Schaffer elected 101st state commander

Davenport wins Sergeant-at-Arms contest; Larry Ryan named membership director

Mike Schaffer, 66, a retired rural mail carrier from Fulda, was elected Commander of the Minnesota American Legion at the 99th annual convention held in Mahnomen in July.

Schaffer defeated Gary Olson of Moorhead 487-149.

In the other contested election at the convention, Garylee Davenport of Atwater won the Sergeant-at-Arms position. He totaled 413 votes and defeated Joe Niesen of Cologne (145) and Ryan Hill (71) of Brewster.

There was also an election for delegates-at-large to the national convention. Four people were nominated for the three open positions.

The final vote was Jim Kellogg of Taopi, 596; Bob Roe of Prior Lake, 479; Paul Orson of Circle Pines, 374; and Arlo Rude of Thief River Falls, 339.

Schaffer selected Larry Ryan of Oakdale as his membership director. Ryan said his theme for the year was 100 percent for the 100th year. His motto for the year will be: “Find ‘em, thank them, ask them.”

“The membership slide stops right here, right now.” He promised a fun year.

Schaffer and Ryan will head a membership team that includes Department Vice Commanders Rosemary Niesen, Cologne; Steven Klinkner, Madelia; Dan Williams, St. Paul; Eric Wilkens, Detroit Lakes; and Bill Stump Jr., St. Louis Park.

Others elected at the convention included Marland Ronning, Maple Grove, for National Executive Committeeman; Bill Barbkecht, Battle Lake, Alternate National Executive Committeeman; Ralph Schneekloth, Louis Park.

The Minnesota American Legion will have a new committee permanent.

There had been an ad hoc committee for training established this past year, but the resolution will make the committee permanent.

There will be three members of the committee serving staggered three-year terms. The committee will elect its own chairman.

The commander will appoint the committee.

Want trouble with gambling officials? Here’s how

MAINOMEN — Tom Barrett looked out over the large audience at the Gambling Seminar at the state convention and smiled.

“Charitable gambling in Minnesota is a $1.7 billion industry,” he said. “It’s all cash. It operates at 2,800 locations, most of which serve alcohol.

“What could go wrong?”

Barrett, the state director of charitable gambling, said the Gambling Control Board keeps a close eye on American Legion posts and others who participate in this type of fund raising.

With that in mind, Barrett outlined the “top ten ways to get the attention of the Gambling Control Board”.

1. “Don’t file monthly reports. “If we see a repeat pattern, we’ll wonder what’s going on. Don’t blame the accountant.”

2. Let Elvis play pull tabs. Posts sometimes have fun with the law by entering the name of Elvis Presley as a player. “Know who your customers are?” Barrett also said that the GCB will sometimes find time-stamped receipts from 2:30 in the morning. “We suspect there may be gambling after hours. Also we see cases where the scanner mysteriously stops at midnight and mysteriously comes back to life at 8 a.m.”

3. Send in your license renewal with only one signature. “One signature makes us wonder. We want to have a couple of eyes on program.”

4. Say something bad about the Gambling Control Board “If you have a problem, call me,” Barrett said.

5. Overstock your games. Games are tracked by serial number, and operations that overstock will catch the GCB’s attention. “We watch your inventory; you should also watch...”
Continued from Page 1

Mabel. Chaplain: Glenn Mueller, St. Charles, Historian; and Bob Locker, Fridley, Board of Publications.

The parade will be held on Sunday, Aug. 26, 2018, and will proceed down the Nicollet Mall in downtown Minneapolis.

The Minnesota convention group is also seeking pipe bands and drum and bugle bands from Minneapolis to march in the parade.

The Minnesota delega-

tion has a tradition of hav-

ing massed flags at national parades, and it is hoped that posts from across the state will march in the parade in Minneapolis. The group provid-

ing a spectacle of hun-

dreds of American flags.

Posts do not have to be regist-

tered for the conven-

tion in order for them to march in the parade. — Calling for the mandatory issuance of all correspon-


dent mail to be registered with their names on the back. — And calling for the establishment of a law allowing massed flags at national parades.

He and his wife, Gina, have three children and four grandchildren. He has been active in the community, serving in the Lion’s Club, the Knights of Columbus, and he is a member of St. Gabriel Catholic Church.

His theme for the year is learning from the past and preparing for the future. He will work on special projects including scholarships to the Boys State program and raising money and awareness to help prevent veteran suicides.

Continuing the convention was National Vice Commander Douglas Boldt of Nebraska. He stayed for the entire convention and spoke several times.

The convention was held at Shooting Star Casino and Event Center.
Endorsements

Redepenning endorsed for commander

Darrel Redepenning has been endorsed by Edward B. Cutler Post 102 in Anoka and the 10th District for Department Commander for the 2018-2019 year. Redepenning is eligible through his service in the Army from 1970-1973. He is a 45 year honored life member at Anoka and has served as Commander (two terms), Executive Committee (15 years) and currently serves as the Post Judge Advocate.

On the District level, Redepenning is currently the Post Judge Advocate.

On the National level, Redepenning is a member of the American Legion, 40/8, DAV Life Member, NITBIT-NVTI and will be inducted into ANAVICUS at the 2017 National Convention in Reno. He retired in 2016 after 25 years in Orthopedic Surgery at Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis.

He and his wife Donna (past 10th District President) have been married 41 years and reside in Fridley. They have two sons and two grandchildren. Darrel’s father Bud was Department Commander 1986-1987.

Don’t let Elvis Presley play pull tabs

Continued from Page 1

your inventory. If games aren’t coming off your shelf, something’s wrong.

4. Pay top dollar for pull-tabs. “Don’t be afraid to ask the distributor is the best price you can get.” Live outside the averages. The GCB monitors expenses, inventory and other reports. “If you are more than 80 percent above the average for expenses, you will be on our radar.”

2. Don’t file your taxes. “We work closely with the Department of Revenue, and they are quick on the spot to alert us.”

And finally,

1. Ignore us. The GCB will send out notices of upcoming inspections, hoping that posts will prepare and send in paperwork. “It’s amazing how many people don’t respond, even if we send three letters. We wonder what it takes to get their attention. We can call for a surprise inspection. If it’s an emergency situation, let us know and we’ll work with you.”

Barrett said there was one golden rule for running a gambling operation. “Do the right thing.”

EPA recognizes Minneapolis VA

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has recognized six federal facilities, including the Minneapolis VA Health Care System (Minneapolis VA), for excellence in energy efficiency, save resources and reduce costs as part of the Federal Green Challenge (FGC).

EPA recognizes Minneapolis VA’s Green Environmental Management System (GEMS) program, Darrel Redepenning served as the Post Judge Advocate.

The facility reduced white copier paper purchased by 44 percent from the previous year, saving $125,600. Specifically, the facility reduced white paper saved.

The Minneapolis VA Health Care System (Minneapolis VA), for its leadership in implementing the Rite-Fax initiative.”

The FGC has six categories. Here are recipients in the other five categories:

• Waste: The Department of Defense, Vermont Army National Guard (Jericho, Vermont) increased its composting efforts by 2,217 percent from the previous year, saving nearly $4,000 in tipping fees.

• Electronics: The Department of Energy, East Tennessee Technology Park (Oak Ridge, Tennessee) increased its Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT)-registered equipment by 1,328 percent and sent 11.6 tons of used electronics to third-party certified recyclers.

• Energy: The Department of Veterans Affairs, Connecticut Health Care System (West Haven Campus, West Haven, Connecticut) reduced the amount of fuel oil consumed by 58 percent, saving $59,456.

• Water: The Department of Energy, East Tennessee Technology Park (Oak Ridge, Tennessee) reduced its potable water consumption by almost 94 million gallons, saving $735,412.

• Transportation: The Department of Veterans Affairs, The James E. Van Zandt Veterans Affairs Medical Center (Altoona, Pennsylvania) increased its hybrid vehicle fleet size by 125 percent.

Reeve Mortgages

Educate yourself on how Reverse Mortgages work, and why they’re popular, with a Nobel Prize winning economist.

Call or email for a free consumer guide and a personal quote.

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

EPA recognizes Minneapolis VA

Minneapolis is hosting the 100th national convention in 2018. Our great state was the site of the 1st convention and will now host this historic event. The National Convention Corporation of Minnesota is inviting all Legioneers and posts to say “For The American Legion, I Will” and contribute towards our Bending the Second Century of Service Campaign. Gifts can be directed towards Minnesota’s hosting responsibilities for the convention or The American Legion Minnesota Foundation to support programming throughout our state. For more information, please visit www.mnlegion.org and click on 100th National Convention Information.

DO YOU KNOW OF A COMPANY THAT MAY FINANCIALLY SUPPORT THE 100TH CONVENTION THROUGH SPONSORSHIP, ADVERTISING OR GIVING?

There are sponsorship, advertisement and giving opportunities for businesses. If you know of a company that may want to take part in the 100th convention, please contact Michael Davy at (612) 247-9960 or mdavy@mnlegion.org.
Mail Call

Boys State thanks

To the Editor: (Used with permission of the writer)

Mr. Thomas Nelson
Director, Boys State

Boy's State thanks you so much for the opportunity to participate in Boy's State, the honoring of being 1st alternate to Nationals, the Director's Award, and the $250.00 Scholarship.

I had an amazing week at Boys State. I honestly wasn't sure that I would be going to attend, but after only a few minutes of meeting the other members that I was there. I do think that the best part of the entire week was actually attending the Boy's State convention and having the opportunity to meet other members and to have the chance to come back with a short list: 1. Lack of mentoring in Posts. 2. They don't see us in the public wearing something that shows our Legion affiliation or military organization we were part of. 3. They don't get asked to do things. 4. They have no voice in change within the post. 5. And they are concerned about a lack of community service projects and family activities they can bring their spouse and children to.

Our Legionnaires have much to be proud of. However, we must improve on visibility in our communities. We've asked for information on what the younger veteran wants and would like to see our organization doing. They came back with a short list: 1. Moving from a paper and pen system to electronic means of communication. 2. We must continue 13 years as a 'small mail' with the email, smart phone and website generation of today. Both are very important and needed as I see it.

I look forward to a productive, service-filled year culminating with the 100th National Convention here in Texas. I want to thank you for your commitment to the Legion. I look forward to meeting with as many of you as I can in the coming year.

Our Legion was given a great organization, of that there is no doubt. The first four words of the Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion are “For God and Country,” which we should never forget. “Servite to God and Country,” yes this is an American Legion program, but the saying describes our attitude and commitment. That our Legion's support for religion in the public square is basic Americanism. Rather than acting independently of religious groups, we desire to cooperate with and join them in reminding the American people with one voice that God is the author and architect of our “Land of the free.” Without God, there is no Americanism. Because the Legion embraces all religions, faiths and denominations in our ranks, I am here to care for and help everyone, if you believe or don't. Source Chaplains Handbook, page 1.

A part of how I try to conduct myself is along the lines of Philippians 2:3,4 to set a positive example “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each other's to the interests of others. I believe that in team building, especially in our volunteer American Legion, that we are privileged to serve. Each contributes to the betterment of all. I'd like to think that each year we get stronger, because of the team building, and strengthening our base, our foundation as it were. It is true, we cannot allow ourselves to tire in doing good, that which is taking care of our veterans, those still serving, along with their families. I would personally like to say: thank you, to all who serve, from top to bottom, your service and the jobs you all perform are very valuable and necessary.

I look forward to seeing you as much as I can in the coming year.

Neil Krow
Spring Lake Park

Credentials Committee
Saturday, July 15, 2017

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Chaplain’s Corner

By Ralph Schneekloth

Greetings to my fellow American Legion and American Legion Family members and members of the American Legion who are not only humbled and privileged to be your Department Chaplain. For me, this is the highest call. I will strive to be available anywhere and anytime when called. I also hope to be able to assist the District and any other level, County, Area or Post Chaplains or anyone that asks.

I am not only Chaplain of a great organization, of that there is no doubt. The first four words of the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion are “For God and Country’” which we should never forget. “Servite to God and Country,” yes this is an American Legion program, but the saying describes our attitude and commitment. Rather than acting independently of religious groups, we desire to cooperate with and join them in reminding the American people with one voice that God is the author and architect of our “Land of the free.” Without God, there is no Americanism. Because the Legion embraces all religions, faiths and denominations in our ranks, I am here to care for and help everyone, if you believe or don't. Source Chaplains Handbook, page 1.

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I look forward to seeing you as much as I can in the coming year.

Neil Krow
Spring Lake Park

American Legion National Commander Charles E. Schmidt sent the following message to Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who was recently diagnosed with brain cancer:

Dear Sen. McCain,

From your service as a Naval officer to your career in the Senate, you have always been a fighter. You fought a brutal enemy and died for a faith worth fighting for. You fought as a veteran and you fought for a strong national defense. On behalf of 2 million American Legionnaires, we pray for you and your family. Keep on fighting, Sen. McCain. America needs you.

God Bless,
Charles Schmidt
National Commander
Band Blitz  
A benefit for Greencare for Troops and the Delano American Legion will be held Saturday, Sept. 9, at the Riverfront Park in Delano. It will feature three bands, the Delano softball and Little League, and a Riverfront Park fireworks show.  
The event will go from 6-11 p.m. Greencare for Troops provides complimentary lawn service for the families of deployed troops.

Vendors Needed  
Apple Valley Auxiliary is seeking vendors for the Fall Flea Market on Sept. 23. Household items, a variety of crafts, baked goods and antiques, knickknacks and jams will be featured. For more information, call Marlene at 651-423-2493.

Notes from the 2017 Department Convention  
The 99th annual convention of the Department of Minnesota was held at Mahnomen in July. News from the convention included:

— The American Legion is seeking through Congress a bill to review compensation paid to Purple Heart recipients. Lloyd Ricker, the chair of the Minnesota American Legion, said that the compensation is too low.

— The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs will be distributing 75th anniversary pins, two per post. The pins will be distributed to the American Legion posts with the most active veterans.

— The LIT announced that $76,000 had been provided to the Legion to purchase a new building. The money will be used to construct a building.

— It was announced that Dr. Apostolos Georgopoulos, a professor of the Bowling Tournament after five years, and candidates for the position were being sought.

— Adjutant Randy Tesdahl auctioned off four commemorative World War II knifes with proceeds going to the Department Dennis Henkenmeyer won the bidding and donated the knifes back to the Department to be put on display.

— Convention Committee Chair Pat Logan said there was concern that the major renovation being done in Rochester would not be finished in time for next year’s convention, planned for that city. The latest word, though, is that the convention is still on for this year.

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Greetings American Legion Family,

Congratulations to our new Department Commander, Chuck Stone, Auxiliary President Donna and SAL Detachment Commander Shawn on being selected to your new positions. I look forward to working with each of you as we start the new American Legion year. One would like to say “Let the games begin” but I believe there is also a fair amount of work that will be accomplished along the way.

By the time you are reading this, the 2017 National Legion will be held in Reno, Nevada. From Aug. 22-24, the Legion also held a convention in the “Biggest Little City in the World” 10 years ago. A complete number of attendees, rates, phone numbers and additional information can be found on the Legion’s website: mnlegion.org.

All hotel reservations must be made by the individual.

For more information contact Dan Bunterthun at dbunterthun@gmail.com or 320-909-8901.

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

By Jeremy Wolfsteller

CRSC

It’s not that secret when service-members are called to war, there will be combat related injuries sustained on the battlefield. The thought of the possibility of getting injured for these men and women is something they think about and accept prior to deployment. Its characteristics and attributes like selfless service, honor, duty and patriotism that is instilled in our armed forces that currently remains an all-volunteer force. If you’re injured and fortunate enough to survive through your injuries and make it back stateside, your battle has only just begun. Hospitalization, surgery, and therapies and then a long medical board process to determine if you’re still fit for duty or to be considered for a medical discharge can take several years.

I recognize firsthand that this whole process is very difficult and life changing. The motivation to get better comes from your fellow service-members, family and friends. Another unexpected boost of morale is that you’ll be taken care of by your country. Entitlements are in place through legislation formed by Americans and passed by Americans to ensure our brave men and women who sign the dotted line are provided the best possible benefits.

To meet the basic eligibility requirements a veteran must be receiving military retirement pay for one of the following:

- Military retirement pay for one of the following:,

- Medical Chapter 61,

- Temporary Early Retirement Act,

- Temporary Disability Retirement Act.

To apply as a result of hazardous duty.

In 2008 legislation was passed that amended title 10 USC 1411a to include Combat Related Special Compensation payments for certain combat injured service-members that were retired with 20 years or more of service. This is a payable tax free benefit by The Department of Defense finance and accounting systems to ensure our brave men and women who sign the dotted line are provided the best possible benefits.

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Greetings from the 2nd District Commander! My name is Randy Olson. I belong to Post 82 Winnebago. I am an American Legion Rider of Post 89 Blue Earth, and am a SisterLarge Legion Post or Convention Center. Sharing the cost of expenses, but also sharing any proceeds, if there were any. Talk it over amongst yourselves.

August 5, Elk River Post 112 will host the first Executive Board meeting and Membership Program kick-off. Let’s have a good turn out and turn in.

THIRD DISTRICT
Eugene Leifeld
Commander

Thanks to everyone who voted and elected us as officers to represent the 3rd District Legionnaires. Thank you to the 3rd District Commander Mike Maxa for your leadership this last year. My theme for this year is “Remember our Veterans Ask a Veteran to join”. My District Commander’s project this year is to build a gazebo at the Big Marine Vets camp. I will have more information coming on this in the immediate future.

2018 Officers’ reports and Off the Goose Egg must be submitted to Department of Minnesota American Legion by Wednesday July 26, 2017. If your Post has not signed up for WDAY Honor Flight, which currently is sending WWII & Korean Veterans to Washington, D.C. It costs roughly $150,000. If you are interested, please sign up now for the coming year.

Upcoming Events:
August 20, VA Visitation at VAMC 1:00 p.m.
September 6th, 4th District SAL Meeting 6 p.m. N. St Paul

Go to this website to see the various events Posts are having: http://www.overcamseycounty.org

I want to thank Commander Randy for leading the way in getting more membership involvement in our RCCC’s, Auxiliary, SAL and ALR monthly meetings. Randy with your assistance, District Officers, and all the members of the 4th District family, we will be stronger.

Duty, Honor, Country.

FIFTH DISTRICT
Walt Lynndale
Commander

Greetings from the 6th District Commander. My name is Dennis Strassburg. I belong to Post 152. It was a very good convention. Congratulations to our new Department Commander Mike Schafer and to our own 1st Vice Commander Randy Thayer for being elected Sergeant At Arms and to our own Gary Davenport for being elected Sergeant At Arms and to all the newly elected officers. In closing, I want to thank Gary Davenport for doing a wonderful job as Commander for our district this past year. Always remember our men and women who are serving our country today. God bless you and God bless America.

THIRD DISTRICT
Eugene Leifeld
Commander

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Duty, Honor, Country.
As usual, the Legion Riders led off the parade with sound and color.

**Annual Parade at Mahnomen**

Police Officer of the Year David Watson waved a large flag along the parade route in downtown Mahnomen.

National Vice Commander Douglas Boldt waved as Membership Director Mark Dvorak looked on.

A group of Auxiliary women were very enthusiastic as the parade rolled by.

Flags, candy, a parade -- what could be better?

Girls State Governor Evelyn Humphrey greeted the throngs along the sidewalk.

The Ninth District Band was in tune and in step as they marched down Main Street.
Memorial Service

Fort Snelling Chapel Chaplain Kenneth L. Beale Jr. was the keynote speaker.

Honorary Junior President Kiana Coleman-Woods lit a candle as part of the ceremony for the Memorial Service at convention. Looking on were Gene Olswold, Carol Kottom and Denise Milton.

Flautist Lauren Wander and Pianist Patricia Nelson performed for the Memorial Service.

Past Department President Dee Dee Buckley performed several songs during the service.

Lee Tallakson and Dennis Delong raised their arms while singing “God Bless America.”

Hospitality

Pat Logan, right, conversed with Linda and Mark Dvorak at the annual hospitality event at convention.

Billy Underwood on guitar and Bobby White on spoons were part of the entertainment at President Carol Kottom’s Family Reception.

Districts provided food and beverages as the Ninth District Band entertained on Friday night.

Steve Sullivan was talking up the Legacy Ride during the hospitality event.
Fourteen veterans were presented with Quilts of Valor by the Quilts of Valor Foundation at the Department Convention in Mahnomen. State Coordinator Jenny Caughey told the attendees about the quilts, and Alternate NECman Bill Barkknecht announced the quilt recipients. From left, front: Commander Denise Milton, highly decorated Vietnam veteran Peter Thompson, John Hovde, Al Davis, Curt Norenberg. In back, Adjutant Randy Tesdahl, Patrick Blue III, Teddy Redwing, Bill Goede, Dennis Henkeniery, Peggy Moon, Mike Ash, Paul Hassing and Al Zdon. White Earth Reservation provided a color guard.

99th Annual Convention

Newly-elected Commander Mike Schaffer addressed the delegates.

President Carol Kottom welcomed Commander Denise Milton when she visited the Auxiliary Convention.

Delegates listened attentively when National Vice Commander Douglas Boldt spoke.

Adjutant Randy Tesdahl turned auctioneer briefly.
Department Juniors showed off their muscle. (Karla Otterness photo)

Firefighter of the Year Mark Denn of Madelia.

Police Officer of the Year David Watson of Lakeville.

New SAL Detachment Commander Shawn Davis.

National Vice Commander Douglas Boldt.

Auxiliary President Carol Kottom.

Oratorical Champion Elise Sopelle.

Districts caucused before a vote on delegates at large to the National Convention in Reno.
Legion Installation

Installing Officer Marland Ronning paid tribute to outgoing Commander Denise Milton.

Commander Mike Schaffer posed with gold badge of past commanders.

Past Department Commander Dennis Henkemeyer escorted his wife, Past Department Commander Denise Milton, from the stage with her colors.

District and Department officers took their oath of office from Installing Officer Marland Ronning.

Auxiliary Installation

Outgoing President Carol Kottom passed the gavel to incoming president Donna Arends.

President Carol Kottom pinned President Donna Arends as First Vice President Jean Walker looked on.

New Honorary Junior President Courtney Rogat spoke to the Auxiliary delegates.

Mary Hendrickson of Cloquet was elected Second Vice President.

Kottom presented Arends with a small gift during the installation ceremony.
This year’s programs for the World War II History Round Table have been announced. The Round Table usually meets at the Fort Snelling History Center on the second Thursday of each month starting in September. Some months have more than one program. Admission is $5. The programs begin at 7 p.m.

This will be the 31st year for the Round Table, considered one of the best in the nation. Most programs feature a noted war history author as well as veterans who were there.

The programs include:

- **September 14** - Winning the Pacific War. James D. Hornfischer, author of *The Fleet at High Tide* along with veterans will discuss the Campaign in the Central Pacific that led to the final victory over the Japanese.
- **October 12** - The First Invasion – Operation Torch – noting 75th Anniversary. Vincent O’Hara, author of *Torch* and Tim Brady, author of *His Father’s Son* along with veterans will discuss the Politics and Naval and Ground Operations in the most complicated Landing Operation in the early War period.
- **October 26** - POW’s of Japan – Palawan. Stephen L. Moore, author of *As Good as Dead* will discuss the much overlooked POW Camp that held several veterans from Minnesota.
- **November 9** - The Dr. Harold C. Deutsch Lecture – Allying for Victory. William T. Johnson, author of *The Origins of the Grand Alliance* will discuss the partnership between Roosevelt and Churchill to form an Allied Force to defeat the Axis Forces in Europe and expand into the most complicated Landing Operation in the Central Pacific.
- **December 14** - Victory in the Battle of the Bulge. Martin King and Michael Collins, authors of *Voices of the Bulge* and four new titles on units involved in the Ardennes fighting, with veterans of the largest land battle in western Europe, will reveal the experiences of what happened in Italy and France, and veterans that served in his commands will reveal the experiences of what happened in Italy and France, and veterans of the Soviet Army who has been rated as the greatest field commander of WWII. To illustrate the experiences of what happened in Italy and France by a commander who has been rated as the greatest field commander of WWII.

**Veterans wanted to tell their WWII experiences**

The World War II Round Table is seeking veteran panelists for this year’s slate of programs. Panelists are needed to tell their stories for the following programs:

- Naval and Air Forces in the Pacific
- Those involved in Operation Torch
- Veterans in the Battle of the Bulge
- Any involvement in the Berlin Airlift
- Army Air Corps or Naval aviators
- Veterans of Italy or Southern France
- Occupation Troops in the post war era.

Those who would like to volunteer should contact the Round Table organizer Don Patton at cold Patton@yahoo.com or 612-807-5144.

The programs are held at the Fort Snelling Visitor Center in south Minneapolis. Transportation can be arranged.

Author of *The Marshall Plan*, and veterans of the occupation, will highlight the great success that sealed the victory in Europe and led to the state of peace that resulted in the establishment of NATO and European Union.

### Listening Post

**LAKE CITY FLAGS OF VALOR** – Over 600 flags were placed on the River Walk Trail along Highway 61 by Lake City Post 110. The flags honor veterans.

**ARGONNE DAWG DAYS** – Argonne Post 32 held its second annual Dawg Days. Deputy Sheriff Mike Schei and his K-9 partner did a demonstration of the dog’s abilities.

**WAITE PARK PRESENTS COLOR** – Waite Park Post 428 Color Guard presented the colors before an Apollo High School baseball game.

### News from around the State

**BOWLUS FLOAT** – Bowlus Post 642 made this recreation of Iwo Jima for the Bowlus Fun Day parade this year.


**ALEXANDRIA HONORS MEMBERS** – Alexandria Post 87 honored three longtime members: Kenneth Olson, 50 years, Jerry Prettyman, 50 years, and Alvin Tyvdk, 60 years.
Awards and presentations made at the 2017 convention

TOP SERVICE OFFICERS -- The Department's top veterans service officers were honored at Mahnomen with certificates of meritorious service. From left: Heather Larson, Department Assistant Service Officer; Garylee Davenport accepting for Dennis Anderson, Montevideo Post 59; Sylvan Fix accepting for Emery Fick, Lake City Post 110; Ron Wolford accepting for Frank Menter, Anoka Post 102; Allen Rusch accepting for Dave Hallan, Bagley Post 16; Wes Thompson, Waite Park Post 428; Carl Renalls, 3M Post 599; Ryan Hill, accepting for Gerald McConkey, Worthington Post 464; Jeremy Wolfsteller, Department Service Officer.

BOYS STATE AWARDS -- Boys State presented plaques to posts who sponsored boys who won awards at this year's program. From left: Commander Denise Milton, Paul Orson accepting for Fridley Post 303, sponsor of Myron and David Way Award; Tom Schottenbauer, St. Louis Park Post 282, sponsor of Eric Bird's Award; Ron Wolford, Anoka Post 102, sponsor of Dave Hallan's Award; Lee Talakson, Boys State.

NISSWA COMMUNITY SERVICE -- Nisswa Post 627 was honored for most dollars spent in Category III for Community Service. Accepting the plaque was Ray DeZurik.

WAITE PARK SERVICE -- Waite Park Post 428 donated the most hours to community service in Category IV. Accepting was Tom Fernlund.

100 PERCENTERS -- Districts were honored with certificates for reaching 100 percent on posts turning in Consolidated Post Reports. From left: Commander Denise Milton, First District Commander Sylvan Fix; Fourth District Commander Randy Basty; Fifth District Commander Ray Eiden; Americanism Chair Art Tobkin.

WAITE PARK SERVICE -- Waite Park Post 428

NORTH SHORE COMMUNITY SERVICE -- North Shore Post 195

BRUNO SERVICE -- Bruno Post 563 won the Community Service Plaque for most hours donated in Category I. Tenth District Membership Director Paul Orson accepted for Bruno.

MELROSE SERVICE -- Richard Cross accepted the plaque for Melrose Post 101 for Category III for most dollars spent on Community Service.

BOYS STATE AWARDS -- Boys State presented plaques to posts who sponsored boys who won awards at this year's program. From left: Commander Denise Milton, Paul Orson accepting for Fridley Post 303, sponsor of Myron and David Way Award; Tom Schottenbauer, St. Louis Park Post 282, sponsor of Eric Bird's Award; Ron Wolford, Anoka Post 102, sponsor of Dave Hallan's Award; Lee Talakson, Boys State.

APPLE VALEY MOST DOLLARS DONATED -- Apple Valley Post 1776 won the Category 4 Community Service Award for most dollars. From left: Department Commander Denise Milton, District Commander Mike Maxa accepting for the post; Chairman Bob Locker.

3M POST EXCELLENCE -- 3M Post 599 was recognized for Post Excellence. From left: Commander Denise Milton, Carl Renalls, Bird Partridge and NECman Marland Ronning.

HOPKINS BOWLING TROPHY -- Hopkins Post 320 won the State Bowling Tournament for Legionnaires. From Left: Department Commander Denise Milton, Bowling Chairman Bob Mace, Larry Woods, Bowling Secretary John Torma.

3M MOST DOLLARS SPENT -- 3M Post 599 won the Community Service Award for Most Dollars Spent for Category I. From left, Department Commander Denise Milton, Carl Renalls, Chairman Bob Locker.
PHYSICIAN OF YEAR -- Department Rehabilitation Chairman Wilson Spence announced that The American Legion’s VA Physician of the Year was Dr. Candy Heinlein from the Minneapolis VA Medical Center.

AWARD TO V4V -- The Fourth District presented an award to the Veterans for Veterans Foundation for its support of the district’s Shop, Ship and Share program. From left: V4V board member Marland Ronning, Teresa Ash, V4V’s Don Pankake; Commander Denise Milton and Fourth District Commander Randy Bastyr.

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THE YEAR -- David Watson, a detective from the Lakeville Police Department was honored as The American Legion Law Office of the Year. From left: Commander Denise Milton, Watson, and Law and Order Chair Tom Conway.

FIRE FIGHTER OF THE YEAR -- Mark Denn, fire chief at Madelia Fire Department, was selected as the department’s Fire Fighter of the Year. From left: Commander Denise Milton, Denn, Law and Order Chair Tom Conway.

PAT CLIFF AWARD -- Carl Renalls of 3M Post 599 was the winner of the Pat Cliff Award presented to the Department’s top service officer.

NISSWA WINS LINDELL -- Nisswa Post 627 was the winner of the Lindell Trophy for Community Service. From left: Commander Denise Milton, Ray DeZurik, Community Service Chair Bob Locker.

ST. FRANCIS SERVICE -- St. Francis won the most hours donated award in Category II for Community Service. Paul Orson accepted for the post.

TOP EMPLOYER -- Don Knutson of Green View Inc. accepted the Employer of the Year Award from Employment Committee Chair Carl Moon. Greenview provides maintenance at Minnesota state parks and rest areas. At left is Commander Denise Milton.

BUESSELERS HONORED -- Mel Buesseler accepted a Community Service Award from the Legionville Board for contributions made to the Safety Patrol camp by the John and Catheryn Buesseler Foundation.

SAFETY PATROL HONOR -- Officer Michelle Giampolo of the St. Paul Police Department was honored with the George J. Kaisersatt School Safety Patrol Distinguished Service Award. Presenting were Commander Denise Milton and Safety Patrol Chairman Jim Blakesley.

AUXILIARY WINNERS -- Norma Tramm and Cindy Goeford, at right accepted the plaque for winning the Auxiliary Doubles at the Minnesota American Legion State Bowling Tournament. Bowling Secretary John Torma and committee member Pam Hoshal presented the award.

RIDERS IN PARADE -- Chuck Stone and Steve Sullivan accepted a check from Commander Milton for the Riders outstanding participation in the parade.

BUESSELERS HONORED -- Mel Buesseler accepted a Community Service Award from the Legionville Board for contributions made to the Safety Patrol camp by the John and Catheryn Buesseler Foundation.

More honors and awards from the 2017 Department Convention
More honors and awards from the 2017 Department Convention

**DISTRIBUTED TEAM HONORED** -- Membership Director Mark Dvorak presented his final membership awards at the convention. From left: Sixth District Membership Director Judith Floeck and Commander Veronica Fernlund, Goose Egg and Premier Race; Second District Membership Director Mike Schaffer and Commander Mark Coney, Goose Egg, Fall Conference, Kaisersatt and Growing Strong awards; Third District Membership Director Gene Leifeld and Commander Mike Max, Goose Egg, New Member and Oak Awards; Fifth District Membership Director Walt Lyndsey and Commander Ray Eiden, Appreciation Rally, Spring Rally; Fourth District Membership Director Mickey Ostrum and Commander Randy Bastyr, Goose Egg and Pearl Harbor Awards; First District Membership Director Dennis Lewison and Commander Sylvan Fix, Goose Egg; Ninth District Membership Director Tim Haugen and Commander Eric Wilkens, Goose Egg; 10th District Membership Director Paul Orson and Commander Bonnie Hanson, Sweetheart Rally; Eighth District Commander Ken Oliver and Membership Director E. Jerry St. Michel, Acorn Award; Seven District Membership Director Richard Wog and Commander Garlye Davenport.

**BELTEFEUILL HONORED** -- Phil Bellefeuille was honored with a Distinguished Service Award for his longtime chairmanship of the Convention Corporation. Bellefeuille is a member at Detroit Lakes Post 15.

**FIFTH DISTRICT PARADE** -- District Commander Ray Eiden accepted a check for the Fifth District finishing third at the Department parade.

**THIEF RIVER FALLS AWARD** -- Arlo Rude accepted a check for third place in the Patriotic Theme at the Department parade.

**FIRST DISTRICT PARADE** -- District Commander Sylvan Fix accepted a check for the First District finishing first at the Department parade.

**TOP COLOR GUARD** -- Waite Park Post 428 again won the top color guard competition in the annual parade. From left: Commander Denise Milton, Bob Mace, Wes Thompson, Gerald Gohman, Veronica Fernlund and Tom Fernlund.

**ORATORICAL WINNER** -- Oratorical Contest winner Elise Sopelle accepted the Ed Thielen Award. From left are Deb Norman, chair; Jim Lucas, Sixth District; Commander Denise Milton, Sopelle, Linda Dvorak, assistant chair.

**CONEY PROJECT** -- Second District Commander Mark Coney presented a check for $6,000 to Commander Milton. Coney's project for the year was Brain Science Foundation.

**SILVER BRIGADE** -- Terry Larson of Forest Lake Post 255 won the Silver Brigade Award, presented by Department Commander Denise Milton and Membership Director Mark Dvorak. John Lenvik of Apple Valley Post 1776 won the Gold Brigade Award.

**NINTH DISTRICT PARADE** -- Ninth District Commander Eric Wilkens accepted a check for second place for districts in the annual parade.
Mack, Reuben F., 89, Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War, died July 6, 2017. He served as Department Chaplain, 2000-01, Fifth District Commander, 1983-84, and Department Vice Commander, 1990-91. He was a member of Gopher Post 440.

Webster, Peter, 91, Navy veteran of World War II, died July 9, 2017. He served on the USS General C. G. Morton, a transport ship. He was a member of Lake City Post 110.

Korfe, John H., 98, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died June 24, 2017. He was a member of Windom Post 206.

Simonson, Robert P., 90, Army veteran of World War II, died June 30, 2017. He was a member of Sanborn Post 286.

Krumrei, Elizabeth, 94, Marine Corps veteran of World War II, died July 9, 2017. She was a past chaplain of Bloomington Post 550.

Bruegman, Roger, 77, Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 5, 2017. He served in the United States. He was a member of the honor guard of Gaylord Post 433.

Boyd, Tifford Sandum, 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 9, 2017. He served in Germany. He was a member of Austin Post 91.

Hoss, Christopher, 84, Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 13, 2017. He was a member of Marshall Post 113.

Fischer, Robert “Buck,” 84, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 18, 2017. He served in Fairbanks, Alaska. He was a member of Marshall Post 113.

Stigman, Lloyd Alwyn, 94, Army veteran of World War II, died July 6, 2017. He was severely wounded at the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 212.

Spencer, Ted, 85, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died July 13, 2017. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 212.

Von Itter, Joseph W., 94, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died July 10, 2017. He was a member of Little Falls Post 46.

Pedersen, Allen Robert, 101, Army veteran of World War II, died July 13, 2017. He served in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and the Philippines. He was a member of Crookston Post 20.

Murray, Richard J., 86, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died July 21, 2017. He was a longtime finance officer of Claremont Post 422.

Olbreich, John R., 84, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 20, 2017. He was a member of Claremont Post 422.

Hughes, William Keith, 87, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died June 17, 2017. He served on the battleships USS Missouri and USS Wisconsin. He was a member of Hackensack Post 202.

VanLove, Steven R., 61, Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 26, 2017. He was a member of Willmar Post 167.

Hayunga, Donald W., 82, Army National Guard veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 28, 2017. He was a member of Willmar Post 167.

Skaja, Anthony J., 71, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 4, 2017. He was a member of Willmar Post 167.

Stowater, Herbert F., 93, Navy veteran of World War II, died July 8, 2017. He was a member of Willmar Post 167.

Schneider, Ronald H., 82, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died July 10, 2017. He was a member of Willmar Post 167.

Rustad, Gerald R., 74, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 12, 2017. He was a member of Willmar Post 167.

Lohback, Lloyd Wilfred, 92, Navy veteran of World War II, died June 6, 2017. He was an electrician’s mate serving in California. He was a member of Virginia Post 239.

Reinholz, Thomas R., 81, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 15, 2017. He was a member of Cold Spring Post 455.

Ryce, Charles O., 79, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 16, 2017. He served in Japan. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

Nettiquist, Jerry, 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 5, 2017. He was a member of Cloquet Post 262.

Orr, Tom, 80, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 9, 2017. He served for 21 years and retired as a lieutenant commander. He was in search and rescue in the Arctic. He was a past finance officer and commander of Long Prairie Post 6.

Haines, Richard, 86, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 7, 2017. He was a member of Paynesville Post 271.

Palmquist, Russell Charles, 89, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died July 11, 2017. He served in the medical corps in New York. He was a member of Chisholm Post 247.

Tungsvik, Floyd Russell, 95, Navy veteran of World War II, died June 18, 2017. He served on an ammunition ship in the Pacific. He was a member of Nicollet Post 150.

Pfleger, Merritt F., 86, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 15, 2017. He was a member of Alexandria Post 87.

Urban, Ronald F., 84, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 6, 2017. He was a member of the Chosin Few. He was a member of St. Paul Park Post 98.

Meyer, Maurice Frank, 91, Army veteran of World War II, died June 3, 2017. He served in Japan as a medical as- man. He was a member of North Branch Post 85.

Westermann, Dwight W., 74, Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 30, 2017. He served in Oregon and France. He was a member of Dent Post 148.

Rush, Kenneth A., 94, Army veteran of World War II, died June 6, 2017. He was a tech sergeant in the 82nd Airborne Division and served in Europe. He was a member of Nisswa Post 627.

Nordine, Donald S., 86, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 1, 2017. He served in Germany. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

Mjøen, Marlin D., 70, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 3, 2017. He was a clerk-typist. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 212.

Dirks, Peter A., 96, Navy veteran of World War II, died June 30, 2017. He served on a troop carrier in the Pacific with duty at Okinawa. He was a member of Amboy Post 276.

Ouellette, Donald Thomas, 85, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died June 24, 2017. He served on the USS Rendova (CVE-114) and was an atomic veteran. He was a member of Golden Valley Post 523.

Moe, Robert Lewis, 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 29, 2017. He worked in demolition and mine removal. He was a member of Dent Post 148.

Lodin, Robert W., 95, Army veteran of World War II, died July 21, 2017. He was a lieutenant who served in the 94th Division in Europe. He was a member of Richfield Post 435.
Hello American Legion Family,
My first Legionnaire letter to you all. I am very honored and humbled to be in this position. Thank you those of you that made this possible.
In my acceptance speech I stated my Legionnaire articles would be substantially shorter than in the past years. However with my first one, I have a lot to share with you. So this may take a little more space than I anticipated.
First off the project I have chosen for this year. I would like to garner $26,000. I will divide this amount between the five Veterans Homes in the state, and the Servicemen’s Center at the Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport. Any over and above that amount will go to the Department Office for their day to day operations of us working for our veterans.
This year’s symbol will be a Lighthouse. The theme this year will be “Lighting Veterans Paths”.
Another small project I have is to obtain the smaller L.E.D. flashlights. At every function I attend (and I sincerely hope there are many) I would like to pick up a few of those flashlights.
I will personally deliver them to the St. Stevens Outreach Group. These folks go out into the streets and offer supplies to the homeless that are sleeping in the streets and elements. Unfortunately as we all are aware many of them are our veterans.
I am attempting this year to shorten my letters, simply so that Department chairmen, unit members, and districts, will have more space to share their news and events. Please send pictures of events and a small caption of what that event was to the Auxiliary headquarters. As well as Department Chairmen, please send a shortened version of your unit mailing to the headquarters as well.
My travels so far have taken me to the Hopkins Post 320. While there I was honored to ride in a very nice convertible (thank you Carol C. (Sculthorpe) with the Honorary 10th District Junior President Emily Suess and the Department Honorary Junior President Courtney Rogat, came to its conclusion and became yet another page in the history of the American Legion Auxiliary. The annual Department Convention was held at the Shooting Star Casino in Mahnomen, hosted by The American Legion Post and Unit #31 of Mahnomen, approximately 240 Delegates, Alternates and Guests representing 110 Units hearing the various reports and conducting the business of the Auxiliary over the three days of the convention.
Our special congratulations to newly elected Department President Donna Arends, Department First Vice President Jean Walker, Department Second Vice President Mary Hendrickson, and Alternate National Executive Committee woman Raleen Tolzmann who assumed their duties at the close of the Department Convention.
Our newly elected Department President Donna has chosen “Lighting Veterans Paths” as her theme for the 2017-2018 Auxiliary year. Her symbol is a Lighthouse. The ratification and election of 30 delegates and 16 alternates to the 2017 National Convention in Reno, Nevada brought the business portion of the convention to a close. Carol Kottom will serve as our Delegation Chairman with Shirley Frederick representing us as our National Executive Committee woman.
Our appreciation and congratulations are given to Carol for her dedicated service as Department President this Auxiliary year. She travelled to all areas of the state and did her best to honor all of her invitations. Carol went non-stop all year while maintaining her weekly trek to St. Cloud to volunteer at the St. Cloud VAHCS.

SPECIAL THANKS
Our special thanks to Jean Horack, Auxiliary Convention General Chairman and all the members of the Mahnomen Unit and 9th District who helped make this a successful convention. Their many hours of planning were reflected in the smooth operation of our 98th annual convention.

AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE
At the Department Convention President Carol was most pleased to present her special "Presidents Awards of Excellence" to those Unit members in each of the following programs. These awards were based on the Unit’s annual report and the activities it carried on under the program. Each recipient was given a beautiful angel.
The recipients were:
Americanism – Diane Hayes, Detroit Lakes Unit 15, District 9
Children and Youth – Barbara Oakland, Hayfield Unit 330, District 1
History – Cindy Dickie, Waseca Unit 228, District 1
Junior Activities – Mary Efta, Argyle Unit 363, District 7
Legislation – Muriel Kallstrom, Browns Valley Unit 58, District 3
Public Relations – Chantelle Kiputh, Monticello Unit 260, District 8
Service to Veterans – Susan Soberg, Mound Unit 398, District 10
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation – Susan Soberg, Mound Unit 398, District 10

OTHER DEPARTMENT WINNERS
Our Department Poppy Chairman Karla Otterness, held two Poppy contests at the 2017 Department Convention. The following winners were announced.

Educational Poppy Poster Board
1st place – Betty Schlueter, Hutchinson Unit 96, District 3
2nd place – Sam Wickert, Delano Unit #377, 10th District
3rd place – Sandy Wersal, New London Unit #537, District 7

People’s Choice – Betty Schlueter, Hutchinson Unit 96, District 3

Poppy Centerpiece
1st place - Sam Wickert, Delano #377, 10th District
2nd place – Pam Gades & Pam Lubenow, Morris Unit #29, District 7
3rd place – Renea Snow, Grand Rapids Unit #60, District 8

People’s Choice – Sam Wickert, Delano Unit #377, 10th District.

DEPARTMENT APPOINTMENTS
The following Department President’s appointments for the 2017-18 Auxiliary year of “Lighting Veterans Paths” were approved by the Department Executive Committee:
Americanism – Joanie Krantz
Children and Youth – Diane Hayes
Community Service – Joanne Joachim
Constitution and Standing Rules – Marsha Bible
Department Education – Mary French
Finance – Beverly Ottersman, Chairman
Legislative – Carol Ackerman, Cheryl Schauman

TOP POPPY WINNER – Sam Wickert of Delano Unit 377 created this first place poppy centerpiece entry.
Auxiliary Bulletin

Continued from Preceding Page

Girls State – Patti Coleman, Chairman
Peggy Tesdahl, Director
Amelia Tesdahl, Educational Director
Joanie Krantz, Americanism
Sally Strasser, Committee Member
Zandra Kessler, Committee Member

Junior Activities – Tamara Opland

Leadership – Sandy Wersal
Legislation – Jean Walker
Membership – Mary Kuperus
Memorial/Chapel – Carol Holmgren
National Security – Jean Horack
Parliamentarian – Dee Dee Buckley
Past Presidents Parley – Linda Kropuenske
Poppy – Sharon Thiemecke
Public Relations – Robin Dorf
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation – Mary Hendrickson
Service to Veterans – Bonnie Wagner
Gift Shop – Vida Bacon, Chairman
Linda Deschene, Committee Member
Audit Committee – Louise Kleiboer, Chairman,
Lynn Spillman and Suzette Mauchnik

Special Appointments:
Auxiliary Emergency Fund – Cindy Nelson
Armed Forces Center – Chris Ronning.
Brain Science Foundation – Sue Nunnlee
Jill Mueller, Jessie Hoppe

Hospital/Home Representatives
Fargo VA – Lynette Andel
Fergus Falls Veterans Home – Doris LaFayette
Hastings Veterans Home – Darlene Wondra
Laverne Veterans Home – Jeanette Mertens
Minneapolis Veterans Home – Sandy Gibson
Minneapolis VA – Mary Ann Davis
Silver Bay Veterans Home – Phyllis Mealey
Sioux Falls VA – Naomi Hill
St. Cloud VA – Open.

Our best wishes to each of you as you assume the responsibilities of leadership that you have taken on through the programs and activities of the American Legion Auxiliary this 2017-2018 year.

LEGIONNAIRE AUXILIARY PAGES
Looking forward to the 2017-2018 year, let’s make a point to share some of the Unit Happenings, Big Events, and Big Ideas. Submit your photo and story to Sandie in the Department office, let’s share ideas and honor their service together. Items can be emailed to sandie@mnala.org or deptoffice@mnala.org. If you have reproductions from local newspapers, I do need their permission to reprint them. Don’t send newspaper clippings, but try to get the original photo so it will look good in the newspaper. It also makes it much easier if you email me pictures via the jpeg format. President Donna is asking for District and Unit arti-
cles this year.

We would encourage you to submit any changes or any-
thing you would like to see on the website. This is your site and we want to make it as useful as possible. If there is any event you would like posted to the Department calendar, please send an email to deptoffice@mnala.org or

2017 FALL CONFERENCE
Our annual Fall Conference will be held in Willmar, Minnesota, October 27-28, 2017. More detailed information will be in next month’s Legionnaire and on our Department website.

OFFICERS
Elections were held and appointments were ratified and following will be your Auxiliary for 2017/2018:

Department President Donna Arends
Department First Vice President Jean Walker
Department Second Vice President Mary Hendrickson
National Executive Committeewoman (2-year term) – Shirley Frederick
Alternate NEC Raileen Tolzmann
Department Secretary Sandi Deutsch
Department Treasurer Jan Lauby
Department Chaplain Carol Holmgren
Department Historian Karla Otterness
Department Parliamentarian Dee Dee Buckley
First District President Cheryl Nymann, Plainview Unit 179
Second District President Kristen Donnelly, Northrop Unit 522
Third District President Kat Benjamin, Chaska Unit 57
Fourth District President Lynn Olson, Rosemount Unit 542
Fifth District President Sonja Dauphin, Richfield Unit 435

2017 TOP OFFICERS – From left, front: 1st Vice President Jean Walker, Department President Donna Arends, 2nd Vice President Mary Hendrickson. In back: 1st District – Cheryl Nyman, 2nd District – Kristen Donnelly, 3rd District – Kat Benjamin, 4th District – Lynn Olson, 5th District – Sonja Dauphin, 6th District – Vicki Bibeau, 7th District – Karla Minnick, 8th District – Anna Eells, 9th District – Doreen Norgaard, 10th District – Jody Hassing.

WOMAN OF YEAR – Chris Ronning and President Carol Kottom present Neva Joy Hamann, Minnesota Lake Unit 287, with the 2017 Member of the Year.

435
Sixth District President Vicki Bibeau, Walker Unit 134
Seventh District President Karla Minnick, Spicer Unit 545
Eighth District President Anna Eells, Grand Rapids Unit 60
Ninth District President Doreen Norgaard, Bagley Unit 16
Tenth District President Jody Hassing, Bloomington Unit 550

These ladies have been elected to serve you for the upcoming Auxiliary year. You put them in office, please do not hesitate to contact any of them with questions and/or concerns.

THANK YOU
I am sure everyone knows what a fantastic job Carol Kottom did as our President for the 2016-2017 Auxiliary year but not everyone gets to put it in print. I have that privilege as I get to put this together every month. Carol, the most heartfelt thanks to a wonderful year serving with you – what an experience it was. Between arguing, laughing, hugging and just having a good old time, I don’t know how the year could slip away so fast. I wish you only the best and look forward to working together to provide for our Veterans and their families. You are truly the best – Secretary Sandie.

UPCOMING EVENTS
August 4-6 – Junior Fun Weekend – Legionville
August 12 – August Workshop and Department Executive Committee Meeting – Willmar Post
August 19 – 24 – National Convention – Reno, Nevada
August 24 – Sept 4 – Minnesota State Fair
September 4 – Labor Day – Department Office Closed
September 9 – Harvest Rally – Membership - Legionville

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HONORING KRIS NELSON – Past Department Presidents Lori Skallerud, Marie Goede and Chris Ronning honored the memory of Past National President Kris Nelson.
Tour Includes:
- Ole Smoky Moonshine Distillery tour
- Grand Ole Opry, Hatfield and McCoy
- Guided tour of Smoky Mountains National Park
- Dollywood Theme Park
- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- 7 nights accommodations
- Luggage handling for one suitcase per person
- 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Larry Alvey

Mexican Riviera Cruise
October 22-29, 2017
Tour Includes:
- 4 Seasons Tour Director, Sue Barber
- Roundtrip Delta flight from Minneapolis to New York City
- 4 nights at The Millennium Broadway Hotel in Times Square
- Broadway Musical
- Radio City Music Hall: “The Rockettes Christmas Spectacular”
- Manhattan Island City tour
- 9/11 Memorial and Museum
- Harbor cruise with lunch
- Lunch at Carmine’s
- Cruise Gratuities
- and pier
- All transfers to and from the airport
- Onboard professional wildlife tour guides
- Cruise on the Emerald Princess
- 4 nights accommodations, with 2 nights on the Riverwalk
- Luggage handling on the ship

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San Francisco
City by the Bay
October 19-24, 2017
Tour Includes:
- 4 Seasons Tour Director, Sue Barber
- 5 nights stay at the Holiday Inn Express and Suites, Fisherman’s Wharf
- Breakfast daily
- San Francisco City Tour and Muir Woods
- Visit to Alcatraz Island
- Sonoma and Napa Valley Wine Country Tour
- Yosemite National Park: Tourist Point of interest
- Luggage handling for one suitcase per person

New York City Tour
November 8-12, 2017
Tour Includes:
- 4 Seasons Tour Director, Sue Barber
- Roundtrip Delta flight from Minneapolis to New York City
- 4 nights at The Millennium Broadway Hotel in Times Square
- Broadway Musical
- Radio City Music Hall: “The Rockettes Christmas Spectacular”
- Manhattan Island City tour
- 9/11 Memorial and Museum
- Harbor cruise with lunch
- Lunch at Carmine’s
- New York City Tour
- 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Larry Alvey

Minnesota Twins Spring Training in Florida
March 8-18, 2018
Tour Includes:
- 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Cindy Meany
- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- 10 nights accommodations
- 18 meals: 10 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 7 dinners
- Anheuser Busch Brewery Tour, St. Louis, MO
- Rest of Nashville Guided tour
- Coca Cola Factory Tour, Atlanta, GA
- 2 Spring Training baseball games
- Luggage handling for one suitcase per person

San Francisco
City by the Bay
October 19-24, 2017
Tour Includes:
- 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Cindy Meany
- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- 11 Meals: 7 breakfasts, 4 dinners
- Hollywood Theme Park
- Nashville Highlights tour
- Guided tour of Smoky Mountains National Park
- Grand Ole Opry, Hatfield and McCoy
dinner show and Music Mansion
- General Jackson Showboat tour
- Ole Smoky Moonshine Distillery tour

Minnesota Historical Society
Celebrating 50 Years In Business!

Tour Includes:
- 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Cindy Meany
- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- 9/11 Memorial and Museum
- Lunch at Carmine’s
- Cruise Gratuities
- and pier
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