



2018 Fall Conference slated for Marshall

This year's Fall Conference will be held at Marshall, hosted by Post 113.

"We hope to do some new things this year and make it a great experience for those who attend," Adjutant Randy Tesdahl said. "We want it to be crammed with good infor-



SOUTHWEST STATE UNIVERSITY

mation, and also fun."

The agenda for the conference had not yet been finalized when this edition went to press.

The conference will be held Oct. 26-27 with the Auxiliary sessions at the Ramada Inn, and the Legion sessions at Southwest State University.

The Department Executive Committee will meet the day before the conference on Thursday, Oct. 26, at 7:30 p.m. at the university in the lower ballroom.

The Fall Conference is the Legion's annual "School of Instruction."

Expected to attend is leading candidate for National Commander 2019-20 Bill Oxford of North Carolina.

Registration will be at the Ramada from noon to 8 a.m. on Oct. 25, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Oct. 26 and 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Oct. 27.

A registration form and a list of Marshall motels is located on page 6 of this issue. Organizers are recommending those who plan to attend to register soon.

The post opens at 11 a.m. each day and offers a full

menu. There will be bingo at noon Saturday.

The post will serve meals at lunch and at dinner time.

There will be parking at both venues, but there will also be shuttles available. The college will be in session Friday, and so parking may be limited that day.

The Legion sessions will be in the SMSU banquet hall, and the Auxiliary sessions will all be at the Ramada. The Sons of the American Legion will meet at noon Saturday at the lower level beneath banquet hall.

The hospitality on Friday night will be at SMSU in the lower level meeting area. Shuttle service will be available.

There will be tables available for each district, and also a power supply.

It is recommended that visitors check for the latest road construction reports prior to driving to Marshall.

For more information about the conference, please contact Jeff Gay, 507-933-4576.

For more information about the Marshall area, go to visitmarshallmn.com or the city of Marshall website: ci.marshall.mn.us/main.

Richfield hangs in there as largest post in Minnesota

Once one of the largest posts in the nation, Minneapolis Richfield has downsized a bit but is still the largest post in the state. These numbers are based on the final 2017 membership report.

- | | |
|------------------------|-------|
| 1. Richfield 435 | 1,340 |
| 2. Rochester 92 | 976 |
| 3. West Duluth 71 | 882 |
| 4. Apple Valley 1776 | 881 |
| 5. Hutchinson 96 | 763 |
| 6. Waite Park 428 | 760 |
| 7. East Grand Forks 57 | 747 |
| 8. Brainerd 225 | 722 |
| 9. Anoka 102 | 720 |
| 10. Osseo 172 | 688 |
| 11. Albert Lea 56 | 676 |
| 12. Moorhead 21 | 638 |
| 13. Willmar 167 | 630 |
| 14. North St. Paul | 624 |
| 15. Austin 91 | 606 |
| 16. Rosetown 542 | 601 |
| 17. Winona 9 | 594 |
| 18. Park Rapids 212 | 574 |
| Coon Rapids 334 | 574 |
| 20. New Ulm 132 | 572 |

Legion asks Congress for justice for Blue Water vets

The American Legion has joined with the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans and Paralyzed Veterans of America in sending a letter to the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, urging the Senate to pass H.R. 299, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2018, before the 115th Congress convenes. The letter states that, "With our aging Blue Water Navy veterans continuing to suffer and die from illnesses that have already been legally and scientifically linked to Agent Orange exposure, Congress must finally provide them long-delayed justice by voting to pass H.R. 299 this year."

The complete letter follows.

Dear Chairman Isakson and Ranking Member Tester:

On behalf of the millions



Navy Nurse in Vietnam
Pages 8-10

of veterans we represent, we urge you to take every action necessary to ensure that a vote is held by the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and then the full Senate, on H.R. 299, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2018, as soon as possible before the 115th Congress concludes. This bipartisan legislation was passed by the House earlier this year by a 382 to

0 vote. It is now time for the Senate to follow suit by swiftly passing H.R. 299.

This legislation would reverse an erroneous decision by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in 2002 that made thousands of Vietnam veterans – commonly called "Blue Water Navy veterans" – ineligible for health care and benefits connected to illnesses

caused by exposure to Agent Orange. VA's decision to issue new administrative rules requiring that a veteran, "...must have actually served on land within the Republic of Vietnam (RVN) to qualify for the presumption of exposure to herbicides" (M21-1, Adjudication Procedures Manual, Part III, Paragraph

Continued on Page 2

Minnesota's national appointments are announced

National Appointments for Minnesota have been announced.

Minnesota will have two national chairmanships and a holt of vice chairmanships.

William Goede of Plainview will be chairman of the National Guard and Reserve Forces Committee.

Charles Kruger of Byron will be chairman of the Conventional Armed Forces Committee.

Peggy Moon, St. Joseph, will be vice chairman of the Children and Youth Committee.

Thomas Schottenbauer of Minnetonka will be vice chairman of the Conventional Armed Forces Committee.

Don Walser of Hutchinson will be vice chairman of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

Richard Janssen of Richmond will serve on the Constitution and Bylaws Committee as the National Commander's Representative.

Don Pankake of Hutchinson will serve as vice chairman of the National Membership and Post Activities Committee.

Roger Olson of Hutchinson will be a vice chairman of the National Convention Resolutions Assignment Committee.

Phil Bellefeuille of Callaway, Jim Copher of Mound, Mark Dvorak of LeCenter, Sylvan Fix of Brownsville, Victor Gades of Morris, Wayne Gilbertson of Zimmerman, Carl Hendrickson of Cloquet, and Richard Wog of Willmar, will all serve on the Americanism Council.

Michael Ash of St. Paul, Wayne Hammon

Jr. of LeRoy, and Robin Picray of St. Paul will serve on the Media and Communications Council.

Curtis Norenberg of Roseville will serve as a consultant for the Aerospace Committee.

Don Amundson of Blue Earth, Richard Gosse of Wabasha, Robert Haugen of Moorhead, Harold Meyer Jr. of Lynd, James Kellogg of Taopi, James Munson of Burnsville, Lloyd Ricker of Dawson, Michael Schaffer of Fulda, Kenneth Meyer of Pequot Lakes, Wes Thompson of Sartell, and Calvin Van Horn of Morris will serve on the National Security Council.

Dr. Carl Moon of St. Joseph will be the National Commander's Representative on the
Continued on Page 2



FAIRMONT DONATES GAVEL -- Fairmont Post 36 donated a gavel used at the St. Louis Caucus to National Commander Denise Rohan at the national convention held in Minneapolis. Fairmont Post Commander Steve Fosness made the presentation. The post has had the gavel in safe keeping for 100 years. In the September issue, the Legionnaire incorrectly identified the post.



SOLDIER'S WISH -- A Minnesota woman was the recipient of a Soldier's Wish gift at the national convention held in Minneapolis. Zanquinnette Washington received a handicapped equipped van from the organization that will help her rebuild her life after a near fatal accident in January of this year. She served in the National Guard and also was a professional women's football player before the accident. She had been working at a homeless shelter for youth in the Twin Cities and would like to continue that work. Presenting the van were National Commander Denise Rohan, Minnesota Commander Mike Schaffer and Soldier's Wish volunteer Mark Ochsenein.



FOURTH DISTRICT HONORED -- When the 148ANG deployed this year, the Fourth District, with help from the Fifth District, put on a mini Shop, Ship and Share and created 250 goodie boxes for the troops which were then sent to an overseas location. In response, Msgt. Jeff Pringer presented Commander Lane Stunkel with a flag flown in Operation Inherent Resolve and also presented project director Teresa Ash with a challenge coin.

National Appointments listed

Continued from Page 1
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission.
Steven Kleinglass of North Venice, Florida, will serve on the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission as a consultant.
Bill Brockberg of Worthington will serve a three-year term on the Veterans Benefits Committee.
Mike Maxa, LeCenter, Tom Conway of Argyle, Denise Milton of Bagley, Donald

Skow of Lindstrom, and Paul Hassing of Montgomery will serve on the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Council.
Bruce Kottom of Buffalo, Darrel Redepenning of Fridley, and Wilson Spence III of Duluth will serve on the Veterans Employment and Education Council.
Those who were previously appointed to national committees are not included in this list.

Blue water sailors letter

Continued from Page 1
4.24(e)(1) was not based on any new scientific evidence or changes in law, and should therefore be reversed.

Despite statements and inferences made in a recent VA letter to the Committee, the National Academy of Medicine — formerly called the Institute of Medicine (IOM) — has not concluded that there is any scientific basis to treat Blue Water Navy veterans differently in regards to Agent Orange exposure compared to their peers who served on the land or inland waters in Vietnam. In fact, the most recent IOM report on Agent Orange published in 2016 found that, "...it is generally acknowledged that estuarine waters became contaminated with Herbicides and dioxin as a result of shoreline spraying and runoff from spraying on land, particularly in heavily sprayed areas that experienced frequent flooding." Further, the 2016 IOM report found that, "...the observed distributions of these most reliable measures of exposure [to TCDD] make it clear that they cannot be used as a standard for partitioning veterans into discrete exposure groups, such as service on Vietnamese soil, service in the Blue Water Navy, and service elsewhere in Southeast Asia." In other words, looking at the most current observations and findings of exposure to Agent Orange in Vietnam veterans, the IOM found that there is not a scientific basis to exclude Blue Water Navy veterans based solely on the fact that their service was in the offshore waters.

Water Navy veterans. In 1990, prior to enactment of the "Agent Orange Act of 1991," a Centers for Disease Control (CDC) study found that Vietnam veterans who served in the waters offshore were 50 percent more likely to develop Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma than other veterans. Subsequently, VA promulgated 38 CFR 3.313, which specifically defined "service in Vietnam" to include, "service in the waters offshore"; which remained in effect following enactment of the Agent Orange Act of 1991. Later that year, in November 1991, VA issued M21-1, part III, paragraph 4.08(k)(1)-(2), which noted, "In the absence of contra-

dictory evidence, 'service in Vietnam' will be conceded if the records shows [sic] that the veteran received the Vietnam Service Medal," which was awarded to veterans who served in Vietnam, including those on ships in the waters offshore. Finally, the undersigned veterans organizations do not support imposing fees on service connected disabled veterans to receive VA home loan guaranties for new jumbo loans authorized by the legislation. Blue Water sailors have been legally and scientifically linked to Agent Orange exposure, and Congress must finally provide them long-delayed justice by voting to pass H.R. 299 this year.

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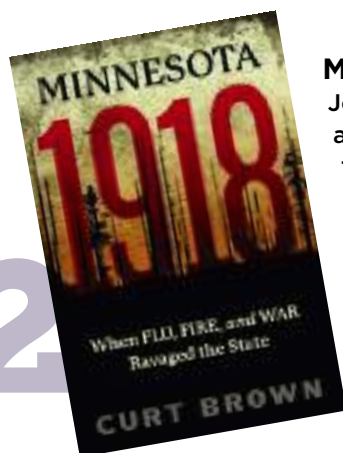
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2 MINNESOTA 1918
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COMMANDER'S COLUMN

By Darrel Redepinning



Greetings Legion Family,

Conventions are now in the rear view mirror and Minnesota can be very proud of a job well done in hosting the 100th National Convention. I would like to thank members of the Minnesota Legion Family for volunteering their time to make this convention the best that it could be. I received positive comments every day of the convention from delegates from all across this country. Without a doubt the 100th convention will go down in history as a very memorable one, and Minnesota shined.

Also in the rear view mirror are the 2018 Camporee and Harvest Rally at Legionville. The weather was great, camping was a little down but the Saturday rally had a large attendance. This year each group of the Legion Family will be sponsoring one of the rallies. This gives each group a chance to highlight things that they are passionate about. The Harvest Rally was the S.A.L.'s and they shared information and showed a video on the Child Welfare Program. The S.A.L. has also taken the lead on facilitating the events of the Camporee. Commander Shawn and his team were on top of things and eagerly solved any problem that devel-

Mail Call

Parade decision

To the Editor:

We much appreciated your editorial on the Convention in the current Legionnaire. Members of our Woodbury Post were included in one of the three buses that arrived at the convention center expecting to participate in the parade, and finding that it was over. Needless to say it was quite upsetting considering all the time, effort and money that went into participating in the event. The North St. Paul Legion helped make lemonade out of a lemon by staying open and buying beers for everyone.

Tom Grezek
Woodbury

Flying the American Flag

To the Editor:

One day this summer, I heard that Governor Dayton had issued an order to fly the American Flag at half-staff for the murdered prison guard. This practice has to stop. First off, how our Federal Flag is flown should not be dictated by any State official. I'm not sure when this practice started but it needs to end. Second, when I was growing up, the only time the American Flag was flown at half-staff across the nation was for the first half of the day on Memorial Day; for 30 days following the death of a current or former President; for 10 days following the death of a Vice President, current or retired Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, or Speaker of the House of Representatives; and for any associated justice of the Supreme Court, member of the Cabinet, former Vice President, president pro tempore of the Senate, majority leader of the Senate, minority leader of the Senate, majority leader of the House of Representatives or the minority leader of the House of Representatives, the flag is to be displayed at half-staff from the day of death until interment. In recent years however thanks to the liberal progressive movement which wishes to diminish the significant and meaning of the American Flag, especially here in Minnesota, the Governor will drop the flag for every soldier, firefighter, policeman, paramedic, and now prison guard that dies. These "feel good" people who have the need to lower the flag at any opportunity are the same people who want to make sure that everyone gets a trophies for playing games in school. We had 58,220 American soldiers die in the Vietnam War. If we were to fly the flag at half-staff for each one of these soldiers for one day, the flag would need to be at half-staff for over 159 years. For those lost in Korea, 92 years. For Americans lost in WWII for over 1,141 years.

Americans, ignore Governor Dayton and fly your American Flag high.

Bret R. Collier
Big Lake

Problems with Choice

To the Editor:

I recently learned from speaking to a number of different veterans that the privatized medical clinic services offered to veterans through the Choice Program/Community Care

oped.

The Harvest Rally was our first opportunity to show some membership accomplishments and Minnesota is starting out strong. At the time of this writing the Minnesota Legion is at 61% and number one in the nation. That's where we want to be and where we want to stay. Unfortunately staying there is the hard part. History has shown us that we do well until January or February and then many of the other departments catch up and pass us. The solution seems easy, reach our goals before January.

The centennial of the Legion gives us yet another tool in recruiting new members. We can no longer be the best kept secret. We need to boast of our accomplishments and work membership like we never have before. We owe it to the forefathers of The American Legion to stop the decline and end the first 100 years on a positive note. Membership Director Mike and I are so concerned about membership that we had a brainstorming meeting with the past 12 Department Membership Directors before the rally at the Camporee. Many great ideas came forward and all expressed the frustration of falling short and running out of time in their year. Let's not run out of time again. We are Team 100. There will never be another one. Let's get this done before January.

The next department get-together is at Fall Conference in Marshall on October 26th and 27th. Once again it is a great time to re-kindle old friendships and an opportunity for new members to learn all about the great programs of The American Legion. Especially if you are a new Post Officer, you'll find Fall Conference very educational and a bonding experience with Legionnaires from across the state. This year's venue has changed from past conferences in Marshall and the Legionnaires will not meet at the high school campus. Instead sessions and the Friday night hospitalities will be at the Southwest State University Campus. Please plan on attending and I'll see you there.

has been filled with problems.

I have been told that a high number of veterans are so dissatisfied with the Choice Program/Community Care that that they are returning to VA medical centers for their health care. They have dealt with issues such as difficulties in scheduling appointments, lack of coordination between physicians, and being personally billed for the medical care.

It is my understanding that The American Legion helped create the VA medical system. Now it is time for The American Legion to support America's military veterans by defending the VA medical system against deterioration of medical services.

I suggest that you create an online survey for veterans who have used the Choice Program to provide feedback on their personal experiences, and then share some of their positive and negative comments in your publication.

If the Choice Program was totally under the management of the VA medical system, and not the private sector, perhaps it would be an effective alternative to the health care offered at VA medical centers.

The VA has reported that there is a shortage of 40,000 personnel throughout VA hospitals and clinics nationwide. With such a vast staffing shortage, there should be no surprise that the media has reported that a number of veterans are experiencing scheduling issues at some VA medical centers. However, it does not seem fair to criticize the VA medical system without recognizing that their facilities are handicapped by significant staff shortages throughout the country.

Annette Wuertz
Roseville

Flag Puzzler

To the Editor:

Here's a flag etiquette puzzler, a question and answer that are usually not covered in flag etiquette publications.

Question: In January 1990, below the U.S. flag on a flag pole, we saw a Minnesota state flag (second priority) followed by the POW/ MIA flag (priority 3). This month, at several locations our state and POW/ MIA flags were reversed in order of display. That is, the POW/ MIA flag was second and the Minnesota flag was third. Which is correct?

Answer: For their times, both are correct. The switch occurred in August 1990 when the United States officially designated the POW/ MIA flag as a national symbol. That act prioritized the POW/ MIA flag above the state flags.

Clark Peterson
Hinckley



Chaplain's Corner

By Bonnie Hanson



Here we are into Fall and I hope everyone had a great 100-year Anniversary of The American Legion. Learning new and helpful things. Our next one is Fall Conference and that is when we pray that it will not snow. lol.

Of all the kinds of healing, physical healing is perhaps the hardest for us to really believe in; it is far easier to believe that prayer can lead to repentance or can change a person psychologically.

The movement of The American Legion is not religion itself, for that is a personal relationship between an individual and his/her God. However, the objective of organized religion in this instance and those of Americanism coincide. Thus, The American Legion and the organized religious bodies walk side by side in promoting the public worship of God, the author of all rights and liberties.

The American Legion's second spiritual objective in "Service To God and Country" is daily family prayers in your home. It has been said that "the family that prays together, stays together". This is more than poetry. If a family is so humble, so united as a team and devoted to each other, that it can pray to God as a unit each day, then, that family is very strong in spirit, and the knot that binds is very tight. This is important because the family is the basic unit of society, in fact, it is the only natural unit of society. Through the practice of family prayer, there is developed a partnership of faith and hope, tolerance and mutual love, which sustains and keeps the family together.

The American Legion could render no greater service than to have mothers and fathers conscious of the need and help of the family altar or family prayers in the home. There can never be in America the kind of homes it ought to have, if the matter of family worship is neglected. Nothing contributes more effectively to the spiritual enrichment of family life than the habit of regular family prayer and Bible reading in the home.

A Heart Much Like My Own

Dear Friend, I'm at the Gate of Prayer--
Right now, this very hour--
Petitioning our God of love
To touch you with his power--

To show His grace and love anew
At this time in your life,
a Fresh reminder of His care
In times of pain and strife.

I pray He'll also show to you
A glimpse of deeper things--
A precious part of His own heart
To cause your own to sing.

Great Truths are oftentimes revealed
Through sufferings endured;
Look Back on what He's done before...
of His strength you are ensured.

And finally, I pray for peace,
For such are seeds you've sown,
And healing salve for one who has
A heart much like my own.

-- Denise A. DeWald

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Al Zdon, Editor

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What's Happening

Willmar Vet's Day Dinner

All veterans from the Willmar area are invited to the free Veteran's Day dinner at the Willmar Post Home. It will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 12.

It will feature locally-grown turkey and a wide variety of donated wild game with all the trimmings. Veterans and caregivers are welcome.

Round Tables

The World War II History Round Table will be held Thursday, Oct. 11, at the Historic Fort Snelling Visitor Center at 7 p.m. The program will be "Nazi Prisoners in America" with author Arnold Krammer. The program will look at the various POW camps and the activities.

A second World War II program will be held on Thursday, Oct. 25, at 7 p.m. called, "World War I: Roots of World War II." Geoffrey Wawro will try to show how mistakes led to the rise of Nazism.

The World War II Round Table has also added a third program for the month on Saturday, Oct. 27, from 1-3:30 p.m. It will be on the story of the Japanese-American GIs of the 442nd Regiment. A donation of \$5 is requested.

The St. Croix Valley Civil War Roundtable will feature "Culps Hill" by John Cox. The program will be held Monday, Oct. 22, with buffet dinner served at 6 p.m. at the Lowell Inn in Stillwater. Reservations can be made with Steve Anderson, 715-386-1268.

The Vietnam War Roundtable will meet Monday, Oct. 15, at the the Buetow Auditorium on the campus of Concordia University in St. Paul. The program begins at 7 p.m. and admission and parking are free. The program will be "Native American Veterans of the Vietnam War," and veterans will discuss their experiences.

Legal Clinics

There will be a free drop-in legal clinic for veterans on Tuesday, Oct. 9, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center, Flag Atrium Balcony Room. The clinic covers housing, employment, benefits, expungement, wills, debt collection, family law. It is co-sponsored by the Fredrickson and Byron law firm. For more information, call 651-200-4750.

A legal clinic covering the same subjects will also be held on Tuesday, Oct. 16, at the St. Cloud VA Auditorium in St. Cloud. It will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Stand Down

The St. Cloud Stand Down will be held Friday, Oct. 25, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the St. Cloud National Guard Armory on Veterans Drive. On the spot help will be available for veterans including employment, legal consultation, tax information, social services, wellness exam, housing and shelter, free haircuts and meals, wills, dental and eye-wear information. For more information, call the United Way, 800-543-7709.

Military Appreciation Dinner

The Lakeville Yellow Ribbon will sponsor the 10th annual Military Appreciation Dinner on Friday, Nov. 9, from 6-9 p.m. at the Trinity Evangelical Free Church in Lakeville.

There will be dinner, entertainment and prizes and the event is free to each veteran and one guest. Registration is required. Go to www.lakevilleyellowribbon.com or call 612-382-4022.

Give To the Max

This year's Give to the Max Day will be Thursday, Nov.

15. Veterans will have a chance to contribute to the operation of Legionville Safety Patrol Camp. More information coming soon.

Project New Hope

Weekend retreats are available for veterans and their families. Veterans will have access to education, training and skills necessary to manage their lives after wartime service.

There is no cost to participants or their families. For more information, go to projectnewhope.net.

Bridge to the Future

The Minnesota Submarine League is planning a Bridge to the Future Memorial that would use the sail and the rudder from the USS Minneapolis-St. Paul submarine (SSN708). That submarine served for 25 years.

The memorial will honor those who served on the Minneapolis-St. Paul.

The memorial will include a Bow Wake Pool, exhibits on crew members and missions, and a Lone Sailor Statue.

The memorial would be part of the grounds of the proposed AirSpace Museum at Fort Snelling.

For more information, go to Minnesotasubmarineleague.org.

Memorial Walk

The St. Cloud Women Veterans Program will host a memorial walk for veterans and their families who have experienced pregnancy or infant loss. It will be held on Oct. 15, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the St. Cloud VA Medical Center.

It will be held on the campus walking path near Building 92.

Registration is not required and the public is invited to attend. For more information, call Amber Willert, 320-252-1670 extension 6655 or email: amber.willert@va.gov.

Taps

Sabbe, Ervin, 96, Navy veteran of World War II, died Sept. 10, 2018. He was a member of Breckenridge Post 53.

Pleiss, Robert, 97, Army veteran of World War II, died Sept. 17, 2018. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Buhs, David L., 75, National Guard veteran of the Vietnam War, died Sept. 8, 2018. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Meyer, Ralph, 89, Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 22, 2018. He was a member of Paynesville Post 271.

Smokey, Thomas Joseph, 72, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Aug. 18, 2018. He served in Germany. He was a member of Winona Post 9.

Nelson, Waldo "Bud," 82, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Aug. 3, 2018. He was a member of Lindstrom Post 83.

Steinhagen, Leo A., 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 27, 2018. He served in Germany as a heavy mortar mechanic. He was a member of Princeton Post 216.

Severson, Richard, 86, National Guard and Navy veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 16, 2018. He was a member of Windom Post 206.

Wiczek, William M., 85, Army National Guard veteran of the Korean, Vietnam and other wars. He served in the National Guard for 40 years, and worked in the CSMS Department at Camp Ripley. He was a member of Bowlus Post 642.

LeBrun, Raymond P., 86, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 15, 2018. He served in the artillery. He was a member of Lismore Post 636.

Klepel, David R., 78, National Guard and Army Reserve veteran of the Vietnam War, died Aug. 20, 2018. He served for eight years, and was stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas. He was a member of Brownton Post 143.

Nelson, Lee E., 81, Army veteran of the Lebanon/Grenada War era, died Aug. 17, 2018. He was a member of Marietta Post 156.

Jacobson, T. Sandford "Sandy," Jacobson, 89, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 11, 2018. He was a member of Gary Post 505.

Clouter, George E., 78, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Aug. 25, 2018. He was a member of Faribault Post 43.

Shady, James, 96, Army veteran of World War II, died Sept. 7, 2018. He was a member of Faribault Post 43.

Judd, Alfred, 76, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died Aug. 14, 2018. He was a member of Faribault Post 43.

Kenon, Larry, 76, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died Aug. 2, 2018. He was a member of Faribault Post 43.

Thostenson, Hiram, 92, Navy veteran of World War II, died Aug. 21, 2018. He was a radioman. He was a member of Henley Falls Post 127.

Adolph, Rodney D., 88, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 7, 2018. He was a member of Red Wing Post 54.

Kerr, Hugh, 84, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 14, 2018. He was a member of Marshall post 113.

Schminkey, Dewayne "Rob," 54, Army veteran of Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, died Aug. 30, 2018. He was a member of Pine City Post 51.

Bliss, Gilbert Melvin, 93, Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 17, 2018. He served in Germany. He was a member of St. Leo Post 524.

Schmidtke, Howard G., 94, Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 18, 2018. He served with the 2nd Armored Division in Sicily and Italy. He was a member St. James Post 33.

Honza, Rueben R., 88, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 11, 2018. He also served in the Reserves. He was a member of New Prague Post 45.

Deutsch, Richard L., 86, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 27, 2018. He was one of six who typed up the Armistice Agreement. He was a member of New Prague Post 45.

Raguse, Marvin Walter, 93, Navy veteran of World War II, died Sept. 3, 2018. He was a member of Wheaton Post 80.

Lorenzen, LeRoy F., 92, Army veteran of World War II, died Sept. 11, 2018. He served during the occupation of Japan. He was a member of Jasper Post 133.

Hiepler, Elden, 86, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 14, 2018. He was a member of Willmar Post 167.

Thorson, David, 86, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 5, 2018. He was a member of New London Post 537.

Tikalsky, Matthew "Mike," 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 7, 2018. He was a past commander of Lonsdale Post 586.

Anderson, Milan "Red," 87, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 10, 2018. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

Quast, Roland "Swede," 94, Navy veteran of World War II, died Aug. 28, 2018. He was an aviation machinest's mate and served in the South Pacific. He was a member of Morristown Post 149.

Trnka, Ellard J., 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 2, 2018. He was a member of Lonsdale Post 586.

Fantle, Herbert, 89, veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 2, 2018. He was a member of Hamline Post 418.

Hayward, Harland H., 94, Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 29, 2018. He was an infantryman with the 78th Lightning Division and served in Europe. He was at the battle of the Bridge at Remagen. He was a member of Richfield Post 435.

Kellerman, Theodore K., 90, Navy veteran of World War II, died Aug. 8, 2018. He was a member of Deerwood Post 557.

Stirewalt, Clarence J., 86, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 12, 2018. He was a member of Deerwood Post 557.

Gustafson, Wallace F., Navy veteran of World War II, died Sept. 10, 2018. He was a member of Willmar Post 167.

Samuelson, Harold M., 91, Navy veteran of World War II, died Sept. 15, 2018. He was a member of Willmar Post 167.

Pierce, Lyle S., 84, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 14, 2018. He served in Germany. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

Bennett, Jason, 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 14, 2018. He served in the Airborne. He was a member of North Branch Post 85.

Pehrson, Lee A., 73, veteran of the Vietnam War, died Sept. 1, 2018. He was a member of Savage Post 643.

Heiland, Raymond, 73, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Aug. 14, 2018. He served in Korea. He was a member of Chaska Post 57.

Powlish, Henry "Hank," 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 12, 2018. He served in Korea. He was a member of Graceville Post 297.

Kitzmann, Otto Warren, 92, Navy veteran of World War II, died Aug. 21, 2018. He served on the USS Berrien and took part in the battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa. He was a member of Lanesboro Post 40.

Tebbe, James, 88, Army veteran of the Korean War and the Vietnam War, died Sept. 20, 2018. He served two tours in each of the two wars. He was a member of Red Wing Post 54.

Engebretson, Martin R., 69, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Sept. 19, 2018. He was a member of Marietta Post 156.

Hanson, Harold R., 86, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 16, 2018. He was a member of Marietta Post 156.

Kintzi, Eldon A., 92, Army veteran of World War II, died Sept. 5, 2018. He was in Company M, 17th Infantry in the Pacific Theater. He was a member of St. James Post 33.

Correction

Engebretson, Gerald N., 84, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 5, 2018. He was a member of Marietta Post 156.

American Legion Riders

By Chuck Stone
Department Director



Greetings American Legion Family,

If you missed Romp weekend you missed a very fun filled weekend. Other than a little rain Friday evening the weather was great. In addition the Riders put in over 80 hours of volunteer time repairing deer stands for the upcoming Disabled Veterans Deer Hunt. Much work was accomplished to ensure the deer hunt will be a success. Work was also done on the SAL building. If you would like to volunteer some time please give us a call.

A special thank you to Department Commander Darrel Redepinning for stopping by Saturday of the Romp to officiate officer installation. There were a couple of new faces this year in attendance. Keep in mind that the Romp only happens once a year. Dates for next year should be posted next month.

The weekend prior to the Romp was Camp-o-ree. One couldn't have asked for better weather. The sunshine provided many hours for all those great activities that only happen at Legionville, steak fry, hog roast, fish fry and SAL omelette breakfast just to name a few. Oh yea, and the food was awesome.

The riding season is slowly winding down. There still are a few rides or events out there. Be sure to dress for the weather and stay safe.

Meetings for the Department of Minnesota Legacy Ride will be starting soon. If you know of a Post that would like to host the Riders for a stop, whether it be a rest (donut), meal or overnight stop please get in contact with one of the members of the committee. As always, Keep the chrome side up and the rubber side down.

MARSHALL AREA LODGING FOR THE FALL CONFERENCE

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

Official Registration – Mail to:
Legion Post 113 Fall Conference
412 W. Main St.
Marshall, MN 56258

Pre-registration sliding fee:

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

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

'2018 Fall Conference'

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY – NO CURSIVE
CONFERENCE DATES 26-27 Oct 2018

DISTRICT	POST	UNIT	SQUADRON
NAME (This will be the name on your name badge)			
ADDRESS			
CITY		STATE	ZIP
E-MAIL			
CELLULAR PHONE			
SPECIAL NEEDS OR CONSIDERATIONS (i.e. first floor room or elevator, specific equipment, handicap accommodations, etc.)			
<p>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.).</p> <p>Local reproduction of this form is authorized</p>			

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Minnesota Sons of the American Legion News

Sons of The American Legion

By
Shawn Davis



I hope you had fun. It has been a whirlwind of events. National Convention. Camporee. Harvest Rally. Preparing for the John Zgoda Memorial SAL Disabled Veteran Deer hunt. A lot of work was done, and I hope you had fun.

I hope you learned something. National Convention had a cornucopia of information available about programs, activities, and the impact we have. I hope you learned something new. I hope you learned something to share. I hope you learned something that can make a difference. At the Harvest Rally, the SAL hosted the event.

Two things were shared. A summary of the National Convention (which is available on our You-Tube channel) and a presentation about Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) and how it makes a difference in the lives of the youth of America. This impact is local as well with grants given to Pab's Pack (pabspacks.org) in 2018 for backpacks with special comfort items for chronically ill teens in the hospital, and in 2017 Minnesota Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (mofas.org) to raise awareness about Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. So what we donate does have an impact locally.

That is why one part of my commander's project is to raise \$2,000 for CWF. This will go to help the youth of America, including local children. The other parts of my project (Brain Science, and Legionville) will be discussed in coming articles.

A reminder that Fall Conference is coming soon (Oct 26 – 27) and we are planning a true educational experience. Register now and plan on attending. Spread the word and invite members from all the squadrons out there. I hope you learn something, and have fun in the process.

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

Detachment Fall Conference Oct. 26-27

Plan to attend Detachment Fall Conference in Marshall, MN October 26-27, 2018

Plan to Leave with Actionable Ideas for your Squadron and District:

Topics that will be covered: Legionnism—Actual American Legion Extension Institute Courses

History & Organization

Learn why and how The American Legion came into existence after World War I.

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

The foremost pillar of American Legion service, learn the ways in which the organization is dedicated to compassionate care, timely delivery of benefits, career development and other areas of advocacy for those who have served in uniform.

National Security

Outlined here is The American Legion's position on a strong, well-equipped and effectively deployed U.S. military, including a decent quality of life for those now in uniform and retirees of the Armed Forces.

Americanism

This pillar of American Legion service is filled with respect for the nation that those in the military swore with

their lives to defend, from proper treatment of the U.S. flag to voter education to youth programs that make life-changing differences.

Children & Youth

The American Legion's long-held position that "every child deserves a square deal" is explained here, to include such programs and efforts as the Child Welfare Foundation, the Family Support Network, Temporary Financial Assistance and other initiatives that aim to help children and youth follow their dreams, no matter their circumstances.

You will leave with:

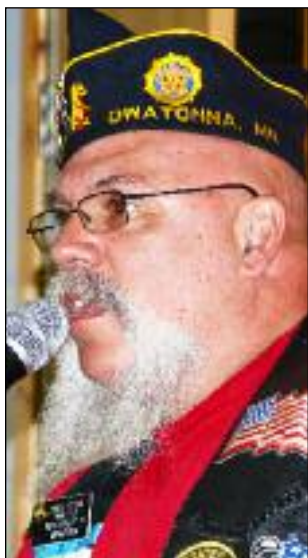
Resource Sheet on—Detachment Leaders you can contact for assistance in: Recruitment tactics, Squadron Development, Officer Development, Fundraising Ideas. We hope to see you at Fall Conference in Marshall, MN

—Convention Pictures from Henkemeyer—Sent to you from Dennis H.

WebMaster Wanted—The Detachment of Minnesota is looking to contract with a web savvy individual who can regularly update and help us develop and integrate our website. Please contact joe@axtoninnovations for more info. Thanks.



SAL members gathered at the 100th Convention photo op location at the national convention.



CHUCK STONE
Legion Riders



HARLEY DONNELLY
Hon. Junior President



MIKE MAXA
Membership Director



DARREL REDEPENNING
Department Commander



SHAWN DAVIS
SAL Commander



SMOKEY THE BEAR
School Safety Patrol

Harvest Rally at Legionville



Members of the Auxiliary membership team show off their signs during the Harvest Rally at Legionville.



Auxiliary President Jean Walker and Auxiliary Membership Chair Robin Dorf were prepared to be heard at the rally.



Members of the Legion membership team got hats to indicate the year was starting well.



Membership Director Mike Maxa presented Sixth District Membership Director Jim Lucas with the Harvest Rally Award.

**Photos by Department Historian
Dennis DeLong.**

Navy nurse in Vietnam

By Al Zdon

When Kay Bauer was in Vietnam, she was one of two Navy nurses in-country. The other one was her roommate.

And while she had some amazing and scary experiences in Vietnam, they were nothing like what awaited her when she got home.

Catherine Marie Wilhelmy was born in a neighborhood near the Schmidt Brewery in St. Paul, and grew up in what was farmland near the intersection of Larpenteur and White Bear Lake Ave.

She was the second oldest of 14 children and attended Catholic schools in St. Paul until switching to St. Paul Johnson for her last two years of high school.

"In Catholic school, we always wore uniforms. When I changed to public school, all of sudden I needed school clothes, and I didn't have any. I needed a job and I got one as a nursing assistant for 25 cents an hour.

"Remember when they had layaway? I bought clothes and put them on layaway, and in the fall I had clothes for school."

She graduated in 1954 and went on to St. Catherine's where she earned her bachelor's degree. But she wanted to do one more year for her nursing degree.

"There were no loans for a fifth year and that's why I joined the Navy."

She and some friends went down to the recruiting station. "There was a long line in front of the Army office, and the Air Force office was closed. There was a short line in front of the Navy recruiter and I joined up."

The Navy agreed to pay for Bauer's (Wilhelmy's) final year of college in return for a two-year commitment.

From St. Catherine's she went to Newport, Rhode Island, for officer orientation. "I had enlisted as an E-3, but now I was an ensign."

Though Bauer had always been a good student, she did not fare well learning the Navy basics. "There were 60 of us in the group, and I finished second to last. I failed the Uniform Code of Military Justice. I failed weapons. I did pass the ships class. They told me before I ever got promoted I'd have to come back and pass those classes I failed, but I never did."

The two years of her enlistment were a little rocky. "I was always in trouble. I was always challenging this and challenging that. Remember, I was the second oldest of 14 kids and I was used to doing things my way."

Her future in the military services did not look bright, but before her enlistment expired she met with an old Navy chief. She told him she was set on going home.

"The chief asked me if I was going home because I had more friends there than in the Navy. I said, 'No.' Then he asked me if I would be making more money when I went home. I said 'No.' Then he asked me if I'd be getting a month's vacation every year if I went home. I said, 'No.'"

The chief then explained to her that now that her enlistment was up, she had the upper hand. The Navy needed good nurses. "No one had told me before how to get the Navy to do things your way."

She stayed in with the proviso that she go to Japan for her next duty station, and she made the Navy promise to send her there by ship.

"It was so relaxing. I had no duties." The ship meandered across the Pacific, stopping at Hawaii and other island ports. The food was served several times a day on white tablecloths by uniformed stewards. "I gained so much weight I almost couldn't get my uniform on."

On board the transport ship, Bauer was surprised when she was invited to have a libation at lunch, and then another at dinner. "I thought this was a Navy ship and there was absolutely no alcohol. They straightened me out, and told

me when we got to Hawaii exactly what I was supposed to buy. One of these, one of those..."

The officers on ship even managed to create a pool for the nurses to swim in. "But then we found out we were the entertainment."

After a year in Japan, she got orders to Guam. "I said I wasn't going to Guam, but I did. And I liked that too."

Then it was back to the States and duty at the naval facility at Great Lakes in Chicago.

She was a lieutenant junior grade by now, and an officer tried to convince her to leave the Navy Reserves and join the regular Navy. "I said, 'I don't think so. I don't want to stay in this canoe club for another 20 years.'"

In the end, though, she did leave the reserves and join the full-time Navy. She became the head of the pediatrics area at the Great Lakes Hospital. She also headed up the education department at the station.

Eight years into her naval career, she was asked if she would take a posting to Vietnam. "They told me they needed another operating room nurse. I told them I wasn't an operating room nurse. They said they didn't care."

This was in 1966, and the war in Vietnam was gearing into its most busy and deadly phase. "I never looked at it as going away to war. That wasn't why I went. I went to take care of the results of war."

She was to join a surgery team of six officers, Navy and Army, and one chief. There would be two Navy surgeons and two nurses in the little group.

She was issued two passports, one for the U.S. Agency on International Development and one from the Navy. For the first one, she would have to wear civilian clothes, and for the other, her uniform.

Arriving in Vietnam, and because she was headed to a combat zone, Bauer was issued her combat gear. "You can't believe how much they gave us. Uniforms, boots, trenching tools. I had bandoliers all over me. But when they handed me the M-14 rifle, that's when I fell over."

They were sent to Rach Gia in Kien Giang Province in the southern tip of South Vietnam, about 160 miles from Saigon and not far from Cambodia and just down the coastline from Thailand. "We were so far south, nobody knew

Kay Wilhelmy Bauer grew up in St. Paul, and joined the Navy when it was willing to pick up her tuition for nursing school. She served in both the Reserves and the regular Navy and retired as a captain. Her duty along the way included a little hospital in the far southern tip of Vietnam.



where we were."

They flew into the city on a C-130 transport plane and were put off in what looked to be the middle of nowhere. "The guys on the plane were like, 'So long, it's been good to know you,' and they were gone. There was just this abandoned building and the tarmac. There was nothing. We could see some rice paddies and forest."

After a while a South Vietnamese Army Jeep showed up. "But there was only room for two. And so the remaining five of us just stood there in the middle of nowhere. I outranked one of the guys who got in the Jeep, but off they went."

Eventually, all seven made it to town. Bauer was unprepared for how primitive the conditions would be. "We had no electricity. We had no running water."



KAY BAUER
At home in Coon Rapids



KAY BAUER
As a young lieutenant junior grade

The room she and the other nurse shared had just room enough for two beds, with netting hanging from the ceiling to keep the mosquitoes and other pests away.

The team they were replacing had left the day before, so there was no smooth transition of duties and no mentorship. It was starting from scratch.

“But we knew we were there to help these people.”

The hospital was all brick, with a kind of moat around it. “There was a latrine, but nobody used it because nobody cleaned it.

“Vietnam had been ruled by so many countries. It was French, then it was Japanese, then it was Chinese, then it was French again. The hospital was run by French nuns.”

The two nurses found another place to live, and hired a family to help out, including finding fresh vegetables every day. They paid them \$45 a month.

At first the Americans would pay for and order food from Saigon to be brought in by a C-130 on its mail run. “But there were numerous stops before they got to us, and by the time he got here all that was left was crackers. So we quit doing that.”

Now and then, they would hitch a ride into Saigon. “The Vietnamese had this unbelievable communication network. When I’d go into Saigon, the Vietnamese nurses would tell me every place I’d been. How did they do that?”

When wounded American troops were brought in, the doctors and nurses did what they could to have them evacuated to Saigon the same day. “They just shut down the hospital at night. There was no electricity. If someone died during the night, they died. If they lived, the nuns would take care of them again in the morning.”

If wounded troops were brought in at night, the unit did the best it could, examining the soldiers by kerosene lanterns.

The hospital and the American medical team treated whoever came through the doors including civilians, U.S. military, Army of South Vietnam and even the Viet Cong. “How could you tell the VC from the civilians? We did not ask questions?”

Bauer said they were given advanced warning when the VC would come into town to recruit, and so they would stay home. “Nobody would interfere with them. They were not carrying arms. Isn’t that interesting?”

She said that true to what she had told the Navy back home, she did not work as an operating room nurse. “I spent as little time in the OR as possible, but I set up a post-op unit and a post anesthesia unit using Vietnamese civilians.”

The equipment was sparse and dated. “Our x-ray machine looked it was built in the 1800s. The only way we got fresh water was to catch rainwater in cisterns. There were no windows in the OR, but there were still flies in there all the time.”

The OR did have one portable generator that gave them light and kept some fans going in the room.

One day, word came to the unit that an island nearby had a rash of plague victims. “They wanted to know if I and the other nurse would go out to this island with a Vietnamese Army captain who would be my advisor. I should have known it might get interesting because the Army was in charge of the boat.

“We got up at 0 dark thirty to get on the boat. It was a Vietnamese junkie.” It had a large cabin at the back and a steering compartment up front. “We went back to the cabin, but everybody was sick back there, so we stayed up on deck and put a poncho over our heads.”

By noon, they had arrived somewhere near their destination. “We were still out a ways and the boat stops. We waited on deck, and finally a smaller boat arrived. They wanted us to jump down to this smaller boat. We had all this gear with us, but we did it. This boat went a ways, and it stopped. They told us we’d have to walk from here.”

Bauer and her companion had worn tennis shoes and swimming suits under their uniforms because they suspected it might be a wet day. They walked the last several hundred yards to higher ground. “We were sopping wet.”

Their job was to give plague shots to the local population. “We decided, though, that we’d have sick call first. The Army guy medic had brought some meds with him for various things, and we cleaned up some wounds.

“One thing I have to say is that there was no soap anywhere in the province. I would write home to my friends to send soap, but they all thought I was kidding and so they never sent any.”

The nurses helped who they could and then gave the injections to a large gathering of people, and then it was time to go. That’s when they found out the boat had left.

“We had brought nothing along, not even a toothbrush.”

The nurses were invited to stay with the local head man at his house. “They had an extra bedroom, and the army captain got it. We got the dining room table. We were not happy campers.”

Dinner was served Vietnamese style, with the nurses squatting on the dirt floor along with the rest. “They’d pass us the food using their personal chopsticks. I don’t know if I liked that.”

Before bed, they decided to clean up as much as they could and they wore their bathing suits into the water. “You know, if we had gone bare-chested, nobody would have looked twice. But our legs were exposed and all the locals were peeking. Bare legs were not allowed.”



Now a lieutenant, Bauer got to meet President Lyndon Johnson upon her return from Vietnam.



Bauer during her tour in Japan.



One of Bauer’s comrades sits in a Vietnamese ambulance to show the size of the emergency vehicle.



Bauer has the honor of “capping” a new graduate at the Great Lakes Naval Station.



During her tour in Vietnam, Bauer got to christen two South Vietnamese Junques at the shipyards.

Another time, Bauer and another nurse were invited by an American officer to come over to the ARVN base to watch a movie. He had a projector and a small generator. "There were always vehicles around, so I appropriated a Jeep and went over. We had learned how to start Jeeps without having the keys."

The movie was good, and as it wound up, Bauer looked out the window and to her horror, the sun had set.

"I drove like crazy in the dark, though the bushes, over the bridges. My friend said, 'I know you're Catholic so where's your rosary? I'll pray while you drive.'"

The next morning they learned that the base where they had visited had been attacked by mortars. The tent they had watched the movie in was blown up and the officer was killed.

The one invariable was the heat. "My supervisor back in the states wondered how I was getting starch for my uniform. What I actually did was have some simple, light dresses made with a zipper down the front. That's what I wore to work every day. That and tennis shoes. When they asked me, I told them I was wearing my summer blues."

They arranged to have a big cistern built up high on their roof with a pull chain that would release a spray of water. "It was cold, but at least we had a shower."

During her whole year in Vietnam she and her companion, later joined by another nurse, were the only Navy female nurses in Vietnam.

"They had some in Saigon, but then a bomb came in and five of them got Purple Hearts. They all went home. Just as we were leaving, another delegation of nurses from the Navy came into Saigon."

Once, she was sent up to Da Nang to see about the need for nurses there. "I can't tell you how hot it was in Rach Gia, but when I got up to Saigon, I was cold and I had to put a layer on. When I got to Da Nang, I was cold again and I had to put another layer on."

One thing she noticed about the all-male naval hospital facility in Da Nang was that it was dirty. "They had plenty of soap, but nothing was clean except the people. You can only imagine what the place looked like."

Later, female Navy nurses were sent to Da Nang.

After her year, she was sent to the Marine base at Quantico, Virginia. She had to travel through San Francisco, and it was known as an anti-war hot spot and as a trouble spot for soldiers or sailors going through. "We were told to wear civilian clothes and to travel separately. If we traveled together, they'd know we were military."

After Quantico, she was sent to Minneapolis for recruiting duty. She was ordered at one time to attend an official military function, and her boss told her to bring an escort.

"You mean a date?" I said, "You can order me to do anything you want, but you can't tell me to take a date. I'm too busy to do any dating." She assured me that she only meant an escort, and she had a list of possible choices. She was going down the list, and finally I said, "Don't you have any Catholic guys just in case we decide to have a second date?"

"She said there was one guy named Vern Bauer, but that I wouldn't like him."

The two were married the next year.

While the Bauers were living in the Twin Cities is when Kay had her real taste of violence emanating from the Vietnam War.

She worked in the Federal Building in downtown Minneapolis, and early one morning she got a call telling her not to go to work. "They told me that they had blown up my office. The whole end of the building was blown up."

An anti-war terrorist had put two dozen sticks of dynamite under the front steps of the entrance near Bauer's office, and it blew up at about 3 in the morning. "They said they think they meant for it to go off during the day, but there was a problem with the timer. Thank God, no one was hurt. But all of us were pretty scared."

Not long after that, the Bauers were at home one night at their suburban residence in Shoreview. "I was sitting up watching TV and Vern had already gone to bed. All of a sudden there was a terrible explosion, followed by another explosion.

"Vern came out of the bedroom, and luckily he was moving slowly because when another explosion went off, the big, thick trap door for the attic came down in the hallway just in front of him and put a big dent in the floor. It would have killed him."

Bauer called the fire department and rushed outside. The house next door was heavily damaged and was on fire.

"The people who lived in the house were killed. The explosion was so intense at their house, it moved the rafters over on our house."

While she was watching the firemen try to extinguish the blaze, she got a tap on the shoulder. "There were two men in suits and ties. One of them flashed his badge at me. He was Office of Naval Intelligence.

"He said, 'Are you Commander Bauer?' I said I was. He said, 'Do you own that house?' pointing to ours. I said I did. He said, 'You will sell that house and move.' He asked, 'Do you drive a Navy car home?' I said I did. He said, 'You won't do that anymore.' He asked, 'Do you wear your uni-



Back in Minneapolis for recruiting duty, Bauer experienced some of the terror of war she didn't see in Vietnam. On the left is a clipping from the Minneapolis Tribune about an anti-war related bombing at the Minneapolis Federal Building. Bauer's office was destroyed in the bombing, which was done at 3 a.m. The bomb blew up one end of the building. In the clipping on the right, the St. Paul Pioneer Press considered that the house next door to Bauer's may have been destroyed by a bomb and not by a gas explosion as first reported. The Office of Naval Intelligence told Bauer that the bombers may have destroyed the wrong house, killing its occupants. The perpetrators may have been anti-war terrorists and the target may have been Bauer.



Accompanied by a neighborhood pig, Bauer makes her way to the clinic at Rach Gia, Vietnam. With the heat and the conditions, Bauer designed her own uniform of a simple white dress. She did not inform her superiors.

form home?" I said I did. He said, 'You will not do that anymore.'

The official cause was listed as a gas explosion at the neighboring house, but the ONI had a different explanation. "They told me they thought the bombers had got the wrong house. There had been some plastic explosives stolen from the New Brighton Arsenal."

None of the bombers was ever caught.

Bauer moved back from the regular Navy to the Reserves in 1972, because she and Vern wanted to adopt a child and adoption agencies wouldn't consider her while she was on active duty. She had been told that she couldn't have children, but just after the adoption, she got pregnant. Their two boys are 11 months apart. They have six grandchildren.

They moved at the needs of the Navy and lived in London, Germany, Bremerton, Key West, San Francisco, San Diego and other places.

"I was passed over for captain twice, and I called the Director of Naval Nursing in Washington and said, 'I will not be passed over again.' The head of nursing told me, 'Well, then you'd better come here to Washington and work with me.'

Bauer made captain, and was one of only six O-6 level female officers in the Navy.

She retired as a captain in 1993 after 35 years of military service. As a civilian, she worked for many years as an emergency room nurse.

In 1984, she got a call from an Army Vietnam nurse she



Bauer gives out plague shots to civilians on an island near the hospital Bauer worked at.

didn't know named Diane Carlson Evans. "She had plans to build a women's Vietnam memorial, and she was going to do a press conference at the Landmark Center in St. Paul. She was looking for a Navy Vietnam nurse. I don't know how she got my name."

As time went on, Bauer was part of the original group seeking the memorial, and was secretary for the group. "We met every week."

She noticed that many of the Army nurses in the group were suffering from PTSD. Some had been turned away from the VA hospital. Bauer organized a group so these nurses could talk and help each other.

The memorial was finally dedicated in 1993 and Bauer was there.

Along the way, she said she became a life member in almost every veteran's organization around, including the Veterans of Foreign Wars and The American Legion.

She has volunteered for years as a "Battle Buddy" at the VA Medical Center in Minneapolis, helping female veterans get through the process. Her friends and admirers call her "The Admiral."

She has been a founder and member of such groups as the Women's Veterans Initiative, the Women's Veterans of Minnesota, and the Anoka County Veterans Court. Bauer finally gave up her nursing license at age 80.

This year, she was selected at the 2018 Minnesota Woman Veteran of the Year by the Women Veterans Initiative.

She and Vern live in Coon Rapids.

District Commanders

FIRST DISTRICT

Gary Miller
Commander



Very low numbers at Legionville this year, don't really know the attendance but could have been better. No turn in for Legion, good turn in for the Sons and Auxiliary though. I did see all the posts got credit for their PUFL'S so that will bring up the membership numbers.

The First District will have their Fall Conference on Oct. 6 at Mabel Post 299, with Ex-Board at 9 a.m. Annual Department Fall Rally will be Oct. 26-27 in Marshall Post 113. Registration is in this issue of the Legionnaire along with all the lodgings. Hope every one that has time to please attend. You never know, you might learn something.

By the way congrats: to the new National Commander and Officers and new SAL Commander and Officers for the year 2018-2019.

By the time you get this I will have been to Camp Ripley with my National Security/Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Mark Maloney, as well as all the other District Commanders and their Chairmen. We will be there Sept. 21-23. Sounds like it will be a lot of information and a great experience for all of us. (Too bad its not a Marine base.)

But you should not be waiting for the renewals to send in their dues. Post membership directors and Commanders should be out making contact with them. Don't wait for them to mail it go and get it and ask them if they know of anyone that might join, you never know, right?

SECOND DISTRICT

Cindy Brunk
Commander



Hello American Legion Family Members,

I could not write enough thank you cards to everyone that made the National 100 Year Convention such a success and a time we as a Legion Family made history. My thank you cards would have to go back over a 100 years ago to the present Legion Family. Our continued success and existence will not be what we only did in the past 100 years but what we will strive to do in the next 100 years.

So as your Commander I will start my thank you out to all the Legion Family Members that have paid their dues. In Bulletin 11 (for you unfamiliar this is a report put out weekly by department), second district Legion members alone turned in over 1,100 memberships, thank you so much.

Remember you're not only paying your dues, you are also making a donation for the future of our veterans.

I have started my travels to the Second District Posts. Thank you for the warm reception and good food. I am here to serve you. Please help me to help you.

October scheduled events include:

October 9 -- Luverne Veterans Home 9 a.m. starts with games, music, good food, and bingo. Everyone is invited and the veterans in the home are looking forward to seeing you.

October 13 -- St James Post 2:00 p.m. Rally and Workshop with our own Department Membership Director Mike Maxa. Who knows a couple others may drop in to see how we are doing plus membership turn in with St James Auxiliary serving lunch. Thank you so much.

October 26-27 -- Fall Conference in Marshall, all information in Legionnaire.

Thank you for all updated Directory Information that so many of you were so kind to help me with. They will be going to print and distributed.

For God and Country.

THIRD DISTRICT

Carla Tappiner
Commander



Greetings Thundering Third. We did it. We are in 1st place according to the last membership memo that went out. Thank you to all the membership directors at all the posts. You are doing an awesome job. Keep up the great work. Let's stay in 1st place.

The National Convention was quite the experience. I'm hoping most of you got to go for at least one or two days. Tons of great speakers and we elected a new National Commander, Brett Reistad. He is going to do a great job. Just as an aside, he and I were both stationed in Washington DC with 'The Old Guard' years ago.

I've started visiting all the posts and meeting everyone. I'm really looking forward to attending more of the post activities that you are doing in your communities. Please let me know what's going on so I can come and support every-

thing you are doing and help where I can. Feel free to email or call me anytime. Remember that we have to teach our communities what The American Legion is all about....we aren't just the local bar. We are so much more.

"Word to the Nation: Guard zealously your right to serve in the Armed Forces, for without them, there will be no other rights to guard."

-- President John F. Kennedy

FOURTH DISTRICT

Lane Stunkel
Commander



Greetings Fabulous 4th District.

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

Regarding membership everyone: To all of the members of the Fabulous 4th - thank you, as of bulletin 11, the 4th District slipped to 3rd place less the 3/4 of a percentage point out of 1st, let's keep it going. Let's work hard to retain our current membership and to find new members. Post Commanders and Adjutants, and Membership Officer please reach out to your District Vice Commander, Mickey or myself for assistance, we all are here for assistance.

Keep these dates in mind:

4th District RCCC, October 10th - N. St. Paul.

4th & 5th District Membership Workshop, October 20th - 9 a.m.-noon - Wold Chamberlain Post 99, 5600 34th Ave S, Minneapolis. Let's have a 100% attendance from all post's in the 4th District to attend.

Fall Conference, October 26-27 - Marshall.

4th District RCCC, November 14th - N. St. Paul.

4th District ALA Membership Rally - November 28th - 5:30 Social, 6 p.m. Dinner - Rosetown Memorial.

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

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

FIFTH DISTRICT

Joe Bayer
Commander



Greetings Fighting Fifth. Congratulations to the 5th District on making 60% on membership. It's a great start but there's a long way to go to reach 100%. This year I'm looking to reach across the river and work more with the 4th District. There isn't anything we can't accomplish if we work together. Our next District meeting will be held at Wold Chamberlain Post 99 on October 2nd. Meetings start at 7:30 pm. and all are welcome.

We have a full calendar of events coming up. First, there's a membership workshop on October 20th at Wold Chamberlain Post 99 hosted by our Department Membership Director Mike Maxa, starting at 9 am. Then there's Shop, Ship and Share November 30 and December 1 at the Maplewood Mall starting at 10 a.m. Also there is a combined midwinter with the 4th District at Arcade/Phalen Post 577, on January 5. The doors open at 8, and the program starts at 9 a.m. Don't forget about Fall Conference in Marshall on October 26 & 27. I'm asking all Posts to have representation. Remember, knowledge is power and that's what we want is knowledge. Hope everyone is having a great end of summer and a kick ass start to Fall.

SIXTH DISTRICT

Richard Cross
Commander



It is October already and things are moving fast in the 6th District. We, as an American Legion Family, are in motion with different events from Membership Dinners to American Legion Rider runs. The American Legion Auxiliary is pushing hard to complete their projects, and the Sons of the American Legion are working hard as well. The Big Sixth District is always ready for the challenges of the remainder of the year, which include, as always, helping the Veterans.

We have a treasure sitting in the middle of the 6th District: Yes, I am talking about Legionville. It is a resource for all Minnesota Legion Districts and is used by organizations from state-wide. This treasure needs help, in the form of funds and labor for maintenance projects. The Legion, Sons of the American Legion and the Auxiliary have made

trips, usually on a Friday, Saturday, Sunday weekend, to Legionville throughout the year (not during the school time) to do different projects. We as a Department Legion Family must keep this treasure operational. Any help would be appreciated.

SEVENTH DISTRICT

Jeffrey Gay
Commander



It's officially Fall. With it comes colorful leaves, cooler temperatures, harvest and the Legion Fall Conference.

Conference attendance is not required but it's highly encouraged as a time to learn, "play" and grow together, exchanging ideas with other Posts statewide and building a stronger camaraderie.

The Post Commanders Workshops are important tools for anyone in your Post who may become, at one time or another, a Post officer (which is everyone at your post). Encourage attendance to these and other workshops or trainings to augment your knowledge of the Legion and its programs, to help streamline your meetings be more engaging and acquiring a means of communication highlighting your Posts achievements, events and community position thus enhancing membership. Discover how Posts can work together helping one another and what your District can do to assist you better.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Fall Conference in Marshall.

EIGHTH DISTRICT

Wilbur Swanson
Commander

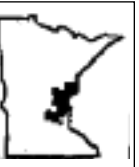


Greetings Eighth District family. I hope everyone is doing well. I'd like to thank everyone who is working to make the American Legion family in our district the best it can be. It takes all of us to make the effort to succeed. I encourage all Legion Posts, Auxiliaries, and Sons to step up in this centennial year and make it one to remember.

We cannot just rest on what we have done, we must keep on keeping on for veterans. While our membership is moving forward, we need to be aggressive in recruiting new members. The Auxiliary is to be commended in their efforts and programs. The increases in female members in the military offers us another source for memberships for both the Legion and Auxiliary. Eligible members must be encouraged to join the Sons of the American Legion. I ask every member to make it a personal goal to get at least one new member to join our organization this year. I want to send out a special thank you to all the post volunteers. They keep us going by donating their time and effort to the many functions of each post. Without these dedicated individuals, a lot of what we do would not be accomplished. May God bless the American Legion family and the USA.

TENTH DISTRICT

Paul Orson
Commander



Fall conference in Marshall is right around the corner and I'm looking forward to all the information and presentation scheduled for the weekend. If you have not attended one, think about heading southwest and attend.

I want to thank all those who have renewed but there are still a big number of you that have not. I ask all of you to renew so we have the numbers when our legislative team go to St Paul and Washington DC to maintain our current benefits and even maybe even increase benefits.

Minneapolis VA Hospital makes strides in quality

WASHINGTON — Using an annual web-based report scorecard that measures, evaluates and benchmarks quality and efficiency at its medical centers, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently released data that showed significant improvements at the majority of its health care facilities.

The Minneapolis VA Health Care System (Minneapolis VA) was one of the facilities that made positive strides in the benchmarks and is striving to continue progress. Minneapolis VA improved 0.31 percent compared with the same period last year.

"Quality improvement is one of our core themes," said Minneapolis VA Chief of Staff Kent Crossley, MD. "It takes a concerted effort by clinicians and management to bring about change."

Deer River proud to be first ALR Chapter in state

This story first appeared in the Grand Rapids Herald Review, and is used with their permission.

By Britta Arendt

It all started with “two Indians and a white guy” and their bikes, explains Ken Bedeau of what became Minnesota’s first chapter of the American Legion Riders, a motorcycle group dedicated to remembering their veteran comrades lost in war.

Memorial Day weekend of 2002, Vietnam Veterans and friends Rob Burgess, Dave Cronin and Bedeau, all of the Deer River area, jumped on their bikes and headed to Washington D.C. for a Rolling Thunder Rally. The annual event gathers motorcycle enthusiasts and Veterans together to honor service members lost at war, prisoners of war and all who have defended this country.

Bedeau remembers being a part of a parade that year and joining 60-70,000 motorcycles in the parking lot of the Pentagon.

“The biggest one was a couple of years ago when there were a half-million of us there,” he says.

While joining the parade in 2002, the three men from Minnesota met a group from Michigan who were affiliated as American Legion Riders.

“They told us how to organize by working with the American Legion and when we got back home we did just that,” explained Bedeau who said they soon contacted Deer River American Legion Post No. 122 and other Veteran friends “who like the concept,” and three soon became the ‘elite eight.’

Since then, the American Legion Riders MN Chapter 1 has grown to 56 members and is governed by a board of directors. They meet monthly to discuss training, fundraising and event opportunities. And the concept has spread throughout the state with several Minnesota chapters established including one metro group that believes they deserve designation as first. But Bedeau and his buddies know better.

“We were looked at as a renegade group,” describes Bedeau of Chapter 1. “We still show up (at rides) and put on our ‘Chapter 1’ patch and it drives those guys nuts.”

Bedeau said he started riding motorcycle when he got home in 1970 after serving 14 months in Vietnam with the Mohawk Division of the Army’s 131 Aviation Company. Since then, he has logged 230,000 miles on his Harley-Davidson.

“It’s always been my thing,” he said of riding a bike.

“When I get to 250,000 miles, I might try something different,” he chuckled.

“It’s the camaraderie, the friendships and interest in the different events that happen throughout the year,” that makes Bedeau stay connected with the Riders.

Another member of the elite eight, Jim Borst, of Deer River, remembers the guys getting together as early as 1999 to ride together. Just last weekend, the group commemorated one of their fallen with their now-annual Jody Ride in honor of Jody Spitzack. Proceeds from this ride have gone to Spitzack’s children as well as community programs.

“Our main objective is to ride for the guys who were forgotten,” said Borst of prisoners of war and those who went missing in action. “We don’t ride to be wild people but, instead, we’re Vietnam Vets who want to do something for our community. We’re not the bad people they thought we were.”

Borst served an impressive three tours in Vietnam between 1968 and 1971. Like many of his fellow Vietnam Veterans, memories of American response to the Vietnam War and the soldiers that served in that conflict still sting him.

“When I came home the first time, I was proud. That was until I got into the airport. People threw things at us, spit at us and called us ‘baby killers.’ That was not what we went there to do. We went there to defend those people’s freedom,” remembers Borst who explained that, unlike the WWII and Korean Veterans who came home in large numbers, many Vietnam Veterans returned home individually or in pairs and were singled out by protesters. “It was the media presence over there that showed everything - good or bad - and nine times out of ten it was bad. So when we came home people were very much against us.”

Borst said because the Vietnam War was deemed a ‘police action’ rather than a war there was a time Vietnam Veterans were not allowed to join the American Legion or Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).

“Later, they decided it was an actual war,” he explained. “And the WWII and Korean Veterans were looking for more people to keep those organizations running so Vietnam Vets started joining.”

Borst’s participation with the American Legion Riders is three-fold, for himself, his fallen comrades and his community. He says he “feels free” when he rides and happy to be “doing something for those guys who didn’t come home,” while also raising money for programs in his community.

Elite eight brother Bob Stein, of Grand Rapids who served in Vietnam 1966-1967, agrees. He uses travel atop what he describes as “not a Harley - but paid for,” as a way of release.



RIDERS -- Ken Donahue, Guy Wold and Al Sprague pause for a photo op alongside the road. The Deer River Chapter 1 is the oldest American Legion Riders Chapter in the state.

“I used to be all anger,” says Stein of how his country treated Vietnam Veterans.

“Then I got interested in bikes after meeting some of the guys and it became a hobby. We’re not trying to be bad, we’re trying to lose ourselves. It’s therapeutic - to know we’re not alone. And to remember those that didn’t come home - some 58,000 - and, for what?”

One year, members of the motorcycle group and other Vietnam Veterans organized a gathering at a church in Grand Rapids for Veterans, spouses and children of Veterans to address post-service life, trauma and hope.

“We got many, many Veterans to come and talk because there was no other place for vets to talk to other vets. Some came from the half-way house and that was OK because we could understand where they were at at that time,” explained Borst.

At that gathering, Veterans were able to speak freely about their PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder), their dreams and nightmares.

Memorial Day is very important to Borst and the riders.

“For me, it gives me a sense of meaning because we’re honoring the fallen vets who didn’t get to be honored before,” he said. “When we go to the grave sites, it makes me feel sad but also good. If only people would’ve known what we went through over there.”

Borst inspired Gulf War Veteran Ross Hogate, of Remer, to join the American Legion Riders. Hogate served eight years in the Navy, from 1986 to 1994.

“I’ve had a motorcycle since I was old enough to ride one,” said Hogate who’s been riding for about 40 years. “I had one on base.”

Borst and other riders were part of a Harvest Festival in Remer carrying flags on their bikes when they caught Hogate’s eye.

“I thought, how cool, and asked Jim, ‘how can I join?’”

Hogate not only joined the group, he served as chapter director for seven years, passing on his office just last October to Keith Kackman.

“What I enjoy with the rides and parades is that it gets people to remember the vets,” says Hogate. “Society, these days, so often lets them go to the wayside. Why I do it is to keep the vets in the public eye.”

Hogate is also proud that the group raises funds to help other Veterans and their families in need. He said they’ve given money to help Veterans with health issues, to help them get to the VA hospitals or for household needs such as heating assistance or at holidays for meals and gifts.

Hogate’s successor elected to lead the American Legion Riders, Kackman, of Grand Rapids, said he purchased his Indian Roadmaster in 2015 and was looking for a ride to join when he heard of a Veterans’ rally. He has been a member of the American Legion for 40 years after serving as a radioman in the Navy during the Vietnam War from 1970-1972.

“The group seemed like a good fit,” he said. “It’s a nice group of people who are all about safe, sober riding.”

Kackman explained how the riders emphasizes safety. They coordinate with the county sheriff and install road guards when they’re on big group rides to block traffic with stop signs so the group stays together.

This year’s ride schedule is an “aggressive” one, according to Kackman. After their duties during Memorial Day services, the riders will be in dozens of parades and group rides at least once a week through early September. Most of the rides range from 120-150 miles “so we have a nice long ride with a couple of stops,” explained Kackman who said money raised from rides through participation fees often goes toward bicycle giveaways for children at the Deer River Wild Rice Festival or to a resort vacation for veterans in Ely.

“We like to take care of our own,” he said. “We’re all brothers.”

Kackman emphasized that the guys are not a motorcycle club but rather a “riders group.”

Members in the group range all ages, from teenage to elderly. Those who want to join the group do not have to be a Veteran themselves. They can be a child of a Veteran or other relative.

“The more people we can reach out to the better,” added Borst.

For more information, find the riders online at drvetsclub.com/legion-riders/events or on Facebook at face-book.com/deerriveralr.



World War II History Round Table

Battle of Guadalcanal was a turning point at sea and on land

By Al Zdon

The sea battle at Midway was a decisive American sea victory early in the war in the Pacific, but the battle at and around Guadalcanal a few months later may have been even more important.

"The U.S. seized the initiative at Guadalcanal, but it took six long months to do it," said Trent Hone, the author of *Learning War*, a book about the Navy up through World War II.

Hone spoke in September at the World War II Round Table at Historic Fort Snelling and was joined later by a battleship veteran of the South Pacific campaigns.

Hone noted that the two sides were on the same footing at that point of the war, and success at Guadalcanal was not a foregone conclusion. "America's industrial base played a role later in the war, but at this point everything was much more evenly balanced."

At Midway, the U.S. had won a huge victory, but Guadalcanal was the first land action of the war. Hone said the American Admiral Ernest King, the commander of the U.S. fleet, pushed for the attack.

"He had no approval from the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He only sought approval later."

King was concerned that the air base the Japanese were constructing at Guadalcanal could threaten Allied supply routes. The attack was planned for Aug. 1, 1942, but was pushed back a week because the preparations were not going well.

The Marines landed at Guadalcanal, at a neighboring island of Tulagi, and other islands on Aug. 7. On the smaller islands, the resistance was fierce, but the Marines had control in a few days.

At Guadalcanal, however, the landing of 11,000 Marines was basically unopposed as the Japanese defenders moved to the high ground. The U.S. captured the airfield, later named Henderson Field, on the first day.

The Japanese launched bomber attacks on the U.S. fleet, and the American carriers were withdrawn. "The Marines, as they always will remind the Navy, said, 'You left us alone.'"

At the naval battle of nearby Savo Island, the U.S. took a pounding, losing three cruisers and having another cruiser and two destroyers heavily damaged. The Japanese only suffered damage to one cruiser. The remaining U.S. naval forces left the area, joining the carriers.

The U.S. had the advantage at sea during the day when the carrier planes could attack, but at night, the Japanese ruled the waves.

Meanwhile, the Marines and the Japanese forces settled in for a long battle. On Aug. 20, the first squadrons of Marine aircraft arrived at Henderson Field and formed the "Cactus Air Force." Cactus was the U.S. code name for Guadalcanal.

Later, more aircraft joined the Cactus group from the carrier *Enterprise*.

The Japanese planned a major re-enforcement of the island with fresh troops and also sent a carrier force to the area. The U.S. countered by bringing back its carriers.

On the island, the Japanese planned to recapture the airfield and the Marines made a stand on what later would be called Edson's Ridge, a coral ridge to the south of the airstrip.

Hone described how Lt. Col. Edson stood atop the ridge through the night, with bullets whizzing around him, inspiring his troops to repel wave after wave of Japanese attackers. Edson and Major Kenneth Bailey, who also stood on the ridge, were awarded the Medal of Honor. Bailey was killed on the island two weeks later.

The Marines held, and Henderson Field was saved.

On Sept. 15, the USS *Wasp* was sunk by a Japanese submarine, leaving the USS *Hornet* as the only American carrier left in the area at that time. "The *Hornet* was the only carrier holding down the fort at Guadalcanal."

Both sides desperately tried to bring more troops to the island. The Japanese would move at night, bringing in troops and supplies. The naval action was called the Tokyo Express.

The U.S. began bringing in Army troops from the 23rd Americal Division on New Caledonia.

At the sea battle of Cape Esperance, the two fleets again hammered at each other, both losing ships. The action was considered a U.S. victory.

During the first half of October, 1942, the Japanese managed to land 20,000 troops on the island. They pushed through the jungle and began another assault on Henderson Field.

On Oct. 24, the Japanese were at the edge of the field, and the U.S. Marines and Army forces joined up. "The Army's 164th Infantry Regiment fought shoulder to shoulder with the Marines. They stopped the attack. Later the Army regiment would proudly call themselves the 164th Marines."

The battle went on until Oct. 26 when the Japanese finally retreated after suffering heavy casualties.

At sea at this time, the two sides again had a major con-



Marines rest in the jungle between enemy engagements on Guadalcanal.

frontation. Admiral William Halsey had taken over the command of the U.S. fleet. "Halsey was unequivocally aggressive," Hone said. "The whole flavor the U.S. command in the South Pacific changed."

In the Battle of the Santa Cruz Islands, the U.S. lost the *Hornet*, and the *Enterprise*, which had returned to action, was damaged. Two Japanese carriers were hit. While it was considered a Japanese victory, the loss of aircraft and pilots was severe. "Of the 53 Japanese aircraft that attacked, only 15 made it back to the carrier. The Japanese carrier airpower was starting to wane."

The Marines and Army advanced on Japanese positions on the island and had some success, although both sides were bringing in reinforcements. The Japanese were determined to retake Henderson Field and planned a major operation to land more troops on Guadalcanal.

Halsey told his commanders that the Japanese naval action had to be stopped. The task fell to Rear Admiral Daniel Callaghan, and he put his cruiser force in the direct line of the Japanese attack. "It was virtually a suicidal plan. It was cruisers going toe to toe with battleships."

The action was close and furious. American ships had to lower their guns to near horizontal to fire at the Japanese ships. When it was over, the U.S. had lost everything but a cruiser and a destroyer, and the Japanese force had lost two destroyers. Callaghan was killed.

But the battle stopped the battleship attack. Later that day, planes from Henderson Field and the *Enterprise* did great damage to the Japanese effort to land troops, sinking a cruiser and seven transports. Later a Japanese battleship was destroyed in another engagement with the shrinking U.S. fleet.

Only four Japanese transports reached Guadalcanal, and were able to offload some of the troops. But the transports and the supplies they carried were destroyed on the beach by aircraft fire.

The Japanese made one more futile attempt to deliver supplies in late November, but were again chased off by the U.S. fleet, which suffered more losses.

On Dec. 12, the Japanese Navy recommended withdrawing from the island. They were losing as many troops to starvation as to combat losses. By the end of the year, the plan was put into action as the U.S. renewed its effort to drive the Japanese off the island.

On Feb. 1, 5,000 Japanese soldiers were extracted by 20 destroyers on the west coast of Guadalcanal. In the end, the Japanese were able to evacuate over 10,000 troops from the island. The battle was over. Though more than two years of war remained, the momentum was now with the Allies.

Ken Hanson grew up in Duluth and Minneapolis and went to North High School. He enlisted in January of 1942, just after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

He began his remarks by telling the story of a Navy chief that showed up on the gangway of his ship, returning from liberty, with a smile on his face and a bottle in his hand.

"One the thing the Navy enforces all the time is no alcohol on the ships. And so the officer on deck said to the chief, 'I'm going to turn my back for 10 seconds and I want to hear that bottle hit the water.'"

So the officer obligingly turned his back. The chief was several sheets to the wind, but still quick witted.

"He took off his shoe, dropped it in the water, and stuffed the bottle under his coat.

"The officer heard the splash, turned around, looked into the angelic face of the chief, and let him come on board. The chief headed down the passageway with his bottle intact."

Hanson made it to the fleet as a crew member of the USS *Colorado*, a battleship, and his job for a while was relaying the messages from the bridge to the engine room. "I was really nervous. Would they put me in the brig if I made an error?"

Eventually, he transferred to the ship's bakery and became a baker third class. Early in the war, the ship was sent to Fiji. "Talk about boredom."

But the ship got into action at the invasion of Tarawa in late 1943. The *Colorado* would help invasions of the Pacific islands by blasting the beach with its massive 16-inch guns.

"They always talk about what those guns did to the enemy, but they also did a lot of damage to our own ship. 'The rivets were popped, the stanchions were crumpled. And then there was the damage to our own bodies. You just had to grab on to something solid when they fired. You never wanted to be lying down.'"

At the Battle of Okinawa, *Colorado* fired at the enemy for 34 consecutive days. On November 27, 1944, the ship was hit by two Kamikazes but survived. "The first one hit the water on the starboard and aft of the ship. The splash drenched the deck. The second one hit the boat deck and we had a lot of killed and wounded."

Colorado was anchored next to the USS *Missouri* when the Japanese surrendered in Tokyo Bay, and then took a large amount of American prisoners of war home.

"They were a very quiet, sober group. They were kind of withdrawn into themselves. When they detonated a mine near the ship, the POWs were a little shook up. They thought they were going through it all over again."



Author Trent Hone and Battleship Sailor Ken Hanson field questions at the September meeting of the World War II History Round Table.



The Auxiliary Bulletin

No. 18-1

President Jean Walker

October 2018

Secretary Sandie Deutsch

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

The President's Column

By
Jean Walker



The year is getting busier day by day. Since I wrote my last column I have attended our annual National Convention in Minneapolis, the annual Camp-O-Ree and our First Membership Rally at Legionville. It was a great time to visit with members and their families, turning in membership, and a little dancing. I think a good time was had by all. I also attended the Home and Hospital Representative meeting at Waite Park, the Ninth District Past President Parley luncheon in Thief River Falls and the VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) committee "Kick Off" Banquet in Dilworth.

Remember that October is Education and Constitution and Standing Rules month. What is your Unit doing special for these programs? Every Unit should review their Constitution and Standing rules annually to make sure that they are current and comply with Department and National revisions.

Our Fall Conference is just right around the corner at the end of October. It is the great place to learn more about our American Legion Auxiliary programs. We will have some training on Thursday night and even some quilting. So please take the time to attend this year's conference in Marshall. It is a time to reunite with friends and make some new ones and learn something about our great organization at the same time. Looking forward to seeing our members at this year's conference.

Until next month, I am looking forward to visiting our units, districts and our Veterans Homes and Hospitals.

Thank you again for all you do for our Veterans. Always, keep our active duty military, their families and our veterans in your prayers. God Bless America and all of you.

Convention chair thanks volunteers

I am humble and grateful to belong to the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Minnesota.

I was very honored to serve this past year as your National Committee Chairman for our ALA 98th National Convention.

We have an awesome American Legion Family.

We owe a huge "thank you" to our Auxiliary members who volunteered to make The American Legion's 100th Convention and the American Legion Auxiliary's 98th Convention a huge success. When you see these ladies, give them a pat on the back and "thank" them. Please say thank you to the Legionnaires who also helped us out.

To be a success you need to know there were many things happening behind the scenes of the convention! They did an awesome job.

To my co-chairman, Robin, words cannot express my thanks for all you did and how you handled anything I asked of you. To the mailroom chair Carol Kottom and co-chair, Judy Ackerman, the flower chair, Marsha Bible and co-chair, Judy Stein, and Page chair Linda Kropuenske, and co-chair Mary Kuperus -- you were awesome.

To all the helpers/volunteers (the list is long so I don't have room to list your names); this convention's success was due to all of your hard work and dedication. I hope your "shin splints" have healed by the time you read this.

Again, from the bottom of my heart, and from all of our Minnesota Auxiliary members, "Thank you for making Minnesota proud of our American Legion Family."

National Convention ALA Chairman,
Sandy Fredrickson

Minnesota accepted awards at Minneapolis convention

Minnesota proudly accepted the following National awards at our 2018 National Convention.

Legislation

Most Outstanding Unit Program – Warren Unit #27
Best Department Program – Northwestern Division – Jean Walker, Chairman

Children and Youth

Best Department Program - Northwestern Division – Diane Hayes, Chairman

Public Relations

Outstanding Department Program – Northwestern Division – Robin Dorf, Chairman

National Security

Dorothy Pearl Award - Most Outstanding Department Award-Northwestern Division-Jean Horack, Chairman

Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation

Best Department Program – Northwestern Division – Mary Hendrickson, Chairman

Americanism Essay Contest – Austin Meyer – Northwestern Division Class I

VAVS – Perfect Attendance Award, Janet Thompson

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.

NATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Following are the National Appointments that National President Kathy Dungan has made to serve with her this 2018/2019 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 ALA Girls Nation Chairman, Raleen Tolzmann was named National Community Service Vice Chairman, Mary Hendrickson was named a committee member on the History Committee, Marsha Bible was named as a member of the National Constitution and By-Laws Committee, Chris Ronning is a member of the National Americanism Committee, Tamara Opland was named Northwestern Division Membership Chairman, Carol Kottom was named Northwestern Division Americanism Chairman, Shirley Frederick was named Northwestern Division Legislative Chairman, Jennifer Havlick was named Northwestern Division Public Relations Chairman, and Peggy Tesdahl 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 26-27 in Marshall, hosted by the Marshall American Legion Family #113. Our meetings will be held at the Ramada Inn Conference Center. On Thursday, October 25, 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 1st Vice President

Lino Lakes American Legion Auxiliary Unit 566 and the 10th District Past Presidents Parley have endorsed Patti Coleman for Department 1st Vice President for 2019-20.

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 District President in 2001-01.

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 was the ALA MN Girls State Chairman in 2017-2018. Currently, she is the Second Vice

Dorf, Cheryl Nymann and Dee Dee Buckley have a fun informative session planned so please attend.

Please bring as many memberships as you can to Fall Conference. Membership Chairman Robin Dorf is bringing back the Membership Contests and has quite a program set up. You just can't miss it. The entire American Legion Family will be involved.

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 Jean'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.

2018-2019 SCHOLARSHIPS

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

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

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

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

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

SECRETARY SANDIE'S NOTES

Here we are on to October 2018 – I just can't figure out where time goes. National Convention was fantastic. I volunteered to help with the parade being as it had to be held indoors. What an experience that was. Marchers thought they were done when they got to my area but they still had another hallway to go. I haven't had that much of a physical workout, running back and forth waving my arms around in a long time. Good thing I am Bohemian – my arms naturally fly all over the place. We had a wonderful Hospital Home Representative meeting in September and I must say – the ladies that volunteer their time and efforts at our Hospitals and Homes is unheard of. They work countless hours and ask for nothing in return. They are the friendliest and easiest to work with ladies I know. When you see any of the following, give them a hug and thank them for what they do; Lynette Andel, Jeannette Mertens, Darlene Wondra, Mary Ann Davis, Sandy Gibson, Doris Lafayette, Phyllis Mealey, Jan Benson and Naomi Hill. We made a quick visit to Texas to see the kids – goodness,

President and the VAR Chairman.

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.



PATTY COLEMAN

Auxiliary Bulletin

Continued from Preceding Page

Frankie has her drivers permit, Cade hunts and fishes every day and baby Elizabeth – there are no words. That girl is so precious and I worked quite hard on teaching her to say Gramma but that darned Grandpa kept breaking in to have her say Papa and only confused her. At the office we are diligently working on Fall Conference along with the day to day operations. As always, I tell the girls that the slow time is coming, riiiiight.

There are quite a few very dedicated, wonderful women who are members of our organization that need all of your thoughts and prayers as they are fighting tough battles. Please remember them and all of our Veterans and Military, where would we be without them.

Fourth District looks for fulfilling year

Welcome to the 2018-2019 Auxiliary year. The 100th National American Legion Convention is in the history books. There was so much information and I look forward to sharing it with our units. There was enough excitement and enthusiasm to last thru the year. What a pleasure it was meeting and speaking with Legionnaire and Auxiliary members from around the world and all expressed how they were enjoying their visit to our great city.



LYNN OLSON
Fourth District

The Hon. Elizabeth Dole addressed the Auxiliary speaking on the Elizabeth Dole Foundation that “supports military caregivers.” The caregivers are the spouses, parents, siblings and friends of the wounded, ill and injured veterans and servicemembers facing hardships.

We as Auxiliary members are “caregivers” thru our many programs and volunteering that support our veterans. It is these acts of “selfless caring” that amplifies who we are what we do and why we matter.

Fun night at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center is starting off with the Horse Racing activity and that is one of the favorites for the veterans. It is such pleasant experience to share in the fun and we all leave a little humbled, but grateful for the opportunity to spend time with our heroes, our veterans.

At our E-Board meeting we discussed ideas to help build the funds for the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. Unit presidents will encourage members to donate items for the silent auction at Fall Conference.

As our new year is just beginning there are several fundraisers coming up, BBQ’s and style shows. At this time there is nothing to report on the success of the fundraisers, but they will be fun.

Have a fulfilling year, everyone.

October is also Education Month

Annually in October, we recognize the American Legion Auxiliary Education program. Are you making your plans for American Education week November 12-16, 2018? A detailed list of events and recognition was in the September-October Unit mailing or can be found on our website www.mnala.org or www.alaforveterans.org. Information and forms on the scholarships we offer will be included in the November-December Unit mailing. Please get the information to the schools; the earlier the better. A Mid-Year Education report form will also be included in the next Unit mailing due to me (Linda Kropuenske) by December 5th. Thank you for all you do for the



LINDA KROPUENSKE

Education Program and all you do for our active duty and those continuing to serve.

Constitution and Standing Rules month

By Marsha Bible

Wikipedia defines a constitution as a “set of fundamental principles or established precedents according to which a state or other organization is governed. These rules together make up, i.e. constitute, what the entity is.”

Constitutions concern different levels of organizations. They define the principles upon which the organization is based, the procedure in which laws are made and by whom.

October is Constitution & Standing Rules month. This committee’s purpose 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.

How are Changes Made to the ALA’s Constitution and Standing Rules?

Unit, District and Department Constitutions are only revised at our Department Convention. Changes to Standing Rules are made at the appropriate level – the unit, district or department. Changes to the National Constitution and ByLaws are revised at the National Executive Committee Meetings and/or National Convention. A two-thirds vote is required for passage of proposed amendments to the Constitution and there is a proper way to submit those proposals. The procedure is detailed at the end of each of the respective constitutions. The District and Department Constitutions were revised at the 2018 Department Convention. No revisions were made to the National Constitution at the 2018 convention.

Did you know that anyone can write a resolution to add, delete or revise a part of our Constitution & Standing Rules at the District, Department or National level? Over the years, most of the changes started at the local level.

NOTE: In Minnesota, the Unit and District Constitutions are uniform and are only revised at our Department Convention.

In order to make changes, certain steps are typically made.

The unit votes to submit the resolution to make the change and sends that resolution to their appropriate District prior to the District Convention. The District reviews all of the resolutions submitted and the delegates of the district vote to approve or not.

If the resolution is approved by the delegates at the district level, it is forwarded on to the Department Convention for their review and vote. If the resolution is approved by the delegates, it either becomes a part of the Unit, District or Department Constitution or is forwarded on to the National Convention for their review and vote.

Standing Rules

Department Standing Rules may be revised at our Department Convention and may be adopted by a majority vote.

District and Unit Standing Rules are revised at the appropriate level. Your current standing rules should have some type of clause at the end of them that state how rules may be revised. That determines the process that you need to use. Most Standing Rules require only a majority vote and may be amended or rescinded at any regularly scheduled meeting without prior notification.

The Unit, District and Department Constitution and Standing Rules may not be in conflict with the National Constitution and ByLaws. Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall govern the American Legion Auxiliary in all cases that are not in conflict with state statute, the constitution, the bylaws or any special rules of order adopted by the organization.

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.



MARSHA BIBLE

Cookbooks, magnets for sale

Our supply of cookbooks is getting low – don’t miss out on a great Christmas gift for a loved one. Also, we have a new supply of the Auxiliary Emblem magnets. Please contact us at 651-224-7634 or deptoffice@mnala.org to order yours today. Cookbooks are \$25.00 plus \$6.00 shipping and magnets are \$5.00 each with a very nominal shipping charge. Both of these items are Department of Minnesota fundraisers to assist in making the Department upgrade it services to better assist our members.



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AP2272 1/13

Sept. 19, 2018, Auxiliary Membership

District	Goal	Membership To Date	Percent of Goal	Membership Last Year 9/30/17
One	4,907	452	9.21%	451
Two	4,924	746	15.15%	652
Three	4,422	616	13.93%	673
Four	720	111	15.42%	86
Five	788	92	11.68%	49
Six	6,042	858	14.36%	910
Seven	3,934	332	8.44%	358
Eight	1,628	144	8.85%	200
Nine	4,344	447	10.29%	499
Ten	5,129	613	11.95%	712
1982	160	29	18.13%	26
Totals	36,998	4,480	12.11%	4,616



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Tour Includes:

- 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Larry Alvey
- Delta Airlines flights, Minneapolis to NYC
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- Broadway performance
- Radio City Music Hall "The Rockettes Christmas Spectacular"
- Lunch at Carmine's
- Manhattan Island City tour
- 9/11 Memorial and Museum
- Harbor cruise with lunch

\$2,599.00
 Per Person Double Occupancy

Panama Canal
 February 28 - March 17, 2019

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- Round trip air from Minneapolis to Ft. Lauderdale and return to Los Angeles via Minneapolis on Delta Airlines.
- All transfers to and from the airport, hotel and pier
- 1 pre-cruise night in Minneapolis
- 1 pre-cruise night in Ft. Lauderdale
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- Onboard ship gratuities

\$5,779.00
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Hawaiian Islands Cruise
 January 28 - February 10, 2019

Tour Includes:

- 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Larry Alvey
- Round trip airfare from Minneapolis to Honolulu, Hawaii
- Overnight at Minneapolis Airport Hotel
- 4 nights at the Aloha Waikiki Beach Hotel
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- 7 meals: 4 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 2 dinners
- Titanic Museum
- 6 Shows: Dutton Family, Dixie Stampede, Presley's Country Jubilee, Daniel O'Donnell "Sampson" at the Sight & Sound Theater & Hits of the 50's & 60's
- Luggage handling for 1 suitcase per person

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Monuments of Washington D.C.
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 Per Person Double Occupancy

Heart of Alaska
 July 12-19, 2019

Tour Includes:

- 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Larry Alvey
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- 12 Meals (including an Alaska Salmon Bake)
- Iditarod Trail Headquarters
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- Chena Indian Village
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- Sled Dog Demonstration
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- Moose Chaser
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Pricing to come

A Tennessee Christmas
 December 1-10, 2018

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- 9 nights accommodations
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- Beale Street in Memphis
- Rock n Roll Hall of Fame
- Christmas in Gearshand
- Nashville highlights
- Country Music Hall of Fame
- Grand Ole Opry
- Trace Adkins in concert
- Smoky Mountain Opry
- Christmas at Dollywood
- Louisville Slugger Factory & Museum

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