

# Darrel Redepenning

## Department Commander 2018-2019

Commander Darrel Redepenning was elected at the 2018 Department Convention in Rochester in July. He will serve for one year.

Redepenning is a 46-year member of Anoka Post 102 and has served two terms as commander of the post. He was made a life member of the post in 2011. He served as 10th District Commander in 2010-11.

At the Department level, he has served as Membership Director, 2012-13 and Vice Commander, 2015-16. He has served on the Rehabilitation Committee, was the Trophies and Awards Chairman, and has been a judge of the Oratorical Contest.

Redepenning serves on the national American Legion Veterans Education and Employment Commission.

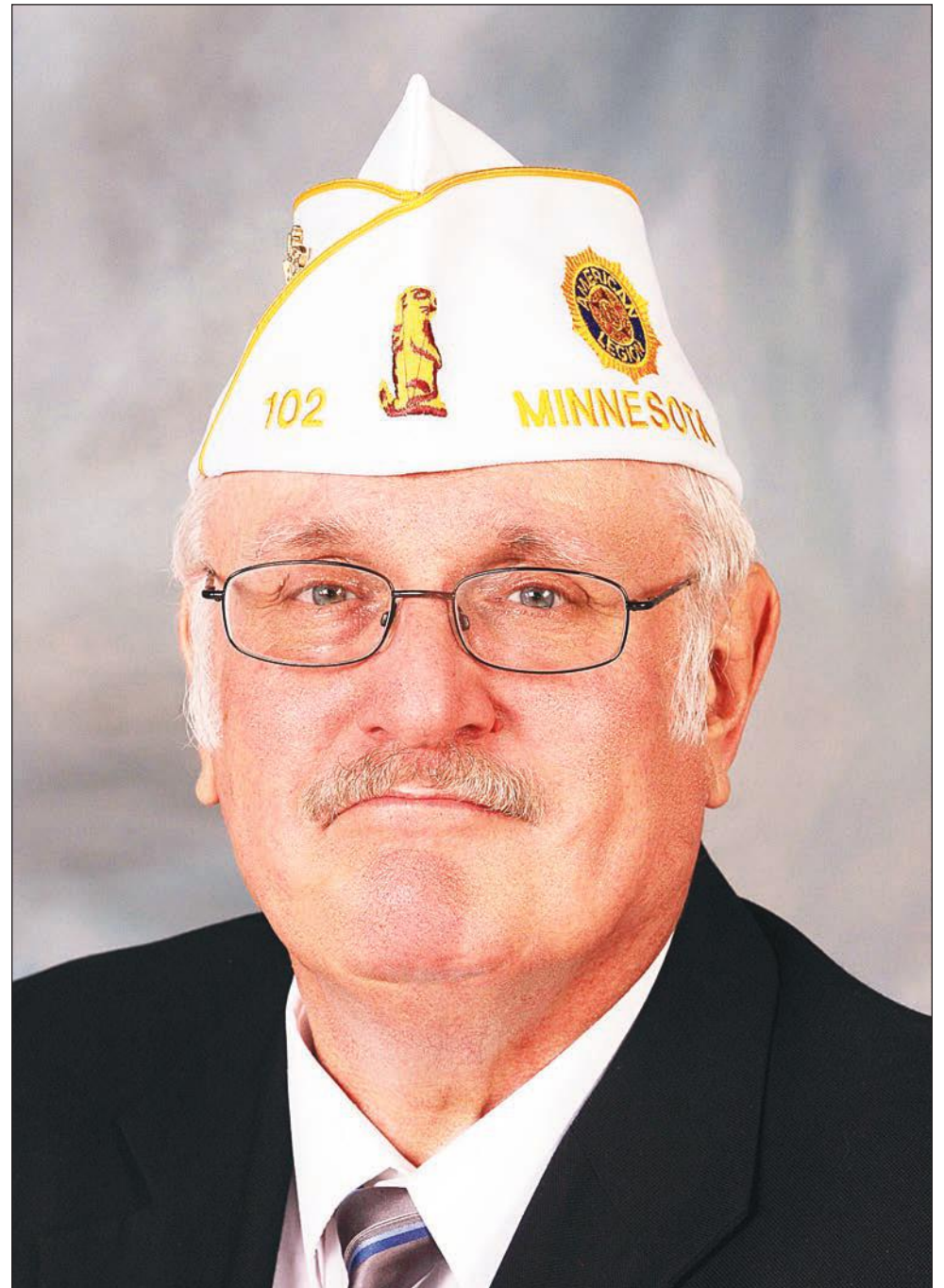
He served in the U.S. Army from 1970-73 and was a Specialist 5.

Darrel and Donna Redepenning have been married for 42 years, and they have two sons. Donna is a past 10th District President.

Darrel's father Duane ("Bud") is a past Department Commander. It is the first father-son commander duo in the history of the Department.

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

His theme for the year revolves around the centennial of The American Legion: "100 Years of Making a Difference."



# Jean Walker

## Department President 2018-2019

Theme: "Veterans Are Our Stars"

Symbol: Star

My Focus this year is: Who We Are, What We Do and Why We Matter.

Project: collecting \$25,000.00 to create Patriot's Park at the Minnesota Veterans Home Fergus Falls. It will have benches, bushes and vines growing over the Pergolas, a dock, and a monument with matching granite benches. The monument will have three soldiers and the motto: No one left behind, with the emblems of all the branches of service. The reason for the short dock is for maintenance of the pond, plus the recreational staff plan to do remote control boat races with the Veterans. This will be a place for our veterans to go with their families or friends.

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

25 year member of Unit #27 in Warren, she became a member under her father Joseph Penk, a World War II Army Veteran. She has served as President four terms, served as 1st and 2nd Vice President, Executive Committee Member as well as holding most chairmanships.

On the District as Chairman of finance, Membership Chairman, Past President's Parley Chairman, Memory Book Chairman, District Advisor, Executive Committee Member, 1st and 2nd Vice President and served as District President in 2011-2012.

On the Department level, she has served as Memory Book Chairman, Americanism Chairman, Girls State Counselor, Color Bearer, Leadership Chairman, Membership Chairman, VA&R Chairman, Legislative Chairman and Northwestern Division AEF Chairman.

She has attended many District, Department and National Conventions. She has also attended 4 National Mission Training Conferences and two DC Legislative conferences.

She is married to John Walker and has one son; Michael Blumberg married to Heather and has two precious grandchildren, Arietta and Bennett who mean the world to her.



# The Rembrandt of bulldozer operators

*Ed Schulte grew up in Hallock. He was part of the 24th Division, the first division sent to South Korea after the North Koreans invaded the country. The division stood its ground at the Pusan Perimeter.*

By Al Zdon

Edwin Schulte was working on his bulldozer, carving out a place for a road into a riverbank during the Korean War.

The enemy was not very far away as the Americans and South Koreans fought desperately in the Pusan Perimeter to keep from being pushed into the sea.

The blade cut into the bank at the left while the bulldozer's track on the right hung half-way out over the river. Back and forth, back and forth, Schulte did this balancing act. A few inches off, and he and the dozer would end up in the drink.

And soon, where there had been only a river bank, there was now a road.

An officer watched this performance for a time, and then told Schulte: "That's the most beautiful piece of art I've ever seen."

Wilbert Edwin Schulte was born in Hallock, about as far northwest as you can go in Minnesota, in 1929.

The family had migrated from Texas a few years earlier with the promise of a farm job for Schulte's father in Northcote, just up the road from Hallock.

"But my father wasn't making it on the farm, and so we moved into Hallock. He got an old tractor and a plow and he was in business. Later, he would cut ice in the winter and sell it in the summer."

Schulte said his father was very mechanical and could fix just about everything, which helped keep everything going. "He even made his own ice-making equipment."

The young Schulte grew during the Depression and during World War II he went to Hallock High School where he played baseball and hockey. Later he played on the semi-pro hockey team in town. "They paid us just enough to pay for the gas to get to games."

He quit high school along the way to work for a living.

In 1948, he and a group of four or five friends were sitting around having a gab session. Schulte told his buddies the story of how recently he had nearly drowned when he was washed over a dam while swimming.

"They dropped a rope down the side for me, and I hung on while they carried me over to this walkway on the other side of the dam. I was one breath away from drowning."

The stories kept coming. Another friend rolled his car over, but escaped unhurt. And a few days later, another friend survived a tractor accident.

"So we all decided to go in the service. We figured if we were going to kill ourselves, it might as well be for our country."

The group traveled down to Grand Forks and got sworn in. Schulte wanted to go to diesel mechanic school, and so had to sign up for three years. Basic training was at Fort Riley, Kansas, and Schulte was made a squad leader.

He did well at that task, and was recommended for a leadership school. He did three months at the school, which included drilling new recruits, which he enjoyed a great deal. He was recommended for Officer Candidate School.

Schulte, now a private first class, was ready for his mechanics school, and he told the OCS panel that he prob-

ably didn't qualify to be an officer because he didn't have a high school diploma. A few weeks later, he was on his way to Japan – with a promise that he could study diesel mechanics there.

"They sent us to Japan to be in the occupation force. It was an old World War II liberty ship, and it took two weeks to go from San Francisco to Yokohama."

Schulte was assigned to the 3rd Engineer Combat Battalion, part of the 24th Infantry Division. 19th Infantry Regiment. Mainly, he remembers, he did a lot of training.

While on maneuvers in southern Japan, he was asked if he could operate a large bulldozer. He had never run equipment that large, but he tried it out and found he was good at it.

Schulte found Japan an agreeable place. Japanese dentists skillfully fixed his teeth. The people were friendly. "Japanese kids would come up to you and want to talk just so they could learn English."

He also began a program to earn his GED, but didn't get time to finish it.

"I was in A Company, and we were out on maneuvers when we got the word: Pack your bags, we're going to Korea."

On June 25, North Korean forces crossed the border and invaded South Korea. The United Nations, with the U.S. supplying about 90 percent of the fighting power, started to send troops to Korea to oppose the invasion. The U.S. sent much of what troops and equipment it had in Japan.

"They told us to put everything we couldn't take with us in our foot lockers and padlock them. We never saw those footlockers again."



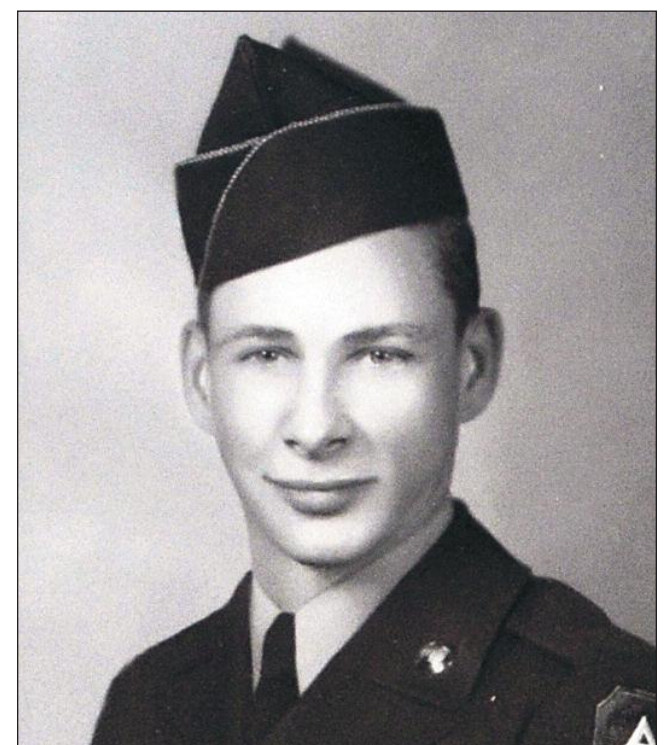
Schulte said the troops weren't overly nervous about heading for combat on such short notice. "We thought there was nothing to worry about until we got over there and they gave us rifles."

"We took everything over in an LST, all of our equipment, the whole company."

The division pushed north out of Pusan to the Kum River



**ED SCHULTE**  
At home in Osceola, Wisconsin



**ED SCHULTE**  
During World War II

and settled in, waiting for the advancing North Korean army to get there. Schulte, along with the others, dug in.

"I dug a foxhole at the junction of two roads, but the captain came by and told me to get the hell out of there because if a truck came by, it would kill me." It was getting dark and Schulte didn't have time to dig another foxhole, so he settled in for the night under a truck.

"During the night, a mortar dropped right into the foxhole I'd been in."

The 24th met the enemy at that spot on about July 15. "It seemed like three or four guys were missing every day."

The division was able to temporarily stop the advance. "All we could do was stand our ground, and that was it." In the first 17 days of fighting, the division had 3,600 casualties.

The engineering work was often more than dangerous, it was lethal. "After about two weeks, so many of my friends were gone. There were only two guys I knew who were left. I finally decided that I'd never get out of there alive. There was no use fighting it, you might as well just forget it. After I came to that realization, it all was easier. It made me a more peaceful man and I could sleep nights."

The North Koreans began to overwhelm the Americans again, and the army was hesitant to lose its heavy equipment. "The first sergeant came up to me and said, Schulte, get on that dozer and take it down the road towards Taejon. So I put the dozer in high gear, about five miles per hour."

At Taejon, he loaded his dozer on a flatcar at a trainyard, but as the day wore on the North Koreans started coming up the streets firing. "I started running for the depot, and I got about halfway there I saw a tank on a flatcar. As I ran past, the tank blew up. I kept running, and there was another GI behind me. He told me that he had been ordered to blow up the tank when he saw Gooks in the railroad yard."

The battle of Taejon was brutal, and the division lost 1,500 men killed or wounded in three days.

Schulte was sent back to his dozer, and was brought out on a rail car to the countryside. "I had no idea where I was, where I had been, or where I was going." He hid the dozer in a peach orchard and survived for a week eating peaches and watermelons.

A new train came by and picked up Schulte and the dozer and took them to the Naktong River at what was called the Pusan Perimeter, the last stand before the Americans were pushed into the sea.

There were a few days of rest, and Schulte grabbed a bar of soap and headed to a nearby stream to bathe. As he finished up, he looked and saw he was sharing the water with a dead body. "It was scummy and smelly. I promised myself I would pay more attention next time I wanted a bath."

Instructions on what the engineers were supposed to do were sometimes sketchy. "They would tell me what I had to do, and then I would figure it out myself. One day, an officer stopped me and gave me a rifle. I already had an M-1, so I took both rifles and hung them from one of the levers. I carried both rifles the whole time I was in Korea. There were a lot of times I had to grab one or the other for protection."

The battles were fought from hilltop to hilltop, and the dozers plowed supply roads up to the front lines on the high ground. "The rice paddies were the biggest trouble for us. So when one of us got stuck in a rice paddy, the other dozer was close by to pull us out."

Much of the work was done on treacherous terrain and a slip could send the dozer over the edge. "I did this four or five times, and was always able to jump off."

The U.S. forces stood off the North Korean advance and slowly began to push back north.

Schulte remembers when they were building a road next to the Han River near Seoul that he had to drive his dozer underwater with just the air filter sticking out to create the road.

In September, the U.S. launched a major offensive at Incheon, cutting off many of the North Korean troops, and kept heading north.

"We went all the way to the Yalu river (the border between North Korea and China), but then the Chinese came in and pushed us all the way back to south of Seoul.

"It was on Thanksgiving Day. Oh, gosh, it was cold. We were really looking forward to a hot meal, but it didn't happen."

By wintertime, the combat engineers were cutting roads south of Seoul. "There was lots of frost in the ground, and you had to be very careful." Much of the work was on the edge, just above the rushing river.

"I had already tipped over the dozer once that day, but the tracks just couldn't hold the frozen ground. So, over I went. I thought, 'Here I go again.'

"But this time, when the dozer hit the water I was still in my seat. I could feel that dozer settling in on me when I grabbed some of the levers and pulled myself out and up. At least I knew enough to hold my breath."

"An officer came over and asked if anything was broken. I looked at the dozer and said, 'I don't think so.' He said, 'No, No, I mean you.'"

"I told the officer that this job couldn't be done. You're always on shaky ground when you talk back to a captain, but he wasn't the one who just ended up in the water."



The dozers often had to cut into river banks to carve out a road in Korea. The right track sometimes was on the very edge of the road, and sometimes it was over the edge. Schulte says he tipped the bulldozer over four or five times in Korean, once in the water with the dozer on top of him. To his left are the two rifles he always carried with him while working.



Schulte enjoys a pipe while on occupation duty in Japan. He said he tried to quit the pipe many times without success.



Schulte, left, and a buddy enjoy some free time in Japan.



Guards keep an eye over some North Korean prisoners during the war.



Manning a machine gun during maneuvers, Schulte's odd helmet indicates that he is one of the "enemy."



Schulte grabs a smoke break leaning up against his bulldozer.

Schulte sometimes had a soldier assigned to his bulldozer just to protect him. "When they do this, I know it's going to be a hazardous job." Since Schulte would be concentrating on the job, the other GI would warn him if it was getting a little dicey. "But there were times when I'd look down and see the bullets making indentations on the hood. You couldn't hear them only see them."

While working on one job, Schulte decided he and his bodyguard would try to get some sleep in an abandoned house. "It had been a bad day. There was fighting all the time. We got to the house, and I parked the dozer behind it where no one could see it, and we went in the house."

"Pretty soon, though, we could hear voices outside the house and so we grabbed our rifles." Schulte and his comrade just kept quiet in the house. "They took a long time, and then went away. It was just getting into daylight. We went out and nobody was there. We thought we had taken the night off, but it didn't work that way."

One of the jobs Schulte was assigned was to dig graves for the enemy dead. "It stunk so bad, I threw up. That was really bad."

The 24th Division, the first to be called into action in Korea, had been encircled at Pusan, fought its way all the way to the Chinese border and had been pushed back into South Korea again before re-establishing the Main Line of Resistance along the original border between North and South Korea.

The heavy casualties and retreating, Schulte said, were not good for the morale of the troops. At about the same time that President Truman relieved General MacArthur of his command, Schulte was promoted to sergeant. He said MacArthur's dismissal improved morale considerably.

Schulte earned a five-day rest pass to Japan and flew to the island. "The pilot asked me to come up and watch the landing. I was shaking in my boots because I saw the plane was going 100 miles an hour and I was used to five miles per hour."

A Company set up headquarters south of Seoul, and Schulte and other heavy equipment operators were called and given medals. Schulte had earned a Bronze Star, and the citation read, "On many occasions, he labored for long periods without adequate rest or relief and by his untiring efforts earned the respect of all with whom he was associated."

By this time, the war had entered a stalemate period and the 24th was withdrawn. The Division had lost 10,000 casualties in 18 months of fighting. Schulte had been sent home early, after one year of combat.

"This time we were on a troop ship, and we made it back across the Pacific in five days. We were pretty happy to be going home."

On this crossing, Schulte was put in charge of a group of men. "Everybody was vomiting down in the hold, and I couldn't take it. I snuck up to the deck and managed to get some fresh air by the door. I wasn't there long though before a sailor came up to me and told me I couldn't be there."

Schulte pleaded with the swabbie to allow him to stay up on deck, but the sailor pointed out that where they were standing was in direct view of the captain on the bridge. "He told me to go around back where the captain couldn't see me and he let me get some fresh air."

Schulte said there were high spirits on the ship, and much gambling. "There were these games of craps going on, and some of the guys had a lot of money they had won."

But then the unimaginable happened, just as the ship was nearing San Francisco. "An officer came on the speaker of the ship and congratulated us on our time in Korea. And then he said that one year had been added to all our enlistments."

Schulte, in the end, only had to stay in six months longer, most of which he spent at Camp McCoy in Wisconsin. "I think the Army knew they had problem. The guys who had come back from the war, they couldn't control us. It was better to send us home."

Before he got out, he began his GED program again and passed the test and earned his diploma.

On his way home to Hallock, Schulte, who had bought a car, got pulled over by a policeman in Mahanomen for speeding. "He saw my uniform and let me go. He just told me to be careful. But when I got to Thief River Falls, I was speeding again, and he was waiting for me."

"I just took off. When I got to Warren, I pulled around the courthouse and hid. He went flying on by, heading for North Dakota. I went the other way. That was a little excitement."

Schulte suffered with nightmares and other PTSD symptoms for about three years after the war, but they eventually tapered off.

Schulte tried to find work in Milwaukee and other places, but ended up back in Hallock hauling gravel and operating a back hoe.

It was there he found Yvonne, his true love. But it wasn't an easy courtship at first.

He and Yvonne had made arrangements for their first date.

Yvonne said, "But then I heard that Edwin was engaged. And so I wasn't home when he came to get me."

Schulte picks up the story from there. "I drove 18 miles



Schulte played hockey for Hallock both before and after he served in the Army. He is second from left.



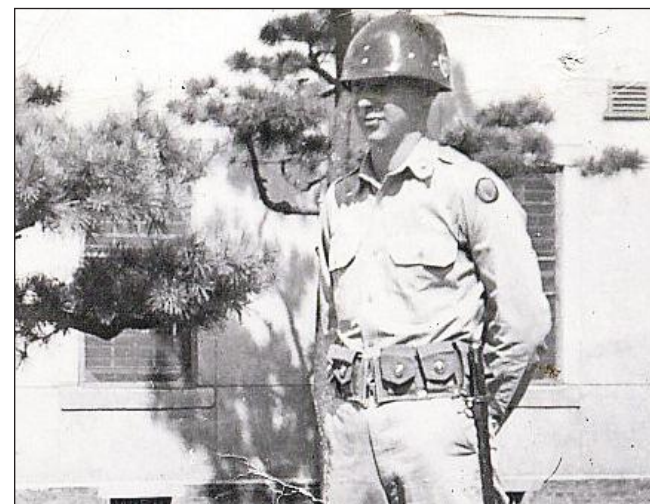
With the rugged terrain of Korea behind him, Schulte poses in front of a duece-and-one-half truck.



On occupation duty, Schulte says he very much enjoyed the Japanese people.



Back in the United States at Tomah, Wisconsin, Schulte and his comrades did rescue work during the flooding along the Mississippi.



It was suggested that Schulte was on guard duty when this photo was taken outside his barracks in Japan, but he said he probably just dressed up for the photo opportunity.

over bad roads to pick her up and she wasn't there. I figured that was that."

But a few weeks later, Yvonne was at a hockey game, and had found out by that time that Schulte wasn't engaged. Schulte saw her in the stands, with a smile on her face.

"After the game I was ready to go home, but she was hanging around and I met her in the warming house. Well, the rest is history."

The two got married, had four children and five grandchildren.

Schulte was working for a natural gas company and got offered a promotion, but he would have to move to Milaca, immediately. "Imagine what it was like for me," Yvonne said. "I had two jobs, four kids and no car. But we made it work."

Not long after that, Schulte was offered a promotion in Osceola, Wisconsin, which he again accepted. "You know, I had offers after that, but I decided to stay in Osceola. I didn't want to get divorced."

Yvonne has worked for H&R Block for many years, and still does taxes for family and friends.

The two have moved into a smaller house in Osceola and they like to go for walks in the morning.



Another photo opportunity in Japan was at the C.O.'s parking sign.

# District Commanders

## FIRST DISTRICT

Gary Miller  
Commander



Greetings Legion Family:

By the time you read this the 100th National Convention will be over with. It sounds like it will be a convention of all conventions. Hope as many of you as could got there. (Yes, I'll have been there)

But what a way to better start our 100th with a big parade, and we can get a better start on memberships using we've been around for 100 years. Let's get started on the next 100 with lots of new members.

Also, I was in Eyota when the State Legion Riders came through for a pit stop, at Austin when the National Legion Riders stopped there. Already had a Ex-board meeting in Anoka, and just finished helping for 3 days at Universal Marine Hero's Days. I got to talk to lots of vets expressing there problems with the Legion and the VA. But also good reports that they have had with both also. Plus getting several prospects both men and women.

A few of the things coming up: Legionville Camp-o-ree will be Sept.6th-9th. We always have a good time, and of course Harvest Rally will be held at the same time. Don't forget the 6th Thursday night is 1st Dist. Steak night ..Dist. I will also have a Rally in Kasson on Sept. 22, and a rally in Mabel Oct.6.

Also want to mention a couple of things. One is that my personal theme for this year is Semper Fidelis (which means Always Faithful). With a slight change Semper Fidelis to all veterans. And plan "C" for my project, can't do Preston project and State Commander took plan B for his, so mine will be for Boys State to help the ones that can not afford to send there sons to the event or help even the Posts that are having trouble for funds so more boys can go that never had the chance before.

God bless you, our troops and God bless the USA.

## SECOND DISTRICT

Cindy Brunk  
Commander



Hello American Legion Family Members.

As I pondered on what to say this month I thought how much easier and all I could write on if this article wasn't due until after the convention.

Needless to say I'm very thankful for passing thoughts as there's plenty to talk about.

2nd District Rallies have been set:

October 13th, St James 2 p.m., this rally will be combined with some training more info to follow.

November 17th, Lake Wilson 2 p.m.,

December 1, Lamberton 10 a.m.,

March 16th, Madelia 2 p.m..

I want to see representation from each post, thank you.

Thank you to everyone who helped set these dates and provided a post to meet at.

The importance of reading the Legion Magazine, the Legionnaire, and the 2nd district newsletter is vital. It tells you what is going on and how you can be more active and informed plus a lot of good things to read. I encourage each post to designate a veteran to report on events. Commanders, make it part of your agenda at monthly meetings, thank you.

Thank you to all the veterans and their families that rode the bus to the National Convention.

Thank you to all the veterans, family and friends that came to my post in Dundee for the 100 year celebration. We couldn't of done it without you. It was a wonderful day and to Joseph Suding who started the Post I know we would have made him proud. On behalf of all the members of Post 386 thank you so much.

For God and Country.

## THIRD DISTRICT

Carla Tappainer  
Commander



Greetings Thundering Third.

Wow, what a great National Convention here in Minneapolis. I hope everyone had the opportunity to get downtown and take in some of the festivities.

The year is starting off pretty good, but we still have a long way to go. We are currently in 7th place for membership but that doesn't mean we can't get up to 1st place by next month. Let's get out and talk to our members and get those memberships in as soon as possible. I am starting to visit all the posts in the District and I am looking forward to meeting everyone and talking about the future of the American Legion. We are a powerful organization and we

need to get the word out to everyone.

Please let me know about the events at your posts. I would love to come and support you in any way I can. You can even put me to work. Our first Family Rally will be on September 5th at 7pm at Post 98 in St. Paul Park. There are tons of activities to participate in and we even have a book signing scheduled. The 3rd District Auxiliary President, Lynn Duffy, will be running the show. I heard through the grapevine that the Peanut Push Race is back. You need to come to find out what it is.

Here are some words of wisdom for you to think about...

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience,

but where he stands at times of challenge and controver-

## FOURTH DISTRICT

Lane Stunkel  
Commander



Greetings Fabulous 4th District.

A new year has started for the American Legion Department of Minnesota with the conclusion of the National Convention, what an event.

Regarding membership everyone: To all of the members of the Fabulous 4th – thank you, as of bulletin 8, the 4th District was in 1st place, let's keep it going, let's work hard to retain our current membership and to find new members. I would like to task every member in the 4th to sign up 1 new member for the year, if everyone does this the District will be over 5,000 members – this can be done, we all know someone or see people walking around with US Army etc hats or shirts, they are asking to be members, all we have to do is ask them.

Keep these dates in mind:

Harvest Rally, Saturday September 8th – Legionville

4th District RCCC, September 12th – Arcade Phalen.

Fall Conference, October 26-27 – Marshall Mn.

Again I challenge every member of the 4th District including (Auxiliary and Sons) to sign up 1 new member for your Post, Squadron or Unit – we will be a greater force than we are right now. Let's do it.

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

## FIFTH DISTRICT

Joe Bayer  
Commander



Greetings from the Fighting Fifth.

Much has happened since our Department Convention. Sadly, John Austin resigned as Commander of the 5th District. We appreciate what you have done for the 5th District, John, and look for your continued support. A special election was held and now you're stuck with me. I'm hoping we can try to move forward. There is much to do in a very short time with National Convention finishing and our first membership rally at Legionville. This must mean that summer is over and we're back to work on programs and helping our communities. I want to thank the officers of the 5th District and program chairs for helping with the transition and look forward to working with all of you. Our first District meeting will be held at Minneapolis Post 1. I'm looking for a successful year for the District, Department and National.

Here's to 100 years of service to the community, state and nation.

## SIXTH DISTRICT

Richard Cross  
Commander



Hi Legion family.

As you read this, the 100-year National Convention in Minneapolis has concluded. You can imagine, it was exciting and informative.

The most impressive was the Legion Parade it was very stirring. The Legionville Camp-O-Ree is coming up early in September, and it will be fun. The best part is the comradery among Legion Family Members. It is always nice to be with people who think alike.

There are both District and Department events coming up this month. It would be nice to see your friendly faces there. As always, membership is something on which the American Legion Family must concentrate.

Please form a membership committee to help the post membership director. Everyone knows that it is everybody's job, but more than not, the job is handed to one person to

do, and that person is left holding the bag. The committee elevates the visibility of this challenge. If you have three people calling and finding new members, progress can be made. If you already have a membership committee at your post, thank you. Good job.

## SEVENTH DISTRICT

Jeffrey Gay  
Commander



Every day is a great day to be a Legionnaire. Camaraderie, love for America, member benefits and more.

However, there is much more we can all learn about our own organization and pass on to other Veterans who are not "yet" enjoying the value of membership. With that said I will repeat how important it is for us to re-educate ourselves before we can talk about it with others.

Take the time and personal initiative to explore your membership benefits, explore your Legion's many programs and share this with your Post. Talk to your Post about becoming an active participant in these, and other, programs to help them help their host community and pique the interest of younger Veterans and their families.

Share with your Auxiliary and SAL, promote the Legion Riders, plan activities that are of interest to everyone, help make The American Legion a true family organization. We can only do it together, smaller Posts can work together as one to bring fund raisers and programs to their communities regionally sharing resources, ideas and manpower.

District 7 will be hosting a training event for Commanders and Adjutants on September 29, location yet to be determined. A letter or post card will be forthcoming. This is beneficial to all Posts and your presence is strongly encouraged. It will be fast paced with no time for boredom! I look forward to seeing you at this event...

## EIGHTH DISTRICT

Wilbur Swanson  
Commander



Greetings.

I hope that the people who had the opportunity to attend the National Convention took advantage of doing so. This is a chance to learn a lot and experience how The American Legion operates and functions. If you are like me, you can always learn something new.

Best wishes for the 100th Convention to be successful and promote the mission. Our Commander's motto this year, "100 years of making a difference", should be a goal for us all. If we make an effort in what we do and work to recruit new members, we will make a difference.

I encourage all posts to focus on membership and get your reports in. I want to thank all of our volunteers for the many hours and effort put in to make our posts successful. May God bless the Legion family and the U.S.A.

## TENTH DISTRICT

Paul Orson  
Commander



1st month is complete with lots of activity within the Mighty 10th District.

Membership renewal is going well. The new online renewal process is embraced by many but there are posts that are hesitant but with more talk between posts, I believe this is the way to go.

The 100 National Convention last week is completed; and it was great to hear the good speakers and walk thru all the exhibits. The special 100 anniversary events were also great to be a part of. The parade was a success and was great to see all the flags in the MN delegation. Hats of to all those who volunteered to make this event what it was.

Hope to see you all up at Legionville for the District and Department Harvest Rally on Saturday and all the other great activates scheduled for this weekend. Remember to bring your appetite.

## Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

By  
Jeremy Wolfsteller



### Rehab Committee

Minnesota is a great state for veterans because of the vast array of programs benefits and services offered to them. Whether it's VA Healthcare, Veterans Benefits, Cemetery Administration, State VA, County Veterans Offices and all the Non-profits, they are a lot of moving parts in the world of serving veterans.

So who is tasked with keeping up with all these agencies to make sure they're providing accurate and the highest level of care? Or who is tasked with lobbying for these agencies to ensure they have what they need to continue the great care and services they offer?

The American Legion Department of Minnesota finance committee approves an annual budget for a Department level Rehabilitation Committee which consists of past VA officials, Veteran Services Officers and experts in the field of veterans advocacy. Minnesota has one of only a few Department Rehabilitation Committees left in the Country.

The committee is tasked by The American Legion to stay engaged with veterans services in Minnesota and the Dakotas to make sure timely access and quality of care is satisfactory. The committee also is there to assist these agencies with legislative action or lobbying to ensure they provide the best care they can.

Some of these agencies are the Veterans Health Administration, Veterans Benefits Administration, National Cemetery Administration, Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs including the 5 Veterans Homes, Vets Centers, Homeless Veterans Programs and other non-profits that deliver care and services to veterans.

Committee members are appointment by the Dept. Commander and serve a 5-year appointment. I see this committee as the eyes and ears of services in MN that ensure veterans concerns are being heard and that VA leaderships and other agency leaderships concerns are being lobbied for at the State and National Level.

The Rehab committee conducts 10-15 site visits per year which are two-day meetings at multiple facilities. Reports are published to the Department website for all members and interested parties to read.

The committee's mission is critical especially now with all the changes in VA Healthcare and Veterans Benefits Administrations rollout of Appeals Modernization Act in 2019.

It's The American Legion that continues to advocate when changes are needed and the Rehab Committee doesn't take the task lightly. They're on the road 12 months of the year for 2 days at a time volunteering to make the lives of Minnesota veterans better.

For more information on The American Legion Department VA&R Committee, please visit:  
<http://www.mnlegion.org/>

[jwolfsteller@mnlegion.org](mailto:jwolfsteller@mnlegion.org)

## News Briefs

### Buckler resigns

National American Legion Auxiliary Secretary and Executive Director Mary "Dubbie" Buckler announced her resignation from that post at the States Dinner during the National Convention in Minneapolis.

Buckler, of Indiana, has served for ten years.

### V4V grants

The Minnesota Veterans 4 Veterans Trust Funds has announced its grants for August. \$15,000 will go to help fund the new quarters for the Armed Forces Service Center at the airport. \$75,000 went to purchase two vehicles for a transportation program for veterans in southeast Minnesota.

### New VISN 23 Director

Robert P. McDivitt has been named the new director of the VA Midwest Health Care Network, one of 18 health care systems in the VA. The network covers Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota. He has worked at the VA for 35 years, and is an Army veteran.

### Rochester VA clinic moving

The Rochester VA Community Clinic will move to the old Fleet Farm store south of Rochester in 2019.

The VA has signed a 10-year lease for the property which will have 16,000 square feet, or 6,000 square feet more than the existing clinic. The clinic will now be able to offer imaging services.

### Dental clinic opens at vets home

The new dental clinic at the Minnesota Veterans Home in Minneapolis, has opened. It is the first fixed dental clinic

## DEC meeting

Continued from Page 3

to have that situation."

In other business, the DEC:

-- Heard from new Commander Darrel Redepenning about his projects for the year. One project will be Legionville and restoration of the shoreline at the camp following the removal of the bog. The second project will be the Eagle's Nest Healing Center in Anoka, providing repairs for a cottage. His motto for the year will be: "100 years of making a difference."

-- SAL Detachment Commander Shawn Davis is entering his second term as commander. He said he will continue to build for the future of the Legion program. His projects are the Brain Science Foundation and developing an obstacle course at Legionville.

-- Daryl Harmon, membership director for the 10<sup>th</sup> District, said the paperwork for creating a new post at Nowthen, just north of Anoka, is nearly complete. The DEC voted to approve the new charter. All members will be new and not from other posts. The post number will be 2018.

-- Membership Director Mike Maxa said his theme for the year will be the three Rs: Recruit, Retain, Renew. "Ask them, get them involved. If they have a reason to be part of the organization, they'll stay around. Our success depends on the effort we put in." Maxa said there would be workshops and that part of the recruiting effort will be aimed at colleges and Guard and Reserve bases. He said that each rally this year will be planned and put on by a different group: Harvest Rally, SAL; Pearl Harbor Rally, Legion Riders; Sweetheart Rally, Auxiliary; and Appreciation Rally, The American Legion.

-- National Executive Committeeman Marland Ronning spoke on the downsizing at National Headquarters. He said that 33 positions have been eliminated, and that some of those taking early retirement include Billy Johnson, Jeff Brown and Jack Querfeld. Ronning said the staff trimming will result in hundreds of thousands of dollars in savings.

-- Past National Commander Dan Ludwig talked further on membership and staff cutting. He noted that in his time in the Legion, membership had gone from 2.8 million to less than 2 million. That decline has resulted in the loss of over \$15 million in revenue to the national headquarters. He said another change will be that when Minnesota or any other Department invites a Past National Commander to come and speak, the Department will now pay for airfare.

-- Redepenning offered some ideas for the future. He said going after college-age veterans was important. "They think we're just a bar and grill, and we need to tell them more about the Legion, including that we were responsible for the GI Bill they're using." He also said that recruiting women into membership has to be a priority. He said posts should consider paying the membership dues of new members.

-- When the meeting was nearing its conclusion, Judge Advocate Greg Colby was called to the podium. He said that the DEC needed to talk over a possible disciplinary action, and, to protect the rights of the individual, the meeting would be closed to everyone who was not a member of the DEC, including the Legionnaire's reporter.

The meeting went on for about another hour, and then was adjourned without allowing the Legion membership back into the meeting. No announcement was made of what had transpired.

in a veterans home in the nation.

### Wind turbine departing

The wind turbine at the St. Cloud VA Medical Center will be removed next year. A study showed that the turbine would be too expensive to repair and that any options would not bring enough financial return to the institution.

### Minneapolis VA cancer site

The Minneapolis VA Healthcare System will be one of 11 nationwide to provide the latest treatment for cancer. The access is part of a partnership between the VA and the National Cancer Institute. The veterans will be able to participate in cutting-edge clinical trials of the latest cancer fighting treatments.

### TR IV recognized

Theodore Roosevelt IV received the "Good Guy" award at the Minneapolis Convention. He is the chairman of the honorary 100th anniversary committee for the Legion.

## American Legion Riders

By Chuck Stone  
Department Director



Greetings American Legion Family,  
Awesome, simply awesome, Minnesota.

After hearing Past Department Commander Mike announce our Legacy turn-in of \$251,000 I am left speechless. This is an example of the type of result achieved when everyone comes together working towards a common goal. Also notable is the large turnout of the Department of Minnesota Legion Family for the National Parade on Sunday. I have heard a few different numbers of those marching with flags. I was near the front of our formation. As I exited the convention hall, most impressive as I looked back was that trail elements of Minnesota was yet to enter the hall.

September is upon us and that brings a few items to mind. First and one of great importance is children returning to school. Please as you drive about have extra awareness, keep those children safe - they are our future. Yes, even though Legionville was closed this year there will be our annual Camp-O-Ree and the Riders' Romp. These two weekends are for the Minnesota Legion Family to come together and celebrate our accomplishments this past year. Also in keeping with tradition a few volunteer hours to help spruce up the camp. There are a number of things that need to be done, many of which are light duty and can very easily be accomplished by a couple of Family members. If you are unsure, please ask the staff, "What and where may I lend a hand?" There will be plenty to eat and fun to have by all who attend.

Pretty soon the Legacy Ride Committee will start looking at the 2019 Ride. There is much talk about the format. If you have a suggestion please visit with one of the committee members and share your thoughts and ideas.

Mark your calendars 25 - 27 October for Department Fall Conference in Marshall. Watch for more information to come.

Keep the chrome side up and the rubber side down.

### Official Registration - Mail to:

**Legion Post 113 Fall Conference**  
412 W. Main St.  
Marshall, MN 56258

#### Pre-registration sliding fee:

- Registration received by 1 Oct: **\$15**
- Registration after 1 Oct: **\$18**
- Registration at event HQ: **\$20**

Registration is for each person attending, with the exception of Junior SAL and Junior Auxiliary members. Please copy and send a separate form for each person. **Make checks payable to:**

**'2018 Fall Conference'**

**PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY - NO CURSIVE**

**CONFERENCE DATES 26-27 Oct 2018**

DISTRICT	POST	UNIT	SQUADRON
NAME (This will be the name on your name badge)			
ADDRESS			
CITY		STATE	ZIP
E-MAIL			
CELLULAR PHONE			
SPECIAL NEEDS OR CONSIDERATIONS (i.e. first floor room or elevator, specific equipment, handicap accommodations, etc.)			
ADDITIONAL PRE-REGISTRANTS: A separate form is required for each additional registration accompanying this request. This form may be photocopied. <b>The registration fee must be enclosed for each person (except Junior Aux.).</b>			
Local reproduction of this form is authorized			

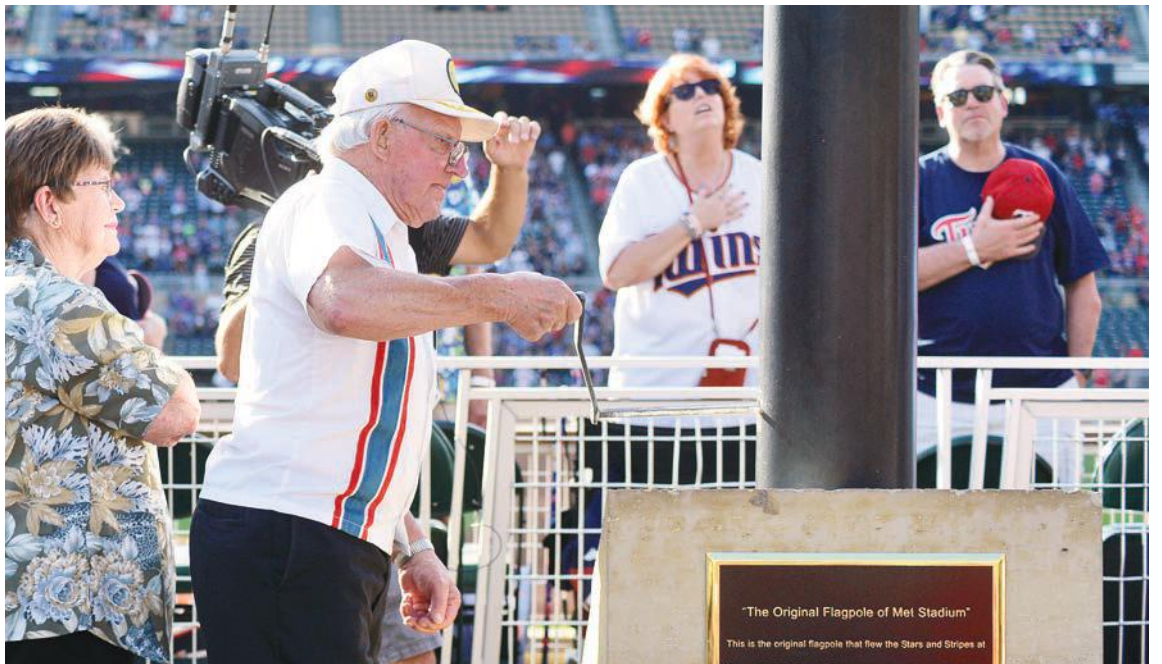
### MARSHALL AREA LODGING FOR THE FALL CONFERENCE

AmericInn (Elevator)	1400 E. Lyon St.	507-537-9424
Delux Motel	516 E. Main St.	507-532-4441
Quality Inn (Elevator)	1511 E. College Dr.	507-532-3070
Ramada Inn (Headquarters)	1500 E. College Dr.	507-532-3221
Super 8	1106 E. Main St.	507-537-1461
Sleep Inn (Elevator)	1300 Nwakama St.	507-401-2042
Traveler's Lodge	1425 E. College Dr.	507-532-5721

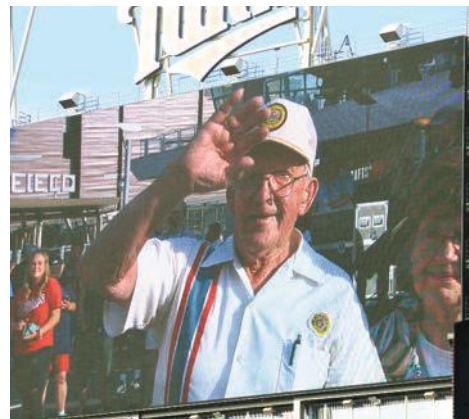
# Legion Day at the Twins



Daniel Bronk of North St. Paul Post 39 was the Twins Territory Flag Raiser at Legion Family Day at the Twins. Bronk is an Army veteran of the war in Afghanistan and earned a Bronze Star.



Past Department Commander Harlan Buck cranks up the American Flag during Legion Family Day at the Twins. His wife, Joanne, is right behind him. Buck was state commander from 1978-79.



Buck was on the Jumbo-Tron at Target Field when he was introduced. He is a Korean War veteran.



The Schaffer Family posed with TC Bear after the commander threw out the first pitch. From left: Nina Schaffer, Commander Mike Schaffer, TC, daughter Maria Schaffer and grandson Ayden Schaffer.

## Minnesota Sons of the American Legion News

### Sons of The American Legion

By Shawn Davis



As I prepare for the National Convention here in Minnesota, I reviewed my previous article from last year at this time. I have to reiterate what I said then.

Thank you for all you do. Making donations to Child Welfare Foundation (CWF), National Emergency Fund (NEF), American Legion Legacy Scholarship, and so much more. Volunteering your time at the Minnesota Veterans Homes, the VA, at memorials and as part of Honor guards. And let us not forget all the fund raising activities we do.

But as you read this after the National Convention, keep in mind we have another year, more goals, and more work to be done. Membership cards were received late from National, but have been distributed. Squadron Officer reporting forms are due now. Camporee fundraiser is the first weekend in September. The John Zgoda Memorial Disabled Veteran Deer hunt is coming up.

So thank you for all that you have done, and will do this next year. We will make it a great year.

### Camp-O-Ree slated

Greetings to the American Legion family, this year's Camp-o-ree will be Sept. 6th thru Sept. 9th it will be as good as last year and maybe better. This year we added bingo Thurs.nite and more on Friday. This year the Brainerd legion will be helping us at the bar area. So I hope to see every one there with smiles,lets make it a great year for Legionville and raise lots of money to help the camp.If anyone wants to help please let Cliff or Dennis know and we will put you to work. Thanks and see you there.

Dennis Blue co-chairmen

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

### Zgoda Deer Hunt

It's time again to start planning for the SAL Disabled Vets Deer Hunt. Named for the man instrumental in founding the hunt, Past Detachment Commander John Zgoda.

This year's hunt will take place October 5-6-7, 2018 at Legionville in Brainerd, MN. We need nominations starting now. Please have them in by 9/28/18. Please contact any one of the following SAL Members:

Dave Vulcan: dhvulcan@gmail.com or 507-380-5095  
Dave Bilderback: dbilderback@aol.com or 507-250-1057

Lloyd Schaeffer: lschaeffer@co.carver.mn.us or 952-457-2981

Steve Bilderback at 612-220-1333

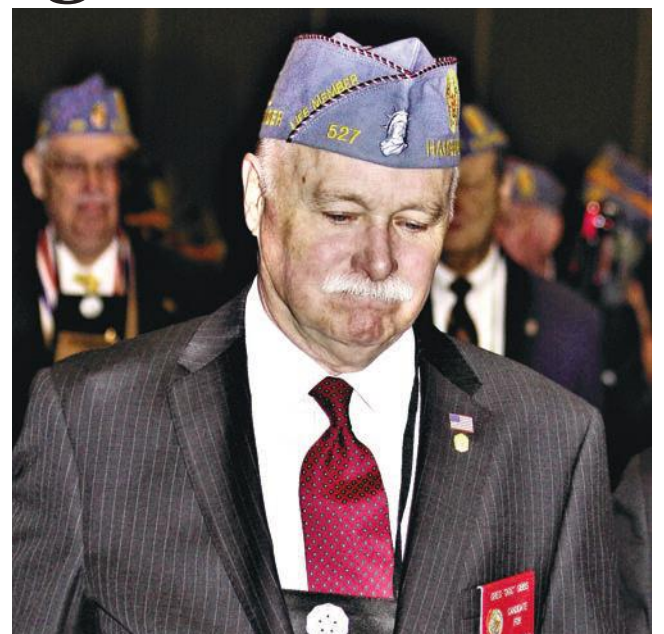
Hunt includes ammo, meals, guns, deer processing. Vets must get their own license and please let any of the contacts know if you've hunted this event before as they are always looking for new hunters each year.

### Legionville

Legionville is a piece of property owned by The American Legion north of Brainerd, MN. Located on North Long Lake, the over 500 acres of woods, swamp, campgrounds, and beach is used primarily for the Legionville School Safety Patrol Training. This property has been part of The American Legion since 1948 when the first section of land was purchased to find a permanent home for this program. The facilities are also used by members of the American Legion Family including the SAL for their Detachment Convention (Campout), The American Legion Auxiliary for their Junior Fun Weekend, and The American Legion Riders for their ROMP.

The Legionville School Safety Patrol program dates back to 1921 with the idea of a School Patrol. This idea grew and was adopted statewide by the Minnesota Highway Patrol. In 1935, Earle Brown, the first Chief of the Minnesota Highway Patrol, approached The American Legion to help create a uniform training program. That partnership continues to this day.

Legionville and the School Safety Patrol program are supported through the generous donations of Posts, Units, Squadrons and Chapters throughout the state. The biggest fundraiser is Camporee, which has been managed by the MN SAL for the last two years raising about \$14,000 in that time.



Newly-elected National SAL Commander Greg "Doc" Gibbs of New York approaches the dias at the Sons' national convention. (Photo by Lou Michaels)



Minnesota Detachment Commander Shawn Davis addresses the SAL National Convention.



The Worthington Band was one of 14 signed up from Minnesota to march in the annual parade. Because of a weather report, the parade was moved indoors into the Minneapolis Convention Center. No rain fell that afternoon.



National Commander Denise Rohan proudly displays the "W" sign as the Wisconsin delegation marched by in the Convention Center.



The Jordan band was the last high school band to march in the parade. Because of the move indoors, and a lack of communication, some Minnesota bands arrived late for the parade. Jordan just made it.

# National Parade



Minnesota dignitaries marched behind the Minnesota banner at the annual National Parade. From left: Honorary Junior President Courtney Rogat, Past National Commander Dan Ludwig, Past Department Commander and Delegation Chairman Mike Schaffer, NECman Marland Ronning, Department Commander Darrel Redepenning, SAL Detachment Commander Shawn Davis.



Minnesotans carrying about 400 flags marched past the reviewing stand.



The flags just kept on coming in Hall B of the Convention Center.

# Commander announces his appointments

Department Commander Darrel Redepenning announced his appointments for committees for 2018-19 at the August Department Executive Committee meeting.

The following list includes only appointments for this year and does include those who will continue to serve.

Larry Poernich of Hibbing was re-appointed to a three-year term on the Americanism Committee. Art Tobkin will continue as chairman.

Tom Hallet of Mankato was named Boy Scout Chairman, Tom Clabo of Hutchinson was named Community Service chair, and Don Skow of Lindstrom was named Education chairman.

Tom Nelson of Jackson was named Boys State Director and Jared Sturgill of Champlin will served as chair of Junior Shooting Sports.

Sylvan Fix of Brownsville will continued to chair the Oratorical Contest and Cliff Newman of Blaine will be vice chair. James Blakesley of Aitkin will chair the Safety-School Patrol Committee.

Joe Jansen of Arden Hills will again be the representative to the Armed Forces Service Center.

Tom Sanders of Pine City will chair the Blood Program, and 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.

Richard Grobe of Millville was appointed to a five-year term on the Convention Corporation.

Lynne Nottage of Minneapolis was given a new three-year term on the Credentials Committee and will continue as chairman. Bonnie Hanson of Rockford and Virgil Wagner of Middle River were re-appointed.

Jeff Gay, Jackson, was appointed to a new three-year

term on the Education and Training Committee.

Carl Moon will continue as the chair of the Employment Committee. Tom Allen of Clearwater will chair the Energy and Conservation Committee.

Rick Oelschlager of Andover was named to a five-year term on the Finance Committee.

Tom Mullon of Eagan will be the Legion's member of the Fort Snelling Cemetery Association.

Mark Dvorak, LeCenter, will chair the Fund for Hospitalized Veterans. Wes Thompson, Sartell, Roland Hanson, Austin, and Tim Haugen, Moorhead were also re-appointed.

Tom Conway of Argyle will chair the Law and Order Committee. Larry Ryan of Oakdale and Jeff Brokaw of Winona were re-appointed to the committee.

Scott Phillips of Winnebago will be the liaison to the American Legion Riders.

Bill Barbknecht of Battle Lake will continue as chair of the Legionnaire Insurance Trust Committee. Eric Wilkens of Detroit Lakes was given a new three-year term on the committee.

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

Peggy Moon of St. Joseph, Randy Olson of Winnebago, Bob Hart of Oak Park Heights, and Lyle Foltz of Apple Valley will serve on the Legislative Committee. Moon will chair.

Mike Schaffer of Fulda and Bob Locker of Fridley were appointed to three-year terms on the Brain Science Foundation. Dan Ludwig of Red Wing will remain as the commander's advisor.

Bruce Kottom of Buffalo was named to a five-year term on the Minnesota American Legion Foundation.

Denise Milton of Bagley was named to a five-year term

on the National Security/ Foreign Relations Committee. Jim Kellogg will be chairman.

Glenn Mueller of St. Charles will chair Operation Post Home. Chuck Stone of Owatonna will chair the Pheasant Dinner committee, and Bill Stump of St. Louis Park will be the vice chair.

Eugene Leifeld of Zumbrota will serve a new five-year term on the Post Development Committee.

John Flynn of Eagan was appointed to a three-year term on the Public Relations Committee.

Dan Tengwell of Chaska was appointed to a five-year term on the Rehabilitation Committee.

Jim Munson of Burnsville was named to a three-year term on the Resolutions Assignment Committee. Al Davis will serve as chairman.

Walt Folendorf of East Grand Forks was appointed advisor to the Sons of the American Legion. Gary Weaver of LaCrescent will be vice-charman, south, and Dennis Henkemeyer of Bagley will be vice-chairman north.

Mike Perry of Minnetonka was appointed to a three-year term as a vice director on the Baseball Committee.

John Torma, Eveleth, will continue as chairman of the Bowling Committee. Bob Mace of Waite Park and Irv Tooker of Walker were also re-appointed.

Paul Hassing of Montgomery was appointed to a five-year term on the Strategic Planning Committee. Brad Pagel of Slayton will fill the three-year term of Jim Lucas who resigned. Dan Williams of Vadnais Heights will chair.

Marland Ronning of Maple Grove was appointed to another two-year term as representative on the V4V Committee.

The Youth Cadet Law Enforcement chairman post was not filled but will be in the future.

## Taps

**Stebe, Dennis W.**, 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 14, 2018. He was a member of Little Falls Post 46.

**Swalin, Clifford J.**, 95, Army veteran of World War II, died July 1, 2018. He was a member of Willmar Post 167.

**Potter, Leroy**, 93, Navy veteran of World War II, died July 10, 2018. He was a member of Willmar Post 167.

**Eisenlohr, Larry C.**, 69, National Guard veteran of the Vietnam War, died Aug. 14, 2018. He was a member of Willmar Post 167.

**Herwig, Richard F.**, 89, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 11, 2018. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

**Johannsen, Darroll A.**, 84, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 6, 2018. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

**Geer, Danny Lee**, 70, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 25, 2018. He was a past commander of Middle River Post 444.

**Rupp, Dennis**, 76, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Aug. 15, 2018. He was a member of New London Post 537.

**Barsness, Leroy**, 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 13, 2018. He was stationed in Germany with a field artillery battalion. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

**Fiedler, Vernon C. "Buster,"** 89, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 10, 2018. He was a member of Dent Post 148.

**Gratz, Fredrick W.**, 84, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died July 11, 2018. He was a mechanic who served in Korea. He was a member of St. James Post 33.

**Bocock, Ronald L.**, 68, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 26, 2018. He served in Germany. He was a member of St. James Post 33.

**Kratz, Robert Earl**, 80, Army National Guard veteran of the Vietnam War, died Aug. 3, 2018. He served for 28 years in the Guard. He was a member of Winona Post 9.

**Gibson, Francis R.**, 88, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 6, 2018. He served in Alaska. He was a member of Rush City Post 93.

**Jahnke, Allan**, 81, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Aug. 6, 2018. He was a member of Graceville Post 297.

**Boser, James W.**, 76, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Aug. 12, 2018. He was a member of Pierz Post 341.

**Dohrmann, Caryl Dietrich**, 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 8, 2018. He was a member of Kasson Post 333.

**Sorensen, Dennis L.**, 79, Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 1, 2018. He was a member of Bloomington Post 550.

**Nieman, Paul H. Jr.**, 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 26, 2018. He was a member of Little Falls Post 46.

**Liljevall, Melvin P.**, 89, Navy veteran of World War II, died July 20, 2018. He was a member of Lake City Post

110.

**Stark, Paul**, 90, Army veteran of World War II, died July 25, 2018. He was a member of Eagan Post 594.

**Milton, Kleven L.**, 91, Navy veteran of World War II, died July 13, 2018. He served as a Seabee. He was a member of Cambridge Post 290.

**Hanenburg, John R.**, 95, Army veteran of World War II, died July 31, 2018. He was a member of Milaca Post 178.

**Beckerl, Walter Joseph**, 94, Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 6, 2018. He served in the Battle of the Bulge, guarding POWs and doing grave duty. He was a member of LeSueur Post 55.

**Engel, William**, 76, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Aug. 5, 2018. He was a member of LeSueur Post 55.

**Manlove, Richard P.**, 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 1, 2018. He was a corporal. He was a member of Long Prairie Post 12.

**Noel, Gerald**, 94, Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 4, 2018. He was a member of Caledonia Post 191.

**Bever, Leslie**, 85, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died July 30, 2018. He was a member of Anoka Post 102.

**Moriarty, John**, 82, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died July 15, 2018. He was a member of Anoka Post 102.

**Steele, Helen**, 98, Marine Corps veteran of World War II, died July 25, 2018. She was a member of Hamline Post 418.

**Groth, Emil J.**, 84, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 30, 2018. He was a member of Little Falls Post 146.

**VonBerge, Gary F.**, 69, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 24, 2018. He was a member of Hutchinson Post 96.

**Patton, Dennis C.**, 87, Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War, died July 28, 2018. He was a member of Sauk Rapids Post 254.

**Guttornson, Raymond M.**, 96, Army veteran of World War II, died July 28, 2018. He served as a military police sergeant in Europe. He was a member of Austin Post 91.

**Kneip, Joseph P.**, 102, Army veteran of World War II, died July 16, 2018. He served in the 2nd Armored Division, Company D, Tank Battalion as a halftrack driver and maintenance tech. He served at Sicily, Normandy, St. Lo, and the Battle of the Bulge. He served as Gen. George Patton's driver. He was a member of Twin Valley Post 431.

**Hron, James Benjamin**, 92, Army veteran of World War II, died July 10, 2018. He was a member of Chaska Post 57.

**Anderson, Robert**, 91, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 27, 2018. He served in Korea. He was a member of Milaca Post 178.

**Vigen, James**, 84, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 2, 2018. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

**Miller, Hallard W.**, 88, Air Force veteran of World War II, died July 31, 2018. He was a member of East Grand

Forks Post 157.

**Kamm, Jack B.**, 76, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 24, 2018. He was an infantryman. He served four terms as commander of Viking Post 493, Minneapolis.

**Hill, Duane**, 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 3, 2018. He was a member of Marshall Post 113.

**Drevlow, Lawrence Henry**, 90, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 16, 2018. He served at Fort Rucker. He was a member of Long Prairie Post 12.

**Hayes, Merlyn "Bud,"** 92, Navy veteran of World War II, died Aug. 6, 2018. He served on a mine sweeper that was homeported in Washington. He was a member of Tracy Post 173.

**Beckerling, Raymond E.**, 91, Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 18, 2018. He served in Europe. He was a member of Edgerton Post 42.

**Madsen, Donald**, 94, Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 3, 2018. He landed in Normandy on D-Day. He was a member of New London Post 537.

**Lafferty, Donald J.**, 80, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 24, 2018. He earned a Purple Heart. He was a member of Red Wing Post 54.

**Paczkowski, Russell J.**, 97, Navy veteran of World War II, died Aug. 26, 2018. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

**Westendorf, Robert "Jack,"** 86, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 21, 2018. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

**Berghorst, Kenneth B.**, 91, Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 22, 2018. He was a member of Anoka Post 102.

**Gagne, Gerald**, 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 7, 2018. He was a member of Anoka Post 102.

**Marben, Arthur Eugene**, 95, Marine Corps veteran of World War II, died July 14, 2018. He was commissioned an officer and led a Marine rifle platoon at Okinawa. He was a member of Tracy Post 173.

**Gottzman, Kenneth C.**, 79, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died Aug. 10, 2018. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 212.

**Jones, David J.**, 77, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Aug. 22, 2018. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 212.

**Dahling, Donald J.**, 93, Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 22, 2018. He belonged to the 31st Infantry Division and served in New Guinea, the Aleutian Islands and the Philippines. He was a member of Lake City Post 110.

**Klabunde, Howard "Delbert,"** 81, Army National Guard veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 20, 2018. He was called to active duty during the war. He was a member of Hutchinson Post 96.

### Correction

**Marquardt, Victor Charles**, 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 7, 2018. He was a member of Dodge Center Post 384.



# The Auxiliary Bulletin

No. 18-2

President Donna Arends

September 2018

Secretary Sandie Deutsch

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

## The President's Column

By  
Jean Walker



As we focus on Who We Are, What We Do and Why We Matter, we have started out in the right direction.

First off, I was honored to attend the Junior Fun Weekend in Legionville. We had a great group of dynamic Juniors attend and we couldn't have done the weekend without our dedicated Senior volunteers. Fun was had by all and we even had time to learn about flag folding, make poppy favors for our Veterans, paint a poppy picture and send a card to a former junior that is now at basic training. Remember that September is Junior Activities Month, so plan something to do with your Juniors. You don't have to have an organized group to plan an activity.

We had our organizational meeting at the Waite Park Legion Post which was well attended. The chairmen planned their year and our Department Executive Committee (DEC) had their first meeting. We accomplished a lot in one day. The highlight was hearing about our Membership plan for the year.

Robin Dorf, our Membership Chairman, has great plans for the year. Her theme this year is "Together We Shine for Membership" using the Star as the team symbol, focusing on working together and positively. Membership payoffs will be a fun event at our upcoming Fall Conference.

There will be a lot going on this year. Information will be forthcoming in our upcoming Unit mailings. At Fall Conference this year, each of our Program Chairmen will be setting up their own individual display boards and will be around to answer questions about their program area. Let's make this Conference a learning event so our members can take information back to their Unit members and share what they have learned.

I will put more information on my travels in the upcoming unit mailings and on my Facebook page. I hope to keep really busy this year traveling around the Department to visit units and attend their functions.

As we start this year let us all work together for our Veterans, so everyone will know Who We Are, What We Do and Why We Matter. This is a TEAM effort and there is no I in TEAM. When we work together we will accomplish amazing things.

Always remember to keep our active duty military, their families, and our veterans in your prayers. They gave up a lot to protect us. So now let us give back to them. They are all stars in my book.

### July 31, 2018, Auxiliary Membership

District	Goal	Membership To Date	Percent of Goal	Membership Last Year 7/31/17
One	5,000	4,458	89.16%	4,696
Two	4,924	4,335	88.04%	4,548
Three	4,422	4,002	90.50%	4,085
Four	720	692	96.11%	695
Five	818	656	80.20%	713
Six	6,042	5,527	91.48%	5,728
Seven	3,934	3,494	88.82%	3,606
Eight	1,628	1,452	89.19%	1,529
Nine	4,344	3,792	87.29%	4,026
Ten	5,159	4,462	86.49%	4,839
1982	160	159	99.38%	159
<b>Totals</b>	<b>37,151</b>	<b>33,029</b>	<b>88.90%</b>	<b>34,624</b>

## Kathy Dungan of Mississippi new Auxiliary Nat'l President

The 2018 National Convention was held in Minneapolis August 24-30. The Convention was well attended by the entire American Legion Family. The Auxiliary had many attendees with Delegates, Alternates and Guests. This was a history making event. Kathy Dungan from the Department of Mississippi was installed as our National President and will serve through the 2018-2019 year. Nicole Clapp from the Department of Iowa will serve as the National Vice President. What a great time this 100th Convention was – and we'll have more in next month's Legionnaire. Hope you had a chance to see it.

### PRESIDENT'S PROJECT

Our Department President Jean Walker has chosen the following as President's projects for the 2018/2019 year. Her wish is to raise \$25,000.00 to create Patriots Park at the Fergus Falls Veterans Home. It will have benches, greenery, a dock and a monument with matching benches. This is a park where Veterans can go sit and visit with their families. Any additional funds will be divided between the other four Veterans Homes for use in the recreational funds.

### 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.

### FALL CONFERENCE

Fall Conference will be held Friday and Saturday, October 26-27, 2018 hosted by the Marshall American Legion Family. Housing and pre-registration information are included in this issue of the Minnesota Legionnaire. Please use this phone number for reservations – 507-532-3221 and ask for The American Legion room block. There are still many rooms available.

Fall Conference is intended to be a school of learning about the Auxiliary and its programs. We also have a lot of fun. We will be having the Membership payoff on Friday night and you need to attend as Chairman Robin Dorf has lots of surprises in store.

### 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. Remember, bidders can be members of The American Legion Family. We look for support from all members. All items should be brought Thursday evening or early Friday morning. Bidding will be on Friday only from 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 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.

### POPPY CONTEST WINNERS

Following are the winners from the Poppy Contests held at the Department Convention Rochester. Thank you all for your beautiful entries.

POPPY CORSAGE -- 1st Place, Betty Schlueter, Hutchinson. 2nd Place, Jeanne Ray, Hutchinson.

POPPY WREATH -- 1st Place, Betty Schlueter, Hutchinson. 2nd Place, Sandy Wersal, New London.

POPPY CENTERPIECE -- 1st Place, Barb Oakland, Hayfield. 2nd place, Diana Brandau, Osseo/ Maple Grove.

### 2019 POPPY ORDERS

Orders for the 2019 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 plus shipping. (Small poppies must be ordered in lots of 100 only); Large Poppies are \$18.00 a dozen. The shipping charge schedule is on the order form. We have plenty of poppies in inventory and can ship as soon as you want them. Our Department Chairman Shaaron Barnes is working very hard to make this a very successful year.

### 2018-2019 UNIT GUIDE

We will be mailing the new 2018-2019 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.

### 2017-18 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The awardees for the 2017/2018 Department Scholarships are as follows:

## Kuperus endorsed for 2nd vice president

New London Unit 537 and the 7th District American Legion Auxiliary have endorsed Mary Kuperus for Department Second Vice President for the 2019-2020.

Mary is a 36-year PUFL member. She is eligible through the service of her late father, Earl Manson, who served during WWII and her husband, Bill Kuperus, Retired SFC of the Army serving during the Persian Gulf War.

She has served all

offices and most committee chairmanships at the local level, including unit President for multiple years.

In the 7th District, she served as the 7th District President in 2010-2011. She was secretary for five years.

At the department level, she has held chairmanships in Children & Youth, Community Service, Junior Activities, Poppy, and Membership Chairman. She is currently the Girls

State Chairman for the Girls State 2019 Session. She is also the Vice Chairman of the Pages for the National Convention in 2018.

For the past 26 years, Mary has been employed with the New London-Spicer Elementary School as a Title I Paraprofessional.

She belongs to Peace Lutheran Church. She and her husband have three adult children, and seven grandchildren.



MARY KUPERUS

# Auxiliary Bulletin

Continued from Preceding Page

Alexandra Benning, sponsored by Unit 293 Browerville, Jocelyn Dubbels, sponsored by Unit 21 Moorhead, Brianna Blanchard, sponsored by Unit 613 Pine River, Ella Henderson sponsored by Unit 15 Detroit Lakes, Alexandra Rud, sponsored by Unit 485 Clara City, Olivia Hanninen, sponsored by Unit 15 Detroit Lakes, Becca Nikolas, sponsored by Unit 621 Clearwater and Mackenzie Weis, sponsored by Unit 267 Walnut Grove.

The awardees for the 2017/2018 Past Presidents Parley Health Care Scholarships are as follows:

Alexandra Rud, sponsored by Unit 485 Clara City, Emily Scheitel, sponsored by Unit 257 Springfield, Brianna Rutt, sponsored by Unit 79 Montgomery, Beth Ann Nikolas, sponsored by Unit 323 Clearwater and Kendra Hartmann, sponsored by Unit 36 Fairmont.

We received many applications this year and thanks go out to Education Chairman Mary French and Past Presidents Parley Chairman Linda Kropuenske who has the task of selecting the awardees. Thanks also to all of our Units for taking part in this very wonderful part of our Education and PPP programs.

## JUNIOR FUN WEEKEND 2018

The 2018 Junior Fun Weekend was held August 4-5 at Legionville. Junior Activities Chairman Tamara Opland, Department President Jean Walker, incoming Junior Activities Chairman Kristen Donnelly and Department Honorary Junior President Harley Donnelly kicked off the weekend with over 50 Juniors and Seniors in attendance. This was a great turnout especially because we didn't know we would be able to use the Legionville facility unit the first of July. 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.

## SECRETARY SANDIE'S NOTES

Here we go, off and running with another Auxiliary year. I look forward to working with President Jean and the rest of our members this year. August Workshop went very well this year. I keep trying to streamline the format and have more time for members to work on their programs and also have a little training for our new District Presidents. We are going to have a great year. Just a note to the August Workshop group - Kid Rock ROCKED. I made it to Red Wing with time to spare. I never saw so many people in my life at an outdoor concert. Being up for 21 hours straight was well worth it (until I hit the wall on Sunday). I will be in Texas while you are reading this. I tried with all my might to hold out until the kids could come home for Christmas but my heart won out - I just had to see my three little ones. I hope to see everybody in Marshall the end of October.

## District project is Healing Nest

We are so excited to get the year started. Our project will be to recognize what our veterans have done for us and honor them. We of the 10th District will be asking everyone to help us provide a place for our veterans that need a fresh start. Our project is the Healing Nest. The Healing Nest is an organization that already has a facility in Sauk Centre, MN and now has a multiple building facility in Anoka to be used for veteran men, women and families. We of the 10th feel and hope this will be a good project to help with the homeless veterans and help reduce the suicide rate.

'Saluting our veteran's sacrifices and delivering the honor they earned.'  
Sandy Locker, 10th District President



## Junior Activities gets youth involved

The Junior Activities program inspires active participation in members age 17 and under so that they will become engaging, productive members who will want to continue their American Legion Auxiliary membership into adulthood.

What can you do to build your Junior Auxiliary program and increase memberships? The answer is one member at a time. How to do this, is to sign up your daughter, granddaughters and great granddaughters.

Continually ask members to sign up their eligible daughter, granddaughters and great granddaughters. Become familiar with the American Legion Family eligibility requirements.

Invite your Juniors to your meetings, let them help. Ask them to lead the pledge, preamble or give prayer. Be flexible but keep an orderly meeting, try not to dwell a lot on protocol (there's always time for that).

Help your Juniors earn patches in the patch program, you may also learn something new.

Watch the unit mailings throughout the year for more information on trophies and awards. There will be guidelines on each trophy, award and Poppy contests for the year.

Department Junior conference will be April 13-14 place is to be determined.

Harley Donnelly is your 2018-2019 Honorary Department Junior President. Her theme is "Jrs working



KRISTEN DONNELLY

their MAGIC for Veterans". Her symbol is the Unicorn. Harley's project is to raise money for the VA homes and hospitals activity fund. This fund is used for the residents that can go off campus so they can go to the fair, popcorn, ice cream treats, movies, bingo and so much more. This fund can also be used for the residents that are not able to go off campus as well by bringing entertainment to them.

Let's all work some magic and collect change for the Dept. Honorary Jr. President's project to help put a little MAGIC in the lives of our Veterans.

Kristen Donnelly  
Junior Activities Chairman 2018-2019  
Donnelly.kristen.81@gmail.com  
You can find more resources at  
www.ALAforveterans.org

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