Joyous Tri-City players pile on after winning the Division I state American Legion baseball tournament.

Tri-City, Pierz win titles

Tri-City Red (New Brighton), the host team in this year’s Division I Tournament held in St. Paul, made their fans happy by winning the state Legion Baseball championship.

In Division II action at Spicer, Pierz won the state title. Tri-City and Ham Lake advanced to the national regional at Dickinson, N.D. where Tri-city won one game before bowing out and Ham Lake lost both its games in an effort to advance to the Legion World Series.

Pierz, however, moved onto the Central Plains Regional at Wahpeton, N.D., where they won the title. Pierz opened the regional with a victory, 6-4, over West Salem, Wis., and then shut out Park River, N.D., 8-0. The Minnesota team got trounced by Marysville, Kan., 8-0.

The Tony Sipe Outstanding Player was Noah Boser of Pierz who went 9-13 in the Division II Tournament with 12-3 in the final game of pool play, but still advanced to the championship bracket where they defeated Las Vegas, Nev., 5-0. West Salem fought its way back to the title game but fell to Pierz 5-3 in a rematch of the first game of the tournament.

There is no Division II national tournament. Pierz won the state title by first defeating Minneapolis Giantvalley 7-4 and host New London/Spicer 7-6 in pool play. In championship play, Pierz topped Caledonia 8-7 and then defeated Proctor 5-1.

The conference will be held Oct. 27-28 all under one roof. There will be shuttle service between the conference center, Willmar Legion Post 167, and the hotels in the Willmar area. Those who choose to stay at a hotel in Spicer will be responsible for their own transportation.

Those who have questions or concerns about the hosting center, Willmar Legion Post 167, and the hotels in the Willmar area. Those who choose to stay at a hotel in Spicer will be responsible for their own transportation.

A registration form is located on page 2 of this issue of the Legionnaire. A complete listing of hotels and contact information is located on the Minnesota American Legion website: mnlegion.org.

DuWayne Underthun, chairman of the conference, advises Legionnaires, Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion to let the hotels know if you have any special needs for your stay. There will be shuttle service between the conference center, Willmar Legion Post 167, and the hotels in the Willmar area. Those who choose to stay at a hotel in Spicer will be responsible for their own transportation.

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The conference should contact Underthun at 320-894-8991 or email at dbunderthun@gmail.com.

The Fall Conference is the Legion Family’s “school of instruction.” The conference will be held Oct. 27-28 all under one roof.

There are several motels in the area including The Best Western Plus, Holiday Inn and Express, Days Inn, Country Inn and Suites, AmericInn and Super 8. All hotel reservations must be made by the individual.

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Dr. Apostolos Georgopoulos

Dr. Apostolos Georgopoulos, the director of the Brain Sciences Center at Minneapolis VA Medical Center, received The American Legion’s highest honor at the Reno Convention, the Distinguished Service Medal. Georgopoulos has been the director since the center was created in 1991 using a grant from the Minnesota American Legion who raised over $1 million for the project. The center has done cutting edge research on seeing the effect of PTSD and other brain disorders on the brain. Georgopoulos paid tribute to Past National Commander Dan Ludwig who spearheaded the fundraising effort for the Minnesota American Legion. Georgopoulos is a native of Greece and he studied in America.

**Fall Conference to be held at Willmar**

Continued from Page 1

Miniature this year as they have for the past two years. There will also not be a formal event on Friday evening to meet the leadership of the Legion, Auxiliary and SAL.

The Auxiliary on Thursday night will feature sessions on Leadership, Membership and Public Relations with Sand Wersal, Mary Kuperus and Robin Dorf leading the sessions. The Auxiliary is also planning an American Legion Family Fund Game to replace the march of officers on Friday night. The event will feature the Department Commander, Department President, District Commanders, District Presidents, SAL and Legion Riders.

It will be held on Friday at 4:30 p.m. in the American Legion conference room. All are welcome to come and cheer on the competing teams. The Legion has not yet announced its plans for the Fall Conference.

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**Official Registration – Mail to:**
Legion Post 167 Fall Conference
220 19th Ave SW
Willmar, MN 56201

Pre-registration sliding fee:
- Registration received by 1 Oct: $15
- Registration after 1 Oct: $18
- Registration at event HQ: $20

Registration is for each person attending, with the exception of Junior SAL and Junior Auxiliary members. Please copy and send a separate form for each person. Make checks payable to: ‘Fall Conference Committee’

**PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY – NO CURSIVE**

**CONFERENCE DATES: 26-28Oct217**

**DISTRICT**
**POST**
**UNIT**
**SQUADRON**
**NAME** (This will be the name on your name badge)
**ADDRESS**
**CITY**
**STATE**
**ZIP**
**E-MAIL**
**CELLULAR PHONE**

**SPECIAL NEEDS OR CONSIDERATIONS**
(i.e. first floor room or elevator, specific equipment, handicap accommodations, etc.)

**ADDITIONAL PRE-REGISTRANTS:** A separate form is required for each additional registration accompanying this request. This form may be photocopied. The registration fee must be enclosed for each person (except Junior Aux.).

Local reproduction of this form is authorized.

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"FOR THE AMERICAN LEGION, I WILL."

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 Legionnaires and posts to say “For The American Legion, I Will” and contribute towards our Beginning 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.

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**ST. PAUL-MINNEAPOLIS MILITARY RELIC COLLECTOR SHOW**

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Endorsements

Hill endorsed for Sergeant-at-Arms post

Brewster American Legion Post 464 has endorsed Ryan Hill for Sergeant-at-Arms for the 2018-2019 year.

Hill enlisted in the Navy in February, 1968, and served four years on active duty and two years in the Reserves. He served on the USS Oriskany, CVA-34, for four tours to Vietnam and was discharged on 13 February, 1974.

Hill is a 40-year member of Brewster American Legion Post 464. He helped start the Brewster Sons of the American Legion Squadron and is a six-year SAL member there. He served as 2nd District Commander in 2015-2016, 2nd District 1st Vice Commander in 2014-2015, 2nd District Vice Commander from 2012-2014 and is currently 2nd District Legislation Chairman.

He served as a 4-H Leader while his children were in 4-H in the 1980s and 1990s. Hill served on the SDSP soybean crush plant at Volga South Dakota for 14 years, nine of those years as Public Relations Chairman.

He then served as an advisor to the MnSP startup at Brewster.

Hill and his wife, Naomi, have two children and two grandchildren, all of whom are American Legion Family members. He has farmed in the Brewster area all his adult life.

Legion ready to help hurricane victims

Heavy rain and severe flooding is ravaging Houston in the wake of Harvey, a category 4 hurricane that is affecting more than six million people, including American Legion Family members. And the Legion is ready to assist those in need.

The American Legion’s National Emergency Fund (NEF) provides immediate financial assistance to Legion Family members and posts affected by natural disasters such as tornadoes, hurricanes, wildfires and flooding. The fund provides up to $3,000 for qualified Legion Family members and up to $10,000 for posts.

The NEF covers expenses such as temporary housing, food, water, clothing and other daily household items.

In order to qualify for an NEF grant, an applicant must:

• Have been displaced from his or her primary residence due to a declared natural disaster.
• Provide copies of receipts of items required to meet immediate needs, such as temporary housing, food, water, clothing, diapers, etc.
• Be an active member of the Legion at the time of the disaster.

Nearly $9 million has been provided to Legion Family members and posts through the NEF since its inception. All contributions made to the NEF are used to meet urgent needs of Legion Family members.

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Depression, Anxiety, Trauma, TDIU
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City/State: ____________________________
Phone: _______ Birth Date: ________

MHS ad
I just returned from the National Legion Convention in Reno, Nevada, where history took place.

Denise Rohan of Wisconsin was elected as the first female National Commander in the history of the American Legion. I’m looking forward to serving with her during this next year.

With the Reno Convention now completed, that means Minnesota will be the host state for the next National Convention. A great deal of preparation for the 100th Convention has been completed, but there is something you and your post can do for me. Minnesota has a tradition of “massing the colors” for National Convention parades, and I would like to see your Post colors, as well as Old Glory, and get as close to 1,000 flags as you and I can manage for the next parade. I’m asking that you have a sight they won’t soon forget. How about Minnesota?

Each year the Department Commander selects a project to raise funds, and this year I’ve selected two things:

1) I find it important to me to use as a project, Boys State and Veteran Suicide Prevention. For Boys State, I seek to raise funds that will cover the necessary costs to attend the Boys State Program, where none are available to allow the student to attend. I can do anything I can to get students (our future voting citizens) to be aware of their part in our country’s future is well worth the effort. I’m hoping to raise at least $5,000 toward this part of my project.

Next is Veteran Suicide Prevention, and where I seek donations is for their “Emergent Needs Fund.” Donations will be used to support the many needs of homeless and indigent veteran families as they go through treatment to prevent possible suicide. Emergent Need Funds are available only after all other resources have been exhausted. Things funds can be used for include the following:

1) Transportation support - veterans are there as outpatients and inpatients and have no way to get home. Some cannot engage in the treatment programming because they don’t have money for transportation.

2) Personal needs - those veterans are often homeless and need everyday items.

3) Household goods.

4) Housing applications when transitioning to permanent housing.

5) Rental deposits, and utility bills to avoid disconnect.

6) Domestic violence - to help veterans who are escaping domestic violence, many with children.

These Emergent Need Funds are managed through the Voluntary Service Committee of VA and the process for identification & approval of requests. The Minneapolis & St. Cloud VA hospitals last year, even with all other venues, do not spend about $50,000 on emergentNeed Funds because I ask. I’m asking to raise at least $25,000 for this part of my project. Please, help with at least one of these projects if you can.

My theme for the year is “Learn from the Past, Mentor the Present, Prepare for the Future.” If we do not learn and remember our history we cannot prepare our children and future leaders, so as to prepare them for leadership positions in the American Legion? There will be a move to go beyond visiting our Guard and Reserve units this year, that being approaching the colleges and universities of Minnesota. Each state college and university has a veterans rep on campus that see the needs of veterans attending school. There are 30 colleges and 7 universities on 54 different Campus sites that have not been approached before that I’m aware of concerning the American Legion and what we can offer them.

Department Membership Director Larry Ryan is working out the details of this and which districts have which school within their boundaries. How many thousands of veterans are attending these schools that we can give information to concerning what we the American Legion as an organization do, its programs, and the many benefits of membership?

Since my election as Minnesota’s Commander, I’ve been busy to say the least; I’ll mention just a few of them. I attended the National Membership Workshop in Indianapolis with department officers, a Disabled Veteran fishing outing where a good time was had by the veterans and lots of fish were caught. They had the time of their lives that day, priceless it was. I attended the Stand Down at Ft. Snelling. Oh boy, Larry attended a meeting to make preparations for the future testimonial, which will be held on April 21st at Jackpot Junction near Redwood Falls. Please remember to have the date on your calendar. Membership Director and Department Vice Commanders are plotting something big for my demise at this event.

By Mike Schaffer

Guest Editorial

Let’s make a great convention in Minneapolis

By Jeff Olson

I am not really certain if you “make” a convention but I am confident that most of the convention ideas are getting excited about attending the convention in Minneapolis, August 24-30, 2018. Many are enthusiastic to celebrate the 100th convention and the 100th Convention has been completed, but there is something you and your post can do for me.

Minnesota is also one of the most heavily attended convention cities in the country. This is no surprise to Minnesotans. Who can beat the parks, the restaurants, the athletic facilities and, don’t forget, the feeling of home.

During the convention many events will take place. Certainly business will be done at our convention commission meeting, as well as the convention convention. There will be a parade held, most likely on Sunday afternoon with many Legionnaires, and members of the Legion family. Also, Minneapolis is a very high tourist city and possibly some college bands as well. Many military units will be included and it is simply a celebration of The American Legion and all it stands for in the American public display of patriotism.

Marching down Nicollet Mall, being viewed by the thousands of people on the mall and having a relaxing time at one of the many patio eateries is a real thrill. I hope you can make it.

After the parade we hope to have a party at the convention center where we can relax (rest), enjoy entertainment from the Craft Brewers Association, some food and listen to some of the many bands and musicians from the parade. Who knows what else could happen?

Tuesday the general session begins. The opening ceremony will feature the Minnesota National Guard Band and young people who have done great things for their country both in the military and in civilian life. This is truly an awe-some event and the talents shown by these fine young people give me great faith in the future of our nation. I hope that you can attend and share this inspiration.

Wednesday and Thursday are full of reports from our many commissions discussing resolutions and programs recommended for action by the convention. These resolutions set the future direction for The American Legion as an organization.

Thursday highlights include the election of a national commander to lead us for the next year culminating with the 100th anniversary celebration in Indianapolis, Indiana, in 2019.

So, you are probably asking, “What can I do to help make this convention?” Here are a few ideas for you:

First, putting on a convention costs money and some of those costs are the responsibility of The American Legion National Constitution Corporation of Minnesota. We are challenging every post in Minnesota to donate to the convention corporation. Small or large, every dollar will help make this convention a rousing success. Please make certain that your donation check clearly has the word “corporation” in the heading.

Second, all of you know of a business in your area that has historically supported veteran’s issues and causes. If you know of someone who does support the convention effort, we can send them a brochure with many different opportunities to participate and a return envelope for the check.

Third, if you are without volunteers, the Parade organization, registration staffing putting together packets for the 10,000 attendees and many others. You would be lending an invaluable service to the convention and we will get back to you.

Last, for this edition if you don’t really want to volunteer but would like to attend, please do so and bring your “Minnesota Nice.” Thank you for all you do and remember.

(Onslow is the chair of the National Convention Corporation of Minnesota.)

Chaplain’s Corner

By Ralph Schneekloth

Greetings to my fellow American Legion and American Legion Family members. September 11, 2001, 16 years ago, 2996 people have now been identified as being lost in that tragedy. We need to pause and remember those killed and wounded on that day. It truly was a terrible day, one that has left the country to reflect, remember all of our service brothers and sisters who answered the call and serve our nation. We cannot forget the families who lost loved ones. It is important to support Veterans Affairs and rehabilitation. We take 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, for your service and the jobs you perform are very valuable and necessary.

In closing, thank you to all who have wished me recovery from recent interference. It is very much appreciated. Also as Chaplain I would pray that we may all be safe in our travels, and may your hearts be pure and that we might continue to support those who need help. Also as Chaplain I would pray that we may all be safe in our travels, and may your hearts be pure and that we might continue to support those who need help. We need to pause and remember those killed and wounded on that day, for those still serving, along with their families. I would personally like to say “Thank you” to all who serve, from top to bottom, for your service and the jobs you perform are very valuable and necessary.

Chaplain’s Corner

For the American Legion
December 23, 1776.

These are the times that try men’s souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands for it now deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; and this is perhaps the saddest truth that ever confronted us. It is true, we cannot allow ourselves to tire in doing good, that which is taking care of our veterans. It is true, we cannot allow ourselves to tire in doing good, that which is taking care of our veterans. It is true, we cannot allow ourselves to tire in doing good, that which is taking care of our veterans.

By Mike Schaffer

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The Minnesota Legionnaire

First published in 1920 as the Hennepin County Legionnaire, the Minnesota Legionnaire is now in its 8th year of publication. It is published quarterly by The American Legion. Department of Minnesota, Room 300A, 20 West 12th Street, Its printing and postage is paid at St. Paul, MN, and at additional mailing offices. The Legionnaire is a member of the Minnesota Newspaper Association and American Legion Blue Ribbon Program. Periodicals postage is paid at St. Paul, MN.

SUBSCRIPTION: $10 for non-members. Members receive it without charge as part of their dues.

PHONE: 651-251-1800, 866-259-9163, FAX: 651-251-1057

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POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to The Minnesota Legionnaire, 20 W. 12th Street, St. Paul, MN 55105-2000, (USPS No. 013-679.) (ISSN No. 1644270)
**What's Happening**

**Harvest Rally**
The Harvest Rally will be held at Legionville on Saturday, Sept. 20, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event will include a full bar, pull-tabs, bingo, live music, movie night and camp fires. The rally will feature the St. Cloud Steak Fry on Thursday; the SAL breakfast, SAL lunch and 10th District Pork Roast Dinner on Friday; and the SAL softball game (by ticket only) and the SAL hot dog and hamburger dinner on Saturday; SAL omlet breakfast on Sunday.

**Legionville Camp-O-Ree**
The 48th Annual Camp-O-Ree at Legionville will be held Sept. 7-10 at the camp on North Long Lake near Brainerd.

**Round Table**
The September meeting of the World War II History Round Table will be held at the Fort St. Henry Club in Montevideo.

**Legion Story**
The Minnesota Historical Society will be presenting a series of forgotten World War I era stories about individuals and organizations that changed America. The event will be held at the Minnesota Veterans' Memorial in downtown St. Paul. Cost is $16 per person, $12 for members.

**SAL seeking Hunters**
The Sons of the American Legion will be holding the annual Sanborn/Zagorski Memorial Disabled Veteran Deer Hunt from Sept. 29 to Oct. 1. The SAL are looking for disabled veterans interested in participating. Applications can be found online at sal.org, or on the page or by contacting Dave Vulcan, 507-380-5095. Applications are due Sept. 15.

**Fall Bomber’s Moon Ball**
The annual Fall Bomber’s Moon Ball will be held Saturday, Sept. 9, at Fleming Field in St. Paul. Doors will open at 6 and the dance will start at 7 with dancing from 8 until midnight. Cost is $17 at the door or $14.50 online.

**Carver County Fund Raiser**
The Carver County Veterans Memorial and Registry will have a fund raiser and silent auction on Thursday, Nov. 2, at 6 p.m., with the social hour beginning at 5 p.m. It will be held at the Event Center in Waconia. The event will feature a dinner followed by a guest speaker. Gen. Johanna Clyborne. Entertainment will be provided by TC Swing and music will be by the Roseville Big Band. There will be food, and prizes for the best World War II era dress.

**St. Cloud Ribbon Cutting**
A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held for the new resident dining facility at the St. Cloud VA Medical Center on Monday, Sept. 11, at 2 p.m. The new building features a larger dining room and enhanced food prep areas. It is also closer to the veterans it serves. Parking is at the Building 11 lot.

**Town Hall Meeting**
Veterans served by the St. Cloud VA Health Care System are invited to attend the Vulnerable Veteran Focus Group (VVF) in Montevideo. It will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 19, at 5 p.m. It will provide veterans with an opportunity to hear from and question experts. Four experts are scheduled to present, including VA staff, a former national commander, and a representative from the Department of Justice. A 4 p.m. session can talk about VA health care enrollment with a County Veterans Service Officer.

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As I sit in my room contemplating the end of the national convention, I'd like to reflect back on the impact that we as members of The Sons of The American Legion have had. All the SAL in the nation contributed to the largest donation by the SAL to the Child Welfare Fund, an amount of over $600,000. We also visited the injured in VA Hospitals and Veterans Homes, saluted deploying troops, comforted and helped their families, provided their children with Joshy Dogs to comfort them until their parent came back home. We have participated on Honor Guards to welcome our troops homes, whether it was a joyous or somber moment. We have participated in the Legacy Run, and contributed to help the children of our fallen or disabled troops. I could probably fill this entire article with the actions of so many within this great organization that have done something to help others, either directly, or indirectly. And all it took was to step forward and say, I can help. For that, all I can say is it repeat Past National Commander Jeff Fram's remark at the end of his term (a remark like so many others when we are humbled by what The Sons of The American Legion can do) and simply say, Thank you.

But time continues, and we must continue the work that we do. For all those who have gotten their Squadron Officer report forms in, Thank you. If your Squadron has not submitted that form yet, do so immediately even if the officers have not changed from last year. We need to confirm who you are, and how to get in contact with you. Also include your dues amount so that if we get inquiries about joining your squadron, we can give them the amount, and your contact information.

The SAL storage shed is going up at Legionville. Dave Vulcan has worked hard to gather the funds needed to buy the materials and make a solid structure built on good foundations that can be used for years. Now we need volunteers to help set it up. Please contact him if you would like to help.

Camporee is coming up, along with the Harvest Rally. I look forward to seeing you there. Tickets are available from your American Legion District Commander. The John Zygier Memorial Dirigible Veterans Deer Hunt is taking applications for the hunt at the end of September. Applications can be found on the website – (MNSAL.org), Facebook, or by contacting Dave Vulcan.

I am accepting money for my Commander's project. In fact, a number of SAL members slumped money in my hand when I talked about it during the MN ALR Legacy Run. All I ask is for $5 from every SAL member. That is all. It is the price of a pack of smokes, or a fancy coffee. At the end, the money will be given to The American Legion Legacy Scholarship, The MN ROTC Scholarship, and the American Legion Family Hospitalization Association.

Our membership has not changed from last year. We need to confirm who you are as a member of the SAL, and I look forward to seeing what amazing things you will do this coming year.

**Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation**

By Ron Quade, Director American Legion/MDVA Claims Division

Pre-Hearing Conference Update

Members of the Claims Division are at the cutting edge of Advocacy at a local, State, Federal and National level. In previous segments you learned about MDVA and American Legion Claims Division involvement in the program named Pre-Hearing Conference (PHC). We have an exciting report on program and progress made, developments and changes in qualifications.

In 2015 MDVA Claims Director (Quade) was contacted by American Legion National Claims Director (Hearn) to discuss participating in the Regional Office Power of Attorney (POA) Offices would communicate directly with BVA Judges to determine cases most easily granted or denied. POA Offices would communicate directly with BVA Judges to determine cases most easily granted or denied. BVA Judges to determine cases most easily granted or denied. By Ron Quade, Director American Legion/MDVA Claims Division.

Membership Chart, as of Aug. 24, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>2018 Goal</th>
<th>Total 2018</th>
<th>Total 2017</th>
<th>Weeks Gain</th>
<th>Total Posts</th>
<th>Goal Posts</th>
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<td>District 1</td>
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<td>8,895</td>
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**TOP DOCTOR RECOGNIZED – The VA Physician of the Year was recognized by the Department’s Rehabilitation Committee. Dr. Amy Candy Heinlein of the Minneapolis VA Medical Center was chosen for her work with veterans. From left, front: Committee Member Darrel Reddenepoch; Commander Mike Schaffer; Department Service Officer Jeremy Wolfsteller. In back: Julie Larsen; Assistant Department Service Officer Heather Larson; Dr. Heinlein; Committee Chairman Wilson Spence; Committee Member Roy Bresler. Dr. Heinlein was honored at the Department Convention held in Mahnomen. This is the first time the award has been given.**

Greetings American Legion Family, Wow! Can you believe that $200,000.00 raised in the Department of Minnesota Legacy Fund. This year's ride set a few records. At the start in Walker we had a record number of riders registered and to go without saying there was a record number of motorcycles registered. Hats off to Hoops, Gary Kennedy and their incredible group as they assembled one heck of a kickoff party. Over $11,000.00 was raised by the Walker community. Stops each day brought out large numbers of folks from the local areas. We were escorted by local police, sheriff and fire departments. Some escorts included the local MNALR chapter. We even had an escort into one city, Owatonna, by a vehicle called a Hack. The Hack is older than anyone on the ride and is a combination of a later 1800s stagecoach mounted on a Model T chassis. In the end Jeremy and the folks in Delano gave us a world class stand down party. Well the 2017 Department of Minnesota Legacy Ride is in the books and we are starting on the 2018 Ride. Please contact your local chapter if you would like to be a part of the 2018 ride.

At various times we had the Department of Minnesota Legion Commander Mike, Auxiliary President Donna, SAL Detachment Commander Shawn and Honorary Junior President Courtney on the ride. This truly is the American Legion Family at work and having fun together, as a family should. A young lady also introduced us to a new motto which we repeated many times over and if you were a non believer before the ride I hope you have become a believer now. "If you believe, you will achieve.” Thank you Judy for these fine words of wisdom.

Coming up we have the fall Camp-O-Ree and the Riders Ropit both being held at Legionville on back-to-back weekends. I hope to see as many of you there as possible as a good time will be had by all. Speaking for the Riders, there will be our fall meetings, a special first aide class tailored to the Riders and fun and games for all. Hope to see you there.

Keep the rubber side down and the chrome side up.

**Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation**

By Ron Quade, Director American Legion/MDVA Claims Division

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Our membership has not changed from last year. We need to confirm who you are as a member of the SAL, and I look forward to seeing what amazing things you will do this coming year.
The tournament will revert to a Thursday-Sunday schedule topping host Fargo Post 2, 13-4.

Edina went on to win the Mid-States Junior tournament by Bird Partridge and Carl Renalls participated in honoring the famous in the baseball movie, "A Field of Dreams." Growing up in Chisholm, he delivered the newspaper to American Legion Baseball Hall of Fame. "I love to teach baseball. It is America's Pastime."

Ballplayers in attendance, "Let’s carry on this great game of baseball in the United States."

Kalata, who is the team manager for Tri-City Red, was this year’s host committee for the tournament. He said the "fun" aspect of minor league baseball in St. Paul is "the way we market baseball in the United States."

Earlier in the program, Bob Klefsaas of Eastview was inducted into the American Legion Baseball Hall of Fame. "I love to teach the game of baseball," he said. He noted that in his days of growing up in Chisholm, he delivered the newspaper to Moonlight Graham, a Chisholm doctor who was made famous in the baseball movie, "A Field of Dreams."


STATE CHAMPIONS, DIVISION II -- Tri-City Red (New Brighton) won the Minnesota American Legion Division II Baseball Tournament held at St. Paul. The team was the host of the tournament. From left, front: John Solfest, Joey Lawson, Matthew Herold, Erik Holloman, Ryan Nickel, Channing Cole, Jeff LeMay and Ian Bahn. Back row: Coach Jake Hanszik, Ben Jepko, Adam Davidson, Trevor Stephan, Ty Koehn, Ross Indlecoff, Matthew Laursen, Justin Langer, Riley Flanagan, Scott Kalthoff, Coach Nik Anderson.

Noah Boser stroked his third home run of the tournament in the championship game to lead Pierz over Proctor at the Division II Tournament at New London/Spicer. Boser won the Tony Sipe Outstanding Player Award.

Legion Baseball 2017

Ham Lake’s Seth Miller delivered a pitch at CHS Field in St. Paul. Miller was named the tourney’s top pitcher.

Waconda shortstop Robbie Smith turns a double play as Tri-City’s Joey Lawson slides in.

Springfield’s Decker Scheffler scores the winning run vs. Caledonia to win the Division II third place game.

American Legion Riders took time out from their Legacy Run to line the infield at Spicer on Saturday as Maren Van Meter sang the National Anthem.
The 1999 Tri-City Red team gathered on the infield before a game at CHS Field. This band of brothers won the World Series and set a national record for home runs.

Tri-City Red's Ross Indlecoff slams a hit to left field at CHS Field. Indlecoff was named the outstanding player of the Division I tournament.

Mike Perry's granddaughter Sophie lent her arm to the medals presentation.

Legendary Legion pitcher Rob Wassenaar presented the top pitcher award to Ham Lake's Seth Miller.

Past National Commander Dan Ludwig cheered on the finalists at CHS Field.

Post members from Montevideo were at New London.

Speakers

- PAT DOLAN, SCSU
  Division II speaker

- BOB KLEFSAAS
  Coach of the Year

- MIKE VEECK
  Keynote speaker

- RON NENOVICH
  Hall of Fame

- DENISE MILTON
  Department Commander

- MIKE PERRY
  State Director

- MIKE PERRY
  State Director

- BOB KLEFSAAS
  Coach of the Year
Minnesota’s 2017 - 2018 Leadership Team

MIKE SCHAFFER
Fulda
COMMANDER

ROSEMARY NIESEN
Cologne
VICE COMMANDER

STEVESKLINKNER
Madelia
VICE COMMANDER

DAN WILLIAMS
Vadnais Heights
VICE COMMANDER

ERIC WILKENS
Detroit Lakes
VICE COMMANDER

BILL STUMP
St. Louis Park
VICE COMMANDER

LARRY RYAN
Oakdale
MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

GLENN MUELLER
St. Charles
HISTORIAN

RALPH SCHNEEKLOTH
Mabel
CHAPLAIN

GARYLEE DAVENPORT
Atwater
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

LES SHAUNCE
Albert Lea
DIST. 1 COMMANDER

RANDY OLSON
Winnebago
DIST. 2 COMMANDER

GENE LEIFELD
Zumbrota
DIST. 3 COMMANDER

LANE STUNKEL
St. Paul
DIST. 4 COMMANDER

WALTER LYNDSELEY
Minneapolis
DIST. 5 COMMANDER

KEN JOHNSTONE
St. Cloud
DIST. 6 COMMANDER

RICHARD WOG
Willmar
DIST. 7 COMMANDER

DONOVAN GOBLIRSCHE
Gilbert
DIST. 8 COMMANDER

TIM HAUGEN
Moorhead
DIST. 9 COMMANDER

PAUL HASSING
Montgomery
DIST. 10 COMMANDER
Mike Schaffer
Department Commander
2017-2018

Mike Schaffer, 66, of Fulda, Minnesota, was elected Department Commander of the Minnesota American Legion at the organization’s annual convention in July 2017. He will serve a one-year term.

Schaffer has been active in The American Legion for 44 years, holding a number of officer positions at the post, district, Department and National levels.

He was commander of Currie Post 322 twice, was Second District Commander in 1998-99, and Department Membership Director in 2007-08. He also was a Department Vice Commander and Sergeant-at-Arms. He served on numerous committees and was chairman of Trophies and Awards and Children and Youth.

He has been an assistant Sergeant-at-Arms at many national conventions, and currently serves on the National Security Committee. He is a dual member of the Sons of the American Legion.

Schaffer served in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War, and was stationed in Alaska and in the Philippines.

He was employed by the U.S. Postal Service as a rural mail carrier for over 23 years, retiring in 2015.

He and his wife, Nina, 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 mentoring in the present to prepare 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.

Donna Arends
Department President
2017-2018

Donna Arends is 29-year member of The American Legion Auxiliary at the Austin F. Hanscom Unit 167 Willmar. She is eligible through her late father William Somerville, a World War II Army veteran.

In her unit, she has been the Juniors’ Chairman for 20 years and served as President of her unit for a two-year term and again for a one-year term.

Arends has held many offices in the 7th District. She was 7th District President 2008-2009. Along with that on the District level she has served as chairman of Community Service twice, Membership three times and the Juniors.

On the Department level she has held chairmanships on Children and Youth twice, Girls State Committee for three years, Membership and Legislation Committees. In recent years she has gone through the chairs as Second Vice President, First Vice President and today is the Department President.

Her theme this year is “Lighting Veterans Paths” with the lighthouse as her symbol. Her project this year is to garner $26,000 to be divided equally between the five Minnesota Veterans Homes and the Armed Forces Service Center at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. Any remaining funds will go to the Department office for their day to day duties to help us serve our veterans.

A smaller project is to collect the small LED flashlights. She will personally deliver them to the St. Steven’s Outreach group for the homeless on the streets and in the elements. Unfortunately many of these folks are our veterans.

Arends is planning an educational year filled with fun to grow our American Legion Family.
Minnesota delegates celebrated on the stage after presenting a check for $200,000 to the Legacy Scholarship Fund. The money was raised by the Minnesota American Legion Riders during two Legacy Runs this summer. Minnesota’s donation was by far the largest of the convention. National Commander Charles Schmidt is in front.

President Donald Trump spoke to the convention and then signed a bill that will improve the appeals process in the VA medical system. Legion dignitaries gathered around the president as he showed off the bill.

The presentation of colors by Past National Commander Dan Ludwig to Commander Denise Rohan was captured on the big screen.

Past Department Commander Denise Milton passed the gavel to Commander Mike Schaffer at the caucus.

National Commander’s Banquet performer Neal McCoy was given a Legion pin on the stage by Nina Schaffer, the wife of the Department Commander.
National Executive Committeeman Marland Ronning and Delegation Chair Denise Milton presented Schmidt with a check for Operation Comfort Warriors.

Minnesotans chowed down on country fried chicken at the Minnesota Party held at the Peppermill Resort and Casino, the home for the Minnesota Delegation.

Minnesota Department Commander Mike Schaffer and his wife Nina attended the National Commander’s Banquet at the Reno Convention Center.

Past Department Commander Denise Milton and her husband, Past Department Commander Dennis Henkemeyer, attended the Commander’s Banquet.

Ferdie Haberman of Brewster marched in his 53rd national parade in Reno.

Minnesota carried on the tradition of massing flags during the annual parade. The delegation marched under the famous Reno arch which declares Reno as the biggest little city in the world.

ANIVICUS Vice President Dan Ludwig welcomed Sylvan Fox and Darrel Redepenning to the honorary national group.
National Convention
Continued from Page 1
Trump praised his hosts. “The American Legion embodies the spirit of patriotism. That is the true source of our strength and the hope for a future where we cherish our values and you defend our great American flag.” He promised to keep working at improving the service at the VA. He praised the VA’sihn appeal, that the two lanes for veterans to the goal of the bill will be to shorten appeals times from an average of five years to about 125 days.
In other news at the convention:
— Brig. Gen. Kevin Vereen, the Army's top recruiter, said that over 70 percent of the youth in America do not qualify to enter the military. The main problem is obesity. He said that over 70 percent of the youth in America do not qualify to enter the military. The main problem is obesity.
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— Secretary of Labor R. Alexander Acosta touted a new veterans apprenticeship program. He said that one of four jobs in the U.S. require a license, but barring many veterans are who otherwise qualified for a position. These licenses often create privileged class. He said such licenses should be honored in all states.
— The American Legion Patriot Award went to Dr. Robert Gates, the former Secretary of Defense. He said, “We are defined by our shared humanity, our citizenship, our love of country, and you defend our great American flag.”

August DEC meeting
Continued from Page 1
— Re-elected Joe Bayer of Minneapolis to a three-year term on the Board of Publications.
— Established an ad hoc committee to be a liaison to women veterans.
— Commander Mike Schaffer appointed Paul Connor of Eagan to a three-year term on the Education Committee. He said that the goal for the organization this year is 12,000 members. He said his projects for the year are Legacy scholarships, ROTC scholarships and the Family Housing Association.
— Was asked by Department Adjutant Randy Tesdahl to make sure the posters provided by the Department to promote the 100th convention in Minneapolis next year are displayed in the post homes and other places.
— Leland from Membership Director Larry Ryan that the Department’s membership goal for 2017-18 is 72,500 members. “It’s doable. We want to walk into that conven- tion in August and say we did it.” Ryan said the department saw a 34.5 percent increase in membership this year, and they made a side bet with Wisconsin on membership percentage for the year, and the losing membership director has to wear the uniform to a football game.
— Bill Barkneck will again serve as chair of the Legionnaire Insurance Trust Committee. Garylee Park, and Irv Tooker, Walker were also appointed.
— Jeff Miller of Bismarck was appointed to a three-year term on the Baseball Committee. John Torma was named chairman of the Bowling Committee. Bob Mace, Waite Park, and Iris Tosker, Walker were also appointed.
— Don Pankake of Hutchinson was named to a two-year term as representative on the VAVB 2018 committee. Jim Kellogg of Taopi and Denise Milton of Bagley were named to the 100th Anniversary ad hoc committee.
— Schaffer announced that he was not appointing the Youth Cadet Law Enforcement chairman at this time.

Districting Service Medal
— Dr. Apostolos Georgopoulos, director of the Brain Sciences Center at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center, won the Legion’s highest honor at the convention. He said that the American Legion is the brain science.
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Greetings from the First District. We’re off to a good start. We are off the Goose Egg. Thanks to everyone in the district for a job well done. Congratulations to Mike Schaffer for being elected the new Department Commander for the 2017-2018 year. Department Commander Schaffer picked Larry Ryan as his Membership Director. Congrats also to the rest of Mike’s team.

I’m sure they will have a great year.

Elk River Post# 112 hosted our first Department Executive Board meeting and Membership Training, August 5th. There was a good turnout and a very informative meeting was presented. Thanks for being a great host.

The Division was held in Reno Nevada from August 22nd thru the 24th. More on the convention next month.

The Legionville Camp-o-ree will be held September 7th thru the 10th. This year it is going to be a great event, always a great time, let’s fill the camp ground. The Harvest Rally will be held in conjunction with the camp-out beginning with membership turn-in from 3:00 to 4pm and program at 4:30pm with a meal to follow.

My theme this year is Together as One. The theme is two fold, First let’s make any difference which veterans organization you belong to, that we are all veterans united, together as one. Second the American Legion Family is a united organization, together as one.

The ALR is very busy with their Legacy Run. They are well on their way to their goal of $200,000. Let’s make sure to support this program and see the Legacy Run reach their goal.

My project this year is a covered six passenger golf cart for the new Veterans Cemetery, located at Preston, Mn. The cart would be used to ferry families to graves sites and around the cemetery. Any donation would be greatly appreciated.

God Bless our Troops and God Bless America.

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Greetings American Legion Family from the “Solid 2nd District!” Exciting news coming from the National Convention in Reno. President Donald Trump’s visit was very emotional. I hope the Bill the First District Convention was a huge accomplishment for all of us Veterans.

Congratulations to the newly elected National Commander Denise Rehan, National President Diane Dubeau, Department Commander Danvynne Donovan, Secretary where we look forward to working together with these great leaders. Our national American Legion Family in 3D.

Membership started slow off because of me and my Commanders Letter to all of the members, as I have a new Department Commander for the 2017-2018 year. New Department Commander Schaffer picked Larry Ryan as his Membership Director. Congrats also to the rest of Mr. Schaffer’s team. I’m sure they will have a great year.

Elk River Post# 112 hosted our first Department Executive Board meeting and Membership Training, August 5th. There was a good turnout and a very informative meeting was presented. Thanks for being a great host.

The Division was held in Reno Nevada from August 22nd thru the 24th. More on the convention next month.

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Greetings to the incredible members of the Fabulous 4th District. At our last RCCC, we came together to discuss issues that members see within the 4th, some of the conversations were very heated and spirited. I really saw the passion that the district has on several issues, we learned a lot and now it is up to us to make those changes happen. To all who attended the RCCC, I thank you for your input. Let’s try to have more family members attend the upcoming RCCC’s, at least 6 per Post (Legionnaire’s, Auxiliary, SAL, and ALR). To those who didn’t attend I look forward to seeing you at the 934th Family Day – Thank you, and a Special Thank You to SMgT Haider for making this possible for the American Legion Family to attend.

Upcoming Events:
September 6th, 4th District SAL Meeting at N St Paul Post 39, 6PM
September 7th – 10th, Camp-O-Ree at Legionville
September 9th, Harvest Rally at Legionville, Membership 1PM
September 16th, Corn and Brat Feed, N St Paul Post 39, Noon – 4PM
September 17th, Fall BBQ at Rosetown Post 542, Noon – 5PM
September 17th, VA Hospitalization 12 Noon
October 22nd, Jewish War Veterans Pancake Breakfast at Arcade Phalen Post 577, 9AM–Noon
October 27th, Fall Festival, Willmar
4th District Family Members, if your Post is having an event please let me know, let’s try to attend all or at least some of the events. I’m supporting each other, our District Family will get stronger.

Greetings to the entire American Legion family of the great State of Minnesota! We are looking forward to a very productive 2017-2018 year for the Sixth District and the Department of Minnesota.

With the Department convention and the first Executive Board meeting behind us, it is time to move forward and accelerate work on Legion membership, as well as other Legion programs.

Our Sixth District leadership has been busy: We conducted two School of Instruction training sessions in August. I thank Sauk Centre and Pequot Lakes Legion Posts for hosting these events. We are especially grateful for the volunteer instructors who presented valuable information and led great discussions. We have also planned three revitalization events across the District, to assist our Posts in successfully conducting their membership drives.

With the Legionville CAMP-O-REE just around the corner, September 7th – 10th, I hope to see a LOT of you there. The legacy ride is a perfect example of what can happen when the entire American Legion Family works together for a cause. Great job every one.

As of Membership Bulletin #7, (Aug. 16) the 8th District is at 45.25% of goal. It is important to bring in as many members as we can to join the American Legion. Happy Veterans.

 Congratulations to the newly elected National Commander Randy Olson, SECOND DISTRICT Commander Ken Johnstone, SIXTH DISTRICT Commander Lane Stunkel, FOURTH DISTRICT Commander Donovan Goblirsch, EIGHTH DISTRICT Commander Paul Hassing, TENTH DISTRICT Commander!

Greetings from Minnesota Legionnaire.

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Taylor, Vernon Williams, 83, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 14, 2017. He was a member of Alexandria Post 87.

Hubbard, Robert O., 97, Army veteran of World War II, died July 17, 2017. He was a member of Alexandria Post 87.

Foruth, George, 96, Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 2, 2017. He served as a medic in the Pacific and participated in the invasions of Saipan, Iwo Jima, Guadalcanal and Guam, earning a Bronze Star. He was a member of Waseca Post 229.

Illes, Jerome H., 84, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 5, 2017. He was a member of Payneville Post 274.

Elison, Raymond W., 92, Army veteran of World War II, died July 1, 2017. He served in the Third Infantry Division in France, England and Germany. He was a member of Roseau Post 24 and a past commander of Milan Post 359.

Flury, Darrol George “Buzz,” 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 22, 2017. He was a past membership chairman of Dodge Center Post 384.

Hagen, Christopher, 85, veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 2, 2017. He was a member of Waseca Post 228 and a former member of New Richland Post 75.

Menk, Dennis, 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 15, 2017. He served in the Signal Corps. He was a member of Franklin Post 308.

Klepsa, Robert D., 67, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 25, 2017. He was a squad leader in C Company, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, 501st Airborne. He was a member of Mora Post 201.

Nelson, Aymer E., 77, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 14, 2017. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Hansen, Gerald D., 96, Army veteran of World War II, died July 1, 2017. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Hagen, Larry, 77, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 23, 2017. He was a member of Korea. He was a member of Middle River Post 444.

Schutz, Eugene, 69, Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, died Aug. 3, 2017. He was a member of Cold Spring Post 455.

Hueth, Lorraine F. (Jochims), 93, Navy veteran of World War II, died July 23, 2017. She was a pharmacist’s mate in the WAVES at Shoemaker Hospital in California. She was a member of Round Lake Post 461.

Wockovich, Walter G., 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 10, 2017. He served in the 164th Infantry Division. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

Buysse, Vincent, 92, Navy veteran of World War II, died July 23, 2017. He was in the Seabees serving as a carpenter’s mate second class at Pelucia. He was a member of Marshall Post 113.

Johnson, Raymond, 84, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 5, 2017. He was a member of Marshall Post 113.

Goergen, Jerome Paul, 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 10, 2017. He was a member of Austin Post 91.

Jensen, Hiram Jens, Jr., 89, Navy veteran of World War II, died Aug. 10, 2017. He was a member of Austin Post 91.

Plutowski, Raymond J., 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 8, 2017. He was a paratrooper. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

Aasen, Bert Norman, 84, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 28, 2017. He was a combat engineer and a military policeman. He was a member of Underwood Post 489.

Wilson, Donald Lee “Smasher,” 71, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 23, 2017. He served with the HHB Second Battalion, 41st Infantry, Second Armored Division at Fort Hood. He was commander of Grand Marais Post 413 for over 32 years.

Stanek, Stanley “Bud,” 93, Marine Corps veteran of World War II, died July 20, 2017. He was a member of Caledonia Post 191.

Ferguson, Lloyd L., 90, Merchant Marine and Navy veteran of World War II, died July 31, 2017. He was the bugler for the color guard at Austin Post 91.

Miller, Dale Allen, 85, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 4, 2017. He was a member of Milaca Post 178.

Meyer, Richard, 80, National Guard and Army veteran of the Korean and Vietnam Wars, died July 12, 2017. He served until 1994 earning the rank of chief warrant officer 4. He was a past commander and longtime adjutant of Audubon Post 339.

Sigrist, Kenneth Stanley, 96, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died July 21, 2017. He was an aircraft mechanic with the 494th Fighter Squadron in Europe. He was a member of Pine Island Post 184.

Rolland, Lawrence Charles, 73, National Guard veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 7, 2017. He was a member of Milroy Post 274.

Runtzel, Walter, 92, Army veteran of World War II, died July 5, 2017. He served in the Pacific. He was a member of Hectar Post 135.

Sonstegard, Harold, 87, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died July 11, 2017. He was a member of New London Post 537.

Haag, Martin A., 78, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 25, 2017. He was a member of Waconia Post 150.

Lohse, Kenneth Arvid, 89, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 24, 2017. He was a surgical tech. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 212.

Frank, Glenn, 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 26, 2017. He was a paratrooper in the 11th Airborne Division. He was a member of Lake City Post 110.

Morris, Richard D., 69, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 24, 2017. He was a member of the Claremont Post 422.

Gebhart, William, 88, Army veteran of World War II, died July 23, 2017. He served in Korea. He was a member of Cold Spring Post 455.

Peters, Arnold, 89, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 21, 2017. He served at Fort Carson, Colorado. He was a member of Lake City Post 110.

Hanson, Ralph Anthony, 75, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Aug. 10, 2017. He was commander of Chaska Post 57 seven times.

Nelson, Aymer E., 104, Army veteran of World War II, died July 30, 2017. He enlisted at age 30 and was at Omaha Beach on D-Day, and fought in the Battle of the Bulge. He was in the 81st Chemical Mortar Battalion. He was a member of Upsala Post 350.

Schiller, Robert, 92, Army veteran of World War II, died July 10, 2017. He served in Europe. He was a member of the honor guard at St. James Post 33.

Paul, Edwin Richard, 89, Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 12, 2017. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Kittelson, Howard, 78, Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War, died Aug. 21, 2017. He was a member of St. Paul Park Post 98.

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

Nelson, Harlan L., 83, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 16, 2017. He was a member of Willmar Post 167.

Christensen, Richard C., 91, Navy veteran of World War II, died July 22, 2017. He was a member of Willmar Post 167.

Hansen, Lawrence, 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 18, 2017. He was a member of Cold Spring Post 455.

Fandel, Michael P., 83, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 18, 2017. He was a member of Cold Spring Post 455.

Eckblad, Stuart Nord, 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 19, 2017. He was awarded two Bronze Stars.

Bisek, Ralph W., 86, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 7, 2017. He was an original member of the honor guard at New Prague Post 45.

Ambroz, Lloyd W., 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 7, 2017. He served in the Artillery. He was a member of New Prague Post 45.

Comstock, Dale, 59, Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War, died Aug. 8, 2017. He was a member of Thief River Falls Post 117.

Homme, Thomas, 92, Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 1, 2017. He had not yet turned 20 when he served in the Battle of the Bulge. He was on the color guard of Thief River Falls Post 117.

Haa, Alfred L., 98, Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 1, 2017. He served at Pearl Harbor. He was a member of Chaska Post 57.

Scheving, Charles E., 84, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 27, 2017. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

Powers, Tom, 97, Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 21, 2017. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.
Riders Runs raise $200,000

ON THE ROAD -- Ted and J’Lynn Berg ride into Monticello.

NO TEARS FOR SULLY -- Legacy Run organizer Steve Sullivan got his first crying towel of the run. There were no tears in Reno, though, when Sullivan and the other Riders presented a check for $200,000 to National Commander Charles Schmidt.

THE LONG LINE -- Riders stretch out into the far distance as they made their way across Minnesota in two weekend runs. The group, comprised of Legion, Auxiliary and SAL riders, raised money for the national Legacy Scholarship fund.

PATRIOT RIDE -- The 12th annual Dennis Kirk Patriot Ride had the Anoka County Airport in Blaine as its homebase. The 50-mile ride recognizes and remembers the POW/ MIA from the Vietnam War. Over 5,000 riders took part.

VETERANS LAKE OUTING -- A veteran is assisted from the dock area after fishing at the annual Veterans Lake outing for disabled veterans. The day included fishing, boating, lunch and live entertainment.

THIRD DISTRICT PROJECT -- Past Third District President Michelle Leonard began a project to have a greenhouse at the Minnesota Veterans Home at Hastings, and the VFW raised funds to complete it. It was dedicated in August.

Listening Post

News from around the State

RED BULL BAND -- The 34th Division Red Bull Band visited Slayton in August to participate in the parade. The band made a stop at Murray County Veterans Memorial.
Hello Everyone. Since I last visited with you, I have visited a small unit in central Minnesota. Here the unit president was told by her doctor to go home and get her affairs in order. She has cancer and they were unsure if any medication or treatments would benefit her. This lady, after letting this news settle, started training her unit members to take over her office of president and membership chair. She wanted this unit to survive even given her fate. Wow. Ladies that is dedication and love for our organization. Let’s all keep her in our prayers, also keeping up with her treatment.

Next I attended Junior Fun Weekend at Legionville. Of course as always a great time was had by all. An impromptu talent contest Saturday night yielded many talented girls. Let’s us those talents to advertise our American Legion Family.

Then, of course, we were onto National Convention in Reno. We learned of a resolution being put up to vote for the Raise the National dues from $9 to $12. Along with that there was a resolution to give the NEC the direction to increase the dues in increments every two years as the COLA (Cost of living adjustment) dictates. The decision of the body was to separate that resolution into two. One for the $3 increase, and one for the NEC to have that option. The body agreed to a dues increase of three dollars, however not to allow the NEC to have that option in the future. So for 2018-2019 National dues will be $12.

I was honored to witness the swearing in of all the 2017-2018 Department of Minnesota President. Donna Arends. She has dedicated this year to serving the American Legion Family. Many of them are Veterans. President Donna would appreciate any and all Units to contribute to her very important project.

Next I am off to a membership dinner in Morris, followed by Camporee at Legionville. Fall Conference will be entertaining both Thursday and Friday evenings. A separate conference will be held this year for Auxiliary and Legion. So try to get new members or newer members to attend to learn our programs.

As always this year, let’s work on educating our members and our communities, so we can grow this organization to continue to “Lighting Our Veterans Paths.”

Islamic State of America, our Military, their Families and You.

The Auxiliary Bulletin

Wisconsin’s Diane Duscheck elected National President

The 2017 National Convention was held in Reno, Nevada, August 18 – 23. The Convention was well attended by the entire American Legion Family. The Auxiliary had 30 Delegates, 16 Alternates and 7 Guests. President Donald Trump addressed the American Legion Convention and the Auxiliary was invited to attend this session. The session was high-lighted by President Trump signing a bill for Veterans, in front of the entire American Legion Family. This was a history making event. Diane Duscheck from the Department of Wisconsin was installed as our National President and will serve through the 2017-2018 year. Kathy Dungan from the Department of Mississippi will serve as the National Vice President.

PRESIDENT’S PROJECT

Department President Donna Arends has chosen the following as President’s project for the 2017/2018 year. Her wish is to raise $26,000.00 to be divided equally between the five (5) Veterans Homes and the Armed Forces Center at the Minneapolis Airport. Any additional funds would go to help in the Department Office. Her special project is to collect small LED flashlights to hand out to the homeless as many of them are Veterans. President Donna would appreciate any and all Units to contribute to her very important project.

PRESIDENT’S VISITS

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

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

MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

The 2017-2018 membership program is being led by Department Membership Chair Mary Kuperus. The 2017-2018 membership program in the following Districts: District 1 – Michelle Weaver, District 2 – Rafeen Tolzmann, District 3 – Lynn Duffy, District 4 – Sandy Gibson, District 5 – Cari Lamb, District 6 – Sharon Thiemke, District 7 – Pam Gades, District 8 – Jennifer Havlick, District 9 – Lynn Carr and District 10 – Sandy Locker. Please contact these ladies for any assistance you may need in collecting your Unit memberships. They are here to help you any way they can. Always remember that the Department Office can offer assistance as well.

Chairman Mary’s theme is Shining the Light on our Veterans and Military While Searching for New Members. They will be included in the forthcoming Trophy and Awards and packet and will be on our website.

Dues notices for 2018 will be sent out by National Headquarters on September 15. Please note that you do NOT have to receive a dues notice to pay your dues. They can be turned in to your Unit at any time or easier yet - you can pay online.

The Department Office still has 10 membership packets waiting on officers list. If you haven’t received your pack, please call the office immediately. We will take your officer list over the phone.

FALL CONFERENCE

Fall Conference will be held Friday and Saturday, October 27-28, 2017 hosted by the Willmar American Legion Family. Housing and pre-registration information are included in the August edition of the Minnesota Legionnaire. President Donna is returning to the original format of having our annual Auxiliary School of Learning as an annual training event. All members of the Auxiliary should attend.

The President’s Column

By Donna Arends

Membership

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2018 POPPY ORDERS

Orders for the 2018 Poppies are now being accepted. An order form will be included in the first Unit mailing. Prices in effect for this year: Small Poppies - $20.00 a hundred for orders of 500 or less and $18.00 a hundred for orders of 501 or more. (Small poppies must be ordered in lots of 100 only). Large Poppies are $18.00 a dozen.

There is a shipping charge schedule on the order form. We have plenty of poppies in inventory and can ship as soon as you want them. Our Department Chairman Sharon


**Auxiliary Bulletin**

Continued from Preceding Page

Thiemucke is working very hard to make this a very successful year.

**NEW MAILING LABELS**

Very soon each of our sister Auxiliary members will be receiving a packet of mailing labels. This is not a hoax – we have begun our own fundraising efforts by offering the labels to all of our members. We ask that you take advantage of these labels and support our efforts. The purpose of the fund raiser is to enable us to continue to operate our Department Office at the highest platform possible. The mailing will ask that you send your donations to a company called Engage – this is very legitimate. Please support our Department fundraisers!!

**NEC WOMAN – 2018-2020**

The NEC is looking for candidates to run for the position of National Executive Committee woman for a two year term, 2018-2019, 2019-2020. This position will be voted on at the 2018 Department Convention in Rochester. All endorsements should be sent to the Department Office if you are interested in running for this office.

2017-2018 UNIT GUIDE

We will be mailing the new 2017-2018 Unit Guides to the Unit presidents in mid-September. This is a plan book for the current Auxiliary year and it is important for Units to have this information at the start of the year. We will also have additional copies available at Fall Conference for a price of $5.00 each. We also have an inventory of our Member Handbooks currently available. These are very valuable tools for all members, new and those that have been in the organization for a long time. It is a snapshot of our organization and all we offer. Please call the Department Office and place your order today – we will ship them immediately. We will also have these at Fall Conference. Every member should have one.

2017-2018 SCHOLARSHIPS

The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Minnesota, will offer eight (8) $1,000.00 scholarships to deserving students who wish to further their education, attending an institution of higher learning. They must be a resident of Minnesota or a member of the Auxiliary, Legion or SAL. An application form will be included in the first Unit mailing.

Also included in the mailing was the Past Presidents Parley Health Care Scholarship application form. Up to ten $1,000.00 scholarships are available to all Minnesota Auxiliary members who are furthering their education in any health care field.

Our National organization will again be offering three National scholarships this year, i.e., the Children of War, Veterans’ National Scholarship, Spirit of Youth Scholarship for Junior members, and a scholarship for Non-Traditional Students. Copies of these scholarship applications will also be included in the first Unit mailing.

Our Department also solicits funds for The American Legion Legacy Scholarship. These applications can be obtained through The American Legion. Be certain you use the current application forms. Please tell all potential applicants to fill out the forms completely. Ship these with your schools and members and assist eligible persons to apply. If you are in need of additional forms, please contact the Department Office. All scholarships are due in the Department office by March 15.

JUNIOR FUN WEEKEND

The 2017 Junior Fun Weekend was held August 5-6 at Legionville. Junior Activities Chairman Pam Hoshal, Department President Dorothy Aranda, incoming Junior Activities Chairman Tamara Opland and Department Honorary Junior Vice President Courtney Rogat kicked off the weekend with 25 Juniors and 17 Seniors in attendance. Chairmen Pam and Tammy reported that everyone had a great weekend and also did a lot of work at Legionville. Please plan on attending next year – what a great way to spend time with your daughters and/or granddaughters and learn about our wonderful country, along with enjoying the Legionville facility and all it has to offer.

MINNEAPOLIS VAMC

Mary Ann Davis is in need of firm neck and heart pillows at the VAMC in Minneapolis. Please make sure and contact Mary Ann before delivering anything to the facility.

SECRETARY SANDIE’S NOTES

So, I weighed this and asked for opinions and the ayes vs. the nays won out. I had feedback to stop writing this article as it was too personal and then I had many comments as to why I stopped writing this article as people really enjoyed reading it. I try to make things light and fun and I guess there are those who prefer “business only”. What is one to do? I just have a couple things to report on and one was my privilege to attend the National Convention in Reno. Although the casino hit my pocketbook a bit (big), the convention was really one to remember. The American Legion Family members that attended all seemed to have such a wonderful time and spent it together throughout the entire convention. When there was free time, you would find groups intermingled, visiting and sharing experiences. I spent my free time visiting with all members myself. This America Legion Family truly is a “family.” I am not sure how other Departments are, but the Minnesota Department should be very proud. On another note, which is partially personal, please everyone hold all of our Texas citizens in your hearts and prayers. You all know I have children and grandchildren in Texas and I love it there myself. They are all safe and sound as I write this but the disaster isn’t over. Just watching the news and seeing the pictures is devastating. Living through a tornado where my family lost our entire business in 1998 will bring back memories and also reminded me that the pictures you see don’t bring justice to the devastation that is actually happening. Open your hearts as I have and give whatever help you can to these people that have truly lost everything. Until next month – Sandie
4 seasons ad

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