

With that big project done, Gilbertson and his unit moved on. They had been sent to the scene of America's first big battle in the war. In fighting in the area around Chateau Thierry, the 32nd Division had 4,187 casualties including 777 killed. They earned the nickname from the French as "Les Terribles."

August 11, Arrived in Chateau Thierry at 6 o'clock in the evening. Hiked to a rest camp. 18 kilo hike. Camped near Sergys. Crossed river Marne at 12 o'clock at night on foot bridge.

Aug. 12, Arrived at camp at 6 o'clock in the morning. Laid around all day.

Aug. 16, Drilled all day. Airplane over camp at night dropped a few bombs.

Aug. 17, Built a small bridge between water spring and kitchen.

Aug. 19, Staking out trench lines all day.

Aug. 26, Drilled in the woods and moved further east. Hiked all night, about 35 kilos. Crossed Ourcq River about 2 o'clock in the morning.

Aug. 27, Camped in woods on hill, all day and night.

Aug. 28, Worked on foot bridge at night.

Meanwhile, the infantry and artillery of the 32nd were engaged in another major battle at Juvigny, where they again acquitted themselves with honor.

Sept. 4, Moved closer to the front in morning. In afternoon, went out in truck to build bridge. Three of our men hurt.

Sept. 5, Worked on bridge all day. One of our men from the train was killed.

Sept. 11, Got on train at 3 o'clock and rode all night and day.

Sept. 12, Got off train at 5 o'clock in the evening near Joinville. Hiked from 6 until 10. Slept in barn.

Gilbertson and the engineers joined the rest of the division as they took a break from the war. It also meant more training and drilling.

Sept. 19, Drilled most all day near River Marne.

Sept. 22, Move from camp near river Marne at Joinville. Rode in chink trucks. Loaded on trucks at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Rode all night. Unloaded at 7 the next morning.

Sept. 25, Slept on hill. Hearing artillery in pup tents.

Sept. 28, Worked on road in forenoon west of camp on hill near dugout.

The 32nd Division, as October began, moved back to the front line, replacing the war-weary 37th Division. Immediately the division began to advance, gaining a mile here and a mile there in tough trench warfare.

Oct. 2, Worked on road in forenoon. Made box for motorcycle in afternoon.

Oct. 5, Worked on plank road in forenoon. Sick in afternoon. German shells busting in camp. Killed 1 horse and wounded 1. Slept in dugout.

Oct. 6, Laid off all day, sick in stomach. On gas guard at night.

Oct. 10, Made pump handle for water tank.

The Division became part of a massive Allied effort to take the Hindenberg Line, one of Germany's last lines of defense. The fighting was brutal, but the 32nd Division did its part by capturing an important German position at Kreimhilde Stellung. The battle took three weeks and gained 8.5 kilometers. Over a thousand Germans were captured. Over a thousand 32nd Division troops were killed.

Oct. 18, Dug machine gun trench at night on top high hill close to front line. Germans sent over small barrage at night, close by our working place.

Oct. 19, Went out to machine gun trench at night with barbed wire on the wagon.

Oct. 30, Made suit case box for Lieutenant Hamberger.

The Division crossed the Meuse River on November 9. On November 11, the Division was prepared for what would be a costly attack on a strong German position, when the attack was cancelled. The war was over.

Nov. 10, Started out at 4 in the morning for front with light pack. Worked on road all day near Eaucreu.

Nov. 11, German armistice signed this morning. Cease firing at 11 o'clock forenoon.

Nov. 12, Laid around in barracks, sick.

Nov. 13, Laid around in barracks, sick.

Nov. 14, Laid around in barracks, sick.

Nov. 15, Better. Laid around barracks.

The Army, in November, decided that each division should have an identifying symbol. The 32nd Division, up to this time, had used a red circle. That was replaced with the barred-arrow, the arrow indicating the flying wedges the division used, and the bar to show that the division crossed every German line it attacked.

Nov. 16, Painted the red arrows on the wagons. Took a



Engineers from the 32nd Division pose for a photo overseas. Gilbertson is at the far right. Note the civilians posing in the rear of the photograph, and the little girl next to Gilbertson.



Although Gilbertson was primarily a carpenter in the Army, when roads had to be built or trenches dug, the engineers also knew how to operate a shovel or sledge hammer. (Photo from the history of the 32nd Division)



After the conclusion of the war, Gilbertson probably purchased a series of pictures showing the damage to various French towns. The photos are still in the family collection. This scene is from St. Hilaire.

bath in Eaucrey.
 Nov. 17. Left for Germany.

The 32nd Division marched with the famous 42nd "Rainbow" Division, the First Division and the Second Division. The four division were considered the best of the war. On the 23rd of November, the division reached the German border, and on December 1, entered Germany.

- Nov. 18, Slept in basement of a Chateau.
- Nov. 19, Laid off all day in Longwy. Got hit on head with wood box coming from second story of building.
- Nov. 24, Laid off in Hemstfrall in Luxembourg. Slept in barn.
- Nov. 29, Speech by Colonel Callahan.
- Dec. 1, Left Dickweiler at 7 o'clock in the morning, arrived at Welchbillig, Germany, 16 kilometer hike. Crossed the Moselle River, between Luxembourg and Germany at 9 o'clock. Slept in driveway in barn. Treated well by Germans.
- Dec. 2, Left Welschbillig at 7:30 in the morning, arrived in Zimmer at 11:30. Slept in living house on dining room floor. Treated fine by German people.
- Dec. 7, Left small town close to dawn at 5:30 in morning, arrived at Kaisersesch at 6 in evening. 36 kilo hike. Long, steep hill to climb. Slept in café room. Good place, but a long hike.
- Dec. 23, Worked in carpenter shop, made road signs.
- Dec. 24, Worked in carpenter shop, made Red Cross signs.
- Dec. 25, (Christmas) Sat around all day. Got cigarettes and tobacco and candy from the Red Cross. Morning white with snow.

New Year's found Gilbertson and some of the Division in Oberbieber where he was employed making road signs.

- Jan. 21, worked in carpenter's shop. Made my own bunk.
- Feb. 5, Left Oberbieber in morning for Neuvild on three-day leave.
- Feb. 6, Went on Rhine River excursion down river to Aneerach.
- Feb. 15, Had regimental parade in forenoon. Washed clothes afternoon.
- Mar. 15, Divisional parade all day. Went to (). Inspected by General Pershing.
- Mar. 25, Made signs for auto show. Sent home souvenir box.
- April 6, Had cootie inspection in morning.

In March, the division learned it would be leaving Germany in April. During the war, the division had 13,000 casualties including 2,250 men killed.

- April 22, Left Oberbieber in trucks. On train, left at 6:20. Arrived in Metz.
- April 27, In camp at Brest. Had inspection and bath.
- May 4, Left camp barracks at 6 a.m. Loaded on transport. Sailed at 1:30 p.m.
- May 17, Sighted land at 2 p.m.
- May 18, Arrived at dock at 8 a.m., boarded train at 11:30. Arrived at Camp Dix at 3 p.m.
- May 23, Left Camp Dix 10 a.m. on train. Through Philadelphia. Through Harrisburg.
- May 24, Into Detroit. Into Camp Custer.
- May 26, Mustered out.
- May 27, Discharged. Left for Milwaukee at 5 p.m.
- May 29, Left Milwaukee at 3 in the morning. Arrived in LaCrosse at noon. Home at 9 in the evening.

Gilbertson's last entry is July 16 and just indicated he was home. The back end of the diary contains addresses of people he had met during the war. It also contains what looks like a list of debts and payments.

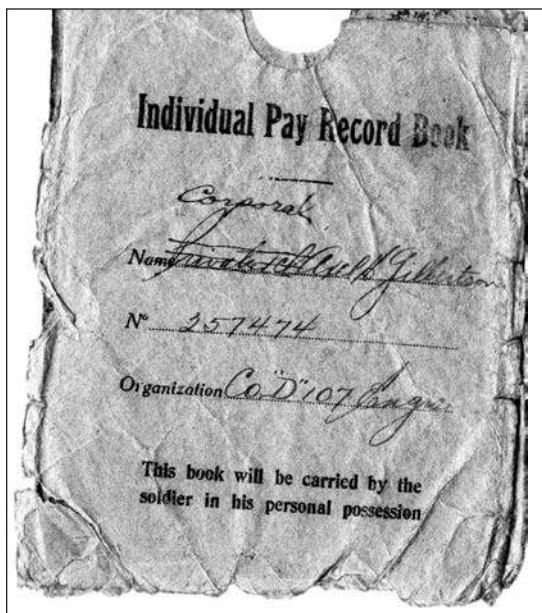
After his death in 1964, he was buried with full military honors provided by American Legion Post 103 at Pine Cliff Cemetery in Galesville.



At top is the symbol of the 32nd Division, adopted just after the war.



At right, the symbol was used on this campaign map that showed some of the advances of the division during the war.



PAID TO INCLUDE	DATE PAID	QUARTERMASTER MAKING PAYMENT
Oct 31/18	Nov 26/18	Capt O. H. Tower
11/30/18	12 26/18	Maj Gen Tower
12/31/18	1/6/19	Maj Gen Tower
1/31/19	2/2/19	Maj Gen Tower
2/28/19	3/4/19	Maj Gen Tower
3/31/19	4/2/19	Maj Gen Tower
4/30/19	5/3/19	Capt W. H. Tower

Gilbertson was issued this paybook during the war. The soldiers had to keep the book close at hand because it was the only way they could get paid.

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S.S. "HAVERFORD."

KEEP THIS CARD 53

You will occupy One Hammock SECTION B

You are assigned to **BOAT RAFT**

Gilbertson was issued this card that officially provided him with a bunk on the SS Haverford, a transport ship.



A group of 32nd Division soldiers manned a 37 mm gun near Dieffmatten in June 1918. (U.S. Army photo)

District Commanders

SECOND DISTRICT

Mark Coney
Commander



Hello Solid Second.

We have reached the end of the year. I cannot believe that it is December already. I hope that everyone had a safe and great Thanksgiving. Mother nature let us know that winter is on the way finally. With just a week to go to Thanksgiving, we had our first storm to shock us into reality from a mild Fall.

I want to thank all the posts' Membership Directors for all your hard work. For the second week in a row, Minnesota is ranked #1 in the nation (at the time of this writing). Second District has retained the #1 spot for three weeks in a row as well. Let's keep the momentum going into the Pearl Harbor rally at Waite Park on December 3rd. The second district took the Kaisersatt Trophy this year thanks to all your hard work as well.

The mid-winter conference will be held at the Redwood Falls Legion on January 29, 2017. Coffee and rolls will be provided in the morning and lunch will be served. I invite everyone to come to the Conference and see what is happening in the District and have your voices heard. Everyone's input is more than welcome. Please mail the registration form in. Come and get involved on how we can improve the Second District. Your voices are important to us.

All Posts that achieve a 100% membership this year will receive the honor ribbon to add to your Post's colors. The stipulation is that all entities of the Post must reach 100% membership. So Posts that have the Legion and the Auxiliary – Both the Legion and the Auxiliary for that Post must reach 100% to earn the ribbon. Let me know if you have any questions.

I would like to wish every Legionnaire in the District a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanza, and a Happy and productive New Year. May God bless you and your families, be safe, and I will see you next year.

THIRD DISTRICT

Mike Maxa
Commander



A belated Happy Veterans Day to all Veterans. It was a great day to spend with my fellow Veterans and speaking at the Hutchinson Middle School and High School and then break bread at my home Post 79 that evening.

Thank you to Post 96 for asking me to speak at your local schools and Sam for taking Nancy and I to and from the programs. I visited with one young veteran, who is a Legionnaire, and he voiced a concern that has again reared its ugly head. He was ready to turn in his Legion card and no longer wanted to be a member. Once again the new kid walks into a post and feels like an outsider, unwelcome, and in this case disrespected by a few of our members.

To these members and any member who doesn't welcome and show respect to our younger or any Veteran and new Legion members it is time for you to adjust your attitude and welcome all persons you come in contact with. If you haven't noticed the old way is in the past and the American Legion Family is growing into one voice standing for the four pillars that make up our organization.

I have heard many stories from our senior Legionnaires how the WWII Vets were not given a warm welcome by the WWI Vets, Korean Vets didn't feel welcome by the WWII Vets, Vietnam Vets not feeling welcome and we are repeating history? Have we not learned from our past and how you felt when disrespected and the cold welcome when walking into the post for the first time?

We all put the uniform on for the same mission, protecting our United States of America. How many Veterans or Legion Family members have walked away from the American Legion because of the acts of a few?

We cannot and I will not let this behavior continue within our American Legion. Membership is too precious in a time of declining membership, we have to and will welcome our eligible Veterans and family members into our organization and give them the opportunity to be as active within our organization as they want to be.

I am proud to say this young man will maintain his membership with The American Legion and I will help in any way to retain him as a member of The American Legion I am proud to be a part of. Still Serving....

FOURTH DISTRICT

Randy Bastyr
Commander



Greetings to all members of the Fabulous Fourth. December is here. Christmas and New Year's are approaching quickly. With the New Year come resolutions. I hope one of yours is to ask a relative, a friend or a new acquaintance to join our elite group of veterans serving veterans. I'm sure once they see what we are doing to help all veterans, they will thank you for asking them.

The Shop, Ship and Share event will be held at the Maplewood Mall on December 2nd & 3rd. We hope you will take the time and come out and see what this program is all about. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah and a very happy and prosperous New Year. May the new year bring you peace and good will.

Upcoming District events: December 2 & 3 - Shop Ship and Share, Maplewood Mall, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; December 3rd - Pearl Harbor Rally, Waite Park Post 428; December 9th - RCCC at Rosetown Post 542, Executive Board @ 6:30 and Membership meeting @ 7:00; December 18th - Hospital visitation @ 12:30; January 7th - District Mid-Winter Convention, Arcade Phalen Post 577, 8 a.m. till done.

Thank you all for this opportunity to serve the Fabulous Fourth District, and

Happy Holidays from the Fabulous Fourth to every veteran. Thank you all for your service to God and Country.

FIFTH DISTRICT

Ray Eiden
Commander



Greetings from the Fighting Fifth.

I hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving with family and friends. I gave thanks for all the Veterans serving to protect our country, for the freedom we all enjoy and for my own family and friends. We do live in the best country in the world. Our District held its Membership Revitalization on Nov. 17-19 at the Richfield Post #435. We had members transfer into our Posts from the Minnesota and National 1982 Posts. A Service Representative was present on Thursday and Saturday to talk to Veterans who needed help. A couple of Posts took the Membership call sheets home to work on them on their own time. I would like to thank Commander Denise Milton, Membership Director Mark Dvorak, 2nd District Commander Mark Coney, Mike Schaffer and Mickey Ostrum for all the hours and hard work they put in helping us as well as those from the 5th District who attended.

Our membership percent of goal is currently 73.57%. We need to be at 75% by Dec. 14th which is attainable. I encourage all our Posts to keep up the good work and let's achieve that goal. We are still working on a date to get together with a National Guard Armory, possibly the 934th Airlift Wing at Fort Snelling. We are looking at a January or February date.

SIXTH DISTRICT

Vernonica Fernlund
Commander



Half of my year as the 6th District Commander has already gone by. We have been doing great with membership and I want to thank everyone for all their hard work. We are going into the time when membership gets more difficult. Everyone's help is needed to keep the momentum moving and not let up on increasing the membership of our great organization. We had a small turn-out for the holiday/membership rally held at Brainerd Post 255 in November, partly due to the first winter storm of the year. Fitting weather for District Membership Chairman's theme "Storm'n for Membership". The food was great, we all had fun socializing and we had a nice turn-in for membership. What a fantastic kick-off to the holiday season. The 6th District Midwinter conference will be held Saturday January 28, 2017 at Brainerd Post 255. This is an informative conference open to all American Legion family members. Our goal is for all Posts to submit their Consolidated Post Reports for the year. All our District Vice Commanders and County Council Commanders will be working to contact Posts to make sure the 6th District has 100% reporting.

My family and I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

SEVENTH DISTRICT

Garylee Davenport
Commander



Greetings Mighty 7th

Wow, I can't believe that it is already December. I hope that everyone is enjoying the Holiday Season. Just a side note, I didn't get a deer this year, but hope that everyone had a better hunting season than I did.

According to the last bulletin, we were still in 4th place in the state and Minnesota took over the top spot in the nation for membership. This is no time to slack off! If any Post in the 7th District would like to do a revitalization, please contact me or my Membership Director Richard Wog. It would be nice to finish up 2016 strong.

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and enjoy your time with family & friends.

NINTH DISTRICT

Eric Wilkens
Commander



Greetings from the Roaring Ninth. On November 12, we held a membership rally in East Grand Forks with several memberships being turned in.

Our upcoming American Legion Family Christmas party is on December 10th in Waubun. Recently I was talking about recruiting new members at a membership dinner and in preparation was doing some research and I came across a good article on military.com's website that talked about "How to Pick a Military or Veteran Association."

The article addresses five questions they recommend veterans ask before joining.

First, what kind of organization do I want? Ask yourself this question, is our Post the kind of Post that can attract and offer something to younger veterans?

Second, do they offer a wide range of services? This question goes beyond the lounge, what does your Post do in the community, district or state.

Third, does it have a local office? Is your Post active or only meets a few times per year?

Fourth, how much does it cost? Look at your dues and be ready to explain where the dues go and what it supports.

Fifth, does it have a good track record? We all know The American Legion has done and continues to great things and so do our Posts. Be proud to brag about yourself and The American Legion.

TENTH DISTRICT

Bonnie Hanson
Commander



Greetings from the 10th District

Another month has passed with many Veteran Day's and Membership dinner's that have taken place. And I want to thank you for the great meals to start out with and the Pheasant's meals, so nice on my diet, lol. Many members have paid their dues. Now it is time to work on those who have not yet paid. Remember that Membership is a year-round job. Some of the hard parts are done now we need the help of the Vice Commanders and Membership and Adjutants in the District to do the calling and going to those members that just want to be asked in person. We will be having a Revitalization, the Wednesday and Thursday, 15th and 16th of February. Place to be determined and time.

We are coming into the Holiday season; first we have Pearl Harbor Rally on 3 December and hopefully we will have a great turn-in. Waite Park is the place. Next we have the 10th District Christmas Rally in Buffalo on 17 December starting at 1:00. Then we are in the start of a New Year. Can't believe we are going into 2017. Our Mid-Winter will be 7 January 2017 starting at 9 a.m. at the Anoka Post 102. Hope to see some of you from the State of Minnesota.

And to top this off I want to wish everyone a Happy Holiday season and a safe one. Remember motto is "Family First" and my project "Helping Paws."

God bless you, God bless America and God bless our troops in harm's way.

Listening Post

News from around the State



DUNDEE FLAG RETIREMENT -- A flag retirement ceremony was held in Dundee that included participants from Adrian, Brewster, Dundee, Ellsworth, Hardwick, Heron Lake, Okabena, Round Lake, and Worthington. Over 300 flags, including several large ones, were properly destroyed by the 30 Legion and Auxiliary members in attendance. Dundee Post 386 hosted the event.



MINNESOTA WREATH LAYER -- Bob Johnson, who served in the Seabees in World War II, laid the official Battle Monuments Commission wreath at the Memorial Day services at the Rhone Valley American Cemetery in France.



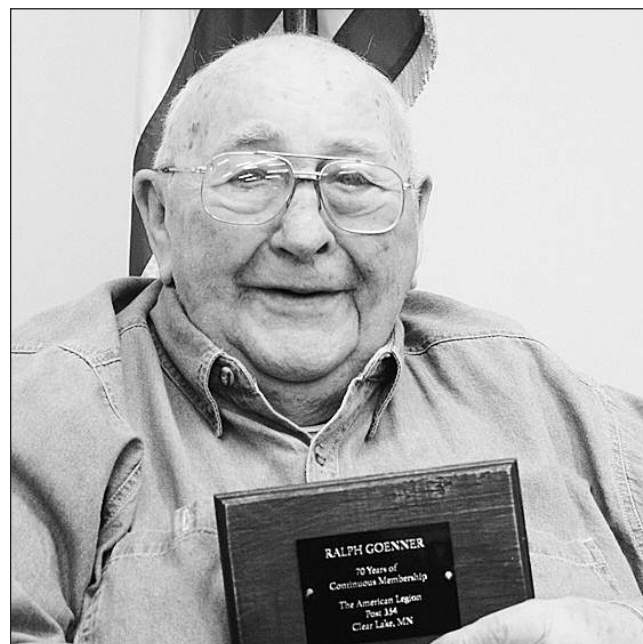
NISSWA MEMBERSHIP DINNER -- Commanders lined up at the Nisswa Post 627 membership dinner. From left: Sixth District Commander Veronica Fernlund, Department Commander Denise Milton and Nisswa Commander Gina Taylor.



DENT APPRECIATION -- Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to Van Kalinsoki, James Stoderl and James Scott. Dent Post 148 Commander Ron Bjeland is second from left.



BARNUM FLAGS -- Barnum Post 415 recently donated flags to Barnum High School.



CLEAR LAKE PLAQUE -- Clear Lake Post 354 presented a plaque to Ralph Goenner for 70 years continuous membership.



MONTEVIDEO CENTENARIAN -- Montevideo Post 59 Commander Marvin Garbe recently hand delivered a membership card to Engh Molde who is 103 years old. Molde was an ensign on a Navy patrol boat.



LE CENTER SAL PROJECTS -- The LeCenter Squadron 108 recently completed two major events, a BBQ grilling contest that drew 13 chefs and 175 spectators, and a bass fishing contest that drew 150 fishermen and their families to a dinner.



HINCKLEY VOLUNTEERS -- As part of MNDOT's Adopt a Highway Program, Hinckley Post 388 has been caring for a two-mile stretch of Highway 48 east of Hinckley for over 20 years.

Listening Post

News from around the State



GLENWOOD UNIT -- World War II veteran Olga Van Winkle raises a new flag at the Glenwood Retirement Village. The flag was donated by Glenwood Unit 187.



MORA 60 YEARS -- Mora Post 201 Commander Alan Skramstad presents a 60 year certificate to Art Zellman.



60 YEARS MORA -- Willie Strom presents a 60-year membership certificate to William Renstrom at his home. He is a member of Mora Post 201.



HERON LAKE MONUMENT -- Heron Lake Post and Auxiliary 224 was part of the Veterans Memorial Committee that created a new veterans memorial. Workers lower the memorial to its base. The committee is still accepting donations and purchase of paver blocks. Contact the Heron Lake Auxiliary, Box 333, Heron Lake, MN 56137.



DENT FISHING OUTING -- Dent Post 148 held a day of fishing for 12 residents from the Minnesota Veterans Home at Fergus Falls. There was a post-fishing social and pot luck dinner. A good time was had by all.



BACKUS FLOAT -- Those riding on the Backus Post 368 float in the Corn Fest Parade get ready for the National Anthem. The riders included Joe Davidson, right, the post's Boys State representative.



CLOQUET FLOAT -- The Cloquet Post and Unit 262 float was on display at the Cloquet Fourth of July Parade. The float featured a miniature veterans graveyard. (Cloquet Pine Journal photo)



ST. PETER LAST MAN'S CLUB -- The Last Man Club of the Vietnam War Era held its fifth annual banquet at the St. Peter Post 37. The group adopted the World War II Last Man's Club five years ago. That group now has eight members. In front: Howard Hermel, World War II vet. In back: Dave Johnson, LMC commander; Greg Peterson, Brown County VSO, and Rick Walter, LMC past commander. The Vietnam Last Man Club has 300 members and is active sponsoring observances, golf tournaments and fund raisers.



The Auxiliary Bulletin

No. 17-4

President Carol Kottom

December 2016

Secretary Sandie Deutsch

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

The President's Column

By
Carol Kottom



Hello to the American Legion Family:

I hope you all had a fantastic Thanksgiving. My chauffeur and favorite chef cooked ours. Wonderful! Now it's on to Christmas.

The Auxiliary is moving forward through the Strategic Planning Team with Past Department President Sandy Fredrickson at the helm. They are doing a fantastic job setting the goals for our organization including fund raisers, joining hands with all facets of our organizations as a family, branding, culture of good will – just everything.

When they come to you with a fundraiser sale item, please open your wallets. Together we can make a difference. Thank you so much Sandy and the entire team.

First though, we need to work on membership. I know – not your favorite thing to do. But, we are losing ground. In 1994 the Auxiliary reached its all time high at 59,925. As of November 22, our 2016 membership is 36,207. We finished 2015 with 37,742, so we lost 1,537 members in one year. In 1947 we finished the year with 38,592. That means, we have regressed 69 years. Think about that for a moment. 69 years. That's more years than I've been alive.

How can we possibly continue to influence congress on behalf of our veterans if we can't even maintain our membership? Our veterans rely on us, the American Legion Family, to fight for and protect their benefits. Medical needs, housing, education, insurances – and the list goes on. I came across an article titled "10 Veterans Benefits you may not know about" under the Military Benefits website. Briefly, they are:

- Long Term Care through the Aid and Attendance Program.
- Caregiver Support. See Military and Veteran Caregiver Networks (MVCN) for an example.
- Death Benefits – US flag, President Memorial Certificate, free headstones or grave markers
- Certification programs – career paths that do not include college degree.
- Transferring GI Bill Credits – to spouses and dependents (service limits required).
- Free Tax Preparation through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance offices on military bases.
- Life Insurance through the Servicemembers' and Veterans' Group Life Insurance program.
- Mortgage help through the Department of Veterans Affairs when there are issues meetings payments.
- VA Foreclosures – homes that have been serviced through a VA loan that have gone into foreclosure are offered to veterans at a discount.
- American Corporate Partners – assists veterans in finding a job after their time in service.

These are but a few benefits available. We need to keep our membership high so we can continue to assure these remain available to our veterans.

We need your help. Do all of your living female relatives (including yourself if applicable) belong to the American Legion Auxiliary? If yes, I can't say thank you enough. If no, what a great Christmas gift. Please contact your local Auxiliary and sign them up.

May God bless and keep you and yours. Merry Christmas to all and to all a Happy New Year from Bruce and I.

Many special programs highlight Auxiliary calendar

December is Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation month. There are a number of special programs the Auxiliary is involved with this month, such as Gift Shop, our \$5.00 Bill Shower, Christmas parties, etc. These are in addition to the regular activities our Hospital/Home Representatives and their many volunteers sponsor at their respective facilities. Is your Unit planning on doing something special for our veterans? If you are able to help out, please contact one of the hospitals and/or homes in your area to see if our Reps need any help with the annual Gift Shop. It is a very humbling and rewarding experience.

Don't forget the veterans in the local hospitals, nursing homes and assisted living facilities as well as those who are shut-ins in your community. Make December a special month for them.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED - Our veterans answered the call when our country was in need. Won't you answer the call when they are in need? Become a volunteer at one of the VA Medical Centers, a Field Service volunteer or a Home Service volunteer and assist our veterans. They need you! Contact the Department Office if you are interested in volunteering.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY HOSPITAL PROGRAM - We have nine facilities in which the Auxiliary carries on extensive programs for our hospitalized veterans. This takes funding as we provide many of those extras to our veterans. Your financial support is needed. Please send your contributions to the Department Office earmarked "\$5.00 Bill Shower" and "American Legion Auxiliary Hospital Program". Thank you for your support. Please call the Hospital Home Reps to see what their needs are at this time.

GIRLS STATE INFORMATION

Information needed to reserve a place for your Girls State citizen(s) for the 2017 session of the American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State will be included in the January Unit mailing. Please make sure and go through all the information. The Committee has made some very exciting and positive changes to this year's session! It will include an American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State informational brochure, a cover letter from the American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State Chairman and a reservation form. After the department office receives your reservation form and your registration check of \$300.00 per girl, a packet will be sent to the Unit. This packet will include a set of registration forms for each girl you will be sponsoring. It will include the enrollment card, information sheet, pledge, brochure, dress code, order form for the polo shirts, etc. The packet will be sent to the person who signs the reservation form. The registration materials must be returned to the department office on or before May 1. If you have any questions, please contact the department office. This year the Girls State week will be held at Bethel College in St. Paul.

PRESIDENT'S PROJECTS

Our Department President Carol Kottom, has chosen as her President's Project, the purchase of a 6 passenger golf cart to transport patients around at the St. Cloud VAHCS. President Carol volunteers at the St. Cloud VAHCS weekly and knows of the need for this cart. These programs depend on donations to function. Your support of our Department President's projects is appreciated. President Carol also has a special project of Pocket Angels. This project has been very popular with all of our Units and donations have come in strong. At this time, we would ask that either you order your own supply of Pocket Angels through autom.com and to earmark your donations towards the President's project. Please make your donation today - these are such wonderful programs for our Veterans. Thank you all for your continued support.

MEMBERSHIP

What more can be said about membership? In order to continue to offer the best service we can from the Department Office, we need each Unit to work a little bit harder at collecting membership dues for 2017. What a great way to meet members that you may not know – give a personal phone call and chat for a while with them. Give

them a little report on what is going on with the organization. Make this a fun project, don't be negative. You may be surprised and get some members to become more active in your Unit. Please take a minute and make that call.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Department of Minnesota offers a variety of scholarships between us here in Minnesota and National Headquarters. Please make sure all of our schools have the applications for our children to fill out. In today's day and age, every extra dollar helps parents pay for this education expense.

DONATIONS

Please the Unit Guide for a list of those programs the Department Executive Committee has approved for the solicitation of funds. Please keep in mind those showing an * by them are our own Auxiliary programs within the Department of Minnesota. We need to support these causes – no one else does. If your Post is donating funds from their gambling accounts, please make sure they make the checks payable to the American Legion Foundation, Fund 83. If they aren't written out that way, we have to return the checks and have them reissued.

POPPY POSTER CONTEST

Please encourage your schools to participate in the Poppy Poster Contest. There are classes for all grades. All of the rules will be in the January Unit Mailing included in the Trophy and Awards booklet. All of this information is also on our website mnala.org. This is a great way to teach our youth all about the Poppy, our Memorial Flower. As sponsor of the contest we must get into our schools and promote this wonderful contest. We had a National winner last year from Cold Spring. In the past few years entries have been dwindling. Make an effort to boost this great program.

FORMS GOING OUT

We will be sending out the Annual Report Forms and Trophy and Awards forms out right after the first of the year. They are coming together again this year in hopes that more Units will submit contest entries. All instructions will be included with the forms.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

On behalf of the office staff at the American Legion Auxiliary, Sandie, Jan and Julie we want to wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and hope Santa brings you everything you ask for. We are sure you have been good all year. Enjoy quality time with family and loved ones. If you can, do something special for those that are in need.

GIFT SHOP DISTRIBUTION DAY

Raleen Tolzmann, Department Gift Shop Chairman and Committee Member Vida Bacon assembled their crew to sort and distribute all of the Christmas Gifts for our Veterans and their families to be given out at all nine VA facilities during their Gift Shop days at the Osseo American Legion Post. The gifts that were purchased by Raleen and Vida were all very nice and we are sure the Veterans will be pleased. Even with membership continuing to decline, our Finance Committee and Executive Committee took a very big leap of faith and again approved no decreases to this budget. Our veterans are what our organization is all about and this small act of kindness at the holiday season is very important. Our Units have really stepped up and increased the amount they are donating to this program. Thank you so much for your help in making this program a success. A very special thanks goes out to the Veterans 4 Veterans Foundation, the Pheasant Dinner program and the Fund for Hospitalized Veterans for their very generous donations to our program this year.

Here is a reminder of the Gift Shop Dates:
 Fargo VAMC - December 5
 Fergus Falls Veterans Home - December 19
 Hastings Veterans Home - December 8

Auxiliary Bulletin

Continued from Preceding Page

Luverne Veterans Home - December 8
 Minneapolis Veterans Home - December 7 & 8
 Minneapolis VAMC - December 6 & 7
 Silver Bay Veterans Home - December 8
 Sioux Falls VAMC - December 15
 St. Cloud VAMC - November 28 - 30

SECRETARY SANDIE'S NOTES

Well, for the first time ever can say that I have been blessed, for two years I have had the same Department Office staff members. We have such a wonderful working relationship and I couldn't ask for more hard working, efficient workers. As most of you talk to them only and never get a chance to see them I am happily able to print pictures of them for you. (See below.)

By the time this comes out my Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year will all be over. We are celebrating our Christmas over Thanksgiving again this year and all our kids and grandkids will be here with bells on. It is very rare that we all get together so Shorty and I are pretty excited. It will be a very happy year for the Deutsch's as we will be welcoming, supposedly our last grandbaby in May, so they all tell us. Our four babies are long past the baby stage so a new baby will be a blessing for all of us. This time of year brings tears to my eyes for all sorts of reasons, meeting and making so many very wonderful friends in The American Legion Family, watching my own family grow and become successful, working and playing with all of my Montgomery American Legion Family members, and spending time with dear friends, Vrzy, Dick & Susie, Hawk & Sue, Mary and all the rest of you, you know who you are. I could never figure out why my grandma had tears rolling down all the time, now I know, I am just getting old.

Shorty and I would like to wish each and every one of you a very merry, blessed Christmas and the best new year ever.



NATIONAL COMMANDER'S HOMECOMING -- The Minnesota delegation to National Commander's Homecoming in Washington included: Cindy Goepford, Donna Arends, Tamara Opland, National Commander Mary Davis, Norma Tramm and Carol Kottom.



Department President Carol Kottom presented a volunteer pin and 10,000 hour bar to Elaine Vogel at the St. Cloud VA. She earned the award two years ago.



Chandler Unit 338 presented Florence Stoel with a lifetime membership she won at convention. She is seated in the red sweater.



Past National President Sharon Conatser was a presenter at the mission training in Bloomington.



JULIE DENEFFE
Administrative Assistant



JAN LAUBY
Treasurer

December is VA and Rehabilitation Month

I think every day we should be thinking of our Veterans and how they are doing and what their needs are; they fought for our country and now is the time for us to give back. Make December a special month for them.

The Department of Minnesota has 9 hospital/homes where we carry out our programs. The Legion Auxiliary representatives are: Fargo VAHCS-Carolyn Albertson, Minneapolis VAHCS-Mary Ann Davis, St. Cloud VAHCS-Jan Benson, Sioux Falls VAHCS-Naomi Hill, Fergus Falls MVH-Doris Lafayette, Hastings MVH-Darlene Wondra, Luverne MVH-Jeannette Mertens, Minneapolis MVH-Sandy Gibson, and Silver Bay MVH-Phyllis Mealey. Thank you to these ladies that volunteer at these homes and hospitals. If you have some extra time volunteers are always needed.

Thank you to Raleen Tolzmann our Gift Shop Chairman and Vida Bacon, Committee member for all they have done for our gift shop program and our \$5.00 dollar bill showers that take place at all our Veterans Home and Hospitals in December. They make sure every veteran and member of their immediate family receives a gift at Christmas. Has your Unit donated to this program?

Our Service to Veterans program, Mary Hendrickson-



JEAN WALKER

Chairman, keeps you informed on what you can do to help. This is where you can volunteer to help out our veterans, mow their lawns, take baked goods to their home, give a ride to a medical appointment, or just take time to visit with a veteran at their home and especially this time of the year, help shovel snow from their driveways and sidewalks.

Please keep our American Legion Family, our Veterans and our communities in our prayers this Christmas. We have had a lot of loss this year and at Christmas time it is really hard when you are missing a family member or friend.

Thank you again to all who volunteer and help our veterans, it could be making a quilt, helping at bingo, delivering a meal, sending in a donation or just a visit - it means a lot to them. Always remember "Thank a veteran. All gave some and some gave all."

Nov. 23, 2016, Auxiliary Membership

District	Goal	Membership To Date	Percent of Goal	Membership Last Year
One	5,000	3,307	66.14%	3,528
Two	4,924	3,332	67.67%	3,461
Three	4,411	2,998	67.97%	3,161
Four	720	497	69.03%	491
Five	824	489	59.34%	612
Six	6,042	4,300	71.17%	4,595
Seven	3,934	2,671	67.90%	3,006
Eight	1,628	984	60.44%	1,131
Nine	4,350	3,022	69.47%	3,393
Ten	5,159	3,344	64.82%	3,548
1982	160	112	70.00%	117
Totals	37,152	25,056	67.44%	27,043

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- Gospel Dinner Cruise
- Georgia Sea Turtle Center
- Charleston Tea Plantation
- Magnolia Plantation
- Biltmore Estate

\$1,950.00
 Per Person Double Occupancy

Heart of Alaska
 July 14-21, 2017

Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Sue Barber
- Round trip Delta flights Minneapolis to Anchorage
- 7 nights accommodations
- 12 Meals
- Denali Park Natural History Tour
- Alaska Railroad between Talkeetna & Denali Park
- Riverboat Discovery Cruise
- Gold Dredge #8
- Prince William Sound Cruise
- Meares Glacier
- Luggage handling for one suitcase

\$3,299.00
 per person double occupancy

San Antonio Riverwalk
 February 19-26, 2017

Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Manager, Cindy Meany
- 7 nights accommodations with 3 nights in San Antonio along the Riverwalk
- 13 meals: 7 breakfast, 6 dinners
- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- Market Square (San Antonio)
- Riverwalk District
- San Fernando Cathedral
- San Antonio history tour
- Riverwalk boat tour
- Dallas food and history walking tour

\$1,299.00
 Per Person Double Occupancy

Monuments of Washington D.C.
 March 31-April 4, 2017

Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Sue Barber
- Round trip Delta Airlines flights Minneapolis to Washington D.C.
- 4 nights accommodations in the Washington D.C. area
- Evening guided Memorial and Monuments tour
- Two full-day guided tours of Washington D.C.
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- WWII Memorial, Capitol Hill, Embassy Row, the Korean War Veterans Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Smithsonian, Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial, the Lincoln Memorial, and much more!

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Alaska Tour & Cruise
 August 4-16, 2017

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- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Sue Barber
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Minnesota Twins Spring Training in Florida
 March 2-12 2017

Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Manager, Cindy Meany
- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- 10 nights accommodations including 3 nights in Cape Coral, FL and 2 nights in Nashville, TN
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- Coca Cola Factory Tour, Atlanta, GA
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- Luggage handling for one suitcase per person

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Panama Canal Cruise
 March 14-30, 2017

Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Manager, Larry Alvey
- Roundtrip Delta Air flights Minneapolis to San Francisco and return Ft. Lauderdale to Minneapolis
- 1 pre-cruise hotel night at the Holiday Inn Express Fisherman's Wharf, San Francisco
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