

first combat.

"I had been made a scout right away. I was a pretty good shot and a fast runner, but I don't know why they made me a scout.

"During the night I was leading the way in pitch darkness up a hill when I heard a voice saying 'Dummkopf.' I learned later it meant, 'Dumbbell.' I dropped down, but he threw a hand grenade in my direction. It hit a little ways away, and a piece of shrapnel hit my hand. It was no big deal, but I still have the scar."

Dahlberg was patched up by a medic, and he never left the front lines.

"The next morning we could see the Germans off in the distance, with the Americans chasing them."

After some additional days of fighting, the 517th in late June 1944 began to get prepared for Operation Dragoon, the invasion of southern France. The Allies had invaded northern France on June 6, but a second invasion was planned to capture southern France and also to involve the French army.

The troops, of course, didn't know their destination. "We didn't know for sure where our jump would be, but rumor had us going into France."

The Allies wanted a large force of Airborne units in the invasion because while the Germans only had 30,000 men guarding the beaches, they had another 200,000 not far away. The Airborne would be used to disrupt the German plans and keep the reinforcements away from the beachheads.

The 517th would attack in 180 C-47 aircraft. "With the seven bandoliers of machine gun ammunition wrapped around me and my leg pockets filled with mortar rounds and all the K-rations and the rest of my gear, I bet I weighed over 300 pounds."

On August 15, the transports took off from bases in Italy. "The pathfinders went in at 2:30 a.m. but they were so spread out and the cloud layer was so low that that the pilots of the main force never saw their beacons. As a result, a lot of the jumpers ended up far from the drop zone."

The 517th took off at 2:30 a.m. and were dropped about 4:30 a.m.

In the airplanes, the men discussed the fact they were wearing Mae Wests, a nickname for life preservers. "We knew that we were flying over water, but they were just an extra burden, so most of us just took them off and left them on the airplanes.

"But then after I jumped I looked down and it looked like they had dropped us right over the water. I got my knife out and I was getting ready to cut my parachute free."

It turned out, though, that the water Dahlberg saw was actually just the cloud cover.

"I drifted through the cloud and the ground was right there. I went crashing through a tree and hit some rocks. I hurt my ankle pretty badly. I didn't take off my boot for two weeks because I knew it would swell up and I'd never get it back on."

Also on impact, Dahlberg's M-1 rifle was damaged and rendered useless.

Part of the job for the paratroopers was to secure the area so that the glider planes, which would come in at daylight, would not be attacked.

"I saw the first glider pilot come in at about 8:30. He crashed right into an olive tree and it was like hitting a stone wall. I went over to take a look. The glider had been carrying mortar rounds, and it had all shifted forward and crushed the pilot. I also noticed that he was wearing a .45 sidearm.

"I didn't have a weapon, so I took it. I kept it with me the rest of the time I was in the war. You couldn't have too many weapons. I knew guys who carried German Mausers."

Dahlberg examined the holster that contained the pistol. "It said on it, 'Lt. Johnson, Minneapolis.' I always thought I'd try to look up that family when I got back, but did you ever look in the Minneapolis phone book for the name Johnson?"

The troopers took to the road, trying to find their way. "We hadn't gone very far when we were approached by an Associated Press photographer. We were looking for Germans and instead we found an AP guy, or he found us. He had apparently jumped in with us. He had us all get down in the ditch like we were protecting the road and he took our picture. I saw the picture later, and you can see me grimacing with pain holding my .45."

Suffering greatly from the pain in his ankle, Dahlberg first joined up with some British paratroopers. Eventually, the members of the 517th gathered at their rendezvous point in St. Roseline Chateau, the site of a major French winery.

Once assembled, the 517th began to drive the Germans north. "They called it the 'Champagne Campaign.' The townspeople along the way were so grateful to us for chasing the Germans out. They went into their basements and brought up the best wine for us."

Dahlberg said, though, that the fighting was often intense. "I lost a lot friends. We were on the line for 94 straight days, and I think that's still a record for the U.S. Army."

One action he remembers clearly is the taking of Hill 1098. "We were on one side of the hill and the Germans were on the other side and we were lobbing mortars at each



F Company, 2nd Battalion, 517th Parachute Infantry Combat Team posed for a photo at Hill 1098 in southern France. Dahlberg is in the top row, sixth from the right.



Dahlberg with his paratrooper wings.



Lean and lanky, Dahlberg had this photo taken in Italy. It was colorized.



A photo taken by an AP photographer shows the paratroopers guarding a road in southern France.



In a blow-up of the photo above, Dahlberg is in the middle of the picture holding his 45 pistol that he had taken from a dead glider pilot. At his side is a French resistance fighter. The photo was taken on the day of the jump as part of Operation Dragoon. "We didn't find any Germans, but we found an Associated Press photographer. Or he found us."

other. We were supposed to dig in, but the ground was just too rocky to dig. I could hear a mortar coming in and I hit the ground. It landed about four or six feet away from me, but it didn't explode. It just showered me with dirt and splinters of rock. I've often thanked that German who put that mortar shell together so that it didn't work."

The Americans took the hill at great cost.

However, the Germans were nearby in the heavily-defended Sospel Valley, where they had artillery protected in concrete bunkers. Dahlberg led patrols into the valley.

"I was chosen to be the scout for D Company and part of E Company because I knew the area. I was volunteered for the job.

"We started around midnight and by early morning we had reached a chalet in the valley that had been used for a German headquarters. They were already gone. We figured they probably booby-trapped the chalet, but we searched all day for bombs and we didn't find anything. They guys were grabbing a lot of souvenirs, and I got some nice silver tongs. I still have them."

The men spent the night in the chalet. "I knew that F Company was coming in from another direction, and I wanted to join them. So about 8 a.m. I left the chalet and I was about a block away when it blew up. They must have used a lot of explosives because it was just demolished.

"I went back to help, but I'm not a medic so there wasn't much I could do. You could hear the cries for help in the rubble. One guy was trapped under a piano. I think only about four or six guys died, which was a miracle."

Dahlberg said the close call shook him up. "I wasn't a Christian at that time, but I remember saying, 'Thank you, God.'"

In November of 1944, the 517th was finally relieved. After a long hike down to Nice for some rest, they were sent north to Soissons.

"We were put in those 40 and 8 railroad cars. That was a terrible time. The only time you could relieve yourself was when the train slowed down. When we went through a village, we'd try to get some bread. Otherwise all we had were K-rations."

They were bivouacked in Soissons by Dec. 10. "They told us we were going to start training to be sent to Japan."

But then a funny thing called the Battle of the Bulge happened. "We heard about it on Dec. 16, and the next day we were re-armed, all new rifles in the Cosmoline again. They put us all in two-and-a-half ton trucks with canvas over the top, and we drove through a huge snowstorm.

"We got to a point west of Bastogne and joined the 82nd Airborne. Our company got off the trucks okay, but some of the other guys had to fight their way off the trucks. I saw truck drivers jump down and just start running."

Dahlberg immediately went back to work leading patrols into the woods. "I remember we came on one cabin with smoke coming out of the chimney. We opened the door and looked inside and the table was set for Christmas dinner. The food was in the pots on the stove. It sure smelled good, but we didn't stay. We figured it was booby-trapped."

On Jan. 3, 1945, the 517th was ordered to move out. "I saw Gen. Gavin of the 82nd Airborne talking to our officers, so we knew something big was going on."

Dahlberg was again in the lead. "The Germans had dug these big holes in a cemetery we had to go through. We didn't understand what they were, but we think they had those holes zeroed in with their mortars. When the guys would dive into the holes for safety, they would be hit with the mortars."

Dahlberg and the company commander were leading the way, and had moved passed the field. "I'll never know what it was, an artillery shell or a mortar or whatever, but it came down right on top of us. The company commander was killed instantly. I didn't get a scratch on me.

"But I didn't wake up until February in a hospital in England."

Dahlberg had been severely concussed by the shell. In the end, he was moved to four different hospitals in England for treatment. "My mind was affected. It was very difficult to focus."

By April, he was okay and released from the hospital but was declared a non-combatant. Rather than send him back to the 517th, which was now in Germany and again getting ready to be sent to Japan, Dahlberg was sent to the 8th Air Force.

"That disappointed me because I would not see my buddies ever again. We were like brothers, and we'd trained and fought together for over two years."

During the war, the 517th suffered 1,576 casualties including 252 men killed.

At an 8th Air Force base at Burtonwood, he was assigned to the 31st Statistical Control Unit where he and others, including WACs, were charged with keeping track of all the day reports for the 8th. Part of his job was also to drive a colonel around in a Jeep.

"When V-E Day happened, I was in bed in the Quonset hut and I wanted to stay in bed. But all my buddies carried me and the bed out into the street. Yes, they were celebrating, I can tell you."

In December he went back to the United States on the Queen Mary, suffering through some terrible weather. "But



Mel Dahlberg, center, and a couple of comrades enjoying some free time in Nice, France.



Dahlberg just before his jump into southern France.



Along with a buddy, Dahlberg, left, posed for a photo with a machine gun. Operating a machine gun was not Dahlberg's specialty.



Late in the war, after recovering from a concussion, Dahlberg was assigned to an 8th Air Force unit that did mainly clerical work. He also drove a Jeep for the commander of the air base in England.

when we pulled into New York Harbor and saw the Statue of Liberty, I don't think there was a dry eye on the whole ship. That was quite a sight."

Dahlberg was mustered out at Camp McCoy and went right back to work at the bank, where he stayed for 41 years. Although he never had any formal accounting training, he became an auditor and bank examiner for First National, later U.S. Bank.

In addition, he moonlighted a second career in show business. For 51 years he was a wardrobe dresser for all the theaters in Minneapolis and St. Paul. Along the way he met Carol Burnett, Mickey Rooney and hundreds of other major and minor show biz personalities.

"Steve Allen was the worst I ever dressed. He brought his show to St. Paul, and it was an awful week. He was never happy. And in the end, he never tipped me a dime."

Dahlberg still proudly carries his International Alliance of Theatrical State Employees gold card.

He met Mae at the bank and they had a daughter, Mary. Mel and Mae have four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

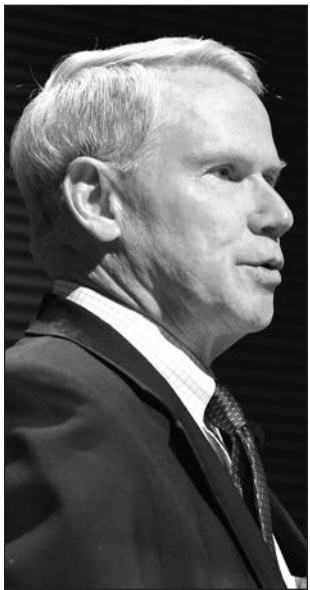
In 2003, after watching the Band of Brothers series, Dahlberg began to have more severe symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. It had been lurking beneath the surface all those years. "I'm better now, but I still don't have any finger nails because I bite them."

The Dahlbergs live in a spacious home near a river in Jordan.

This story was based on an interview, but parts of it came from an interview Dahlberg gave for a book on the 517th some years ago.

World War II History Round Table

Invasion of southern France recounted



SCOTT WHEELER



MARTY ROMANO

By Al Zdon

Could it be that a personality conflict between generals Eisenhower and Devers cost many American lives in the Battle of the Bulge?

Guest speaker James Scott Wheeler, the author of a book on Gen. Jacob Devers, the leader of the invasion of southern France, makes an argument along that line.

He was joined by two veterans of Operation Dragoon at the first April meeting of the World War II History Round Table at the Fort Snelling History Center.

The Allies had landed in northern France at Normandy in June of 1944 and began a push toward Germany. Meanwhile, southern France remained in German hands.

The idea of a southern invasion, some historians say, began with Gen. George C. Marshall, the top military leader in the U.S. Many others opposed the idea because it would divert military resources and troops away from other places where they could be better used, such as Italy or the Normandy invasion.

British leader Winston Churchill opposed the invasion, and legend has it that the name was changed from Operation Anvil to Operation Dragoon because Churchill said he was “dragooned” into agreeing with it.

A key element in the invasion was that it would rely heavily on French troops. Wheeler noted that “France is our oldest ally.”

Wheeler called Devers “Eisenhower’s forgotten general,” and said the two had very different upbringings and outlooks on life. Eisenhower was known for his terrible temper, while Devers (rhymes with nevers) was an eternal optimist.

The main object was the capture of the French ports at Marseille and Toulon. The northern ports captured on D-Day were not sufficient to supply the Allied advance toward Germany.

The invasion was preceded by a massive bombing attack that destroyed many bridges and hurt the German effort to bring in reinforcements. And, at the same time, large airborne drops and glider landings were carried out 18 miles inland.

The invasion was also helped by French resistance fighters throughout the area.

At 8 a.m. on August 15, 1944, three American divisions and a French armored division landed near the city of Draguignan. The next day, four French divisions began pouring ashore.

“They expected a really tough fight with the Germans, but the Germans didn’t expect us to strike where we did,” Wheeler said.

The landing of the French troops was accelerated. “They were anxious to kill Germans.” Many of the French troops were from the North African nations that were part of the French empire.

“The invasion wasn’t as big as Overlord or Sicily, but it was a big operation. By this time of the war, we were getting pretty damn good,” Wheeler said.

He noted that some called it the “Champagne Campaign,” and the Germans were driven back 480 miles in less than a month.

By October, the advance had become a stalemate. “We had outrun our logistical space. We had to rebuild railroads. We were out of ammunition. For our 105 mm howitzers, we were down to six rounds per tube per day. You can’t win a war that way.”

Eisenhower was promoting a broad front, which other commanders thought was a mistake. The biggest mistake might have been in Hurtgen Forest along the German border where eight U.S. divisions were decimated because of strong German resistance and impossible terrain. Some thought Eisenhower should have engaged the enemy at

other places and left the Hurtgen alone. “It was totally avoidable and stupid.”

By Nov. 19, the Allied forces in the south had reached the Rhine. The liberation of Strasbourg in the contested area of Alsace was a high point for the French forces.

Devers, Wheeler said, had anticipated reaching the Rhine and had done much planning on how to get across the river and into the German heartland. He had 256 DUKWs or “ducks,” amphibious vehicles, and a huge supply of bridge building equipment.

Devers’ patrols found the area on the other side of the river nearly empty. “It was an incredible opportunity,” Wheeler said.

A visit from Eisenhower, though, put the kibosh on the southern invasion of Germany. Not only did Eisenhower stop Devers from crossing the Rhine, he took a corps away from him. Devers argued in a lengthy meeting, but Eisenhower prevailed.

Wheeler wonders if Eisenhower was acting for objective reasons, or if his antipathy for Devers was at the base of his decision.

Wheeler also wonders what would have happened if Devers had been able to cross into Germany and force Germany to shift forces to the south. On Dec. 16, Germany was able to assemble enough troops to mount a major attack in what became the Battle of the Bulge.

“Some people see it as a real mistake, I see it as blindness,” Wheeler said of Ike’s decision not to allow Devers to cross the Rhine.

Wheeler spent the rest of his presentation restoring the reputation of Devers, sometimes at the expense of Eisenhower. For instance, Devers had over 14 years of actually leading soldiers while Eisenhower spent less than a year.

He summed up the two generals’ personalities. “Devers talked too much and was a congenital optimist. Eisenhower always took it personally.”

“Don’t get me wrong. We won the war and Eisenhower was a great, great leader. But he made a couple of costly, costly mistakes.”

Marty Romano grew up in New Jersey, and in 1943 was inducted into the U.S. Navy. After training, he volunteered to be a crewman on a motor torpedo boat. “I didn’t know what a motor torpedo boat was, but it sounded good.”

He was assigned to Squadron 15, later Squadron 22, based in Italy, and was on the crew of PT-306. PT stood for Patrol Torpedo.

Romano said there were several manufacturers of PT boats made in the U.S. during the war including Elco, Huckins and Higgins. Higgins was also the maker of the

famous Higgins boats used to land troops during invasions.

PT-306 was a Higgins boat, 78-feet long and powered by three Packard V-12 aircraft engines that could generate 5,400 horsepower. “We could carry 3,000 gallons of gas, and we could go through that every day.”

The boat could go over 40 miles an hour. “But we only used that speed if we were chasing something or being chased.”

The boats contained a variety of armament including two 50 caliber machine guns. Romano said it also had Mark 4 torpedoes on board that were “not reliable. They just went bobbing along, and hopefully they went where you wanted them to go.”

The ship’s hull was made of ¾ inch plywood, which was hardly a deterrent to enemy fire. “I never gave it a thought,” he said.

Romano was asked if he knew about the impending Operation Dragoon, the invasion of southern France. “I went on 60 or 70 missions, and I never knew where the mission of the day was going. When we got out to sea, the skipper would sometimes tell us where we were going.”

However, PT-306 did train one day on launching rubber boats. “We did it for maybe an hour, hour and half.”

On Aug. 10-11, 1944, the whole base was shut down with nobody allowed to enter or leave.

Romano was an engineer on the boat, mainly expected to troubleshoot the engines. There were three other engineers in the crew. Everybody on the crew was trained on every job.

“There were these three aircraft engines in this small space. It was so loud, if you came down to the engine room, I’d hand you a pencil and paper.”

Preceding the invasion, the boat left the base in the early afternoon. “We had not only a full crew but people I didn’t know aboard.” Those people were French commandos.

He said the invasion fleet was “an awesome site” and the PT-306 roared through it at high speed to get to the front. His group was commanded by the movie actor Lt. Cdr. Douglas Fairbanks Jr.

When they got to the beach, they launched the rubber boats “because we were so highly trained.”

The commandos reached shore, but one of them tripped a mine, and the rest were killed by the alerted Germans.

Romano ended the war in the other ocean, stationed near the Philippines.

After the war, he moved to Minnesota and was an engineer and a designer. He designed the Lowry Hill tunnel in downtown Minneapolis and the Bong Bridge between Duluth and Superior.

The other veteran at the Round Table was Mel Dahlberg, and his story is on page 8.



PT 306 -- Crew members on the PT 306 relax during an off day in World War II. Marty Romano did 60 or 70 missions aboard the boat, which was powered by three aircraft engines and could go faster than 40 miles an hour.

District Commanders

FIRST DISTRICT

**Roland Hanson
Commander**



Hello Comrades, First I would like to thank everyone who attended my testimonial dinner. It was a lot of fun and I got some awesome gifts. Thank you. I hope the people who got the Four Pillar table decorations will put them to good use.

There was a good turnout for our Dept Commander's testimonial also. Good food and entertainment with lots of laughter to salute Jim Kellogg's great job this year. If you didn't attend you missed a good time.

The donations to Brain Science are looking good. If you still want to contribute you still have till convention time in July. Thanks for your support.

The Rally on April 17th had a low turnout but a great program on Children and Youth. Presented by Wayne Hammon, it contained a lot of good information on the Fourth Pillar.

Remember the District 1 Convention is coming up on May 20 and 21 in Mabel hosted by Post 299.

Remember to thank a veteran.

SIXTH DISTRICT

**Dewayne Collins
Commander**



Our April showers brought us our May flowers, the grass is starting to grow, and is time to plant the garden. As our Legion year is coming to an end we still have lots of work to do on membership. We need your help for the revitalization. Which is to be headquartered out of Waite Park Post on May 19th through the 21st. Let's show the other districts what the 6th district can do.

April has been a very busy month with all the testimonial dinners. I attended Department Commander Kellogg's on April 9th in Adams. President Lynn Spilman on April 16th in Park Rapids, and the ROTC Dinner to present awards to an outstanding ROTC officer on April 22nd in St. Cloud. I even made it to my own dinner on the 23rd in Brainerd. Had a great time and a big thank you to all of those who attended the great meal.

There is a funeral service for Harold Bergstrom on Saturday, May 7th at 11:00 am at the Crosslake Lutheran Church on County Road 66 with visitation at 10:30. Following the service there will be a luncheon at the Crosslake Legion Post 500. Let's show our Legion support for his wife Pat. Harold was a great Legionnaire and friend and will be missed.

We have two conventions coming up. The 6th district convention will be June 4th in Nisswa. We will start at 8 a.m. and end hopefully by 4 p.m. Let's make this one the best and biggest one yet. The Department Convention will be on July 21-23 in Rochester. Hope see you there.

It is also that time of year to get out and volunteer with Poppy's and raise funds for the Veterans.

As your elections of New Officers in your post, be sure you send in the information into Department. It will keep everyone happy that needs the information. Reminder to do your consolidated post report and they are due now.

Let's take time to fish, as opener is May 14th. Don't forget to take life jackets along and wear them.

Let's keep the 6th district the best in the state as we work together as Legionnaires. Have a great month.

EIGHTH DISTRICT

**Jennifer Haylick
Commander**



Greetings.

First things first, let's talk membership. We are currently hovering at 92% of goal. We have roughly six weeks to meet our membership goal. I will be including each Post membership numbers in our next district newsletter.

Adjutants and or membership directors please call those members who have not paid their dues for 2016 and get them to do so immediately. Next is our District Convention. This will be held on June 3rd and 4th.

Executive Committee(s) will meet on Friday night after our Flag Retirement Ceremony at Grand Rapids Post 60. The main session of our convention will start at 9 a.m. on Saturday, June 4th at the Christ Episcopal Church in Grand Rapids. More details to follow with convention call. Remember each Post is allotted at least two delegates to represent their Post interest at District Meetings including the Annual Convention. District Convention is where we elect district officers and any other business that may need to be addressed by the delegates. Officers up for election are District Commander, Four District Vice Commanders, District Treasurer. Nomination for these offices by a Post should be sent to the District Adjutant Larry Pocrnich.

The 8th District President and myself have decided not to have a Testimonial event this year. We welcome donations to our projects, Presidents project - Tee it up for the troops and my project the 23rd Veteran. Remember our strength to champion veteran's issues is in our membership so let's get those renewals in.

NINTH DISTRICT

**Denise Milton
Commander**



Greetings Roaring Ninth District.

Continue to finish up your Consolidated Post reports, they are due to Department by June 1st. We know what we do, so let's show others all that we do! We are a great organization which continues to serve our country, fellow comrades and communities.

We will have had our Spring Fling at the Fergus Falls Veterans Home by the time this newspaper is released. It promises to be a great day-several activities have been planned to include a short presentation by the Legion Family to let the residents know what the Legion has been doing, donut making and sampling, sing-a-long, trip down Main Street and just having fun!

Membership has slowed down, now is the time to make the personal contacts to get the remainder of your members to renew. I would like to see each post form a membership team (if you haven't done so already), check your membership roster for unpaid members, divide them up amongst your team and start making house calls. Let them know they are wanted and needed as a member of your post. Tell them why you're a member. All you need to do is ASK! If you are in need of assistance please contact your Area Vice Commander, membership Director or myself. We are only a call away.

My District Commanders project is the National Emergency Fund and I am asking for 'Two Bits' from every member of the district. This is a worthy cause, one that many members of our district in the past has benefited from. Thank you for your support.

Our District Convention will be held in Mahnomen this year on June 10-11. Check our district newsletter and Facebook page (MN Ninth District) for details. Look forward to seeing everyone there.

Still serving proudly.

THIRD DISTRICT

**Don Skow
Commander**



Greetings Thundering Third,

We are on the final stretch of our Legion year; our 3rd District Convention will be in Forest Lake on May 20 - 22nd. Now is the time to get all the yearend reports completed and sent back to District and Department. The most important being the Consolidated Post Report. This is the Legions report card so every post needs to have it to Department by June 1st. The last renewal notice for 2016 dues is sent out the last week of April so one more push to get that last 4%.

At the end of May we have Memorial Day, a day that has signified the start of summer for most people. For the family of a veteran who made the ultimate sacrifice for the freedom we enjoy, the price is very high. We as the American Legion Family need to be there for them. Memorial Day should be a mindset we try to live throughout the year, the honor and respect we owe to these families must go beyond one day of ceremonies. When one of these people needs to tell a story, we need to listen. Our children and their children need to know the price that was paid for the opportunities that are given to the citizens of this great Country of ours.

Thank you all for all that you do and remember "Attitude is Everything."

FIFTH DISTRICT

**Gary Martin
Commander**



Greetings from the Fifth District.

First of all let's complete contacting the unpaid members of your posts. This is the most challenging part of membership, getting the job done.

The Fifth District Joint Family Testimonial will be May 21 at Minneapolis Post 1, 2507 25th Avenue South, Minneapolis. Social will be at 5 p.m. and dinner to follow at 6. Call Becky Nelson at 612-722-8861 for reservations by May 13.

Our Fifth District Family Convention will be held June 3 and 4 at the Bloomington Holiday Inn off I-35W and 94th Street. Legion Family Memorial Service Friday at 7 p.m., with fellowship to follow.

Legion and Auxiliary Convention sessions begin 9 a.m. and SAL at 10 Saturday morning. Installation of new officers immediately after the convention. Banquet social at 5 p.m. and banquet seating at 6. Post Commanders and Adjutants have received the Convention Call.

Nominating Committee headed by Jim Munson is looking for officers for 2016-2017. Please get your endorsements in A.S.A.P.

Report time, due now are your Consolidated Post Report, Children and Youth, Blood, Rehabilitation etc. Again this year the Fifth District is striving for 100% reporting.

Commander Kellogg's testimonial was well attended and an enjoyable evening.

Happy Brithday to Past Fifth District Commander Wayne Glanton who was 94 years young April 22.

As always, "Keep Moving Forward and Keep It Positive."

SEVENTH DISTRICT

**Karen Welander
Commander**



Greetings from the Mighty Seventh.

As May approaches in our Legion year, I think we are all looking forward to nice weather and the highpoints of a lot of our Legion Programs. As I go around the District I see the planning, execution and the benefits of our American Legion programs in our communities. It is an exciting time of the year.

Testimonials and installation of new Post officers are showing up on the calendar. It has been an honor to attend these events and the hospitality and comradeship has been wonderful.

Don't forget some things don't change and that is how Americans feel about the freedoms that we live by and the willingness to fight and die for that. So in a lot of ways these young men and woman are not really different from the older generation. We remember all of them this Memorial Day 2016. Take some time with your family to attend not just your Post observances but also other community events remembering the fallen. Remember those veterans at the VA Hospital during the long weekend by stopping by to cheer up our fellow veterans who are temporarily down and out. It only takes a few minutes of your time. The result is priceless. God bless our POW-MIAs. God bless our troops and veterans. God bless our Gold Star families. God bless this great Nation.

Kathy Vitalis leaves MACV CEO position

Kathy Vitalis, longtime CEO of the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans has left that position.

She will be replaced on an interim basis by Nathaniel Saltz.

"I am grateful for her years of leadership within MACV and in the community," Saltz said, "and also for the relationships she helped build. I will be serving in the interim capacity as our Board of Directors conducts a full search for a new director," Saltz said in a statement released to the state's County Veterans Service Officers.

No explanation was given for Vitalis' departure.

Saltz was worked for MACV since 2003 and has served as an employment and housing case manager and as statewide program director.

Saltz has a degree in technical communication from Metropolitan State University.

"During this time, our mission remains what it always has been. To provide assistance throughout Minnesota to positively motivated veterans and their families who are homeless or or experiencing other life crisis. Our staff will continue this critical work."

MACV was established in 1990 with a goal of finding homes for homeless veterans. It also sponsors legal clinics and StandDowns for veterans.

Vitalis had worked for the agency since 2001. Prior to that, she worked for 14 years for AT&T/NCR as a marketing research consultant.

She was involved in all aspects of the non-profit agency's organization including day-to-day management, fiscal responsibilities and budgeting, coordinating programs and managing grant activity.

Listening Post



PINE CITY RE-DEDICATION -- The Pine City Veterans Memorial will hold a rededication program on May 21 at 10 a.m., sponsored by Pine City Post 51.



THREE GENERATIONS AT BOYS STATE -- Three generations of the Wick family have attended Boys State, all sponsored by different posts. From left: Grandfather Bruce Wick, 1951, sponsored by Le Center Post 108; Son Bob Wick, 1979, sponsored by Waseca Post 228; Grandson Ross Wick, 2014, sponsored by Lakeville Post 44. Bruce Wick's wife attended Girls State. "It's a great experience for any boy/girl to attend Boy's/Girl's State," he said.



BARRY BAHL

Barry Bahl retires as director of St. Cloud VA Health System

Barry I. Bahl today announced his retirement as Director of the St. Cloud VA Health Care System after more than 40 years of federal service.

Initially serving as the Acting Health Care System Director beginning June 3, 1996, Bahl was appointed as Health Care System Director in 1999.

In a statement released to employees earlier today, Bahl said: "After 40 years in the VA, I am at a point in my life where I would like to spend more time in the sun, with friends and family. I am looking at June 3, 2016, as my retirement date. This is certainly a time of mixed emotions for me. I am so proud to be working with so many exceptional staff. You have put St. Cloud up top in the VHA in quality and efficiency. Daily I hear testimonials from our Veterans that are so impressed with our organization. Truly WOW indeed! I am going to miss all of you wonderful folks."

As Director, Bahl provided leadership and strategic guidance to a health care system with 388 multidisciplinary beds providing treatment in psychiatry, general medicine and extended care. The St. Cloud VA serves a 27-county area in central and west central Minnesota and includes the VA medical center in St. Cloud and three VA clinics located in Brainerd, Montevideo and Alexandria.

Bahl oversaw the St. Cloud VA during a period of tremendous growth and change as increasing numbers of Veterans sought care.

In 1996, when he was appointed Acting Director, the St. Cloud VA treated 8,716 Veterans. At the end of the last fiscal year, the health care system treated 38,603 Veterans.

During his 20 years in the Director's role, Bahl focused efforts on modernizing and expanding the health care services needed by today's Veterans, and transformed the St. Cloud VA from a small inpatient hospital to a dynamic and growing regional health care system focused on the delivery of a comprehensive array of services, including primary and specialty medicine, mental health, and extended care.

During his tenure, three VA clinics in outlying communities were established, and numerous Veteran-centered service enhancements and capital improvements were completed. A partial list of the improvements made include: construction and expansion of an outpatient mental health clinic; expansion of primary and specialty care clinics; expansions of the Dental, Audiology and Respiratory Care clinics; upgrades and expansions of the Pharmacy and Laboratory; expansion of the Imaging Clinic and addition of MRI services; construction and addition of an Ambulatory Surgery Center; a remodeled and expanded Urgent Care Clinic; and the construction of a new Rehabilitation Center and Acute Psychiatry building.

Ongoing improvement activities include the construction of a new Food Service building, the complete remodeling of a Community Living Center building, and a 20-bed expansion of the Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program.

St. Cloud VA Health Care System currently employs 1,741 employees and has a total budget of \$272 million for this fiscal year.

A native of Montevideo, Minnesota, Bahl served in the U.S. Army from August, 1969 to September, 1971. He received his B.S. in Pharmacy from the University of Minnesota in 1977. Mr. Bahl is married to the former Kristine Satre of Montevideo, Minnesota, and they have two children, Jennifer and Brian.

Mr. Bahl is a member of the American College of Health Care Executives, Minnesota Pharmacists Association, Moose Club, Pan Towners, VFW, American Legion, DAV, VVA, and AMVETS.

A successor has not been named.



WAITE PARK HONORS MEMBER -- Waite Park Post 428 presented a 50-year membership certificate to Dennis Borud.



WAITE PARK HONORS LONG TIMERS -- Long serving members at Waite Park Post 428 were honored recently: From left: Warren Opp (70 years), Melvin Butz (50); Walter Kosel (60), Clarence Butkowski (50); Harold Young (50); Robert Johnson (70).



BACKUS DONATES -- Backus Post 368 donated \$6,000 from its gambling program to food shelves in the area. From left: Don Van Vorst, adjutant and gambling manager; Jodi Perry, Pine River Area Food Shelves; Eugene Gagnon, commander; Bill Taylor, first vice commander. The post also gave \$2,000 to the Hackensack food shelf.



LAKE CITY HONORS MEMBERS -- Lake City Post 110 Commander Emery Fick, left, presented longtime members Merlyn Kohrs and Don Ludwig with certificates honoring their long-time membership.



REDWOOD FALLS TOP MEMBERS -- Redwood Falls Post Commander Jerry Ludwig, left, named Dennis Kissner as the post's Legionnaire of the Year. His wife, Darlene, was presented with a certificate of appreciation by Auxiliary President Jeanette Mertens.



TYLER HONORS MEMBERS -- Tyler Post 185 recently honored Allen Lund (60 years), Glen Meyer (60 years) and Gerald Thompson (50 years) for their long time service to the post.



The Auxiliary Bulletin

No. 16-9

President Sandy Fredrickson

May 2016

Secretary Sandie Deutsch

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

The President's Column

By
Sandy
Fredrickson



On behalf of the Department of Minnesota American Legion Family, we extend our deepest sympathy to the Kris Nelson family.

We have lost not only a great mentor to the National organization, but to the Department of Minnesota. She was a friend to many. Her knowledge, enthusiasm, and smile will be missed.

We would ask, as the family requests, memorials are preferred instead of flowers.

As a Department, please keep the family in mind first. If other donations are given, remember the National ALA Foundation, and our own, Minnesota Strategic Planning program.

Kris was an advocate of supporting all of our programs, but we must keep the "family" in our thoughts and prayers foremost.

Happy May Day, Mother's Day, and do not forget Memorial Day.

As the year progresses, I have been evaluating how our year has gone. As the year moves forward, I have tried to assess how I feel. Have I, have we, made a difference in the lives of our members? Have I, have we, been team players in the progress of and for our organization, the American Legion Auxiliary?

I ran across a saying that fits very well with how I feel at this moment: Happiness cannot be traveled to, owned, earned, worn or consumed. Happiness is the spiritual experience of living every minute with love, grace, and gratitude. -- Denis Waitley

This is a real picture of the places and people I have met, worked with and strategically planned happenings for the good of organization, the American Legion Auxiliary. Gratitude to all of you for the good you do for the organization.

Our year is not over. We still have many things to accomplish this year. We cannot sit like "lame ducks" in finishing the year 2015-2016. As team players have you done something in your community or Unit that needs to be noticed? Have you done something special for a veteran and their family this year? If not, do it now.

Where are you at with membership? Have you asked anyone lately? Offer them a deal, give them 1/2 price for the rest of the year and collect next year's dues at the same time. Please, take one last stab to at least getting the same numbers as last year.

If your Unit has made change practicing "a Culture of Good Will," have your members been attending your meetings or volunteering for things that need to be done? Has your unit connected with our younger generation, more diverse members, etc.?

We need to share different ideas of what is working in the Units. How has it affected your Unit, the Veterans, your community, etc? We have asked you to let the Department know (send it in mail or e-mail) so we can forward it to National or print it in the Legionnaire. Have you sent your article in?

Bottom line, you are the grassroots to this organization. It is up to you and me to grow it. It is up to us to be civil, be nice. With this being done, we will have people wanting to belong, be a part of, the largest patriotic women's organization in the world.

May is Poppy Month. Remember, we distribute the poppy, we do not sell the poppy. May is a busy month, District Conventions, Confirmations, Graduations, etc.

Let us not forget: Take a moment and remember why we have a holiday called Memorial Day. God bless each of you. God bless America.

Auxiliary loses Kris Nelson, a great mentor and friend

The entire American Legion Family has lost a mentor, friend, volunteer and many more accolades with the passing of Kris Nelson.

Kris accomplished so many things and gave so much to our organization in the short time God lent her to us.

Kris fought a courageous battle with brain cancer and succumbed to it on April 20, 2016.

Kris held many offices within the organization which included Brainerd Unit 255 President, 6th District President, many National Chairmanships and culminating with being elected National President of the American Legion Auxiliary for the 2011/2012 Auxiliary year.

After completing her very busy year with the National organization, Kris returned to Minnesota and threw herself right back into work within our own Department. She took on Girls State Director, worked on the Department Governing Rules Committee and also was hands on developing our Department Strategic Five Year Plan.

Kris had the vision to see what needs to be worked on to maintain our organization and grow it in future years. On a

personal note, the year Kris was National President was the first year I started working here.

One of my first events was to attend the National President's homecoming. From that very first meeting, of which I was a nervous wreck as I never met a "National" anything before, Kris made me feel very welcome and we became fast friends.

Something just clicked and we seemed to see things through the same eyes. Kris was always willing and able to help me out through my trials and tribulations and I will miss her very much. I had the opportunity to meet Terry and both of Kris' children Sarah and Troy and most of the grandbabies.

What a wonderful family - a true tribute to Kris in itself. On behalf of the entire American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota we hope and pray that God continues to use Kris' many talents and somehow she looks over my shoulder once and awhile with the encouragement I have always been given by her.

-- Sandie Deutsch, Department Secretary

Coleman-Woods to lead Department juniors

Bryce Soltis, Department Honorary Junior President, of Waite Park Unit 428, called the 53rd Annual Department of MN Junior Conference to order on Saturday, April 9th. The Junior members of Minnesota would like to thank the members of the Second District and Northrup American Legion Family for hosting this year's conference and making it such a memorable weekend.

The Junior Conference is for our Juniors, and is run by our Juniors. They serve on the credentials, nominating, resolutions, and awards committees. Honorary District Presidents gave their reports of the district Junior members and the work they did this past year. Senior members are in attendance to support and mentor our future leaders. The Juniors worked hard this year and they used Honorary Junior President Bryce's theme, "Juniors Blossoming the Lives of Veterans," throughout the year.

Sandy Fredrickson, Department President and Gene Olswold, Detachment Commander brought greetings and congratulated the Juniors for their hard work this past year on behalf of the Department American Legion Family. Honorary Junior President Bryce had a special guest, Charles Kapsner, the commissioned artist for the monument at the MN State Veterans Cemetery north of Little Falls. This is Honorary Junior President Bryce's project this year and as of the conference has raised over \$2,800.

Kiana Coleman-Woods, Lino Lakes 566 of the Tenth District, was elected by the Junior members as the 2016-2017 Department Honorary Junior President. Kiana's theme is "Juniors are the Key-Opening Doors to the Future," with her symbol being the key. If approved, the special project for the Juniors this year will be to collect socks and undergarments for homeless and hospitalized veterans. Congratulations Kiana.

A big highlight of many is the poppy contests and the beautiful use of our poppy by our Juniors. The following are the winning entries for the poppy contests and scrapbook contest:

Poppy Corsage/Boutonniere Contest

Class I First Place: Madelyn Haas, Bemidji 14
Class I Second Place: Kaylee Bauer, Westport 638
Class II First Place: Elizabeth Spoden, Kimball 261
Class II Second Place: Markelle Pederson, Warren 27
Class III First Place: Kylee Swanson, Warren 27
Class III Second Place: McKenna Nelson, Forest Lake 225

Poppy Centerpiece Contest

Class I First Place: Kylee Bauer, Westport 638
Class I Second Place: Katelyn Runge, Sanborn 286
Class II First Place: Brooklyn Hoshal, Delano 377
Class II Second Place: Harley Donnelly, Northrop 522
Class III First Place: JoJo Welter, Stewartville 164
Class III Second Place: Amelia Welter, Stewartville 164

Poppy Jewelry/Accessories Contest

Class I First Place: Kori Oskenson, Westport 638
Class I Second Place: Kaylee Bauer, Westport 638

Class II First Place: Kimberly Johnson, Westport 638
Class II Second Place: Ashley Koehn, Monticello 260
Class III First Place: JoJo Welter, Stewartville 164
Class III Second Place: Amelia Welter, Stewartville 164

Poppy Memorial Day Wreath

Class I First Place: Kaylee Rauer, Westport 638
Class I Second Place: Kori Oskenson, Westport 638
Class II First Place: Hannah Pederson, Warren 27
Class II Second Place: Brooklyn Hoshal, Delano 377
Class III First Place: Amelia Welter, Stewartville 164
Class III Second Place: JoJo Welter, Stewartville 164

Poppy Junior Membership Recruitment Board

Class II First Place: Harley Donnelly, Northrop 522
Class II Second Place: Kimberly Johnson, Westport 638
Class III First Place: JoJo Welter, Stewartville 164

Junior Scrapbook

First Place: Foster-Bernhardt, Trimont 373
Second Place: Warren, Warren 27

The day's activities concluded with President Sandy Fredrickson and First Vice President Carol Kottom installing the 2016-2017 Department Honorary Junior Officers:

Honorary Junior President - Kiana Coleman-Woods, Lino Lakes 566

Honorary Junior First Vice President - Courtney Rogat, Bloomington 550

Honorary Junior Second Vice President - Madison Sloves, Minneapolis 1

Honorary Junior Treasurer - Harley Donnelly, Northrop 522

Honorary Junior Chaplain - Dayanna Johsno-Garst, Two Harbors 109

Honorary Junior Sergeant at Arms - Desirae Braun, Two Harbors 109

Honorary Junior Secretary - Ashley Bruzek, Delano 377

Honorary Junior Historian - Emily Suess, Monticello 260

Thank you to all unit and district members, who have mentored, educated, involved Junior members in your activities. These young women are future leaders of our Auxiliary and they inspire each of us to be better members and role models.

JUNIOR PRESIDENT'S PROJECT

Department Honorary Junior President Bryce's special project this year was to raise funds to help complete the murals at the Veterans Cemetery at Camp Ripley. Bryce made a presentation already in the amount of \$1,500.00 and has raised another \$1,330.00 which will be presented at the end of our fiscal year.

Thank you to all the Units and members of The American Legion Family that provided funds in support of Bryce's Department Honorary Junior President's Project.

Auxiliary Bulletin

Continued from Preceding Page

SECRETARY SANDIE'S CORNER

This has not been the best of months as I lost two very dear friends within our American Legion Family. The passing of Past National President Kris Nelson and also Duane Kropuenske have shaken me to the core. May they both rest in peace and watch over us.

The Department Office is running wild right now with Annual Reports, Poppies, Girls State, Budget Planning, Trophies and Awards and yes Department Convention. Never a dull moment around here. Regarding poppies if any veteran has an interest in making poppies for us, please contact the Department Office. Veterans do receive a stipend for each one made. I have had to purchase poppies from other Departments and would love to have veterans from Minnesota be the ones to supply our Department next year.

My shout out this month goes to dear Richard "Dickie" G. from Montgomery Post 79, love you to pieces.

POPPIES

Governor Mark Dayton has proclaimed May as Poppy Month. Have you organized your Poppy distribution? We hope all Units are planning to place special emphasis on our Poppy program during May, educating the public on the meaning and purpose of the Poppy, and to actively participate in Poppy Day.

We will have shipped out 711 dozen large poppies and over 318,000 small poppies to our Units and Posts in Minnesota this year.

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

The annual Department Convention will be held at the Kahler Grand Hotel in Rochester on July 21-23, 2016. The Convention is being hosted by the Rochester American Legion #92 Family. All Auxiliary sessions will be held at Kahler Grand Hotel.

Will your Unit be represented? A pre-registration is available in this issue of the Minnesota Legionnaire. District caucuses will be held at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday. The parade will be held on Friday evening at 7:00 p.m. in Rochester.

There will be two Poppy Contest this year - they are as follows:

Wearable Poppy Art: Make any item that you can wear using poppies. Some of the possibilities are: a cap, hat, scarf, jewelry, shoes, boots, vest or anything else. The entries will be worn into our hall to be shown off by our members. Please use the "Auxiliary Emblem" on your entry. It can be a patch, sticker, your Auxiliary pin, from a magazine or computer, any copy or size is acceptable.

Dress a Doll or Teddy Bear: Using poppies decorate and dress a doll or teddy bear (any size). Use Department President Sandy's theme "Serving Those Who Served." It can be handwritten or typed on a computer. Also use an "eagle" in any form or size or you can use a paper cutout.

GIRLS STATE

The 2016 session of ALA Minnesota Girls State will be held June 12 - 18, 2016. This year the event will be going back to Bethel University in St. Paul. All Girls State registration materials (enrollment card, information sheet, pledge and Capitol Day t-shirt order form) are due into the Department Office by May 1st. As of this writing 390 young women will have the experience of learning about Minnesota government by "doing". We are very excited to be going back to Bethel University this year and we are looking forward to many new, exciting events!

About the middle of May each ALA Minnesota Girls State citizen will receive her packet of information from the Department. If your citizen has not received her packet by May 22nd contact the Department Office immediately. Do keep in touch with your ALA Minnesota Girls State citizen to answer any questions she may have prior to her coming to Bethel on June 12. All ALA Minnesota Girls State citizens are to be at the Bethel University prior to the opening session at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 12.

Special District ALA Minnesota Girls State buses are being arranged by several Districts. Check your District bulletin or contact your District ALA Minnesota Girls State Chairman for details.

There are many items in the Shirt Shack this year that girls may purchase. Some items are hooded sweatshirts, both pull-over and zip up, jogging pants, tee shirts and more. These are quality items which the girls will have forever.

NATIONAL CONVENTION

Cincinnati is the site for our 2016 National Convention. Delegates and alternates will be elected at your District Convention. Each District's representation is based on the District's 2016 membership as of July 26th.

In order to ensure Minnesota its full delegate strength at the Convention, we ask that if you are nominated as a delegate or alternate and are not planning to attend, you withdraw your name from consideration. Information will be sent to each delegate and alternate as soon as it becomes



NEW HONORARY JUNIOR OFFICERS -- New Honorary Junior President Kiana Coleman-Woods, center, is surrounded by her new officers at the annual Junior Conference held this year at Northrup.

available. Our National Convention will be held August 26-September 1, 2016.

UNIT MAILING

The last Unit mailing of this Auxiliary year has been sent out. Though annual reports have been sent in there are still three months left of activities and programs in this year of "Serving Those Who Served."

Included in this last mailing were two delegate and two alternate cards for our Department Convention as well as a chart to help you determine your Unit's delegate strength based on your Unit's membership 30 days prior to the convention. (June 21) Additional cards are available upon request.

Please note: The Department does not have the delegate/alternate cards for District conventions. These must be obtained from your District.

2016-2017 OFFICERS' LISTS

How time flies. All Units will soon be electing their 2016-17 officers. As soon as they are elected, please complete the form (2 copies) sent to each Unit in the last Unit mailing. One copy should be returned to the Department Office as soon as possible. The other copy is for your District President-Elect. The due date for this information is June 12, earlier if possible. This form is not the same one your Unit sent in for the 2017 direct billing last winter. We will send your 2017 membership supplies and cards to your 2016-17 Membership Chairman, as per the information you send in now. This form can also be found on our website, mnala.org. You can fill it out and email it to the Department Office. One new item this year is all membership packets will be available at Department Convention this year for your Unit to pick up.

We are asking for the names/addresses of your Unit President, Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Chairman for the 2016-17 year. Be certain the address for each officer is her current address. This form can be found on the Auxiliary website www.mnala.org.

RESOLUTIONS TO BE PRESENTED

As the Department Office receives Resolutions to be presented to the Department Convention in Rochester this summer, they will be posted on our website www.mnala.org under the ABOUT US tab - RESOLUTIONS. We are doing this in order to allow our Units to read the Resolutions and discuss them within your Units so you can have questions answered before they come up for a vote. We want all members to understand the reasoning behind the Resolutions, so if there are any questions prior to the Convention, please contact one of the Department Officers, Karen Thygeson, Department Constitution and Standing Rules Chairman or the Department Office.



FUND RAISING -- Arlene Grover, Staples Unit 70 came to the Department Office to turn in thousands of stamps and many post cards which will generate funds for our Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Program. Sandie Deutsch is at right.

April 5, 2016, Auxiliary Membership

District	Goal	Membership To Date	Percent of Goal	Membership Last Year
One	6,146	4,674	76.05%	4,910
Two	5,979	4,633	77.49%	4,808
Three	5,323	4,128	77.55%	4,292
Four	920	668	72.61%	731
Five	1,047	774	73.93%	842
Six	7,318	5,748	78.55%	5,919
Seven	4,859	3,716	76.48%	3,878
Eight	2,005	1,502	74.91%	1,607
Nine	5,232	4,111	78.57%	4,186
Ten	6,382	4,851	76.01%	5,108
1982	198	152	76.77%	129
Totals	45,409	34,957	76.98%	36,410

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- Roundtrip transfers from airport to hotel and pier
- Overnight Miami Airport Hilton with breakfast
- A 7-night cruise on the Adonia
- All meals, entertainment and Dominican Republic Cultural events onboard ship
- Cruise gratuities
- Luggage handling for one suitcase per person

\$2,559.00
Per Person Double Occupancy

New York City Tour *November 9-13, 2016*

Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Manager Larry Alvey
- Roundtrip Delta airlines flights from Minneapolis to New York City
- 4 night stay at the Hotel at Times Square
- Broadway musical
- Radio City Music Hall "The Rockettes Christmas Spectacular"
- Manhattan Island City Tour
- 9/11 Memorial and Museum
- Harbor Cruise with lunch
- Luggage handling for one suitcase

\$2,299.00
Per Person Double Occupancy

Medora Musical in North Dakota *including the Black Hills*
June 18-21, 2016

Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Jenny Gilbertson
- 3 nights accommodations
- 4 meals: 3 breakfasts, 1 dinner
- Visit to Mount Rushmore, evening lighting ceremony
- Medora Musical, featuring local gal, Carolyn Schmitz
- Luggage handling for one suitcase per person

\$769.00
Per Person Double Occupancy

Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta *September 28-October 5, 2016*

Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Jenny Gilbertson
- 7 nights accommodations
- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- 10 meals: 7 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 2 dinners
- Mass Ascension at the Balloon Fiesta
- Glowdeo at the Balloon Fiesta
- Tour of Old Town
- Route 66
- Indian Pueblo Cultural Center
- Tour of Santa Fe via the Turquoise Trail National Scenic Byway
- Stops in Chimayo, NM and Pueblo, CO

\$1,799.00
Per Person Double Occupancy

Cuba Land & Cruise *November 12-20, 2016*

Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Larry Alvey
- Roundtrip Delta flights from Minneapolis to Ft. Lauderdale
- Overnight Miami Airport Hilton with breakfast
- A 7 night cruise on the Adonia
- All meals, entertainment and Cuban Cultural events onboard
- All transfers to and from airport, hotel and pier
- Cruise gratuities
- Cuban Visa
- Luggage handling on the ship (one suitcase per person)

\$3,899.00
Per Person Double Occupancy

Alaska Tour & Cruise *July 21-August 4, 2016*

Fairbanks-Denali National Park-Anchorage-Hubbard Glacier-Glacier Bay-Skagway-Juneau-Ketchikan-Inside Passage-Vancouver

Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director Larry Alvey
- Roundtrip Delta flights from Minneapolis to Fairbanks and return from Vancouver to Minneapolis
- All sightseeing and entrance fees as outlined in the itinerary
- A 7-night southbound cruise on the ISLAND PRINCESS
- Cruise Gratuities
- All meals and entertainment while onboard the ISLAND PRINCESS
- Pre night hotel in Fairbanks
- Post night hotel in Vancouver with city tour

Starting at \$4,299.00
Per Person Double Occupancy

Heart of Alaska *July 28-August 4, 2016*

Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director Jenny Gilbertson
- Delta Air Flights between Minneapolis to Anchorage
- 7 nights accommodations
- 12 meals: 7 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 1 dinner (including an Alaskan Salmon Bake)
- Iditarod Travel Headquarters
- Travel the Alaska Railroad
- Denali Park Natural History Tour
- Riverboat Discovery Cruise
- Chena Indian Village
- Prince William Sound Cruise
- Meares Glacier

\$3,429.00
Per Person Double Occupancy

Holiday Branson *November 17-21, 2016*

Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Jenny Gilbertson
- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- 4 nights accommodations
- 7 meals: 4 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 2 dinners
- Ozark Mountain Christmas Lights and Village
- Arabia Steamboat Museum
- 6 Shows: Dutton Family, Clay Cooper, Doug Gabriel, Daniel O'Donnell, Hughes Brothers, Christmas Wonderland
- Luggage handling for one suitcase per person

\$769.00
Per Person Double Occupancy

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