State Convention heading back to Mahnomen casino

The 2017 Department of Minnesota Convention will be held at the Shooting Star Casino Events Center in Mahnomen on July 13-15. The official hotel for the Legion and Auxiliary is the Shooting Star Casino and Hotel. Those attending the convention must make their own reservations by calling 1-800-453-7827 and referencing Block 1738. The room rate is $85 a night.

The facility also has an RV park. Those interested should call the same number.

Registration is $15 in advance, and a registration form is on Page 2 of this Legionnaire.

The convention will be preceded by an Department Executive Committee meeting on July 12. The convention is the annual business meeting for the Legion and Auxiliary and includes election of officers.

Legislators tell veterans to get involved, stay involved in the bill-making process

The Capitol Rotunda was filled with veterans during the annual Day on the Hill in March, and the message from the legislators was for veterans to keep after their elected leaders to make sure the right bills are passed.

Department Commander Denise Milton, who is also the chair of the Commander’s Task Force, was the moderator for the event.

Rep. Paul Marquart, DFL-Duluth, said if veterans don’t lobby, the lawmakers won’t know if a bill is important. The only way they know is if there are people behind supporting it.

Sen. Bruce Anderson, R-Buffalo, chair of the Senate Veterans Committee, echoed that thought. "It’s prudent to follow these bills."

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Department training session slated for Legionville June 23-25

A Department-wide training session will be held at Legionville June 23-25.

The training will be aimed at post officers, but is open to anybody seeking to enhance their American Legion leadership skills.

"Effective leadership in our Posts is paramount to successful sustainment," said Jeff Gay, the chair of the training ship skills.

The keys to successful leadership are knowledge, understanding, ability to project and selfless service. The ability to be respected for your unbiased ideas and actions is also an important key," Gay said.

Every Legion member is encouraged to attend the training.

Top Eagle Scout Chosen

Wyatt Steven Hahn, a junior at Hutchinson Senior High School, is the 2017 winner of The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year in Minnesota.

Hahn, the son of Scott and Connie Hahn, is eligible for the award through the service of his grandfather, John Henry Froemming.

Hahn will automatically be in the running for the National Eagle Scout of the Year award and a $10,000 scholarship.

He earned his Eagle Scout Award in 2014 and has since added 10 Eagle Palms. His Eagle Scout project was to...
Legion Day at Twins May 19

Continued from Page 1

33-TWINS and hit " to speak to an attendant. At the start of
credit cards are accepted, and there will be a $5 service
charge on each order.

Credit cards are accepted, and there will be a $5 service
charge on each order.

Every post represented at the game will get scoreboard recognition. Be sure to tell the Twins ticket seller your post
information.

For groups of 25 or more, or for other information, call
Nick Corcoran at 612-659-4083.

FINALISTS -- The four finalists hold their pins at the annual Department Oratorical Contest. From left: Department President Carol Kottom; fourth place winner Charles Babcock of Forest Lake; second place winner Emily Parker of Lino Lakes; champion Elise Sopelle; third place winner Ricky Erpelding of Kasson; Department Commander Denise Milton.

Oratorical champion is home-schooler from Baxter

Continued from Page 1

She enjoys roller blading, figure skating and reading. She
likes to read science fiction, romances, utopian stories and
historical fiction. She was sponsored by Nisswa Post and Unit 627. I enjoy
going to the post. The people are really nice, and the
Auxiliary are really kindhearted people.

Sopelle has been involved in volunteer projects includ-
ing quilting, preparing care packages and working in a
soup kitchen.

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Legion Day at Twins May 19

Continued from Page 1

Sopelle said her best class is English and writing. Her
speech coach is her mother and teacher, Deanne Joy.
Sopelle has done local speaking at churches and senior
homes. She takes scholastic courses on-line.

Legion Day at Twins May 19

Continued from Page 1

Sopelle is the daughter of Richard Sopelle and Deanne
Joy. She has an older brother Aaron.

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Continued from Page 1

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State-wide training session scheduled for Brainerd in June

Continued from Page 1

times included throughout.

What’s a training day without having a little fun too?” Gay said.

There is no cost for this event, however, Posts or Districts are encouraged to provide mileage for their attendees. Dorm lodging at Legionville will be at no charge and there are camping spots available on a first come first serve basis, call ahead to reserve a space in the dorm or a camping site, (218) 829-3094.

This instruction covers an array of topics all geared to help members host and conduct the best possible business meetings as well as the basics of how you can promote, prepare press releases, raise funds, recruit and much more.

The training is condensed but will be as extensive as possible. It will provide attendees with information of where to research to find answers, best practices, increase productivity and garner support from your membership and community. Efficiently run meetings are able to accomplish much more than a meeting that is run more like a gathering in an abbreviated form. An efficient meeting follows certain protocol, has a written agenda, holds people and discussions to a time limit, creates an atmosphere of partnership and teamwork and does it all in less time. The training is not designed to make you follow a rigid practice but will provide hints, ideas and what aby the book” Legion meeting should look like and how it works.

Other subjects at the session will include, but not limited to, understanding the Preamble, recruitment/membership, retention of members, wear of the Legion uniform (cap), planning fund raising activities, how to handle disruptive people, personal conduct vs. public perception.

The session will also touch on hot topics such as sexual harassment (non-gender specific as either gender can be at fault, to include unwelcome advances verbal or physical conduct.), discrimination, bullying, PII (Personal Identifying Information) or anything else which may be construed as a personal attack against another, either directly or indirectly, and which can cause an individual, and ultimately the post he/she represents, to be legally liable for perceived damages.

Seating is limited and getting numbers in advance helps the organizers plan for meals and layout.

Forms will be available soon on the Legion website. The training weekend is also an opportunity for the Department to distribute 2017-2018 membership packets to the districts on Sunday.

OFFICIAL CONVENTION PRE-REGISTRATION

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

Registration at the door will be $18.

Mail to:
Ron Hendrickson, Box 31, Waubun, MN 56589.
Legion Post # SAL Sqdn. Auxiliary Unit
District Phone
Name
Address
City, State Zip
Delegate Alternate Guest
Delegate at Large (Auxiliary)
(Please check one of the above.)

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

Please, only one registration form per person.

MNHS Press • $17.95 • 216 pages

I HAD A COMRADE

On April 18, let’s pause to remember the 75th anniversary of the daring Doolittle Raid. Author Paul Sailer is honored that Doolittle’s co-pilot, Richard E. Cole, wrote the foreword to his new book, I Had a Comrade. The 101-year-old is the only surviving member of the Raid.

Get your copy at: www.lodenbooks.com and get free shipping through Father’s Day or buy the book at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul.

I think Spring has Sprung. I still see patches of snow and flowers during my travels throughout the state but there is definite evidence of Spring -- the garden seed catalogs say so. As do the flurry of Legion committee reports coming due in the next 2-3 months. Applications for Boys State, Legion Baseball and school safety patrol training at our one-of-a-kind training center at Legionville.

The National Commander has put out a call to all departments to have 100% reporting of Consolidated Post Reports (or more commonly referred to as CFRs). This is an important document to complete and mail in. This is our ‘proof’ of what we have done over the year for our veterans, their families, our communities and children and youth. Regardless if you are a post of less than 10 members or greater than 1,000 members, at least one member in that post has done something for a fellow veteran, child or community (gave a ride to an appointment, delivered a meal, put flags out for a veteran who passed in the cemetery). If all counts -- report it. When we go to Washington D. C. this is our ammunciation when the National Commander testifies to the Veterans Affairs committee on what we do and why and we still need to continue the benefits for our veterans and their families. Thank you for your assistance in completing this important document.

Mail Call

Editor’s note: Mike Ohstad is a Past National Chaplain of The American Legion. He recently received a letter from Sweden.

Legionnaire reach

To the Editor:

I recently received a letter I received some months ago from a Swedish newspaper photographer. You will note that here are the very interesting story about (me) at the Minnesota Fair in the Minnesota Fair. He is a past National Chaplain pensions. If you are interested you can find pictures and more information you want to put in the publication. You also have the option, during your call to PCI, not to be in the publication. You can choose to be in the publication and not purchase or be in the publication and purchase.

Your information will be kept confidential, only used for this program. All data collected and all data provided to PCI in the process will be destroyed and Minnesota and will not be used by PCI for any other purpose than this project with The American Legion Department of Minnesota.

Drew Clancy
President, PCI

I Think I’m Write

Last month in my County Veterans Services Office I had a veteran walk in to inquire about a free Minnesota Fishing License. She was recently adjudicated 100 percent service-connected disabled by the Department of Veterans Affairs. I got on the internet and browsed the MN DNR website and this is what the form that the veteran had to fill out to the DNR with the appropriate supporting paperwork. But that wasn’t good enough. He asked if I could fill out the form for him on my desktop so I did and filled it out and have the form faxed back to the DNR. The form was not “affordable” form so I printed it out for him to complete and return. He quickly scribbled all of his information on the form right then and there, and gave it back to me to fax with the accompanying copy of his driver’s license and DVA Rating Decision letter.

After the veteran left I paused and thought, in this email, text, Face Book and tweeting world, I wonder (along with family and friends who works for or are still working for the U.S.P.S.) what is to become of the letter. I’m not really sure. But in my case learning to write letters was difficult because of my terrible penmanship or all the rules and guidelines to make the letter perfect.

The letter, in part: “The ancient Greeks developed the letter into an art form. Some of that beauty can be seen in the New Testament Epistles (letters), that are too often overlooked. As do the flurry of letters that we are receiving from you in Minnesota. We are sending out a few sentences, hit send and get my reply in a few minutes. 1 like using my veterans’ software information management system which automatically populates VA, federal and defense forms. I, like so many people, don’t want to take time to develop thoughts and sentences, let alone wait for more than a few minutes for the response with what I want.

People today want communication with a heavenly father or prayer as like email. We don’t have time to develop thoughts. They don’t want to spend more than a few minutes waiting for a reply, but communication with a heavenly father or prayer is like a letter. It is composed and thoughtful, full of ideas and revelations. Just as letters can be some of the most profound pieces of art, so too can the communications create. God calls us to letters, letters of a new covenant being written on our hearts and impossible to hide, but to be seen, known and read by all. What we pray and do speaks volumes to a world seeking truth about a living God. When people read the letter that composes our life, what are the words that He is writing? Is it support, sacrifice, to point or confidence in a charitable American Legion given through a gracious Heavenly Father? Is it a letter, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all, and you show that you are a letter of Christ, prepared by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the Living God, not on tablets of stone but on human hearts. Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are competent of ourselves or anything as competent from us. Our competence is from God, who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant.” 2 Cor. 3:6-7
What’s Happening

Round Tables
The St. Croix Valley Civil War Roundtable will meet April 24 at the Lowell Inn in Stillwater. The program will be “Modern Military Methods of Gen. James Longstreet” and the speaker will be LTC Harold Knudson.

Call Steve at 715-336-1268 to make reservations for the dinner meeting.

There will be a Civil War Symposium at the Fort Snelling History Center on Saturday, April 8 beginning at 9:15 a.m. Registration is $10 and advanced registration is recommended. Dinner is $15 and is limited to the first 100 paid reservations. Contact TCCTWR at 7540 Sandibel Drive, Minnetonka, MN 55343. Or go to the Minnesota Historical Society website and search for Civil War Symposium.

The World War II History Round Table will meet April 13 at the Fort Snelling History Center at 7 p.m. The program will be “Last Mission of Jerk’s Natural, 93rd Bomb Group” with speaker Gregg Jones. Admission is $5.

Traveling Trunk
The Minnesota Military Museum has a “traveling trunk” and will loan artifacts loaded in trunks to schools, libraries or organizations for displays or use by students. The artifacts can be from the Civil War, World Wars I and II, and the Vietnam War.

Go to the military history museum’s website: www.mnmilitarymuseum.org for more information.

Woman Veteran of the Year
The Women’s Veteran Initiative is seeking nominations for its Woman Veteran of the Year award for 2017. The award honors military service, leadership in women’s veteran issues and community service. The award is presented at a spring event.

For more information, write to: womenveteraninitiative@gmail.com.

Clinic and Stand Downs
The Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans will have two Stand Downs and one free legal clinic coming up.

The Stand Downs are Wednesday, April 26, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Becker County Fairgrounds in Detroit Lakes.

The Minnesota Veterans Home Adult Day Center has invited families to a flag as a movable art gallery. The songs and flag were then used in group songwriting and photography sessions to help Veterans share their stories.

Participants of the Adult Day Center on the campus of the Veterans Home in Minneapolis were winners of two awards. The first in 2016 was “The State Government Innovation Award” and most recently, a “Stars Among Us Innovation Award” from LeadingAge Minnesota. Both awards for its Operation Sight and Sound project that brings together Veterans on a mission of artistic discovery.

The Innovation Award recognizes programs that transform and enhance the experience of aging,” said Gayle Kvenvold, President and CEO, LeadingAge Minnesota.

If interested and want to learn more, please contact Ann Rostratter at 612-548-5900.

Armed Forces Day
The 8th annual Armed Forces Day will be held at Dundas on Saturday and Sunday, May 20-21. There will be re-enactors, military vehicles, authors, veterans, a military swap meet and Civil War artillery. Admission for adults is $10 or $8 if you bring a non-perishable food item. For more information, go to www.ricecountywv11.yola site.com.

Military Ball
The 13th Annual Military Ball at Spring Grove will be held Saturday, April 22, at the Fest Building. The events will include dinner, a ceremony, entertainment, displays, photo portraits and more.

All military service members and veterans are invited as well as families. Attire is Sunday best, and many will wear their military uniform.

Cost is $27 per person. Attendance is by reservation only and RSVPs must be made by April 8. For more information, call Gary 507-498-3461 or email gnxjbx@springgrove.coop.

St. Cloud VA Fair
The St. Cloud VA is seeking employees and has scheduled a career fair on Saturday, April 22, from 9 a.m. until noon at the Rasmussen College in St. Cloud.

Pre-registration is not required. On the spot interviews for clinical positions will be held. For more information, contact Mandi at 302-252-1670, Ext. 6571.

American Legion College
Candidates are being sought from Minnesota for The American Legion College, which will be held in Indianapolis beginning Oct. 29.

Candidates should be from Lebanon/Grenada, Panama, and Gulf War or Vietnam era veterans. Applications must be submitted if a younger veteran has been accepted to the college.

For more information, contact Jennifer Kelley at Department Headquarters, 651-291-1800.

Operation Post Home
Do you know of a post that did something special for a veteran in need or any other good cause? Operation Post Home is seeking stories on posts that have done good things for a veteran or their community.

For more information, contact Chairman Glenn Mueller, 507-932-4301 or email glmm131963@gmail.com.

Coast Guard Reunion
The Twin Cities U.S. Coast Guard Veterans Group is having its 5th Annual reunion on Saturday, June 10, at the Hopkins VFW. All coxswains and relatives are welcome. Contact Mike Roberts at 320-654-9359 or email: mike.roberts41@gmail.com for more information.

Poetry Contest
The sixth annual poetry contest for Minnesota students is being sponsored again by Sen. Al Franken. This year’s theme is “Celebrating the Veteran in my Life.”

Poetry Contest is open to all students K-12, with three age categories. Those selected will be invited to a reception at Sen. Franken’s St. Paul Office with a chance to meet the senator and Minnesota Poet Laureate Joyce Sutphen and other veterans.

To enter, send the poem to poetry@franken.senate.gov and indicate your age. Or they can be mailed to Franken’s St. Paul Office at 60 Plato Blvd. E., Suite 220, St. Paul, MN 55107. Participants can only submit one poem with a 250-word limit.

Entries should include name, parent/guardian name, phone number, and name of the child’s school. For more information, call Marc Kinbrell, 651-221-2649.

Adult Day Care at Minneapolis winner of two Minnesota awards
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In Memorium
When I first came to work at the Department of Veterans Affairs, and was just learning the ropes of this organization, I had the fortune to meet and spend time with the Department’s historian.

Alice Anderson was a dynamo. She was past commander of Westphal Post 251, and had been elected Department Historian twice before. She was on many Department conventions and national conventions.

I rarely went to a Legion event when Alice and Ralph Anderson weren’t there. What I remember most was her unflinching kindness to me, and her willingness to help me learn more about this organization.

She was full of energy, funny, and she knew her stuff. The scrapbooks she produced for the commanders were works of art.

Alice was a World War II veteran of the Army Air Corps. She was 95 when she died last month. She and Ralph had been married in Owasso, Oklahoma.

I’ll never forget Alice and her sparkling eyes and her joyful manner. She liked people and liked people like I knew I sure did.

Al Zdon

AWARD WINNER -- Musician Charlie McGuire leads a group of veterans in song as part of the Operation Sight and Sound at the Adult Day Care at the Minnesota Veterans Home in Minneapolis.

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Greetings American Legion Family,

We are one month closer to the Department of Minnesota Legacy ride. The committee has been hard at work establishing a routes, rest stops, gas stops and overnights. We will not be doing a north weekend or south weekend. Our routes are taking on much different patterns around Minnesota. We simply call it Weekend One and Weekend Two. Walker Spencer-Ross Post 134 will be hosting the Kick-off celebration this year on Thursday July 27th. Friday July 28th the Riders will visit Park Rapids, Detroit Lakes, Moorhead, Fergus Falls (Veterans Home), Underwood/Battle lake (fuel stop only) Long Prairie, Sauk Center and overnight in Willmar. Saturday July 29th the Riders will visit New London/Spicer, Silver Lake (newly formed chapter), Glencoe, Arlington and overnight in New Ulm. Sunday July 30th the Riders will visit Springfield, Fulda, Mankato (SAL car show) and Cleveland special visit to Jack Zimmerman) before ending in Owatonna. Weekend two is still under construction but we can safely say Jeremy Christenson and Delano Post 377 will host our stand down celebration. Hopefully next month I can give you a full rundown of weekend two. If you like you may come join us at Brucelyn Post 165 Sunday April 9th at 1 p.m. for our next planning committee meeting.

With spring in the air calendars are filling up fast with testimonial dinners. These are great times to get out and hopefully a few other events too.

The 2017 Minnesota American Legion Bowl Tournament is ongoing at Sundance Lanes in Dayton. One of the participants is Lenny Wirtz from Elk River Post 112. Witz is 91and has been bowling since 1982.

Minnesotan honored in Legion Mag

Tori Hlavka, the adjutant at Chanhassen Post 580, has been featured in the April issue of the American Legion Magazine on page 10.

Hlavka, who was a Harrier jet mechanic in the Marine Corps, became active in the post after her service.

The story, by Editor Jeff Stoffer, profiles Hlavka and how the post helped her re-adjust to civilian life.

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The story, by Editor Jeff Stoffer, profiles Hlavka and how the post helped her re-adjust to civilian life.

The Minnesota American Legion obtained an Operation Comfort Warrior grant for Lance Corporal Kyle Anderson, center, of the Marine Corps. Anderson was wounded in combat. He will receive Earader software that will enable him to read better and use other capabilities. In front is Bryan Fay, director of the assistive technology program, and in back is David Schafer, speech pathologist. Operation Comfort Warrior is a program that can purchase necessary items for wounded warriors.

BOWLINGTOURNEYUNDERWAY--The 2017 Minnesota American Legion Bowling Tournament is ongoing at Sundance Lanes in Dayton. One of the participants is Lenny Wirtz from Elk River Post 112. Witz is 91 and has been bowling since 1982.

Membership Chart

As of March 22, 2017

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Rep. Bob Dettmer, R-Forest Lake, chair of the House Veterans Committee, said veterans should speak with one voice.

Dettmer pointed out that there will be a new Medal of Honor memorial on the Capital Mall near the Veterans Service Building.

Dettmer also urged the veterans, who filled both the second and third tiers of the Rotunda, to find younger veterans for the Legion and VFW, and to even pay their dues for the first year if need be.

When the program concluded, veterans headed to their elected lawmaker’s offices to talk about veterans issues.

There are dozens of bills working their way through the House and Senate. The session is due to end on May 22.

Of most interest to The American Legion this year is a bill that would provide $222,000 for renovating the dining hall and kitchen at Legionville Safety Patrol Camp near Brainerd.

The Legionville grant is part of a larger bill that would also provide $278,000 for a new building at the Veterans Rest Camp near Marine on St. Croix.

The money would come from the Legacy Fund. The measure has passed both the House and Senate veterans committees and the Legacy committee. It must still be approved on the floor of the legislative bodies.

A Senate veterans appropriations bill has been referred to the Finance Committee after being approved by the Veterans Committee. The bill is the omnibus military, veterans and policy bill and should include all veterans spending measures working their way through the Senate this year. A House companion bill has also been sent to the finance committee.

In the Senate version, $19.6 million is being requested for the Department of Military Affairs and $74 million for the Department of Veterans Affairs. In the MDVA portion, $353,000 is being asked for the veterans service organizations, including the American Legion.

Interestingly enough, the bill contains three appropriations that did not come through the veterans organizations. A total of $25,000 is requested for Veterans Voices a project of the Minnesota Public Education Radio Stations to help educate the public on veterans’ contributions; $90,000 to Veterans Journey Home for new or rehabbed housing for veterans; and $90,000 for the Veterans Defense Project, which would assist veterans with legal problems.

Other requests for funding in the bill include:

- $750,000 to the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans.
- $200,000 for honor guards who serve at funerals.
- $100,000 for administering the program for Gold Star families.
- $1.1 million for the County Veteran Service Officers.
- $57 million for the state veterans homes.

Bills have also been introduced that would ease the tax burden on posts with charitable gambling, and to reduce taxes on post homes.

There is also a bill that would exclude all military retirement pay from state income taxes.

Legion members talk it over during the annual Veterans on the Hill Day at the Capitol. The event drew a full house to the Capitol Rotunda.

The Fourth District was well represented at the Capitol.

Department Commander Denise Milton was the emcee for the event.

Rep. Kurt Daudt, House Majority Leader

Sen. Bruce Anderson, Senate Veterans Chair

Auxiliary President Carol Kottom studied her notes.

A World War I Exhibit opens April 8 at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul. These photos were taken while the exhibit was being set up. Artifacts have been collected from across America on the Great War.

Woodrow Wilson was the president who first kept America out of the war, and then helped bring the nation into the war. Shown are his top hat, cane and spectacles.

People could save in this General Pershing bank.

The sinking of the Lusitania, a British ship, brought the U.S. closer to war in 1915 since many Americans were on board. This is a deck chair from the ship.
The ball turret gunner

Thirty-five times Jim Kangas had to stuff his five-foot, six-inch frame into the small confines of a lower ball turret on a B-17 Flying Fortress. Only once did he have to bail out.

Jim Kangas had a bird's-eye view of the war in Europe during World War II.

He would squeeze his five-foot six-inch, 138-pound frame into the lower ball turret on a B-17 bomber and watch the war through the Plexiglas window that separated him from the freezing air.

It was a cat-bird seat of high quality.

There was only one problem. The 35 times he flew as the turret gunner were terrifying.

When he completed his final mission, he was offered the choice of returning to the United States on an airplane or a liberty ship.

I chose the ship. I figured I'd used up all my luck on airplanes."

James Kermit Kangas was born and raised on a 40-acre farm near Kingston, Minnesota, about 50 miles west of the Twins Cities.

We had cows and chickens and there was plenty of work for everyone."

There were seven boys and three girls in the family. Kangas' father let the family run the small farm during the Depression while he made a living as a trucker.

Kangas went to Litchfield High School for two years, and then the family moved to Detroit. The war had started and the war industries were building up, so my father went where the work was."

For the young lad, moving from the farm to the inner city of Detroit was something of a culture shock. I'd never even seen a black person before. The high school I went to was more than half black. But it was no real problem. I made a couple of pretty good friends."

But there were other adjustments. Even the streetcar was foreign to me. And I had to take a bus to school, and here I am, a country kid, on this bus full of people. I had no idea when to get off, so I just got off when everybody else did."

He tried, along with a friend, to enlist in the Navy when he was underage, but while his friend's parents signed the waiver, his father would not. He told me, 'I've already got four boys in the military, and you're not going in until they drag you in."

Kangas graduated from Detroit's Pershing High School in 1943, and waited for the draft. His father still would not allow him to volunteer. In October, he got his greetings from Uncle Sam."

He volunteered for the Army Air Corps and was chosen for flight officer training. After six months at a Galesburg, Ill. college, the Army washed out the entire class. At that point of the war, they needed crew members on aircraft, not pilots or navigators.

Kangas found himself, along with his classmates, at Kingman, Arizona, at an army gunnery school. After a few months, the Army deemed the gunners ready, and sent them off to join air crews. If you could pull a trigger, you were ready."

The gunners were sent to Drew Field in Tampa, Florida, where crews for B-17 Flying Fortress bombers were being assembled. He was assigned to the 354th Bomb Squadron of the 384th Bomb Group.

Why was he chosen to be a ball turret gunner?

Size was vital. But even for a person my size, it was crowded in that turret. I had a bit of claustrophobia, so it took a while to get used to it, but I did. After a while I felt like it was my space, and I felt comfortable and secure and in control."

The B-17, a four-engine bomber, had a crew of ten including four officers and six crewmen. The new crew practiced for a while, and then headed for Europe in November of 1944. Kangas quickly picked up two nicknames, "Burrhead" because of his hair and "Shortround" because of his stature.

We went by way of Goose Bay and Iceland. Each plane flew individually, although there were other planes in the area.

When we got to Goose Bay, I saw this guy all sweated up with a towel. I'm Finnish and so I knew he had to be coming out of the sauna, so I asked him where the sauna was. It turned out it was for officer's only, but he invited me to take a sauna so I did. It turned out he was the commander of the base."

But on the trip, he and another young crewman were assigned to guard the plane all night while others sampled the local culture. All we got was a sleeping bag, and we froze our buns off. We didn't think that was fair, but we were the youngest guys."

In Iceland, after sleeping in a barracks, a truck picked up the crewmen to take them to their plane for the next leg, but the trackdriver dropped them in the wrong place.

It was cold, and we didn't know where we were, so we went inside this hangar to warm up. Well, we all fell asleep. It took the pilot four hours to find us. Talk about mad. We flew all the way to Scotland in the dark all by ourselves. I think we got off on the wrong foot with our pilot."

The crew took a train from Scotland to Grafton-Underwood, a major air base in central England. Though they had flown a brand new B-17 over, they were now assigned to Satan's Playmate, "which Kangas called a piece of junk."

The old crews got new planes and the new crews got old planes."

More training was done at Grafton-Underwood and Kangas most clearly recalls a short talk given by a gunner who had just reached 25 missions.

He wasn't much of a speaker, but he said 'Look at the guy on your left. Now look at the guy on your right. By the time you're done here, they'll both be dead. We're losing two-thirds of our crews.'"

Kangas said he was fortunate he did fly earlier in the war when the casualty rate was indeed 66 percent. By the time I got there, the P-51 fighters had been equipped with reserve tanks, and they could follow us all the way to our targets. Before that, they could only go half way and had to turn back."

The fighter escorts kept the depleted German Air Force away from the bombers, but the American planes still had
to face severe anti-aircraft fire. Heavy flak was what we had to deal with. Always heavy flak.'

Kangas remembers that gunners on the plane would track the flak coming up. They called it bracketing. If it was coming at you, each shot would be closer. On one flight it went off right below me.

I could see the red flash, and if you could see that, there usually was damage to the plane. I got on the intercom and said, ‘Get this thing out of here.’ We lost engines all the time, and there were holes all over the plane when we’d get back.'

Kangas described a typical day when they flew. “Well, you went to bed tired and slept poorly. At four in the morning, someone would be shaking you to wake you up. They’d tell you what plane you were flying.

Then a truck would take you to the mess hall, and then you’d go to the briefing. They’d pull back the cover so everybody could see the map for the mission, and everybody would cuss and moan, no matter where we were going.

Then we’d go to the armament shed and get our guns. We had removed them after that last mission and oiled them up. Now we had to wipe them down very carefully so there would be no oil jam up in freezing air.

Kangas would board the plane, install his guns, and then wait while the plane took off and joined other planes in a flight formation.

We’d wait on the runway with the brakes locked, rev the engines wide open, and then release the brakes. When we started forward, the engines fought the load. I’ll never forget the thumping sound as the tires crossed the joints in the runway. Faster and faster. You didn’t want to lose an engine right then.

Once in formation, Kangas would take his position. As we left England, I’d get down in my turret and fire off a few rounds to make sure the guns were okay.

After that it was hours of a good view, boredom and occasional sheer terror.

The ball turret gunner had to leave his parachute in the plane because there was no room in the cramped space. If the plane got hit, by the time the turret gunner got out, everybody might be long gone. And they might have taken his parachute.

Another problem was urinating, almost impossible in the heated suit and cramped space. You can imagine the result.

Was he superstitious? ‘Well, I know one time I went out of the barracks and got on the truck. But then I realized I had gone out the wrong door of the barracks, not the one I always used. So I got off the truck, went back to the barracks, went out the right door, and got on another truck.'

The flying schedule was heavy during the Battle of the Bulge in late 1944 and early 1945.

We flew that old junker for 12 missions. Once when we were coming back we were over Normandy and we were all shot to hell. There was zero visibility, and we didn’t know where we were. You didn’t dare go over the North Sea unless you had a clue of where you were, so we just kept flying around Normandy.

Finally, we could see two small planes coming right at us. We didn’t know if they were ours or theirs. But when they got close they went sideways so we could see their profiles. Then we could see they were P-51s. They guided us in.

On another mission, England was again socked in by fog. It was so dense, that the airfields were impossible to find.

When you get into fog, you immediately go out of formation and spread out. There was a crewman in every window looking for other planes or for something on the ground. We really didn’t know where we were.

All of sudden the pilot could see that we were going between two smokestacks, so he flipped the plane sideways and we got between those stacks. That’s how good a pilot he was.

Finally we crossed over an airfield, but we were at about 90 degrees from the runway. We were so low that as the pilot tried to do a 360 to get us back, I could see the sheep on the hill running in circles trying to get away from us. As we pulled up, we clipped the branches of a tree.

We came back at the runway, but we were still about 30 degrees off.” Kangas showed with his hands how the pilot skewed the plane to straighten it just as it hit the runway. It was a safe landing.

It wasn’t our base, but any runway was good at that point.

The crew flew 12 missions in that pile of junk,” which he described as a pile of junk.” The B-17 bomber survived the war, though, and was brought back to the United States. A P-51 Mustang flies escort duty in the distance. The ball turret can be seen below the wing. Two engines have been shot out and are no longer functioning in this artist’s rendition.

Kangas flew his first 12 missions in Satan’s Playmate,” which he described as a pile of junk.” The B-17 bomber survived the war, though, and was brought back to the United States. A P-51 Mustang flies escort duty in the distance. The ball turret can be seen below the wing. Two engines have been shot out and are no longer functioning in this artist’s rendition.

The first crew Kangas flew with was assembled in Tampa, Florida. From left, standing: ForrestBarrel” Green, tail gunner; HowardKrup” Krupoky, waist gunner; ClarenceGus” Gustitus; Tom Hannis, radio operator; HoustonPete” Dossett, engineer and upper turret gunner; Jim Shortround” Kangas, ball turret gunner. In front: Roy Walker, navigator; Ray Cook, pilot; unknown; Phillip Leavitt, co-pilot. After 13 missions the crew was broken up because two men broke their legs bailing out, and the pilot was promoted to lead pilot. Note the size difference between Kangas and his friend Dossett.
April 17, 2017

The street in Detroit in a big crowd, and all of a sudden here's a bitch. I swore I'd never forget that yellow son of a bitch. I was hiding. I finally found the waist gunner and he said I was waiting for me to jump so he could see if I hit the stabilizer. It was a flying parachute. The air was just screaming past the door. I couldn't wait any longer so I jumped. I asked him later why it took him so long, and he said he was waiting for me to jump so he could see if I hit the stabilizer. Kangas knew the plane was flying low and so he pulled the rip cord as soon as he could. I must have been upside down, because when the chute deployed it just flipped me over. It snapped me so hard I blacked out for a moment.

When I came to, it was so strange. I had gone from this wild ice storm hitting the plane to absolute quiet. All I could hear was the sleet hitting the parachute. Maybe because I was a farm boy, the image that came to my mind was that of chickens pecking at the metal feeder. Although it stunned me pretty good. All this time, I thought I was going to die, and all of a sudden I'm on the ground. I felt pretty good.

Kangas gathered up his chute and began walking down the road. On the way, he thought he heard somebody yelling in a language he couldn't understand.

After about a half mile, I came into this town. It was kind of medieval with all these old stone buildings and thatched roofs. I still had my parachute and ripcord in my arms. I knocked on a door.

He was taken to a large house. There they could hear the yelling again, and the men of the town headed out with a bed spring, and soon came back with the tail gunner who had broken his leg on the landing. A little ways away, they also found the waist gunner, who Kangas never did see leave the plane, also with a broken leg. Only one member of the crew, the navigator, didn't fly that day. He had said he was sick. I saw him years later, and he said he had to confess to me. He said, "Burhead, I wasn't really sick that day. I just faked it because it was my 13th mission. I didn't want to do a 13th mission. But ever since, I've felt that if I was there, I might have been able to help." Well, he may have been superstitious about number 13, but he was right.

Kangas was back at the base the next day, happy to be alive. But the news in the next couple of days was not good. Because two crew members were injured, and because the pilot was being replaced to be a squad leader, Kangas' crew was broken up.

For his next 22 missions, Kangas had to fly with strange crews on different planes. I just flew as a spare. The crew camaraderie was gone. I didn't know anybody. I didn't trust anybody. I felt totally alone.

The alienation hit its peak on one flight over Germany when the bomber was hit and lost all power. If there's no power, the turret gunner can't move the turret, and he can't get out except by using a hand crank. Well, that's what I did. I cranked and cranked, and got myself out of the turret.

We had all been trained well, and if that happens, the waist gunner is supposed to be standing there with what we called "walk arounds" of oxygen when the turret gunner gets out of his turret. He'll need it.

The waist gunner was nowhere to be seen, and I had to find the oxygen myself. I finally found the waist gunner laying on the floor with his flak vest pulled over him. He was dying. I swore I'd never forget that yellow son of a bitch.

The strange thing is, this guy was from Omaha, and I was from Detroit. After the war I was walking down the street in Detroit in a big crowd, and all of a sudden here's this guy. I was so flabbergasted, I couldn't move. And then he was gone before I could slug him.

Kangas' last mission, on April 25, 1945, was to the}

In a photo posed for a Detroit newspaper, Kangas is shown with his flight gear next to a ball turret. It was a publicity photo. We never wore those hats.

Kangas, left, and a buddy at a photo studio during the war.

Skoda Works in Pilsen, Czechoslovakia, the last major armaments factory that had not been bombed in the war. Kangas learned later that the U.S. wanted to destroy the works before it fell into Russian hands. It was the last mission flown by the Eighth Air Force.

The huge plant was well defended, and Kangas' Flying Fortress was heavily damaged, and lost two engines. We had to throw all our loose equipment overboard just to stay in the air. We made it back to Luxembourg.

The crew finally made it back to their barracks in England, they had a rude surprise. They found that their bunkets had been stripped and all their gear was gone. It was standard Air Corps practice to immediately remove the gear of crews who had been shot down.

It turned out that another plane, whose pilot's name was Lovett, had been shot down over the channel. The pilot of Kangas' plane was Lt. Leavitt.

The confusion was cleared up, and the men got their stuff back, but not before they went through an eerie time.

In the end, Kangas completed his 35 missions 13 days before the war ended. I never got a scratch. Nobody in my plane ever died."

And he only got to shoot his 50 caliber machine guns once in action. By that time in the war, the Germans didn't attack from below anymore, only from above. I did shoot at one ME-262, a German jet fighter. I don't think I even came close to him. When he was gone, he was gone.

Kangas was reunited with some of his old crewmates, and did some routine cargo flying before they were sent home.

He chose the ship because he figured he had used up all his airplane lock in the war. He still remembers the name of the Liberty ship, the Joseph C. Hollister. It was supposed to be an eight-day trip, but it took 18 days. The weather was so bad and the waves were so high that the screws (propellers) kept coming out of the water. I'll never forget that. "Whop, whop, whop"' when the screws would be hitting air.

And then we ran into the ship in front of us and opened a big gash in our side. Luckily it was above the water line, and they just stuffed it with mattresses. We ran out of food.

When we got to Boston, I went and got the biggest bowl of ice cream I could find."

Kangas returned to Detroit, but his parents had moved back to Minnesota by that time. He soon followed them. Back in Kingston, he said he went through something of a rough time adjusting back to civilian life. But there were guys coming home everywhere you looked. A lot of them had seen tough times. Nobody was holding your hand.

He eventually moved to the Twin Cities and became a general contractor, a job he worked until he was in his 80s. He goes to bomber reunions now and then, and has learned things about his time overseas that he didn't know while he was there.

I found out that our pilot would stay up drinking all night before a mission, and that he'd sneak through a hole in the fence to get to the plane in the morning. He was terrified before a mission, but after a few drinks he was fine. He'd tell the co-pilot, "Wake me up when we're over the target."

Kangas is now retired. He had four kids along the way, and now lives with his wife, Joy, in an apartment overlooking a lake in Columbia Heights.
How America geared up for World War II

MAURY KLEIN  DAVE MYERS  BRUCE KITT  JOHN LINDLEY

Historian Maury Klein warned his audience at the March Round Table at Fort Snelling History Center that you can't understand history unless you put yourself back in the era you're studying.

"You have to keep in their world, not in your world."

With that in mind, Klein talked about America's effort to produce war materials for World War II. He said we need to remember the context of that time:

- By 1939, when the war began in Europe, America was not fully engaged with the Great Depression. Things had been improving, but a recession in 1938 wiped out many of the gains, and unemployment again soared.
- Many in America, still remembering the horror of World War I, were totally opposed to the U.S. getting involved with what was seen as a European War.
- The American army was small, ill-equipped and poorly trained. By size, it was ranked 18th in the world. "It was embarrassing. It was said the U.S. didn't have enough fire power to beat a troop of Boy Scouts."

- Franklin Roosevelt was a lame duck president and had lost much of his clout with Congress.

- "There was absolutely no munitions industry in the U.S. None." Klein pointed out that when World War I ended, the government canceled all contracts and those companies making guns and bullets simply faded away.

- So how did America get from that situation to where, by 1945, the U.S. was the primary supplier to every other nation in the world in war materiel?

Klein said the U.S. had to be somehow gearing up for a possible war in 1940 and 1941, but the attack on Pearl Harbor changed everything. "There was a lot of debate about what we should do. The Hougan Act was no debate."

But there were plenty of challenges.

For one thing, there was very little heavy industry on the West Coast. "Everything had to be changed quickly, and soon California and other places were dotted with aircraft factories and other war goods plants.

Klein said the need to mass produce tanks was brought to the Chrysler leadership. "They basically said, 'What's a tank?' They could figure out how to make one, but how do you mass produce it?"

Mass production was, as it turned out, the key to winning the war.

"Germany in many cases had the best weapons. But they could only make them one by one. We didn't need the best, just good weapons, but enough to bury the enemy."

By the end of the war, the figures were amazing. The U.S. built 100,000 airplanes while Germany made 111,000, Britain, 131,000 and Japan 76,000. America built 88,000 tanks while Germany produced 46,000 and Japan 2,500.

Klein said the U.S. made 674,000 machine guns while the U.S.S.R. made 2.7 million.

A big problem was getting the materiel over the ocean to the front. When American joined the war in 1917, the French and British often shunted American soldiers and goods aside to transport their own.

Myers said a key player was William Wallace Atterbury, who was a vice president for the Pennsylvania Railroad before the war. "He had spent years dealing with unions, so he had no trouble dealing with the military. He started with nothing and created an extensive railway system to serve the U.S. military."

With World War II approaching, the government reached out to Carl Gray Jr., the president of the Chicago and North Western Railway, who lived in Hudson, Wisconsin.

Gray had his offices in St. Paul. He liked working in Minnesota, Myers said, because he had his favorite fishing hole on the St. Croix River.

Gray set up the Military Railway Service, similar to previous incarnations in the Civil War and World War I. Much of it was run from Fort Snelling or from the Congress Building, which still stands in St. Paul.

When the war began, the planning turned into the creation of a system that operated all over the world with 87,000 former railroad workers now serving in the U.S. Army.

Kitt also talked about America’s ability to switch to a wartime mass production footing. "We made widgets up the wazoo. We out widgeted everybody."

Part of that production was in two massive hangers, about 650 feet by 20 feet, constructed at Holman Field. Bombers were manufactured in other places and then sent to St. Paul and 18 other modification shops around the country.

During the war, the St. Paul operation modified over 3,300 bombers, mainly B-24s.

The north hangar was finished at Holman in September of 1942, and the south hangar in March of 1943.

An unusual aspect of the modification was that Northwest actually purchased the aircraft. "They would be retooled and ferried into Northwest property by the military. They would then sell them to Northwest, and when the modifications were done, the military would buy them back."

The bombers started coming in in May of 1942, even before the hangars were finished.

"There were a lot of women working for Northwest. They were careful, diligent, and they stuck with it. One woman said after the war that she earned more than her father did."

Men and women wore different colored coveralls on the job, and Kitt said one reason was so the men would not use bad language if a woman was present. Often the only part of a worker another worker could see was their legs sticking out from under a piece of machinery.

There were about 4,500 employees in the modification factory, and about 1,300 were women.

When the war ended, the work stopped abruptly. "One day the workers showed up and were given a pink slip. It all just stopped. The government told Northwest to just make the planes airworthy so they could be ferried out."

John Lindley, editor of the Ramsey County Historical Society Magazine, completed the local part of the program with a talk on the gliders that were produced in Minnesota.

"At one time, they had three hangars at World-Chamberlain Field in Minneapolis and a contract was signed to build the CG-4A. The design was simple, and the gliders were mainly constructed of wood, canvas and metal tubing. Many of the parts were held together by glue."

One of the major subcontractors was Villaume Box and Lumber in Minneapolis, which specialized in the wood parts of the structure. DePonto Co. was hired to make the steel tubing.

"At one time, they had three hangars at World-Chamberlain, with about 400 employees, a lot of them women."

A complete glider only weighed 3,750 pounds, and two of them could be towed to the battle zone by one C-47 cargo plane.

In 1944, a plant was opened in St. Paul. "The employees had a lot of colds because very few of the buildings were heated," Lindley said.

A few years ago, local veterans took on the task of recreating a CG-4A and they built one from wartime plans and parts they found around the country. Villaume donated space to construct the glider. It is now on display at Fagan’s Fighters museum in Granite Falls.
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District Commanders

FIRST DISTRICT
Sylvan Fix
Commander

Legion Family,

The months go by so fast it seems I spend all my time writing news articles. La Crescent Post 595 hosted the Department of Minnesota SAL conference March 16th. There were 59 registered members. They also raised over $8900.00 on their auction for Child Welfare Foundation. The Social was an amazing group. Many Posts have had their Legion birthday dinners in March. I hope you were able to add to the list of stop marks at these dinners. Remember to reach your calendars and see if you are available to attend the state wide training session June 23-25th located at Legion Post 50. You have heard many times that there is a lack of communication and training. Here is an opportunity to learn and have open discussions. This class should be attended by everyone especially if you currently are or are planning on being an officer at any level. Hope to see you there.

THIRD DISTRICT
Mike Maxa
Commander

This is going to be short and to the point. My laptop had catastrophic failure and the keyboard on my phone is quite small.

Thundering Third we are in a two month recruit new Legionnaires month. The “Spring Rally” out of department is all about signing up new members. This is our Rally to win! We have won the new members contest out of department for the 2017 membership year, congratulations and thank you! Winning the most new members and the “Spring Rally” parallels my slogan, “ASK” a Veteran to join and the Legion family will grow. I can know we can stay number one in the department. Consolidated Post Reports will soon be due for March. I will be collecting your data and let the world know all the greatness you do for our organization. Thank you and let’s keep moving forward.

FOURTH DISTRICT
Randy Bastyr
Commander

Greetings to all members of the Fabulous Fourth. We are still in 9th place in the Department membership race. I am asking for all the district commandants and adjutants to get their list of unpaid members out and give them a call. Find out if they just forgot, or if there’s something that is keeping them from paying, whether it be financial, or something happened at a meeting or with another member that has given them a reason to not renew. These things can be corrected. Don’t let your members slip away trying to help them. Let’s go Fabulous Fourth! I know we can do this together.

The 4th District Joint Testimonial dinner will be held on April 21st at North St. Paul Post 39. Cost is $16.00 per person. Reservations needed by Monday March 20th. Contact Tyson Gustafson at 651-487-2812 or email dgustafson69@yahoo.com.

The 4th District Convention has been moved to May 20, 2017, due to an unfortunate double booking of the hall at Post 39. This is Armed Forces Service Day, and what a better time to gather with all your veteran friends.


Thank you for this opportunity to serve the Fabulous Fourth District. Thank you all for your service to God and Country.

FIFTH DISTRICT
Ray Elden
Commander

Greetings from the Fighting Fifth. In March we had a good Membership Rally and Appreciation Luncheon in Legion Hall. Recognition luncheon was held for our four Veterans that are 100% VA. The presentation was outstanding. The 2nd District Convention will be held at Detroit Lakes Post 15. Until next month keep doing great things and promoting the greatest veterans organization in the world.

NINTH DISTRICT
Eric Wilkens
Commander

Greetings from the Roaring Ninth District. Spring has finally arrived per the calendar although some days still feel like winter which means that the membership year is quickly approaching to an end. We continue to push membership, having met the 90% goal, and are working hard on the 95% goal on April 12th. March was a busy month with Posts celebrating The American Legion’s 98th Birthday and recognizing those members over 50 years of membership and service to our great organization.

The Commander’s Testimonial will be held on April 29th starting at 1:00 pm at Detroit Lakes Post 15. Until next month keep doing great things and promoting the greatest veterans organization in the world.

SIXTH DISTRICT
Vernonica Fernlund
Commander

Spring is here, some robins have been spotted and I have seen more smiles on everyone with the sun feeling warmer. The 6th District has been a fantastic job in membership so far this year. We have been bouncing around the first place mark along with our Auxiliary and SAL. We have 18 Posts with a goal or all time high and at the time of this article we only need 700 members to reach our goal for this year. Time is going by fast and we are so close to our goal. We need everyone’s help to take a look if you have renewed for 2017. If your membership card says 2016, your membership is past due. We also need everyone’s help to check with their friends and family who have not yet paid their dues. Letters, cards and phone calls need to happen as soon as possible. We will take personal information and maybe that is what they are looking for. April is also Children and Youth month. This is one of the Four Pillars of The American Legion and every Post should have some activities planned that benefit the youth’s in your area. Your Post should be receiving their Post Data Forms and the Post Constitution Report forms. Please fill them out. We really need to have 100% turn in. Something we haven’t done in a very long time.

February was a month with hopes, heads and hearts held high and with our persistence in our endeavor to fulfill the mission and programs of The American Legion. May God continue to guide us in these endeavors. Forgot to say that we need more people to step up into leadership positions. If you are reading this article and you have not sent in your card to: Becky Nelson, 3217 19th Ave. S. #1, Mpls., MN 55407

We received a number of letters this month from Posts in the 6th District. Probably the most memorable was from Charles Flentje Post in Round Lake, Seifert/Bianchi Post in New Ulm, and the Troaka Post in Wells. Each and every one of those Posts had a good turnout with Round Lake handing out continuous membership certificates to its members. There was one individual with 60 years of continuous membership. Congratulations to all the Legionnaires for your continued service to your county. Thank you all for the Posts for your hospitality that you showed me as I had the opportunity to attend your celebrations.

We are having a revitalization for the district. If you have any questions on this, please feel free to contact Mike Schaffr or myself. We would be happy to help you out with any questions.

My Commander’s project is going well. My project this year is Brain Science and if your Post is wanting to make any donations, you can mail them to me at Mark Coney, 102 W. 1st St. Hardwick, MN 56543. If you are using gambling funds, please note it as we have a different process for those.

The 2nd District newsletter will be back in publication as soon as we can secure a printer willing to take on the job. I look forward to seeing new faces at our District Conventions. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Past Commander Jennifer Havlick

INCOME STATEMENT
SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations &amp; Contributions</td>
<td>$5,422</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-kind Rent</td>
<td>$74,461</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Income</td>
<td>$14,028</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Department Income</td>
<td>$1,323,762</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

STATEMENT OF BUDGET EXPENSE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Headsquarters Exp.</th>
<th>Budgeted</th>
<th>Disbursed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Salaries &amp; Wages</td>
<td>$220,071</td>
<td>$206,431</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FICA Expense</td>
<td>$23,793</td>
<td>$23,004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FUTA Expense</td>
<td>$7,287</td>
<td>$7,287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUTA Expense</td>
<td>$890</td>
<td>$890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gov. Health &amp; Life Ins.</td>
<td>$58,500</td>
<td>$57,089</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employer’s Rel. Fid.</td>
<td>$3,700</td>
<td>$3,772</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unbudgeted Expense</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit Expense</td>
<td>$6,300</td>
<td>$6,286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Expenses</td>
<td>$3,309</td>
<td>$3,309</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture &amp; Fixtures</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$1,159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Office Exp.</td>
<td>$48,000</td>
<td>$48,476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Ads &amp; Mkt.</td>
<td>$25,560</td>
<td>$25,560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance (Other)</td>
<td>$8,750</td>
<td>$8,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Promotions</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$2,727</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Fund</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>$121</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Telephone | $8,200 | $8,231 |
| Misc. Expense | $0 | $1,847 |
| Prior Year Voided Cks | $0 | $0 |
| Total Headq. Exp. | $45,893 | $52,094 |

| Unbudgeted Annual Expense | $25,132 | |
| Depreciation Expense | $0 | |
| Rent Expense | $74,461 | |

| Special Budget | | |
| Citizens Flag Alliance | $400 | |
| Nat. Emer. Funds Disb. | $1,000 | |
| Legal Expense | $1,000 | |
| Operation Comm. War. | $1,000 | |
| Total Spec. Bud. | $3,000 | |

| Rel. Expense | | |
| Salaries | $116,000 | $93,049 |
| FICA Expense | $8,990 | $7,096 |
| FUTA Expense | $6,500 | $7,340 |
| SUTA Expense | $450 | $124 |
| Group Health Ins. | $27,770 | $14,888 |
| Employer’s Rel. Fid. | $6,650 | $6,650 |
| General Office Exp. | $6,000 | $7,721 |
| Claims Office Exp. | $15,000 | $7,130 |
| TVSO Travel & Ribbons | $4,500 | $10,492 |
| Hospital & Vet Ass. | $4,000 | $6,400 |
| Veteran Support Ass. | $13,940 | |
| DSO & ADS | $13,000 | $11,107 |
| Rel. Committee | $9,300 | $3,798 |
| Total Rel. Expense | $251,120 | $185,719 |

| Committee Expense | | |
| American Legion | $8,250 | $6,569 |
| Blood Program | $250 | |
| Chaplain’s Fund | $500 | |
| Child. & Youth Comm. | $1,100 | $3,250 |
| Commander’s Budget | $31,000 | $31,000 |

| Telephone | $8,200 | $8,231 |
| Misc. Expense | $0 | $1,847 |
| Prior Year Voided Cks | $0 | $0 |
| Total Headq. Exp. | $45,893 | $52,094 |

| Change in Net Assets | $246,988 | |

| Convention Corporation | $3,500 | |
| Dpt. Conv. Comm | $5,000 | $4,337 |
| Dpt. HQ Conv. & Conv | $32,000 | $27,689 |
| Department Treasurer | $1,000 | |
| Employment Comm. | $1,000 | |
| Energy & Cons. Comm. | $1,000 | $1,665 |
| Executive Comm. | $1,000 | |
| Excm. Cm. Contg. Fd. | $5,000 | |
| Finance Comm. | $5,000 | $4,531 |
| Fund for Hosp Vets | $0 | |
| History | $950 | $674 |
| Ins. Trust Comm. | $500 | $405 |
| Judge Advocate | $1,000 | |
| Law & Order Comm. | $750 | $623 |
| Legislative Committee | $5,000 | $3,520 |
| Membr. (Inc. Vice Cdr) | $55,000 | $55,326 |
| March. Dept. C Guard | $3,000 | |
| Nat’l Conv. | $4,000 | $3,000 |
| Nat’l Conv. Delegates | $35,000 | $34,800 |
| Nat’l Sec./Foreign Rel | $7,500 | $6,997 |
| Operation Post Home | $320 | |
| Post Dev. Committee | $2,000 | $619 |
| Public Relations Comm. | $15,090 | $14,864 |
| Kibbe, Kenneth E. | $1,500 | |
| L.T. Advertising | $3,400 | $3,375 |
| Legion Riders | $4,000 | |
| USAA Expense | $3,400 | $3,375 |
| Strategic Fund Comm. | $6,000 | $3,194 |
| Support of the Comm. | $1,000 | $1,272 |
| Sergeant-at-Arms | $700 | $443 |
| Alternative NEC | $2,000 | |
| Total Comm. Exp. | $277,400 | $260,418 |

| GRAND TOTAL Budget vs. Actual | $1,077,813 | $1,076,774 |
| Total Undesign. Rev. | $4,000 | $4,000 |
| Total Undesignated Receipts | $76,774 | $76,774 |
| Change in Net Assets | $246,988 | |

April 2017 Minnesota Legionnaire Page 13
Last rally of the year is over. Doesn’t seem possible. Like it was a door. Our Auxiliary team has you are awesome job and I am very proud of them. Are we issuing you? Yes. But the team is doing well with them as they come up and we find some things work and some don’t. Please be sure you “Just ask” when you see anyone you think is eligible for the Auxiliary and doesn’t yet belong. You’ll be surprised how many have never been asked to join us.

Department oratorical contest is done. What a great bunch of contestants. I know that with these young ladies and gentlemen growing into the responsibilities of the world today, we are going to be in great shape. I’m always grateful I don’t have to grade them and select the winners. They are all winners in my eyes.

Ladies, Girls State is coming right up. Visit your schools and talk to your students. I spent an hour at the school with a couple of perspective students and the government teacher and hopefully, they will be attending. It’s a great opportunity for them and it’s up to us to sponsor them and allow them to participate.

Finally reached my goal. Went to all five veterans homes and four veterans health care systems this year. Hastings was my last stop. I found that Hastings is a “different” classification of a veterans home. They house veterans who are still able and willing to work – both internal- and in the city. They have a great craft area and the veterans produce an amazing amount of craft work. It is the veterans at Hastings that make a lot of our poppies for us to distribute. I received a framed photograph one of the veterans took and I will treasure it always. Thank you 3rd District for allowing me to be part of your day in Hastings.

Several of the testimonial on the 25th – I was awe-struck at the testimony. I can’t thank you enough and a special thank you to those who helped out. The Legionnaires in Buffalo have been great. An example of you know, our unit president Marilyn Miller, fell and broke her leg and her shoulder. She has been great. As many of you know, our unit president Marilyn Miller, fell and broke her leg and her shoulder. She has been in a nursing home recuperating since. As she was the one all the mail and calls went to, it was left up to her husband Pat. He has done a wonderful job and special thanks to him. Thanks to Doris Karie and Robert Larson for bringing greetings from our post and Post. Also thanks to Robin Dorf, Mary Dorf and Emily Suess who stepped up to register everyone at the door. They are so appreciated. Then of course, is the emcee and my favorite Auxiliary member, Bev Otterness. She has always said yes when I’ve asked her to do something over the past 34 years and I can’t tell you how much love and appreciation I have for her. You are an asset to any Auxiliary.

I would like to send a sincere “Thank You” for coming to my Testimonial on the 25th – I was awe-struck at the room full of American Legion Family friends. Thank you for all of the gifts and hugs, they will be treasured forever. We spent time at a number of Posts celebrating the Legion’s 98th birthday. “Happy birthday Legionnaires” and thanks to all for the great food and the opportunity to hear your speakers and visit with your Legion family. We hope that the month of March found everyone happy and healthy. Just think – 2018 will bring the 100th birthday and it will be celebrated right here in Minnesota! Remember always “Thank a Veteran”. This country is what it is and we have what we have because of what they all did. “All gave some – some gave all”.

Units, be safe, be happy and be thankful for what we have.
Auxiliary Bulletin

Continued from Preceding Page

Secretary Sandie can’t wait! When we Minnesotans go to the National Convention we bring with us our national colors from our Posts, Units, Squadrons and AL Riders to march in the National Parade. When we do this, we typically take up an entire city block or more of just Minnesota’s attendees all carrying their US colors. We often are on the front page of the newspaper in that city’s morning issue the following day.

More information will be forthcoming regarding the National Convention in future issues.

SECRETARY SANDIE’S NOTES

Here we are again – I went to talk to Jennifer, looked at AL in The Legion offices and said “Legionnaire is due today right?” He confirmed so here I am. It seems I just typed the last one a couple days ago. Where does time go? When you are co-chair this we will have celebrated President Carol at her Testimonial – again, how can her year be almost done? We are getting kind of excited in the office, we will be remodeling and reshuffling organizations and people in the next couple of months. The American Legion and Auxiliary will have the entire third floor, with the exception of the DW, they are still up here with us. Randal and I have great plans for our area. We are going to put together an American Legion Family Museum on our floor. We never have many visitors here and are hoping we can get our members to stop in and see us. We really are nice people and do like visitors. That was one thing I never understood working here. Nobody ever comes to see us except Pat Logan. Need I say more? No Pat we do love you up here – we will try and keep the chocolate bowl filled. Countdown to Baby Deutsch is now 8 weeks. Pretty damn excited about that too. With all this excitement I better have many visitors here and are hoping we can get our members to stop in and see us. We really are nice people and do like visitors. That was one thing I never understood working here. Nobody ever comes to see us except Pat Logan. Need I say more? No Pat we do love you up here – we will try and keep the chocolate bowl filled. Countdown to Baby Deutsch is now 8 weeks. Pretty dam

TRAINING – Department Leadership Chairman Robin Dorf held another one of her Leadership Training Sessions at the Redwood Falls Post 38. Pictured below are those that attended. Robin has done a fantastic job this year promoting both Leadership and the Department Long Range Strategic Plan. When you see her – give her a hug of thanks.

COOKIES FOR TROOPS – Monticello Auxiliary Unit 260 shipped 28 boxes of freshly baked cookies to the military stationed throughout the world. Left to right: Chantell, Mabel, Cheryl, Dianne, Barb, Sandy, Mary, Cindy and Roseanne. Seated in the front are Elf from the SAL and Louella of the Junior Auxiliary.

ALA BRACELET – Remember to pre-order your bracelets and support your Auxiliary Department. Donation of $5.00 or more each – contact us at 651-224-7634 or mnala.org. They are to be here the first part of April.

WASHINGTON DELEGATION – Minnesota had a great contingency in support of our Veterans at the annual Washington Conference featured from left: Margie Keller, Raleen Toltzmann, Shirley Frederic, Department President Carol Kottom, National President Mary Davis, Jean Walker, Norma Tramm, member from the North Dakota Auxiliary, Sharon Thiemer and Peggy Tesdahl.

PLUMMER HONORS MEMBERS – Awards were given to the following members: Jean Matt – 70 year member, Jean Carpenter – 65 year member and Bunny DuChamp – 70 year member. Both Jean and Bunny are Charter members of Plummer Unit 623.

Mar. 22, 2017, Auxiliary Membership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Membership To Date</th>
<th>Percent of Goal</th>
<th>Membership Last Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>4,500</td>
<td>90.00%</td>
<td>4,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two</td>
<td>4,294</td>
<td>4,179</td>
<td>98.00%</td>
<td>4,294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three</td>
<td>4,411</td>
<td>3,076</td>
<td>70.00%</td>
<td>4,411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four</td>
<td>4,071</td>
<td>605</td>
<td>90.00%</td>
<td>4,071</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five</td>
<td>824</td>
<td>680</td>
<td>82.50%</td>
<td>824</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six</td>
<td>6,042</td>
<td>5,126</td>
<td>85.00%</td>
<td>6,042</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seven</td>
<td>3,233</td>
<td>3,303</td>
<td>101.00%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eight</td>
<td>3,168</td>
<td>3,415</td>
<td>108.00%</td>
<td>3,168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nine</td>
<td>4,350</td>
<td>3,885</td>
<td>89.30%</td>
<td>4,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ten</td>
<td>5,199</td>
<td>4,582</td>
<td>88.00%</td>
<td>5,199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>32,152</td>
<td>33,095</td>
<td>99.00%</td>
<td>32,152</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TESTIMONIAL -- President Carol Kottom’s Testimonial was held on Saturday, March 25 at the Buffalo American Legion Post. A large crowd from the entire American Legion Family attended the event. Insert Picture: President Carol and her District Daughters – Cindy Nielson, Joanie Krantz, President Carol, Bonnie Brenna, Theresa Rudnicki, Betty Underhun, Linda Deschene, Kathy Burket, Marcie Baysinger and Connie Anderson.

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PLUMMER HONORS MEMBERS – Awards were given to the following members: Jean Matt – 70 year member, Jean Carpenter – 65 year member and Bunny DuChamp – 70 year member. Both Jean and Bunny are Charter members of Plummer Unit 623.
This book is the true story of what it was like being a product of the Baby Boom, growing up in a changing world and unpopular war. It’s also about surviving Vietnam, and returning to a country of anti-war sentiment and disdain for its own young men. These are the memoirs of a man who has answered his country’s call, served in the jungles, rice paddies, and rubber plantations of Vietnam. Ron walks you through his military career. From receiving his draft notice, through being discharged after two years of service. He continues...sharing with you what it was like coming back to civilian life, taking advantage of the GI Bill and trying to find work and dealing with the stigma of Vietnam.

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MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE
August 31-September 10, 2017
Tour Includes:
• 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Larry Alvey
• Roundtrip Delta Flights from Minneapolis to Barcelona
• 7-night pre-cruise in Barcelona with a 4-hour tour of Barcelona
• 7-night post-cruise in Barcelona with a 4-hour tour of Barcelona
• Cruise multi-gravity
• All meals except breakfast under the ROYAL PRINCESS
• All transfers to and from the airport, pier and hotel
• Beach towels and everything on the ship for one suitcase per person
$1,099.00 Per Person Double Occupancy

ALASKA TOUR & CRUISE
August 4-16, 2017
Tour Includes:
• 4 Seasons Tour Director, Sue Barber
• Roundtrip Delta Flights from Minneapolis
• 7 Night roundtrip cruise on the ISLAND PRINCESS
• Cruise Gratuities
• All sightseeing/entrance fees
• All meals & entertainment aboard the ISLAND PRINCESS
• PRINCESS $429.00 Per Person Double Occupancy
• All transfers to and from the airport, hotel & pier
• Loggage handling for one suitcase

$3,299.00 per Person Double Occupancy

MEXICAN RIVIERA CRUISE
November 4-12, 2017
Tour Includes:
• 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Cindy Meany
• Roundtrip Delta Flights from Minneapolis to Los Angeles
• 9 nights pre-cruise at the Millennium Hotel at Times Square
• Roundtrip airfare to and from the airport, hotel & pier
• Loggage handling for one suitcase

$1,425.00 Per Person Double Occupancy

NEW YORK CITY & NEW ENGLAND/ CANADA CRUISE
September 14-24, 2017
Tour Includes:
• 4 Seasons Tour Director, Sue Barber
• Roundtrip Delta Flights from Minneapolis to New York City
• All transfers from airport, hotel and pier
• 9 nights stay at the Millennium Hotel in Times Square
• Roundtrip airfare to and from the airport, hotel & pier
• Loggage handling at hotel and on cruise

$1,999.00 Per Person Double Occupancy

GREAT AMERICAN HISTORY TOUR
September 19-26, 2017
Tour Includes:
• 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Cindy Meany
• Roundtrip Delta Flights from Minneapolis
• Deluxe motor coach transportation
• 10 Meals: 7 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 2 dinners
• All sightseeing, museums, battlefields, & National Parks
• All transfers to and from the airport, hotel & pier
• Loggage handling for one suitcase

$1,999.00 Per Person Double Occupancy

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