

The Minnesota

# Legionnaire



AMERICAN  
LEGION  
AND  
AUXILIARY

Volume 100, Number 9

For God and Country

September 2018

## You did good, Minnesota



**Top Photo:**

A huge delegation of the Minnesota American Legion Family erupted when it was announced that this year's donation to the Legacy fund would be \$251,000. Commander Denise Rohan accepted the record donation for Legacy scholarships.

**Bottom Photo:**

Minnesota filled an exhibit hall with over 400 American flags during the 100th National Convention at the Minneapolis Convention Center. The parade was moved indoors when organizers feared it might rain. An estimated 400 flags were carried.





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## Bill Goede succeeds Dick Horn as new Department Treasurer

The Department has a new treasurer.

Past Department Commander Bill Goede was elected Treasurer at the August Department Executive Committee meeting.

Longstanding Treasurer Dick Horn was not present at the meeting, nor was Goede. When the call for nominations was made, Goede was the only nomination and he was elected unanimously.

Goede, who served as Department Commander from 2001-02, has served on the Department's Finance Committee for many years.

Horn was first elected to the Treasurer's post in 1997, replacing Gene Kahnke.



**BILL GOEDE**

The treasurer also serves on several other Legion entities including the Legionville Board and the

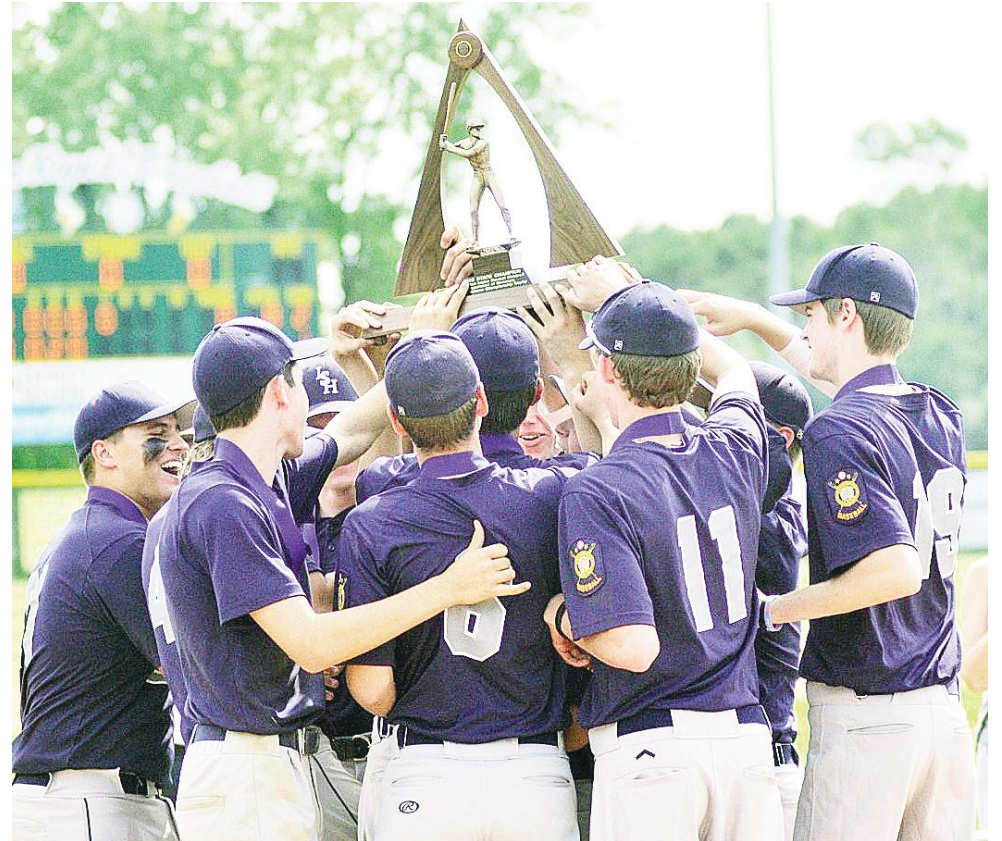
Board of Publications.

The bylaws of the Department say the treasurer shall have custody of all funds of the Department and shall present his books to the Executive Committee upon demand. The treasurer has a \$3,600 budget for the year.

Goede will serve a three-year term.

Past National Commander Dan Ludwig said that Commander Redepinning should be seeking out a new member of the Finance Committee to replace Goede. One DEC member noted that it was legal for a member to serve as both an elected and an appointed position. Ludwig said, "It may be legal, but I don't know that you'd want

**Continued on Page 18**



**LEGION BASEBALL** -- LeSueur-Henderson players raise the trophy high after winning the Division II American Legion Baseball Tournament at Pelican Rapids.

## Fall Conference slated for Marshall

The annual Fall Conference, the Legion's "school of instruction" will be held Oct. 26-27 in Marshall.

A registration form and motel information are located on page 18.

The Legion activities will be held at Southwest Minnesota State University, and the Auxiliary sessions will be at the Ramada Inn.

There will be a DEC meeting prior to the conference.

*The Rembrandt of  
bulldozer operators*  
Pages  
14-16



## Tri-City Red, LeSueur-Henderson win titles

Tri-City Red of New Brighton made it two for two with their second state Division I Baseball championship in a row. Wayzata was second and also qualified for regional tournament.

In Division II, LeSueur-Henderson took the title with a victory over LaCrescent.

The Division I tourney featured thrills, chills, walk-offs and comebacks before Tri-City emerged as the champion.

The tournament was held in Edina and heading into the final games it looked like any number of teams might win it, including host Edina. The last five games all were classics in their way.

In a quarter-final game Buffalo, one of the surprises of the tournament, carried an

8-6 lead into the bottom of the seventh and final inning. But Edina quickly rallied for two to tie the game.

Nick Azar swung at the first pitch he saw and knocked it out the park for an 11-8 victory for Edina.

Edina then had to face Rosetown, another dark horse that was fighting its way back through the losers' bracket in the double-elimination tournament. Edina got a taste of what they had done to Buffalo when Rosetown battled back with two runs in the bottom of the seventh to win 2-1.

That left Tri-City and Wayzata as the final two unbeaten, and Wayzata defeated the New Brighton team 4-2. Tri-City then

**Continued on Page 11**

## Reistad of Virginia is Nat'l Commander

Brett Reistad of Virginia was elected commander of The American Legion on the final day of the 100th National Convention in Minneapolis.

Reistad is an Army veteran of the Vietnam War, serving in the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment known as the "Old Guard."

In civilian life, he was a policeman, serving with the Fairfax County, Virginia, department. He retired as a lieutenant in 2003 after 26 years of service. He is now employed by the Regiona Information Sharing System Program, working in criminal information sharing.

He has served as post commander, state commander and on various national committees including Legislative, Veterans Policy Oversight, Public Relations and Distinguished Guests. He was also involved in the National American Legion Press Association.

He and his wife, Jessica, have two children and two grandchildren. He is a member of McLean Post 270.

The convention opened with a musical number honoring the veterans of the great wars, narrated by a fictional Theodore Roosevelt Jr., the founder of the Legion. The act concluded with the real Theodore Roosevelt IV joining them onstage.



Past National Commander Dan Ludwig of Minnesota presents outgoing National Commander Denise Rohan of Wisconsin with her official colors at the close of the 2018 national convention in Minneapolis.

**COMMANDER'S  
COLUMN****By Darrel  
Redepenning**

Greetings Legion Family,

As forecasted, August sure was a busy and fun month. We started off with our first Team 100 get-together at my home post of Anoka. Membership Director Mike Maxa laid out his plan for the year, followed by our first DEC meeting announcing all of this year's committee appointments. I also announced my projects for the year as Legionville and Anoka's Eagles Healing Nest.

With previous storm damage, the infamous "bog" and lost revenue from closing the Safety Patrol Camp for this summer, Legionville needs some help. Anoka's Veteran's Healing Nest has one remaining cottage that is really a mess. Both really need some help and money. I hope all of our posts in Minnesota can be generous in helping out.

The second week of August the five Department Vice Commanders, Membership Director Mike Maxa, Adjutant Randy and I attended the National Membership Training in Indianapolis. This was my third time, but I swear each one has been educational and motivating. It was an opportunity to meet with your counterparts from other Departments and brain storm. A couple key words this year were "diversity" and "branding." It was interesting to see how diverse our organization has become. Several Department Commanders introduced themselves as a "first" from their

state. The first female Commanders, first African American Commanders, first female African American Commanders and even I being the first son of a Department Commander, shows how diverse we've become in the past 100 years.

Branding is also an important aspect for showing our pride of being Legionnaires. Wear your Legion caps, shirts and jackets. The "recruiter of the year" claims that it is the secret to his success. Especially your Legion cap, young veterans can see that you're the real deal and it helps open the door to new membership. Membership Director Mike plans on using branding this year for rewarding membership accomplishments. Better start signing people up so you can get some of his cool stuff.

Speaking of branding, our Legion Riders certainly can attribute a lot of their success in raising money for the Legacy Fund to branding. They're easily recognized and have brought attention to the American Legion. I had several opportunities to take part in their success this month. From laying a wreath with the Gold Star parents to watching hundreds of bikes descend on my home post. Their membership is growing and it's easy to understand why. This year the Minnesota Riders blew everyone away with raising \$251,000. All I can say is "wow." They are without a doubt a family. See what a Legion Family can do.

In writing this column, I have just returned from our 100th National Convention. I wish everyone in the Legion family could attend a National Convention. When you see what our great organization does on a larger scale and know that it all starts at the post level, it is just truly inspiring. What a difference we can make and how important it is that we continue to make that difference. I hope highlighting all of our accomplishments this Centennial year will be an inspiration to our members and an attraction to non-members. We cannot let this organization fade away. The needs are stronger than they have ever been. Our voice in Washington is currently strong and needs to continue to be. Please help our membership team turn this decline around. There has never been a better time to do it. Let's celebrate our 100th birthday with an increase in membership. We are Team 100, with your help; I know we can be successful.

## Guest Editorial

### Recruit, Retain, Renew

**By Mike Maxa  
Department Membership Director**

Our Success will be determined by the amount of effort we put forth. The theme I have chosen to energize us is: "Triple 'R' – Recruit-Retain-Renew – Recruit: seek out eligible veterans and ask them to join the American Legion. Retain: Give these new recruits a reason to stay. Keep them informed ask them to help and listen to their needs. Renew: When they have the reason and feel a part of our organization they will renew. Our Minnesota department alone is averaging about 3000-plus membership losses a year. What can we attribute this to: attrition, retention, lack of interest, no time for us, not wanted, uninformed.... and the list can go on and on. I see a lot of opportunity.

Our eligibility to join is the longest running time of eligibility in the history of our organization. That is twenty-eight years of veterans who are eligible to join, and all we need to do is seek them out and ask them to join. Tell them our why. Why we belong to the American Legion and what the American Legion provides us.

How are we going to tell our story? We need to use all the resources available to get our word out.

Utilize social media to its fullest extent. This is the fastest and best way to get our story out in the public eye. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, email blasts are just a few that come to mind and are popular. The veteran of today has so much information at their fingertips and can move from website to website faster than we can turn a page in a book.

## Editorial

### The 100th Convention

Hats off to all the Minnesota volunteers who helped make the 100th National Convention what it was. Dozens of Minnesotans stuffed packets, greeted guests, provided information and did other tasks at the Convention.

They did a terrific job, and their efforts were first class and well appreciated.

People from other states we talked to said they had a good experience at the convention. Much of that experience was due to the unseen hands working behind the scenes.

Minnesota did what it could to make the convention a memorable event, and the large Minnesota group that presented the Legacy Fund money to Commander Rohan, and Bud Grant's talk at the National Commander's Banquet about the difference between a star and a hero, were priceless moments.

Not that everything was perfect. The decision by the national organization to cancel the parade at 7 a.m. on Sunday based on a weather report was a huge disappointment to those who had put so much work into planning the

parade.

The sun was shining when the parade began and it was shining when the parade was done. Not one drop of rain hit the parade route.

It was announced that it was canceled because it was better to be safe than sorry. All we can say is that if those doughboys of 1919 had been around, there would have been an outdoor parade. As we enter our second century of service, we hope the new motto of The American Legion won't be "better safe than sorry."

We can only dream about how wonderful it would be to see and hear those 14 Minnesota bands out in the fresh air of a Minnesota summer's day. And can you imagine what it would have been like to have 500 flags carried by Minnesotans marching down Nicollet Avenue, the same street the parade was held on 100 years ago?

But that's water over the dam.

Minnesota did what it could to provide a great convention for the thousands who came to Minneapolis. The volunteers deserve our praise and our thanks.

## Chaplain's Corner

**By  
Bonnie Hanson**

As of this writing, the 100-year Anniversary of the American Legion's First Convention has come to a conclusion and I hope everyone has learned something that we can bring forward to the post in your area. We met many old friends and some that we had met.

We look around us and we know friends, loved ones that have taken their own lives and we wonder how could we have helped and we ask God how could we have known and for me I didn't know. Just a note that whenever we are troubled and whenever things go wrong it is just God working in us to make our spirits strong.

Here is something that I hadn't heard for a very long time:

### THE AMERICAN'S CREED

I, believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic; a sovereign nation of many sovereign states; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it; to support its Constitution; to obey its laws; to respect its flags; and defend it against all enemies. (Authorized Version.)

American Legion Family chaplains have compassionate hearts dedicated to service "for God and country." They help members connect with God and act as spiritual guides in the practice of prayer and service. Chaplains reach out not only to The American Legion Family but also to all of those with needs in their communities, states, and nation. Chaplains at the unit, department, and national levels serve alongside their fellow members and are called upon to pray at gatherings and to lead services such as memorials for our fallen soldiers and deceased members. They energize the hearts of all American Legion Family members and foster selflessness as they serve veterans, the military and their families.

The chaplaincy has many purposes. One of its major purposes is to help persons grow in their relationship with God and one another. Also, we serve as a reminder of the transcendent and seek to develop an environment within which Legionnaires are encouraged in their personal and collective moral and spiritual growth.

The American Legion is comprehensive in nature embracing all religions, faiths, and denominations within its ranks. The chaplaincy being non-denominational and non-sectarian, wishes to minister to the spiritual needs of all without regard to either affiliation or non affiliation.

Chaplains seek to minister to people wherever there is a need. For many, chaplains are the only ministers they will ever know, as they have no affiliation with church, synagogue, or other religious institution.

Each Legionnaire should be alert to the physical and spiritual needs of his/her comrades. The chaplain should be notified when there is death, illness, or special concern in the membership. At that point the chaplain should provide all ministry and service available. Here is the Contact information: 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1.

## The Minnesota Legionnaire

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

**Al Zdon, Editor**

First published in 1920 as the Hennepin County Legionnaire, the Minnesota Legionnaire is now in its 99th year of publication. It is published monthly by The American Legion, Department of Minnesota, Room 300A, 20 West 12th Street, St. Paul, MN 55155-2000. Periodicals postage is paid at St. Paul, MN, and at additional mailing offices. The Legionnaire is a member of the Minnesota Newspaper Association and the National American Legion Press Association.

**SUBSCRIPTION:** \$10 for non-members. Members receive the Legionnaire as part of their dues.

**PHONE:** 651-291-1800, 866-259-9163, FAX: 651-291-1057

**ADVERTISING RATES:** Contact Al Zdon, 651-291-1800

**E-MAIL:** azdon@mnlegion.org

**WEBSITE:** www.mnlegion.org

**BOARD OF PUBLICATION MEMBERS:** President Mike Schaffer, Fulda; Vice President Don Amundson, Blue Earth; Secretary Randy Tesdahl, Elk River; Treasurer, Richard Horn, Melrose. Board Members include: Bob Locker, Fridley; Joe Bayer, Minneapolis; Pat Logan, Bloomington; Carol Patridge, Oakdale; Mary Hendrickson, Cloquet; Patti Coleman, Circle Pines.

**POSTMASTER:** Please send address changes to The Minnesota Legionnaire, 20 W. 12th Street, St. Paul, MN, 55155-2000. (USPS No. 013-679.) (ISSN No. 1644270)

# What's Happening

## Apple Valley Craft and Bake

The Apple Valley Unit 1776 will hold its annual craft and bake sale on Saturday, Oct. 27, at 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the post. A variety of vendors will be on hand. For more information, call Marlene at 651-423-2493.

## Membership Rally

The Fall Harvest Membership Rally for the Department of Minnesota will be held at Legionville. Turn-in will be from 3-4 and the program will be at 4:30.

## Bomber's Moon Ball

The annual Fall Bomber's Moon Ball will be held Saturday, Sept. 8, at Fleming Field in St. Paul. Doors will open at 6 p.m. with a free dance lesson at 7, dancing at 8, and a World War II costume contest. Tickets are \$17 at the door. There will be warbird rides the day of the dance. It is sponsored by the Commemorative Air Force. For more information, go to [cafmn.org](http://cafmn.org).

## Camp-O-Ree

This year's Camp-O-Ree will be held Sept. 6-9 at Legionville. There will be new additions to the outing including bingo on Thursday night and more on Friday. The Brainerd Legion will be helping in the bar area. Those attending can bring their campers or sleep in the dorms. For more information, contact [bluetatto1@hotmail.com](mailto:bluetatto1@hotmail.com).

## Welcome Her Home

The Welcoming Her Home Gala, hosted by the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans, will be held Thursday, Sept. 6, at CHS Field in St. Paul from 5-9 p.m.

## Student Essay Program

Bemidji Post 14 will be sponsoring a Student Essay Program for World War I. Area schools are invited. Essays should be about a family or community member who served in the Great War. Winning essays will be read on Veterans Day and the writer will receive a cash award. For more information go to [www.mnralfhraciopost14.org](http://www.mnralfhraciopost14.org) and click

on youth programs.

## Emblem Sales Tax

Emblem Sales will now start charging sales tax for sales made in Minnesota. The standard state rate of 6.875 percent will apply. In addition, another 1.15 percent of local taxes will be applied for the coming 11 months. The total is 8.025 percent.

Clothing will be exempted. Customers will need to add the sales tax on mail and fax orders. On internet and phone orders, the tax will be automatically included.

If an order is submitted by mail or fax, and the tax is not included, Emblem Sales will contact the customer. Those entities that are exempt from sales tax will have to submit their tax exemption certificates to Emblem Sales. For more information, contact [bmaharry@legion.org](mailto:bmaharry@legion.org).

## Brewster Flag Retirement

The Nobles County Council will be holding a flag retirement ceremony on Sept. 10 at 7 p.m. hosted by Brewster Post 464. Bring your old flags. It is open to the public. For more information, call 507-360-7116.

## MACV events

The Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans will be sponsoring two events. On Tuesday, Sept. 11, there will be Drop-in Legal Clinic at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center in the Flag Atrium Balcony Room from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Veterans can get information on housing, employment, benefits, expungement, wills, debt collection, family law and child support.

On Saturday Oct. 20, there will be a Stand Down for veterans from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Verizon Wireless Center, Mankato. Services available will include meals, VA benefits, clothing, housing, public benefits, haircuts, employment assistance and legal assistance.

## Round Table, vets needed

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

Veterans are needed for programs on:

Guadalcanal  
Those who guarded German POWs  
Pearl Harbor veterans, any service  
German veterans  
Intelligence veterans  
Women veterans  
Supply and logistics veterans  
Normandy veterans.

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

The meetings of the Round Table will once again be at the Fort Snelling Visitor Center. They will begin at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month except for October and March when two programs will be held. (Note: the meeting day, Thursday, was incorrectly reported in the August issue of the Legionnaire.) Admission is \$5 at the door.

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

## Women vets luncheon

The annual fall luncheon of the Women Veterans of Minnesota will be held Saturday, Sept. 29, at Apple Valley Post 1776. There will be a 10 a.m. meeting and noon luncheon. Tickets are \$20.

For more information, call Colleen Crew at 952-925-1629. Guests are welcome and women veterans are encouraged to attend.

## Veterans ATV Ride

The second annual Veterans ATV Ride will be Saturday, Sept. 22, leaving from the Bear's Den in Bruno at 11 a.m. Entry fee is \$20 per person. Half the money will support Post and half will go to the Fun Run. There will be a bake sale and silent auction. Call 763-221-3138 for more info.

## Endorsements

### Barbknecht endorsed for NEC

Bill Barbknecht, a member of Underwood Post 489, has been endorsed by the post for the office of National Executive Committeemen representing the Department of Minnesota for 2019-2021.

He was also endorsed at the 9th District Convention

Barbknecht is a 49-year member of the American Legion. He has served as District Commander, Department Vice Commander, two terms as

Department Membership Director in which the Department reached all time highs. He presently serves as the Legionnaire Insurance Trust Chairman for the Department and is serving his 4th year as Alternate Executive Committeeman.

Barbknecht has been married to his wife Carol for 48 years. She served as Department President. They have one son and one daughter who are veterans

as well as their spouses. They reside at rural Battle Lake.

Barbknecht served in the United States Marine Corps from 1968 to 1970 and he served for 20 years in the North Dakota Air National Guard at Fargo

He retired after 38 years with the US Postal Service. He presently serves as the State Director of Selective Service.



BILL BARBKNECHT

### Moon endorsed for Alternate NEC

Peggy Moon has been endorsed for Alternate NEC by Kriesel-Jacobsen Post 560, Zimmerman, and the Sixth District, for the years 2019-2021.

Moon has been a member of The American Legion for 41 years and was awarded a Life Membership by her Post in 1997.

She has served as Commander, Adjutant, Chaplain, and was on the Post Honor Guard. She served in the Air Force from

1971-1974.

On the District level, Moon served as Commander, Vice Commander, Public Relations Chairman, Children and Youth Chairman, and currently serves as the Commanders Advisor.

On the Department level, Moon has served as Employment Chairman, and Children and Youth Chairman. She served as Membership Chairman

2009-2010, and as our Department Commander 2014-2015.

On the National level, she serves as vice-president for the Board of Directors, American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, and as vice-chairman of the Children and Youth Council.

She and her husband, Carl, have been married for 44 years, have two daughters and six grandchildren.



PEGGY MOON

## Mail Call

### Legion support to Homes

To the Editor:

Dear Legion and Auxiliary Members:

Collectively, the Minnesota Veterans Homes care for approximately 700 Veterans across the state who proudly served their country. Now it's our turn to proudly "serve those who have served".

Staff at each of the Homes continually seek new and unique ways to enhance the lives of our Residents to assure a healthy balance of physical, mental and spiritual activities. We wish to recognize your invaluable contributions, both individually and as an organization as they allow us to achieve this goal.

We also want you to know that being good stewards of your donations is not only a commitment to you but consistent with state policy.

The Minnesota Veterans Homes, wish to thank you again for your constant support.

Sandy Larson

Deanna Mounts

Ward Wallin

Volunteer Service Coordinators

Minnesota Veterans Homes

### Junior Shooting Sports

To the Editor

Junior Shooting Sports is alive and well in Minnesota.

I read with interest the Annual Reports to the Convention of the Department of Minnesota American Legion. Congratulations to the shooter from Morristown who qualified for both the NRA and Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) championships.

I would also like to mention that Minneapolis-Richfield American Legion Post 435 X-Men Air Rifle Team, took the American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Minnesota Sporter Championship, as well as 2nd place at the NRA Junior Air Rifle Championship in Bloomington, IL. They include Elizabeth Carson, Ruby Pozorski, Paige Roskop, and Katrina Hendrickson.

Congratulations to all the shooters in this great program. Keep up the great work!

Shawn Davis

Commander, Detachment of Minnesota



Minnesota Department Adjutant Randy Tesdahl joined the American Bombshells on stage at the post-parade event at the Convention.

# 100th National Convention Minneapolis



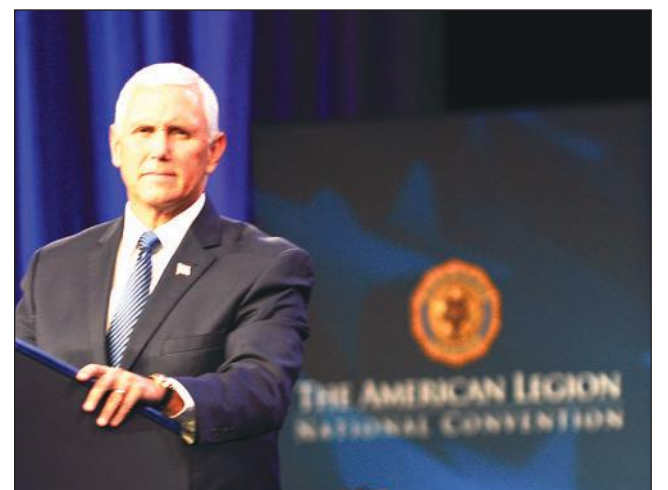
Even the National Commander has to wait in line for chow as the Legion Riders concluded their ride at Anoka Post 102.



The Minnesota Boychoir was a highlight of the Memorial Service on Sunday of the convention.



Newly elected National Commander Brett Reistad of Virginia shared the stage with new SAL National Commander Doc Gibbs of New York and Auxiliary National President Kathy Dungan of Mississippi.



Vice President Michael Pence addressed the delegates on Thursday. He said, "Peace only comes through strength, and we need The American Legion to promote that strength." He said the VA would be working on shortening waiting times, and that a new law has allowed the VA to let go 3,200 employees for negligent behavior.



Minnesota's Ninth District Band performed for the after-parade party at the convention center.



National Commander Denise Rohan and Past National Commander Dan Ludwig handed out souvenir replicas of the 1919 Minneapolis convention badge to the members and leaders of the Minnesota Boychoir.



Members of the Anoka Post 102 lined the streets to welcome the American Legion Riders on their last stop of this year's Legacy Run.



Jeff Stoffer, head of media relations at The American Legion, was the "one" in one hundred in the hallway of the Minneapolis Convention Center.



Theodore Roosevelt IV, the grandson of the founder of The American Legion, and great grandson of the president, spoke on the opening day of the convention. Roosevelt was chairman of the honorary committee celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Legion.



Minnesota volunteers loaded a truck with packets that were delivered to states at their hotels.



Re-enactors put on a Broadway musical type performance commemorating 100 years of American Legion history. The stage show opened the convention.



Minnesota's Diane Carlson Evans, the founder of the Vietnam Women's Memorial in Washington, spoke to the delegates. She recalled getting an American Legion award when she was at Buffalo High School.



Minnesota Vikings Coach Bud Grant explained the difference between a star and a hero at the National Commander's Banquet. It was the first time in many years that anyone has spoken at the banquet.



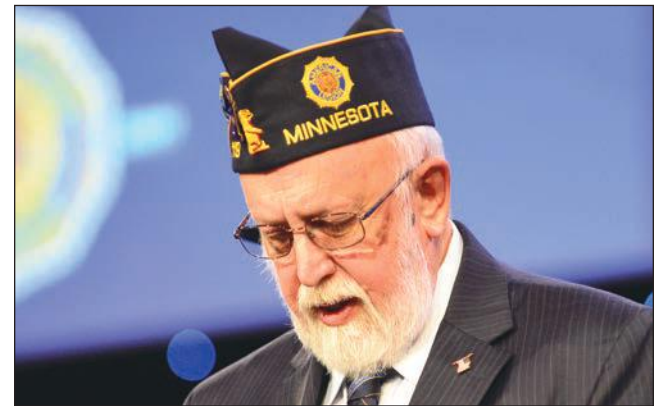
Minnesota Auxiliary President Jean Walker and Chaplain Margee Keller had fun at the post-parade party at the convention center.



Minnesota Auxiliary Chaplain Carol Holmgren participated in the National Memorial Service.



Secretary of the VA Robert Wilkie spoke at the Wednesday session.



Chuck Kruger of Byron delivered the Conventional Armed Forces Subcommittee report.



Jeff Olson, president of the National Convention Corporation of Minnesota, posed with Commander Denise Rohan.



Bill Goede of Plainview stood by as a motion made from the floor was debated at the convention. Goede chairs the National Guard and Reserve committee.



Ralph Schneekloth of Mabel, Minnesota's Department Chaplain, was the emcee for the Memorial Service on Sunday.



Minnesota Auxiliary members waited for the national installation ceremony to begin.



Minnesota Congressman Tim Walz and Commander Rohan unveiled a coin honoring the 100th anniversary of the Legion. Walz authored the bill. More information on the coins can be found at: [usmint.gov](http://usmint.gov).



The National Commander delivered a strike at Minnesota Twins game on Saturday night.



Department Commander Schaffer and NECman Marland Ronning presented checks for the National Emergency Fund and Operation Comfort Warriors.



Dodge Center Post 36 Commander Steve Fosness presented National Commander Rohan with the gavel used at the St. Louis Caucus in 1919. The post has had the gavel for 100 years. Also accepting was National Librarian Howard Trace.



Eagan Post 594's Color Guard participated in the national color guard contest and finished 10th in the nation.



Department Adjutant Randy Tesdahl won NALPA's most prestigious honor, the President's Award, presented by President Mark Sutton.



Jennifer Havlick, chair of the Public Relations Committee, accepted the award for Best Facebook pages. NALPA President Mark Sutton presented.



The NALPA award for Best Newspaper for larger departments went to the Minnesota Legionnaire, as did a second place for photography. Al Zdon accepted.



Edina players celebrate Nick Azar's walk-off home run as the host team defeated Buffalo 11-8 in a game midway through the Division I Tournament at Edina.

# 2018 Baseball tournaments in Edina, Pelican Rapids



LaCrescent's Sam Weiser scored the winning run in a semi-final game against Stephen-Argyle. LeSueur-Henderson won the Division II title at Pelican Rapids.



Tom Gupton of LeSueur-Henderson pitched the winning game vs. LaCrescent in the finals.



Tri-City Red players hoist the hardware high as they won the Division I tournament for the second year in a row.



Tri-City Red's Jonah Sparks races home with a run as Wayzata's Sam Westermeyer chases an errant throw in the title game. Tri-City coach Nik Anderson watches.



**DAVE ST. PETER**  
Featured Speaker



**TOM BEAN**  
Featured Speaker



Between innings, Edina Assistant Coach Nick Kennedy recounts a story for Coach Gene Larkin as the players listen in.



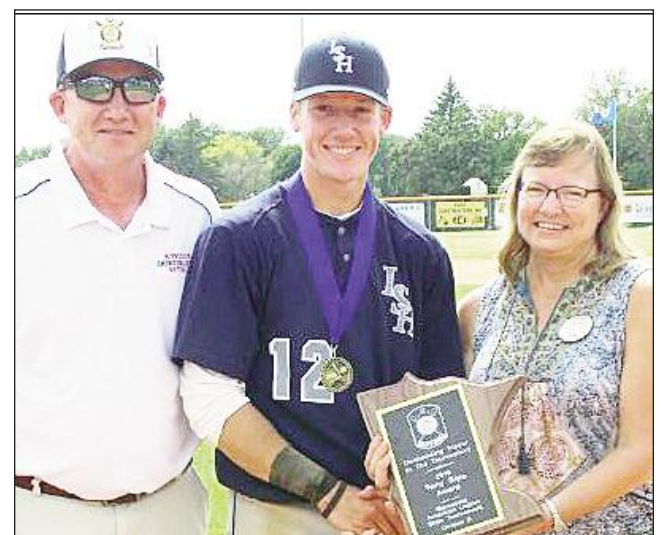
Past Department Commander Mike Schaffer presents the Outstanding Player of the Division I Tournament Award to Tri-City's John Solfest.



Tri-City fans captured the moment as the team lined up for a photo with their championship trophy.

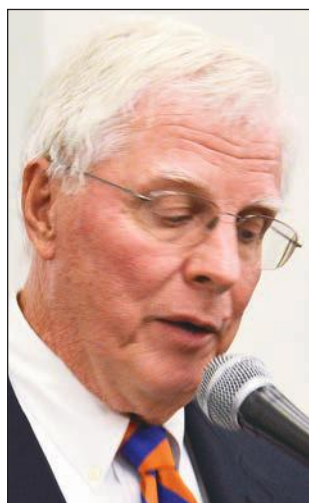


Wayzata's Sam Westermeyer earned the Robb Wassenaar Pitcher of the Year in Division I.

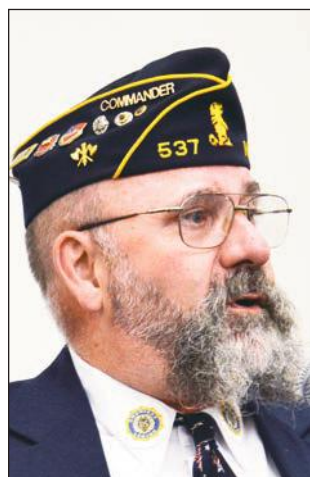


Vice Director Slick Miller and Trista Olson present the Division II Tony Sipe Outstanding Player award to Cole Pengilly of LeSueur-Henderson. Olson is the daughter of Tony Sipe.

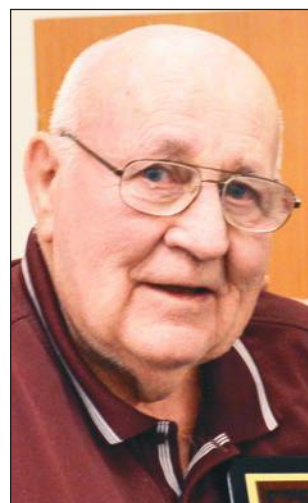
### Minnesota American Legion Baseball Award Winners



**JIM CLANCY**  
Legion Hall of Fame



**CDR. DANIEL PURKAT**  
New London Post of the Year



**JARVIS ANDERSON**  
Legion Hall of Fame



**CORI PORISCH**  
Daughter of Jim Larson, Hall of Fame



**DOUG PALMER**  
Graduate of the Year



**MITCH MCLOUD**  
Coach of the Year

# Baseball tournaments at Edina, Pelican Rapids

Continued from Page 1

moved into the losers' bracket finals with the scrappy group from Roseville.

Tri-City was up 5-0 early and 10-5 going into the last inning before Rosetown mounted yet another comeback effort.

Rosetown plated four runs and had a runner at third with nobody out when Tri-City stopped the tying run with a bang-bang play at the plate. Two more outs followed, and Tri-City got into the final game with a 10-9 victory.

In the championship game, with Red facing Wayzata, it looked like the last team standing might win it. The score was tied 7-7 after two innings. A big six-run fourth inning, though, salted it away for Tri-City and they went on to win their second title in two years by 16-8.

John Solfest of Tri-City was named the Outstanding Player of the tournament both for his hitting and pitching, while Sam Westermeyer of Wayzata won the Outstanding Pitcher Award. Buffalo was the winner of the Sportsmanship Award.

Both Wayzata and Tri-City went on to the Great Plains Regional at Dickinson, N.D., but the result was not good. Both teams lost their first games, and then played each other. Tri-City won 10-5, eliminating Wayzata, but then lost its next game to also exit the tournament. Dubuque County of Iowa went on to the World Series.

Other teams in the Division I tourney were: Minneapolis Gopher Post, Eden Prairie, Winona, St. Michael, Eastview, Coon Rapids, Alexandria, Sauk Rapids, Mankato National, Woodbury Blue, and Brainerd.

At Division II, a major rain delay on Friday pushed the games back, but the tournament managers got the tourney back on track.

Stephen-Argyle, La Crescent, Sauk Centre and LeSueur-Henderson all won their opening games. La Crescent then topped Stephen-Argyle 5-2 and LeSueur-Henderson beat Sauk Centre 11-2 to advance to the final game.

LeSueur-Henderson's pitching, which only allowed three runs in the entire tournament, came to the fore in the title game and they defeated La Crescent 5-0.

Cole Pengilly of LeSueur-Henderson won the Outstanding Player Award, and Stephen-Argyle won the Sportsmanship Trophy.

Stephen-Argyle was also the third place winner, topping Sauk Centre 5-1. Wadena beat New London-Spicer 4-1 for the Consolation Trophy. Other teams in the tourney were host Pelican Rapids and Springfield.

Both LeSueur-Henderson and LaCrescent went on to the Regional Tournament at Wahpeton, N.D., and both teams did well. Le-Sueur-Henderson lost its first game, won its second and then fell to La Crescent and was ousted from play.

La Crescent one won and lost one and then went on a tear, winning three straight games to make it to the title game. In the championship game, the Fargo Bombers defeated the Minnesota team 5-4.

The Division I Banquet was held at the Doubletree Hotel in Bloomington the night before the tournament started.

Dave St. Peter, the president of the Minnesota Twins, was a featured speaker and talked about trading popular players Brian Dozier and Eduardo Escobar. "I plan to talk to both of them about rejoining the Twins."

St. Peter noted that five of the six players who recently entered the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown played American Legion Baseball.

He challenged the players to give it their best. "As you go forward, give back to the game which has given so much to you."

Tom Bean, a combat veteran, told the players, "You need to do the hard right instead of the easy wrong, even when nobody is looking."

Awards given out at the banquet included Doug Palmer, formerly of New Ulm, as the Graduate of the Year; Jarvis Anderson of Plainview, Jim Clancy of Minneapolis and Jim Larson of Minneapolis were honored with being named to the Minnesota Legion Baseball Hall of Fame. Cori Porisch accepted for her father, Jim Larson, who died recently.

New London Post 537 was recognized as Post of the Year.

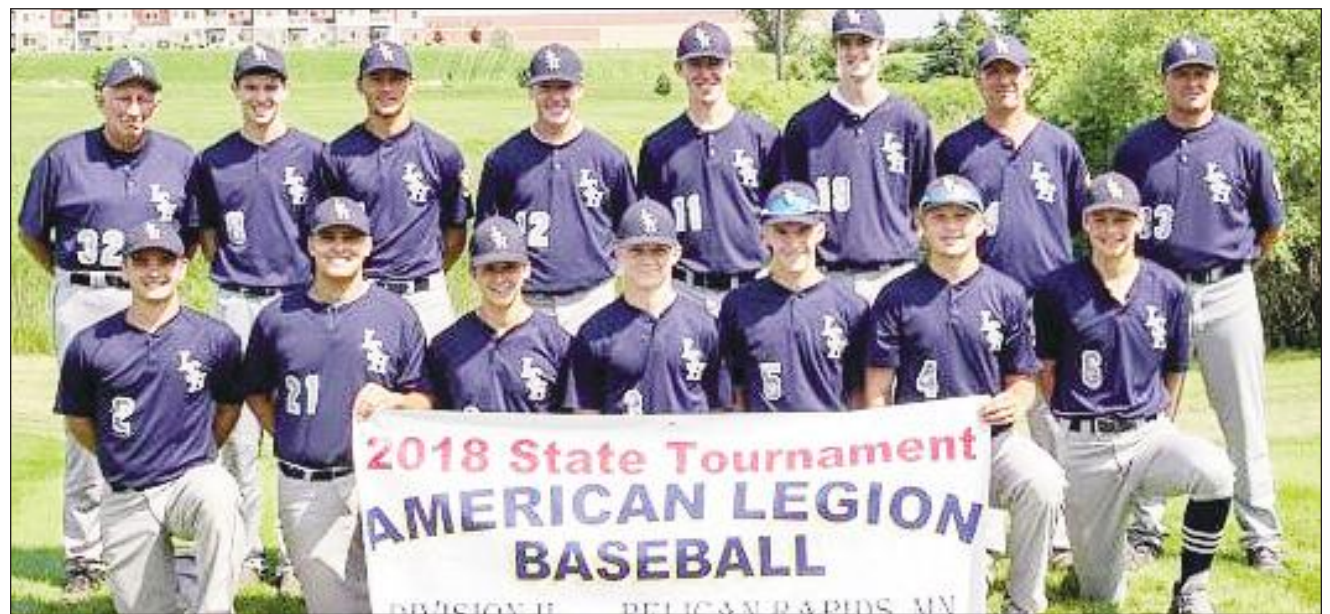
The emcee for the evening was Robb Leer and the colors were advanced by the Chanhassen Color Guard.

At the banquet in Fergus Falls for Division II, Mitch McLeod of Detroit Lakes was named Coach of the Year.

In the Division II Junior Tournament, Holy Family was the winner and Aitkin was the runner-up. The event was held at Montevideo.

The Department Junior Division I Tournament was won by Excelsior, defeating Wayzata 2-1 in 11 innings. Excelsior won eight straight games coming out of the losers' bracket. The tournament was held at Apple Valley.

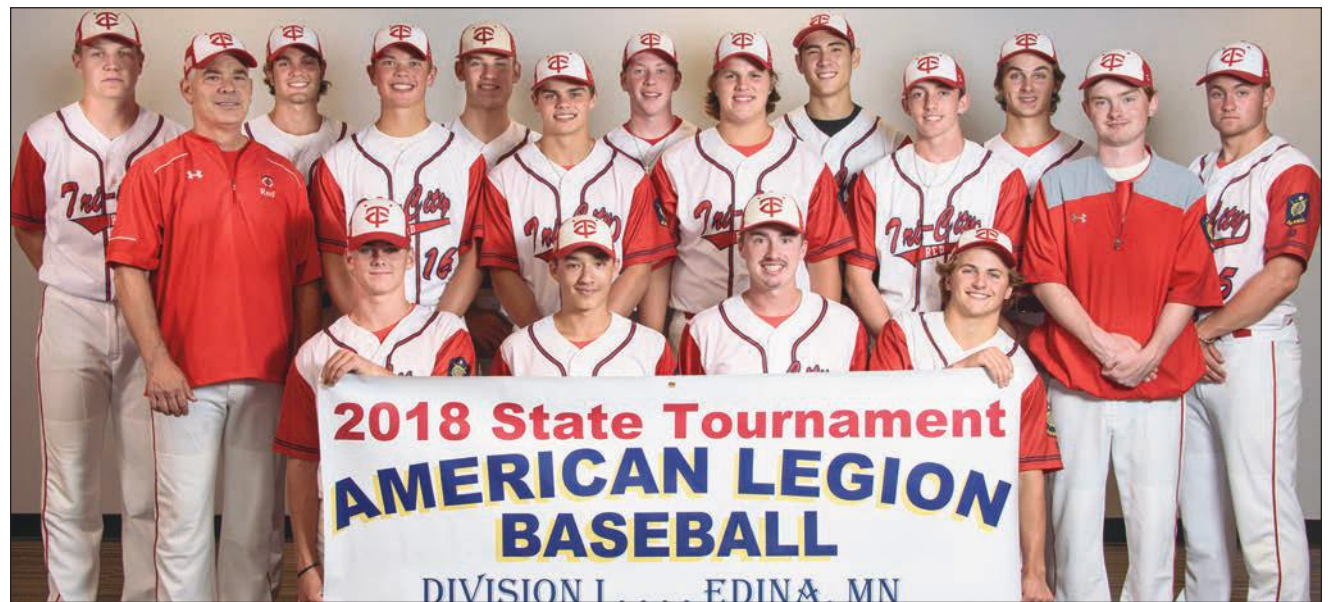
Next year's Division I Tournament will be held at Cold Spring. The Division II tourney will be at Ely.



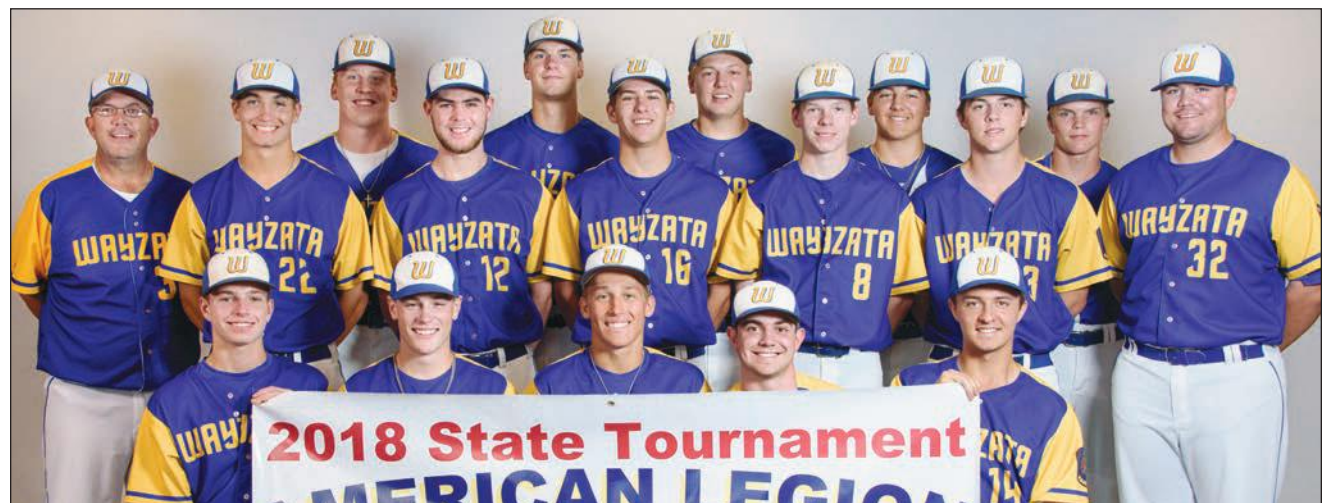
**DIVISION II CHAMPIONS** -- Le Sueur-Henderson, front row, from left: Zachery Berndt, Logan Kahlow, Charlie Weick, Mitch Caspersen, Thomas Gupton, Michael Broeckert, Tristen O'Brien. Back Row: Coach Lon Berberich, Burke Nesbit, Jayce Luna, Cole Pengilly, Tyler Pengilly, Nolan Maczkiwicz, Coach Mike Feeny, Coach Vic Pengilly.



**DIVISION II RUNNER UP** -- La Crescent Post 595, front row, left to right: Bryce Weymiller, Mason Bills, Nick Peterson, Jake Knutson, Noah Peterson, Will Koch, Gavin Christianson, Brandon Von Arx. Back Row: Coach Ryan Niedfeldt, Jaden Moore, Sam Wieser, Thomas Kiesau, Laudon Poellinger, Hayden Hoiness, Cade McCool, Jess Fecher, Ryan Masterson, Coach Matt Wieser.

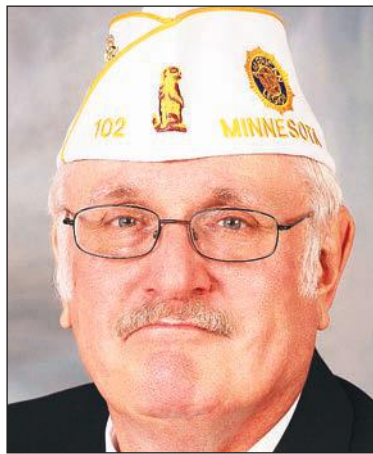


**DIVISION I CHAMPIONS** -- Tri-City Red Post 513, front row, from left: Will Rogers, Brett Bateman, Justin Langer, Channing Cole. Middle Row: Scott Becker (Coach), Cole Stenstrom, Carter Traczyk, Ike Mezzenga, Hunter Ault, Stevie Larson (Statistician). Back Row: Scott Kalthoff, Jake Christopherson, Ty Koehn, John Solfest, Josh Bonde, Matthew Herold, Matt Strong. Not pictured: Jonah Sparks, Ben Jepko, Nik Anderson (Head Coach), Lars Anderson (Coach), Jake Hanzalik (Coach), Matt Laursen (Coach), Nate Fredrickson (Coach), Steve Grasley (Manager).



**DIVISION I RUNNER UP** -- Wayzata Post 118, front row, from left: Thomas Grochala, Delaney Dahl, Keegan Nickel, Turner MacIntosh, Adam Castle. Middle row: Brennan Albert, Ian Colson, Nick Kreienke, Paul Girard, Blake Ask, Maris Blanchard (Head Coach). Back Row: John Blanchard (Coach), Sam Westermeyer, Charles Engdahl, Nicholas Kaye, David Oberg (Assistant), Max McAthie. Not pictured: Josh Gullickson, Matthew Bohlke, Peyton Gallagher, Shawn Gullickson (Manager).

# Minnesota's 2018 - 2019 Leadership Team



**DARREL REDEPENNING**  
Fridley  
COMMANDER



**WAYNE HAMMON JR.**  
Le Roy  
VICE COMMANDER



**RICHARD WOG**  
Willmar  
VICE COMMANDER



**DICK WARD**  
Minneapolis  
VICE COMMANDER



**TOM FERNLUND**  
St. Cloud  
VICE COMMANDER



**JENNIFER HAVLICK**  
Two Harbors  
VICE COMMANDER



**MIKE MAXA**  
Le Center  
MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR



**DENNIS DELONG**  
Bloomington  
HISTORIAN



**BONNIE HANSON**  
Rockford  
CHAPLAIN



**RYAN HILL**  
Brewster  
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS



**GARY MILLER**  
Eyota  
DIST. 1 COMMANDER



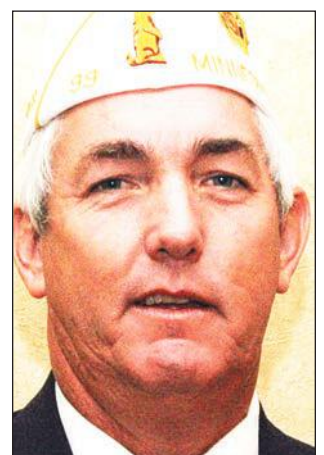
**LUCINDA BRUNK**  
Brewster  
DIST. 2 COMMANDER



**CARLA TAPPAINER**  
Apple Valley  
DIST. 3 COMMANDER



**LANE STUNKEL**  
St. Paul  
DIST. 4 COMMANDER



**JOE BAYER**  
Minneapolis  
DIST. 5 COMMANDER



**RICHARD CROSS**  
Sauk Centre  
DIST. 6 COMMANDER



**JEFFREY GAY**  
Jackson  
DIST. 7 COMMANDER



**WILBUR SWANSON**  
Duluth  
DIST. 8 COMMANDER



**ARLO RUDE**  
Thief River Falls  
DIST. 9 COMMANDER



**PAUL ORSON**  
Circle Pines  
DIST. 10 COMMANDER