

MORE SCENES FROM THE 102ND NATIONAL CONVENTION



In the blue and purple stage lights before the general session on Tuesday, Aug. 31, American Legion Past National Commander Dan Ludwig, left, of Red Wing stands with Royal Canadian Legion Dominion President Bruce Julian, center, and National Executive Director Steven Clark. Julian is from Beachville, Ont., Branch 495.



Paul and Jody Hassing dance to the music of country singer Craig Morgan, an Army Airborne veteran himself, at the National Commander's Banquet on Tuesday, Aug. 31, at the Phoenix Convention Center's South Ballroom.



Members of ANAVICUS wear purple caps, and several members from Minnesota became new ANAVICUS members at the ANAVICUS Reception on Sunday, Aug. 29. They joined some existing members from Minnesota for a group photo with Past National Commander Jake Comer of Massachusetts. From row from left are Comer, Department Vice Commander Hal Meyer, Ken Meyer and Department Membership Director Paul Hassing. Back row are Department Vice Commander Gary Weaver, Victor Gades, Don Skow, Pat Logan and Past National Commander Dan Ludwig.



Commander Tom Fernlund's son, Christopher, who is in the Air Force stationed at Kirtland AFB in New Mexico, reclines on the floor as Legion Family leaders gather for a photo. At left is Larry Woods, who stands next to his significant other, Patti Coleman, president of the Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary. At center is Minnesota Sons of The American Legion Commander Tim Weaver. On the right are Commander Tom Fernlund and his wife, Past 6th District Commander Veronica Fernlund.



Slayton's Brad Pagel, left, visits the Department of Alaska hospitality room on Sunday, Aug. 29. Alaska was serving up samples of salmon, which attracted a crowd. The Alaskan Legionnaires sport the same pin at the front of their caps, rather than a stitched design.



The lobby of the Sheraton Hotel in Phoenix was often a place to gather and converse when the Legion and Auxiliary conventions were out of session.



Delegates and alternates from Minnesota sat near a sign indicating their department. Each department has a department sign.



With Past 1st District Commander at the point, members of the 1st District line up for a photograph at Delegation Chairman Mark Dvorak's get-together on Sunday, Sept. 29.



As Aide Larry Cline applauds, departing National Commander Bill Oxford accepts a gift marking the end of his extended term. Cline and Oxford, both from North Carolina, toured Minnesota twice, once in February 2020 and again in April 2021.



Hillsdale College President Larry P. Arnn shakes hands with then-National Commander Bill Oxford on Tuesday, Aug. 31, at the 102nd National Convention. His speech called for more oaths and fewer regulations.

A word or 2 about oaths

By Tim Engstrom

PHOENIX — In this day and age of regulations, laws and ordinances, one speaker at the 102nd American Legion National Convention had an interesting perspective on oaths.

“Oaths are an alternative to rules,” said Larry P. Arnn, president of Hillsdale College in Michigan.

The U.S. Constitution frequently mentions oaths and affirmations. It includes the wording for the presidential oath of office, which has served as the model for many other oaths, he noted.

In taking an oath, it gives the oath-taker personal responsibility, such as supporting and defending the Constitution. Government, as a result, does not need to make a rule because the people have taken an oath, he said.

Hillsdale College leaders and

the board of trustees have reduced the rules to just 17 and have asked students to swear to an “honor code.”

Why? The college was having problems with retention. About a quarter of the freshman class would leave, and often they would give reasons and tie it to: “Nobody told me.”

“The oath is good because it is telling them,” said Arnn, a Boys State alumnus.

Last year, only 1 percent of the freshman class left.

Members of the U.S. Armed Forces take oaths, too.

“War,” Arnn said, “is the greatest conflict, but it is also the greatest cooperation, and that is why you are all sitting here today.”

He described how Persian emperor Xerxes forced his people into battle with whips and was surprised to learn Spartans fought on their own accord. Spartans, like members

of other Greek city-states, swore oaths. They didn’t need to be forced.

Arnn told how American tanks had trouble getting out of the hedgerows in France. An American from Nebraska figured out how to avoid the tank rising up and exposing the underside.

“Thinking soldiers” is what America produces as a result of oaths, he said.

America, Arnn added, is changing. More laws. The National Registry adds 70-80,000 pages every year. He told how the Homestead Act was a mere 1,500 words.

He said the protectors of American lands are ordinary folk, not dukes and earls. The United States was created in a manner to divide power.

“You can’t decentralize power except to people who are acting on an oath,” Arnn said.

Fourth Estate Awards highlight the best in media news coverage

PHOENIX — The 2021 American Legion Fourth Estate Awards went to three outlets, one for television, one for web and one for print.

WFTS-TV in Tampa, Fla., took home the award in television. It did a series of investigative reports on guardianship. Adam Walser accepted on behalf of the station.

The station provided a video summarizing their coverage and the problem. In Florida, anyone can petition to have someone placed in guardianship. They then can control that person’s funds and whereabouts. Many perfectly functional seniors were confined inside senior housing or their own house without visitors while a guardian robbed them little by little of their life savings.

The state then created a watchdog agency, and, as a result, nothing changed. Thanks to further investigation showing the agency had not overturned a single guardianship, the agency’s leader was forced to resign. Florida continues to grapple with the issue.

Steve Beynon accepted the website award for Military.com. A fellow reporter, Gina Harkins (who now works for the Washington Post) shed light in 2020 on the Marine Corps considering the closure of boot camps at Parris Island and San Diego. The story mentioned the Marines were considering closing the boot camp in San Diego, too, and possibly building a third base for training all Marines for cost savings and as a means to train men and women together.

However, her coverage included men and women upset at the idea because of the loss of tradition. Men said they would be upset over the loss of tradition, and women said they would feel blamed for the loss.

South Carolina lawmakers have introduced a

bill to prevent the Parris Island closure.

Photographer Rick West of the suburban Chicago newspaper Daily Herald was on hand to accept the print award.

The Daily Herald was approached by the Symonds-Madison Funeral Home in Elgin, Ill. The funeral home director had witnessed veterans die unclaimed by friends and family, and she didn’t want to see another one go without honors. Reporter Elena Ferrarin wrote about the late John James Murphy, a decorated Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War who died in 2020 in an Elgin rehab center. He served from 1966 to 1969 as a jet engine mechanic.

The story went viral on social media, and radio and TV then did stories, too. There was a great outpouring of support for Murphy. The funeral home arranged an open-invitation memorial service, with a VA-approved military burial, and hundreds came.

“I didn’t think so many people would be here,” said Cliff Hall of Palatine, a Navy veteran who attended the funeral after reading the story in the Daily Herald. “This is incredible.”

Blood Program recognition

The Department of Minnesota was recognized at the National Convention as the top performer for the past year in the Blood Program in Category 2.

Minnesota donated 8,443 units of blood, said Terry Larson, chairman of the Department Blood Committee, at the Department Convention in July.

“We had a team effort, and even though we had a lot of things going on with COVID, Minnesota came through bigtime with its response for blood donors,” he said.

Secretary says VA’s job is to keep the nation’s promise to its veterans

McDonough says service of Afghanistan veterans matters

PHOENIX — All Americans are safer as a result of the sacrifice made by 13 servicemembers who died in an attack in Kabul, Afghanistan, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Denis McDonough said.

His comments came at the 102nd American Legion National Convention.

“What has happened in Afghanistan this past month has been incredibly painful for many of you,” McDonough said.

He talked about grueling demands of repeated deployments, the strength of soldiers recovering at Walter Reed and the grief of families at Dover AFB.

He said there is no way he or anyone can understand what Afghanistan veterans are going through unless they have been there, but he said he knows their service matters.

“We are the VA are here for you and our brothers and sisters in The American Legion are here for you,” McDonough said.

He talked about America being attacked Sept. 11, 2001, and the choice many young Americans made.

“They made a choice to run toward the fight, not away from



Secretary of the VA Denis McDonough addresses the National Convention on Tuesday, Aug. 31.

it, to serve our country, to protect and defend our freedoms, to fight for and alongside your fellow servicemembers, whatever may come.”

He gave his thanks to The American Legion and acknowledged its special relationship with the VA, one like no other service organization.

He quoted the longstanding promise the nation makes to its servicemembers: “If you take care of us. We will take care of you.”

The VA’s job is to keep that promise, he said. The American Legion has a difficult job to make sure the promise happens.

“There is no more noble mission, and no more sacred obligation,” McDonough said.

He told the story of Billy Hurley, a veteran and a bartender in Colorado. When the pandemic shut down his community, Billy was out of work

but soon fell behind on rent. Broomfield American Legion Post 11 paid his rent, and he felt a weight lifted from his shoulders. Soon enough, he found a job, too.

He thanked the Legion for its leadership during the pandemic. Legionnaires delivered masks, gave blood, hosted COVID testing sites, performed Buddy Checks on fellow veterans, collected food for their communities and helped veterans whether the storm.

VA employees, he said, ramped up telehealth, risked lives to be at work, hosted testing sites, gave shots to 3.7 million people.

“The American Legion and the VA rose to the occasion and we did it together,” he said.

McDonough grew up in Minnesota and acknowledged playing baseball for Bayport Post 491 in 1988.

New Hampshire veterans battle to keep Bible in POW/MIA display

PHOENIX — The recipient of the Philip B. Onderdonk Jr. Religious Liberty Award, presented by the First Liberty Institute, is the Northeast POW/MIA Network.

The award is named for a past national judge advocate who brought The American Legion and the First Liberty Institute together to protect high-profile veterans memorials from being torn down.

“It was almost 20 years ago when we realized that something was happening in the country,” said Kelly Shackelford, president of First Liberty Institute. “There were attacks on some of our monuments. First, it was the Ten Commandments. We realized that there would be attacks on our veterans memorials. This was just a sign of what’s coming.”

Among the memorials defended over the years was the Mojave Cross, a southwestern California tribute to World War I dead erected in 1934. In 2010, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 5-4 to keep the Latin cross in place. The ruling helped save many other veterans memorials, establishing that crosses, crescents and stars evoke more than merely religion and that government can acknowledge that religion has value to its citizens.

Other key places defended were the Mount Soledad National Veterans Memorial



David “Whiskers” Haskell of the Northeast POW/MIA Network accepts the Onderdonk Award, a gold-plated Henry Repeating rifle.

in La Jolla, Calif., to honor Korean War veterans, and the Bladensburg Peace Cross, erected in 1925 in Maryland just outside the District of Columbia by Gold Star mothers and The American Legion to honor 49 sons who died in World War I. The Bladensburg case also reached the Supreme Court and, two years ago, it ruled 7-2 to keep the memorial.

Justice Samuel Alito, writing for the majority, said: “Destroying or defacing the cross that has stood undisturbed for nearly a century would not be neutral and would not further the ideals of respect and tolerance embodied in the First Amendment.”

At the national convention, Shackelford presented Northeast POW/MIA Network President David Haskell with the

award, a gold-plated Henry Repeating rifle engraved with the image of a bald eagle, the Statue of Liberty and the Liberty Bell.

The network, along with North Conway Post 95 in New Hampshire, set up a POW-MIA missing man table at the VA hospital in Manchester. Two Air Force veterans in 2019 sued the hospital director, calling for the removal of the Bible. The VA’s lawyers argue the case should be dismissed.

“The man who donated the Bible was in a German prisoner of war camp for almost a year,” Shackelford said. “He said the Bible is what got him through that experience. He wanted to donate this Bible for this display.”

The Bible remains part of the display as the case continues

Minnesota instructors give tips and tricks for effective communication

PHOENIX — Three Minnesota Legionnaires gave classes on Monday, Aug. 30, at the 102nd National Convention.

Past 6th District Commander Paul Edwards gave one on writing resolutions. Past 8th District Commander Jennifer Havlick gave one on mentorship and Department Chaplain Kelley Adelsman spoke about volunteering and membership.

Paul Edwards

One way to improve resolution writing is to think of addressing any common problem in terms of resolutions. For his class, Edwards uses spilled coffee.

The title is a short description of what the resolution hopes to accomplish, who wrote it and when. The preamble, among other things, is a statement of the problem, with each statement starting with "WHEREAS" and with supporting statements. The resolved clause has who will accomplish each action, when and where. Edwards also goes through



Paul Edwards of Nisswa Post 627 teaches resolution-writing on Monday, Aug. 30.

the punctuation and style.

He asked the class members to provide input on each of those things regarding the spilled coffee. In his own resolution example, it wraps up with: "RESOLVED, that after ensuring that it is safe to do so, I will go to the coffee pot and pour myself a fresh cup of coffee."

Jennifer Havlick

Mentorship, she told her class, is a relationship built through an ongoing conversation.

"Be who you are. Be authentic," Havlick said.

She said many times she has asked Legion leaders to modify invites that say "suit and tie" to include women's clothing. She isn't afraid to be herself in the Legion, and people respect her more for that than if she shies away



Jennifer Havlick of Duluth Post 28 listens to a participant in her class on Monday, Aug. 30, at the National Convention.

from speaking her mind.

When bringing in new members, help them find their passion, then help them with what they want to do, she said.

She encouraged class members to praise other Legion members in public. If there is criticism, talk to that person in private. Public criticism embarrasses and alienates.

She also spoke about avoiding the



Kelley Adelsman of Pine Island Post 184 speaks while participants take notes on Monday, Aug. 30, at the convention in Phoenix.

vertical pronoun.

A person who says "I this, I that, I, I, I," comes off as self-centered and perhaps even selfish.

"Remove the I. Make it 'we.'"

Dept. of Minn. has new staff member

ST. PAUL — There's a new staff member at the Department of Minnesota.

Sarah Sturner Schlicht of Cottage Grove began July 26 as the VA&R benefits coordinator. She is an Air Force veteran and member of Hastings Post 47.

She said she is excited about her new position.

"I believe in the mission, and I want to help veterans," Schlicht said.

VA&R stands for Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, one of the Four Pillars of The American Legion. In her role, she compiles information from site visits for the Department VA&R Committee, prepares materials for conventions and conferences, submits American Legion accreditation

for Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs claims representatives, files national reports and sends out and receives Post Service Officer Reports, among other tasks.

Schlicht replaces Heather Larson, whose last

day was Aug. 3. She left to work for the St. Paul office of the federal Department of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Schlicht most recently worked in information technology for Allina Health. She has an MBA in project management from Post University out of Connecticut. Her civilian career has been in health-care information technology.

She attended Cretin-Durham High School. Her father is a retired colonel from the Minnesota National Guard, and he inspired her to join the Air Force. She served on active duty from 1993 to 1997 as a medic, and her permanent duty station was at Keesler AFB in Biloxi, Miss.

After active duty, she returned to Minnesota and joined the Air Force Reserve and was deployed to Balad Air Base in Iraq in 2007. She left the military in 2010.

She is married to Wayne Schlicht, and they have two sons, Gregory, 20, and Jeremy, 19.



Sarah Schlicht

Endorsement

Otto endorsed for dept. chaplain

ELLENDALE — Ellendale American Legion Fidelity Post 296 and the 1st District proudly endorse Larry H. Otto for Minnesota Department Chaplain 2022-2023.

Otto served in the U.S. Army from 1969 to 1971. He is a 50-year member of American Legion Post 296, having held most every office at his local post, as well as, a member of the honor guard.

Currently, he is post commander

and in his fourth year serving as 1st District chaplain.

Becoming the Minnesota department chaplain is an office he would be honored to hold. Otto said this has been the one department office of which he most desires to hold.

He and his wife, Emily, have been married 50 years. She is a 71-year member of the Auxiliary. They are deeply involved with Ellendale United Methodist Church.



Larry Otto

National American Legion recognizes Minnesota

PHOENIX — At the National Convention, the Department of Minnesota was acknowledged by then-National Commander Bill Oxford for winning the 100 Miles for Hope Breakout Challenge in Category 2.

The challenge was to see which state in each category could raise the most in the month of July. Minnesota raised \$5,000.

"We knew we wanted to support the Veterans & Children Foundation because it does such a great job in supporting service officers and disabled veterans," said Minnesota Commander Tom Fernlund in an interview with the National American Legion media team.

Categories allow similar-size departments to compete.

Charities

It had been two years since a national convention, and then-Commander Bill Oxford

summed up fundraising efforts for American Legion national-level charities.

For 2019-20, \$7,732,771 was raised. For 2020-21, the figure was \$14,785,145. The Legion year begins July 1.

The two-year total was \$22,517,916.

Oxford thanked the Legionnaires for their efforts.

Readers should note this does not include all the fundraising that goes on at the post, district and department levels, too.

Editor's comment: That would be quite an impressive number, though.

Other awards

Disabled Veterans Outreach Specialist of the Year: Trevor Wilson, Fort Collins, Colo.

Employer of the Year: TriWest Healthcare Alliance, Phoenix, Ariz.

Words not needed to get attention

Editor's note: Chaplain's Corner normally prints on Page 4, but a technology glitch interfered with its delivery. We are glad it still got in this issue.

What gets your attention? One day, when my daughter was not even 2, she took my cheeks in her little, itty-bitty hands directing my face to look squarely into her eyes. She inherently knew my attention was hers, if her and I were looking into each other's eyes.

This past year, at an American Legion event I witnessed this invitation to be seen wholly by others. The American Legion Auxiliary presented quilts to two veterans. The quilts were made with these two people in mind.

Each recipient military branch of service was on their quilt. The colors and design were chosen for the one they were going to give it to. The veterans had been thought about; prayed over and then fabric purchased was sewn into a warm blanket.

On the day of the event, the gifting entailed verbally sharing the veteran's attributes to all of us in attendance. While their character qualities and military service was being reflected upon by the speaker, others took the quilts and covered the



Chaplain's Corner

Kelley Adelsman

veterans with it.

Each person who wrapped these labors of love around the veteran looked them in the eyes with love and then hugged them with both arms. Many of us had tears in ours as we had been caught up in this sacred moment of genuine communal love for one another.

Words were not needed to evidence the moment; we all knew it. Those who received the quilts knew in their heart and minds that their sacrifices, sufferings, and hopes were seen and shared by us all.

Each of us has within us a yearning to be seen and loved just as we are. We carry in our souls and minds tragedies, joys, unrealized alongside unexpected dreams.

Each of us know, when we listen to that still small voice that there is room for deeper compassion for ourselves and others. Each of us also has within us a fear of being known, for if anyone knew our dark places deep in the crevices of our soul who would look into our eyes and extend grace, extend mercy?

For those who have served in

the United States Armed Forces, this is a cognitive reality. Those who have been in war, who have been harmed — know it within their whole body.

The quilt-giving event and my baby evidenced the promise and hope of our Creator to know that we are seen and invited to see others for who they are — created beings that occurred through flesh and bone human beings.

Long, long ago, our Creator had written down into our current sacred and holy writings the reminder that there is no place we can go that our Creator does not see us. We are known.

Let us pray: We know *You* see us, all of us, even the deeds and thoughts we wish didn't exist. We ask for *Your* hand of mercy to be upon us and may we be vessels of mercy to others. Amen.

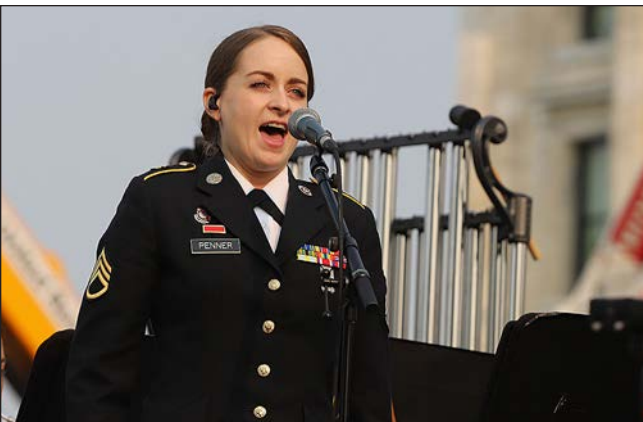
Kelley Adelsman is the chaplain for The American Legion Department of Minnesota.

AT THE ROMP



Department Commander Tom Fernlund swears in Minnesota American Legion Riders officers on Sept. 18 at the Romp at Legionville. From left are Assistant Director Garylee Davenport, Director Ted Berg and Secretary Jody Hassing.

Photo by Shawn Davis



Staff Sgt. Ava Penner with the 34th Infantry Division "Red Bull" Band sings "The Star-Spangled Banner" at the 9/11 Day of Remembrance at the State Capitol in St. Paul.



Ladder trucks from the Minneapolis and St. Paul fire departments hold a large American flag over the steps of the State Capitol on Sept. 11.



The St. Paul Police Department carried in the colors.



The Bloomington American Legion Post 550 and VFW Post 1296 Honor Guard was on hand to fire volleys.



The Minnesota Police Pipe Band provided Scottish bagpipes and drums.

9/11 remembered

Minnesota Dept. of Veterans Affairs holds state ceremony at Capitol



Officials on the stage salute the colors on Sept. 11. From left are emcee Tom Lyons of Minnesota Military Radio, Gov. Tim Walz, U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar, U.S. Sen. Tina Smith, U.S. Rep. Betty McCollum, retired CENTCOM Commander Gen. Joseph Votel, Minnesota Veterans Affairs Commissioner Larry Herke, Minnesota Public Safety Commissioner John Harrington, Ranger Ben Kopp's Gold Star mother Jill Stephenson (featured in the Legionnaire last month), Flight 93 hero Tom Burnett's daughter Mariah Jacobsen and Minnesota National Guard Chaplain Col. Dan Pulju.



Retired Gen. Joseph Votel addressed the crowd in attendance. The former CENTCOM commander said the Afghanistan veterans made a difference in Afghanistan, the Mideast and the world. Votel grew up on St. Paul's east side.



A sailor rings the Spirit of Minnesota bell on Sept. 11. The bell, cast by Verdin Bells & Clocks in November 2018, was rung each time after the name of a Minnesotan killed in the 9/11 attacks or the subsequent wars was read.



Minnesota American Legion and VFW Riders attended the 9/11 Day of Remembrance. Nationally, the American Legion Riders have raised over \$17 million for the Legacy Scholarship Fund, which provides full-tuition scholarships to children of post-9/11 veterans who were killed or wounded in combat.



Turnout for the 9/11 Day of Remembrance was not as strong as organizers had hoped.



Members of the Department National Security & Foreign Relations Committee read and rank submissions for the Outstanding Enlisted Awards on Friday, Sept. 17. The winners are announced at the Fall Conference in Mahanomen. (See Page 7.) People often are surprised at how much work goes into soliciting submissions and picking winners.



Members of the NS/FR Committee are joined later on Sept. 17 by members from the 10 districts in Minnesota, typically including district commanders, to begin the NS/FR Retreat. Here, on Sept. 18, 6th District Commander Jim Lucas and others are in a class at Camp Ripley to learn about the military presence in Minnesota.

National Security & Foreign Relations

The Minnesota Legionnaires spend a weekend at Camp Ripley



Warrant Officer 3 Shane Haugen, son of Moorhead Post 21's Tim Haugen, guides the group on a bus tour of Camp Ripley on Sept. 18.



On Sept. 18, Eugene Leifeld of the 3rd District visits the grave of Gen. John W. Vessey, the 10th chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He was from Minneapolis. Vessey retired in 1985 after serving 46 years on active duty. He died at age 94 in 2016.



If you haven't been to the committal hall of the Little Falls State Veterans Cemetery across the Mississippi River from Camp Ripley, you should go. Participants of the NS/FR Retreat enjoyed the artwork by Little Falls artist Charles Kapsner, who depicted the history of five military branches in his painting. His work was completed in 2019.



Eugene Leifeld, Mike Parry, Larry Pocrnich and Brad Pagel stand in front of a C-130 on Sept. 19 during the Camp Ripley Open House, which happens every two years.



Vernonica Fernlund and Karen O'Bar entertain children at the Minnesota American Legion booth at Camp Ripley Open House on Sept. 19.



NS/FR Committee Chairman Jim Kellogg, in red, grills ribeye steaks on Sept. 18 for participants in the retreat. Holding the plate is Gene Leifeld. In the background, Brad Pagel grills pieces of bread.



A tour of Camp Ripley on Sept. 18 went past the firing range. Soldiers these days fire from more positions than foxhole and prone. This one is leaning into a window.



Several NS/FR Retreat participants had their photo taken with the on-duty firefighters at the Camp Ripley Fire Department on Sept. 18. They are standing next to a command center truck that had a price tag of \$925,000. The fire department stands ready in case of an airplane crash, a base fire or to assist a nearby town with a blaze.

Play ball!

State baseball tournament images from the summer of 2021

Photos by Lou Michaels and Eric Sherman



A New Prague runner slides as an Eden Prairie baseman attempts to make the tag.



A Sacred Heart batter prepares to swing at the Div. II State Tournament.



Div. I Junior champions New Prague celebrate after defeating Eden Prairie 7-2 at Red Haddox Field in Bloomington.



Past National Commander Dan Ludwig awards the Tony Sipe Award for Outstanding Player in the Div. II State Tournament to Sacred Heart's Tyler Froland. He was 8 for 11 at bat, scored 6 runs, 3 doubles and 9 RBI.



Bloomington's Red Haddox Field hosted the Div. I Jr. All-Star Tournament the weekend after the Div. I State Tournament. Here a Gold team player checks with an umpire to see whether the Blue team runner is safe. Scouts like to come to the All-Star Tournament to see Minnesota's up-and-coming talent.



Sacred Heart won the Div. II Tournament by defeating Tri-Town 11-0. Tri-Town has players from the Atwater-Grove City-Cosmos district. Sacred Heart also was the host of the tournament.

Innovation Comes Standard

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Help for veterans and families



New Prague took home the hardware in the Div. I Junior State Tournament in Bloomington. Legion teams are generally based upon the school districts, which Legion calls a base area. This prevents the megateams often found in club leagues and makes games more competitive. Senior Legion Baseball is 19 down to 13, while Junior Legion Baseball is 17 down to 13. Images from the Div. I Tournament were in last month's issue.

Listening Post



On Aug. 24, the Minnesota Association of County Veterans Service Officers and Tonka Bay Marina joined forces to have legislative discussions on a boat ride to Big Island, site of the former veterans camp now owned by the city of Orono and kept as a park. From left are state Rep. Bob Dettmer, Jerry Kyser of Honor Flights Twin Cities and Blue Earth County Veterans Service Officer Mike McLaughlin.



Cruise photos by Greg Peterson
This table on the boat brought together Roseau County VSO Martin Howes, Benton County VSO George Fiedler, and SnowGlobe PR's Melanie Nelson, Anna Long and Kevin Olson.



Former state Rep. John Kriesel smiles for the camera. Many of the politicians and CVSOs on this page also are Legion members. Kriesel is a member of St. Paul Park Post 98.



Tonka Bay Marina owner Gabriel Jabbour, the former mayor of Orono, sits next to Alison Murphy, a member of the Tonka Bay Marina crew.



The day of the cruise turned out to be chillier than expected for August, but Vietnam veterans Glen Peterson and Bill Cochran weathered the unseasonable cold.



Past Department Commander Mark Dvorak, Alternate NECman Peggy Moon and NECman Bill Barbknecht stand backstage at the National Convention with Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey.



Alternate NECman Peggy Moon, left, and NECman Bill Barbknecht stand backstage at the National Convention with Minnesota's own Diane Carlson Evans, founder of the Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation.



Department Vice Commander Ray Eiden, left, and Minneapolis Falldin Post 555 Commander Donovan Ortel stand with Teresa Fenske, dean of students at Valley View Elementary School in Columbia Heights on Sept. 15. The post donated supplies to the school.



Thirteen crosses were posted outside Brewster Post 464 in tribute to the 13 servicemembers who died in the Aug. 26 terrorist attack in Kabul.



In the spirit of Americanism and youth, Eagan Post 594 donated and raised a new U.S. flag at the Eagan High School football stadium before the Eagan High School football game on Sept. 10. Members of the post also donated an additional flag for another sports facility.



Bob Anderson and George Boyer of Milaca Post 178 raise the flag at a Milaca High School football game.

Brad Pagel of Slayton Post 64 meets The American Legion's National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year at the Phoenix Convention Center. He is Daniel Martin of the Omaha Police Department. The Firefighter of the Year is Robert Nagle of Gallitzen, Pa.



Listening Post



Two Harbors Post 109 presents a \$1,000 check to the Two Harbors High School trap team. Presenting the check in a Legion uniform is Army Vietnam veteran Curt Gadacz, who serves on the Post 109 Honor Guard and as an instructor with the trap team. Receiving the check is trap team member Nathen Kleive, who completed Army basic training at Fort Sill, Okla., between his junior and senior years and already is in the Minnesota National Guard.



Woodbury Post 501 and VFW Post 9024 commissioned the building of a new flag disposal box at the Hastings Veterans Home. Here are Post 501 Commander Bob Dolan and member Dale Johnson, putting in the first old flag.



Olivia Post 186 Adjutant Harry Hawkinson is captured on camera as the Military Historic Vehicles Association 2021 convoy along the Yellowstone Trail from Aberdeen, S.D., to northeast Ohio goes through the 7th District in July. It stopped at Appleton Post 72, Montevideo Post 59 and Olivia Post 186. These images are from the stop in Olivia.



Fairmont Post 36's Jim Hardt, Pam Krill, Bob Altman, Ken Ringeisen and Doug Landsteiner present a check for \$6,387.50 to cover half the cost of lettering 122 veteran names and updating six donor names at the Martin County Veterans Memorial.



Melrose Post 101 took the fifth- and sixth-graders from Holy Family School in Freeport to Camp Ripley for a tour, including the Information Center and Minnesota Military and Veterans Museum. They even ate lunch with soldiers in the mess hall.



On Sept. 11, members of Ruthton Post 506, Ruthton Auxiliary Unit 506, Russell Post 460 and Tyler Post 185 jointly held an unserviceable flag ceremony. The ceremony was held at the bandshell park in downtown Tyler.



Fairmont Post 36 member David Manning, right, receives a 50-year certificate and pin from Adjutant Ken Ringeisen.

District commanders



1st District

Mike Parry



Greetings from the Mighty 1st District, So excited to see that the fall colors are starting to show. The sumac is showing signs of orange, gold and red. The fields have turned golden and are waiting for the harvest to begin. We invite you to southeast Minnesota for a weekend to view the changing of the colors. While you're here, enjoy visiting any of the 57 posts in the district.

is and his passion. I'm talking about Tim Engstrom, director of communications. He is always behind the camera and articles so I thought I'd share a photo of Engstrom working.

As you can see, he's always got a camera and a cellphone



camera in his hands.

There are a couple of things I want to share. The weekend of Sept. 17-19 brought the district commanders together for the American Legion National Security & Foreign Relations Retreat. The information received was well worth the time, and I'm sure your district commander will be sharing with you in person and through social media.

We also participated in the Camp Ripley Open House. It was so wonderful seeing so many families and kids having such a great time. I'm sure you'll be seeing pictures here in the Legionnaire and on the Department Facebook page.

I want to give a shout out to one guy that is all over the place, and I'm not sure we give him enough kudos. I, along, with all the others at the retreat got to spend time with him and get a better understanding of who he

Finally, I met a gentleman by the name of John Donovan during the Camp Ripley Open House. Donovan is a retired veteran. He's with the Recovery Community Network. It offers peer-to-peer recovery services.

I found our talk to be very interesting so I'm sharing the website with you. Check it out: www.recoverycommunitynetwork.com.



2nd District

Steve Fosness



Greetings from the Solid 2nd District. For God and Country, let's pray.

I would like to take a moment to say "thank you" to all of our veterans who have served or are serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. These past few weeks, with the rapid developments in Afghanistan and the final withdrawal of our military troops after 20 years of missions, I want to let every veteran and their families know that they are not alone in having mixed feeling and emotions. To all of you who have served, know your dedication, commitment and sacrifice did not go unnoticed.

I also want you to know the American Legion Family is here for you! Remember to participate in the Buddy Check. A crisis helpline is available 24/7 at 800-273-8255 or text 838255.

I was honored to represent the 2nd District at the National Convention in Phoenix. The training and committee breakouts were very helpful and educational. One very important thing for all members is to sign up with myLegion.org and verify your personal information and email address.



3rd District

Bob Hart



Raison d'être is a pretty French expression for "Reason for Being." For us, the reason for being is found in the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion. Few organizations can offer a more profound argument for their existence.

Even if read slowly, it only takes 55 seconds to reconfirm your commitment to the cause. Very likely you only need to hear the verbs to know their objects.

Uphold and defend, maintain, foster and perpetuate, preserve, inculcate, combat, make right, promote, safeguard and transmit, consecrate and sanctify. For 100 years, these are

the words that have bound us, one to another, across generations. These are the commitments we must hold dear as we head into another year of heated political discourse. These are the concepts that form the firm foundation of our Four Pillars. And these are the passions that provide the lifeblood of our American Legion.

So, if you are not saying the Preamble before each post meeting, perhaps you should reconsider. It might be the best 55 seconds of your day.



4th District

David Dahl



At the National Convention of the American Legion, held in Phoenix, I was proud to serve as a 4th District delegate. My first day was a daylong session for new district commanders. It was outstanding training, and I had the opportunity to meet directly with Paul Dillard, our new national commander. It's going to be an exciting year with his emphasis on reaching out directly to veterans and on youth programs.

In a recent "Commander's Message," Commander Paul Dillard wrote this: "The veterans suicide rate is shocking. Let's all work together to help our brothers and sisters find the help and resources they need."

Reaching out directly to veterans coincides with our observance of the 20th anniversary of 9/11 as well as dealing with the impacts of our hurried withdrawal from Afghanistan. It is even more important now that we renew our Buddy Check

programs and put some action into our suicide prevention programs. Let's not just have a month with emphasis on these programs. Let's do these programs every month! If you need help getting these programs moving at your post level, please reach out to me or to your area vice commander.

As to our youth programs, every member should find an activity which interest them and get active in service to that program. Here are just a few Legion programs which need volunteers: Oratorical Contest, Junior Shooting Sports, Boys and Girls State, Baseball (and soon Fastpitch Softball), Youth Cadet Law Enforcement and Scouting.

Still serving veterans and serving our communities!



5th District

Wade Larson



An American Legion pig roast spearheaded by Andy Keller of Richfield Post 435 is planned for noon Oct. 3 at Veterans Park Pavilion in Richfield. The price is \$29 a ticket. The city park is next to Post 435 at 66th and Portland.

We had a successful grill event with Every Third Saturday that our Patrick Novak Post 5222 spearheaded the food and

volunteering. Thank you to "Dufina" Mike Novak and Harry DeCrescenzo.

Join us for the Fall Conference at Shooting Star Casino on Oct. 21-23. I would like to bring a new person with me. Reach me wadealarson@yahoo.com.



6th District

Jim Lucas



Good morning, everyone. Well, we're halfway through September, and Legionville's Camporee is over, and it is time to get back to work. First I would like to thank Dave Doubrava for over 40 years of service of doing the 6th District Fish Fry. Thank you, Dave. Dewayne Collins from Brainerd will be taking over the Fish Fry. Good luck, Dewayne.

Well, I been working on the revitalization for the district, and it is going well. It is just a time-consuming thing to get ready. But we will be starting by end of this year on doing it. So be patient.

On Oct. 21-23 is Fall Conference, and it will be exciting. From what I understand, they will be having training on myLegion.org. Linda Dvorak and Jennifer Havlick are the smartest people I know on myLegion.org. So all post officers should be in attendance to learn something.

On Oct. 30, Department Vice Commander Carl Moon is having a Training Day at Park Rapids Post 212 on everything

we need to know, such as myLegion.org on membership and everything under the sun. It will be 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and, 9th District, you better show up. Your district commander and I have a bet going on which district will be on top on membership at the end of the year.

It is just like old times between 6th District and 9th District. Fancy restaurant in Bagley. It's an awesome place to eat.

Well, it's time to start finding those kids for the Oratorical Contest and Boys State and to get them started learning for what they need to know. Lets bring home the winners to the 6th District. Let's not turn any student down.

My Project this year is Homeless and Wounded Warriors in the town of Emily. They do great work for our servicemembers and their families. So, please, give to my project so we can support our brothers and sisters.



7th District

David "Chip" Manson



Hi, District 7! I feel very fortunate to have grown up in a small community that had an American Legion post. This Legion post was our community center, the place we could count on to help veterans and other community members, where memorial services and wedding receptions were held.

The Legionnaires hosted many community events — events like the annual Christmas party for the kids, movie events, treats for every child, Halloween parties, summer celebrations with a Legion booth, etc. and never failed to be involved in Post Everlasting ceremonies, leading local

parades, showing kids how to fold a flag, sponsoring Scouting programs, supporting Legion Baseball and other such programs. The list goes on.

Many posts talk about what they did in the years gone by; however, many of these posts are no longer the mainstay of the community. Some say patriotism is no longer a regular part of citizenship. The American Legion disagrees. We are still active and willing to support our communities. We just need to stand up and be there!



8th District

Larry Pocrnich



The 8th District will be having a fall meeting including the entire 8th District Legion Family on Oct. 9 at Keewatin Post 452. Lunch will be offered for \$12. Executive meetings for both the Legion and the Auxiliary will begin at 9 a.m. General session will begin jointly at 10 a.m. and break into separate sessions after lunch. We encourage each post, squadron and unit to participate at the district level so you're voices and ideas are heard.

The first USPS renewals have gone out for the entire Legion

Family so please encourage your members to renew their members as soon as possible.

If your post is interested in training of any kind please shoot us an email and we will be happy to work with your post on the most convenient time and place for the training. Emails can be sent to the district email address at eighthdistrictlegionmn@gmail.com.



9th District

Terry Buraas



The 102nd National Convention is done. The best was when Minnesota gave \$170,000-plus for the Legacy Scholarship Fund. We raised that money on the Minnesota Legacy Ride. We left everyone in the dust.

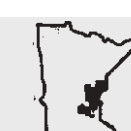
The closest donated \$95,000. If your post donated, thank you and keep up the good work. This is how the system works and produces for national programs. Many programs grow because of people donating to projects close to their heart.

Camporee at Legionville was well-attended and again I learned more about Boys and Girls State that I had not heard about. Yes, I knew that President Bill Clinton attended Boys State but what they do is a small part in teaching our children about how politics work and grow our democracy. I vote, but I don't follow how a candidate is selected or even

why he is selected. Posts should get behind this and send more students to this program.

This last weekend I attended the Departments National Security and Foreign Relations briefing at Camp Ripley. I knew that this program selected the military enlist awards that are given out at Fall Conference, but I had no idea what goes into the selections or the time involved in making the selections.

Eight awards are given out among the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard. These go-to Guard and Reserve components are serving from Minnesota. I may be 72, but I am still learning new things. God bless.



10th District

Daryl Harmon



Greetings from the Mighty 10th District!

We had a great time at Legionville during the Camporee. It was great seeing all of you. Lots of money was raised and donated to Legionville and Boys and Girls State. Congratulations. If you missed this event, you missed a great family weekend. I hope to see everyone next year!

Fall begins, and the next major events are Veterans Day and Fall Conference. Make a valiant effort to attend. I would like to ask all posts in the 10th district to please contact me to attend one of your

meetings or events. I am always eager to see all our posts.

My project this year is the Magnus Foundation in Dayton. We will have a major Legion event there this next spring. Watch my future letters. My motto is: "just one."

If each member of all three Legion families would get just one member for any of the groups, we would all grow.

Still serving, Daryl.





The Auxiliary Bulletin

No. 22 Vol. 3

President Patti Coleman • Secretary Marsha Bible, marsha@mnala.org

Dept. HQ: Veterans Service Building, St. Paul, MN 55155

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October 2021

We welcome President Kathy Daudistel to Minn.

President's Column

Patti Coleman



October is here along with the cooler temps and changing colors. I love the fall in Minnesota! I am a sweatshirt-and-jeans kind of person, so this is perfect weather.

The American Legion Auxiliary National Convention in Phoenix was a wonderful gathering of Legion Family members from across the nation. The accomplishments were astounding as the ALA celebrated our prolonged 100th anniversary and stepped off our second century of service.

What a celebration it was, complete with red, white and blue streamers and balloons falling from the ceiling of the convention center! Past Department President Mary Hendrickson, who was our delegation chairman, will present the Minnesota awards at our Fall Conference. I am so proud of our department.

Legionville Camporee was well-attended. The SAL Detachment of Minnesota, along with all their volunteers, worked tirelessly to put on a safe and fun family event. Kudos to the 1st, 10th, and 6th districts for continuing your traditions of providing meals throughout the weekend, with all the donations going directly back to Legionville, our one-of-a-kind safety patrol training camp.

I look forward to representing the American Legion Auxiliary on the Legionville Board this year, and I welcome the learning experience.

As we ramp up our activities, it is my hope that your unit has an approved operational budget for the year. Please consider the programs of our American Legion Auxiliary first when making your donations. We are the only entities who support our programs so please be generous. Our Gift Shop Committee is already planning a special holiday for our veterans in the VA healthcare system facilities and our Minnesota Veterans Homes.

We know visitors are still very limited, so the Gift Shop is evolving from what we have traditionally known, and they need our support.

I urge you to attend our Fall Conference to learn more about our program plans for this year, get ideas on how to execute our

mission, check out our Auxiliary Emergency Fund silent auction, meet our American Legion Family leaders, and participate in our fun membership entertainment!

Thursday evening, we will have presentations to assist us with our membership responsibilities and ALAMIS on the national website. ALAMIS stands for American Legion Auxiliary Management Information System.

Following that presentation, we will have guest speakers who can help us to understand military connected PTSD and give us tools and resources to assist in preventing veteran suicide.

American Legion Auxiliary National President Kathy Daudistel of Kentucky will be our special guest at Fall Conference. Kathy's theme for this year is "Caring For Those Who Care For Others."

Her focus is on caregivers, the unsung heroes, who are everywhere around us. This is National President Kathy's official visit to Minnesota. Please attend and help us give her a warm Minnesota welcome and let her know how much we appreciate her service to the American Legion Family. You don't want to miss this opportunity!

The Department of Minnesota is changing our annual reporting for this year. All units will be asked to complete the Unit Impact Report and submit it to the Department Office and your district by April 15 like we did for 2021, but for 2022 you will not have to complete reports for all the individual programs. We have a new procedure for entry for our department awards as well. Keep a look out for this information.

I am excited about the changes. Rest assured that we are following our governing documents as we are "Honoring Tradition - Evolving to Endure."

Patti Coleman of Lino Lakes Unit 566 is the president of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota.



Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary members stand on the stage, some lighted better than others, at the 100th National Convention in Phoenix.

Unconventional

Minnesota ALA attends 100th National Convention

PHOENIX — The 100th National Convention was Aug. 28 to Sept. 1 in Phoenix.

The convention ended with the election and installation of our 2021-2022 national officers. Minnesota was represented by 25 delegates, 11 alternates and three guests.

Departing National President Nicole Clapp of Iowa presided over the busy five days as the national chairmen gave their reports. Resolutions were considered and the newly elected and appointed officers were installed. Our congratulations to:

- National President: Kathy Daudistel, Kentucky
- National Vice President: Vickie Koutz, Indiana
- National Secretary: Coral May Grout, Massachusetts



Dee Dee Buckley

National Treasurer: Marybeth Revoir, Illinois

National Chaplain: Carol T Robinson, Ohio

National Historian: Carol G. Campbell, Virginia

National Vice President of the Northwestern Division: Dee Dee Buckley, Minnesota

National President Kathy has chosen as her theme: "Caring for Those Who Care For Others."

Department Secretary Marsha Bible said: "We need to let our own members know what great things this organization does for veterans, children and our communities."

Buckley elected NW Division VP

Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary Member Dee Dee Buckley, a member of Ben Krueger Unit 49 of Pequot Lakes, was elected at the National Convention

Leadership
Outstanding Department Award, Northwestern Division, Mary Kuperus, Dept. Chairman

Legislative
Outstanding Department Award, Northwestern Division, Patti Coleman, Dept. Chairman

Outstanding Unit Award, Northwestern Division, Hackensack Unit 202

Membership
Caring & Sharing Award, Hackensack Unit 202 received a \$25 Gift Card to Emblem Sales

Dorothy Pearl Best National Security Award
Outstanding Department Award, Northwestern Division, Dee Dee Buckley, Dept. Chairman

Unit Member of the Year
Engraved Plaque & Recognition at National Convention, Sharon Brandt, Elysian Unit 311

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation
Outstanding Department Award, Northwestern Division, Linda Kropuenske, Dept. Chairman

to serve as vice president of the Northwestern Division for the 2021-2022 year.

Buckley is a past department president and a longtime member of the American Legion Auxiliary. She has been active and involved in her unit, district and the department.

"Congratulations, Dee Dee!" Bible said. "We know you will make Minnesota proud."

Seuss re-elected to Junior role

It was announced that Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary Junior Member Emily Suess, a member of Monticello Unit 260, was re-elected to serve as the honorary Junior president for the Northwestern Division for the 2021-2022 year. Suess was elected by her peers in the Northwestern Division via electronic voting in July.

"Congratulations, Emily!" Bible said. "You continue to make all of us ALA members proud."

Poppy
Poppy Poster Contest, Northwestern Division, Class V (Grades 10-11) Morgan Schlangen, Cold Spring Unit 455

Outstanding Department Award, Northwestern Division, Sandy Wersal, Dept. Chairman

Appointments

National President Kathy Daudistel has appointed the following national appointments:

- Norma Tramm, National Americanism Chairman
- Raleen Tolzmann, Northwestern Division Junior Activities Chairman
- Mary Hendrickson, Northwestern Division Education Chairman
- Donna Barbknecht, Northwestern Division Girls Nation Chairman
- Peggy Tesdahl, Northwestern Division Legislative Chairman
- Carol Kottom, Northwestern Division Poppy Chairman
- Tamara Opland, Northwestern Division Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Chairman

National Awards

Minnesota proudly accepted the following National awards at the 2021 National Convention:

Americanism
Essay Contest Award: Northwestern Division Class I (Grades 3-4) Lorelai Aronson, Belle Plaine Unit 144

Essay Contest Award: NW Division Class V (Grades 11 & 12) Angie Yang, Walnut Grove Unit 143

Community Service
Outstanding Department Award, Northwestern Division, Diane Hayes, Dept. Chairman

Children & Youth
Outstanding Department Award, Northwestern Division, Robin Dorf, Dept. Chairman

Junior Activities
Outstanding Unit Award, Northwestern Division, Lino Lakes Unit 566

Department of Minnesota to offer scholarships

The Minnesota ALA will again offer eight \$1,000 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 scholarships are available to Minnesota Auxiliary members who are

furthering their education in any healthcare field.

Our national organization is again offering four national scholarships this year: Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship, Spirit of Youth Scholarship for Junior Members, Nontraditional Student Scholarship and Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship.

The American Legion also offers a

Legacy Scholarship. All of the forms will be in the next unit mailing and all will be 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.

Poppy orders now accepted

Orders for the 2021-2022 Poppies are now being accepted. A pink order form was in the first unit mailing. Prices are: small Poppies, \$25.00 per 100, and large poppies, \$18 per dozen.

The shipping and handling pricing has also changed so please only use the current form. We will ship the poppies according to the dates you enter on your form. We have a good supply on hand and can ship immediately.

Fall Conference Program

October 21-23, 2021
Shooting Star Casino
Mahnomen, Minnesota

See registration form on Page 7

Thursday, Oct. 21
10 a.m.-noon Finance
10 a.m.-5 p.m.
1-4 p.m. DEC
Silent Auction items can be taken to the Conference Center entrance Thursday morning. See AEF Chairman LuAnn Marschel or stop in the Department Office for instructions.

Thursday evening, Oct. 21 seminar
7-9 p.m. Membership Updates
ALAMIS & How it Can Help
PTSD, Veteran Suicide & How We Can Help:

Friday morning, Oct. 22
7 a.m. Processional rehearsal
7-5 p.m. Registration
8 a.m. Advancement of Colors
Processional of District Presidents

8:10 a.m. Call To Order
8:12 a.m. Invocation
8:15 a.m. Pledge of Allegiance
8:17 a.m. National Anthem
8:20 a.m. Preamble
8:23 a.m. POW/MIA Observance
8:30 a.m. Welcome to Mahnomen

8:50 a.m. Greetings
9 a.m. Welcome
9:05 a.m. Districts Presidents
9:10 a.m. Response
Program Reports:
9:15 a.m. Leadership
9:20 a.m. Children & Youth
9:25 a.m. Education
9:30 a.m. Community Service
9:35 a.m. Public Relations
9:40 a.m. Just Ask: a time for questions on the above programs
9:50 a.m. History
9:55 a.m. Memorial
10 a.m. Legislation
10:05 a.m. Constitution/Rules
10:15 a.m. Just Ask: a time for questions on the above programs
10:25 a.m. Finance
10:30 a.m. Audit
10:35 a.m. Americanism
10:40 a.m. National Security
10:45 a.m. Armed Forces Center
10:50 a.m. Poppy
10:55 a.m. Just Ask: a time for questions on the above programs
11:05 a.m. Parliamentarian
11:10 a.m. Remarks on SAL

11:20 a.m. Remarks on ALR
11:30 a.m. Membership
11:35 a.m. Just Ask: a time for questions on the above programs

11:45 a.m. Brain Science Foundation
11:50 a.m. American Legion Family Hospital Association
11:55 a.m. LIT Insurance
Noon Remarks
12:15 p.m. Announcements
12:20 p.m. Recess for lunch

Friday afternoon, Oct. 22
1:30 p.m. Session Reconvenes
1:30 p.m. Junior Activities
1:35 p.m. Honorary Jr. President
1:45 p.m. Past Presidents Parley
1:50 p.m. Presentation of Past Department and Dist. Guests
2 p.m. Past Presidents Response
2:30 p.m. Dist. Guest Response
2:50 p.m. Presentation
3 p.m. Recognition
3:10 p.m. VA&R
Service to Veterans
Gift Shop
3:05 p.m. Hospital & Home Reps
3:15 p.m. V4V Presentation
3:25 p.m. Just Ask, a time for questions on the above programs
3:30 p.m. Announcements
3:35 p.m. Recess
4 p.m. American Legion Family Hospital Meeting
5 p.m. Bidding closes on silent auction
6:15 p.m. American Legion Family Grand March

(All members of The American Legion Family may participate.)
After march Entertainment
(Cash bar and light refreshments available.)

Saturday, October 23
8:30 a.m. Salute to Colors
8:35 a.m. Invocation
8:40 a.m. Recognition
8:45 a.m. Legionville Report
8:50 a.m. Convention Corp. Report
8:55 a.m. National Awards
9:10 a.m. Poppy Contest Winners
9:25 a.m. Aux. Emergency Fund
9:35 a.m. Silent Auction Report
9:50 a.m. Remarks, TAL
10 a.m. ALA Girls State
Girls Nation Senators
10:20 a.m. Presentation of Fall Conference Chairmen & committee members
10:30 a.m. Recognition of Conference Appointees
A Kaleidoscope of Membership Fun
11:30 a.m. Closing Remarks
11:35 a.m. Announcements
11:40 a.m. Benediction
11:45 a.m. Retirement of Colors
*Program subject to change

Don't miss the fun at the 2021 Fall Conference

MAHNOMEN — The Fall Conference will be Oct. 21-23 in Mahnomen, hosted by the Detroit Lakes American Legion Family 15. See the registration on Page 7 and the ALA program on Page 23. We have a lot of information packed into these three short days for units to partake of.

A reminder to all that we will once again be holding our silent auction on Friday at Fall Conference. There will be something for everyone to bid on and a few items to purchase as well. Please bring your donations for the auction Thursday and first thing Friday morning to the conference area hallway. Proceeds will go to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund.

We need everyone's support for this most important program. Our conference wouldn't be complete without our Poppy Contests on Friday. Deadline for entries to be on the Poppy

Table on Friday, Oct. 22 is 10 a.m. There will be two contests this year: a Poppy Centerpiece Contest and a Poppy Awareness Poster. We will offer first, second and third place prizes as well as having People's Choice voting. Votes are \$1 with proceeds going to the President's Project. Friday evening will once again have our Grand March which showcases Department Officers and our special National guests. It will be followed by entertainment by the 9th District Band. Please bring as many memberships as you can to Fall Conference. Membership Chairman Linda Kelly and the 10 District membership chairmen have some membership fun planned for Saturday morning. All membership turned in by 1 p.m. on Friday will be counted in Saturday morning's report. You won't want to miss it!

Endorsement

Walker endorsed for NEC

American Legion Auxiliary Warren Unit 27 and the 9th District Executive Committee proudly endorses Jean Walker for National Executive Committee for the years 2022-2024.

She has been an active member of Warren Unit 27 for 28 years. Her eligibility is through her late father, Joseph Penk, a World War II veteran.

At the unit and district levels, she has held many positions including president.

On the department level, Walker has served as chairman for Memory Book, Americanism, Leadership, Girls State, Membership, VA&R and Legislation. She was department president in 2018-19 and is currently the alternate NEC.

With the NW Division, she was Auxiliary Emergency Fund and Education chairman.

Walker has been involved with Relay for Life, Meals on Wheels, Warren Senior Citizens Club and the General Federation of Women's Club, where she was state president.

Walker and her husband, John, have been married for 29 years and live in Warren. They have one son, Michael, daughter-in-law, Heather, granddaughter Arietta and a grandson, Bennett. All are members of the American Legion Family. Jean is retired.



Jean Walker

How well do you know your local newspaper?

By Linda Kelly
Membership Chairman

Happy fall! Membership notices are out, and I have heard from several units that they are getting memberships in.

Don't forget to get them into the Department Office. We made a small gain with the last national report. We went from 46th out of 52 Departments to 39th.

We are headed in the right direction and with the notices out now, I hope we keep moving up the line.

Getting the American Legion Family name out there is important, and there are many ways to accomplish that. Hopefully, your American Legion Family has a Facebook page where you can post information about membership, events going on, or news about your family. If not, I suggest you find someone in your organization to start one and keep the information current.

Check out your local newspapers. What are their rules

Membership as of Sept. 22

DISTRICT	# of Units	Goal	Period Gain	Membership To Date	Percent of Goal	Membership Last Year	Difference from Last Year
One	48	3,802	79	394	10.36%	380	-14
Two	72	3,745	18	390	10.41%	489	99
Three	46	3,671	54	442	12.04%	495	53
Four	7	563	37	120	21.31%	81	-39
Five	7	509	7	42	8.25%	70	28
Six	62	4,855	49	754	15.53%	941	187
Seven	60	2,970	80	329	11.08%	313	-16
Eight	25	1,214	17	161	13.26%	214	53
Nine	49	3,239	203	528	16.30%	350	-178
Ten	44	3,765	71	484	12.86%	541	57
1982 Dept	1	203	5	47	23.15%	74	27
District Totals:	421	28,536	620	3,691	12.93%	3,948	257

Group 1 (Even) Sharon Thiemecke	210	14,142	192	1,909	13.50%	2,266	357
Group 2 (Odd) Mary Kuperus	210	14,191	423	1,735	12.23%	1,608	-127

RANKINGS									
1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
21.31%	16.30%	15.53%	13.26%	12.86%	12.04%	11.08%	10.41%	10.36%	8.25%
District 4	District 9	District 6	District 8	District 10	District 3	District 7	District 2	District 1	District 5

regarding letters to the editor? Do they allow submission of press releases?

Do they have an events calendar and what events do they allow?

Small and large newspapers have writers looking for human interest stories. Contact your local reporter and visit with them to see what they have to

offer.

All of these are ways to get our name out there, what we do and why we matter.

Some newspapers provide these free of charge and who doesn't like free publicity. Keep in mind that they are a business and if they are helping you get our name out there, try to run an ad when you have an upcoming

event.

Thank you to all district and unit membership chairmen. Remember, membership is not a one-person job. It is the job of all of us.

Keep an application with you at all times — you never know when you may need one. I hope to see many of you at Fall Conference in Mahnomen.

Oct. is Constitution and Standing Rules Month

By Carol Kottom
Constitution/Standing Rules Chairman

Webster defines Constitution as "a body of fundamental principles or established precedents according to which a state or other organization is acknowledged to be governed." Bylaws as "a rule made by a company or society to control the actions of its members."

Standing Rules are defined "the rules of a society or organization for details of its government that are created by a majority vote and remain in force until repealed or annulled by a majority vote."

Robert's Rules say, "the constitution or the bylaws — or both — of a society are the documents that contain its own basic rules relating principally to itself as an organization, rather than to the parliamentary procedure that it follows."

You can see the definitions pretty much agree. Are you familiar with the constitutions or the bylaws of our organization? From the unit level to the national level? Read them all and do your best to understand what you read. Feel free to ask questions and talk through them at your meetings.

Standing rules are the most versatile. This set of rules relate to the details of the administration rather than to parliamentary procedure. In accordance with Robert's Rules, these can be adopted or changed upon the same condition as any ordinary act.

You can adopt a standing rule by majority vote without prior notification. You may suspend a rule when its application is in context of a meeting at any particular session. But the suspension does not pertain to future sessions. Rules that have any application outside a meeting context, cannot be suspended.



SIGN UP FOR THE 2022 DEPARTMENT CALENDAR!



You get all the important dates for the Minnesota American Legion, Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion and American Legion Riders — in one place.

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Name _____
 Address _____
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And mail to:
 Minnesota American Legion Foundation
 Attn: Fund 85
 20 W. 12th St. Room 300A
 St. Paul, MN 55437

MONUMENTAL PROJECT



Waconia Post 150 is spearheading an effort to fully restore monuments in Waconia City Square Park. Above is the Civil War cannon, manufactured in 1846 and obtained in 1897 from the U.S. government. Post 150 1st Vice Commander Joe Gifford says other monuments being restored are a Civil War Soldier Monument, left, dedicated in 1892 to recognize 559 soldiers from Carver County who died in the war, and a World War I Monument, installed in the 1920s and dedicated in 1929 to recognize 122 Carver County veterans who fought in World War I.



Are you the son of a veteran? Maybe you are a veteran *and* the son or grandson of one? Either way, join your local Sons of the American Legion.

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