

Legionnaire



AMERICAN
LEGION
AND
AUXILIARY

Volume 99, Number 10

For God and Country

October 2017

Fall Conference will be held in Willmar

The Fall Conference this year will be held Oct. 27-28 in Willmar.

The conference will be split this year, with no joint session of the Legion and Auxiliary.

On the Legion side, speakers will include Brett Reistad of Virginia, the leading candidate for National Commander.

Reistad will be seeking election at the 2018 National Convention to be held in Minneapolis.

A keynote speaker will be Alan Duff, a retired major with 23 years in the military, who will talk on "Bringing Americanism into Action."

Duff, who lives in Isanti, has written a book titled *Fixing America's Shattered Politics*.

His book explores the state of American politics, and he calls on Americans to reclaim their power over government.

The conference will

have two major events on Thursday, the day before the sessions begin.

A gambling seminar will be held at 2 p.m. at the Willmar Conference Center. At 7:30 p.m. the Department Executive Committee will meet in Galleries 5-7 at the Center.

The Executive Committee is made up of this year's and last year's district commander and other state officers and is the governing body of the Minnesota American Legion.

The first Legion session will be called to order at 8 a.m. Friday.

Between the morning and afternoon sessions, signed copies of *War Stories III* will be available.

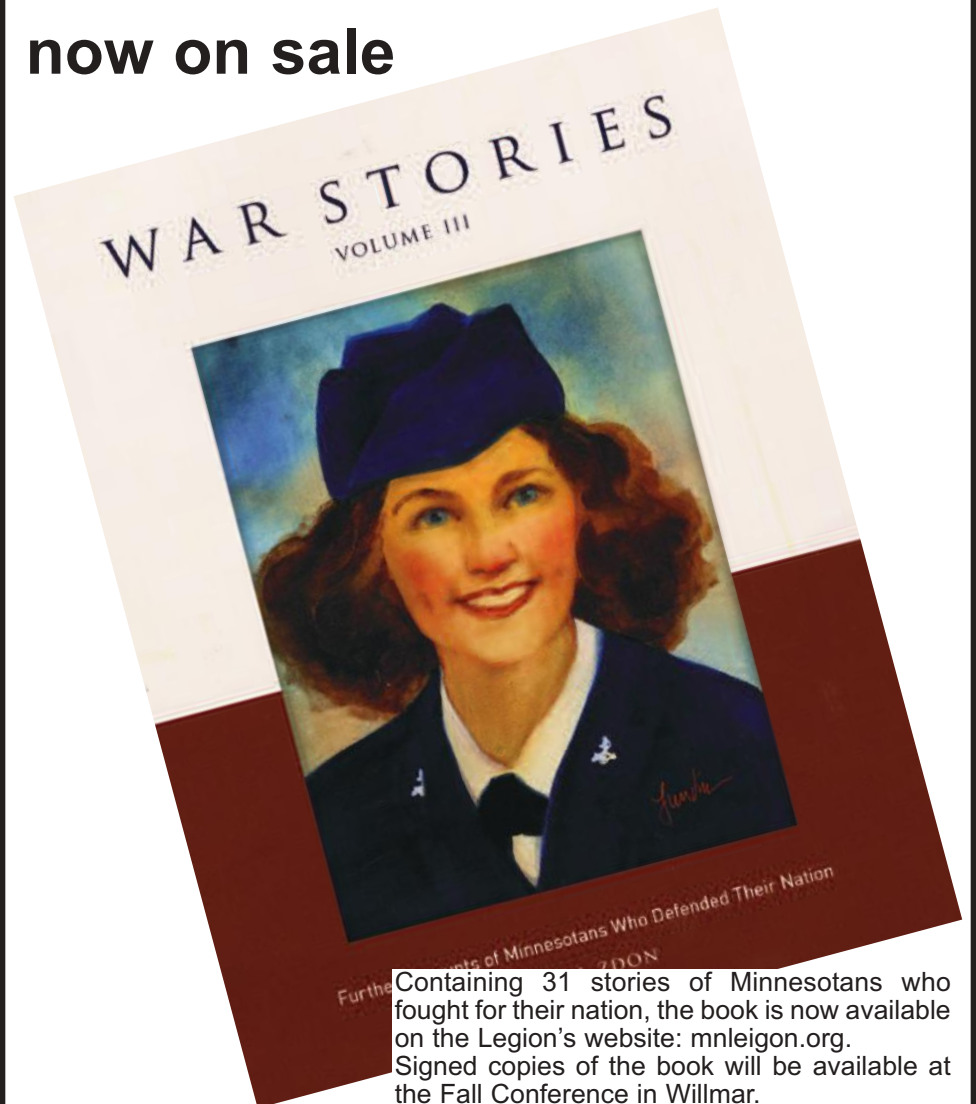
In the afternoon session, Department Service Officer Jeremy Wolfsteller will speak on veterans affairs and rehabilitation.

There will be a session on post histories with a member of the national staff.

Following the Friday session, the American Legion Family Hospital

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Newest War Stories book now on sale



Containing 31 stories of Minnesotans who fought for their nation, the book is now available on the Legion's website: mnlegion.org. Signed copies of the book will be available at the Fall Conference in Willmar. The book is \$25 and all proceeds go to Legion youth programs.



BRETT REISTAD
Leading Candidate



MAJOR ALAN DUFF
Author and speaker

Legion continues to work with other than honorable discharges

(The subject of this story was offered the option of not using his real name in the story because of the sensitive nature of his revelations. He chose to use his name, hoping his openness will help others in his situation.)

By Al Zdon

Ryan Tracy looked out from under his Marine Corps ball cap and smiled. "I just want the damn license plate."

The plate he referred to would be one that identified him as a veteran of the Afghan war. Tracy spent seven months in Afghanistan at a forward Marine refueling base in 2010. He is proud of his service to his nation.

Tracy's quest to get that plate and to upgrade his other than honorable discharge still have ways to go.

But, thanks in part to an American Legion program and

the American Legion Claims Office in Minnesota, he's halfway there. He now receives the treatment he needs from the Minneapolis VA Medical Center, and he has earned a service-connected disability rating.

Tracy grew up in Maple Grove. "I think I was the luckiest kid around. It was a great childhood, the white picket fence, sports, everything."

He became an Eagle Scout, and his Eagle project, creating a fire pit for his high school's outdoor program, is still serving students.

"I wanted to be in the military since about the first grade, and I joined the Marine Corps right out of high school. I picked the Marines because they were the best. I wanted to do it the hardest way."

All went smoothly though boot camp in San Diego and combat training. "I loved it."

He was made a truck driver, and then sent to school at Cherry Point, N.C., to learn to be a refueler. The training involved learning how to set up a forward operating base that could refuel Marine helicopters and other equipment.

Still things went well, and Tracy learned his job. The final pre-deployment training was at 29 Palms in California where the Marines simulated trying to set up the base under enemy fire – using blanks.

At one point in the training, the FOB was surrounded by the enemy. Taking the initiative, Tracy headed out on the desert and snuck up behind the "enemy" position that was delivering fire to the base.

From just a few feet behind, he asked the snipers to surrender. "I thought it was the moral thing to do."

A Marine officer disagreed. He told Tracy, in Marine

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Speaker tells VA staff about passion and compassion

Fred de Sam Lazaro has covered stories, mainly on health issues, in 62 countries for PBS' NewsHour.

He recently spoke at the Education Day 2017 at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center.

"People do not want to watch stories about human suffering," he said, "but that is what we do."

De Sam Lazaro, who also teaches at the University of St. Thomas as part of Under-Told Stories Project, showed clips of past stories he has done on what medical people and others are doing world wide, often with a lack of resources to

help people.

One story was on Dr. Barry Kerzin, the personal doctor for the Dalai Lama, who has worked with people and doctors in Tibet.

Kerzin, who is a student of Buddhism, said that he has been taught by the Dalai Lama, "You don't just do wisdom. You do the love and compassion. In fact, it should be about 50/50."

Another story, set in India, showed how doctors there are making prosthetics for amputees and others. But instead of using expensive materials, they are con-

Continued on Page 6

Minneapolis native was one of famous Tuskegee Airmen

Pages 8-10



Fall Conference will feature commander candidate Reistad

Continued from Page 1
 Association will meet in in Gallery 7 at 4:30 p.m.
 Two new members of the Associations's board of directors will be elected, one from the SAL and one

from the Legion. Those attending (All Legion, Auxiliary and SAL are members) should be prepared to nominate candidates.
 Following the day's

work, there will be a Family Feud at 6:30 p.m. and following that there will be hospitality suites at poolside at the Best Western Motel.

On Saturday, the Legion will feature a talk by Al Zdon on American Legion history, and a presentation by Brett Reistad.

The session is expected to wind up before noon.

On the Auxiliary side, there will be an executive committee meeting at 1 p.m. Thursday in Gallery 1 room.

That night, from 7-9, there will be a leadership, membership and public relations seminar.

The conference will begin at 8 a.m. on Friday. An agenda is on page 15.

Housing will be in local hotels, a list of which is available on the Department website: mnlegion.org.

The registration form is on this page.

Registration at the conference will be held Thursday, from noon-8 p.m. at the Willmar Post 167.

Registration for DEC members will be prior to the

meeting on Thursday night at the center.

On Friday, registration will be from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Willmar Conference Center Atrium.

On Saturday, registration will be open from 7 a.m. to 9 at the Atrium.

Shuttle service will run from the conference center to the Willmar hotels and the Willmar post. Shuttle times will be in your registration packet along with additional information.

The approximate time from the conference site to the Legion is 10 minutes.

The post will be offering a variety of food and entertainment options.

On Thursday there will be a spaghetti dinner at the post from 4-7 p.m. at a cost of \$8.50. The Custom Made Band will play from 7:30 to 11:30.

In the dining room, a menu will be available from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The bar will be open until 1 a.m. Pull tab hours are from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. both days.

On Friday, there will be a soup and sandwich bar

from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at a cost of \$8.

The lunch bar will feature ham, turkey, roast beef, and tuna. There will also be

chicken noodle soup and vegetable soup.

The dining room menu will be available from 11 a.m. until 9 a.m.

Official Registration – Mail to:

Legion Post 167 Fall Conference
220 19th Ave SW
Willmar, MN 56201

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:**

'Fall Conference Committee'

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY – NO CURSIVE

CONFERENCE DATES: **Oct. 26-28, 2017**

DISTRICT	POST	UNIT	SQUADRON
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ADDRESS			
CITY	STATE	ZIP	
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CELLULAR PHONE

All special needs need to be directed to the hotel you are staying at.

ADDITIONAL PRE-REGISTRANTS: A separate form is required for each additional registration accompanying this request. This form may be photocopied. **The registration fee must be enclosed for each person (except Junior Aux.).**

Local reproduction of this form is authorized

Legion coin is okayed by Congress

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Reps. Phil Roe, M.D. (R-Tenn.) and Tim Walz (D-Minn.), Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, respectively, released the following statements after the House passed Roe and Walz's resolution to authorize the creation of a commemorative coin in honor of The American Legion's 100 years of service to America's veterans.

"For nearly a century, The American Legion has worked tirelessly day and night to improve the lives of our veterans and their families, and for that reason, words cannot express the gratitude I have for the men and women of The American Legion," said Walz. "As both a veteran and a legislator, I see firsthand the results they achieve for veterans on a daily basis. That is why I am honored to stand alongside my dear friend, colleague, and fellow veteran, Chairman Phil Roe, as the House passes The American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act."

The American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act would authorize the U.S. mint to produce a commemorative coin for The American Legion's 100th anniversary of its founding in 1919. The mint would issue the coins for a one-year period beginning January 1, 2019, and proceeds from the sale of the coins would support The American Legion's pro-

gram and services, which fall under four categories: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, Children and Youth and Americanism.

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Help for veterans and families

"FOR THE AMERICAN LEGION, I WILL."

Minneapolis is hosting the 100th national convention in 2018. Our great state was the site of the 1st convention and will now host this historic event. The National Convention Corporation of Minnesota is inviting all Legionnaires and posts to say "For The American Legion, I Will" and contribute towards our **Beginning the Second Century of Service** Campaign. Gifts can be directed towards Minnesota's hosting responsibilities for the convention or The American Legion Minnesota Foundation to support programming throughout our state. For more information, please visit www.mnlegion.org and click on 100th National Convention Information.

DO YOU KNOW OF A COMPANY THAT MAY FINANCIALLY SUPPORT THE 100TH CONVENTION THROUGH SPONSORSHIP, ADVERTISING OR GIVING?

There are sponsorship, advertisement and giving opportunities for businesses. If you know of a company that may want to take part in the 100th convention, please contact Michael Davy at (612) 247-9960 or mdavy@mnlegion.org.

National Convention Corporation of Minnesota

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Legion helps Marine

Continued from Page 1

fashion, that his hesitation to “kill” the enemy had just cost him and his fellow Marine their lives.

“Up until that point, everything was great. The Marine Corps was my life. But being told that I’d just killed myself and my buddy, I lost it. I had a panic attack. It was a breaking point for me before deployment.”

He told his superiors that he wanted out of the Marine Corps, but was sent to the chaplain. “I was quite a religious person at that time, and the chaplain told me about fighting for my country and everything. It was around that time I had my first suicide attempt.”

In the end, Tracy said he lied about his mental state, and soon found himself in Afghanistan.

He weathered out his time at the refueling base, but he knew he wasn’t right. “I wasn’t keen on what I was doing. I felt moral condemnation. I just couldn’t wrap my head around it, but I knew something was wrong.

“But we were working 24 on and 24 off and it was a real rat race. I could do my job. I just kept a low profile.”

His time in Afghanistan over, he hopped on a plane and arrived back in Cherry Point. “We were there about 10 minutes and they released us to our families. No readjustment time. My parents took me to a Walmart and it was just too much for me. In Afghanistan everything is gray and brown, and here there were so many colors. I started having a panic attack.

“A lady at the Walmart bumped me with her cart and I just freaked out. My family knew that something was different with me.”

He tried his second suicide not long after this, and then tried a third time a week later.

He didn’t tell the Marines about his effort to take his own life, but he did tell them he was having problems. The Marines sent him to a civilian doctor.

“He just started throwing tons of meds at me. I told him my symptoms, and he just said, ‘Here, take this.’ You’ve got to understand that up until this point I’d never even had a beer. I never smoked weed. And now I’m on all these medications.”

As time went by, Tracy began experimenting with another drug, synthetic marijuana, often called “spice.”

“It wasn’t even illegal. You could go off the base and buy it at the local gas station.”

Ongoing research, though, has shown that spice can cause a person to have psychotic reactions.

Tracy’s roommate turned him in for smoking spice.

“I was so lost. I told the Marine Corps I wanted to go into rehab before I got out.” Around this time, he tried his fourth suicide attempt. “This was the first one the Marines knew about.”

He spent a month in a psych ward and then did 30 days in rehabilitation after that. He went before a Non-Judicial Punishment panel and pled guilty to using spice. He was ordered to appear before a Summary Court Martial.

“It took seven months, and the whole time I was sober. I got some help from some therapists at that time.”

The result of the Summary Court Martial was to bump him up to the next level of Marine justice, the Special Court Martial. Tracy suddenly found out that he was facing five years in the brig for using spice.

“I never saw it, but I was told that the base commander had issued a memo the day before I was arrested that the next Marine they caught smoking spice would be run up the flag pole. They wanted to make an example out of someone. That someone was me.”

Tracy’s family hired a lawyer, and Tracy was able to plea bargain back to a Summary Court Martial, and took a punishment of 30 days in jail and an Other Than Honorable (OTH) Discharge.

He found himself back on the street in January of 2012. He came back to Minnesota, but his mental state was now in tatters. “I can only remember broad strokes of what happened at that time.”

He was told when he was discharged that he would have no veterans rights, including no access to the VA hospital system. “I was basically told I wasn’t a veteran, and I believed it.”

He was able to see a therapist through his parent’s insurance, but his mental state was still heading in the wrong direction. “I got into a bad batch of drinking. I would buy a bottle of tequila every day just to help me sleep. I’d drink it and then pass out. My parents didn’t even know.”

Finally, his sister did an intervention, and he went into rehabilitation at Rogers Memorial Hospital in Wisconsin. “It was an amazing place. I had one relapse and had to go back, but they really made a difference.”

Part of his problem, though, was his deep seated mistrust of any government agency. “I was totally paranoid. I didn’t want to get exposed to letting the government have any power over me ever again.”

His father had heard of a pilot program to help OTH veterans from a lawyer who was working on the program pro bono. “That started the ball rolling. That’s when I met Jeremy.”

Jeremy Wolfsteller is the Service Officer for the American Legion, Department of Minnesota, working out of the VA Medical Center in Minneapolis. “I met with Ryan,” he said, “and I put his options on the table. Ryan laid it all out for me.”

Wolfsteller was confident he could get help for Tracy. “I knew we could help. We had seen this pattern of mental illness issues before.”

Tracy was able to get into treatment at the VA, and was assigned to a team of doctors. “It was a world of difference compared to the civilian treatment I had been getting. They know veterans. Here they could push me on core issues.”

He was able get service-connected status for a military-related knee injury and for the tinnitus. His claims were worked by Philip McLaughlin in the Legion Claims office.

It took three tries, but the American Legion Claims Division, part of the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs, at the Whipple Federal Building, was finally able to push through an appeal that made Tracy service-connected for mental health issues.

The ordeal is far from over for Tracy. “It’s still a daily struggle, and I’ve got to do lots of therapy.”

He recently got some great news, though. He will be moving into veterans housing at the VA Medical Center.

The battle to overturn his OTH has just begun. “It should be upgraded to honorable,” Wolfsteller said. “That’s what he deserves.” That process could take over a year or longer.

Showing the government that a veteran’s OTH discharge was caused by mental health issues that occurred while in the service is a big step, Wolfsteller said.

Wolfsteller is also working to help get Tracy other federal benefits through the Social Security Administration.

Meanwhile, Tracy attends school when he can. “I’m four classes short of my AA degree. It’s been a slow go with a lot of ups and downs, but I’m getting there. The VA has given me a lot of new skills for getting out in the community. They’ve given me help, and not just put me on a lot of meds.”

Both Tracy and Wolfsteller say they hope that his story can help other veterans with OTH’s or other problems find the help they need.

“You can Google this stuff all you want,” Tracy said, “but in the end you have to meet somebody that knows what’s going on. You have to find the right advocate. It was a little overwhelming at first, but once we got started, his help has been invaluable.”

Wolfsteller looked at his client. “You were the one who did it, man.”

And now to get that OTH upgraded. “All my service in Afghanistan was honorable. And I still can’t get a plate.”

M
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1

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2

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Don't miss the *WW1 America* exhibit, now-Nov. 11, Minnesota History Center, St. Paul.



5

THE GREATEST GENERATION
Explore D-Day in the C-47 warplane and more in the **Minnesota's Greatest Generation** exhibit, on view at the Minnesota History Center, St. Paul.

3

REMEMBER THE FITZGERALD
Edmund Fitzgerald Memorial Beacon Lighting, Fri., Nov. 10, Split Rock Lighthouse, north of Two Harbors.



4

FUND THE FORT
Ask your state legislators to support funding for the revitalization of Historic Fort Snelling and thank Gov. Dayton for his support at mnhs.org/HFS2020.

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**COMMANDER'S
COLUMN****By Mike Schaffer**

Fall Conference is fast approaching and promises to be fun, informative and very educational for all who attend. It's scheduled for Willmar October 27-28, so start making plans to fill a car full of your post, auxiliary & S.A.L members. Bring them along and gain valuable information for your posts, unit, and squadrons.

Revitalizations are being planned again by your district officers, and should be starting sometime this fall. Each year for some time now The American Legion has been visiting the National Guard units of Minnesota, bringing information to them about our organization and what we can do for them and their families. Not to mention the potential members we can gain while there.

There is a new area not approached before, that has a large number of veterans there for the entire school year, that being the colleges and universities of Minnesota. Did you now there are 30 colleges and seven universities on 54 different campuses in our state? Each has a Veterans Rep on campus to assist the veteran as the school year advances, seeing to need that arise. Your Department Membership Director is working on a list of them all, where they are located and which district they are in, who the Vets Rep is, phone numbers and addresses of schools.

What does the young veteran want from us The American Legion? I asked that question over a year ago, and was surprised by the reply I received. Two posts with all OIF/OEF post officers were asked what they wanted to see our American Legion Posts doing. They listed the following:

1.) Meetings are hard to get to with work & family, they feel like if they don't attend they don't get the information of what was done there.

2.) Lack of Mentorship in Posts.

3.) They don't see Legionnaires in the public, no pins, t-shirts to show our numbers, nothing to show we're legionnaires and veterans.

4.) The "Good Old Boys" image is still there, they feel like they get looked at like they don't have a voice in change.

5.) They don't get asked to do things and if they do it's only if they do it the way it's always been done. This to them is a big issue, this lack of willingness to change. 6.) Not wanting to dress up for meetings. They see us on Facebook.

7.) Community Service "Where are we", they want more visibility to show others it's not just a bar.

8.) They want more family activities, stronger unity with the American Legion Family, so they can bring their families to things.

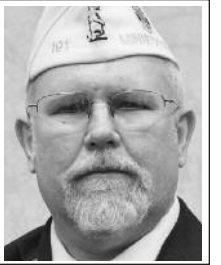
They all seem to want to help with events and have ideas how to bring more members in to our American Legion yet they sense they are fighting the ones who have been in charge for a long time. They also are concerned with not enough training & mentoring, so how about it Minnesota. It's time we started listening too & mentoring those who will be filling our shoes and carrying the Post banner into the next 100 years of our American Legion.

They also see our Department, District & Post websites, that's how they're finding out about us and what we are doing as an organization. We need to be putting information on our websites about what we have to offer the veteran and their families in terms of programs & benefits of membership on your websites. Now that you've read this far, please return to item number one and read them again, then follow through on them.

Legionville: "Use it, or lose it" Legionnaires. Attendance is down to the point it costs more to put the program on than comes in the form of attendance fees by those who come for the crossing guard training each year.

My travels this past month have taken me to Legionville for a Public Relations meeting, a County Veterans Service Officer Conference. Also attended the National Security/Foreign Relations meetings at Camp Ripley, while there was able to witness the Retirement ceremony of the Camp Ripley Commander and installation of the new Commander. Four soldiers in a circle, the Camp Color bearer, the outgoing Commander, the installing officer, and the incoming Commander. Totally simplistic in what happened, but with the MC explaining each exchange of the banner between the four, and what it represented. Totally honored to have been there.

Til next month, Minnesota.

**Chaplain's
Corner****By
Ralph Schneekloth**

Greetings to my fellow American Legion and American Legion Family members.

Eternal Father, strong to save, whose arm does bind the wind and wave, we remember the ancient words, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, and the people whom He has chosen for an inheritance."

We are grateful for the heritage that is ours in this nation whereby we enjoy more freedom than any other people of the earth.

Help us never to neglect any part of this freedom lest we lose the opportunity for ourselves and our children.

My theme this month is "What has your heart?" Of late, our nation has been hit by many natural disasters.

Many have donated generously to the National Emergency Fund and the Temporary Financial Assistance programs that The American Legion has.

It really filled my heart with happiness at the recent Harvest Rally at Legionville, when SAL Detachment Commander Shawn Davis put out the call for money to go to the NEF.

Within 20 minutes, give or take, with just those in attendance, we raised at the time \$3,228.00 specifically for the NEF.

That is awesome. Acts like these show the goodness and the altruism of our organization.

Days of prosperity are often more dangerous than days of scarcity and need. The earthly blessings of prosperous days has a way of crowding God and the things of heaven out of our thoughts and lives.

This is why God warned his Old Testament people as he was about to bless them with the promised land of plenty ... when you eat and are satisfied, be careful that you do not forget the LORD... and in our materialistic generation which has prospered so much at the horrible cost of war and wholesale bloodshed, we should pray as never before that God should teach us to appreciate all the earthly blessings he gives us, but hang our heart on none.

Citizenship alone imposes responsibility.

President Kennedy put it well when he said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."

As an American citizen, every Legionnaire should provide an example of integrity, self-sacrifice, hard work and a life of faith.

I'm ending this month with the following:

Lord of the nations, I praise you for the precious inheritance of this land.

I pray that I and my fellow citizens might ever remain mindful of your blessings and rejoice to do your will.

Bless our nation with God-fearing leaders, honorable industry and peace from our enemies.

Preserve us from violence of every kind, from discord and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every other evil.

May your ways be known on earth, you salvation among the nations.

Until next time, go with God, and God be with you.

Mail Call**Protest the NFL****To the Editor:**

As a Veteran and a 45-year American Legion member I felt compelled to speak out about my 1st amendment rights. I spent 12 years reciting the Pledge of Allegiance every morning at school and stood quietly on the football field as they played the National Anthem. I spent 8 years standing at Attention and Saluting our Flag while in the service of our great country. Why? Because I was taught at home and in school to love this great country. These NFL football players got 4 years of collage paid for by the tax payers in most cases. Then received million dollar contracts from the owners to play Football. They have a 1st Amendment right to protest. I am OK with that. I have also a right to protest and will do so by the only way available to me. I will not attend and will not watch any NFL football games or allow them on any TV in my home. Those of you read this letter have a 1st Amendment Right; it's up to how you use it. I hope the members of the Minnesota American Legion follow the Ohio VFW and the Ohio Police and 1st Responders and protest the NFL by the only way available to them.

**John Finnegan
Wadena MN**

Hats off to Lori**To the Editor:**

I am extremely pleased to learn that Legionville has secured funding from the state of Minnesota after 10 years of effort without success. I congratulate American Legion Post 39's own member, Lori Ahlness, for her leadership and effort in researching and writing the 19-page grant proposal that was the foundation for the \$222,000 grant received by the Department of Minnesota American Legion. Lori Ahlness also guided the grant through the Minnesota Legislature, was the point of contact with bill sponsors Representative Bob Dettmer and (Senate co-sponsor) Senator Karin Housley. Additionally, she coordinated the testimony on behalf of The American Legion and co-applicant, Veterans Campground on Big Marine Lake. Her knowledge of grant procedures, understanding of the purposes and allowable uses of grants, and her goodwill and positive reputation on "The Hill" were instrumental in securing this grant after many years of fruitless effort.

"Hats off" to Lori for her selfless and unrecognized efforts that reaped such huge rewards for The American Legion Department of Minnesota this past legislative session.

**Tom Burns, Commander
North St. Paul Post 39**

Rohan blasts NFL for disrespect to flag

The leader of the nation's largest veterans organization characterized professional athletes and other Americans who fail to show respect for the national anthem as "misguided and ungrateful."

American Legion National Commander Denise H. Rohan lamented the politicization of what used to be a display of unity at NFL games and other sporting events throughout the country.

"The American Legion is one of the original architects of the U.S. Flag Code," said Rohan, a U.S Army veteran. "That code was produced by 69 patriotic, fraternal, civic and military organizations in 1923. It included members of all political parties, big labor, industry and minorities. The code calls on all present to stand at attention while the anthem is played. It wasn't political when it was written, and it shouldn't be political today.

"Having a right to do something does not make it the

right thing to do. We salute Army Ranger Alejandro Villanueva, who stood alone respecting the flag as his teammates stayed in their locker room. There are many ways to protest, but the national anthem should be our moment to stand together as one United States of America."

**Legionnaire**

The Minnesota

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

Al Zdon, Editor

First published in 1920 as the Hennepin County Legionnaire, the Minnesota Legionnaire is now in its 98th year of publication. It is published monthly by The American Legion, Department of Minnesota, Room 300A, 20 West 12th Street, St. Paul, MN 55155-2000. Periodicals postage is paid at St. Paul, MN, and at additional mailing offices. The Legionnaire is a member of the Minnesota Newspaper Association and the National American Legion Press Association.

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

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What's Happening

Hospital Association

The American Legion Family Hospital Association will meet at the Fall Conference at the Willmar Conference Center at 4:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 27, in Gallery 7.

Two members will be leaving the association's board: Dennis Blue of the Sons of the American Legion and Nick Kakos, American Legion. Both have served the maximum two terms.

Nominees will be needed for those positions, and those attending the meeting should come prepared. All members of the Legion, Auxiliary and SAL are members of the association and are encouraged to attend the annual meeting in Willmar.

Reimbursements for Exams

Money is available for qualifying Minnesota veterans and dependents who need to take license and certification exams. The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs encourages veterans to check out this reimbursement program. For more information, call 1888-Linkvet or go to minnesotaveteran.org.

Shop, Ship and Share

The 4th District will again be sponsoring the annual Shop, Ship and Share program to send care packages to service members overseas. Schools will be collecting items to be shipped.

Monetary donations from posts can help pay for the shipping of the packages. They can be sent to American Legion 4th District, Packages for the Military, Box 17035, St. Paul, MN 55117-0035.

The event will be held at the Maplewood Mall Dec. 1-2.

Round Tables

The World War II History Round Table will be held on Thursday, Oct. 12, at the Fort Snelling Visitor Center at 7 p.m. The program will be "The First Invasion: Operation Torch 75th Anniversary."

Vincent O'Hara, author of *Torch*, and Tim Brady, author of *His Father's Son*, will speak as well as veterans who participated in the landing at North Africa.

Taps

Anderson, Clifford A., 96, Navy veteran of World War II, died Aug. 28, 2017. He was a member of Willmar Post 167.

Hyser, Raymond L., 81, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 14, 2017. He was a member of Willmar Post 167.

Andrist, Otto Emmanuel, Jr., 80, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 10, 2017. He was a member of Pine Island Post 184.

Blackbird, John O., 72, veteran of the Vietnam War, died Aug. 27, 2017. He was a member of Mora Post 201.

Johnson, Irwin, 92, Navy veteran of World War II, died Sept. 8, 2017. He served aboard the USS Providence in the Mediterranean. He was a member of Thief River Falls Post 117.

Trandem, Clayton L., 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 19, 2017. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Brindel, Marvin J., 93, Navy veteran of World War II, died Sept. 8, 2017. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Wangen, Ralph C., 77, Army National Guard veteran of the Vietnam War, died Sept. 10, 2017. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Holt, Orville, 78, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Sept. 8, 2017. He was in the 2nd Armored Division and served in Germany. He was a member of Thief River Falls Post 117.

Tunberg, Roger A., 89, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 23, 2017. He served in Japan for over two years. He was a member of Thief River Falls Post 117.

Lewis, Gordon "Corky," 90, Army veteran of World War II, died Sept. 7, 2017. He was a member of Wheaton Post 80.

Qualley, Harold LeRoy, 96, Army veteran of World War II, died Sept. 6, 2017. He was the chief electrician at the 13th General Hospital in New Guinea. He was a past commander of Lakefield Post 4.

Magoris, Greg Carpenter, 69, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died Sept. 5, 2017. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 212.

Thorstad, Earl, 94, Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 5, 2017. He was a member of Hoffman Post 393.

Thompson, Roger M., 69, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Sept. 11, 2017. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Meidl, Walter H., 92, Navy veteran of World War II, died Sept. 12, 2017. He served in the Pacific. He was a

member of Austin Post 91.

Admission is \$5. The St. Croix Valley Civil War Roundtable will meet Monday, Oct. 23, with dinner at 6 and program at 7 p.m. at the Lowell Inn in Stillwater. The program will be "Oliver Winchester and the Civil War" with Larry Ahlman.

For more information and to make dinner reservations call Steve at 715-386-1268.

Apple Valley Sale

The Apple Valley 1776 Auxiliary will hold its craft/bake sale on Saturday, Oct. 28, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the post, 14521 Granada Drive in Apple Valley.

There will be many new vendors on hand. Lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information, call Marlene at 651-423-2493.

Willmar Vets Day

All veterans in the Willmar area are invited to the annual Veterans Day Dinner at the Willmar Post Home. The dinner will feature locally grown turkey and a wide variety of donated wild game and all the trimmings.

Food and labor is donated by local businesses and individuals, veterans and non-veterans. Food will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 11, under the direction of Dennis Jordahl.

More than 500 local veterans joined in the event in recent years. All area veterans and their care givers are invited.

MACV events

A series of Drop-In Legal Clinics have been scheduled by the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans. The clinics cover housing, employment, benefits, expungement, wills, debt collection, family law including child support.

Attorneys, MACV staff, County Veteran Service Officers and child support officers will be hand through the clinics to help veterans with questions, legal forms and counsel.

The clinics include:

Minneapolis VA Medical Center, Tuesday, Oct. 10, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Flag Atrium Balcony Room 2S 114.

St. Cloud VA Medical Center, Tuesday, Oct. 17, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Auditorium of Building 8.

MACV will also be sponsoring a StandDown in St. Cloud on Friday, Oct. 27, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the St. Cloud National Guard Armory. All veterans are invited.

Available at the StandDown are employment assistance, legal help, tax information, social services, a wellness exam, housing info, drug and alcohol information and referrals, free haircuts, wills, dental and eyewear voucher and vocational referrals.

St. Cloud VA events

The St. Cloud VA Health Systems has a variety of events coming up.

Recovery Night will be held Oct. 19, Thursday, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in Building 8, the Auditorium. It will be a resource fair as well as veterans sharing their stories of hope, success, resilience and recovery. Veterans, family members, and community members are invited.

A Career Fair will be held for nursing and medical clerk occupations on Oct. 14 from 9 a.m. to noon at Rasmussen College in St. Cloud.

Veteran Care 101 Seminars are available at convenient times for veterans and families to learn about VA health care, and how to access benefits and programs. Three seminars are offered each month. For information and times, call 320-225-6340.



PLANNING SESSION -- Commander Mike Schaffer and President Donna Arends, second and third from right, attended a planning session for the Fall Conference in Willmar.

member of Austin Post 91.

Wuolle, Stanley O., 94, Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 28, 2017. He was a member of Zimmerman Post 560.

Niewohner, Ronald J., 72, Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War, died Sept. 8, 2017. He was a member of Little Falls Post 46.

Rommes, Kenneth, 82, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 10, 2017. He was a member of Caledonia Post 191.

Henline, Jim Sr., 84, Air Force veteran of the Korean and Vietnam wars, died Aug. 14, 2017. He served as a master sergeant crew chief for fighters in Okinawa and Vietnam. He was a member of Marshall Post 113.

McLaughlin, John, 90, Army and Merchant Marine veteran of World War II, died Aug. 16, 2017. He was a member of Marshall Post 113.

Schuft, Edgar R., 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 30, 2017. He was a member of Arlington Post 250.

Ekstrom, Warren E., 90, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died Aug. 24, 2017. He was a longtime chaplain of Chaska Post 57.

Hertaus, John Sr., 81, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 30, 2017. He was a member of New Prague Post 45.

Hanson, Ronald D., 75, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Aug. 29, 2017. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 212.

Johnson, Ramsey P., 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 3, 2017. He was a member of Austin Post 91.

Dohrn, Terry J., 51, Army veteran of the Lebanon-Grenada war era, died Aug. 27, 2017. He served in Korea. He was a member of Lake City Post 110.

Matro, Damus Anthony, 84, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 28, 2017. He earned the Purple Heart. He was a member of Little Falls Post 46.

Miller, Kenneth R., 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 30, 2017. He was a member of Little Falls Post 46.

Possail, Elmer, 81, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 31, 2017. He was a member of Tyler Post 185.

Dykhoff, Donald, 82, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Aug. 4, 2017. He was a member of Hamel Post 394.

Nadeau, Roland "Blackie," 95, Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 28, 2017. He was part of the 888th

Airborne Engineers. He was a member of Red Wing Post 54.

Zalaznik, Lawrence, 94, Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 15, 2017. He was a member of Pine City Post 51.

Stewart, Delbert, 92, Navy veteran of World War II, died Sept. 6, 2017. He served in the Pacific. He was a member of New London Post 537.

Kaardahl, Elmer A., 90, Army veteran of World War II and the Korean War, died Sept. 10, 2017. He served in Japan in the occupation force, and later in Germany. He was active in the Guard and Reserves and retired as a colonel of artillery. He was a member of Redwood Falls Post 38.

Neuman, Larry E., 75, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Aug. 25, 2017. He was a member of Breckenridge Post 53.

Bakken, Marvin K., 93, Navy veteran of World War II, died Sept. 10, 2017. He served at Pearl Harbor. He was a member of Breckenridge Post 53.

Ressler, Frank J., 73, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Sept. 5, 2017. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 212.

Ellanson, Duane "Doc," 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 3, 2017. He was a corporal. He was a member of New Ulm Post 132.

TerBorch, Lowell "Babe," 91, Navy veteran of World War II, died Sept. 15, 2017. He was at a naval supply depot on Manus Island in the Pacific. He was a member of Lake City Post 110.

Obituary policy

Obituaries of members of the Legion Family will be published in the Minnesota Legionnaire in a monthly column under the heading "Taps." Obituaries must be recent, within the last two months prior to the publication of the new edition of the Legionnaire. For example, the February edition would only contain obituaries from January and December.

While the obituaries are brief, the Legionnaire does seek certain information for our readers:

1. Complete name of deceased.
2. Age at death.
3. Branch of service and war or wars the veteran served in.
4. Exact date of death.
5. Additional information about the veteran's service background including unit, type of service, place of service, medals, etc.
6. The post, unit or squadron the deceased belonged to.
7. Additional information about Legion service including officer posts held.

The Legionnaire reserves the right to edit all obituaries for style and brevity.

Membership Chart, as of Sept. 27, 2017

District	2018 Goal	Total 2017	Total 2018	Weeks Gain	Total Posts	Goal Posts	% Of Goal	
District 1	8,953	8,895	5,733	27	58	2	64.03%	5,972
District 2	7,272	7,188	4,563	40	84	3	62.75%	5,074
District 3	11,712	11,647	7,784	90	65	1	66.46%	8,087
District 4	2,420	2,402	1,516	3	18	0	62.64%	1,617
District 5	2,486	2,464	1,545	47	22	0	62.15%	1,622
District 6	11,811	11,740	7,804	64	71	6	66.07%	7,906
District 7	6,398	6,322	3,859	76	76	1	60.32%	4,401
District 8	4,252	4,212	2,763	40	40	1	64.98%	2,785
District 9	6,729	6,664	4,271	54	65	3	63.47%	4,427
District 10	10,066	10,012	6,422	50	54	1	63.80%	6,719
District 11	401	2,358	1,344	0	2	1	335.16%	1,444
Totals	72,500	73,904	47,604	491	555	19	65.66%	50,054

**Same Date
Last Year**

Sons of The American Legion

By
Shawn Davis



By the time you read this, fall will be upon us. The Detachment managed a great Camporee with a turn out not seen in some time. The total amount raised for Legionville will be announced at Fall Conference. Thank you to all who volunteered to work this event, and to all who came out to support Legionville.

There was a great turn in of membership at the Harvest Rally. Remember to be sure that your officer report forms are turned in as well. Keep working on those memberships. Reach out to your renewing members. Do not wait for a mailing from national, generate your own letter from your squadron to welcome back renewing members, and ask them to invite new members to join! Every member builds the organization, and can be a potential leader to make this organization greater.

And do not forget to seek out those eligible for The American Legion, or The American Legion Auxiliary! Remember I am asking for each squadron to recruit 5 new members for the entire family, any combination.

I attended the Legionville Board meeting. Be sure to check out the new bus safety video that was generated at that facility thanks to so many who worked hard to put it together. I also attended the Camp Ripley Open House, Community Appreciation Day, and Change of Command. They had a ceremony recognizing veterans of the Korean War. It was very moving. Thank you to Monte Frank (I hope I got the spelling correct) of the Onamia Squadron who stopped by and said 'Hi.' It is nice to see other members of the SAL at an event like this. Please check in your community for any open houses, or community events where you can be present and share how the American Legion Family is making a difference.

Thank you as well to all the squadrons who have reached out to me about making a donation to my commander's project. Remember I am asking for \$5 from each member, with the total donated to be divided up between The American Legion Legacy Scholarship, The American Legion ROTC Scholarship, and the The American Legion Family Hospital Association. Every personal, and squadron donation will go to helping educate the children of our great nation, or help a member of our Minnesota Family.

By the time you read this, we will have completed the John Zgoda Memorial SAL Disabled Veteran Deer hunt. Thanks in advance to all those that helped make this event successful, and with a bit of luck, everyone will get a deer this year.

The SAL storage shed is going up nicely. Again thanks to all the volunteers who have worked on it all these past weekends.

Looking forward, we have our Fall Conference on Friday October 27, and Saturday October 28th in Willmar. I ask that a member from each squadron attend if possible. This will be a training session for us. We are developing topics to share, but if you have a topic you would like to request a topic to be covered in this (or some other future training), please contact me. I know we will be doing a session on MySAL, so bring your laptops, or tablets, and let's learn how to use this technology. Be sure to sign up for this software BEFORE this event, in order to access the site.

So keep up the good work, and I will see you soon.

American Legion Riders

By **Chuck Stone**
Department Director



Greeting American Legion Family,

It was great to see so many of you at Camp-O-Ree and the Romp. The weather was awesome for the camp but just a bit wet for the romp.

Overall everyone had a good time. There are many different projects going on at Legionville and volunteers are needed. All you have to do is ask and I am sure there is something that you would be able to do.

Congratulations go out to Larry Riplinger, Roe Naylor, Paul Edwards and yours truly for being the newest inductees into the Pink Tu-Tu Club.

Coming up the October 26th, 27th & 28th will be Fall Conference. This years conference is being held in Wilmar. This event is open to all members of the Legion Family.

I am asking Riders to come prepared as this year there will be a game of Family Feud instead of the Grand March. There will be four teams, one each representing Legion, Ladies Auxiliary, SAL and Riders.

The Legacy Ride committee is starting work on the 2018 Ride. The dates are August 2nd - kickoff party, August 3rd, 4th & 5th - weekend one and August 10th, 11th & 12th - weekend two.

We no longer do an east or west weekend. We have set a goal of \$250,000.00. Some say its too low while others say its too high. At any rate its going to be bigger then big, even bigger then enormous. It's going to be ginormous.

We would like to have a Department of Minnesota American Legion Rider of the Year award. I know the First District Riders already have a district rider of the year.

If this is something you are interested in please let me know. We are also asking each chapter to complete a report of their activities for the year. An example will be available at Fall Conference. This will be similar to the post CPR.

Hope to see as many of you as possible in Willmar. Keep the rubber side down and the chrome side up.

The photo below is the Pink Tu-Tu Club. Pictured left to right are current members Paul Hassing & Ted Berg, new members Roe Naylor, Chuck Stone, Paul Edwards, Larry Riplinger and current member Steve Sullivan.



VA speaker

Continued from Page 1

structing them out of PC pipe. A prosthetic that would cost \$10,000 in the U.S. costs \$20 in India.

De Sam Lazaro told of an insurance program in India that provides up to one third of the costs for farmers to get medical help at local hospitals. The insurance only costs 10 cents a month, but millions of Indian people pay into it, and the system works.

He noted that a surgery that costs \$100,000 in America can be done for \$2,500 in India.

De Sam Lazaro showed another clip about a public hospital in a large city in Pakistan. "It was dysfunctional and dirty and the last option for anybody."

But with a Patient's Aid Society, a charity supported by local people, the hospital now has some of the most advanced medical equipment in the world.

"They used to do 200 scans a year on patients, and now they do 300 per day."

In Haiti, the challenge was that there was no government direction for the billions of dollars of aid that have come into the country in recent years. Over 80 percent of the money went to non-government organizations, who may have the best of intentions, but without coordination and direction, much of aid money has been wasted.

He told the story of Dr. Paul Farmer who brought AIDS treatment to Africa. "He found that poor people can be compliant with an elaborate regimen."

Many said that the people of Africa could never be taught or convinced to do a prevention program for AIDS, but Farmer showed the way.

The AIDS problem in Africa is a fraction of what it was some years ago.

"Prevailing wisdom doesn't always work in the third world. This may have been the most important humanitarian program ever for the United States."

Posts are helping out Centennial effort

Posts across the state are donating to the upcoming 100th National Convention to be held in Minneapolis next August.

There are two ways posts can contribute.

One would be a donation to the Minnesota American Legion Foundation to Fund 99.

Money that goes to the Foundation can be used for certain Centennial purposes. Projects will be evaluated by the Foundation on a case by case basis.

However, all the money that is left at the end of the Centennial period will be used for Legion projects.

The other way posts can contribute would be to the Convention Corporation. This money will be used to pay for Centennial costs that Minnesota is responsible for during the celebration.

"Posts have been very generous in donating toward the Centennial, and it's much appreciated," Convention Corporation President Jeff Olson said. "But there is still a need and we encourage posts to participate."

Those who have donated to the Foundation, Fund 99:

Austin Post 91	\$1,000
LeCenter Post 108	\$100
Watertown Post 121	\$200
Mahtomedi Post 507	\$100
St. Paul Post 8	\$100
North St. Paul Post 39	\$5,000
White Bear Lake Post 168	\$50
Little Falls Post 46	\$500
Swanville Post 313	\$250
Litchfield Post 104	\$1,000
Marshall Post 113	\$1,010

Lowry Post 253	\$100
Raymond Post 420	\$100
Bellingham Post 441	\$50
Grand Rapids Post 60	\$100
East Grand Forks Post 157	\$1,000
Karlstad Post 445	\$200
Anoka Post 102	\$100
Harris Post 139	\$100
Osseo Post 172	\$5,000
Monticello Post 260	\$250
St. Louis Park Post 282	\$2,000
Clearwater Post 323	\$200

Those donating to the Convention Corporation:

Glenville Post 264	\$100
Spring Valley Post 068	\$1,000
Madison Lake Post 269	\$100
Jeffers Post 401	\$100
New Prague Post 45	\$100
Kenyon Post 78	\$200
Savage Post 643	\$200
Hamline Post 418	\$1,000
Wold Chamberlin Post 99	\$100
Long Prairie Post 12	\$100
Becker Post 193	\$100
Hackensack Post 202	\$500
Waite Park Post 428	\$100
Nisswa Post 627	\$300
Wheaton Post 80	\$10,000
Montevideo Post 59	\$600
Warba Post 432	\$100
Detroit Lakes Post 15	\$1,001
Roseau Post 24	\$300
Alvarado Post 35	\$50
Thief River Falls Post 117	\$1,000
Mora Post 201	\$100
Onamia Post 395	\$200



Auxiliary officers donned their new mining hats at the Harvest Rally. Membership Chair Mary Kuperus' theme for the year is "Shine the light on veterans and military while searching for new members." From left: Kuperus; Mary Hendrickson, Jean Walker, Cari Lamb, Lynn Carr, Pam Gades, Tonia Bettermann, Raleen Tolzmann, Anna Eells, Sandy Locker, Kandy Regan and Sharon Thiemecke.

Harvest Rally and Camporee at Legionville



Membership Director Larry Ryan honored Past Fifth District Commander Wayne Glanton with an Army hat as the oldest veteran present.



Those attending the Camp-O-Ree at Legionville chowed down under the shelter roofs. The weekend brought hundreds to the Safety Patrol Camp.



Kids had a variety of activities to choose from at the Camp-O-Ree.

There was good weather galore at the Fall Harvest Rally and Camp-O-Ree held in September at Legionville Safety Patrol Camp.

Several hundred Legionnaires, Auxiliary, SAL and Riders participated, many of them camping out on the large grounds.

The Camp-O-Ree is now operated by the Sons of the the American Legion, and volunteers made it all work including a half dozen meals.

In an impromptu fund raising effort, SAL Commander Shawn Davis collected \$3,228 as the districts got into a competition to see who could give the most. The money was raised for the National Emergency Fund with the hurricane victims in mind.

Davis called it, "the power of the Family."

100th Anniversary Co-Chair Jim Kellogg announced that every post that brings a flag to the parade at the 2018 national convention in Minneapolis will get a special yellow flag pole ribbon.

Kellogg also said special bricks will be sold for Legionville in honor of the convention.

For the SAL, the 4th District finished first with 32.99 percent of goal.

For the Auxiliary, the Sixth District topped the membership standings with 13.77 percent.

And for the Legion, the 6th District won the honors with 53.55 percent.

The next rally will be at West Duluth Post on Dec. 2.



SAL Commander helped Zander Olson, 4, with his bag of goodies from the National Convention. Zander was the youngest at the rally.



100th Anniversary Co-Chairman Jim Kellogg announced that every post that brings a flag to the 2018 National Convention in Minneapolis will receive a special gold flag pole ribbon.

A KID FROM THE NORTH SIDE WHO FLEW FIGHTER PLANES

By Al Zdon

When Harold Brown was a young lad growing up in North Minneapolis, his mother decided he should be a pianist.

“Mothers can see talent in their children that nobody else can see.”

For years, he sat on that piano stool and did his best.

But in about the sixth grade, he decided that aviation and not music was his future.

“My piano teacher called my mother and said she was wasting her money on the piano lessons because Harold was not practicing any more. My mother was heartbroken, but I think she understood.”

Brown put all the energy and dedication into aviation that he had into the piano. And though others thought it might be a pipe dream to presume that an African-American child could become a military flyer in those Depression years, Brown was determined.

In the end, he became a fighter pilot in the U.S. Army in one of the most celebrated Air Corps groups in World War II.

□□□□□□

Dr. Harold H. Brown was born and raised on the north side of Minneapolis. His family was from Alabama, and migrated first to Michigan and later to Minneapolis.

“The South was segregated by law and by tradition. There was every reason to get out of there. My father was part of the ‘the Great Migration.’”

Brown attended Blaine School, then Sumner School and then North High School.

“We lived in a very interesting neighborhood. We were on the fringe of where the African-American group was, and our neighbors were Swedish, Polish, Jewish and two Mexican families.

“What we had in common was that this was the Depression and we were all poor. Nobody locked their door because nobody had anything to steal. Those were good days.”

Minnesota had racial prejudice, but not like other parts of the country, he said.

“Minneapolis wasn’t as segregated as anywhere in the South. But I couldn’t go downtown to the Nicollet Hotel. They wouldn’t let me in. But I didn’t have any money to go to the Nicollet Hotel anyway so it didn’t make much difference to me.”

Brown has very fond memories of the Phyllis Wheatley Neighborhood House. “It was our home away from home. The lady who ran it demanded politeness and respect. The counselors were all tougher than our fathers, and brought us up right.”

Brown played baseball and football in high school. “I remember when our football team traveled all the way to Omaha to play the Boys Town team. We marched down the field on the opening drive and scored. But then, after the first quarter, Boys Town put their seniors in the game. We lost 36-7.”

When he wasn’t doing school work or sports, it was all about aviation.

“I just fell in love with airplanes. It was the days when a

Piper Cub would go chugging by and everybody would stop and look at it.”

He built model airplanes. “I got every book out of the library on flying. My favorite was a book on Randolph Field, Texas, the ‘West Point of the Army Air Forces.’ I read the book so many times, I almost memorized it.”

While still in high school, Brown diligently saved his money. “I had \$35 and I went down to Wold-Chamberlain Field and went to see the fixed base operator. I signed up for five flying lessons at \$7 apiece. My mother almost went berserk, but my dad said, ‘It’s his money, he should be able to spend it any way he wants.’

Thirty five dollars was a fortune in those days.”

“I thought that while I was taking the lessons, I would earn more money and continue, but that didn’t happen. That was the end of my flying experience. I was 16.”

Brown is an expert on the history of aviation in general, and in particular the history of African-Americans in the military air forces.

The NAACP and the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters were lobbying hard to have black flyers as America started building up its military prior to World War II. “But the military was dead set against it. They had a 1925 war

Harold Brown wanted to be a military pilot. The chances for this young man from Minneapolis’ North Side to accomplish his dream didn’t seem great in the 1930s. But he persevered, and became a member of World War II’s most prestigious outfits: the Tuskegee Airmen.

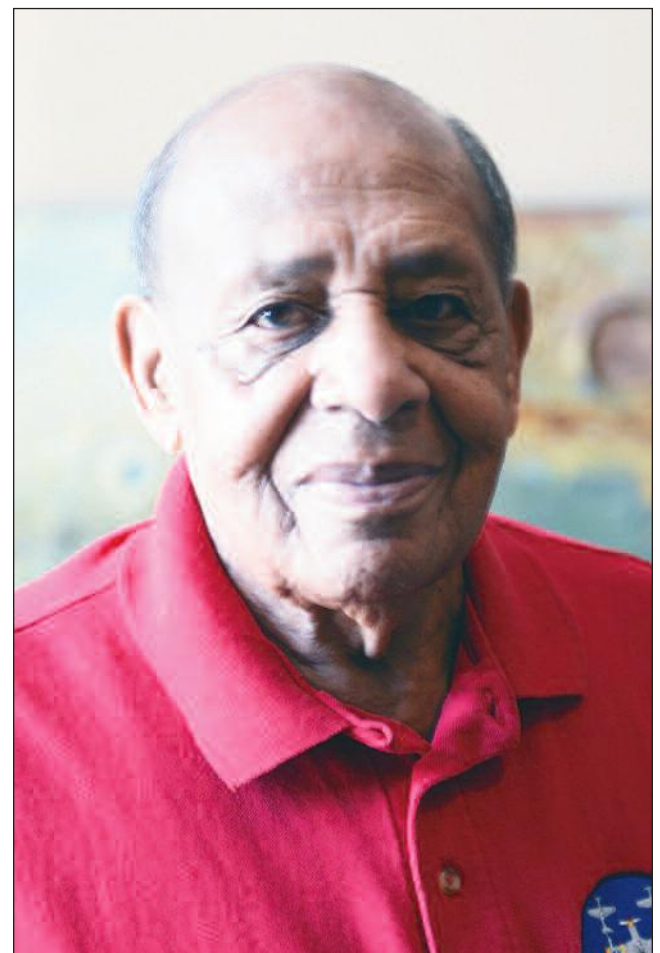


report on ‘The Use of Negro Manpower in Wartime.’ The conclusion of the report was that African-Americans had low intelligence and were cowards. They said we certainly didn’t have the intelligence to fly airplanes.”

A program called the Civilian Pilot Training Program was begun in 1938 to help American gear up for a possible war, and in 1939, Tuskegee University began using the program. The effort was led by C. Alfred “Chief” Anderson, a



HAROLD BROWN
After he got his wings in World War II



DR. HAROLD BROWN
Back in Minnesota to promote his new book

black pilot who, years earlier, had to buy his own airplane and then let white pilots use it in exchange for flying lessons.

But the political and moral pressure continued, and in 1941, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt ordered the creation of a black squadron with 35 pilots and 27 aircraft. In July of that year, the program was started – still a half year from when the U.S. actually entered the war.

In June of 1941, the 99th Pursuit Squadron was formed at Tuskegee. Because the Army was segregated, the three phases of flight training were all done at the Tuskegee.

For Brown, it started back in Minnesota when he sat for an exam after he graduated from North in 1942. He was 17 years old.

“The other kids teased me. They called me ‘Lindbergh.’ People told me that they wouldn’t even let me wash an airplane let alone fly one.”

But of the 105 who took the exam, Brown finished number five and was accepted into the program. “They put every one of those who were accepted into the Reserves so they wouldn’t be drafted – everyone except me. My paperwork had to go to Washington D.C. because that’s where it was being handled.”

In December of 1942, Brown finally got his letter and was sent off to Biloxi, Mississippi, for basic training. “We were in a section on the far side of the base, totally segregated. We were not allowed to use the base PX.”

Another battery of tests was given to the 600 who had been accepted into the program, and 300 were immediately washed out.

Brown survived, and then was sent to Tuskegee for six weeks of college training.

When he got to Alabama and got off the train, he asked directions to the college. The man at the window said he’d have to go around the corner to ask that question.

“So I went around the corner, and there was another window, and I went up to it, and the same fellow was standing there. I couldn’t figure it out but then I looked up and saw that one window said ‘white’ and the other window said ‘colored.’ I had been at the wrong window.”

The training of an aviation cadet was strenuous. Of the 60 in his class, 20 washed out.

The base at Tuskegee was totally segregated. “We had our own base, our own hospital, our own little airfield.”

He vividly remembers his first solo. He and his flight instructor had just finished a flight when the instructor got out of the airplane and took his parachute with him. “I was wondering what the heck he was doing. He said, ‘Son, do you think you can fly this thing without killing yourself?’

“I felt so lonesome up there. I was 20 years old. I had no business being up there. But I landed it. The instructor told me to try it again, so I took it up again and landed it. After that I had the confidence.”

They trained in the usual assortment of Army planes, the PT-17, the BT-13 and the T-6. Because pilots were so desperately needed for the war, Brown’s class had their training accelerated, and started training on P-40s, real fighter aircraft.

“We were really Big Men on Campus. ‘Those cadets were flying P40s, people said.’

After 40 weeks, Brown had completed the four phases of training and was commissioned a second lieutenant and given his wings. He got a week’s furlough back home in Minneapolis.

“It was incredible, walking around the north side with my wings. It was one of the best weeks of my life. I felt like I was walking on water. I felt like I was one of the greatest young men that ever said, ‘Good morning sun.’”

In the meantime, the Army had formed the 332nd Fighter Group made up of the 100th, 301st and 302nd fighter squadrons.

Despite the accelerated training, when it came time to ship Brown and his classmates overseas, they put them on a ship in a convoy rather than fly them over on bombers being ferried to Italy. “That’s the military for you. That convoy took 32 days just to get to Gibraltar.”

Up until that time, the Army had a strategy of having the fighters go in before the bombers to sweep the area and supposedly clear out the German fighters. “They would not allow the fighters to install wing tanks. The problem was that at this time the Germans still had 28,000 aircraft. There was no way our fighters were going to clean it up. We were sending bombing runs of 200 or 300 aircraft, and losing half of them in one mission.”

The Army changed its tactics, and the Tuskegee Airmen became one of the first groups to use the new strategy – sticking close to the bombers all the way in and out of a run.

The 332nd first used P-47 Thunderbolts and then switched to the sleek, long-range P-51 Mustangs.

The 99th, which had been on duty in Africa, now joined the 332nd as its fourth fighter squadron, and Brown was assigned to it.

The fighter group had its own special markings of red around the propeller and on the vertical stabilizer in the rear of the fighter. They became known as the Red Tails.

As time went by, their skill at protecting the bombers became legendary, and many pilots and crew attributed their survival to African-American fighter pilots.

Brown had a few interesting experiences along the way.

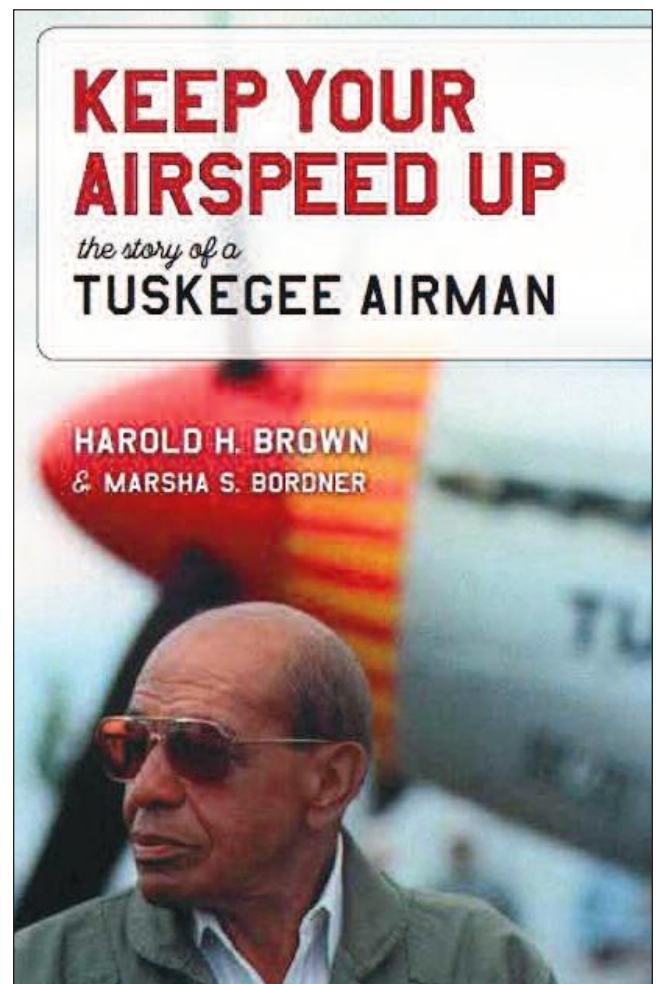
On his 13th mission, Dec. 9, 1944, he and the other Red Tails were escorting a group of bombers when they were



Dr. Harold Brown was surrounded by students recently who wanted a group photo taken at North Community High School in Minneapolis. The school replaced the old North High where Brown graduated in 1942. Brown stopped at schools, book stores, radio programs and many other stops on his book selling tour in Minnesota.



Brown, on right, poses with his fellow pilots. All the black pilots during World War II went through training at the Tuskegee Air Base.



Brown and a colleague at the community college where he taught recently published a book through the University of Alabama Press. The book is available through Amazon.com or by going to the book’s website at www.airspeedup.com.



A rebuilt P-51 Mustang with the 332nd Fighter Group markings. The red around the engine and the red tail caused the group to be called the Red Tails. The Tuskegee Airmen were known by the bomber pilots who flew in Italy as skilled at protecting the missions from German fighter attack.

Many of the photos on these pages are from the airspeedup.com website.

attacked by a group of Me 262s, the German's brand new jet fighter. The 262 could go much faster than the propeller-driven P-51 Mustangs.

Brown said that at best, even if the Mustang got behind the German jet, the pilot would have three or four seconds to shoot before the 262 roared out of range.

Brown got on the tail of a 262, missed with his burst of .50 caliber bullets, and then began to follow him down. "Suddenly I found myself chasing the Me 262 – something I should not have been doing. It must have been exuberance of youth."

The jet lured Brown down to tree-top level, and then over a "flak trap," a German ground position loaded with anti-aircraft weapons. Brown's Mustang was chewed up by the firing, and the plane ruptured a fuel line and lost its radio.

He was able to get it back up to 25,000 feet, but then ran out of fuel. "This thing is dropping like a rock."

He knew he was now back into friendly territory, but he had to find a place to land. He spotted an abandoned airstrip and headed for it. When he got closer, though, he saw the Germans had dug a ditch across the airstrip, about halfway down, to make it unusable.

Brown now had a choice. He could try to land on the first 2,000 feet of the strip, or the last 2,000 feet. Neither choice was wonderful since a Mustang needs about twice that amount of runway for safe landing.

He finally chose the first 2,000 feet. "I landed wheels up, a belly landing, but skidded into the ditch." The plane stayed upright, though heavily damaged, and Brown quickly got out of the plane, fearing a fire. "I dusted my uniform off and walked away. As I said later in life, 'Any landing you can walk away from is a good landing.'"

He hitched his way back to a base, but his "exuberance of youth" argument about why he had chased the Me 262 didn't cut it with his commanding officer. "He went through the ceiling. Oh, did he chew me out."

On Brown's 30th mission, March 14, 1945, the 99th Fighter Squadron was assigned to attack rail lines and yards near Linz, Austria. They would be strafing and not escorting a bomber group.

The squadron did its duty, but on the way back, the pilots spotted a train they had missed on the way north. Brown and another pilot dove on the train, scoring hit after hit, but the train kept lumbering on. Two of the boxcars on the train suddenly dropped their roof and sides and unveiled four anti-aircraft guns.

Brown made one more pass at the train, hammering it with his bullets. "I kept saying to myself, 'Blow up, blow up, blow up, you gotta blow up'"

And indeed, it did blow up, but right at the moment Brown's Mustang was just a few feet overhead. The flying debris knocked out his engine and gave him just a few seconds to try and gain some altitude and get out of the plane.

"I jettisoned the canopy, pulled the plane up, rolled the plane over, released my seat belt, kicked the stick forward, which popped the nose up, and I just dropped out of the plane."

He floated for about two minutes and then landed hard in the snow on the ground. Brown had hopes of making it to the Russian lines, but about a half hour into his journey, two civilians came over the hill on skis, unslung their rifles, and indicated that he should do as they said.

They took him to a nearby town. "There were a mob of people there, and they had murder on their mind. I knew



Brown traveled back to Tuskegee after the war, standing in front of an AT-6 trainer.

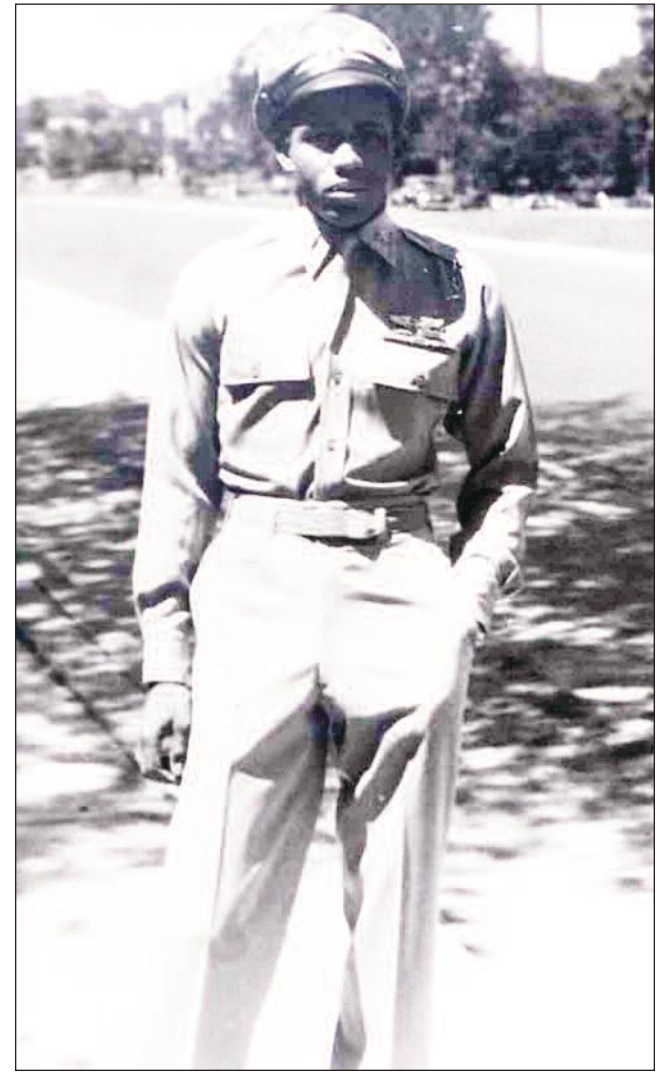
that I was going to die that day."

But a local constable stepped in front of Brown. "I could hear him hit the bolt on his rifle. He stopped the people from killing me. It was the scariest time I've ever had in my life. When I got to the POW camp I felt like it was a safe haven."

Traveling between camps on a train, a P-51 began strafing the train. "That's what I'd been doing. I could hear those .50 calibers, they were just tearing the train apart. Now I was on the other end of that, the guy being shot at. The engineer was gunning the engine trying to make it to a tunnel, and I was rooting for him."

Brown was held at a POW camp in Nuremberg and later was marched to Moosberg as the American Lines drew closer.

Along the way, the men would stay the night at farms. Brown got his courage up and went to the door of the farmhouse and an elderly German woman came to the door. "She looked at me and then she touched my face, very gently. I don't know if she was trying to rub it off or what. Then she left and came back in a little while with a bag that had a potato, an onion and a big chunk of meat. She said something to me in German, and I've always wondered what she



Brown just home from the war in June, 1945.

said."

On April 29, 1945, the Stalag 13D was liberated by the 14th Armored Division.

Brown decided to stay in the military, and served for 23 more years. The Army integrated in 1949. "On base it was okay. Off the base, it was the same old thing."

He served in Japan during the Korean War, and then decided to retire in 1965 when he was 40 years old. He made a second career teaching at a community college in Ohio.

After the war, the story of the Tuskegee Airmen was rarely told, but then slowly the accomplishments of the unit began to become known, and eventually to be honored with many books written about the black flyers. "So many of my friends had died by then. They never knew we'd be in the history books."

This story is based on an interview done with Dr. Brown, from his appearance at North Community High School, and also from brief excerpts from his book, Keep Your Airspeed Up.

Legion Baseball helps sponsor arm symposium

Presented by the Minnesota Twins and organized by Nick Kennedy of the American Legion Baseball Hub of Minnesota, the Million Dollar Arm Symposium took place Sept. 16 at Target Field in Minneapolis.

The event, which was streamed live on Fox Sports North and archived, featured the following four experts who discussed best practices for rest, recovery, arm injury prevention and player development:

- Jim Brower, a former Major League Baseball pitcher and current minor league pitching coordinator for the Chicago Cubs.

- Dan Christoffer, a lead for Baseball/Softball Performance Program at the Mayo Clinic's Sports Medicine Center and a former Los Angeles Dodgers athletic trainer.

- Dr. Diane Dahm, an orthopedic surgeon at the Mayo Clinic and the team physician for the Minnesota Twins.

- Rob Fornasiere, an assistant head coach of the Minnesota Golden Gophers, and a former ABCA Assistant Coach of the Year who recently assisted with the Team USA 18U team.

"American Legion Baseball has goals of teaching life skills and citizenship in addition to how to play baseball which differentiates us from other programs," said Mike Perry, chairman of Minnesota's American Legion Baseball program. "With the epidemic of arm injuries in youth baseball, Minnesota Legion Baseball wants to be in the forefront of initiating and endorsing a program that will help parents, coaches and players become educated on the risk and proper care of the arm."

Each panelist shared a variety of experiences and tips to help develop young pitchers over the course of the 90-

minute symposium to the group of over 150 attendees.

Brower discussed how the defending World Series champions prepared their minor league arms, saying, "We had over 1,000 games that I was in charge of [in 2017] and we had [only] nine pitchers hit 100 pitches in a game. We have a 110-pitch maximum professionally. We take care of arms. Do we go on the side of caution? Yes we do. We put a lot of emphasis on recovery."

Christoffer continued in the same vein, saying, "I like that we have the pitch count now. If we are going from the top down from the professional and collegiate and being conservative there, why are we not being conservative in our youth and high school levels? It should be conservative from the bottom up."

Dr. Dahm stressed recovery, saying, "You really want to look at the whole body. What I see a lot is someone has had an ankle injury or back injury and they feel it in their elbow because they haven't fully rehabbed." She later added, "One thing about recovery that people always forget is that sleep is the most important things to do to recover."

On the topic of tips he would give players, Fornasiere passed along information he heard from famous surgeon Dr. James Andrews, "Most of the research says you should take two months off from throwing each year, if not three. It is hard to do since there are so many opportunities out there and you are falling behind, but if you are going to advance in your career you need to be healthy."

For more information on the Minnesota Arm Care Project, visit www.minnesotaarmcare.org

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Listening Post

News from around the State



SILVER LAKE DINNER -- An appreciation dinner was held by Silver Lake Post 141 to honor all the World War II vets in the county. Front: Marvin Fenstrom, Arnold Oie, Victor Ide, Donald Spletstazer, Howard Ackerson. In back: Leroy Gehrke, Donald Rasmussen, Wallace Warnke, George Beihoffer, David Plath, Edwin LaMott, John Wendolek, Charles Burich, Milo Ziemann.



FLAG RAISER -- George Hunkins of St. Paul Post 8 and formerly of St. Paul Grui Post 572, was the official flag raiser recently at a Twins game.



FALLDIN PROCLAMATION -- Falldin Post 555 received a proclamation from Columbia Heights Mayor Donna Schmitt proclaiming American Legion Day. From left: Malcolm Watson, Fridley Post; Don Ortel, Falldin Commander; Schmitt; Ray Eiden, Adjutant.



WINNEBAGO DONATION -- Winnebago Post 82 made a donation to the elevator fund at Mount Carmel Church in Easton. Legion Riders from Blue Earth Post 89 delivered the check. Oom, pah, pah.



LAKE CITY 70 YEARS -- Lake City Post 110 honored three 70-year members recently. From left: Donald Palmer, Babe Terborch and Donald Dahling. Emery Fick presented.



EAGAN HONOR -- Danny Seanoa, a retired Army veteran, was honored as Eagan Post 594's Legionnaire of the Year. Presenting were Commander John Flynn and Adjutant Wayne Beierman.



BIGELOW VET HONORED -- John Sikma of Bigelow Post 496 was honored for continuous membership of 72 years. Presenting was Second District Membership Director Cindy Brunk.

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World War II History Round Table

Marianas was turning point in the Pacific

By Al Zdon

What was the turning point of the war in the Pacific during World War II?

Naval historian and author James Hornfischer told the World War II Round Table in September that he believes it was the Marianas Campaign in mid-1944 that gave America the edge.

Hornfischer, the author of the "Fleet at Flood Tide, America at Total War in the Pacific, 1944-1945," said understanding that campaign is a way to understand the whole Pacific war.

"Once we had forced that gate, the war was over."

Hornfischer was later joined by three veterans of the Pacific war who put a personal touch on the history.

The historian traced the strategy for the U.S. following Pearl Harbor and other major losses in the early months of the war. The plan basically was for MacArthur and the Army, with naval help, to work their way up from Guadalcanal to New Guinea and eventually to the Philippines. At the same time, the Navy and Marines, with help from the Army, would be island hopping across the Pacific on their way to Japan.

It was crucial for the U.S. to secure air bases close enough to the Japanese mainland to attack in great strength. Getting bases on Guam, Tinian and Saipan, the three major islands conquered the Marianas Campaign, provided that strategic advantage.

Hornfischer talked about the leadership of Admiral Raymond Spruance, who commanded the Marianas offensive, and Admiral Kelly Turner, who was in charge of the landings in the Mariana Islands.

Turner's background wasn't perfect. He had failed to inform Admiral Kimmel, who was in charge at Pearl Harbor during the attack, that intercepted messages indicated an attack was imminent.

But Turner survived and became an expert on island landings. "This was the guy Spruance put in charge of his 'tractor navy.' He was master of this critical specialty."

The fleet assembled for the Marianas was the largest in world history. There were 16 carriers and over 37,000 amphibious craft. "It was these landing craft that were the engine that pushed us across the ocean."

The conquest of Saipan began with a huge naval bombardment "which made the Japanese force there basically uncommandable." The shelling took out most of the Japanese communications. "The Japanese had to work with a company-level defense because there were no communications beyond that level."

A major departure for the invasion of Saipan was that for the first time there were huge groups of Japanese civilians on the island. "There were 25,000 just ordinary people."

The Americans were expecting that as the island was conquered, the civilians would simply get out the way or surrender. Instead they hid themselves with the army, and in the end committed mass suicides, mainly by leaping into the ocean.

"It totally affected our calculations on what would happen if there was an invasion of the home islands."

In the midst of this battle, the Japanese Navy was able to rally its damaged fleet and bring a major force of 90 warships including nine carriers, five battleships and over 750 aircraft to the Marianas.

The U.S. countered with a larger force: 129 ships including 15 carriers, seven battleships and over 950 aircraft. It was called the Battle of the Philippine Sea.

It was the largest carrier battle ever, and it was the death knell for the Japanese fleet.

"In almost all carrier battles, the side that found the enemy first and then launched planes to kill them won the battle."

In this case, however, the Japanese were actually able to find the U.S. fleet first, and at dawn on June 19 began launching aircraft. The U.S. picked up the attack on radar, and sent its planes aloft to meet them. With better planes and better trained pilots and better strategy, the U.S. superiority was extreme and wave after wave of Japanese planes were destroyed.

The U.S. admirals had chosen a defensive position because the major objective was to protect the ongoing invasion of Saipan. As time went by, American spotter planes still could not find the exact location of the enemy carriers.

However, an American submarine, the USS Albacore, spotted the Japanese fleet early in the morning on June 19, though, and shadowed it, eventually torpedoing a Japanese carrier that blew up several hours later. The USS Cavalla also spotted the Imperial fleet and sank another Japanese carrier.

In the air, the advantage for the U.S. was extraordinary. Called "the Great Marianas Turkey Shoot," the U.S. in those two days lost 123 aircraft while the Japanese lost over 600.

For the rest of the war, Japan was at a major disadvantage.

"They had some carriers, but they didn't have any pilots."

The capture of Tinian and Guam followed in the first part of August. The U.S. now had the bases to operate their long-range bombers. "At that time, it was the most valuable piece of strategic ground in the world."

Hornfischer concluded his talk with a description of the American bombing of Japan which often targeted the cities with fire bombing. "We had moved into total warfare. It was justified by knowing it was needed to end this moral atrocity."

Even with the ongoing destruction of the home island, the Japanese high command of six people was split on whether to surrender in mid-1945. "Three of them believed that the only end to the war would come with the death of every man, woman and child in Japan."

The two atomic bombs finally broke the deadlock. "The emperor was persuaded it was necessary to save the Japanese race."

□□□□□□

Milford Langehough from Lyle, Minnesota, was a radio communications expert in the Navy during the war. He remembers transmitting the news about the atomic bombs from the radio center on the USS Iowa, a battleship.

"We typed it up for all of the Seventh Fleet. We got the info on the atomic bombs. We thought the war was over."

Langehough became part of the occupation force in Japan and was able to see some of the damage. "I was amazed at the total destruction all around. All the homes were flattened. The devastation was unbelievable." He was aboard the Iowa during the signing of the surrender on the USS Missouri in Tokyo Harbor on Sept. 2, 1945.

Langehough said the American flyover at the conclusion of the treaty signing was incredible. "They just kept coming and coming. I talked to one pilot later and he said even 30 years later, he still had a ringing in his ears."

In the weeks following, he was able to take some rest and recreation at a Japanese hotel near Mt. Fuji, and said he and the others were surprised when they were in the hot tub later and were joined by the Geisha women who had earlier danced for them at the hotel. "It's a picture that never leaves you."

Langehough said he was surprised in his travels to find out that the Japanese Imperial Palace was never hit by the U.S. bombers.

He was in Tokyo when many Japanese army veterans came home from duty in Korea and China. "They were the worst looking men I've ever seen. They were ragged and dirty, and they came home to nothing. It was very pathetic."

When the Iowa went home, he said, they took with them a small part of the crew of the USS Indianapolis, the cruiser that had delivered the atomic bomb to Tinian and was later sunk by a Japanese submarine. Over 900 died.

"They had new dungarees and a ditty bag and that was about it. Their theme song was "Sentimental Journey" by Doris Day. They played it all the time."

□□□□□□

Bob Michelsen went to Minneapolis South High School and ended up in the 20th Air Force in the Pacific. He flew in the 29th Bomber Command, 52nd Bomber Squadron. He flew 10 missions.

He recalled that when the B-29s first went to the Pacific, they would bomb from 26,000 feet, but the results were so bad that they went down to 12,000 feet or even 5-6,000 feet. The results were better, but the danger to the crews was much greater.

He said the crew of his bomber was made up mainly of flyers who had been instructors in the U.S. On one mission, their plane left the formation and dropped their bombs using their own navigator and bombardier. "We were reprimanded severely for dropping by ourselves, but we were the only ones who hit the target."

On his 10th mission, the plane got caught in the Japanese searchlights and the number two engine was shot up. "We were all thinking, we're in deep doo doo, let's get out of here, but the pilot just said, 'Target straight ahead.'"

The plane finished its run and then the captain ordered abandon ship. "Three crew members didn't make it."

The others parachuted down, but were immediately captured. Because of the horrendous damage the American bombers were doing to Japanese cities, the Japanese didn't consider the B-29 crews as prisoners of war but as war criminals, and they were treated that way.

"The interrogators wanted to know about a specially made B-29 that had the bomb bay modified to hold a very large bomb. I didn't know anything about it, but I lied that we had this big blockbuster bomb. I made it all up." The Japanese had somehow gotten wind of the atomic bomb.

On Aug. 15, the prisoners were given soup instead of the usual rice ball, so they knew something was afoot. They were brought to the beach at Tokyo Bay in blindfolds.



In one of the most famous photos taken in World War II, fighter pilot Alex Vraciu holds up six fingers to indicate how many Japanese planes he had shot down during the Great Marianas Turkey Shoot.

"You could peek under the blindfolds and we could see the machine guns. We thought that was our last day alive. There was a big argument back by the machine guns, but finally they packed up the guns and drove away."

Michelsen was liberated, and he too was at Tokyo Bay for the surrender and the massive flyover.

□□□□□□

Harold Gifford from Comfrey, Minnesota, graduated from high school in 1940. He had a brother who was killed aboard the USS Oklahoma at Pearl Harbor. Gifford joined the military in 1942 and became a pilot.

At one point he was given an assignment to ferry an airplane from down south to Minneapolis. "So I stopped at Mankato and I gave a few airplane rides."

He arrived at Tinian in August 1945, just as the war was ending. He was scheduled to fly a mission, but it was scrubbed. Instead his B-29 was sent to drop food and other items to prisoners at a camp in Japan.

"We had these containers full of stuff, but we must have missed the target the first time through. When we came back there was a huge sign on the roof that said, 'Drop here.'"

Gifford was part of the flight over Tokyo Bay on Sept. 2. "We encountered a big black cloud at about 17,000 feet. Nobody had a plan B, so we went down on the deck and saw some of Japan. There was nothing left but a brick wall here and there."

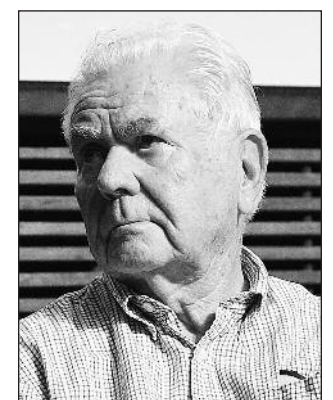
Eventually the B-29 joined the air armada over the bay. "We could see the sailors hanging off the gun barrels."

Gifford later became famous as the pilot who was able to land a stricken aircraft with the Minneapolis Lakers aboard during a blizzard in an Iowa cornfield. "When we landed, the guys all got out of the airplane and started screaming and throwing snowballs. The rescue parties heard all that screaming and thought we were in really bad shape."

Gifford has written a book about his flight with the Lakers called, *The Miracle Landing*.



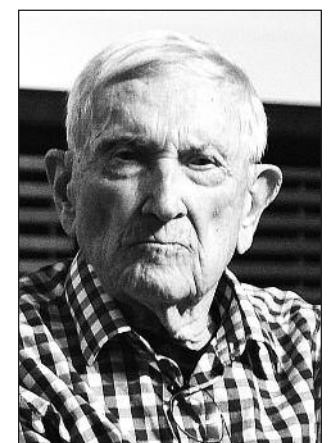
JAMES HORNFISCHER



MILFORD LANGEHOUGH



BOB MICHELSEN



HAROLD GIFFORD

District Commanders

FIRST DISTRICT

Les Shaunce
Commander



Congratulations to our new National Commander, Denise Rohan, National President Diane Duscheck, and National SAL Commander Danny Smith.

We all look forward to working with our new leadership.

The Camp-o-ree seemed to start out quite slow, but by Saturday there were quite a few campers involved. The Harvest Rally was a huge success. It was the best attendance I have seen in years.

All new District Commanders and National Security-Foreign Relations Committee Chairmen were invited to Camp Ripley September 15th-17th. It was my first time to visit the camp. What a memorable experience.

We received some valuable information and made plans for the coming year. We also had a guided tour of the camp. Sunday the 17th there was an open house for a Change of Command of the camp.

The First District is having our Fall Conference at Plainview October 7th. There will be a full slate of activities and speakers throughout the day. Plainview Post 179 will host the meeting. Hoping for a great turn out.

The annual Department Fall Conference will be in Willmar October 26th thru the 28th. It sounds like there will be a few changes to the program this year. Everyone should plan to attend this meeting. This is where you learn what the Legion is about.

SECOND DISTRICT

Randy Olson
Commander



Our Legion Family (Legion, Auxiliary, Sons of American Legion, & Junior Auxillary) continues to amaze me. Isn't it about time to let it astound the rest of the citizens of this great country? The time is now, the place is here, and it begins with you. It must start with awareness of what The American Legion is, does, and will continue to do, for our veterans, with your help of new and renewed memberships.

How many of us tell our story, our history, our programs, or our contributions to the community, state and nation? Every post should elect a PR rep to record post's events, donations, Honor/Color Guard activities, our beloved members that entered Post Everlasting. Place each event, scholarship, award, picture on city/county websites. Social media can be your best membership tool.

I am proud of the posts who have stepped up and donated to the National Emergency Fund. Did you know that \$3,000 can go to every veteran, and \$10,000 to every Post, directly effected by the hurricanes, so they can get their Posts up & running to continue serving our Veterans. Post 165 Bricelyn, donated \$1000 and put out a challenge. Post 89 Blue Earth donated \$1000. Post 82 Winnebago donated \$2000. Thank you.

THIRD DISTRICT

Eugene Leifeld
Commander



All District Commanders throughout the State of Minnesota including myself, attended the National Security/Foreign Relations Seminar on September 15, 16, 17, 2017 at Camp Ripley. Chairman Jim Kellogg led the training.

National Security is one of the four pillars which The American Legion is based upon. The primary purpose is to maintain strong national defense by supporting military members and their families. The Department of Minnesota National Security is in support of Minnesota Army and Air Force National Guard and Reserve Forces in the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard. There are over 8,000 members in these components. National Security also provides scholarships for senior ROTC students. We discussed the Yellow Ribbon Program and the value of this program that assist our soldiers when deployed and returning home from deployment. Discussion on Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve and how employers are involved with the veterans through (ESGR). Sunday morning and afternoon we spent time at Camp Ripley's Open House. We had the opportunity to meet with today's soldiers. Korean War Veterans and their families were honored at 1:00 (PM). There was a change of Command by Colonel Scott St Sauver, Camp Ripley Garrison Commander.

The Department of Minnesota American Legion Membership shows all 10 Districts met or surpassed the 50% by September 13, 2017. We need to continue to work with revitalizations, open houses in our communities to assist and work with the veterans and their families.

FOURTH DISTRICT

Lane Stunkel
Commander



I attended the National Convention in Reno. What an event. Next year in August please plan on attending the National Conference here in Minneapolis; sign up as a guest and you can attend everything the conference has to offer. Please plan on attending. Your eyes and mind will be opened with the things that The American Legion does for veterans and the community.

The latest Membership Bulletin 11, the 4th District slipped to 5th place, I know we can do better, by the end of October we should be 70% of goal. Let's all work to get new members and retain our current members. Membership Director Mickey is planning a Post Revitalization sometime in November; more to follow.

Upcoming Events:

October 7th – Arcade Phalen Booya, Noon till Gone

October 8th – Omelet Breakfast, Rosetown 9AM – 12.

October 11th – RCCC at Arcade Phalen, Post 474, North End to host.

October 14th – St Paul Veterans Jamboree, VFW Post 4555, 1154 Woodhill Dr. St Paul, 11AM – 4PM

October 15th - VA Hospitalization, 12 Noon

October 22 – Jewish War Veterans Pancake breakfast at Arcade Phalen Post 577, 9AM – Noon.

November 1st - 4th District SAL Meeting, 6PM at Arcade Phalen

November 5th – Bone in Ham Breakfast 9AM – Noon, Rosetown

FIFTH DISTRICT

Walt Lyndsley
Commander



If you haven't been to a National Convention, next year is your big chance. Minneapolis will host the 100th anniversary convention in 2018. Stay tuned for more information.

The Fall Conference is one of the most effective training and gathering experiences of the Legion year. Dates are October 26 – 28, 2017 Registration is only \$15 prior to October 1 and \$19 after October 1 and \$20 at the door. Fall Conference questions? Call 320-894-8991.

In order to meet the future demands of the 5th District we have three options:

(1) Work the active Legionnaires harder than ever before; (2) do less work as a District or (3) find more help.

I like number three. I suggest each of us approach one Legionnaire who can learn of the ways of The American Legion. Invite them to our next District Meeting or Fall Conference in Willmar. Add their email address to the E-FLASH list. Bring them to another Post's event – Pancake Breakfast, Omelet Breakfast, and other events that they may see their way clear to lend a hand when available.

Our October District meeting will be hosted by Falldin Post 555 at Wold-Chamberlain Post 99, October 3, 2017.

November District meeting will be held Monday, November 6, hosted by Johnnie Baker Post 291 and held at Minneapolis/Richfield Post 435.

SEVENTH DISTRICT

Richard Wog
Commander



Let me say this, we are not in first yet but again it is a long race. The first rallies are done and we did very well, thank you for your support. I really want to emphasize the upcoming Fall Conference being held at the Willmar conference center October 26-28th. It is right at our back door. It is not just Post 167 Willmar, it is part of the Mighty 7th. If you can help in any way please do. October is such a wonderful month and another time of change.

I have done a lot of traveling this past month and I feel so lucky that I can do this for something I love, not just for me but for the veterans of this great organization. We the members of the legion have a lot of work ahead of us to accomplish the goal that has been set for the Department of Minnesota membership and now is the time to accomplish it, not this winter when so many members go south. I do wish them well, all I ask is you pay your membership. I know I have said this before, we need new members to join us, just ask, there are so many Veterans that can be a part.

I have been looking for a project for myself as Commander. I made a visit to a place called Eagles Nest. I was very impressed with what I saw and I had a long conversation with the wonderful lady in charge plus I was able to visit with a few veterans that are staying there. I will write more about it next month. Let us be ever so grateful for what we have today and may we never forget how we have what we have.

EIGHTH DISTRICT

Donovan Goblirsch
Commander



Greetings 8th District Legion Family. Fall is upon us along with the 2018 membership year. By now everyone should have their membership packets, if not contact me immediately. All renewal notices have gone out and members should be sending in their renewals. Please start contacting your members and encourage them to send in their renewals as soon as possible. Please do not hold onto renewals, they need to be sent in as soon as you receive them, this applies to Legion, SAL and Auxiliary. The 8th District Auxiliary is having a fall meeting on Oct. 7th at the West Duluth Post 71. Executive Committee to meet at 9:00 a.m. with General session beginning at 10:00 a.m. Lunch will be available for purchase at the post. 8th District Legion and SAL will not be having a fall meeting. Department Fall Conference is on Oct. 27th-28th in Wilmar, MN. I look forward to seeing everyone soon. If you have any question please don't hesitate to contact me or the district commander.

Respectfully submitted, Jennifer Havlick, Past 8th District Commander.

NINTH DISTRICT

Tim Haugen
Commander



Greetings from the Roaring Ninth

Another busy month in the books and it doesn't look like it will be slowing down anytime soon.

We just had our first Dept Rally for this Membership year which was held at Legionville in conjunction with the 48th annual Camp-O-Ree. The Detachment SAL and all their volunteers did a great job with the event. After the membership turn in the 9th was in 3rd Place in the Dept standings. I want to thank all of the 9th District Posts for working so hard on membership; we have met our first & second National goal.

I am looking forward to getting out throughout the District and attending several upcoming events across the District and getting out to many more Posts as the Fall membership dinners take place along with other events across the district.

A reminder to all 9th District Posts, the 6th & 9th District Membership Rally is October 14th, at East Grand Forks Post 157. I'm challenging each post to bring membership and let's have some fun with the infamous "leg." We want to give the infamous "The Leg" back to our Sister District "6th", We have taken care of it long enough & it's time to let the 6th give it a little loving.

Fall Conference is just around the corner and is being held in Willmar this year. If you haven't made your reservations please do so as this is where you will learn a lot about the Legion programs.

Until next month, God bless our Troops & their families and our Veterans.

TENTH DISTRICT

Paul Hassing
Commander



Every day I am in awe of all of you that do so much work as volunteers for this great organization. Not only are you putting in your time and effort, but also your own hard earned money as well. Thank you so much. If it weren't for you, this organization would not be what it is.

We just had our Camp-O-Ree at Legionville, and it was great to see such a nice turnout. We haven't had that many campers in the 10th for a very long time. I hope everyone had a good time. I know I did. A special thank you to Tom Allen for making the pig roast a success.

Membership is doing well, but it could be a lot better. We have too great of a thing here to keep it a secret. I don't know where I would be without the American Legion family. Many of you feel the same way. We need to stop thinking of it as selling membership, and start thinking of it as a disservice to Veterans and their families if we don't ask them to join. We need to remember our whys. Why did you join? Why do you put in the work you do? Why do Veterans need The American Legion? There are too many families out there that need us, as much as we need them.

We are having the 8th/10 rally in Milaca on the 22nd of October. The meeting will be at noon, followed by a lunch. I hope to see a lot of faces there.

You are awesome.



The Auxiliary Bulletin

No. 18-3

President Donna Arends

October 2017

Secretary Sandie Deutsch

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

The President's Column

By Donna Arends



Hello everyone,

Since I last wrote, I have attended a membership dinner in Morris and the Legionville Camp-O-Ree, which are my favorite things to do, meeting the American Legion Family members, both new and some that I have been acquainted with for some time. At any rate, it was great. Membership of course is everyone's job and so very important.

Membership Chairman Mary has initiated her Search and Rescue membership program at the Harvest Rally. Mary's theme is "Searching for Members and Rescuing Renewals". Please contact your District Membership Chairman and see where your Unit stands. The lower place the District is in, the uglier the hard hat they get to wear. So needless to say, help your District Membership Chairman to obtain the nicer hard hat at the next rally. Our 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents are also participating in this initiative with 1st VP Jean Walker having the even numbered Districts and 2nd VP Mary Hendrickson having the odd numbered Districts. After the first rally 1st VP Jean has the more attractive hard hat and 2nd VP Mary has the less attractive hat. Help out whomever is in charge of the District you are in so they both have a chance to get the nice looking hard hat. Chairman Mary Kuperus is doing a great job in getting us all out to "Search for Membership and Rescue Renewals".

I am looking forward to getting busier in October – so until next time, be safe. God Bless our Military, past & present, their families, each one of you and our United States.

Family Fued slated for FC

District Commanders and District Presidents will compete against their counterparts in one of the more popular game shows of the '70s and '80s. Two District Commanders and two District Presidents along with either the Department Commander, Department President, 1st or 2nd Auxiliary Vice Presidents, SAL Commander and even the Department Legion Membership Director will face off as a team. The SAL and the Legion Riders will also have a team. Five members of a team are pitted against another team. The goal is to guess the results of most popular survey questions. Each game consists of three parts: The Face-Off, The Feud, and The Fast Money Bonus Round. The team that has the most points after all the questions have been answered will go to the bonus round. If time permits, winning teams may compete against other winning teams to crown the American Legion Family Feud Champions.

Please join us at Fall Conference on Friday, October 27th at 6:30 to cheer on your District and Department competitors.

Sept. 20, Auxiliary Membership

District	Goal	Membership To Date	Percent of Goal	Membership Last Year 9-28-16
One	5,000	451	9.02%	737
Two	4,924	652	13.24%	794
Three	4,411	673	15.26%	812
Four	720	86	11.94%	169
Five	824	49	5.95%	74
Six	6,042	910	15.06%	1,047
Seven	3,934	358	9.10%	575
Eight	1,628	200	12.29%	245
Nine	4,350	499	11.47%	1,082
Ten	5,159	712	13.80%	1,052
1982	160	26	16.25%	59
Totals	37,152	4,616	12.42%	6,646

Minnesota's Reno national award recipients are listed

Minnesota proudly accepted the following National awards at our 2017 National Convention.

Education, Most Outstanding Unit Program – Hayfield Unit 330

Community Service, Outstanding Department Award – Northwestern Division – Sharon Voltz, Chairman

Leadership, Award of Appreciation – Hackensack Unit 202, Shirley Frederick, Chairman; Award of Appreciation – Department of Minnesota, Robin Dorf, Chairman

National Security, Most Outstanding Department Award-Northwestern Division-Shirley Frederick, Chairman
Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation, Best Overall Program – Anoka Unit 102 – Cathy Newman, Chairman.

Americanism Essay Contest – Mollie Moser, Hayfield Unit 330, NW Div. Class V Best Essay

Poppy Poster Contest – Julia Kiefer, Adams, MN – NW Division Class II

Congratulations to all of you for your outstanding accomplishments in the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary. Remember to apply for these awards in April!! All awards will be handed out at Fall Conference.

COOKBOOKS ARE ALMOST HERE

As many of you are aware our Strategic Planning Committee has put together a new cookbook in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of our organization. The cost of this book is \$25.00 plus \$6.00 for shipping and they can be preordered anytime by sending a check to the Department Office. The committee is hoping the books will be available at Fall Conference, but we are not sure if they will be done in time. As the Department Office is receiving calls that this cookbook is very expensive, please keep in mind that there are over 1600 recipes along with much of the Auxiliary history in the book. It isn't just a cookbook but a history of our organization. Every Unit should have one and then promote it to their members. This would make a marvelous Christmas present. Also, we will have our military bracelets and Member Handbooks along with the

emblem magnets available for purchase at Fall Conference or you can order just by calling the Department Office at 651-224-7634.

NATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Following are the National Appointments that National President Diane Duscheck has made to serve with her this 2017/2018 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 Leadership Chairman, Raleen Tolzmann was named National Public Relations Vice Chairman, Mary Hendrickson was named a committee member on National Public Relations and McKayla Hatfield was named as Northwestern Division Chairman of Public Relations. Marsha Bible was named a member of the National Junior Activities Committee. Tamara Opland was named Northwestern Division Girls Nation Chairman, Jean Walker was named Northwestern Division Auxiliary Emergency Fund Chairman, Shirley Frederick was named Northwestern Division Leadership Chairman, Chris Ronning was named Northwestern Division National Security Chairman, Donna Arends was named Northwestern Division Community Service Chairman, and Carol Kottom was named Northwestern Division Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. 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 27-28 in Willmar, hosted by the Willmar American Legion Family 167. Our meetings will be held at the Willmar Conference Center. On Thursday, October 26, 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 Public Relations. Robin

Coleman endorsed for 2nd Vice President

Lino Lakes American Legion Auxiliary Unit 566 and the 10th District Past Presidents Parley have endorsed Patti Coleman for Department 2nd Vice President for 2018-2019.

Coleman is a 50-year Honorary Life member and is eligible for membership through the service of her father, Gerald J. Coleman.

In the unit, she has held most chairmanships and held all of the offices in her Unit including Unit President four times.

In the 10th District, she has held many offices and she served as the 10th District President in 2000-2001.

For the Department of Minnesota, Coleman has served as a staff member at ALA MN Girls State for 22 sessions, starting in 1986. She served as Community Service Chairman, Junior Activities Chairman, ALA MN Girls State Committee Member and is the ALA MN Girls State Chairman in 2017-2018.

For the past 15 years, Patti has been employed by Antea USA, Inc. as an Accounting Specialist and she is the coordinator of their Corporate Social Sustainability initiative. Patti is a member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Circle Pines and a volunteer for the Centennial Theater Arts program.

Patti and Larry are the parents of one daughter, Kiana, who is the immediate Past Dept. of MN Honorary Junior President.



PATTI COLEMAN

Hendrickson endorsed for 1st Vice-Pres.

West Duluth Unit 71 has endorsed Mary Hendrickson for the position of Department First Vice President for the 2018-2019 Auxiliary year.

Her eligibility for membership is through her late father, Clarence Gilbertson, a World War II Army Veteran and her husband, Carl, a Navy Veteran of the Vietnam War Era.

Mary has served all offices and most committee chairmanships at the local and district levels, includ-

ing 8th District President in 2011-2012.

At the department level she has held chairmanships in education, community service, leadership, service to veterans and department historian.

Hendrickson is currently serving as Department Second Vice President, VA&R Chairman and is on the National Public Relations Committee.

A retired public school educator, Mary and Carl have three adult children,

four grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Hendrickson is involved in several community volunteer positions both in Duluth and in Cloquet where she and Carl reside.



MARY HENDRICKSON

Auxiliary Bulletin

Continued from Preceding Page

Dorf, Sandy Wersal and Mary Kuperus have a fun informative session planned so please attend.

Please bring as many memberships as you can to Fall Conference. It is always a treat to have our membership make a big jump! 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 23, so it can be counted in your totals.

Just a reminder to bring all of your items to Fall Conference for our Silent Auction. There will also be a District Wall contest for Department Donna's project. All proceeds from the Silent Auction will go towards the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. We are also looking for the popular baskets to sell at the auction as well. Everyone, please contribute and bid.

2017-18 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.

SECRETARY SANDIE'S NOTES

Fall Conference is upon us and I hope to see record breaking crowds. This is a great "teaching conference" and a way for members to learn what our organization is all about and what we do. Note to Montgomery members – it would really be nice to see some of you in attendance. It really is a good time. It is hard to believe October is already here. I have to say thank you to all that put up with my baby Elizabeth pictures. You are so kind with your comments. It has been 10 years since we had a baby in the house. Shorty and I finally are going to see all of the kids in Texas the first of November. I just can't wait. It's hard to believe I am starting my 7th year working in my position as Executive Secretary. Every day brings something new and the most important thing I will take away from the job if and when I ever leave is the relationships I have had with my – yes MY (and your) Presidents. They have all been wonderful and I have made friends for life. I have seen the organization change from a very structured, "we have always done it that way" organization to one where we have opened the doors and welcomed new members with open arms. We are getting our name out there and need to continue to do that. Our Department Leaders just met with the Eagan American Legion Post in hopes of establishing an Auxiliary Unit there. John, Wayne and the Post members were so courteous and welcoming to us, to that I thank them all. Don't lose sight of what our wonderful organization was established for – it is not an "all about me" thing, it is for our veterans. The Department Office is here for you – call anytime and we will get you any information you need. Everyone have a very Happy Halloween – so here is my "personal thing" – Montgomery Post 79 is having a home-made Pork, Dumplings and Kraut dinner on Friday October 6 starting at 5:00 along with a meat raffle. I have to tell you – I worked with Darlene Wondra in the old Dinner Bell when we were teen-agers and she was cooking way back then. She is a fabulous cook – come and see for yourself.

Constitution and Standing Rules is October featured program

By Marsha Bible

The program of emphasis for October is Constitution & Standing Rules. The purpose of this committee is to inform and educate our members on the importance and value of properly written, reviewed and updated documents, policies and procedures at the unit, district, department and national level. Rules are the basis for governing at all levels. It is important that we don't take these documents for granted but that we review them on an annual basis to make sure that they are current and comply with department and national revisions.

Constitution and ByLaws

Unit, District and Department Constitutions and ByLaws are only revised at our Department Convention. A two-thirds vote is required for passage of proposed amendments and there is a proper way to submit those proposals. The procedure is detailed at the end of each of the respective

2017 Fall Conference Agenda

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Girls State Committee Meeting, Gallery 3 Room
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Strategic Planning Committee Meeting, Ruffs
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Audit Committee Meeting
Best Western Lobby area
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Department Executive Committee, Gallery 1
Room Silent Auction items can be taken to the Conference Center entrance Thursday morning (see Cindy Nelson)

THURSDAY EVENING WORKSHOPS – Galleries 1 - 4

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Leadership, Membership and Public Relations Seminar
Sandy Wersal, Mary Kuperus and Robin Dorf

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27

CONFERENCE PROGRAM – Galleries 1 - 4

8:00 a.m. Advancement of Colors - Processional of District Presidents and Department Officers
Call to Order
Donna Arends, Department President
Invocation Carol Holmgren, Department Chaplain
Pledge of Allegiance
Joanie Krantz, Americanism Chairman
The National Anthem
Joanie Krantz, Americanism Chairman
Preamble to the Constitution
Jean Walker, First Vice President
POW/MIA Observance
Shirley Frederick, NEC
Welcome to Willmar
Melanie Dickman, President, Willmar Unit 167
Betty Underthun, Fall Conference Auxiliary
Chairman, Willmar Unit 167
Karla Minnick, Seventh District President
John Krouth, Commander Willmar Post 167
Duane Underthun, American Legion Conference Chairman
Richard Wog, Seventh District Commander
Response to Welcomes, Mary Hendrickson, Department 2nd Vice President
Greetings Mayor of Willmar, Marv Calvin
Blue Star Mothers Chapter President Brenda Marcus
Home Front Connection/Yellow Ribbon
Rep. Sue Kruger
Welcome to Our Annual Fall Conference
"Lighting Veterans Paths" Donna Arends, Department President
Department President's Project
Donna Arends, Department President
Presentation of the District Presidents
Donna Arends, Department President
Response for the District Presidents
Cheryl Nymann, 1st District President, Leadership Program
Sandy Wersal, Chairman
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation
Mary Hendrickson, Chairman
Service to Veterans Program
Bonnie Wagner, Chairman
Gift Shop Program
Vida Bacon, Chairman
Presentation of Hospital/Home Representatives
Donna Arends, Department President
Children and Youth Program
Diane Hayes, Chairman
****Just Ask** - Time for questions on the above programs**
Education Program
Mary French, Chairman
Community Service Program
Joanne Joachim, Chairman
Public Relations Program
Robin Dorf, Chairman
History Program
Karla Otterness, Chairman
****Just Ask** - Time for questions on the above programs**
Memorial Program
Carol Holmgren, Chairman

Legislative Program
Jean Walker, Chairman
Constitution/Standing Rules
Marsha Bible, Chairman
Finance Program
Beverly Otterness, Chairman
****Just Ask** - Time for questions on the above programs**
Americanism Program
Joanie Krantz, Chairman
National Security Program
Jean Horack, Chairman
Servicemen's Center Program
Chris Ronning, Auxiliary Representative
Poppy Program
Sharon Thiemecke, Chairman
****Just Ask** - Time for questions on the above programs**
Greetings Shawn Davis, SAL Detachment Commander
Brain Science Foundation Sue Nunnelee, Representative
Announcements and Recess
Sandie Deutsch, Department Sec'y

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, OCTOBER 27 – Galleries 1 - 4

American Legion Hospital Association
President
Past Presidents Parley
Linda Kropuenske, Chairman
Presentation of Past Department Presidents
Donna Arends, Dept. President and Distinguished Guests
Response for the Past Department Presidents
Lori Skallerud and Distinguished Guests
Auxiliary Emergency Fund Program
Cindy Nelson
Strategic Planning Committee
Sandy Fredrickson, Chairman
Membership Program
Mary Kuperus
Announcements and Recess
Sandie Deutsch, Department Sec'y

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27

4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Hospital Association, General Mtg., Marie Goede, President

FRIDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 27 – Galleries 1 - 4

6:30 p.m. - ?? Family Feud for all ALA Family Members
After Family Feud is over, Hospitality Rooms will open

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28 – Galleries 1 - 4

8:00 a.m. Call to Order
Donna Arends, Department President
Invocation Carol Holmgren, Department Chaplain
Department Commander/Adjutant
Mike Schaffer, Commander
Randy Tesdahl, Adjutant
Legionville Report
Wayne Gilbertson, President
Junior Activities Program
Tamara Opland, Chairman
Honorary Junior President
Courtney Rogat
ALA MN Girls State Program
Patti Coleman
Girls Nation Senators
Izzy Raleigh & Taylor Hvidsten
****Just Ask** - Time for questions on the above programs**
Announce of the Poppy Contest Winners
Sharon Thiemecke
Announce of Proceeds of AEF Silent Auction
Cindy Nelson
Presentation of 2016-2017 National Awards
2016-2017 Department President
Presentation of the Fall Conference Chairmen
Donna Arends, Department President and Committee Members
Special introductions
Donna Arends, Department President
Announcements
Sandie Deutsch, Department Sec'y
Benediction Carol Holmgren, Department Chaplain

Gift Shop one of Auxiliary's best programs

During the month of December the Departments of the American Legion Auxiliary sponsor and host gift shops in the Military Medical centers and Veterans Homes. The Gift shop is not a new program, it was in 1935 at the national convention in St. Louis that the Christmas gift shop program was outlined. For those of you who are wondering just what is the Christmas gift shop, let's begin with several weeks prior to Christmas. The Representative (American Legion Auxiliary Chairman) and many volunteers from the American Legion Auxiliary are busy

preparing for the Big Day by purchasing gifts, securing the appropriate amount for the Veterans and their "caregiver". The Caregiver is usually, the spouse, son, daughter, and/or significant person in their life. The Chairman contacts the Home Representative and the date is set for the Gift Shop. The Home Representative gives the Chairman information on the needs and/or wishes of the Veterans. On the day before the Gift Shop the Representative and a group of volunteers set up the gift shop in the home. The day of the Gift Shop volunteers for the area around the

home gather to assist the Veterans. The veteran's items are labeled and wrapped, the caregiver's gift is wrapped and a card is placed on the gifts. Both gifts are given to the Veteran. The Veterans enjoy giving their caregiver the gift in person, but if need be the caregiver's gift can be mailed at no expense to the Veteran. The American Legion Auxiliary will take care of the cost of the mailing. The American Legion Auxiliary members are very active at the Homes and VA Medical Centers and continue to serve the Veterans year round, not just at Christmas.



VIDA BACON

Resources Available (through American Legion Emblem Sales at emblem.legion.org or on one of the websites noted below)

- National Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules (available at ALAforVeterans.org)
- Policies and Procedures Manual
- Unit Handbook
- Parliamentary Procedure
- Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised
- Constitution & Bylaws program page (at ALAforVeterans.org under Programs Action Page)

Informed members = happy members. Keeping your members informed as changes are made promote our Strategic Plan. Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you have while reviewing and updating your documents.



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Monuments of Washington DC

April 27-May 1, 2018

Tour Includes:

- 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Larry Alvey
- Roundtrip Delta Air from Minneapolis
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- 4 breakfasts and 4 dinners
- Evening guided Memorial and Monuments tour
- Two full day guided tours of Washington DC
- Admission George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate
- WW II Memorial, Capitol Hill, Embassy Row, Korean War Veterans Memorial, Smithsonian, Lincoln Memorial
- Luggage handling for one suitcase per person

\$1,499.00 per person double occupancy

New York City Tour

November 8-12, 2017

Tour Includes:

- 4 Seasons Tour Director, Sue Barber
- Roundtrip Delta flight from Minneapolis to New York City
- 4 nights at The Millennium Broadway Hotel in Times Square
- Broadway Musical
- Radio City Music Hall: "The Rockettes Christmas Spectacular"
- Manhattan Island City tour
- 9/11 Memorial and Museum
- Harbor cruise with lunch
- Lunch at Carmine's
- Luggage handling for one suitcase per person

\$2,499.00 Per Person Double Occupancy

Minnesota Twins Spring Training in Florida

March 8-18, 2018

Tour Includes:

- 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Cindy Meany
- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- 10 nights accommodations
- 18 meals: 10 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 7 dinners
- Anheuser Busch Brewery Tour, St. Louis, MO
- Best of Nashville Guided tour
- Coca Cola Factory Tour, Atlanta, GA
- 2 Spring Training baseball games
- Luggage handling for one suitcase per person

\$1,799.00 per person double occupancy

New Orleans & Baton Rouge

May 10-15, 2018

Tour Includes:

- 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Larry Alvey
- Roundtrip Delta flight from Minneapolis to New Orleans
- 3 nights in New Orleans
- 2 nights in Baton Rouge
- Breakfast daily
- Mardi Gras World
- City Tours of New Orleans and Baton Rouge
- Natchez Mississippi River Cruise and lunch
- Dinner and Show in the French Quarter
- Luggage handling for one suitcase per person

PRICING TO COME!

Christmas in Chicago

December 3-5, 2017

Tour Includes:

- 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Cindy Meany
- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- 2 nights accommodations
- 3 Meals and 1 Holiday hors d'oeuvres party
- Goodman Theatre - A Christmas Carol
- The Wonderland Express
- Christkindlemarket
- Christmas around the World Tree display
- Trolley Christmas lights tour including Zoo lights at the Lincoln Park Zoo
- Luggage handling for one suitcase

\$599.00 per person double occupancy

San Antonio Riverwalk

February 4-11, 2018

Tour Includes:

- 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Cindy Meany
- 7 nights accommodations, with 2 nights on the Riverwalk
- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- 15 Meals: 7 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 3 dinners
- Market Square (San Antonio)
- Riverwalk district
- San Fernando Cathedral
- San Antonio History Tour
- The Alamo
- Magnolia Market Silo's

\$1,299.00 Per Person Double Occupancy

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Attention: Posts

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