By Al Zdon

So which post is the oldest post in Minnesota anyway? As The American Legion centennial approaches in 2018 with a national convention in Minneapolis, many posts are looking at their histories.

The logical choice for the first post would be Minneapolis Post 1, right? Well, according to a list provided by the national organization on when posts received their temporary charters — the first official date for that post in national’s eyes — Minneapolis Post 1 is actually 17th in seniority.

The oldest post in the state, according to temporary charters, is St. Paul Post 8 who received its charter on May 7, 1919.

The second oldest post in the state is Fergus Falls Post 30 which received its temporary charter on May 10, 1919.

Which is the oldest post in the state? It depends...

The logical choice for the first post would be Minneapolis Post 1 earning the honors. You could study when a post applied for a charter, but those records have not been kept. The only official record, according to The American Legion national organization, is when a post was officially given a temporary charter, the first step toward getting a permanent charter. According to that list, here’s the top 10 oldest posts in the state:

5. Crookston Post 20, June 1, 1919.
6. Roseau Post 24, June 1, 1919.
7. Waseca Post 25, June 1, 1919.
10. Moorhead Post 21, June 14, 1919.

Would you like to know if your post is a Centennial Post, those that received a temporary charter in the first year of The American Legion? Go to mnlegion.org and click on “Centennial Posts.”

Peace officer, fire fighter of year picked

Officer Anthony Dean St. Paul

Anthony Dean, a patrol officer for the city of St. Paul, has been chosen by the Law and Order Committee as the 2016 Minnesota American Legion Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer. Dean, 33, was nominated by North End Post 474 in St. Paul.

Dean graduated from the St. Paul Police Department Academy in 2014, and he has been assigned to the department’s Central District since then.

Prior to that he was employed by Ramsey County Sheriff’s Department as a corrections officer and jailer.

Prior to that, he served in the Marine Corps from 2003 to 2007.

Firefighter Ross Gramling Virginia

Ross Gramling, a firefighter and paramedic with the Virginia, Minn., Fire Department, has been chosen as the Outstanding Firefighter of the Year by the Minnesota American Legion’s Law and Order Committee.

Gramling previously worked for the Cook Fire Department as a firefighter and ambulance driver.

He is a native of Cook, and attendee Mesabi Range College in Virginia.

He has three years of service in Virginia, and has been strongly involved in the community.

Gramling also serves as a member of the St. Louis County SWAT team to assist SWAT officers to

Past NEC Virgil Persing dies

Virgil Persing, Minnesota’s National Executive Committeeman from 2005-09, died April 29, 2016. He was 85.

Persing held a variety of offices during his many years of service for The American Legion. He served as Department Vice Commander, 1988-89; Department Commander, 1995-96; and Alternate NECman, 2001-2005.

He was serving on the Department’s Board of Publications at the time of his death.

Persing grew up on the family farm in Montrose, South Dakota, and later lived in Sioux Falls. He joined the Air Force and served in Korea as an aircraft mechanic.

He and Mary, his wife of 62 years, operated the Miracle Cafe in Columbia Heights and he later worked for Onan Corporation.

He joined Minneapolis Falldin Post 555 and

10 oldest posts based on temporary charter date

There are many ways to determine which was the first post in Minnesota. A historian could trace a post back to its roots as a soldiers and sailors club back in early 1919. Or you could go by the post numbers, with Minneapolis Post 1 earning the honors. You could study when a post applied for a charter, but those records have not been kept. The only official record, according to The American Legion national organization, is when a post was officially given a temporary charter, the first step toward getting a permanent charter. According to that list, here’s the top 10 oldest posts in the state:
TWINS RADIO SPOT – The Minnesota American Legion will broadcast several advertising spots over Memorial weekend on the Twins Radio Network. The advertisements will be heard all over the state during games and during pre-game and post-game programming. Commander Jim Kellogg records the spot with Twins broadcaster Mark Genosky assisting on the left.

MILITARY RADIO SPOT – The Minnesota American Legion has purchased a year’s worth of advertising on Minnesota Military Radio. Past Department Commander Peggy Moon records the message for May and June at the iHeart Radio studios in St. Louis Park. The program is broadcast on over 30 stations across the state.

Which is the oldest post in the state?

Continued from Page 1

Chapin pointed to a large stack and said new ones came in everyday and were added to the stack. He was working on them from top to bottom.

In other words, exactly when a post sent in its application may have had little to do with when the state and later the national organization actually acted on it.

Gimmestad said that by the end of June, 19 temporary charters had been authorized. By August, 40 posts had received charters.


You may have noticed that neither St. Paul Post 8 nor Fergus Falls Post 30, who are listed by National as the first two in the state to get charters, are on this list. It probably indicates the level of confusion regarding who was first in line.

Gimmestad does point out that the number assigned to posts has little to do with when they applied for a charter or when they got one. For instance, Shakopee Post 2 didn’t actually get a temporary charter until August 5, three months after St. Paul Post 8.

Much of the work of organizing the infant American Legion in Minnesota was done in the Twin Cities. On May 22, 1919, a meeting of the Minneapolis Legionnaires was called, and one of the decisions of that meeting was that Minneapolis Theodor Petersen was named the first post in the state.

If you trace Petersen post’s history back to the formation of the Loyal Legion club in the early part of the year, it may indeed have a claim as the first post, but that claim can probably be challenged by dozens of other posts who were also organizing as soldiers and sailors clubs back in those days.

So which is the first post? The answer, my friend, is blowing in the wind.
Plans for 7th annual Minnesota Legacy Run underway

By Al Zdon

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

The events will be held July 21-23. A registration blank is below. The Rochester Post 92 has announced that there will be transportation between the convention and the hotels from Wednesday night to Saturday night.

The post will have registration from 3-8 p.m. Wednesday night. The post will have burger night with karaoke on Thursday. There will be quick food at noon.

Friday day will be quick food a noon and dinner. Karaoke at night with karaoke on Wednesday night.

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

Phone numbers are: Kahler Grand and Kahler Inn and Suites, 1-800-533-1655 and the Marriott, 1-877-623-7777.

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

The Legion will have a Department Executive Committee meeting on Wednesday, July 20.

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

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

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

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

The hospitality event on Saturday night will be held at the Kahler Grand Hotel basement.

With the high cost of healthcare today, Medicare Supplement insurance is becoming a necessity for more and more Americans. That's why it's good to know that you now have a choice of competitive standardized Medicare Supplement plans, offered to members like you. And, all plans are underwritten by a company known for its prompt, personal, responsive service.

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COMPLETE AND RETURN THE REPLY CARD. OR, CALL 1-800-247-1771

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Send to: Medicare Supplement Processing Dept.
P.O. Box 123

Valleymade, PA 18062-9966
Editorial

Volunteers

Sometimes it’s easy to forget that nothing happens in The American Legion unless somebody does it. We are a volunteer organization. When the young men and women came home from World War I, they wanted to preserve their comradeship by starting a new organization that would continue their service to America.

Nearly a hundred years later, The American Legion is still serving America because our members still believe what they do is important.

The baseball program in Minnesota, for example, does not happen through sheer momentum. It happens because over a thousand coaches, managers, district directors, state directors and others put in countless hours to make it happen. We have over 330 teams in Minnesota, and each one takes the field because people volunteer to coach, tend the field, teach the game and lead by example.

Legionnaires benefit from the people who help get the camp ready each year.

American Legion Riders

By Dennis Lewison

District 1

Greetings from the seven chapters here in our district. May is here and the weather should start to be great. I am sure everyone has their bikes and trikes checked over, polished and ready to ride.

The first activity of the season in our district was a “Ride & Show” hosted by the Winona ALR Chapter 9 on Saturday, May 7th.

The group of the 1st District ALR has been accomplished by the hard work and many hours put in by our first ALR director, Scuffy Paulson, Paul Spyhalski and many others.

Our constitution & By Laws were passed by the chapters at the District ALR convention. From there it went to the First District ALR convention. It took a few years to get final approval, however, they were approved and we are working together to make this a success. The support from our “First District American Legion Family” continues to grow strong.

Thank you

I would like to thank the members of the Legion Family for all your support in the lawn bowls tournament and any memorials for Harold will be donated to the Crosslake/ Fifty Lakes Post 500 building fund thank you. 

Pat Bergstrom

COMMANDER’S COLUMN

By Jim Kellogg

Summer has arrived. With Summer comes the exciting season of District Conventions. Thank you to all who volunteered this past year to serve on committees and those of you who filled the various offices in your Post and District.

Your job is not finished as I see it. If you feel when you have helped your successor do a better job than you did then your job is finished. I am not saying be a meddlesome pain in the you know where but share the knowledge you have gained.

Together we can build a better American Legion for the future generations. I hope you have had as much fun as I am having serving this great organization.

Our outdoor disabled veterans programs are in full swing. I have had the privilege of seeing first hand the difference we make. When these veterans gather, the common bond they share comes alive. Their love of their Country and the time they spent serving are shared. Their open dialogue and dedication to God and Country are heard and shared with all. I hope you have the chance to share as we have had in some of these events. When you see the smile on the face of a 93-year-old veteran as he shows off the turkey he has hunted, the look is priceless. The same look is on the face of the 25 year old veteran who stands beside him and also shows off his turkey.

Baseball season is upon us and with that comes Legion ball. Please take this time summer and support you local Post team. Minnesota has a premier program. There are no losers in Legion ball. All who are part of our bills have a ticket to get to the food. As I chase it away, it climbs up the tree and talks back to me. I wonder if it is saying “you chased me away but I’m coming back,” which it does, so just throw up my hands and say “if you want it that bad you must be hungry, so it is just a part of God’s creation and I am sure the birds don’t mind sharing.”

If one really thinks about it, people at times are like that. They can be fed the word of God, and something or someone tries to chase them away. But they come back because we as a Christian nation need to be fed also the word of God, to nourish us to make us strong in faith, word and deed.

There are countries that do not have what we have, even though there are missionaries trying to spread the word of God. It is a calling they have that I have the greatest respect for them and what they are doing. Put them in your prayers.

In God we trust. The usage dated back to the Civil War, when religious sentiments ran on an upswing and the American people wanted the world to know what their country stood for. I found it very interesting. By the turn of the 20th century, however, this phrase, President Theodore Roosevelt considered the mingling of God and Country and Mannmon to be vulgar and he ordered the phrase removed from the newly designed gold coins in 1907, but the American people forced Congress to back down. By the mid-1950s, the concern with piety in Washington had appeared to deepen and in 1955 ordered the same phrase to appear on all paper currency. This motto appeared on the currency beginning in 1957 and since then numerous legal actions have sought to remove it from currency and strike “Under God” from the Pledge of Allegiance. We the people of the great nation must never allow that to happen. For the men and women who have fought for this freedom, we owe it to them and the generations who will follow them, always be those who will try. We must always be on watch to make sure it does not happen on our watch. Or better yet never. Why am I saying this? When I was in Indiana for the Americanism Commission, this subject was brought up at that meeting. The American people can take things for granted when caught off guard.

Summer will soon be here. The fields are planted, the rains have come and the crops are growing. We have to be thankful for the farmers and their hard work and the time they put in to provide the food that appears on all our tables. No matter the event, be it dinner, picnic, barbecues or reunions, they have produced it with the help of God.

May 7th, Cheryl and I attended a funeral. It was a wonderful service. A lot of Legionnaires, friends and family. May 14th we attended a wedding, the start of a new life together. And on Sunday a Baptism in our church, a new life brought into the family of God, all by the grace of God and his love. 1st Corinthians 13:13 talks about love “and now abide faith, hope, love, these three. But these three are for ever a greater.” For God and Country.

Chaplain’s Corner

By Richard Wog

Looking outside our dining room window, I see our bird feeders, and this one squirrel that just keeps trying to get in a few seeds of our bird feed to get a bite to eat. As I chase it away, it climbs up the tree and talks back to me. I wonder if it is saying “you chased me away but I’m coming back,” which it does, so just throw up my hands and say “if you want it that bad you must be hungry, so it is just a part of God’s creation and I am sure the birds don’t mind sharing.”

If one really thinks about it, people at times are like that. They can be fed the word of God, and something or someone tries to chase them away. But they come back because we as a Christian nation need to be fed also the word of God, to nourish us to make us strong in faith, word and deed.

The Minnesota Legionnaire is now in its 95th year of publication, it is published monthly by The American Legion, Department of Minnesota, Room 300A, 20 West 12th Street, St. Paul, MN 55102, and at additional mailing offices. The Legionnaire is a member of the Minnesota Newspaper Association and is a member of the National American Legion Press Association. It is a member of the Minnesota Newspaper Association. It is a member of the National American Legion Press Association.

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


POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The American Legionnaire, 20 W. 12th Street, St. Paul, MN, 55105-2000. (USPS No. 013-679.) (ISSN No. 1644270)

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THE MINNESOTA LEGIONNAIRE

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

Al Eiden, Editor

First published in 1920 as the Hennepin County Legionnaire, the Minnesota Legionnaire is now in its 95th year of publication. It is published monthly by The American Legion, Department of Minnesota, Room 300A, 20 West 12th Street, St. Paul, MN 55102. The American Legion, Room 300A, 20 West 12th Street, St. Paul, MN, 55105-2000. (USPS No. 013-679.) (ISSN No. 1644270)

E-Mailing: azdon@mnglen.com
Superior Trip
The 24th annual Lake Superior Fishing Trip for veterans from Minnesota veteran homes in Silver Bay, Hastings and Fergus Falls will be held Monday, June 27. Veterans will board 15 to 17 charter boats and spend a day fishing for the greatest catch, with over 60 residents fished, and lotteries to catch cooked by the Silver Bay home staff and volunteers. The event will be held out. The Silver Bay Veterans Home is soliciting donations for the event. Call Ward Wallin, 218-353-8703.

Gambling Seminar
A gambling seminar will be held at the 2016 Department Convention by the Minnesota Gambling Control Board. It will be held at 2 p.m. in the Great Hall of the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester. The topic will be “Compliance Reviews and Site Inspections.” The seminar will be presented by Kristine Koeising, compliance specialist.

Band to Represent State
The Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sundberg Marching Band will represent Minnesota at the 75th anniversary ceremonies at Pearl Harbor in December. The band raised over $200,000 for the trip. It is a great honor for the school and band members. For more information, call (320) 264-1411.

Legion College
Applications are being accepted for The American Legion National Legion National Leadership College which will be held in Independence, Mo. The college will nominate one Minnesota Legionnaire to attend and candidates must be in the Legendary Sister or Staff War/World War II era. If that slot is filled, Minnesota may be allowed to submit a candidate from an earlier war era. For more information, contact Randy Tesdahl, 651-291-1800 or email rtesdahl@mnlegion.org.

Second Division Recruiting
The Second Indochina Division Association is seeking members from those who have served in the division. The association seeks to preserve memories and honor members of the division through the years. For more info, go to www.2ida.org.

Veterans Jobs Fair
The Minneapolis VA will host a Job Fair for Veterans from 9:30-11:30 a.m. in the auditorium at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center. No registration required. Veterans should be prepared for a potential interview. Businesses will include: US Bank, UPS, Cargill, the VA Medical Center, Delta, and many more.

Service Center Volunteers
The Armed Forces Service Center at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport is seeking volunteers to staff the airport twice a day as they travel through the airport. The center is seeking those willing to do four-hour shifts. A background check is required and the on-the-job training will be provided. Interested, go to www.mnfafc.com to learn more and click on “volunteers” to get an application.

Traveling Wall
The Veterans Council of Willmar will be hosting the Traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall on June 30 through July 4. It will be on display at Robbins Island, across from the National Guard Armoury. There will be an opening ceremony and our desire to provide the most educated and experienced representation possible.

Four excellent training divisions providing specialty service to the four corners to the great State of Minnesota. Please contact your local County Veteran Service Office to discuss or contact us directly at 612 970 5662. I look forward to bringing you more information about the Claims Divisions directly from the Supervisors and Staff who are on the ground working hard for you every day.

As I sit down to write this June article, I look back and wonder just where this year has gone. It seems as only yesterday I was in 2015-2016. But, if you have a good team and our desire to provide the most educated and experienced representation possible.

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Federal VA has phone number for resolving Veterans Choice bill issues
WASHINGTON – Veterans can now work directly with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to resolve debt collection issues resulting from inappropriate or delayed Choice Program billing. In step with MyVA’s efforts to modernize VA’s customer-focused, Veteran-centered services capabilities, a Community Care Call Center has been set up for Veterans experiencing adverse credit reporting or debt collection resulting from inappropriately billed Choice Program services. Veterans facing these problems can call 1-877-881-7618 for assistance.

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As a result of the Veterans Choice Program, community providers have seen thousands of Veterans. We continue to work to make the program more Veteran-friendly,” said Dr. David Shulkin, Under Secretary for Health. “There should be no bureaucratic burden that stands in the way of Veterans getting care.”

The new call center will work to resolve instances of improper Veteran billing and assist community care medical providers with delayed payments. VA staff are also trained and ready to work with the medical providers to expunge adverse credit reporting on Veterans resulting from delayed payments to providers.

VA is urging Veterans to continue working with their VA primary care team to obtain necessary health care services regardless of adverse credit reporting or debt collection activity.

VA acknowledges that delayed payments and inappropriate billed claims are unacceptable and have caused stress for Veterans and providers alike. The new call center is the first step in addressing these issues. VA presented The Plan to Consolidate Community Care in October of 2015 that outlines additional solutions to streamline processes and improve timely provider payment.

For more details about the Veterans Choice Program and VA’s progress, visit: www.va.gov/opas/choiceact . Veterans may use the Veterans Choice Program call center 1-866-696-8198 to find out more about the program, confirm their eligibility and schedule an appointment.
World War II History Round Table

Navy SEALs had its origin in OSS unit

By Al Zidom

On Dec. 19, 1941, just 12 days after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor brought the United States into World War II, on the other side of the world a group of Italian frogmen sank two British battleships in the harbor at Alexandria, Egypt.

The Decima Flottiglia MAS, a unit of Italian commandos, penetrated the British defenses and attached mines to the HMS Valiant and the HMS Queen Elizabeth. Both ships capsized in shallow water.

The brazen attack sent a message to the Allies about the potential devastation that could be caused by a small group of highly trained commandos.

The United States soon organized the Office of Strategic Services Maritime Unit, which many consider the true ancestor of the Navy SEALs.

Author Patrick O’Donnell, who wrote First SEALs, The Untold Story of the Forging of America’s Most Elite Unit, was the featured speaker at a meeting of the World War II History Round Table.

“It started an underwater arms race,” O’Donnell said of the Italian raid. “The U.S. didn’t have any SEALs, any special forces or any underwater demolition teams. It was all built on technology we didn’t have.”

O’Donnell said the challenge was turned over to the OSS, America’s spy organization during the war. “The OSS was the most extraordinary organization ever created in America.”

O’Donnell said William “Wild Bill” Donovan, the leader of the OSS, had an extraordinary vision of what the spy organization could do. “They had a willingness to try and a willingness to fail. It was an organization that thrived on chaos. It was all built around extraordinary individuals.”

The OSS used the work of Christian Lambertsen, a medical student and expert diver who had developed an underwater breathing device called the LARU or Lambertsen Amphibious Respiratory Unit.

The LARU used pure oxygen and a carbon dioxide filter so that divers could reuse the same air. There were no bubbles, making it ideal for underwater sabotage.

Lambertsen, called the “Father of the Frogmen,” first showed his invention to the Navy, who rejected it. But on Nov, 17, 1942, in the Shoreham Hotel swimming pool in Washington D.C., he demonstrated the LARU to the OSS who immediately adopted the device. The swimmer in that trial was Jack Taylor, a dentist from Los Angeles who had been brought into the OSS, and H.G.A. Wooley, a British commando expert.

Wooley eventually was placed in charge of the Maritime Unit.

Lambertsen graduated from med school in 1943 and was recruited into the OSS where he led missions. After the war, he coined the name SCUBA for self-contained underwater breathing apparatus.

A major breakthrough with the LARU was at Guanatamo Bay in Cuba where OSS divers in a practice mission called “Operation Cincinnati,” broke through Navy defenses and blew up an old barge.

Jack Taylor, then 33-years old, became a leader of the Maritime Unit and conducted 14 missions in the Mediterranean, some of them quite successful. “He set up an entire base of operations,” O’Donnell said. “They were running a small spy network, inserting agents.”

When Italy surrendered in 1943, part of its very successful and highly trained underwater commando team stayed with the German Army, while another part joined the Allies.

The OSS and the Italians worked together well. “They moved massive amounts of war material to the Yugoslav partisans.”

One of those who worked in that operation was a young Marine officer named Hamilton. His real name was Sterling Relyea Walter, but he was better known by his screen name: Sterling Hayden.

Hayden earned a Silver Star for his courage in the Yugoslav supply operation and for other heroic acts in the Mediterranean.

The Maritime Unit, O’Donnell said, “was 20 or 30 years ahead of its time.”

In 1944, Taylor was one of four spies parachuted into Austria as part of something called the Dupont Mission, working behind enemy lines.

“Unfortunately their radio was dropped into a lake, and they had no communication. That’s not good for spies.”

Eventually the Gestapo found Taylor and bitterly tortured him. He was eventually taken to Mauthausen extermination camp. He was scheduled to be executed, but a friendly Czech had removed the execution order and destroyed it.

When the camp was liberated, Taylor stayed on. “He spent another month in the camp gathering evidence. He found a bull whip that was used. He took down accounts from witnesses. He brought it all down on the men who were his captors at the Nuremberg trials and in other trials.”

Meanwhile the Maritime Unit continued to fight in Europe and later in the Pacific.

A diver tries out an early version of the LARU which recycled the air and produced no bubbles.

When the war was over, the OSS was dissolved, along with its Maritime Unit. Again the spy activity of America was splintered among the branches of the service and various government agencies.

Also on the Round Table program was Lee Tallakson, Edina, who was serving in the Navy in 1961 when the SEALs were formed.

Tallakson served in COMPHIBLANT or, translating Navy parlance, Commander Amphibious Force, Atlantic. “I was a young officer in the readiness and training sector. The Cold War was at its height.”

In November of that year, five officers and several enlisted personnel were present when it was announced, “We’re going to have a new force and we need a name. They threw out what the new force would deal with such as explosives, Ranger training, airborne training and underwater demolition.”

Looking back at his notes from the meeting, Tallakson said some of the names that were suggested were “FAS” or “BLOC,” although he doesn’t remember what the acronyms stood for.

“Someone suggested that we put together Sea, Explosives, Air and Land and called them SEALs. The captain said, ‘That’s pretty good.’ It got passed up chain of command to the Navy Department, and that’s when the SEALs took that name.”

Tallakson said, “The funny thing is that I never heard of SEALs for the next four years I was in the Navy. But then, afterwards, when I was in the Naval Reserve, I heard that name again.”

Tallakson, who serves on the committee for American Legion Boys State gave a short explanation of Boys State and encouraged young men to attend.
The Convention will be composed of delegates from each Post, member of the Department Executive Committee, the Department Chaplain, Treasurer, Historian, and the District Adjutants, but only delegates from Posts shall be entitled to vote at such Convention. (Sec. 2, Article Five, Department Constitution). Each Post shall be entitled to two delegates and to one additional delegate or delegates if the number of registrants or major fraction thereof, whose Department dues have been received by the Department Commander, and whose District dues have been paid to their respective District officers, 30 days prior to the Convention for which they are chosen. The final voting strength of each Post shall be determined 30 days prior to the Convention. Each Post shall choose its own delegates, and they shall be in good standing of such Post. In addition, each Post may choose alternate delegates to serve in the absence of the principal delegate. (Sec. 3, Article Five, Department Constitution). Delegates or alternates must register in order to vote.

**Gambling Seminar Meeting**

The Gambling Seminar will be held at 2:00 PM on Thursday, July 21, 2016 in Presentation Hall, Mayo Civic Center, Rochester, MN.

**Department Executive Committee Meeting**

A meeting of the Department Executive Committee has been called and will be held at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, July 20, 2016, in Rochester, MN at the Marriott, Ballroom 1 as specified in the Department Constitution.

**Standing Committee Meetings**

Standing Department Committee meetings will be held at the Marriott or Kahler, Rochester. The meeting room to be determined. These rooms will be confirmed in each committee’s Call to Meeting.

**Americanism**

4:00 PM, Wednesday, July 20, 2016

**Children and Youth**

4:00 PM, Wednesday, July 20, 2016

**National Security**

4:00 PM, Wednesday, July 20, 2016

**Convention Adjutant**

The Convention Adjutant and all committee originated resolutions.

**Department Resolutions Assignment Committee**

The Department Resolutions Assignment Committee shall be held on the afternoon of Friday of the Convention. Nominations shall be made from the floor. The floor shall be called 10 minutes from the close of the Convention, unless there is a motion to preserve. The floor shall be opened for the discussion of the resolutions. The nominations shall be held on the afternoon of Friday of the Convention, unless there is a motion to preserve. The floor shall be opened for the discussion of the resolutions.

**Delegation on the Floor shall announce the vote of this committee.**

**Delegate or Alternate be present on the Convention Floor.**

**No Post shall vote unless at least one accredited and registered delegate shall be present.**

**The floor shall be limited to two (2) minutes on the subject, and three (3) minutes rebuttal be granted to the member of the floor.**

**A temporary Legion Department Headquarters office will be at the Mayo Civic Center in a room still to be determined starting Thursday, July 21, 2016 for convention business and during convention meetings.**

**Meetings will start on TIME as scheduled unless otherwise announced.**

James Kellogg

Department Commander

ATTEN: RYEDAL TISDAH

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this 1st day of May, 2016

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**Convention Rules**

The Rules Committee submits the following proposed Rules for the Convention to be held at Rochester, Minnesota, July 21, 22, 23, 2016.

1. With the following modifications, Robert’s Rules of Order, revised, be adopted for this Convention.

The qualifications of any Delegate, recognized by the Commander, shall be limited to three (3) minutes and no more.

(b) Where a motion is made to table a resolution, the sponsor of the resolution shall have the floor for (3) minutes and the subject, and three (3) minutes rebuttal be granted to the member of the floor. The floor shall be limited to two (2) minutes on the subject, except as Delegates.

5. No person, not duly accredited, shall participate directly or indirectly in debate on any subject before the Convention, but Past Department Commanders and members of the Department Executive Committee shall have the privilege of speaking from the floor, but not of voting, except as Delegates.

7. That no Delegate be permitted on the Convention Floor unless legally entitled, and that every Delegate or Alternate, be duly accredited, must be registered in the Secretary’s office.

9. That the published program be approved by this Convention.

10. No person or Delegate shall act by proxy for any Post. No Post shall vote unless at least one registered and accredited Delegate of the Post be present on the Convention Floor.

11. The voting shall be by acclamation, except when a Roll Call is ordered by a two-thirds vote of the Delegates in attendance, except as Delegates.

The following is a list of Convention Committees to be chosen at this Convention, each District to choose one Representative on each Committee.

- Americanism: National Security/Foreign Relations
- Children and Youth
- Conservation
- Employment
- Environmental and Conservation
- Legislative
- Safety/School Patrol

Membership: The following Department Standing Committees are approved as Convention Committees:

- Finance
- Next Meeting Place (Convention Adjutant Committee)
- Resolutions Assignment

The order of business of the Convention shall be in accordance with the program, except that the election of officers shall be a special order of business, to be held in accordance with Rules 11 and 12. The order of election of Department Officers shall be as follows:

- Commander
- Vice Commanders
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Adjutant and all committee originated resolutions.

**The order of call will be reversed, but only those Posts having one or more duly registered and accredited Delegates or alternates accredited prior to 7:00 A.M. as confirmed by the Credentials Committee, shall be included in the Roll Call at any time.**

**Posts challenging exclusion from the Roll Call shall be done “on your own” directly with the Kahler Grand Hotel, Kahler Inn & Suites, or Rochester Marriott. Please call the hotel directly. **

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**Call to Meeting**

**The American Legion Department of Minnesota**

**St. Paul, Minnesota 55165**

**For the 98th Annual Department Convention**

The American Legion, Department of Minnesota, is hereby called in conformity with provisions of the Department Constitution and By-Laws, subject to the approval of the Department Executive Committee, sponsored by Rochester American Legion Post 92 and held at Mayo Civic Center, Rochester, Minnesota, July 21, 22, 23, 2016.

**Purpose of Convention**

The purpose of electing officers for the ensuing year, amending the Constitution and By-Laws, and for the transaction of such other business as may be brought before the Convention.

**Representation at Convention**

The Department Convention shall be composed of delegates from each Post, member of the Department Executive Committee, the Department Chaplain, Treasurer, Historian, and the District Adjutants, but only delegates from Posts shall be entitled to vote at such Convention. (Sec. 2, Article Five, Department Constitution). Each Post shall be entitled to two delegates and to one additional delegate or delegate if the number of registrants or major fraction thereof, whose Department dues have been received by the Department Commander, and whose District dues have been paid to their respective District officers, 30 days prior to the
Military retirement tax break is passed

A bill that will remove income tax requirements for the pensions of military retirees passed the Minnesota Legislature. Veterans had been supporting the legislation for at least 10 years. Minnesota was one of five states left in the nation that still taxed military pensions. It was thought that the tax burden influenced many military retirees to locate to other states after their service.

Legislature did not pass either a transportation bill or a bonding bill. Reports indicate that the Fort Snelling project was not included in the final version of the bonding bill. Gov. Dayton has not yet decided, as this issue went to press, on whether to call a special session to deal with the transportation or bonding bills. The military retirement bill was sponsored by Rep. Bob Detterman, R-Forest Lake, in the House. The bill to remove the tax from military retirement pay will include members of the Minnesota National Guard and other reserve components.

Ross Gramling

Continued from Page 1

ensure public safety. He is involved in the Virginia Muscular Dystrophy Association’s Fill the Boot program. "Not only does he work here, but he puts his heart and soul into every shift, training session and call that he is on," said Kevin Poffs, battalion chief with the Virginia Fire Department. Gramling was named Firefighter of the Year by his peers at Virginia this past year.

He was nominated by Virginia Post 239.

Anthony Dean

Continued from Page 1

Although Dean has only been on the beat for a short time, he has been recognized for outstanding police work, including locating a car used in connection to a homicide investigation.

He has also been noted for his community service work including helping youth through the Upward Bound program, and also the the Department’s Autism Response Program.

Dean was the subject of a story in the St. Paul Pioneer Press when he represented the city in Washington D.C. to tell congressional leaders the value of federal programs like Upward Bound.

Dean and his wife have two children. "In my opinion, Officer Dean is a special officer to me because of his compassion and desire to help people," said Commander Kurtis Hallstrom of the St. Paul Police.

NAVY CEREMONY -- The recruiting command for the U.S. Navy for Minnesota recently held a change of command ceremony at the USS Ward gun on the grounds of the Minnesota Capitol. The Ward fired the first shot of World War II for the United States at Pearl Harbor. This year will mark the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor and both the Minnesota Historical Society and the World War II History Table are planning events around the Dec. 7 anniversary this fall.

FAGEN’S FIGHTERS NEW EXHIBIT -- Fagen’s Fighters World War II Museum in Granite Falls recently had a dedication of a World War II boxcar and Holocaust exhibit. The museum is home to a collection of World War II aircraft and vehicles along with fine art, sculptures, interactive multi-media displays, and a library. The new exhibit features a boxcar that was used to transfer prisoners during the war. For more on Fagen’s Fighters, go to fagenfighterswwiimuseum.org.

New Jersey program works with Legion to help those in jail

Serving as a local policeman and later as a county sheriff, James Ploissus said it always saddened him to see a veteran in the county jail. "He didn’t get the helping hand," Ploissus said. "I saw it firsthand. These guys don’t really belong in jail. There’s got to be a better way."

As chairman of the New Jersey State Parole Board, Ploissus has created several initiatives – some working with other states that the veterans department of New Jersey to limit the number of veterans finding themselves incarcerated.

A former U.S. marshal, Ploissus was named parole board chairman in August of 2010. After realizing there was a lack of a focus on the needs of veterans, he created his multi-faceted Veterans Offender Reentry Initiative.

"It’s simplified now with our (veterans) coming back from Afghanistan and Iraq," Ploissus said of the need to develop a program for veterans. "The multiple deployments, we all know, add mental stress on these guys and gals. It was the right thing to do, and it was a positive thing."

Ploissus said coming from a local law enforcement background and seeing veterans in the penal system allowed him to look at the situation from a different perspective.

"I saw there was nothing specific for veterans to capture who was a veteran in the system, and we were making sure that we were helping them get the benefits that they were awarded," Ploissus said. "I did some homework, and I found out at the county jail level nobody was tracking who was a veteran in the system, and were we making sure that we were helping them get the benefits that they were awarded."

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A member of the Sons of The American Legion Squadron 524 in Ocean City, N.J., Ploissus knew the Legion had contacts and posts in communities throughout the state. "My thought was, ‘if I partner with The American Legion, I’ll have people everywhere that can help the guys when they get out (of jail).’"

Then-American Legion Department of New Jersey Commander Bob Looby was in Trenton at the department headquarters when Ploissus reached out to the Legion in December of 2010.

"He engaged us right away, and the immediate answer was ‘yes, we’re going to work with you,’” Looby said. "and we got a resounding endorsement (from the department) for a formal partnership. We engaged posts right away to get parolees to volunteer so they can say on their resume that they’ve been doing work for the community. We knew we were going to help vets. It was that simple."

The idea, Ploissus said, was to refer parolees to a local Legion post “and maybe they could get a mentor there. They could get help with housing, help with employment. Part of the agreement was they’d give them free membership the first year."
Legion Day at Twins

Turkey Hunt at Ripley

Turkey Success — Those helping and hunting at the annual Disabled Vets Turkey Hunt displayed a large turkey. From left: Tom Holthaus, past director of the VA Medical Center in St. Cloud and an originator of the turkey hunt; Eugene Crandall; Bud Grant, former Vikings coach; and Jim Kellogg, Department Commander.

Flag Presentation — The American Legion presented a flag signed by Vikings Hall of Famer Bud Grant to Camp Ripley at the opening of the turkey hunt. From left: Adjutant Randy Tesdahl, Grant, Camp Ripley Garrison Commander Col. Scott St. Sauver, Department Commander Jim Kellogg. The flag will be displayed at the Viking Club at the camp.

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Honor flag raiser for the game was Peewee Landherr of Adams Post 146, a Korean War veteran and longtime Twins fan. He was videoed for the Jumbotron.

Department Commander Jim Kellogg lofts a mighty throw to the plate for the first pitch of the game.

Luann Kellogg took a photo of the kids with Twins mascot TC Bear.

Prior to the game, Commander Kellogg joined the Adams group at the flag poles. From left: Kellogg, Dennis Mullenbach, Al Huntley, Cliff Kiefer and honorary flag raiser for the game Peewee Landherr.

June 2016 Minnesota Legionnaire Page 9
'All I did was work a few beach parties'

By Al Zdon

Burt Falk survived the war under an assumed name.

He didn’t want it that way, and he fought against it, but you can’t fight city hall or the U.S. Navy.

It actually started with his father, who was a veteran of World War I. Due to a mixup, the Army was convinced the family name was spelled “Folk,” replacing the “a” with an “o.”

When Burt Falk was born on Jan. 8, 1924, his father’s discharge papers were used as an official document. So young Burton’s legal name was Falk, although he grew up and went to school using the correct name, Falk.

When he joined the Navy in 1942, the government used his birth certificate for enlisting him, and that was that. No amount of reasoning could change the Navy’s mind about his real name. “I told them it was wrong, but that didn’t mean nothing to them. You might as well talk to the moon.”

Falk even had to learn to sign his name “Folk” during those years to keep everybody happy.

Three and one-half years later, after advancing to gunner’s mate first class and seeing the war up close at Iwo Jima and Okinawa, Burt Falk was able to go home to Minnesota and use his real name again.

Burton E. Falk was born at his parent’s apartment near downtown Minneapolis. “We didn’t have any money for any hospitals.”

The family later moved to the North Side near 47th and Aldridge. His father was a truck driver, and earned money on the side by repairing cars in the family garage.

“I went to Jenny Lind Grade School, which was across the street from the workhouse (city jail) field. We used to watch as the guards with shotguns would take the men out on the side by repairing cars in the family garage.

“I went to Jenny Lind Grade School, which was across the street from the workhouse (city jail) field. We used to watch as the guards with shotguns would take the men out to work in the field. It was very interesting.”

He said much of the North Side was made up of dirt roads with only a few paved roads as the main thoroughfares. These were hard times, and he sometimes encountered hard or desperate people, even in elementary school.

“In class one day, they had a drawer inspection, and they found in this one girl’s desk everybody’s pen in the class. She had every one of them. She was a thief-plus.”

Falk has been into the printing profession since he was 12 years old, and one time at Patrick Henry Junior High he printed the school’s last edition of 16 pages all by himself. “Most schools had their own presses at that time, but Henry was getting rid of theirs and so that was the last edition printed at the school. I did the whole thing.”

To continue his education in printing, he enrolled at Vocational High School in downtown Minneapolis. He attended classes in the morning, and had a job at a printing shop in the afternoon. “I did all the dirty work.”

When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, Falk was ready to enlist the next day. “My grandfa ther had served, my father had served, and I wanted to serve. I wanted to do my part. I was ready.”

But since he was 16 years old and a junior in high school, he was forced to wait. He turned 17 in January 1942, but he still needed his parents’ permission. “I knew my mom wouldn’t sign the papers until I finished 11th grade.”

In July, he walked over to the federal building with his parents’ signatures and his erroneous birth certificate and joined the Navy.

Boot camp was at Great Lakes, and then he was off to Gunnery School at Michigan City, Indiana. When that school closed, he went back to Great Lakes to finish his gunnery training. Out of 200 young men in his class, only eight were selected to leave the school as third class gunner’s mates, and Falk was one of them.

“Taking tests didn’t bother me, maybe because I was so young and still in school. It seemed like the older guys had more problems. I don’t think I was any smarter than anybody else.”

Next stop was Norfolk, Virginia, at the Navy’s proving grounds for its guns.

“We would load an experimental projectile into a gun and then step behind a protective wall to pull the lanyard and fire the weapon. I suppose they didn’t know if it was going to blow up or not. I remember that we had a 16-inch thick steel barrier set up and we would fire 16-inch shells at it and they would go right through.”

Falk moved on to Guantanamo Bay where the Navy had a large base. “It was our job to calibrate the range finders on the ships. Whenever a new destroyer came out, it would go to Guantanamo to get its range finder set up.”

One of Falk’s few regrets about his service time came at Guantanamo. “They asked me to dive into a swimming pool and swim a length underwater. I swam one length, turned around and swam back without coming up. I was a pretty good swimmer and I had good wind. I could have done another length.”

The Navy immediately offered him a job in a new unit. “They wanted me to go to mine warfare school. But I thought it had to do with serving on mine sweepers, and I thought that would be boring. I was young and dumb.”

It turned out the Navy was trying to convince him to sign up for underwater demolition (UDT) training. “I would have loved to do that, but I didn’t understand.”

By now, Falk, who had been so eager to get into the fighting, had been in the Navy for almost two years and had never gone to war. “Guantanamo was tough duty. It was a lot of dirty work and it was miserable. I was glad to get sea duty.”

“They chose 25 of us and assigned us to Washington State to be gunners on the new transport ships the Navy was coming out with.”

Falk was sent to a base just north of Seattle and became part of the original crew of the USS Darke (APA-159), a Haskell-class attack transport ship. It was a large ship, over 450 feet long, with plenty of work for a gunner’s mates.

To project the ship, there was a five-inch gun on stern, four twin 40mm guns, one quad 40mm gun, and ten 20mm guns. The guns were being installed when Falk reported aboard.

Darke proceeded to San Diego to pick up her 26 landing craft.

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Falk was assigned to be in charge of number 44 gun on the starboard side, one of the twin 40mm guns.

"The guy in charge of the gun next to me was named Ochaki. When we pulled into San Diego, he went ashore and never came back. I heard later that he got murdered. So they put me in charge of his gun too.

For each gun there was a pointer, a trainer, and four loaders. Passing the ammunition up from the magazine deep in the ship were more handlers who were all African-American. They worked as cooks and stewards in the partially-segregated Navy.

Falk directed the operation of the gun. He trained another sailor how to do the cleaning of the other 40mm he had been assigned. “Every time we fired the gun, we had to clean it. It wasn’t easy, but I didn’t mind it. It was my job.”

The men who worked the gun came from other jobs on the ship, and only manned the gun during battle stations. By this time, Falk had become a second class gunner’s mate and after he had been on Darke for a few months, he was advanced to first class.

He remembers when he was informed that the loaders in the magazine were having trouble removing the shells from their crates. “They were held in by these clips, and the clips didn’t always work. I showed them another way to loosen the clips, but they said some of them just didn’t work at all.

They were right.

“So I picked up the case and just flopped all the ammo on the deck. You should have seen these guys scatter, just like ducks. They thought I was going to blow them up. But I was just trying to show them that the shells were armed, and that when we need the ammo we need it right now and they can’t be screwing around with those clips. Boy, were they mad at me.”

Falk always carried a .45 sidearm with him when he was directing the guns. “It was just a message that no one leaves his position during a battle. We stay put.”

The ship went into the Pacific to practice. One of the drills for the gunners was to shoot at a “sleeve” being towed by a plane.

“We had a competition with the other APAs, and each bat five cases of beer that they were the best. On this maneuver we were doing so good that APA-61, our sister ship, just sent us a message ‘We quit.’ ”

“Usually when you go ashore, the Navy would give you three beers and that was it. This time, because we won the bet, we each had an allotment of 22 beers. Who the hell could drink that many? I just had my three and went back to the ship.”

In Hawaii, Darke loaded men of the 5th Marine Division on board and headed for Saipan to practice landings.

“We were built to have 1,400 troops on board, and we had 1,609 Marines. I remember for breakfast they gave everybody on board a box of cereal and some manufactured milk. The Marines thought this was standard Navy food, but we had never seen it before. Nobody could eat it, and everybody just threw it away. I know I did. It was the worst stuff ever.”

While at Saipan, Falk was told to arm himself and accompany a boat to shore to pick up ammuni-
tion. “So, I showed up with my .45, and they said, ‘No, we want you to arm yourself.’ So I went to the armory to pick up a Thompson sub-machine gun.”

The craft was loaded with five-inch shells. “My job was to protect the load.”

On Feb. 19, USS Darke arrived at Iwo Jima. “There was a Japanese submarine between us and the beach, but we were told not to fire on it because the Navy was sending a plane to drop ash cans (depth charges) on it. The plane came, but the sub just went under water.”

The transport landed the Marines at Iwo Jima. “The destroyers were all zipping up and down the coast firing on the Japanese positions. They put that five-inch ammo back on a boat and told me to get on board. There was no room, so I had them lower me right over the boat to sit on the projectiles. The boat was going up and down, up and down, but it was quite a drop.”

The boat went from destroyer to destroyer to pass out the ammunition. “We would pull along the stern and begin passing it up. Everything was moving, so it was very diffi-
cult. It was dangerous work and we were under constant fire. If one shell had hit that boat, we would have taken the destroyer with us.”

At every ship, a man had to be lowered down to help with the loading. “This one guy tried to step on the side of the boat but he slipped. The boat and the ship came toget-
er and this guy had a rivet hole in his leg about this big (Falk indicated a hole about the size of half dollar). We had to put him on a stretcher and hand him back up.”

Falk said he was often asked if he saw action in the war. “I’d always just say, ‘No, all I did was beach parties.’ ”

Darke was sent to Espiritu Santo to take on Army troops from the 27th Division, and then it was back north to land them at Okinawa. Darke did two “sham” landings to confuse the Japanese, and then finally landed the Army troops on April 9th and for a few days thereafter.

There had only been a few Kamikaze attacks at Iwo Jima, but Okinawa was a different story.

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There had only been a few Kamikaze attacks at Iwo Jima, but Okinawa was a different story.
“It started at sun up one day. There was just a solid mass of Kamikazes coming across the north part of the island. One by one, they came through the fleet and tried to suicide us.”

Falk said he doesn’t think his own gun ever stopped a Japanese aircraft, but overall the Navy did a good job. “We hit so many, or made them change their course.”

When the afternoon came, the attack was over. “They told us to turn the power off on all our guns because we had fired so much in the morning, we had drained the ship’s battery.”

The ship’s port side was facing Okinawa while the starboard, Falk’s side, was facing the sea. “We were all staring out, waiting for another attack. All of sudden I could see one lone Kamikaze coming over the island. I told my crew to turn the power back on.

“The problem was, every gunner on the ship saw the Jap at the same time and they all flipped the power switch at the same time. The ship blew a fuse.”

The guns could still be run manually. “You should have heard me holler, ‘Switch to manual.’” Darke’s guns took aim at the Kamikaze which now was rumbling along about 25 feet over the water directly at the transport. “Our fire made him change directions and he headed for the APA right next to us. About 10 feet from the other ship, the Kamikaze took a direct hit and just blew up. The explosion was so intense that I never even saw the plane hit the water, but it never hit the other ship.”

Darke stayed on station as the Battle of Okinawa raged on.

“We went to the other side of the island and there was a little grassy island there and they put a party of us ashore. It had been blasted from one end to the other. There was nothing left but smithereens. As I was walking over the rubble, I picked up a painted Japanese bottle. It didn’t have one scratch on it. Figure that one out. I still have the bottle.”

Darke headed to the Philippines and began to do practice landings for troops who were scheduled to be landed in southern Japan.

“One day in August, we were out at sea and I had my headphones on. The voice said that we had dropped a bomb on Japan and the war may be over.”

Falk repeated the message for his crew. “They just stared at me. We had dropped a lot of bombs, but now they were saying if we had dropped just one and it was going to end the war? Everybody just laughed. One bomb?”

The bomb, of course, was the first atomic bomb. A few days later, a second bomb was dropped. “And then the war was over.”

Darke brought men from the 41st Division to Japan to be occupying troops in Japan, and the ship was in Tokyo Harbor when the surrender was signed.

On its way back to America, Darke picked up a load of troops at several different islands and brought them home. “It was 15 days at sea, and we didn’t see anything but the sea. Finally we saw something. It was the Golden Gate bridge. It was so beautiful, you wouldn’t believe it.”

Falk was discharged from the Navy in January, 1946, after four years of duty. He went right home and began his printing career again. “They paid me 50 cents an hour. But then they said I was pretty good, so they gave me 60 cents an hour.

He was married in 1947 to Doris Anderson, and they had three daughters, five grandchildren and six great grandchildren. Doris died not long ago.

Falk became an avid fisherman, and once caught a 52-inch muskie. “I also caught 73 walleyes in three days once. I threw them all back in.”

He lives in an apartment in Maple Grove. Oh, and he had his congressman try to convince the government to change his official records to reflect his real name. This time, the Navy agreed.

Falk and his friends raise a toast with their milk glasses in a stateside restaurant.

Falk is a proud “plank owner” for the USS Darke, meaning he was one of the original crew. He kept a log of important events on his plank owner certificate including the surrender of Japan in Tokyo Bay.
WILLMAR HONORS MEMBERS — Longtime members of the Willmar Post 167 were honored for their longtime continuous membership recently.

MAPLE LAKE CERTIFICATES — Maple Lake Post 131 honored its longtime members. From right: Les Paumen, Larry Munsterleger, Gary Jude, and Harold Brutlag, received certificates.

NEW ULM HONORS SAL — Longtime Sons of the American Legion members at New Ulm Squadron 132 were honored with certificates and gifts. From left: Gene Olswold, Detachment Commander; Jim Bartels, Paul Maday, Dave Wolf, Jess Roiger, and Tim Rathman, squadron commander.

HERON LAKE HONOREE — A letter of recognition went to Leo Rasche for long service, presented by Daniel Glass, commander of Heron Lake Post 224.

BAYPORT HONORS STUDENTS — Bayport Post 491 honored foreign exchange students at Stillwater High School at a dinner. From left: Kamila Aitybekova, Carlos Mas-Rigo, Ayane Tanaka, Can Sommermeyer. All were given flags.

WOODBURY HONORS ROTC — Woodbury Post 501 honored high school ROTC members. At left, Jackson Saice won the “General Military Excellence” award and at right, Teven Tharalson won the “American Legion Scholastic” medal. At center is Post Commander Tom Grezek.

BACKUS THEATER — Backus Post 368’s “Usual Suspects Theater” paid tribute to the Laugh-In television show. Paul Deibel, left, played Col. Von Snauser and Wally Etzel played Pvt. Viener Schnitzel.

LUVERNE FUN DAY — The Second District sponsors an annual Fun Day at the Minnesota Veterans Home at Luverne.

FIFTH DISTRICT ORATORICAL — The Fifth District Oratorical winner was Isaac Winnes. From left are Donald Winnes, Isaac’s father; Isaac; and Fifth District Vice Commander Ray Eiden.

ORATORICAL CONTEST — Minnesota Oratorical champion Isaac Winnes posed with National Commander Dale Barnett and Richard Anderson, National Americanism Chair, at the national contest in Indianapolis.
Kava, John L., 84, Army veteran of the Korean War, died April 27, 2016. He served with the 59th Engineers in Fairbanks, Alaska. He was a past commander of the Legion in North Dakota. He served as a member of the Reserves and retired as a master sergeant. He was a member of Thief River Falls Post 41.

Bolichich, Basil Edward Francis “Sparks,” 90, Army veteran of World War II, died April 28, 2016. He served in Austria where he helped to set up the telephone systems in Austria and Germany. He was a member of Austin Post 91.

Johnson, Stuart Monroe, 90, veteran of World War II, died April 20, 2016. He served in the Pacific and earned a Bronze Star. He worked for Gen. MacArthur raising the flag again at Corregidor. He was a past commander of Mora Post 201.

Ellingston, Orville, 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died April 28, 2016. He served in the artillery. He was a member of Thief River Falls Post 117.

Justin, Nick, 91, Army veteran of World War II, died April 26, 2016. He served in the field artillery. He was a member of St. Stephen Post 221.

Ammos, Delroy A., 92, Army veteran of World War II, died April 29, 2016. He served in the Pacific. He was a member of Morris Post 29.

Bernhard, Basil Edward Francis “Sparky,” 90, Army veteran of World War II, died April 28, 2016. He served in Austria where he helped to set up the telephone systems in Austria and Germany. He was a member of Austin Post 91.

Kodet, Leonard J., 91, Army veteran of World War II, died April 23, 2016. He was a member of Sauk Rapids Post 254.

Zeller, Eldon W., 82, Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 13, 2016. He served for 22 years. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

Martlor, Francis “Mort,” 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died April 29, 2016. He served in the combat engineers in the Philippines. He was a past commander of Tyler Post 185, and was later a member of Marshall Post 113.

Fischer, John, 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died April 30, 2016. He was a paratrooper. He was a member of Waconia Post 150.

Huss, Wallace, 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 9, 2016. He was a member of New Prague Post 45.

O’Brien, Eileen Roosman, 92, Navy veteran of World War II, died April 22, 2016. She was a pharmacist’s mate second class and served in Texas. She was a member of Alexandria Post 87.

Bleth, James, 83, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died May 10, 2016. He served in Alaska. He was a member of Hermantown Post 51.

Blue, Dean F., 89, Navy veteran of World War II, died May 12, 2016. He served on the escort carrier USS Hoggatt Bay. He was a member of Granite Falls Post 69.

Reed, Raymond L., 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 3, 2016. He was a member of Hertha Post 366.

Janovsky, James, 84, Army veteran of the Korean War, died April 13, 2016. He was a member of Fairbank Post 43.

Jones, Richard, 95, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died April 13, 2016. He served in the Pacific. He was a member of Fairbank Post 43.

Schwartz, John C., 84, Army veteran of the Korean War and Vietnam wars, died May 16, 2016. He served two tours in Korea and two tours in Vietnam. He earned a Silver Star and two Bronze Stars. He served for 24 years. He was a member of Gaylord Post 433.

Kodet, Leonard J., 91, Army veteran of World War II, died May 16, 2016. He served in the 67th Armored Regiment as a tank driver in Europe. He was a member of Red Wing Post 38.

Jacobson, Elmer N., 95, Navy veteran of World War II, died May 13, 2016. He served at Okinawa, Espiritu Santo, New Hebrides, Russell Island, Bougainville and Solomon Islands. He was a member of Redwood Falls Post 38.

Bromstad, Carl O., 95, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died May 14, 2016. He was a fighter pilot in the Pacific serving at Okinawa, the Philippines and Iwo Jima. He was a member of Alexandria Post 87.

de Calethineau, Herve D., 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died April 23, 2016. He was a member of Willmar Post 167.

Broberg, Verne H., 97, Army veteran of World War II, died April 24, 2016. He was a member of Willmar Post 167.

Dahl, Orville, 93, Army veteran of World War II, died May 1, 2016. He was a member of Willmar Post 167.

Please make sure obituaries are complete

In recent months, many obituaries have been submitted into the Minnesota Legionnaire database. We have complete information. At the same time, more posts are submitted. Our standing policy, established 10 years ago, calls for obituaries to be accepted from April and May. If they are even one day late, the obituary will not be accepted.

Obituaries should include the complete name, date of death, branch of service, war, place of service, medals, etc. We reserve the right to edit all obituaries for style and brevity.

Membership Chart

As of May 18, 2016
Greetings Thundering Third:

Our membership program is only about 300 renewals by widely opening their Posts doors when the Riders stop at posts that I had a privilege to visit for their warm welcome and hospitality.

We want everyone to be a part of what we are all so proud of. There is no better place to live.

Greetings Roaring Ninth District.

This will be my final column as your district commander. I want to take this time to thank all the members of our Legion Family for your support and dedication to continuing to work for the causes of our veterans, their families and our communities. The District convention is fast approaching (8 & 9 June) in Maple Lake. I hope to look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. Let's make this the best convention ever! We will be electing a new slate of officers and it would be appreciated to show them our support in attending. All committee reports will be given in the new year. I am the new ALR chairman that will be attending.

I received the most recent update on CPR’s completed this year. Some are doing well with 82% (38 posts) and 19 posts. Let’s get those done, remember that our very own Art Tobkin is the Department Americanism chairman. This is our “proof” when going to Congress to lobby for the causes.

Membership card pick up is scheduled for 20 June for the new post. The new District team will be going to pick them up and receive any updates from National and Department. You will be contacted by your vice Commander to schedule a time to receive the packet. I am requesting that you each have a paid membership and your Post Officer report completed to give them when receiving the new membership packet. Thank you in advance. Let’s make this the best year possible for our new Commander and his team. Continue working on membership for this year. We have till December 31.

I wish to thank the entire Ninth District American Legion Family for all that you do for our veterans and military members, their families and our communities and our country. There is no better place to live.

Greetings from the Mighty Tenth.

It’s been a couple of months since my last article, so I hope some catching up to do. Since my last article, we have completed our District rallies for the year, with our St. Patrick’s Day Rally being held at the Delano Post, and our APRIL rally being held at Maple Lake. Both had good turnouts. Since then we have been preparing for our District Convention, which will be held at the Osseo-Maple Grove American Legion Post 172. I want to give a big shout out to John Torma the Convention Chair, who has kept us on track for the last few weeks. Thank you for all your efforts for today and this past year. As a Legion Family we had a great year working together.

As we move forward we will elect, appoint and reappoint officers for the ensuing Legion year. They cannot do the job by themselves. They need the support and commitment of our Posts and members to truly get the job done.

Membership is a never ending program, getting the stragglers to renew seems to be one of the hardest issues we face. Keep making that personal contact.

As always, “Keep Moving Forward” and “Keep It Positive.”
## Auxiliary Doubles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
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<th>Team Name</th>
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<td>18</td>
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<td>17</td>
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## All Even Alls

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## All Even Doubles

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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>Rushford, Kevin Drake</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>45</td>
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## Legion Team

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<td>4</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>Springfield, Gary Peterson</td>
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## Legion Doubles

<table>
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<td>2</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>Springfield, Bob Kirz</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>Rushford, Steve Kirz</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>Springfield, Chuck Schoenberg</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Le Legion Doubles took the Legion team title with a score of 2,739 at the Minnesota American Legion Bowling Tournament held this year at Albert Lea. Members of the team are Ken Baschkko, Mike Huonder, Larry Nelson and Mick Westeng.

In second place was Golden Valley Post 523 with a score of 2,698.

For the Auxiliary, Le Sueur Unit 40 took the honors with a score of 2,673.

Bowling for Lanesboro was Lori Anderson, DeAnn Hilmi, Sue Lance, and Ellen Wagner.

The Legion singles winner was Blaine Harmon of Lanesboro with a score of 797. In second place was Kurt Kutta of Springfield with a score of 781.

For the Auxiliary, the top singles bowler was Lexie Bowman of Rushford with a score of 743. Karen Kreamer of Lanesboro with a score of 797.

There were 493 Legion bowlers and 76 Auxiliary bowlers, or about 8% less than last year. There was a total of 53 Legion Posts participating this year in the tournament. The tournament for 2017 will be hosted by Osseo-Maple Grove Post 172 at Sunnyside Lanes in Dayton, about five miles from the post.

“As you can see, this is only six weeks away. We have had declining on the number of bowlers each year, so the board voted to go to six week ends to fill all the week ends up. We had one week end that had only 28 bowlers for the whole week end,” Torma said.

“I believe this will get more bowling alleys interested in hosting the tournament.”

The deadline to reserve your week end is Dec 31, 2016. You need to call and see if the week end you want is open, as the organizers have two week ends completely full for both shifts already.

The price is the same as last year, no changes. You can contact them on his cell 612-749-3794, or e-mail: johnie@msn.com.

“Thank you all for bowling this makes another great year. I will be the secretary for next year.”
WORLD WAR I OFFICERS – HONORED

The Auxiliary is proud of the members that served in military and nursing during the time of World War I.  A great many of the Auxiliary members were women who entered the service to fill the gap left by the men who left to fight.  Many of these women joined the Red Cross, nursing and other agencies.  The Auxiliary is proud to honor them and remember them.

At the 2016 convention, the Department of Minnesota Auxiliary presented certificates to the following women who served during World War I:

Henry County Unit 15
Sandy Johnson

Goodhue County Unit 4
Sandy Rainey

Hennepin County Unit 46
Dorothy Jeseritz

Kanawha County Unit 5
Harold Jeseritz

Mower County Unit 8
Harley Johnson

Northfield Unit 12
Harold Jeseritz

Spalding County Unit 11
Harold Jeseritz

The Auxiliary is proud of these women who served, and proud of the history of the Auxiliary to honor them.  The Auxiliary is proud to be a part of the history of the American Legion Auxiliary and to honor the service and sacrifice of its members.

May 9 Memorial Day/Flag Day

The Auxiliary is proud of the 2016 Memorial Day/Flag Day.  The Auxiliary is proud of the members that served in military and nursing during the time of World War I.  A great many of the Auxiliary members were women who entered the service to fill the gap left by the men who left to fight.  Many of these women joined the Red Cross, nursing and other agencies.  The Auxiliary is proud to honor them and remember them.

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The Auxiliary is proud of these women who served, and proud of the history of the Auxiliary to honor them.  The Auxiliary is proud to be a part of the history of the American Legion Auxiliary and to honor the service and sacrifice of its members.

May 12, 2016, Auxiliary Membership

<table>
<thead>
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<th>District</th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Membership to Date</th>
<th>Membership Last Year</th>
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<td>5,332</td>
<td>4,094</td>
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<tr>
<td>Three</td>
<td>5,323</td>
<td>4,201</td>
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<tr>
<td>Four</td>
<td>920</td>
<td>681</td>
<td>74.02%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Five</td>
<td>2,047</td>
<td>780</td>
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<tr>
<td>Six</td>
<td>7,318</td>
<td>5,602</td>
<td>79.28%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seven</td>
<td>4,859</td>
<td>3,779</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eight</td>
<td>3,533</td>
<td>1,333</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nine</td>
<td>5,233</td>
<td>4,150</td>
<td>79.32%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ten</td>
<td>6,382</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>45,409</td>
<td>35,672</td>
<td>78.12%</td>
</tr>
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WOD WOOD LAKE COUPLE HONORED – Harold and Lila Jeseritz were honored by Wood Lake Post and Unit with quilts made by their daughter-in-law Dorothy Jeseritz. They have been commander and president of their post and unit and held many other offices. They have been married for 68 years.

Girls State begins June 12 at Bethel University in St. Paul

The 70th session of American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State will convene on Sunday, June 12th, at the Bethel University St. Paul. Some 380 young women will participate by learning about Minnesota government by actually running a government.

The Counsellors and Staff are looking forward to returning to Bethel this year.

Thank you to all the Units for making this program possible for those young women who will be attending. We are all looking forward to an exciting week. The Committee has worked very hard making very positive changes to the program. Make sure and stay in touch with the citizens you have sponsored so you can report next year in your Annual Reports.

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

Has your Unit elected its delegates and alternates to the 2016 Department Convention? The Convention will be held July 21 – 23 at the Kahler Grand Hotel hosted by the Rochester American Legion Family 992. Information on housing and registration is found in this issue of the Minnesota Legionnaire.

Only 2 delegate and 2 alternate cards were sent to each Unit in the May Unit mailing. If your Unit needs additional delegate and alternate cards for the Department Convention, please contact the department office. Please note: The Department does not have the delegate/alternate cards for district conventions. These must be obtained from our district.

District caucuses will start at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 21, with the Convention being called to order at 9:00 a.m. All Auxiliary functions will be held in the Heritage Ballroom on the Lower Level of the Kahler Grand. Following is an abbreviated schedule of events for this year’s Convention. A more complete schedule will be in the next issue of the Legionnaire.

Wednesday July 20: Executive Committee Meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 21: - Registration opens at 7:00 a.m. - District Caucuses Meet at 8:00 a.m. - Convention begins at 9:00 a.m. - Memorial Service at 11:15 a.m.

Friday, July 22: - Registration opens at 7:00 a.m. - Convention Call to Order at 9:00 a.m. - Entertainment by Veterans - 4:30 p.m. - Parade at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 23: - Registration opens at 7:00 a.m. - Convention Call to Order at 9:00 a.m. - Announcement of Election Results at 10:00 a.m. along with installation of new Officers.

POPCY CONTESTS

Department Poppy Chairman Doreen Repdenning is holding two Poppy contests at the Department Convention. They are: 1) Wearable Poppy Art 2) Dress a Doll or Teddy Bear. Please read the Trophy and Awards booklet for rules. There will be a People’s Choice Award, votes by donation with all proceeds going to the President’s Project Fund.

The Auxiliary Bulletin

No. 16-10

President Sandy Fredrickson

June 2016

The Auxiliary Bulletin

Secretary Sandle Deutsch

Page 18 Minnesota Legionnaire June 2016

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

By the time you read this many District Conventions will be over with and a few more to go. Plans are being made for Department Convention in Rochester. Hope to see many of you there. Come see the awesome job you have done with our programs this year.

Hopefully we are coming to the mission of renewing members, one at a time.

It will be interesting to see who ends up receiving the PUFL paid up for life for membership! Will it be you? At this time I need to say “thank you” to all of you-- every member—that has carried through the mission of our organization.

You have “in the spirit of Service Not Self,” the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

It has been with great pride and honor to have served with you, worked alongside of you and experienced a “cultur of good will” with all of you. Thank you to every unit that invited me to attend their meetings. The pot lucks, special dinners, corsages, gifts were awesome. We have many, many great cooks out there.

It is my hope you are making plans to promote the Auxiliary in summer parades, especially the 4th of July. Keep in mind there are many communities who do not know what we do and why we do it.

Reminder—our work is not yet done. Yes, we are making plans for this year to end and new plans for the next year to begin. We must realize our organization is built on members, and we need to maintain our numbers. We need to continue to reach your last year’s number?

One personal note—“thank you” from the bottom of our hearts for the prayers and monetary donations our son Scott has received. He had a beautiful benefit. His goal is to one day walk on his own, without the braces and to stand on crutches. He has progressed a lot since he left the hospital. We ask you to continue to keep him in your prayers. Again, thank you for your kindness and thoughtfulness.


2016 DUES NOTICES

We have been advised by our National organization the first dues notices for the 2017 membership dues will be sent out no later than September 15. All Senior members will receive this first notice. If National Headquarters has an email file for you, the first notice will be sent via email only. Please share this information in your Unit via your Unit newsletter or at your next meeting. Remember that members can pay their Unit dues before that time, they do NOT have to wait for the notice from National.

2017 MEMBERSHIP

Though we are still in search of our members who have not yet renewed for the current year thoughts are already turning to the 2017 membership year. It will be interesting to see how many Districts will be handling membership differently this year for two reasons, the first being that you will get your membership packets earlier this year and the second is to save on costs for the Department. All Unit Membership packets will be available at the Department Convention in Rochester. Pick them up in the Auxiliary Office. If your packet isn’t picked up there, they will be given to the District Membership Chairman at August workshop on August 13. It will be up to those Chairmen to get the packets to your Unit. Please remember that all members can still pay their 2016 dues to retain their years of service. Let’s make another big push to get those renewals turned in.

NATIONAL CONVENTION

Cincinnati, Ohio is the site for our annual American Legion Auxiliary National Convention, August 26 - September 1. Delegates and alternates to the Convention are elected at each District Convention. Your District’s representation is based on your District’s total membership. If you are elected a delegate or alternate, you will receive a
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convention mailing from the Department the latter part of June, giving you all the deadlines.
If you are elected a delegate or alternate and find you are not able to attend, please notify the department office immediately.

2016-2017 OFFICERS’ LIST
We are in need of the Unit officers’ list for 2016-2017 from every Unit. Each Unit was sent two (2) copies of the list in the May mailing. Please return one copy to the department office, the duplicate copy is for your District President-Elect. All lists should be in no later than June 15. Only if I have received 195 out of 440 Officer’s lists. The form is posted on our website - you can fill it out and email it to the Department Office immediately.

Please be certain to check all addresses before sending in your list. The Department mailing list is compiled from what you send in for your Unit. Also, if you prefer items via email, please make sure and fill out the email address area.

The 2017 membership cards and supplies will be available in the Department Office at the Kahler Grand during Convention, provided we have received your officers' lists. This year we will not be mailing membership packets. Please stop by the office to get your membership information so you can get a jump on collecting dues.

When you receive your membership packets, please read the Adjunct Guide to Membership that will be included. The guide will explain the correct procedure for handling your Unit’s 2017 membership.

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP ENTRIES
Department, 4-H, FFA, for Chairman Jean Horack has announced the following Department winners were entered into Divisional competition for National scholarships. If selected in the Northwestern Division winner for the National President's Scholarship, the Spirit of Youth for Junior Members Scholarship or the Non-Traditional Students Scholarship, they will receive a National scholarship. If not a National winner, they will receive a $1,000.00 scholarship from the Department.

Children of Veterans, National President’s Scholarship – Abigail Meger of Belle Plaine. Abigail is competing with six other Departments in the NW Division for a $3,500.00, $3,000.00 or $2,000.00 scholarship. Spirit of Youth for Junior Members Scholarship – Sophie Engels, a member of the Ihanouve Unit 199. She is competing with six other Departments in the NW Division for a scholarship of $5,000.00.

Non-Traditional Student Scholarship - Amanda Pflipsen, member of Waite Park Unit 428, is competing with six other Departments in the NW Division for a scholarship of $2,000.00 Scholarship.

We have been informed that Amanda Pflipsen was awarded a $2,000 scholarship by National Education Chairman Sue Britton – our congratulations go out to you Amanda.

PAST PRESIDENTS SCHOLARSHIP
Through the Department’s Past Presidents Parley program up to ten $1,000 scholarships can be awarded each year. The following is a list of recipients: Samantha Winter of Henderson, Celia Gerbracht of Bagley, Tia Standinger of Plainview, Brittany Richards of Laverne, Bailey Scanlan of Houston, Rachel Allen of Dexter, and Andrea Schouweiler of Plainview.

Congratulations to each of you as you pursue a career in the fullest.

DEPT. SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS
Jean Horack, Education Chairman, has awarded eight scholarships for the Department of Minnesota Scholarship program. Each scholarship is in the amount of $1,000. The following is a list of the recipients: Hannah Hjelle of Willmar, Tia Standinger of Plainview, Nicole Anderson of Moorhead, Celia Gerbracht of Bagley, Martina Golden of Cambridge, Brooklyn ManzeY of Pipestone, Kendra Kaupa of Madelia and Shawna Youngberg of Marcell. There were 120 applicants for the Department Scholarship. Congratulations to all winners and we wish you the best in your educational futures.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS
Margie Keller, Department Legislative Chairman from Crookston Unit 20, received the following notice from Lisa Williams, National Legislative Chairman.

Welcome to the Legislative Mini-Council for the American Legion Auxiliary. Your nomination to service on the council for Rep. Walz has been received and processed for the 114th Congress.

Thank you for joining this important team of legislative advocates. As a member of the Mini-Council, you have a

heightened responsibility to actively support the legislative initiatives and priorities of The American Legion. To do this, I’ve insured you’re on the list to receive the Legion’s Action Alert emails and legislative update eNews about what is happening in Washington, D.C. You will play a critical role when a legislative “Action Alert” has been initiated by The American Legion, as you will use your connections to reach out to elected official(s) that you have established a relationship and rapport with for the purpose of encouraging support for The American Legion’s position, and thus The American Legion’s family’s needs.

The strength and voice of the American Legion Auxiliary helps assure those who represent us in Washington prioritize the needs of our veterans, service members and their families first and foremost when casting their vote. Your activism and commitment to reaching out when an alert has been launched is appreciated and valued.

We all congratulate Margie on the hard work and dedication she puts forth in supporting our veterans.

SECRETARY SANDIE’S CORNER
Here we are, summer is upon us and time is just flying by here at the Department Office. We continue to try our best to answer all of your questions and concerns, so keep the calls coming. Again, any time you want to visit, stop up and see us.

I decided, after finally realizing my husband isn’t going to kill me on the motorcycle, I bought a membership, present so we will be wheeling in first class on our bike trip to North Carolina this June. I think the boy is still in shock. I am making a short trip to Texas next month as my son and his wife bought a new house in Arlington – gotta check out the digs and make sure there is room for mama in her old age. I will also get to see my two babies who are growing so, it just stays me.

Please attend Department Convention if at all possible. President Sandy has done a fabulous job this past year. You can meet many new people and have a lot of fun as well. You need to see what this organization you belong to actually does.

I ask you all to say prayers to my dear friend Sue and her family, whose son was severely burned this past weekend, and will be at HCMC’s burn unit for a long time recovering. You need to see what this organization you belong to actually does.

You need to see what this organization you belong to actually does.
Medora Musical in North Dakota including the Black Hills
June 18-21, 2016
Two Include:
- Medora Musical Director Sue Barber
- 3 nights accommodations
- Visit to Medora Museum,90-minute tour of Medora
- Visit to Mount Rushmore, avoiding fighting ceremony
- Medora Musical, featuring local talent.
- Catered meal at Medora Musical
- Lodging handling for one suite per person
$700.00 Per Person Double Occupancy

New York City Tour
November 9-13, 2016
Two Include:
- 4 Seasons Tour Director Sue Barber
- Delta airlines flights from Minneapolis to New York City
- 4 nights stay at the Hotel at Times Square
- Broadway musical
- Radio City Music Hall “The Rockettes Christmas Spectacular”
- Mackinac Island City Tour
- Mackinac Island Golf and Museum
- Harbor Cruise with lunch
- Lodging handling for one suite
$2,799.00 Per Person Double Occupancy

Cuba Land & Cruise
November 12-20, 2016
Two Include:
- 4 Seasons Tour Director, Larry Alvey
- Delta airlines flights from Minneapolis to Ft. Lauderdale
- Overnight Miami Airport Hilton with breakfast
- 7 night cruise on the Adonia
- All meals, entertainment and Cuban Cultural events onboard
- All transfers to and from airport, hotel and pier
- Cruise gratuities
- Cuban Visa
- $2,899.00 Per Person Cruise for one suite per person

Holiday Branson
November 17-21, 2016
Two Include:
- 4 Seasons Tour Director
- Roundtrip Delta Flights from Minneapolis to Fort Lauderdale
- Roundtrip transfers from airport to hotel and pier
- Overnight Miami Airport Hilton with breakfast
- 7 night cruise on the Adonia
- All meals, American and Cuban Cultural events onboard ship
- Cruise gratuities
- $2,299.00 Per Person Double Occupancy

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