

# Special 2016 Convention Issue

The Minnesota American Legion and Auxiliary



# Legionnaire

Volume 97, Number 8

For God and Country

July 2016

## Two vie for Department Commander office

Two endorsed candidates are running for the Department's highest office.

Denise Milton of Bagley and Richard Wog of Willmar will face off at the Department Convention which will begin July 21 in Rochester.

Milton is the current Ninth District Commander and Wog is the current Department Chaplain.

Milton has served as Bagley Post 16 commander, District vice commander, and she is serving her second term as district commander. She has also served as district adjutant and district historian.

At the Department level, she has served as Department Membership Director, Department Vice Commander, Department Chaplain and as committee chairman.

In the community, she has been a Clearwater County Township supervisor and has been involved in 4H, Girl Scouts and youth hockey.

Her military career includes 28 years in the Army Reserve with active service during the Vietnam era, Desert Storm and Enduring Iraqi Freedom.

Wog has served as Spicer Post 545 commander, and has also served as vice commander and sergeant-at-arms.

On the district level, Wog served as commander, vice commander, membership director, sergeant-at-arms, and judge advocate.

At the Department level, he served on the Strategic Planning Committee.

His military service includes two years in the Army, and 28 years in the Minnesota National Guard where he retired as command sergeant major. In his community he has been involved in DAV and the Eagles.

No other elections at the convention are contested. A sample ballot is on page 19 of this Legionnaire.

As of press time, there is one candidate for delegate-at-large from Minnesota. Richard Skillestad of Eyota has announced his candidacy.

The nominations for candidates will take place at the convention on Friday, July 22, afternoon, and voting will take place that afternoon and Saturday morning.



DENISE MILTON



RICHARD WOG

### Convention will be held in Rochester

Rochester, the home of the world-famous Mayo Clinic, will be the host of the 2016 Minnesota American Legion and Auxiliary conventions.

The events will be held July 21-23. A registration blank is on Page 2.

Rochester Post 92 has announced that there will be transportation between the convention site and the hotels from Wednesday night to Saturday night.

The post will have registration from 3-8 p.m. Wednesday night.

The post will have burger night with karaoke on Thursday. There will be quick food at noon.

On Friday there will be quick food at noon and dinner and Karaoke at night.

The official hotels for the convention are the Kahler Grand Hotel, Rochester Marriott and the Kahler Inn and Suites. Those attending should make their own room reservations.

Phone numbers are: Kahler Grand and Kahler Inn and Suites, 1-800-533-1655 and the Marriott, 1-877-623-7775.

Please state that you are part of the Legion or Auxiliary conventions.

The Legion will have a Department Executive

**Continued on Page 2**

### Dues increase one of nine resolutions

Delegates to the 98th Department Convention in Rochester will consider nine resolutions, including one that would raise dues by \$3 in 2018.

Eight of the resolutions came from districts and one came from the Department's Executive Committee.

Resolution A originated in the Department Finance Committee and was passed by the DEC in March. It calls for a \$3 increase in dues for the 2018 membership year. The resolution states that declining membership and the income that derives from that membership will soon hit a point where the Legion will not be able to support its basic programs.

Another resolution, Resolution 6, which originated at

Sauk Rapids Post 254 and was passed by the Sixth District, opposes the dues increase, noting that the Legion just had a \$5 increase at the national level this past year. The resolution says the Department should not consider an increase until the Department has shown a deficit for two years, and that the Department takes every step possible in cutting spending including cutting committees and reviewing all other budget costs.

The resolution would become effective at the conclusion of the convention.

Other resolutions at the convention will include:

-- Resolution 1, from Princeton Post and the 10th

**Continued on Page 3**

### National Convention slated for Cincinnati

The 98th National Convention of The American Legion will be held in Cincinnati this year.

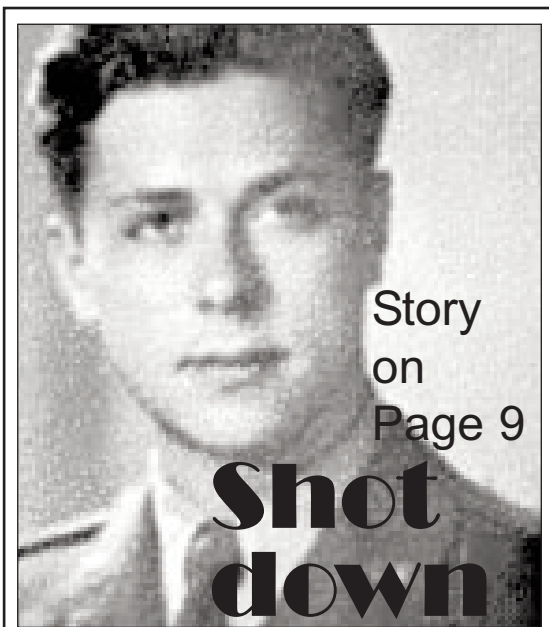
The convention will open on Tuesday, Aug. 30,  
**Continued on Page 3**

### Girls State 2016



Newly elected Girls State Governor Amanda Tersteeg shakes hands with Minnesota Supreme Court Chief Justice Lorie Skjerven Gildea after Tersteeg was sworn into office. Department President Sandy Fredrickson held the Bible for the ceremony at Bethel College. More photos on pages 12-13.

Photo by Michelle Leonard



Story on Page 9

**Shot down**



**BOYS STATE OFFICERS** -- Boys State was held in June at Southwest State University with 328 boys attending. State officers were elected during the week-long exercise in participatory government. From left, front: Ryan Lorsung, Boys State chairman; Charles Eickhoff, State Auditor, Crookston; Sikai Yang, Lt. Governor, Maple Grove; Ivan Pearson, Governor, South Haven; Nathan Haggerott, Secretary of State, Caledonia. In back: Knute Oldre, Attorney General, Luverne; Hunter Sjoberg, Associate Justice, New London; Trey Newman, Associate Justice, Oakdale; Derek Onsario, Chief Justice, Maple Grove; Mike Bredeck, Boys State Director.

## Boys State elects officers for 2016 year

**MARSHALL** -- Ivan Pearson, South Haven, was elected governor of Boys State at its 68th annual session.

Pearson, who is a junior at Riverside Military Academy in Georgia, was elected by his 328 peers at Boys State as the 2016 governor.

He is the son of Russ and Betsy Pearson of South Haven and is sponsored by Clearwater Post 323.

Two senators who will represent Minnesota at Boys Nation were selected by the staff of the program.

Vince Clark, Andover, and Jesse Bissen, Orono, will attend Boys Nation at Washington D.C.

Clark, son of Shelly and Ralph Clark, goes to Andover High School and

was sponsored by Anoka Post 102.

Bissen, son of Scott Bissen and Michelle Morey, just completed his junior year at Orono High School and was sponsored by Wayzata Post 118.

Dhruv Methi of Plymouth, sponsored by Chanhassen Post 580 won the Director's Award. He attends Wayzata High School. He is the son of Nidhi and Sandeep Methi.

Knute Oldre also won the Director's Award. He is from Luverne and attends Luverne High School. He is the son of Kyle and Sara Oldre and was sponsored by Hardwick Post 478.

James Libbey, who attends Benilde-St. Margaret's, won this year's Samsung Scholarship test

and will be eligible for an additional scholarship from the national level.

He is the son of Amy and Robert Libbey.

He was sponsored by St. Louis Park Post 282.

It was the final year for the program under the direction of Mike Bredeck, Madison, who has been involved in the program for 22 years and has been director for 15 years.

Bredeck is also the chairman of the national Legion Committee on Youth Education.

It will also be the final year at Southwest State University in Marshall. Boys State will move to St. John's University at Collegeville next year.



**IVAN PEARSON**  
Boys State Governor

## Convention will meet in Rochester

**Continued from Page 1** Committee meeting on Wednesday, July 20, at 7 p.m. at the Marriott Hotel Ballroom 1.

The Auxiliary Department Executive Committee will meet at 1

p.m. Wednesday in the Centennial Room.

On Thursday, July 21, there will be a gambling seminar put on by the state Gambling Control Board at 2 p.m. at Mayo Civic Center.

Convention sessions for the Legion will be at the Mayo Civic Center and sessions for the Auxiliary will be at the Kahler Grand Hotel.

Registration is \$15 per person or \$18 at the door.

The annual Department parade will be held Friday evening of the convention on a route near downtown Rochester.

The hospitality event on Friday night after the parade will be held at Windsor I and II in the Kahler Hotel basement.

The marching order for the parade and the seating order in the auditorium, based on membership this past year, has been determined:

1. Fourth District
2. Third District
3. Sixth District
4. Second District
5. Tenth District
6. Ninth District
7. Seventh District
8. Eighth District
9. Fifth District
10. First District (home district of the convention.)

There will be a joint memorial service for the Legion Family at 11:15 a.m. Thursday at the Mayo Civic Center.

Honored guests at the Convention will include Larry Shellito, Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs Commissioner.

Gov. Mark Dayton has been invited to speak.

### OFFICIAL CONVENTION PRE-REGISTRATION

A registration fee of \$15 for each person attending, whether a delegate, alternate or a guest, must accompany this form. Make this check payable to POST 92 CONVENTION FUND. No credit cards will be accepted.

Registration at the door will be \$18.

**Mail to:**  
Bill Born, American Legion Post 92 Office, 403 East Center St., Rochester, MN 55904

Legion Post # \_\_\_\_\_ SAL Sqdn. \_\_\_\_\_ Auxiliary Unit \_\_\_\_\_

District \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

- Delegate       Alternate       Guest  
 Delegate at Large (Auxiliary)

(Please check one of the above.)

If additional pre-registrations accompany this request, this pre-registration form should be photo copied for each person. The \$15 registration fee should be enclosed for each person.

**Please, only one registration blank per person.**

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# Cemetery dedicated at Preston



Minnesota's second state veterans cemetery was opened with a dedication in May near Preston. The 169 acres for the cemetery were donated by Fillmore County and have been beautifully landscaped. Construction was complete late last year. The cemetery will be operated by the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs.



Rep. Tim Walz, D-Minn., was the featured speaker at the dedication of the MDVA's veterans cemetery at Preston. Behind him is the Red Bull Brass Band. The first burials at the cemetery took place on Veterans Day this past year.

# Tree Town Festival



The Minnesota American Legion again participated in the Tree Town Music Festival at Forest City, Iowa. In the exhibit area, two Legion tents were pitched and there was a 50/50 raffle throughout the weekend to raise money for Legion programs. On the left is Adjutant Randy Tesdahl's boat which is wrapped in American Legion information.



## RALPH SCHNEEKLOTH Schneekloth endorsed for Historian

Ralph Schneekloth has been endorsed by Mabel Post 299.

Schneekloth is a past post commander and served on the district public relations committee. He was also District Chaplain and a County Vice Commander.

He presently serves on the Department Public Relations Committee.



## CHERYL THIESCHAFER Thieschafer named acting St. Cloud VA director

ST. CLOUD -- Cheryl L. Thieschafer, a Long Prairie native and resident of Sartell, has been appointed as Acting Director, St. Cloud VA Health Care System.

Thieschafer currently serves as the Associate Director of the St. Cloud VA Health Care System.

She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Nutrition and Food Service from North Dakota State University and a Master of Health Administration from Baylor University. She has 12 years of service in the U.S. Army.

### CONCRETE WORK

by Tom Seemon

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# Resolutions

Continued from Page 1

District, calls for a change in the Department's constitution that now states that district officers shall assume their office at the conclusion to the Department Convention to "District officers shall be selected annually, who shall assume their office no later than the close of next Department Convention." The resolution says that districts should have the autonomy to choose when officers will take on their duties.

-- Resolution 2 originated from Hutchinson and the Third District and calls for the establishment of formal relationships between Post service officers and County Veteran Service Officers in order improve communication and the referral of veterans.

-- Resolution 3 originated from Princeton Post 216 and the 10th District and would change a 2007 Department mandate that states a Legionnaire may hold only one state committee appointment. Instead, Legionnaires would be able to serve on an ad hoc committee and a regular committee at the same time. The resolution says that the current bylaw prevents appointing people who have great knowledge and expertise in an area to an ad hoc committee.

-- Resolution 4 originated in the Ninth District and calls for members gained by a post through the revitalization process be immediately transferred and credited to a local post. The resolution, if passed, would be forwarded to the National Headquarters for proper action.

-- Resolution 5 originated from Bagley Post 16 and the Ninth District and calls for endorsement of Dennis Henkemeyer for National Commander of the Sons of the American Legion at such future time as may become available. The resolution if passed would then be submitted to the national convention at Cincinnati.

-- Resolution 7 originated in the Sixth District and is identical with Resolution 4.

-- Resolution 8 originated from Chritie DeParq Post 406 and the Fourth District and is similar to Resolution 3.

# National Convention

Continued from Page 1

and go through Thursday, Sept. 1.

It will be held at the Duke Energy Convention Center. Minnesota's delegation will be staying at the Millennium Hotel, near the convention center.

A Minnesota Party is begin planned for Monday evening, Aug. 29. Details are not firmed up yet, but Commander Kellogg has advised delegates and others to bring their bowling shirts. He also promises that the cost for this year's party will be very reasonable.

Cincinnati is Ohio's third largest city and is just across the river from Kentucky.

Sights to see include the waterfront, historic downtown Cincinnati, the American Sign Museum, Jungle Jim's International Market, Newport on the Levee located in Kentucky, the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens. It is the second oldest zoo in the nation.

Cincinnati is also home of the Cincinnati Reds baseball team and the Cincinnati Bengals Football Team. There will be a chance to see a pre-season football game on Thursday, Sept. 1, at Paul Brown Stadium vs. the Indianapolis Colts.

The Reds will be out of town for the entire length of the national convention.

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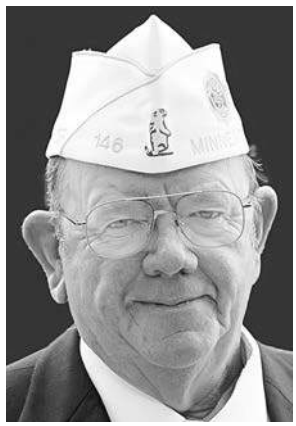
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## COMMANDER'S COLUMN

By Jim Kellogg



Greetings to my fellow Legionnaires. This is my last column as your commander. First of all I want to thank all of you for all the kindness and hospitality you have shown my wife and I this past year. It has shown us what Minnesota Nice is all about. My speedometer has gone past the 40,000 mile mark as we have traveled border to border north to south and east to west. We have enjoyed it and have seen parts of Minnesota we hadn't seen before and look forward to seeing again. Each Legion post we visited was unique and no two posts were the same yet the work of the Legion was being done.

We have tried some new things this past year. I want to thank all of you who supported and attended these events. I think we all learned something from them. I hope you had some fun along the way. I am told our attendance was up this year at our rallies and I hope this continues. Time spent with our fellow members learning and working together is priceless.

## Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

By  
Jeremy Wolfsteller



### Radiation Exposure Compensation

On July 16, 1945, the United States was preparing for the defeat of Japan by conducting the first atomic weapons test near Alamogordo, New Mexico, during the Manhattan Project, and given the codename "Trinity." This test was to determine what damage a nuclear explosion would cause before engaging against the Japanese. The U.S. conducted multiple nuclear tests from that time through December 31, 1962. Site locations included Nevada, Pacific sites (Bikini Island, Enewetak Atoll, Johnston Island and Christmas Island).

What project scientists at the time didn't take in consideration or give total respect to was what is known as "nuclear fallout." This refers to residual radioactive material propelled into the upper atmosphere following a nuclear blast. This radioactive dust is an extremely hazardous kind of radioactive contamination. After nearly 200 atmospheric nuclear weapons test from 1945 to 1962, many workers and onsite participants filed class action law suits alleging exposure to radiation. Congress did respond with restitution to individuals who developed serious illnesses after the testing or after employment in the uranium industry.

On October 5, 1990, the "Radiation Exposure

## Sons of The American Legion

By  
Gene Olsword



What a fantastic fast twelve months this has been for me as your Detachment Commander. No one begins to know what challenges you may have or even the great rewards you receive to say nothing for the great new friends you have made along the way in this elected position. As I see it, looking back, much history has been made in the Detachment of Minnesota.

I set out my term with many goals I felt were very attainable and would reach new heights for this Detachment. One of the biggest goals I set out for myself was to make us, the Sons of The American Legion, a much stronger organization and more of an important part of The American Legion Family. For many years, I have felt, we have been in the closet and a best kept secret. We are moving forward on this and soon we will be a common word in The American Legion Family in all communities of Minnesota. Many goals are not achieved over night and this is one of them. We are a strong organization and getting stronger each and every single day.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the strong and dedicated membership team we had this year. Without them, we would not have accomplished the results we have so far.

I want to thank a special group who helped tremendously along the way: Our department officers who served tirelessly this past year. Your work and support have been second to none. You met every challenge I presented you with and accomplished them all. Your dedication to the Minnesota American Legion was shown in every task you took on. You made my year enjoyable and possible. I will not forget all you have done for me.

To all the volunteers that make all of our programs work I can't thank you enough. You make things happen. Your investment in time with our youth is an investment in the future of our country that will make it a better place for all of us to live. Please continue to do what you have done and mentor those who some day will take over your jobs.

I want to thank my family for their support this past year. You kept me going. Yes the farming did get done and the daily chores got finished. I look forward to spending more time with my grandchildren this coming year. I learn a lot from them.

I want to thank our Auxiliary President Sandy and her staff for their support and also S.A.L. Commander Gene and ALR Liaison Paul and President Scuffy. We tried to emphasize the American Legion Family this past year. Your support made this happen. Working together as a Family was fun.

In closing I hope to see many of you at our Department Convention in Rochester. We have important business to take care of. I ask you continued support for our newly elected officers.

A special thanks to Al Zdon who does many things only a Commander knows about.

To all of you thanks for the memory. I will see you down the road and may God continue to bless us all.

Compensation Act" was passed making the Department of Justice responsible for administering the program with an apology and monetary compensation. On site participants (service-members) may be eligible for a one time grant of \$75,000. This payment can be claimed in the following order: by the claimant, spouse of claimant if claimant is deceased, natural, adopted and step child of claimant if claimant and spouse are deceased, the parent of the claimant if the claimant is deceased, the grandchildren of the claimant if the above are all deceased and the grandparents of the claimant if the aforementioned are deceased.

To claim this grant there has to be proof of participation at a specific test site at the correct time along with a compensable disease that has been diagnosed. A list of diseases includes but not limited to: leukemia, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, multiple myeloma, cancer of the pharynx, small intestine, brain, salivary gland, stomach, urinary bladder, colon, thyroid, pancreas, female breast, male breast, esophagus, bile ducts, gall bladder, lung, ovary and liver except cirrhosis or hepatitis B.

Keep in mind that a claimant can only receive one or the other compensable benefit through Veterans Affairs or RECA. VA service connection disability and dependent indemnity compensation will be offset. As of June 14, 2016 onsite participants claims are 173 pending, 4,013 approved, 55.2% granted, \$291,939,972 awarded, 3,252 denied for a total of 7,438 submitted.

For more information please contact the Department of Justice at 1-800-729-7327 and visit their website for more information <https://www.justice.gov/civil/common/reca>

National sets out goals throughout the year and we met and exceeded all these goals before the deadline with the exception of their goal of 100%. This is truly remarkable. Some of the other accomplishments in this area are, we reactivated inactive squadrons, chartered 5 new squadrons, and these weren't all in large posts, and have kept our retention close to 90% at the time of this writing. I also know we have a post that is or has submitted a request for a charter for a squadron. This has yet to be put in place. Another goal, I had, was another ATH this year of 12,025 membership for a percentage of 105% which I know is yet to happen. I also want to thank The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary for all their strong support and help.

Communication within a Detachment is an area that isn't always easy but with my implementation of conference calling each month we did away with that hurdle. Conference Calling would be the same as a meeting as a board of District Commanders and Detachment Vice Commanders around a table in person discussing issues, sharing good news, listening to new ideas and helping others who feel the weakest in any area. This has been highly successful and removed the barrier of communication.

This has been a GREAT year for me as your Commander and I thank you all for your service in making it a Very Successful Year.

## Chaplain's Corner

By  
Richard Wog



I was asked after the last Chaplains Corner, what did you do with the squirrel? Let's put it this way, I bought him peanuts. He won and we are the best of friends. It really goes to show if one is that determined only good can come from it. Jesus was like that. He was doing His Father's work and He wanted to share it with the world. To be fed the word of God and be filled with His love. I hope and pray this past year has been filling for you as myself. When I started this year as chaplain I thought what are you going to write about? Sometimes it wasn't easy and other times I ran out of space to say all the things I wanted to say. I thought for this letter it was going to be easy. But how do you say thank you for letting me be your chaplain this past year? Thank you for the emails and calls and your letters. When someone would come up to me at a rally or some other event and offer your comments it meant the world to me. I'm sure when you read this.

Another special event is about to pass: The 4th of July. When one thinks of parades, picnics, and being together with family and friends. But do we think back to 1776 when 13 colonies claimed their independence from England? I am not sure how much history is taught in school. I know our grandchildren know about it. Here comes those words, thank you. There are many Bible passages such as Galatians 5:13, "For you were called to freedom, brothers, only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another." How wonderful it would be if the world would follow by serving one another in peace and love.

On Memorial Day we pay tribute to those that gave all. I spoke at our post memorial service. From there Cheryl and I drove to Richfield Post 435 where I gave the invocation. As we drove through all the towns there were ceremonies to honor all that have passed and served. It is those men and women who are serving today that give us the opportunity to observe and celebrate these holidays and all the others as well. We all know what John 3:16 says; John 3:17 says, "For God did not send His son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him. Think about that and let me know how you feel. Mathew 5:9 says, "Blessed are the peace makers, for they will be called children of God. As we work for peace we must also pray for peace in the world. I was invited to a ground breaking by Paynesville Post 271. A young Boy Scout, working for his Eagle Scout award chose as his project a memorial for the veterans who have served. He presented the idea to the post and they took on the project. As I write this it is being built. This is what our country and The American Legion are all about. Honoring those who have served. There is so much going on in the news media, but for some reason very little is said about the war where our soldiers are serving for the peace of others as they have done since WWI.

It has truly been my honor to serve as your chaplain. I said three years ago when I was asked if I would do it again I replied, "In a heartbeat." It has been a true honor to serve for Commander Kellogg and with the rest of the team. They have had a wonderful year. With your support as the American Legion family, this will continue into the future.

God bless you, God bless our troops, and God bless America.

# The Minnesota Legionnaire

Official Publication of and Owned Exclusively by  
The American Legion, Department of Minnesota

Al Zdon, Editor

First published in 1920 as the Hennepin County Legionnaire, the Minnesota Legionnaire is now in its 95th year of publication. It is published monthly by The American Legion, Department of Minnesota, Room 300A, 20 West 12th Street, St. Paul, MN 55155-2000. Periodicals postage is paid at St. Paul, MN, and at additional mailing offices. The Legionnaire is a member of the Minnesota Newspaper Association and the National American Legion Press Association.

**SUBSCRIPTION:** \$10 for non-members. Members receive the Legionnaire as part of their dues.

**PHONE:** 651-291-1800, 866-259-9163, **FAX:** 651-291-1057  
**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to The American Legion, 20 W. 12th Street, St. Paul, MN, 55155-2000. (USPS No. 013-679.) (ISSN No. 1644270)

**ADVERTISING RATES:** Contact Al Zdon, 651-291-1800

**E-MAIL:** [azdon@mnlegion.org](mailto:azdon@mnlegion.org)

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# What's Happening

## Book Sale at Camp Ripley

The Minnesota Military Museum at Camp Ripley will be having a book sale and signing from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Aug. 12-13. Thousands of books will be available, most with military-related themes. In addition authors Michael Maurer and Jennifer Rude Klett will be on hand to sign books on Saturday. Klett will speak on the doughboy experience during World War I at 11 a.m.

## Ride for Vets

The Sixth annual Ride for Vets will be held Saturday, Aug. 30, at Walker sponsored by Chapter 134 of the American Legion Riders. Benefits will go to veterans' causes. The registration will be from 8:30 to 10:45 at the Walker Post. Kick stands up at 11 a.m., rain or shine. Cost is \$25 per bike and \$15 per passenger. Non-riding participants are also \$15. There will be breakfast in the a.m. and a meal after the ride. For more information go to [www.walkerlegionriders.org](http://www.walkerlegionriders.org).

## Make own appointments

Veterans can now make their own appointments for routine eye and hearing exams at the Minneapolis VA Health Care System. Veterans can schedule an appointment in two ways:

1. By simply stopping by the clerk's desk and making an appointment.

2. By calling the VA Call Center at 612-467-1100.

Eye exams are called routine if they involve a veteran who has not had an exam for two years; one who needs new glasses; has a family history of eye disease, needs a baseline exam due to new medication, or needs yearly exams because of a history of diabetes.

Routine hearing exams are for veterans who have never had a hearing exam, or who may need a hearing aid, one who feels his or her hearing is getting worse, or who needs a baseline exam because of new medication.

In the past, veterans required a referral from their pri-

mary care provider for routine exams.

## Legion Survey for women

The American Legion is conducting a survey of women veterans to determine and bring light to issues they are facing. Women now make up 20 percent of the nation's armed forces. All information is confidential and submitted anonymously. To take the survey go to: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/ALwomenvets](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ALwomenvets). Deadline is July 18.

## LIT's LegionCare may expire

If you signed up for LegionCare prior to Jan. 1, 2015, your policy may be expiring at the end of August. LegionCare provides a free AD&D program. If a Legion member suffers an accidental death he or she will receive \$1,000. If he or she is on official Legion business, the policy pays \$5,000. To enroll or re-activate, go to [www.TheLIT.com](http://www.TheLIT.com) or call 1-800-235-6943. If you sign up now, the policy will be good as long as you are a member in good standing.

## StandDown

The annual StandDown for veterans will be held Aug. 2-3 at the Boy Scout Base Camp at Fort Snelling. The hours on Tuesday are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Wednesday from 8-4. Free services available include meals, VA benefits, clothing, housing, public benefits, haircuts, state driver's license, chaplaincy, employment help and mental health counseling. There will also be a court and legal clinic both days.

For more information, call 612-726-1327. The StandDown is sponsored by MACV.

## Legal Clinics

Two legal clinics are slated for July. They will be staffed by attorneys, Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans Staff, and county veterans service officers. For more information, call 651-200-4750. Veterans can get information on

benefits, housing, employment, expungement, wills, debt collection, and family law.

The two clinics will be:

-- Tuesday, July 12, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center in the Flag Atrium Balcony Room.

-- Wednesday, July 13, at the Fargo VA Medical Center in the third floor auditorium from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## Waterfowl for Warriors

A waterfowl hunting opportunity for veterans is being sponsored by local law enforcement, the city of Anoka and Federal Premium Ammunition. There will be three hunting dates, Sept. 3 and 15 and Oct. 9.

The hunts will take place at the Anoka Nature Preserve on the Rum River.

Volunteers will be on hand to ensure a quality hunt for veterans.

For more information, call Lisa at 763-567-2984 or email: [llacasse@ci.anoka.mn.us](mailto:llacasse@ci.anoka.mn.us).

## Gambling Seminar

A gambling seminar will be held during the Department of Minnesota Convention at Rochester. The seminar will be held at the Mayo Civic Center, Presentation Hall on Thursday, July 21, at 2 p.m.

It will be conducted by the Minnesota Gambling Control Board and the subject will be common problems, compliance reviews and site inspections.

For more information, call Kristine at 651-539-1924 or email: [kristine.koesling@gcb.state.mn.us](mailto:kristine.koesling@gcb.state.mn.us).

# Taps

**Karie, Allen**, 76, veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 22, 2016. He was commander of the 10th District from 2006-07. He was a member of Maple Lake Post 131.

**Ludwig, Donald "Tony,"** 94, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died June 5, 2016. He served in Italy. He was a member of Lake City Post 110.

**Thiel, Sylvester**, 93, Army Air Corps Veteran of World War II, died May 31, 2016. He served in the Normandy invasion and in Holland.

**Jacobson, Kenneth D.**, 90, Army veteran of World War II, died June 13, 2016. He was a past commander of Hazel Run Post 559.

**Motl, Gerald**, 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 30, 2016. He served in Korea. He was a member of Clarissa Post 213.

**Robak, Paul John**, 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 30, 2016. He was a corporal and served in Korea. He was a member of Sauk Rapids Post 254.

**Breuer, DeWayne Leo**, 75, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 21, 2016. He was a member of Alexandria Post 87.

**Krueger, Alvin**, 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 21, 2016. He was a member of Alexandria Post 87.

**Loehlein, Jerome**, 84, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 26, 2016. He was a member of Alexandria Post 87.

**Freeman, Duane L.**, 83, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died June 7, 2016. He was a member of Thief River Falls Post 117.

**Schlink, Paul J.**, 84, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 1, 2016. He was a member of Lewiston Post 90.

**Antos, Rhoda Beresford (St. Germain)**, 94, Navy veteran of World War II, died May 24, 2016. She was a PBY navigation instructor at Bronson Field, Pensacola. She was a member of Minneapolis Post 230.

**Hansen, Leo Calvin**, 92, Navy veteran of World War II, died May 30, 2016. He served in the South Pacific. He was a member of Austin Post 91.

**Belden, Allen Edward**, 51, National Guard veteran of the Operation Desert Storm, died June 5, 2016. He was a member of Austin Post 91.

**Hoyle, Darrell**, 75, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 16, 2016. He was a member of Marshall Post 113.

**Porter, Ray F. Jr.**, 93, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died May 30, 2016. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

**Meyers, Leo N.**, 92, Army veteran of World War II, died May 31, 2016. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

**Beren, Lauren S.**, 97, Army veteran of World War II,

died May 31, 2016. He served in the Aleutian Islands and the Arctic Circle. He was a member of Redwood Falls Post 38.

**Uecker, Jerald**, 67, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 5, 2016. He was a heavy equipment operator in Thailand. He was a member of Gaylord Post 433.

**Gilbertson, Robert**, 84, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 16, 2016. He served in the Second Armored Division. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

**Bierbaum, Clarence**, 94, Navy veteran of World War II, died May 29, 2016. He served during many Pacific island landings aboard USS LST-127. He was a member of Eyota Post 551.

**Quimby, Ersie W.**, 98, Army veteran of World War II, died May 2, 2016. He was a member of Willmar Post 167.

**Hermanson, Orin I.**, 96, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died May 15, 2016. He was a member of Willmar Post 167.

**Webert, Kenneth H.**, 95, Army veteran of World War II, died May 19, 2016. He was a member of Willmar Post 167.

**Sook, William G.**, 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 5, 2016. He was a member of Willmar Post 167.

**Brockhoff, Gilbert**, 89, Army veteran of World War II, died June 11, 2016. He was a member of Arlington Post 250.

**Lysne, Harvey Oscar**, 93, Marine Corps veteran of World War II, died June 10, 2016. He served as a .50 caliber machine gunner in the 155th Gun Battalion and saw action at Enewetak, Marshall Islands, Manus Island, New Guinea, Guam and Leyte. He was a member of Austin Post 91.

**Navratil, Richard Charles**, 83, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 18, 2016. He was a member of Pine Island Post 184.

**Kunkel, Kenneth W.**, 93, Army veteran of World War II, died May 4, 2016. He served in Africa and Europe. He was a member of Princeton Post 216.

**Berndt, Gerry D.**, 53, Army veteran of the Iraq War, died May 5, 2016. He served for 23 years and retired as a major. He was a member of Ellsworth Post 196.

**Wittsack, Herman J.**, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 11, 2016. He was a member of Millerville Post 527.

**Samuelson, Cecil A.**, 87, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died May 28, 2016. He served in the Picture and Photography unit. He was a member of Hayfield Post 330.

**Sprick, Frederick G.**, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 17, 2016. He was a member of Lake City Post 110.

**Rekstad, Lewallan**, 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 29, 2016. He served in Korea. He was a

member of Little Falls Post 46.

**Dolezal, Leonard**, 88, Merchant Marine veteran of World War II and the Korean War, died May 19, 2016. He was a member of Redwood Falls Post 38.

**Hansen, Jens**, 90, Coast Guard veteran of World War II, died May 31, 2016. He was a member of Tyler Post 185.

**Fisher, Ronald N.**, 67, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 1, 2016. He was awarded a Purple Heart. He was a member of Hugo Post 620.

**Bergstrom, Al**, 83, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 30, 2016. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

**Zyvoloski, Hubert "Hub,"** 86, Army and National Guard veteran of the Korean War, died May 22, 2016. He was a member of Little Falls Post 46.

**Adams, Donald G.**, 85, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died May 27, 2016. He was a member of Little Falls Post 46.

**Henderson, Paul**, 86, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died May 21, 2016. He was a chief petty officer. He was a member of North Branch Post 85.

**Hanson, Mayand D.**, 82, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died May 23, 2016. He was a member of Austin Post 91.

**Nephew, David L.**, 75, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 1, 2016. He was a member of Raymond Post 420.

**Norling, Gary**, 72, Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 23, 2016. He was a past commander and member of the color guard of Mora Post 201.

**Blomker, Conrad W.**, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died Jun 14, 2016. He was gambling manager for Eden Valley Post 381 for 37 years.

**Perleberg, Leo A.**, 89, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 4, 2016. He was a tank commander in the 1st Battalion, 2nd Armored Division stationed in Germany. He was a member of Pierz Post 341.

**Bonlie, Richard**, 75, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 23, 2016. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

**Brekke, Conrad**, 94, Navy veteran of World War II, died May 20, 2016. He served on a repair ship. He was a member of Lanesboro Post 40.

**Eide, Orville "Red,"** 94, Marine veteran of World War II, died June 13, 2016. He was a tank crewman and served at Bougainville, Emir, Guam, and Okinawa. He was a member of Thief River Falls Post 117.

# Legion

# Convention Program

# 98th

The 98th Convention of The American Legion  
 Department of Minnesota  
**ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA**  
 July 21-23, 2016

**THURSDAY MORNING, JULY 21, 2016**

7-8:00 a.m. CAUCUS OF ALL DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES BY DISTRICTS

8:30-9 a.m. Music

9:00 a.m. AMERICAN LEGION CONVENTION SESSIONS – Mayo Civic Center, Presentation Hall, Rochester  
 CALL TO ORDER: Jim Kellogg, Department Commander, Taopi  
 ADVANCEMENT OF THE COLORS – 2015 Champions – Waite Park Post 428  
 POW/MIA FLAG: Richard Gosse, NS/FR Committee, Wabasha  
 Mark Dvorak, Department Sergeant at Arms, LeCenter  
 INVOCATION: Richard Wog, Department Chaplain, Willmar  
 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE  
 "THE PREAMBLE" -- Recital by Commander and Delegates  
 GREETINGS: The Honorable Ardell F. Brede, Mayor, Rochester  
 Joe Brown, Commander, WM. T. McCoy Post 92  
 Roland Hanson, First District Commander, Austin  
 Reid Oberle, General Convention Chairman, Rochester

9:25 a.m. Presentation to Tom Lyons, MN Military Radio by Jim Kellogg, Department Commander, Taopi

9:30 a.m. READING OF THE CONVENTION CALL: Randy Tesdahl, Department Adjutant, St. Paul  
 REPORT OF CONVENTION CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE  
 REPORT OF CONVENTION RULES COMMITTEE  
 ADVANCE READING OF CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT RESOLUTIONS:  
 Tom Lannon, Department Judge Advocate, Prior Lake

9:45 a.m. GREETINGS: Larry Shellito, Commissioner, MN Department of Veterans Affairs  
 Patrick Kelly, Director, Minneapolis, VA Health Care System  
 Other Veterans Service Organizations  
 Lisa Klenk, President, Minnesota Association of County Veterans Service Officers  
 RESPONSE: John Milbrath, Department Vice Commander, Elysian  
 "REPORTING NATIONALLY" – Marland Ronning, National Executive Committeeman, Maple Grove  
 Al Davis, National Vice Commander, Princeton introduced by NECman  
 Marland Ronning

10:10 a.m. Steve Simon, Secretary of State of Minnesota

10:20 a.m. REPORT: Bill Barbknecht, Legionnaire Insurance Trust, Chairman, Underwood

10:25 a.m. REPORT: Lt. Col. Matthew Smith, Selective Service

10:30 a.m. REPORT: Mike Evans, USAA, Military Affairs Representative

10:35 a.m. REPORT: Nathaniel Saltz, Interim Executive Director, Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans

10:40 a.m. PRESENTATIONS BY:  
 Carl Moon, Employment Committee Chairman, St. Joseph  
 GREETINGS: Scott Mills, Federal Director, Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS)  
 Jim Finley, State Director, Veterans' Employment and Training Service

10:55 a.m. ANNOUNCEMENT OF DEPARTMENT CONVENTION COMMITTEES AND INSTRUCTIONS  
 Randy Tesdahl, Department Adjutant

11:05 a.m. RECESS

11:15 a.m. JOINT MEMORIAL SERVICE – Mayo Civic Center, Presentation Hall

**THURSDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 21, 2016**

1:00 p.m. MEETINGS OF ALL CONVENTION COMMITTEES.

2:00 p.m. GAMBLING SEMINAR, Mayo Civic Center, Presentation Hall  
 Moderator: Robert Hart, Legislative Committee Chairman, Stillwater

**FRIDAY MORNING, JULY 22, 2016**

7-8 a.m. CAUCUS OF ALL DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES BY DISTRICTS --

8:30 a.m. CALL TO ORDER: Jim Kellogg, Department Commander, Taopi  
 INVOCATION: Richard Wog, Department Chaplain, Willmar  
 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE  
 "THE PREAMBLE": Recital by Commander and Delegates

8:45 a.m. REPORT: Credentials Committee, Lynne Nottage, Chairman, Minneapolis

8:55 a.m. YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES:  
 SAL REPORT: Eugene Olswold, SAL Detachment Commander, New Ulm  
 BOY SCOUT OF THE YEAR, Tom Hallett, Boy Scout Chairman, Mankato  
 2016 LEGION BOYS STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
 2016 ORATORICAL CONTEST WINNER, Debra Norman, Chairman, Northfield

9:15 a.m. REPORT: Revenue Enhancement/Mail Solicitation Program, Randy Tesdahl, Dept Adjutant, St. Paul,

9:20 a.m. REPORT: Minnesota American Legion Foundation, Lloyd Ricker, President, Dawson

9:25 a.m. REPORT: V4V, Don Pankake, Member, Hutchinson

9:30 a.m. REPORT: Brain Science Foundation, Jim Munson, President, Burnsville  
 Presentation to Dr. Apostolos Georgopoulos, American Legion Brain Sciences Chair, University of Minnesota

9:35 a.m. REPORT: Katy Ryan, Director, Voluntary Services, Minneapolis VA Health Care System

9:40 a.m. REPORT: Legionville Corporation, Wayne Gilbertson, President, Zimmerman

9:45 a.m. REPORT: Veterans Pheasant Dinner, Chuck Stone, Chairman, Owatonna

9:50 a.m. REPORT: Armed Forces Service Center, Joe Jansen, Representative, Arden Hills

10 a.m. AWARDS PRESENTATIONS:  
 Marie Goede, President, American Legion Hospital Assn., Plainview  
 Terry Buraas, Children and Youth Chairman, Grand Forks, ND  
 Art Tobkin, Americanism Chairman, Bagley  
 Tess Davis, Education Chairman, Princeton  
 James Blakesley, Safety-School Patrol Chairman, Aitkin  
 Tom Conway, Law and Order Chairman, Argyle  
 Tom Sanders, Blood Chairman, Pine City  
 Dennis DeLong, Yearbook and Narrative History Books, Bloomington  
 Bob Locker, Community Service Chairman, Fridley  
 Glenn Mueller, Operation Post Home, St. Charles  
 Robert Hart, Legislative Chairman, Stillwater  
 Bob Mace, Bowling Chairman, Waite Park

11:15 a.m. NATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICE AWARDS:  
 Marland Ronning, National Executive Committeeman, Maple Grove  
 Wilson Spence, Rehabilitation Committee, Duluth  
 "PAT" CLIFF AWARD to Outstanding Post Service Officer

11:30 a.m. PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE: Lisa Ghylin, Chairman, Minneapolis

11:45 a.m. CONVENTION COMMITTEE REPORTS

12:00 Noon RECESS

**FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 22, 2016**

1:30 p.m. CONVENTION COMMITTEE REPORTS

1:45 p.m. GREETINGS: Sandy Fredrickson, Department President, American Legion Auxiliary, Glenville  
 Sandie Deutsch, Department Secretary, American Legion Auxiliary, St. Paul

2:00 p.m. CONVENTION COMMITTEE REPORTS

2:30 p.m. FINAL MEMBERSHIP AWARDS: Jim Lucas, Department Membership Director, Pine River  
 Gold Brigade Winners - Premier Plaque - Other Membership Awards

3:00 p.m. NOMINATIONS FOR DEPARTMENT OFFICE

4:30 p.m. BENEDICTION  
 RETIREMENT OF THE COLORS  
 RECESS

VOTING AT MAYO CIVIC CENTER FOR ONE HOUR FROM TIME OF RECESS

**FRIDAY EVENING, JULY 22, 2016**

7:00 p.m. CONVENTION PARADE - 6:00 p.m. Parade Line-up

9:00 p.m. DISTRICT and CANDIDATES OPEN HOUSES

**SATURDAY MORNING, JULY 23, 2016**

8:00 a.m. -

9:00 a.m. Voting at MAYO CIVIC CENTER

8:30 a.m. CONCERT: Ninth District Band

9:00 a.m. CALL TO ORDER: Jim Kellogg, Department Commander, Taopi  
 ADVANCEMENT OF THE COLORS: 2016 Color Guard Winner  
 THE NATIONAL ANTHEM - Led by Ninth District Band  
 INVOCATION: Richard Wog, Department Chaplain, Willmar  
 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE  
 "THE PREAMBLE" - Recital by Department Commander and Delegates  
 "CONVENTION MEMORIAL SERVICE": Richard Wog, Department Chaplain, Willmar

9:15 a.m. REPORT: David Bode, Parade Coordinator, Nicollet  
 FINAL REPORT OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE  
 REPORT AND PRESENTATIONS: Jim Kellogg, Department Commander, Taopi

9:20 a.m. REPORT: Mike Perry, American Legion Baseball Director, Minnetonka

9:30 a.m. REPORT: James Copher, National Historian, Mound

9:40 a.m. ANNOUNCEMENT OF ELECTION RESULTS AND INTRODUCTION OF NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS  
 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER  
 Presentation of Department Commander's Badge  
 Presentation of Past Department Commander's Insignia by Jim Kellogg's Family  
 Presentation of Miniature Department Colors to Retiring Commander  
 Peggy Moon, Past Department Commander, St. Joseph  
 FIVE DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDERS - without numerical designation  
 CHAPLAIN  
 HISTORIAN  
 SERGEANT AT ARMS  
 MEMBER OF PUBLICATION BOARD - for three-year term  
 TWO/THREE DELEGATES-AT-LARGE TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION  
 FIVE ALTERNATES-AT-LARGE TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS ELECT -- (to be announced)  
 BENEDICTION  
 RETIREMENT OF THE COLORS  
 ADJOURNMENT

# Auxiliary Convention Program

# 97th

## Department Convention

July 21 - 23, 2016  
Kahler Grand Hotel, Rochester, Minnesota

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 20

10:00 a.m. Governing Rules Committee – Watson Room  
11:00 a.m. Department Strategic Planning Committee – Directors Room  
11:00 a.m. Department Finance/Audit Committee – Mayo Brothers Room  
12:00 noon Department Girls State Meeting – Watson Room  
1:00 p.m. Department Executive Committee Meeting – Centennial  
District Presidents-Elect are invited to join the Department Executive Committee Meeting  
2:00 p.m. Registration Opens – Rochester American Legion Post #92

### THURSDAY, JULY 21

7:00 a.m. Registration Opens – Heritage Hall Foyer  
7:30 a.m. Briefing and Rehearsal for the Processional – Heritage Hall  
8:00 a.m. District Caucuses (10) meet – Consult Room Assignment Sheet  
8:00 a.m. Convention Credentials Committee Meeting – Green Room  
8:00 a.m. Convention Rules Committee Meeting – Green Room  
9:00 a.m. Daily Roll Call of District Presidents – Sandie Deutsch, Dept. Sec'y  
9:00 a.m. Auxiliary session convenes – Sandie Deutsch, Dept. Sec'y  
9:05 a.m. Processional – ALL COLORS (see processional line-up)  
9:10 a.m. Call to Order – Sandy Fredrickson, Department President  
Invocation – Cindy Nelson, Department Chaplain  
Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag – Jessie Hoppe, Americanism Chairman  
The National Anthem – Jessie Hoppe, Americanism Chairman  
Preamble to the Constitution – Karen Thygeson, Constitution and Bylaws Chairman  
9:20 a.m. POW/MIA Remembrance – Jessie Hoppe, Americanism Chairman  
9:30 a.m. Welcome to Rochester  
Evelyn Lyke and Shirley Oberle, Auxiliary Convention Chairman,  
Rochester Unit #92  
Pat Miner, 1st District President  
Joe P Brown Sr., Post #92 Commander  
Roland Hanson, 1st District Commander  
Glenn Mueller, 1st District SAL  
Commander  
Reid Oberle, The American Legion  
Convention Chairman Post #92  
9:30 a.m. Response to Welcomes – Carol Kottom, Department First Vice President  
9:35 a.m. Greetings – The Honorable Ardell F. Brede, Mayor of Rochester  
9:40 a.m. Presentation of Distinguished Guests  
Sandra Fredrickson Carol Kottom  
Chris Ronning Shirley Frederick  
Lori Skallerud Norma Tramm  
Marie Goede Carol Barbknecht  
Raleen Tolzmann Peggy Tesdahl  
Tamara Opland Jennifer Havlick  
Carol Holmgren Joyce Olson  
Beverly Otterness  
10:00 a.m. Response for the Distinguished Guests – Chris Ronning, National Executive Committeewoman and Northwestern National Division Legislation Chairman  
10:05 a.m. Greetings – Larry Shellito, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs  
10:15 a.m. Preliminary Report of Convention Credentials Committee – Bonnie Wagner, Chairman  
10:20 a.m. Reading of the 2016 Call to Convention – Department Secretary Sandie Deutsch  
Reading of the 2015 Department Convention Minutes – Department Secretary Sandie Deutsch  
10:25 a.m. Report of the Convention Rules Committee – Mary Ann Davis, Chairman  
10:30 a.m. Nominations of candidates for: Department President  
Department First Vice President  
Department Second Vice President  
10:35 a.m. Remarks by candidates for Department Offices  
11:00 a.m. Nomination of delegates-at-large  
11:05 a.m. Announcements – Department Secretary Sandie Deutsch  
11:10 a.m. Recess  
11:15 a.m. Memorial Service – The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, and Sons of The American Legion - Presentation Hall – Mayo Civic Center

### THURSDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 21

2:00 p.m. Meeting of the Convention Committees  
2:00 p.m. Gambling Seminar – Presentation Hall – Mayo Civic Center

### THURSDAY EVENING, JULY 21

7:00 p.m. A Social Gathering of all American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion and their guests – hosted by Department President Sandy Fredrickson – Elizabethan Room  
Music and dancing – Cash bar available

### FRIDAY, JULY 22

7:00 a.m. Registration Opens – Heritage Hall Foyer  
8:00 a.m. District Caucuses (10) meet - Consult Room Assignment Sheet  
9:00 a.m. Daily Roll Call of District Presidents – Department Secretary Sandie Deutsch  
9:00 a.m. Call to Order – Sandy Fredrickson, Department President  
Invocation – Cindy Nelson, Department Chaplain  
Supplemental Report of Convention Credentials Committee – Bonnie Wagner, Chairman  
9:10 a.m. Presentation of the District Presidents  
Patricia Miner Lynn Spilman  
Darlene Breamer Cheryl Schauman  
Karla Otterness JoLynn Dettlefsen  
Connie Anderson Linda Gibson  
Julie Martin Dawne Juhl  
Response for the District Presidents – Cheryl Schauman, Seventh District President  
9:25 a.m. Recognition of the Department Office staff – Sandy Fredrickson, Department President  
9:30 a.m. The Honorable Mark Dayton, Governor, State of Minnesota

### YOUTH DEVELOPMENT REPORTS

10:00 a.m. Children and Youth – Donna Arends, Chairman  
10:05 a.m. American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State – Marsha Bible, Chairman  
10:10 a.m. Greetings from Governor of Minnesota Girls State  
10:15 a.m. Junior Activities – Robin Dorf, Chairman  
10:20 a.m. Greetings from Bryce Soltis – 2015/2016 Department Honorary Junior President, Waite Park Unit #428  
Jules Efta, 2015/2016 NW Division Honorary Junior Vice President, Argyle Unit #353

### FAMILY SUPPORT POD REPORTS

10:30 a.m. Americanism – Jessie Hoppe, Chairman  
Announcement of Americanism Essay Winners  
10:40 a.m. Community Service – Zandra Kessler, Chairman  
10:45 a.m. Education – Jean Horack, Chairman  
10:50 a.m. Memorial – Cindy Nelson, Chairman  
10:55 a.m. Report on The Brain Science Foundation – Sue Nunnelee  
11:00 a.m. Report on The American Legion Family Hospital Association – Marie Goede, President  
11:05 a.m. Announcements, Department Secretary Sandie Deutsch  
11:20 a.m. Recess  
11:30 a.m. Past Department Presidents' Luncheon

### FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 22

1:30 p.m. Call to Order – Sandy Fredrickson, Department President  
1:35 p.m. Report on Legionville, Wayne Gilbertson, President, Legionville Corporation  
1:40 p.m. Report on Convention Corporation, Tom Schottenbauer and Pat Logan  
1:45 p.m. Presentation - Auxiliary Bowling Trophy  
Bob Mace & John Torma, Legion Bowling Chairmen

### ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT REPORTS

1:50 p.m. Convention Committee Report – Constitution and Standing Rules, Karen Thygeson, Chairman  
1:55 p.m. Convention Committee Report – Resolutions, Patti Coleman, Chairman  
2:00 p.m. Convention Committee Report – Finance, AnnaMae Warnier, Chairman  
2:10 p.m. Convention Committee Report – History, Vicki Bibeau, Chairman  
2:15 p.m. Convention Committee Report – Past Presidents Parley, Shirley Frederick, Chairman  
2:20 p.m. Presentation of the Past Department Presidents – Sandy Fredrickson, Department President  
2:30 p.m. Response for the Past Department Presidents – Dee Dee Buckley, Past Department President  
2:35 p.m. Memorial Service for Past Department Presidents – Shirley Frederick, Chairman

### VETERAN/MILITARY SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY REPORTS

2:45 p.m. Convention Committee Report – Legislation, Margee Keller, Chairman  
2:50 p.m. Convention Committee Report – National Security, Chris Ronning, Chairman; Marge Machgan, Armed Forces Center Representative

2:55 p.m. Convention Committee Report – Poppy, Donna Redepenning, Chairman  
3:00 p.m. Announcement of the Poppy Contest Winners – Donna Redepenning, Chairman  
3:10 p.m. Convention Committee Report – Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, Carol Kottom, Chairman; Vida Bacon, Service to Veterans Chairman; Sally Strasser, Gift Shop Chairman, Raleen Tolzmann, Gift Shop Committee Member  
3:20 p.m. Recognition of the Hospital/Home Representatives Sandy Fredrickson, Department President  
3:30 p.m. Presentation of Department President's Project – Sandy Fredrickson  
Presentation – Patricia Aljets, St. Cloud VAHCS and Katy Ryan, Minneapolis VAMC

### MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT REPORTS

3:45 p.m. Report on the Auxiliary Emergency Fund – Pam Hoshal, Chairman  
3:50 p.m. Convention Committee Report – Leadership, Mary Hendrickson  
3:55 p.m. Convention Committee Report – Membership, Jean Walker, Chairman  
4:00 p.m. Department President Convention Committee Report – Public Relations, Michelle Leonard, Chairman  
4:05 p.m. Announcements, Department Secretary Sandie Deutsch  
4:10 p.m. Recess  
4:15 p.m. Presentation by Veterans participating in the Creative Arts Program

### FRIDAY EVENING, JULY 22

7:00 p.m. Parade Time - Downtown Rochester

### SATURDAY, JULY 23

7:00 a.m. Registration Opens – Heritage Hall Foyer  
9:00 a.m. Daily Roll Call of District Presidents – Dept Secretary Sandie Deutsch  
9:00 a.m. Call to Order – Sandy Fredrickson, Department President  
Invocation – Cindy Nelson, Chaplain  
9:05 a.m. Supplemental Report of Convention Credentials Committee – Bonnie Wagner, Chairman  
9:10 a.m. Presentation of The American Legion, Commander James Kellogg and Adjutant Randy Tesdahl  
9:15 a.m. Presentation of Sons of The American Legion Detachment Commander Gene Olswoold and Adjutant Doug Bible  
9:20 a.m. 9th District Band, Vernon Kuhn, President  
9:30 a.m. Final Report of the Constitution and Standing Rules Committee – Karen Thygeson, Chairman  
9:35 a.m. Final Report of the Resolutions Committee – Patti Coleman, Chairman  
9:40 a.m. Presentation of Department President's Memory Book – Diane Hayes, Chairman  
9:45 a.m. Presentation of the Department Convention Chairman and Committee Evelyn Lyke, Auxiliary General Chairmen, Special introductions and thank-yous, Sandy Fredrickson, Department President  
9:50 a.m. Announcement of Parade Winners, Tom Schottenbauer & Pat Logan  
9:55 a.m. Unfinished Business  
10:00 a.m. New Business  
10:10 a.m. Final Report of the Credentials Committee – Bonnie Wagner, Chairman  
10:20 a.m. Election of Officers - Report of the Election Committee, Diane Sullivan, Judge of Elections  
Judge of Elections.  
Department President  
Department First Vice President  
Department Second Vice President  
Results of Election of delegates-at-large  
Announcement of the 2016-17 National Executive Committeewoman and Alternate National Executive Committeewoman  
1. Ratification of the 14 delegates financed by the Department  
2. Ratification of delegates elected at District Conventions other than those financed by the Department  
3. Ratification of alternates elected at District Conventions  
4. Election of alternates-at-large  
Retirement of Department and Past National Presidents' Colors  
Installation of Incoming 2016-2017 Department Officers and District Presidents – Beverly Otterness  
Presentation of Department President's Pin to Newly Elected Department President – Sandy Fredrickson, Retiring Department President  
Presentation of Past Department President's Pin – Karen Thygeson  
Benediction – Cindy Nelson, Department Chaplain  
Retirement of All Colors  
Adjournment of 2016 Department Convention

# 2016 Resolutions

## RESOLUTION 1

The following Resolution originated from Princeton American Legion, Post 216 Princeton and was adopted by the 10th District and is submitted for consideration by the 2016 Department Convention, to be held in Rochester, Minnesota, July 21-23, 2016.

### District Officer Assume Their Duties

WHEREAS, The American Legion, Department of Minnesota is an organization of War Era Veterans who have dedicated themselves to the service of Community, State and Nation, and

WHEREAS, this service is performed through the American Legion's 4 Pillars, Americanism, Children and Youth, National Security and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, and

WHEREAS, the administration of the Department is governed by the Constitution and By-Laws, and

WHEREAS, from time to time it is prudent and necessary to review and amend the Constitution to make changes to be relevant to current times, and

WHEREAS, current practices within Districts vary as when District Officers take office, and

WHEREAS, the individual Districts should be given the autonomy to decide when newly elected officers assume office, and

WHEREAS, this resolution was passed at the regular meeting of Princeton Post 216 on April 12, 2016, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Constitution and By-Laws of the Department of Minnesota be amended so that Article Six, Section 2, sentence two which reads "District Officers shall be selected annually, who shall assume their office at the close of the next Department Convention," be amended to read "District Officers shall be selected annually, who shall assume their office no later than the close of the next Department Convention," and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Department Convention in Rochester, Minnesota, July 21 - 23 for concurring action, and be it finally,

## RESOLUTION 2

The following Resolution originated from Hutchinson Post 96, Hutchinson MN and was adopted by the Third District and is submitted for consideration by the 2016 Department Convention, to be held in Rochester, Minnesota, July 21-23, 2016.

### CVSO & Post Service Officers

WHEREAS, The American Legion has established four pillars of service; the first of which is Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion Department of Minnesota is an organization of wartime veterans who have dedicated themselves to advocacy efforts that improve the lives of those who served, along with their families and dependents; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion Department of Minnesota Third District has a long-standing history of support and recognition of Post and County Veterans Service Officers; and

WHEREAS, The State of Minnesota, under statute, has established provisions for trained Veterans Service Officers in every county of the state; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the American Legion Department of Minnesota support the establishment of formal relationships between American Legion Post Service Officers and the County Veterans Service Officers of the Minnesota county in which they reside to better foster the timely flow of information concerning veterans benefits to the Posts and the referral of veterans and their families to County Veterans Service Officers; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution be forwarded to the Department of Minnesota, in Convention, assembled at Rochester, Minnesota on July 21, 22 and 23, 2016 for concurring action; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That this action take effect immediately and be in force for the 2017 Legion year.

## RESOLUTION 3

The following Resolution originated from Princeton American Legion, Post 216, Princeton, and was adopted by the 10th District and is submitted for consideration by the 2016 Department Convention, to be held in Rochester, Minnesota, July 21-23, 2016.

### Ad Hoc Committee Appointment

WHEREAS, The American Legion, Department of Minnesota is an organization of War Era Veterans who have dedicated themselves to the service of Community, State, and Nation, and

WHEREAS, This service is performed through the American Legion's 4 Pillars, Americanism, Children and

Youth, National Security and Veterans Affairs, and Rehabilitation, and

WHEREAS, The administration of the Department is governed by the Constitution and Bylaws, and

WHEREAS, Current mandates of the Department limit a Legionnaire to one Committee appointment in each Legion year, and

WHEREAS, From time to time the sitting Commander has need to appoint Ad Hoc committees, and

WHEREAS, An Ad Hoc committee is short term and not of a continuing nature, and

WHEREAS, The expertise and experience of a Legionnaire currently serving a Committee appointment may be desirable and the current mandate prevents such action, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the mandate of 2007 limiting a Legionnaire to one Committee appointment be amended to allow a Legionnaire to serve an additional appointment on Ad Hoc Committees only and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Department Convention in Rochester, Minnesota, July 21 - 23 for concurring action, and be it finally,

RESOLVED, That this change to the Constitution and Bylaws become effective at the close of the Department Convention.

## RESOLUTION 4

The following Resolution originated from the 9th District and is submitted for consideration by the 2016 Department Convention, to be held in Rochester, Minnesota, July 21-23, 2016.

### Revitalization Member Transfers

WHEREAS, The American Legion is an organization of War Era Veterans who have dedicated themselves to the service of Community, State and Nation, and

WHEREAS, This service is performed through the American Legion's 4 Pillars, Americanism, Children and Youth, National Security and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, and

WHEREAS, The strength of these programs is enhanced by a strong local membership within each Post, and

WHEREAS, One method of attaining this membership is through the National Direct Membership Solicitation Program, and

WHEREAS, Currently members from the DMS revitalization program are not immediately transferred and credited to local Posts, and

WHEREAS, It is advantageous and desirable to have those members credited immediately, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That any members gained through revitalization efforts be immediately transferred and credited to a local Post, and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Department Convention in Rochester, Minnesota, July 21 - 23 for concurring action, and be it finally,

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to National Headquarters for proper action.

## RESOLUTION 5

The following Resolution originated from Irvin Blix Post 16 in Bagley, Minnesota and was adopted by the 9th District and is submitted for consideration by the 2016 Department Convention, to be held in Rochester, Minnesota, July 21-23, 2016.

### National SAL Commander Endorsement

WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion is a program of The American Legion comprised of descendants of Veterans; and

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion requires that candidates for national elective office in the Sons of The American Legion be presented to the National body by resolution; and

WHEREAS, Dennis J. Henkemeyer is a member in good standing of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, Dennis J. Henkemeyer derives his eligibility for the Sons of The American Legion through his father, John A. Henkemeyer, who honorably served in the United State Navy during World War II; and

WHEREAS, This member has been a member of the Sons of The American Legion for twenty one (21) years and is currently an active member of Bagley Squadron 16; and

WHEREAS, He is currently serving as the squadron membership director and liaison to Irvin Blix Post 16 of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, He has served as 6th District Commander of The Sons of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, He is presently serving as membership director of the 9th District of the Sons of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, He has served as the Detachment

Membership Director for three (3) consecutive years obtaining an all-time high in membership for all three years; and

WHEREAS, He has served as Detachment Commander obtaining an all-time high in membership that year; and

WHEREAS, He is presently serving as the National Vice Commander of the Sons of The American Legion; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Dennis J. Henkemeyer be hereby endorsed for the high office of National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion at such future time and year as may become available; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the resolution be forwarded to The Department of Minnesota of The American Legion Department Convention assembled in Rochester, Minnesota on 21-23 July 2016 for concurrent action; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the above resolution that upon concurrent action by the Department of Minnesota said resolution be forwarded to The American Legion National Convention assembled in Cincinnati, Ohio on 30-31 August 2016 and 01 September 2016; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That the above resolution was adopted by the Department of Minnesota and that the signature of the Department Adjutant is affixed hereto.

## RESOLUTION 6

The following Resolution originated from Frank Heinzel Post 254 in Sauk Rapids, Minnesota and was adopted by the 6th District and is submitted for consideration by the 2016 Department Convention, to be held in Rochester, Minnesota, July 21-23, 2016.

### Oppose Dues Increase

WHEREAS, The Department of Minnesota All Time High in membership is 137,393 and is on track for possibly 79,000 paid membership in 2016; and

WHEREAS, The National American Legion just had a \$5.00 dues increase last year for 2016; and

WHEREAS, The Department Finance Chairman reported on the 2015 Convention floor there would be no dues increase for the Department of Minnesota in the foreseeable future; and

WHEREAS, every time there is a dues increase there is a significant loss of members in The American Legion, Department of Minnesota, thus a loss of income and raising the dues will not encourage veterans to renew or become a new legion member; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we oppose any attempt for the Department of Minnesota to have a dues increase until the Department shows a deficit for two years or more (not including one time charges or write downs) and be it

RESOLVED, That the Department of Minnesota takes every step necessary to cut spending, reduce or combine or eliminate Committees, review all budgeting cost items and live within their income; and it be

RESOLVED, That be forwarded to the Department of Minnesota for consideration and action at its regular Department Convention held in Rochester, MN July 21-23, 2016 ; and be it further

RESOLVED, That if this resolution is adopted by the Department of Minnesota assembled at its regular Department Convention on July 21-23, 2016 in Rochester Minnesota, that it becomes effective immediately upon the conclusion of the Convention.

## RESOLUTION 7

The following Resolution originated from the 6th District and is submitted for consideration by the 2016 Department Convention, to be held in Rochester, Minnesota, July 21-23, 2016.

### Revitalization Transfers

This resolution is the same as Resolution 4.

## RESOLUTION 8

The following Resolution originated from Christie DeParcq Post 406 in St. Paul, Minnesota and was adopted by the 4th District and is submitted for consideration by the 2016 Department Convention, to be held in Rochester, Minnesota, July 21-23, 2016.

### Ad Hoc Committee Members

WHEREAS, The American Legion, Department of Minnesota must from time-to-time form ad-hoc committees for a special purpose/specific subject, which is disbanded once its function is achieved; and

WHEREAS, It is necessary to have the most-experienced and accomplished Legionnaires on the specific subject on the ad-hoc committee to insure its success; and

WHEREAS, Often Legionnaires most-qualified and knowledgeable for ad-hoc committees are already on standing committees and therefore exempt from serving on an ad-hoc committee per resolution passed in 2007 that limits Legionnaires to serving in only one appointed position; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 2007 resolution be amended to include the final sentence: "Ad-hoc committees shall be excepted from this resolution", and be it finally resolved

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be forward-

Continued on Page 19

# Shot down

*Bill Schleppegrell, a young fighter pilot from Minnesota, found a new way to usher in the new year when he was shot down over Germany on Jan. 1, 1945. He spent the rest of the war in Stalag 1 in northern Germany until the 9,000 prisoners there were liberated by the Russian Army. He later went on to become a German teacher at Hibbing High School.*

By Al Zdon

It was New Year's day and Lt. Bill Schleppegrell was on his 16th mission flying a P-47 fighter over Europe when he felt a large thump.

"I knew I'd been hit, but I checked all the instruments and everything looked okay. But then the engine started sputtering."

The commander of his squadron assigned another fighter to fly with Schleppegrell in an attempt to make it back to the American lines, but Schleppegrell's airplane failed and the desperate effort fell just a few miles short.

As the parachute brought him to the ground, he had no idea how much his life would change in the coming days, weeks and months as a prisoner of war.

William Schleppegrell was born in Minneapolis in 1923. In 1929, the family moved to Littlefork, Minnesota, where his dad took a job as a game warden. "Before that, he didn't have a job a lot of the time."

It was a good place to grow up, and young Schleppegrell spent much of his free time fishing on the Little Fork River. "I'd catch sand pike and walleyes and northerns. One time I caught a redhorse fish and it was huge. I lugged it all the way home, but my dad said it was a sucker and we couldn't eat it."

During his high school years, he did a paper route and flipped burgers at Archie Moore's restaurant in Littlefork. He also spent a couple of years living with an aunt, who was a school teacher, down in California.

After graduating from high school in 1940, he headed off to the University of Minnesota as a pre-med student.

Exactly one year after the attack on Pearl Harbor, on December 7, 1942, Schleppegrell went down to the recruiter and volunteered for the Army. He had two years of college, and there was a program where he could go in as an officer – and perhaps a pilot.

After boot camp, he was assigned to Michigan State University to do "pre-pre-flight" training. "I also got my first ride in an airplane there. I went up a two-seater Piper Cub."

Then it was on to San Antonio for pre-flight, and then he did two stops in Oklahoma before getting his wings in an AT-6 trainer at Victoria, Texas.

Training was long, but Schleppegrell said it went well. "I never felt I was in danger of washing out, but a lot of my friends washed out. I just grew into it. Of course, it was all new to me. A few of my buddies got killed."

He was chosen as a fighter pilot and did gunnery training at Matogorda Island on the Texas Gulf Coast.

"We were also doing a lot of cross-country flying and night flying. We did some work in a simulator. I know I was anxious to get into combat."

Schleppegrell was finally sent overseas in September 1944, arriving in Shrewsbury, England. He was assigned to the 405th squadron of the 371st Fighter Group flying P-47 Thunderbolts, in which he had trained extensively on in the United States.

The P-47 was a heavy duty fighter with more armor and heft than the other major fighter used in Europe during the war, the P-51 Mustang. The Mustang was often called the Cadillac of the American fighters, while the P-47 might be thought of as a GMC truck.

After some additional training in England, he was flown to Paris to await orders. Soon he was at Dole, France, flying out of a small airfield near Dijon.

"I did about 10 or 12 flights there. We mainly did dive bombing on railroad yards and bridges and factories. We

carried two 500 pound bombs, but we would also strafe a lot. On several missions, we supported the French ground troops."

Just before Christmas, the fighter group moved to Tantonville, near Nancy, France, closer to the front lines, and he began flying missions again. The Battle of the Bulge was going full tilt, and after Christmas the weather got better and the squadrons were flying many missions.

By this time in the war, the German air force had basically been shot out of the air. But targets the P-47s attacked were still heavily guarded by anti-aircraft fire. "You'd see these big black puffs all around you. You couldn't hear them, but you knew how dangerous they were."

On the first day of 1945, Schleppegrell went through the usual routine for flying a mission. The pilots had been briefed the night before and they rose before dawn to take off right at dawn. It would take about 40 minutes to get to the target.

The mission was a railroad yard at Bad Kreuznach, north of Saarbrücken, Germany. There were 16 planes in the flight and Schleppegrell was flying in the "tail end Charlie" position at the rear end of the arrangement of planes.

"The problem with that position was that by the time you went over, the Germans had had the time to get their guns trained in."

Suddenly there was what he called "a sickening thud," and he could smell gun powder in the cockpit.

"I knew I was hit, but the instruments continued to read okay. Everything seemed fine. I checked to see that I wasn't hit in a vital place, and then I flew up and rejoined the flight."

"But right after that the engine began to sputter. I radioed the flight leader, and he told me to head for the base. He sent another plane to accompany me back.



"I headed right for the American lines, but the engine was throwing oil, and after about 15 or 20 minutes I noticed that the oil gauge was at zero and I was beginning to lose altitude.

"I wasn't going to make it to the front lines, so at that point I only had two choices. I could try to land the plane, or I could parachute out. But the terrain wasn't very good, and I didn't want to leave a plane in flyable condition in



**BILL SCHLEPPEGRELL**  
At home in Hibbing



**BILL SCHLEPPEGRELL**  
After earning his wings in World War II

Germany, so I decided to bail out.

"I tried to tell my wingman that I was bailing out, but the radio was broken. So I kept repeating it. I finally bailed out close to the ground, and I could see my plane crash into a hillside and explode a few seconds later. I hoped that other pilot had seen me bail out."

By the time he jumped, he was down at about 1,500 feet. Schleppegrell landed hard on a hard surface with just a dusting of snow on the ground. He injured his leg on impact. "I also must have hit my head on the tail or the wing when I jumped because I was bleeding from just above my eye. And my pants leg was just about torn off."

The pilots had been told to bury their parachute, but that was impossible in the frozen ground. "So I just left my chute and looked around. I could hear the lumberjacks in the woods sawing trees, but I didn't see any people. I headed off down a country road."

Schleppegrell cut across a field, and headed in the direction of the front lines. "I think I was stunned somewhat from hitting my head. As I walked along, an old guy on a bicycle was coming at me. What could I do? There was no place to hide. I just kept walking, hoping he wouldn't notice anything."

But somehow the sight of a limping American airman in a ripped flight suit, bleeding from his head, did not escape the German civilian.

"He got off his bike and started yelling. I took off running. It wasn't long before a motorcycle with soldiers came around the corner. I assume they knew a plane had crashed in the area.

"They didn't draw their weapons, they just asked where the parachute was. I got into a side car and they took me into a bombed-out town. All that was left of the buildings were the basements."

He was taken before a German officer, and Schleppegrell told him his name, rank and serial number. The officer asked about his unit, but Schleppegrell told him he couldn't answer any more questions.

"Then he commented on my name, saying it was German. I told him my ancestors were from Denmark. Only later did I learn that my name did go back to Germany. Then he asked me about my unit again, and I told him I couldn't answer that."

The interrogator then said that America had been dropping spies into Germany and that spies could be shot. The threat was clear, but Schleppegrell refused to talk.

"They put me in a coal cellar, and it was really cold in there. No lights. But from my room I could hear the officer interrogating other prisoners. They were basically telling him everything he wanted to know. That really irked me."

Schleppegrell was called back in for a second round of questioning. "He looked at me like he had never seen me before and asked the same questions. I gave him the same answers."

Back in the coal cellar, he had to pace up and down to keep from freezing. "Plus there was nothing to sit on but the pile of coal."

He stayed there for two nights, and then was taken in a car. "It was a harrowing ride. You could see the artillery flashes. I knew we were near the front line."

This was a bigger town, and the prisoners were allowed to eat as much as they wanted out of a big vat of soup. The next day he was put in the town's jail in a regular cell.

"Through the window, I could see the American planes dive bombing the town. I was thinking, 'I hope they don't bomb here.'"

With a group of about 15 other prisoners, Schleppegrell was marched off. "We were days walking. I think that's where I froze my feet. We slept in barns at night." In one city that had been bombed to smithereens, a bulldozer had plowed a road through the midst of the rubble.

"The townspeople were standing on either side on the heaps throwing rocks at us. Some prisoners were attacked with sticks. The guards kept telling us not to pay any attention, just keep on going."

Sometimes they rode a train, sometimes they marched. "I remember we walked over the Rhine on a damaged bridge. "One time we were put in a prison where you couldn't stand up in the cells. It was like being in cages."

For one spell in Frankfort, Schleppegrell was in solitary confinement for eight or nine days.

The prisoners slept on a cot with one Army blanket. "They'd turn the heater on for a short time in the morning, and I'd stand with my butt against it trying to get warm."

Finally, he was taken in for more interrogation. "There was a German colonel behind the desk and he had three big notebooks in front of him. He said, 'Oh, you were in the 405th squadron and he proceeded to tell me all about my outfit including who the commanding officer was, Major Leonard.' Then he looked back in his book and said, 'Oh, wait, I see he's a colonel now.'"

Schleppegrell again refused to talk, and as he was being taken out of the room, a friend of his, a fellow pilot who was shot down a few days after him, was escorted in.

"I talked to him later and he said that he told the Germans loads of information. I said, 'How could you do that?' and he said, 'Oh, they know all that stuff anyway.'"

The prisoners were finally brought to their destination, Stalag I in the city of Barth on the Baltic coast in northern Germany. The town had never been bombed, probably because the Allies knew the POW camp was there.



A P-47 Thunderbolt, part of the 371st Fighter Group is parked on an airfield in France. Note the Matson matting on the field. In order to build airfields quickly, the steel matting was used on most airstrips.



Schleppegrell in a cockpit during training in the U.S.



After his stay in a German POW camp, Schleppegrell was all smiles.



Schleppegrell stands by his trainer prior to going overseas.



A bulldozer and a P-47 from the 371st Fighter Group share the same runway in France.