this year has been scheduled, and that Minnesota is only \$58,000 from topping the \$1 million mark nationally for the Legacy Fund.

— Revoked the charter for Staples Post 70 based on declining numbers. The members had been transferred to

The camp, which teaches middle school children school safety patrol and bus safety techniques, recently received grants from the Finance Committee and the Minnesota American Legion Foundation that totaled \$25,000, but the infusion of cash has not been enough.

Legionville President Wayne Gilbertson outlined other projects that have cost money this year. "We received a grant to remodel the kitchen in the dining hall, but there

other posts in 2017.

— Teresa Ash, chair of the Shop, Ship and Share project in the Fourth District for many years, said the project would not be held this year unless another district wants to take it over. She said there were "many layers of reasons" for the termination of the successful program that has provided thousands of packages for troops over the years.

— Approved the elected officers of the Sons of the American Legion. David Vulcan will be the new Detachment commander.

— Adjutant Tesdahl noted that half the paperwork coming in for rooms at the national convention was incorrect. He said post transmittals on membership were also not complete in many instances. He urged leadership and members to do their job correctly. "We're all in this together. Do what it is you've taken on the challenge to do."

Department convention

Continued from Page 1

Committeeman.

In the election for Vice Commanders, Mike Maxa of Le Center, Bill Brockberg of Worthington, Teresa Ash of St. Paul, Tim Haugen of Moorhead and Bob Locker of Fridley will serve in 2019-20.

Betty Jass of Lake Crystal was elected Department Chaplain, Richard Skillestad of Eyota was elected Sergeant-at-Arms, and Mike Ash of St. Paul as Department Historian.

Mike and Teresa Ash will be another team of spouses serving in high office.

Pat Logan, Bloomington, was re-elected to a position on the Board of Publications.

There were three candidates for the two delegate-at-large positions, and an election was held on the floor of the con-

vention on Saturday morning. Don Hayden of Le Center (370 votes), Tom Fernlund of St. Cloud (392 votes) edged out Jim Copher of Mound (313 votes) as delegates.

In the election for Department Commander, the final tally was Dvorak, 466 votes and Olson, 71 votes. Commander Darrel Redepinning called his year an emotional roller-coaster. He is the son of Bud Redepinning, also a state commander, and Bud, who has had health problems, was at several events this year.

Redepinning led the singing of the Roy Roger's standard "Happy Trails" to conclude his final remarks.

In all, there were 224 delegates at the convention representing 126 posts.

Next year's convention will be at Redwood Falls, July 16-18.

Resolutions

Continued from Page 1

check book, take what you want?"

Lloyd Ricker of Dawson asked if there would be a separate committee established for the college.

Most spoke in favor of the establishing the college, saying it will be money well invested in training the Legion's state leaders.

"We will lose dollars if we don't do something like this," delegate Mark Maloney said.

Orv Otterness, North Branch, noted that there was such a college in the 1980s and it was very successful.

Randy Olson of the Second District said that only two Minnesotans each year could attend the national Legion College, but many more need this type of training.

Past National Commander Dan Ludwig of Red Wing said of the resolution, "This does not establish all the details, the details will come later."

Sixth District Commander Paul Edwards asked the dele-

gates to remember their own time in the military and how much training went on. Training is essential for any organization, he said.

A voice vote had actually passed the resolution before the discussion was held, but a second vote was held after the debate. In both cases, a large majority voted in favor of the college with only a few votes in opposition.

The resolution only called for the Department to "support" the creation of the college, but did not say how that should be done, nor did it set up a timeline.

The national college is a week-long educational school taught by a core of experienced Legionnaires on a variety of subjects. The format for the Minnesota Legion College has yet to be determined.

Other resolutions passed included:

— Extending VA health care benefits for World War II veterans, similar to a program that was used for World War I and Spanish-American War veterans. World War II vets would be able to use VA benefits without regard to eligibility.

— Allowing electronic communication to be used when

possible for communication between Department staff, committee chairs and the committees.

— Changing the way those serving in the Coast Guard are paid. Unlike the other branches of the service, the Coast Guard was not paid during the recent government shutdown. The resolution would end that practice.

— Requiring the VA to pay for emergency ambulance transportation for veterans being transported to VA facilities.

— Calling for the VA, if it removes a veteran's teeth, to provide dentures.

— Changing the Minnesota by-laws to say that Past National Commander Dan Ludwig is not a member of the committee, but is an ex-officio member with voting privileges.

Two resolutions were rejected in committee and then rejected on the floor of the convention. One would have established a Minnesota Veterans Cemetery Committee, and the other would have added two members to the Membership Education Committee bringing the total to five.

Taps

Gunderson, Tony L., 70, Army National Guard veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 1, 2019. He trained in heavy equipment mechanics. He was First District Commander from 2005-06. He was a member of Mabel Post 299 and Sun Tan Valley, Arizona, Post 97.

Ackerson, Harold "Mike," 99, Army veteran of World War II, died June 20, 2019. He was a member of Waconia Post 150.

Allen, Robert Kingsley, 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 15, 2019. He served in Germany. He was a member of Hector Post 135.

Androli, Francis, 80, National Guard veteran of the Korean War, died July 18, 2019. He was a member of Elysian Post 311.

Appel, Milton "Butch," 75, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 29, 2019. He was a heavy armor tank specialist. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 212.

Ardoff, Greg, 74, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 28, 2019. He served in Korea. He was a member of New London Post 537.

Bastian, Stanley W., 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 23, 2019. He was a military policeman and spend 17 months in Korean. He was a corporal. He was a member of New Ulm Post 132.

Bolinger, Donald "Dutch," 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 9, 2019. He served in A Battery of the 78th AAA Battalion in Korea. He was a member of Lowry Post 253.

Bratlund, Maynard, 75, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 17. He was a past Third District Chaplain. He was a member of Shakopee Post 2.

Bremseth, Wyllis M., 87, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died July 21, 2019. He served in Germany and Norway. He was a member of Lowry Post 253.

Bryant, James E., 87, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died July 10, 2019. He was a helicopter mechanic on an aircraft carrier during the war. He was a member of Big Falls Post 494.

Childress, Mary Lou, 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 2, 2019. She was a member of Park Rapids Post 212.

Dahlof, Robert L., 99, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died June 18, 2019. He was a tech sergeant for four years in the European Theater, earning a Bronze Star. He was a member of Mora Post 201.

DeGroot, Harold, 89, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 21, 2019. He served in Germany as a corporal in the First Infantry, 7th Field Artillery Regiment. He was a member of Edgerton Post 42.

Erlandson, Marvin Arthur, 69, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 17, 2019. He served in Vietnam. He was a member of Wheaton Post 80.

Field, Milton B., 81, Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 15, 2019. He was a member of Hutchinson Post 96.

Fischer, Leeland, 92, Navy veteran of World War II and the Korean War, died July 13, 2019. He served on the submarine USS Diodon SS-349, in World War II. He was a plank owner of the USS Nautilus SSN-571, the first nuclear powered submarine and participated in the Underway of Nuclear Power cruise, the longest submerged and fastest cruise, and he also traveled under the polar ice cap. He was a member of Buffalo Lake Post 469.

Fuchs, Willard "Ole," 96, Army veteran of World War II, died July 15, 2019. He was a member of Pine Island Post 184.

Gabler, Raymond W., 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 26, 2019. He was a private first class. He was a member of Long Prairie Post 12.

Gardner, Leonard L., 85, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died June 23, 2019. He was a member of Pine City Post 51.

Goergen, John F., 69, National Guard veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 3, 2019. He was a sergeant. He was a member of Austin Post 91.

Goldsmith, Robert, 91, Army veteran of World War II, died July 3, 2019. He was stationed in Japan. He was a member of Mora Post 201.

Grobove, Adam Jr., 77, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 16, 2019. He served for 20 years and retired as a Aviation Structural Mechanic Chief Petty Officer. He served in Vietnam. He was a past president of Keewatin Post 452.

Hamre, LaVerne, 79, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 5, 2019. He was a member of Thief River Falls Post 117.

Heintz, Gerald, 77, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 10, 2019. He was a member of Caledonia Post 191.

Henschen Hilton H., 100, Army veteran of World War II, died June 27, 2019. He was a member of Austin Post 91.

Hobday, Harold H., 82, Navy veteran of the Cold War, died July 8, 2019. He was a member of the honor guard at St. Peter Post 27.

Hodgson, Boyd "Bud," 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 2, 2019. He served as an intelligence officer. He was a member of Princeton Post 216.

Hohbein, Alvin W., 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 10, 2019. He served in the 164th Infantry, 47th Division, 1st Cavalry. He was a member of Ashby Post 357.

Iverson, James, 64, Coast Guard veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 19, 2019. He was a member of Cloquet Post 262.

Jasper, Harold, 87, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died July 23, 2019. He was a staff sergeant. He was a member of New Brighton Tri-City Post 513.

Jobe, Ervin W., 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 5, 2019. He was a combat engineer at Fort Campbell. He was a member of New Ulm Post 132.

Johnson, Donald L., 89, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died July 13, 2019. He was a gun technician on the USS Rupertus. He was a member of Austin Post 91.

Jore, Rolf, 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 4, 2019. He was a member of Caledonia Post 191.

Ketcham, Roy Douglas, 85, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died June 5, 2019. He was a heavy equipment operator in the Philippines. He was a member of Battle Lake Post 289.

Kieke, LeRoy, 68, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 19, 2019. He was a specialist fourth class and served an extended tour in Vietnam as a movements specialist. He was a member of Waite Park Post 428.

Kluntz, John W., 78, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 15, 2019. He was a member of Cleveland Post 207.

Knudtson, Larry James, 79, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 1, 2019. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Kullander, Roger, 86, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 17, 2019. He served in Korea. He was a member of New London Post 537.

Lachinski, John Henry, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 30, 2019. He was a member of Hillman Post 602.

Lien, Ardell C., "Al," 84, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 13, 2019. He served two tours in Vietnam and earned a Bronze Star. He served 24 years in the Army. He was a member of Spring Grove Post 249.

Ludtke, Arthur R., 93, Navy veteran of World War II, died July 13, 2019. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Luke, Norville Alfred, 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 25, 2019. He was a radio operator and truck driver and supervised the Korean Army members in building a 200-mill fence in the Demilitarized Zone. He was a member of Waconia Post 150.

Marstein, Francis M., Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died July 13, 2019. He was a member of Bowlus Post 642.

Mueller, Frederick "Fritz," 86, veteran of the Korean

War, died June 20, 2019. He was a member of Green Isle Post 408.

Mulligan, Robert D., Sr., 91, Navy veteran of World War II, died June 23, 2019. He served on the USS Chicago CA-136 during the occupation of Japan. He was a member of Finlayson/Sandstone Post 151.

Nelson, Cyril Richard, 93, Navy veteran of World War II, died June 25, 2019. He was a Seaman First Class. He was a member of Alexandria Post 87.

Peterson, Loren V., 88, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died June 16, 2019. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Pitel, Gordon Charles, 98, Merchant Marine veteran of World War II, died June 12, 2019. He was stationed at Gallops Island off the coast of Boston. He was a radioman first class. He was a member of Spring Grove Post 249.

Prom, Donald E., 86, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 2, 2019. He was a member of Bowlus Post 642.

Rambow, Floyd W., 91, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 10, 2019. He was a sergeant in Korea. He was a member of Raymond Post 420.

Raub, Harold A. "Tony," 98, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died June 15, 2019. He was a tail gunner and staff sergeant in a B-26 and flew 52 missions. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

Reinhardt, Edward F., 86, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 18, 2019. He was a light truck mechanic and also trained as a tractor scraper operator. He was a member of New Ulm Post 132.

Schaller, Daniel, 89, Army veteran of the Korean War and Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 2, 2019. He was a code breaker in Korea, and he flew missions during the Cuban Missile Crisis, and then flew 127 missions from Thailand in the Vietnam War. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross. He was a past commander of Red Wing Post 54.

Schmiege, Leon J., 84, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 27, 2019. He served in Korea. He was a member of Waconia Post 150.

Schmit, Dwight M., 68, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 25, 2019. He was a member of St. Peter Post 37.

Schoeb, Roger C., 82, Army veteran of the Cold War, died July 8, 2019. He served eight years in the Army Reserve. He was a member of St. Peter Post 37.

Seifert, James R., Dr., 96, Army veteran of World War II and the Korean War, died July 18, 2019. He was a dentist and a captain, and served in Germany. He was a member of New Ulm Post 132.

Stephens, John Henry, 82, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 2, 2019. He was a sergeant at Fort Knox. He was a member of Alexandria Post 87.

Tischer, Walter N., 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 9, 2019. He was a member of LeSueur Post 55.

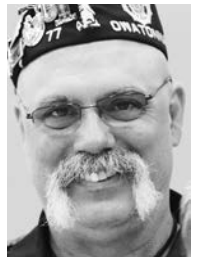
Wiesner, Bruce J., 72, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 2, 2019. He was a weapons stores clerk on the USS Bennington (CVS-20) and served in Vietnam. He was a member of New Ulm Post 132.

Williams, Uhzi, Uzziah "Earl," 70, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 10, 2019. He served on the USS Galveston CL93/CLG3. He served in the engine room, and was a fleet boxer. He was a member of 3M Post 399.

Wolf, Gasper G., 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 19, 2019. He was a Specialist 5. He was a member of Long Prairie Post 12.

American Legion Riders

By Chuck Stone
Department Director



Greetings American Legion Family,

It was great to see so many of you at Department Convention in Willmar. Mother Nature blessed us with awesome weather. The parade on Friday evening was fun and the cold refreshments afterward at the Legion tasted even better. I would like to thank Convention Chair DuWayne Underthun, Willmar Post Commander John Krouth and their entire staff for all the hard work and time they put in to host the convention. This was truly a team effort.

At the Riders annual summer meeting elections were held, two new officers were elected and will be installed on Saturday September 14th at the ROMP. Paul Hassing will be taking over as the Department of Minnesota Riders Director and Gary Davenport will be the Department of Minnesota Vice Director. Jody Hassing was reelected as Department Secretary. It was great to see representation from each district at the meeting.

At the ROMP in September there will be a road guard certification class. Space is limited so please let me know if you wish to take the class.

I have been told that the class will last about three hours. You may email me at: castoney@hotmail.com. I will need to email you a couple of forms that need to be filled out and sent in prior to the class, so the sooner the better. The cost will be determined by the number of people taking the class.

The Riders have also been asked if they would be willing to donate a few hours painting at Legionville. If you would like to arrive at Legionville a day or two early please let me know so that I can let the Grounds Manager know to expect you and have supplies ready. If you haven't heard Legionville is under new management.

The 2019 Legacy Ride is upon us. By the time you read this motorcycles will be rolling and rumbling into a Legion Post near you. A full schedule of the ride can be found on the Minnesota Riders Facebook page: MN ALR Legacy Run. Please come out and show your support.

Keep the chrome side up and the rubber side down.

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

By Jeremy Wolfsteller



Annual Site Visits

If you're familiar with the Four Pillars of The American Legion, then you'll understand the importance of the words, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation also known as (VA&R). The American Legion Dept. of MN has a Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Committee to ensure the VA&R Pillar is fulfilling its obligation to veterans and their families. The committee does this by staying engaged with the VA total system of care through the Veterans Benefits Administration, Veterans Health Administration & The National Cemetery Administration. The committee's efforts staying engaged with agencies that provide services to Minnesota veterans allows the Organization to stay informed on important issues facing veterans and the VA total system of care. It affords The Legion the opportunity to be the voice of veterans by making recommendations that improve the VA in its quest to deliver its services to the highest standards. At the same time, it allows the Legion to address concerns of veterans that would have gone other-

wise unheard or unchanged.

Each year in September, the Rehabilitation committee conducts its opening meeting of the fiscal year. This meeting is the committee's organizational meeting to elect a chairman, the responsibilities of the members, dress code and calendar of site visits for the year. The committee consists of 5 individuals with a background in both Federal and State VA including benefits, programs and services. The appointments are, 5-year terms with a member fulfilling a full term every year and having reappointment or new appointment to the committee.

The information collected during committee site visits are consolidated into reports by the Dept. Service Officer and made available to Legionnaires and others via Dept. website, www.mnlegion.org. The committee encourages the District level VA&R Chairmen to attend any site visits that are in their District throughout the year. A formal Call to Meeting will be issued to the District Chairs authorizing them to attend. Attending these important meetings provides a knowledge base which will allow the District Chairs to pass on information to their Posts and leadership.

If you're interested in seeing what agencies and facilities The American Legion Rehabilitation Committee is meeting with, you can access a sample of the committee's typical year of site visits at www.mnlegion.org under Dept. Rehabilitation Committee.

jwolfsteller@mnlegion.org

Membership chart for July 26, 2019

District	2020 Goal	Total 2019	Total 2020	Weeks Gain	Total Posts	Goal Posts	% Of Goal	rank	Points
District 1	8,149	8,091	1,056	1,056	58	0	12.96%	8	3
District 2	6,497	6,413	963	963	84	0	14.82%	7	4
District 3	11,021	10,956	2,018	2,018	65	0	18.31%	3	8
District 4	2,136	2,118	203	203	18	0	9.50%	9	2
District 5	2,346	2,325	208	208	22	0	8.87%	10	1
District 6	10,891	10,820	1,729	1,729	71	0	15.88%	6	5
District 7	5,778	5,702	934	934	76	0	16.16%	5	6
District 8	3,788	3,748	906	906	40	0	23.92%	1	10
District 9	6,124	6,059	1,320	1,320	65	0	21.55%	2	9
District 10	9,108	9,054	1,528	1,528	54	0	16.78%	4	7
District 11		1,897	348	348	2	0	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Totals		67,183	11,213	11,213	555	0	#DIV/0!	0	-11,213

Same Date
Last Year

Minnesota Sons of the American Legion News

Sons of The American Legion

By Gary Vulcan



Hello to All American Legion Family members.

My name is Dave Vulcan and on June 29th, I was elected as your new Sons of The American Legion Detachment Commander for the year 2019-2020. I look forward to serving and working with you all.

I would like to share with you one of my projects for this year. The youth of the Sons of The American Legion. I will be forming a committee with the challenge to develop a program to involve the youth of our organization. The goal is to get the 5 to 18 year old member involved in the Sons of The American Legion. They are the future of our organization. If we can reach out to them and get them involved with their ideas, we will be able to move forward with them growing this organization.

I will be bringing up and sharing other projects and ideas I have for this upcoming year in future articles. For now continue to get the 2019 membership turned in. Begin the renewal process for 2020. We have the National Convention at the end of August and Camporee in the beginning of September. I hope to see you there.

Thanks for all you do

2019 Membership Drive as of Campout

District	2019 Goal	Total	% of goal	Rank
1	1839	1698	92.33%	9
2	1375	1297	94.33%	8
3	1995	2020	101.25%	2
4	425	368	86.59%	10
5	403	385	95.53%	5
6	1513	1540	101.78%	1
7	1030	987	95.83%	4
8	564	534	94.68%	7
9	836	820	98.09%	3
10	1687	1607	95.26%	6
11	11	2	18.18%	
Detachment	11678	11258	96.40%	

50th Annual Legionville CAMP-O-REE

September 5th through 8th
Brainerd MN
on North Long Lake

Food

Thu
1st District Steak Fry Dinner
Fri
SAL Breakfast
SAL Lunch
10th District Pork Roast Dinner
SAT
SAL Breakfast
6th District Fish Fry Lunch
SAL Hot Dogs & Hamburgers Dinner
Sun
SAL Omelet Breakfast

Pull-tabs Raffles

Bingo - Thu, Fri, Sat
Music - Fri & Sat
Kids Movie Night - Fri & Sat
Closest to the hole Drive Contest
Boxes of Firewood available, suggested donation of \$10
No firewood to leave the property!

Organized activities start Thursday.

Everyone is welcome to arrive early if they would like.
RV, Camper, Tent on grounds, or lodging in the Dormitories
(Bring your own linens & blankets)

Days	On Arrival
Pre-Thursday/Daily	\$5 per day/per person (subject to maximum)
On and After Thursday	Day visitors - \$5 per person, per day Staying overnight - \$10 per day, per person. \$75 Family maximum for event
Saturday	Active Military Reservists, Guardsman, & their families are complimentary \$5 for the day, \$10 for overnight per person
Ages 3 and under	Free

All proceeds go to Legionville School Patrol Training Center, Inc.

All fees are non-refundable. Schedule subject to change.

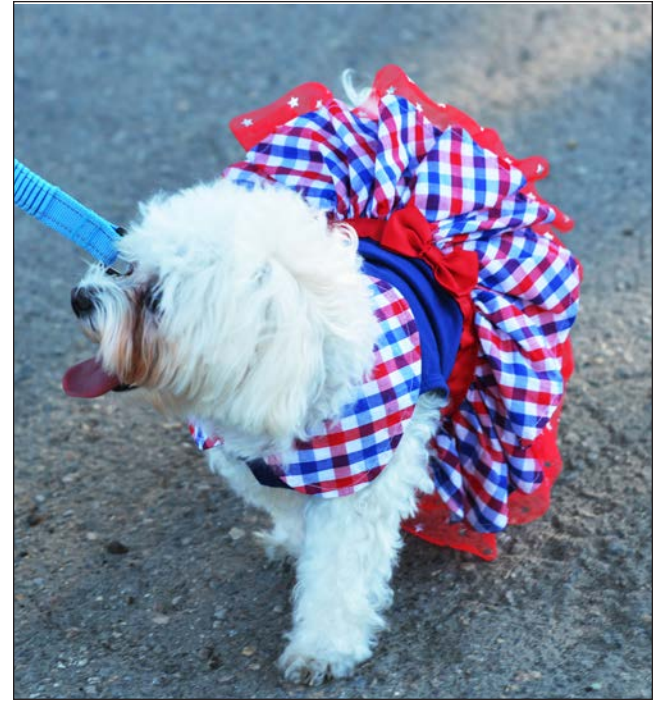
Event is held rain or shine. For more information, email legionvillecamporee@gmail.com

Cdr. Gary Vulcan: dhvulcan@gmail.com
Adjutant Dennis Henkemeyer:
dennish56621@hotmail.com
Website: www.mnsal.org

Parade and Hospitality Event



The Willmar queens perfected the art of synchronized waving in the annual Convention parade. From left are Maddie Stoeberl, Abby Valladarez and Brielle Thorpe.



It was a warm night in Willmar, and many of the parade participants had their tongues hanging out by the end of the march.



Linda Dvorak, Third District Commander, LeCenter, was the cookie lady at the hospitality event.



The Ninth District Band participated in the parade, the hospitality room, and the conventions.



It was wall to wall band and people at the hospitality event at the Willmar Post.



A girl waves from the Willmar Fire Truck in the annual parade.

Memorial Service



Bishop Dan Williams, Vadnais Heights, was the keynote speaker at this year's Memorial Service in Willmar.



Norma Tramm, Cold Spring, provided the vocals for the service.



Auxiliary Chaplain Margee Keller, Crookston, says the benediction while Legion Chaplain Bonnie Hanson, Rockford, looks on.



Sixth District Commander Richard Cross, Sauk Centre, and President Sharon Thiemecke, Bemidji, place roses in the ceremonial vase.

Convention Notes

— It was announced that Peter Spengler, who represented Minnesota at last year's Boys Nation, has been accepted as a cadet at the Air Force Academy in Colorado.

— National Executive Committeeman Marland Ronning, Maple Grove, gave his last convention update before he leaves office. Prior to his four years as NEC, he had been the Alternate NEC for six years. "It has been 10 years since I put on the red hat, and I hope I did a good job." He noted that his wife, Chris, had recently received a donor kidney from Past Department Secretary Jody Hassing, Montgomery, and that she was recovering well. Ronning also spoke of how Blue Water Vietnam veterans will be eligible for Agent Orange benefits as of Jan. 1, 2020. He said there was more information at www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/agent-orange/service-in-vietnam-korea/.

— The Convention gave a standing ovation to Lap Nguyen, the Boys State Governor. "In the span of one week, I learned so much about government and how it works and about our ability to talk about issues that are important to us. We learned that despite our differences, our perspective, our upbringing, we can discuss the issues that mattered most." He said Boys State will be training the next generation of leaders.

— Joe Janson, St. Paul, Legion representative with the Armed Forces Service Center at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, said the center will be moving to new quarters that will increase their space from 1,900 square feet to 4,900 square feet. The new center, however, will be in the secured portion of the airport, and ways are being sought to allow families to be with their veterans at the center. He said volunteers are always needed.

— Neil Loidolt from the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans said Legion posts had donated over \$20,000 to MACV's program for homeless veterans. "Without a stable place to live, it's difficult for veterans to deal with life's other challenges." There are now 216 homeless vets in the state, he said, and the goal is for reaching zero by 2020.

— Judge Advocate Greg Colby, Northfield, strongly urged posts to incorporate their bar and grill operations. "It insulates you from litigation." Without that insulation, he said, those suing the post could try to get money from individual post members. "Am I trying to scare you? Yes."

— Jim Kellogg, Taopi, announced that Minnesota would

get a check for \$107,000 from national for putting on the national convention this past year. National splits the money that was raised for the convention.

— Sons of the American Legion Adjutant Dennis Henkemeyer, Bagley, said he would hold the post for only one year. He thanked his predecessor Doug Bible, who had held the position for over 30 years. He said there were 80 members at the SAL convention this year.

— SAL Detachment Commander Shawn Davis, Brooklyn Center, who will be leaving after two one-year terms, said membership is standing at 11,260, but for the time has plateaued out. He said a dues increase is on the horizon. He noted, "One year at this job is not enough, and two years is too much." The new SAL leader will be Dave Vulcan, North Mankato.

— The convention heard from National Vice Commander Stephen Sweet from Mississippi. He gave an update on veterans issues and told about how he was getting ready to participate in several Legion Rider runs. He said he is a team captain. He complimented the Minnesota Riders on their nearly \$1 million in donations to the Legacy Fund. His final advice to Legionnaires, "Don't pass the buck. Do it yourself."

— Chuck Stone, Owatonna, the Minnesota Riders Director, said the two weekend runs for the Riders have been planned. He urged conventioners to buy the special ALR coins at \$25 each. He said there was a convention special: Two for \$50. Paul Hassing, Montgomery, was introduced as the new director the Riders for this coming year.

Don Pankake, a Legion representative on the Veterans 4 Veterans Fund, said that the \$5.3 million dollar fund has given out 130 grants totaling \$1.9 million, and the amount in the fund has remained the same.

— Wayne Gilbertson, Zimmerman, director of Legionville, said donations were needed because of the extra expense of shutting the camp down last year because of the floating bog. Robin Picray, the chairman of the Finance Committee, said the committee had voted to give Legionville an additional \$15,000 this year. Lloyd Ricker, chair of the Minnesota American Legion Foundation, said the foundation was donating \$10,000 to the camp. Ricker noted that the Foundation had \$3.8 million in total assets including the dedicated funds, and \$1.3 million in net assets.

— Roger Stoick, president of the American Legion Family Hospital Association, said that 31 grants had been approved this past year, a large increase over the previous year. The annual meeting will be at Fall Conference.

— The convention heard a presentation by Michelle Williamson of Ship to Military and shipthriftly.com on how to ship care packages to deployed military more cheaply.

— Pat Logan, chair of the Convention Corporation, said rooms at Redwood Falls next year will be \$90 per night. There is no bid yet for the 2021 convention. The Fall Conference will be at Shooting Star Casino in Mahanomen, and those getting rooms should ask for Block 6536. Rooms are \$95.

— Mike Maxa, Department Membership Director, said the Department had finally reached the 95 percent goal for the year. He said that membership had not improved this year. "We just have to do the work. That's the bottom line."

— Bill Barbknecht, chair of the Legionnaire Insurance Trust, said the insurance company had paid the Department \$178,000 this year. He urged members to sign up for the free Accidental Death and Dismemberment benefit.

— The Children and Youth Awards for this year went to East Grand Forks Post 157, Little Falls Post 46, Princeton Post 216 and 3M Post 399.

— Americanism Citations for this year went to: Claremont Post 442, Slayton Post 64, Montgomery Post 79, North St. Paul Post 39, Viking Post 493, Deerwood Post 557, Granite Falls Post 69, Nashauk Post 307, Bagley Post 16, and Askov Post 243.

— Trophies and Awards announced at the convention included: Father Fortin Trophy, Lindell Community Service Bell, Frank Ring Scout Trophy, Levi Hall School Patrol Trophy, Hanson Trophy and the Americanism Trophy all to Anoka Post 102, Joseph Finley, Lloyd Grossnickle and Stafford King Trophies to Nisswa Post 627.

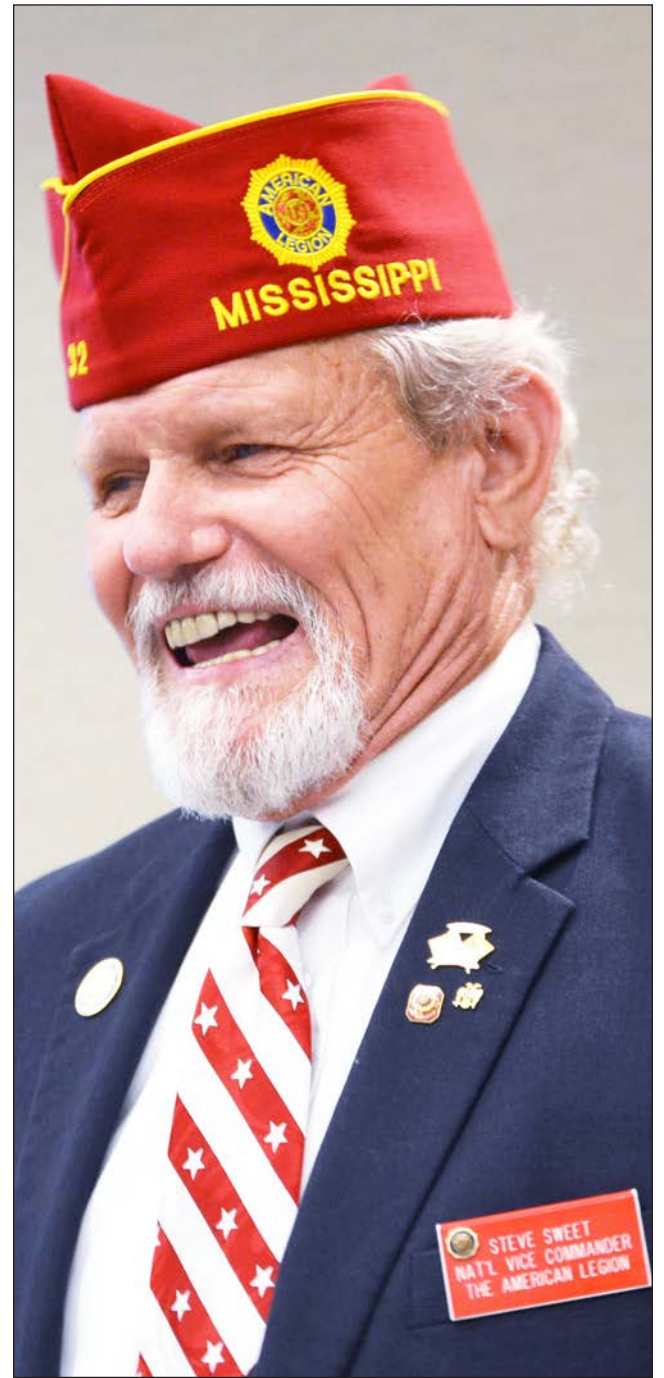
The final credentials report included:

Dist.	Posts	Delegates	Voting Strength
1.	14	19	60
2.	15	17	49
3.	20	42	109
4.	5	14	20
5.	9	18	36
6.	20	28	88
7.	13	29	63
8.	5	7	26
9.	10	18	49
10.	15	32	72
Total	126	224	572



National Executive Committeeman Marland Ronning, Past National Commander Dan Ludwig, National Vice Commander Steve Sweet of Mississippi and Alternate NECman Bill Barbknecht took front row seats at the Department Executive Committee meeting preceding the convention.

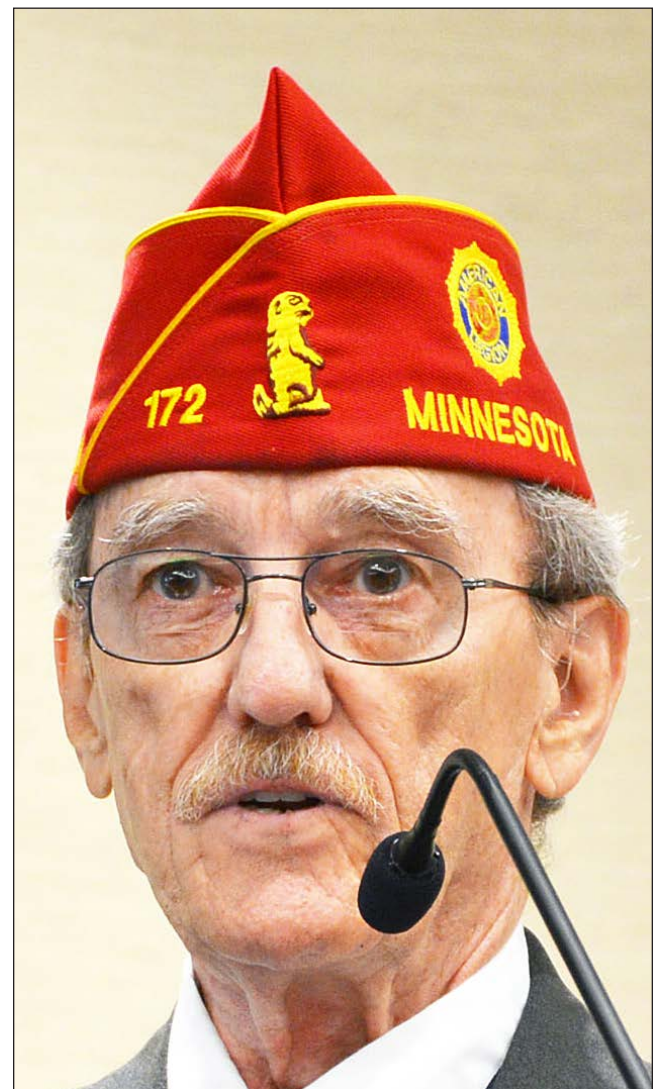
2019 Convention in Willmar



National Vice Commander Stephen Sweet of Mississippi had both advice and jokes for the delegates to the Minnesota Legion convention.



Department Commander Darrel Redepenning and Department President Jean Walker tripped the light fantastic at Walker's Social Event on Thursday night of the convention. Live music was provided.



National Executive Committeeman Marland Ronning addressed his last state convention with that title. Ronning did not run for the position, and Bill Barbknecht was elected to the national office.



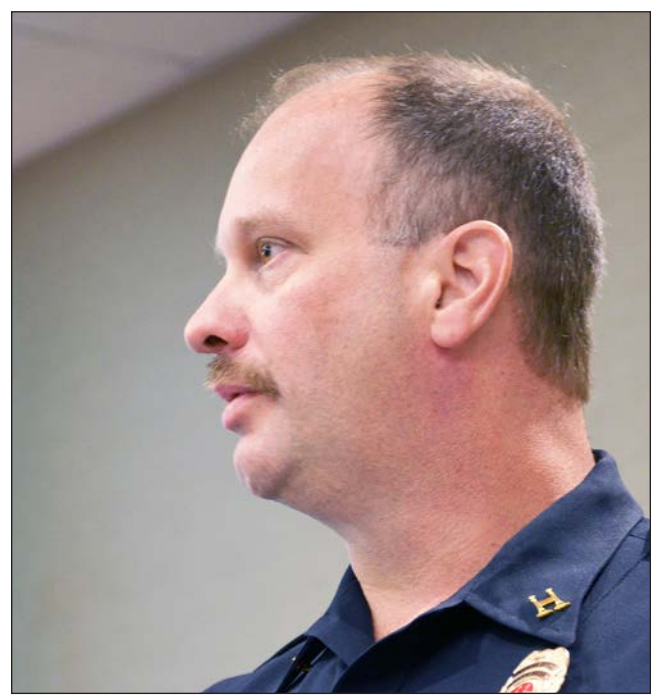
Department Riders Director Chuck Stone presented President Jean Walker with a very large wood carving saying "American Legion Auxiliary."



Eagle Scout of the Year Rhylan Peterson of Dodge Center addressed the convention.



Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer Nate Garland of Lino Lakes accepted his plaque.



Outstanding Firefighter of the Year Pat Heinen of Harris spoke at the convention.



Boys State Governor Lap Nguyen showed off his plaque at the convention. His father, Binh Nguyen, and his brother Benson Nguyen, joined him for the photo. Department Commander Darrel Redepenning presented the award.



President Jean Walker joined the Past Parley of Presidents by donning some circus wear at the convention.



Secretary Sandie Deutsch showed one method to get out of the way for a picture. Incoming President Mary Hendrickson is at right.



Auxiliary and Juniors celebrate the 100th year of the Auxiliary by singing along to the song "Celebrate Good Times."

Legion Installation



Incoming Commander Mark Dvorak welcomes new Membership Director Sy Fix to the stage as Linda Dvorak looks on.



Installing Officer Don Hayden instructs Commander Mark Dvorak on his duties for the coming year.



Past Department Commander Mike Schaffer presents Commander Darrel Redepenning with his colors.



Donna Redepenning placed the blue hat on her husband during the installation.



In his last time at the microphone, Commander Redepenning led the group in "Happy Trails."

Auxiliary Installation



Incoming President Mary Hendrickson is escorted to the stage by her husband, Carl Hendrickson.



Outgoing President Jean Walker addresses the group.



Incoming President Mary Hendrickson and First Vice President Patti Coleman give moral support to new Second Vice President Mary Kuperus.



Installing Officer Marsha Bible presents the gavel to President Mary Hendrickson.



President Mary Hendrickson is pinned by Past Department President Betty Manginen. (Photos by Karla Otterness.)

Aquatennial Parade



Miss USA Minnesota Catherine Stanley joined the Minnesota American Legion contingent on a truck and was escorted by Bird Partridge.



Department Commander Mark Dvorak communicates with the crowd lining 2nd Avenue in downtown Minneapolis during the Aquatennial Torchlight Parade. At right is Third District Commander Linda Dvorak.



Past National Commander Dan Ludwig joined the Legion group in the parade.



Steve and Diane Sullivan get into the Aquatennial spirit.



SECOND DISTRICT PICNIC — The Second District Family joined their guests, the veterans and staff of the LuVerne Veterans Home at East Side Acres near Round Lake. There was food and pontoon rides.

District Commanders

FIRST DISTRICT

**Dale Wellik
Commander**



Greetings from the First District American Legion Family. I am looking forward to an exciting and challenging year working together to get great things done.

We are getting started with the continuation of the membership program that was started last year.

We had a great District and Department convention and looking forward to a great National convention.

Fillmore County had a really good turnout for an opening ceremony honoring the WWI veterans and all veterans of latter wars including those of today.

The parades have been fantastic this summer. We still have Legionville Camp-O-Ree and Camp Ripley. I hope to see many of you at the rallies and picnic and membership dinners.

Veterans sign up for your health benefits now, before you really need them. Start with your county veterans service officer to get in the system.

Pray for our deployed troops and all that are serving veterans. Thank You for your service. Legion Family, thank you for your support.

SECOND DISTRICT

**Brad Pagel
Commander**



Greetings to the 2nd District.

Allow me to introduce myself as your new District Commander, Brad Pagel, Post 64 Slayton. There are a lot of things we can do to stop the slide of membership, talk to our younger veterans and their families. Establish that connection with them, explain the benefits of being a member of the American Legion Family. One focus is technology. We must play catch up to the younger generation if we want them to join the Legion Family. Most of our younger veterans don't read newspapers. They are more likely to use technology to find out information. Social media platforms is where the most benefit of information for your post happenings is going to be. If you don't have a facebook page for your post, start one. Put everything your post, unit, squadron, riders chapter is doing on there. The more we catch up on social media the more attention we will bring to the American Legion Family for your posts. The more active we are in the communities that we are in the more the younger veterans see that and will start asking the questions. Carry membership applications with you for the entire American Legion Family, as you never know who or when you will gain a member or two or three. Know what your post family dues are, as that is the first question that is asked. Invite them to meetings and functions that the post is doing. Let them see first hand the comradery of the post family. Visibility is the number one goal in the community. If you're not visible, if no one knows you are there, ask yourself how are the younger veterans going to find us? Get out there and make yourself visible, become more active, educate yourself on the programs that The American Legion offers, and the potential scholarship moneys that are available in the programs.

THIRD DISTRICT

**Linda Dvorak
Commander**



Thank you, Carla Tappainer and the rest of the 2018-2019 District Officers for this past year. Thank you also to the incoming Officers for 2019-2020. I believe we have an excellent team for the upcoming year.

The first Third District Rally will be September 19th at Pine Island. More to follow with times. The Department Harvest Rally will be held at Legionville on September 7th. This is a great way to start out the year. Department Fall Conference will be held in Mahanomen Oct 25-26.

My theme for the year will be "Honoring our Veterans - Past and Present." My project is a juke box and recreational "toys" for the Hastings Veterans Home.

We need to be proud of our American Legion Third District. Department Commander Mark Dvorak, Department Vice Commander Mike Maxa and SAL Detachment Commander Dave Vulcan all hail from the 3rd. I look forward to working with the Department of Minnesota American Legion Family in the coming year and getting to know even more amazing Legionnaires.

"One small positive thought in the morning can change you whole day"

FOURTH DISTRICT

**Joe Jansen
Commander**



Thanks for electing me your new commander. Now I ask each one of you to continue working with your fellow Legionnaires to make this year fun and productive for the 4th District. As you know we have a team approach to management but judging by the lack of rank and file members at the RCCC meetings I'll list the top ones: Mike Ash is the Adjutant; The vice commanders are: Deon Ford, Dave Dahl, Jeffery Proud. Our membership director is Mickey Ostrum. Please remember each of us is involved with membership. That new person who walks into your post may be interested in getting involved with post activities. Start a conversation with he or she, give them an opportunity to talk about themselves, how they happened to join what they like to do etc. She/he may be willing to do hospital visitations or become a vice commander if you treat her/him like the valued asset she/he can become. We need to have fun and enjoy the time we spend together working towards the goals of The American Legion.

FIFTH DISTRICT

**Andrew Rose Sr.
Commander**



Our congratulations out to Department of Minnesota Commander Darrel Redepening on a successful 2018-2019 year's work, and a successful 2019 convention.

Congratulations also go out to newly elected Commander Mark Dvorak, knowing that he will meet or exceed all expectations of the Department of Minnesota.

We would also like to thank Commander Joe Bayer and 4th and 5th District Vice Commander Dick Ward on a job well done.

I am proud to take the helm of such an active and flourishing organization as the Fighting 5th District of Minnesota. Along with all members of the fifth district we will strive to meet the goals set before us. Our intentions are to be a more diverse group and keep membership on the rise for the coming year.

And the affairs of our hospitalized and wounded veterans and those in crisis will not place second to anything we do.

If these things are not accomplished by the end of my term, it will not be because we haven't tried.

SIXTH DISTRICT

**Paul Edwards
Commander**



I am excited to serve as Sixth District Commander for the coming year. Let me introduce myself and my themes for the year.

I am a retired soldier, a son of a soldier and dad to another soldier. I am an Eagle Scout, a 30-year Boy Scout leader, a Mason and Shriner and a Legion Rider. I am married to my best friend and fellow Legionnaire, Susan, who is currently serving as Commander of Post 627 of Nisswa.

COMMUNICATION - EDUCATION - MENTORSHIP COMMUNICATION is the first and the most essential. As much as possible, every member of our organization must know what is happening within the organization, what is planned, what has happened and what they can do to be a part. Communication is not only critical between the leadership and the rank and file, but also from us to those outside the Legion

To be able to tell our story, we need to be EDUCATED about the story of the Legion. We need to be able to explain what the Legion is and does for veterans and for the community.

MENTORSHIP is essential to keep the Legion going. Every Legion Family officer should be seeking a replacement. We have recently celebrated our centennial. We must actively seek and mentor the next generation of leaders for the Legion to make it to the next centennial.

SEVENTH DISTRICT

**Dean Knutson
Commander**



Another year has come and gone. The Dept. Convention is past and we begin the new Commander and membership team in place. Congratulations to Commander Mark Dvorak.

This now presents some challenges to us as your membership has been on the decline for a few years. We as

Legion members need to communicate between one another, whether it be at post, district, or Dept. level to let our communities as well as all eligible Veterans know who we are and what The American Legion stands for.

The new membership program is based on the three C's, Communicate, Communicate, Communicate. In many cases all we need to do is ask if a person is a member of the Legion and begin a conversation with them as to their benefits of being as member of the Legion.

Let's begin this new year on a positive note and let all eligible Veterans as well as our communities know who we are and what we stand for. Get our membership on the upward swing once again.

Let's promote the Four Pillars on which we were founded; Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism and Children and Youth

As my slogan for this years says: Keep Veterans First!!!

EIGHTH DISTRICT

**Anne Koskinen
Commander**



I bring greetings as the new 8th District Commander. To some of you my face is probably unknown. I have only been here in the District for three years, having retired here from a survey engineer career in California since the 1970s. All members can feel comfortable in contacting me and stating their views on Legion issues. It helps me better understand the things that are going on around the District.

Mining concerns [PolyMet, Twin Metals], more employment opportunities, and economic wellness are issues that we in the District must face with optimistic activism. With these come increases in our population, more men and women join the military, and this can help build our membership roles. Helping the Legion members, and present and former military in their times of need are continuing to fill our schedules.

North East Minnesota Women Veterans, presently an informal group, is active on women veterans issues, both local and national. I am encouraging participation in joining the Legion and working with them in their great projects. I have my ears open to them for help and ideas with the District Legion.

Department Fall Conference and District Winter Conference are in the near future, and I want the members to attend; the more people we have, the better the organization runs.

NINTH DISTRICT

**Lowell Philp
Commander**



Greetings from the Ninth District.

Each year brings a new challenge: a chance to better ourselves. We are up to that challenge.

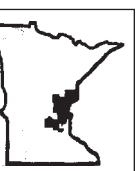
As always, membership is at the forefront. That's not our only goal, however. It's our duty to extend ourselves past just enlisting members. In order to have them become active and viable members, we must enlighten them on our purpose. Include them in our activities. Offer guidance to new officers.

Better communication is another tool for success. I will strive to visit as many posts as possible this year. You can reach me at minnfats@yahoo.com or on my cell phone at 218-368-2447. I welcome any suggestions or ideas.

Good luck this year and may God bless you and our country.

TENTH DISTRICT

**Tom Allen
Commander**



Greetings Fellow Comrades:

What a great honor to be able to have this position. I would like to thank Commander Darrel and his staff from the Tenth District for their excellent year.

I would like to congratulate Mark and his Comrades and hope them for the best for this coming year.

As we start another year, we look back at last year and see if we can do better this year. A lot of areas are going to be hard to do that. Good luck to all districts this coming year.

The Tenth District is having a picnic at North Branch on August 17th at 12:00 potluck. Games and meat provided. Come and bring your family for an afternoon of fun.

Awards, honors from the 2019 convention



MADSEN FIXTURE AND MILLWORK HONORED — The winner of the Minnesota Department Employer of veterans Award for small companies went to Madsen Fixture and Millwork of Forest Lake. From left, Forest Lake Post 225 Commander Terry Larson, Commander Darrel Redepenning, Third District Commander Carla Tappanier, Madsen General Manager and CFO Kristyn Schlavin, Minnesota LVER Rep Barry Platt, and Employment Committee Chair Carl Moon.



VISN 23 COIN — Robert McDivitt, Director of the Midwest Health Care Network for the VA, presented Commander Darrel Redepenning with Challenge Coin.



DELAYED GIFT — Unable to attend the Commander's Testimonial, Paul and Susan Edwards presented Darrel Redepenning with what appeared to be camouflaged undergarments.



COMMUNITY SERVICE VOLUNTEER HOURS — The Community Service Award for most volunteer hours went to Nashwauk Post 307, accepted by 8th District Commander Wilbur Swanson; North St. Paul Post 39, Terry Burns; Melrose Post 101, 6th District Commander Richard Cross; Waite Park, Tom Fernlund.



MEMBERSHIP — Vice Commander Jennifer Havlick accepted the Appreciation Rally Award from Membership Director Mike Maxa.



MEMBERSHIP GIFT — Membership Director Mike Maxa presented Commander Redepenning with bottle of Diet RC Cola.



MEMBERSHIP — Third District Membership Director Linda Dvorak was honored by Membership Director Mike Maxa for top district membership recruiter..



EMPLOYMENT AWARD TO LAKE COUNTY POWER — The 2019 Department of Minnesota Employer of Veterans Award for medium-sized business went to Lake County Power in Grand Rapids. From left: Employment Chair Carl Moon, Commander Darrel Redepenning, Lake County Power COO Derek Howe, 8th District Commander Wilbur Swanson, Vice Commander D. Marvin Hill, State LVER Rep Barry Platt.



VICE COMMANDER AWARD — Membership Director Mike Maxa presented Department Vice Commander Dick Ward with a gift as Department Vice Commander of the Year.



AUXILIARY BOWLING — Lanesboro Unit 40 was honored for winning the Auxiliary Team Event at the State Bowling Tournament. From left: Pam Hoshal, committee person, First District President Michelle Weaver, accepting for Lanesboro, Carrie Lamb, Bowling Secretary, President Jean Walker.



LEGION BOWLING — Hamline Post 418 won the Legion Team Trophy at the Department Bowling Tournament. From left, Commander Darrel Redepenning, committee person Pam Hoshal, Bowling Secretary Carrie Lamb, and, accepting for Hamline, 3M Post members Bird Partridge and Carl Renalls.



HISTORIAN BOOKS — Department Historian Dennis DeLong presented Commander Redepenning with two of his three history books for the year.



GOVERNOR SPONSOR — Boys State Governor Lap Nguyen was sponsored by Rochester Post 92. Mark Maloney accepted the plaque.



SAL CHECK — The Sons of the American Legion presented checks for Legionville and the Commander's Project at the convention. Presenting to Commander Redepenning were Adjutant Dennis Henkemeyer and Commander Shawn Davis.



AMERICANISM — 3M Post 399 won the Americanism Meritorious Service Award, accepted by Post Commander Carl Renalls. It was presented by Commander Darrel Redepenning and Americanism Chairman Art Tobkin.



AMERICANISM — New Prague Post 45 won the Americanism Distinguished Service Award with Commander Linda Dvorak accepting. Presenting were Commander Darrel Redepenning and Americanism Chairman Art Tobkin.



BOYS STATE AWARDS — Posts that sponsored Boys State award winners were honored at the convention. From left: Commander Darrel Redepenning, Boys State Assistant Director Lee Tallackson, Boys State Governor Lap Nguyen, Jim Munson accepting for Richfield Post 435 for sponsoring Griffon Olson, the Myron and David Way Award winner, 10th District Commander Paul Orson, accepting for Fridley Post 303 for sponsoring Charles Schumer, winner of the Director's Award, and Bill Brockberg, accepting for Hardwick Post 478, sponsor of Gunnar Oldre, the Outstanding Boys Stater.



COMMUNITY SERVICE DOLLARS — Posts who contributed the most dollars to community service projects were honored. Accepting were: Bird Partridge and Carl Renalls for 3M Post 399, Steve Fosness for Fairmont Post 36, Tom Burns for North St. Paul Post 39, and Tom Fernlund for Waite Park Post 428.



DONATION — The Second District, represented by Commander Cindy Brunk and Steve Fosness presented a check to Wayne Gilbertson for Legionville.



EAGLE SCOUT OF THE YEAR — Eagle Scout of the Year Rhylan Peterson of Dodge Center received a plaque from Commander Darrel Redepenning and Boy Scout Chairman Tom Hallett.

More honors from the 2019 Department Convention at Willmar



PATRIOTIC UNITS — Award winners at the Friday night parade for patriotic units were honored. From left: Vice Commander Richard Wog, Parade Assistant David Bode, Parade Chair Tom Schottenbauer, Hank Haglund accepting for Raymond 420, Dale Wellik accepting for Kasson Post 333, and Lynne Nottage accepting for Minneapolis Post 1.



FIRE FIGHTER OF YEAR — Plaques were presented to Firefighter of the Year Pat Heinen of Harris and Orv Otterness of North Branch Post 85, his sponsor. Also present were Darrel Redepenning and Law and Order Chair Tom Conway.



REHAB AWARDS — The Meritorious Service Awards from the National Rehabilitation Committee were announced. From left, Alternate NECman Bill Barbknecht, Dennis Henkemeyer accepting for Leslie Hinrichs, Bagley Post 16, Steve Fosness, Fairmont Post 36, Pat Logan, Bayport Post 491, John Weiss, St. Paul Arcade Phalen Post 577, Wade Larson accepting for Gary Martin, Minneapolis Gopher Post 440, Jerome Ebnet accepting for Robert Jarrot, Holdingford Post 211. Gary Gasner of Two Harbors Post 109 also won the award. Hinrichs was the winner for the Pat Cliff Award for Service Officer of the Year.



GOLD BRIGADE WINNER — Terry Larson of Forest Lake Post 225 was honored as the Department's top recruiter with 53 signed up. Commander Darrel Redepenning and Director Mike Maxa presented.



KAISERSATT AWARD — Commander Darrel Redepenning and School Patrol Chair Jim Blakesley presented Shawn Davis and the SAL with the Kaisersatt Award for service to Legionville.



POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR — Nate Garland of Lino Lakes was the top policeman of the year, and Lino Lakes Post 566, Tom Merino, was his sponsor. Also shown are Cdr. Redepenning and Tom Conway.



PREMIER RACE — The Third District was honored by Membership Director Mike Maxa for winning the Premier Race for the year. From left: Commander Redepenning, Maxa, District Commander Carla Tappanier, District Membership Director Linda Dvorak.



BIG CHECK — The Department of Minnesota received a payment of \$175,000 from the Legionnaire Insurance Trust for this past year. From left, Vice Commanders Dick Ward and Richard Wog, Commander Darrel Redepenning and LIT Chairman Bill Barbknecht.



TOP COLOR GUARD — Waite Park Post 428 again won the top color guard in the parade. From left: Vice Commander Richard Wog, Parade Chairman David Bode, Bob Mace, Veronica Fernlund, Tom Fernlund, Dennis Schiffler, Daniel Ball and Convention Corporation Vice Chair Tom Schottenbauer.



DISTRICT PARADE WINNERS — The annual Department parade honored districts for participation. From left: Vice Commander Richard Wog, Parade Chair David Bode, Convention Corporation Vice Chair Tom Schottenbauer, Tenth District Commander Paul Orson, Third District Commander Carla Tappanier, and Ninth District Commander Arlo Rude.



The Auxiliary Bulletin

No. 20-1

President Mary Hendrickson

August 2019

Secretary Sandie Deutsch

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

The President's Column

By
Mary
Hendrickson



It is with a humble and grateful heart that I assumed the position of Department of Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary President for 2019-2020 at our recent Department Convention held in Willmar. Congratulations to outgoing President Jean Walker and the Willmar Post 167 officers and members for all their work in making our convention a fun-filled and informative event. I'd also like to thank everyone who brought items for or purchased items at the Silent Auction benefiting forthcoming Department-wide events celebrating our anniversary year as an organization. Purchasing a candle for our birthday cake was a rousing success. 100 candles were offered at \$5.00 each. They sold out quickly. Additional members added their \$5.00 to a "Supporter List." Rumor has it over \$3800 was put into the "kitty" to help pay for anniversary events. Kudos to Anniversary Committee Chairman Karla Otterness and her committee members for their continued work in helping us celebrate what National is calling "Our Centennial Year, 2019-2020".

My presidential project this year is threefold in nature. First of all, I'd like to purchase two used golf carts for Veterans on the Lake located near Ely. The golf carts would make it easier for veterans and their families to make the journey from one of the 25 cabins down to the waterfront or up to the community building. Veterans on the Lake receives no state or federal funding and is dependent on donations. You may have had a Post or family member who enjoyed one of the fishing trips to this beautiful resort. My second project involves the Silver Bay Veterans Home. They have a bus which takes residents to such events as area parades and the Duluth Air Show. After debarking from the bus, residents have had struggles sitting on lawn chairs in the hot sun. I'd like to raise enough contributions to purchase a retractable awning for their bus. The awning would make the day trips so much more enjoyable for the Silver Bay residents. As the child of a military parent with PTSD, any excess funds raised will go toward PTSD programs in Minnesota including the Journeys Program at the Minneapolis VA.

In my excitement to tell you about my projects, I forgot to mention my theme and symbol. In this our centennial year, I wanted my theme and symbol to reflect our very beginnings as an organization. My theme, "Remember, Honor, Serve," sums up the promises we made to veterans, active duty military and their families in our Preamble and Mission Statement. My symbol will be the poppy, a flower sacred to our entire American Legion Family. I look forward to working with American Legion Commander Mark Dvorak and SAL Squadron Commander Dave Vulcan.

It takes a lot of hard work by a lot of dedicated people to make our organization and programs run smoothly each year. I'd like to thank those individuals who graciously accepted committee chairmen and committee member positions for the upcoming Auxiliary year. Our organization meeting for 2019-2020 will be held at Waite Park on Saturday, August 10. The ten new District Presidents will hear from our committee chairmen as they summarize their plans for the upcoming year. They will take the information back to our unit members who are the real "nuts and bolts" of the American Legion Auxiliary and the reason for our success as an organization.

I was very excited to receive two invitations in July. Sunday, July 21 gave me a chance to attend the Hopkins Raspberry Festival followed quickly by all the American Legion Family appearing in the Minneapolis Aquatennial Torchlight Parade July 24th. Thank you to Dick Ward and his crew for quickly organizing this event.

God bless America. Happy birthday to us.

Mary Hendrickson, Cloquet, elected 2019-20 President

On Saturday, July 13, President Jean Walker closed another year of the American Legion Auxiliary and handed her gavel to our next President Mary Hendrickson. The annual Department Convention was held at the Willmar Conference Center hosted by The American Legion Family 167 of Willmar with approximately 215 Delegates, Alternates and Guests representing 99 Units hearing the various reports and conducting the business of the Auxiliary over the three days of the convention.

Our newly elected Department President Mary has chosen "Remember, Honor, Serve" as her theme for the 2019-2020 Auxiliary year. Her symbol is a Poppy.

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

Our special thanks to Betty Underthun and Donna Arends, Auxiliary Convention General Chairman and Co-Chairman and all of the members of the Willmar and 7th District American Legion Family who helped make this a successful convention.

AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

At the Department Convention President Jean presented 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 reports and the activities it carried on under the program. They are chosen by the Department Program Chairmen. Each recipient was given a gift from President Jean.

The recipients were:

- Americanism – Gail Cutler, Lake Crystal Unit 294, District 2
- AEF – Brenda Woodford, Walker Unit 134, District 6
- Children and Youth – Karen Cibert, Albert Lea Unit 56, District 1
- Community Service – Judy Kaczmarek, Hayfield Unit 330, District 1
- Education – Betty Moon, Hayfield Unit 330, District 1
- History – Cheryl Wilkes, Hackensack Unit 202, District 6
- Junior Activities – Beverly Borntrager, Trimont Unit 373, District 2
- Leadership – Rosie Court, St. Joseph Unit 328, District 6
- Legislation – Sandy Gilhousen, Montgomery Unit 79, District 3



AT THE CONVENTION — Newly installed President Mary Hendrickson addressed the convention.

Memorial – Lucille Schmidtke, Morristown Unit 148, District 3

National Security – Rosie Court, St. Joseph Unit 328, District 6

Past Presidents Parley – Shirley Frederick, Hackensack Unit 202, District 6

Poppy – Pat Boser, Pierz Unit 341, District 6

Public Relations – Sue Ebbers, Bird Island Unit 430, District 7

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation – Cathy Ritter/Jen Smith, Richfield Unit 435, District 5

Service to Veterans – Jeanne Ray, Hutchinson Unit 96, District 3

2019 FALL CONFERENCE

Our annual Fall Conference will be held in Mahanomen, Minnesota, October 24 - 26, 2019. More detailed information will be in next month's Legionnaire and on our Department website. The Department Executive Committee Meeting will be held on October 23 at 2:00 p.m.

NEW OFFICERS

Elections were held and appointments were ratified and the following will be leading your Auxiliary for 2019/2020:

- Department President Mary Hendrickson
- Department First Vice President Patti Coleman
- Department Second Vice President Mary Kuperus
- National Executive Committeewoman (2-year term) Raleen Tolzmann
- Alternate NEC Jean Walker (1-year term)
- Department Secretary Sandie Deutsch
- Department Treasurer Jan Lauby
- Department Chaplain Cheryl Nyman
- Department Historian Karla Otterness
- Department Parliamentarian Marsha Bible
- First District President Wanda Prescher, Stewartville Unit 164
- Second District President Robin Olson, Winnebago Unit 82
- Third District President Linda Kelly, Pine Island Unit 184
- Fourth District President Sandy Gibson, Rosetown Unit 542
- Fifth District President Mary Younkin, Minneapolis Unit 440
- Sixth District President Roberta Elvecrog, Aitkin Unit 86
- Seventh District President Lorraine Wigen, Tracy Unit 173
- Eighth District President Sue Korhonen, West Duluth Unit 71
- Ninth District President Pat Hanson, Middle River Unit 444
- Tenth District President Brandi Christensen, Delano Unit 377

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

I am cutting my notes short this month to make more room for "fun" pictures from this year's convention. I must say this is the most fun I have had at a convention yet. Thank you all for supporting President Jean and attending all of our events.

DARLENE PAVEK

Mary Ann Davis, our Auxiliary Hospital Home Representative at the Minneapolis VAHCS would like to give a special shout-out to Darlene Pavek a member of the American Legion Auxiliary for her countless hours making and donating pillows to the Minneapolis VAHCS. Mary Ann stated that Darlene has made over 2700 pillows to date.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 2 -4 – Junior Fun Weekend - Legionville

Auxiliary Bulletin

Continued from Preceding Page

August 10 – August Workshop - Department Executive Committee Meeting – Waite Park Post
 August 24 - 29 – National Convention – Indianapolis, Indiana
 September 2 – Labor Day – Department Office Closed
 September 7 – Harvest Rally – Membership Turn In for Auxiliary – Legionville
 October 24 – 26 – Fall Conference – Mahnomon, Minnesota



NEW OFFICERS — Front: Department Executive Secretary Sandie Deutsch, First Vice President Patti Coleman, President Mary Hendrickson, Second Vice President Mary Kuperus. **Back:** First District President Wanda Prescher, Second District President Robin Olson, Third District President Linda Kelly, Fourth District President Sandy Gibson, Fifth District President Mary Younkin, Sixth District President Roberta Elvecrog, Seventh District President Lorraine Wigen, Eighth District President Sue Korhonen, Ninth District President Pat Hanson and Tenth District President Brandi Christensen. (Missing is Jan Lauby, Department Treasurer.)



CLOWNING AROUND — Past President Donna Arends escorts President Jean Walker to the front.

2018-2019 Scholarship Winners

Awardee	Sponsoring Unit
Beth Ann Nikolas	St. Augusta Unit 621
Brittany Rogotzke	Springfield Unit 257
Hailee Horntvedt	Eagle Lake Unit 617
Katlyn Jaeger	Mankato Unit 11
Rylee Brosh	Foley Unit 298
Annika Gunderson	Upsala Unit 350
Caitlin Swenson	Pine River Unit 613
Ellen Leciejewski	Anoka Unit 102
James M. Conroy	Wheaton Post 80
Jenica Hancock	Pine City Unit 51
Lauren Karnitz	Redwood Falls Unit 38
Nathaniel Wosmek	Crosslake Unit 500
Samantha Freking	Heron Lake Unit 224
Brittany Rogotzke	Springfield Unit 257
Kia Tower	Effie Unit 182

Scholarship Program

Past Presidents Parley Healthcare
 Past Presidents Parley Healthcare
 Past Presidents Parley Healthcare
 Past Presidents Parley Healthcare
 Department of Minnesota
 Department of Minnesota
 Department of Minnesota
 Department of Minnesota
 Department of Minnesota
 Department of Minnesota
 Department of Minnesota
 Department of Minnesota
 Spirit of Youth
 Children of Warriors

At this time the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota would like to congratulate Kia Tower for being awarded a \$5,000.00 scholarship from the National American Legion Auxiliary's Children of Warriors Scholarship fund. Kia was sponsored by the Effie Auxiliary Unit 182. Also, Brittany Rogotzke was submitted for the National Spirit of Youth Scholarship and was not selected as a finalist but will receive a \$1,000.00 scholarship from the Department of Minnesota.

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DRESSED FOR SUCCESS — Second District members got out their tutus to make President Jean Walker's social event on Thursday night a dapper and debonair event.

POW/MIA event planned

The Pine Island American Legion Family – Post, Unit, and Squadron 184 is planning an event to recognize the POW/MIA veterans of Minnesota on September 14.

Pine Island needs your help. We have a banner hanging at our post that lists 46 POW/MIA from Minnesota – most from the Vietnam era. Those 46 veterans will be recognized at our event, but with the HIIAP regulations we are unable to obtain any other names or addresses of families.

If you have a friend, neighbor, or family member that was a POW/MIA from our great state, we would love to recognize them. Please contact Brian Stephens at 507-951-0852 to see if your loved one is on our banner or can be added to our list.

We welcome family and friends to come to our post on Saturday, September 14. There will be a flag retirement ceremony at 1 p.m. followed by our American flags being posted around our Veterans Memorial on our grounds – one for each POW/MIA veteran. The flags will remain until Sunday morning. Our local sheriff's department has a Bearcat obtained from the US government that will be on display. We will also be hosting a \$5.00 burger with all the sweet corn you can eat starting at noon. Please come and join us. Our address is 108 1st Ave SE, Pine Island, MN.

July 10, 2019, Auxiliary Membership

District	Goal	Membership To Date	Percent of Goal	Membership Last Year 7/11/2018
One	4,907	4,105	83.66%	4,447
Two	4,924	4,096	83.18%	4,334
Three	4,422	3,976	89.91%	3,999
Four	720	611	84.86%	692
Five	788	594	75.38%	654
Six	6,032	5,294	87.77%	5,510
Seven	3,934	3,293	83.71%	3,486
Eight	1,628	1,328	81.57%	1,440
Nine	4,344	3,560	81.95%	3,788
Ten	5,129	4,204	81.97%	4,425
1982	160	175	109.38%	157
Totals	36,988	31,236	84.45%	32,932

Silent Auction a success

It is with sincere gratitude that the 100th Year Committee would like to convey to our Unit Members, Past Department Presidents and Doug Bible, for their time and talents in making our silent auction a success.

Also thank you to everyone who purchased items.

Our committee has many activities planned to make this a special year. Please watch your Legionnaire and your Unit Mailing for further information on how you can help or join the Celebration by participating and have a good time. This year will only happen once in our lifetime so let make it memorable

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MP2772 1/12

4 seasons

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YOUR LEGIONNAIRE INSURANCE TRUST PROUDLY SALUTES YOUR DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN LEGION ON THE OCCASION OF THE LEGION'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SERVICE AND SUPPORT OF PROGRAMS TO BENEFIT ALL VETERANS. WE ARE HAPPY TO HELP SUPPORT THOSE EFFORTS. WE WISH YOU A PRODUCTIVE AND ENJOYABLE CONVENTION.