Denise Milton, Bagley, was elected 2016-17 Commander of the Department of Minnesota at the convention in Rochester.

Milton defeated Richard Wog of Willmar. The election totals were not announced, but the final vote was Milton, 374, Wog, 288. Milton becomes the second female commander of the 80,000-member organization in the past three years. She was installed at the conclusion of the convention by Minnesota’s first woman commander, Peggy Moon of St. Joseph. The commander position was expected to be the only contested election at the convention, but instead there were three.

Bill Brockberg, Worthington, defeated Steve Klinkner, Madelia. Again, no vote totals were announced, but the vote total was Brockberg, 588, Klinkner, 60.

Klinkner had been nominated from the floor at the convention. The selection of delegates-at-large to the National Convention at Cincinnati also became a contest when five contenders were nominated for the three positions.

Richard Skillestad, Jim Lucas, Ferdie Haberman, Darrel Redepenning and David Heidebrink were nominated. Heidebrink withdrew before the election. The resolution would have changed the constitution to allow district commanders to run for the 2018 membership year was expected to be the only contested election at the convention.

2018 state dues increase passes on the convention floor

A resolution for a $3 dues increase slated for the 2018 membership year was expected to run into major opposition at the Department Convention, but instead passed with hardly a vote against it.

The resolution was passed as part of the Finance Committee report. There was an objection from the floor that the resolution had not been read, but it was ruled that only the resolved clauses need be read, which was the case.

Another resolution, Number 6 from the Sixth District, which called for a moratorium on the dues increase until the Department went into deficit spending, was then rejected on the floor.

One resolution that did incur controversy on the floor was Resolution 1 from the 10th District.

The resolution would have changed the constitution to allow district commanders to run for the 2018 membership year was expected to be the only contested election at the convention.

Members of the Department’s Executive Committee got a historical update on Department finances during the meeting at the Department Convention in Rochester.

With a resolution on the convention’s agenda to increase dues by $3 in 2018, Department Adjutant Randy Tesdahl presented a slide show on both the income and expenses of the Department over time.

One slide showed the expenses and spending as two lines on a graph. In 2015, for the first time in a decade, those lines came together.

“What that means is that we either have increase income or cut spending,” Tesdahl said.

The largest source of Department income is membership, and the continuing decline in membership has brought that income to an eight-year low. In 1998, membership dues brought in $904,000.

That number steadily declined until 2008 when there was a dues increase and annual income rose to $1 million. Last year, that income had declined to $813,000, the same as spending.

Another major source of income is direct mail solicitation including such things as calendars and mailing labels. That income reached an all-time high in 1999 at $230,000 and this past year reached an all-time low at $80,000.

Tedesahl, who gave a similar report two days later to the convention itself, said that the Department left its previous mail solicitation company this year and entered into a contract with Resource 1, a company that provides the same service to the national organization. Revenue is

National confab set for Cincinnati

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

The convention will open on Tuesday, Aug. 30, 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.

Minnesota has reserved 90 rooms with a room rate of $157 a night. Reservations should be made through Department Headquarters.

Parking at the hotel is by valet only for $22 a night.

The hotel also serves as headquarters for the American Legion Auxiliary and as partial headquarters for the national Legion.

A Minnesota Party is being planned for Monday.

Continued on Page 2

Continued on Page 1

Continued on Page 3
Voting by districts, the convention elected Skillestad, Lucas and Redepenning. Haberman was named as the alternate.

Milton told the convention that her theme for the year would be Victory for Veterans, and she said a major priority for her one-year term would be the plight of homeless veterans.

Milton has served as post commander, district commander twice and has held a number of Department level positions such as membership director, chaplain, vice commander, and chairman of various committees.

She serves on the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Council.

She is married to Dennis Henkemeyer, who is a Past Department Commander and who is now serving as a national Sons of the American Legion vice commander.

She noted that two children were watching the convention from Germany while serving in the armed forces.

Milton paid tribute to her mother as an inspiration in her life.

Milton selected Mark Dvorak of Le Center as membership director.

Dvorak said that The American Legion promotes values in the nation. “When we provide leadership, veterans who are not members pay attention and they will join our great organization.”

He said it was time, “to stop the decline in membership and start growing again.”

Other officers elected at the convention included the five Department Vice Commanders: Richard Skillestad, Eyota, Harley Wahl, Slayton, Curt Norenberg, Minneapolis, Jim Lucas, Pine River, and Wilson Spence, Duluth.

Ralph Schneekloth, Mabel, was elected historian, Dennis DeLong, Bloomington was elected Sergeant-at-Arms and Pat Logan, Bloomington, was elected to a three-year term on the Board of Publications.

The convention was held at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester. The annual parade was cancelled because of the hot weather.

Continued from Page 1

The admission will cover the cost of the bowling and bowling shoes.

Commander Jim Kellogg said bowling shirts would be appropriate wear.

Cost is $25 per person and includes bowling, burgers and hotdogs, and keg beer until gone. There will also be a cash bar.

Tickets are available through Department Headquarters.

The National Commander’s Banquet will be held on Tuesday night, Aug. 30, in the convention center. Tickets are $46 each and are available through Department.

The Gatlin Brothers featuring Larry Gatlin will perform at the banquet.

The States Dinner, the following night, will also be at the convention center. Tickets are available through the Auxiliary office.

The national parade will be held Sunday at 4 p.m. There will be a patriotic religious service at the convention center on Sunday at 11 a.m.

Registration for Minnesota delegates will be from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 26, and Saturday from 8-noon. No room has been announced yet.

There will be a Minnesota caucus at the hotel on Monday, Aug. 29, from 8-10 a.m.

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

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

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

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

Continued from Page 1

Milton will be a patriotic religious service at the convention center on Sunday at 11 a.m.

The convention was held at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester. The annual parade was cancelled because of the hot weather.

Continued from Page 1

Milton wins 2016 Department Commander post at Rochester

Continued from Page 1

Milton wins 2016 Department Commander post at Rochester

Continued from Page 1
Minnesota members will have to face another hike in two that National just raised its dues $5 this year, and now about seven cigarettes or two cans of soda. “It’s a small be having this discussion right now.”

The all-time high was $600,000 in 2009. Legionnaire Insurance Trust provided about $100,000

DEC gets explanation of Department $$$$ 

Tenth District Commander Bill Johnson said his biggest concern was that why the state had waited so long, “and why we have to raise it so dramatically.” He said a letter should be sent out to the membership to show why the Department needs the money.

Ludwig responded to Moon’s concern about those who can’t afford the increase by saying, “We can help those sen-
ior members that carried this organization for so many years.”

The vote on the dues increase was held two days later, and it passed.

In other business, the DEC: 

- approved a working agreement between the American Legion Riders and the Department
- was told that the next convention will be in Minneapolis and will be hosted by Rochester. The Fall Conference will be held this fall in Marshall and in 2017 in Willmar. Convention Corporation President Pat Logan said the committee is negotiating for future convention and fall conference. He and his wife, Nona, have been married 38 years and reside in Fulda. They have three children and four grandchildren.

Endorsements

Olsón endorsed for 2017-18 Commander

The Melvin E, Hurl American Legion Post 21 of Moorhead and the 9th District have endorsed Gary H. Olsson as a candidate for Department Commander for 2017-18.

At the post level, Olsson was commander twice. He chaired a committee that met eight years ago. He has chaired the Fargo AirSho volunteer purification committee for three events. He has served on the Post 21 Color Guard since 1968.


At the District level, he has served as commander, 2010-11 and as membership director.

He has served the eight years as District Chairman for the Servicemen’s Support Center at the Minneapolis airport.

At the Department level he has served as Chaplain for 2011-12, Sergeant At Arms for 2013-14 andhistorian for 2014-15. He served on the Brain Science Committee for 2015-16.

At the National level he has served as National Assistant Sergeant At Arms for five years.

He served 37 years of military service, including eight years in the North Dakota Air National Guard and 28 years in the Air Force Reserve retiring in 1993.

In his personal life, he and his wife Becky live on a family farm near Moorhead.

They have three sons and six grandchildren.

Gary has owned an insurance agency and Becky has a business as a seamstress in downtown Moorhead.

Schaffer endorsed for Dept. Commander

Mike Schaffer has been endorsed by Currie Post 322 and the Second District for Commander of the Department of Minnesota for the 2017-18 year.

Schaffer is eligible thanks to his office in the Air Force from 1970 to 1974 serving in Alaska and the Philippines. Mike is a 44-year member of Currie Post where he has served as Commander, Financial Officer and is currently the Post Adjutant.

At the District level he served as Commander, Vice Commander, Adjutant and seven years as Membership Director.

On the Department level Mike served as Department Membership Director 2007-08, Vice Commander 2nd & 7th 2009-10, Sgt-at-Arms 2001-02, Chairman of Children & Youth, Chairman of Trophy & Awards.

On the National level he has served on the Distinguished Service Committee and currently serves on the National Security Committee.

Schaffer is a member of the Sons of the American Legion, AMVETS, N.A.V.I.C.U.S., the N.T.T.T.B.T.I.T’s, and Forty & Eight serving as Grand Chef 2015-16. He also belongs to Knight of Columbus, Fulda Lions Club, and St. Gabriels Catholic Church.

Mike retired in 2015 with over 23 years of service as a Rural Mail Carrier for the US Post Office.

He and his wife, Nona, have been married 38 years and reside in Fulda. They have three children and four grandchildren.

Continued from Page 1

Two insurance companies that have a business relationship with The American Legion also provide money. In 2015, Legionnaire Insurance Trust provided about $100,000 in revenue and USAA provided about $40,000.

A loss of about $100,000, comes from the Legislature through the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs, but much of that money is immediately turned over to support the Legion’s claims department. The largest chunk is the Administration budget, including salaries and the cost of running the office, amounting to $500,000 this past year. The Department had $300,000 in 2009.

The Department spent $170,000 on rehabilitation programing, $238,000 on the Minnesota Legionnaire, and $372,000 on equity.

Tesdahl pointed out that in 2002, over 90 percent of the income came from dues. By last year, that number had dropped to 74 percent.

Tesdahl noted that over the past decade the Department has lowered costs in salaries, committee expenses, and other areas.

Commander Jim Kellogg thanked Tesdahl for putting together the presentation. “We need this kind of education and this kind of information. Digest it, take it back.”

“We need to clear the air and spend our time signing up members from the great state of Minnesota.”

After the presentation, the discussion in the DEC turned to the proposed dues hike.

Past National Commander Dan Ludwig noted that Minnesota at one time had 177,000 members, but now has less than 80,000. “That means we’ve lost over a half million dollars in revenue. If we had that money, we wouldn’t have this discussion right now.”

A show of hands indicated the proposal would allow the districts flexibility and would make sure the new commanders would have control over the membership materials that come out in June.

The resolution had been rejected in committee, but Davis requested on the floor that it come before the entire committee.

Bill Johnson, Maple Grove, and 10th District Commander, opposed the resolution saying it would cause confusion on who served on the Department Executive Committee meeting held at the convention. He also said the wait allowed district commanders to get ready for their states.

On a voice vote, Department Commander Jim Kellogg ruled that the resolution had failed.

A show of hands also indicated the resolution had failed. Tess Davis and Al Davis objected saying the delegates were not clear on whether they should vote aye or nay.

Another vote was held to re-vote the resolution, but it failed again on a voice vote.

The convention passed other resolutions.

A resolution that allows those who are on other committees to be appointed to an ad hoc committee was passed. A resolution that would require members gained by revi-

talization to immediately be transferred and credited to a local post was passed and will be sent on to the National Convention for consideration.

A resolution that would have established a formal relation-

ship between permitees to receive. County Veteran Service Officers was rejected by committee.

Contact: Samantha 507-864-7714

or www.goodshep-rushford.org

A resolution that allows those who are on other commit-
tees to be appointed to an ad hoc committee was passed. A resolution that would require members gained by revi-

talization to immediately be transferred and credited to a local post was passed and will be sent on to the National Convention for consideration.

A resolution that would have established a formal relation-
ship between permitees to receive. County Veteran Service Officers was rejected by committee.

A resolution that allows those who are on other commit-
tees to be appointed to an ad hoc committee was passed. A resolution that would require members gained by revi-

talization to immediately be transferred and credited to a local post was passed and will be sent on to the National Convention for consideration.

A resolution that would have established a formal relation-
ship between permitees to receive. County Veteran Service Officers was rejected by committee.

A resolution that allows those who are on other commit-
tees to be appointed to an ad hoc committee was passed. A resolution that would require members gained by revi-

talization to immediately be transferred and credited to a local post was passed and will be sent on to the National Convention for consideration.

A resolution that would have established a formal relation-
ship between permitees to receive. County Veteran Service Officers was rejected by committee.
This is my first article for the Legionnaire and I would be remiss in not thanking all of you, the entire American Legion Family, for your support and belief in me during my travels throughout the state while campaigning. I don’t take my duties lightly and I promise to do the very best that I can.

THANK YOU AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY.

My goal is to remain a strong Legion Family, and we can do this by open communications and communicating often. We share a common goal and that is to continue to serve our veterans, their families, our communities and our Country. Having been a nurse for 45 years with many of those years spent directly with the care and welfare of veterans, years spent with the care and welfare of veteran’s families, our communities and our Country. Thanks.

“Victory for Veterans” not only for homeless veterans, but for all needs of our veterans.

One of the most important first duties as commander is “Victory for Veterans” not only for homeless veterans, but for all needs of our veterans.

The excitement is building as The American Legion Riders have finalized their plans for the 7th annual Minnesota Legacy Scholarship Run throughout our great state. There is one major change this year as it not only benefits children that have lost a parent on active duty since 9-11, but children of a veteran that is 50% or greater service connected disability are eligible as well. They have two runs the first two weekends in August. You can view their schedule at milegacyrun.org. Please put this on your agenda as it is truly a worthy cause. They bring excitement and commitment to our great organization that will rub off on you and is catchy.

The end of August will find many of us heading to Cincinnati, Ohio, for our 98th National Convention. Please remember to bring your home post/unit/squadron American Flags along for the parade. It is a sight to behold as the Mormon Tabernacle Choir is playing in the background while the American Flag and American Legion Flags fill the air. In closing, I would like to congratulate newly-elected President Director Carole Kott and newly-elected Sons of the American Legion Detachment Commander on your accomplishment.

Chaplain’s Corner

By Bill Brockberg

Am I available?

I am honored to be elected to serve the American Legion, Department of Minnesota as the new Department Commander Denise Milton, her membership chair Mark Dvorak, as well as congratulations to all the Department Vice Commanders, Officers for your Commanders and Officers. I look forward to working with you all this coming year. This start to this American Legion Government is like none in the past. I was described as life from helplessness, I look forward to this year as the dictionary version of Genesis, which is the beginning, the origins, the creation of Man. Our beginning this year, as in many years past, has followed a long line of American Legionnaires stepping forward with a purpose to serve veterans and our communities based on the four pillars of the American Legion. How many of us have ever been in a situation in our involvement with the American Legion where we have felt frightened? Overwhelmed? Unqualified? Pushed into a position against our will? Despite any apprehension, Legionnaires have stepped forward to serve their fellow veterans, to support our Country and Government in times of strife, to promote a culture and sense of pride in America and to promote programs and education for the American Legion, we need to step forward and ask ourselves, “Am I available?”

Often, we don’t want to accept responsibility to do things others ask of us... what the Legion asks of you? In terms of my local Post, and with my father’s permission, and dad’s best friend and fellow Legionnaire’s persuasion, and long-time family friend and later, mentor, I was in a position hearing from the American Legion like Isaiah was in the bible when he was challenged by God. Isaiah wrote, “And I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ Then I said, ‘Here I am! Send me.’” As children of God, as subordinates to a divine power, and Legionnaires, we need to step forward and ask ourselves, “Am I available?”


What’s Happening

STATE FAIR

The Minnesota American Legion and the other state veteran service organizations and the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs will have a different type of state fair this year.

The booth will be under the grandstand in a high traffic area, and the various service groups will take turns manning it. The Legion will be in charge of the booth on Sept. 1 and 2 and must man it for the 12 hours of each day.

As opposed to previous years, the Legion will be allowed to sell memberships at the booth.

Volunteers are being sought for the booth, and emphasis will be placed on having younger veterans, female veterans, those who are very conversant with Legion programs, and those who like to sell memberships.

For more information contact Al Zdon or Randy Tesdahl at Department Headquarters.

RIDE FOR VETS

The Sixth annual Ride for Vets will be held Saturday, Aug. 20, at Walker sponsored by Chapter 134 of the American Legion Riders. (In last month’s Legionnaire, the date was reported incorrectly.) Benefits will go to veterans’ causes. The registration will be from 8:30 to 10:45 at the Walker Post. Kick stands up at 11 a.m., rain or shine. Cost is $25 per bike and $15 per passenger. Non-riding participants are also $15. There will be breakfast in the a.m. and a meal after the ride. For more information go to HYPER-LINK “http://www.walkerlegionriders.org” www.walkerlegionriders.org.

VIETNAM VETS

The Minnesota Veterans Home at Hastings will be having a 50th Anniversary Vietnam Era Commemoration event on Sept. 2 at 6:30 p.m. It will include the dedication of a POW/MIA plaque, live music, speakers, a color guard, refreshments. Every Vietnam vet will receive a pin.

For more information, call Sue at 651-539-2442. Those attending can bring their own camper or tent or take part in the 12 hours of each day.

For more information contact Al Zdon or Randy Tesdahl at Department Headquarters.

VENDORS NEEDED

Vendors are needed for the Fall Flea Market at the Apple Valley Post on Sept. 24. Organizers are looking for a variety of crafts, wood products, furniture, tools, antiques, keepsakes and gems. For more information, call Marlene at 651-423-2493.

WOOLSON DINNER

An Albert Woolson Remembrance Dinner, commemorating his life and legacy on the 60th anniversary of his passing, will be held in the Great Hall of the St. Louis County Heritage and Arts Center in Duluth. Woolson was the last surviving Union soldier of the Civil War, serving in the First Minnesota Heavy Artillery Regiment. The event will be a fund raiser for Veterans Memorial Hall and tickets are $20.

There will be a rededication of the Woolson statue at 4 p.m. with reenactors. At 5, there will be social hour and free admission to the railroad museum, and at 6 the dinner followed by the program. The Zenith City Post 28 is a sponsor of the event.

For more information, call 218-733-7586.

CONCERT IN ROCHESTER

“Echoes of 9/11,” a concert to honor the heroes and commemorate the tragedies on the 15th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, attack will be held Saturday, Sept. 10, at 2 p.m. in the Mayo Civic Center Auditorium. The event is free, and will feature the Rochester Symphony Corale and the 34th Division Band.

CAMP-O-REE

The 47th annual Camp-O-Ree will be held at Legionville on North Long Lake, just north of Brainerd, on Sept. 7-11. Thursday will feature the First District Steak Fry. On Friday, there will be a Sons of the American Legion Breakfast, an SAL Lunch, and the 10th District Pork Roast Dinner. On Saturday, there will be an SAL Breakfast, 6th District Fish Fry for lunch, Harvest Rally Dinner (by ticket only) and SAL Hot Dog and Hamburger Dinner.

Sunday will feature an SAL Omelet Breakfast. Admission and camping fees include: Wednesday, free; Thursday and thereafter, $10 per person per day with a $75 family maximum; Saturday, active military reservists, Guard and reserves are free; Age 3 and under, free.

Those attending can bring their own camper or tent or stay in the camp’s dormitories. Bring your own linens and blankets.

There will be kids games, pull-tabs, bingo, and raffles. The Harvest Membership Rally will be held on Saturday. All proceeds go to Legionville. This year’s event is being organized by the Sons of the American Legion.

LONG PRAIRIE ATTRACTION

Veterans and families are invited to see the Long Prairie Memorial Wall and Park. The park is located in downtown Long Prairie and several battle scenes have been sculpted, soaring five stories high. Flags of all branches are on display. A memorial wall is in the park. There are summer concerts on Thursdays.

BRAINERD LAKES OPTIONS

Enrollment in the VA Health Care system will be easier at the Brainerd VA Clinic. Walk-in applications will be accepted on Aug. 9 and 16 from 9:30 to 3 p.m. Veterans should bring their DD-214, or for World War II veterans, both sides of their discharge certificate, and copies of insurance cards.

Veterans can also apply at VA hospitals or by visiting their County Veteran Service Officer.

For more information, call 320-255-6353.

RETIRED MILITARY

All retired military, all branches can attend the Joint Retiree Appreciation Day to be held at Mystic Lake Casino in Prior Lake on Saturday, Sept. 24.

The seminar will be open for registration from 7 a.m. and will open at 8. Advance registration is $17 and includes refreshments and will open at 8. Advance registration is $17 and includes benefits information, Tri-Care and more. For more information call 612-713-4664. It is sponsored by Metro JRAD.

BUSINESS HELP

A group of small business associations is sponsoring two two-day seminars for veterans who are starting or growing a veteran-owned business. The class provides an overview of small business ownership. Following the class, those participating can take an eight-week class on the foundations of enterprise.

The first two-day class will be Wednesday and Thursday, August 10-11 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the University of St. Thomas, Terrance Murphy Hall. The second will be Sept. 14-15 at Camp Ripley near Little Falls.

For more information, call 612-370-2356. Chief sponsor is the Small Business Administration.
Schedule for WWII Round Table listed

The 2016-17 World War II Round Table meetings at the Fort Snelling History Center have been announced.

Sep 8 -- Escaping the German Holocaust to serve in US Army, author of Chasing Spring will tell of the ingenuous escape to the U.S. and his service in Army Intelligence in the Pacific. Sponsored by Brookston's.

Sep 22 -- Pacific Diplomacy in 1930’s – Events leading to hostilities in Pacific.

Sidney Pash, author of The Currents of War will connect the events from the turn of the 20th Century in the Pacific to the surprise attack at Pearl Harbor.

Oct 13 -- 11th Airborne from Philippines to Occupation - Jerry Devlin, author of Back to Corregidor will discuss with Veterans of the 11th Airborne Division will reveal the Vertical Assaults in Philippines and early security in Japan.

Oct 27 -- Germany between 1930’s - Rise of Nazis in Germany. Henry Golo, author of Exposing the Third Reich from observations by Colonel Truman Stuart will discuss in Berlin to expose the upcoming threat of Nazi actions.

Nov 10 -- The Harold C. Deutsch Lecture - Sonning, Hanover, Hamburg. Greg Peterson, Founder of the Robert Jackson Institute, will discuss the International Tribunal and the Sentencing as a commemoration of the end of the Sentencing as a conclusion of the Nuremberg Trials – The Robert Jackson Institute, will discuss the International Tribunal and the Sentencing as a commemoration of the end of the Sentencing at Nuremberg – the Berlin to expose the upcom-

Dec 8 -- 75th Anniversary of Berlin: The liberation of the Allies and Corregidor. Colonel John A. Adams, author of The Fighting Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor, along with Veterans of Philippines will discuss the attack of Japanese and Bataan.

Jan 12 -- Battle of Koenigsberg – Forgotten Battle of Eastern Front. Dennis Showalter, author with Harold Deutsch of If the Allies had Fallen and Veterans of War on Eastern Front will discuss the often overlooked struggle by Russians.

Feb 9 -- Nazi Hunters - Seeking Justice for perpetrators of the Holocaust. Andrew Nagorski, author of Nazi Hunters will discuss the search for Nazi Criminals that evaded capture at the end of the War and sought sanctuary outside Europe.


Mar 23 -- Minnesota-Born Unnamed Architect of Army Doctrines Mark Calhoun, author of General Lesley J. McNair will discuss the little known contributions of a true hero who transformed a fledgling fighting force to Victory.

Apr 13 -- Last Mission of “Corson Navigators” – With the 93rd Bomb Group. Gregg Jones, author of The Last Mission and Veterans of European Air War will discuss the dangers of the bomber missions to destroy German armaments.

May 11 -- Final Major Battle in Western Europe – Battle of Bulge. Hal Hinton, author of Corps Commanders of Bulge and Veterans of Battle of Bulge will discuss critical decisions and mistakes that resulted in a hard fought Victory.

Jun 23 -- Pearl Harbor Ride 23 May-7 June: Market-Garden, Eban-Emal, Remagen, Waterloo, Huertgen, Battle of Bulge.

25 YEARS -- Dr. Apostolos Georgopoulos is congratulated by Past National Commander Dan Ludwig, who introduced him at the Rochester Convention, and by Sue Nunnelle, the Auxiliary representative on the Brain Sciences Foundation. Commander Kellogg presented Georgopoulos with over $37,000 in donations.

Brain Sciences Chair honored for 25 years of research work

Dr. Apostolos Georgopoulos was honored by the Minnesota American Legion for his 25 years as Brain Sciences Chair at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center and the University of Minnesota. He received a cut-glass bowl from the Legion for his work and longevity.

Georgopoulos was introduced by Past National Commander Dan Ludwig, who led the fund drive for the Brain Science Chair, which was matched with a $1 million donation to establish the chair back in 1991.

Ludwig’s introduction included:

"Way back in June of 1944 in Patras, Greece, a young lad was born. He graduated from the University of Athens, School of Medicine as a medical doctor in 1968 and got his PhD in physiology the next year. He served in the Greek Army at the Medical Research Center from 1969 to 1971.

"He became an assistant professor at the University of Athens, School of Physiology, in 1972 and became a research associate and then an associate professor or neuroscience and physiology.

"In 1986, he moved to the United States and became a professor of neuroscience at Johns Hopkins University. In 1991, after a nationwide search, he was chosen to be the American Legion and the University of Minnesota Chair in Brain Sciences.

"The Brain Sciences Chair was created in the late 1980s and the early 1990s by the Minnesota American Legion and Auxiliary corporations, said that two Boy Scouts are doing their Eagle paver project. Between 2001 and 2016, the department raised over $1 million for the position. It came at a time when so many American veterans were suffering from brain injuries and disorders.

"The Brain Sciences Chair demanded a dynamic trailblazer who could lead a department in cutting-edge medical research into the mysteries of the brain. In addition to the Chair, Dr. Georgopoulos was also named Director of the Brain Sciences Center, and Professor of Physiology at the University of Minnesota Medical School.

"Dr. Georgopoulos began pulling together a team. His own special project was research into ways that veterans could operate a prosthesis simply by using a command from the brain.

"In 2001, a major event happened at the Brain Sciences Center at the VA hospital. It acquired through a federal grant a magnetoencephalography neuroimaging instrument.

"Exciting breakthroughs for veterans have been published in major medical journals around the world. The research has been extraordinary. Dr. Georgopoulos himself has published 192 papers in medical publications.

Georgopoulos said the support of the Legion through the years has made his research possible.

Notes from the 2016 Minnesota American Legion Convention

The final report of the Credentials Committee delivered by Chair Lynn Nottage included:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Posts</th>
<th>Delegates</th>
<th>Voting Strength</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>658</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

-- Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs Commissioner Larry Shettle said that the Claims Office administered jointly by The American Legion and the Minnesota American Legion through the disability claims filed in the state each year, and it handles 74 percent of the successful appeals.

-- Lieutenant Colonel Mark Runyan said the three upcoming candidates for National Commander are Charles Schmidt of Oregon, Denise Rowan of Wisconsin, and Brett Reistad of Virginia. He said the next national conventions will be held at Cincinnati, this year, followed by Reno, Minneapolis, Indianapolis, Louisville, and Phoenix.

-- National Vice Commander Al Davis thanked the people of Minnesota for their support during his year in office.

"It was an honor to represent you all.

-- Secretary of State Steve Simon said the state is endeavoring to make it easier for servicemen and women to vote absentee ballots. He said he also is working on allowing easier voter registration, ballotling for a federal election, he said, Minnesota led the nation in percentage of voters, but in 2014 the state slipped to 6th place.

-- Bill Barblanche, chair of the Legislative Insurance Trust committee, said that this past year the LIT donated $169,000 to Minnesota -- the second highest source of revenue outside of membership dues for the department coffers.

-- Wayne Gilbertson, President of the Legionville Corporation are doing their Eagle projects at Legionville this year. One is planting over 5,000 trees at the camp and the other is planning to finish the pavilion project.

-- The Sons of the American Legion are taking over the Camp-O-Ree gathering this year at Legionville.

-- The Americanism Awards went to: St. Charles Post 190 Slayton Post 64

-- New Germany Post 601 North St. Paul Post 39

-- Viking Post 493 in Bloomington Deerwood Post 557

-- Granite Falls Post 69 Nashwauk Post 307

-- Ardmore Post 23 St. Louis Park Post 282

-- Membership Director Jim Lucas reported that at convention time, the department was at 95.38 percent, or 77,257 of the goal of $81,000.

-- Baseball Director Mike Perry said Minnesota has 326 teams, the largest number of any department in the nation for the third straight year.

-- National Historian Jim Copher thanked Minnesotans for their support, and Dan Ludwig for helping his appoint- ment to the position. He paid tribute to Alice Peterson, past Department Historian, for being his mentor.
Greetings Second District. I am excited to be named to assume your leadership role in your District Commander for this coming year. My name is Mark Coney and I am from the Arthur Moeller Post in Hardwick. I have been a Legion member for 12 years and have been a Life member with D.A.V. I would like to introduce my membership team to you. This year, returning as Vice Commanders are: Cindy Brunk from the Watertown Post; Betty Jass from Sleepy Eye; and Brenda Syversen from Blue Earth. We have two new members joining our team. I would like to welcome our 1st Vice Commander Randy Al-Olives from Winnebago and Stacy Foster from Wells. But most importantly, Mike Schaffer has returned to be my membership director for another year. I feel very lucky to have such talent and enthusiasm surrounding me and I would like you for welcome them as they come around to your Posts. We are here to serve you, so feel free to talk to us.

Change-over for the District will take place on July 31st at St. James American Legion Post at 11 a.m. with dinner. The price of the dinner is $15. If you plan on attending, please call 507-373-5900 to ensure they will have enough for everyone. I look forward to a great and rewarding year.

Greetings District Commanders

Welcome to the 2017 American Legion Membership year. First let me thank you for your vote of confidence in electing me your Commander for the 2017 year. I look forward to working with everyone at all of your Post events and District programs.

My Commander's project this year will involve doing something for the Mpls. Veteran's Home as we have done in the past. I look forward to working with Bonnie Brenna and the Auxiliary in our fundraising efforts.

I enjoyed the annual picnic we had with the 4th District at the Disabled Vets Camp on Big Marine Lake. We'll do it again next year.

Congratulations to all the new District Commanders.

Looking up District Hospital Visitaton - Aug. 7 at 2 p.m.

Remember "Keep Focused and Look to the Future".

Greetings from the Fighting Fifth

I wish to congratulate all my new officers and executive committee members along with those from the ALR, SAL and Auxiliary. My appointments for the various committees and program chairs have been made and I look forward to working with everyone in serving our Veterans. A special thank you to Commander Marks for his guidance and leadership this past year. I am honored to be the 100th Commander of the 5th District. We have had great leadership over the years and I hope to continue that tradition.

I am planning on having a good membership year. The packets are in the hands of the Posts and dues are starting to arrive. I'll be setting a District membership revitalization date and reach out to all Posts to help in this effort. My Commander's project this year will involve doing something for the Mpls. Veteran's Home as we have done in the past. I look forward to working with Bonnie Brenna and the Auxiliary in our fundraising efforts.

I enjoyed the annual picnic we had with the 4th District at the Disabled Vets Camp on Big Marine Lake. We'll do it again next year.

Congratulations to all the new District Commanders.

Looking up District Hospital Visitaton - Aug. 7 at 2 p.m.

Remember "Keep Focused and Look to the Future".
Martin, Robert “Fuzz,” 86, Air Force vet eran of World War II, died June 17, 2016. He was a journeyman electrician in the automobile industry. He was a member of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 743.

Kuntz, Ronald P., 80, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 13, 2016. He was a career Navy man who served in the Vietnam War. He was a member of Local Lodge 1407.

Klotz, Dale A., 83, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 25, 2016. He was a member of New London Post 53.

Hagen, Ivan Lowell, 83, Army veteran of the Korean War and Air Force Veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 24, 2016. He served in Canada, Greece, Johnston Island, Thailand, and the U.S. He was a member of Madision Post 58.

Johnson, Donald F., 95, Army veteran of World War II, died June 15, 2016. He served in the Army and was a member of Amos Post 276.

Jones, Kenneth C., 95, Army veteran of World War II, died June 16, 2016. He served in the Army and was a member of Cloquet Post 262.

Klieg, Jerome J., 79, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died July 7, 2016. He was a member of Eden Valley Post 38.

Schmit, Vertlyn J., 86, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 4, 2016. He was a member of Eden Valley Post 381.

Carlisle, Robert, 91, Naval Air veteran of World War II, died Jun 28, 2016. He flew the SHD Dauntless Dive Bomber in the war. Later, in the Naval Reserve, he became a helicopter pilot and retired with the rank of commander. He was a member of Alexander Post 87.

Freihammer, Thomas O., 72, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 9, 2016. He served in the First Cavalry Division. He was a member of St. Cloud Post 478.

Bloomquist, Harold E., 86, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 9, 2016. He served as a military policeman. He was a member of a Coast Guard Unit.

Klotz, Dale W., 90, Army veteran of World War II, died July 4, 2016. He was a member of Austin Post 91.

Grieder, Thomas O., 73, Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 14, 2016. He served for 22 years and retired as a master sergeant. He served in Korea and Vietnam. He was a member of a Coast Guard Unit.

Ruhk, Donald, 87, Army veteran of World War II, died June 30, 2016. He played in the Army Victory Band.

Russell, LaVerne, 84, Air Force veteran of the Korean and Vietnam Wars, died July 14, 2016. He served for 22 years and served in the Pacific. He was a member of Rosetown Memorial Post 542.

Hagen, Ivan Lowell, 83, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 18, 2016. He was a member of Marshall Post 113.

Tell, James T., 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 2, 2016. He was a member of North Branch Post 85.

Engler, Gordon, 94, Army veteran of World War II, died July 14, 2016. He served in the Pacific. He was a member of Little Falls Post 46.


Hruska, Dean E., 73, Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 20, 2016. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

Halvorson, Gerald C., 83, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 13, 2016. He was a member of Willmar Post 16.

Rieger, Herbert J., 90, Navy veteran of World War II, died July 14, 2016. He was a member of Willmar Post 167.

Marcus, Stanley C., 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 17, 2016. He was a member of Willmar Post 16.

Engler, Fred G., 90, Army veteran of World War II, died June 30, 2016. He was a member of Rush City Post 93.
Hospitality

With the Ninth District Band providing the music, Darlene Wondra joined on the "Funky Chicken."

During the Thursday night Auxiliary reception, a conga line got things moving. (Michelle Leonard photo)

Hot dogs were a hot item at the hospitality event on Friday night at the convention.

The Ninth District Band was tuneful at the event.

Paul Hassing is deployed, but Jodi Hassing brought a cut-out of her husband to the party.

Memorial Service

President Sandy Fredrickson and Commander Jim Kellogg led the processional.

Bishop Dan Williams delivered the memorial oration at the service.

Soloist Angie Killested sang Amazing Grace.

Candles were lit during the service, Gene Olswold lights a candle as Steve Sullivan looks on.

Incoming and outgoing Chaplains Richard Wog and Bill Brockberg saluted the colors.
The 2016-17 leadership team had its official photo taken at the conclusion of the convention.

2016 State Convention at Rochester

State Veterans Affairs Commissioner Larry Shellito spoke to the delegates on opening day.

With an election impending, members of the Third District gathered for a caucus to go over the district’s voting strategy.

Jean Walker’s granddaughter Arietta got her flag ready for the Auxiliary Convention. (Michelle Leonard photo)
Speakers’ Gallery

Girls State Governor Amanda Tersteeg

Oratorical Champion Isaac Winnes

Firefighter of the Year Ross Gramling

Minneapolis VA Medical Center Director Patrick Kelly

Auxiliary President Sandy Fredrickson

Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Anthony Dean

Boys State Governor Ivan Pearson

Membership Director Mark Dvorak

Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon
Legion Installation

Newly-elected President Carol Kottom addresses the Auxiliary convention.

Installing officer Past Department Commander Peggy Moon presents outgoing Commander Jim Kellogg with his official colors.

Outgoing President Sandy Fredrickson pins her successor at the conclusion of the Auxiliary Convention in Rochester.

Photos by Michelle Leonard

New Commander Denise Milton wears the long badge listing every Department Commander over 98 years.

Chaplain Richard Wog gave one of the final prayers in the installation ceremony.

Commander Milton gets a kiss from husband Dennis after he placed the white hat on her head.

Brenda Kellogg gave her husband his new blue cap.

Auxiliary Installation

Newly-elected President Carol Kottom addresses the Auxiliary convention.

New officers of the Auxiliary are sworn in by installing officer Bev Otterness.

Outgoing President Sandy Fredrickson pins her successor at the conclusion of the Auxiliary Convention in Rochester.

Photos by Michelle Leonard
Awards and presentations made at the 2016 convention

NEWCOMERS -- Commander Jim Kellogg asked that first timers at a state convention come to the stage for a photo, and some did. From left, front: Andru Peters, Tom Olson, Jim Urban, Heather Larson, John Flynn. In back: Andy Regenscheid, Bob Leslie, Paul Reese and Tom Hendrickson.

BOYS STATE SPONSORS -- Posts that sponsored Boys State officers were recognized in Rochester. From left: Commander Jim Kellogg; Tom Allen, Clearwater Post 323, sponsor of Ivan Pearson; Barry Madson, Chanhassen Post 580, sponsor of Dhruv Mehti; Gloria Burt, Wayzata Post 118, sponsor of Jesse Bissen; Ray Turnquist, Anoka, sponsor of Vince Clark; Mark Coney, Hardwick Post 478, sponsor of Krute Oldre, Lee Tallackson.

FINANCIAL AID -- Commander Kellogg presented Dr. Apostolos Georgopoulos a check for $27,000 for Brain Science. It was Kellogg’s project for the year.

TOM LYONS AWARD -- Minnesota Military Radio host Tom Lyons was honored by the Legion for his work for veterans. Accepting was Staff Sergeant Johnny Angelo, senior producer of the radio show.

BOYS STATE GOVERNOR -- Ivan Pearson, Boys State governor from South Haven, was honored at the convention. Presenting were Commander Jim Kellogg and Boys State representative Lee Tallackson.

PHALEN MOST VOLUNTEER HOURS -- Arcade-Phalen Post 577 was honored for most volunteer hours for a post its size. Accepting was Post Commander Lane Stunkel.

POST OF THE YEAR -- 3M Post 599 was recognized by National Commander Dale Barnett as Minnesota’s Post of the Year. Accepting was Carl Renalls. Presenting were Commander Kellogg and NVC Davis.

BRUNO MOST VOLUNTEER HOURS -- Community Service Chairman Bob Locker presents Bill Johnson with the Most Volunteer Hours award for smaller posts to Bruno Post 583. Jim Kellogg also presented.

ST. LOUIS PARK MOST DOLLARS DONATED -- St. Louis Park Post 282, represented by Daryl Harmon, won the most dollars spent award for posts its size from the Community Service Committee. Jim Kellogg and Bob Locker presented.

BRAIN SCIENCE CHECK -- Commander Kellogg presented Dr. Apostolos Georgopoulos a check for $27,000 for Brain Science. It was Kellogg’s project for the year.

FIRE FIGHTER AWARD -- Virginia Post 239 was honored for sponsoring the Firefighter of the Year. Commander Kellogg and Law and Order Chairman Tom Conway presented to Eighth District Commander Jennifer Havlick.

BAGLEY MOST DOLLARS SPENT -- Bagley Post 16 won the award for Most Dollars Spent by a post of its size. Tom Conway accepted. Bob Locker and Jim Kellogg presented.

PAYNESVILLE MOST VOLUNTEER HOURS -- Paynesville Post 271 won the Community Service Award for posts its size for most volunteer hours. From left are Commander Jim Kellogg, Chairman Bob Locker and District Commander Duwayne Collins.

3M MOST DOLLARS DONATED -- 3M Post Commander Carl Renalls accepted a plaque for most dollars donated by a post its size. Presenting were Department Commander Jim Kellogg and Community Service Chair Bob Locker.
More honors and awards from the 2016 Department Convention

ST. LOUIS PARK DONATION -- St. Louis Park Post 282 contributed $32,000 to the Department, including $10,000 each to the Commander’s Project, Brain Science, and $10,000 to the American Legion Riders. Accepting was Commander Jim Kellogg and presenting were Lee Tallackson and Tom Schottenbauer.

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THE YEAR -- Anthony Dean, a policeman from St. Paul, won the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year award. Presenting were Commander Jim Kellogg and Law and Order Chairman Tom Conway.

LAW ENFORCEMENT SPONSOR -- North End Post 474 in St. Paul received a plaque because the post sponsored the Law Enforcement Person of the Year, Anthony Dean.

SAL GIFT -- SAL Detachment Commander Gene Olswold, right, presented Commander Jim Kellogg with a gift.

ORATORICAL WINNER -- Isaac Winnes of Minneapolis was honored as the state’s Oratorical Contest winner. Presenting were Chair Deb Norman and Co-Chair Linda Dvorak.

RECRUITER OF THE YEAR -- John Lenvik, Apple Valley Post 1775, was named Recruiter of the Year and Gold Brigade winner. He signed up 76 new members. Presenting were Jim Lucas and Jim Kellogg.

EXHAUSTED ROOSTER AWARD -- National Vice Commander Al Davis presented Commander Jim Kellogg with a Past Department Commander’s hat.

BASEBALL HAT -- Baseball Director Mike Perry presented Commander Jim Kellogg with a baseball hat. Kellogg will be attending the state tournament games.
MERITORIOUS SERVICE -- The Rehabilitation Committee presented certificates for Meritorious Service at the Rochester Convention. Those earning the awards were: Joel Nelson, St. James Post 33; John Weinzierl, Watertown Post 121; Robert Bowen, Rosetown Memorial Post 542; Ray Eiden, Falldin Post 555; Dale Lanz, Cannon Falls Post 142; Larry Snodgrass, Franklin Post 308; Marvin Hill, Sacred Heart Post 239; Leslie Hinrichs, Bagley Post 16.

THIRD DISTRICT -- The Third District won the Goose Egg, Fall Rally, Sweetheart Rally, New Member, Premier Race and Hidden Safe Awards. Accepting were Commander Don Skow and Membership Director Mike Maxa.

FOURTH DISTRICT -- The Fourth District won the Goose Egg and Spring Rally awards and had 100 percent membership. Accepting were Membership Director Micky Ostrum and Commander Dan Williams.

MEMBERSHIP TEAM HONORED -- The states five Department Vice Commanders were honored with plaques. From left: Commander Jim Kellogg and Vice Commanders Darrel Redepenning, Don Amundson, Art Tobkin, Bird Partridge, John Milbrath and Membership Director Jim Lucas.

FIRST DISTRICT -- The First District, represented by Commander Roland Hanson and Membership Director Lester Shaunce won the Goose Egg and Pearl Harbor awards.

PAT CLIFF AWARD -- Robert Bowen won the Pat Cliff Award for Meritorious Service. Presenting were Jim Kellogg, Wilson Spence, and NECman Marland Ronning. Accepting was Fourth District Commander Dan Williams.

SCHOOL SAFETY AWARD -- Don Pankake was recognized for his service to Legionville. He was presented with a plaque by School Safety Patrol Committee Chair Jim Blakesley.

SEVENTH DISTRICT -- District Commander Karen Weiland was congratulated for the Seventh District winning the Kaisersatt Derby this year. Presenting were Jim Lucas and Jim Kellogg.

PR AWARD -- The Third District won a $50 prize for the best 4th of July promotion on electronic media, presented by Public Relations Committee Member Ralph Schneekloth.
72 YEARS AS SERGEANT-AT-ARMS -- Floyd Sanner, right, received an American Legion national certificate honoring his 72 years of service as Sergeant-at-Arms for Lancaster Post 214. It was presented by Post Commander Ken Hunter. Sanner was on his way home after World War II, where he had earned a Silver Star, when he stopped at a restaurant for a cup of coffee before walking a mile to his house. He was met by the Legion commander who signed him up for The American Legion and informed him that he was the new sergeant-at-arms. He has served ever since and has been in charge of the rifle squad for holidays and funerals.

WOODBURY BIRTHDAY -- Woodbury honored Paul Rudolph on the occasion of his 90th birthday recently. Rudolph is a World War II veteran who earned a Purple Heart. From left: Russ Bentley, Henry Kolashinski, Rudolf, Tom Grezek and Bob Halter.

FISHING TRIP IN SECOND DISTRICT -- The American Legion Family in the Second District organized a fishing trip on Round Lake for residents of the Minnesota Veterans Home at Luverne. Over 100 were in attendance that day and enjoyed a meal of burgers, hot dogs and pot luck. Joining the residents were members of the Legion, Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, and Junior Auxiliary.

MABEL CENTENARIAN -- Clara Karli was honored recently by Mabel Unit 299 for 70 years of membership. She is 103 years old. At right is her son, Deane.

MABEL CENTENARIAN -- William Littlejohn was recently honored by Mabel Post 299. He is 100 years old.

BRainerd top post in district -- Brainerd Post 255 was selected as the Post of the Year for the Sixth District. From left: Dewayne Collins, district commander; Tom Swanson, post membership director; Gerald Strobel, post commander and Susan Edwards, post and district adjutant.

HUTCHINSON OLD TIMERS -- Third District Commander Don Skow, left, and Hutchinson Post 96 Commander Tom Tramp honored longtime members Charles Burich and Datlof Weseloh.
3M DEDICATES BENCH -- Members of 3M Post 599 dedicated a new veterans memorial bench at the company’s flag pole at the main building. It was donated by the post.

NEW ULM PRESENTS WREATH -- New Ulm Post 132 placed a wreath at the Doughboy statue for Memorial Day. From left: George Glotzbach, Norm Warta, Denis Warta, John Ingebritson.

HUTCHINSON VETS -- Longtime members LeRoy Gehrke, Milt Brinkman and Russell Nelson were honored by Hutchinson Post 96.

COASTIES GO TO D.C. -- Five Korean War veterans who served in the Coast Guard will go to Washington D.C. as part of the Twin Cities Honor Flight. From left, front: Peter Boosalis, Chris Kalogerson and Donn Larourell. In back: Bill and Dick Anderson.


NORTH BRANCH HONORS -- North Branch Post 85 Commander Darcy Doble and Auxiliary President Michelle Still honor a grave with a flag on Memorial Day this year.

ST. PAUL B&P CHANGES LEADERS -- St. Paul Business and Professional Post 450 Commander Larry Calhoun, left, shakes hands with Past Commander Dan Petrosky who served four years.

WAITE PARK BOYS STATER -- Waite Park Post 428 recently honored former Boys Stater Isaac Logeman who received a $20,000 Samsung Scholarship. He was a St. Cloud Apollo graduate.

NORTH BRANCH HONORS -- Longtime members LeRoy Gehrke, Milt Brinkman and Russell Nelson were honored by Hutchinson Post 96.

DULUTH WISTED HONORS CADETS -- Duluth Wisted Post 28 honored ROTC cadets with certificates and medals. From left: Commander Dwight Nelson, Erica Bauer, David Blustin, Post Secretary John Witzke, Markus Krings, Jean LeRoy, Post Historian Neil Atkins.

ST. PAUL B&P CHANGES LEADERS -- St. Paul Business and Professional Post 450 Commander Larry Calhoun, left, shakes hands with Past Commander Dan Petrosky who served four years.
On Saturday, July 23rd, the year of “Serving Those Who Served” under the wonderful leadership of President Sandy Fredrickson, came to its conclusion and became yet another page in the history of the American Legion Auxiliary. The annual Department Convention was held at the Kahler Grand Hotel, hosted by The American Legion Post and Unit #92 of Rochester, approximately 260 Delegates, Alternates and Guests representing 120 Units hearing the various reports and conducting the business of the Auxiliary over the three days of the convention. Another busy year of projects and activities brought to you, by your Unit members, had come to its conclusion.

Our special congratulations to newly elected Department President Carol Kottom, Department Second Vice President Donna Arends, Department Vice President Jean Walker and National Executive Committee woman Shirley Frederick who assumed their duties at the close of the Department Convention.

Our newly elected Department President Carol has chosen “hand, hand, hand – all, all, all” as her theme for the 2016-17 administrative year. Her symbol is an Angel.

The ratification and election of 34 delegates and 16 alternates to the 2016 National Convention in Cincinnati brought the business portion of the convention to a close.

Sandy will continue to serve as our Delegation Chairman with Shirley Frederick representing us as our National Executive Committee woman.

Our appreciation much the invitations to Sandy for her dedicated service as Department President this Auxiliary year. She traveled to all areas of the state and did her best to honor all of her invitations. Sandy is very dedicated to our organization and serving and supporting our Veterans. Sandy will continue to serve in different capacities to ensure our organization continues to progress into the future.

SPECIAL THANKS
Our special thanks to Evelyn Lyke and Shirley Oberle, Auxiliary Convention General Chairman and Co-Chairman.

Hendrickson endorsed for Second VP

At the Department Convention President Sandy was most pleased to present her special “Presidents Awards of Excellence” to those Unit members in each of the following programs. These awards were based on the Unit’s annual report and the activities it carried on under the program. The recipients were –

- Americism - Annette Freiheit, Hayfield Unit 330, District 1
- Auxiliary Emergency Fund – Carol Miller, Zimmerman Unit 5, District 6
- Children and Youth – Karen Cibert, Albert Lea Unit 65, District 1
- History – Debora Hodapp, Walker Unit 134, District 6, Junior Activities – Bev Johnson, Warren Unit 27, District 6
- Community Service – Sheila Reinartz, Blackduck Unit 372, District 6, Constitution/Standing Rules – Karen Reither, Brainerd Unit 225, District 6
- Education – Betty Moon, Hayfield Unit 330, District 1, Past Presidents Parley – Kathy Bourdouze, Fridley Unit 303, District 10
- Legislation – Margie Keller, Crookston Unit 20, District 9
- Memorial – Lesly Christoffer, Okahena Unit 608, District 2
- National Security – Carrie Conkey, Mound Unit 398, District 6
- Poppy – Patti Bjorklund, Chaska Unit 57, District 3

West Duluth Unit 71 and the 8th District endorse Mary Hendrickson for Department 2nd Vice President 2017-2018.

An Auxiliary Life Member, she is eligible for membership through her father, a W W II Veteran and her husband, Carl, a Veteran of the Vietnam War.

At the Unit level, she has served as President (five times), numerous times as Vice President, Secretary, Executive Committee member as well as most Chairmanships. At the District level, Hendrickson has served as President, 1st and 2nd Vice President, Executive Committee member, Membership Chairman, Treasurer (three times), Secretary (three times) and held most Chairmanships.

At the Department level she has served as Education Chairman, Community Service Chairman, Historian, Leadership Chairman and will continue as goal 4 leader on the Strategic Planning Committee.

She has attended many national conventions in addition to a Mission Training Conference. She will serve as Department Service to Veterans Chairman and be the North Central Division Legislative Chairman during the 2016-2017 Auxiliary year.

Hendrickson is a retired public school educator and an active community volunteer.

Kottom elected President of Legion Auxiliary for 2016-17

On Saturday, July 23rd, the year of “Serving Those Who Served” under the wonderful leadership of President Sandy Fredrickson, came to its conclusion and became yet another page in the history of the American Legion Auxiliary. The annual Department Convention was held at the Kahler Grand Hotel, hosted by The American Legion Post and Unit #92 of Rochester, approximately 260 Delegates, Alternates and Guests representing 120 Units hearing the various reports and conducting the business of the Auxiliary over the three days of the convention. Another busy year of projects and activities brought to you, by your Unit members, had come to its conclusion.

Our special congratulations to newly elected Department President Carol Kottom, Department Second Vice President Jean Walker and National Executive Committee woman Shirley Frederick who assumed their duties at the close of the Department Convention.

Our newly elected Department President Carol has chosen “hand, hand, hand – all, all, all” as her theme for the 2016-17 administrative year. Her symbol is an Angel.

The ratification and election of 34 delegates and 16 alternates to the 2016 National Convention in Cincinnati brought the business portion of the convention to a close.

Sandy will continue to serve as our Delegation Chairman with Shirley Frederick representing us as our National Executive Committee woman.

Our appreciation much the invitations to Sandy for her dedicated service as Department President this Auxiliary year. She traveled to all areas of the state and did her best to honor all of her invitations. Sandy is very dedicated to our organization and serving and supporting our Veterans. Sandy will continue to serve in different capacities to ensure our organization continues to progress into the future.

SPECIAL THANKS
Our special thanks to Evelyn Lyke and Shirley Oberle, Auxiliary Convention General Chairman and Co-Chairman.
Continued from Preceding Page

Public Relations – Nancy Albrecht, Hackensack Unit 202, District 6.
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation – Mary Hendrickson, West Duluth Unit 71, District 8.
Leadership – Lois Wenz, Chaska Unit 57, District 3.
Service to Veterans – Sharon Vogelsang, Minnesota Lake Unit 287, District 2.

**OTHER WINNERS**
Our Department Chairman Donna Redepenning, held two Poppy contests at the 2016 Department Convention. The following winners were announced:

Discussion: **Teddy Bear Contest**
1st place – Sam Wickert, Delano Unit 377, 10th District.
2nd place – Theresa Rudnicki, Waite Park Unit 308, 2nd District.
3rd place – Dee Koepp, Hutchinson Unit 96, 3rd District; People’s Choice – Sam Wickert, Delano Unit 377, 10th District.

Chairman Donna would like everyone who brought entries to the department convention. It was a very hard job to judge as all entries were gorgeous.

The Book of Annual Reports contains a list of the trophies and awards that were presented at our department convention. You may want to add the above contest winners to your Unit’s copy of the Book of Annual Reports.

**DEPARTMENT APPOINTMENTS**
The following were our Department’s appointments for the 2016-17 Auxiliary year of "Thank a Veteran – some gave all, all gave some" were approved by the Department Convention:

- Americaism – Sandra Wersal
- Children and Youth – Margee Keller
- Committee Service – Sharon Vetter
- Constitution and Standing Rules – Lori Skallerud
- Education – Diane Hayes
- Finance – Deborah Boswell, Chairman
- Beverly Otterness
- Carol Barbkrnecht
- Becky Nelson
- Judy Ackerman
- Girls State – Marsha Bible, Chairman
- Peggy Tesdahl, Director
- Norma Reed, Educational Director
- Sandra Wersal, Americaism
- Patti Coleman, Committee Member
- Jesse Hoppe, Committee Member
- Junior Activities – Pam Hoshal
- Leadership – Robin Dorf
- Legislation – Donna Arends
- Membership – Zandra Kessler
- Memorial Chaplain – Judy Stein
- Natural Science – Sarah Foss and Carol Foss
- Parliamentarian – Karen Thygesen
- Past Presidents Parley – Chris Ronning
- Poppy – Karla Otto, Chairman
- Public Relations – Michelle Leonard
- Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation – Jean Walker
- Service to Veterans – Mary Hendrickson
- Gift Shop – Raleen Tolzmann, Chairman
- Vida Bacon, Committee Member
- Audit Committee – Pat Eckert, Chairman, Louise Kleiboer and Lynn Spilman
- Special Appointments: Auxiliary Emergeny Fund – Donna Redepenning
- Armed Forces Center – Marge Machgan
- Brain Science Foundation – Diane Sullivan
- American Legion Family members that attended our Thursday night reception – what a great time it was. Thank you to everyone that helped in making the Convention such a success as we worked together for "Serving Those Who Served".

**THANKS FROM SANDY**
I wish to thank everybody that attended the 2016 Department Convention to make it a very successful event. This is one that I will remember for the rest of my life. It was fun trying some new events and I want to thank all American Legion Family members that attended our Thursday night reception – a great time it was. Thank you to everyone that helped in making the Convention such a success as we worked together for "Serving Those Who Served".

**2016 FALL CONFERENCE**
Our annual Fall Conference will be held in Marshall, Minnesota, October 28-29, 2016. More detailed information will be in next month’s Legislaon and on our Department website.

**SECRETARY SANDIE’S NOTES**
Here we are, starting another year, this time under the helm of President Carol Kottom. I can’t wait to dig in and keep our momentum going. It is so good for me to think that this is my 6th Department President to serve with. How time flies. I look for great things to happen with President Carol leading the way. Being as I am submitting this, it does say I made it through my motorcycle trip and my husband got me home safe and sound. Everyone that wants to take a vacation and isn’t sure where to go, think about North Carolina – I never thought about that area for a minute but there really isn’t anything quite like the Blue Ridge Mountain Area. It is stunning, even when your rental house is atop a mountain. Almost had a heart attack on the back of the bike driving up the mountain to get to the house. My first task upon getting off the bike was to text my three kids that they would never see me again unless they visit as I will be eating tree bark and bugs the rest of my life if I have to ride the bike back down that mountain. Well, a corporate decision was made and we rented cars to get up and down for the week. As I told Sully, the Tail of the Dragon was nothing compared to that. Another important question – who do you go to for advice? I had a Kolacky Day Saturday night? To all – enjoy what’s left of the summer!

**EXEC COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS**
Elections were held and appointments were ratified and following will be leading your Auxiliary for 2016/2017:
- Department President Carol Kottom
- First Vice President Donna Arends

Our Department Poppy Chairman Donna Redepenning, held two Poppy contests at the 2016 Department Convention. The following winners were announced:

**NEW OFFICERS**
- In back: First District President Cynthia Nelson, Glenville Unit 264; Second District President Kathy Burkett, Belview Unit 309; Third District President Marci Bayseyer, Brownston Unit 143; Fourth District President Connie Anderson, Roseville Unit 542; Fifth District President Bonnie Brenna, Minneapolis Unit 99; Sixth District President Theresa Rudnicki, Waite Park Unit 428; Seventh District President Betty Underthun, Willmar Unit 167; Eighth District President Anna Eells, Grand Rapids Unit 60; Ninth District President Joanne Kranz, Karlstad Unit 445; Tenth District President Linda Deschene, Brooklyn Center Unit 630. In front: First Vice President Donna Arends, President Carol Kottom, Second Vice President Jean Walker.

**2016/2017 MEMBERSHIP PACKETS**
The 2016/2017 membership packets were given out at Department Convention to any Units that were willing to pick them up and take them back to their members. We are trying to save costs for the Department as well as get the membership out earlier. Those that weren’t picked up will be mailed to your Unit Membership Chairman provided we have received an officer’s list from your Unit. If no Membership Chairman was listed, we will send it to the Department to be mailed after August 1. If your Unit did not turn in an officers list to the Department Office, then we are holding your 2017 cards until we receive the required officers list. We are still in need of 54 Unit Officer Lists – you know who you are!

Be certain to read the 2016/2017 “Minnesota Guide to Membership” that will accompany your membership cards for instructions. The transmittal forms will be available electronically and on our website (mnala.org) after August 1. Both current and past dues will be submitted on the same form. The 2016/2017 transmittals are (GOLDBERG) please dispose of any OLD forms. If you have any questions on how to process your membership, please contact the department office.

If you are in need of additional membership supplies they are available from the department office. An order form was included in your membership packet listing items available.

**Dignity Planning**
As a veteran you may qualify for certain funeral benefits. Dignity Planning offers one of the best end-of-life planning tools available. Through documenting your final wishes and purchases a final need plan, you will:

- Protect your family from any financial burden in time of grief.
- Gain peace of mind by knowing your funeral is taken care of.
- Yes, I would like to know more about:
  - Traditional Funeral Cost
  - Cremation Cost
  - Payment Plan Options
  - Discount Plans

For a free consultation on Funeral Pre-planning Costs and a review of New VA Burial Benefits, return this coupon to:
Jerry Albohick, 15161 Mostou Rd, NE, Prior Lake, MN 55372 or call (952) 226-6933. Absolutely No Obligation!

**Funeral Plans for Veterans**

**August 2016 Minnesota Legionnaire Page 19**
Reverse Mortgages

Call for a free consumer guide and personal quote.
- Must be 62 or older.
- Never make a monthly mortgage payment again.
- Receive a lump sum of cash, credit line or monthly payments.
- See how much you could qualify for today.

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

Mike Kraus
Loan Officer
NMLS ID #283509
7365 Kirkwood Court North, Suite 300
Maple Grove, MN 55369
Phone: 763-355-8540
mikekraus@muihomeloans.com

Minnesota Veterans Home
1200 E. 18th Street
Hastings, MN 55033
Phone: 651-433-2699
www.vetscampmn.org

Veterans Campground on Big Marine Lake
11300 180th Street N
Marine on St. Croix, MN 55069
Open Year Round
Cabin, RV/Tent Sites, Boating, Trails, Beach at Low Rates
Managed by Disabled Veterans Camp Assn BID 501(c)(3)

ANXIETY, PTSD, DEPRESSION RELATED TO MILITARY SERVICE
Former VA Decision Review Officer, VA Disability Appeals Agent, Accredited Appeals Agent since 2010 specializes in Mental Health Compensation

JON BROWN
592-201-1799
JonBrownAppeals@gmail.com

Display, Protect and Preserve Your United States Flag in a Beautifully Handcrafted Solid Oak Flag Case with a Glass Front. Removable Back and Engraved Plate with Name and Branch of Service of Veteran.

"Made by Veterans for Veterans"