For the third Department Executive Committee meeting in a row, the hot topic was the American Legion Riders. In July, the DEC was made aware that it had never voted on the Riders’ constitution which had been presented to the committee a couple of years ago. In August, the DEC decided not to approve the Riders’ constitution because of liability issues brought forth by then Judge Advocate Don Walser and Adjutant Randy Tesdahl. Neither were at the recent meeting in Mahnomen – Walser has retired and Tesdahl is out on sick leave — but the issue was still on the front burner.

Scuffy Paulson, a Legionnaire from Rushford Post 94 and president of the Department’s Riders, gave the executive board a history lesson on the emergence of the Riders in recent years.

The origin of the Riders was in Michigan, and it quickly spread to other states including Minnesota. In 2010, the state’s Riders began to work on a constitution in order to establish a statewide organization. The Riders are considered by The American Legion as a post program.

It took many meetings to get the Riders to agree on a constitution. “It was a big deal to get all of us on the same page,” said Bill Sloan, an expert on the The American Legion Riders.

Sloan was the featured speaker at the Fall Conference, and his subject was the Riders. Sloan is an assistant director of Internal Affairs for The American Legion Riders. While he provided nearly two hours of information on the Riders from his national perspective, he shied away from addressing Minnesota’s problem specifically. “We must let the Riders and the Departments figure this out for themselves.”

In Minnesota, the Riders have proposed a constitution, but the Department has not approved it mainly because of liability issues.

“We’re not at the point yet where we’re going to step in,” Sloan said.

“I hope you have fears about liability and other things, but you can work it out.”

Sloan noted that he has not received calls for help from Minnesota in four or five years. “That’s an indication of strong leadership in the Department and strong leadership in the Riders.”

For God and Country

November 2014

Volume 96, Number 11

Riders still dominate Department discussion

State’s ALR asks DEC again for OK of constitution

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Continued on Page 2

National’s Sloan says it’s a decision for the Department

If the Department of Minnesota was looking for an easy answer to its quandary over passing a constitution for the American Legion Riders in the state, it didn’t get one from Bill Sloan.

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Continued on Page 2

Leading candidate Barnett welcomes his third career opportunity

Dale Barnett has had two careers and is about to embark on another.

Barnett, the leading candidate for National Commander, spoke at the Fall Conference in Mahnomen.

“I had no intention of having a career in the military,” he said. “All I wanted to be was a high school teacher and coach.”

But an appointment to West Point after high school changed all that. After graduation and commissioning in 1974, he began a 22-year career in the Army.

Although he didn’t serve in Vietnam, he witnessed how veterans were treated when they came home from that war. “Shame on American society and shame on our history.”

He said veterans since then owe a lot to the Vietnam veterans who made sure that the country has never treated returning soldiers and sailors in that way again.

Barnett served in the first Gulf War in mechanized infantry unit and earned a Bronze Star. He retired in 1996 as a lieutenant colonel and began his second career and first love: high school teaching.

Barnett applied to teach in a very tough school in Atlanta. “That was really a combat job.”

When he applied for the job, he was asked why someone with no teaching experience would be qualified to teach in such a challenging school. Barnett told of his Army background. “And he recognized what a veteran can bring to the job force.”

At the school he introduced both the Oratorical Contest and Boys State as opportunities for the youth. He coached various sports including cross country where his teams won regional titles. He was named teacher of the year in 2005-2006 at his high school.

He retired from teaching in 2011, and next year he will likely be elected the commander of the nation’s largest veterans group. “I’m now embarking on the capstone run of my life.”

He said his theme would be the famous Army motto: Duty, honor, country.

“All of us showed our duty by coming into the military service — and now by being members of The American Legion. We do so much to help veterans and their families.”

Honor, he said, was often represented in the military by the uniform. “But now all we wear is our Legion cap. But people recognize the Legion and respect what we do.”

And finally – country. “There’s no country I’d rather live in than the United States of America, and I’m proud to say that.” He said the Legion plays a key role in the nation as a promoter of patriotism.
Resolution 35 guides Legion Rider program

FROM RESOLUTION 35 AS VOTED ON BY THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION ON OCTOBER 17-18, 2007 AND AMENDED BY RESOLUTION 32 BY THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION ON MAY 4-5, 2011

All American Legion Rider groups must be a program supported by a Post or Department of The American Legion and shall uphold the declared principles of The American Legion as well as conform to and abide by the regulations and decisions of the Department, Post or other duly constituted Department governing body.

The following guidelines are recommended for The ALR program of The American Legion:

All members of The American Legion Riders shall be current members of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion
Each ALR member shall establish and maintain membership by owning, individually or through marriage, a motorcycle licensed and insured as required by state law
ALR programs may allow for continued membership for those members who have given up motorcycle ownership because of age, illness, injury, or other reasons outside the member's control
All ALR members shall strive to maintain the image of The American Legion, at all times upholding The American Legion name and emblem, which symbolizes the integrity of the organization
All The ALR groups shall avoid the perception of being a "motorcycle club" or biker club
The only recognized The American Legion Rider logo is that which is copyrighted and sold through The American Legion National Emblem sales
All Members will obey the motorcycle laws of their state
No use of rockers with the ALR patch because touching the patch violates trademark laws of the ALR patch
Sponsoring organization (Post and Department) will review liability insurance coverage to ensure that adequate coverage is available to cover the organization to include coverage for any specific special riding events
American Legion Riders groups shall abide by The American Legion Constitution and By-laws as well as the established Post and Department directives
The American Legion National and the respective Departments shall maintain general oversight of ALR program as regards proper use of the name and emblem of The American Legion, ALR and The American Legion Legacy Run, and compliance with the National Constitution and By-Laws of The American Legion.

Sloan

Continued from Page 1

He pointed to Resolution 35, first passed by the National Executive Committee in 2007, as the official stance on the Riders. It says, he noted, that Riders are “a program supported by a post or department.”

Sloan pointed to the fact that all of the guidelines in Resolution 35 are recommendations and not requirements.

“We didn’t want to force it, and we didn’t want to limit it. We didn’t want to tell people, ‘You have to do it this way,’ ” he said.

“I think this organization is much better because we have the loose guidelines,” he said.

Sloan also talked about the Legacy Scholarship Fund which was created to give scholarships to the children of military killed after 9/11. He said that the Riders have been so successful in raising money for the scholarship (currently $8 million) that there has been some talk of capping the fund.

He also noted that there is a federal program, the Fry Scholarship, that is very similar to the Legacy Scholarship Fund.

Sloan said the national Legion “is examining other ways we can help active duty personnel and their dependents.” He said it would probably be years before that decision would be made.
Endorsements

John W. Milbrath was endorsed by Elysian Post 311 for the position of District Commander for the First District and Third District American Legion Department of Minnesota for the year 2015-2016. Milbrath is a paid up for life member of The American Legion, a dual member of the Sons of the American Legion, a member of the VFW Post 1562 in Faribault and a member of the 40/8 of Voiture Locale 281 in Mankato.

At the county level, Milbrath is currently the County Commander for Le Sueur County Council, and served as a Vice Commander for 2 years. At his home Post, he is a Past Commander, a member of the Executive Board for 12 years, and a member of the Color Guard for 15 years. For the Post, he also served as Service Officer, Adjutant, 2nd Vice Commander, and 1st Vice Commander. Currently, he is the Post’s Finance Officer.

In the Third District, he was District Commander for 2010-2011, and served the District as a Vice Commander and as Membership Director. Currently, he is the Chairperson for the Children and Youth Committee.

At the Department he was appointed to serve on the Brain Science Foundation, and currently appointed to the Legionnaire Insurance Trust Program.

He served 3 years active duty in the Navy on the U.S.S. Kitty Hawk Aircraft Carrier CVA-63 from 1962-65.

Milbrath worked his way through Mankato State College and received a B.S degree in Business Administration and a Minor in Sociology.

He has three children and two grandchildren. His wife Rita is a member of the Auxiliary Unit at Post 311.

10th District seeks help for revitalization

The 10th district will be holding a District revitalization, December 2-5. Working with the National organization, the District as a Vice Commander, and 1st Vice Commander. Currently, he is the Post’s Finance Officer.

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The 10th district will be holding a District revitalization, December 2-5. Working with the National organization, the district will be contacting at-large members, form the national lists that have not been released to the Department, along with veterans who have never joined The American Legion.

The scope of the revitalization will be all of suburban Hennepin County, Anoka County, and the city of Otsego, in Wright County.

“We are looking for our fellow legionnaire’s help, in staging this effort,” said Membership Director Bill Johnson. “Our primary need is people who are willing to contact prospects, to be assigned to a local post in the area. You will need a cell phone and a charger. We will have prepared scripts for you to use.

“We also will need people to do correct contact, by either dropping off literature, or talking to prospective member personally. If you are uncomfortable doing this, don’t be afraid to volunteer. We will find a job for you.”

Volunteers can also take back valuable information to show the other Districts in the Department how it is done.

“Talking to members of the 4th and 5th Districts, it went so well they plan to do another one in March,” Johnson said.

If you would like to join in this effort, contact Bill Johnson at 763-424-2229, or by email Johnson at billdms@yahoo.com. You can also mail him at: 10404 Yorktown LN, Maple Grove, MN 55369. Please include what dates and times you are available for Wednesday and Thursday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Friday 8 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. There will be a training session on Tuesday afternoon, on Dec. 2.

A Christmas gift for the reader in your family

Give the gift of Minnesota military history to your loved one.

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USAA endorsed for Vice Cdr.

JOHN MILBRATH

USAA’s values mirror those of The American Legion.

We believe the military community, veterans who have honorably served and their eligible family members deserve a higher level of service. Like The American Legion, our commitment to service is a core part of everything we do.

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USAA means United Services Automobile Association and its insurance, banking, investment and other companies. USAA products are available to current and former military members and their eligible family members where USAA is authorized to sell them. Purchase of products and/or services other than through the USAA Choice Program where USAA is not authorized to sell them is voluntary. Purchase of a product other than USAA auto or property insurance does not affect your premium for an insurance policy offered through the USAA Insurance Agency, does not establish eligibility for, or membership in, USAA property and casualty insurance companies. Life of the term “member” or “members only” does not convey any eligibility for or rights to auto or property insurance products, or legal or membership rights in USAA. Ownership rights are limited to eligible policyholders of USAA Life Insurance Company. “Member only” means the person is an eligible employee or eligible family member of a USAA member. Purchase of USAA products and services is voluntary. “Honorably” Membership and product eligibility and underwriting restrictions apply and are subject to change. Eligible former dependents of USAA members in a purchase value and property by owner of the member located USAA auto property insurance. The American Legion women’s financial support from (USAA) its ownership. ©2014 USAA. 392964-67154

Minneapolis Legionnaire accredited for pain rehab program

The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) International announced that the Minneapolis VA’s CRP Program has been accredited for the maximum accreditation period of three years.

This is an important acknowledgment from an independent organization that our Veterans are receiving high quality pain care,” said Michael Armstrong, MD, Chief of the Minneapolis VA’s Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Service.

The Minneapolis VA’s CRP Program began in early 2014, serving veterans throughout a six state area. To date, 12 veterans have successfully completed the program.

The program provides an intensive, interdisciplinary four-week outpatient treatment program for Veterans with chronic pain. The program focuses on improving the quality of life and functioning of the whole person – not just the site(s) of pain. This is done by addressing all of the factors that are impacted by chronic pain like complex physical functioning, mood, work, leisure/hobby activities, and relationships.

Working with a team of pain specialists (physicians, psychologists, pharmacists, nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapists and recreational therapists), participants join others with chronic pain to learn about and practice skills to achieve greater control over their pain and when a cure isn’t possible. Throughout the group-based program, various types of pain specialists will help each participant improve self-management of their pain symptoms and return to a more active and fulfilling life.

CARF International is an independent, nonprofit accrediting body whose mission is to promote the quality, value, and optimal outcomes of services through a consultative accreditation process and continuous improvement services that center on enhancing the lives of the persons served.
Happy November. Time is sure going by fast.

We have all just returned from our 2014 American Legion Department of Minnesota Fall Conference, and with a wonderful weekend we had. Thank you very much for taking time out of your busy schedules to attend this conference. I’m sure you learned a lot about all of our programs, and are as excited as I am to see them fruition.

This past week, I was honored to attend the 14th annual Mail Call Tour, sponsored by the American Legion Post Unit, 10th District, and Squardron 16 for all the hard work and dedication you gave to deliver to us a very well run event. The registration went exceptionally smooth thanks to all of you. If there were any issues that cropped up along the way, Conference Chairman Denise Milton took care of them immediately. I also want to thank Al Zdon for being the Chair of this event.

Our one snag in the entire event was that Department Adjutant Randy Tesdahl and Department Service Officer Tom Newman were unable to join us. Unfortunately, Randy fell the week before, obviously trying to maneuver into the world, and he was needed at home. Randy fell the week before, obviously trying to maneuver into the world, and he was needed at home.

This was a great opportunity to learn how you can help your district grow as well.

For those of you that are keeping track of my mileage - I am now up to 11,023 miles. It’s been a wonderful month of membership dinners, deer hunting experiences, another trip to Indianapolis, and many, many committee meetings. I was energized once again by the camaraderie and passion of our membership, and all the volunteer work it takes to institute them. However, on top of the mileage, I have also had to replace one of my tires. It’s a good thing I got that over a rebah in a parking lot, and the darn thing was completely unrepairable. One brand-spank new tire is now ready for recycling. After a few hours at the best time, I had to do the job myself. You don’t often find this same connection and involvement with your friends that same sense of support and caring of one veteran for another in a private facility.

Without a doubt, the success of the VA health care system is fully accredited by the national health care inspection teams from the Joint Commission and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid. Many members have been full of letters asking what the legion was going to do about this travesty. I have been a member of the Legion for 41 years and for the first time I am ashamed of this nation, that same connection and involvement of your friends. We rarely find that same sense of support and caring of one veteran for another in a private facility.

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Veteran Photos Sought

Minnesota and Wisconsin communities with an Associated Bank outlet will be creating a display of veterans and active duty military personnel in uniform. The photos will be displayed in the front windows of each branch in the city. There will be competitions among the10 Associated Bank outlets in each state to be awarded in a ceremony on November 11. The winning participants will receive a $1,000 gift certificate to an Associated Bank outlet.

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Veterans Day in St. Cloud

The St. Cloud Metropolitan Veterans Council will help sponsor the 5th annual Veterans Day Parade on Sunday, Nov. 11. For more information, contact the St. Cloud VA Medical Center, proceed across 44th Street and end at Apollo High School. The parade will be at 1 p.m. The council will also sponsor a Veterans Day Program at 1:30 p.m. on Nov. 11 in Building 8 (Auditiorium) at the St. Cloud VA. Jeremy Wolfsteller, the Department of Minnesota Assistant Service Office, will provide the keynote address. Veterans and the public are welcome.

Wolfsteller give Jaycee award for young Minnesotan

Jeremy Wolfsteller, the Assistant Department Service Officer for the Department of Minnesota, has been recognized with the Minnesota Jaycees Ten Outstanding Young Minnesotan Award. Wolfsteller is a combat-wounded veteran who works with other veterans at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center. He was given this award at a recent meeting of the Hopkins City Council. He qualifies as an entrant into the Ten Outstanding Young Americans award.

The election of Wolfsteller, a 2013 graduate of the University of Minnesota, has been given out in Minnesota since 1951 and it recognizes the efforts of young adults who have contributed to our state through service, thought and influence, community involvement or entrepreneurship.

Those awarded the TYOM through the years include Walter Mondale, Dave Winfield, Tim Penny, Paul Douglas, Wheelock Whitney and Al Ziden.

Veterans 4 Veterans grants $5,000 to Shop, Ship, and Share

At the October Minnesota Veterans 4 Veterans Trust Fund monthly meeting, a grant for $5,000 was awarded to the “Shop, Ship, and Share” program. The council will also sponsor a Veterans Day Program at 1:30 p.m. on Nov. 11 in Building 8 (Auditiorium) at the St. Cloud VA. Jeremy Wolfsteller, the Department of Minnesota Assistant Service Office, will provide the keynote address. Veterans and the public are welcome.

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Wolfsteller give Jaycee award for young Minnesotan

Jeremy Wolfsteller, the Assistant Department Service Officer for the Department of Minnesota, has been recognized with the Minnesota Jaycees Ten Outstanding Young Minnesotan Award. Wolfsteller is a combat-wounded veteran who works with other veterans at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center. He was given this award at a recent meeting of the Hopkins City Council. He qualifies as an entrant into the Ten Outstanding Young Americans award.

The election of Wolfsteller, a 2013 graduate of the University of Minnesota, has been given out in Minnesota since 1951 and it recognizes the efforts of young adults who have contributed to our state through service, thought and influence, community involvement or entrepreneurship.

Those awarded the TYOM through the years include Walter Mondale, Dave Winfield, Tim Penny, Paul Douglas, Wheelock Whitney and Al Ziden.

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Greetings from the Big Red First.

This month is Veteran's Day-Nov 11th. Let us honor those that have served, those that are in active duty at this time and especially those dedicated veterans.

In observance of Veteran's Day, I will be attending the Triton Public School Veteran's Day program with other military veterans.

On September 27th, I had the privilege to go to Camp Ripley for the district commander outing. The weather was great for a change.

During the week preceding the rally and is given to help motivate that District to "get a leg up" on membership. I was unable to attend the Rally, due to work, but our posts, my stand-in Vice Commander Dewayne Collins, and our Membership Director Jim Lacs, did an outstanding job. Needless to say "Thank You 9th District" for keeping that "thing" for another year. I also want to thank Mel Buesseiler, Department Vice Commander for the 6th & 9th, for putting the Rally together.

Secondly, the Rally was rather well attended but the training seminar was a bit disappointing. As Vice Commander for the 6th & 9th, for putting the Rally together.

The Department Fall Conference will have come and gone before the time you are reading this article. I have been looking forward to seeing everyone especially my fellow District Commanders. There should be lots of good information discussion and exchange of ideas at the conference. Please encourage your friends, their family, their co-workers and their neighbors. It is up to us to ensure that every veteran feels that his or her service is appreciated by the people around them. There are many ways that we can acknowledge their sacrifice, but the easiest is to simply say, "Thank you for what you have done for our country." If a veteran is not comfortable sharing his or her experiences of unhappiness or doubts, encourage him to seek help through the VA immediately. If you know of a friend, a family member, a co-worker or a member of our Post that is struggling with their life, encourage them to seek help through the VA immediately.

Veterans' Day is fast approaching. Please encourage your loved ones to vote. I have learned that my father served in Korea 1950 -1951. I was not able to attend the Rally, due to work, but our posts, my stand-in Vice Commander Dewayne Collins, and our Membership Director Jim Lacs, did an outstanding job. Needless to say "Thank You 9th District" for keeping that "thing" for another year. I also want to thank Mel Buesseiler, Department Vice Commander for the 6th & 9th, for putting the Rally together.

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Greetings from the Fighting Fifth.

Being a Field Commander for the 5th District has been very rewarding and busy. I am looking forward to the rest of the year being very enjoyable. I went with the group on the VA housing inspection on the 18th of July. We visited various veterans homes in the group of 18 Legislators. We gave out needed supplies that they wanted. Our most popular item was playing cards. The group went out to the 10th District conference slated to be in Mahnomen at the Shooting Star Casino sponsored by Bagley Post 16. This should be a enjoyable conference.

This year the Commanders project is a recliner chair with wheels for the VA Hospital. The head nurse said that this is a good deal for us. For more information call 800-433-3318.

Now is the time to start planning your Christmas Program and New Year Party.

The American Legion is for veterans, their family, and community. Keep up your good work. God Bless The American Legion, America and our friends.

GREETINGS FROM THE BIG RED FIRST DISTRICT

Greetings from the Great Arrowhead 8th District of the Minnesota American Legion.

The Eight District is very fortunate to have so many agencies helping veterans. There are two VA Community Based Outpatient Clinics, a Minnesota Veterans Home; one of three Vet Centers in Minnesota; a MACV center; and several highly qualified County and Tribal Veterans Service Officers. We would like the entire state to know the concerns we have for our Nations veterans in this Eight District of The American Legion.

We will go to the polls and cast our ballots for the people to lead our country by making laws that affect all of us.

There is no one else who has earned the right to vote more than the veteran who has sworn an oath to defend and protect this great country. We veterans have earned the right and have an obligation to partake of that right. Vote November 4th.

Opportunity for the members of the 8th District members exists. After the smoke clears and the legislators have been elected, get to know them. Speak to them about issues affecting veterans. One issue to be discussed affects veter- an’s funerals. The funding has been cut for active duty service members attending the funeral of a deceased veteran. The veterans of the 8th District will be directly affected. The dignity needed at a veteran’s funeral is being hindered by the lack of funding. We need to talk to our legislators and have the budget reinstated.

Membership is a responsibility of each member all we have to do is ask. Membership in The American Legion is a power.

Greetings American Legion Family.

As I write this month's article I want to tell the "Legion Family" what this month means to me. This month means remembering all who served, and all that have paid the ultimate price for our freedom will never be forgotten. Remembering our Veterans on Veterans Day is very special for me. I was born on November 9th, 1920 to 1952 and now rests with God. He like many other veterans never spoke about his experience while he served. It wouldn’t be until years later that I would learn that my father had seen things that were not worth mentioning.

My Dad never showed signs of PTSD. He I think was very strong at heart and family kept him sane. We see some of our veterans coming back that are struggling with their experiences away from home. There are programs to help with these veterans and "Helping Paws" is the 10th Districts Family Service Program that this year will be providing special support from donations. I hope the "Blue Cappers" out there can help support our combined project and want to thank the ones that have already gave us support.

November 15th the 10th District will have a Rally hosted by the Monticello Post #26 at 2 p.m. I’m hoping for a huge "turn out and turn in" of membership and new rally goers. We get our close to the end of the year and we know by past history it will be getting tougher to get those members signed up.

As I have in the past and will continue to do in the future I thank all you who have served or are still serving and are supporting our troops today. Caps off to you. For God and Country.
Notes from the Fall Conference

The 2014 Fall Conference was held at the Shooting Star Casino in Mahnomen, sponsored by Bagley Post 16.

Conference highlights included:
-- Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs Acting Deputy Brad Lindsey said that the state’s $50 reimbursement for military funerals has not changed. Federal funding has been cut back.
-- Assistant Department Service Officer Jeremy Wolfsheuer gave a report on the Rehabilitation Committee. He said that the new $1 million entryway into the Minneapolis VA Medical Center was complete. He said the money from the project did not come from patient care funds. An expansion of the center’s emergency department is now underway.
-- Several Legionnaires described how they go about recruiting students for Boys State. Jim Copher, Mound, said that the Minnesota State veterans at the post need to go down to the school and meet the principal and counselors. Bert Math, New Ulm, said it was important that seniors who had been to the Boys State talk to potential juniors. Larry Poczobut, Hibbing, said it was important to start early, and that last year’s Boys Staters could alleviate the concerns of the new boys. Ken Meyer of Pequot Lakes said it was a pizza party at the post for all applicants and their parents. Lee Tallackson of St. Louis Park said it wasn’t unfamiliar to The American Legion.

The Department’s National Security and Foreign Relations Committee presented its awards for Guard and Reserve service members at the Fall Conference:
-- SSG John Angelo, Army National Guard, St. Paul
-- SSG Todd Turner Army National Guard, Sauk Centre
-- MSGT Bryce Hanson, Air National Guard, Glencoe
-- SGT Clay Rich, Marine Corps Reserve, Apple Valley
-- PST Jessica Mayberry, Naval Reserve, Rosemount
-- TSgt Michael Johnson, Air Force Reserve, Lakeville.

Legion launches new media campaign

A letter has been distributed from National Adjutant Dan Wheeler advising about a new American Legion media campaign.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
The American Legion is launching a national awareness campaign to raise funds to help our organization assist veterans, their families, young people and communities.

The first installment of that campaign will focus on the mental health needs of veterans, particularly those who are battling the signature wounds of today’s war: PTSD and traumatic brain injury (TBI).

Because these messages will air nationally and before audiences that may be unfamiliar with The American Legion and its services, you may receive calls, visits and other communications from veterans in need, or their families.

If the request is routine, please handle as you usually would, as being a service organization.

If the need is urgent, refer the veteran or family member to a VA emergency support service, such as:
* Texting service: 838255
* Online chat service: www.VeteransCrisisLine.net

If a veteran comes to you or your post as a result of the message, please be welcoming and helpful.

Offer him or her the services of the nearest accredited American Legion service officer, who can easily be found online at www.legion.org/service-officers or connect the veteran to local resources through your post service officer or other members.

Please feel free to contact Chuck Krupa, Managing Director of Non-Member Fundraising at 317-860-3030 or ckrupa@legion.org if you have any further questions.

DANIEL S. WHEELER National Adjutant

As reported at the fall meetings, The American Legion is launching a national awareness campaign to raise funds to help our organization assist veterans, their families, young people and communities.

The first installment of that campaign will focus on the mental health needs of veterans, particularly those who are battling the signature wounds of today’s war: PTSD and traumatic brain injury (TBI).

The campaign will launch beginning on Tuesday of this week in various national networks and time slots.

Membership Chart
As of Oct. 15, 2014

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V4V Board Member Marland Ronning presented a check for $20,000 from V4V to the Auxiliary for the Gift Shop program. Marland’s wife, Chris Ronning, Auxiliary president, thought the donation was going to be for $10,000. Department Commander Peggy Moon helped out in the presentation.

Legionnaires filled the conference room at Shooting Star Casino.

The Big Three were introduced to the conference goers during the Grand March on Friday night. From left: President Chris Ronning, SAL Commander Dennis Henkemeyer, and Commander Peggy Moon.

Bloomington Post 550 presented a check for $22,000 for Legionville, Commander Moon’s project for the year. Presenting was Paul Hassing, a member of the post.

Floyd Kumerow of Lamberton was named the SAL’s Legionnaire of the Year. Presenting were Commanders Moon and Henkemeyer.

SAL Commander Dennis Henkemeyer addressed the Fall Conference at Mahnomen.

Scuffy Paulson of the Rushford Post 84, president of the American Legion Riders in Minnesota, made his case before the Department Executive Committee why the ALR’s constitution should be approved.

Buffalo presented a check for $10,000 for Legionville, the third of three installments. Presenting for the post were Bruce Kottom and Bonnie Hanson.
Jerry Whitcomb of Kimball won the Volunteer of the Year Award from Operation Post Home. Accepting was Tess Davis, who nominated him. Presenting were Commander Moon and Chairman Denise Milton.

Auxiliary butterflies adorned the stage during the annual membership skit. From left are Junior Honorary President Jules Efta, President Chris Ronning, First Vice President Sandy Fredrickson and Second Vice President Carol Kottom.

Two future butterflies waited to emerge from their cocoons. Carol Kottom and Sandy Fredrickson spread their wings later.

Auxiliary Membership Chairman Judy Ackerman was the butterfly keeper.

Honorary Junior President Jules Efta spoke to the Legionnaires at Mahnomen.

Auxiliary President Chris Ronning came down the hallway to speak to the Legion session.

Membership Director Pat Logan led the audience in a rendition of “Take me out to the Ballgame.”

Northwest Division Vice President Lori Skallerud from Madison spoke to the Legionnaires.

Minnesota supported National Commander Candidate Dale Barnett with a check to defray campaign costs. Presenting was National Executive Committeeman Ray DeZurik and Commander Peggy Moon.
Bucky Bacaner joined the Merchant Marine in 1942 and his adventures included being torpedoed and spending 14 days at sea in a rubber boat. After the war he helped being Jewish refugees into Palestine, and after that he invented and patented a drug that saved a president’s life.

Merchant Marine was just the first of his adventures

By Al Zidon

Bucky Bacaner has had one of those lives from which great stories abound.

A tough kid from Chicago’s west side, his resume includes Merchant Marine duty in World War II, bringing Holocaust survivors to Palestine through the British blockade after the war, and a long stint as a researcher at the University of Minnesota where he invented a drug that not only saved the life of a president, but also the movie character ET.

It all started in Chicago. “You had to be tough to grow up there during the Depression,” he said.

Marvin Bacaner was born in 1923 to Jacob and Minnie Bacaner. His father was a Jewish immigrant from Russia who was drafted into the Russian Army in 1914 to fight in World War I.

“My father always said he felt more danger from the anti-Semites in his own army than the enemy.” Finally one day, Jacob Bacaner threw away his weapon and his cap, pulled his pants outside his boots and simply walked away from the army. He made his way to America and settled in Chicago where his brother lived.

The elder Bacaner learned English from reading the newspapers and listening to the radio, and he managed to get a position selling insurance. “We were very fortunate that my father had a good job. He took care of our family and the whole extended family.”

The Chicago neighborhood was filled with different ethnic groups. “It was a very tough neighborhood and full of anti-Semites. Sometimes you had to get into a couple of fights just coming home from school.”

Bacaner was big and athletic, and few people picked on him. During the eighth grade, he saw a flyer advertising boxing lessons from Benny Leonard, the former lightweight champion of the world and one of the greatest boxers of all time.

“Benny told me I was good enough to turn pro, but I told him Golden Gloves. I won the Midwest Division in my class.

“Benny Leonard taught us this boxing move. It was two quick left jabs, followed by a right cross the body. As soon as the opponent drops his guard, you hit him in the head with a left hook. That’s just what I did to this kid. The next thing I knew I was on his chest and the kids were screaming for me to quit before I killed him. I told them that’s exactly what I wanted to do.”

But Bacaner was hauled off, and the bully went home in shame and never returned to school.

After graduating from Chicago’s Austin High School, where he was a pole vaulter and a clarinetist and saxophone player in a dance band, Bacaner went to the University of Illinois at Urbana to study engineering. “When the war broke out, that’s all I wanted to do was go to war. A friend of mine had an appointment to the Naval Academy at Annapolis, and I wanted that too.”

The congressman in his district had given out his last appointment, but he told Bacaner he could get him into the Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York.

The ten-week training program was followed by a year of on-the-job training as a midshipman at sea. “They were terribly short of Merchant Marine officers in those days. I served on all kinds of ships.”

The Merchant Marine, especially early in the war, suffered terrible losses. In fact, through the course of the war, the Merchant Marine suffered the highest ratio of losses of any branch of service. Of the 215,000 who served in the Merchant Marine, 9,300 were killed. During 1942, the Allies were losing 33 merchant ships per week to enemy attack.

On one voyage to India during his first year, Bacaner’s ship was torpedoed. “We don’t know if it was German or Japanese. We never saw the sub.”

It was a great shock to the young midshipman. “There’s a big noise and a huge jolt. It knocked me right out of my bunk. When you get hit like that, the whole ship warps. I couldn’t get my stateroom door open and I was starting to panic. “The submarine wasn’t satisfied with hitting us once, and it circled around and hit us again. This time it knocked me right off my feet. I was lying on the deck and I looked around and...”

The Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York, included being torpedoed and spending 14 days at sea in a rubber boat. After the war he helped being Jewish refugees into Palestine, and after that he invented and patented a drug that saved a president’s life.

In the Merchant Marine during World War II

At home in Golden Valley

Dr. Marvin ‘Bucky’ Bacaner

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At home in Golden Valley

Marvin ‘Bucky’ Bacaner
In the Merchant Marine during World War II

Bucky Bacaner joined the Merchant Marine in 1942 and his adventures included being torpedoed and spending 14 days at sea in a rubber boat. After the war he helped being Jewish refugees into Palestine, and after that he invented and patented a drug that saved a president’s life.
Bacaner volunteered to help. “I made it up to the deck to my lifeboat station, but the boat had been destroyed and all aboard killed by the second torpedo. If I hadn’t panicked, I would have been on that lifeboat. That’s when I decided that God had something else planned for me in this life.”

Bacaner joined 19 others on another lifeboat and got underway as the ship sank beneath the waves. One of the survivors was so badly burned, he died after a few days.

“Finally, an Australian man-of-war came by and picked us up. It was a miracle.” Of the 128 crewmen aboard the merchant ship, only 19 survived.

O n another occasion, Bacaner was firing a 50 caliber gun at an attacking aircraft. “There were two of us on each gun crew, one guy to fire the gun and the other guy to change magazines. I yelled out ‘magazine’ to get fresh ammo, but nothing happened. I looked over and my magazine guy was dead from the strafing. I had to get out of my belt and load the magazine myself.”

In another attack, he may have shot down an attacking aircraft. “We had two 50 calibers, and one of us got hit.”

Bacaner said he heard some harrowing tales from merchant mariners during the war. “I ran into one officer who had been sunk twice in one day during a run to Murmansk in Russia. Can you imagine that, twice in one day? That water was so cold your survival rate was about one minute. He was a little goofy when I met him, but he had a right to be.”

In the course of the war he guesses he did ten trips across the oceans. In addition to the Merchant Marine, he also served in the Army Transport Service which used Army ships and Merchant Marine officers. He helped bring the U.S. troops to the Anzio beachhead in Italy.

“My last cruise during the war was on a hospital ship, and it was my job to make sure all the medical equipment kept going. If something was broke, I had to fix it. It spurred my interest in bio-medical engineering which I focused on in later years.”

When war ended, his last assignment was to take munitions back to the United States from Antwerp.

“We were loading all the unused bombs and shells, and it was a very slow process because it all had to be done by hand. All of a sudden, somebody yelled, ‘fire!’ Someone had left a rope on a smokestack, and it was on fire. The other ships were supposed to help us fight the fire, but they just pulled out to sea. I don’t blame them. If we’d gone off, we’d have blown Antwerp right off the map. In the end, we just pulled out to sea. I don’t blame them. If we’d gone off, we’d have blown Antwerp right off the map. In the end, we were able to control the fire ourselves.”

By that time in the war, I really wasn’t afraid of anything. God had saved me so many times, that I just decided it wasn’t my time to go.”

While ashore in Antwerp, Bacaner saw a British captain decked out in kilts and wearing a small Jewish star patch on his uniform. “He was a little goofy when I met him, but he had a right to be.”

Growing up in Chicago, Bacaner had become a strong Zionist. He felt that Jews must have their own country. "I told him I was very interested in what they were doing, and he invited me to his barracks to meet some of the other guys. I was a lieutenant commander by that time. They told me that by day they were British officers and by night they helped Jewish refugees get to Palestine. I was very interested.”

Europe at that time was full of Jewish and other refugees — often stateless people whose hometowns and families had been taken away by the war. The effort to bring these people to Palestine was called “Bricha” or “flight.” The process of getting these people to Zion was very hazardous. It was illegal for refugees under the Soviet government in Eastern Europe to leave, and illegal by British law for them to settle in Palestine.

“I asked them what I could do, and they said they needed both food and compasses. I told them I could get them K rations right away, but I’d have to think about the compasses.”

His thinking led to the liberation of four free-standing box compasses from an unnamed source. When the ship came back to Charleston, S.C., Bacaner went ashore to a marine supply store and bought four compasses out of his own money to replace the ones he had borrowed.

In the United States, he was contacted by one of the leaders of his old Zionist youth group. “He told me, ‘Don’t sign up for another ship. We have something for you to do.’” Bacaner volunteered to help.

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Refugees line the rail on the converted Canadian Corvette Josiah Wedgwood after it was captured by the British on June 27, 1946. Marvin Bacaner, the ship’s engineering officer, mixed with the passengers and left the ship with them. He later escaped.

Over 2,700 passengers, many of the survivors of the Nazi death camps, waited aboard the Wedgwood after it had been captured.

Bacaner stands on a ladder aboard the Wedgwood, one of the first ships in what would become the Israeli navy.

On the Wedgwood’s first voyage, the passengers were offloaded to a Turkish ship which brought them to Palestine.
Bacaner had two interesting airplane incidents over the years. “I was in Switzerland, and I was on an El Al flight to Israel. As we were taxiing out to the runway, we were attacked by a terrorist group. Bullets were flying everywhere. The captain got on the public address and told us in three languages to get on the floor. He was very calm.

“As I was on the floor, I saw a guy with gun working his way to the emergency door. It turned out it was a Jewish security officer. They opened the door, and he went down the slide, and I went right after him. The terrorists were still firing at us, and he killed two of them.”

Bacaner then went to the front of the aircraft and climbed up the slide to go to the cabin and treat the pilots who had been wounded. The experience was not over for him, though, as he had to return to Switzerland to testify on behalf of the security officer who had been accused of murder by the Swiss. The officer was acquitted.

On a domestic flight one time, a man collapsed in the aisle, and the pilot asked if there was a doctor on board. It turns out the man was Thomas Anthony Harris who wrote the famous self-help book “I’m Okay, You’re Okay.”

“Once the ships were seaworthy, they both sailed to Europe. One ship, the Haganah, went to Sete, France, and the other to Savona, Italy. “Both those small ports were still controlled by the partisans and they allowed the refugees to come on board.”

Bacaner’s ship, the Josiah Wedgwood, loaded up with about 2,300 holocaust survivors at Savona and attempted to cross the Mediterranean and slip through the British blockade.

Each of the refugee ships had two commanders: One was the ship’s captain and the other was Israeli military.

The ship, though, was spotted by the British. “We transferred all of our passengers to a Turkish ship. The British had no right to board the ship of another sovereign nation, and so that ship got through to Palestine.”

The Wedgwood headed back to Italy and picked up another load of holocaust survivors, this time crammed 2,700 on board for the 10 to 15 day voyage. On June 27, 1946, the British intercepted the Wedgwood as it arrived at Haifa.

“We carried no papers and so the whole crew just mixed in with the passengers. They took us all to an internment camp at Atlit.” There the British slowly released the internees into the Palestine population.

Bacaner escaped in a simple and novel way. “They were going to transport us somewhere, and I just went in the front door of the bus and walked out the back door and kept going.”

Bacaner decided it was time to get on with his career at that point. “I’d been at war for five years, I’d had enough.” He returned to Chicago where he studied pre-med at a University of Illinois campus in Chicago. He earned his medical degree in 1953 from Boston University.

After research jobs at Stanford and Berkley, he was convinced to join the faculty of the Physiology Department at the University of Minnesota, where he taught for 35 years.

Along the way, Bacaner developed a drug called Bretylium, which could be used to stop the heart’s fibrillation during a heart attack. While the drug was still experimental, he received a call in May of 1967 from former president Dwight Eisenhower’s doctor. Eisenhower had just had his sixth heart attack, and he was dying.

“The doctor had read one of my papers on Bretylium. He asked if I could send some right away. I happened to be on my way to the airport, and I gave a handful of ampules to a Northwest pilot headed for Washington D.C. A team from Walter Reed Hospital was waiting at the airport, and they brought it to the president. It saved his life.

“I arrived in France the next day on my flight and picked up a newspaper. There were two major stories. One was that the Soviets had invaded Czechoslovakia and the other was that the president had been saved by a drug developed by Dr. Marvin Bacaner at the University of Minnesota.”

Not only that, but in the movie “ET,” when the extra-terrestrial is having a heart attack, the doctor (played by a famous movie character as he told this story and said, “You never want to get on an airplane with Bucky.”

Over the years, Bacaner continued his close relationship with Israel. “I volunteered as a doctor during the Yom Kippur War, during the First Lebanon War and during the War of Attrition.

“I was assigned to a tank brigade in the Yom Kippur War. There’s nothing more powerful than an armored brigade, and I was with them as they headed across the Sinai toward the Suez Canal. I remember thinking how far Israel had come from the time we were bringing in the holocaust survivors. We were so helpless then. What a difference not to be helpless.”

Years later, he attended a reunion of those crewmembers who had participated in Aliyah Bet, Israel’s secret navy in the 1940s. They were joined by some of the refugees who had been brought to Palestine on the Josiah Wedgwood and other ships.

“I was introduced to a woman who had two small children, and she remembered me. She told the children that I had saved her life. The two children came over and hugged my legs. That’s when I realized I had not just helped save one generation, but all the coming generations.”

Bacaner’s drug Bretylium also saved the life of the movie character ET.

Bucky Bacaner and Hadassah at home.

Passengers aboard the Wedgwood flew a banner to let the British fleet know their feelings.
SAL DEER HUNT -- The annual Sons of the American Legion John Zgoda Deer Hunt was held at Legionville. Hunters and volunteers and a deer posed for a picture.

KELLOGG MEMORIAL -- The new “Heroes Memorial” in Kellogg was dedicated in October. Kellogg Post 546 Commander Ken Pavelka was instrumental in promoting the idea of the memorial. The memorial includes veterans, firemen, policemen, and emergency responders. Pavers paid for the memorial.

LEGIONVILLE HOSTS -- Legionville hosted the Crow Wing Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol recently. The CAP teenage cadets did training exercises.

BACKUS HOSTS PARTY -- Backus Post 368 recently hosted a kids Halloween party and 120 kids and adults participated. There were contests for all ages.

PLAINVIEW RE-ENACTMENT -- The city of Plainview had a Civil War re-enactment this summer that included dozens of soldiers. Two graves of Plainview soldiers were also rededicated. Plainview Post 179 was involved in the activities.

BAGLEY FLAG DISPOSAL -- Bagley Post 16 had flag disposal ceremony. Area Boys Scouts helped with the ceremony.

WHEATON FLAG DISPOSAL -- Wheaton Post 80 held a flag disposal ceremony recently. The public is invited to come and bring old, worn flags.

DEER RIVER HONORS MILITARY DOG -- The Deer River Honor Guard played taps during a service for Sam, a military dog who served in Iraq. (Photo by Louise H. McGregor, Western Itasca Review.)
As many things are being done a little different this year, President Chris will be having her Testimonial on November 22, 2014 at the Osseo/Maple Grove Post 172. It begins at 6:00 p.m. No Poppies will be thrown in as well. There will be music, prizes and a few surprises thrown in as well. The evening will conclude with a dinner at 6:00 p.m. Please see the flyer that is printed for all the information and the reservation form.

**FALL CONFERENCE**

The 82nd annual Fall Conference was held at the Shooting Star Casino and sponsored by the Bagley American Legion Family #16. The final session on Saturday, October 25, with the memorable Membership skit led by Chairman Judy Ackerman. It followed her theme, “It was November 10, 1918, when the American Legion Auxiliary was established by a resolution adopted at the first National Convention of The American Legion here in Minneapolis MN. Since then it has grown exponentially to about 10,000 Units and over 800,000 members. This November is the American Legion Auxiliary’s 95th birthday. We hope you are planning a celebration in your Unit.

There will be more information and pictures regarding the Conference in the December issue of the Legionnaire.

**95th BIRTHDAY**

Does your Unit know November is “birthday month” for the American Legion Auxiliary? Will your Unit be celebrating this very special birthday? It was November 10, 1918, when the American Legion Auxiliary was established by a resolution adopted at the first National Convention of The American Legion here in Minneapolis, MN. Since then it has grown exponentially to about 10,000 Units and over 800,000 members. This November is the American Legion Auxiliary’s 95th birthday. We hope you are planning a celebration in your Unit.

**PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY**

November is Past Presidents Parley month. Past Presidents are willing to give your Unit a helping hand. Please ask them.

If your Unit does not have a Past Presidents Parley, organize one. Our Department Past Presidents Parley Chairman Linda Kropuenke will be more than happy to help you out. See the Unit Guide for further details.

**2015 POPPY ORDERS**

Orders for our 2015 Poppies are being accepted. Prices for small poppies are remaining the same as last year but there was a slight increase for the large poppies. An order form was included in the first Unit mailing. Poppies prices: Small Poppies - $180.00 a thousand ($18.00 a hundred) for orders of 500 or less; large Poppies - $18.00 a dozen and the Poppy Window Display cards are $.50 each while supplies last. Our inventory of the window display cards is getting very low and the cost to reprint them has increased dramatically. We will keep you posted after decisions are made on what will be done with the poppy cards in the future.

Please do not hold membership in your own Unit. Mail your transmittals here on a Friday basis. Just be prepared to give those last minute membership to the representative who comes to pick them up for the rally.

In Let's make this a special Holiday Season for our Department President Chris and Membership Chairman Judy as we continue to improve our membership counts. Remember, we do have a supply on hand for this year so don’t hesitate to order. Please note on the form that the shipping costs have changed. Due to the tremendous increase in shipping charges we had to charge more to offset our expenses.

The 2015 Poppy orders will be shipped on the dates requested on the orders. When you receive your Poppies, please store them in a safe place so they aren’t inadvertently thrown away or wrapped up as a holiday gift. Please check your order upon receipt and report any discrepancies to the Department Office.

The Department Office wants to assure you that the Poppy Program this year has been very well made. Our Veterans at the Hastings Veterans Home have been working very hard. As of right now 47 Units have already placed their Poppy order and we would love to have a 100% participation of Units this year.

**PEARL HARBOR CAR CARAVAN**

The Pearl Harbor Membership Rally will be held at the Apple Valley American Legion Post 1776 on Saturday, December 6th. Turn in 3-4:30 p.m., Plated dinner at 5 and program to follow. Your District President and Membership Chairman asks every Unit to have membership ready to be picked up when they or a Delegate representative comes to your area. Check with your Past Commander for your pick-up day and time.

Do not please hold membership in your Unit. Mail your transmittals here on a Friday basis. Just be prepared to give those last minute membership to the representative who comes to pick them up for the rally.

**CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOP**

The Department Office and the Hospital and Home Representatives want to give a big thank you to the Units and Posts that have contributed funds to our Gift Shop program. Again this year, the veterans at the four (4) VA Medical Centers and the five (5) Minnesota Veterans Homes will be selecting gifts for their loved ones through our Gift Shop program. About 2,000 veterans participate in this program. A huge change this year for the Gift Shop is the amount that was approved by the Department Executive Committee to spend on our Veterans at the Gift Shop. The gifts will be of a little more value this year than in the past.

The Gift Shop committee has been busy shopping for the gifts and would appreciate your Unit’s financial support of the Auxiliary.
2014-15 UNIT GUIDE

An excellent source of information on all our programs, both department and national, is the 2014-15 Unit Guide. My membership is a personal copy. They are available from the Department Office at $5.00 each.

UNIT MAILING

Each month a Unit mailing is mailed from the department to every Unit. When you receive yours, be certain to open and read through the communications to your Unit Chairman. If your Unit is not receiving the mailings, please contact the department office.

The contents of information and materials is included in each Unit mailing. It is important to your Unit program chairmen they receive these materials as soon as possible so they can develop a meaningful program for your Unit.

I have the ability to send the Unit mailings electronically via e-mail. Please contact the Department Office if you are interested in receiving the Unit mailing electronically. You can also go to the Auxiliary website mna.org and find all of the Unit mailings by month. You can read the entire mailing and print out whatever suit's needs your Unit.

Hear Ye – Hear Ye – Hear Ye

We will be having a celebration like no other!!!

Dinner Saturday, November 22nd 2014, to be held at the Osseo/Maple Grove post home, 260 – 4th Ave SE – Osseo, Mn.

The fun and festivities will begin at 2 p.m. with hors d’oeuvres, door prizes, music and a few surprises thrown in here and there. We will conclude the evening with a dinner, in President Chris’ honor, all donated by the members of the Auxiliary.

The cost is $22.00 per person and we request pre-paid reservations, please.

We have a block of rooms reserved at the LaQuinta Inn and Suites, with a reasonable rate of $67.07 including tax. The block will be available until November 1st, and are under the Osseo American Legion. The address for the motel is: 7011 Northland Court Brooklyn Park, Mn 55428 Phone Number 763-971-8000

Please make checks payable to Osseo Unit 172 and mail by November 15th, to:

Sharon Wilken
617 – 5th Ave NE Osseo, Mn 55369

CUT-ME-OUT
Names of those attending:

@ $22.00 each – $

Auxiliary Bulletin
Continued from Preceding Page

this program. Those who attended Fall Conference saw the nice quality and selection of items the veterans may choose from. If your Unit has an active sewing group, may we suggest including gift quilts as an additional item that the veterans may choose from?

Included in the October Unit mailing were the sewing patterns of items needed at the various hospitals/homes. The patterns are due by November 15th. If you are available immediately and meet the qualifications listed below, please apply. As a sewist, you will be expected to make each level of the organization stronger and to maintain its growth and positive actions.

SECRETARY SANDIE’S NOTES

By the time you are reading this we will have another Fall Conference under our belts. I hope many of you attended. This is a very educational and fun time for all of you. If your Unit needs to make an effort to reach out to all of their membership to find out their needs as soon as possible so they can develop a meaningful program for your Unit.

I have the ability to send the Unit mailings electronically via e-mail. Please contact the Department Office if you are interested in receiving the Unit mailing electronically. You can also go to the Auxiliary website mna.org and find all of the Unit mailings by month. You can read the entire mailing and print out whatever suit's needs your Unit.

Bookkeeper sought

The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Minnesota is currently in need of an experienced Bookkeeper/Assistant to work with the St. Paul Department.

If you are available immediately and meet the qualifications listed below, please apply. As a bookkeeper, some of the responsibilities may include, but are not limited to, handling all aspects of accounts payable, accounts receivable, reconciling, processing and paying bills. Responsibilities are subject to change based on the needs of the organization.

Job Requirements:

Bachelors degree in Accounting or equivalent experience required. Qualified candidates should have at least two years experience in a bookkeeping position. Basic computer skills, familiarity with Quickbooks knowledge, and previous bookkeeping experience is a non-exempt position.

Please email your resume to sandie@mnala.org or mail it to American Legion Auxiliary, Sandie Deutsch, Department Executive Secretary, 20 W. 12th St, #314, St. Paul, Mn 55155. The American Legion Auxiliary offers health, life and disability insurance, 401K plan and vacation. Salary commensurate with experience.

November is Past Presidents Parley month. Celebrate the Past Presidents of your Unit. Your Unit’s Past Presidents may even include some that have served as a President of the District, Department and National levels. They are an invaluable asset and are ready to assist you in any way possible. It is the goal that every Unit in Minnesota have an organized Past Presidents Parley. Begin now to think about a member that you could submit as the Unit Member of the Year. Along with your Unit Members the Parley should place an emphasis on the women veterans as their needs are often overlooked and vary a great deal from the needs of the male veteran. Please note that the deadline for the Past Presidents Parley Health Care Scholarship is earlier than the Annual Reports. Should you have questions, my contact information is listed under Unit Office. Please check the November

LINDA KROPEUNSKIE

QUILTERS -- St. Michael’s Lutheran Church in Roseville has made and donated over 400 quilts to the Minneapolis Veterans Home. Every new resident receives a quilt, and at Christmas last year, each resident got a quilt at the Gift Shop.

VETERANS CAMPGROUND

For Veterans, families, & friends.
30 miles NE
from DT St Paul, 10 min SW of Schwart
on Manning Avenue.

Cabin, RV/Tent Sites, Boating, Trails, Beach at Low Rates

Managed by Disabled Veterans Rent Camp Aan BOD 933(E)
**Panama Canal Cruise**  
March 5-21, 2015

**Tour Includes:**
- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Larry Abney
- Roundtrip Delta flights from MSP to Los Angeles & return from LA to MSP
- All transfers to end from the airport, hotel and ports
- 6-night cruise night hotel at the Marriott in Los Angeles
- All meals & entertainment aboard the SS United States
- Visit 7 ports of call including San Francisco, Los Angeles
- Onboard ship gratuities

** Miami and Key West, Florida**  
January 9-15, 2015

**Tour Includes:**
- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Joyce Langerud
- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- 8 nights accommodations
- All meals
- Visit Miami & Key West
- Cruise by celebrity homes on Biscayne Bay
- Visit to the momentum Hollywood Beach “Boardwalk”

**New Orleans**  
April 18-25, 2015

**Tour Includes:**
- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Joyce Langerud
- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- 6 nights accommodations
- All meals
- Sites of interest in New Orleans
- Guided tour of New Orleans

**Reverse Mortgages**

Call for a free consumer guide and personal quote.
- Must be 62 or older.
- Never make a monthly mortgage payment again.
- Receive a lump sum of cash, credit line or monthly payments.
- Income and credit not required.

Let a retired active duty veteran you can trust show you how you may benefit from a Reverse Mortgage.

**Monuments of Washington D.C.**  
April 17-21, 2015

**Tour Includes:**
- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Jenny Gilbertson
- Roundtrip Delta flights from Minneapolis to Washington D.C.
- 5 nights accommodations in the Washington D.C. area
- 5 meals: 5 continental breakfasts, 2 dinners
- Entrance fees to all sites
- Admission to George Washington’s Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens
- Two-day guided tour of Washington D.C.
- WW II Memorial, Capitol Hill, Embassy Row, the Korean War Veterans Memorial, Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial, and the Lincoln Memorial

**New York City Theater**  
June 24-30, 2015

**Tour Includes:**
- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Jenny Gilbertson
- Roundtrip Delta flights from Minneapolis to New York City
- 1 night pre-departure hotel accommodations in Minneapolis
- 2 nights accommodation at Row NYC
- Broadway plays or musicals on Broadway
- Manhattan island city tour
- Broadway performance, “Ainadlin”
- Broadway performance, “King Lion”
- 9/11 Memorial and Museum
- Harbor Cruise with lunch

**Funeral Plans for Veterans**

Purple Cross has been serving America’s Veterans since 1948 and continues to offer the best funeral plans available. With funeral Pre-planning – you:
- Protect your burial funds from nursing home expenses.
- Protect your family from financial burdens in time of grief.
- Gain peace of mind by knowing your funeral is taken care of.

Yes, I would like to know more about:
- Traditional Funeral Cost
- Cremation Cost
- Payment Plan Options
- Discount Plans

For a free Funeral Pre-planning Cost Analysis & Consultation, & Review of New Veterans Benefits: Please return this coupon to Purple Cross, 15116 Manitou Rd NE, Prior Lake, MN 55372 or call Jerry Albrecht at 952-226-8393.

Absolutely no obligation!

**Funeral Plans for Veterans**