



## The Veteran Assistance Fund is there for them



Sarah  
Schlicht



Mike  
Maxa

### Post commander: 'It feels amazing to help a fellow veteran'

BLUE EARTH — The Minnesota American Legion Foundation's Veteran Assistance Fund made all the difference in helping a veteran get back on his feet.

Blue Earth Post 89 Commander Paul Kafka said the veteran approached the Department of Minnesota directly. Department Adjutant Mike Maxa and Benefits Coordinator Sarah Schlicht

then reached out to Post 89 and explained how to take advantage of the Veteran Assistance Fund.

"Five days later, we got him the help he needed to get back on track financially," Kafka said. "Before this, we didn't even know the program existed."

The Veteran Assistance Fund is for when struggling veterans do not

qualify for other assistance programs or — even when they do qualify — there are times those programs take so long they end up being too late to actually help. Veterans in dire straits can receive assistance, with a max lifetime amount of \$5,000.

It is Minnesota American Legion Foundation Fund 85, and any request for assistance starts at the local posts,

which then bring the requests to the Department of Minnesota. Information is available on the department website, mnlegion.org, under the "Department" tab, then "Post Resources."

The fund, made possible through the generosity of a deceased member, presently has \$135,000. Posts may donate gambling funds to it. Members, if they donate \$20 or more, will receive a 2022 Department of

Continued on Page 3

## Softball no longer an ad hoc program

Executive committee gives it a promotion

MAHNOMEN — The American Legion Department of Minnesota Executive Committee on Oct. 21 stood up a new committee: the Fastpitch Softball Committee.

That means the end for the ad hoc version of the committee. It is now a standing committee housed under the umbrella



Mike  
Arvidson

of the Minnesota American Legion Foundation. It will be Fund 51.

Fastpitch Softball Committee Chairman Mike Arvidson of Parkers Prairie gave a report. He needs seed money to set up a website so that the program can stir interest and, come January, take and track team registration. The baseball program relies on a national registration system, while this softball program doesn't have a national level to help out and must run on its own.

Continued on Page 9

## A shrine to veterans



Kaylee Robinson of Redwood Valley High School sings "The Star-Spangled Banner" at the dedication of a new veterans cemetery on Oct. 13 east of Redwood Falls, as veterans and state and federal officials face the colors.

### New state cemetery near Redwood Falls is dedicated

By Tim Engstrom

REDWOOD FALLS — Veterans and their supporters came from all around to pack themselves inside a tent on a cold and blustery autumn day on 81 acres east of Redwood Falls.

"These grounds will be transformed into a

shrine," said Dave Swantek, the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs' administrator of memorial affairs.

The gathering dedicated the land for a new veterans cemetery. Now that the ceremonial dirt has been turned, development begins on 21.7 acres, the first of 10 phases.

"We demand perfection from our cemetery staff members. We have only one chance to get it right when burying veterans," Swantek said.

Several state elected officials were present. Gov. Tim Walz, a veteran of the Minnesota National Guard, said it is to become the fourth state veterans cemetery.

He said veterans stand up for each other and

Continued on Page 2

## 'Everyone has a role to play in preventing suicide'

MAHNOMEN — The 10th leading cause of death in America is suicide. In Minnesota, suicide ranks at No. 8.

Minneapolis VA Suicide Prevention Coordinator Andrea Sandberg said she and her team have seen the devastation of suicide, in their line of work and in personal lives.

"It's important to reach all vets where they live, work and thrive," she said.

Suicide is an intense topic for some people, but it must be discussed, Sandberg said.

The Veterans Crisis Line is 1-800-273-8255, then press 1.

Sandberg discouraged use of the word "commit" when talking about suicide. (She didn't explain why, but word experts argue "commit" has a negative connotation, like to commit a sin or a crime. Others note that "commit" seems to lessen the severity of taking one's life and dehumanizes the act.) She said it is preferable to say "death by suicide."

She said over 45,000 Americans died by suicide in 2019. Of those, 830 were Minnesotans.

It is said that, on average, for every one death by suicide, it affects 135

Continued on Page 3



Andrea Sandberg speaks before the Fall Conference of the Department of Minnesota on Oct. 22 at Shooting Star Casino in Mahanomen.

## Pearl Harbor Rally is ready

MONTGOMERY — The Minnesota American Legion Family Pearl Harbor Rally is planned for Saturday, Dec. 4, at Montgomery Post 79.

Tickets are \$15. To save your space, contact Jody

Hassing by calling 651-329-7197 or email her at jodyhassing@gmail.com.

Social hour and membership turn-in are at noon, with a 1 p.m. lunch, followed by the program.

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The Minnesota Military Funeral Honors Team stands at port arms after firing volleys.



Members of the Honors Team and Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs employees hold the colors in place.



Federal, state and local officials turn the dirt (well, sand actually) during a groundbreaking dedication on Oct. 13 for the new Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery east of Redwood Falls. Many officials, when speaking, praised the cooperation among several levels of government. Media from southwest Minnesota was present for the event.

## 'Rural Minnesota is more than doing its share'

Continued from Page 1

said they are sisters and brothers in service. "For as long as this nation stands, this piece of ground will be cared for like no other piece of ground," Walz said.

He noted southwest Minnesota needed one and thanked federal officials for approving funds that, along with state and county allocations, made the cemetery possible.

U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar described losing her father in May. Jim Klobuchar was a three-decade Minneapolis Star Tribune columnist and an Army veteran stationed in Europe during the Korean War. (He joined The American Legion as an at-large member in 2010.)

Now, her father is buried at the national veterans cemetery at Fort Snelling, and she said veterans cemeteries are valuable to loved ones and especially needed in rural Minnesota, where military-participation rates are higher.

"Rural Minnesota is more than doing its

share," Klobuchar said.

She visited the Minnesota Memorial at the Gettysburg Battlefield, a monument she said has an overlooked story. The 1st Minnesota Volunteer Infantry Regiment held the line against overwhelming odds during Confederate Lt. Gen. James Longstreet's assault on July 2, 1863 and aided in repelling Maj. Gen. George Pickett's charge the next day. Minnesota took the greatest death toll of the entire battle.

The battlefield was left in horrific shape, she said, until President Abraham Lincoln made it into hallowed ground.

The National Cemetery Administration Director George Eisenbach said, on behalf of VA Secretary Denis McDonough, that he was pleased to be part of the groundbreaking.

Eisenbach encouraged attendees to tell the stories of the veterans who will be buried at the cemetery and don't forget their names.

Minnesota Veterans Affairs Commissioner Larry Herke said the state veterans cemeteries recently performed its 10,000

internment. He asked for a round of applause for groundskeepers. The other three cemeteries are in Little Falls, Duluth and Preston.

He said the Redwood Falls cemetery will seek five full-time positions, one part-time job and two seasonal workers.

Local state, tribal and county leaders spoke, too.

State Sen. Gary Dahms remarked, "It is imperative to give veterans peace of mind that they will be buried with the utmost respect."

MDVA Deputy Director Brad Lindsay performed the role of emcee. The Minnesota National Guard provided its Military Funeral Honors Team for presenting the colors.

Because of the wind, a few MDVA employees helped the team keep flags in their holders right outside the tent behind the speakers. East winds were around 16 mph with gusts up to 32 mph. The air temperature was 58 degrees. The tent shook throughout the ceremony but held.

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## Training is available at local post

By Mike Ash

What?

That's impossible! Nobody has all the answers.

But, yes indeed, we do. The Department Training Committee has the answer to any question you have concerning The American Legion.

With a combined knowledge of about 102 years (The American Legion is 102 years old — coincidence?), we are here to help every Legionnaire become the best that they can be.

Have you seen the "Free Training" ads? One of them is on this page. Our team will train at your post or district, on any subject or subjects you select. We can do it in-person or via Zoom (or a combination of both).

If you have a personal question, you can contact any of the Training Committee members

(or email us all at [trainingcomm@mnlegion.org](mailto:trainingcomm@mnlegion.org)).

OK, full disclosure, do we really have all the answers?

Technically, no; however, we know where to find them and we want to be that same kind of resource for you.

Do you have a superpower similar to ours? That is, do you know a Legion-oriented subject pretty thoroughly, are able to present a logical (read: non-snoozing) manner and answer questions concerning your oration? Let us know, we're always looking for guest instructors to augment our team.

What's next? The Training Committee is working on reading minds of Legionnaires and getting the answer to you before you ask the question! Our latest test — to Tom C. in the 9th District, the answer is "Yes. But it may be illegal in several states."

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# Suicide is complex and preventable

Continued from Page 1

others, she said. That means in 2019 there were 6 million Americans affected.

The suicide rate for veterans, she said, is 1.5 times the non-veteran population. In 2019, there were 6,261 veterans who killed themselves, and of those, 85 were veterans.

“Suicide in the veteran community is not necessarily related to deployment,”

Sandberg said.

The primary means of suicide death among veterans is by firearm. They account for 69 percent.

“Most veterans dying by suicide are not in VA care,” she said.

Many try to pinpoint trends or reasons, but suicide is complex, she said, often a result of multiple factors in each case: economic, ethnic, homelessness, orientation, social

connections, isolation, health, mental health, among others.

“But it is preventable,” Sandberg said.

The public health approach calls for clinical interventions, community-based interventions and upstream approaches (stem the thought before it occurs).

“We want to get to them before they get into the water,” she said. “Everyone has a role to play in preventing suicide.”

# Expenses prevented vet from moving

Continued from Page 1

Minnesota calendar. (See ad on the back page.) A new American Legion Riders motorcycle ride next summer will aim to expand the fund.

“This is the only quick veteran assistance that we know of,” said Lloyd Ricker, chairman of the Minnesota American Legion Foundation.

The Minnesota Legionnaire interviewed the veteran.

“This assistance brought life to me, and to the Legion members,” he said. “To be honest, I was really surprised.”

He said he is a Gulf War era veteran who, after a personal setback, had to get alcohol treatment at the St. Cloud VA Medical Center. He has two young children and an ex-wife.

He said his time at the VA felt like being at home. The VA offered him vocational rehab employment, but he couldn’t afford to move and had past rent to pay



**Minnesota American Legion Foundation Chairman Lloyd Ricker discusses the Veteran Assistance Fund at the Fall Conference.**

off to a helpful landlord. He said Post 89 members were willing to help him with any paperwork he had.

The Veteran Assistance Fund paid for \$300 in gas cards, \$1,400 to the landlord, \$1,200 for moving expenses from the Blue Earth area to St. Cloud and \$500 to a cellphone provider.

“It feels amazing to help a fellow veteran,” Kafka said.

“This is a primary reason I joined a veterans organization. When you get a chance to help a brother out, it’s the best feeling in the world.”

He said it reminded him of a time eight years ago when a local Marine got out right at the same time as a government shutdown, which prevented him from receiving his separation pay. He had no means by which to live in the civilian world. Post 89 took care of him until the shutdown was over and his paycheck came.

Maxa said the reason the assistance originates at the posts is The American Legion is a grass-roots organization.

“We want our posts to get more active on this,” he said.

Some posts get so wrapped up in the bar and restaurant management that they neglect the Four Pillars, one of which is veterans rehabilitation.

“I think sometimes we lose a little bit of focus,” Maxa said.

# Minnesota DAV is in Immediate Need for Additional Volunteer Drivers

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**St. Cloud: 320-255-6365**

[www.dav.org/help-dav/volunteer/drive-a-van](http://www.dav.org/help-dav/volunteer/drive-a-van)

Regions in high need of drivers include:  
Blue Earth, Brown and Sibley Counties  
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(Morrison, Mille Lacs, Kanabec & Wright Counties)



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# Visit to Winger touched participants

Nels T. Wold, a son, brother, soldier, Medal of Honor recipient, hero.

Sept. 26, 1918, Nels T. Wold, 22, gave the ultimate sacrifice after silencing four German machine gun emplacements and rushing the fifth machine gun nest near Cheppy, France.

Dec. 21, 1919, Nels T. Wold is posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Sept. 21, 1921, 100 years ago, Nels returns home and is laid to rest at Elim Cemetery, Winger, Minnesota.

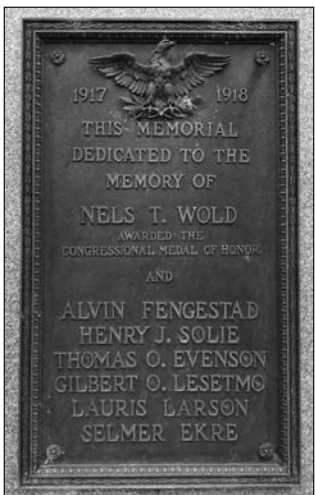
The members of Fengestad Solie American Legion Post 200 in Winger recently held a ceremony recognizing Nels T. Wold's return from Cheppy, France to Winger. My wife and I are forever grateful to the members of Post 200, the Wold family members in attendance and the community of Winger for inviting us to attend this special event.

Military and veterans memorials stand in communities across our country. Maintaining memorials is no small task, but it is important for generations to recognize and remember the service and sacrifices for our freedom. We will remember.

My suitcase had a lot of wear and tear in September and October. I attended the Department Commander Training in Indianapolis, the Commanders' Task Force Summit Leadership in St. Paul, the Department Fall Conference in Mahanomen and committee and organizational meetings and dinners.

There were several other events and a full-time job in the mix. I enjoy traveling and

## Commander's Column Tom Fernlund



changes the lives of youth through activities that involve not only safety training but Americanism, citizenship and sportsmanship. Our youth benefit from this beautiful camp near Brainerd.

American Legion Family members selflessly volunteer numerous hours maintaining the facility enjoying camaraderie and time spent in a calming outdoor environment. \$5,000 is needed for an equipment trailer, and \$5,000 is needed for a new dishwasher.

The goal for the veterans homes recreation fund is \$10,000 for each home. We have not been able to visit the veterans homes because of the virus, but the veterans are not forgotten and deserve our support.

Donations can be made to "Minnesota American Legion Foundation Fund 82."

Veterans Day is Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021. Remember all veterans this day and every day. Continue Buddy Checks, especially as we head into the holiday season. I have one foot out the door heading to the next visit with The Greatest American Legion Family.

*Tom Fernlund of St. Cloud is the commander of The American Legion Department of Minnesota.*



# Legionnaires work best together

The explanation of who we are begins with "For God and Country."

This century-old declaration remains a strong part of The American Legion. It is one of the hallmarks that separates us from other patriotic organizations.

Why we do what we do matters.

The purpose and value to better ourselves and one another; provide wholesome and edifying activities for our youth; our nation's defense; and to take care of the military members who have sacrificed on behalf of our country transcend beyond one specific religion's doctrine.

Each of us knows that we are better together than individually — iron truly sharpens iron. Each of us also know we can't do it alone — each person has gifts, talents and abilities that another doesn't and never will have. You cannot be whatever you put your mind to — we each have limits and must work together. I have come to appreciate this truth, more than my 20-year-old self would accept.

In our American Legion Family, there is a chaplain

## Chaplain's Corner Kelley Adelsman

instituted at each level — post, district, department and national. The chaplain's responsibility is to hold space by giving thanks; petition and recognition that our lives are not only flesh and bone but our spirit provides our direction, value and purpose.

No matter if one expresses this aspect through formalized religion or if one chooses to believe that a God does not exist, the chaplain is the principal member bringing the awareness of holy into the realm of the present.

I have a distinct honor serving alongside 10 district chaplains. They are as available as I am. Please contact me or your district chaplain for any spiritual or religious needs. We stand at the helm as representatives for us all that we aim to be obedient, grateful and vessels of our Creator's love, grace, and mercy.

1st District: Larry Otto  
2nd District: Cory Germain

3rd District: James Entinger  
4th District: Carl Renalls  
5th District: Harry DeCrescenzo  
6th District: Frank Grittner  
7th District: Dave Ecker  
8th District: Bruce Braun  
9th District: Steve Jacobson Sr.

10th District: Bonnie Hanson  
My contact information is [mndeptchp@gmail.com](mailto:mndeptchp@gmail.com). Please reach out to me for questions; spiritual support and even for spiritual dilemmas.

Your privacy is respected and only under the state of Minnesota reporting statute would I reach out to save your life or another's by contacting 911.

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



# Mail Call

Send letters to the editor for Mail Call to [tengstrom@mnlegion.org](mailto:tengstrom@mnlegion.org).

## VA healthcare was responsive

Many THANKS to the VA! Your healthcare services in 2021 are immensely appreciated. Never before did I ever imagine I would have a hearing loss due, in part, to my short active duty and subsequent National Guard service in the 1970s. Now, I have a terrific pair of top-of-the-line hearing aids, along with lifetime supplies and service, plus a wonderful monthly, lifetime income supplement payment. Provided "no cost, no taxes" to me by the VA.

Plus, I very much appreciate amazingly well organized COVID vaccine system by the VA. Got those in March 2021.

Thanks to both the Minneapolis VA and Ramsey VA. And to the VA national call center and user-friendly website.

is beyond disturbing. When you have to call for an appointment, and you call one of the enclosed numbers, this is what you get: "Your call is important to us. The operator will be with you shortly." You listen to this for 30 to 45 minutes and still no operator comes on. Why is this?

Ramsey phone number: 612-970-5892

Maple Grove phone number: 977-327-0022

Thank you!

Legion members reading my letter, please try these numbers for yourself and see what I mean. There are many fellow veterans looking for some results from the VA in correcting these phone problems.

**Clarence F. Genz**  
North Branch Post 85

## Quilt meant a lot to this vet

On Tuesday, Sept. 14, I was presented with a quilt from Quilts of Valor by Jenny Caughey at my home in Apple Valley. I would like to thank Jenny for the presentation and thank everyone associated with this program. The quilt is in a place of honor in our home.

Soldiers don't fight for glory or medals. They fight alongside their buddies in the godforsaken places we are sent to serve our great country. For the most part, soldiers do not seek recognition, or notoriety for the sacrifices

and hardships they experience. The "Quilt of Valor" is a fitting honor for those who have earned it. Thank you to everyone for this thoughtful token of appreciation.

**Lyle R. Foltz**  
Mabel Post 229

## Change format of 'Taps' back

The big headline on the October paper says "Keep our heads high."

After viewing the "Taps" section on Page 5, my head and those of many of my comrades are mighty low. How could you stoop to this? One measly line?

For many years, this section of "Taps" was sacred to many — Legionnaires and civilians alike. It was a solemn tribute to recently passed members.

I can foresee the logical explanations for this change — too expensive, too difficult, too time-consuming. Non-issues! Step up to the task! Reinstate the old format! The current way is a slap in the face.

**Mike Bundy**  
Commander  
New London Post 537

*Editor's note: Thanks for bringing this up. I have had many Minnesota Legionnaire readers tell me in person, over the phone or via email they like the change. Most tell me the*



1. Veterans Rehabilitation
2. National Security
3. Americanism
4. Children & Youth

*table is handy, treats everyone fairly and makes sending info to me easier. This letter is the first comment against the change.*

*I receive department publications from around the country, and Minnesota had the only department publication with a "Taps" or "Post Everlasting" written as paragraphs for each entry. Some don't offer a place for deceased members at all. (See Michigan.) The ones that have it use tables. Most simply list the deceased and the post and nothing more. (See Iowa and South Dakota.) Some have date of death, too, (North Dakota) and some have date of death and era (Wisconsin.) Even with our change to a table, our "Taps" still provides more details than any other department publication in The American Legion.*

*Plus, when I started in October 2019, I began to allow entries for veterans who had died more than two months prior, which hadn't been allowed previously, so this increased entries. We have been honoring more deceased Legionnaires per issue than ever these past two years.*

*My goal is to honor more veterans by making it simple for post officers to send them in. Visit [mnlegion.org/taps/](http://mnlegion.org/taps/) for a handy form. It can be difficult to find whether they served in*

*combat or what ship they were on or which medals they earned. If anyone desires to share more details on a member, feel free to put that in the post or district newsletters.*

## Honor was unexpected in Mahanomen

What a great Fall Conference. I have been to about 40 of them. There were so many

great presenters. A huge thank you to Adjutant Mike Maxa for a great job getting it all done and put together.

I would like to thank the Sons of The American Legion and others for the honor of naming me 2021 Legionnaire of the Year. I have never even imagined such an honor for me.

I just try to help and encourage people every day. Thank you all.

**Bill Barbknecht**  
Underwood Post 489

# The Minnesota Legionnaire

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

Official publication of  
The American Legion  
Department of Minnesota

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# Taps



Name of Deceased	Age	Date of Death	Branch	Era	Cont. Years	Post
Barnhart, Jerald R.	92	10/7/21	Army	Korea	33	Rochester Post 92
Note: Barnhart was Department Chaplain 1996-97.						
Bartkowicz, Rodney J.	59	9/6/21	Army	Gulf & Iraq	20	Bowlus Post 642
Bauer, Glenn L.	85	9/22/21	Unknown	Korea	8	Mora Post 201
Beck, Kenneth E.	78	9/15/21	Navy	Vietnam	21	Cloquet Post 262
Bergman, Marvin G.	71	9/12/21	Air Force	Vietnam	33	Marshall Post 113
Blomquist, Marvin F.	87	10/16/21	Army	Korea	24	Milaca Post 178
Bode, Roland E.	85	10/8/21	Army	Korea	37	Walker Post 134
Christensen, Donald I.	94	9/14/21	Army	Korea	49	Milaca Post 178
Davis, Lawrence E.	94	8/9/21	Mer. Marine	WWII	33	Ely Post 248
Davis, Norman E.	66	10/24/21	Air Force	Vietnam	29	Waseca Post 228
Eckoff, Thomas R.	72	10/2/21	Army	Vietnam	24	Mpls-Richfield Post 435
Gersch, Wayne C.	82	9/19/21	Army	Vietnam	42	St. James Post 33
Gottwald, Phillip J.	82	8/12/21	Army	Vietnam	46	Lake Henry Post 612
Gray, Lawrence H.	96	9/19/21	Navy	WWII	46	Stewartville Post 164
Greer, Robert R.	77	3/26/21	Army	Korea	42	Warren Post 27
Gustafson, James W. Jr.	96	9/8/21	Marines	WWII	11	Albert Lea Post 56
Hacker, Delmer F.	85	9/20/21	Army	Vietnam	10	Park Rapids Post 212
Henrikson, Kenneth G.	86	4/27/21	Air Force	Korea	42	Walker Post 134
Henry, Meritt J.	91	9/8/21	Army	Korea	56	Chaska Post 57
Johnson, Duane K.	73	10/10/21	Marine	Vietnam	8	Cloquet Post 262
Jones, Ned A.	72	9/24/21	Army	Vietnam	52	Round Lake Post 461
Kern, Alvin M.	79	9/15/21	Army	Vietnam	42	Cold Spring Post 455
Ketchmark, Robert D.	80	10/1/21	Army	Vietnam	46	Denham Post 361
Klapmeier, Dennis B.	77	9/16/21	Navy	Vietnam	21	Mora Post 201
Klimstra, Roger D.	85	9/25/21	Marine	Korea	39	Anoka Post 102
Kolding, Kenneth A.	86	9/16/21	Navy	Korea	43	Barnesville Post 153
Kravik, Donald C.	90	10/12/21	Army	Korea	45	Marietta Post 156
Lahr, Vernon J.	91	10/5/21	Marine	Cold	58	Waite Park Post 428
Lambert, Walter P.	76	7/5/21	Army	Vietnam	13	St. Paul Park Post 98
Lanoue, Ernest J.	77	10/3/21	Army	Vietnam	52	Milroy Post 274
Leckner, James W.	94	9/25/21	Army	Korea	50	Park Rapids Post 212
Lehner, Gregory D.	73	7/14/21	Army	Vietnam	35	Sauk Centre Post 67
Leslie, Donald J.	95	9/25/21	Navy	WWII	52	Duluth Post 28
Ligneel, Lloyd C.	67	11/20/20	Army	Vietnam	12	Hillman Post 602
Loberg, Eugene D.	88	8/22/21	Army	Korea	41	Shakopee Post 2
Luedke, LeRoy C.	83	9/30/21	Army	Cold	55	Dent Post 148
Madsen, Dean P.	52	9/16/21	Army	Persian Gulf	16	Spicer Post 545
Matsen, Lyle E.	85	9/23/21	Navy	Cold	11	Barnum Post 415
Michelau, James L.	77	9/23/21	Army	Vietnam	19	Milaca Post 178
Moore, Thomas R. II	82	8/8/21	Army	Vietnam	16	Hacksack Post 202
Mortenson, Carl R.	92	10/2/21	Mar. & AF	Korea & VN	34	Savage Post 643
Ness, Ervin R.	87	9/17/21	Army	Korea	39	Middle River Post 444
Olson, Roger M.	90	9/22/21	Army	Korea	13	Mora Post 201
Ornquist, Morlyn E.	87	8/18/21	Army	Korea	3	Middle River Post 444
Otte, Richard B.	78	5/23/21	Army	Vietnam	42	Sauk Centre Post 67
Philippi, Arthur N.	92	9/29/21	Air Force	Korea	69	Waite Park Post 428
Pogatchnik, Lowell A.	87	9/22/21	Navy	Vietnam	32	Finlayson/Sandstone Post 151
Post, Franklin E.	88	9/22/21	Army	Korea	58	Chandler Post 338
Purcell, Thomas J.	95	10/3/21	WWII	Army Air F.	2	Austin Post 91
Roble, Vernon D.	97	9/28/21	Navy	WWII	39	Spring Grove Post 249
Rueckert, Oscar J.	98	5/13/21	Army Air F.	WWII	76	Sauk Centre Post 67
Ryan, Michael L.	81	6/19/21	Army	Vietnam	37	Eagan Post 594
Sauter, Douglas D.	84	9/19/21	Air Force	Korea	37	Waconia Post 150
Siewert, Virgil E.	87	9/25/21	Army	Korea	44	Red Wing Post 54
Simpson, Dale P.	78	10/10/21	Navy	Vietnam	12	Walker Post 134
Springborg, Robert A.	85	9/20/21	Air Force	Korea	31	Albert Lea Post 56
Stephan, Kenneth C.	89	9/29/21	Navy	Korea	59	Austin Post 91
Stinson, James C.	72	9/25/21	Navy	Vietnam	40	Bloomington Post 550
Stone, Patrick S.	87	6/12/21	Army	Cold	6	Sauk Centre Post 67
Storck, Richard E.	87	9/28/21	Air Force	Korea	16	Cloquet Post 262
Storlie, Leslie A.	80	9/15/21	Army	Vietnam	40	Spring Grove Post 249
Theisen, Paul K.	83	7/3/21	Army	Korea	11	Sauk Centre Post 67
Tikalsky, Allen L.	76	10/5/21	Navy	Vietnam	47	New Prague Post 45
Taurig, Leo G.	90	10/18/21	Air Force	Korea	52	New Ulm Post 132
Ward, Bryan E.	61	9/26/21	Army	Cold	14	St. Louis Park Post 282
Wegner, William O.	70	8/31/21	Army	Vietnam	17	Raymond Post 420
Westin, Leonard W.	91	9/22/21	Air Force	Korea	70	Stewartville Post 164
Wilfahrt, Donald C.	96	10/8/21	Navy	WWII	76	New Ulm Post 132
Wilkins, Ward K.	94	9/22/21	Navy	WWII	52	Anoka Post 102
Winters, Leonard A.	86	11/24/21	Army	Vietnam	17	Sauk Centre Post 67
Wisdorf, Leo J.	88	8/9/20	Army	Korea	41	Windom Post 206
Wolbeck, Irvin R.	70	8/10/21	Army	Vietnam	27	Sauk Centre Post 67
Wolfe, Donald E.	91	10/13/21	Army	Korea	11	Austin Post 91
Worwerk, Willis W.	76	10/15/21	Army	Vietnam	31	New Ulm Post 132
Wynkoop, Frank J.	78	9/9/21	Army	Vietnam	15	Bagley Post 16
Zenzen, Gerald A.	82	7/15/21	Army	Vietnam	10	Sauk Centre Post 67

## All-Family Events Calendar

**Nov. 10:** American Legion Auxiliary Birthday  
**Nov. 11:** Veterans Day, check local posts and districts for ceremonies and programs  
**Nov. 11:** State Veterans Day Program, 8 a.m. virtually on MDVA website, which is mn.gov/mdva  
**Dec. 4:** Pearl Harbor Rally, social hour begins at noon, with a 1 p.m. dinner, Montgomery Post 79  
**Jan. 1:** Baseball/Fastpitch Softball registration opens  
**Jan. 8:** 1st District Mid-Winter Conference, Owatonna Post 77  
**Jan. 8:** 4th/5th Districts Mid-Winter Conference, Minneapolis Post 1  
**Jan. 8:** 10th District Mid-Winter Conference, Anoka Post 102  
**Jan. 29:** 6th District Mid-Winter Conference, Sauk Centre Post 67  
**Jan. 29:** 7th District Mid-Winter Conference, Willmar Post 167  
**Feb. 5:** Sweetheart Rally, Pine Island Post 184  
**Feb. 26:** State Oratorical Contest, Anoka Post 102  
**Feb. 27-March 2:** Washington Conference, virtual  
**March 9:** American Legion Birthday  
**March 12:** TAL & ALA DEC meetings and Appreciation Rally, Forest Lake Post 225  
**March 11-12:** SAL Spring Conf., East Grand Forks Post 157  
**March 15:** American Legion Birthday  
**March 15:** Start of Buddy Check Week  
**April 8-9:** Department Junior Conference, Willmar  
**April 11-14:** National Commander's Tour of Minn.  
**April 21-24:** Minnesota American Legion College, Camp Ripley  
**April 22-24:** National Oratorical Finals  
**April 23:** President's Testimonial, Osseo Post 172  
**May 4-5:** Spring Meetings at Legion HQ, Indianapolis  
**May 21:** 1st District Convention, Albert Lea Post 56  
**May 21:** 4th District Convention, North St. Paul Post 39  
**June 3-4:** 2nd District Convention, New Ulm Post 134  
**June 3-4:** 6th District Convention, Ironton Post 443  
**June 3-4:** 10th District Convention, Milaca Post 178  
**June 11:** 7th District Convention, Montevideo Post 59  
**June 12-18:** Minnesota Boys State, St. John's University  
**June 12-18:** Minnesota Girls State, Bethel University  
**June 18:** Commander's Testimonial, Moose Lodge 1400, Waite Park  
**June 24-26:** SAL Detachment Convention, Legionville  
**July 13-16:** Department Convention, Willmar  
**July 28-31:** Div. I Baseball State Tournament, Alimagnet Park, Burnville  
**July 28-31:** Div. I Jr. Baseball State Tournament, Red Haddock Field, Bloomington  
**July 29-31:** Div. II. Baseball State Tournament, Luverne  
**Aug. 3-7:** Div. I Baseball Regional, Rapid City, S.D.  
**Aug. 5-6:** Div. II Jr. Baseball State Tournament, Ely  
**Aug. 5-7:** Department Junior Fun Weekend, Legionville  
**Oct. 12-13:** Fall Meetings at Legion HQ, Indianapolis

## What's happening?

See Page 2 for Pearl Harbor Rally!

### Veterans Day breakfast is set

ST. PAUL — Arcade-Phalen Post 577 and North End Post 474, which both meet at the Post 577 home at 1129 Arcade St. in St. Paul, will offer a free breakfast to all veterans and their families on Veterans Day. From 9 a.m. to noon Nov. 11, the posts will offer biscuits, gravy, eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes, orange juice, milk and coffee.

### Vets to stroll around St. Paul

ST. PAUL — St. Paul Post 8 is inviting all veterans and their friends and families to join its members in a Veterans Day walk.

The walk departs at 1 p.m. from the Veterans Service Building, at 20 W. 12th St. south of the State Capitol. The walk heads down St. Peter Street to Kellogg Boulevard and back up Wabasha Street to the Veterans Service Building.

Organizers encourage

walkers to bring a flag of any size to carry. The walk honors all veterans.

### Parade of cars to go by VAMC, Minneapolis Veterans Home

MINNEAPOLIS — A Veterans Day Parade of decorated vehicles will take place at 1 p.m. Nov. 11. The vehicles will gather at Parking Lot 11 at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center, then go past the VA itself before heading over to the Minneapolis Veterans Home.

### Raise a flag on Veterans Day

BLOOMINGTON — The color guard for Bloomington American Legion Post 550 and VFW Post 1296 plan to raise a large flag over their post home at 311 W. 84th St. at noon as part of a special Veterans Day ceremony.

Continued on Page 6

### How to send in obituaries

The Minnesota Legionnaire reserves the right to edit all obituaries. Please send to tengstrom@mnlegion.org or in the mail to the The Minnesota Legionnaire at 20 W. 12th St., Room 300A, St. Paul, MN 55155 or visit the "Taps" page on the website at mnlegion.org/taps/. Thanks for honoring your deceased post members.

### Where the commander will be on Veterans Day

OSSEO — Osseo Post 172 will hold its Veterans Day Dinner on the evening of Nov. 11.

Social hour begins at 6 p.m., with the dinner at 7 p.m. Department Commander Tom Fernlund and Department President Patti Coleman will attend. SAL Detachment Commander Tim Weaver and American Legion Riders Director Ted Berg have been invited, and organizers are waiting on replies.

Also, Boys and Girls State

representatives will speak about their experiences.

### Doctor to speak at dinner

ELK RIVER — Elk River Post 112 and Beyond the Yellow Ribbon will host a free military appreciation dinner 6-8

p.m. Nov. 9 at the St. Andrew Catholic Church, 566 Fourth St. NW.

The public is invited. The featured speaker will be retired Lt. Col. Shawn Alderman, a medical doctor who served with the U.S. Special Forces and is the founder of the Magnus Veterans Foundation.

RSVP to 763-528-0646 by Nov. 4.

# What's happening?

Continued from Page 5

## Did someone say buffet?

APPLE VALLEY — Apple Valley Post 1776 will provide a free buffet lunch for all veterans 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Veterans Day.

The buffet will have ham, turkey, mashed potatoes, vegetable, rolls and a dessert. Non-veteran guests are charged \$7.

## Delano dinner has a nice ring

DELANO — Delano American Legion Auxiliary Unit 377 will host a dinner for veterans at 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 14 at Delano Post 377, 240 Babcock Blvd W.

The dinner is open to the public.

## Post 11 asks public to come

MANKATO — Mankato Post 11 has invited veterans and their families to attend ceremonies across the community.

The Veterans Day schedule goes: 8:30 a.m. Korean War Memorial, 9 a.m. Veterans Memorial Place, 10 a.m. WWII Memorial at Wheeler Park, 11 a.m. WWI Memorial at Sibley Park, 12:10 p.m. Vietnam Memorial and 1 p.m. Boy in Blue Memorial at Lincoln Park.

## SAL to serve the veterans

HACKENSACK — Hackensack Sons of The American Legion Squadron 202 will host a Veterans Day dinner at Hackensack Post 202 from noon to 1 p.m. on Veterans Day, according to the Hackensack Chamber of Commerce.

## Fridley Post 303 takes time for local seniors

FRIDLEY — Fridley Post 303 will host a Veterans Day Program & Luncheon from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 12, at the Fridley Senior Center, 6085 Seventh St. Northeast, Fridley. Reservations are required. To sign up, call 763-502-5150.

## 204th Army Band is going to perform

FORT SNELLING — The 204th Army Band, based at Fort Snelling, returns to the stage with a featured vocalist for concerts on Saturday, Nov. 6, and Sunday, Nov. 7.

Both concerts celebrate Veterans Day but happen the weekend before.

Tickets are available at no charge for a performance at the Minnesota Masonic Heritage Center in Bloomington on Nov. 6. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Visit [masonicheritagecenter.org](http://masonicheritagecenter.org) to

sign up.

The band performs at 1 p.m. Nov. 7 at Hastings Middle School with the River Valley Community Band for a show called the Sounds of Freedom. No tickets are necessary. Hastings Community Education organized the concert and advised attendees to show up around 12:30 p.m.

## Training session planned for 7th Dist.

MONTEVIDEO — A training session on MyLegion.org, Consolidated Post Reports and other topics is set for the 7th District for 10 a.m. Nov. 20 at Montevideo Post 59.

Jennifer Havlick and Linda Dvorak from the Department Training Committee will be present to assist and answer questions and concerns.

## Oliver North to speak in Hutchinson

HUTCHINSON — Tickets have been long sold out for the annual Saluting Community Heroes Celebration Dinner in Hutchinson, where this year retired Marine Lt. Col. Oliver North is the speaker.

The event takes place Nov. 18. The reception is at 5:30 p.m. and dinner is at 7 p.m., followed by the program.

North also is well-known in the country for his roles as a Fox News commentator and the past president of the National Rifle Association.

Before he testified before Congress as part of the National

Security Council staff in the Ronald Reagan administration, North helped plan the rescue of U.S. students during the 1983 Grenada invasion. He managed the mission to hunt down terrorists responsible for the 1983 Beirut barracks bombing.

Saluting Community Heroes uses the proceeds to benefit veterans. Last year, grants were awarded to Eagle's Healing Nest, Project Delta, Combat Vets Association, McLeod & Meeker County Veteran Services Emergency Funds, the Hastings Veterans Home and a long list of other organizations. Three of them were Paynesville American Legion Post 271, Silver Lake American Legion Post 141 and Minnesota American Legion Foundation Fund 53.

Post 271 used the funds to establish its Veterans Crisis Foundation and assisted with therapy not covered by the VA. Post 141 made a local veteran's home wheelchair-accessible. Fund 53 helped veterans across the state with food and other needs during hospital stays.

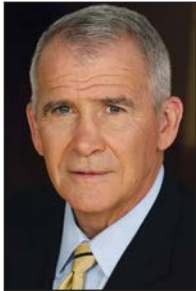
Hutchinson Post 96 Commander Tim Burley is on the board for Saluting Community Heroes and describes it as a shared effort by all Hutchinson veterans organizations.

The Legionnaire will be there to cover North's remarks and take photos.

## Breakfast in Bertha

BERTHA — Bertha Post 366 plans to host a breakfast from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 21.

There is no charge, but attendees have the option to give an offering, if they choose. The breakfast takes place at the Bertha Community Center.



Oliver North

# 4 reasons to join the Legion in Minn.

MAHNOMEN — One topic we touched on at the Fall Conference was membership, and it reminded me that, when asking a veteran to join, they sometimes reply, "What's in it for me?"

I have four things you can tell them:

### 1. Veteran support.

You get an entire community of veterans and their families who will have your back in a heartbeat. Down on your luck? They will be there for you.

OK, maybe you had a bad experience at one post. Don't quit the Legion. Join a post from a nearby town. They each have different flavors.

My wife and I have two sons, and we both work hard to provide for them, but — should we end up really down and out — we know the first place we would go is Bloomington Post 550. If I can talk to anyone freely, I can talk to them.

Sure, my post is known for its large donations to youth sports, but, unbeknownst to many in our town, my post has helped veterans discretely in multiple ways, whether financially, volunteer-wise or just getting groceries. Plus, we financially help MACV with its four-bedroom house for homeless veterans in our community.

Fellow veterans — and the rehabilitation and care of them — matter deeply to us.

### 2. Representation of veteran interests in Washington and St. Paul.

Your Department of Minnesota was instrumental in getting the Veterans Restorative Justice Act passed in St. Paul. This already is helping scores of combat veterans. Your Department of Minnesota even was instrumental in getting the VA to extend the sunset date for Persian Gulf War syndrome

## All-American

Tim Engstrom



claims. This effort continues to help veterans across America.

The American Legion is working at all levels to represent veterans, whether in building a veterans memorial in your town or building the World War I Memorial in D.C.

Many organizations might do fancy fundraisers and help veterans a little here and a little there, which is super, of course, but many of them do not lobby Congress.

I tell prospects this, "If you want to pass the VA health care, the G.I. Bill and other veterans benefits to the next generation of veterans, join the Legion." To the most anti-joining types, I sometimes even say this, though it delivers a tinge of guilt: "You know, if you don't join, you simply are taking advantage of the work our fathers and grandfathers did and then not doing your part."

I'm sorry, but that's how I feel about it.

### 3. Youth programs.

The American Legion cares about the kids of America like

no other organization does. Period.

I mean, just look at Minne-

sota American Legion Baseball as a prime example. It's the biggest Legion Baseball program in the country. The Legion also has the Oratorical Contest, Junior Shooting Sports, Boys & Girls State, Fastpitch Softball and a host of scholarships. Plus, the posts donate to youth programs like Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, gun-safety training, youth hockey, volleyball, baseball, track, bowling, fishing, you name the sport. Those headsets the football coaches at Bloomington Kennedy wear? They didn't come from tax dollars.

Why does the Legion do so much for youth? Well, after we served our nation, veterans want to serve their communities. Youth programs do the double-duty of getting veterans into their communities and not stuck at home. When

Continued on Page 7



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From Oslo to Bergen on land plus 6 day cruise on a brand new cruise ship, The Capelle. Sail all the way to Kirkenes at the top of the world. Call for pricing.

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## EVERYONE WELCOME!



# Candidate coming to Fall Conference

We have just returned from the NEC Meetings in Indianapolis and National President Kathy Daudistel's Homecoming in Covington, Ky.

I serve on two subcommittees. One is the Resolutions Subcommittee along with five other Legionnaires. We had 22 resolutions to go over, getting them ready for the NEC meeting. Twelve of them passed. They are available to view at [legion.org/library/253593/](http://legion.org/library/253593/).

Along with that, I am fortunate enough to serve as chairman of Liaison Subcommittee for the National Security Commission. Minnesota received \$4,882.28 from National Emblem Sales in royalty payments. This amount is down from 2019, when we received \$7,462.55.

Darn COVID.

A big THANK YOU to the

## National Report

Bill Barbknecht



Minnesota American Legion Riders. They raised over \$175,000, for the National Legacy Fund. This fund raised over 1.1 million at the National Convention in Arizona this August.

Veterans Day is coming very soon. I hope every Post will have something for the veterans.

Looking for a gift from a veteran for Christmas? Perhaps donate to The Minnesota Legionnaire and receive custom coins from our editor, Tim Engstrom. Give them as a gift to your longtime members or even for the new ones you sign up. The Minnesota

Legionnaire is a 501c4 nonprofit organization.

Please go to your school and ask them have a program for Veterans Day if they do not already. The younger people must learn what Veterans Day is all about. It's not just another holiday.

Please call with any questions you may have. My number is 320-218-6264.

*Bill Barbknecht of Underwood Post 498 is the Department of Minnesota's National Executive Committeeman.*

# Legion Riders helping Minn. vets

There wasn't a lot going on in October but some chapters were out and about raising money and helping veterans and or their families with different needs. I do not have a list of all but I know there have been over \$175,000 funds raised to support veterans, families and veteran organizations.

As the riding season winds down I would like all the chapters to think about other ways to raise funds, for example. Pancake feeds, dinners, raffles — these are just a couple examples.

The Riders have stepped up and are now helping to raise money for Fund 85, which helps out Minnesota veterans in need. This grant is a lifetime max of \$5,000. So, for

## Legion Riders

Ted Berg



example, if a veteran's furnace goes out and needs to be replaced and its \$2,500, he or she can apply through their local post. They are still eligible for \$2,500 more if the need arises.

I would like to thank everyone at the Department Fall Conference for the wonderful reception and a fun and informative weekend in Mahanomen.

In closing I would like to remind everyone that the temps are falling and we are getting into the colder weather. Please do Buddy Checks as

often as possible. Our vets do not deserve to be out in the cold with no food or proper clothing and neither do their families.

Look forward to seeing a lot of you at the Pearl Harbor Rally in Montgomery Post 79, starting at noon Dec. 4.

*Ted Berg is the director of the Minnesota American Legion Riders.*

# Indy provides ideas for Boys State

A group of Minnesota American Legion Boys State staff attended the Directors' Conference in Indianapolis in September. Ideas to try were brought back. Many ideas were shared with other states by our office experts.

Wednesday's schedule at Boys State is basically filled with time at the State Party Conventions. The conventions are run by the delegates, with advisement when necessary from counselors.

An election of the chairman of the party is first on the agenda, followed by appointments needed for running the convention. Planks from the County Convention are discussed and approved or removed. Candidates for governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, state auditor,

## Minn. Boys State

Neil Kruse



attorney general, Supreme Court chief justice, and two associate Justices are selected by the delegates.

In the evening, elections take place for county auditor, county treasurer, district judge, county recorder, court administrator, county attorney, sheriff and three county board members. Counties are made up of two cities.

Also elected are three state senators and six members to the House of Representatives from each city.

On Thursday the Legislature made up of the House of Representatives and Senate is set up.

Committees meet to discuss bills. County government also meets.

In the evening, the Federalists and Nationalists present their platform and slate of candidates to all of Boys State, hoping to convince the voters they are deserving of ballot support.

*Neil Kruse is a counselor for Minnesota American Legion Boys State.*

# Veterans are the best kind of folks

Continued from Page 6

children meet America's military heroes, it's not just benefiting the kids.

## 4. Camaraderie

What's the best thing about going to the Fall Conference, the Department Convention or any other event that brings Legionnaires together from across the state of Minnesota?

The camaraderie, of course. It was great to see new and familiar faces and being reminded how we veterans are all in this together. I would encourage you to attend one if you have never been. When you spend time with these soldiers, sailors, airmen and, yes, even the Marines, you get rejuvenated.

Just kidding, Leathernecks.

Veterans seem to feed off being around other veterans.

Lots of smiles. Lots of hearty laughs. Lots of friendships. Who wouldn't want to be part of that?

*Tim Engstrom of Bloomington Post 550 is the editor of The Minnesota Legionnaire. Reach him at [tengstrom@mnlegion.org](mailto:tengstrom@mnlegion.org).*

# The SAL Update: Donations to project were humbling

First off, I would like to thank Detroit Lakes for hosting the annual Fall Conference at Shooting Star Casino. It was a great conference and a lot of information was shared to the Detachment of Minnesota leadership that will be passed on to the squadrons.

A special thank-you to American Legion Auxiliary President Kathy Daudistel and American Legion leading candidate for national commander Vincent Troiola for bringing greetings. It was an honor to meet you both.

Secondly, I would like to talk about my project, the Child Welfare Foundation. I am amazed and humbled by the donations

## Detachment commander

Tim Weaver



that came in for my project at Fall Conference. We raised over \$2,000 just at Fall Conference and thus far have reached over \$7,500 for my project.

Thank you!

Let's keep those donations coming in so we can continue supporting the cause. Remember, there never is a bad time to raise money for any project of the Sons of The American Legion.

Lastly, I would like to wish each of you a Happy Thanksgiving

from my family to yours. Please remember to keep our service personnel, both domestic and abroad in your thoughts and prayers.

*Tim Weaver of La Crescent Squadron 595 is the commander of the Detachment of Minnesota for the Sons of The American Legion.*



Det. Commander Tim Weaver, right, receives a check for his project from La Crescent Squadron 595. With him are PNC Doug Bible and Dept. Vice Cmdr. Gary Weaver.



Past Detachment Commander Robert Bristo addresses the SAL Fall Conference. He is the president of the American Legion Family Hospital Association.



PNC Doug Bible, left, and Detachment Commander Tim Weaver, right, stand with 9th District Commander Terry Burras, who presented a check for the Child Welfare Fund.



Past Det. Cmdr. Dave Vulcan hugs Det. Vice Cmdr. Jack Thomas as he makes a donation to the John Zgoda Memorial Deer Hunt in the name of the Zgoda family.



Aamerican Legion Auxiliary National President Kathy Daudistel reacts as Detachment Commander Tim Weaver presents her with a Christmas ornament.



Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary Secretary Marsha Bible addresses the SAL members at the Fall Conference at Shooting Star Casino in Mahanomen.

# Giving thanks ... for our members and squadrons

As we come into November there is plenty to give thanks for within our Legion Family.

Often, however, as people get higher in level (i.e. district, detachment, etc) and programs are established, we easily can forget the base from where everything starts from.

That "base" is every single member in every single squadron.

Squadron officers, how have you connected with your members to ensure they are more than just a membership number?

District officers, how have you connected with your squadrons to ensure that they are connected with other squadrons in your district and with the state

## Membership Director

Matthew Verkuilen



and national organizations. Detachment officers, how have you connected with your districts?

Does everyone from the individual members to the squadrons, to the districts have what they need to succeed?

If not, where can help be given? These are questions that especially come to mind this month but should be on our minds every month.

We are thankful for those that are part of our Legion Family, and for everything they contribute to make us a better

organization. We are thankful for all the work being done in our communities via our squadrons. We are thankful to all of you who help keep us #SALStrong and will help make us even stronger in the future.

*Matthew Verkuilen is the membership director for the Detachment of Minnesota for the Sons of The American Legion.*



Loddy dddy, everybody!

# Scenes from the Fall Conference



Quilts of Valor covered six Legionnaires with quilts on Friday, Oct. 22. From left are Lloyd Ricker, Mike Maxa, Rachael Hill, Tim Engstrom, Mark Dvorak and Wayne Beierman.



Department Finance Committee Chairman Mary Jo York laughs as her photo is taken during a conversation with National Security Committee Chairman James Kellogg.



Bloomington Post 550 Commander Luis Campero, left, shakes hands with Legionville Education Center President Gene Leifield after handing him a check for \$13,000.



Osseo Post 172's Kristi Janigo gives a presentation on Saturday, Oct. 23, called "Maximizing Your Post's Social Media Presence." Her slides can be found at mnlegion.org. She is on the Media & Communications Committee.



Department Sergeant-at-Arms Kenny Gibson escorts two guests to the podium. Rachel Hammer is on the left (his right arm) and Goldie Bosard is on the right. They both are with the Minneapolis VA Medical Center.



Past SAL Detachment of Minnesota Commander Dennis Blue hands Legionville Education Center President two checks from the Camporee, for \$4,300 and \$6,200.



The conductor of the 9th District Band holds steady as he cues his musicians when to begin a song.



SAL Detachment Chaplain Stu Sonnee of St. Paul Squadron 577 reads a prayer on Friday, Oct. 22.



Members from various districts hold Americanism Citations to bring back to posts, though not necessarily the one they belong to. From left are Larry Pocrnich for Keewatin Post 452 in the 8th District, William Gordon for St. Michael Post 567 in the 10th District, Jim Michel for Bagley Post 16 in the 9th District, Dale Wellik for Lewiston Post 90 in the 1st District, Rick Cross for Hill City Post 340 in the 6th District, Dave Dahl for St. Paul Post 8 in the 4th District, Steve NaSalle for Norwood Post 343 in the 3rd District, Chip Manson for Garvin Post 273 in the 7th District and Steve Fosness for Slayton Post 64 in the 2nd District.

# Adjutant proposes sr. vice cmdr.

Continued from Page 1

It also has to print a rule book, pay for trophies, get insurance, coordinate volunteers, contract with a state tournament host and work with Protect Youth Sports for background checks and other modern-day coach requirements.

He said his committee will need to run into the red before it returns to the black, and it already has unpaid travel expenses. He and department leaders concluded his startup expenses are around \$5,000, based on an estimate of 30 teams.

Several posts are stepping up to help out. Among them are Bayport Post 491, St. Louis Park Post 282, Fridley Post 303 and Nisswa Post 627.

Howard Lake Post 145 possesses the honor of being the first in the state to contribute to the softball program. Unsolicited, it sent \$1,000.

Any post wishing to donate to softball can use charitable gambling funds and give to "Minnesota American Legion Foundation Fund 51." Mail it to Minnesota American Legion Fastpitch Softball, 20 W. 12th St. Room 300A, St. Paul, MN 55155.

Arvidson said a new logo has been designed, though approval of the logo is not expected until January. He has written a rule book which follows similar rules to Minnesota high school softball.

He said the Fastpitch Softball Committee plans to have one division with a eight-team state tournament in Alexandria, possibly on July 30-31.

Past National Commander Dan Ludwig said the launch of softball for high school girls in Minnesota is exciting and makes him proud to be from Minnesota.

"We should have been doing this all along," he said.

He made the motion to form the standing committee. National Executive Committeeman Bill Barbknecht seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

## Senior vice commander

Adjutant Mike Maxa proposed a new department officer for Minnesota — senior vice commander.

"It would serve as a stepping stone to the department commander position," he said.

Basically, like in some departments, the senior vice commander becomes commander at a department convention in the summer. It gives the person a year for learning the ropes of their state.

Maxa said it would free the five department vice commanders to focus more of their time on membership.

He said it was something to consider, nothing to vote on now.

## Commander remarks

Department Commander Tom Fernlund said there have been struggles with MyLegion.org, but it is improving.

"We are going to be able to track areas in the state where we need help," he said.

He said the Fall Conference is a great time to meet new friends and see old friends. He encouraged attendees to share what they learn when they return to their posts.

## Leading candidate

The leading candidate for national commander, Vincent James Troiola of New York, attended the Fall Conference. He is a member of New City Post 1682. New City is just south of Haverstraw and is about 18 miles north of the Bronx.

At the DEC meeting, he said he enjoys seeing so many engaged Minnesota members and thanked Tim Haugen of Moorhead Post 21 of picking him up at the Fargo airport and driving him to see the Moorhead post.

## Resolutions

A resolution to add the Sons of The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary to the Convention Corp. failed to pass.

It wasn't because no one wanted the SAL and ALA on the corporation's board, but it failed after Past National Vice Commander Al Davis pointed out that the corporation is a separate entity from the Department of Minnesota in the first place.

Judge Advocate Greg Colby said Davis was right.

"It would demonstrate that the Convention Corp. is not an independent entity," Colby said.

Colby recommended the Convention Corp.'s board amend its bylaws to allow representatives from the ALA and SAL.

The committee that reviewed the resolutions recommended sending back a resolution calling for rules of several committees to be published. The committee wanted greater clarification. The DEC sent it back for review.

A third resolution calling for a change to the Department Constitution regarding the language of "political" and "nonpartisan" was sent back. Past 6th District Commander Paul Edwards said he attended a protest 10 years ago and a fellow Legionnaire took him to task for attending, even though Edwards was not wearing any Legion clothing or in possession of any Legion materials.

He said The American Legion is nonpartisan in its activities but does use politics — the nonpartisan kind — to advance causes for veterans. However, members, in their non-Legion time, can go participate in American partisan politics.

Colby said Edwards brought up a good point.

"Just because you are a member of The American Legion, you don't give up your rights as an American," he said.

Ludwig said the Constitution has functioned well as written for 102 years and he isn't too worried about the kind of members who chewed Edwards out

at that protest and fail to grasp the nuance of when to act as Legionnaires and when they can act as themselves.

## Attendance

Conference Chairwoman Cecilia Sundstrom, a dual TAL and ALA member from Detroit Lakes Post 15, said there were 426 registered attendees, with 193 Legion members, 215 Auxiliary members and 18 SAL members.

Phil Bellefeuille of the Convention Corp. said the 2022 Department Convention is July 13-16 in Willmar. He said there isn't a spot for the 2022 Fall Conference but he hopes to find a more central location for the sake of travel.

## Minnesota American Legion Foundation

Lloyd Ricker, chairman of the foundation, announced the creation of a new American Legion Riders ride in Minnesota to raise funds for the Veteran Assistance Fund, which enables the Department of Minnesota staff to take swift action to help veterans in need.

Presently, there is \$135,000 in the fund, thanks to the generosity of a member who bequeathed the gift. The foundation, Ricker said, hopes to grow the fund and assist veterans at the same time.

See story on Page 1 about a veteran who was helped recently through the fund.

Ricker said revenue from interest and investments was down but the foundation board was able to hand out grants:

- Oratorical Contest: \$6,700
- Junior Shooting Sports Fund: \$120
- Civil Air Patrol Scholarship: \$500
- Boys Scouts and DARE support: \$2,400
- The American Legion Foundation Scholarship: \$1,500
- Nurses Scholarship: \$1,000
- American Legion Memorial Scholarship: \$1,000
- Baseball Fund: \$600
- Veteran Assistance Fund: \$1,000
- National World War I Memorial: \$425
- Fund for Hospitalized Veterans: \$1,100
- Boys State Fund: \$3,000
- Disaster Relief Fund: \$1,000
- Boy Scout Scholarship: \$500
- ROTC Scholarship: \$500
- Pheasant Dinner: \$1,000
- Boy Scout Council: \$800
- Rehab Veterans Outdoors Fund: \$100

## Legionville

Legionville President Gene Leiffield said registration to attend Legionville summer camps will go up to \$400 per student, an increase from \$325.

He said the Legionville board of directors changed the camp's name to Legionville Education Center from Legionville School Safety Patrol Camp to better reflect the variety of uses.

The Camporee will be Sept. 7-10. The American Legion Riders Romp is set for Sept. 15-18, and the SAL Deer Hunt is Sept. 22.

## Charters turned in

Charters were turned in for two St. Paul posts: Public Safety Post 449 and Frogtown Post 484.



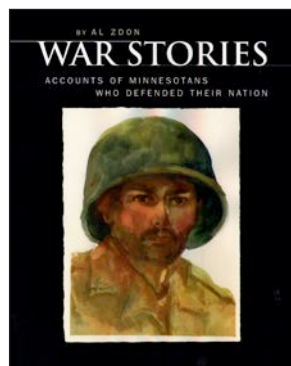
Leading candidate for national commander, Vincent James Troiola of New York, speaks at the Fall Conference at Shooting Star Casino in Mahanomen.



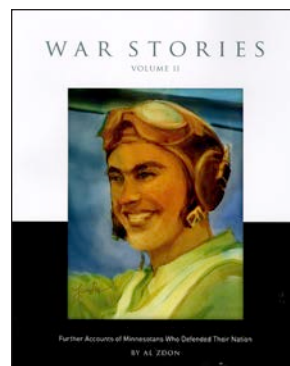
At the Fall Conference, Past National Commander Dan Ludwig speaks to district directors about reaching out to posts and helping them with programs and membership.

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Minnesota Fastpitch Softball Chairman speaks at the Department Executive Committee meeting on Thursday, Oct. 21.

# Scenes from the Grand March



American Legion Auxiliary National President Kathy Daudistal smiles as she walks with American Legion National Commander Leading Candidate Vincent James Troiola.



Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary President Patti Coleman and Minnesota American Legion Commander Tom Fernlund proceed arm in arm. The Grand March took place on Friday, Oct. 22, at the Fall Conference.



Walking together, from left, are Minnesota American Legion Riders President Ted Berg, Minnesota ALA Honorary Jr. President Ashley Stai and Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Minnesota Commander Tim Weaver.



From left are Minnesota ALR Secretary Jody Hassing, Minnesota ALA Secretary Marsha Bible and Minnesota American Legion Adjutant Mike Maxa.



SAL Past National Commander Doug Bible, left, walks with ALA National Northwest Division Vice President Dee Dee Buckley and American Legion Past National Commander Dan Ludwig.



These three all serve on the National Executive Committees for three Legion Family organizations. From left are Dennis Henkemeyer of the Sons, Raleen Tolzmann of the Auxiliary and Bill Barbknecht of the Legion.



Three ALA Northwest Division chairs stroll through the room. From left are Carol Kottom (Poppy), Mary Hendrickson (Education) and Donna Barbknecht (Girls Nation).



Districts 4 and 5 had the SAL Detachment Vice Commander John Weiss, ALA Past Northwest Division Vice President Lori Skallerud and Department Vice Commander Ray Eiden.



Districts 2 and 7 had, from left, Garylee Davenport with the Riders, SAL Detachment Vice Commander Shawn Kosbab, Minnesota ALA 1st VP Mary Kuperus and Department Vice Commander Hal Meyer.



With the 3rd District, from left, are Bob Benjamin with the Riders, SAL Commander Dennis Bjorklund, President Cavlene Regan and Commander Robert Hart.



Representing the 9th District, President Cecelia Sundstrom, who also is a Legion member, walks with Commander Terry Burras, who is the SAL commander, too.



In the 8th District, from left, are the ALR's Zandra Davenport, President Ranae Snow and Commander Larry Pocrnich.



The 7th District has SAL Commander Jim Stock, President Susie Learing and Commander Chip Manson.



The 4th District has the ALR's Kim Elledge, President Jenny Nelson and Commander David Dahl.



The 5th District has SAL Commander Shawn Davis, ALA President Jill Davis and TAL Commander Wade Larson.



At the Fall Conference in Mahanomen, SAL Detachment Commander Tim Weaver, left, congratulates NECman Bill Barbknecht of Underwood Post 489 on being named the 2021 Legionnaire of the Year.

# Barbknecht, Weaver named Legionnaire of the Year for 2020, 2021

Both men recognized for all they do on behalf of The American Legion, Sons of The American Legion

By Tim Engstrom

MAHNOMEN — On the Saturday morning of the Fall Conference, members of the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Minnesota gathered at the podium of The American Legion Department of Minnesota.

They announced the Legionnaire of the Year for 2020 and for 2021.

For 2020, it was Department Vice Commander Gary Weaver of La Crescent Post 595. For 2021, it was National Executive Committeeman Bill Barbknecht of Underwood Post 489.

Weaver thanked the SAL and said, "I'm not here for this. I do what I do, and I love it."

Barbknecht thanked the SAL and broke out in tears and said Weaver was exactly right, that he doesn't do anything for the sake of recognition. He joined the Legion because he saw the VA not serving veterans and wanted to make a difference.

"Everybody in this room deserves a quilt," Barbknecht said.

Weaver, an Air Force veteran of the Vietnam era, is a 39-year Legion member and presently the department vice commander for Districts 1&3. He is in his 24th year as La Crescent Post 595 adjutant and is the adviser for the SAL. He is the father of SAL Detachment of Minnesota Commander Tim Weaver. He has held many officer roles in the post and district, including 1st District commander. He is a past scoutmaster and was involved in the local Apple Fest.

Barbknecht, a Marine veteran of the Vietnam era, is a past department commander, two-time department membership director, district commander, district membership director and commander for Underwood Post 489 as well as Barnesville Post 153 and Browns Valley Post 58. He chairs the Legionnaire Insurance Trust Committee for the Department of Minnesota. He has been a Legionnaire for

52 years. He is married to Past Department President Donna Barbknecht, and they live on a ranch near Battle Lake.

Barbknecht's reference to quilts had to do with the Quilts of Valor organization, which gave six quilts to six veterans on Friday morning of the Fall Conference. The conference was Thursday, Oct. 21, to Saturday, Oct. 23.

Jenny Caughey of Dent is the state coordinator of the Quilts of Valor and she announced the recipients. They were Department Adjutant Mike Maxa, Past Department Commander Mark Dvorak, Department Finance Liaison Rachael Hill, Department Communications Director Tim Engstrom, Eagan Post 594 Commander Wayne Beierman and Minnesota American Legion Foundation Chairman Lloyd Ricker.

## Outstanding Enlisted winners are named

First Sgt. David J. Morris with HQ of the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 136th Infantry Regiment, in Moorhead oversees enlisted soldiers of seven Minnesota armories and is a past National Guard recipient of the Outstanding Enlisted Person of the Year, handed out annually by the Department of Minnesota's National Security/Foreign Relations Committee.

Morris spoke at the Fall Conference and began by quoting President Ronald Reagan, who said "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

Morris said America presently is sharply divided.

"Now more than ever freedom is in jeopardy," he said.

There are less than 1.4 million

servicemembers on active duty, less than a half of a percent to do the job of protecting the country, and the number is dropping, Morris said.

Service, he said, is who we are and is why we join service organizations like The American Legion. He said the Outstanding Enlisted awards recognize the best of the best of the men and women America asks to carry the torch for the land of the free and the home of the brave.

The recipients were:

### Army National Guard

Command Sgt. Maj. Joshua Goche of Lucan, nominated by Lucan Post 147

Master Sgt. Scott Kowski of Sauk Centre, nominated by Moorhead Post 21

### Navy Reserve

Petty Officer 2nd Class Jacob Hayden of Moorhead, nominated by Moorhead Post 21

### Air National Guard

Senior Airman Benjamin M. Swenson of Hastings, nominated by Minneapolis Wold-Chamberlain Post 99

### Air Force Reserve

Tech. Sgt. Jose A. Pelaez of St. Charles, nominated by St. Charles Post 190

### Army Reserve

Sgt. Marqisha A. Bane of Eagan, nominated by Minneapolis U of M Post 548

### Marine Corps Reserve

Cpl. Adam Nelson of Columbus, nominated by Minneapolis U of M Post 548

### Coast Guard Reserve

Chief Petty Officer Mary K. Strauss of Blaine, nominated by Minneapolis Theodor Petersen Post 1

The Fall Conference concluded close to the Legionnaire press deadline. Read more about each and every recipient and see their pictures in the December issue



SAL Detachment of Minnesota Commander Tim Weaver, left, hands the 2020 Legionnaire of the Year award to his father, Department Vice Commander Gary Weaver. The 2020 Fall Conference was cancelled due to inclement weather and difficult driving conditions.

of The Minnesota Legionnaire.

## Advice for speaking with prospective members

Just have a conversation with veterans about joining The American Legion. You don't need to sell.

That was a message from Department Membership Director Paul Hassing. He noted he is a retention officer in the Army Reserve and soldiers are 84 percent more likely to re-enlist if a commander speaks personally with them during the first enlistment.

Try not to prejudge their situation. Perhaps have a new member fund to pay the first-year dues. It's important to engage new members or they will not continue on.

## Minneapolis VA could use some donated goods

Rachel Hammer, director of volunteer services at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center, said thanks for the support.

"We very much miss our visitors at the Minneapolis VA," she said.

She thanked the Legion for donating 50 iPads so that patients could talk to their loved ones during the COVID pandemic, when visitors could not come inside the hospital.

Hammer said she and the VA's Goldie Bosard would like to visit posts. To arrange a visit,

call Hammer at 612-467-2050.

Items in need now are travel-size shampoo, body wash/shower gel and deodorant, along with chapstick, fingernail clippers and extender straps for face masks.

Clothing needs are medium or large men's underwear (boxers or briefs), medium and extra large men's crew neck T-shirts, medium, large and extra large V-neck T-shirts, all sizes of zip-up sweatshirts and sweat-pants and closed-toe Crocs or similar slip-on washable shoes in men's sizes 8 to 14.

Food the VA hospital needs are prepackaged snacks or candy, 6 or 12 oz. bottled juice or water and single-serve packets of hot chocolate.

Other items in need are twin-size quilts in patriotic colors or with branch emblems, universal chargers for Android and iPhone, white noise machines (Homedics SoundSpa or SoundSpa Mini), regular or jumbo playing cards (new only), large-print crossword or sudoku paperback puzzle books and monetary or gift card donations. When it comes to gift cards, typically, the grocery, gas or transit ones are sought after. For transit, that includes the light rail or Uber/Lyft.

## Post Service Officer reports are important

Wilson Spence, chairman of

the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee, encouraged posts to send in the Post Service Officer reports in the spring. What is entered in those reports is reported to Congress, because The American Legion is a congressionally chartered organization.

## American Legion Riders give update

Ted Berg, director of the Minnesota American Legion Riders, said their program has 82 chapters and 700 members. A new chapter is starting up in Redwood Falls. The Riders presently are working on a ride to raise funds for the Veteran Assistance Fund and keep more of the money they raise annually right here in Minnesota.

Jody Hassing, the secretary, said the Minnesota Legacy Run no longer will be held the first two weekends in August, and, instead, will take place on a single weekend. This year, the Minnesota Riders will head to Milwaukee for the National Convention, too.

In August at the National Convention in Phoenix, the Minnesota American Legion Riders donated more than \$174,000 to the National Legacy Scholarship Fund, providing full-tuition scholarships for children of post-9/11 veterans who were killed or severely wounded in combat.



Moorhead-based 1st Sgt. David J. Morris speaks to the Department of Minnesota Fall Conference on Friday, Oct. 22, at Shooting Star Casino in Mahanomen. He reminded members that freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction.



American Legion National Commander Paul Dillard speaks to adjutants and commanders on Monday, Oct. 4, at the Fall Meetings in Indianapolis.

## National Commander: Reach out to each other

Dillard emphasizes Buddy Checks, comradeship

INDIANAPOLIS — American Legion National Commander Paul Dillard emphasized Buddy Checks as a means of suicide prevention in his address to department commanders and adjutants at the Fall Meetings.

Buddy Checks, he said, are not about calling seemingly depressed members. It's contacting all veterans.

"Please tell each and every post commander that you meet to practice frequent Buddy Checks in their communities," he said. "While I can think of no finer calling than saving the life of a veteran, Buddy Checks are far more than a suicide-prevention program. They are for all veterans — even those who do not have the slightest thoughts of harming themselves."

He said Buddy Checks are a way to act on the Preamble

"They are the purest form of consecrating and sanctifying our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness."

Dillard, of Texas, has a theme of "No Veterans Left Behind."

He said Legionnaires everywhere were alarmed to hear a veteran suicide rate in America of 22 a day and then the figure declined to around 20. The VA in 2019 reported it as about 17.2 per day.

"Outreach makes a difference, though we will not be satisfied until the rate is zero," Dillard said.

He is pushing for 100 percent submission of Consolidated Post Reports, because they get used to compile his report to Congress. The American Legion is a congressionally chartered organization and, therefore, must report annually on its efforts.

He called on Congress to pass the Pay Our Coast Guard Act, which would pay Coast Guard members in times of government shutdowns. The American Legion in 2019 paid from its Veterans & Children Foundation during a shutdown.

"Now it's time for Congress and the White House to do their jobs," Dillard said.

With the sloppy pullout from Afghanistan in everyone's

memories, Dillard called on the politicians to allow the U.S. military to engage when attacked or threatened by terrorists, and he called for the federal government to do better when evacuating allies. There should be special immigrant visas issued.

"Waiting until the final days is perilous and tragic," he said. "We must have a better exit strategy from Iraq than what we saw in Afghanistan."

He called citizenship in exchange for service to America a "win-win."

"Someone who has expressed a willingness to die for America should have the right to be called an American," Dillard said.

He said The American Legion will never forget the nearly 700,000 Americans who were lost to the pandemic. Some, he said, were Legionnaires.

"But our American Legion will continue to do what we have always done in the past — we will lead, we will heal and we will set the example for service to America," Dillard said.

## Campaign: Rally Around the Flag

INDIANAPOLIS — Cameron Richardson, editor of The American Legion Dispatch and part of national's communications team, stood before the Americanism Commission for the first time on Tuesday, Oct. 5, and described a new effort called Rally Around the Flag.

She called on posts of The American Legion to share their flag moments on social media by using the hashtag #rallyaroundtheflag or by uploading content to legiontown.org.

Richardson shared several social media graphics that illustrated the flag's history, practices and code.

Downloads can be found on this story page: [legion.org/flag/252722/50-fun-facts-and-historical-notes-us-flag](https://legion.org/flag/252722/50-fun-facts-and-historical-notes-us-flag)

And if you go to [legion.org/flag/](https://legion.org/flag/), there also is a flag-folding video for the sake of youth education that explains the meaning of the folds. There is a DVD available called "For Which It Stands," and there are many publications. One is "Let's Be Right on Flag Etiquette."

Richardson said the Rally Around the Flag effort came about because the Citizens Flag Alliance has been focused on protecting the flag that Legion leaders felt national rally for the flag would build an audience to support the U.S. flag and, hopefully, help get a constitutional amendment through that would further protect the cherished national symbol.

### Baseball program gets rule changes

Eddie Holbrook of the Americanism Commission's Baseball Committee described updates to Veterans Field at Keeter Stadium in Shelby, N.C. He was the 2021 American Legion World Series chairman.

He said the field hadn't had any major updates since the 1970s, only Band-Aid repairs. The committee built up \$600,000 over the years from rainy-day funds and contributions until last year, when the field got a new drainage system and new irrigation system and new surface.

He said there are 112,000 square feet of new sod, 3,300 tons of turf mix of sand, crushed stone and gravel.

"In the outfield, let's say there is water out there because for an hour it's raining so hard. That water will be gone in 45 minutes," Holbrook said. "That's all because of the remake."

Mark Avis, vice chairman of the Baseball Committee, recapped the 2021 World Series. Idaho Falls Post 56 won the title, defeating a team from Honolulu called Hawaii Central 6-1 at Keeter Stadium on Aug. 18.

The victory was remarkable because Idaho Falls bounced back from a loss in the first round of play and ended up defending its 2019 title. (There was no 2020 World Series.) That means the two Idaho Falls Post 56 squads are back-to-back champs.

Program Manager Steve Cloud gave a report on baseball meetings that took place Sept. 26 in Indianapolis. Minnesota American Legion Baseball Director Randy Schaub and Vice Director Brandon Raymo attended.

Cloud said 22 departments



Baseball Program Manager Steve Cloud, center, presents the Cleveland County (N.C.) World Series Committee's Home Plate Appreciation Award to Americanism Commission Chairman Richard Anderson of Connecticut.

maintained or increased team participation from 2019. There were 2,975 certified teams, 1,866 senior teams and 1,109 junior teams from 49 out of 55 departments.

For comparison, Minnesota has the largest baseball program, with a total of 371 approved teams this year, up from 366.

Pitcher Brandon Woodruff of the Milwaukee Brewers was named the 2022 Legion Baseball Graduate of the Year.

Cloud went through proposed rule changes, and the Americanism Commission approved them. Rule changes are:

- Under Rule 1.R.3, the word "scheduled" was removed from "multiple games schedule on the same day" because the word "scheduled" makes the statement ambiguous.

- Rule 1.J. Fake Tag was added, with fake tag being considered an obstruction. The new rule exists for player safety and for sportsmanship.

- Player recruiting under Rule 3 and 4 was changed so that combined enrollment of high schools cannot exceed 7,500 for 10-12th grades. The National Baseball Committee rejected an increase to 9,000. The 7,500 figure is an increase from 6,000.

- Rule 9A establishes the deadline date for departments to certify their department winner. The rule says "no later than 11:59 p.m. July 30, 2022. However, departments that fly to regional sites must certify their department champion no later than 11:59 p.m. July 28."

- A technical change was made regarding a pitcher's availability to return as a pitcher in the event of a suspended game.

- A change was made to Rule 9.K. Minimum Active Players to replace "transfer" to "bring up" so the rule is clarified for coaches as to if and how to bring up Junior players to the Senior team for National Tournament action.

### Children and Youth awards grants

Larry Price, chairman of the Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee, pointed to [legion.org/juniorlaw/](https://legion.org/juniorlaw/) for any posts wishing to launch a YCLE program in their community. Considering efforts to defund the police, the program is vital, he said.

"We always support police," Price said. "They have never needed us more than they need us today."

Twenty departments presently have posts with YCLE programs. Minnesota is among them.

Herbert Petit Jr., chairman of the Committee on Children and Youth, said the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation was formed in 1955 and has awarded more than \$18 million to organizations to assist the children of the United States.

In the past year, it awarded \$639,325 in 17 grants to 14 youth-serving nonprofit organizations. The grants were determined in a meeting of the board of directors on Oct. 3.

### Chaplains aim to be more nondenominational

National Chaplain Stanley K. Hamamoto, a Coast Guard veteran with the Department of Colorado, is an ordained minister with the Christian National Church (Disciples of Christ).

He reported on the 2021 Department Chaplains Conference. He said there is a need for more chaplain training.

The American Legion, he said, is supposed to be nondenominational, and when he prays, he is used to saying "In Jesus Christ's name," and he needs to stop saying it so that prayers are inclusive for other faiths.

He said being a chaplain is not as simple as people may think it is. They have to strike a balance and inspire the moment at the same time.

"Pray for the chaplains' problems," he said. "It's not as simple as you think it is."

### Oratorical Contest seeks academic home

During the agenda time for new business, the American Commission discussed relocating the National Oratorical Finals.

Jill Druskis, the director of the Americanism Division staff, said, presently, it is held at the Wyndham Hotel in Indianapolis. The contest organizers are looking to return to an academic setting. It used to be regularly held at Indiana University.

She said it didn't need to be in Indiana, and it could be any appropriate academic setting in the country as long as it is near a major airport.

### Could Unity Award return?

Also discussed — but not yet voted on — was bringing back the Unity Award, which existed in the 1980s for three years but died out.

The Unity Award was given to a post and a unit that each achieve 100 percent membership and participated in a Children and Youth project jointly.

The winners, Druskis said, were recognized on stage at the National Convention.



Ye Steivos is a fraternal organization of department and national adjutants, and because Minnesota Adjutant Mike Maxa is new, he and his present commander, Tom Fernlund, had to be led blindfolded into the room and drink a strange and chunky concoction at the Ye Steivos banquet on Monday evening, Oct. 4. Because last year's events were cancelled, Maxa's first commander, Mark Dvorak, got out of this wingman duty. The banquet was filled with humor, funny fines and even an "In the Navy" procession.



Missouri Adjutant Lowry Finley-Jackson, leader of the "In the Navy" crew, ties the cloak around 2021-22 Ye Steivos King Richard Santos of Delaware. He is a past national commander. He replaces King John Derner, the Iowa adjutant.

# District commanders

## 2nd District Steve Fosness



Greetings from the "Solid Second" District.

Veterans Day has a special meaning in our family. I'm a third-generation military veteran. Our son is currently finishing his Army career, and our oldest grandson, fifth generation, is serving his initial enlistment in the Air Force.

An excerpt from the poem "I am a Veteran" by Andrea C. Brett, dedicated to all of you, reads as follows:

I served on the battlefield, I served on the base I bound up the wounded And begged for God's grace I gave orders to fire, I followed commands I marched into conflict in far distant lands

In the jungle, the desert, on mountains and shores In bunkers, in tents, on dank earthen floors While I fought on the ground, in the air, on the sea My family and friends were home praying for me

For the land of the free and home of the brave I faced my demons in foxholes and caves Then one dreaded day, without drummer or fife I lost an arm,

my buddy lost his life I came home and moved on

But forever was changed

The perils of war in my memory remained

I don't really say much, I don't feel like I can But I left home a child, and came home a man

There are thousands like me Thousands more who are gone

But the legacy lives as time marches on

White crosses in rows And names carved in queue Remind us of what these brave souls had to do

I'm part of a fellowship, a strong mighty band Of each man and each woman Who has served this great land And when Old Glory waves I stand proud, I stand tall I helped keep her flying over you, over all

I AM A VETERAN Reach out to a fellow veteran in person and with prayer, buddy checks work!

## 3rd District Bob Hart



In the course of multi-generational endeavors there are times of great strides and times of trial. These days are challenging for even some of the most established posts. Covid complications, closures, staffing shortages and revenue disruptions have strained the confidence of management in some cases. But casting blame, finger-pointing and quarrelsome discourse is rarely a recipe for getting things back on track.

In the absence of malfeasance, a thoughtful review of policies and procedures, coupled with a respectful analysis of what transpired can lead to a promising modified business model based on our new reality. The problem may not have been poor management, but rather the earth shifting beneath our feet.

It is not for The American

Legion to tell you how to run your post. An American Legion post is not a franchise promising the same product from one location to another. Folks that travel about will often "go" to McDonald's or "go" to Wendy's to be assured of consistency. But these same folks will "check out" the Legion expecting that no two will be the same.

I would assume that all district commanders would be pleased, if asked, to sit with your post officers to help refocus on the mission of The American Legion and hopefully help the post set aside hurtful frustration which can only tarnish your image in the community.

In God we Trust.

## 4th District David Dahl



In the October issue of the Minnesota Legionnaire, 3rd District Commander Bob Hart wrote of the significance of our connection to our founders through the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion.

If you didn't read Bob's column last month it would be well worth your time to find that issue and read his column. Commander Hart hit home in his column through the use of the verbs found in the Preamble — the verbs that call us into action.

Bob further described the Preamble's words, commitments, concepts and passions which drive The American Legion's many programs. As members of The American

Legion, we have an obligation to be involved, to ensure that our programs thrive. We are more than just a social club — we have to serve!

Bob also wrote of our Four Pillars: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation; National Security; Americanism; and Children & Youth.

Through the years there have been updated versions of The American Legion brochure "Why You Should Belong."

Search for the current version at Legion.Org. These brochures very nicely describe the Four Pillars and give examples of the various American

Legion programs which turn the ideals of the Four Pillars into day-to-day reality.

I exhort every member of the American Legion to find an activity, one of the many American Legion programs, which you can feel passionate about.

## 5th District Wade Larson



Set up your password and profile on MyLegion.org and give it to your caregivers and family members. Update your telephone contact and change your address so you can continue to receive the monthly Legionnaire newspaper and Legion magazine, especially if you are a life member.

Keep in contact with your post and district to let us know what you are doing.

With the celebrations for the official state of Minnesota Veterans Day ceremony online at <https://mn.gov/mdva/news/events/?id=1066-503512> enjoy the many opportunities at neighboring posts and restaurant's.

McCormick & Schmick's Seafood & Steaks Nov 7, 50 percent of veteran meal reservations.

Your participation in one or more Legion programs will be to the benefit of other veterans and/or people (especially youth) from your community.

Still serving — serving veterans and serving our communities!

Texas Roadhouse, free meal coupon from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. to use for dinner by May 30, 2022.

Check out the website [military.com/veterans-day/restaurants-veterans-day-military-discounts.html](http://military.com/veterans-day/restaurants-veterans-day-military-discounts.html) for further updates. Paradise offers same-day car washes, and Great Clips and Sports Clips offer haircuts.

Veterans Day is a wonderful opportunity to share with other vets you come into contact with. The opportunities to share with other veterans what your post, district, department and national American Legion continue to do for all veterans.

## 6th District Jim Lucas



Hello Everyone, This year is as awesome as it can get. Let's talk about my program first.

As you know my program this year is Homeless and Wounded Warriors out of Emily. I have sent thank-you cards to Little Falls Post 46, Pequot Lakes Post 49, Aitken Post 86, Hackensack Post 202, Brainerd Post 255, Foley Post 298, Swanville Post 313, St. Joseph Post 328, Pierz Post 341, Bertha Post 366, Waite Park Post 428, Ironton Post 443, Cold Spring Post 455, Albany Post 482, Bowlus Post 642, Blackduck Post 372, Melrose Post 101 and Park Rapids Post 212 for a total of \$14,400. That's 2,400 over the initial goal.

Wow! Wow! Wow! That is awesome.

Thank you, everyone, for giving to our veterans and their families.

Now that we are over the goal of \$12,000, we might as well just keep on going. Our new goal will be \$18,000.

Please continue in helping our veterans and their families.

The Oratorical Contest will be coming sooner than you think, so get to those schools and get them ready for this year's contest. Let's send a student from the 6th District to win the National Oratorical Finals.

The national website has the amendments already listed for this year. You can get them at [legion.org](http://legion.org). Scroll to bottom of page, click on Oratorical Contest, then click on amendments. So let's track those kids down and get them studying. At the same time you are looking for these students, start looking for Boys State participants.

In October, it was an awful busy month. I visited 10 posts, went to the Fall Conference for three days in Mahanomen, traveled to a 6th and 9th District Training Session in Park Rapids, and ran the 6th District Executive Board Meeting in Long Prairie.

Not only did I do all that, but I also went to my post two times to do membership. So life has been busy. The month of November brings hunting season, and Thanksgiving. It won't be too bad, but we still have to work.

Well, while I been sitting here, Past District Commander Don Smith called, and he is now in a rehab facility in Duluth. He is going to be there for a while. So give him a call 218-838-0902. He will be estatic to hear from you. He is in the Chris Jensen Health and Rehab Facility.

For those who didn't get the proper information on the LIT Insurance, the number is 800-235-6943. Give them a call. It only takes five minutes. All they need to get signed up is you American Legion card with your membership number on it. So get it done.

Also remember the Hospital Program. Every Legion member, Aux member, and SAL member has Hospitalization Insurance as a member of the state of Minnesota.

Well, thanks for listening and getting your membership done. Call all the unpaid ones and get them to pay dues now, too.

Remember to keep all the men and women in uniform in your thoughts and prayers and that they return home safely.

## 7th District David "Chip" Manson



Hi District 7! Being four months into our 2021-2022 year, post officers, adjutants, membership directors, etc. are beginning to learn their new duties and expectations.

Unfortunately, there are probably a few surprises you were not expecting or the many changes being made. Or, the more you learn, the more questions you have.

Your district and the Minnesota Legion College cadre of instructors understand the frustrations you may be experiencing. In an effort to help you, District 7 has scheduled what we named "Open Meetings" — your chance to ask questions on any subjects, learn about what other posts are doing, traditional Legion

programs, frustrations with MyLegion.org, etc.

Come on down and join us — see if you can stump us! And if you do, we'll do everything we can to find or get (correct?) answers.

Upcoming meetings scheduled:

- Nov. 20, 10 a.m.: Granite Falls Post 69 (previously set for Montevideo, relocated due to schedule conflicts)

- Jan. 15, 10 a.m.: Willmar Post 167

- Jan. 22, 10 a.m.: Litchfield Post 104

- Still searching for more locations. Any volunteers?

## 8th District Larry Pocrnich



I did write a report last month, but it went to an email black hole and never got to Editor Tim Engstrom.

Last month Post 452 Keewatin's Auxiliary celebrated its 100th anniversary. Congratulations.

Also, Joe Berklich received the Bronze Star for heroism in the Second World War from Brig. Gen. Heim, who was also at Joe's 100th Birthday last summer. Congratulations, Joe, on your continuing support for the services and the community.

The 8th District held its Fall Conference on Oct. 9 at Keewatin Post 452. It was well-attended, but a few more vets would help. Posts should send a repre-

sentative to the meetings to let the district know how we can help the posts. The district is still short a financial chair. This person would be the check signer and billing person for the district. Let Jennifer Havlick or me know if you are interested.

The Project for The President and I will be for the veterans home in Silver Bay. It will be the remodel of the recreation room and the wood shop together. This will help make more room for the vets who want to work on wood projects or have a

**Continued on Page 16**

## 9th District Terry Buraas



I attended the Moorhead membership dinner this past month, and they know how to put on a good program. Membership showed up with the National Guard honor guard doing the posting of colors and the missing man table.

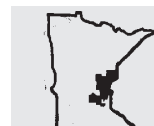
Two of the people who went to Boys State gave a presentation on what took place, and the Legion Riders explained what they do for the community. All in all, it was a good membership dinner.

I attended the Fall Conference in the Mahanomen casino sponsored by Detroit Lakes Post

15 from Thursday to Saturday. For those who have never been to the conference, this is where you find out what The American Legion is all about.

I especially like the awards given out for our state enlisted personnel. The 9th District will have two receiving awards from the Moorhead area. These are well-deserved awards as the department says "Every Veteran Counts."

## 10th District Daryl Harmon



Hello to all and thank you for your American Legion Family membership. We are now entering the winter months. I encourage you at this time of the year to make those buddy checks and calls to our veterans.

Those veterans need that human interaction at this time of the year. An ear to listen to them can make a big difference in their life especially at this time of the year. I would like

to thank all my fellow veterans for your service and ask you all to hold your heads extra high during this upcoming Veterans Day.

I wish all of you happy holidays. And last please continue to push for membership as is our future.



No. 22 Vol. 4

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

651-224-7634

November 2021

## We are 'Caring for Those Who Care for Others'

### President's Column

Patti Coleman

Greetings, Minnesota American Legion Family!

As we enter the month of Thanksgiving, there is so much to be thankful for in our lives. I urge each of you to try to focus on what is good in your life, in your family and in your community. Many wish for what you have been blessed with.

We have much to be grateful for in our American Legion Family. Appreciate each other for every contribution that is made. Our volunteers are priceless.

I need to express my personal thanks to the Detroit Lakes Post 15 Legion Family for hosting a wonderful Fall Conference for us in Mahanomen. Lots of information was shared by our Department chairmen, and it is my hope that our units find it valuable as they work our ALA mission. Everyone did a superb job.

Having our National President Kathy Daudistel with us for the entire conference was such a treat! What an amazing leader we have in her as she spreads the love of "Caring for Those Who Care for Others."

November brings so much our way to fill us with gratitude and reasons to be thankful!

We look forward to Veterans Day on Nov. 11 when we honor the men and women around us who have served our great country with pride and dedication. Most are continuing to serve others each day of their lives. I am grateful for their service every day.

The American Legion Auxiliary's Birthday is Nov. 14. We have 101 years of tradition, and we are evolving. Be sure to celebrate our success!

American Education week

is Nov. 15-19 where we honor those who surround our children in their learning community and who invest in them each day, in the classroom and beyond. Be thankful for all of them.

November also is Past Presidents Parley Month. Our unit, district and department past presidents continue to serve the mission of the ALA. They mentor our members about our programs, about how to perform administrative tasks, and how to keep the appropriate records of the ALA and our accomplishments. Most importantly, they share about our history. Take time to honor and appreciate their contributions, past and present.

Lastly, we look forward to the beginning of the holiday season as we celebrate Thanksgiving with family and friends.

May each of you be blessed as you have blessed others. May the time spent with those you love bring happiness and warmth into your hearts and homes. May we remember those who are sacrificing to protect us and the country we all love. Keep them and their families in your prayers every day.

Be thankful for their willingness to defend our freedoms with every waking moment. Be grateful and be thankful. It is the least we can do.

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



Department President Patti Coleman, center, attended the Jewish War Veterans Membership Dinner at Mancini's Char House in St. Paul on Oct. 13 with her life partner, Larry Woods, foreground. Seated at her table were Department Commander Tom Fernlund and his wife, Veronica.

### Sending in content

When sending in photos and write-ups for the Auxiliary Bulletin part of the Legionnaire, please send JPGs and Word docs to Marsha Bible at marsha@mnala.org. Thank you.

See Page 5 for the All-Legion Family Calendar.

# The Auxiliary Bulletin

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



Auxiliary National President Kathy Daudistel speaks at the Fall Conference on Friday, Oct. 22, at Shooting Star Casino in Mahanomen. The Fall Conference is the Legion Family's annual school of instruction.

## That's a wrap!

Fall Conference brings members together for the mission

MAHNOMEN — The 88th annual Fall Conference was held in Mahanomen, Minnesota at Shooting Star Casino. The conference was hosted by the Detroit Lakes Post 15 American Legion Family.

The Thursday evening workshop included sessions on membership and our membership program, ALAMIS, as well as two outstanding speakers on awareness of veteran suicide.

Tim Burley, a veteran of Operation Desert Storm, and Alec Embree, a veteran of Afghanistan/Iraq era, both talked about personal experiences and how people can be of assistance when someone is suicidal. The meeting space was almost full to capacity and members were very moved to hear these personal stories.

Friday and Saturday, members in attendance heard about the many programs of the ALA and how units can work the mission with those programs. The Auxiliary was blessed by having our National President Kathy Daudistel of Kentucky as our guest for the duration of the conference.

President Kathy's theme this year is

"Caring for Those Who Care for Others" and her focus is on caregivers and how we need to take care of them as well. Caregivers in the audience were recognized by Presidents Patti and Kathy with a small token of appreciation and a thank-you hug.

Thank you to all members of the American Legion Family who so generously donated children's pajamas and cash donations to purchase toddler beds and pack-n-plays for the children of veterans at the Eagle's Healing Nest in Sauk Centre. There were 842 pairs of pajamas, plus 25 children's blankets, 62 children's pillowcases, assorted socks, sheets and masks, collected throughout the conference. Estimated value of those items is \$12,000 plus cash donations of \$2,861. Our members certainly know how to make the children of our veterans know they truly care.

Members didn't disappoint when it came to the annual Silent Auction for the Auxiliary Emergency Fund either. There were many tables laden with lots of treasures for

everyone to bid on, including a beautiful bench made by the veterans at the Eagle's Healing Nest, and \$5,037 was collected for that program.

But the members didn't stop there. We also had good participation on our Poppy Contest.

Winners for the centerpiece contest were:

- First place: Forest Lake Unit 225
  - Second place: Karla Minnick, Unit 55
  - Third place: Carla Hoffman, Unit 39.
- Winners for the poster contest were:
- First place: Joanie Krantz, Unit 445
  - Second place, Sandy Wersal, Unit 537
  - Third place: Diane Bowman, Unit 334.

The voting for the people's choice raised \$58, which will go to the Department President's Project.

Not to be outdone, the district membership chairmen made centerpieces centered around four tiny kaleidoscopes. The people's choice voting netted \$181.38, which will go to Department President Patti's Project, holistic healing, at Eagle's Healing Nest.



### IN MEMORIAM

#### Gwen Hamilton, department president 1997-1998

Gwen Hamilton, 91, passed away on Oct. 15, 2021. She served as Department president in 1997-1998 using the theme "Picture the Past, the Present... Focus on the Future" using a camera as her symbol. Her department project was glider swings for the Minnesota Veterans Homes at Luverne and Fergus Falls.

Gwen is survived by her husband, Thomas Hamilton Sr. They were married 71 years. She is also survived by her children Madolyn "Tootie" Amundson, Thomas Hamilton Jr. and son-in-law Dan St. Clair and multiple grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents and daughter Pamela Jeanne Hamilton St. Clair.

In lieu of flowers, Gwen's family asked that memorials be made to the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota. May she rest in peace.



Gwen Hamilton

### Kudos to D.L. and 9th District

How do we begin to thank the members of Detroit Lakes and the 9th District American Legion Family for a successful Fall Conference?

Your members showed all of us that events like our conference can be hosted by an American Legion Family from throughout the hosting district.

Special thanks to General Conference Chairman Cecelia Sundstrom and Auxiliary Chairman Diane Hayes on a job well done!

### Thank you to the V4V

The Veterans for Veterans Foundation (V4V) donated \$7,500 to the ALA so that we could double our \$5 Bill Shower to \$10. This holiday season every veteran in the nine

facilities will receive a gift of \$10 from the ALA thanks to V4V. We truly appreciate this generous contribution.

### Oops! We missed one

Last month we shared the list of members that National President Kathy Daudistel appointed to serve on national committees.

Our apologies to Robin Dorf, who was appointed to serve as Northwestern Division membership chairman. Her name was missed. Congratulations, Robin!

### Poppy orders are accepted

Orders for the 2021-2022 Poppies are now being accepted. A pink order form was in the first unit mailing. Prices are: small Poppies, \$25 per 100, and large poppies, \$18 per dozen.

# Be thankful to veterans for the freedoms we have

By Linda Kelly  
Membership Chairman

## Membership as of Oct. 27

DISTRICT	# of Units	Goal	Period Gain	To Date
One	48	3,802	561	1,702
Two	72	3,745	436	1,755
Three	46	3,671	550	1,834
Four	7	563	83	297
Five	7	509	55	232
Six	62	4,855	633	2,593
Seven	60	2,970	392	1,296
Eight	25	1,214	101	550
Nine	49	3,239	498	1,895
Ten	44	3,765	754	1,898
1982 Dept	1	203	15	143
District Totals:	421	28,536	4,078	14,195

Thanksgiving is right around the corner, and we have so much to be thankful for. We should all be thankful for living in a country where we can work, play, and worship as we wish. We owe so much of this to our veterans — past and present. There are so many ways that we can thank those veterans and belonging to the American Legion Family gives us so many opportunities. Numbers count and together we can do

great things for our veterans. There are so many chances out there to tell people what the American Legion Family is all

about and to recruit new members. Sometimes it just takes the simple question, "Will you join us?"

I had an experience a couple of weeks ago that had nothing to do with the American Legion Auxiliary. I was making a call to an agency for my church. She shared a story about military members of her family so our conversation got around to the American Legion Auxiliary and at the end of conversation, I asked, "Do you belong to the Auxiliary" (She didn't) I don't know if she will join, but hopefully she will share our conversation with others, and we may gain members.

When opportunity knocks, open the door.

# Past ALA presidents can be a useful tool for units

By Raleen Tolzmann  
Department Chairman

The past presidents in the unit, district and department are here to mentor and encourage future leaders. Our main purpose is to ensure a strong leadership in our organization for generations to come.

Most past presidents continue to remain active in their units helping wherever they may be needed. The goal is to assist both new and seasoned members by sharing their knowledge and past experiences. Past presidents can be the best ambassador

for interested members who want to have a stronger unit.

At each level, they can help sustain growth through positive actions. The goal is to make sure that our members and future leaders know who we are, what we do and why we matter.

Using President Patti's theme of "Honoring Tradition and Evolving to Endure," we can help our members honor the traditional ways we have approached our programs but still know how to make the changes to make sure that the Auxiliary will endure for the next generation.

The Minnesota Past Presidents Parley

offers a health care scholarship to assist needy and deserving students, both graduating seniors and adults, to commence or further their education.

It can encompass any phase of the health care field including the entire medical, nursing and dental support fields such as registered nurses, nursing assistants, dental hygienist or dental assistants, etc.

The applicant must be a member of the American Legion Auxiliary in Minnesota for a minimum of three years and maintain a C or better grade-point average.

More information will be in the November-December unit mailing.



National American Legion Auxiliary President Kathy Daudistel of Covington, Ky., smiles as she addresses The American Legion Department of Minnesota on Saturday, Oct. 23.

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## Submit prayers for coming book

Department Chaplain Robin Dorf is compiling a book of prayers and devotionals to have available for members to purchase from the Department office. Anyone may submit and be a part of this book. Submittals must be nondenominational per the American Legion Auxiliary's Guidelines for National Chaplain. It may include prayers, devotionals or poems.

Deadline for submission is Monday, Dec. 20, 2021. Please email to RobinLDorf@yahoo.com or mail to Robin Dorf, PO Box 1236, Monticello, MN 55362.

## ALL DRESSED UP



The heads of five Minnesota American Legion Family organizations stand together on Friday, Oct. 22. From left are SAL Detachment Commander Tim Weaver of La Crescent Squadron 595, ALA Department President Patti Coleman of Lino Lakes Unit 566, ALR Director Ted Berg of Bloomington Post 550, ALA Honorary Junior President Ashley Stai of New London Unit 537 and TAL Department Commander Tom Fernlund of Waite Park Post 428.

# Endorsements

## Thiemecke endorsed for 2022-23 1st vice pres.

The 6th District American Legion Family, the 6th District Past Presidents and Ralph Gracie Post and Unit 14 of Bemidji proudly endorse Sharon Thiemecke for the position of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota 1st Vice President for the 2022-2023 year.

Sharon's eligibility is through her father, Charles A. Ruckoldt, a Korean War Marine veteran.



Sharon Thiemecke

She is also eligible through her grandfather, Frank Moskal a World War I Navy veteran and past commander of Portage Park Post 183 in Chicago, and through her oldest son, Robert S. Haas II, a 24 year veteran retired from the Air Force, and son Matthew Haas, Army National Guard, daughter Jennifer Lowry, Air Force, and youngest son Kristopher Thiemecke, Army.

Born in Chicago and raised in Arlington Heights, Illinois, she grew up as an active Junior member of Portage Park American Legion Auxiliary, making items for the VA hospital in Chicago and attending many Legion and Auxiliary events. She was district honorary junior historian. Sharon transferred to Bemidji Unit 14 in 1999.

Sharon has been active in her unit, holding many chairmanships and offices. She was Unit President 2006-2008 and 2015-2017. Sharon has also been involved in the 6th District and

has held many chairmanships there as well. She served the 6th District as president in 2011-2012 and 2018-2019.

Sharon is currently the department legislative chairman, the Auxiliary's representative on the Commanders' Task Force and The Minnesota Legionnaire's Board of Publications. She has served on many department committees including Leadership, Audit, Girls State, Poppy, Membership and as the Auxiliary's representative for the American Legion Family Hospital Association.



ON THANKSGIVING DAY AND VETERANS DAY, AND EVERY DAY, WE SAY: THANK YOU TO OUR VETERANS!

# SIGN UP FOR THE 2022 DEPARTMENT CALENDAR!



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Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
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 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Pocrnich: See the United Way

**Continued from Page 13**  
 bigger place to meet. They could use the tools for the wood shop also, if you have any wood tools sitting around call me at 218-969-2460, and I will pick them up for the veterans.

Another veteran family outing to go to is The Veterans Passport Wellness program put on by the United Way and United for Veterans programs. On Oct. 13, we went to the firing range in Hibbing. There about a dozen

veterans, male and female, who shot pistols, rifles and shotguns. The outing for November is to the Virginia YMCA. Call United Way of Northeast Minnesota at 218-254 3329 and signup for your Passport. It’s free.

Don’t forget to send in your dues and ask a fellow veteran to join you. There are exciting things happening at your American Legion.

Thank you for your continuing service to veterans.



Minnesota American Legion Commander Tom Fernlund is crowned as royalty of the St. Paul Winter Carnival during the 76th annual Jewish War Veterans Membership Dinner at Mancini’s Char House in St. Paul on Oct. 13.



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

### Attention Veterans!

This is your northern Minnesota resort. Barrier-free and open 12 months a year. Gateway to the BWCA. 800-777-7538 email: vetlake@frontiernet.net www.veteransonthelakeresort.org All cabins have a lake view.

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