

Mike Schaffer

Department Commander

2017-2018

Mike Schaffer, 66, of Fulda, Minnesota, was elected Department Commander of the Minnesota American Legion at the organization's annual convention in July 2017. He will serve a one-year term.

Schaffer has been active in The American Legion for 44 years, holding a number of officer positions at the post, district, Department and National levels.

He was commander of Currie Post 322 twice, was Second District Commander in 1998-99, and Department Membership Director in 2007-08. He also was a Department Vice Commander and Sergeant-at-Arms. He served on numerous committees and was chairman of Trophies and Awards and Children and Youth.

He has been an assistant Sergeant-at-Arms at many national conventions, and currently serves on the National Security Committee. He is a dual member of the Sons of the American Legion.

Schaffer served in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War, and was stationed in Alaska and in the Philippines.

He was employed by the U.S. Postal Service as a rural mail carrier for over 23 years, retiring in 2015.

He and his wife, Nina, have three children and four grandchildren. He has been active in the community, serving in the Lion's Club, the Knights of Columbus, and he is a member of St. Gabriel Catholic Church.

His theme for the year is learning from the past and mentoring in the present to prepare for the future. He will work on special projects including scholarships to the Boys State program and raising money and awareness to help prevent veteran suicides.



Donna Arends

Department President

2017-2018

Donna Arends is 29-year member of The American Legion Auxiliary at the Austin F. Hanscom Unit 167 Willmar. She is eligible through her late father William Somerville, a World War II Army veteran.

In her unit, she has been the Juniors' Chairman for 20 years and served as President of her unit for a two-year term and again for a one-year term.

Arends has held many offices in the 7th District. She was 7th District President 2008-2009. Along with that on the District level she has served as chairman of Community Service twice, Membership three times and the Juniors.

On the Department level she has held chairmanships on Children and Youth twice, Girls State Committee for three years, Membership and Legislation Committees. In recent years she has gone through the chairs as Second Vice President, First Vice President and today is the Department President.

Her theme this year is "Lighting Veterans Paths" with the lighthouse as her symbol. Her project this year is to garner \$26,000 to be divided equally between the five Minnesota Veterans Homes and the Armed Forces Service Center at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. Any remaining funds will go to the Department office for their day to day duties to help us serve our veterans.

A smaller project is to collect the small LED flashlights. She will personally deliver them to the St. Steven's Outreach group for the homeless on the streets and in the elements. Unfortunately many of these folks are our veterans.

Arends is planning an educational year filled with fun to grow our American Legion Family.





Minnesota delegates celebrated on the stage after presenting a check for \$200,000 to the Legacy Scholarship Fund. The money was raised by the Minnesota American Legion Riders during two Legacy Runs this summer. Minnesota's donation was by far the largest of the convention. National Commander Charles Schmidt is in front.

National Convention Reno, Nevada



The presentation of colors by Past National Commander Dan Ludwig to Commander Denise Rohan was captured on the big screen.



Past Department Commander Denise Milton passed the gavel to Commander Mike Schaffer at the caucus.



National Commander's Banquet performer Neal McCoy was given a Legion pin on the stage by Nina Schaffer, the wife of the Department Commander.



President Donald Trump spoke to the convention and then signed a bill that will improve the appeals process in the VA medical system. Legion dignitaries gathered around the president as he showed off the bill.



National Executive Committeeman Marland Ronning and Delegation Chair Denise Milton presented Schmidt with a check for Operation Comfort Warriors.



Department Adjutant Randy Tesdahl leads a group at the Minnesota Party in learning how to line dance.



Minnesotans chowed down on country fried chicken at the Minnesota Party held at the Peppermill Resort and Casino, the home for the Minnesota Delegation.



Minnesota Department Commander Mike Schaffer and his wife Nina attended the National Commander's Banquet at the Reno Convention Center.



Past Department Commander Denise Milton and her husband, Past Department Commander Dennis Henkemeyer, attended the Commander's Banquet.



Minnesota carried on the tradition of massing flags during the annual parade. The delegation marched under the famous Reno arch which declares Reno as the biggest little city in the world.



Ferdie Haberman of Brewster marched in his 53rd national parade in Reno.



ANIVICUS Vice President Dan Ludwig welcomed Sylvan Fox and Darrel Redepenning to the honorary national group.

Schaffer lists his appointments for year

Department Commander Mike Schaffer announced his appointments for the year at the Department Executive Committee meeting held in August in Elk River.

(The following list generally includes just new appointments and not those who are continuing terms on committees.)

Art Tobkin of Bagley was appointed to a three-year term on the Americanism Committee and will serve as chairman.

Tom Hallet of Mankato will serve as Boy Scout chairman, Jennifer Kafka of Blue Earth as Community Service chair, and Don Skow of Lindstrom as Education chairman. Tommy Nelson was reappointed Boys State director, and Leon Dahle of Morristown will chair Junior Shooting Sports.

Linda Dvorak was named chair of the Oratorical Contest and Sylvan Fox of Brownsville will be vice chair. James Blakesley of Aitkin will chair Safety-School Patrol.

Joe Jansen of Arden Hills will continue as the representative to the Armed Forces Service Center. Tom Sanders of Pine City will serve as chair of the Blood Program.

Karen Welander of Sunberg will chair the Children and Youth Committee and Veronica Fernlund of St. Cloud will be vice chair.

Randy Bastyr of Oakdale will chair the Citizens Flag Alliance.

Pat Logan of Bloomington was appointed to a five-year term on the Convention Corporation. The committee selects its own chairman.

Bonnie Hanson of Rockford was appointed to a three-year term on the Credentials Committee.

On the new Education and Planning Committee, Jeff Gay of Jackson was appointed to a three-year term, Barry Madson of Eden Prairie to a two-year term and Mike Ash of St. Paul to a one-year term.

Carl Moon was reappointed chair of the Employment Committee, and Tom Allen of Clearwater was appointed chair of the Energy and Conservation Committee.

Ray DeZurik of Breezy Point was appointed to five-year term on the Finance Committee. Robin Picray of St. Paul will serve as chairman. Commander Mike Schaffer also serves.

Tom Mullon of Eagan will serve as the Legion's representative on the Fort Snelling Cemetery Association. Michael Maxa will chair the Fund for Hospitalized Vets Committee.

Tom Conway was reappointed chair of the Law and Order Committee. Richard Oelschlager of Andover will be the Legion Riders liaison.

Bill Barbknecht will again serve as chair of the Legionnaire Insurance Trust Committee. Garylee Davenport of Atwater was appointed to a three-year term and Myron Ehrich of West Concord will serve out Schaffer's one-year appointment on the committee.

Roger Myren of Eagan will be the Department's rep on the Legionville Board of Directors.

Peggy Moon of St. Joseph, Gary Larson of Stillwater, Bob Hart of Oak Park Heights and Lyle Foltz of Apple Valley will served on the Legislative Committee. Moon will be chairman.

Larry Ryan will be the Department's membership director.

Tim Sanken, Hutchinson, and Rosemary Niesen of Cologne were reappointed to three-year terms on the Brain Sciences Foundation. Dan Ludwig of Red Wing will be the commander's advisor.

Don Walser will continue as liaison to the Heart Research Foundation. Ryan Hill of Brewster was named to a five-year term on the Minnesota American Legion Foundation.

Richard Wog was named to a five-year term on the National Security/ Foreign Relations Committee. Glenn Mueller of St. Charles was reappointed chair of Operation Post Home.

Chuck Stone of Owatonna was named chair of the Pheasant Dinner Committee, and Ken Oliver of Duluth was named vice chair.

Ray Eiden of Minneapolis was named to a five-year term on the Post Development Committee. Arlo Rude of Thief River Falls was named to a four-year term replacing the late Tom Norgaard.

Ralph Schneekloth of Mabel was re-appointed to a three-year term on the Public Relations Committee. Wilson Spence of Duluth was re-appointed to a five-year term on the Rehabilitation Committee.

James Copher, Mound, was appointed to a three-year term on the Resolutions Assignment Committee. Jeff Olson, Green Valley, Ariz., will be chairman.

Ray Ozmun, Northfield, was appointed advisor to the Sons of the American Legion. Gary Weaver of LaCrescent was named north vice chairman and Walt Folendorf of East Grand Forks will be vice chairman, north.

Jeff Miller of Bismarck was appointed to a three-year term on the Baseball Committee. John Torma was named chairman of the Bowling Committee. Bob Mace, Waite Park, and Irv Tooker, Walker were also appointed.

Mark Coney, Hardwick, was named to a five-year term on the Strategic Planning Committee. Merlin Ellefson will serve as chairman.

Don Pankake of Hutchinson was named to a two-year term as representative on the V4V Committee.

Jim Kellogg of Taopi and Denise Milton of Bagley were named to the 100th Anniversary ad hoc committee.

Schaffer announced that he was not appointing the Youth Cadet Law Enforcement chairman at this time.

National Convention

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Trump praised his hosts. "The American Legion embodies the spirit of patriotism. That is the true source of our strength and the hope for our future. You cherish our values and you defend our great American flag."

He promised to keep working at improving the service at the VA, and he said that the military will have what it needs to fulfill its mission.

"We are defined by our shared humanity, our citizenship, and the love in our hearts. Our hearts beat for America."

The President said we can all work together. "We have no division too deep for us to heal."

The new appeals bill will open up three lanes for veterans to pursue an appeal. The goal of the bill will be to shorten appeals times from an average of five years to about 125 days.

In other news at the convention:

— Brig. Gen. Kevin Vereen, the Army's top recruiter, said that over 70 percent of the youth in America do not qualify to enter the military. The main problem is obesity. He noted that less than one percent of the population is now serving.

— Medal of Honor Recipient Donald Ballard said veterans need to be active in their communities. "If we don't do it, then who the hell's going to do it." Ballard, who served in the Navy and Army, made a joke at the expense of the Air Force. "In the Army they say 'hoorah,' in the Marines they say, 'Oorah,' and in the Air Force they say, 'nice putt.'"

— It was announced that national dues will remain the same at \$18.50.

— National Commander Charles Schmidt said that the Legion has now dipped below two million members. "If we're going to stay relevant, we'd better turn that around as we enter our second century." He said there are 18 million veterans in the nation, and that more must be convinced to join the Legion.

— Secretary of Labor R. Alexander Acosta touted a new veterans apprenticeship program. He said that one of four jobs in the U.S. require a license, thus barring many veterans who are otherwise qualified for a position. "These licenses often create privileged class." He said such licenses should be honored in all states.

— The American Legion Patriot Award went to Dr. Robert Gates, the former Secretary of Defense. He said, "Nobody who has ever been in combat walked away without scars."

— Mike Rowe, who is known as the spokesman for Ford Motor Co., and as the host of the "Dirty Jobs" television series, was honored with the National Commander's Media and Communication Award. Rowe was having fun with the gavel and rapped it on the side of the podium three times. "Easiest standing ovation I ever got."

— Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs David Shulkin said the VA medical system continues to get high marks from veterans, but he said the agency is moving strongly ahead in several areas to improve care and shorten waiting lists. He said the new Veterans Choice Act would eliminate the 40-day and 30-mile requirement for a veteran to seek care at a private institution. He said wait times are posted at all times on the VA's website. And he said the agency is using Telehealth, remote video communication between doctor and patient, to a much greater degree. And he said the VA is becoming more aggressive on firing bad employees. "The right people need to be in the VA. We can no longer tolerate those who do not share our values. Over 500 employees have lost their right to serve our veterans. This is something we take very seriously." He also assured the Legion that he was not pursuing a change to privatization of the VA.

— John D. Monahan, a commissioner on the efforts to build a World War I memorial in Washington D.C., noted that 4.7 million veterans served in the Great War, 200,000 were wounded and 116,000 were killed. The memorial will have a ground breaking this year and will be completed by November of next year.

— Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, was honored with the Legion's Religious Liberty Award. "Our rights come from God almighty. We are endowed to live our lives without government interference."

— Tom Moe, a director of the planned National Veterans Memorial and Museum in Ohio, said \$77 million has already been raised for the project. "It's not about tanks, it's about people."

— Minnesota won the national Blood award for Category 2.

— Newly elected Commander Rohan said it was time for the Legion to "purple up" and start working together to serve veterans. "We need to get to know the families of our warriors before they go on a deployment. That's what we do."

-- Both the National Commander Denise Rohan and the National President Diane Duscheck are from the state of Wisconsin.

August DEC meeting

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— Re-elected Joe Bayer of Minneapolis to a three-year term on the Board of Publications.

— Established an ad hoc committee to be a liaison to women veterans. Commander Mike Schaffer appointed Past Department Commander Denise Milton, Bagley, and Jennifer Havlick, Two Harbors, to the committee.

— Heard from newly-elected Sons of the American Legion Detachment Commander Shawn Davis that the goal for the organization this year is 12,000 members. He said his projects for the year are Legacy scholarships, ROTC scholarships and the Family Hospital Association.

— Was asked by Department Adjutant Randy Tesdahl to make sure the posters provided by the Department to promote the 100th convention in Minneapolis next year are displayed in the post homes and other places.

— Learned from Membership Director Larry Ryan that the Department's membership goal for 2017-18 is 72,500 members. "It's doable. We want to walk into that convention in Minneapolis at 100 percent. Ryan said that he has made a side bet with Wisconsin on membership percentage for the year, and the losing membership director has to wear the colors of the opposing professional football team and sing their song before their caucus at national convention. "Larry doesn't look good in green and gold," he said.

— Fixed up the language in two resolutions that passed at Department Convention. The DEC stood by the creation of a new training and education committee despite the fact that the Department's Post Development Committee had been charged with education in a resolution several years ago. Past National Commander Dan Ludwig suggested that the new committee take on that role, and the Post Development Committee focus on revitalization. The DEC passed a motion to make that change.

— Heard from Wayne Gilbertson, president of Legionville, that the school patrol camp would begin using the money it got from the Legislature to make improvements in the kitchen.

-- Passed a motion to allow Commander Schaffer to use the funds from the Department's holding post, Post 1982, at his discretion.



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL -- Dr. Apostolos Georgopoulos, director of the Brain Sciences Center at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center, and holder of The American Legion Chair in brain science at the University of Minnesota, won the Legion's highest award at the Reno Convention. It was presented by National Commander Charles Schmidt.



ASSISTANT JUDGE ADVOCATE -- Don Walser of Hutchinson took his place on the dias as an assistant judge advocate at the Reno Convention.

District Commanders

FIRST DISTRICT

**Les Shaunce
Commander**



Greetings from the First District:
We're off to a good start. We are off the Goose Egg. Thanks to everyone in the district for a job well done.
Congratulations to Mike Schaffer for being elected the new Department Commander for the 2017-2018 year. Commander Schaffer picked Larry Ryan as his Membership Director. Congrats also to the rest of Mikes team.

I'm sure they will have a great year.
Elk River Post# 112 hosted our first Department Executive Board meeting and Membership Training, August 5th. There was a good turnout and a very informative meeting was presented. Thanks for being a great host.

The National Convention was held in Reno Nevada from August 22nd thru the 24th. More on the convention next month.

The Legionville Camp-o-ree will be held September 7th thru the 10th.

This is always a great time, let's fill the camp ground. The Harvest Rally will be held in conjunction with the camp out, beginning with membership turn-in from 3:00 to 4p.m. and program at 4:30p.m. with a meal to follow.

My theme this year is Together as One. The theme is two fold. First it doesn't make any difference which veterans organization you belong to, we are all veterans united, together as one. Second the American Legion Family is a united organization, together as one.

The ALR is very busy with their Legacy Run. They are well on their way to their goal of \$200,000. Let's make sure we all pitch in to see them succeed. It's an outstanding cause.

My project this year is a covered six passenger golf cart for the new Veterans Cemetery, located at Preston, Mn. The cart would be used to ferry families to grave sights and around the cemetery. Any donation would be greatly appreciated.

God Bless our Troops and God Bless America.

SECOND DISTRICT

**Randy Olson
Commander**



Greetings American Legion Family from the "Solid 2nd District!" Exciting news coming from the National Convention in Reno. President Donald Trump's visit was very inspirational. His signing of the Bill there at the Convention was a huge accomplishment for all of us Veterans.

Congratulations to the newly elected National Commander Denise Rohan, National President Diane Duscheck, National SAL Commander Danny Smith. We look forward to working together with these great leaders. Our national American Legion Family in 3D.

Membership started off slow because of me and my Commanders Letter to all of the members, as I have a new goal to obtain. But even though we are not in 1st Place "yet," we are gaining momentum & lead in the Kaisersatt, as of this article. Watch for a District Challenge. On that subject, I want everyone to be aware of 4 little words. I find them to be a key to building our Organization. They are; "I've never been asked." I along with a few other District Commanders put a few questions to test in Menomen, National Convention, & at home in our local Posts. I not only asked potential Legion members, but also Auxillary, SAL, & ALR. Just to highlight a few, they were Legion bar managers, bar tenders, waitresses, waiters, cooks, bus drivers driving us around. To my surprise the answer was, "I've never been asked." I didn't know I could, I don't know how to! Then they were asked if they would help us, help our Veterans, by joining. Almost every single one said yes! It's as simple as that. Everyone knows someone that is currently or who has previously served. Every one of us can do membership, remember just one from each CAN make a difference. Just ask them. Either fill out membership forms or take names and give to Membership. On that note, Happy membership building. Pray for all of Our Service members, either currently serving or Retired. God bless the USA.

FOURTH DISTRICT

**Lane Stunkel
Commander**



Greetings to the incredible members of the Fabulous 4th District. At our last RCCC, we came together to discuss issues that members see within the 4th, some of the conversations were very heated and spirited. I really saw the passion that the District has on several issues, we learned a lot and now it is up to us to make those changes happen. To all who attended the RCCC, I thank you for your input; let's try to have more family members attend the upcoming RCCC's, at least 6 per Post (Legionnaire's, Auxiliary, SAL and ALR). To the 4th & 5th District members who attended the 934th Family Day - Thank you, and a Special Thank You to SMSgt Haider for making this possible for the American Legion Family to attend.

Upcoming Events:
September 6th, 4th District SAL Meeting at N St Paul Post 39, 6PM

September 7th - 10th, Camp-O-ree at Legionville
September 9th, Harvest Rally at Legionville, Membership 3PM

September 16th, Corn and Brat Feed, N St Paul Post 39, Noon - 4PM

September 17th, Fall BBQ at Rosetown Post 542, Noon - 5PM

September 17th, VA Hospitalization 12 Noon
October 22nd, Jewish War Veterans Pancake Breakfast at Arcade Phalen Post 577, 9AM-Noon

October 27th-28th, Fall Conference at Willmar
4th District Family Members, if your Post is having an event please let me know, let's try to attend all or at least some of the events that you can, by supporting each other, our District Family will get stronger.

SIXTH DISTRICT

**Ken Johnstone
Commander**



Greetings to the entire American Legion family of the great State of Minnesota! We are looking forward to a very productive 2017-2018 year for the Sixth District and the Department of Minnesota.

With the Department convention and the first Executive Board meeting behind us, it is time to move forward and accelerate work on Legion membership, as well as other Legion programs.

Our Sixth District leadership has been busy: We conducted two School of Instruction training sessions in August. I thank Sauk Centre and Pequot Lakes Legion Posts for hosting the events. We are especially grateful for the volunteer instructors who presented valuable information and led great discussions. We have also planned three revitalization events across the District, to assist our Posts in successfully conducting their membership drives.

With the Legionville CAMP-O-REE just around the corner, September 7th - 10th, I hope to see a LOT of you there. The Sixth District will host the Fish Fry. I am confident that we will have a very enjoyable time.

Finally, as I write this, I'm preparing for the National Convention in Reno, Nevada. After returning, I plan to share my experiences with you as I visit our Posts around the Sixth District. I am confident that I will have a lot of information to pass on.

SEVENTH DISTRICT

**Richard Wog
Commander**



Mighty 7th, here we go and the race is on. What, you ask is he talking about? We had the Department membership meeting and our Department Membership Director is racing for the goal and we need to finish first. The good news is, it is still early. The bad news is the 7th is eating dust and nobody like eating dust. But like I said it is still early. Rally dates have been set and it is not just about membership. It is about what is going on in our district and around us. I need your attendance at the rallies, so let's get together and soup up our cars and get to the membership in and on time. I know you are working on it by the invitations I've received to attend your membership dinners. The crops are looking great and soon the harvest will start and that means a good crop. We hope and pray that is true for all of our farmers. No, we as Legion members have to look our part and be like the working farmers. We need to harvest the new crop, but most of all we should not forget that we still have our members to be thankful for as we keep adding on.
September is going to be a busy month for me and I love

it. I am booked every weekend and also during the week as well. But going back to the first of my letter, put yourself in that race car and race for the checkered flag. We're in the race for the team and for all of our veterans to show our support for them. I hope to see all of you at the Harvest Rally at Legionville on September 9th. Until then, have a safe month. God bless each of you and God bless America.

EIGHTH DISTRICT

**Donovan Goblirsch
Commander**



Greetings to the 8th District.
As of Membership Bulletin #7, (Aug. 16) the 8th District is at 45.25% of goal. It is important to bring as many memberships to the Legionville Fall Rally on September 9, 2017, as possible. But more importantly, keep sending memberships in every week. "Slow but steady, wins the race." Remember, one of our goals is to RETAIN memberships. Wherever you go, ask "Are you a veteran? How about joining the American Legion?" Carry membership forms with you. You never know when an opportunity to sign a new member will occur.

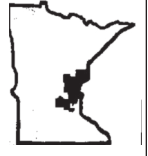
There are a few posts who have not sent an officer list into the Department. Please do so. If you need any help with this, I'll be happy to help. If you send or call me with the list, I could forward it by e-mail to the Department. Thanks for your cooperation! (218-749-2233; e-mail: goblul@msn.com)

On Sept. 15-17, I will be attending the Foreign Relations & National Security meetings at Fort Ripely. If you wish to express concerns or opinions in this area, please notify me.

Enjoy time with your family and grandchildren, they'll soon be back in school. Have an enjoyable end of summer!

TENTH DISTRICT

**Paul Hassing
Commander**



Hello Mighty Tenth.
First of all, I would like to thank everyone for the hard work they do for the good of this great organization. I am truly amazed with the number of hours put in by a lot of people.

As of this writing, we have just finished with the District picnic, and I think it went pretty well (even with the rain). Thank you Coon Rapids, and everyone that helped make it a success.

The legacy run had a great ending party hosted by Delano, and it was astonishing. The streets were lined with people from the community, and the escort in brought tears to my eyes. The donations made by the tenth district family made me so proud to be a part of it. Our Honorary Junior Auxiliary President Emily Suess even got to ride on the back of a motorcycle, and she was smiling the entire way (again, even with the rain). The legacy ride is a perfect example of what can happen when the entire American Legion Family works together for a cause. Great job everyone.

This year I would like everyone to try something. Ask 10 people to join the American Legion Family. Don't worry about what they are going to say. Some will, some won't, so what. It might not be the right time for them to join, but I don't want the reason they are not joining to be the fact that they weren't asked. Give it a try you might be surprised.

Hope to see all of you at Legionville on the 9th.



TRUMP SPEAKS -- President Donald Trump spoke on Wednesday at the National Convention in Reno. He later signed a bill that is intended to speed up the process for veterans appeals to the VA.

Taps

Taylor, Vernon Williams, 83, Army of the Korean War, died July 14, 2017. He was a member of Alexandria Post 87.

Hubbard, Robert O., 97, Army veteran of World War II, died July 17, 2017. He was a member of Alexandria Post 87.

Porath, George, 96, Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 1, 2017. He served in the Pacific and participated in the invasions of Saipan, Iwo Jima, Guadalcanal and Guam, earning a Bronze Star. He was a member of Waseca Post 228.

Illies, Jerome H., 84, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 5, 2017. He was a member of Paynesville Post 271.

Eliason, Raymond W., 92, Army veteran of World War II, died July 2, 2017. He served in the Third Infantry Division in England, France and Germany. He was a member of Roseau Post 24 and a past commander of Milan Post 359.

Flury, Darrold George "Buzz," 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 22, 2017. He was a past membership chairman of Dodge Center Post 384.

Hagen, Christopher, 85, veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 2, 2017. He was a member of Waseca Post 228 and a former member of New Richland Post 75.

Menk, Dennis, 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 14, 2017. He served in the Signal Corps. He was a member of Franklin Post 308.

Klepsa, Robert D., 67, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 25, 2017. He was a squad leader in C Company, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, 501st Airborne. He was a member of Mora Post 201.

Davis, James M., 78, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 14, 2017. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Hansen, Gerald D., 96, Army veteran of World War II, died July 28, 2017. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Hagen, Larry, 77, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 23, 2017. He served in Korea. He was a member of Middle River Post 444.

Schutz, Eugene, 69, Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, died Aug. 3, 2017. He was a member of Cold Spring Post 455.

Huehn, Lorraine E. (Jochims), 93, Navy veteran of World War II, died July 23, 2017. She was a pharmacist's mate in the WAVES at Shoemaker Hospital in California. She was a member of Round Lake Post 461.

Wockovich, Walter G., 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 10, 2017. He served in the 164th Infantry Division. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

Buyse, Vincent, 92, Navy veteran of World War II, died July 23, 2017. He was in the Seabees serving as a carpenter's mate second class at Peleliu. He was a member of Marshall Post 113.

Johnson, Raymond, 84, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 5, 2017. He was a member of Marshall Post 113.

Goergen, Jerome Paul, 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 10, 2017. He was a member of Austin Post 91.

Jensen, Hiram Jens, Jr., 89, Navy veteran of World War II, died Aug. 10, 2017. He was member of Austin Post 91.

Plutowsik, Raymond J., 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 8, 2017. He was a paratrooper. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

Aasen, Bert Norman, 84, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 28, 2017. He was a combat engineer and a military policeman. He was a member of Underwood Post 489.

Wilson, Donald Lee "Smasher," 71, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 23, 2017. He served with the HHC Second Battalion, 41st Infantry, Second Armored Division at Fort Hood. He was commander of Grand Marais Post 413 for over 32 years.

Stanek, Stanley "Bud," 93, Marine Corps veteran of World War II, died July 20, 2017. He served on the USS Bunker Hill and his ship was hit by two kamikaze planes in May of 1945, killing over 400 sailors and marines. He was a member of Austin Post 91.

Schulze, Richard, 67, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 20, 2017. He was a member of Caledonia Post 191.

Ferguson, Lloyd L., 90, Merchant Marine and Navy veteran of World War II, died July 31, 2017. He was the bugler for the color guard at Austin Post 91.

Miller, Dale Allen, 85, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 4, 2017. He was a member of Milaca Post 178.

Meyer, Richard, 80, National Guard and Army veteran of the Korean and Vietnam Wars, died July 12, 2017. He served until 1994 earning the rank of chief warrant officer 4. He was a past commander and longtime adjutant of Audubon Post 339.

Sigrist, Kenneth Stanley, 96, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died July 21, 2017. He was an aircraft mechanic with the 494th Fighter Squadron in Europe. He was a member of Pine Island Post 184.

Rolland, Lawrence Charles, 73, National Guard veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 7, 2017. He was a member of Milroy Post 274.

Runtzel, Walter, 92, Army veteran of World War II, died July 5, 2017. He served in the Pacific. He was a member of Hector Post 135.

Sonstegard, Harold, 87, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died July 11, 2017. He was a member of New London Post 537.

Haag, Martin A., 78, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 25, 2017. He was a member of Waconia Post 150.

Lohse, Kenneth Arvid, 89, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 24, 2017. He was a surgical tech. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 212.

Frank, Glenn, 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 26, 2017. He was a paratrooper in the 11th Airborne Division. He was a member of Lake City Post 110.

Morris, Richard D., 69, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 24, 2017. He was a member of the Claremont Post 422.

Gebhart, William, 88, Army veteran of World War II, died July 23, 2017. He served in Korea. He was a member of Cold Spring Post 455.

Peters, Arnold, 89, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 21, 2017. He served at Fort Carson, Colorado. He was a member of Lake City Post 110.

Hanson, Ralph Anthony, 75, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Aug. 10, 2017. He was commander of Chaska Post 57 seven times.

Nelson, Aymer E., 104, Army veteran of World War II, died July 30, 2017. He enlisted at age 30 and was at Omaha Beach on D-Day, and fought in the Battle of the Bulge. He was in the 81st Chemical Mortar Battalion. He was a member of Upsala Post 350.

Schiller, Robert, 92, Army veteran of World War II, died July 10, 2017. He served in Europe. He was a member of the honor guard at St. James Post 33.

Paul, Edwin Richard, 92, Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 12, 2017. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Kittelson, Howard, 78, Marine Corps veteran of the

Vietnam War, died Aug. 21, 2017. He was a member of St. Paul Park Post 98.

Schneider, Ronald H., 82, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died July 10, 2017. He was a member of Willmar Post 167.

Nelson, Harlan L., 83, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 16, 2017. He was a member of Willmar Post 167.

Christensen, Richard C., 91, Navy veteran of World War II, died July 22, 2017. He was a member of Willmar Post 167.

Hansen, Lawrence, 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 18, 2017. He was a member of Cold Spring Post 455.

Fandel, Michael P., 83, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 18, 2017. He was a member of Cold Spring Post 455.

Eckblad, Stuart Nord, 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 19, 2017. He was awarded two Bronze Stars.

Bisek, Ralph W., 86, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 7, 2017. He was an original member of the honor guard at New Prague Post 45.

Ambroz, Lloyd, 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 7, 2017. He served in the Artillery. He was a member of New Prague Post 45.

Comstock, Dale, 59, Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War, died Aug. 8, 2017. He was a member of Thief River Falls Post 117.

Homme, Thomas, 92, Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 1, 2017. He had not yet turned 20 when he served in the Battle of the Bulge. He was on the color guard of Thief River Falls Post 117.

Haas, Alfred L., 98, Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 1, 2017. He served at Pearl Harbor. He was a member of Chaska Post 57.

Scheving, Charles F., 84, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 27, 2017. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

Powers, Tom, 97, Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 21, 2017. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.



NOMINATED -- Incoming Commander Denise Rohan and members of her family led the Wisconsin contingent around the convention hall after the nominating speeches.



GOOD BYE GIFTS -- Members of the National Headquarters staff donned hunting hats to present outgoing Commander Charles Schmidt some gifts, most of which were for outdoor recreation.

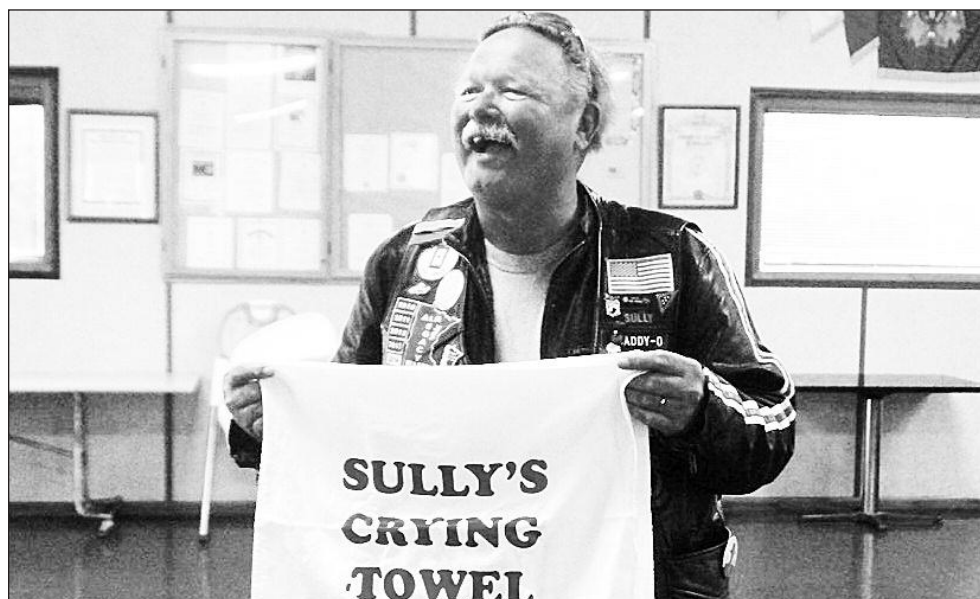
Riders Runs raise \$200,000



THE LONG LINE -- Riders stretch out into the far distance as they made their way across Minnesota in two weekend runs. The group, comprised of Legion, Auxiliary and SAL riders, raised money for the national Legacy Scholarship fund.



ON THE ROAD -- Ted and J'Lynn Berg ride into Monticello.



NO TEARS FOR SULLY -- Legacy Run organizer Steve Sullivan got his first crying towel of the run. There were no tears in Reno, though, when Sullivan and the other Riders presented a check for \$200,000 to National Commander Charles Schmidt.

Listening Post

News from around the State



PATRIOT RIDE -- The 12th annual Dennis Kirk Patriot Ride had the Anoka County Airport in Blaine as its homebase. The 50-mile ride recognizes and remembers the POW/ MIA from the Vietnam War. Over 5,000 riders took part.



VETERANS LAKE OUTING -- A veteran is assisted from the dock area after fishing at the annual Veterans Lake outing for disabled veterans. The day included fishing, boating, lunch and live entertainment.



RED BULL BAND -- The 34th Division Red Bull Band visited Slayton in August to participate in the parade. The band made a stop at Murray County Veterans Memorial.



THIRD DISTRICT PROJECT -- Past Third District President Michelle Leonard began a project to have a greenhouse at the Minnesota Veterans Home at Hastings, and the VFW raised funds to complete it. It was dedicated in August.



The Auxiliary Bulletin

No. 18-2

President Donna Arends

September 2017

Secretary Sandie Deutsch

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

The President's Column

By Donna Arends



Hello Everyone. Since I last visited with you, I have visited a small unit in central Minnesota. Here the unit president was told by her doctor to go home and get her affairs in order. She has cancer and they were unsure if any medication or treatments would benefit her. This lady, after letting this news settle, started training her unit members to take over her office of president and membership chairman. She wanted this unit to survive even given her fate. Wow. Ladies that is dedication and love for our organization. Let's all keep her in our prayers, also keeping up with her dedication.

Next I attended Junior Fun Weekend at Legionville. Of course as always a great time was had by all. An impromptu talent contest Saturday night yielded many talented girls. Girls, let's use those talents to advertise our American Legion Family.

Then, of course, we were onto National Convention in Reno. We learned of a resolution being put up for a vote to raise the National dues from \$9 to \$12. Along with that there was a resolution to give the NEC the direction to increase the dues in increments every two years as the COLA (Cost of living adjustment) dictates. The decision of the body was to separate that resolution into two. One for the \$3 increase, and one for the NEC to have that option. The body agreed to a dues increase of three dollars, however not to allow the NEC to have that option in the future. So for 2018-2019 National dues will be \$12.

I also attended a breakout session for American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Grants. Ladies, this is not being utilized. Please consider any fundraising events that benefit veterans. You may apply for a grant from this organization to help with the costs of the fundraiser. The application grants are very easy -- a one page form to fill out.

I was honored to witness the swearing in of all the 2017-2018 National Officers, as well as being sworn in myself to be your 2017-2018 Department of Minnesota President. Thank you one and all.

Next I am off to a membership dinner in Morris, followed by Camporee at Legionville.

Fall Conference will be entertaining both Thursday and Friday evenings. A separate conference will be held this year for Auxiliary and Legion. So try to get new members or newer members to attend to learn our programs.

As always this year, let's work on educating our members and our communities, so we can grow this organization to continue to "Lighting Our Veterans Paths."

God Bless the United States of America, our Military, their Families and You.

Wisconsin's Diane Duscheck elected National President

The 2017 National Convention was held in Reno, Nevada, August 18 - 23. The Convention was well attended by the entire American Legion Family. The Auxiliary had 30 Delegates, 16 Alternates and 7 Guests. President Donald Trump addressed the American Legion Convention and the Auxiliary was invited to attend this session. The session was high-lighted by President Trump signing a bill for Veterans, in front of the entire American Legion Family. This was a history making event. Diane Duscheck from the Department of Wisconsin was installed as our National President and will serve through the 2017-2018 year. Kathy Dungan from the Department of Mississippi will serve as the National Vice President.



AT WORK IN RENO -- President Donna Arends, Secretary Sandie Deutsch and Past President Carol Kottom posed at the National Convention.

PRESIDENT'S PROJECT

Department President Donna Arends has chosen the following as President's projects for the 2017/2018 year. Her wish is to raise \$26,000.00 to be divided equally between the five (5) Veterans Homes and the Armed Forces Center at the Minneapolis Airport. Any additional funds would go to help in the Department Office. Her special project is to collect small LED flashlights to hand out to the homeless as many of them are Veterans. President Donna would appreciate any and all Units to contribute to her very important project.

PRESIDENT'S VISITS

If you would like to have our Department President attend a function or meeting of your Unit, please invite her. She has dedicated this year to serving the American Legion Auxiliary, its programs, and working with you, our Unit members, in a meaningful and helpful manner. President Donna would like the opportunity to work with each of our Units and Districts and is more than happy to join you, schedule permitting.

Invitations should be directed to the Department President and sent to Sandie Deutsch, Department Secretary, American Legion Auxiliary, State Veterans Service Building, 20 W. 12th St., Room 314, St. Paul MN 55155. Please do NOT send invitations to her home address. An invitation form will be included in the first Unit Mailing.

MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

The 2017-2018 membership program is being led by Department Membership Chairman Mary Kuperus. The District Membership Chairmen are as follows; District 1 - Michelle Weaver, District 2 - Raleen Tolzmann, District 3 - Lynn Duffy, District 4 - Sandy Gibson, District 5 - Cari Lamb, District 6 - Sharon Thiemecke, District 7 - Pam Gades, District 8 - Jennifer Havlick, District 9 - Lynn Carr and District 10 - Sandy Locker. Please contact these ladies for any assistance you may need in collecting your Unit memberships. They are here to help you any way they can. Always remember that the Department Office can offer assistance as well.

Chairman Mary's theme is Shining the Light on our Veterans and Military While Searching for New Members. There are many membership awards available to all Units. They will be included in the forthcoming Trophy and Awards and packet and will be on our website.

Dues notices for 2018 will be sent out by National Headquarters on September 15. Please note that you do NOT have to receive a dues notice to pay your dues. They can be turned in to your Unit at any time or easier yet - you can pay online.

The Department Office still has 10 membership packets waiting on officers list. If you haven't received your packet, please call the office immediately. We will take your officer list over the phone.

FALL CONFERENCE

Fall Conference will be held Friday and Saturday, October 27-28, 2017 hosted by the Willmar American Legion Family 167. Housing and pre-registration information are included in this issue of the Minnesota Legionnaire.

President Donna is returning to the original format of having our annual Auxiliary School of Learning as an



DELEGATION -- Minnesota delegates to the National Convention in Reno take in the action.

Auxiliary only school. All of the American Legion Family will be on hand holding their own classes.

The Conference Host Hotel is the Best Western Plus which is connected to the Conference Center in Willmar. Both the list of hotels and conference registration form can be found on our website at mnala.org.

SILENT AUCTION/BAG SALE

A silent auction will be held at our Fall Conference with the proceeds going to support the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. This has become a tradition at Fall Conference, giving each of us the opportunity to help. The Chairman is asking for new or gently used items to be used in the Silent Auction. All items will be very welcome. We are looking for the very popular Theme Baskets again this year from Units, Districts, TAL, SAL or TLR's. The baskets bring in a tremendous amount of donations for our program. There will be an "Angel" District donation wall along with a bake sale. Remember bidders can be all members of The American Legion Family. All items should be brought Thursday evening or early Friday morning. Bidding will be on Friday only from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Be sure to attend and place your bids - the items last year were simply wonderful.

We need to continue to support the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. What better way than the "silent auction" at our Fall Conference. It is our way of helping our own members who find themselves in need.

2018 POPPY ORDERS

Orders for the 2018 Poppies are now being accepted. An order form will be included in the first Unit mailing. Prices in effect for this year: Small Poppies - \$20.00 a hundred for orders of 500 or less and \$18.00 a hundred for orders of 501 or more. (Small poppies must be ordered in lots of 100 only); Large Poppies are \$18.00 a dozen. There is a shipping charge schedule on the order form. We have plenty of poppies in inventory and can ship as soon as you want them. Our Department Chairman Sharon

Aug. 7, 2017, Auxiliary Membership

District	Goal	Membership To Date	Percent of Goal	Membership Last Year
One	5,000	4,681	93.62%	4,852
Two	4,924	4,542	92.24%	4,746
Three	4,411	4,081	92.52%	4,286
Four	720	695	96.53%	697
Five	824	712	86.41%	800
Six	6,042	5,714	94.57%	5,850
Seven	3,934	3,602	91.56%	3,819
Eight	1,628	1,527	93.80%	1,563
Nine	4,350	4,021	92.44%	4,223
Ten	5,159	4,815	93.33%	4,990
1982	160	159	99.38%	156
Totals	37,152	34,549	92.99%	35,982

Auxiliary Bulletin

Continued from Preceding Page

Thiemecke is working very hard to make this a very successful year.

NEW MAILING LABELS

Very soon each of our sister Auxiliary members will be receiving a packet of mailing labels. This is not a hoax – we have begun our own fundraising efforts by offering the labels to all of our members. We ask that you take advantage of these labels and support our efforts. The purpose of the fund raiser is to enable us to continue to operate our Department Office at the highest platform possible. The mailing will ask that you send your donations to a company called Engage – this is very legitimate. Please support our Department fundraisers!!

NEC WOMAN – 2018-2020

The Department of Minnesota is looking for candidates to run for the position of National Executive Committeewoman for a two year term, 2018-2019, 2019-2020. This position will be voted on at the 2018 Department Convention in Rochester. All endorsements should be sent to the Department Office if you are interested in running for this office.

2017-2018 UNIT GUIDE

We will be mailing the new 2017-2018 Unit Guides to the Unit Presidents in mid-September. This is a plan book for the current Auxiliary year and it is important for Units to have this information at the start of the year. We will also have additional copies available at Fall Conference for a price of \$5.00 each. We also have an inventory of our Member Handbooks currently available. These are very valuable tools for all members, new and those that have been in the organization for a long time. It is a snapshot of our organization and all we offer. Please call the Department Office and place your order today – we will ship them immediately. We will also have these at Fall Conference. Every member should have one.

2017-2018 SCHOLARSHIPS

The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Minnesota, will offer eight (8) \$1,000.00 scholarships to deserving students who wish to further their education, attending any institution of higher learning. They must be a resident of Minnesota or a member of the Auxiliary, Legion or SAL. An application form will be included in the first Unit mailing.

Also included in the mailing was the Past Presidents Parley Health Care Scholarship application form. Up to ten \$1,000.00 scholarships are available to all Minnesota Auxiliary members who are furthering their education in any health care field.

Our National organization will again be offering three National scholarships this year, i.e., the Children of Warriors National President's Scholarship, Spirit of Youth Scholarship for Junior members, and a scholarship for Non-Traditional Students. Copies of these scholarship applications will also be included in the first Unit mailing.

Our Department also solicits funds for The American Legion Legacy Scholarship. These applications can be obtained through The American Legion.

Be certain you use the current application forms. Please tell the applicants to fill out the forms completely. Share these with your schools and members and assist eligible persons to apply. If you are in need of additional forms, please duplicate those you received or request copies from the Department office. All scholarships are due in the Department office by March 15.

JUNIOR FUN WEEKEND

The 2017 Junior Fun Weekend was held August 5-6 at Legionville. Junior Activities Chairman Pam Hoshal, Department President Donna Arends, incoming Junior Activities Chairman Tamara Opland and Department Honorary Junior President Courtney Rogat kicked off the weekend with 25 Juniors and 17 Seniors in attendance. Chairmen Pam and Tammy reported that everyone had a great time and also did a lot of work at Legionville. Please plan on attending next year - what a great way to spend time with your daughters and/or granddaughters and learn about our wonderful country, along with enjoying the Legionville facility and all it has to offer.

MINNEAPOLIS VAMC

Mary Ann Davis is in need of firm neck and heart pillows at the VAMC in Minneapolis. Please make sure and contact Mary Ann before delivering anything to the facility.

SECRETARY SANDIE'S NOTES

So, I weighed this and asked for opinions and the ayes vs. the nays won out. I had feedback to stop writing this article as it was too personal and then I had many comments

as to why I stopped writing this article as people really enjoyed reading it. I try to make things light and fun and I guess there are those who prefer "business only". What is one to do? I just have a couple things to report on and one was my privilege to attend the National Convention in Reno. Although the casino hit my pocketbook a bit (big), the convention was really one to remember. The American Legion Family members that attended all seemed to have such a wonderful time and spent it together throughout the entire convention. When there was free time, you would find groups intermingled, visiting and sharing experiences. I spent my free time visiting with all members myself. This America Legion Family truly is a "family." I am not sure how other Departments are, but the Minnesota Department should be very proud. On another note, which is partially personal, please everyone hold all of our Texas citizens in your hearts and prayers. You all know I have children and grandchildren in Texas and I love it there myself. They are all safe and sound as I write this but the disaster isn't over. Just watching the news and seeing the pictures is devastating. Living through a tornado where my family lost our entire business in 1998 brings back memories and also reminded me that the pictures you see don't bring justice to the devastation that is actually happening. Open your hearts as I have and give whatever help you can to these people that have truly lost everything.

Until next month – Sandie



PACKET PICKUP -- Secretary Sandie Deutsch works at distributing packets to Auxiliary delegates.

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE WINNER

One of our award winners was omitted from the last Legionnaire. Gorda Olson, Auxiliary Emergency Fund Chairman for Apple Valley Unit 1776 was awarded the President's Award of Excellence. The Apple Valley Unit donated \$750.00 towards this fund. Congrats and thank you Apple Valley.

DIVISION HONORARY JUNIOR

It was announced at the National Convention, held in Reno, Nevada, that Courtney Rogat of Bloomington Unit 550 was elected as Northwestern Division Honorary Junior Vice President. Courtney currently is our Department of Minnesota Honorary Junior President as well. Courtney is very dedicated to the American Legion Family and will do great things for our Juniors. Congratulations Courtney.

Mission training and Junior meetings set

The dates and locations for the 2017-2018 Mission Training Conferences and Junior Meetings has been announced:

- October 14: Springfield, Illinois
- October 21: Hartford, Connecticut
- October 21: Minneapolis, Minnesota
- October 28: Shreveport, Louisiana
- January 20: Charlotte, North Carolina
- February 3: Las Vegas, Nevada

To register please contact Department Headquarters:

Yes, everyone who registers must have a unique email address, this includes Junior members. If you are registering someone that does not have their own email address, please contact meetings@alaforveterans.org for instructions.

Registration Fees:

Your registration fee includes: materials for the conference, one continental breakfast and one lunch. Register early for a discounted registration fee. Those who register after the deadline or on-site may not be guaranteed all of the materials during the conference.

For more information, contact the Department Headquarters.

Compliance Matters is being offered again this year.

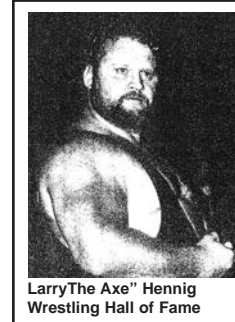
A free information session on IRS Compliance including topics like EINs and filing 990s will take place the Friday night before the Saturday conferences from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm. If you wish to attend, please select the optional session during registration.



JUNIORS GATHER -- The Department Juniors held their ninth Junior Fun Weekend this past month at Legionville Safety Patrol Camp.



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