DEC approves two ad hoc committees for 2016-17 year

Commander Denise Milton made her appointments to standing Minnesota Legion committees at the August Department Executive Committee, but also created two ad hoc committees for the year.

One committee will oversee training and education and the other will look at helping Minnesota participate in the 100th anniversary of the Legion.

The training committee will be a continuation of an ad hoc committee from last year, looking at ways to train Legion volunteers in such things as membership, protocol, and the ins and outs of the organization.

Milton named Barry Madison of Eden Prairie, Al Davis of Princeton and Jeff Gay of Marshall to the committee. The Centennial ad hoc committee will deal with Minnesota’s participation in the 100th anniversary.

Milton noted that only a handful of Minnesota posts have chosen to do their post histories, a Centennial project, on the national website.

She named Past Department Commanders Jim Kellogg of Taopi and Ray DeZurik of Breezy Point to the committee, representing the north and south parts of the state.

The committee will not do the same work as the Convention Corporation Committee which is planning Minnesota’s participation in the 2018 National Convention in Minneapolis. The work of that committee will be aimed at planning for the convention, while the work of the ad hoc committee will be aimed at getting Minnesota posts involved in the celebration.

Jack Vessey, state’s highest ranking soldier, dies at 94

John W. Vessey, who rose from a Minnesota National Guard volunteer to become the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, died at age 94.

Vessey’s 46-year military career started prior to World War II and continued through the Reagan presidential years, when as the top military person in the nation, he oversaw a tremendous build-up in U.S. military force that led to the conclusion of the Cold War.

Vessey, a member of Brainerd Post 255, remained active until recently, both in state projects and as an advisor to the Army.

Woodbury, Giantvalley win state baseball tournaments

Minnesota’s two baseball champions this year are Minneapolis Giantvalley in Division II and Woodbury Blue in Division I.

Woodbury was unable to advance to the national regional, however, because it didn’t have enough players to meet the national requirement of 12 on the roster.

Instead, the two teams representing Minnesota at the regional in Bismarck, N.D., were second place finisher Forest Lake and the third place team Wayzata. Neither team advanced to the World Series in Shelby, N.C.

In the Division II regional in Waupun, Wis., Minnesota’s second entrant in the tournament, Glenwood-Lowry made it to the championship game but fell to Viroqua, Wis.

In the Division I tournament held in Delano, sponsored by Delano Post 377, 16 teams vied for the state title and the right to advance to the regional.

State university to study Minnesota American Legion

If you go into your local American Legion clubrooms some day and see a couple of women sitting at a table sipping a light beer and taking notes -- you may be part of a study.

And if you approach the table and want to talk to these ladies, they’d be glad to do so. But they will also hand you a consent form.

Minnesota State University at Mankato, with the permission of the Minnesota American Legion, is conducting a study on the influence of community organizations, in particular, The American Legion.

Toward that end, two MSM professors will be traveling around the state observing what goes on and how people interact in Legion halls.

The two sociologists, Dr. Emily Boyd and Dr. Carol Glasser, both professors in the Sociology Department at Mankato, will share their findings when their study is complete.
Fall Conference will be held in Marshall

This year’s school of instruction, the Fall Conference, will be held in Marshall on Oct. 28-29.

The conference will again combine the Legion and Auxiliary for some sessions, but final details and meeting spaces are still being discussed.

The Legion meeting will be held in the Marshall Red Baron Arena, 400 Tiger Drive.

The main hotel for the Legion will be the Ramada Inn. Registration will begin on Wednesday at 5 p.m. for two days at the post. Registration will then move to the Ramada Inn for the Auxiliary and the Red Baron Arena for the Legion and will be held Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Thursday, same hours, and Friday, 7-9:30 a.m.

The conference will be sponsored by Marshall Post and Ripley. The DAV, VFW, MOPH, and PVA are also sponsors. From left: Commander Denise Milton, Adjutant Randy Tesdahl and PDC Jim Kellogg.

Included:
- 1406 E. Lyon St., Marshall, MN 56257 (507) 557-0424
- Deluxe Motel (507) 552-9461
- Ramada Inn (507) 552-5070
- Conference Headquarters (507) 552-3021
- Super 8 (507) 552-3070
- Sleep Inn (507) 552-3070
- Traveler’s Lodge (507) 552-3070
- Prairie’s Edge Casino (507) 552-3070
- Jackpot Junction Casino (507) 552-3070

In October the DEC will conduct a business meeting.

In other business, the DEC:
-- Elected Randy Tesdahl, Elk River, to a new three-year term as Department Adjutant.
-- Elected Dennis Henkemeyer, Bagley, to a three-year term as a member of the Board of Publications.
-- Heard from the commander on her project for the year, which is working with MACV to end veteran homelessness in Minnesota.
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-- Was told by NECman Marland Ronning that the National Commander’s Tour this coming year will be Feb. 13-19. The stops have not yet been determined. He also said he was running again for NECman this coming year.
-- Heard from Tesdahl that his personal phone has now been connected to the office headquarters phone (651-291-1800) so calls can be transferred through.
-- Learned from Tesdahl that Alumacraft had donated $19,140 to the Trolling for the Troops fishing program for veterans. He said such programs are attractive to younger veterans.

 DEC conducts business meeting

SUPPORT FOR FISHING PROGRAM – Alumacraft donated $19,140 to the Trolling for the Troops program. The American Legion is a sponsor and organizer of the program that provides a fishing experience with professional fishermen for veterans at Camp Ripley. The DAV, VFW, MOPH, and PVA are also sponsors. From left: Commander Denise Milton, Adjutant Randy Tesdahl and PDC Jim Kellogg.

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Endorsements

Marland Ronning has been endorsed by the 10th District and Osseo Post 172 for re-election as National Executive Committeeman for 2017-19.

Ronning served in the Army from 1959-1967. He has served Osseo Post 172 in all offices. He has served the Tenth District American Legion as Historian, Judge Advocate, Adjutant, Americanism, Children & Youth and District Vice Commander. In 1986-87 he was the Tenth District Commander. Ronning was Department Commander in 2004-2005. Other positions he served as include Sgt-at-Arms, Vice Commander, and Membership Director. He is Treasurer of the “V4V” Board.

He has served at the National level on the Membership & Post Activities Committee, National Aerospace Committee, Americanism Council, currently serves on the Veterans Employment & Education Council. He and his wife, Chris, have a blended family of five children, 13 grandchil-
dren, and 18 great-grandchildren.

R. Niesen endorsed for VC

Waconia Post 150 and the Third District have endorsed Rosemary Niesen as a candidate for Department 1st and 3rd Vice Commander for 2017-18.

She is a member of Waconia Post 150 and has held offices such as historian, executive office and presently the adjutant. She is active in the Third District and has served as adjutant, vice commander and commander and was the blood chairman. She is presently the Armed Forces Service Chairman. At department level she is presently serving on the Brain Science Committee as secretary. She is a member of the VFW 5462, Am Vets Post 13, Cabane 415 and the DAV.

She served for over 20 years with the 133rd Civil Engineering Squadron in the Minnesota Air National Guard. She is married to husband Joe for over 60 years. They have a family of three boys, nine grand-
children, and 13 grandchildren.

Bill Brockberg endorsed for VC

Round Lake Post 461 has endorsed Bill B. Brockberg for Commander District 2 and 7, for 2017 - 2018.

Brockberg is a past Commander, Vice Commander, adjutant and membership director of Pipestone Post 6 and past Commander and vice-Commander of the Second District.

In his current American Legion Post, Brockberg serves as the second Vice Commander. He is retired from the Army with 24 years in the Army and Army Reserve.

Niesen endorsed for Sgt. at Arms

Waconia Post 150 and the Third District have endorsed Joseph B. Niesen for Department Sergeant at Arms 2017-2018.

He is the Chaplain for his Post and was Commander 1998-1999. At District level he has held the office of Vice Commander, Membership Director and Commander. He served as Law and Order Chairman, Energy and Conservation chairman. At Department he served on the Fund for Hospitalized Veterans and Energy and Conservation.

Marland is retired from IMI Vision as a Senior Global Lab Technician in their R&D Lab.

American Legion Riders stretch out into the distance near Forest Lake on this year’s Legacy Run. The North and Not So North runs raised money for the Scholarship Fund that will be presented at national convention.

Ensure the legacy of membership.

Your Honorable service means that you are eligible for USAA membership — and that your children and grandchildren can become eligible as well, no matter what age. Begin your USAA legacy with an auto or property insurance policy, and take advantage of USAA’s commitment to serving you and your family for years to come.

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USAA is proud to be the Preferred Provider of Insurance and Financial Services to the American Legion.

USAA means United Services Automobile Association and its affiliates. USAA products are available only in those jurisdictions where USAA is authorized to sell them.

Purchase of a product or other services from USAA, its property insurer, or any other product or service provider is a voluntary choice. USAA does not recommend any particular insurer or property service provider. If you are interested in obtaining a quote or policy from an insurer that is not listed, or you want to know more about the terms of any issuer, contact the issuer directly. This is not an endorsement of any particular company or product.

Use of this tool does not guarantee or imply any insurance policies, coverage, or benefits. Coverage is subject to the terms of the contracts, and availability is non-transferable. For more information, visit usaa.com/about-usaa.

American Legion Riders stretch out into the distance near Forest Lake on this year’s Legacy Run. The North and Not So North runs raised money for the Scholarship Fund that will be presented at national convention.

ARRIVING IN STYLE -- Commander Denise Milton arrived in Forest Lake with 10th District Auxiliary President Linda Deschene. (Photos by Michelle Leonard)
It seems like whenever we look out our window, the American flag is out. It’s flying, it’s waving, it’s mattering.

It’s coming to the point where this symbol of national grief is so redundant that it has lost its meaning.

If the flag is flown at half mast a few times a year, it is a powerful acknowledgement of our shared sorrow following the loss of a leader or a terrible national calamity.

It should not be used as a symbol of a nation that seems to be in perpetual mourning.

It’s time to use some common sense in determining what actually merits an executive order to lower our flag to half staff.

The flag should not be a yo-yo.

The American flag waves proudly at the top of the flag staff, a heartfelt symbol of an ascendant nation.

It is not the cumulative effect that is the impact of lowering the flag. It is an act of political protest.

As you can see through the history of the position here at the national level, it would not make sense to change the practice.

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What's Happening

Round Table
The World War II History Round Table will meet on September 14. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday, September 14. The discussion will focus on the Battle of Iwo Jima.

Waconia Dinner
There will be a Veteran Appreciation Dinner on Thursday, Nov. 3, at the Waconia Ballroom. Proceeds will go to the Waconia VFW Post 260. The speaker will be Travis Mills, a quadruple amputee who served three tours in Afghanistan. For more information, go to www.ucvm.org.

Vietnam War Anniversary
Hastings will mark the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War with a series of events. On Friday, Sept. 2, a community commemoration will be held at the Hastings Veterans Home. There will be free golf over the weekend at Hidden Greens Golf Course. A historical tour of the Conflict "cruise-in" will be held in downtown Hastings on Saturday from 5-9 featuring a monster truck. For more info, call 438-2208.

Rosetown Fall BBQ
The Rosetown Fall Barbeque will be held at the post on Sunday, Sept. 18, from noon until 5, with ribs, chicken and the "frist's" until its gone. There will be prizes, silent auc-

Taps
Goodwin, Leslie O., 74, Air Force veteran of the Persian Gulf War, died July 11, 2016. He served for 33 years teaching tours in Germany. He was the oldest and highest rank-

tion, raffle, games. For more information call 651-483-

Legal Clinics
The Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans is sponsoring several events coming up. The free drop-in legal clinics offer help on housing, benefits, debt collection, expungement, and family law. Attorneys will be available. Clinics will be held at:
- St. Cloud VA Auditorium, Building 8, on Tuesday, Sept. 20 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Minneapolis VA Medical Center, Flag Atrium Balcony Room 251 114 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 13.
- Anoka County Government Center, Thursday, Sept. 8, from 9 to 3 p.m.

SAL Disabled Deer Hunt
The SAL Disabled Deer Hunt at Legionville has been slated for Friday, Sept. 30, to Sunday, Oct. 2. The SAL is looking to expand to add two more hunters this year. The SAL is seeking a 243 rifle and additional volunteers for the hunting program. Accepting donations are accepting from posts, auxiliaries or SAL squadrions. For more information, contact Dave Vulcan, 507-380-5985, or Steve Bildeback, 612-220-1333.

Fall Bomber’s Moon Ball
The Commemorative Air Force will sponsor the Fall Bomber’s Moon Ball Hangar Dance on Saturday, Sept. 10, at the Roseville Big Band. Dance lessons will begin at 7 with dancing at 8 p.m. There will be food and drink, and prizes for best WWII era dress. Tickets are $12.50 online or $15 at the door.

Go to cafmn.org for info or tickets.

Military Appreciation Day
The St. Francis Post 622 will honor veterans on Saturday, Sept. 10, from noon until 8 p.m. with music, food, kids’ activities and military events. There will be a flag retirement, military recruiters, boot camp obstacle course, face painting, raffle and a live band.

9/11 Spaghetti Fundraiser
There will be an observance of the 9/11 attack on Sunday, Sept. 11, at the McConnell-Modeen VFW Post in Daluth on West Michigan Street. It is co-sponsored by the 226th and the 382nd Air National Guard. This will include a 21 gun salute and the meal will be served at 3:15 p.m. The program is at 4. The cost is $10 and reservations should be made by Sept. 7 by calling Ralph at 218-591-5610.

Flea Market/ Antique Sale
North St. Paul American Legion Auxiliary will hold a Fall Flea Market and Antique Sale on Saturday, Oct. 1, at the post at 2678 East 7th Avenue in North St. Paul. There will be a bake sale and food available. All proceeds support Auxiliary programs. For more information, call Betty at 671-5557-7755.

Medal of Honor Convention
The official public welcome ceremony for the Medal of Honor Convention in Minnesota will be Wednesday, Oct. 5, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at US Bank Stadium in Minneapolis. The event is free. No bags are allowed. The Commander's Task Force, including The American Legion, are sponsoring the event. For more information call 763-607-0245.

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Obituary Policy
Obituaries must be published within two months of the issue they are published in. For instance, for this September issue, all obituaries must be from August or July. June obituaries will be accepted until July. Obituaries should contain the full name, age, branch of service, war era, exact date of death, any information about the veteran’s service, and any information about the veteran’s involvement in the post, such as past commander.
Greetings to all of the members of the Fabulous Fourth. Summer is coming to an end and the kids are back in school. The days are getting shorter, and soon the leaves will turn color and begin to fall. Speaking of Fall, this year’s Membership Rally will be held at Legionville on September 10th. Please send your membership renewals into your Post so they can get them turned in at the Rally. I want to send a special thank you to Mickey Ostrum who wanted to continue his streak of 100% membership for a third year in a row. Let’s help him achieve this.

The Shop, Shop and Share Committee is working hard on this year’s event, to be held at the Maplewood Mall on December 2nd & 3rd. We are looking for names and addresses of Minnesota service men and women that will be deployed overseas for Christmas and New Year’s. If you know of someone we could send a care package to, please forward their name, company and address to r-bastyr@comcast.net.

Upcoming District Events: September 14th - RCCC at No St Paul Post 39, Exec at 6:30 and Membership meeting at 7:00; September 18 - Hospital visitation at 1:00 and September 20th - Shop, Shop and Share meeting at NSP Post at 3:60.

I wish to congratulate Denise Milton on being elected to our new District Commander. Also our own Curt Norengen to Department Vice Commander for the 4th and 5th Districts. I wish to congratulate Dennis DeLong to Department Sg’t-at-Arms. It was also good to see the new District Commanders at the Convention and I hope they have a successful year.

I look forward to our first District Assembly on Sept. 6 at Post 1. My Commander’s Project this year will involve the purchase of one or two clavinovas for the Minneapolis Veteran’s Home. The estimated cost of each is $2,200.00. An Ice-Cream Social/Antique Car Show was held Aug. 13 at the Minneapolis Veteran’s Home. An SAL Commander from one of our posts belongs to an old car club and the residents greatly appreciated those who came to share their interest in automobiles.

Our posts continue to bring in memberships. I encourage them to get off to a fast start and stay on top of their renewals. I am anxious to see what new ideas our new Department Membership Director Mark Dvorak has regarding membership and revitalization.

Congratulations to the American Legion Riders for raising over $17,000 for the Legacy Scholarship Fund. Coming up: Post Hospital Visitation - Sept. 4 at 2 p.m. and Harvest Rally in Legionville - Sept. 10 at 3 p.m. As always “Keep focused and Look to the Future.”

Membership is off to a great start with the Ninth being off the Goose Egg for the first time in many years. A big thanks to the membership team in the Ninth for their hard work and dedication.

Our first membership rally will be on September 24 at the Third River Falls Post starting at 2 pm. As this membership year continues to gather steam, I encourage everyone to make use of mylegion.org and if you have Posts that have not yet turned in there officers report for the year. This is our early bird 50% cut off date and September 10th is the harvest rally at Legionville. And one last note please keep all of the members of our armed forces around the world in your thoughts and prayers.

Thank you

Carol and I want to thank everyone for all the phone calls, texts, cards and other messages in recent days. I am in your debt for a heartwarming show of support and care every day. I can’t tell you how much I appreciate The American Legion Family. Bill Barnekow

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Battle Lake
Decoy Milton's appointments to state committees

Appointments to the Department of Minnesota standing committees were approved by the Department Executive Committee in August. Commander Denise Milton announced the following list:

- Gary Weaver, LaCrescent, will be the chairman of the Liaison Committee. Virginia Haddox, LaCrescent, will be the vice chairman.
- Jeff Olson of Owatonna will chair the Committee and will serve as chairman. David Bode of Owatonna will serve as chair.
- Mike Ash, St. Paul, Gary Olson, Moorhead, and Richard Janssen, Willmar, will serve as members of the Public Relations Committee.
- Leon Dahlle, Morristown, will serve as chair of the Junior Shooting Sports Committee.
- Debra Norman of Northfield will chair the Oratorical Contest, and Linda Dvorak will be vice chair. James Blackman of Owatonna will be the Safety Patrol chairman.
- Tom Norgaard of Fosston was appointed to a five-year term on the Finance Committee. Ray DeZurik, Breezy Point, will chair the committee.
- Tom Conway will chair the Law and Order Committee and he will be joined by Richard Abraham of Lake Crystal and Jeff Brokaw of Winona.
- David Blanchet of Lake Crystal will serve as vice chairman. Lee Blackman of Owatonna will serve as vice chair.
- Virgil Wagner of Middle River was appointed to the Committee and will be joined by Wes Thompson, Sartell; Roland Hanson, Austin; and Eugene Christiansen, Pine City.
- Tom Mullon, Eagan, will represent the Legion on the Fort Snelling Cemetery Association.
- Tom Norgaard of Fosston was appointed to the Committee and will be joined by Mike Ash, St. Paul, Gary Olson, Moorhead, and Richard Janssen, Willmar.
- Tom Conway will chair the Law and Order Committee and he will be joined by Richard Abraham of Lake Crystal and Jeff Brokaw of Winona.

The DEC approved Milton’s selections, and also voted to:-- Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff John Vessey confers with Secretary of Defense Casper Weinberger during Congressional hearings.

Continued from Page 1

North Dakota’s ‘Sparky’

Gierke III died August 7

Past National Commander H.E. “Sparky” Gierke III of North Dakota died Aug. 7, 2016. He was 73.

Gierke grew up near Williston, N.D., in what is now the heart of the new oil drilling industry, and earned his juris doctor degree from the University of North Dakota Law School. He moved to Minneapolis in the ninth grade and attended Roosevelt High School where he was captain of the swim team.

Vessey won DSC in fighting in Vietnam

Vessey was appointed by President Ronald Reagan.

Marland Ronning of Maple Grove was appointed to a two-year term as representative from the Legion on the Veterans’ Affairs Committee. The DEC approved Milton’s selections, and also voted to give her permission to make new appointments to fill any vacancies.
Minnesota’s 2016 - 2017 Leadership Team
Carol Kottom is a 34-year member of the American Legion Auxiliary and has been a member at the Buffalo American Legion Auxiliary since she joined. Her eligibility is through her husband Bruce, a Vietnam era veteran.

Kottom has been an active member of her unit serving in most offices and as Unit President. She went on to become District President in 1999-2000. She is also a member of the 40&8 La Societe de Femme and a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary.

On the Department level, she has held the following chairmanships: Americanism, Membership, Girls State Director, VA&R Chairman three times, Historian, gift shop committee and chairman, finance committee for five years with the last year as finance chairman, and leadership. Kottom has enjoyed serving as counselor at Girls State early in her active years, and in the Moccasin office the last six years.

She and her husband Bruce have owned their own business, A & K Designs, Inc., for more than 25 years as computer specialists. After that, she worked for 10-plus years before she retired from Wright County Court Administration.

Reading, sewing, knitting and crocheting are how Carol spends her free time. She also volunteers at the St Cloud VA Health Care System for 4 hours a week. The Kottoms have three sons, two grandsons and a granddaughter.

Her symbol is an angel and her theme is: Thank a veteran -- all gave some, and some gave all.

Denise Milton
Department Commander
2016-2017

Denise Milton, Bagley, was elected to a one-year term as State Commander of the Minnesota American Legion at the organization’s convention in Rochester in July, 2016.

Milton has been active in The American Legion for many years, and is a member of Bagley Post 16. She has been post commander, Ninth District commander, Department Chaplain, Department Membership Director, and Department Vice Commander.

At the National level, she has served on the Homeland Security Committee and the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Council.

Milton served for 28 years in the Army and Army Reserve as a clinical specialist and she was on active duty during the Vietnam War, Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

She is a nurse and has worked at the Bagley Hospital, and, more recently, at the Bemidji VA veterans clinic. In 2015, she won the Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary’s Award for Nursing while employed at the Fargo VA Medical Center.

Milton has also been active in her community, serving eight years as a Clearwater Township Supervisor, and as a leader in 4-H, Girl Scouts and the Bagley Youth Hockey Association.

She is married to Dennis Henkemeyer, a Past Department Commander. They were married at an American Legion National Convention in 2004. She has a son and a daughter and two grandchildren.

Her theme for the year is “Victory for Veterans” and her project is to work with the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans on ending veteran homelessness in Minnesota.
A Woodbury player tracks down a long fly ball at Delano’s Municipal Field. Ivy covers the walls much like the Chicago Cubs’ Wrigley Field.

Baseball 2016
Tournaments in Delano and LeSueur-Henderson

Jonah DeSmet slides in for Forest Lake as Woodbury’s Sebastian Holte-Mancera gets ready to apply the tag.

Woodbury’s Ronald Sweeny III slides into the tag of Forest Lake’s third baseman Cameron Kline during the championship game. Kline was named the outstanding player of the tournament.

Photos by John Sherman and Al Zdon

Woodbury Blue hoists the Division I Championship trophy at the tournament in Delano. Woodbury defeated Forest Lake for the state championship, but was unable to attend the national regional because of a lack of players.

Andrew Wolpert of Minneapolis Giantvalley was presented the Tony Sipe Outstanding Player Award for Division II by Sipe’s daughter, Trisa Olson.

Cam Kline of Forest Lake was presented the Wanamaker Outstanding Player plaque by Past Department Commander Jim Kellogg.

Luthor Dorr accepted the plaque for Post of the Year for Princeton Post 216.

Mike Gort of Marshall was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. He is also a state vice director.

Outstanding Pitcher Tony Skoro of Wayzata was presented with the Wassenaar Trophy by the person it was named after, Rob Wassenaar.

Craig Nesbitt of Prior Lake was named the Coach of the Year for Minnesota Legion Baseball.

Mike Max of WCCO was the featured speaker at the Division I banquet in Delano.

Past National Commander Dan Ludwig read the Sportsmanship Code at the Division II Tournament.

With dad’s help, Will Bauman, 1, tries his hand at driving a field maintenance vehicle at Delano.

Division II Outstanding Player Andrew Wolpert takes a mighty cut in the championship game.
State tournaments held in August

Continued from Page 1

Those teams were Waconia, Rochester Patriots, Edina, Woodbury Blue, St. Paul Hamline Purple, Little Falls, Fairmont, Wayzata, Champlin, Eastview, Bemidji, Forest Lake, Princeton, Grand Rapids, Maple Grove, and host Delano.
The tourney was held at two fields in Delano, and also at fields in Loretto and Maple Lake.
Wayzata made it to the quarter-final without a loss before falling to the other unbeaten, Forest Lake 9-7.
Wayzata, last year’s state champion, lost its second game of the tourney and had to fight its way back through the losers’ bracket. They faced Woodbury in the semi-final game and lost 9-2. Wayzata earned the third place trophy.
In the final, Woodbury had its revenge on Forest Lake, pulling away to a 7-3 victory and the championship trophy.
The Outstanding Player of the tournament was Cameron Kline of Forest Lake and the Outstanding Pitcher was Tom Skoro of Wayzata. St. Paul Hamline Purple Post 418 won the Sportsmanship Award.
Past Department Commander Jim Kellogg was on hand for opening day ceremonies and to pass out trophies at the conclusion.
Forest Lake and Wayzata headed for the regional at Bismark, but ran into early trouble. Forest Lake lost to Nebraska Post 11-0 and Wayzata lost to South Dakota 10-0.
Forest Lake came back and beat one North Dakota team 6-3 and the other 9-6, but then lost to Nebraska 11-1 and was eliminated. Wayzata lost to Iowa in its second game and was eliminated. Nebraska Post 1 won the tournament and advanced to Shelby. Texarkana, Arkansas, won the World Series 8-6 over Salisbury, N.C., in 12 innings. Texarkana scored four runs in the top of the 12th to break a 4-4 tie, and then weathered a Salisbury rally that fell just short.
In the Division II Tournament hosted by LeSueur Post 55 and Henderson Post 74, nine teams faced off to challenge for the Minnesota title. The teams were Pierz, Dilworth, Watertown, Adrian, Moose Lake, St. Charles, Dilworth, Glenwood-Lowry, Minneapolis Giantvalley and LeSueur-Henderson, the host.
Glenwood-Lowry beat Pierz in the semi-final game 8-3, and Minneapolis Giantvalley topped host LeSueur-Henderson 11-1 in the other semi-final. LeSueur-Henderson defeated Pierz 12-2 to win the third place game.
In the championship tilt, Giantvalley squeaked by Glenwood-Lowry 3-2.
Glenwood-Lowry won the Sportsmanship Trophy. Andrew Wolpert, Giantvalley, who went 9-16 in the tournament with two doubles, a triple and who scored the winning run in the championship game, won the Outstanding Player Award.
Past National Commander Dan Ludwig was on hand to lead the teams in the sportsmanship code, and the Outstanding Player award, also known as the Tony Sipe Award, was given out by Trisa Olson, daughter of Tony Sipe.
Both top teams advanced to the national regional held at Waupun, Wisconsin. Giantvalley lost to Menasha, Wis., 7-1, and to Viroqua, Wis., 7-0 to be eliminated. Glenwood-Lowry won its first game against Henderson, Nevada, 7-1 and its second game against Waupun 11-1. A win against Larned, Kansas, 6-5, put Glenwood into the championship round.
Glenwood lost to Menasha 6-5 and then lost the title game to Viroqua 4-1.
There is no national championship for Division II teams. Prior to the Division I tournament, a banquet was held at Tiger Activity Center in Delano, and the Minnesota American Legion Baseball Award winners for the year were honored.
Named to the Hall of Fame were Mike Perry, Minneapolis; Mike Gort, Marshall, and Carl “Red” Wyczawski, New Ulm. Greg Nesbitt of Prior Lake was named Coach of the Year, and Princeton Post 216 was recognized as Post of the Year.
Mike Max was the featured speaker and Dick “The Polish White Eagle” Jonckowski was the emcee.
Next year’s Division I Tournament will be in St. Paul at CHS Stadium, sponsored by Tri-City Post 513. The Division II tourney will be at New London-Spicer.


Division II Runners Up -- Glenwood-Lowry finished second in the Division II Minnesota 2016 Baseball Tournament. The team’s roster included: Justin Amundson, Matthew McIver, Michael Gruber, Austin Ver Steeg, Riley Thompson, Jackson Hendricks, Colin Richard, Shawn Stumpf, Chris Claussen, Royce Hoeper, Matt Gruber, Riley Kinney, Craig Spore, Ryder Link, and Jake Held.

Division I Champions -- Woodbury Blue won the 2016 Division I Minnesota State Baseball championship.


Home Run Champ -- After the opening ceremony, a home run derby was held. Joe Bernard of Princeton was the winner, knocking 19 balls out of the park.

2016 State Tournament AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL DIVISION II

GLENWOOD-LOWRY

DIVISION II CHAMPION

MINNEAPOLIS GIANTVALLEY

DIVISION III

LESUER-HENDERSO

DIVISION II CHAMPIONS

MINNEAPOLIS GIANTVALLEY POST 234

DIVISION II RUNNERS UP

GLENWOOD-LOWRY

DIVISION II CHAMPIONS

WOODBURY BLUE

DIVISION I CHAMPIONS

ASSOCIATION BASEBALL

DIVISION I RUNNERS-UP

FOREST LAKE POST 225

Home Run Champ -- After the opening ceremony, a home run derby was held. Joe Bernard of Princeton was the winner, knocking 19 balls out of the park.
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

By Jeremy Wolfsteller

Legion presence in St. Paul

Legion National VA&R Director (Rep Fritz) and Deputy Director of MEB/PEB (Gerardo Avila) visited St. Paul’s National Legion office. They were very impressed to see the level of commitment to assisting veterans their office brings each and every day. Their combined work experience, dedication to serving veterans and The American Legion has culminated into establishing camaraderie with Federal and State VA leadership and has a VA debt, it will go through The American Legion as their power of attorney for VA matters. If the veteran has a VA home loan which is past due, the VA will come to the veteran’s home and give them 30 days to make their payment and if they don’t the loan will go into collection. If the veteran has a VA debt, it will go through The American Legion as their power of attorney for VA matters.

American Legion Riders

By Chuck Stone

State Director

Greetings American Legion Family,

I would like to start by thanking Paul Edwards for the nomination and thanks to all the American Legion Riders for their support in electing me the new Department of Minnesota ALR Director. I’m looking forward to seeing many of you at our annual Romp on September 16, 17 and 18. Cost is $75 individual, $100 for family. If you were on the Legacy run and present a hotel receipt it will only cost you $50 for the weekend. There will be lots of fun, food, and games for one and all.

We have just completed year seven of the Department of Minnesota Legacy ride, another record year for funds raised. There are far too many folks to list who helped make this year’s ride a great success. Over the course of eight months, starting in January with the first planning meeting, through August when a group of Minnesota Riders go on stage at National Convention to present our check, hundreds of hours of work has been put in by numerous people. I rode towards the back of the group a few times and go on stage at National Convention to present our check, so to speak, at a Legion in a bar. They will ask permission first. In order to fit in, they might indulge in a light beer.

American Legion Riders

WHICH ONE IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE BAND KISS? – Past Department Commander Mike Ash makes a presentation to the band KISS when they performed in Mankato. Kiss is on a tour called “Freedom to Rock,” honoring veterans. KISS donated $150,000 to the Hiring our Heroes program. The Mankato Post 11 Color Guard was also on stage with the band. (Photo by Michele Leonard)

Sociologists

Continued from Page 1

huge sense of community in rural towns. “Sociologists say that there are three communities in everyone’s life. First is their family, second is their workplace. The third is the community they choose. It might be McDonald’s in the morning having coffee with the other old timers. It might be a bowling league.”

“Or it might be The American Legion.”

She said a Legion hall “can be a central space in small communities. We’re excited about learning more.”

Mainly the two researchers will simply set up shop, so to speak, at a table in a Legion bar. They will ask permission first. In order to fit in, they might indulge in a light beer.

If Legionnaires, Auxiliaries, Sons of the American Legion, American Legion Riders or others want to talk with them, they would be glad to do so. But you’ll need to sign a consent form first.

It’s all research.

“We want to see how social life unfolds in these spaces,” Glaser said.

They’ve already done one post, and Glaser said it was a good experience. “We don’t have any pre-conceived notions. Things just happen. We want everything to unfold as it will. As time goes by, we’ll have to decide if we’re seeing some patterns.”

They plan to visit clubrooms at different times of the day and different days of the week. They plan to travel around the state. They might drop in on a rally or at the Fall Conference.

Glaser has some past experience with The American Legion. She was the state oratorical champion for Rhode Island twice in the 1990s and also placed at national Oratorical Contest one year. “The Legion helped pay for some of my education.”

Glaser did her undergraduate work at Tulane, and got her masters and PhD at the University of California, Irvine. Her specialty is methodology.

Emily Boyd studied at Florida State University, and she is currently the acting chairman of the sociology department at Mankato.

“We hope to help the Legion, and maybe look deeper into what’s going on,” Glaser said. “We want to know why people are interested in the Legion, why they join or maybe why they don’t.”

Glaser said there is no firm timetable for the study. It will go on, perhaps for a year, until the pair have enough data and information to start drawing some conclusions.

So, if you ever wonder who those two strange women are at that table under the Bingo sign, you know it just might be some scientific research going on.

American Legion Riders

By Chuck Stone

State Director

Continued from Page 1

As we start another membership year with new goals, I want to thank all SAL members in attendance at our June Convention for electing me for a second term as your Detachment Commander. I am so proud and honored to be a Sun of this great organization we have in The American Legion Family. I qualify through my dad’s service in the Navy during World War II and I am a dual member through my service in the Navy during the Vietnam Era.

So, what’s in store for this coming year you ask? I am going to continue having a Detachment Conference Call held on the 4th Wednesday of each month starting at 7:00 p.m. Any squadron commander or SAL member may listen in, however, for the sake of time, I ask that you just listen with no comment. I keep these calls to one hour or less depending on business. If after listening in on our conference call you have questions or ideas for the betterment of the SAL, I ask you to take it to your District Commander who will then bring it to our next month’s conference call.

The dial-in number for these calls is: (614) 715-1580 and the conference code is: 248209.

My Commander’s Project for this year is the Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) so any squadron fund-raising for my project would be greatly appreciated.

An upcoming event is our annual Department Harvest Rally held at Legionville on Sept. 8th-10th. This will be part of the Camp-O-Ree which will be hosted by the SAL. This is a family event with many activities going on. So pack up your tent or camper and dorms are available at no charge – just bring your own bedding. There is a small registration fee so mark your calendars and join the fun. Only electricity is available at Legionville.

Another important event is our Fall Conference being held this year in Marshall on October 29th. This is an educational event and much can be learned from it.

At the top of this list, is membership. I cannot emphasize this enough. Without your membership, we cannot do what we do and our strength is not strong. Your membership is part of the voice we take to Washington, D.C. to let our leaders know what we need for our Veterans. As the saying goes, “strength comes in numbers.” We are strong and getting stronger each and every day. So, pay your dues now and sign up new members to your squadron. Remember why you joined the Sons of The American Legion out of honor for the service of your parent or grandparent who answered the call to protect our Freedoms we still maintain today. They served us so now let’s continue to serve. God Bless America.

SAL Commander Gene Olswold

By Gene Olswold

AWARDS

Commander Denise Milton presented

By

-- Commander Denise Milton presented

SAL Commander Gene Olswold with two national awards recognizing the hard work and dedication of the Sons of The American Legion for its efforts in this membership year.
What a whirlwind of activity. We belong to the greatest organization – the longer I am a member, the more amazed I am.

Spent a weekend at Legionville with our Junior Auxiliary and our Honorary Department Junior President Kiana Coleman-Woods. Our girls planted 100 trees under Roy Kruger’s leadership. Lots of new maples and pine trees for our future leaders to enjoy. Commander Denise came to visit and went swimming with the girls. She is a great inspiration for them and we thank her for coming to spend some time with us. Of course, her husband, currently the National SAL Vice Commander, Dennis Henkenreuter was gracious enough to spend the time also. We all painted mugs which we then took home and baked to seal the artwork on them. I chose to have all who attended sign the mug and it is now baked and in my china cabinet. We spent Saturday afternoon playing some “water” games. If you are on Facebook, you can find some video of your Department President getting pretty drenched – and having a fantastic time with these young ladies. Thank you to Robin Dohn and Pam Hoshall for planning all the activities.

When I arrived home on Sunday, I joined the American Legion Riders in Howard Lake and hiked a ride for the final run of the weekend to Buffalo. They had a fabulous weekend and collected over $61,000 for the kids.

Wednesday brought a great deal of sadness to the Auxiliary. Kassondra Sage, a past 10th District Auxiliary President, died in a car accident. I know that she is watching over her family and the rest of us and is in fact, our newest angel. God bless her family and friends and please keep them in your prayers.

This was also the second and final weekend of the Legacy run. Sunday I joined them in Harris and got a ride. We continued on to Forest Lake and then ended in Fridley. A big thank you to Fridley for the hospitality they extended us all. The final number collected on the run was over $17,000. Good job Riders who are some of the most dedicated people I have the privilege of knowing. (Flat Paul was with them both weekends and I know he enjoyed the ride."

Until next month, thank a veteran – all gave some, some gave all.

SALLY STRASER

President Kottom as a biker babe.

President Carol Kottom

The Auxiliary Bulletin

No. 17-1

President Carol Kottom

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

‘Thank a veteran -- all gave some and some gave all’

Department President Carol Kottom has chosen “Thank a veteran – all gave some, some gave all” as her theme for this year of service to our veterans, communities and nation through the programs and activities of the American Legion Auxiliary. Her symbol is an angel. She asks every Unit to make programs and activities meaningful to those we serve as well as to your members.

The first Unit mailing of the year will soon be on its way to all Unit Presidents. It should be in the mail around September 7. It contains a wealth of information you need to develop your plans and get them underway. Information was included for many of your program chairmen as well as special instruction sheets that should be helpful to your Unit Secretary and Treasurer. Presidents, when you receive these mailings, please distribute the information to the appropriate people. Unit mailings are for all your Unit members and not the property of any one person. Your Unit Chairmen are waiting for ideas and suggestions so they may develop their programs in a meaningful manner for your Unit. Please make sure to send your Unit Mailing out every other month. The second Unit Mailing will go out around October 17. Remember to plan according in submitting articles for the mailing.

Also remember that you may choose to receive your Unit mailing via email, if you so desire. If you are interested in this new option, please contact your Department office with your email address. Keeping in mind that if you receive it via email you can in turn share it with more people in your Unit. The Unit Mailing will be posted on our ALA website. The address is: www.mnala.org and any member can pick and choose articles to download and print.

Further program suggestions with specific “what to do and how to do it” will be forthcoming in the Unit Guide. Program planning and execution of your Unit’s plans are critical not only to the success of our Auxiliary programs, but serve to attract additional members. President Carol has asked each Chairman to come up with an article regarding their program in the month the program shares. Programs should be carried on throughout the year, with special emphasis placed on each program during its special month. The program calendar for the year is:

- August - Start of the New Auxiliary Year - Plan Your Activities
- September - Junior Activities
- October - Education - Constitution and Standing Rules
- November - Past Presidents Parley
- December - Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation
- January - National Security, Legislation
- February - Americanism
- March - Community Service
- April - Children and Youth
- May - Poppy
- June - Girls State
- July - Department Convention
- August - Officer Installation - Plan Your Activities

Thank you to all who are giving of your time, talents and enthusiasm as you assume the responsibility for a program in your Unit and/or District. The success of the programs is critical not only to the success of our Auxiliary programs, but serve to attract additional members. President Carol would like the opportunity to work with each of our Units and Districts and is more than happy to join you, schedule permitting.

Invitations should be directed to the Department President and sent to Sandie Deutsch, Department Secretary, American Legion Auxiliary, State Veterans Service Building, 20 W. 12th St., Room 314, St. Paul MN 55155. Do NOT send invitations to her home address. An invitation form will be included in the first Unit Mailing.

“POWER IN NUMBERS”

Under the leadership of our Department Membership Chairman Zandra Kesler, we have refocused our membership program to “Inhalare Membership”. National Headquarters and our Department Membership Chairman Zandy have relaxed this very aggressive goal. This year the goal that the Auxiliary has set is to increase your total membership as of July 31, 2016, reach that figure and if you have under 100 members, increase by 2 and if you have over 100 members, increase by 4.

Zandy stresses that all Units need to make membership a “fun” program. Everyone should work together to bring in membership. Think of new ways to make your Unit exciting. Have a membership rally in your Unit or at one of your Unit meetings, take a few minutes, have everyone grab their cell phone and call unpaid members and ask if there is anything they can do to get their membership paid. Stress the benefits the organization has to offer by being a member as well. Let’s really step up for our Veterans this year and help our Department Chairmen make all of these programs a success.

PRESIDENT’S PROJECT

President Kottom has chosen the following as her projects for the 2017-2018 year: Unit will work on raising funds to provide a state-of-the-art golf cart for the St. Cloud VAMC. Additional monies over the cost of the cart will be distributed between the other Minnesota VAMC’s and Veteran Homes. Her special project is hand-mailing or mailing pocket angels to veterans, active military or anyone who you would like to have an angel in their pocket at all times. Department Honorary Junior President Kiana Coleman-Woods announced that her special project this year will be helping our homeless and/or hospitalized veterans. The Juniors are asked to collect socks and/or undergarments or to donate money to the Department Office for the purchase of these items. Please support our Juniors, they are such a vital part of our organization and work so hard for our veterans.

PRESIDENT’S VISITS

If you would like to have our Department President as a function or tour of your Unit, please invite her. She has dedicated this year to serving the American Legion Auxiliary, its programs, and working with you, our Unit Presidents as a meaningful and helpful manner. President Carol would like the opportunity to work with each of our Units and Districts and is more than happy to join you, schedule permitting.


domestic Roxanne, being eligible of the American Legion Auxiliary, 2018 Legion Year.

At the Unit Level, Sally has served on the Girls State Committee, Girls State and Gift Shop programs. At the Department Level, Sally has chaired the Leadership Conference and served as the 16th District Auxiliary Chairperson of the American Legion Auxiliary, being eligible through the service of her father, Walter Zumhammer, who served in the US Army Air Corps during World War II.

At the Unit Level, Sally has been extremely involved and served as the 1st Vice President since 2004-2005, with the exception of 2017, when she served as the 4th District President. In the 16th District Level, she has held the offices of 2nd and 1st Vice President, and Auxiliary, being eligible through her father, Walter Zumhammer, who served in the US Army Air Corps during World War II.

At the Unit Level, Sally has served on the Girls State Committee for two years, and as Chairperson of the Emergency Fundraising, Education and Junior Activities, Service for Veterans, Field Service, and Gift Shop programs. She has volunteered as the Nurse at Girls State for the past 6 years and as a Counselor for 2 years.

Sally has also volunteered at the Minneapolis VA Home and with the Christmas Gift Shop.

Strasser has three adult children and six grandchild-

SALLY STRASER

President Kottom as a biker babe.

SALLY STRASER

President Kottom as a biker babe.

SALLY STRASER

President Kottom as a biker babe.
Loch family thanks Auxiliary for support

In July I lost my husband of 18 years, and the father of my 5 beautiful children. He was a guy who always had a smile on his face and a quick joke to share. He would go out of his way to help people. James was involved with our local Legion Post in Kimball. He worked there a couple of days a month and was a member of the SAL. Although he never served in the military, he loved his country.

James taught us from a very young age how important it is to serve as a community volunteer. Our children have been SAL and Junior Auxiliary members for several years. This year our nine-year old daughter Maleah was elected as Honorary 6th District President. She and her dad took part in the Memorial Day service in Kimball. It is a very special memory for Maleah. She just beams with pride when she talks about how the juniors can help to make a difference in the lives of our local veterans and how her dad taught her about that. James will be looking down on her as she completes her service project and activities with the Junior Auxiliary this year. He was so proud of her.

When my husband passed away the Auxiliary members were gathered in Rochester for the State Convention. In hearing of this tragedy in my family, they took up a collection. There are no words to adequately express my gratitude. I was fearful of how I would provide for my kids without the help of my husband, but your generous gift allowed me to set that fear aside and just be present for my kids when they needed me most. I sincerely thank each and every one of you for your support.

With grateful heart — Kim Loch and children Krista, Matthew, Maleah, Joshua and Carly
San Antonio Riverwalk February 19-20, 2017

Tour Includes:
- 3 Days/2 Nights Tour Manager, Cindy Meany
- 1 night accommodations in Downtown San Antonio
- 3 meals: 2 breakfasts, 1 dinner
- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- Experience all the beauty San Antonio has to offer

More Information and Pricing to come!

Minnesota Twins Spring Training in Florida March 2-12 2017

Tour Includes:
- 7 Days/6 Nights Tour Manager, Cindy Meany
- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- 10 nights accommodations including 3 nights in Cape Coral, FL and 7 nights in Minneapolis, MN
- Admission to Twins Spring Training games in Fort Myers, FL
- Visit to Anheuser-Busch Brewery Tour, St. Louis, MO
- Everglades Airboat Tour, Kissimmee, FL
- Best of Minneapolis Guided Tour
- All entrance fees included except personal expenses

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Panama Canal Cruise March 14-20, 2017

Tour Includes:
- 7 Days/6 Nights Tour Manager, Larry Abreu
- Deluxe accommodations in Panama City, Port Canaveral, FL
- Visit to the Panama Canal, Port of Miami, Key West, FL
- All meals and entertainment aboard the ISLAND PRINCESS
- All tipping included

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