Fall Conference slated for Mahnomen

The American Legion’s annual school of instruction, the Fall Conference, will be held Thursday through Saturday, Oct. 23-25 at the Shooting Star Casino in Mahnomen.

The meeting will be sponsored by Bagley Post 16. Both the Auxiliary and Legion sessions will be held at the casino.

The event will kick off with a gambling seminar at 2 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 23, at the casino. There will be committee meetings at 4 p.m. that day.

The Legion will hold an Executive Committee meeting on Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Bejou Room.

The Legion conference will begin the next morning at 8 a.m. in the Bejou/Detroit Lakes rooms. Commander Peggy Moon will chair the meeting.

The morning will feature a visit by Dale Barnett of Georgia, a candidate for National Commander this coming year.

Also in the morning will be presentations on post histories, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, and Legion operations by Department Staff.

Friday afternoon will feature American Legion Riders training by Bill Sloan from the National American Legion Headquarters Staff.

At 4:30, the annual meeting of the American Legion Family Hospital Association will be held, and at 6:30 the annual reception for Legion Family officers will be staged in the Beaulieu Room. The Grand March will begin at 7.

Continued on Page 2

Worlds finishes up as MDVA deputy commissioner

Reggie Worlds started at the bottom, made it almost to the top, and for now will take his passion for veterans to a middle level.

Worlds’ last day on the job as deputy commissioner for the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs was Sept. 23. His new job will be with the Department of Employment and Economic Development at their Mankato office.

“Some of the best days of my life were spent at the Department,” he said. “I’ll look back on my time there with nothing but a smile.”

Worlds, 48, said the primary factor in his decision to leave the job was the commute from his home in Mankato to St. Paul each day. “I called it my ‘trip of love.’ I loved coming to work each day, and I loved going home to my beautiful wife and children each night.

“But 900 miles a week is a lot. It wears on the body. My wife and kids have been very supportive of my career, but now it’s time to give something back to them.”

He said he was fortunate to land the post at DEED. “It will allow me to keep helping veterans, and to help them find good jobs.”

Worlds was born and raised in Florida. His first 13 years were spent in a rural part of the state in the panhandle. He moved to Tampa and graduated from a high school there. After school he joined the Army.

“I was a Patriot missile crew member, and I spent five and one-half years in Germany.”

He worked as a postal employee in Tampa after the service and then was transferred to Mankato in 1993. He went to college to learn law enforcement, but instead took the job as Martin County Veterans Service Officer.

Worlds left that job to go into law enforcement.

“But I didn’t realize how much I would miss working with veterans.”

He became an assistant CSVO with Hennepin County and was hired as an outreach specialist, working mainly with minorities and women, with the MDVA in 2004. By 2010, he had worked his way up to deputy commissioner.

He is credited in those four years with creation of the Linkvet veterans support center, for greatly reducing veterans homelessness in the state and with reaching out to the traditionally underserved women and minority populations.

“I can’t really take credit for any of that. It’s always a collaboration. I think the greatest thing is to be part of working toward a united veterans community that really focuses on veterans and their families.”

Worlds paid special tribute to his wife and to his boss.

“I need to give kudos and love to my wife, Sue, for what a great supporter she has been. Without her, I would never have been able to achieve anything. I owe her so much.”

Continued on Page 2

Among the first to set foot in the empire of Japan

WASHINGTON D.C. – American Legion National Commander Michael D. Helm said U.S.-led air strikes against ISIS militants in Syria this week amplify our nation’s need to protect the Department of Defense from drastic budget cuts and force reductions.

“The air-strike strategy is certainly an effective way to kill the enemy and destroy its war-fighting capabilities, at least in the short term,” Helm said. “But the large-scale use of high-tech missiles is expensive. Launching 1,000 Tomahawks is going to cost DoD about $1.5 billion, and the Pentagon has already said this week’s air strikes are only the beginning. Also, lasting security and protection against resurgence of this army of terrorists can only be attained through complete military superiority, including ground forces.”

Costs of the air campaign in Syria are currently being

Continued on Page 2
Official Pre-Registration
Mail to: Bagley American Legion Post 16
Attention: Fall Conference
Box 159
Bagley, MN 56621

A registration fee of $15 for each person attending is required. Please copy and send a separate registration blank per person.

District # _______  Name ____________________________
City ___________________ State____Zip_______
Address ________________________________
Name __________________________________
District # ________  Post # _______  Unit #______ Squad #_______

No time to cut DoD funds

Continued from Page 1

covered by the Overseas Contingency Operations fund, which has about $85 billion through fiscal 2014.

"But if these air strikes continue for months or years – and with more budget cuts kicking in from sequestration – then funding this war is going to be a serious issue," Helm said.

"The American Legion wants Congress to avoid any further cuts to the defense budget and to properly fund combat operations against ISIS, Khorasan and other militant Islamic groups, by air, sea and land."

"These threats must be annihilated, and now is not the time to shortchange DoD on funding necessary to conduct critical military operations in the ongoing war on terrorism."

The first air strike by U.S. and Arab allies happened in the early hours of Sept. 23, Syria time. Two days later, Pentagon spokesman Navy Rear Adm. John Kirby commented to CNN about fighting the Islamic militants.

"I think we are in this for a matter of years. We are steeling ourselves for that period of time."

Fall Conference

Continued from Page 1

The hospitality rooms will follow:

On Saturday morning, there will be a series of reports on Legion programs concluded with a speech on national security. The conference is expected to adjourn about 11:30 a.m.

82nd Auxiliary Fall Conference will be held in the Richwood Room at the Casino.

On Thursday, Oct. 23, from 7-9 p.m. there will be workshops that will follow concur rently. There will be a workshop report from the Auxiliary programs and “just ask” sessions will have a speaker on hand.

Auxiliary sessions will begin Friday morning at 8 a.m. in the Richwood/Pine Bend rooms. There will be reports from the Auxiliary programs and “just ask” sessions throughout the day.

The Auxiliary session will wind up on Saturday with a membership skit.

Because Bagley is so far away, some of the off hours activities will be sponsored by the Mahomen Post.

The post will have soup and sandwiches on Thursday and Friday from 11-1. There will be brats, baked beans and chips from 4-7:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday.

There will also be daily drawings at the post for prizes. There will be shuttle buses from the casino to the post.

To make reservations for rooms, please contact the casino and hotel at 218-936-2021 and request the American Legion block of rooms. The block code is 632937.

The conference is expected to adjourn about 11:30 a.m.

The hospitality rooms will follow.

Worlds leaving as MDVA deputy

Continued from Page 1

Commissioner Larry Shellito, he said, was a great mentor and teacher. “He just has that desire and compassion to make sure the veterans and families get what they deserve.”

His advice to whomever replaces him? “Listen to the staff and listen to the common people. You need to get involved. Talking to someone face to face is better than talking to them on the phone.”

Worlds said there are many challenges facing the veterans community in the future. Strides have been made in ending homelessness, but much still needs to be done, he said.

Another ongoing issue is the continuing care of severely injured veterans. “In World War II or Korea, if you got severely wounded, you probably died. Now, many of these men and women are coming home. We are responsible for those lives.”

“We have a great life in America, but we must take care of that one percent who year after year defend the nation.”

United States Postal Service
Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation

1. Minnesota Legionnaire
2. 013-679 Publication No.
3. Filed on 9-25-14.
4. Issued Monthly
5. 12 Issues each year
6. $10 annual subscription rate/$3 for members.
7. 20 West 12th St., St. Paul, MN 55155-2000 mailing address
8. Same as Headquarters address
9. Publisher is the Minnesota American Legion, same address.
10. Editor is Al Zdon, same address. Editor is Al Zdon, same address.
11. Owner is the The Minnesota Legionnaire, Inc., same address.
12. Non-profit status has not changed in prior 12 months.
13. The Minnesota Legionnaire, September issue date
14. 13. The Minnesota Legionnaire, September issue date
15. a. Total Copies: 86,954 average for last 12 months
86,034 for September issue.
16. b. 4. Outside county
Paid Subscriptions: 86,954 ave. 86,034 Sept.
17. b. 3. Outside Mail: None None
18. b. 2. In-county paid: None None
19. b. 1. Outside County
20. c. 2. In-county outside mail 200 200
21. c. 1. Outside county
22. d. 2. Inside paid: None None
23. d. 1. Inside mail: None None
24. d. 0. Inside Co. Free: None None
25. e. 4. Outside mail 200 200
26. e. 3. Outside mail: None None
27. e. 2. Inside mail: None None
28. e. 1. Inside Co. Free: None None
29. f. 4. Outside mail 200 200
30. f. 3. Outside mail: None None
31. f. 2. Inside mail: None None
32. f. 1. Inside Co. Free: None None
33. g. Copies not Dist: 100 ave. 100 Sept.
34. g. Copies not Dist: None None
35. h. Total: 86,954 ave. 86,034 Sept.
36. h. Total: 86,954 ave. 86,034 Sept.
37. i. Percent of paid: 99.80% ave. 99.80% Sept.
38. i. Percent of paid: 99.80% ave. 99.80% Sept.
40. k. 15. a. Total Copies: 86,954 average for last 12 months
86,034 for September issue.
41. k. 15. a. Total Copies: 86,954 average for last 12 months
86,034 for September issue.
42. l. Paid Subscriptions: 86,954 ave. 86,034 Sept.
43. l. Paid Subscriptions: 86,954 ave. 86,034 Sept.
44. m. Total: 86,954 ave. 86,034 Sept.
45. m. Total: 86,954 ave. 86,034 Sept.
46. n. Percent of paid: 99.80% ave. 99.80% Sept.
47. n. Percent of paid: 99.80% ave. 99.80% Sept.
48. o. 17. Printed in October edition
49. o. 17. Printed in October edition
52. q. 17. Published in Minnesota, a non-profit organization.
53. q. 17. Published in Minnesota, a non-profit organization.
54. r. 12. Non-profit status has not changed.
55. r. 12. Non-profit status has not changed.
56. s. 10. Publisher is the Minnesota American Legion, same address.
57. s. 10. Publisher is the Minnesota American Legion, same address.
58. t. 9. Publisher is the Minnesota American Legion, same address.
59. t. 8. Same as Headquarters address
60. u. 4. Issued Monthly
61. u. 4. Issued Monthly
62. v. 3. Filed on 9-25-14.
63. v. 3. Filed on 9-25-14.
64. w. 2. In-county paid: None None
65. w. 2. In-county paid: None None
66. x. 1. Outside County
67. x. 1. Outside County
68. y. 0. Inside Co. Free: None None
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88. ii. Percent of paid: 99.80% ave. 99.80% Sept.
89. ii. Percent of paid: 99.80% ave. 99.80% Sept.
90. jj. 18. Signature: Alan T. Zdon, 25 September 2014
91. jj. 18. Signature: Alan T. Zdon, 25 September 2014
92. kk. 17. Published in October edition
93. kk. 17. Published in October edition
94. ll. 15. a. Total Copies: 86,954 average for last 12 months
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Endorsements

Dvorak endorsed for 2015-16
Department Sergeant-at-Arms

Mark J. Dvorak has been endorsed by Charles Borak Post 45 New Prague as Department Sergeant-at-Arms for 2015-2016.

Dvorak has been a paid up for life member for over 19 years and is a dual member of the Sons of the American Legion.

He is currently on the Board of Directors for The American Legion Post 45/Park Ballroom and has held various positions including Chief, Financial Officer. Mark has also served on The American Legion Post 45 Board of Trustees.

Dvorak was the Third District Adjutant from 2010-2013 and Third District Commander 2013- 2014. He currently serves on the District Convention Planning Committee and also was appointed and serves on the Department Fund for Hospitalized Veterans Committee. As a Sons of the American Legion member he serves as the Finance Officer.

He has 22 years on Active Duty; six years in the Air Force and 16 years in the Minnesota Air National Guard on Active Duty, retiring from the Air Force in 1995.

He has a BS Degree in Accounting and from 1995 - 2010 worked in Public Accounting and as a Senior Accountant for a local mort company.

He is an active member of St. Wenceslas Catholic Church and participates in the adult choir.

The Dvoraks have six children, 13 grandchildren, and one great grandchild. His wife, Linda, is also retired from the Air Force and is the Finance Officer and Membership Director for American Legion Post 45 in New Prague and currently is the Third District Adjutant.

Minneapolis VA will participate in two major research projects

The Minneapolis VA Health Care System will participate in two research projects focusing on non-drug approaches to pain.

The studies were announced last week by the National Institutes of Health’s National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine. “Pain is the most common reason Americans turn to complementary and integrative health practices,” said Josephine P. Briggs, MD. “The need for nondrug treatment options is a significant and urgent public health imperative. We believe this research will provide much-needed information that will help our military and their family members, and ultimately anyone suffering from chronic pain and related conditions.”

A 2011 Institute of Medicine report states that nearly 100 million American adults suffer from chronic pain at a cost of $635 billion per year and notes a need for a cultural transformation to change this problem. Chronic pain disproportionately affects those who have served or are serving in the military. A June 2014 report in JAMA Internal Medicine showed an alarmingly high rate of chronic pain—44 percent—among members of the U.S. military after combat deployment, compared to 26 percent in the general public.

Minneapolis VA’s Melissa Polusny, PhD, and Erin Krebs, MD are principal investigators of a 4-year project that will study over 3,000 OEF/OIF/OND Veterans to learn about the development of chronic pain following deployment, what factors influence their utilization of different pain management approaches, including complementary and alternative medicine approaches, as well as gain a deeper understanding of veterans’ preferences and attitudes towards pain management approaches.

In another study, Richard Branson, DC, staff chiropractor at the Minneapolis VA, will be collaborating with the Palmer Center for Chiropractic Research in Davenport Iowa on a study of how chiropractic care might be best integrated into existing Veterans Health Administration clinical practice guidelines for veterans with a combination of musculoskeletal pain and mental health conditions. In addition to Minneapolis, the Iowa City VA and Connecticut VAs are collaborating. The study will launch in winter or spring of 2015 and involve 60-81 Veterans.
Hello Legioneers,

I can’t believe this is my third column already. This is the best job on earth, and I can’t believe how fast the time is going by.

Thank you to everyone that participated in our first membership rally at Legionville. You packed the place. The turn-in was fantastic, and was enough to put us in first place nationally, at least for one week. As I write this, we have already passed No. 2 (those cheeseheads in Wisconsin are working hard), but I know you will bring us back into first place soon. I received a phone call from our National Commander congratulating us, and the next day, Carl received a call from our National Vice Commander. He said he was calling to encourage us to make this next event even bigger. So, I hope you’re planning on coming to our 5th Annual Area Membership Rally in November. Do you know where the candidates stand on veterans’ issues, and those challenges that affect your community? This is the time to check it out before you head for the polls.

When I think of these troops, it reminds me of my theme for this year, “Courage.” As I explained when I was elected, courage is not the lack of fear, it is knowing and understanding that some things are just more important than our fear. I can certainly empathize with this. I’m here to help you. If you can find numerous acts of courage in your community. Please share these stories. I love to pass on the good deeds that are being done in our communities.

Also, don’t forget my project, Legislature. The new building is coming along just fine, but we need to get this job finished. This year’s legislative sessions are coming to a close. So, if you have any extra money in your Post funds, I would greatly appreciate the donation.

The reason I bring up activities. Many of our committees are having their organization meetings and setting their budgets. There is a couple of veteran deer hunts that need volunteers. More importantly, the National Security/Foreign Relations Meeting at Camp Ripley, The American Legion Riders Romp at Legionville, and the American Legionnaires’ Tour of Duty, there are committees looking for more members. Another good project to work on is the American Legion’s Adjutants meeting in Minneapolis, and once again, Carl and I are driving.

Remember, you can come at any time. We have the entire month of November to drive. If you can’t get your 500 miles on the new car, and recently got my first oil change. They also rotated the tires.

Life is good - but I think I need to fill up again. Until next month....

Commander's Corner

By Steve Klinkner

By the time you read this I will have been to the Chauncey Adamson Home in Madison. I look forward to the opportunities made available for this position. One of the opportunities that I have already experienced is to spend time with Mr. Adamson. He is a wonderful man who has performed wonderful service for our nation. I know the time we spent together was a blessing. I look forward to the experiences that are ahead of me. This will be a wonderful opportunity to strengthen my faith and my resolve for the work that I do as your District Commander. I will always come back to this position with renewed hope and a better understanding of what we can accomplish.

Chaplain's Corner

By Steve Klinkner

One of the most important responsibilities of The American Legion is to perform a watchdog service over the Veterans Administration and other federal, state and local agencies that provide veterans with services.

It’s a role that goes back to our beginnings. If we don’t watch over these agencies, who will?

This past few months, the Legion has performed that job admirably. It was the Legion that was first to make noise about the shamans going on in Arizona. It was the Legion that saw that this example of poor and illegal managements should be stopped. It was the Legion that saw that this example of poor and illegal management was taking place soon. I received a phone call from our National Commander congratulating us, and the next day, Carl received a call from our National Vice Commander. He said he was calling to encourage us to make this next event even bigger. So, I hope you’re planning on coming to our 5th Annual Area Membership Rally in November. Do you know where the candidates stand on veterans’ issues, and those challenges that affect your community? This is the time to check it out before you head for the polls.

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What’s Happening

Military credit deadline
Those who served in 2010 have until Oct. 15 to take advantage of a refundable tax credit. The Credit for Military Service in a Combat Zone is expiring for that year. The average refund is $650 and more than $2.4 million has been claimed thus far.

For more information go to the Minnesota Department of Revenue website: www.revenue.state.mn.us.

St. Cloud needs drivers
The St. Cloud VA Medical Center is seeking volunteer drivers for in and around the St. Cloud area. You do not need to be a veteran. Some drive one day a week and others drive once a month.

Drivers do have to pass a physical exam and go through other procedures including a background check, TB test, and an orientation.

For more information please call 320-255-6365 or email vhastcva@va.gov.

Above and Beyond
The documentary movie “Above and Beyond,” which prominently features a Minnesota pilot, will have a premier showing at the Riverview Theater in Minneapolis on Sunday, Oct. 26, at 7:30 p.m.

The movie is about the operations of the first Jewish fighter squadron in the war of independence in 1948. Leon Frankel, who earned a Navy Cross in World War II while fighting in a U.S. Marine fighter squadron, will have a premier showing at the Riverview Theater in Minneapolis on Sunday, Oct. 26, at 7:30 p.m.

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Preserving Minnesota’s History
Give the gift of Minnesota military history to your loved one.

War Stories II has 35 stories about Minnesota veterans and over 300 pictures.

Books will be available at the Fall Conference.

To order simply go to www.mnlegion.org. Credit cards accepted.

Or use the blank below.

Name__________________________Phone__________________________
Address__________________________

Please send me ______ copy(ies) of War Stories Volume I
Cost is $23 per book. Includes shipping and handling.

Please send me ______ copy(ies) of War Stories Volume II
Cost is $29 per book. Includes shipping and handling.

Total amount enclosed: $________

Women Veterans Fall Tea
The Fall Tea, sponsored by the Minnesota Humanities Center and the Women Veterans Initiative, will be held Saturday, Oct. 11, from 2-5 p.m. at the Minnesota Humanities Center, 987 Ivy Ave. East, St. Paul.

The design of the new women veterans license plate will be unveiled, and the women who worked for its passage will speak. The Veterans of the Year award will be presented.

For more information, call the Humanities Center.

Grand Opening
The grand opening for the Women’s Imaging Suite will be held on Friday, Oct. 17, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Minnesota VA Medical Center.

The event will be at the medical center at First Floor Radiology, Room 1Q-100.

Flu Shots Available
Both the Minneapolis and the St. Cloud VA Health Care Systems are offering clinics for flu shots with no cost to veterans. No appointment is needed.

The clinics are offered at the VA medical centers and at the CBOCs around the state. For more information, contact your local CBOC, the Minneapolis VA Medical Center or the St. Cloud VA Medical Center, 320-255-6444, to ask about a clinic near you.

Legal Clinics
The Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans is sponsoring a series of legal clinics for veterans. Subjects will include housing, employment, benefits, debt collection, and family law.

Round Tables
The October meeting of the World War II History Round Table at Fort Snelling will feature “Building the Death Railroad,” the bridge over the River Kwai. Author Kelly Crager, author of “Hell under the Rising Sun” will be the featured speaker with combat veterans who were POWs as authors.

The meeting is at 7 p.m. at historic Fort Snelling Visitors Center with a $5 admission.

The Scott Hosier Veterans Round Table in Rochester will be meeting at a new place this year. The meetings will be at Autumn Ridge Church, 3611 Salem Road SW. The October 13, Monday, meeting will be “Korean War on Land and Sea” with Swede Anderson, Dick Fuller and Jerry Graf.

The meeting starts at 7 p.m. with a $5 admission.

The St. Croix Valley Civil War Roundtable will meet on Monday, Oct. 27, with social hour at 5, dinner at 6, and program at 7 at the Lowell Inn in Stillwater. The subject will be the “Sibley Expedition of 1863” with Bill Lass as the speaker. For more information, call Steve Anderson at 715-386-1268.
During the 2014 American Legion National Convention, several learning sessions were available to attendees, to include various topics encompassing Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA/R). I attended several of these learning sessions and one in particular focused on the topic of skin cancers due to environmental exposure as supported by recent published studies. I found this a very applicable topic given the vast population of Veterans that such information would directly apply. I’ll note that VA recommends a cancer related checkup, including a skin exam, every four years for individuals age 40 and older with a history of skin cancer. Here are a few of the informational highlights that have been discovered as affecting those who have been deployed to tropical or desert climates. In many cases, it was identified that soldiers deployed to such climates are not being adequately protected from the most common cancer type according to a study recently presented at the World Congress on Cancers of the Skin in Edinburgh, Scotland. The World Congress was founded by the Skin Cancer Foundation and organized this year by the British Association of Dermatologists.

Skin cancer refers to a group of cancers predominantly caused by unprotected exposure to the sun, of which melanoma is the most dangerous. Melanoma claims 9,700 lives in the US each year. Previous research has shown that 34 percent of US military veterans who developed melanoma had also been deployed to tropical climates. In comparison, only six percent of non-military melanoma patients had spent time in tropical climates. This latest study, conducted by researchers from Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, found that only 22 percent of military personnel were made aware of the risks of sun exposure. Furthermore, while 77 percent reported being exposed to bright sunlight for more than four hours a day, only 27 percent had regular access to sunscreen. Just under a third of respondents (32 percent) reported having no access to sunscreen at all. Consequently, a staggering 62 percent of military personnel reported no sunscreen while under 40 and older. Additionally, including cases of skin blistering. 29 percent have not noticed a change in the color, shape or size of their moles (often a sign of skin cancer) since being deployed to tropical zones, however only four percent had received a skin examination from a physician since deployment.

“This study shows that the vast majority of soldiers who are facing a high risk of skin cancer are unaware of what to do to protect themselves,” said Allan Harrington, MD, spokesperson for The Skin Cancer Foundation and former director of Skin Cancer Surgery at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. “Since sun exposure causes the vast majority of skin cancer cases, it’s imperative for our men and women in uniform to be armed with the tools they need to practice proper sun protection.”

“The past decade of United States’ combat missions, including operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, have occurred at more equatorial latitudes than the mean average of the United States population, increasing the potential for ultraviolet irradiance and the development of skin cancer,” said Jennifer Powers, Assistant Professor at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, found that only 22 percent of military personnel were made aware of the risks of sun exposure. Furthermore, while 77 percent reported being exposed to bright sunlight for more than four hours a day, only 27 percent had regular access to sunscreen. Just under a third of respondents (32 percent) reported having no access to sunscreen at all. Consequently, a staggering 62 percent of military personnel reported no sunscreen while under 40 and older. Furthermore, including cases of skin blistering. 29 percent have not noticed a change in the color, shape or size of their moles (often a sign of skin cancer) since being deployed to tropical zones, however only four percent had received a skin examination from a physician since deployment.

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Since the SAL Fall Conference is just around the corner, I would like to encourage all members to attend this event as it truly is a training workshop. There is so much that you can bring back to your local squadrons. The conference will be held at the Shooting Star Event Center in Mahnomen, Minnesota. A questionnaire is being sent out to all the members of the executive committee. Because we have the grand march in the evening, as well as the open houses, we are hoping to change the starting time of the finance committee meeting to 2:00pm on Friday, 24 October and the executive committee meeting to 4:00pm on that same day. The general session will start promptly at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, 25 October.

Sons of The American Legion
By Dennis Henkemeyer

It seems that when a person is having a lot of fun, the time seems to fly by very quickly. That is what I am experiencing this year with my job as detachment commander. With the Sons of The American Legion here in Minnesota, we can collect money, work our programs really hard and then we have fun. Speaking of programs, by the time you get the current issue of the Legionnaire, the annual John Zega Memorial Deer Hunt for Disabled Veterans will be history. I want to thank all of the SAL members that took time out of their busy schedules to stop at Legionville and help out with this very worthwhile project. I know that the deer hunters truly enjoy being out in the woods and maybe even bagging a deer. Last year every hunter was able to shoot a deer and that really has to be rewarding for them.

As for raising money, I had the opportunity to travel to the Minneapolis Fisher House in Minneapolis and present our first donation to them. It was a check for $5,000 which came from the Osseo American Legion Family. Since that time additional checks have been rolling in. If you would like to donate to this project, I would encourage you to bring your check to the Minnesota Department Fall Conference in Mahnomen. If you cannot make it to the Fall Conference, you can always send it to Detachment Adjutant Doug Bible at 5602 West Oakes Drive, St Cloud, MN 56303.

Since the SAL Fall Conference is just around the corner, I would like to encourage all members to attend this event as it truly is a training workshop. There is so much that you can bring back to your local squadrons. The conference will be held at the Shooting Star Event Center in Mahnomen, Minnesota. A questionnaire is being sent out to all the members of the executive committee. Because we have the grand march in the evening, as well as the open houses, we are hoping to change the starting time of the finance committee meeting to 2:00pm on Friday, 24 October and the executive committee meeting to 4:00pm on that same day. The general session will start promptly at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, 25 October.

NALPA WINNER – Ken Meyer, Pequot Lakes, won the National American Legion Press Association Award for District newsletters for the Sixth District Legion Family Newsletter. He also won the award last year. Mike Duggan presented.

NALPA WINNER – Carol Kottom, Buffalo, accepted the National American Legion Press Association Award for District newsletters for the 10th District ALA Newsletter. NALPA’s Mike Duggan presented.

$5,000 DONATION -- SAL Commander Dennis Henkemeyer presented a donation to the Fisher House, his project for the year. The donation had come from Osseo Post.
Rally at Legionville

The new education center at Legionville was packed with Legionnaires, Auxiliary and SAL for the Harvest Rally in September.

And the harvest was good, putting Minnesota in first place nationally for membership at the time of the rally.

The Sixth District was the top finisher in the Legion district competition, while for the Auxiliary, the Fifth District topped the leaderboard. The Fourth District won the SAL competition.

The rally was held during the annual Camp-O-Ree.

“We have made all this progress,” Commander Peggy Moon said, “and we are not one penny in debt.”

Legionville is the commander’s project this year, and she paid tribute to Camp Director Roy Kruger, Legionville President Wayne Gibertson, and longtime Legionville volunteer Jay Beebe.

Auxiliary President Chris Ronning said her project was for outdoor furniture and a grill for the adult day center at the Minneapolis Veterans Home and for the Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

SAL Commander Dennis Henkemeyer announced that the Apple Valley SAL had chipped in to purchase 17 more tables for the learning center. His project is the Fisher House.

Membership Director Pat Logan leads the 2014-15 membership team in “Take Me Out to the Ballgame” as the crew waited for everyone to assemble for a group picture. The new membership shirts, with a baseball theme, were distributed at the rally. Commander Peggy Moon joined it the singing.

NECman Ray DeZurik brought a special friend, Buddy, to the rally.

The Fourth and Fifth Districts held a parlay before the rally. They were sporting their new baseball jerseys.

Commander Peggy Moon believes in walking softly and carrying a big stick, or at least a big baseball bat.

The Legionville Camp-O-Ree went on all weekend, with districts gathering around their bonfires in the evening. Different districts and the SAL took turns in preparing meals with the profits going to the camp.

Arnie Troe presents the “closest to the hole” golf contest winnings to Owen Carlson, the grandson of Jim Lucas.

Auxiliary membership chairman Judy Ackerman held a drawing while Department President Chris Ronning looked on.

Department Vice Commander Glenn Mueller holds up the world’s ugliest chicken, the prize the Fifth District took home for finishing last in the standings at the first rally. Membership Director Pat Logan actually presented a rubber version of the chicken to the district. Logan promised more animals in the future.
First to set foot in Japan

Lee Nordgren of Mankato, Minnesota, may have been one of the first Americans, who was not a prisoner of war, to set foot in Japan at the end of World War II.

Nordgren and his fellow pilots helped establish a U.S. airfield at Yokosuka, Japan, in late August, 1945 – a week before Japan’s official surrender on Sept. 2.

By Al Zdon

Lee Nordgren of Mankato, Minnesota, may have been one of the first Americans, who was not a prisoner of war, to set foot in Japan at the end of World War II.

Nordgren and his fellow pilots helped establish a U.S. airfield at Yokosuka, Japan, in late August, 1945 – a week before Japan’s official surrender on Sept. 2.

He also flew his Hellcat fighter plan to Niigata, Japan, that week to make first contact with the prisoners of war held at Camp 5-B. It was his job to set the stage for a visit a day later by Commander Harold Stassen, who would officially free the prisoners.

It was the final act in a World War II Naval career that included a Navy Cross and over 100 carrier landings.

Lee Adolph Nordgren was born in Mankato in 1924, and he had an early interest in aviation.

“I was about seven or eight years old when I got to fly in a Ford Tri-Motor. In high school, I soloed before I got my driver’s license.”

Nordgren’s interest came partly from his father, a World War I veteran who had been an aerial photographer. When the elder Nordgren came back from the war in 1919, he started a photo finishing operation that was a family business for the next 75 years.

At home in Mankato

Lee Nordgren of Mankato had already won a Navy Cross on a wayward mission a month earlier. This mission was even more interesting. He and another Hellcat pilot were ordered to fly to Niigata, Japan, to be the first Americans to liberate a large prisoner of war camp. The journey into the heartland of the Japanese empire came a few days before the war was officially over.

L

At home in Mankato

Lee Nordgren At home in Mankato

Lee Nordgren During World War II
ing.”

His skill at boxing allowed him to pick the site of his next school. “I picked Hutchinson, Kansas, because it was closest to my girlfriend in Mankato. Everybody told me that all they’ve got there is wind.”

The trainees at Hutchinson were flying the Boeing Stearman Model 75, or NS2, a bi-plane that was a common trainer during the war. The wind was a real challenge in landing a plane. “I was laughing at another student because he came down the airstrip with one wing drooping. But the next time I landed, I was also dragging a wing. When I stopped, I jumped out and looked at it very closely. I didn’t want to get kicked out for a damaged wing.”

Nordgren did well and finally made it to Pensacola, Florida, for his final schooling. “On my way there, we stopped in New Orleans, and I thought I’d get a commercial shave. I really didn’t understand how southerners felt about northerners, but when I was done with my shave I was bleeding all over, like a stuck pig. That’s how I looked when I showed up in Pensacola to report.”

At Pensacola, he flew the Vultee Valiant, usually called the Vultee Vibrator by the pilots, and the SNJ, the Navy’s equivalent of the most-used trainer in the war, the AT-6. Training came to a conclusion at Barin Field, just north in Alabama. “They called it Bloody Barin because there were so many crashes. There were some French pilots coming through. They didn’t follow any of the rules about flying at a certain altitude or anything else. A lot of them just ran into each other.”

Nordgren didn’t set out to be a fighter pilot. “It was what the Navy needed at that time.” He was sent to Daytona Beach to learn to fly the Grumman F6F Hellcat, the Navy’s newest and best fighter in the latter half of the war.

By August, 1944, he was in Glenview Naval Air Station near Chicago to learn how to fly off carriers on Lake Michigan. Next stop was San Diego, and then up to Washington State to join his squadron, VF-50. Then it was on to Klamath Falls, Ore., for more training. Then back to California. “I was beginning to wonder if I’d ever go to war.”

On June 13, 1945, the squadron embarked on the USS Cowpens, CVL-25. The “Mighty Moo,” an Independence-class light carrier, steamed for the Philippines, and along the way stopped by Wake Island, still held by the Japanese. “They told us the Japs had held the place quite a long while, and they were pretty good at shooting at Navy planes. They told us not to let it be a casual experience. Apparently they wanted to burn down Wake Island if they could. It was not that serious a target.”

The carrier was built on the hull of a cruiser. “It was a major attack on the Japanese mainland. It was beginning to wonder if I’d ever go to war.”

The USS Cowpens, the “Mighty Moo,” was named after a Revolutionary War battle, much like the Yorktown or the Lexington. It was built on the hull of a cruiser, thus the odd bow of the ship. Cowpens was the first carrier to enter Tokyo Bay at the end of the war with Japan.

Once in the western Pacific, the Cowpens joined Task Force 58 under Admiral Halsey, and began to attack the main island of Japan. By this time, the Japanese air power and nothing seems right. You just have to trust the instrument and nothing seems right. You just have to trust the instrument.

One of the worst incidents happened with a pilot came in for a landing with a full belly tank, a no-no in carrier procedure. “He hit the cable and the belly tank kept on going. We had to stop, I jumped out and looked at it very closely. I didn’t want to get kicked out for a damaged wing.”

The Cowpens had 15 torpedo bombers and 25 fighters, and Nordgren never got a chance to shoot at an opposing aircraft, “although I shot up a lot of airplanes on the ground.” Nordgren never got a chance to shoot at an opposing aircraft, “although I shot up a lot of airplanes on the ground.”

Another interesting experience was his first night landing. “The safety officer for our squadron forgot to drop his fresh air, and they were both killed.”

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Another interesting experience was his first night landing. “The safety officer for our squadron forgot to drop his fresh air, which meant the rest of us had to circle in the dark for a landing with a full belly tank, a no-no in carrier procedure. “He hit the cable and the belly tank kept on going. When it hit the propeller it exploded. Two engineers from the bowels of the ship had just come up on deck to get some fresh air, and they were both killed.”
because I was so sick. I slept in the camp that night. I was swallowed up by the treatment and the monotony of camp life. My body was weak and my mind was tormented by the bugs in the camp. I couldn’t stand it for more than a few days. I told the camp doctor I should go on the train too and try to find another place to stay.

The next day, Nordgren went back to the camp but came away with a different perspective. He realized that the camp was a place of opportunity, not just a place of hardship. He made arrangements for the prisoners to be transported to Tokyo and continue their journey.

Nordgren was home by October 1945. He had been elevated to lieutenant junior grade, and, he decided, after his discharge, to stay in the Navy Reserve. He remained in the reserves for 27 years and finally retired as a commander.

W orld War II ended in September 1945, and Nordgren returned to the United States. He settled in Bemidji, Minnesota, where he remained until he was 80, and he is the longest standing member of the Minnesota Legionnaire. He married his high school sweetheart, Donna, and they have five children, three girls and two boys. He played tennis until he was 80, and he is the longest standing member of the Mankato Kiwanis Club. He joined in 1950. He and Donna live in an apartment in Mankato, the same town they grew up in. Nordgren and other pilots pose in front of a F-4U Corsair at the Naval Air Station in Minneapolis. Nordgren stayed in the Navy Reserve for 27 years and retired as a commander.
Greetings from the Big Red First. The National Convention is in the books now. Camp-O-Ree at Legionville had another great year. This was the first year that I was able to attend. I had a very good time with all the other Districts. Harvest Rally was on Saturday as well. October is a very busy month and it was nice to see everyone there the Fall Conference at Mahnomen on the 24th and the 25th. And we can’t forget about Halloween for the little ones.

Let’s all hope for good weather for the night of tricks and treats. I wish to thank Kellogg Post 546 for having me to their Watermelon Day activities on Sunday August 7th. I had a good time talking with everyone.

I will close for now. Let’s keep our service men and women in our prayers so that they will come home to us.

God Bless America.

SECOND DISTRICT
Jennifer Kafka
Commander

As I’ve said before my goals as your 2nd District Commander this year are to improve the visibility of The American Legion throughout our district and increase our numbers through personal contact with members and former members of the active and reserve forces. This will take hard work and enthusiasm at every level. We have the best opportunity that we have enjoyed in years but to recruit the veterans we must have to remain relevant in our community, state, and nation. The younger generation volunteered to serve. We must help them understand how they can continue to serve America as members of our organization.

Each Post in 2nd District is unique in its character, facilities, size and history. This can present challenges as well as opportunities for growing your membership. I will not tell you “one size fits all.” Your uniqueness can be a source of strength.

You have all done this before. Use what worked and discard what didn’t. Utilize your contacts outside the Legion to get your story out. If you haven’t already done so, ask one of your younger members (Legion, Auxiliary, or Sons of AL) to get your organization on Facebook and keep the site active with stories and pictures of your activities.

If you happen to have Legions Riders group in your area, help them organize a ride that starts, ends, or visits your facility. And, of course, ask those that can help you is a get a new family member.

For God and Country.

THIRD DISTRICT
Duane Anderson
Commander

Greetings from the Thundering Third

The most rewarding activity for me since last month, of course, was attending the 96th National American Legion Convention in Charlotte North Carolina. As all the command- ers had the same experience, I won’t go into much detail as to activities attended, etc. as they are covered by several different Legion publications.

I will however, express what a great and rewarding experience it was to have my wife Jane and myself. One of these is being able to see all the positive things The American Legion is able to accomplish over the last year and the many years preceding this event.

The good that is accomplished by our organization for veterans, children, veteran’s families and communities is truly impressive to see and experience. This organization is truly a great one and we should all be proud to be a part of it.

To see and hear the youth, business people and company owners that we recognize as being good for our country, makes one think that we still have a lot of positives here at home to be very busy as they are our future.

I have started to visit some of the posts in my district as time is allowing. Membership dinners and district rallies are starting to take up more time.

Until next month, Embrace Change/ Maintain Mission.
CLAREMONT COMMANDER -- An open house and retirement party were held for Claremont Post 422 Commander Lloyd Wobbrock, 80. He has been commander since 1989.

CLEAR LAKE STAND -- Clear Lake Post 354 had a successful smoked chicken stand during Palmetz Days in September.

MILLVILLE HONORS -- Dick Grobe presents Francis Appel with a certificate for 60 years membership with Millville Post 579.

FALLDIN SCHOOL SUPPLIES -- Minneapolis Falldin Post 555 delivered school supplies to seven schools in September. From left to right at the Columbia Heights Academy Elementary School were Virgil Persing, Assistant Principal Rick Ostyd.

OSSEO DONATION -- Osseo Post and Unit 172 donated $5,000 to the Fisher House in Minneapolis. From left are Osseo members: Alternate NECman Marland Ronning, and Gambling Manager Dick Kolb, and S&L Detachment Commander Dennis Henkenmeyer. The Fisher House is Henkenmeyer’s project for the year.


d-- Minnesota Legionnaire October 2014

News from around the State

Taps

Heckman, Rodney, 91, Marine Corps veteran of World War II, died Sept. 22, 2014. He was a past commander of the Second District, 1976-77. He served as Watonwan County Veterans Service Officer. He served on the drill team and was past commander of St. James Post 561.

Kammermeyer, Frank, 92, Army veteran of World War II, died Sept. 4, 2014. He was stationed in Korea.

Anderson, Eugene W., 90, Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War, died Aug. 16, 2014. He served on the USS Bannoon and was at Tokyo Bay when the treaty was signed. He was a member of Houston Post 69.

Van Gundy, E. Harold, 90, Navy veteran of World War II, died Aug. 16, 2014. He flew 50 combat missions in a B-25 in Europe in World War II, earning a Distinguished Flying Cross and seven Air Medals. He and his crew set an around-the-world non-stop record, flying the equator in 47 hours and 19 minutes. He retired after 32 years in the Air Force as a colonel. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 217.

Hetzel, George P., 93, Marine Corps veteran of World War II, died Sept. 20, 2014. He fought at Iwo Jima, and witnessed the flag raising on Mt. Suribachi. He was a member of Little Falls Post 46.

Loch, Clifford N., 83, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 15, 2014. He was a member of Eden Valley Post 381.

Gustner, Robert T., Jr., 89, Marine veteran of World War II, died Sept. 10, 2014. He fought at Iwo Jima, and saw both flag raisings on Mt. Suribachi. He was a member of Argyle Post 353.

Magner, Dale, 99, Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 20, 2014. He was a member of Thief River Falls Post 117.

Anderson, Robert J. “Rabs,” 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 26, 2014. He served in Korea. He was a member of Rush City Post 93.

Anderson, Eugene W., 90, Marine Corps veteran of World War II, died Sept. 2, 2014. He was stationed in Korea and Japan. He was a member of Granite Falls Post 69.

Enlund, Robert J., 90, Marine Corps veteran of World War II, died Sept. 2, 2014. He served in the South Pacific and Japan. He was a member of Post 1982.

Axford, Robert L., 82, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 30, 2014. He was a member of Windom Post 206.

Gasow, Morris Edward, 89, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 2, 2014. He was a member of Brownton Post 143.

Douceute, Howard, 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 16, 2014. He was a member of Little Falls Post 46.

Anderson, Marvin Earl, 88, Navy veteran of World War II, died Sept. 5, 2014. He served on the hospital ship USS Relief. He was a member of Herman Post 378.

Michael Stevens, 90, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died Sept. 12, 2014. He flew 50 combat missions in

Obituary policy

Obituaries of members of the Legion Family will be published in the Minnesota Legionnaire in a monthly column under the heading “Taps.” Obituaries must be recent, within the last two months prior to the publication of the new edition of the Legionnaire. For example, the February edition would only contain obituaries from January and December. While the obituaries are brief, the Legionnaire does seek certain information for our readers:

1. Complete name of deceased.
2. Age at death.
3. Branch of service and war or wars the veteran served in.
4. Exact date of death.
5. Additional information about the veteran’s service background including unit, type of service, place of service, medals, etc.
6. The post, unit or squadron the deceased belonged to.
7. Additional information about Legion service including officer posts held.

The Legionnaire reserves the right to edit all obituaries for style and brevity.
A huge bomber attack on Caen still did not dislodge the Germans from their positions, “but it did kill a lot of civilians. And the rubble in the northern suburbs made it difficult to pass through.”

Montgomery never abandoned his plan to keep the enemy engaged. “He wanted to draw the Germans to us and give the U.S. a chance to move ahead.” It was estimated that seven of Germany’s ten armored divisions in France were engaged at Caen. That left the U.S. an opportunity, and Operation Cobra, begun at the end of July, was the major breakthrough that the Allies had planned on since the June landings.

The Canadians still had a lot left to accomplish, though. They were assigned to move down the Falaise Road toward the city of Falaise. Operation Totalize was launched in mid-August. “It was an all-out effort. Every cook and bottle washer was involved. Everywhere they looked they were facing SS Panzer troops. One of the weaknesses of Keller’s strategy was never bringing enough firepower to the objective.”

But the Canadians pushed ahead, and by Aug. 21, the Falaise gap was closed as the Canadians and a Polish army closed with the U.S. Forces. A large part of the German Army was trapped, but many succeeded in retreating.

By Aug. 25, the liberation of Paris was complete, and by Aug. 30, the Allies controlled everything west of the Seine. “The battle of Normandy was a matter of geometry,” Rickard said. “The Allies had to get all the armies lined up abreast. They were finally able to do that.”

The Canadians and British have been criticized by some historians who said it was supposed to be taken on the first day. But the Canadians pushed ahead, and by Aug. 21, the Falaise gap was closed as the Canadians and a Polish army closed with the U.S. Forces. A large part of the German Army was trapped, but many succeeded in retreating.

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The President's Column

By Chris Ronning

During the 2014 Department Convention held in Rochester this past July the prestigious Unit Member of the Year was awarded to Blackduck Unit 372 President Cory Schmidt by Department Past President Charles Frederick. Marie Goede. The entry was submitted by members of the Blackduck Unit Past Presidents. Cory spends countless hours working on the Auxiliary programs, running the Blackduck Unit and volunteering at everything that is put on by the Unit. The surprised look on her face showed us all how humbled she was.

**2014 NATIONAL CONVENTION**

The 94th annual National Convention came to its conclusion in Charlotte, North Carolina on Thursday, August 28, 2014, with the election and installation of our 2014-15 National Officers. A total of 34 delegates were in attendance to carry on the business of the American Legion Auxiliary. This year’s Convention was attended by 34 delegates, 16 alternates and a number of guests.

Nancy Brown Park, National President, presided over the annual dinner as the National Chairman gave their reports, resolutions were considered and the newly elected officers were installed. Our congratulations to:

- National President - Janet Jofford, Connecticut
- National Vice President – Sharon Conatser, Illinois
- National Chaplain – Karen Boehrer, Colorado
- National Secretary – Cindy England, Missouri
- National Vice President of the Northwestern Division – Leri Skiffen, Minnesota
- National President Jofford has choosen as her theme: “Celebrating Faith, Family and Freedom.” We need to let our own members know what great things this organization does for veterans, children and our communities.

**NATIONAL AWARDS**

Minnesota proudly accepted the following National awards at our 2014 National Convention:

- Americanism – Essay Contest winners:
  - Class III Carson Anderson, Unit 330 Hayfield District 1; Class IV Claudina Williams, Unit 368 Backus District 6
- Education – NW Division - Department of Minnesota, Most Outstanding Overall Department Education Program - Department Chairman Louise Kleiboer
- Education – NW Division – Department of Minnesota
- Leadership – Distinguished Unit Award – (NW Division) – Department of Minnesota
- Leadership Development Award – Joanne Joachim Unit 580 St. Bonifacius District 3
- Legislation – NW Division – Most Outstanding Overall Department Legislative Program – Department Chairman Chris Ronning
- Membership – Milestone 1 (55%), Milestone 2 (70%), Milestone 3 (85%) – Department of Minnesota
- National Security – Military Support Award – Elsie Novotny, Shakopee Unit 2 District 3
- Poppy – Poppy Poster Contest Class IV – Gemma Ivette

Fredrickson was named Northwestern Division National Member of the Year.

Glenville American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 264, and the District 1 Executive Committee have endorsed Sandy Fredrickson for Department President for 2015-2016. She is eligible through her husband, Dennis, a Vietnam veteran and her father, Arlington Hillman, deceased WWII veteran. The Fredricksons have two sons and three grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. She is employed as a RN, nurse case manager at Mayo Clinic Health Systems, Albert Lea. Fredrickson is a member of 1st Lutheran Church, Glenville where Sandy is the church council secretary. She is a 34 year member of Glenville Unit and has served in almost every office and chairmanship. Fredrickson has also served in the chairs in District One serving as President 2002-2003. She serves as District treasurer this year.

The National Convention has come and gone and each year our national leadership is passed on to some very knowledgeable ladies. This is one of my favorite events and Minnesota is always very well represented.

I was invited by the ladies from the Barnesville Unit for a luncheon. Several Auxiliary members from other Units were also present. Then, we hit Legionville for a little fun and our first Department Rally. We had a great turn out and membership turn in. After residing in the Presidents cabin for a few days I think it will be hard to stay in the dorm next year.

Since then I have attended a Town Hall meeting at St. Cloud VA, attended the VA&R meeting held in Buffalo, Early bird dinners, Brain Science meeting, Legionville meeting and Past Presidents luncheon in Waite Park.

One of the dinners was held in Levisville, what a great turn out for such a small town. We had a little entertainment by a Unit member that was 90 years old and played a couple of songs on the piano for us - I don’t think she missed a key.

My calendar is filling up very fast and Marland and I will be traveling quite a bit. I am so excited to meet many of the Unit members throughout our great state.

Now it is time to get ready for our Fall Conference and buckle down. There is a lot of preparation to do and our Staff in the office are working hard to make it another successful Conference. This Conference is open to all members and as our Department Chairmen give their reports on their programs you will be able to ask questions, go home with new ideas and meet other Unit members. Each Unit member and Unit is unique in their own way and by sharing new ideas it might just rejuvenate other Units. This Conference is not just a learning experience, it is also a fun time. We all need a little laughter in our lives and Saturday morning is just the right time to do that as we again have our membership pay outs. Membership Chairman Judy Ackerman will make sure that everyone goes home with a smile. There will be memories and lots of knowledge to take home to your Unit members and maybe we will get more members to come to our Conferences and Convention.

In my travels I have crossed paths with our Department Commander Peggy Moon. You might have not noticed, but this lady always has a smile on her face and it is catching.

In October we celebrate Columbus Day and also the birth of Liberty was declared on the 28th of October 1886. Since I have become an American Citizen she has always been THE LADY to me.

October is also Education month and Constitution and Bylaws month. You can find these documents in the Unit Mail.

I hope to see many of you at the Conference and hope to get to talk to you for a few minutes. If you would like me to visit your Unit, let Secretary Sandie Deutsch know and I can put it on my calendar.

Keep our Service men and women in your prayers and let our government know just how important it is to us that they get the proper care and support they have earned to defend this country.

God bless.

SANDY FREDRICKSON

Fredrickson endorsed for 2015 President
Auxiliary Bulletin
Continued from Preceding Page
Northwestern Division Legislation Chairman, Peggy Tesdahl was named Northwestern Division Education Chairman. Cindy Opland was named Northwestern Division Junior Activities Chairman. If you see any of these ladies please take a moment and congratulate them. This is a large task and they have taken on along with their continued involvement with our own Department.

REMINDERS - FALL CONFERENCE
Don’t forget the Poppy Contests at our Fall Conference. Any member, senior or junior, may enter these contests with as many entries as you want to make. See the first Unit mailing for complete particulars and rules. Entries must be at the conference no later than 9:00 a.m. on Friday, October 24th for judging.
Our Auxiliary Emergency Fund Chairman, Jean Horacek, will hold a silent auction at the Conference to raise funds for this program. Items donated should be something you would want to receive as a gift yourself. As you know, American Legion Auxiliary members bring items. All items should be brought Thursday or early Friday morning. Bidding will be on Friday only. Bring your items and check them in upon your arrival. We are looking for “Theme Baskets” – they can be from individuals, Units or Districts. There will be a Cookie, jelly or jam sale also held at Fall Conference. There also will be a “Goodwill” Bell District Donation Wall for everyone. Jean urges everyone to be sure and bring CASH!!

2015 POPPY ORDERS
Orders for the 2015 Poppies are now being accepted. An order form will be in the next Unit mailing. Prices are: standard poppy for $20.00 per 100; $18.00 per 100 if you order 500 or more; $16.00 each if ordering over 1000; and the Poppy Window Display card at $50 each. Each member can order up to 1000. We will start shipping the poppies according to the dates you enter on your order form. Orders have been coming in and we have already shipped some out!

2015 GIRLS STATE
As your Unit is planning its budget for this 2014-15 Auxiliary year, be certain to consider the needs funded to send at least one girl to American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State. Give the young women in your community an opportunity to experience this week long learning of government and Americanism by doing. The registration fee of $300.00 is due no later than March 31st. If your Unit can’t afford the $300.00 fee consider partner- ing with another Unit and splitting the fee. Remember that you can send in money to sponsor a girl even if you don’t have one. We always have a list of girls who would like to attend but the Unit cannot afford it. Posts, Squadrons and other organizations can sponsor girls along with parents. Just have them send their money to your Unit. Units may sponsor more than one girl from the same high school. Plan now to contact your schools and raise the necessary funds to provide this most educational experience to members of your high school Junior class. The dates for this year are June 7-12, 2015 at the University of St. Thomas.

"RENEW, RECRUIT, REJUVINATE"
Due notices have been sent out by the National organization. Be certain to make that personal contact with your members, letting them know how important they are to your Unit and to the American Legion Auxiliary.
Shade your enthusiasm and what your Unit does with your community. Ask others to join you. Use every member’s skills to make for a successful membership campaign. Involve all your Unit activities. Remember, every member has her own special talents to bring to your Unit. She is important.
The first Department target was for every Unit to be at/above 25% of goal by September 6. Goal #1 is 55% by October 1. Goal #2 is 65% by noon on October 24 at Fall Conference.

VA HOSPITAL RESORT
At this time Mary Ann Davis, at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center, is in need of laundry bags and neck pillows. Please hold off on heart pillows at this time. She has a large need for these items and they have taken on along with their continued involvement with our own Department.

SECRETARY SANDIE’S NOTES
It has been a wild and crazy couple of months with two Constituency Department and National cruise along with attending for Department Fall Conference. You should have all received your membership notices by now. Everyone please get your dues paid early. We are way down on the totem pole and I would like to see us reach the top for President Chris. Remember to bring your items for the Silent Auction, especially those wonderful baskets. My husband can’t get away from work so I will be on the loose with my cell phone - those baskets are like an addiction to me. Always remember, the Department Office is here if you need anything just call. Hope to see many of you at Fall Conference in Mahnomen.

Constitution and Bylaws new program
The American Legion Auxiliary is in need of laundry bags and neck pillows. Please get your dues paid early. We are way down on the totem pole and I would like to see us reach the top for President Chris. Remember to bring your items for the Silent Auction, especially those wonderful baskets. My husband can’t get away from work so I will be on the loose with my cell phone - those baskets are like an addiction to me. Always remember, the Department Office is here if you need anything just call. Hope to see many of you at Fall Conference in Mahnomen.

NORMA TRAMM
October 2014 Minnesota Legionnaire Page 15
Focus on Education
October is the month that we focus on Education. The American Legion Auxiliary continues to support this program in many ways. 1. Our Scholarships make it possible for students to obtain an education beyond high school. Is this among your budget items? It does not have to be a lot of money even $10 donated by over 300 units and individual donations will be significant. 2. Help within the schools by “Give 10 to Education” or your volunteer efforts in the local school. 3. Recognize those who work with our children to give them a quality education. American Education Week is November 17 – 21. Did you know that The American Legion was instrumen- tal in the effort to raise public awareness of the impor- tance of education? Read more in the October Unit mailing.

Auxiliary Membership as of Sept 16, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>9-16 Total</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Goal</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
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<td>412</td>
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<td>5,947</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Table showing Auxiliary Membership as of Sept 16, 2014](image)

- **KAREN THYGESON**
  - Constitution and Bylaws Chairman
  - Vice President of Membership
  - Member at large for the 12th District

- **NORMA TRAMM**
  - Minnesota State President
  - Illustrator for the Minnesota Legionnaire

American Legionランスキンレビュー

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18 watersports available, 1 night minimum, 2 night package must be used. Nearby golf courses and dining.
Call to learn about a Veterans Package.

**Clear Clutter For A Cause**
We will not be holding our annual Clutter Bash. We will be holding a 2nd sale vs. May 2015.
For more information please see us at our website http://www.clutternique.com
WWW.CLUTTERNIQUE.COM
Free assessments are made.

**VETERANS NEW ATTENTION**
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**BLUE'S RESORTS FOR DISABLED VETERANS**
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Dan Severson is a veteran and member of the U.S. Navy. He and his family own, operate and photograph in a business that is independently owned by the Department of Defense.