Special 2016 Convention Issue

The Minnesota American Legion and Auxiliary

Legionnaire

Volume 97, Number 8 For God and Country July 2016

Two vie for Department Commander office

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Convention will be held in Rochester

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The convention will have a Department Executive

Dues increase one of nine resolutions

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

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

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

Another resolution, Resolution 6, which originated at Sauk Rapids Post 254 and was passed by the Sixth District, opposes the dues increase, noting that the Legion just had a $5 increase at the national level this past year. The resolution says the Department should not consider an increase until the Department has shown a deficit for two years, and that the Department takes every step possible in cutting spending including cutting committees and reviewing all other budget costs.

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

Other resolutions at the convention will include:

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

Girls State 2016

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

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

Continued on Page 3
BOYS STATE OFFICERS -- Boys State was held in June at Southwest State University with 328 boys attending. State officers were elected during the week-long exercise in participatory government. From left, front: Ryan Lorsung, Boys State chairman; Charles Eickhoff, State Auditor, Crookston; Sikai Yang, Lt. Governor, Maple Grove; Ivan Pearson, Governor, South Haven; Nathan Haggerott, Secretary of State, Caledonia. In back: Knute Oldre, Attorney General, Luverne; Hunter Sjoberg, Associate Justice, New London; Trey Newman, Associate Justice, Oakdale; Derek Onsario, Chief Justice, Maple Grove; Mike Bredeck, Boys State Director.

Boys State elects officers for 2016 year

MARSHALL -- Ivan Pearson, South Haven, was elected governor of Boys State at its 68th annual session. Pearson, who is a junior at Riverside Military Academy in Georgia, was elected by his 328 peers at Boys State as the 2016 governor.

He is the son of Russ and Betsy Pearson of South Haven and is sponsored by Clearwater Post 232.

Two senators who will represent Minnesota at Boys Nation were selected by the staff of the program, Vince Clark, Andover, and Jesse Bissen, Orono, will attend Boys Nation at Washington D.C.

Clark, son of Shelly and Ralph Clark, goes to Andover High School and was sponsored by Anoka Post 102. Bissen, son of Scott Bissen and Michelle Morey, just completed his junior year at Orono High School and was sponsored by Wayzata Post 118.

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

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

James Libbey, who attends Benilde-St. Margaret’s, won this year’s Samsung Scholarship test and will be eligible for an additional scholarship from the national level.

He is the son of Amy and Robert Libbey. He was sponsored by St. Louis Park Post 282.

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

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

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

Convention will meet in Rochester

Continued from Page 1

Boys State convention meetings will be held Thursday, July 20, at 7 p.m. at the Marriott Hotel Ballroom 1. The Auxiliary Department Executive Committee will meet at 1 p.m. Wednesday in the Centennial Room.

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

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

Registration is $15 per person or $18 at the door. The annual Department parade will be held Friday evening of the convention on a route near downtown Rochester.

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

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

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

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

Please only one registration blank per person.

OFFICIAL CONVENTION PRE-REGISTRATION

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

Registration at the door will be $18.

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

Legion Post #_________ SAL Sqn__d__________________________ Auxiliary Unit__________________________
District__________ Phone______________________________
Name__________________________
Address__________________________
City, State__________________________ Zip__________________________

Delegate Alternative Guest

Delegate at Auxiliary (Please check one of the above.)

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

Please only one registration blank per person.
Cemetery dedicated at Preston

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

Tree Town Festival

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

Resolutions

Continued from Page 1
District, calls for a change in the Department’s constitution that now states that district officers shall assume their office at the conclusion to the Department Convention to “District offices shall be selected annually, who shall assume their office no later than the close of next Department Convention.” The resolution says that districts should have the autonomy to choose when officers will take on their duties.

- Resolution 2 originated from Hutchinson and the Third District and calls for the establishment of formal relationships between Post service officers and County Veteran Service Officers in order improve communication and the referral of veterans.
- Resolution 3 originated from Princeton Post 216 and the 10th District and would change a 2007 Department mandate that states a Legionnaire may hold only one state committee appointment. Instead, Legionnaires would be able to serve on an ad hoc committee and a regular committee at the same time. The resolution says that the current bylaw prevents appointing people who have great knowledge and expertise in an area to an ad hoc committee.
- Resolution 4 originated in the Ninth District and calls for members gained by a post through the revitalization process be immediately transferred and credited to a local post. The resolution, if passed, would be forwarded to the National Headquarters for proper action.
- Resolution 5 originated from Bagley Post 16 and the Ninth District and calls for endorsement of Dennis Henkemeyer for National Commander of the Sons of the American Legion at such future time as may become available. The resolution if passed would then be submitted to the national convention at Cincinnati.
- Resolution 7 originated in the Sixth District and is identical with Resolution 4.
- Resolution 8 originated from Christie DeParr Post 406 and the Fourth District and is similar to Resolution 5.

National Convention

Continued from Page 1
and go through Thursday, Sept. 1. It will be held at the Duke Energy Convention Center. Minnesota’s delegation will be staying at the Millennium Hotel, near the convention center.

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

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

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

Cincinnati is also home of the Cincinnati Reds baseball team and the Cincinnati Bengals Football Team. There will be a chance to see a pre-season football game on Thursday, Aug. 31, at Paul Brown Stadium vs. the Indianapolis Colts. The Reds will be out of town for the entire length of the national convention.

Purple Cross Plans for Veterans

Purple Cross has been serving America’s Veterans since 1948 and continues to offer the best funeral plans available. With Funeral Preplanning you can:

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- Protect your family from financial burden in time of grief
- Gain peace of mind knowing your funeral is taken care of.

Yes, I would like to know more about:

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☐ Payment Plan Options ☐ Discount Plans

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Name:
Address:
City/State:
Phone:
Birth Date:

The Minnesota American Legion is one of the largest Veteran Service Organizations, representing nearly 130,000 members and 137 local posts in the State of Minnesota.

CALL JOE, 612-801-4673 AFTER 6
Greetings to my fellow Legionnaires. This is my last column as your commander. First of all I want to thank all of you for supporting and attending and being a part of this organization. We have had some in the closet and a best kept secret. We are moving forward on this and soon we will be a common word in American Legion Family. For many years, I have felt, we need to do more in the way of communicating. I want to thank you for your help and support. I ask you, continued support for our newly elected officers.

A special thanks to Al Zdon who does many things only a Commander knows about. To all of you. I will see you down the road and may God continue to bless us all.

COMMANDER’S COLUMN

By Jim Kellogg

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

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

I want to thank my family for their support this past year. You kept me going when I was doing conference calls and my daily chores got finished. I look forward to spending more time with my grandchildren this coming year. I learn a lot from them.

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

In closing I hope to see many of you at our Department Conference as your Detachment Commander. No one begins to know the value for the great new friends you are made and the leaders you receive to say nothing for the great new friends you have made in the Detachment. We have important business as your commander. Take care of you and continue your support for our newly elected officers.

A special thanks to Al Zdon who does many things only a Commander knows about. To all of you. I will see you down the road and may God continue to bless us all.

Minnesota Legionnaire

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VETERANS AFFAIRS

By Jeremy Wolfsteller

RADIATION EXPOSURE COMPENSATION

On July 16, 1945, the United States was preparing for the world’s first atomic bomb test near Alamogordo, New Mexico, during the Manhattan Project, and gave the codename “Trinity.” This test was to determine if the operation was feasible before engaging against the Japanese. The U.S. conducted multiple nuclear tests from that time through December 31, 1962. Sites locations included Nevada, Pacific sites (Bikini Island, Eniwetok Atoll, Johnston Island and Christmas Islands). What project scientists at the time didn’t take in consideration or give total respect to was known as “nuclear fallout.” This refers to residual radioactive material propelled into the upper atmosphere following a nuclear blast. This radioactive dust is an extremely hazardous kind of radioactive contamination. After nearly 200 nuclear weapons test from 1945 to 1962, many workers and onsite participants filed class action suit alleging exposure to radiation. Congress did respond with restitution for a percentage of 105% which I know is yet to happen. As I wrote this it is being built. This is what our country and the others as well. We all know what John 3:16 says; John 3:17 says, “For God did not send His son into the world to condemn the world, but that through Him all people might be saved through Him. Think about that and let me know how you feel. Matthew 5:9 says, “Blessed are the peace makers, for they will be called children of God. As we work for peace we must also pray for peace in the world. I was invited to a ground breaking by Payneville Post 271. A young Boy Scout, working for his Eagle Scout award chose as his project a memorial for the veterans who have served. He presented the idea to the post and they took on the project. As I write this it is being built. The week our country and the American Legion are all about. Honoring those who have served. There is so much going on in the news right now but for some reason very little is said about the war where our soldiers are serving for the peace of others as they have done in WWI.

It has truly been my honor to serve as your chaplain. I said three years ago when I was asked if I would do it again I replied “I can’t do it anymore I have been an honor to serve for Commander Kellogg and with the rest of the team. They have had a wonderful year. With your support as the American Legion family, thank you. God bless you, God bless our troops, and God bless America.
Legion Survey for women

The American Legion is conducting a survey of women veterans to determine and bring light to issues they are facing. Women now make up 20 percent of the nation’s armed forces. All information is confidential and submitted anonymously. To take the survey go to www.surveymonkey.com/SM/legionwomen. Deadline is July 18.

LIT’s LegionCare May expire

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

StandDown

The annual StandDown for veterans will be held Aug. 2-3 at the Boy Scout Base Camp at Fort Snelling. The hours on Tuesday are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Wednesday from 8-4. Free services available include: VA benefits, clothing, housing, public benefits, haircuts, state driver’s license, employement services, and dental health counseling.

Legal Clinics

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

The two clinics will be:
- Tuesday, July 12, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center in the Flag Atrium Balcony Room.
- Thursday, July 13, at the Fargo VA Medical Center in the third floor auditorium from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Waterfowl for Warriors

A waterfowl hunting opportunity for veterans is being sponsored by local law enforcement, the city of Anoka and Federal Premium Ammunition. There will be three hunting dates, Sept. 3 and 15 and Oct. 9. The hunts will take place at the Anoka Nature Preserve on the Rum River. Volunteers will be on hand to ensure a quality hunt for veterans.

For more information, call Lisa at 763-567-2984 or email llacasse@ci.anoka.mn.us.

Gambling Seminar

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

It will be conducted by the Minnesota Gambling Control Board and the subject will be common problems, compulsive gambling and other related issues. For more information, call Kristine at 651-539-1924 or email Kristine.kowalski@gb.state.mn.us.
THURSDAY MORNING, JULY 21, 2016
7:00 a.m.  MEETING OF ALL CONVENTION COMMITTEES.
8:00 a.m.  CALL TO ORDER: Jim Kellogg, Department Commander, Taopi
9:00 a.m.  REPORT: Nancy Mertens, President, Willmar
9:30 a.m.  REPORT: Tom Sanders, Past Commander, Pine City
9:45 a.m.  REPORT: Larry Shellito, Commissioner, MN Department of Veterans Affairs
10:00 a.m. REPORT: Tom Conway, Law and Order Chairman, Argyle
10:15 a.m. REPORT: Bob Locker, Community Service Committee, Fridley
10:30 a.m. REPORT: Tom Sanders, Blood Chairman, Pine City
10:45 a.m. REPORT: Arthur Toffin, Americanism Chairman, Glenwood
11:00 a.m. REPORT: Art Tobkin, Americanism Chairman, Argyle
11:15 a.m. REPORT: Bill Barbknecht, Legionnaire Insurance Trust Chairman, Underwood
11:30 a.m. REPORT: Scott Mills, Federal Director, Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS)
11:45 a.m. REPORT: Randy Tesdahl, Department Adjutant
12:00 noon RECESS
12:00 noon CONVENTION COMMITTEE REPORTS.
1:30 p.m.  REPORT: Reporting National Executive Committee, Maple Grove
2:00 p.m.  REPORT: Reporting National Executive Committee, Maple Grove
3:00 p.m.  REPORT: Reporting National Executive Committee, Maple Grove
4:00 p.m.  REPORT: Reporting National Executive Committee, Maple Grove
5:00 p.m.  REPORT: Reporting National Executive Committee, Maple Grove
6:00 p.m.  RECESS.
THURSDAY, JULY 21
7:00 a.m. Registration Opens – Heritage Hall Foyer
7:30 a.m. Brass Ring Ceremony for the Processional – Heritage Hall
8:00 a.m. District Caucuses (10) meet – Consult Room
8:00 a.m. Convention Credentials Committee Meeting – Green Room
8:00 a.m. Convention Rules Committee Meeting – Green Room
9:00 a.m. Daily Roll Call of District Presidents – Sandie Detrich, Deputy Secretary
9:00 a.m. Auxiliary session convenes – Sandie Detrich, Deputy Secretary
9:05 a.m. Processional – ALL COLORS (see procesional line-up)
9:10 a.m. Call to Order – Sandy Fredrickson, Department President
9:10 a.m. Invocation – Cindy Nelson, Department Chaplain
9:30 a.m. President’s Pin to Newly Elected Department Officers and District Presidents – Bonnie Wagner, Department Second Vice President
9:35 a.m. Greetings – The Honorable Ardell F. Brede, Mayor of Rochester
9:40 a.m. Presentation – The American Legion, Auxiliary Bowling Trophy – Kari Oklesnes, Auxiliary Americanism Chairman
9:45 a.m. Final Report of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee – Karen Thygeson, Constitution and Bylaws Chairman
10:00 a.m. Americanism – Jessie Hoppe, Americanism Chairman
10:05 a.m. Report on Legionville, Wayne Gilbertson, Legionville Corporation President
10:10 a.m. Greetings from Governor of Minnesota – John Carney
10:15 a.m. Junior Activities – Robin Dorf, Chairman
10:20 a.m. Department Historical Junior President, Wade Putz
10:30 a.m. Jules Elta, 2015/2016 NV Division Honorary Junior Chairman
11:00 a.m. Past Department Presidents’ Luncheon – Sandy Detrich, Department Vice President
11:00 a.m. Report on The American Legion Family – Bonnie Wagner, Department Second Vice President
11:05 a.m. Final Report of the Credentials Committee – Bonnie Wagner, Department Second Vice President
11:10 a.m. Response for the District Presidents – Carol Barbknecht, Department Auxiliary President
11:15 a.m. Presentation of Department President’s Pin – Karen Thygeson, Department Second Vice President
11:30 a.m. Convention Committee Report – Finance, Bonnie Wagner, Department Second Vice President
11:45 a.m. Presentation – Auxiliary Bowling Trophy – Bob Mace & John Torra, Legion Bowling Team
11:50 a.m. Presentation – Auxiliary Bowling Trophy – Tony Paetzel, Legion Bowling Team
12:00 p.m. Convention Committee Report – Constitution and Bylaws Committee

FRIDAY, JULY 22
7:00 a.m. Registration Opens – Heritage Hall Foyer
7:30 a.m. President’s Pin – Karen Thygeson
7:30 a.m. Convention Rules Committee – Bonnie Wagner, Department Second Vice President
8:00 a.m. Processional – Heritage Hall
8:00 a.m. Convention Credentials Committee Meeting – Green Room
8:00 a.m. Convention Rules Committee Meeting – Green Room
9:00 a.m. Daily Roll Call of District Presidents – Sandy Fredrickson, Department Vice President
9:00 a.m. Invocation – Cindy Nelson, Chaplain
9:05 a.m. SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT OF CONVENTION
9:10 a.m. Report of the American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State of Minnesota
9:15 a.m. Presentation of the American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State of Minnesota
9:20 a.m. Convention Committee Report – Finance
9:25 a.m. Recognition of the Department Office staff – Sandy Detrich, Department Secretary
9:30 a.m. Presentation of the Department Auxiliary Chairman, Rochester Unit #52
9:35 a.m. Final Report of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee – Karen Thygeson, Constitution and Bylaws Chairman
9:40 a.m. Presentation of Department President’s Pin to Newly Elected Department Officers and District Presidents – Bonnie Wagner, Department Second Vice President
9:45 a.m. Final Report of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee – Karen Thygeson, Constitution and Bylaws Chairman
10:00 a.m. Americanism – Jessie Hoppe, Americanism Chairman
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11:15 a.m. Presentation of Department President’s Pin – Karen Thygeson, Department Second Vice President
11:30 a.m. Convention Committee Report – Constitution and Bylaws Committee
RESOLUTION 1
The following Resolution originated from Princeton American Legion Post 216 and is submitted for consideration by the 10th District and is submitted for consideration by the 2016 Department Convention, to be held in Rochester, Minnesota, July 21-23, 2016.

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

and

WHEREAS, this service is performed through the American Legion Campaign, Children and Nation, and

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

and

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

and

WHEREAS, current practices within Districts vary as shown below;

and

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

and

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

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

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Department Convention in Rochester, Minnesota, July 21-23, 2016.

RESOLUTION 2
The following Resolution originated from Hutchinson Post 96, Hutchinson MN and was adopted by the Third District and is submitted for consideration by the 2016 Department Convention, to be held in Rochester, Minnesota, July 21-23, 2016.

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

and

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

and

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

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

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

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

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

RESOLUTION 3
The following Resolution originated from Princeton American Legion Post 216 and is submitted for consideration by the 10th District and is submitted for consideration by the 2016 Department Convention, to be held in Rochester, Minnesota, July 21-23, 2016.

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

WHEREAS, this service is performed through the American Legion Campaign, Children and Nation, and

WHEREAS, this service is performed through the American Legion’s 4 Pillars, Americanism, Children and

Youth, National Security and Veterans Affairs, and

Rehabilitation, and

Youth, National Security and Veterans Affairs and

Rehabilitation, and

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

WHEREAS, this service is performed through the American Legion Campaign, Children and Nation, and

WHEREAS, in the past, the American Legion Department of Minnesota has had a total of 36 Ad Hoc Committees, of which a total of 16 have been appointed by the American Legion Department of Minnesota, and

WHEREAS, The expertise and experience of a Legionnaire currently serving a Committee appointment may be desired to be directed toward a continuing project such as maintaining action, therefore be it

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

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

RESOLVED, That any change to the Constitution and By-Laws become effective at the close of the Department Convention.

RESOLUTION 4
The following Resolution originated from the 9th District and is submitted for consideration by the 2016 Department Convention, to be held in Rochester, Minnesota, July 21-23, 2016.

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

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

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

WHEREAS, One method of maintaining this membership is through the National Direct Membership Solicitation Program;

and

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

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

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

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Department Convention in Rochester, Minnesota, July 21 - 22 for concuring action, and be it finally

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

RESOLUTION 5
The following Resolution originated from Irvin Blx Post 16 in Bagley, Minnesota and was adopted by the 9th District and is submitted for consideration by the 2016 Department Convention, to be held in Rochester, Minnesota, July 21-23, 2016.

National SAL Commander Endorsement
WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion is a program of The American Legion comprised of descendants of Veterans, and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, He has served as the Detachment Membership Director for three (3) consecutive years obtaining an all-time high in membership for all three years; and

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED, That the above resolution that upon current action by the Department of Minnesota said resolution be forwarded to The American Legion National Convention assembled in Salt Lake City, Utah on August 21-23, 2016 for concurring action, and, be it finally

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

RESOLUTION 6
The following Resolution originated from Frank Heinzel Post 398 in Sandstone, Minnesota and was adopted by the 6th District and is submitted for consideration by the 2016 Department Convention, to be held in Rochester, Minnesota, July 21-23, 2016.

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED, That this change to the Constitution and By-Laws be presented to the National body by resolution; and

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

RESOLVED, That the Department of Minnesota takes every step necessary to cut spending, reduce or eliminate Committees, review all budgeting cost items and cut spending, reduce or eliminate Committees, review all budgeting cost items and be it further

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

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

RESOLUTION 7
The following Resolution originated from the 6th District and is submitted for consideration by the 2016 Department Convention, to be held in Rochester, Minnesota, July 21-23, 2016.

Reactivation Transfers
This resolution is the same as Resolution 4.

RESOLUTION 8
The following Resolution originated from Christie DePaarq Post 406 in St. Paul, Minnesota and was adopted by the 4th District and is submitted for consideration by the 2016 Department Convention, to be held in Rochester, Minnesota, July 21-23, 2016.

Ad Hoc Committee Members
WHEREAS, The American Legion, Department of Minnesota must from time-to-time form ad-hoc committees for a special purpose/specific issue, which during its time it's function is achieved; and

WHEREAS, It is necessary to have the most-experienced and accomplished officers available to fulfill the specific function on the ad-hoc committee to insure its success; and

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

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

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be forward- Continued on Page 19
Shot down

By Al Zidon

I t was New Year's day and Lt. Bill Schleppegrell was on his 16th mission flying a P-47 fighter over Europe when he felt a large thump.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Training was long, but Schleppegrell said it went well. "I never felt I was in danger of washing out, but a lot of my friends washed out. I just grew into it. Of course, it was all the way home, but my dad said it was a sucker and we couldn't eat it."

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

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

Suddenly there was what he called "a sickening thud," and he could smell gun powder in the cockpit. "I knew I was hit, but the instruments continued to read okay. Everything seemed fine. I checked to see that I wasn't hit in a vital place, and then I flew up and rejoined the flight."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"I did about 10 or 12 flights there. We mainly did dive bombing on railroad yards and bridges and factories. We carried two 500 pound bombs, but we would also strafe a lot. On several missions, we supported the French ground troops."

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

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Suddenly there was what he called "a sickening thud," and he could smell gun powder in the cockpit. "I knew I was hit, but the instruments continued to read okay. Everything seemed fine. I checked to see that I wasn’t hit in a vital place, and then I flew up and rejoined the flight."

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

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

"I wasn’t going to make it to the front lines, so at that point I only had two choices. I could try to land the plane, or I could parachute out. But the terrain wasn’t very good, and I didn’t want to leave a plane in flyable condition in
Germany. The town had never been bombed, probably and I'd stand with my butt against it trying to get warm.”

“They'd turn the heater on for a short time in the morning, confinement for eight or nine days.

“...’I remember we walked over the Rhine on a damaged bridge. ‘One time we were put in a prison where you could...

“...I got into a side car and they took me into a bomb-ed-out town. All that was left of the buildings were the basements.

“...they just asked where the parachute was. I got into a side car and they took me into a bomb-ed-out town. All that was left of the buildings were the basements.

“...I could see the artillery shelling. I think I was stunned somewhat from hitting my head. As I walked along, an old guy on a bicycle was coming at me. What could I do? There was no place to hide. I just kept walking, hoping he wouldn’t notice anything.”

“...I was marched off. ‘We were days walking. I think that’s...

“...he couldn’t answer any more questions.

“...I gave him the same answers.”

“...I could hear the American planes dusting of snow on the ground. He injured his leg on impact. ‘I also must have hit my head on the tail or the wing when I jumped because I was bleeding from just above my eye. And my pants leg was just about torn off.’

“...I got off his bike and started yelling. I took off run-

“...the interrogator then said that America had been drop-

“...he asked me about my unit again, and I told him I couldn’t answer that.”

“...the interrogator asking other prisoners. ‘They were basically telling him everything he wanted to know. That really irked me.’

“...Schielpregrell was called back in for a second round of quastioning. ‘He looked at me like he had never seen me before and asked the same questions. I gave him the same answers.”

“...’I had heard of the bulldozer and a couple of P-47s from the 371st Fighter Group share the same runway in France. Note the Matson matting on the field. In order to build airfields quickly, the steel matting was used on most airstrips.

“...Sometimes they rode a train, sometimes they marched.

“...we were near the front line.”

“...Schleppregrell in a cockpit during training in the U.S.

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

“...A bulldozer and a P-47 from the 371st Fighter Group share the same runway in France.
“The camp was built right next to the water, and barracks were on stilts. It was one of the biggest camps in Germany.” By war’s end, about 9,000 Allied prisoners were in the camp.

Schleppegrell had been traveling for 19 days, and he said that was the worst of his experience as a prisoner of war. After that, life settled into the routine of the camp. There were 24 prisoners in his room, with banks rising up three tiers. He was deloused to kill the bugs that had joined him along the way. The prisoners would be called outside to be counted several times a day, and they were also led in physical activity outside.

“We had straw on the bunk, but it got hard as time went on. Plus we were losing a lot of weight. You’d wake up in the morning black and blue all over just from sleeping.”

Food amounted to bread with margarine in the morning with some ersatz coffee, a bowl of broth at noon, and another slice of bread with marmalade at night. Schleppegrell had been about 155 when he was shot down, and weighed 116 when he was liberated.

“We were supposed to get one Red Cross parcel every week, but at first we weren’t getting any. Then we started getting more. I don’t think I ever got a whole box, though.”

“The parcels always had cigarettes, and guys would trade them for chocolate or other food. The parcels also came with a can of Spam.”

Somewhere in the camp the prisoners had a clandestine radio that someone had built from odds and ends. “They even printed up a little paper, and every night someone would come and read to the group about what was happening in the war. The Germans would keep us informed, but we already knew what they were telling us. The radio was good for morale.”

The prisoners would call out rhymes and ditties while they did their calisthenics, and one of the phrases was “C’mon Joe.” “But the Germans finally figured out we were talking about Joe Stalin and the Russian Army, which was getting closer every day, so it was forbidden from our repertoire. We also used to call the guards ‘goons,’ but then they found out what a goon was, and we couldn’t do that anymore.”

The men played cards and had access to a small library. Schleppegrell spent much of his time tending to his frozen feet. “They had turned black and were peeling. I would hold them up to the window and the sunshine, and that seemed to help forming new skin.”

No tunnels were ever dug at Stalag 1 because the camp was right at sea level.

“We ate mainly turnips and rutabagas, and most of the guys said they’d never eat another one the rest of their lives. We got horsemeat now and then. And we had powdered milk which was called ‘klim’ which is milk spelled backwards.”

On April 29, 1945, the men woke up to find the German guards were gone. “We knew the Russians were very close. We were ordered by Colonel Zabrinski, the American officer in charge of the camp, to dig long trenches to get into in case the camp was bombed.”

On May 1, the Russians marched in and were generally friendly toward the Americans. “But they were provoked that we weren’t all wearing black arm bands in honor of the death of Roosevelt. We hurried up and found some black cloth and pretty soon we were all wearing black arm bands.”

The Russians had no love for the Germans. “The Russians soldiers were a rough crew. They pretty much ruined that beautiful little town. The prisoners were forbidden to leave camp, but many took off anyway, seeking the American or British lines. It wasn’t until May 12-13 that the Russians allowed the prisoners to be evacuated by aircraft. The war had been over for a week.

“We went to the local airstrip and got on board these Lancasters, huge British bombers. There were also American bombers. They flew us to Camp Lucky Strike in France. We could have whatever we wanted to eat, and most of the guys went for ice cream or candy. So everyone got really sick.”

Two of the men were sent home on ships. Schleppegrell was discharged from the Army in Santa France. We could have whatever we wanted to eat, and most

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From there the men were sent home on ships. Schleppegrell was discharged from the Army in Santa Monica, California. He had earned a Purple Heart, an Air Medal with two clusters, and a POW medal. He was never debriefed about being a prisoner until 1984, when the government had him come to Fort Snelling and fill out a 16-page questionnaire.

He went back to the university, but this time focused on teaching German. He was married in 1948 to Norma. Over the years they had eight children, six of whom are alive, 16 grandchildren, and they are expecting their 25th great-grandchild. Norma was a mental health professional in Minnesota, and won many awards and accolades.

Schleppegrell taught German at University High School in Minneapolis for four years, and then was hired to be on the staff at Hibbing High School in 1952. At that time, the Hibbing school system was considered perhaps the finest in the state because the district had mining money to hire the best teachers.

In 1959, a German language village for high school stu-
dents was planned for New Ulm and Schleppegrell was asked to help out. He then became dean of students at the

In 1977, Schleppegrell received a certificate of merit from Goethe House of New York and the American Association of Teachers of German. It was given for outstanding achievement in teaching German

At Stalag Luft 1, Schleppegrell’s mess kit was made from discarded powdered milk tins.

A friend of Schleppegrell’s drew this depiction of the room the prisoners stayed in. There were 24 men assigned to a room and the bunks were three deep.

The prisoners at Stalag Luft 1 were called outside frequently for roll call.

Concordia Language villages German immersion camp at a rented Bible camp near Alexandria.

Schleppegrell had made the full circle from German prisoner of war camp to German language camp. In 1977, he was given an award from the German government commending his work at the language camp.

He taught at Hibbing High School until he retired in 1984, and has now been retired for 33 years. He and Norma live in an apartment overlooking a pond in Hibbing.

(This story is mainly based on a recent interview with Schleppegrell in Hibbing, but it also uses material from an story done by Lt. Col. Terrance Popravak Jr. for the Air National Guard website and from a story that ran in 1982 in the Hibbing Daily Tribune.)
Boys Staters hold up a free book, “A Declaration of Independents” given them by speaker and author Greg Orman. Orman was a former Boys Nation president.

Boys State

Boys State Counselor Adam Logeman explains the ins and outs of parliamentary procedure at an early session.

When running for office, a Boys Stater can stand up and tell his peers why he’s the best candidate.

State SAL Commander Gene Olswold and National Vice Commander Dennis Henkemeyer were on hand to charter a new squadron at Boys State. New squadron Commander Kevin Barth unfurls the charter.

Waiting for their city picture, one group tried out variations of the “wave.”

Mike Bredeck, who has retired after 15 years as Boys State Director after this year’s session, got to present his daughter, Kate Bredeck, with a plaque honoring her 10 years of work at Boys State. She will also be retiring.
Girls Staters and Minnesota Lt. Governor Tina Smith, center, reached for new heights following Smith's address to the assembly at Bethel University in Roseville.

Selected by the Girls State staff, the two girls who will represent Minnesota as senators at Girls Nation are Hannah Hendrickson of Moorhead and Michelle Onyekaba from Coon Rapids.

Girls Staters honored longtime Americanism speaker Elizabeth Wall Strofus with a wreath placed in the World War II memorial at the Capitol. Strofus died this year. Placing the wreath were Girls State Supreme Court Justice Hadley Lange, Attorney General Savannah Romann, Chief Justice Flo Ayika, and Justice Katherine Twiss.

Bob Locker salutes during a flag retirement ceremony put on by a ritual team from the 40/8 organization.

Photography by Michelle Leonard
Adjutant

Our programs touched the lives of veterans, their families and youth from all across the state. We continue to grow in the things we do and how we impact our communities.

We provided direct assistance to many veterans at the VA Medical Centers that serve Minnesota’s veterans through our on location Department Service Officer in the Minneapolis VA Medical Center and Veterans Hospital Representative in the St Cloud VA.

We provided honors to thousands of veterans as final respects were given at military funeral honors all across the state.

We continue to explore new ways to get our face and name out there through service and events that support and appreciate our American heroes. And we try to form relationships that bring the message of our organization to others in ways that may we may not have explored in the past.

We helped provide an opportunity for many disabled, recently returned, and older veterans to get together in the great Minnesota outdoors at events such as the veterans deer and turkey hunts and the Trolling for the Troops and Fly fishing events.

Our VA&R committee managed by our Department Service Officer Jeremy Woldseth met with the senior leadership at each state and federal VA facility that serves Minnesota veterans as they do each year. They ask the difficult questions relating to care, facilities and benefit access that are respected in the veterans’ community and work closely with all key stakeholders at the federal state and local levels. They provided training to the County Veterans Service Officers (CVSOs) through our national offices and state VA’s by taking them to Indianapolis and Washington DC to attend our in house VA&R training.

Minnesota’s youth remain one of our focuses and many from all across the state participated in our American Legion Boys State program which they prepared and gave oratory presentations on the Constitution of the United States of America. Several won scholarship money for their efforts. We sent several hundred boys from across the state to Boys State for one week where they learn firsthand from our state’s leaders how our government operates. They will form city, county and state offices and draft legislation which will run those entities.

At Legionville the new training facility is outstanding thanks to the Department Adjutant Carroll Partridge I thank you for the warm handshakes, the humor, and the work you have done.

We have over 330 teams and 6,000 participants, and annually one-week sessions through the summer they come together from all across Minnesota to learn and enjoy a week in the outdoors. Our track and baseball program, the largest in the nation. We have over 330 teams and 6,000 participants, and annually we put on the largest and best state tournament in the nation.

The ice fishing Sweetheart rally was a real hit. The first Department Vice Commanders and to have most of them at Legionville because of its location and excellent facilities. Roy Kruger the caretaker was great to work with and helped us plan and execute each rally. The only difference in the rallies was that each time we went back it was more fun. Thank all of you who attended or helped in any way.

Legionville proved to be a great chance as the attendance for the rallies overall was better than it had been in the past. We worked closely as a team and let the staff handle the rallies and decided to have most of them at Legionville because of its location and excellent facilities.

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The five Department Vice Commanders were the best I could have had. They became known as the Fabulous Five and the people will remember the challenge. We held three sessions across the state and the attendance was overwhelming. Each time these men were asked to help in any way throughout the year they responded in a positive manner. This made my job much easier knowing I had their full support. I can not thank them enough for all they did this past year.

The outdoor activities with the Disabled Veterans proved to be one of my favorite events along with the visits made to the Veterans Homes across the state. Each time you visit a nursing home or medical center please remember to thank the people who work those jobs. To many of those workers it is more than a job, it is a passion. A simple thank you goes a long way.

Our Public Relations Committee has proven to be another tremendous asset this year. They supported all of our rallies. Their knowledge of technology and support became one I depended on all year and they performed excellently.

I was able to see parts of Minnesota this year I had not seen before thanks to many invitations received. I never had the same meal twice and they were all great. I set a goal at the beginning of the year to lose some weight and now I have only 20 pounds more to go to get started. Thanks to all of you for all the kind acts shown to my wife and I.

I have learned more about all of you and the many great things you do all over our great state of Minnesota. You really are examples of what Minnesota is all about. Please take the time to let the members of your communities know what you do. When you do your Consolidated Post Report take another few minutes and send a copy to your local newspaper and post one in your Post home. We need to let more people know all the great things we do.

I incline I want to thank the entire American Legion Family for making this a year I will never forget. To my Family at home for their total support and all of you who helped in any way. From your attendance all year from beginning to ending the 40,000 plus miles I have travelled have been the adventure of a lifetime.

Thanks for the memory and may God Bless.

Commander

My year began with several planning sessions. I met with our Legion Family leadership and we started planning for just this past year. We agreed that we needed to place more emphasis on the Family and that we are a Family organization with something to offer all Family Members. With that we were off and running working together as one.

Jim Lucas agreed to be Membership Director for this year. We planned the rallies and decided to have most of them at Legionville because of its central location and excellent facilities. Roy Kruger the caretaker was great to work with and helped us plan and execute each rally. The only difference in the rallies was that each time we went back it was more fun. Thank all of you who attended or helped in any way.

Legionville proved to be a good chance as the attendance for the rallies overall was better than it had been in the past. The ice fishing Sweetheart rally was a real hit. The five Department Vice Commanders were the best I could have had. They became known as the Fabulous Five and the people will remember the challenge. We held three sessions across the state and the attendance was overwhelming. Each time these men were asked to help in any way throughout the year they responded in a positive manner. This made my job much easier knowing I had their full support. I can not thank them enough for all they did this past year.

Vice Commander

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John Milbrath

Department Vice Commander

1st and 3rd Districts

I thank the American Legion Family members of the First & Third District for giving me the opportunity to serve you. To the 1st and 3rd District Commanders Dun and Rollins, Membership Directors Mike and Les, thank you for your friendship and support this past year. Your District membership teams have worked hard this year to achieve all the membership goals.

It has been an honor to work with Department Vice Commander Jim Kellogg. He set a high standard to establish and maintain a Legion Training Team statewide. In addition, he put the word Family, in front of all of all Department events and activities. Coming from the transportation industry, Department Membership Director Jim Lucas kept the Polio to the Metal, and never lost sight of the membership goals. To the Department Vice Commander, Don Amundson, thank you for your hard work.

Finally, a big thank you to the staff at District Headquarters. Your assistance when needed and the hard work at Department functions may not always be noticed, but your efforts are greatly appreciated. It has been a honor to serve as a Department Vice Commander.

John Milbrath

Department Vice Commander

2nd and 7th Districts

What an honor and privilege to have had the opportunity to serve The Department of Minnesota as one of the Vice Commanders under the guidance of Commander Jim Kellogg and his Membership Team. I will cherish the memory, beginning with the opportunity to represent The Department at the Legion Ball Kick Off in New Ulm on July 18th. Then go to American Legion Headquarters in Indianapolis for three days of Membership Training, with the opportunity to meet Legionnaires from all over the country and share experiences and ideas to recruit and retain membership in the American Legion.

This training was especially helpful when attending District Executive meetings and Membership Dinners and Rallies, but perhaps most helpful with our own Department Membership efforts. It was a great opportunity to meet with the best. Thanks for the memory and may God Bless.

Commander

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Jim Kellogg

Department Vice Commander

Vice Commander

To the Convention of the Department of Minnesota

The American Legion

Adjutant

Vice Commander

The American Legion

Vice Commander

Adjutant

Vice Commander

Reports

July 2016

Minnesota Legionnaire

Tips
Treasurer

As Treasurer, I serve on the Department Finance Committee, Minnesota Legislator, and the Legionville Board of Directors. It has been my pleasure to serve you again this past year as your Department Treasurer. The Treasurer is charged with the responsibility and administration of all Department funds and related financial affairs with direct responsibility to the Department Executive Committee. The duties include: budgeting, overseeing accounting principles, and financial processes of the American Legion, preparing financial audit reports, analyzing and prescribing financial reports, and investing the assets of the American Legion Department.

The following is an overview of the Department’s investments between May 2015 and May 2016. The year began with an allocation of 27% stocks and 73% bonds. Bonds in the account are primarily high grade, municipals, and 7-10 year maturity. Returns for stocks and bonds and CDs. The stocks are diversified between large, medium, and smaller companies, and the bond portfolio is diversified between various types of bonds, all with high credit ratings.

Americanism

I would like to thank Department Commander Jim Kelling for allowing me to participate in the Americanism Sub-Committees. The Department of Minnesota, and wish you a successful convention in July.

I would also like to thank my Americanism Committee members Mel Amundson, Tim Mahoney, Don Amundson, and Maryould Council. I would love to continue to be a part of your Department Americanism Committee.

I was elected Secretary of the Americanism Department Committee at the 2015 Fall Convention. We have five Sub-Committees: the Membership, the Department Americanism Committee, and the Department Americanism Chairmen. Please see the individual committee reports for more detail.

The Americanism Department Committee met at the 2015 Fall Convention in Indianapolis, IN. We elected the current Americanism Sub-Committees, and to the respective District Americanism Chairmen. The Department of Minnesota Americanism Committee includes the Americanism Committee.

Chairman

The Department Adjutant, Treasurer and Judge Advocate are each elected at the Department level. These officers serve one year and are elected during the Department Convention.

I would like to thank my Department Adjutant and the Department Judge Advocate for doing an outstanding job for the past two years.

Department Adjutant

Americanism

I would like to thank my Americanism Committee members and the Department Adjutant, Treasurer and Judge Advocate for doing an outstanding job for the past two years. I would like to thank my Americanism Committee members and the Department Adjutant, Treasurer and Judge Advocate for doing an outstanding job for the past two years.

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Americanism
Boys State

We have concluded our stay at Southwest Minnesota State University, this year’s Boys State. It is better known because the American Legion Post 113 has been a very grateful host to all of these girls (Steve Glasser). Thank you as well to the Southwest Regional State program and the entire community of Marshall for their support. Mary Seifert, Jim Tate, John Ginczuk, Jessica Bentley, Dennis Nord, and all of the others who have been so kind.

The American Legion Posts are to be commended in their recruitment efforts and thank you to the Special Projects Coordinator, Mr. lunch and to thank the Department Commander, James Kellyg for his support as Commander. Special thanks to the Department of Service to Minnesota Boys State. Ten years of service are recognized for Al Krese, Kate Brink and Bruce Anderson.

American Legion Minnesota Boys State is always exciting, but this year was especially exciting. I would like to thank the other members of the selection committee; without their help, the program could not go on. I would like to thank my family for helping each and every year with this program. First, my wonderful wife Sue, my daughters Mary, Lani, and Megan, my son Luke, and my wonderful mother-in-law Libby and husband Joe Anderson; without their help, the program could not go on.

Director, Boys State

Community Service

It is that time of year to look back and review what our American Legion Posts have meant to our communities. How do we do this the better way? Our past officers must summarize what our members have done this past year and report back to their members and then get this to the Department of Minnesota who can summarize for our state and pass it on to National. Our members should observe this information as feedback. Nothing helps pull an organization together more than celebrating what we have achieved.

We can try to estimate what was accomplished at state and national levels by reviewing the reports that our posts did summit. This year we had 63 volunteers that help make this program great.

I want to thank Commander Kellyg for appointing me as Boys State Chairman. I am pleased to be a part of the Minneapolis Community

Education

The Scholarship Committee met Friday April 16th 2016 at the Wae Park and Conference Center on the campus of Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall.

The six memorial scholarships were awarded to Clarice Hartle of Chatfield Post 51, Kata Golin of Clearwater Post #225, Susan Smithson of Chatfield Post 234, Terri Ek of Marshall, Minnesota, Sarah Hedin of Chatfield Post 275, and Jamiol of Inver Grove Heights Post 424. The top 15 delegates will be sent by their respective Posts.

American Legion Minnesota Memorial Scholarships, Three Minnesota Legation Insurance Trust Scholarships along with Seven Nursing Scholarship grants totaling $132,500.00 were presented tostellar

The Legion Boys State Scholarship Program is a valuable part of the Safety – School Corporation. It is the only facility ever developed for this purpose. Last year’s storms caused quite a bit of damage. With the amount Minnesota Legation contributed for the cost of the boys and the amount we had to pay out of our own pocket, we did not think we would be able to cover all of the funds.

I attended the Children and Youth Conference in September at the Legislative Complex. The information gathered at this conference is important to all citizens. It is our duty to keep this information as valuable as possible for children.

Safety Patrol

Community Service Chairman

The Minnesota Teen's are having a slow start this year. They have been struggling. The games are still interesting. If you haven't treated your stove unattended. Keep flammable materials at least three feet away from open flames. Those children, death is by drowning. East Grand Forks last May lost their lives. The games are still interesting.

I want to thank Department Commander Jim Kellyg for appointing me as Department Commander. I also want to thank all the District Chairmen, Education District Chairmen, August 14, 2016.

I want to thank Department Commander Jim Kellyg for appointing me as Boys State Chairman. I am pleased to be a part of the Minneapolis Community

Competition at the National level is comprised of nine contestants in six categories. The semi-final competition was held at Osseo Post 172 and Coon Rapids Post 324, with 4 contestants at each location. The competition is open to all American Legion Boys from all 50 States and Territories of the United States, and all are extremely grateful for the opportunity afforded them.

The American Legion Boys State Program will move to St. John’s University in Collegeville, Minnesota.

I would like to thank the other members of the selection committee; without their help, the program could not go on.

I want to thank Commander Kellyg for appointing me as Boys State Chairman. I am pleased to be a part of the Minneapolis Community

The American Legion Boys State Program is alive and well in Minnesota. We are grateful to have you with us, and look forward to having you again next year.

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In the past, the Employment Committee has served the Department of Minnesota by having the District Employment Chairmen submit the names of companies and individuals for assistance. The purpose of this was to make the Districts aware of job opportunities for our Veterans. This year, the award of this is then submitted to the National Headquarters for the final review.

I report that there were no company names submitted by any of our District Employment Chairmen. This year I want to stress that using the FRER 169 makes it even easier for our Veterans to apply. We have a complete free AD insurance. I thank committee members John W Millhollin and Carl Van Horn for their help in getting this program off the ground.

In addition to that, a Big Thank You to Al, Adj. Randy and the entire HQSFR Staff for their assistance in making this program a success.

I would like to call at 218 770 6246 any time. We look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting held at the Fall Conference.

Chairman, Finance Committee

Fund for Hosp. Vets

The Fund for Hosp. Veterans was created in 1989 and is held in trust with the Legacy Foundation, which is now able to provide money for the continued operation of the Legacy Home Veterans' Home.

The Legacy Foundation, which is now able to provide money for the continued operation of the Legacy Home Veterans' Home.

Chairman Mike Maxa asked if Auxiliary Department Secretary Sandie Beideman would contact the members who were present. Mike Maxa, Chairman, Wes Thompson, Gene Olsvold, and Mark Dvorak announced Adjunct Randy Tesdahl. D60 Tom Newman and Auxiliary Secretary Sandie Beideman. Board Member Carol Kottom was excused.

Chairman Mike Maxa brought up the notepad that are given out to the tomatoes. Tom Newman stated that there were new expenses in the year as there is no allowance. John noted that the committee should make a decision to continue using the notepads or use the booklets. Both Zelion said they use to help with the work. Mike Maxa brought it up to those hands during veteran activities. The book was used to help with their work. Mike Maxa brought it up. No motion was made to bring up the book. Thanks go out to our new distributor, North Central Reclamation located west of Brainerd.

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Pheasant Dinner

The 74th Annual Hospitalized Veterans Pheasant Dinner Program was a great success. The P.U.F.L. and the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Homes, VA Medical Centers, and other donations contributing this year. Contributions came from all across the state of the Department. The Minneapolis V.F.W. and the Minnesota Department of Veteran Affairs and other donors totaling $28,475.20 is placed into the American Legion Hospitalized Veterans Dinner Dedicated Fund which was received by $39,212.60 at the time of this report. The P.U.F.L. was a joint sponsor of the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs. The Spring and Fall conference were well attended with informative sessions back to the delegates. The P.U.F.L. Minnesota membership continues to increase.

Raymond D. Ommen
Assistant, Sons of the American Legion

Sports: Bowling

Owen, Secretary, Sons of the American Legion

Rehabilitation

The Minnesota American Legion Department Rehabilitation Committee is a five-member committee composed of organization members who meet monthly to discuss matters related to the delivery of VA benefits, programs, and services. Committee members are appointed to this committee for a two-year term or to the remaining portion of the term of a resigned member. Past and present Rehabilitation members have been former directors or administrators of VA Medical Centers, state Veterans Homes, County Veterans Service Officers, VA Nursing Homes, and VA Councils. They have also been from the Minnesota University System, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs.

Currently our committee consists of Don Smith, Wilson Spence, Luke Inman, Darryl Olmstead, and John C. Engblom. We work very closely with John Welby, Olmstead, our Department Rehabilitation Officer, and Heather Bookman, our Department Rehabilitation Liaison and Post Service Officer. Together we coordinate with the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs Rehabilitation has an important role in providing services to each Minnesota Veteran, and protecting the well-being of all veterans. We have worked with the Department of Veterans Affairs to establish the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs Rehabilitation. The Minnesota Rehabilitation has an important role in providing services to all Minnesota Veterans, and protecting the well-being of all veterans. We have worked with the Department of Veterans Affairs to establish the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs Rehabilitation. The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs Rehabilitation has an important role in providing services to each Minnesota Veteran. We coordinate with the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs Rehabilitation to ensure that veterans receive the best possible care. The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs Rehabilitation has an important role in providing services to each Minnesota Veteran.
ed to the Department Convention in Rochester, Minnesota, July 21 – 23 for concurring action.,

**RESOLUTION A**

The following Resolution originated from the Department Finance Committee and was adopted by the Executive Committee at their meeting on March 5, 2016 and is being considered by the 2016 Department Convention, to be held in Rochester, Minnesota, July 21-23, 2016.

Department Dues Increase

WHEREAS, Membership is the driving force of The American Legion’s basic programs; and

WHEREAS, This service is performed through The American Legion Four Pillars; and

WHEREAS, Membership is the driving force of The American Legion, Department of Minnesota, and

WHEREAS, Membership is declining and the income from membership dues is declining to perform The American Legion’s basic programs; and

WHEREAS, It is the recommendation of the Department Finance Committee, in meeting held at the Quality Inn, St Cloud, Minnesota, on September 23, 2015, and approved by the Executive Committee on March 5, 2016, that a dues increase is necessary in 2018 in order to ensure long term solvency for the Department of Minnesota; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That The American Legion, Department of Minnesota, recommends a $3.00 increase in Department dues with an effective date for the 2018 membership year and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent to The American Legion, Department of Minnesota, in convention assembled in Rochester, Minnesota, July 21-23, 2016, for concurring action.

**American Legion Riders**

By Scuffy Paulson

MNALR President

Hello brothers and sisters,

I hope everyone has been enjoying our beautiful summer weather and getting plenty of wind therapy. I’ve been thinking a lot about writing this article because this will be my last.

This MNALR has been one hell of a ride and I have been truly blessed to be a part of it. During our infancy and to this point we have been amazed at the progress and the amount of dedication shown by our members as well as all the support we have received from the Legion Family.

It is an honor to represent and be a part of the Legion Family. The memories and the people I have had the pleasure of working with over the years has made myself and our organization better because of our differences.

I believe with all my heart that the MNALR is going to continue to get bigger, better, stronger and continue to set the pace for the rest of the country.

Keep up the great work Riders. Be very proud of your patch because people are noticing and paying attention... And maybe even changing their perception of dirty bikers... (talking about Junkyard) LOL! Peace out and see ya down the road.

**Thank you**

I would like to thank the members of the American Legion Family for all the cards, phone calls, flowers, prayers and support in the loss of our son Craig. He was a son, brother, father, grandfather, a decorated veteran, having served his country in the Desert Storm Conflict and a proud Legionnaire. It was overwhelming to see so many Legionnaires, Auxiliary, SAL and Legion Riders, family and friends pay their final respects. He has touched many lives and will be missed by everyone that knew him. Rest in peace.

Maryland and Chris Ronning and family of Jon “Craig” Price Jr.

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**OFFICIAL BALLOT**

The American Legion, Dept of Minnesota

**Election of Officers 2016-2017**

To vote, make an X in the box next to your choice.

**Like This:**

- **Department Commander (vote for one)**
  - Denise Milton
  - Richard Wog

- **Department Vice Commander (vote for 5)**
  - Richard Skillestad
  - Harley Wahl
  - Curt Norenberg
  - Jim Lucas
  - Wilson Spence

- **Chaplain (vote for one)**
  - Bill Brockberg

- **Historian (vote for one)**
  - Ralph Schneekloth

- **Sergeant-at-Arms (vote for one)**
  - Dennis Delong

- **Board of Publication (vote for one)**
  - Pat Logan

**Strategic Planning**

Continued from previous page

ent areas of the Department with many comments, both pro and con on how we must look to the future and yet maintain a positive attitude of our current programs. We also must realize we are working with our 500 plus Legion Posts and we all do things differently and yet they succeed. Your committee will be submitting a resolution in reference to the number of community colleges and universities that provide training and education opportunities to our many returning Veterans and how the American Legion can be involved. Each district working with the Department of Minnesota on how they can be involved and attract those prospective new members to the American Legion. Three other programs are being looked at as possible elimination or being combined with other programs such as the blood program, energy and conservation and Post development. Also we have other programs that need to be looked at, perhaps a one day versus 2 day affair thus reducing cost and becoming more effective.

**Mission:** Our Scope includes but is not limited to: Working as a complement to Department Membership Director on sustainable membership over a rolling 5-year period; working with Districts on Education, Succession Planning, Communication, Department Call-In Structure and Committee/Program consistency with National where possible. This committee will continue to grow to be a valuable resource for our Department and our leaders of the future. Your Strategic Committee has a great team of leadership and vision. I want to thank all who are involved. The 2015-2016 Strategic Planning Committee members are: Roger K. Olson, Chairman, Richard Wog, Secretary and team members Tom Fernlund, Chairman, Strategic Planning Committee

Roger K. Olson

Chairman, Strategic Planning Committee
Greetings Thundering Third.
It is still about 220 revolutions away from our goal and running out of time. If every post made a few phone calls we would be there. Please help us out if you can. If you would like to have Third District Officers do your post installation please contact Linda, our District Adjutant, Mike Maxa, incoming District Commander or Don Skow our outgoing Commander and we will do our best to help you out.
The Consolidated Post Reports and new Officer Reports are needed to be into Department ASAP. We need 100% participation from our posts on both of these. There will be a letter sent to all posts shortly about the Commanders Project at Big Marine Vet Camp. We will make updates on the progress into next year. This will be a fun and rewarding project to work on and I look forward to seeing everyone support it.
I am seeing to hope a large delegation from the Third District to the Department Convention in July. This is a great time to make plans for our next year’s activities and talk to old friends. See you in Rochester July 21st through the 23rd.
Thank you all for what you do for the American Legion and remember “Attitude is everything.” For God and Country.

Dan Williams
Commander

Greetings from the Fifth District

Happy Independence Day. The independence we enjoy but far too many take for granted came at a great price. This great country was not always as it is today. The government that we now know, the Congress, was once declared a new government and sometimes criticized but often wonder what they are thinking… did not always exist. “When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.” Of course this is the first paragraph within the Declaration of Independence. The 4th of July is not just another holiday. The United States Armed Forces continue to serve but now in regions across the earth. These brave men and women understand and appreciate care for the freedom and democracy. We owe it to them and our posterity to keep this country free in every aspect and dimension. Yes, we are veterans but now the battle for freedom is our job. Congratulations Commanders, Commanders-elect Randy Bastyr, District Vice Commanders: Jim Anderson, Lane Stunkel and Tom Burns, we appreciate you and all along with the entire 4th District Team will serve very well and keep us free!

Calendar: July 4th Celebrate our country; July 17th District Hospital Visitation 1:00 p.m.; July 21st -23rd Department Convention Rochester, MN.

Gary Martin
Commander

SEVENTH DISTRICT

Karen Welander
Commander

Greetings to the “Mighty” 7th District family.
This past year has been a great learning and rewarding experience. It has been an honor to serve the Seventh District as Commander and I will never forget it. Thank you to everyone who has helped or given advice during the year. I am so proud and honored to be a part of such a great district with such a big heart. This year has begun with the pickup of the 2017 cards at Department. All the Posts should have one paid membership and the 2016-2017 officer report submitted to department by the end of July. Meeting this first goal will help ensure we get off to a good start this membership year.
I have enjoyed working with President Cheryl and the Auxiliary as well as the SAL and Riders. I will never forget all the volunteers at the posts who make everything happen.
Thanks again to everyone and don’t forget our veterans and our Armed Forces.
I’m proud to be an American, a veteran and a member of the American Legion.
For Duty, Honor and Country. God Bless America.

Denise Milton
Commander

NINTH DISTRICT

Greetings Roaring Ninth District.
I was mistakenly in my last column (July) I had confused it with our district newsletter. Thanks again to everyone for making it a great year serving you. I appreciate the support of our district president Ray Eiden, 1st Vice Commander Water Lynsey, 2nd Vice Commander John Nelson and all the other newly elected and appointed officers.
I attended a celebration of life for a good friend and loyal Legioneer, Loni Efta, last weekend. He was honored by his family, friends, Vietnam buddies and fellow veterans. He made an impact on everyone. He served his country, community and family without reserve and great passion. He truly lived by the Four Pillars of The American Legion. He will be greatly missed.
During my first 10 years of duty as the Ninth District Commander, I was deployed seven months into my year. Needless to say, I was strongly encouraged by many members of my district and president. Now, I have done so and I can say I did and with great pride.
Continue to support and keep our military and their families in your prayers.
For God and Country.

Penny Disercy, a Duluth Air National Guard veteran, has been named 2016 Minnesota Woman Veteran of the Year at the “Salute to Women Veterans” event held in June.
Disercy enlisted in 1980 and became a captain in 1984. She got her MBA’s from the University of Minnesota Duluth and she is a graduate of the Air Command and Staff College and the Air War College.
She had many deployments and worked on projects in Homeland Security and Operation Iraqi Freedom.
She has devoted much of her time and financial support to local charities and was the Combine Federal Campaign organizer and also set up an “Adopt a Highway” group.
She has been the board chair of the Northland Red Cross and has worked in her area’s neighborhood school.

District Officers

Don Skow
Commander

President. Thank you for all you did to make the year fun and enjoyable. Best of luck to all newly elected Post, District, County and Department officers.
As Always “Keep Moving Forward and Keep It Positive.”

Membership Chart
As of June 22, 2016

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District

THIRD DISTRICT

Bill Johnson
Commander

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Don Skow
Commander

President. Thank you for all you did to make the year fun and enjoyable. Best of luck to all newly elected Post, District, County and Department officers.
As Always “Keep Moving Forward and Keep It Positive.”

Greetings from the Mighty Tenth.
Well here we are, my year has almost come to an end. I have some people to thank. I also don’t know where to begin. I wish to thank all my District Officers, and Chaps helping to make this a successful year. I especi- cially want to thank my Adjutant Gloria Burt, and Membership Director Bonnie Hanson. If many of you have not noticed, Bonnie has been elected to be our District Commander for next year.
I also want to thank Commander Jim Kellogg for all his support. I assure you Commander because you are willing to take risks, and to try something different. In my opinion we need more people like you as our leaders. If we keep to the status quo, we can only keep getting the same results, which is an organization decreasing in size and capability.
For those who are considering District Leadership, go for it. Believe me when I tell you how satisfying an expe- rience it is. You should consider running for Vice- Commander, which I consider as being the most important job in any District. You will make friendships that will last you a lifetime.
For my fellow District Commanders, we had a fun year, didn’t we. I hope to see more of you in the future.
For all of you, God bless you all. Legioneers are the best.

Minneapolis, St. Cloud

VAs honored by award

The St. Cloud and the Minneapolis VA Health Care Systems have been awarded the most prestigious environmental achievement award offered by Practice Greenhealth, the nation’s leading health care community dedicated to transforming health care worldwide so that it reduces its environmental footprint, becomes a community anchor for sustainability and a leader in the global movement for environ- mental health and justice.

The Top 25 Environmental Excellence Awards recognize health care facilities that exemplify environmental excel- lence and are setting the highest standards for environmen- tal practices in health care. Award winners are chosen from hospitals that have the highest scores for the Greenhealth Emerald Award using Practice Greenhealth’s thorough scor- ing and evaluation system.

The 25 hospitals presented with Practice Greenhealth’s highest honors vary greatly in size, but are all leading the nation’s health care sustainability and have the data and documentation to prove their success. These facilities have innovative programs and also show leadership in their local communities and in the health care sector.

“St. Cloud VA prioritizes green practices in our day-to- day operations as an organizational imperative,” said Green Environmental Management Services Coordinator Mary Wenck. “It’s an honor to be recognized for our commitment to the health and safety of our Veterans, staff, environment, and communities at large.”

“Goal is to develop and implement a culture where support and in Grammies annual operational rates to the point where it is habitual,” said Minneapolis Associate Director of Operations Kurt Thielan.

First is establishing attainable goals and getting off the “Goose Egg” and setting the Districts membership revivification data. This is a team effort, no one person can do it alone. It’s been a great year for the 5th District. We accom- plished many goals, especially on the Family Project Enhancing the lives of the Veterans at the Minneapolis Veterans Home. Thank you to all the Posts and individuals who donated monies and volunteered their time to make it a success and to Wold-Chamberlain Post 997 for allowing us to use their Post for our family fundraiser. A special thanks to the 5th District Auxiliary for spear- heading our fundraising efforts.

To my wife Julie, it was great having you as our District Commander.

Bill Johnson
Commander
Ely Fishing Outing

The participants in the Ely veterans fishing event lined up for a photo at Veterans on the Lake Resort near Ely.

Ely Fishing Outing

Department Service Office Jeremy Wolfsteller and two veterans try their luck at the veterans fishing outing at Ely’s Veterans on the Lake. The boat was provided by Jamie Dietman, a professional guide out of Nisswa.

Department Service Office Jeremy Wolfsteller and Soldier’s Wish pro Kyle Sarratt landed this lunker at the Trolling for the Troops event held at Camp Ripley and Lake Mille Lacs.

This group of veterans, including one with a strange mask, caught the wildest catch prize of the day, a clam and a sucker.

The fishing was good as veterans and guides fanned out at two different fishing areas to enjoy the day at Trolling for the Troops.

Trolling for the Troops

Alie Witthans, co-owner and operator of Memories Made Guide Service and two veterans show off their stringer after a hard day’s fishing at the Ely veterans fishing event at Veterans on the Lake.

Department Service Office Jeremy Wolfsteller and two veterans try their luck at the veterans fishing outing at Ely’s Veterans on the Lake. The boat was provided by Jamie Dietman, a professional guide out of Nisswa.
Amanda Teersteeg elected 2016 Girls State Governor

The 70th session of the American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State ended on Saturday, June 18. Singing together the American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State song once last time, the 381 citizens, once strangers now friends to last over the years have formed. A week of intense study and learning all about our government, at all levels, city, county and state, and the history of our great State of Minnesota. We hope that the girls left with an appreciation and understanding of Minnesota government.

The 2016 American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State Constitutional officers are:

**Governor** – Amanda Teersteeg, sponsored by Redwood Falls Unit #38
**Lt. Governor** – Gabrielle Bittner, sponsored by Twin Valley Unit #27
**Secretary of State** – Madison Beatty, sponsored by Moundridge Unit #28
**State Auditor** – Sophie Schmitz, sponsored by Kerkhoven Unit #223

The Ed Viehman Award was won by Kaysee Allen sponsored by Adams Unit #146. Daniel Viehman was on hand to present the award at the Thursday Inauguration Ceremony.

Girls Nation Senators were chosen:
- **Senior Senator** – Hannah Hendrickson, sponsored by Moosehead Unit #81
- **Junior Senator** – Michelle Onyekaba, sponsored by Coon Rapids Unit #334

The President of the Senate – Grace Kubista, sponsored by New Prague Unit #45

Speaker of the House – Berlyn Biteng, sponsored by Anoka Unit #602

Senate Chaplain – Angie Bowen, sponsored by Barnsville Unit #153

House of Representatives Chaplain – Gabbi Gervais, sponsored by Currie Unit #322

There were many highlights to the week at American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State including the wonderful visiting speakers throughout the week, the Thursday night Inauguration ceremony with Chief Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court Lorie Gildea presiding over the Oath of Office, the flag disposal ceremony and many others.

Thanks to all of the Unit American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State Chairmen for the work that you have done to bring all of these girls to this wonderful program.

And to all of the FANTASTIC volunteers that spent the week at Bethel University with the girls, this program cannot function without you. And finally to our 2016 American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State Director Peggy Tesdal, Chairman Marsha Bible, Education Director Norma Tramm, Americanism Chairman Jessie Hoppe, and committee members Sandy Wersal and Amelia Tedsdal, who was also the Music Director. Thanks for another great year at American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota State.

The project the Girls State Citizens worked on was making pocket flags to send to our active military and assembling poppies to make a wreath to be presented at the State Capitol on Friday.

**GIRLS STATE GOVERNOR AMANDA TERSTEEG**

I was totin’ my pack down Center Avenue—When an Eagle soared high and gracefully; with a question: “If you’re going to Cincinnati, Sam, you can fly with me!” I climbed on its wings and we glided side by side. She asked me if I’d seen a road with so much glory and honor, and I said, “Listen, Birdie, I’ve traveled every road in this here land.”

I’ve been everywhere, man
I’ve been everywhere, man
Across the Minnesota highways, I’ve breathed the “up North” air, man
Of travel I’ve had my share, man
I’ve been everywhere.

Been to Redwood Falls, Hopkins, Brainerd, Brooklyn Park, Stewartville, Rose Town, Baltimore
Barnesville, Lebanon, Austin, Pequot Lakes, New Ulm, Emmons, St Paul, Grafton, Legion Ville, Baltimore, Ogilvie, Brownstown, Stewart, Cosmos, Silver Lake, Adams, and Bloomington,
I’m a believer
I’ve been everywhere, man
I’ve been everywhere, man
Through the Auxiliary C&B’s, man
I’ve breathed the fresh northern air, man
Of travel I’ve had my share, man
I’ve been everywhere.

Rochester, Hayfield, Osseo, Faribault, Wartburg
Eagan, Caledon, Cokato, Minneapolis, Brownstone, Minnesota Lake,
North St Paul, Freeborn, Springfield, Anoka
Duluth, St Cloud, Albert Lea Bowling Tournament, Waite Park
Anoka, Montgomery, Legionville, Arcade Phalen, St Paul, Waubun, Grafton, Grand Rapids, Neenah, toured Silver Bay Veterans Home for pete’s sake.
Been to Wells, Anoka, dept. office, Elk River, Winona, Commanders testimonial in Adams, Sauk Falls with National President Sharon @ the Luveme Veterans Home, Sauk Falls Veterans Service Bldg., Rose town (Connie’s testimonial), Fairfax, Watzta, Rochester, Hayfield spelling bee, Bralyln (Durlane’s testimonial), Legionville for Spring Board meeting, Hanks’, North Branch, Finance meeting in Waite Park, Veterans home in Fargo, with a drive by Fergus Falls, Forrest Lake, Osseo, Mabel, Preston National Veterans’ Cemetery, Fort Snelling and MN Veterans Home Memorial ceremony; back to Faribault to install new officers, Fairmont (Dept. Jr Conference) Brewster, New Dublin, Bethel College for a full week of nursing and learning government.
I’ve been everywhere, man
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I’ve been everywhere, man
Across the 10,000 Lakes, man
I’ve seen the season’s change, man
Of travel I’ve had my share, man
I know some place you haven’t been.
I’ve been everywhere
“Thank you,” for being a part of my “awesome journey” for the American Legion Auxiliary.
Our mission was accomplished. Thank you for the hospitality, personal gifts, ever lasting friendships, but most important of all you do for the American Legion Auxiliary, You all “ROCK!”

Special “thanks” to the Department staff, Commander Jim, SAL, Commander Gene, the ALA Riders Paul, and the American Legion staff. The year wouldn’t have been as smooth as it was without all of us working together! A “team effort and the family working together” proved we can make it a better and stronger American Legion family organization.

“Congrats” to the new officers for 2016-2017 – keep the momentum going.
“We Served those who served – and kept the Promise.”
God Bless Each and Every one of you.
See ya, President Sandy

**JUNIOR FUN WEEKEND**

Junior members are invited to participate in the 8th Annual Department Junior Fun Weekend, held Friday August 5 through Sunday, August 7 at Legionville near Brainerd. All current 2016 Junior members and their Advisors/Chaperones are invited to attend. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Junior members must be between the ages of 3 – 18 and do not have to be from an active Junior group. The cost is $20.00 per person and is non-refundable. This includes all meals and activities. Registration forms and fees must be received in the Department office no later than Monday, July 25, 2016. No refunds will be given. Registration information was mailed to ALL units in May. Call the Department office if you need registration forms. They are also posted on our website. Go to the home page, calendar, click on Junior Fun Weekend and it will take you right to the registration forms. Please make sure and have our Juniors attend. This is a fun-filled, very inexpensive week-end and teaches our future leaders what we are all about along with giving them a chance to make many new friends. Come and see all the great changes and improvements that have been made at Legionville.

**2016-2017 DISTRICT PRESIDENTS**

Our Congratulations to the ten District Presidents-Elect who will be serving their respective Districts for the 2016-2017 year:

1st District – Cindy Nelson, Glenville Unit #264
2nd District – Kathy Burkey, Belview Unit #309
3rd District – Marcie Baysinger, Brownston Unit #143
4th District – Connie Anderson, St Paul Unit #542
5th District – Bonnie Brenna, Minneapolis Unit #99
6th District – Theresa Rudnicki, Waite Park Unit #428
7th District – Betty Underthun, Willmar Unit #167
8th District – Anna Eells, Grand Rapids Unit #60
9th District – Joanie Krantz, Karlstad Unit #445
10th District – Linda Deschene, Brooklyn Center Unit #630

May each of you have a most successful year of service as you assume the leadership of your District for the 2016-2017 Auxiliary year.

**THE PRESIDENT’S COLUMN**

By
Sandy
Fredrickson

I was totin’ my pack down Center Avenue—When an Eagle soared high and gracefully; with a question: “If you’re going to Cincinnati, Sam, you can fly with me!” I climbed on its wings and we glided side by side. She asked me if I’d seen a road with so much glory and honor, and I said, “Listen, Birdie, I’ve traveled every road in this here land.”

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See ya, President Sandy
**Auxiliary Bulletin**

**Continued from Preceding Page**

**UNIT OFFICERS’ LIST**

All Units should have held their elections for the 2016-2017 Auxiliary year by now. Your incoming secretary and Membership Chairman should be appointed and ready to assume their duties.

Each Unit was asked to return their officers’ list for the convention. Your Department Secretary by June 24th. A second request was sent out this week and to date we are still missing 181 of those lists! We will be making calls to those Units who haven’t responded. These lists are very important as we develop our mailing lists for the year from them. NO 2017 membership cards/packets will be given to your Unit until we have received your 2016-2017 list. You can download the form on our website and print it out or fill it out in email and mail it to us. It is as simple as that.

**2017 DUES NOTICES**

The National office will send out the first dues notice for the 2017 membership year on September 15th. It will be sent to Senior members only. Ask your members as soon as possible after the Department Convention to pay their 2017 membership dues. They do not need a dues notice to be able to pay their dues. Please note that again this year if the National Headquarters has an email address on file for a member, their first dues notice will be emailed rather than snail mailed. Please check your email folders, both in box and junk mail.

**2017 MEMBERSHIP CARDS**

Very soon we will be kicking off the new membership year. The 2017 membership information will be available to you at the 2016 Department Convention if we have your Unit Officer list on file. If your packet isn’t picked up at Department Convention it will be given to your District Membership Chairman at the annual August Workshop.

**DEPARTMENT CONVENTION**

The Annual Department Convention will be held at the Kahler Grand Hotel in Rochester, July 21-23 with the Rochester American Legion Family #92 serving as hosts. Department President – Sally Strasser, North St. Paul Unit #119. Department 2nd Vice President – Jean Walker, Warren Unit #27. Department 2nd Vice President – Sally Strasser, North St. Paul Unit #119. National Executive Committee – Shirley Frederick, Osseo-Maple Grove Unit #172. Executive Committee – Shirley Frederick, Hackensack Unit #202. Nominations for Department officers will be held Thursday morning. A secret ballot will be used for any office where there is more than one candidate. Balloting hours will be in the convention rules. Where there is but one candidate the vote will be by acclamation. There will be nominations for delegates-at-large to the National Convention, and election by secret ballot if there is one candidate the vote will be by acclamation. If for any reason you are not planning to attend, yet were elected a Delegate or Alternate, please notify the Department Secretary immediately and prior to our Department Convention. There will be packets available at the Department Convention for those At Large Delegates and Alternates elected at the Convention.

All registrations, housing requests and reservations for the States Dinner, Women of the Year Luncheon must be received by July 25th. The credentials and housing lists as well as reservations for dinner and luncheon must be finalized and forwarded to our National organization.

**SECRETARY SANDIE’S CORNER**

Well, another year has swiftly gone by and it was a very successful year indeed. I truly enjoyed working with President Sandy and the entire Executive Committee and Department President Sandy and the entire Executive Committee and wonder what a breath of fresh air they were. We accomplished many things and we experimented with “new” ways to do business. It is always fun to see new faces in the position of the Executive Committee, to watch them grow and flourish in our organization. By the time you get to reading this issue, hopefully I will be back at my desk working hard as I should have returned from a week long motorcycle trip to North Carolina. I look forward to seeing many of your happy faces at the upcoming Department Convention in Rochester. If you haven’t attended one before, make this a first for you. You will be pleasantly surprised at how much fun it is meeting other members of The American Legion Family and see what the organization has accomplished throughout the year.

This month’s shout out is to Ronnie K – thanks for the help with the water for Girls State this year.

**THANK YOU LEGION FAMILY**

Words cannot express my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you who have prayed and continue to pray for me with this life changing experience of my back! It is hard to believe that one minute you are as normal as can be and the next minute your whole life changes “in the blink of an eye!”

I would like to send a special thank you to the American Legion family and friends who helped in any way for the wonderful benefit held for me! It wouldn’t have happened without your support—“THANK YOU!”

I know I still have a hill to climb! I will reach the top! One day, I will once again “walk on my own.”

God Bless each of you.

Scott Fredrickson, SAL, Squadron #264
Holiday Branson

Tour includes:
- 4 Seasons Tour Director
- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- 4 nights accommodations
- 7 meals: 4 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 2 dinners
- Ozark Mountain Christmas Lights and Village
- Arches Steamboat Museum
- 6 Shows: Dutton Family, Clay Cooper, Doug Gabriel, Daniel O’Dierlann, Hughes Brothers, Christmas Wonder-land

$799.00 Per Person Double

Cuba Land & Cruise
November 12-20, 2016

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

$3,999.00 Per Person Double

New York City Tour

Tour includes:
- 4 Seasons Tour Manager Sue Barber
- Roundtrip Delta airlines flights from Minneapolis to New York City
- 4 night stay at the Hotel at Times Square
- Broadway musical
- Radio City Music Hall “The Rockettes Christmas Spectacular”
- Manhattan Island City Tour
- W11 Memorial and Museum
- Harbor Cruise with lunch

$2,279.00 Per Person Double

Hawaiian Islands Cruise

Tour includes:
- 4 Seasons Tour Director, Larry Abey
- Roundtrip Delta flights from Minneapolis to Honolulu, Hawaii
- Quality accommodations for 4 nights at the beautiful Aston Hawaiian Hotel
- Breakfast daily at the hotel
- City Tour of Honolulu and Pearl Harbor
- Circle Island Tour of Oahu
- Let Greeding golf arrival in Honolulu
- 8 Day Cruise aboard the PRIDE OF AMERICA

$4,099.00 Per Person Double

Panama Canal Cruise
March 14-30, 2017

Tour includes:
- 4 Seasons Tour Director, Larry Abey
- Roundtrip Delta Airlines flights to San Francisco and return Ft. Lauderdale to Minneapolis
- 5 night stay at the Hotel at the Luxury San Diego Fisherman’s Wharf, San Francisco
- All meals and entertainment aboard the ISLAND PRINCESS
- Visiting 6 ports of call including Ft. Lauderdale and San Francisco
- Overnight hotel stays in San Francisco
- 4 night hotel stays in Ft. Lauderdale
- All transfers in and from the airport, hotel
- All meals, entertainment, and sightseeing included

$4,195.00 Per Person Double

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