



Fall Conference a little different this year

Skit encourages conversation on Legion post meetings

Fall Conference attendees got to see a skit that parodied an actual Legion post meeting, and illustrated what can go wrong.

In the skit, done by the Mighty Legion Art Players, the treatment of women and younger vets, drinking at meetings, lack of following parliamentary procedure, and other no-nos were humorously displayed.

The discussion afterwards featured about 20 Legionnaires giving their thoughts on meetings and the Legion in general.

"A veteran is a veteran is a veteran," Past National Commander Dan Ludwig said. "If you seek out younger veterans, treat them as equals, explain the value of our organization, they will stay and become leaders."

Ludwig said that posts that are hostile or indifferent to new faces will die. "The younger veteran doesn't have time for that. We need to embrace them all. They need us and we need them."

Continued on Page 2

Medical marijuana gets a close look from state agency

Minnesota has had legal cannabis for several years for medical purposes.

Dr. Tom Arneson of the Minnesota Department of Health told the Fall Conference on how the state is monitoring the effects of the legal pot, including its ability to treat the symptoms of PTSD.

Arneson noted that Minnesota has a relatively restrictive medical marijuana law, including the provision that no cannabis can be purchased that can be smoked. Only highly processed liquid forms of the drug can be bought at the eight medical marijuana stores in the state.

Arneson said the law also required that the legal pot's usage and effectiveness be tracked and reported. "There is a tide sweeping across the country to legalize cannabis. But

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Historic Bridge still hot topic at Minnesota Vets Homes

A historic bridge on the west side of the Minnesota Veterans Home in Minneapolis has become a historic mess.

The bridge, built in the 1800s and protected as a historic structure, has been closed since 2014. This past year, the Minnesota Legislature approved \$7 million to fix the bridge, but the project has run into several roadblocks.

Mike McElhiney, the chief of staff for the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs, gave a lengthy rundown at the Fall Conference on what's new at the MDVA. Part of his report was on the bridge.

The bridge is essential, he said, because it provides a

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BUT WE'VE ALWAYS DONE IT THAT WAY -- Commander Darrel Redepenning was one of the Mighty Legion Art Players who did a skit at Fall Conference at Marshall on the worst way to run a Legion meeting.

DEC almost abolishes flag committee

What appeared as a routine resolution to abolish a committee ran into a roadblock at the Fall Conference Department Executive Committee in October.

In fact the vote had already been taken on a measure to retire the Citizens Flag Alliance Committee when it was noted that there had not been a chance to have a discussion.

National Executive Committee Member Marland Ronning rose and said rather than abolish the committee it should just be set aside for now without appointing anyone to fill the one member slot on the committee.

Past National Commander Dan Ludwig addressed the DEC and gave a history lesson on the status of the Citizens Flag Alliance nationally. "It was very active during the 1990s. Although of late it hasn't been that active."

Ludwig said the Legion effort was to encourage Congress to approve a constitutional amendment to be sent to the states to make physical desecration of the flag illegal.

The effort came within a couple of votes in the Senate a couple of times, but never quite succeeded.

In recent years, Ludwig said, the Flag Amendment has not been a front burner issue.

"I agree that we should just leave it vacant for now. The day may come when it becomes a front burner issue as we seek the Flag Amendment again."

Department Adjutant Randy Tesdahl said he had no problem with just vacating the committee rather than abol-

ishing it, but he noted that continuing the committee means that it will still have to be carried on the rolls.

Tesdahl said that the Citizens Flag Alliance is only one of several committees that are being looked at as candidates for elimination or consolidation.

Commander Darrel Redepenning agreed, and said that there had been an informal meeting of past Department Commanders on ways for the organization to move forward, and that eliminating some committees was part of the discussion.

"What we need is for people to be truly engaged in our committees," Redepenning said.

A new vote on abolishing the committee was taken and the motion was defeated unanimously.

In other business, the executive committee: -- Elected Carroll Partridge of Oakdale to the Board of Publications.

Approved the budget for the coming year as presented by the Finance Committee. Total income for the year was projected as \$1.33 million and projected expense \$1.31, or a \$20,000 expected surplus. Robin Picracy, Finance Chairman, said that employee salaries and national convention expenses were two areas of increase. Other line item increases were an increase of \$4,000 in the Executive Committee Fund, and an \$11,000 increase in the membership fund.

Legion Christmas outing with U of M hoops Dec. 21

The annual Legion Night with the Gophers will be Dec. 21 at Williams Arena.

Discounted tickets are \$15 and up.

The Gophers men's basketball team will host North Carolina A&T in a game at 7 p.m.

Enter the link below in your browser: Or call

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Jacob at 612-626-1592, gilbertj@umn.edu.

Waite Park Post 428 Color Guard will present the colors for the national anthem at the game.



Legion HQ now a secure area

The American Legion Headquarters and the Auxiliary Headquarters on the third floor of the Veterans Service Building at the Capitol are now accessible only by key card.

Those wishing access to the Legion spaces should call 651-291-1800 so they can be met in the lobby area of the building.

The Auxiliary can be reached at 651-224-7634.

DAV and VFW Auxy are also not accessible.

Flying Corsairs in two wars Pages 10-12



Endorsements

Jass runs for Dept. Chaplain

Betty M. Jass has been endorsed by Benjamin A. Remmele, Post 7, Sleepy Eye, MN and The American Legion Rider Group, Post 132, New Ulm, for Minnesota Department Chaplain for 2019-2020.

Jass has been a PUFL member for over 22 years and is the current 2nd District National Security/Foreign Relations Chairman, Sleepy Eye Post 7 Adjutant and Secretary for Post 132 Legion Riders.

Member of the Sleepy Eye Honor Guard for 15 years.

She was honorably discharged after 22 years in the United States Air Force as a jet engine mechanic and aircraft troubleshooter.

She has served as 2nd & 3rd Vice-Commander at Sleepy Eye Post 7.

2nd District: Vice-Commander 2015-2016, 2016-2017, Historian 2017-2018. Selected to perform Sgt-at-Arms duty for the 2017 New Ulm Legion

Riders Post #132 member for 4 years.

Jass has been directly involved with the 2nd District and MN Department Legacy Scholarship Fund rides for 3 years. She has been a National Legacy Run Supporter for 2 years.

Voyager Member of the Mankato 40/8 for the last 2 years.



BETTY JASS

Skillestad runs for Sgt. at Arms

Richard Skillestad has been endorsed by the Eyota Post 551 and 1st District for Department Sergeant at Arms for 2019-20.

Skillestad has served the Eyota Post 551 as Commander, 1st Vice Commander, 2nd Vice, Chaplain, Service Officer, Legion baseball coach. He is currently the Service officer, Color Guard member and serves on the Executive board. In addition, he has held the office of Olmsted

County Commander and Chaplain.

He has held various positions at the District level that includes Commander, 1st Vice Commander, Chaplain, Historian, and Law & Order Chairman. He is currently the Sgt. at Arms.

At the Department level, he has been 1st & 3rd Vice Commander, Blood chairman and served on the Executive board.

He is a member of the 40

& 8 Voiture 327, Life member of DAV, Sons of Norway. Richard has been a Legion PUFL member for 42 years.

His military experience was in the US Army from 1966 - 1968 stationed in West Germany as a member of the 3rd Cavalry.

He had been married to the late Lavonne Skillestad for 50 years. He is currently retired from US Postal Service after 33 years.



RICHARD SKILLESTAD

Historic bridge still a project in Minneapolis

Continued from Page 1
second entry to the veterans home for emergency vehicles. At present, there is only one route into the campus, and if that way is blocked, there is potential for disaster.

The state tried to fix the bridge in 2014, but, he said, "They welded 2014 steel to 1800s steel and it didn't work. It didn't pass inspection."

A new problem on this go round is that the approach spans to the historic bridge have been deemed non viable, and need to be replaced. "A plan is to lift the bridge up, tear out the old approach spans, and build new ones."

McElhiney said there is some concern that lifting the bridge could damage it.

Adjutant Randy Tesdahl asked if there was any way to get the bridge off the Minnesota Historical Society's list of historic sites. "There's got to be a way. It would be the common sense thing to do, especially in light of the safety issues."

Adding to the problems, McElhiney said, is that

there's an endangered plant that grows under the bridge, and that may force the state to do the work in the winter time when the plant won't be disturbed.

McElhiney said if all went well, it's possible the bridge could be opened by the summer of 2020.

Other items McElhiney reported on included:

-- With much of the infrastructure work done at the homes, the MDVA is now looking to improve how the homes are run. One area is to speed up the process of getting a veteran a bed at the homes when one opens up. Another is to lower the high rate of turnover in nursing assistants. He said the assistants can now achieve tenure and pay raises.

-- The MDVA working with the three new veterans homes sites, approved by the Legislature this year for Bemidji, Preston and Montevideo. Each home will provide 72 beds. About 65 percent of the cost of creating the new homes will be borne by the federal government. He said that the Minnesota Department of



MIKE McELHINEY

Health will be setting the standards for the new homes.

-- A new veterans cemetery will be opened in Duluth this year, with a dedication next Memorial Day. It will be the third in the state. A fourth cemetery is being planned for the Redwood Falls area.

-- There are 236 homeless vets in the state, at last count, and the MDVA is continuing its effort to end "functional" homelessness. He said that thus far 1,533 homeless veterans have been housed.

Skit generates discussion

Continued from Page 1
Several attendees said that the Legion was making stronger efforts at the community colleges and the state armories to find younger members.

Tess Davis said the Legion should rethink what it does at membership rallies. "That's where we should be painting a veteran's house or raking their yard - instead of introduc-

ing ourselves to everybody we already know."

Karen O'Bar, commander of Bertha Post 366, said she was grateful for Legion mentors who helped her along the way, but she said too many still treat women as second-class Legionnaires. "Don't put me in that category, or I'm out the door, and I'm the commander."

O'Bar said the Legion

can't afford to lose the talents of its women veterans. "When they get involved, they're all in."

Another Legionnaire asked why men are not allowed in the Auxiliary.

Al Lund told of how a meeting of veterans was called at a local technical college campus where over 300 veterans attend, and only two showed up for the meeting.

Hastings administrator hired

Michael Anderson has been hired by the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs as the new administrator at the Minnesota Veterans Home at Hastings.

Anderson previously was the director at the Frazee Care Center. He has seven years experience in the health care field.

He and his wife, Allysa and two boys have relocated from the Perham area.

Hastings is one of five veterans homes in Minnesota. The system is run by the MDVA.

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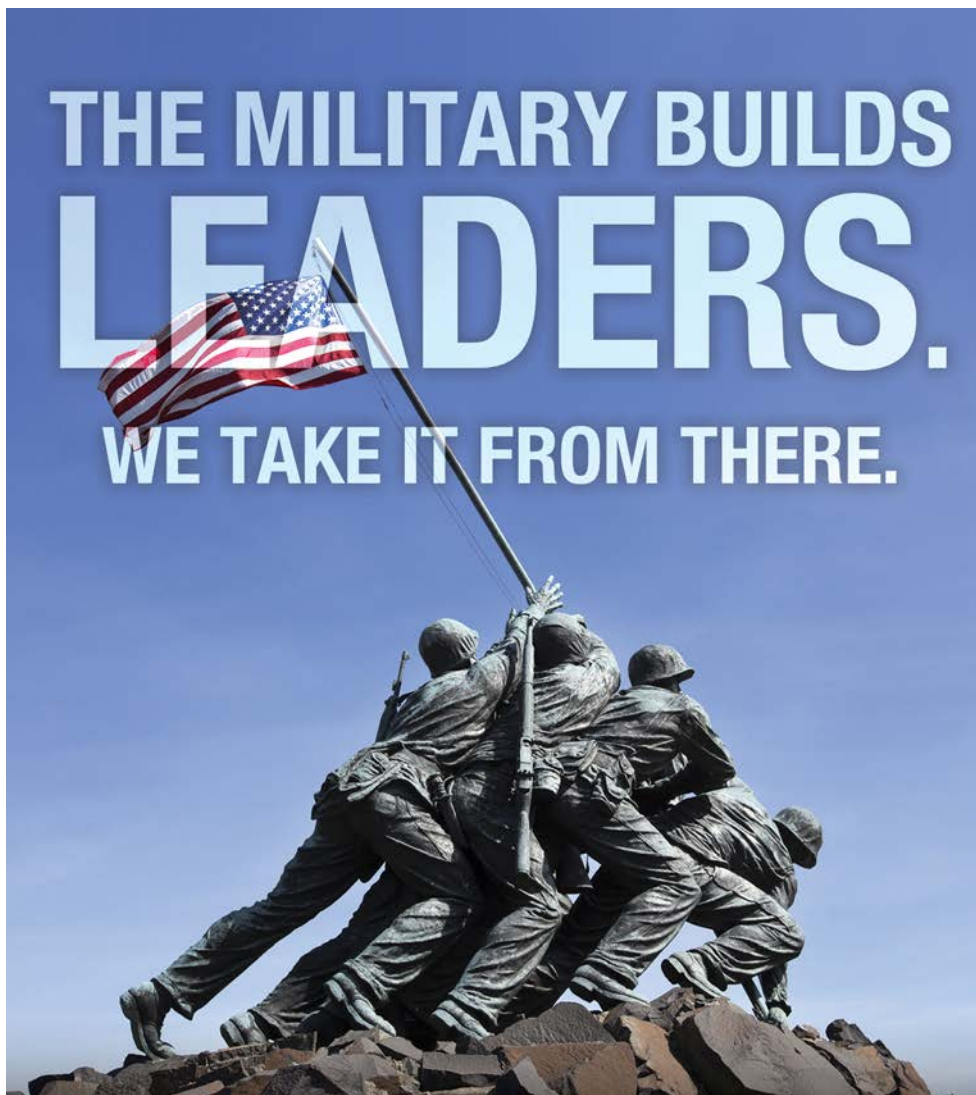
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COMMANDER'S COLUMN

By Darrel Redepinning



Greetings Legion Family,
 At the time of this writing I've just returned home from our Department Fall Conference in Marshall. What a great turnout of so many of our Legion Family members. Fall Conference has historically been our educational conference and this year was no exception. We tried hard to mix things up with timely topics; program updates and even a little humor (ask attendees about the Legion Arts Actors skit, "We've always done it this way"). Once again Marshall Post 113 were fantastic hosts and our thanks go out to them for another great Legion Family get-together.
 With a busy October behind us, we turn our attention to a very important time for all veterans, Election Day and Veterans Day. Our right to vote is the envy of so many countries in the world. We as veterans swore to defend this basic right and have seen the loss of many of our brothers and sisters lives in the process. We are duty bound to assure

that their lives weren't lost in vain. Not only should we vote, but we should also be examples to all others to do the same. Wear your Legion caps or veteran caps when you go to the polls. Be proud that you are a defender of this basic American right. Continue to make a difference and vote.
 Then on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month we recognize the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day, which brought an end to WWI, "The war to end all wars." Unfortunately that prediction didn't turn out to be true. Later the name changed to Veterans Day, a time to remember all those that came to the aid of their country. And especially for those that died and made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. If you're not a participant in a Veterans Day observance, please try to attend one. Then by all means take advantage of the numerous discounts and offers many businesses extend to us to commemorate this day. It hasn't always been that way. As a Vietnam era veteran, it is an especially refreshing change. Graciously accept their thanks and also be sure to thank one another. From me to all of you, thank you for your service.

Later in November, we continue to give thanks as we celebrate Thanksgiving. A time to spend with family and give thanks for all the freedoms we enjoy in this country. I remember all too well when I was in the Army and not being able to make it home for Thanksgiving. The holiday that was mostly about eating turkey and pumpkin pie was never truly appreciated in my youth. Then later became one of the most difficult times to be away from home. I was fortunate to make it home every Christmas but not Thanksgiving. Ever since then Thanksgiving has held a whole new meaning for me. Enjoy your families and be thankful for everything you've got, you helped assure it.
 Happy Thanksgiving.

Chaplain's Corner

By Bonnie Hanson



Hello as I sit here at the PT Rehab home in Maple Plain after my hip surgery I see the first hint of winter -- ugh. But again, we live in Minnesota and we have the four seasons. I am here with many people that have prayed for each other during these times.

One of the spiritual objectives of the "Service To God and Country" program goes in hand with the second. It is the religious training of children. The child who is made aware of God and is trained in the principles of their faith, will grow to appreciate, understand and respect more fully such principles as law, government and justice. If children today do not become imbued with the truth of the Supreme authority of God, then they cannot be expected to seek God's Divine Counsel and throughout life.

"It's hard to believe in God if our parents don't," wrote a seventh-grade boy. This puts parents on the spot. They pride themselves on conscientious parents, but if the religious training of their children is left to chance, they are not being fair to them.

Legionnaires are called to make parents more aware of their responsibility. While youth must be taught and knowledge that is rightfully theirs through the inheritance of the human race; while they must be taught how to use this knowledge in the thinking process of their day, and while they must be helped to master the skills and tools that will give them their daily bread, the greatest duty required of parents is production in the individuals of qualities that will give them character to take their place among the masses. That can best be accomplished through religious training.

"Service To God and Country" embraces every aspect of our American way of life. Not only must we prevent the spiritual decay of America, but we must charge our citizens with a spirit of positive Americanism, with respect for law, reverence for authority and awareness of our human rights and freedom. The Legionnaire by his/her service to our country is involved as an individual with the Community and the Nation.

NOVEMBER IS A THANKFUL TIME

November's caravan arrives in color bright and gay.
 With leaves swirling to and fro. Against a sky turning gray.
 Asters, mums and marigolds are prominently displayed. Throughout Autumn's tapestry in shades of marmalade. November is a thankful time for every heart is blessed as we celebrate the harvest when Nature's at her best.
 The dignity of human labor is proudly on display As people come together for prayer Thanksgiving Day.
 As we pause to count our blessings, We feel God's presence there, For November's a thankful time We consecrate with prayer.
 -- Clay Harrison

A prayer for Thanksgiving:

Our Father, we come to You as your children, to offer our adoration and thanksgiving. We ask your blessing upon our Country and all our fellow citizens. In particular we beg Your blessing for the American Legion, the Auxiliary, the SAL and the Legion Riders; may we serve You and or fellow men/women in faith and charity. For Your Name's sake. Amen

Mail Call

Lost its meaning

To the Editor:

I agree with Mr Collier, "Flying the American Flag", Legion magazine, October, 2018. Most every day I drive by business and government locations that fly the American Flag. Too frequently one or the other location will display the flag at half-staff and the other will be displaying the flag full staff, the same day. Some people are certainly uninformed, confused, ignorant or worse, not concerned. I've been around since the 40's and it seems the significance of displaying the flag at half-staff has lost the original meaning as Mr. Collier stated. We have to return to the strong conservative values, strong military and love of country that were deliberately ignored during the previous administration.

**David L. Tollefson
 Farmington**

Legion shouldn't be partisan

To the Editor:

This is in response to letter to the editor from Bret R. Collier in the October 2018 Legionnaire titled Flying the American Flag. First let me be very clear that I fully support a reduction in the number of times the flag is lowered to half staff. However, what I take issue with is that this paper is allowing a partisan tribal attitude to be published in it. You had better open your eyes and you will realize that Wisconsin has a very conservative governor in Scott Walker and he is lowering the flag to half staff as much or more than Governor Dayton. Both, political parties are doing it to claim that they are more patriotic.

This is from the need to make people feel good about something after 9/11.

The American Legion is not a partisan political organization and we need to do a better job of curbing the use of this paper for partisan political attacks. There is no organization positioned better than The American Legion to take the lead in bringing this country back together as one nation, not the two tribes that cannot even talk civil to one another today.

In closing, if you are blaming either the conservative Republicans or the liberal Democrats for the problems of this country, then you are part of the problem. We all love this country especially those of us that have served it in uniform. If that flag belongs to anyone, it is the men that others like me and myself carried from the battlefields of this nation that returned home under that flag or are resting in the cemeteries of Europe.

**Arlyn Frauenkron
 Houston**

The governor's rights

To the Editor:

In the October issue of the Legionnaire, in the Mail Call segment titled "Flying the American Flag", I also always thought it was a bit odd that the Governor could make such a declaration. However, looking through the Title 4 Flag Code, Sub Section 7 m, it does, generally, grant the Governor of a state, or the Mayor of Washington D.C. the right to order half staffing of the Flag "in the event of the death of a present or former official of the government".

Technically I'd say that Police Officers, Fire Fighters, and Correctional Officers among other vocations can be considered government officials as they are employed by cities, counties, or the state and typically work daily under life threatening conditions. Under the Governors declaration however, it is only required to fly the Flag at half staff on Federal buildings if the event was related to the death of a member of the Armed Forces.

" In the event of the death of a present or former official of the government of any State, territory, or possession of the United States or the death of a member of the Armed Forces from any State, territory, or possession who dies while serving on active duty, the Governor of that State, territory, or possession may proclaim that the National flag shall be flown at half-staff and the same authority is provided to the Mayor of the District of Columbia with respect to present or former officials of the District of Columbia and members of the Armed Forces from the District of Columbia. When the Governor of a State, territory, or possession, or the Mayor of the District of Columbia, issues a proclamation under the preceding sentence that the National flag be flown at half-staff in that State, territory, or possession or in the District of Columbia because of the death of a member of the Armed Forces, the National flag flown at any Federal installation or facility in the area covered by that proclamation shall be flown at half-staff consistent with that proclamation."

I may be wrong, I've been wrong more than once in my lifetime, just ask my wife or kids, but this is how I see it for now.

**Bill Byrnes
 Brooklyn Center**

Korean War vets not forgotten

To the Editor:

The Korean War veterans of Minnesota are not forgotten, thanks to Dr. Byong Moon Kim of Shoreview. The Kim family hosted the 15th Annual Appreciation Day Picnic and Program in honor of President Harry S. Truman and Korean War service members on Saturday, September 8 at the Long Lake Regional Park in New Brighton.

A special tribute was made to Sgt. Gerald J. Mueller, an MIA (1951) and Major Arthur Bonifas KIA (1976) who was killed along with Lt. Mark Barrett by North Korean soldiers while cutting the tree at the "bridge of no return," as we called it.

Approximately 300 veterans and family members attended this special event, and both American and Korean food was served.

Thanks to Dr. Byong Moon Kim, the Korean veterans are not forgotten. With sincere appreciation,

**Kenneth L. Koester
 Effie, Minnesota**

Legionnaire

The Minnesota

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Al Zdon, Editor

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What's Happening

Brewster vets dinner

A veterans supper and program will be held Sunday, Nov. 11, starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Brewster Post 464 hosted by the Nobles County Council. Everyone is welcome.

Give to Legionville

Give to the Max Day in Minnesota will be Nov. 15. One of the organizations you can donate to is Legionville. To do so, go to givemn.org/giving-events/gtmd18 or just search for Give to the Max Day 18.

On the main page, click on "donate now." On the next page search for Legionville. Then click on the Legionville icon.

Legionville is the only full-service camp in the United States that provides training for school safety patrol. The camp had to be closed last year because of a bog. It will reopen in 2019.

Veterans Day at Cambridge

Cambridge Post 290 will host an event at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 11. Lunch will be served. A raffle will be held and honors will be paid to Howard McCarty, the namesake of the post who was killed in World War II. For more information, call Al at 763-645-1155.

Austin Film Festival

The World War I Armistice Centennial Film Festival will be held Saturday, Nov. 10, at the historic Paramount Theater in Austin. Four films and bonus shorts will be shown beginning at 11 a.m. Admission is a free will donation.

The festival is sponsored by Austin veterans organizations. For more information, call Eileen at 507-437-4563.

Mil. Museum special hours

The Minnesota Military Museum at Camp Ripley will have special hours to honor the centennial of the end of World War I. It will be open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 8 through Nov. 12. Two will be admitted for the price of one on those days. The museum has an extensive World War II exhibit gallery.

Official Vet's Day event

The official state of Minnesota Veterans Day event will be held on Sunday, Nov. 11, at 10 a.m. at the Veterans Memorial Community Center in Mendota Heights. Admission is free. There will be a breakfast earlier, speeches and a performance by the 34th Division Red Bull Band.

Centenary Concert

A World War I Armistice Centenary Concert will be held at Northrup Auditorium at the University of Minnesota on Sunday, Nov. 11. Admission is \$23-\$58.

The concert will feature the Oratorio Society of Minnesota Chorus and the University of Minnesota Men's and Women's Choruses. It will be the United States premier of "The Great War Symphony."

Tickets are on sale at 612-624-2345.

MACV events

The Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans will have a free drop in legal clinic at the VA Medical Center on Tuesday, Nov. 13, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Attorneys and others will answer veterans questions.

A clinic will also be held Thursday, Dec. 6, at the Anoka County Government Center from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

St. Cloud Vets Day program

The St. Cloud Metropolitan Veterans Council will host a Veteran's Day program on Monday, Nov. 12, at Building 8 at the St. Cloud VA Hospital grounds. A reception will follow. For more information, call 320-255-6353.

Bells of Peace

The World War I Commission has announced the "Bells of Peace, A World War I Remembrance" will be held across the country on Sunday, Nov. 11. Bells will be tolled 21 times at 11 a.m. local time.

Shop, Ship and Share

The annual Shop, Ship and Share program, sponsored by the 4th District with help from the 5th District, will be held Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 at the Maplewood Mall.

Donations are sought and volunteers are needed.

The program collects and mails packages to troops for the holidays.

For more information, go to maplewood.com/events-news. Donations of money or items for deployed military can be made directly to the 4th District.

Blacksmithing

Blacksmithing for Veterans will be held Monday, Nov. 12, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Ken's Custom Iron in Avon. Blacksmithing can good therapy for those with PTSD. The event is open to military personnel and veterans.

It is free. For more information, call 320-746-8161.

Free Sign

A large American Legion sign and advertising sign that used to serve the Austin Post is free for anyone who wants it. The Legion sign is 6x6 feet. The advertising sign is 10x3x14. Letters come with the sign. For more information, call Jim Rinehart, 612-991-4699.

Round Tables

The World War II History Roundtable will be held at the Historic Fort Snelling Visitor Center at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 8. It will feature a lecture on "The Plots Against Hitler" by Danny Orbach. There is a \$5 donation.

The St. Croix Valley Civil War Round Table will be held Monday, Nov. 26, at the Lowell Inn in Stillwater. For dinner reservations, please call Steve at 715-386-1268. The program will feature "Abraham Lincoln and Thanksgiving" by Bryce Stenzel.

The Vietnam War Roundtable will be held Monday, Nov. 19, at Concordia University in St. Paul in Beutow Auditorium. The program begins at 7. The program will be the Veterans Voices Award and veterans will share their stories.

Free Breakfast

A free Veteran's Day breakfast will be held on Monday, Nov. 12, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Arcade-Phalen Post 577 in St. Paul. North End Post will help out. It will feature biscuits and S.O.S. along with eggs, bacon, sausage and toast.

Fall Conference Notes:

Virtual Medical Room

Veterans across the state are encouraged to use the developing Virtual Medical Room technology. Angela Nichols of the Minneapolis VA Health Care System, told the Fall Conference that VMR can be valuable to those who find it difficult to physically travel to an appointment. Patients with mental health issues have found it valuable.

VMR is like a Skype communication with video on both ends. It can be used well for talking with a patient, but not for interactions where a medical exam needs to be done.

Nichols said patients can get an I-pad from the VA to do VMR, and then return it when they are done.

She discussed the possibility that Legion posts could offer the service at the post building. All a post needs is the ability to close the door on a room, and to have the technology to access the internet.

State Patrol

Sgt. Neil Dickenson of the Minnesota State Patrol told the Legionnaires about what gets taught to the campers at Legionville each year. Dickenson is one of the troopers who comes for a week and teaches the kids.

Dickenson said that in addition to training school patrol leaders on how to control traffic safely, the campers also get sessions on bus safety, pedestrian safety, bike safety, seat-belt use and distracted driving.

Each year the students at some Legionville sessions get a visit from a State Patrol Helicopter, and also a demonstration of K-9 dog use.

Paul Blanchard

Paul Blanchard, the coach of the Southwest Minnesota State University, had both compliments and criticism of the state baseball program. He noted that he had played Legion ball for four years at Wayzata and then coached at Edina when it won a state championship. "I don't know if I'd be standing here today without Legion baseball. The benefits a student gets from Legion Baseball, you can't put a price on them." He said a major problem these days is kids playing club baseball and leaving their Legion teams. As a scout he says he rather see a prospect on a Legion team rather than an all-star showcase. "I can tell in five minutes if a kid has the physical skills to play college baseball. I want to see how they interact with their coaches and teammates. What they're really like. There's too many 'I' guys out there, and I don't want them."

Criticisms of Legion ball included having too much dis-

parity in teams, all playing for the same state trophy. He suggested the Legion go to a three-tier system. He said the Legion needs to make better use of the electronic media. And he suggested the Legion have a fall baseball program.

Eagle's Nest

It would be a vast understatement to say that Melony Butler, the founder and director of the Eagle's Nest facilities in Minnesota, is a passionate person. She brought her message to the Legion at the Fall Conference with searing heat and occasional colorful language.

She said she began the Eagle's Nest as a response to challenges her own family was going through. She decided the federal VA system was not working. "The VA does a lot of right things, and they do other things that are not so good. I could have tried to change the VA, but that ain't going to happen."

Eagle's Nest, which is one of Commander Darrel Redepening's projects this year, has two facilities, one in Sauk Centre and one in Anoka.

She said her facilities could be a model for helping veterans, one the VA should study.

She says she takes particular umbrage at politicians who use veterans issues to win elections. "It's high time we stopped allowing elected officials to use the veterans as a vote."

Butler urged those who were curious about the Eagle's Nest to visit it, and not to believe the rumors and gossip they may have heard.

The Eagle's Nest, she said, often provides a landing place for veterans who fell through the VA system's cracks.

She said that alcohol is often a major problem for veterans. "Why is it that we have to alcohol at these meetings? Why is it that alcohol has to be part of every damn military event? Alcohol can take away a person's inhibition for suicide."

"I'm not trying to shut down the VA, but in the rural areas we don't have a lot. We don't turn veterans away, we just take them in."

She urged the Legion to try different things to help veterans. "You need to put some skin in the game."

Hospital Association

Two were elected to positions on American Legion Family Hospital Association during its annual meeting at the Fall Conference.

Diane Hayes was elected to replace Marie Goede who

had served two terms for the Auxiliary. Roger Stoick was re-elected to a second term for the Legion.

Roger Myren presented the annual financial report. In all, 14 cases were handled, compared to 18 last year. Expenditures were \$17,000 for medical assistance. The association raised \$49,000 for the year, and now has a balance of \$269,000.

In a meeting later, the association elected Stoick as the new president replacing Goede. Sharon Theimecke was elected secretary.

Notes:

-- There were 419 attendees for the Legion, SAL and Auxiliary sessions.

-- Isaac Timmerman, a Boys State participant from Marshall, brought down the house when he started his talk by quoting, "Youth is a gift of Nature, but age is a work of art. There's quite an art collection here."

-- Adjutant Randy Tesdahl tried to get a military recruiter to come to the session to teach about professional sales techniques, but he was unable to find one. And so he donned his vintage Marine uniform and filled the role himself. He had been a Marine recruiter for 13 years.

He said a sales technique that is widely taught is "ABC, or Always Be Closing." In other words, if a veteran is being recruited to join the Legion, the recruiter should be continually trying to close the deal.

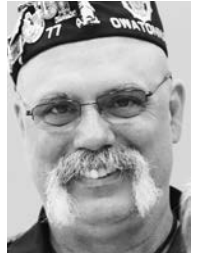
A salesman, he said, will talk with a potential customer and try to identify their needs, and then show how their product can solve those needs.

-- Membership Director Mike Maxa told the Legionnaires that the membership drive for this year is already 4,000 behind last year's. Maxa said stopping the membership slide will take some time, and it won't be halted this year. He said he and his team are trying to instill good membership skills through a series of five workshops around the state. He said the Legion must build relationships with younger vets. "They will sign up." He said that posts need to have a plan to find and recruit the younger veterans.

-- NECman Marland Ronning said three coins are being produced by the U.S. Mint to honor the Legion's Centennial. There will be 50,000 gold \$5 pieces, 400,000 silver dollars, and 750,000 half dollars. The cost of buying the whole set would be under \$500 he said. If all the coins are sold, the Legion could earn as much as \$9.2 million from the project.

American Legion Riders

By Chuck Stone
Department Director



Greetings American Legion Family,
Hats off to the Marshall Legion Family on hosting this year's Fall Conference. It all started with the shuttle drivers getting us to and from hotels, meeting locations and the Legion. The ladies at the registration desk and the Legion staff with their fast friendly service have gone above and beyond to provide service. Everyone needs it be commended on a job well done.

Coming up on December 8th we will gather in Faribault for the annual Pearl Harbor Rally. Under the guidance of Membership Director Mike, the looks to take on a slightly different approach. All I will say is you have to be there to see it.

In the October issue of the Legionnaire there was a very nice article on the Riders from Deer River. A correction needs to be made as the Deer River Riders are Chapter 122. Rider Chapters are numbered accordingly with the Post they are affiliated with in the same manner SAL Squadrons and Women's Auxiliary Units are. Minnesota Riders Chapter 1 is out of Minneapolis Post 1 in the 5th District. Please make note of this when forming a Riders Chapter at your post.

In a few weeks we will be taking a day off to gather with friends and family to give thanks for all that we have. In doing so please take a moment to give a special thanks for all the brave women and men wearing the uniform so that we can be with family and friends sharing a meal and/or watching a football game or whatever activity you so choose to be doing that day. Happy Thanksgiving to one and all.

Keep the chrome side up and the rubber side down.

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

By
Jeremy Wolfsteller



Burn pits, the new Agent Orange

Last year I wrote about this topic as it was gaining the spotlight nationwide. Here in Minnesota, a National Guard veteran had just passed away from an aggressive form of cancer that the family believes was related to working in open air burn pits during her deployment to Iraq. During that time, Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar introduced legislation that if passed would direct the Veterans Health Administration to create a Center of Excellence to research health effects of open air burn pits. Open air burn pits has been the topic of conversation amongst many Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. Early on in the war logistical operations were scarce, military units had to be self-sufficient setting up their area of operations. This included securing a perimeter, guard out-posts, sleeping quarters, dining facilities, command centers, motor pools, just to name a few. But where are the bathrooms for over 300 men and women? Where does all the daily trash go? Let's just say the amenities weren't 5 stars. As for the compounds large amount of trash, well it was collected daily by lower enlistees who then brought it outside the compound in a large military truck to a place where engineers plowed a football field size area to burn and dispose of it. This area, "the burn pit" was usually within 500 to 1,000 yards of the basecamp so you could imagine the air quality wasn't too good.

In 2004 service-members from the initial wave of deployments started returning home. They also started having unexplained symptoms related to their health. Some of these conditions were related to respiratory, cardiovascular, advanced cancers, neurological and insomnia. In desperation for answers, Veterans turned to the Veterans Health Administration but since research on burn pits have yet to be conducted to proper treat, mitigate and rehabilitate the VA didn't have the answers or treatment recommendations for many of these veterans. VA leadership in an attempt to

better understand possible long term health effects from exposure to open air burn pits requested in November 2009 that the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine (OIM) conduct a study to determine the long term health effects from burn pit smoke exposure in Iraq and Afghanistan. Two years later in 2011, VA reviewed their findings which concluded there was not convincing evidence that indicated there are long term adverse health effects to open air burn pits. OIM concluded that the pollutant levels at military bases were not higher than levels measured at other polluted sites worldwide.

Since 2011 OIM's release, VA created a burn pit registry for veterans. The registry collects data from veterans regarding areas of operations that had open air burn pits, types of burn pits and symptomology veterans are having compared with those who were also deployed but not around burn pits. Since the 2011 implementation of the registry, the VA hasn't done anything with the registry information. The American Legion has a resolution that passed National Convention in 2016, resolution number 118 Environmental Exposures. This resolution coincides with supporting Senator Klobuchar's Bill, S. 2679 Helping Veterans Exposed to Burn Pits Act. Just last month the Bill was included in a larger piece of legislation and signed into law. The position of The American Legion and the Bill directs the VA to create a Center of Excellence in the prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment and rehabilitation of health conditions relating to exposure to burn pits. The American Legion is excited to see this legislation be passed and will be advocating for full funding, and oversight to ensure this project is conducted at the highest level.

Could Burn Pits be the new Agent Orange for this era of veterans? What does that mean for "presumptive conditions?" VA has a long way to go to confirm health effects from burn pits, educate their doctors to screen, diagnose, treat, mitigate and rehabilitate. Once evidence of health effects are established, then advocacy and pressure of The American Legion to have VA create a Burn Pit Presumptive list can happen.

For information on the VA Burn Pit Registry: <https://veteran.mobilehealth.va.gov/AHBurnPitRegistry/#page/home>

For more information on S. 2679 Helping Veterans Exposed to Burn Pits: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/2679>

jwolfsteller@mnlegion.org

Minnesota Sons of the American Legion News

Deer hunt was a rousing success

Sons of The American Legion

By
Shawn Davis



When you read this, Fall Conference will have come to a close. Hopefully you all had a good time, and learned something as well.

Education is a key part of being a member of this organization. From learning about our organization, our parent organization, the rest of the family to all the great programs and activities out there to benefit veterans, their families, and our communities.

Take what you have learned, and share it. Knowledge growth is one of the key ways to help this organization grow. If you did not go, reach out to someone who did. Ask them about what they learned, and how that can benefit you.

This is the time when membership should be rolling in. We made November's membership goal at 35%. Are you recruiting new members?

Following up with the old members, asking them to renew, to get active, to make a difference? Do you think you get help us reach 12,000 members?

I hope to have good news about my Commanders Projects this year. I am asking for \$2,000 for Child Welfare Foundation (CWF), Brain Science, and Legionville. Nothing fancy, just \$2,000 a piece. All are good programs.

Brain Science is a Minnesota-based program of The American Legion. A number of years ago The American Legion came together with the University of Minnesota and the VA Medical Center in Minneapolis to fund work on the science of brains, both healthy and with disease. This has implications for our service members as in the area of PTSD as well as our community. This money will help continue the program and the related educational initiatives.

The 2018 John Zgoda Memorial Sons of The American Legion Disabled Veterans Deer Hunt was a success this past year.

Six hunters and 18 volunteers came together over the weekend of October fifth through the seventh at Legionville School Patrol Camp for a chance to harvest a deer. From some this was the first time they have shot a rifle in years, for others, this was a chance to do something they have enjoyed in the past.

Bernard Overby was the first Veteran to harvest a doe with guide Dave Bilderback. Thomas Kils from St. Cloud was the next veteran to harvest a doe with his guide Laura Blue. He had not shot a rifle in over 40 years since his service in Vietnam. Laurens Kentfield from Fairfax, and Robert Linder of Baxter were also able to harvest some does.

While the other two hunters did not harvest a deer this year, all had a good time. They enjoyed the food and the camaraderie during their opportunity to get out into the woods one more time. Robert Linder wrote, "...the orientation, the food, the transportation, the deer stand, the deer processing and the camaraderie of the members of The American Legion. ... I believe this is/was a well organized hunt. ... The hunt at Legionville was an excellent experience."

Thank you to all the volunteers from the entire American Legion Family who helped out. We look forward to another successful deer hunt next year at Legionville.



Bernard Overby and his guide Dave Bilderback were the first to harvest a doe at the camp.



The annual John Zgoda Memorial Deer Hunt was held at Legionville. It included six hunters and 18 volunteers.



A group photo was taken in the Legionville training center.

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

World War II History Round Table

Prisoners of war found a home in the Minnesota countryside

By Al Zdon

As World War II marched on, the Allies began taking more and more German and Italian prisoners.

The British didn't want them and the French had no country. It was decided that many of them would come to America.

Liberty ships, the workhorse freighters that hauled millions of tons of war supplies to Europe no longer came back empty, but instead were filled with thousands of prisoners.

Three speakers at the October World War II Round Table at Fort Snelling told of the hundreds of prisoner of war camps, in particular those that dotted the countryside of Minnesota.

Dean Simmons, a teacher at St. Thomas Academy and the author of *Swords into Plowshares: Minnesota's POW Camps during World War II*, said the first prisoners, called PWs in that war, came from the campaigns in North Africa.

The Liberty ships would arrive on the East Coast and the prisoners would be put on trains and sent throughout the country.

"Most of the camps were down South, but away from the coastal areas. There was a fear about sabotage, but that turned out not to be a major concern," Simmons said.

Mostly the prisoners were sent to rural areas where there was a critical labor shortage because 16 million American men and women were in the military. In Minnesota, many of the prisoners went to places that had canning factories, logging, farms, brick and tile makers and nurseries.

As time went on, the prisoners, mainly German, were hired out by the government to farmers for odd jobs.

"According to the Geneva Convention, they were to receive the prevailing wage, 60 to 90 cents per hour," Simmons said. "But the government would charge them for room and board, and they would end up making about 80 cents a day."

Still, that added up over months and months. "When they were released, many of them would buy coffee or other tradable goods that they could bring back to Germany and their families and sell on the black market."

Simmons said the prisoners for the most part were treated well – for two reasons. "One was because the U.S. strictly adhered to the Geneva Convention on prisoners of war, and the other reason was that it was hoped word would filter back to Europe and make it more attractive for enemy soldiers on the battle front to surrender."

There were nearly 400,000 prisoners in all. About 40,000 came to the Midwest and many were administered by a base camp at Algona, Iowa.

Simmons noted that the early prisoners were often the cream of the German Army, and some were fanatical in their loyalty. Later prisoners were often very young or much older, as Germany tried to fill out its ranks depleted by severe war losses.

The new and the earlier prisoners often did not mesh well and there were cases where the older Afrika Korps prisoners would kill the new prisoners they thought were treasonous. "The tension in these camps was pretty high."

The U.S. government executed about 20 of these fanatics at Fort Leavenworth.

The number of prisoners in the U.S. actually reached a peak in November of 1945, months after the war had ended. "We couldn't send them back fast enough and new prisoners were still arriving."

At the end of the war, eventually all the prisoners were sent home, again on the Liberty ships. In the end, about 5,000 of the prisoners came back to the United States to live.

There was about one guard per eight prisoners. At the beginning, many who were sent to guard duty were not the cream of the crop of American soldiers. As the war went on, the Army would send veterans of the combat in Europe back to their home areas to be guards.

Even with guards, though, the conditions at the camps were somewhat lax. It was easy for a prisoner to walk away from a camp or a job site. "But where would they go? The camps were often the best place they could be."

Simmons said one prisoner was recaptured while riding a Ferris wheel at a county fair in Minnesota.

Jerry Yocum, Vice President of the Camp Algona POW Museum and the author of several books about the camp, told the Round Table that Algona, Iowa, was the base camp for all the camps in Minnesota.

He said that a nativity scene created by prisoners during World War II, is still displayed each year in Algona during the Christmas season. It has 60 half-sized characters.

"The United States wasn't what the prisoners had been told by the Nazi regime. They saw the real U.S."

Yocum said Algona, which had room for 3,000 prisoners, had 24 branch camps throughout the Midwest. At one point, Algona was the base camp for over 10,000 prisoners of war.

He told of one incident where some of the local schoolboys near a branch camp decided to harass the prisoners.



German prisoners at Moorhead worked on a local farm.

"They waited under an apple tree and when the wagon with the prisoners came by, they began pelting them with apples. But the prisoners were bringing back the corn they had picked, and so they began flinging it at the boys."

No one was supposed to take pictures of the prisoners, but hundreds of pictures exist from the time of the camps. In one, Yocum noted, a prisoner is shown holding the carbine of the guard.

Tom Lalim, a member of the staff at Fort Snelling Historic Site, did his master's thesis on prisoners that were sent to the Moorhead area during the war.

It started with two local onion dealers who had agreed to sell the government a certain number of onions each year. "They realized, though, with all the young men gone to war that they couldn't fulfill the contract."

They applied to the government for prisoners and had to fill out a large amount of paperwork, proving the labor shortage.

Lalim said they were originally hoping to house the prisoners in town, but the community was not wild about the idea. Instead, they were housed in an old onion warehouse on the edge of town.

In May of 1944, the Moorhead businessmen received their allocation of 150 prisoners. "They were there for the onion work, but they were soon working on local farms for the sugar beet harvest and the generic labor around Moorhead that there was not enough local people to do."

Lalim recounted one story where the prisoners who were painting a barn caught the family dog and painted a white stripe down its back and had fun yelling "Skunk, Skunk, skunk" in German as the dog ran around the yard.

"The daughter of the family was pretty upset about the whole thing, and later the prisoners apologized."

Another time, a grateful farmer brought the prisoners into a local bar at the end of the day for food and drink. The prisoners were not well accepted by the other bar patrons.

"The prisoners felt very uncomfortable and asked the farmer never to do that again."

Another story from that time was that a local girl was found sitting in a haystack smoking a cigarette with a prisoner of war. "The government was ready to charge her with a treasonous act, but they didn't. She later became a nun. She said she had made a deal with God that if she got out of this scrape, she would dedicate her life to God."

Living in their warehouse, the prisoners soon became an attraction for the people around Moorhead to come gawk. "They even had to put a prisoner traffic officer out front to keep the traffic moving. Eventually, they had to close the street in front of the camp," Lalim said.

The government paid the prisoners, but charged the farmers. "The government eventually made a \$14,000 profit from the camp."

The longer the prisoners were there, the more they were accepted locally. "It became very integrated."

"These young men became like people they knew, or similar to their own sons fighting overseas."



The speakers at the October World War II Round Table were authors who had written about prisoners of war in the United States. From left are Jerry Yocum, Tom Lalim and Dean Simmons.

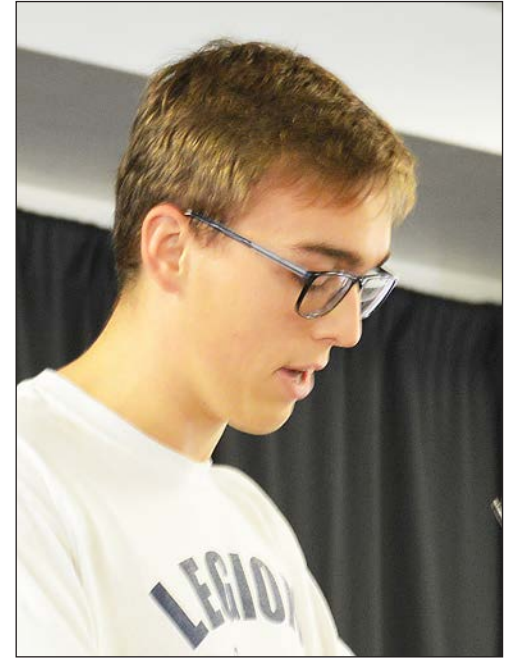


"I got you babe." Lynn Duffy, Third District President, and Linda Kelly, Third District Membership Chairman, took on the roles of Sonny and Cher and did a Legion-orientated version of the duo's classic. It was all part of a membership competition at the Fall Conference.



Past National Commander Dan Ludwig makes a point at the Fall Conference during a Legion session.

Fall Conference at Marshall



Isaac Timmerman of Marshall told of his experiences at Boys State.



The Addams Family or the Fifth District? As part of the Membership Challenge event put on by the Auxliary, the Fifth District came dressed as the Addams Family. Commander Joe Bayer was Gomez and Cari Lamb was Morticia. Leroy Gonzales, Fifth District SAL Commander, was Uncle Fester.



Department Adjutant Randy Tesdahl put on his auctioneer's hat to auction off a quilt for the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. The quilt brought in \$270.

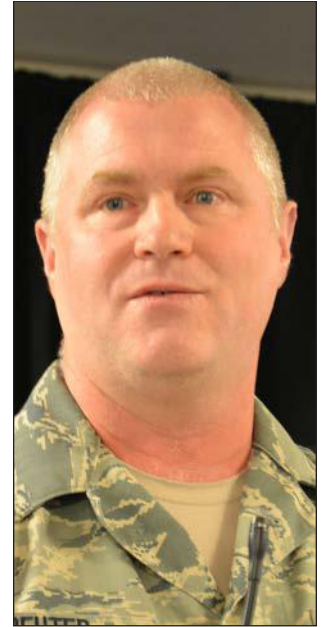


The Mighty Legion Art Players brought a local Legion meeting to life at the conference.



10th District Commander Paul Orson looked a lot like George Hamilton IV at the Membership Challenge.

Guard and Reserve Outstanding Enlisted Persons of the Year



SRMSGT RYAN FENTON
Air Force Nat'l Guard
133AW Ops Group
St. Paul

YNI (AW1W) JESSICA BURBACH
Navy Reserve
Navy Ops Spt Center
Minneapolis

SSG CHRISTOPHER ROSENTHAL
Army Reserve
322nd Spt. Mt. Bn.
Arden Hills

LCPL KULIN DAHLQUIST
Marine Corps Reserve
4th Law Enf. Bn
Ft. Snelling

SSG ADAM WALKER
Army Nat'l Guard
A Co. 2-136th IN
Detroit Lakes

TSGT MATTHEW REUTER
Air Force Reserve
27th Aerial Post Sq.
Ft. Snelling

Also honored as Enlisted Persons of the Year but unable to attend because of duties:

Sgt. Tyler Sparks, RRN CO, Army National Guard, St. Cloud.

Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Grant Larson, U.S. Coast Guard Station, Duluth.



The American Legion Riders of Minnesota presented Legionville Director Wayne Gilbertson with a Rider sign that will be used in the remodeled chow hall.



Paul Blanchard, SMSU Baseball Coach



Marland Ronning, National Executive Committeeman



Angela Nichols, VA, Virtual Medical Room



Melony Butler, Eagle's Nest



Sgt. Neil Dickenson, Minnesota State Patrol



Randy Tesdahl, former Marine Recruiter



Department Membership Director Mike Maxa presented a polo shirt to the 6th District's Jim Lucas after the district won the Kaisersatt Trophy.

Over 200 missions in his Corsair

By Al Zdon

Lyle Bradley loves birds.

His home in Andover overlooks the Rum River and the house is surrounded by birds of all kinds. Binoculars are always at the ready.

He and his wife have observed 216 species, very close to record for Minnesota.

"The cranes were here this morning, and the swans should be here soon," he said.

His interest in birding goes back to his childhood, but it was during World War II that he fell in love with one particular bird, a love affair that lasted for years and continues to this day.

That bird was the Vought F4U Corsair, the standard fighter of the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II and the Korean War.

Bradley flew over two hundred missions in two wars in that beautiful bird.

Lyle Bradley was born and raised in Dubuque, Iowa. Growing up during the Depression, he took part in a variety of high school sports including football, softball, and cross-country.

As a teen-ager, his father came home one day and asked him if he wanted to go on a flight.

"He knew I was nuts about airplanes, plus he said he wanted to try flying too. They were selling rides at the airport."

The aircraft offering the rides was a Ford Tri-Motor, a transport often used for civilian passenger flights. "I don't know what we were expecting, but you could walk all over the aircraft. There were no seats, just some benches. And, my God, it was noisy."

Bradley wanted to go to college, but had little money. "My dad was working two jobs just to feed the family, so I knew that wasn't a source of tuition."

He finally worked out a work-scholarship arrangement at the nearby University of Dubuque, a Presbyterian college. "My job was to clean out the fieldhouse every day."

In the fall of 1942, Bradley went down to sign up with the Marine Corps. The recruiter, though, told Bradley to stay in school through that semester. He would be called up in about a month.

Not long afterwards, a team of aviation recruiters came to the college. "Previously, you had to have a four-year college degree to be a flier, but they had changed that. Now, you just had to be in college."

The Navy recruiter told Bradley to be in Minneapolis on his 18th birthday on Nov. 22nd to sign up.

Bradley had the patience, though, to wait until the day after his birthday. "I went up on the train with my friend, Bob. We stayed at the Leamington Hotel. They put us through four days of physical tests.

"One of the doctors was taking my pulse and he called another doctor over, and he took my pulse. He said, 'Holy cow, that's the lowest I've ever checked. If anybody is going to live to be 100 years old, it's you.' My pulse was 40."

In the end, Bradley was accepted, but his friend was sent home.

Bradley got his release from the Marine recruiter back home, and became a proud member of the U.S. Navy. His

first stop was at Aberdeen, South Dakota, where he and 35 other cadets learned how to fly.

Looking back over 76 years, Bradley still has a remarkable memory for names. "My instructor was a guy named Al Anderson, and, boy, was he a jerk. He smoked, he drank, and he almost killed me."

When it came time for Bradley to do his first solo in a light Spanish trainer, the Aeronautica, the 260-pound Anderson got out of the plane and turned over the controls to Bradley. Trouble was, the massive Anderson forgot to reset the tabs to account for his weight not being in the little plane.

"I took off and went straight up. I had very little control of the airplane. I finally got it back on the ground and when Anderson came over I told him that he almost did me in. He said, 'Oh, I forgot to change the tabs.'"

Not long afterwards, when Bradley was with another instructor, everyone's attention was grabbed by a pilot doing loops over the hangar. "The plane landed, and Al Anderson got out. He was so snookered he could hardly walk. My new instructor walked over to Al and smacked him right in the face and told him, 'You're outta here.'"

Next stop was Iowa City for ground school. "They were wiping people out left and right. We started with 60 cadets and in two weeks we only had 30 left. It was mainly due to physical fitness."

While a cadet, Bradley registered perfect scores on aircraft recognition, an ability he attributed to his birding background. A Navy commander approached him after one of his perfect scores and said, "Cadet, do you realize cheating is a court martial offense?"

The commander and three other officers stood by while a new test of 50 aircraft was flashed on a screen, with each slide only shown for 1/100th of a second. Again, Bradley got a perfect score. "They excused me, and I never heard

Lyle Bradley flew the Corsair, a Marine fighter, in both World War II and the Korean War. He once dropped six 500-pound bombs in Korea, providing close air support for the 1st Marine Division, at an altitude of 200 feet. "It's not good for longevity."



anything else on the subject."

Minneapolis was the next destination for the cadets, and they got to fly the famed Boeing Stearman, a bi-winged trainer that nearly every military aviator flew.

"About 20 of us took off from Fleming Field in South St. Paul one day. We were soloing in the Stearmans and learning aerobatics. I loved that airplane. We were flying a little higher than normal, and I looked down and all of a sudden the ground was gone. A fog had moved in."

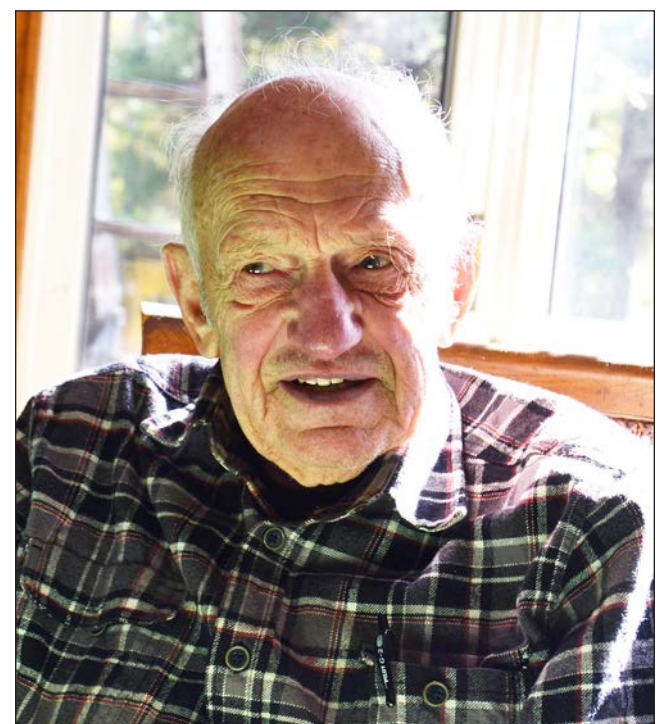
The cadets had two choices at this point, bail out and let their Stearmans crash, or try to edge closer and closer to the ground, hoping to find it before it found them.

"We had no radios. I edged my airplane down, slowly, slowly. Suddenly something just zipped past by wing. I missed it by a few feet. It was that great, big "1" on top of the First National Bank Building in Minneapolis.

"But at least then I knew where I was. I could make out



LYLE BRADLEY
As a Marine pilot in Korea



LYLE BRADLEY
At home in Andover

the Mississippi River and I just followed it all the way back to South St. Paul."

The Naval Air Station at Pensacola was next for Bradley. He got to fly the Voltec BT-13 and what the Navy called the SNJ and the Army called the AT-6. At Pensacola, the cadets were offered the choice of staying in the Navy or joining the Marine Corps. Bradley took his first love, and rejoined the Marines.

"Plus the Marine aircraft were almost all fighters or dive bombers, and that's what I wanted. Mainly I wanted to fly the Corsairs. I'd had my eye on that airplane for a long time."

The Corsair was a gull-winged fighter-bomber designed for use on aircraft carriers, but the Marines used it both at sea and on land-based fields. It was a technologically-advanced aircraft that featured the largest engine available at that time, the Pratt and Whitney Double Wasp radial, capable of 2,000 horsepower.

Next stop for Bradley, though, was Green Cove Springs Air Base in Florida where he trained on Grumman F4F Wildcat, the Navy's primary fighter early in the war. "I did not like that airplane. It tried to kill me about five times.

"One time the battery exploded and the plane caught fire. Somehow I got it down."

The worst incident, though, was when Bradley was leading a division of four planes. "We were doing live fire at a banner being towed by a plane about 100 miles out in the ocean.

"It was a hot day, and it was very hot in the cockpit, and so I cracked open the canopy. I think they had told us never to dive in that plane with the canopy open, but I made a dive from about 26,000 feet.

"The next thing I remember is that I came to and I was trying to pull the plane out of the dive at 6,000 feet. There was blood all over the cockpit and all over me. The canopy had crashed down and hit me right in the neck. I thought it had cut my jugular vein.

"I could hear on the radio the other guys. 'Where's Bradley? Where's Bradley?'"

"With the loss of blood, I didn't know if I could get back. I pushed the throttle to full power, tried to get rid of the broken canopy to no avail, and probably said a prayer.

"Somehow I coaxed the plane to St. Augustine and found the field. I wagged my wings to show I was in trouble, and they let me land right away. The last thing I remember was the wheels hitting the ground."

Bradley woke up in a St. Augustine hospital. "That was the closest call I ever had in training. My instructor came to see me in the hospital. I thought he was going to console me, but he just looked at me and said, 'You stupid ass.' I had it coming."

Done with fighter training, Bradley went across country to El Toro Air Station near Irvine, California. He finally got to fly his beloved Corsair. "We spend four days in ground school learning about the aircraft and then we did a cockpit checkout. It was very thorough.

"And then we took off. It felt so good."

The new pilots were gathered together soon after and told they would be starting FCLPs, or Field Carrier Landing Practices, which meant one thing: they would be flying their Corsairs off Navy carriers. "Three guys from the Navy, all Landing Signal Officers, briefed us. They let us know that if we ever didn't follow one of their signals, we were in trouble. We wouldn't be flying for a while."

The pilots practiced on a regular landing strip that had a carrier's flight deck outlined in paint. Then it was off to Hawaii for carrier practice.

"We flew in the China Clipper, a huge Pan Am flying boat. The captain of the plane came back and asked if any of us were pilots and I said I was. He told me the co-pilot was sick, and would I mind flying in the right-hand seat? The co-pilot stayed in his seat through takeoff, but then I replaced him. Pretty soon the captain fell asleep, and I flew that airplane all the way to Hawaii. It took all night, and there was no auto pilot. When I finally saw Diamond Head, I was so happy. I was exhausted."

The new pilots had to land and take off five times on each of two carriers at Hawaii, and then it was on to the western Pacific on a transport plane. "We were on a C-54, but it had a bad oil leak and we had to stop at Johnston Island. There were five pilots and five Navy nurses. We had a couple of bottles of Southern Comfort, and we sat up all night and sang romantic songs. We sang quite well."

Next stop was Kwajalein. "They had just captured it, and they were still filling in the shell holes when we were there."

Next was Guam, where Bradley was assigned to VMF-222 for more training.

"My buddy and I bought some cigarettes, even though we didn't smoke, and traded them to the natives for goggles and a spear. We did a lot of exploring in the reefs. Somebody found out and they asked us to get some octopuses to cook up for a party.

"My friend had the spear, but I could see an octopus in a hole in a reef. I thought I could reach in and just grab him. That was a mistake. He was way bigger than I thought he was, and pretty soon he had his tentacles around my head



Bradley took this color photo of the USS Bennington in the sunset as the Corsairs prepared to land after a mission to the Japanese homeland in World War II.



Aboard the USS Sicily off the coast of Korea, Bradley, left, posed with fellow pilot Bill Holden.



Corsairs, mostly with their wings folded, perch atop the flight deck of the USS Sicily.



Bradley totes up his missions on the side of his Corsair during the Korean War.



Temps were frequently below zero at Yonpo Airfield near the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea. The pilots were required to wear their revolvers because the enemy was close by.

and shoulders. I was stuck and running out of air.”

Bradley managed to kick his feet above the water, and his friend came hustling over with the spear. He managed to spear the octopus, and the animal released his grip on Bradley. “I don’t think I could have lasted much longer. He saved my life. We kept at it and we did get enough octopuses for a party.”

Bradley was assigned to the USS Bennington, an Essex-class aircraft carrier. There were two Marine fighter squadrons on board, along with a Navy fighter group, a torpedo bomber squadron and a dive bomber group.

Bradley said he liked his time aboard carriers. “If you ever want to see great teamwork in action, go on an aircraft carrier. The teamwork was good on the ground, but it was superb on a carrier.”

Did the Marine and Navy pilots get along? “There were no problems at all. We all went through the same training. What’s the difference?”

Once on board, Bradley wanted to make sure he knew his way around the ship, and, in particular the stretch from the berthing compartment to the ready room – in case the lights went out on the ship.

“So I was going along the corridor with my eyes closed, and I was just going through a hatchway when I ran into this guy. We really collided hard, and when my eyes cleared, I could see he had three stars on his shirt. He said to me, ‘Boy you have a hard head.’

“It turned out it was Admiral McCain, the grandfather of John McCain. We talked for a while and he asked me what I was doing, and I told him I was trying to find my way around the ship with my eyes closed. He said that was a smart thing, and everybody should do it.”

Again the new pilots met with the Landing Signal Officer. “It was the same thing. He said we absolutely had to follow the signals. He said, ‘If you don’t, we’ll have to report you. Period.’ We knew they were serious. We had one pilot who screwed up twice, and, bang, he was gone.”

By now it was January of 1945, about a half-year from the end of the war, and Bradley was finally going to see combat after two years of training.

On one of his first missions, the Marines attacked an island where the Japanese had based the Kamikaze planes that were doing so much damage to the U.S. fleet.

“I wished I had brought my binoculars along because I thought I might see an albatross on the island. So the next mission to that island, I did bring my binoculars.”

No other pilots owned binoculars, but Bradley did because of his bird watching.

“I was scouting the island and I could see through the binoculars the leading edge of an airplane sticking out from the trees. I could only see it because I had the binoculars.

“I told the squad leader about it, and we went in with bombs and rockets and hit those trees. You could see airplane pieces flying all over the place. In the end, they gave us credit for destroying 40 Japanese planes. After that, I always carried my binoculars with me.”

The air wing of the ship flew missions over Japan and Okinawa in the next few months. Bradley flew about 60 missions.

Bradley said that on one mission to protect the fleet from the Kamikazes one of his fellow pilots had his guns jam. “So, he had more speed than the Kamikaze and he just came up behind him and chewed up the back of the Japanese plane with his propellers. It damaged his props, but he was

able to get home.”

On one mission, the Marine flyers got caught in a storm. “The storm was so loud that we couldn’t hear anything on the radios. We had no idea where the carrier was. And then we looked up and there’s two water spouts in front of us. Big ones.

“We had no choice but to fly right between those spouts, and when we got to the other side, there was the carrier.”

On June 5, the Bennington, along with the rest of the fleet, got caught in a massive typhoon.

“You know I never met Admiral Halsey, but I didn’t like him. He was so stupid to order the fleet out into that storm. We lost two destroyers.”

Bradley recalls going up on the bridge during the storm and seeing the waves crash over the deck of the huge aircraft carrier. When the storm was over, the Bennington’s bow was bent, and unable to launch aircraft. “We tried having the ship go in reverse and launching them off the back of the ship, but both tries went into the water.”

The Bennington was sent back to the Philippines for repairs, and returned to the fleet in July. More missions were flown over the Japanese homeland.

“I recall that we had planes from four carriers attack a factory in Japan where they were making Kamikaze planes. I was still the junior guy and so I was off on the right of the division. I could see a train on tracks leading up to the factory.

“I came in very low and sent two rockets at two locomotives. They blew up and they just about blew me up.

“I was heading back to our rendezvous when I saw a Japanese plane. I opened up and I hit him and watched him crash. It was what we called a ‘Nick,’ a type of Japanese fighter.”

It was Bradley’s only confirmed kill of the war.

The war in the Pacific ended in August, 1945, and Bradley was soon on his way home. He arrived back in Dubuque in the winter of 1945-46.

“I was home and my dad said to me, ‘Do you want a job?’ I said, ‘Sure.’ He said the gravedigger at the cemetery was sick and they needed a grave. My dad was president of the cemetery association.

“That was a big mistake. There was 18 inches of frost in the ground.”

Bradley stayed in the Marine Reserves and was able to continue to fly Corsairs at the air station in Minneapolis. He completed his college degree with a major in biology.

He was called back to active duty in 1950 and sent to Japan where he was part of a pool of pilots waiting for assignment. He toured around the country, and one day in a railroad station he was approached by a Japanese civilian.

“I got ready because I thought the guy might hit me. But then he said in perfect English, ‘What kind of plane did you fly?’ It turned out he was a pilot too, and it was the start of a friendship.”

The next time they got together, Bradley revealed that he had shot down a Nick toward the end of the war. His Japanese friend was intensely interested in where and when it had happened.

“It turns out this guy was in the same squadron and the pilot I had shot down was his friend. We downed a whole bottle of saki that night in honor of his friend.”

Eventually Bradley was assigned to VMF-214, known as the Black Sheep Squadron, the first Marine squadron to see action in Korea flying from the USS Sicily, an escort carrier.

As the war progressed and the United Nations forces headed north toward the Chinese border, the Marines went

ashore to the Yonpo Air Base near the Chosin Reservoir.

“I remember we slept in a barracks that had all the windows blown out of it. It was 20 or 30 below zero every night. They supplied us with cans of food and a can of Heat that we could warm it up with. I also remember we had to wear our .38s all the time. The North Koreans weren’t very far away.”

The pilots would have to get up during the night to start the Corsairs’ engines because otherwise they would freeze solid.

Bradley was flying the new version of the Corsair, which had a hundred horsepower more than the World War II versions and also had 20 mm cannons instead of .50 caliber machine guns. Still, the prop plane was no match for the Russian MIG jets they often saw. “We could see them overhead. They never came down after us, and there was no way we could attack them, they were so much faster.”

Much of the Marine squadron’s work was to provide close air support for the Marines on the ground. The work intensified in November, 1950, when the Chinese entered the war and sent the over-extended American troops on a brutal retreat.

Again, Bradley’s birding binoculars came in handy in finding targets.

In early December the call came into Yonpo to help out the First Marine Division, whose 17,000 troops were strung out and surrounded by the Chinese. Only two pilots, including Bradley, could get their planes started in the bitter cold.

“Worse than that, the ceiling was at 350 feet, and we had to fly a mountainous road though a snowstorm carrying six five hundred-pound bombs.

“To fly the curving road, we had to stay low under the ceiling and avoid the road cut edges, we used high power and flaps. The Chinese took shots at us.”

They were informed from the ground that Chinese mortars, hidden in a ravine, were taking their toll on the Marines forces. “I opened up my canopy for possible bailout. Dropping bombs at 200 feet is not good for longevity. The squadron’s policy was not to drop below 1,000 feet.

“After pickling the bombs, I dove for the ground so that a small hill could buffer the blast. It worked.”

The two pilots hung around, using their canon to provide support, before heading back.

One mission Bradley doesn’t like to talk about was when he and another pilot were told that Chinese troops were coming down a certain road. “We came in about 20 feet above the deck, and they never saw us coming. It was a regimental-sized formation, and they were all lined up on the road. We opened up with our 20s, and it was bad. We might have killed a thousand soldiers. I still have dreams about that, and they’re not pleasant dreams.”

In all, Bradley flew over 200 missions in World War II and Korea. After a year fighting in Korea, he went home again in July of 1951.

He spent two years at Pensacola as a flight instructor, and later put his biology degree to good use when he worked for the Audubon Society in south Texas.

Eventually he got a job teaching biology at Anoka High School. One of his students was Garrison Keillor. He retired in the mid-1980s. He had left the Marine Reserves in 1967.

He and his wife, Carol, have five children, and they live in Andover.



For a time, Bradley was a warden for the Audubon Society in South Texas. This photograph appeared in National Geographic magazine.



Bradley took this photograph of the First Marine Division on a road near the Chosin Reservoir. He shot the photo from about 2,000 feet.

Candidate Oxford talks at Fall Conference

Leading candidate for National Commander Bill Oxford of North Carolina introduced himself to the Minnesota American Legion at the Fall Conference in Marshall.

Oxford said he grew up "as poor, white trash on the wrong side of the tracks, and we didn't have any

tracks." He joined the Marine Corps, and then later became an officer in the National Guard.

He said a theme for this year is "You've got to have a plan."

"There are building blocks that hold up this organization, but without cement or glue to hold them

together, they will come tumbling down. That glue is the membership."

He noted that the Legion topped out at 3.2 million in the early 1990s, and is now down to 1.8 million and is losing about 100,000 members a year. "At that pace, in 18 years, there will not be an American Legion."



BILL OXFORD

Cannabis studied in Minnesota

Continued from Page 1

Minnesota is the only state that is actually studying its use."

PTSD has been included in the list of diseases that qualify for purchasing cannabis since August of 2017. The major category for users is chronic pain.

In Minnesota, he said, a patient has to purchase a \$200 a year license. He said those who use the drug often pay \$200 to \$600 a month. "There's real equity problems in the program. The costs are set by the manufacturers." There are two manufacturers licensed by the state.

At present, Minnesota has 13,000 legal users,

although Arneson qualified the "legal" adjective. "It's all still illegal under federal law."

About 16 percent of Minnesota users get the cannabis to treat PTSD.

There are 1,300 doctors registered to prescribe marijuana, and Arneson says the list is growing.

Part of the study of the drug's effects is studying the body's endocannabinoid system. "We didn't even know it existed 30 years ago. And we're finding it to be a very important part of the body."

Arneson said cannabis' effects on this system are "not magic. It's all chemistry and biology."

He explained that there

are basically two types of medical marijuana available with one that has a high THC count. THC is the cannabinoid that causes users to get high. The other type contains CBD, which has many healing properties, but does not produce a user's high.

As a doctor, Arneson said he would not recommend any cannabis usage until a patient is in their mid-20s, when the brain stops developing.

Each time a patient gets a new prescription, they are asked to take a survey for the state. He said over 50 percent do so, which is a high volunteer rate.

Two reports have been created thus far from the

accumulated information. They have reported on what works and doesn't work for patients thus far in the program.

The second report is on PTSD. There are 750 Minnesotans receiving marijuana for PTSD, and most are in the 25 to 50 age range. Arneson said only 13 percent have PTSD from military causes. The largest cause is childhood sexual abuse.

As time goes on the state will learn more about how valuable or not valuable cannabis can be in treating PTSD and other maladies.

The American Legion is seeking a federal study on cannabis as a useful drug in treating PTSD.



KING TUTS MEET -- The King Tuts, past Department commanders, met recently. From left, front: Dennis Sculthorp, Duane Redepenning, Roger Olson, Jim Copher. In back: Marland Ronning, Mike Schaffer, Chuck Kruger, Dan Ludwig, Don Pankake, Peggy Moon, Darrel Redepenning, Lloyd Ricker, Mike Ash.



Department Commander Darrel Redepenning talks to hunters and guides at the Camp Ripley Deer Hunt.

Taps

Coney, Mark A., 58, Army veteran of the Lebanon/Grenada/Panama era, died Oct. 4, 2018. He was a past Second District Commander (2016-17), and a current member of the Department's Strategic Planning Committee. He was a past adjutant of Hardwick Post 478. A service will be held Jan. 5 at St. Catherine's Catholic Church in Luverne at 10:30 a.m.

Klinkner, Steven Patrick, 67, Army National Guard veteran of the Vietnam War, died Oct. 21, 2018. He served as Department Chaplain, 2014-15, Second District Commander, 2010-11, and Department Vice Commander, 2017-18. He was a past commander of Madelia Post 19.

Thordson, John N., 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 27, 2018. He was a member of Hamline Post 418.

Burdorf, Alfred Jacob, 95, Army veteran of World War II, died Sept. 24, 2018. He was a member of Arlington Post 250.

Sullivan, John I., 84, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 25, 2018. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Hill, Daniel, 73, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Sept. 28, 2018. He retired from the National Guard. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

Tebbe, James, 87, Army veteran of the Korean and Vietnam Wars, died Sept. 20, 2018. He served for 25 years and did two tours each in Korea and Vietnam. He was a member of Red Wing Post 54.

Pederson, Oscar, 91, Navy veteran of World War II, died Sept. 17, 2018. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 212.

Hubert, Dennis R., 78, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died Sept. 5, 2018. He was a member of Anoka Post 102.

Staum, John S., 87, Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 23, 2018. He was a national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He was a member of Anoka Post 102.

Munstenteiger, Stephen H., 74, veteran of the Vietnam War, died Sept. 24, 2018. He was a member of Anoka Post 102.

Hellman, Edward B., 67, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Sept. 9, 2018. He was a member of St. Joseph Post 328.

Palmer, Donald William, 97, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died Sept. 23, 2018. He served in North Africa, the Middle East and Italy. He was a member of Lake City Post 110.

Hitchcock, Philip Arthur, 85, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 29, 2018. He was a member of Pine Island Post 184.

Eischens, Leonard, 97, Army veteran of World War II, died Oct. 1, 2018. He was a district vice commander. He

was a past commander and adjutant of Park Rapids Post 212.

Nelson, Richard H., 81, veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 3, 2018. He was a member of Anoka Post 102.

Eckert, John E., 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 29, 2018. He was a member of Jackson Post 130.

Smith, Ralph C., 77, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Oct. 2, 2018. He earned a Bronze Star in Vietnam. He was a member of Long Prairie Post 12.

Okerland, Gordon A., 84, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 25, 2018. He was a member of Long Prairie Post 12.

Clennon, Eugene M., 95, Navy veteran of World War II, died Oct. 25, 2018. He served in Naval Air. He was a member of Austin Post 91 and a charter member of Acapulco Post 4 in Mexico.

Olund, Elmer R., 85, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died Oct. 21, 2018. He was a member of Austin Post 91.

Van Dyke, Henry, 86, Air Force Veteran of the Korean War, died Oct. 25, 2018. He served in Germany. He was a member of Edgerton Post 42.

Ward, Donald Victor, 99, Army veteran of World War II, died Oct. 13, 2018. He was an officer in the 923rd Aviation Engineers and was deployed to England and France. He was a member of Lanesboro Post 40.

Viriden, James M., 90, an Army and Navy veteran of World War II and the Korean War. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

Thill, Leslie Kyle, 86, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 7, 2018. He was a member Jordan Post 3.

Lee, Merl, 91, Navy veteran of World War II, died Sept. 21, 2018. He was a member of Marshall Post 113.

Pederson, Elwood "Pete," 99, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died Oct. 4, 2018. He served in the Pacific. He was a member of Gaylord Post 433.

Sybrant, Kermit W., 86, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 12, 2018. He was a member of North Branch Post 85.

Knudsen, Harry E., 99, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died Oct. 7, 2018. He was a ground crew chief for B-17s and B-29s. He was a member of Redwood Falls Post 38.

Hempeck, Harvey A., 86, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died Oct. 6, 2018. He was a member of Little Falls Post 46.

Pickartz, Floyd, 69, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Sept. 27, 2018. He was a member of Augusta Post 621.

DeBates, William J., 82, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 15, 2018. He served in Germany. He was on the honor guard and was gaming manager at Hardwick Post 478.

Sussner, Dennis J., 63, Marine Corps veteran of the Lebanon/Granada era, died Oct. 10, 2018. He was a member of Redwood Falls Post 38.

Lindevig, Lorren, 86, veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 25, 2018. He was a member of Cloquet Post 262.

Hurkey, Harold Harrison, 96, veteran of World War II, died Oct. 9, 2018. He was a member of Lakefield Post 4.

Mueller, Everett, 91, Navy veteran of World War II, died Sept. 12, 2018. He served in Guam and was assigned to the USS Ukiah submarine chaser. He was a finance officer for Winona Post 9.

Rust, John J., Jr., 86, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 22, 2018. He served on the honor guard of St. James Post 33.

Muellenbach, Peter Nicholas, 94, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died Oct. 1, 2018. He was a crew member of B-17s. He was a past commander of Wheaton Post 80.

Langemo, Keith, 87, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died Oct. 19, 2018. He was a member of Litchfield Post 104.

Reinhardt, Ivan H., 78, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Oct. 15, 2018. He was a member of Hackensack Post 202.

Huseby, Jason, 76, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Oct. 6, 2018. He served in Germany and played for various Army basketball teams. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

Selseth, Harold, 89, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Oct. 8, 2018. He was a member of Willmar Post 167 where his father was a founding member.

Brand, Leo, 90, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Oct. 15, 2018. He was a member of Tyler Post 185.

Wiederhoeft, Kermit H., 96, Navy veteran of World War II, died Sept. 2, 2018. He served as a third class gunner's mate in both the Atlantic and the Pacific. He was on the honor guard of Amboy Post 276.

Staum, John S., 87, Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 23, 2018. He was a member of Anoka Post 102.

Loecken, Dennis P., 69, veteran of the Vietnam War, died Sept. 18, 2018. He was a member of St. Joseph Post 328.

Roers, Philip J., 94, Navy veteran of World War II, died Sept. 28, 2018. He served on the USS Dane APA-238, a troop transport. He was a member of Millerville Post 527.

McCann, Thomas M., 92, Army veteran of World War II, died Sept. 24, 2018. He was a member of Litchfield Post 104.

Corrections

Volkman, Herbert R., 82, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 26, 2018. He was a member of Elysian Post 311.

Bittrich, Roland Joe, 76, Army National Guard veteran of the Vietnam War, died Aug. 29, 2018. He was a member of Elysian Post 311.

District Commanders

FIRST DISTRICT

Gary Miller
Commander



Just finished our Fall District Rally. It had a very low turnout and even smaller turn in. The day was a little gray but not even the posts that were only a few miles away showed up. How are (you) the posts going to get the message on the programs unless you get involved with the different District activities, (also state functions)? How many posts have never been to a District rally? One member from each post should be at a rally and bring a membership turn in with them. There is no reason why at least one can't make it.

Veteran's Day is coming fast, hope your Post is planning some sort of event, or a membership dinner. This year Nov. 11, falls on a Sunday so try to have something at your local school or event center on the Friday before or on Monday.

Will have been at the Hastings Veterans Home for the Pheasant Dinner Oct. 24th, and met the new administrator Michael Anderson who just started in October. Also will be going up to the VA in Minneapolis for another Pheasant dinner Nov. 7th. (4th year attending these). It's always a great dinner. Thanks to all that make these dinners possible for our fellow vets and to the great cooks also.

SECOND DISTRICT

Cindy Brunk
Commander



Hello American Legion Family Members,

A sincere thank you to everyone that came to the workshop in St. James. So neat to meet new members there. A big thank you to Mike Maxa, Richard Wog, the St. James Post and Auxiliary, and, of course to all in attendance that made it such a success.

On a sad note, Mark Coney 58, a Past 2nd District Commander, Army Veteran, Legion member for 13 years, died October 12, 2018.

A Celebration of Life will be January 5th, 2019, at the Catholic Church in Luverne, MN. Time TBD. His burial will be at Fort Snelling.

November scheduled events include:

November 11th: 2:30 p.m. Luverne Veterans Home Program.

November 11th: 5:30 p.m. Veterans Supper and Program at Brewster Legion sponsored by the Nobles County Council, everyone welcome.

November 17th: 2-4p.m. 2nd District Program and Membership Rally hosted by VCDR Jim Hunt and Legion Post in Lake Wilson.

November 15th: 65% membership target per post.

November 11th Veterans Day and November 22nd Thanksgiving Day reminds all of us to pause, remember, and give thanks.

As your Commander I thank all of you for your service to our country. I wish each of you a happy Thanksgiving. I'm working my way to all the posts if you would like me to visit a certain day please let me know. Thank you so much for all your support and donations to my project to the Luverne Veterans Home and Legionville.

THIRD DISTRICT

Carla Tappainer
Commander



Greetings Thundering Third.

Fall is in the air and I am one happy camper. The colors are amazing and the bonfires and s'mores are abundant. Of course, hunting season is upon us also. Good luck to all our hunters in the district. I already got my buck at the Disabled Veteran's Hunt at Camp Ripley a couple weeks ago. Very exciting.

We still need to get going on our membership. We've dropped to 6th place but we have time to get back to 1st place. Get out and spread the word about The American Legion. Remember that educating everyone about who we are and what we do is the key. We aren't just a local bar, we are so much more.

I've had a great time visiting the posts so far. You are all so amazing and I love talking to you and getting to know you. Please don't forget that I want to know about all your activities so I can come and support you! Please email me or give me a call anytime.

Don't forget to vote this month.

"Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely. The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education."

— Franklin D. Roosevelt

FOURTH DISTRICT

Lane Stunkel
Commander



Greetings Fabulous 4th District.

Regarding membership everyone: To all of the members of the Fabulous 4th – thank you, as of bulletin 15, the 4th District moved up to 2nd place, 2 percentage points out of 1st, let's keep it going, let's work hard to retain our current membership and to find new members. Post Commanders Adjutants, and Membership Officers please reach out to your District Vice Commander, Mickey or myself for assistance, we all are here to help each Post make 100%.

Keep these dates in mind:

4th District SAL meeting November 7th, N. St. Paul Post 39.

Veterans Day Breakfast, N. St. Paul Post 39, open to all Veterans, 11a.m. to 2 p.m., November 9th.

Veterans Day Breakfast, Arcade Phalen Post 577, open to all Veterans, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., November 12th.

4th District RCCC, November 14th – N. St. Paul, E-Board 6:30 and general meeting 7 p.m.

VA Visitation at 1p.m., at VAMC November 18th.

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

4th and 5th Districts - Shop Ship & Share main event at Maplewood Mall, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., November 30th and December 1st, we need help – all hands on deck.

4th District RCCC – December 12th, Arcade Phalen hosted by North End Post 474, Jon Lovald from MAC-V will be our guest speaker.

Mid-Winter Conference – Arcade Phalen (4th and 5th District's Family) January 5th doors open at 8 a.m., conference starts at 9 a.m.

FIFTH DISTRICT

Joe Bayer
Commander



Greetings Fighting Fifth. By the time this goes to press we will have had both a membership workshop and Fall Conference. That's a lot for one month, but well worth it. The holidays are fast approaching and our attention turns to family and friends. Don't forget about our 'Legion Family' and our goals for this year.

There will be membership revitalization at Minneapolis/Richfield Post 435 on November 15, 16, & 17 from 9 until 3 on Thursday and Friday and 9 until noon on Saturday. We're asking all Posts to have at least two representatives show up for one of the days to help. Then there's shop, ship and share November 30 and December 1 at the Maplewood Mall starting at 10:00 a.m. Also there is a combined midwinter with the 4th District at Arcade/Phalen Post #577, on January 5, 2019 doors open at 8:00, program starts at 9 a.m. The 4th is doing well in membership, maybe they can teach us some new tricks. I'm happy to announce that at the last meeting of the Veterans Home Post 581, that they raised funds through a cookie sale to make a donation to the home for some artwork. Way to go. Our next District meeting is Monday, November 5, at Minneapolis/Richfield Post 435 at 7:30 p.m.

SIXTH DISTRICT

Richard Cross
Commander



Hi Legion family

Membership is, as always, the main process for this time of year. It's fortunate that the Sixth District has a very experienced membership director, and we are doing well on that subject. October was a very busy and fun month, with all the membership dinners and Post visits. It was nice to see the family members and interact with them. We, the Sixth District Legion Family, are working very closely to complete our mission for the veterans, using different methods to enhance the various abilities of the Legion for the Veterans.

The Department Fall Conference was interesting and informative as usual. Looking forward to the rest of the year. It's been an exciting and very informative time the last few months, and I appreciate the chance to be involved.

SEVENTH DISTRICT

Jeffrey Gay
Commander



November leaves have dropped leading toward the winter months. A splash of color and beauty before the monochromatic black and white of winter.

As the winds howl, the snow falls and the temperatures dip it's difficult to go out so we all have time to hunker down with a cup of hot cocoa by our side, a notebook on our desk and a phone in our hand. Now you can focus on what's been put aside during the busy months before.

All Legionnaires can help their Posts and Districts by taking the past-member list and calling them to garner a new membership. I'm sure you know someone (Friend, grandchild, nephew) in the Reserves or the Guard you can contact to ask for a membership and for names and contact information of their military friends.

Much can be done from the comfort of your favorite chair but going out is a good excuse for a cup of coffee and some conversation.

With the holidays approaching everyone is in the spirit of giving. Setting up an information display at a local grocery or Walmart type store would be beneficial in outreach and recruiting. Sell them on the benefits of membership and then let them know it may be a great gift for someone hard to buy for! Consider a PUFL too!

Call your District for help, get the "District promotional kit" to lend a professional look to your display.

EIGHTH DISTRICT

Wilbur Swanson
Commander



Hello out there in the Eighth District. I looked out on my deck and saw all the leaves and a light blanket of snow. I guess that means a new season is here but, up north, we expect that. I hope everyone has received the new 2018-2019 yearbook; if not, let me know.

Our membership is moving along and we need to encourage our people to renew their membership to keep their membership continuations going. Many of the benefits available to Legion members look at the continuous years of membership for eligibility.

Fall Conferences is over and I hope those who attended enjoyed their time there and learned something they could use to better our mission. The Auxillary is active and doing a great job. I am thankful for their service and dedication. I'm appreciative for all of the Legion family that gives their time and effort to further the mission of The American Legion.

Let us all have a joyful Thanksgiving this year with thankfulness for all the benefits that have been provided for us. God bless the Legion family and the USA.

NINTH DISTRICT

Arlo Rude
Commander



Greetings from the Roaring 9th.

As we take time to remember the Veterans that have "given their last full measure" let us think about those serving now in harm's way in the Mideast and other places. Our service men and women are on the front lines defending our democratic form of government. Our freedoms are at test in many places around the world. Keep our service men and women in your thoughts and prayers.

Many Posts will be participating in programs at high schools on Veterans Day. Pass on to the students that our freedoms require constant vigilance and protection from those who would do us harm. That our flag represents the lives and service of millions of our citizens who have given their service to protect and die for our freedoms.

There are those who live remembering family members who have died in service to our Country. Gold Star families live with the knowledge of the ultimate cost of defending our Country. Give remembrance to their sacrifice for our Country.

TENTH DISTRICT

Paul Orson
Commander



November is a busy month with all the activities, services, remembrances and ceremonies honoring our veterans on November 11th. Most posts honor our veterans somehow as we remember 'the 11th hour of the 11 day of the 11th month.' I know I am involved in half a dozen events. How many are you in?

Pheasant feeds at the Minnesota Veterans Homes and VA's are a wonderful time to thank them for their service and sit down, talk to them and listen to their stories as they remember their time in the service.

Nov 3rd is the 8/10 district training / rally at West Duluth Post. District Rally is the 10th at Maple Lake with the junior's fun day at Buffalo in the morning.

Listening Post

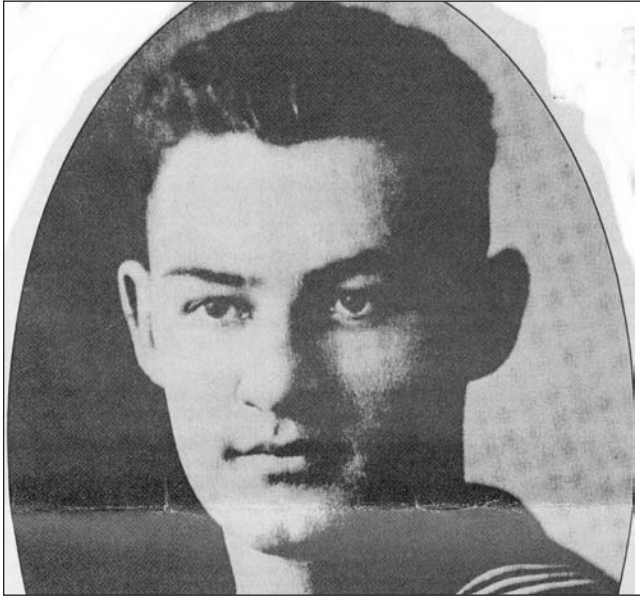
News from around the State



DENT FISHING TRIP -- Dent Post 148 sponsored a fishing outing for veterans at the Fergus Falls Veterans Home. The day included fishing and a meal.



TRACY FLAG RETIREMENT -- Tracy Post 173 conducted a flag retirement ceremony attended by the Boy Scouts and members of the community.



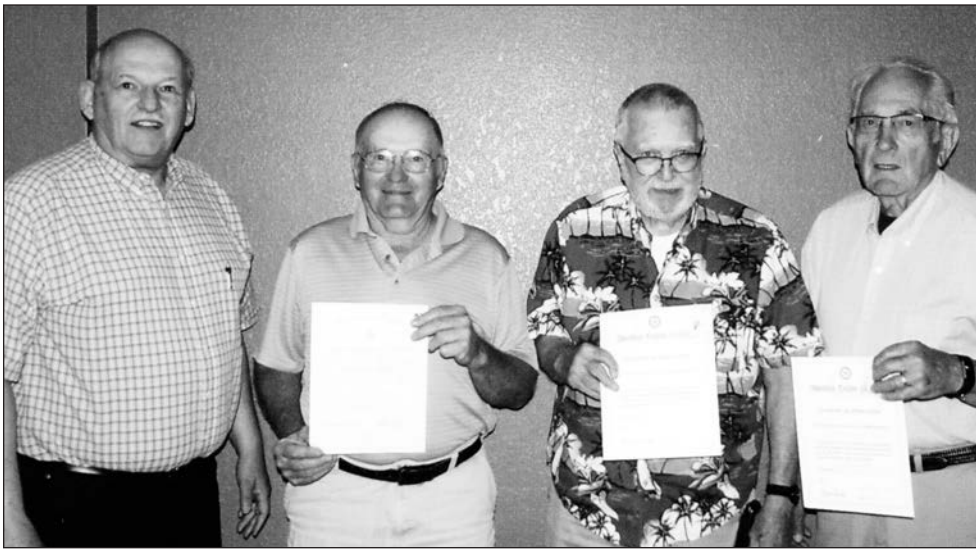
ALBERT LEA HONORS NAMESAKE -- Albert Lea Post 56 recently observed the 100th anniversary of the death of the post's namesake, Leo Carey. Post member Larry Tonder did the research. Carey was aboard the USS Tyler when it was torpedoed. He was the radioman on the ship, and he went down with the ship. He was 24 years old.



CLOQUET LONGTIME MEMBERS -- Cloquet Unit 262 recently presented with tacks honoring longtime members. From left: Ruth Ann Gillmor, Rhonda Stevenson, and Donna Gillmor. In front is Betty Lavan.



ELBOW LAKE MEMORIAL HALL -- The Veterans Memorial Hall at Elbow Lake celebrated its 10th year this year. The exhibit hall features artifacts, uniforms, service records and murals. The artists who painted the murals gathered at the hall: Judy Lohse, Lois Fagerberg, Lenore Bevins and Vicky Haraldson.



MORA OLD TIMERS -- Mora Post 201 honored 50-year members recently. Commander Greg Ardner, left, presented certificates to Ron Hines, Ron Larson and Paul Larson.



REDWOOD FALLS SHOOTERS -- Redwood Falls Post 38, in association with the 4-H Shooting Sports Program, sponsored a Junior Air Rifle Postal competition. Advancing to national regionals were Catherine Turbes and Jared Zollner. Coaches, on left and right, were Larry Weidell and Mike Zollner.



RICHFIELD TEAM TRAVELS -- The Richfield Post 435's Junior Shooting program traveled to the Junior Olympics National Championship and the NRA Championships this year. From left, front: Taylor and Jackie. In back, Megan, Lizzie, Ruby, Trina, and Anthony.



TYLER MOVIE -- The movie *Farmer of the Year* was shot in part at the Tyler Post 185 hall. The movie was released this year and tells the story of a veteran attending a World War II reunion. It was written and directed by Kathy Swanson, whose father is a member of the post.

Listening Post

News from around the State



MILITARY BALL -- The annual Military Ball held at Spring Grove with 163 persons in attendance. Rev. William Reese, a Vietnam veteran, was the speaker. The annual ball is held every April.



MONTICELLO COOKIES -- Monticello Unit 260 baked, packed and shipped 30 boxes of cookies to American troops. From left: Diane Peters, President Cathy Giroux, Judy Adamson, Sandy Staples, Tobias Giroux, Luella Giroux, Roseann Duran, Bette Alford, Mary Simonet, Mabel Liefert.



BACKUS FISHING OUTING -- Veterans from the Eagle's Nest at Sauk Centre and their hosts, the Backus Post 368, had the annual fishing outing on Lake Hattie. The Tuck-A-Way Resort co-sponsored the event.



WABASHA COUNTY DAY -- Posts from Lake City, Wabasha, Kellogg, Plainview, Millville, Elgin and Mazeppa participated in the 61st annual Boys and Girls Wabasha County Day. County leaders made presentations for 36 students.



EAGAN FLAG PROGRAM -- Eagan Post 594 expanded its flag donation program to the city of Eagan. These flags will be used at several city locations including City Hall, the First Department and the Police Department. From left: Commander John Flynn, Eagan Supervisor of government Buildings Mike Sipper and Adjutant Wayne Beierman.



ELYSIAN COLOR GUARD -- When St. Jarlath's Cemetery in Waseca County celebrated its 150th birthday, the Elysian Post 311 Honor Guard was part of the ceremony. Three Civil War vets are buried in the cemetery.



HOLDINGFORD FISHING OUTING -- Logan Hoheisel holds the flag at the start of the Holdingford Post 211 fishing outing. The event hosted 24 local veterans who caught over 40 pounds of fish. Photo courtesy the *Albany Enterprise*.



ARLINGTON HONOR -- Arlington Post 250 honored Albert Burdorf for 70 years of membership. He was flanked by Commander Don Seeman and Adjutant Gene Schultz.



CURRIE HONOR -- Currie Post 322 Past Commander Mark Shaw presents a 70-year continuous service certificate to William Pattinson, a World War II veteran.

Listening Post

News from around the State



BAGLEY PROCLAMATION -- Mayor Sid Michel of Bagley signed a proclamation declaring August 24 as American Legion Day in Bagley. In attendance were, in front, Dennis Henkemeyer and Post Adjutant Ken Braaten. In back, Unit President Cheryl Groverand Denise Milton.



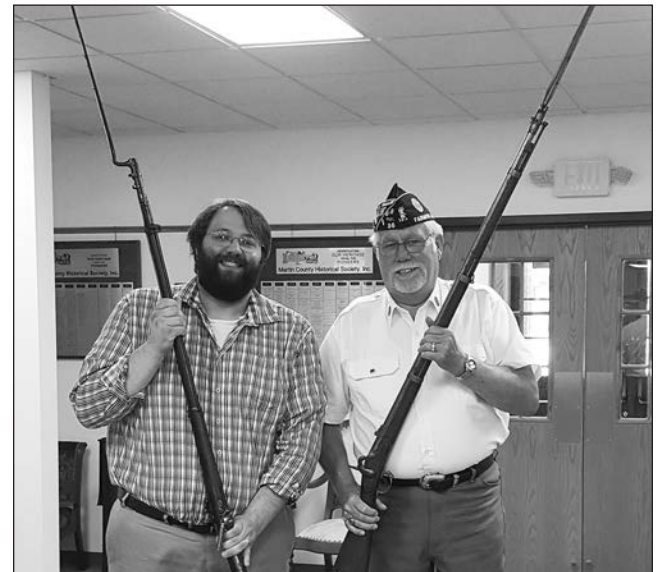
COLOR GUARDS FROM ALL OVER -- Legion color guards from Balaton, Lake Benton, Tyler, Russell and Ivanhoe along with the Minnesota Army National Guard Marching Band led the Aebleskiver Days Parade in Tyler.



NORTH ST. PAUL SAL DONATION -- Bird Partridge presented a check from the North St. Paul SAL Squadron 39 to Bill Morris of the Veterans Rest Camp.



OLIVIA FLAG RETIREMENT -- Olivia Post 186 members put flags on the fire during a flag retirement ceremony attended by many members of the community.



FAIRMONT DONATION -- Fairmont Post Commander Steve Fosness presented Martin County Historical Society's Jim Marushin with a Savage Arms 1863 musket and bayonet and a Springfield 1873 rifle.



LAKELAND VETERANS -- Lakeland Manufacturing of Alexandria, one of the winner's of the Legion's employment awards, presented the certificate to its veteran employees. From left: Michael Barton, Greg Estenson, Na'eem Ford, Legion presenter Dean Knutson, Timothy Boyle, President Charles Niska, Ryan Dew, Gary Peterson.



WALNUT GROVE MEMORIAL -- Walnut Grove Post 267 dedicated the city's veterans memorial in Leo Thorsness Park in May.



LAKE CITY AWARDS -- Lake City Membership Director Gene Shuman, left, receives a plaque for 2017-18 membership, while Commander Dan Smith receives certificates from the city naming Lake City as a Purple Heart City and recognizing the post as a Centennial Post. First District Vice Commander Andru Peters presented the awards.



HOUSTON COUNTY BINGO -- Houston County Posts Spring Grove, Caledonia, Houston, Hokah, and LaCrescent operated a bingo booth at the county fair for Honor Flights and raised over \$2,000.



ROCHESTER LONG TIMERS -- Rochester Post 92 honored some of its senior members. From left: Fred Stussy, William Groslic, Commander Joe Brown, Sterling Mestad, President Shirley Oberle, Herman Stahl.



The Auxiliary Bulletin

No. 19-4

President Jean Walker

November 2018

Secretary Sandie Deutsch

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

The President's Column

By Jean Walker



I have been busy traveling since my last column. It has been so much fun visiting with our American Legion Family at luncheons, suppers, etc.

First off, I went to Nisswa for the Sixth District Past President Parley Luncheon. Great time was had by all at this luncheon. They invited all the Past Presidents from the Department, District and Unit in their District. What a grand idea.

Then, I attended the Honor Flight returning home to the Fargo Airport. It was an honor to welcome our heroes' home. Then we were on our way to Mission Training in Sioux Falls, SD. The day before we stopped at the Luverne Veterans home.

We joined the Veterans for lunch, a tour of the home and joining a group of fifth graders in a weekly project with the Veterans in the afternoon. Thankfully, Margee Keller, our Department Chaplain, took the time to travel with me.

After we left the Veterans Home we went to Lismore and had supper with several Lismore unit members at the local café and the next morning coffee with a few Legionnaires. Then onto the Mission Training in Sioux Falls.

It was well attended by many Auxiliary members from Minnesota. It's great to see that are members want to be so well informed. Next, on the schedule were three American Legion Family membership suppers.

They were held at Karlstad, Brainerd, and Waseca. I would like to thank everyone again for the great hospitality that was shown to me and my traveling companions.

Remember that November is Past Presidents Parley month. What is your Unit doing special for this program? Treat your Past Presidents to something special this month. Also, they are your mentors so if you have questions please ask them. They will help you and remember there are no dumb questions.

Our Fall Conference is now in the history books. I hope everyone in attendance will take the information they learned back to their Units to share with their Unit members.

The Fall Conference is all about learning about our programs. I am so pleased that this is what happened at our Fall Conference. Ample time was given to ask questions from our Program Chairmen. We had a very good question and answer period after each block of program chairman reports.

So, I would also want to thank the Program Chairman for taking the time to create their display boards and bringing them to Fall Conference. They all had great information to share on their program areas and handouts for members to take with them.

I know I thanked everyone on our Facebook page, but everyone does not do Facebook or are into electronics. So, thank you to all who attended our Fall Conference and shared their information and thank you to all the members who worked behind the scenes to make this conference a success.

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

Thank you once 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.

2018 Fall Conference was a great success at Marshall

The 86th annual Fall Conference was held in Marshall, Minnesota on October 26-27. The Conference was sponsored by the Marshall American Legion Family #113. Teri Richardson and her crew ran our annual Fall Conference Silent Auction which the proceeds goes to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. This is an Auxiliary program where the Auxiliary helps their members in times of emergencies. Thanks to the entire American Legion Family for making this a success. More information will be in the next issue.

office earmarked Gift Shop. Let's support our own Auxiliary programs first.

Donations to the Gift Shop are accepted all year. You may use Poppy funds and Gambling funds for this program. The Gift Shop is available to all veterans who are in the various facilities at the time of the Gift Shop including regular day care patients. The Gift Shop is chaired by Vida Bacon and her Committee Member is Linda Deschene. They are both giving much of their time to make this a very successful event.

PEARL HARBOR RALLY

The Pearl Harbor Membership Rally will be held at the Faribault American Legion Post 43 on Saturday, December 8th, with turn in from 11:00 a.m. until noon. There will be a brunch at 12:00 noon with the program to follow. The Auxiliary is still using these get-togethers as a Membership Rally so make sure and bring many along!!

Robin Dorf is doing a phenomenal job with Membership this year so let's make the Pearl Harbor Rally be special with record turn ins. Keep Department Secretary Sandie busy.

CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOP

The Department Office and the Hospital and Home Representatives want to give a big thank you to the Units and Posts that have contributed funds to our Gift Shop program. Again this year, the veterans at the four (4) VA Medical Centers and the five (5) Minnesota Veterans Homes will be selecting gifts for their loved ones through our Gift Shop program. About 2,000 veterans participate in this program. A huge change this year for the Gift Shop is the amount that was approved by the Department Executive Committee to spend on our Veterans at the Gift Shop.

The Gift Shop committee has been busy shopping for the gifts and would appreciate your Unit's financial support of this program. Please include a generous cash donation in your Unit's annual budget and send it to the department

GIFT SHOP DATES

Our representatives have announced the date(s) of their Gift Shop at their respective facility.

Fargo VAMC	December 3 and 6
Minneapolis VAMC	December 4 & 5
Sioux Falls VAMC	December 10
St. Cloud VAMC	November 26-28
Fergus Falls VA Home	December 10
Hastings VA Home	December 6
Luverne VA Home	December 13
Minneapolis VA Home	December 5-6
Silver Bay VA Home	December 13

Please let the representatives know if you would like to volunteer at any of the facilities. It is a very rewarding experience.

SECRETARY SANDIE'S NOTES

I am keeping my little corner short and sweet this month as we have tons to put on our two pages. Fall Conference was a great time, as usual. I sure wish more of our members would attend, this one is no work, all learning and play! The Deutsch household is getting real excited as we are celebrating Christmas the first of December and finally get to have baby Elizabeth in our arms. I thought I would never,

Hendrickson endorsed for Dept. President

West Duluth American Legion Auxiliary Unit 71 and its Past Presidents Parley have endorsed Mary Hendrickson for the position of 2019-2020 Department President.

An Honorary Life Member, she is eligible for membership through her late father, Army Staff Sgt. Clarence Gilbertson, a World War II veteran.

In her unit, Mary has served almost all chairmanships and offices. In the 8th district she has held most

chairmanships and offices including Executive Committee, Membership Chairman, Secretary (3 terms), Treasurer (3 terms), 1st and 2nd Vice President, District President in 2011-2012.

At the Department level, Hendrickson has served as Historian, Education Chair, Community Service Chair, Leadership Chair, Service to Veterans Chair, VA&R Chair, a member of the Strategic Planning Committee, 2nd Vice

President.

She is currently serving as the Department 1st Vice President and Legislation Chairman.

At the national level, she has held the positions of NW Division Legislation Chairman and as a Committee Member on the National Public Relations Committee.

A retired educator, Mary and her husband Carl live in Cloquet. She is an active community volunteer.



MARY HENDRICKSON

Buckley endorsed for NW vice president

Ben Krueger American Legion Auxiliary Unit 49 of Pequot Lakes has endorsed Dee Dee Buckley as Minnesota's candidate for Northwestern Division National Vice President for the year 2020-2021.

Buckley is a 33-year Honorary Life Member and is eligible for membership through the service of her late father, Loren V. Lien, a World War II Navy veteran.

She has held most chairmanships and all offices in Unit 49. In the 6th District,

she has held many offices and chairmanships and served as 6th District President in 1997-98.

Buckley has served the Department as Advisory Committee (three years), Americanism Chairman, Gift Shop Committeem Girls State Committee (3 years), Girls State Chair, Girls State Photographer (8 years), Historian, Home Service Director, Hospital Representative, Leadership Chairman (2 years), Membership Chairman,

National Security Chairman, Parliamentarian (2 years). She served as Department President in 2006-07.

On the National level, she has served as Alternate National Executive Committeewoman, and National Executive Committeewoman

Buckley is retired from Nuclear Metals, Inc. She is a member of Arcade-Phalen Post 577 American Legion Riders, VFW Auxiliary 7055. Buckley has one son.



DEE DEE BUCKLEY

Auxiliary Bulletin

Continued from Preceding Page

ever say this but I am hoping there is some snow for her to play in. If anybody is in the Montgomery area on Thanksgiving or has nothing going on make sure and stop in to Post 79 and enjoy homemade Tom and Jerry's and the best Bloody Mary's around – I happen to know that as I will be making them. We will also be serving Thanksgiving Dinner starting at 11:00 a.m. If you would like to join us you can make reservations by calling the Montgomery American Legion. No worries, I am still banned from the kitchen by Darlene. Shorty and I want to wish every one of you the best Thanksgiving ever and take a minute to say a prayer for our Military that are away from their families serving our Country at this time.

November is Past President's Parlay month

We encourage all Units to have a Past Presidents Parley. I am giving you ideas to establish your parley in your Unit.

Establish a Past Presidents Parley in your Unit

- Units are encouraged to establish a Past Presidents Parley consisting of their past Unit presidents. This group can continue their support of the organization by using their experience, knowledge and wisdom to be goodwill ambassadors and to strengthen our organization and help maintain its growth.

- Past Presidents Parley can play an important part in the mentoring of current members to develop

knowledgeable leadership within the Unit. They can support and assist in a recruitment effort for new members.

- They are encouraged to select a mission-outreach project of interest and support the program with time and/or financial contributions. They may choose to have a courtesy fund and chairman to remember past presidents when the need arises.

- They should make themselves available to current officers as well as potential candidates for office. Their guidance and constructive feedback should help the Unit maintain continuity and good cooperation.

- This group could

hold a luncheon to share current news and activities about their Unit. They may choose to donate funds or raise funds for ex-service-women and Past Presidents Parley nurses scholarships.

- They could invite the current Unit President to their meeting and work with her on her agenda for the year.

- Continue to be involved; you are a valuable Unit member.

After forming your Parley, remember to continue working for your Unit's growth, promote and submit nominations for the Unit Member of the Year Award and support the women veterans in your community.



KAREN THYGESON
Chairman

Oct. 29, 2018, Auxiliary Membership				
District	Goal	Membership To Date	Percent of Goal	Membership Last Year 10/30/18
One	4,907	2,176	44.34%	2,491
Two	4,924	2,530	51.38%	2,702
Three	4,422	2,370	53.60%	2,449
Four	720	356	49.44%	375
Five	788	345	43.78%	417
Six	6,042	3,382	55.97%	3,605
Seven	3,934	1,779	45.22%	2,015
Eight	1,628	687	42.20%	815
Nine	4,344	2,261	52.05%	2,637
Ten	5,129	2,214	43.17%	2,437
1982	160	106	66.25%	98
Totals	36,998	18,206	49.21%	20,041



BRUNO FOUR WHEELERS -- The Bears Den in Bruno held a Veterans four wheeler ride with half of the proceeds going to the Bruno American Legion. The American Legion Auxiliary had a very successful day selling baked goods.



BRUNO DINNER -- The Bruno American Legion Auxiliary held its first Spaghetti Supper and silent auction recently. They had 91 guests. The proceeds are going to the Juniors to make gift baskets to the soldiers and help the local veterans.



DEPARTMENT PUFL WINNER -- Winner of the Paid up for Life Member contest was Katherine Swanson-Bolz, a member of Apple Valley Unit 1776. At right is Unit President Maryalyce McCabe.

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MARIETTA WALK -- Every year the Marietta American Legion Auxiliary walks in the Lac qui Parle Hope Network Walk of Hope in Madison and Dawson. The Walk of Hope is a fundraiser that supports those battling cancer in Lac qui Parle County and is also an event that recognizes everyone who has battled cancer.

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MISSION TRAINING -- Minnesota Auxliary members attended mission training in Sioux Falls.

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Panama Canal

February 28 – March 17, 2019

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- Services of 4 Seasons Tour Director, Larry Alvey
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- All transfers to and from the airport, hotel and pier
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- 1 pre-cruise night in Ft. Lauderdale
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- Onboard ship gratuities

\$5,779.00
Balcony

Alaska Tour & Cruise
August 9-21, 2019

Tour Includes:

- 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Larry Alvey
- Round trip Delta Airlines flights Minneapolis to Fairbanks and return from Vancouver
- All sightseeing/entrance fees as outlined in the itinerary
- 7 night southbound cruise on the CORAL PRINCESS
- Cruise gratuities
- All meals and entertainment while aboard the CORAL PRINCESS
- All transfers to and from the airport and pier
- Luggage handling for one suitcase per person

\$5,499.00 Balcony
per person double
occupancy

PASSPORT REQUIRED

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 Aston Waikiki Beach Hotel
- Breakfast daily at the hotel
- City Tour of Honolulu and Pearl Harbor
- Circle Island Tour of Oahu
- Lei Greeting upon arrival in Honolulu
- Transfer between hotel, airport & pier
- 8 day cruise aboard the PRIDE OF AMERICA
- All meals and entertainment aboard the ship plus onboard ship gratuities
- Luggage handling for one suitcase per person

\$5,399.00 per
person double
occupancy

NEW YORK CITY

November 7-11, 2018

Tour Includes:

- 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Larry Alvey
- Delta Airlines flights, Minneapolis to NYC Times Square in New York City
- 4 night stay at the Millennium Hotel on Times Square in New York City
- 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

San Antonio Riverwalk
February 11-18, 2019

Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Vacation Tour Escort Linda Andersen
- 7 nights accommodations
- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- 13 meals: 7 breakfasts, 3 lunch, 3 dinners
- Luggage handling for 1 suitcase per person
- Oklahoma City National Memorial
- Magnolia Market at the Silos in Waco, TX
- Riverwalk district for shopping and dining
- San Fernando Cathedral "The Saga" music and light show
- Private tour of the Alamo
- San Antonio history tour w/lunch at the Historic Menger Hotel
- Riverwalk boat tour
- LBJ Ranch "The Texas Whitehouse"
- Sixth floor Museum at Dealey Plaza in Dallas, TX

\$1,399.00 per
person double
occupancy

Monuments of Washington D.C.
May 17-21, 2019

Tour Includes:

- 4 Seasons Tour Director, Larry Alvey
- Round trip Delta Airlines flights Minneapolis to Washington D.C.
- 4 nights accommodations in the Washington D.C. area
- Evening Guided Memorial and Monuments Tours
- 4 Breakfasts, 4 Dinners
- Tram ride through Arlington National Cemetery
- Admission to George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate and Garden
- Two full-day guided tours of Washington D.C.
- WWII Memorial, Capitol Hill, Embassy Row, the Korean War, Veterans Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Smithsonian, Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, and much more!

\$1,649.00
Per Person Double
Occupancy

Heart of Alaska

July 12-19, 2019

Tour Includes:

- 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Larry Alvey
- Round trip Delta flights between Minneapolis & Anchorage
- 13 Meals (including an Alaska Salmon Bake)
- Iditarod Trail Headquarters
- Denali National Park Natural History Tour
- Riverboat Discovery Cruise
- Chena Indian Village
- Travel the Alaska Railroad between Talkeetna & Denali National Park
- Sled Dog Demonstration
- Pan for gold at the Gold Dredge #8
- Prince William Sound Cruise
- Meares Glacier
- Luggage handling for one suitcase per person

**Pricing
to come**

A Tennessee Christmas

December 1-10, 2018

Tour Includes:

- 4 Seasons Tour Escort, Linda Andersen
- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- 9 nights accommodations
- 14 meals: 9 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 4 dinners
- Luggage handling for one suitcase per person
- Las Posadas (re-enactment of the journey to Bethlehem)
- Christmas Parades
- Beale Street in Memphis
- Rock n Roll Hall of Fame
- Christmas in Graceland
- Nashville highlights
- Country Music Hall of Fame
- Grand Ole Opry
- Trace Adkins in concert
- Smoky Mountain Opry
- Christmas at Dollywood
- Louisville Slugger Factory & Museum

\$1,849.00 per
person double
occupancy

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