

# Listening Post

# News from around the State



**WHEATON GOLD STAR FLAG** -- The family of Corporal Martin C. Monson, who was killed in action in France in 1944, donated his casket 48-star flag to the Wheaton Post 80 and Kath-Monson VFW Post, which is named for the deceased. From left, front: Tom Monson, Loretta Pederson, Pat Tracy, Kitty Smith. In back: Alex Johannsen, Mitchel Johannsen, Mickey Johannsen, Gary Tracy.



**BLOOMINGTON POST TROLLEY** -- Bloomington Post 550 found out that the 20-plus year-old trolley at the Minneapolis Veterans Home had become "the little trolley that just couldn't do it anymore." The post rehabbed the trolley including new seats and a canopy, and purchased a brand new Kawasaki Mule-Pro to haul it. It is now back in business so residents can take scenic rides to the river.



**NEW PICNIC TABLE** -- Bloomington Unit 550 purchased a new picnic table for the residents at the Minnesota Veterans Home in Minneapolis.



**TYLER GOES HOLLYWOOD** -- Tyler Post 185 was the location site for the film crew of the movie "Hap and Ashley," a feature-length film about a Minnesota World War II veteran and his granddaughter on a trip across America. Members Sandy Hanson and Frank Jorgensen are seen on a monitor during filming.



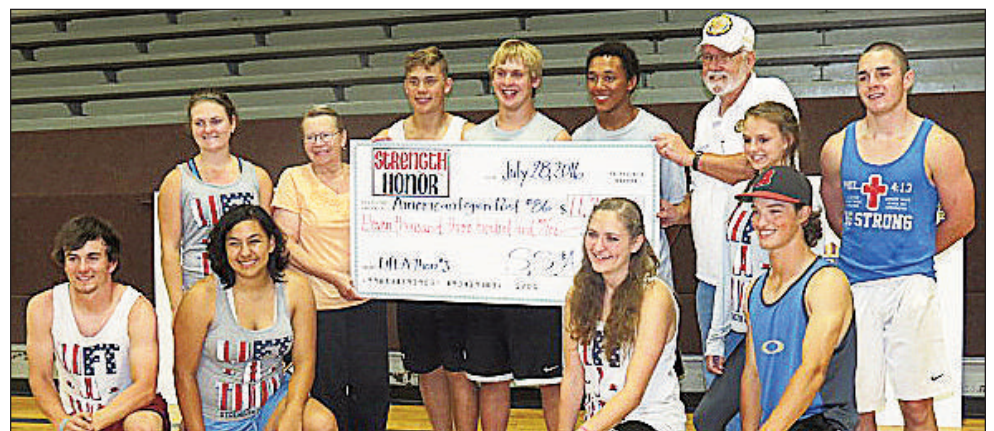
**TEEN VOLUNTEER** -- Sean McCollough, right, a junior at Benilde-St. Margaret High School, has been volunteering his time with help from friends to run the bingo event at the Minnesota Veterans Home In Minneapolis. He also encouraged his speech team to donate items for residents, and he's now raising money for a flag installation outside the home. At left is Jose Machuca.



**UPSALA HONORS HEROES** -- Upsala Post 350 created a Wall of Honor at Upsala School where plaques are permanently on display with the names and pictures of classmate who were killed in war. Ten servicemen were honored, and their families were on hand to receive the plaques and say words about their loved ones before an assembly of over 600 people at the school.



**JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS** -- Abby and Dana, twin granddaughters of Past Department Vice Commander Mel Buesseler, are active shooters in the Junior Shooting programs at Forest Lake and Anoka. This photo of the girls competing at Fort Benning, Ga., was printed in Shooting Sports magazine.



**AITKIN LIFT A THON** -- Aitkin High School held a Lift a Thon to benefit veterans and Aitkin Post and Unit 86. They raised \$11,300 for veterans projects. They presented their check to the post.



# The Auxiliary Bulletin

No. 17-3

President Carol Kottom

October 2016

Secretary Sandie Deutsch

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

## The President's Column

By Carol Kottom



Wow – what a fantastic month.

What a bunch of great people we have in the American Legion Riders. Didn't get to go over there, but did watch the live video stream of the presentation of the funds they raised. Almost \$150,000 – what a great job they do.

It was a real privilege to march in the National parade with the mass colors Minnesota always does. We look fantastic – don't you think? The convention was challenging this year. Tried to move a chair with a man sitting on it with my right foot on Monday. Just so you know, that doesn't work. After ice packing, keeping it up, talking to BC/BS nursing care and missing Monday afternoon seminars and a lot of Tuesday's convention, hobbled around for the rest of the week. Went to urgent care Saturday morning here in Buffalo where they took x-rays. The PA and I looked at them and compared them to some x-rays from 2012. Really didn't see anything bad. But what do we know. Got a call Tuesday to come and pick up a boot. In my most shocked voice I asked why I wanted a boot. Their reply, "You have three broken toes." So down I went, got the boot Tuesday, saw the doctor Thursday and spent the weekend at Legionville.

SAL did a fantastic job at Legionville this year. We stayed in a cabin that in August, I walked into and turned around and walked out. It smelled so musty and moldy I couldn't believe it. Camporee weekend it had been cleaned up and was actually usable. Thanks guys (and significant others). I got out and about as much as my foot would let me. No dancing though. Weather was fantastic, food was great and the company was the best. Oh, and I had to do my normal amount of shopping. Two new sweatshirts.

Tuesday after the fun weekend, found me laying in a bed in the Monticello Hospital getting pins put into two toes. They decided the third one was okay - whoopee. My apologies to Nisswa for not making it to your dinner. The doctor put me in what he calls a splint and won't allow me to put any weight on my foot at all. No boot – just the splint. Picked up a knee walker which is the only way I can get around. In a split entry house that doesn't get me very far. Grabbed the crutches yesterday (thanks to my son, Richard) and went downstairs. Not bad going down, but coming back up was ugly. Finally saw doctor on 23rd. Foot is doing fine, still not supposed to put any weight on it though. I did do some running around though – worked a couple of days, went to Legionville for the Board meeting and went to my son's. As long as Bruce is willing to drive me around the state for a few more weeks, I shouldn't have to miss any events. Thanks for your patience.

Fall Conference is coming right up. The agenda should be mailed by the time you read this. Hope to see you all in Marshall the evening of October 27th for the presentation by our Leadership, Membership and Strategic Planning Chairman. I know they have done a lot of planning for this and I am looking forward to it. Auxiliary will meet Friday to hear our chairman's reports and then joint with The Legion, SAL and ALR on Saturday. At this point, this is all subject to change so hang onto your hats. Keep in mind the grand march is Friday night. Dress is business casual to formal.

Please send me any stories you may have pertaining to the gift of our pocket angels. I have heard there have been some interesting responses and I'd love to hear them.

Prayers for all of our active military men and women. And, when you meet someone, ask them if they are a member of our American Legion Family. The most common excuse for not belonging is that they have never been asked.

Remember to always "Thank a Veteran – all gave some, some gave all."

## Mary Davis of Washington is new National President

The 96th annual National Convention came to its conclusion in Cincinnati, Ohio on Thursday, September 1, with the election and installation of our 2016-17 National officers. A total of 32 delegates were in attendance to carry on the business of the American Legion Auxiliary. Minnesota was represented by 32 delegates, 14 alternates and a number of guests.

Sharon Conatser, National President, presided over the busy five days as the National Chairmen gave their reports, resolutions were considered and the newly elected officers were installed. Our congratulations to:

National President Mary Davis, Washington  
 National Vice President – Diane Duscheck, Wisconsin  
 National Chaplain – Valerie Brown-Debro, Georgia  
 National Historian – Coral Grout, Massachusetts  
 National Vice President of the Northwestern Division – Virginia Nelsen, Nebraska

National President Davis has chosen as her theme: "ALA Member Pride." We need to let our own members know what great things this organization does for veterans, children and our communities.

### NATIONAL AWARDS

Minnesota proudly accepted the following National awards at our 2016 National Convention.

Leadership: Award of Appreciation-Northwestern Division - Mary Hendrickson  
 Legislation: Outstanding Department Award - Northwestern Division - Sandy Fredrickson. Outstanding Unit Award - Northwestern Division – Edward B Cutter Unit 102, Anoka  
 Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation: Best Overall Program – Mary Hendrickson, Unit 71 in West Duluth  
 Congratulations to all of you for your outstanding accomplishments in the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary.

### NATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Following are the National Appointments that National President Mary Davis made to serve with her this 2016/2017 Auxiliary year. In keeping up with the past years, Minnesota has a long list of appointees. This shows how dedicated our members are in serving our Veterans. Norma Tramm was named the National Education Chairman, Peggy Tesdahl was named National Public Relations Vice Chairman, Carol Barbknecht was named National Audit Committee Member, Jennifer Havlik was named Northwestern Division Girls Nation Chairman, Dee Dee Buckley was named Northwestern Division Americanism Chairman, Raleen Tolzmann was named Northwestern Division National Security Chairman, Chris Ronning was named Northwestern Division Children & Youth Chairman, Tamara Opland was named Northwestern Division Membership Chairman, Marsha Bible was named Northwestern Division Education Chairman, Mary Hendrickson was named Northwestern Division Legislation Chairman, Donna Arends was named

Northwestern Division Poppy Chairman and Marie Goede was named Northwestern Division Auxiliary Emergency Fund Chairman. If you see any of these ladies please take a moment and congratulate them. This is a very large responsibility they have taken on along with their continued involvement with our own Department.

### FALL CONFERENCE

Fall Conference will be held October 28-29 in Marshall, hosted by the Marshall American Legion Family 113. On Friday, October 28, the Auxiliary will meet at Southwest State University, Conference Center, lower level. On Saturday, October 29, there will be a joint session of the American Legion Family at the Red Baron Arena.

On Thursday, October 27, at 7:00 p.m. there will be a workshop held that will cover Leadership and how it works hand in hand with Membership and Strategic Planning. Robin Dorf has a fun informative session planned so please attend.

There will not be a Membership contest between Districts this year per Membership Chairman Zandy Kessler. That doesn't mean you shouldn't bring it along. There still are plans to announce the turn-ins and Jan and Julie are all ready to add up the totals. Let's try and out do last year. Membership is King and we are off to a real good start this year.

If your Unit is not able to be represented at Fall Conference, be certain your Unit's membership is mailed so it arrives in the department office no later than Monday, October 24, so it can be counted in your totals.

### REMINDERS - FALL CONFERENCE

Don't forget the Poppy Contests at our Fall Conference. Any member, senior or junior, may enter these contests with as many entries as you want to make. See the first Unit mailing for complete particulars and rules. Entries must be at the Conference no later than 9:00 a.m. on Friday, October 28 for judging. Please make sure and bring your entries to our Conference session at Southwest State University – Chairman Karla Otterness will have the judging done there.

Our Auxiliary Emergency Fund Chairman, Donna Redepenny will be holding a silent auction at the Conference to raise funds for this program. Items donated should be something you would want to receive as a gift yourself. Any member of the American Legion Family is invited to bring items. All items should be brought Thursday or early Friday morning. Bring your items to the Ramada Inn as the Silent Auction will be held in the Pioneer Room of the hotel. Bidding will be on Friday only and will close at 7:00 p.m., prior to Hospitality Suites opening up. We are keeping the bidding open later this year as the Conference is being held in different facilities. We want everyone to have ample time to get their bids in. Bring your items and check them in upon your arrival. We are looking for "Theme Baskets" – they can be from individuals, Units or Districts. There will be a bake sale also held at Fall

## Tolzmann endorsed for Alternate NEC

Minnesota Lake Unit 287, has endorsed Raleen Tolzmann for Alternate NEC for 2016-18.

She is eligible through her husband, Curtis Tolzmann, a Viet Nam era veteran. They have three children and five grandchildren.

Raleen has served in the following areas:

Unit Level: Been a member of unit 287 for 28 years. She has served as president 5 times.

District Level: President

in 2003-2004, 1st vice and 2nd Vice President, 2 years on the executive board, and served on numerous committees.

Department Level: Department President 2012-2013, Department 1st. Vice President, Department 2nd Vice-President, Legislation Chairman, Membership Chairman, Americanism Chairman, Girls State Committee, Girls State Staff, Junior Activities Chairmen, Children Youth, National Security, Musical

Extravaganza, Sergeant at Arms, Credentials Committee, Currently the National Security Chairman.

National Level: NEC, Alternate NEC, for the NW Division and the following committee chairmanships – Membership, Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Junior Activities, and for 2016-2017 year the National Security Chairman

She has been involved in her community and church for many years.



RALEEN TOLZMANN

# Auxiliary Bulletin

Continued from Preceding Page

Conference. There will also be an "Angel" District Wall for everyone's donations. Donna urges everyone to be sure and bring cash. Remember that this is the only fund raiser for the year to raise money to help out our own members in need.

## 2017 POPPY ORDERS

Orders for the 2017 Poppies are now being accepted. An order form will be in the next Unit mailing. Prices are: small Poppies - \$20.00 per 100 if ordering 500 or less; \$18.00 per 100 if you order 501 or more; large Poppies - \$18.00 a dozen. We will start shipping the poppies according to the dates you enter on your form. Orders have been coming in and we have already shipped some out! We have a good supply on hand and can ship immediately.

## 2016-17 SCHOLARSHIPS

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

There is also the Past Presidents Parley Health Care Scholarship of which up to ten \$1,000.00 scholarships are available to Minnesota Auxiliary members who are furthering their education in any health care field.

Our National organization is again offering three National scholarships this year, i.e., the National President's Scholarship, Spirit of Youth Scholarship for Junior members, and a scholarship for Non-Traditional Students.

The American Legion also offers a Legacy Scholarship. All of the forms were in the last Unit Mailing and are all posted on our website mnala.org under the Scholarship tab.

Be certain you use the current application forms. Share these with your schools and members and assist eligible persons to apply. If you are in need of additional forms, please duplicate those you received or request copies from the Department office.

## NOTE FROM MARY ANN DAVIS

At this time Mary Ann is in needs of heart pillows and neck pillows. Make sure they are very firm. Also, please call Mary Ann Davis at 651-690-3272 before coming to the VA to bring items. She wants to be sure and have somebody there to help you out.

## SECRETARY SANDIE'S NOTES

This year Fall Conference will have another new twist, with the Auxiliary on their own for the Friday session and a joint Conference on Saturday. This is going to be a great Conference and I hope to see many of you there. It is hard to believe October is already here. This months shout out goes to Leon K. I saw him at our church festival - haven't seen him in years. Thank you for your service Leon. Shorty and I have to make a short trip to Texas next week as we just need to see the kids. It seems as they were growing up a person couldn't wait for them to leave the house. Now I wish all three of them were back home with us. Big news for the Deutsch household - we are finally going to have a baby in the family. Our baby Claire is already 9 so it has been awhile. Brad and Shannon are having #1 baby in May and Grandpa Shorty wants a boy to keep up the Deutsch name! It's hard to believe I am starting my 6th year running the office. There are so many ups to this job and just a few little downs. My only advice to all members is treat everyone the way you want to be treated. Don't lose sight of what our wonderful organization was established for - it is not a "all about me" thing, it is for our veterans. I want to thank all of the new members who have been joining up with us. The Department Office is here for you - call anytime and we will get you any information you need. Everyone have a very Happy Halloween - I read someplace October 31 is another "End of the World" day so as usual, the Montgomery Post 79 will be celebrating the Saturday before - join us if you can.

## Sept. 27, 2016, Auxiliary Membership

District	Goal	Membership To Date	Percent of Goal	Membership Last Year
One	5,000	737	14.74%	937
Two	4,924	794	16.13%	1,082
Three	4,411	812	18.41%	877
Four	720	169	23.47%	173
Five	824	74	8.98%	193
Six	6,042	1,047	17.33%	1,233
Seven	3,934	575	14.62%	499
Eight	1,628	245	15.05%	273
Nine	4,350	1,082	24.87%	911
Ten	5,159	1,052	20.39%	1,060
1982	160	59	36.88%	64
<b>Totals</b>	<b>37,152</b>	<b>6,646</b>	<b>17.89%</b>	<b>7,302</b>

# October is Auxiliary Education Month

By Diane Hayes, Department Education Chairman

October is Education Month - How can you be of assistance at your local school? Listening to children read - volunteer at the library - assist in the classroom. Save Box Tops and Labels for Education and send them to your local schools. Support Give 10 to Education. Fall is the time of year that units create their annual budget. It is so important that you budget funds for the Department Education Scholarships. Wear your American Legion Auxiliary apparel

when you volunteer.

What is this program, and why do we have it?

The Education Program promotes the American Legion Auxiliary's role in providing quality education for children and adults through classroom activities, Literacy programs, scholarship promotion and support of education beyond high school, especially for military children.

What Can You Do?  
1. Enhance respect for the sacrifices of our military heroes among school children by scheduling Veterans in Community Schools.

(Note: This program was previously called Veterans in the Classroom.)

2. Promote American Legion Auxiliary scholarships, and award local scholarships at the department and unit levels.

3. Support Give 10 to Education, American Education Week and Teacher Appreciation Week.

4. Assist and support veterans pursuing higher education and vocational education.

5. Assist and support military children with educational opportunities.



DIANE HAYS

## Fall Conference program

Ramada Inn, Marshall, Minnesota  
October 28-29, 2016

Department Headquarters, Mustang Room  
General Sessions - Friday, October 28  
SW State University, Conf. Center-Lower Ballroom  
General Sessions - Saturday, October 29  
Red Baron Arena  
Joint with The American Legion  
Silent Auction - AEF, Pioneer Room  
Thursday Evening Workshops, Chaparral/Frontier Rooms

### Thursday, October 27

7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Registration Opens Ramada Lobby  
10:00 a.m. - Girls State Committee  
Frontier Room, Ramada Inn  
10:00 a.m. - 11 a.m. Strategic Planning Committee  
Chaparral Room, Ramada Inn  
11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Audit Committee, Technology Room  
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Governing Rules Committee  
Shays  
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Department Executive Committee, Pioneer Room  
2:00 p.m. Gambling Seminar-Red Baron Arena  
7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Leadership Training  
Chaparral/Frontier Room

### Friday, October 28 - morning

7:00 a.m. Rehearsal for processional, SW State University, Conf. Center-Lower Ballroom  
8:00 a.m. Conference begins  
Americanism  
Sandy Wersal, Chairman  
Children & Youth  
Margee Keller, Chairman  
Community Service  
Sharon Voltz, Chairman  
Education  
Diane Hayes, Chairman  
Junior Activities  
Pam Hoshal, Chairman  
Legislative  
Donna Arends, Chairman  
"Just Ask" - Time for questions on the above programs  
National Security  
Shirley Frederick, Chairman  
Armed Forces Center  
Marge Machgan, Representative  
National Security-The American Legion, James Kellogg, Chairman  
Poppy Program  
Karla Otterness, Chairman  
Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation  
Jean Walker, Chairman  
Service to Veterans  
Mary Hendrickson, Chairman  
Gift Shop  
Raleen Tolzmann, Chairman  
"Just Ask"  
American Legion Auxiliary Minn. Girls State  
Marsha Bible, Chairman  
Program Reports - Administrative Committees  
Auxiliary Emergency Fund  
Donna Redepenning, Chairman  
History  
Sally Strasser, Chairman  
Constitution and By-Laws  
Lori Skallerud, Chairman  
Finance

Deb Rottman, Chairman  
Audit  
Pat Ecker, Chairman  
"Just Ask"  
Leadership  
Robin Dorf, Chairman  
Governing Rules  
Karen Thygeson, Chairman  
Public Relations  
Michelle Leonard, Chairman  
Past Presidents Parley  
Chris Ronning, Chairman  
Presentation of Past Department Presidents and Distinguished Guests  
Introduction of National Northwestern Division Vice President-Virginia Nelsen  
Response for Distinguished Guests  
Darlene Wondra  
Announcements and Recess

### Friday, October 28 - afternoon

1:30 p.m. Call Meeting Back to Order  
Strategic Planning  
Sandy Fredrickson, Chairman  
Membership  
Zandra Kessler, Chairman  
Brain Science  
Diane Sullivan, Chairman  
American Legion Hospital Association  
Marie Goede, President  
Presentation of National Awards  
Sandy Fredrickson  
Presentation of Poppy Contest  
Winners Karla Otterness, Chairman  
Announcements and Recess  
3:30 p.m. Hospital Association, General  
Red Baron Arena  
7:00 p.m. Silent Auction Bids Close  
Pioneer Room

### Saturday, October 29

8:00 a.m. Red Baron Arena - Joint Session with The American Legion Family  
Salute to Colors/Call to Order  
Denise Milton, AL Commander  
Carol Kottom, Auxiliary President  
Gene Olswold, SAL Detachment  
Commander  
Legionville  
Wayne Gilbertson, President  
Oratorical Program  
Linda Dvorak, Vice Chairman  
American Legion Candidate for National Commander, Denise Rohan  
Dept of Wisconsin  
National Northwestern Division  
Virginia Nelson  
Vice President, Dept of Nebraska  
Legislative Program  
Peggy Moon, American Legion  
Donna Arends, Auxiliary  
Representative Tim Walz  
Representative Bob Dettmar  
Poppy Wreath Presentation  
Karla Otterness, Poppy Chairman  
Announcement of Silent Auction  
American Legion Membership Report  
Mark Dvorak, Chairman  
Minnesota Boys State and Girls State  
Senators  
Closing Remarks  
Retirement of Colors  
Adjournment



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**Branson**  
 October 31 - November 4, 2016

- Tour Includes:**
- 4-Seasons Tour Manager, Cindy Meany
  - Deluxe motor coach transportation
  - 4 nights accommodations
  - 8 meals: 4 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 3 dinners
  - Arabia Steamboat Museum
  - Titanic Museum
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  - 10 nights accommodations including 3 nights in Cape Coral, FL and 2 nights in Nashville, TN
  - 18 Meals: 10 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 7 dinners
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**Monuments of Washington D.C.**  
 March 31-April 4, 2017

- Tour Includes:**
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  - Round trip Delta Airlines flights Minneapolis to Washington D.C.
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**New York City Tour**  
 November 9-13, 2016

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- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Sue Barber
  - Roundtrip Delta airlines flights from Minneapolis to New York City
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  - Radio City Music Hall "The Rockettes Christmas Spectacular"
  - Manhattan Island City Tour
  - 9/11 Memorial and Museum
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**San Antonio Riverwalk**  
 February 19-26, 2017

- Tour Includes:**
- 4-Seasons Tour Manager, Cindy Meany
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