Fall Conference will be held in Willmar

The Fall Conference this year will be held Oct. 27-28 in Willmar.
The conference will be split this year, with no joint session of the Legion and Auxiliary.

On the Legion side, speakers will include Brett Reistad of Virginia, the leading candidate for National Commander.
Reistad will be seeking election at the 2018 National Convention to be held in Minneapolis.

A keynote speaker will be Alan Duff, a retired major with 23 years in the military, who will talk on “Bringing Americanism into Action.”
Duff, who lives in Issanti, has written a book titled Fixing America’s Shattered Politics.
His book explores the state of American politics, and he calls on Americans to reclaim their power over government.

The conference will have two major events on Thursday, the day before the sessions begin.

A gambling seminar will be held at 2 p.m. at the Willmar Conference Center.
At 7:30 p.m. the Department Executive Committee will meet in Gallaries 5-7 at the Center.

The Executive Committee is made up of this year’s and last year’s district commander and other state officers and is the governing body of the Minnesota American Legion.

The first Legion session will be called to order at 8 a.m. Friday.
Between the morning and afternoon sessions, signed copies of War Stories III will be available.

In the afternoon session, Department Service Officer Jeremy Wolfsteller will speak on veterans affairs and rehabilitation.
There will be a session on post histories with a member of the national staff.

Following the Friday session, the American Legion Family Hospital will be held in Willmar.

The conference will be held in Willmar.

Speaker tells VA staff about passion and compassion

Fred de Sam Lazaro has covered stories, mainly on health issues, in 62 countries for PBS’ NewsHour.
He recently spoke at the Education Day 2017 at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center.

“People do not want to watch stories about human suffering,” he said, “but that is what we do.”

De Sam Lazaro, who also teaches at the University of St. Thomas as part of Under-Told Stories Project, showed clips of past stories he has done on what medical people and others are doing world wide, often with a lack of resources to help people.

One story was on Dr. Barry Kerzin, the personal doctor for the Dalai Lama, who has worked with people and doctors in Tibet.
Kerzin, who is a student of Buddhism, said that he has been taught by the Dalai Lama, “You don’t just do wisdom. You do the love and compassion. In fact, it should be about 50/50.”

Another story, set in India, showed how doctors there are making prosthetics for amputees and others. But instead of using expensive materials, they are using wooden materials.

Continued on Page 6

Legion continues to work with other than honorable discharges

(Subject of this story was offered the option of not using his real name in the story because of the sensitive nature of his revelations. He chose to use his name, hoping his openness will help others in his situation.)

By Al Zdon
Ryan Tracy looked out from under his Marine Corps ball cap and smiled. “I just want the damn license plate.”

The plate he referred to would be one that identified him as a veteran of the Afghan war. Tracy spent seven months in Afghanistan at a forward Marine refueling base in 2010. He is proud of his service to his nation.

Tracy’s quest to get that plate and to upgrade his other than honorable discharge still have a ways to go.

But, thanks in part to an American Legion program and the American Legion Claims Office in Minnesota, he’s halfway there. He now receives the treatment he needs from the Minneapolis VA Medical Center, and he has earned a service-connected disability rating.

Tracy grew up in Maple Grove. “I think I was the luckiest kid around. It was a great childhood, the white picket fence, sports, everything.”

He became an Eagle Scout, and his Eagle project, creating a fire pit for his high school’s outdoor program, is still serving students.

“I wanted to be in the military since about the first grade, and I joined the Marine Corps right out of high school. I picked the Marines because they were the best. I wanted to do it the hardest way.”

All went smoothly though boot camp in San Diego and combat training. “I loved it.”

He was made a truck driver, and then sent to school at Cherry Point, N.C., to learn to be a refueler. The training involved learning how to set up a forward operating base that could refuel Marine helicopters and other equipment.

Still things went well, and Tracy learned his job. The final pre-deployment training was at 29 Palms in California where the Marines simulated trying to set up the base under enemy fire – using blanks.

At one point in the training, the FOB was surrounded by the enemy. Taking the initiative, Tracy headed out on the desert and snuck up behind the “enemy” position that was delivering fire to the base.

From just a few feet behind, he asked the snipers to surrender. “I thought it was the moral thing to do.”

A Marine officer disagreed. He told Tracy, in Marine
Continued on Page 3

Minneapolis native was one of famous Tuskegee Airmen

Continued on Page 6
Fall Conference will feature commander candidate Reistad

Continued from Page 1

Association's board of directors will be elected, one from the SAL and one from the Legion. Those attending (All Legion, Auxiliary and SAL are members) should be prepared to nominate candidates. Following the day's work, there will be a Family Food at 6:30 p.m. and following that there will be hospitality suites at poolside at the Best Western Motel.

On Saturday, the Legion will feature a talk by Al Zdon on American Legion history, and a presentation by Brent Reistad. The session is expected to wind up before noon.

On the Auxiliary side, there will be an executive committee meeting at 1 p.m. Thursday in Gallery 1.

That night, from 7-9, there will be a leadership, membership and public relations seminar.

The conference will begin at 8 a.m. on Friday. An agenda is on page 15.

Housing will be in local hotels, a list of which is available on the Department website: mnlegion.org. The registration form is on this page.

Registration at the conference will be held Thursday, from noon-8 p.m. at the Willmar Post 167.

Registration for DEC members will be prior to the meeting on Thursday night at the center.

On Friday, registration will be from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Willmar Conference Center Atrium.

On Saturday, registration will be open from 7 a.m. to 9 at the Atrium.

Shuttle service will run from the conference center to the Willmar hotels and the Willmar post. Shuttle times will be in your registration packet along with additional information.

The approximate time from the conference site to the Legion is 10 minutes.

The post will be offering a variety of food and entertainment options.

On Thursday there will be a spaghetti dinner at the post from 4-7 p.m. at a cost of $8.50. The Custom Made Band will play from 7:30 to 11:30.

In the dining room, a menu will be available from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. The bar will be open until 1 a.m. Pull tab hours are from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. both days.

On Friday, there will be a soup and sandwich bar from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at a cost of $8.

The lunch bar will feature ham, turkey, roast beef, and tuna. There will also be chicken noodle soup and vegetables and soup.

The dining room menu will be available from 11 a.m. until 9 a.m.

Official Registration – Mail to:
Legion Post 167 Fall Conference
Willmar, MN 56201

Pre-registration sliding fee:
- Registration received by 1 Oct: $15
- Registration after 1 Oct: $19
- 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


District – Post – Unit – Squadron

NAME: (This will be the name on your name badge)

Address

City State Zip

E-mail

Cellular Phone

All special needs need to be directed to the hotel you are staying at.

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

Legion coin is okayed by Congress

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Reps. Phil Roe, M.D. (R-Tenn.) and Tim Walz (D-Minn.), Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, respectively, released the following statements after the House passed Roe and Walz’s resolution to authorize the creation of a commemorative coin in honor of The American Legion’s 100 years of service to America’s veterans.

“For nearly a century, The American Legion has worked tirelessly day and night to improve the lives of our veterans and their families, and for that reason, words cannot express the gratitude I have for the men and women of The American Legion,” said Walz. “As both a veteran and a legislator, I see firsthand the results they achieve for veterans on a daily basis. That is why I am honored to stand alongside my dear friend, colleague, and fellow veteran, Chairman Phil Roe, as the House passes The American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act.”

The American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act would authorize the U.S. mint to produce a commemorative coin for The American Legion’s 100th anniversary of its founding in 1919. The mint would issue the coins for a one-year period beginning January 1, 2019, and proceeds from the sale of the coins would support The American Legion’s programs and services, which fall under four categories: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, Nati, Security, Children and Youth and Americanism.

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 the 100th Anniversary Concert in honor of the 100th year.

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

There are sponsorship, advertising 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.

National Convention Corporation of Minnesota

Chair: Jeff Olson

Honorary Chairs:
Bud Grant | Senator Bob Lessard | Brigadier General Dennis Lord | Brigadier General Curtis Norenberg

Brigadier General Dennis Schulstad | Major General Larry Sheltton

Committee:
Mike & Teresa Ash | Roger Ball | Joe Bauer | Jim Cooper | Ray Dankin | Bill Doles | Tom Lannon | Dan Ludwig | Lynn Nottage | Roger Olson | Robin Porce | Marland Rooning | Larry Rain | Tom Schottenbauer | Donald Schnell | Randy Tedall | Don Walker | Dan Williams

Car pots from $945
Storage Buildings from $1,467
Garages from $1,690

Price includes construction on your site!

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28112 HWY 61 S, RED WING, MN 651-388-8138. SEE BUTCH TUES.-SAT.
Legion helps Marine

Continued from Page 1

fashion, that his hesitation to “kill” the enemy had just cost him and his fellow Marine their lives.

“Up until that point, everything was great. The Marine Corps was my life. But being told that I’d just killed myself and my buddy, I lost it. I had a panic attack. It was a breaking point for me before deployment.”

He told his superiors that he wanted out of the Marine Corps, but was sent to the chaplain. “I was quite a religious person at that time, and the chaplain told me about fighting for my country and everything. It was around that time I had my first suicide attempt.”

In the end, Tracy said he lied about his mental state, and soon found himself in Afghanistan.

He weathered out his time at the refueling base, but he knew he wasn’t right. “I wasn’t keen on what I was doing. I felt moral condemnation. I just couldn’t wrap my head around it, but I knew something was wrong.”

“But we were working 24 on and 24 off and it was a real rat race. I could do my job. I just kept a low profile.”

His time in Afghanistan over, he hopped on a plane and arrived back in Cherry Point. “We were there about 10 minutes and they released us to our families. No readjustment period. They sent me a PTSD kit and I found myself in a PTSD class short of my AA degree. It’s been a slow go with a lot of hard work, but they’ve given me help, and not just put me on a lot of medication.”

He was able get service-connected status for a military-related knee injury and for the tinnitus. His claims were denied.

Meanwhile, Tracy attends school when he can. “I’m four classes short of my AA degree. It’s been a slow go with a lot of ups and downs, but I’m getting there. The VA has given me a lot of new skills for getting out in the community. They’ve given me help, and not just put me on a lot of meds.”

Both Tracy and Wolfsteller say they hope that his story can help other veterans with OTH’s or other problems find the help they need.

“You can Google this stuff all you want,” Tracy said, “but in the end you have to meet somebody that knows what’s going on. You have to find the right advocate. It was a little overwhelming at first, but once we got started, his help has been invaluable.”

Wolfsteller looked at his client. “You were the one who helped me get to the VA, and was assigned to a team of doctors. “It was a world of difference compared to the civilian treatment I had been getting. They knew veterans. Here they could push me on core issues.”

He was able get service-connected status for a military-related knee injury and for the tinnitus. His claims were denied.

The battle to overturn his OTH has just begun. “It should be upgraded to honorable,” Wolfsteller said. “That’s what he deserves.” That process could take over a year or longer. Showing the government that a veteran’s OTH discharge was caused by mental health issues that occurred while in service is a big step, Wolfsteller said.

Wolfsteller is also working to help get Tracy other federal benefits through the Social Security Administration.

“I was able to get some benefits that helped with housing, medical, and food, and I’m starting to get a little more stable.”

“Tracy’s roommate turned him in for smoking spice. “I was so lost. I told the Marine Corps I wanted to go into rehab before I got out.” Around this time, he tried his fourth suicide attempt. “This was the first one the Marines knew about.”

He spent a month in a psych ward and then did 30 days in rehabilitation after that. “It was a learning experience.”

He was told that he had no service in Afghanistan was honorable. And I still can’t get a plate.”

Jeremy Wolfsteller is the Service Officer for the American Legion, Department of Minnesota, working out of the VA Medical Center in Minneapolis. “I met with Ryan,” he said, “and I put his options on the table. Ryan laid it all out for me.”

Wolfsteller was confident he could get help for Tracy. “I knew we could help. We had seen this pattern of mental illness issues before.”

Tracy was able to get into treatment at the VA, and was assigned to a team of doctors. “It was a world of difference compared to the civilian treatment I had been getting. They knew veterans. Here they could push me on core issues.”

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“You can Google this stuff all you want,” Tracy said, “but in the end you have to meet somebody that knows what’s going on. You have to find the right advocate. It was a little overwhelming at first, but once we got started, his help has been invaluable.”

Wolfsteller looked at his client. “You were the one who did it, man.”

And now to get that OTH upgraded. “All my service in Afghanistan was honorable. And I still can’t get a plate.”
Mail Call

By Mike Schaffer

Fall Conference is fast approaching and promises to be fun, informative and very educational for all who attend. It's set for October 27-28, so start making plans to fill a car full of your post, auxiliary & S.A.I members. Bring them along and gain valuable information for your posts, unit, and squads.

Revolitizations are being planned again by your district officers, and should be starting sometime this fall. Each-year and will not warn of any NFL football games or allow them on any TV in your home. Those of you read this letter to protest. I am OK with that. I have also a right to protest in most cases. Then received million dollar contracts from the players got 4 years of collage paid for by the tax payers in school to love this great country. These NFL football at Attention and Saluting our Flag while in the service of the nation. I felt compelled to speak out about my 1st amendment rights. “Having a right to do something does not make it the right thing to do. We salute Army Ranger Alejandro Villanueva, who stood alone representing the flag as his teammates stayed in their locker room. There are many ways to respect the flag, but this is not one of them. It is a moment to stand together as one United States of America.”

Hats off to Lori

To the Editor:

I am extremely pleased to learn that Legionnaire has several features from the state of Minnesota after 10 years of effort without success. I congratulate American Legion Post 39’s own member, Lori Ahlness, for her leadership and effort in researching and writing the 19-page grant proposal that was the foundation for the $222,300 grant received by the Department of Minnesota American Legion. Lori Ahlness also guided the grant through the Minnesota Legislature, was the point of contact with bill sponsors Representative Bob Dettmer and (Senate co-sponsor) Senator Karin Housley. Additionally, she coordinated the testimony on behalf of The American Legion and co-applicant, Veterans Campground on Big Marine Lake. Her knowledge of grant procedures, understanding of the purposes and allowable uses of grants, and her goodwill and positive reputation on “The Hill” were instrumental in securing this after many years of fruitless effort. “Hats off” to Lori for her selfless and unrecognized efforts that reaped such huge rewards for The American Legion Department of Minnesota this past legislative session.

Tom Burns, Commander
North St. Paul Post 39

Protest the NFL

To the Editor:

As a Veteran and a 45-year American Legion member I feel compelled to speak out about my 1st amendment rights. I spent 12 years reciting the Pledge of Allegiance every morning at school and stood quietly on the football field as they played the National Anthem. I spent 8 years standing at Attention and Saluting our Flag while in the service of our great country. Why? Because I was taught at home and in school what the flag represents. These NFL football players got 4 years of collage paid for by the tax payers in most cases. Then received million dollar contracts from the owners to play Football. They have a 1st Amendment right to protest. I am OK with that. I have a also right to protest and will do so by the only way available to me. I will not attend any NFL football games or allow them on any TV in my home. Those of you read this letter have a 1st Amendment Right: it’s up to how you use it. I hope the members of the American Legion Federation follow the Ohio VFW and the Ohio Police and 1st Responders and protest the NFL by the only way available to them.

John Finnegan
Wadena MN

Rohan blasts NFL for disrespect to flag

The leader of the nation’s largest veterans organization characterized professional athletes in other societies who fail to show respect for the national anthem as “mis-guided and un-heroic.”

American Legion National Commander Denny H. Rohan lamented the politicization of what used to be a display of unity at NFL games and other sporting events throughout the country.

“The American Legion is one of the original architects of the National Anthem on the Fourth of July in the US and every veteran. “That code was produced by 69 patriotic, fraternal, civic and military organizations in 1923. It included members of all political parties, big labor, industry and minorities. The code calls on all present to stand at attention while the anthem is played. It wasn’t political when it was written, and it shouldn’t be political today.”

“Having a right to do something does not make it the right thing to do: We salute Army Ranger Alejandro Villanueva, who stood alone respecting the flag as his teammates stayed in their locker room. There are many ways to respect the flag, but this is not one of them. It is a moment to stand together as one United States of America.”

Chaplain’s Corner

By Ralph Schneekloth

Greetings to my fellow American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary member! Eternal Father, strong to save, whose arm does bind the wind and wave, we remember the ancient words; “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, and the people whom He has chosen for an inheritance.”

We are grateful for the heritage that is ours in this nation whereby we enjoy more freedom than any other people of the earth. Help us never to neglect any part of this freedom lest we lose the opportunity for ourselves and our children.

My theme this month is “What has your heart?” Of late, our nation has been hit by many natural disasters. Many have donated generously to the National Emergency Fund and to our financial assistance programs that The American Legion has.

It really filled my heart with happiness at the recent Harvest Rally at Legionville, when SAL Detachment Commander Shawn Davis put out the call for money to go to the NEF.

Within 20 minutes, give or take, with just those in attendance, we raised at the time $3,228.00 specifically for the NEF.

That is awesome. Acts like these show the goodness and the altruism of our organization.

Days of prosperity are often more dangerous than days of scarcity. The earthly blessings of prosperity and success can have a way of crowding God and the things of heaven out of our thoughts and lives.

As Christians, we and all Old Testament people as he was about to bless them with the promised land of plenty.... when you eat and are satisfied, be careful that you do not forget the Lord, and forget the way which the Lord your God directed you to walk.

It’s time we started listening too & mentoring those who sense they are fighting the ones who have been fighting for us.

It’s time we started listening too & mentoring those who sense they are fighting the ones who have been fighting for us.

As an American citizen, every Legionnaire should provide an example of integrity, self-sacrifice, hard work and a life of faith.

I’m ending this month with the following: Lord of the nations, I praise you for the precious inheritance of this land.

I pray that I and my fellow citizens might ever remain mindful of our blessings and rejoice to do your will.

Bless our nation with God-fearing leaders, honorable industry and peace from our enemies.

 Preserve us from the violence of every kind, from discord and confusion, and from pride and arrogance, and from every evil.

May your ways be known on earth, you salvation among the nations.

Until next time, go with God, and God be with you.
What's Happening

Hospital Association

The American Legion Family Hospital Association will meet at the Fall Conference at the Willmar Conference Center at 4:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 7, in Gallery 7. Two members will be elected to the association’s board: Dennis Blue of the Sons of the American Legion and Nick Kakos, American Legion. Both have served the maximum two terms.

Nominations will be needed for those positions, and those attending the meeting should come prepared. All members of the American Legion, SAL and SAA are members of the association and are encouraged to attend the annual meeting in Willmar.

Reimbursements for Exams

Money is available for qualifying Minnesota veterans and dependents who need to take license and certification exams. The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs encourages veterans to check out this reimbursement program. For more information, call 888-Linkvet or go to minnesotaveteran.org.

Shop, Ship and Share

The 4th District will again be sponsoring the annual Shop, Ship and Share program to send care packages to service members overseas. Schools will be collecting items to be shipped.

Donation monetary from persons can help pay for the shipping on the packages. The packages will be sent to American Legion 4th District, Packages for the Military, Box 17035, St. Paul, MN 55117-0035.

The event will be held at the Maplewood Mall Dec. 1-2.

Round Tables

The World War II History Round Table will be held on Thursday, Oct. 12, at the Fort Snelling Visitor Center at 7 p.m. The program will be "The First Invasion: Operation Torch 75th Anniversary." Vincent O’Hara, author of Torch, and Tim Brady, author of His Father’s Son, will speak as well as veterans who participated in the landing at North Africa.

Taps

Anderson, Clifford A., 96, Navy veteran of World War II, died Aug. 28, 2017. He was a member of Willmar Post 167.

Hyser, Raymond L., 81, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 14, 2017. He was a member of Willmar Post 167.

Hoard, Otto Emmanuel, Jr., 80, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 10, 2017. He was a member of Pine Island Post 184.

Andrist, Otto Emmanuel, Jr., 84, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 8, 2017. He was a member of Caledonia Post 191.

Johnson, Irwin, 92, Navy veteran of World War II, died Sept. 8, 2017. He was a member of Roosevelt Post 61.

Hanson, Ronald D., 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 28, 2017. He was a corporal. He was a member of College Station Post 560.

Niewohner, Ronald J., 81, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 28, 2017. He was a member of North Liberty Post 95.

Wuolle, Stanley O., 98, Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 28, 2017. He was a member of Zimmerman Post 560.

Zaluznik, Lawrence, 94, Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 15, 2017. He was a member of Pine City Post 51.

Stewart, Delbert, 92, Navy veteran of World War II, died Sept. 6, 2017. He served in the Pacific. He was a member of New London Post 537.

Kaardahl, Elmer A., 90, Army veteran of World War II and the Korean War, died Sept. 10, 2017. He served in Japan in the occupation force, and later in Germany. He was active in the Guard and Reserves and retired as a colonel of artillery. He was a member of Redwood Falls Post 38.

Torch

Bay, Isadore "Gus," 81, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 15, 2017. He was a member of New Ulm Post 132.

Dykhoff, Donald, 82, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Aug. 4, 2017. He was a member of Hamel Post 394.

Grenada war era, died Aug. 27, 2017. He served in Korea.

Hertaus, John Sr., 82, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Aug. 30, 2017. He was a member of New London Post 537.

Possai, Elmer, 81, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Aug. 31, 2017. He was a member of Tyser Post 184.

River Falls Post 117.

Schulte, Edgar R., 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 30, 2017. He was a member of Arlington Post 250.

Ekstrom, Warren E., 90, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died Aug. 24, 2017. He was a long-time chaplain of Chaska Post 57.

Hertaus, John Sr., 81, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 30, 2017. He was a member of Caledonia Post 191.

Hanson, Ronald D., 75, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Aug. 29, 2017. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 212.

Johnson, Ramsey P., 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 3, 2017. He was a member of Austin Post 91.

Dohrn, Terry J., 51, Army veteran of the Lebanon-Grenada war era, died Aug. 27, 2017. He served in Korea. He was a member of Lake City Post 110.

Matro, Damus Anthony, 84, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 28, 2017. He earned the Purple Heart. He was a member of Little Falls Post 46.

Miller, Kenneth R., 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 30, 2017. He was a member of Little Falls Post 46.

Nadeau, Rolland "Blackie," 95, Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 28, 2017. He was part of the 888th Airborne Engineers. He was a member of Red Wing Post 54.

St. Cloud VA Medical Center, Tuesday, Oct. 17, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Auditorium of Building 8.

MACV will also be sponsoring a StandDown in St. Cloud on Friday, Oct. 27, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the St. Cloud National Guard Armory. All veterans are invited. Available at the StandDown are employment assistance, legal help, tax information, social services, a wellness exam, housing info, drug and alcohol information and referrals, free haircuts, wigs, dental and eyewear voucher and vocational referrals.

St. Cloud VA events

The St. Cloud VA Health Systems has a variety of events coming up.

Recovery Night will be held Oct. 19, Thursday, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in Building 8, the Auditorium. It will be a resource fair as well as veterans sharing their stories of hope, success, resilience and recovery. Veterans, family members, and community members are invited.

A Career Fair will be held for nursing and medical clerk occupations on Oct. 14 from 9 a.m. to noon at Rasmussen College in St. Cloud.

Veteran Care 101 Seminars are available at convenient times for veterans and families to learn about VA health care, and how to access benefits and programs. Three seminars are offered each month. For information and times, call 320-225-6340.

Apple Valley Sale

The Apple Valley 1776 Auxiliary will hold its craft/bake sale on Saturday, Oct. 28, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the post, 14521 Grandna Drive in Apple Valley.

There will be many new vendors on hand. Lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Willmar Vets Day

All veterans in the Willmar area are invited to the annual Vets Day Dinner at the Willmar Post Home. The dinner will feature locally grown turkey and a wide variety of donated wild game and all the trimmings.

Food and labor is donated by local businesses and individuals, veterans and non-veterans. Food will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 11, under the direction of Dennis Jordahl.

More than 500 local veterans joined in the event in recent years. All area veterans and their care givers are invited.

MACV events

A series of Drop-In Legal Clinics have been scheduled throughout the state for the benefit of veterans. The clinics cover everything from employment, benefits, expungement, wills, debt collection, family law including child support.

Attorneys, MACV staff, County Veteran Service Officers and child support officers will be on hand throughout the clinics to help veterans with questions, legal forms and counsel.

The clinics include:

- Minneapolis VA Medical Center, Tuesday, Oct. 10, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Flag Atrium Ballroom Conference Room 25.
- St. Cloud VA Medical Center, Tuesday, Oct. 17, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Auditorium of Building 8.
- MACV will also be sponsoring a StandDown in St. Cloud on Friday, Oct. 27, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the St. Cloud National Guard Armory. All veterans are invited.
- Available at the StandDown are employment assistance, legal help, tax information, social services, a wellness exam, housing info, drug and alcohol information and referrals, free haircuts, wigs, dental and eyewear voucher and vocational referrals.

Obituary policy

Obituaries of members of the Legion Family will be published in the Minnesota Legionnaire in a monthly column under the heading “Taps.”

Obituaries must be recent, within the last two months prior to the publication of the newsletter of the Legionnaire. For example, the October edition would only contain obituaries from January and December.

While the obituaries are brief, the Legionnaire does seek certain information for our readers:

1. Complete name of deceased.
2. Date of birth.
3. Date of death.
4. The post, unit or squadron the deceased belonged to.
5. Additional information about the veteran’s service background including unit, type of service, place of service, medals, etc.
6. The post, unit or squadron the deceased belonged to.
7. Additional information about Legion service including officer posts

The Legionnaire reserves the right to edit all obituaries for style and brevity.
Greeting American Legion Family,

It was great to see so many of you at Camp-O-Ree and the Romp. The weather was awesome for the camp but just a bit wet for the romp.

Overall everyone had a good time. There are many different projects going on at Legionville and volunteers are needed. All you have to do is ask and I am sure there is something that you would be able to do.

Congratulations go out to Larry Riplinger, Roe Naylor, Paul Edwards and yours truly for being the newest inductees into the Pink Tu-Tu Club.

Coming up the October 26th, 27th & 28th will be Fall Conference. This year conference is being held in Willmar. This event is open to all members of the Legion Family.

I am asking Riders to come prepared as this year there will be a game of Family Feud instead of the Grand March. There will be four teams, one each representing Legion, Ladies Auxiliary, SAL and Riders.

The Legacy Ride committee is starting work on the 2018 Ride. The dates are August 2nd - kickoff party, August 3rd, 4th & 5th - weekend one and August 10th, 11th & 12th - weekend two. We no longer do an east or west weekend. We have set a goal of $250,000.00. Some say its too low while others say it’s needed. All you have to do is ask and I am sure there is something that you would be able to do.

There are two ways posts can contribute. One would be to the Minnesota American Legion Foundation to Fund 99. Money that goes to the Foundation can be used for certain Centennial purposes. Projects will be evaluated by the American Legion Foundation to Fund 99.

However, the all the money that is left at the end of the Centennial period will be used for Legion projects.

The other way posts can contribute would be to the Convention Corporation. This money will be used for Centennial costs that Minnesota is responsible for during the celebration.

“Posts have been very generous in donating toward the Centennial, and it’s much appreciated.” Convention Corporation President Dr. John Olson said. “But there is still a need and we encourage posts to participate.”

Those who have donated to the Foundation, Fund 99: Avington Post 91 $1,000 LeCenter Post 108 $100 Watertown Post 121 $50 Mahomet Post 507 $100 St. Paul Post 5 $50 North St. Paul Post 39 $5,000 White Bear Lake Post 168 $50 Little Falls Post 46 $50 Swanson Post 313 $250 Litchfield Post 104 $1,000 Marshall Post 113 $1,010

By the time you read this fall, will be upon us. The Detachment managed a great Camp Ripley with a turn out not seen in some time. The total amount raised for Legionville will be announced at Fall Conference. Thank you to all who volunteered to work this event, and to all who came out to support Legionville.

There was a great turn in of membership at the Harvest Rally. Remember to keep your officer report forms are turned in as well. Keep working on those memberships.

Reach out to your renewing members. Do not wait for a mailing five years later, generate your own letters to your squadron to welcome back renewing members, and ask them to invite new members to join! Every member builds membership, and can be a potential leader to make this organization greater.

And do not forget to seek out those eligible for The American Legion, or The American Legion Auxiliary! Remember I am asking for each squadron to recruit 5 new members for the entire family, any combination.

I attended the Legionville Board meeting. Be sure to check out the new bus safety video that was generated at that facility thanks to so many who worked hard to put it together. I also attended the Camp Ripley Open House, Community Appreciation Day, and Change of Command. They had a ceremony recognizing veterans of the Korean War. It was very moving. Thank you to Monte Frank (I hope I got the spelling correct) of the Oamaa Squadon who stopped by and said “Hi.” It is nice to see other members of the SAL at an event like this. Please check in your computer at any time and see how any other Legionville members of the SAL where you can be present and share how the American Legion Family is making a difference.

Thank you to all the volunteers who have reached out to me about making a donation to my commander’s project. Remember I am asking for $5 from each member, with the total donated to be divided up between The American Legion Legacy Scholarship, The American Legion ROTC Scholarship, and The American Legion Community Appreciation Day. Every personal, and squadron donation will go to helping educate the children of our great nation, or help a member of our Minnesota Family.

Any questions you read, this fall will be answered by the John Zgoda Memorial SAL Disabled Veteran Deer hunt. Thanks in advance to all those that helped make this event happen, and with a bit of luck, everyone will get a deer this year.

The SAL storage shed is going up nicely. Again thanks to all the volunteers who have worked on it all these past weekends.

Looking forward, we have our Fall Conference on Friday October 27, and Saturday October 28th in Willmar. I ask that a member from each squadron attend if possible. This will be a training session for us. We are developing topics to talk about, but you have to request a topic to be covered in this (or some other future training), please contact me. I know we will be doing a session on MySAL, so bring your laptops, tablets, and let’s learn how to use this technology. Be sure to sign up for this software BEFORE this event, in order to access the site.

So keep up the good work, and I will see you soon.

Shawn Davis
Harvest Rally and Camporee at Legionville

There was good weather galore at the Fall Harvest Rally and Camp-O-Ree held in September at Legionville Safety Patrol Camp.

Several hundred Legionnaires, Auxiliary, SAL and Riders participated, many of them camping out on the large grounds. The Camp-O-Ree is now operated by the Sons of the American Legion, and volunteers made it all work including a half dozen meals.

In an impromptu fund raising effort, SAL Commander Shawn Davis collected $3,228 as the districts got into a competition to see who could give the most. The money was raised for the National Emergency Fund with the hurricane victims in mind. Davis called it, “the power of the Family.”

100th Anniversary Co-Chair Jim Kellogg announced that every post that brings a flag to the 2018 National Convention in Minneapolis will receive a special gold flag pole ribbon.

SAL Commander helped Zander Olson, 4, with his bag of goodies from the National Convention. Zander was the youngest at the rally.

Auxiliary officers donned their new mining hats at the Harvest Rally. Membership Chair Mary Kuperus’ theme for the year is “Shine the light on veterans and military while searching for new members.” From left: Kuperus; Mary Hendrickson, Jean Walker, Cari Lamb, Lynn Carr, Pam Gades, Tonia Bettermann, Raleen Tolzmann, Anna Eells, Sandy Locker, Kandy Regan and Sharon Thiemecke.

Those attending the Camp-O-Ree at Legionville chowed down under the shelter roofs. The weekend brought hundreds to the Safety Patrol Camp.

For the SAL, the 4th District finished first with 32.99 percent of goal. For the Auxiliary, the Sixth District topped the membership standings with 13.77 percent.

And for the Legion, the 6th District won the honors with 53.55 percent.

The next rally will be at West Duluth Post on Dec. 2.
A KID FROM THE NORTH SIDE WHO FLEW FIGHTER PLANES

By Al Zdon

When Harold Brown was a young lad growing up in North Minneapolis, his mother decided he should be a pianist.

"Mothers can see talent in their children that nobody else can see." For years, he sat on that piano stool and did his best. But in about the sixth grade, he decided that aviation and not music was his future.

"My piano teacher called my mother and said she was wasting her money on the piano lessons because Harold was not practicing any more. My mother was heartbroken, but I think she understood." Brown put all the energy and dedication into aviation that he had into the piano. And though others thought it might be a pipe dream to presume that an African-American child could become a military flyer in those Depression years, Brown was determined.

In the end, he became a fighter pilot in the U.S. Army in one of the most celebrated Air Corps groups in World War II.

Dr. Harold H. Brown was born and raised on the north side of Minneapolis. His family was from Alabama, and migrated first to Michigan and later to Minneapolis.

"The South was segregated by law and by tradition. There was every reason to get out of there. My father was part of the 'the Great Migration.'"

Brown attended Blaine School, then Sumner School and then North High School.

"We lived in a very interesting neighborhood. We were on the fringe of where the African-American group was, and our neighbors were Swedish, Polish, Jewish and two Mexican families.

"What we had in common was that this was the Depression and we were all poor. Nobody locked their door because nobody had anything to steal. Those were good days."

Minnesota had racial prejudice, but not like other parts of the country, he said.

"Minneapolis wasn’t as segregated as anywhere in the South. But I couldn’t go downtown to the Nicollet Hotel. They wouldn’t let me in. But I didn’t have any money to go to the Nicollet Hotel anyway so it didn’t make much difference to me."

Brown has very fond memories of the Phyllis Wheatley Neighborhood House. "It was our home away from home. The lady who ran it demanded politeness and respect. The counselors were all tougher than our fathers, and brought us up right."

Brown played baseball and football in high school. "I remember when our football team traveled all the way to Omaha to play the Boys Town team. We marched down the field on the opening drive and scored. But then, after the first quarter, Boys Town put their seniors in the game. We lost 36-7."

When he wasn’t doing school work or sports, it was all about aviation.

"I just fell in love with airplanes. It was the days when a Piper Cub would go chugging by and everybody would stop and look at it.

He built model airplanes. "I got every book out of the library on flying. My favorite was a book on Randolph Field, Texas, the 'West Point of the Army Air Forces.' I read the book so many times, I almost memorized it."

While still in high school, Brown diligently saved his money. "I had $35 and I went down to Wold-Chamberlain Field and went to see the fixed base operator. I signed up for five flying lessons at $7 apiece. My mother almost went berserk, but my dad said, 'It’s his money; he should be able to spend it any way he wants."

Thirty five dollars was a fortune in those days."

"I thought that while I was taking the lessons, I would earn more money and continue, but that didn’t happen. That was the end of my flying experience. I was 16."

Brown is an expert on the history of aviation in general, and in particular the history of African-Americans in the military air forces.

The NAACP and the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters were lobbying hard to have black flyers as America started building up its military prior to World War II. "But the military was dead set against it. They had a 1925 war report on ‘The Use of Negro Manpower in Wartime.’ The conclusion of the report that was that African-Americans had low intelligence and were cowards. They said we certainly didn’t have the intelligence to fly airplanes."

A program called the Civilian Pilot Training Program was begun in 1938 to help American gear up for a possible war, and in 1939, Tuskegee University began using the program. The effort was led by C. Alfred "Chief" Anderson, a military pilot. The chances for this young man from Minneapolis’ North Side to accomplish his dream didn’t seem great in the 1930s. But he persevered, and became a member of World War II’s most prestigious outfits: the Tuskegee Airmen."
black pilot who, years earlier, had to buy his own airplane and then let white pilots use it in exchange for flying lessons. But the political and moral pressure continued, and in 1941, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt ordered the creation of a black squadron with 35 pilots and 27 aircraft. In July of that year, the program was started — still a half year from when the U.S. actually entered the war. In June of 1941, the 99th Pursuit Squadron was formed at Tuskegee. Because the Army was segregated, the three phases of flight training were all done at the Tuskegee.

For Brown, it started back in Minnesota when he sat for an exam after he graduated from North in 1942. He was 17 years old.

“The other kids teased me. They called me ‘Lindbergh.’ People told me that they wouldn’t even let me wash an airplane let alone fly one.”

But of the 105 who took the exam, Brown finished number five and was accepted into the program. “They put every one of those who were accepted into the Reserves so they wouldn’t be drafted — everyone except me. My paperwork had to go to Washington D.C. because that’s where it was being handled.”

In December of 1942, Brown finally got his letter and was sent off to Biloxi, Mississippi, for basic training. “We were in a section on the far side of the base, totally segregated. We were not allowed to use the PX.”

Another battery of tests was given to the 600 who had been accepted into the program, and 300 were immediately washed out.

Brown survived, and then was sent to Tuskegee for six weeks of college training.

When he got to Alabama and got off the train, he asked directions to the college. The man at the window said he’d have to go around the corner to ask that question.

“So I went around the corner, and there was another window, and I went up to it, and the same fellow was standing there. I couldn’t figure it out but then I looked up and saw that one window said ‘white’ and the other window said ‘colored.’ I had been at the wrong window.”

The training of an aviation cadet was strenuous. Of the 60 in his class, 20 washed out.

The base at Tuskegee was totally segregated. “We had our own base, our own hospital, our own little airfield.”

He vividly remembers his first solo. He and his flight instructor had just finished a flight when the instructor got out of the airplane and took his parachute with him. “I was wondering what the heck he was doing. He said, ‘Son, do you think you can fly this thing without killing yourself?’”

“I felt so lonesome up there. I was 20 years old. I had no business being up there. But I landed it. The instructor told me to try it again, so I took it up again and landed it. After that I had the confidence.”

They trained in the usual assortment of Army planes, the PT-17, the BT-13 and the T-6. Because pilots were so desperately needed for the war, Brown’s class had their training accelerated, and started training on P-40s, real fighter aircraft.

“We were really Big Men on Campus. ‘Those cadets were flying P40s, people said.’

After 40 weeks, Brown had completed the four phases of training and was commissioned a second lieutenant and given his wings. He got a week’s furlough back home in Minneapolis.

“It was incredible, walking around the north side with my wings. It was one of the best weeks of my life. I felt like I was walking on water. I felt like I was one of the greatest young men that ever said, ‘Good morning sun.’”

In the meantime, the Army had formed the 332nd Fighter Group made up of the 100th, 301st and 302nd fighter squadrons.

Despite the accelerated training, when it came time to ship Brown and his classmates overseas, they put them on a ship in a convoy rather than fly them over on bombers being ferried to Italy. “That’s the military for you. That convoy took 52 days just to get to Gibraltar.”

Up until that time, the Army had a strategy of having the fighters go in before the bombers to sweep the area and supposedly clear out the German fighters. “They would not allow the pilots to install wing tanks. The problem was that at this time the Germans still had 28,000 aircraft. There was no way our fighters were going to clean it up. We were sending bombing runs of 200 or 300 aircraft, and losing half of them in one mission.”

The Army changed its tactics, and the Tuskegee Airmen became one of the first groups to use the new strategy — sticking close to the bombers all the way in and out of a run. The 332nd first used P-47 Thunderbolts and then switched to the sleek, long-range P-51 Mustangs.

The 99th, which had been on duty in Africa, now joined the 332nd as its fourth fighter squadron, and Brown was assigned to it.

The fighter group had its own special markings of red around the propeller and on the vertical stabilizer in the rear of the fighter. They became known as the Red Tails.

As time went by, their skill at protecting the missions from German fighter attack became legendary, and many pilots and crew attributed their survival to African-American fighter pilots.

Brown had a few interesting experiences along the way. On his 13th mission, Dec. 9, 1944, he and the other Red Tails were escorting a group of bombers when they were sending bombing runs of 200 or 300 aircraft, and losing half of them in one mission. “That’s the military for you. That convoy took 52 days just to get to Gibraltar.”

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Legion Baseball helps sponsor arm symposium

Presented by the Minnesota Twins and organized by Nick Kennedy of the American Legion Baseball Hub of Minnesota, the Minnesota Dollar Arm Symposia took place Sept. 16 at Target Field in Minneapolis.

The event, which was streamed live on Fox Sports North and archived, featured the following four experts who discussed best practices for rest, recovery, arm injury prevention and player development:

- Jim Brower, a former Major League Baseball pitcher and current minor league pitching coordinator for the Chicago Cubs.
- Rob Fornasiere, an assistant head coach of the Minnesota Twins.
- Christoffer continued in the same vein, saying, “I like that we have the pitch count now. If we are going from the top down from the professional and collegiate and being conservative there, why are we not being conservative in our youth and high school levels? It should be conservative from the bottom up.”

Dr. Dahm stressed recovery, saying, “You really want to look at the whole body. What I see a lot is someone has an ankle injury or back injury and they feel it in their elbow because they haven’t fully rehabbed.” She later added, “One thing about recovery that people always forget is that sleep is the most important things to do to recover.”

On the topic of tips he would give players, Fornasiere passed along information he heard from famous surgeon Dr. James Andrews, “Most of the research says you should take two months off from throwing each year, if not three. It is hard to do since there are so many opportunities out there and you are falling behind, but if you are going to advance in your career you need to be healthy.”

For more information on the Minnesota Arm Care Project, visit www.minnesotaarmcare.org

Brown traveled back to Tuskegee after the war, standing in front of an AT-6 trainer.

that I was going to die that day.”

But a local constable stopped in front of Brown. “I could hear him hit the bolt on his rifle. He stopped the people from killing me. It was the scariest time I’ve ever had in my life. When I got to the POW camp I felt like it was a safe haven.”

Traveling between camps on a train, a P-51 began strafing the train. “That’s what I’d been doing. I could hear those .50 calibers, they were just tearing the train apart. Now I was on the other end of that, the guy being shot at. The engin- eer was gunning the engine trying to make it to a tunnel, and I was rooting for him.”

Brown was held at a POW camp in Nuremberg and later was marched to Moosberg as the American Lines drew closer.

Along the way, the men would stay the night at farms. Brown got his courage up and went to the door of the farmhouse and an elderly German woman came to the door. “She looked at me and then she touched my face, very gently. I don’t know if she was trying to rub it off or what. Then she left and came back in a little while with a bag that had a potato, an onion and a big chunk of meat. She said something to me in German, and I’ve always wondered what she said.”

Brown just home from the war in June, 1945.

For more information on the Minnesota Arm Care Project, visit www.minnesotaarmcare.org

Brown just home from the war in June, 1945.

said.”

On April 29, 1945, the Stalag 13D was liberated by the 14th Armored Division.

Brown decided to stay in the military, and served for 23 more years. The Army integrated in 1949. “On base it was okay. Off the base, it was the same old thing.”

He served in Japan during the Korean War, and then decided to retire in 1965 when he was 40 years old. He made a second career teaching at a community college in Ohio.

After the war, the story of the Tuskegee Airmen was rarely told, but then the slow accomplishments of the unit began to become known, and eventually to be honored with many books written about the black flyers. “So many of my friends had died by then. They never knew we’d be in the history books.”

This story is based on an interview done with Dr. Brown, from his appearance at North Community High School, and also from brief excerpts from his book, Keep Your Airspeed Up.
SILVER LAKE DINNER -- An appreciation dinner was held by Silver Lake Post 141 to honor all the World War II veterans in the county. Front: Marvin Fenstrom, Arnold Oie, Victor Ide, Donald Splettstazoer, Howard Ackenson. In back: Leroy Gehreke, Donald Rasmussen, Wallace Warnke, George Beihoffer, David Plath, Edwin LaMott, John Wendolek, Charles Burich, Milo Ziemann.

FALLDIN PROCLAMATION -- Falldin Post 555 received a proclamation from Columbia Heights Mayor Donna Schmitt proclaiming American Legion Day. From left: Malcolm Watson, Fridley Post; Don Orttel, Falldin Commander; Schmitt; Ray Eiden, Adjutant.

LAKE CITY 70 YEARS -- Lake City Post 110 honored three 70-year members recently. From left: Donald Palmer, Babe Terborch and Donald Dahling. Emery Fick presented.

BIGELOW VET HONORED -- John Sikma of Bigelow Post 496 was honored for continuous membership of 72 years. Presenting was Second District Membership Director Cindy Brunk.

FLAG RAISER -- George Hunkins of St. Paul Post 8 and formerly of St. Paul Grui Post 572, was the official flag raiser recently at a Twins game.

WINNEBAGO DONATION -- Winnebago Post 82 made a donation to the elevator fund at Mount Carmel Church in Easton. Legion Riders from Blue Earth Post 89 delivered the check. Oom, pah, pah.

EAGAN HONOR -- Danny Seanoa, a retired Army veteran, was honored as Eagan Post 594’s Legionnaire of the Year. Presenting were Commander John Flynn and Adjutant Wayne Beierman.

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October 2017 Minnesota Legionnaire Page 11
What was the turning point of the war in the Pacific during World War II? Naval historian and author James Hornfischer told the World War II Round Table in September that he believes it was the Marianas Campaign in mid-1944 that gave America the advantage.

Hornfischer, the author of the “Fleet at Flood Tide, America at Total War in the Pacific, 1944-1945,” said understanding the campaign is a way to understand the whole Pacific War.

"Once we had forced that gate, the war was over," Hornfischer said.

Largely ignored was the fact that the Marianas campaign was the largest in war history. The battle involved 15 carriers, seven battleships and over 950 aircraft. It was called the Battle of the Philippine Sea.

"It was the first time there were huge groups of Japanese civilians on the island. "There were 25,000 just ordinary people." The shelling took out most of the barracks "which made the Japanese force there basically uncommandable." The shelling "which made the Japanese force there basically uncommandable." The shelling took out most of the barracks "which made the Japanese force there basically uncommandable." The shelling "which made the Japanese force there basically uncommandable." The shelling "which made the Japanese force there basically uncommandable." The shelling "which made the Japanese force there basically uncommandable." The shelling "which made the Japanese force there basically uncommandable." The shelling "which made the Japanese force there basically uncommandable.

Milford Langehough from Lyle, Minnesota, was a radio communications expert in the Navy during the war. He remembers transmitting the news about the atomic bombs from the radio center on the USS Iowa, a battleship.

"We had these containers full of stuff, but we must have missed the target the first time through. When we came back there was a huge sign on the roof that said, 'Drop here.' "

Gifford was part of the air force over Tokyo Bay on Sept. 2. "We encountered a big black cloud at about 17,000 feet. Nobody had a plan B, so we went down on the deck and saw some of Japan. There was nothing left but a brick wall here and there."

Eventually the B-29 joined the air armada over the bay. "We could see the sailors hanging off the gun barrels. Gifford later became famous as the pilot who was able to land a stricken aircraft with the Minneapolis Lakers aboard during a blizzard in an Iowa cornfield. When we landed, the guys all got out of the airplane and started screaming and throwing snowballs. The rescue parties heard all that screaming and thought we were in really bad shape.

Bob Michelsen went to Minneapolis South High School and ended up in the 20th Air Force in the Pacific. He flew 10 missions.

"We had these containers full of stuff, but we must have missed the target the first time through. When we came back there was a huge sign on the roof that said, 'Drop here.' "

In one of the most famous photos taken in World War II, fighter pilot Alex Vraciu holds up six fingers to indicate how many Japanese planes he had shot down during the Great Marianas Turkey Shoot.

"You could peek under the blindfolds and we could see the machine guns. We thought that was our last day alive. There was a big argument back by the machine guns, but finally they packed up the guns and drove away."

"Once we had forced that gate, the war was over." The U.S. picked up the attack on radar, found the U.S. fleet first, and at dawn on June 19 began launching aircraft. The U.S. admirals had chosen a defensive position because the major objective was to protect the ongoing landings in the Mariana Islands.

Hornfischer talked about the leadership of Admiral Raymond Spruance, which the Marianas offered. Spruance and Admiral Kelly Turner, who was in charge of the landings in the Marianna Islands, "were not perfect. He had failed to inform Admiral Kimmel, who was in charge at Pearl Harbor during the attack, that intercepted messages indicated an attack on Wake Island."

But Turner survived and became an expert on island landings. "This was the guy Spruance put in charge of his ‘tractor navy.’ He was master of this critical specialty."

The fleet assembled for the Marianas was the largest in warfare history, with 16 carriers and over 37,000 amphibiouscraft. "It was this landingacht that were the engine that pushed us across the ocean."

"The Japanese had to work with a company-level defense because there were no communications beyond that level."

A major departure for the invasion of Saipan was that for the first time there were huge groups of Japanese civilians on the island. "There were 25,000 just ordinary people."

The others parachuted down, but were immediately captured. The pilot just said, ‘Target straight ahead.’ "

In the weeks following, he was able to take some rest and recreation at a Japanese hotel near Mt. Fuji, and said he and the others were surprised when they were in the hot tub with women who were married to the Geisha women who had earlier danced for them at the hotel. "It’s a picture that never leaves you.

"The Japanese Imperial Palace was never hit by the U.S. bombers."

On his 10th mission, the plane got caught in the Japanese flak. "We encountered a big black cloud at about 17,000 feet. Nobody had a plan B, so we went down on the deck and saw some of Japan. There was nothing left but a brick wall here and there."

During the Great Marianas Turkey Shoot. Bob Michelsen has written a book about his flight with the Lakers called, "The Miracle Landing."
Dear Members,

I attended the National Convention in Reno. What an event. Next year in August please plan on attending the National Conference here in Minneapolis, sign up as a guest and can afford everything the conference has to offer. Please plan on attending. Your eyes and mind will be opened with the things that The American Legion does for veterans and America.

The latest Membership Bulletin 11, the 4th District slipped to 5th place, I know we can do better, by the end of October we will recruit new members and retain our current members. Membership Director Mickey is planning a Post Revitalization sometime in November; more to follow.

Upcoming Events:
- October 7th – Arcade Phalen Booya, Noon till Gone
- October 8th – Omelet Breakfast, Rosestown 9AM – 12
- October 11th – RCCC at Arcade Phalen, Post 474, North End to host.
- October 10th – St Paul Veterans Jamboree, VFW Post 4555, 1154 Woodhill Dr, St Paul, 11AM – 4PM
- October 15th – VA Hospitalization, 12 Noon
- October 21st – Floor bills for scholarships for senior ROTC students. We dis- cussed the Yellow Ribbon Program and the value of this program that assist our soldiers when deployed and return- ing 48th annual Camp-O-Ree. The Detachment SAL and all their volunteers did a great job with the event. After the membership turn in the 9th was in 3rd Place in the Dist. standings. I want to thank all of the 9th District Posts for working with our membership; we have met our first & second National Goal.

I am looking forward to getting out throughout the District and having several upcoming events across the District and getting out to many more Posts as the Fall membership days take place along with other events across the district.

A reminder to all 9th District Posts, the 6th & 9th District Membership Rally is October 14th, at East Grand Forks Post 157. I’m challenging each post to bring membership anything but a negative with the infamous “leg.” We want to give the infamous “The Leg” back to our Sister District “6th”, We have taken care of it long enough & it’s time to let them do it on their own.

Fall Conference is just around the corner and is being held in Willmar this year. If you haven’t made your reser- vations please do so as this is where you will learn a lot about the Legion programs.

Until next month, God bless our Troops & their families and our Veterans.

Sincerely,

...
Hello everyone,

Since I last wrote, I have attended a membership dinner in Marvin, Minnesota. I have found that my favorite things to do, meeting the American Legion Family members, both new and some that I have been acquainted with for some time. At any rate, it was great. Membership of course is everyone’s job and so very important.

Membership Chairman Mary has initiated her Search and Rescue membership program at the Harvest Rally. Mary’s theme is “Searching for Members and Rescuing Renewals”. Please contact your District Membership Chairman to see where your Unit stands. The lower place the District is in, the uglier the hard hat they get to wear. So needless to say, help your District Membership Chairman to obtain the hard hat at the next rally. Our 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents are also participating in this initiative with 1st VP Jean Coleman helping the even numbered Districts and 2nd VP Mary Hendrickson helping the odd numbered Districts. After the first rally 1st VP Jean has the more attractive hard hat and 2nd VP Mary has the less attractive hat. Help out whichever in charge of the District you are in so they both have a chance to get the nice looking hard hat. Chairman Mary Kuperus is doing a great job in getting us all out to “Search for Membership and Rescue Renewals.” I am looking forward to getting busier in October – so until next time, be safe. God Bless our Military, past & present; their families, each one of you and our States.

Family Fued slated for FC

District Commanders and District Presidents will compete against their counterparts in one of the many popular game shows of the ’70s & ’80s. Two District Commanders and two District Presidents along with either the Department Commander, Department President, 1st or 2nd Auxiliary Vice Presidents, SAL Commander and even the Department Legion Membership Director will face off as a team. The SAL and the Legion Riders will also have a team. Five members of a team are pitted against another team. The goal is to guess the results of most popular survey questions. Each game consists of three parts: The Face-Off, The Feud, and The Fast Money Bonus Round. The team that has the most points after all the questions have been answered will go to the bonus round. If time permits, the Department Legion Membership Director will face off against the Department Legion Vice President.

The Auxiliary Bulletin

No. 18-3

October 2017

President Donna Arends

Secretary Sandie Deutsch

The President’s Column

By Donna Arends

NATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Following are the National Appointments that National President Diane Duscheck has made to serve with her this 2017/2018 Auxiliary year. In keeping up with the past years, Minnesota has a long list of appointees. This shows the confidence our members are in serving our Veterans. Norma Tramm was named the National Leadership Chairman, Raleen Tolzmann was named National Public Relations Vice Chairman, Mary Hendrickson was named a committee member on National Public Relations and McKayla Hatfield was named as Northwestern Division Chairman of Public Relations. Tracy Bibble was named a member of the National Junior Activities Committee. Tamara Opland was named Northwestern Division Girls Nation Chairman, Jean Walker was named Northwestern Division Auxiliary Emergency Fund Chairman. Shirley Frederick was named Northwestern Division Leadership Chairman, Chris Ronning was named Northwestern Division National Security Chairman, Donna Arends was named Northwestern Division Community Service Chairman, and Carol Kottom was named Northwestern Division Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. If you see any of these ladies please take a moment and congratulate them. This is a very large responsibility they have taken on along with their continued involvement with our own Department.

FALL CONFERENCE

Fall Conference will be held October 27-28 in Willmar, hosted by the Willmar American Legion Family 167. Our meetings will be held at the Willmar Conference Center. On Thursday, October 26, at 7:00 p.m. there will be a workshop held that will cover Leadership and how it works hand in hand with Membership and Public Relations. Robin Coleman endorsed for 2nd Vice President

For the past 15 years, Patti has been employed by Antea USA, Inc. as an Accounting Specialist and she is the coordinator of their Corporate Social Sustainability initiative. Patti is a member of Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Circle Pines and a volunteer for the Centennial Theater Arts program. Patti and Larry are the parents of one daughter, Kiana, who is the immediate Past Dept. of MN Honorary Junior President.

Mary Hendrickson endorsed for 1st Vice-Pres.

For the 2017/2018 District President Diane Duscheck has made to serve with her this 2017/2018 Auxiliary year. Mary Hendrickson is currently serving as Department Second Vice President, VA&K Chairman and is a member of the National Public Relations Committee.

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Sept. 20, Auxiliary Membership

West Duluth Unit 71 has endorsed Mary Hendrickson for the position of Department First Vice President for the 2018-2019 Auxiliary year. Mary Hendrickson is through her late father, Clarence Gilbertson, a World War II Veteran and her husband, Carl, a Navy Veteran of the Vietnam War Era. Mary has served all offices and most committee chairmanships at the local and district levels, including 8th District President in 2011-2012. At the department level she has held chairmanships in education, community service, leadership, service to veterans and department historian.

For the past 15 years, Patti has been employed by Antea USA, Inc. as an Accounting Specialist and she is the coordinator of their Corporate Social Sustainability initiative. Patti is a member of Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Circle Pines and a volunteer for the Centennial Theater Arts program. Patti and Larry are the parents of one daughter, Kiana, who is the immediate Past Dept. of MN Honorary Junior President.

PATTI COLEMAN

The Minnesota Legionnaire

October 2017

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

President Donna Arends

Membership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Membership To Date</th>
<th>Percent of Goal</th>
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<td>451</td>
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<td>Two</td>
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<td>12,372</td>
<td>4,616</td>
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Minnesota’s Reno national award recipients are listed

Minnesota proudly accepted the following National awards at our 2017 National Convention.

Education, Most Outstanding Unit Program – Hayfield Unit 330

Community Service, Outstanding Department Award - Northwestern Division - Sharon Voltz, Chairman, Department First Year; American Legion, Best Overall Program – Anoka Unit 102 – Cathy Newman, Chairman.

Americanism Essay Contest – Mollie Moser, Hayfield Unit 330, NW Div. Class V Best Essay

Poppy Poster Contest – Julia Kiefel, Adams, MN – NW Division Class II

Congratulations to all of you for your outstanding accomplishments in the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary. Remember to apply for these awards in April!! All awards will be handed out at Fall Conference.

COOKBOOKS ARE ALMOST HERE

As many of you are aware our Strategic Planning Committee has put together a new cookbook in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of our organization. The cost of this book is $25.00 plus $6.00 for shipping and they can be preordered anytime by sending a check to the Department Office. The committee is hoping the books will be available at Fall Conference, but we are not sure if they will be done in time. As the Department Office is receiving calls that this cookbook is very expensive, please keep in mind that there are over 1000 recipes along with much of the Auxiliary history in the book. It isn’t just a cookbook but a history of our organization. Every Unit should have one and then promote it to their members. This would make a marvelous Christmas present. Also, we will have our military bracelets and Member Handbooks along with the emblem magnets available for purchase at Fall Conference or you can order just by calling the Department Office at 651-224-7634.
2017-18 SCHOLARSHIPS
The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Minnesota, will again offer eight ($8,000.00 scholarships) to deserving students who wish to further their education, attending any institution of higher learning. They must be a resident of Minnesota or a member of the Auxiliary, Legion or SAL.

There is also the Past Presidents Parley Health Care Scholarship of which up to ten $1,000.00 scholarships are available for our veterans. The Department Office is here for you – call anytime and we will get you any information you need.

The Auxiliary Unit there. John, Wayne and the Post members were so courteous and welcoming to us, to that I thank them for their hospitality and hard work.

The American Legion also offers a Legacy Scholarship. Their goal for this year is to award $10,000 to 10 recipients. You may view the forms and requirements at ALAforVeterans.org under Programs Action Page.

**Just Ask** - Time for questions on the above programs

Chairman contacts the Home Representative if there need be the caregiver’s gift can be mailed at no expense to the Christmas Shop. The American Legion Auxiliary will take care of the cost of the mailing. You and the Veterans Centers and continue to serve the Veterans every month, not just at Christmas.

During the month of December the Departments of the American Legion Auxiliary and the American Legion offer the Christmas Shop to their members and host gift shops in the Military Medical centers and VA hospitals. The Gift Shop is not a new program, it was in 1935 at the national convention in Los Angeles that the Christmas gift shop program was outlined. For those of you who are wonder- ing just what is the Christmas gift shop, let’s set up the rules only a majority vote can amend or rescind at any regularly sched-uled meeting without prior notification.

Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall govern the American Legion Auxiliary in all cases that are not in con- flict with state statute, the constitution, the bylaws or any special rules of order adopted by the organization.

First Priority: Leadership, Membership and Public Relations Seminar
Kyle Prinkey, Department President’s Project
Betty Underhuff, Fall Conference Auxiliary Chairman
Karla Minnick, Seventh District President
Bonnie Wagner, Chairman
Donna Arends, Department President
Carol Holmgren, 1stDistrict      President, Leadership Program
Carol Holmgren, Chairman
Marsha Bible, Chairman
Jean Horack, Chairman
Carol Kottom, 2016-2017 Department President
Sandy Wersal, Mary Kuperus and Robin Dorf

CONSTRUCTION AND STANDING RULES IS OCTOBER FEATURED PROGRAM

By Marsha Bible
The American Legion Auxiliary emphasis for October is Construction & Standing Rules. The purpose of this committee is to inform and educate our members on the importance and value of proper construction and standing rules. These books are available at the unit, district, and national level. Rules are the basis for governing at all levels. It is important to have these documents for granted but that we review them on an annual basis to make sure that they are current and comply with department and national rules.

Constitution and ByLaws
Unit, District and Department Constitutions and ByLaws are only revised at the Department convention. There will be a District Wall contest for Department Donna’s project. All proposals come from the District Wall contest for Department Donna’s project. All proposals come from the District Standing Rules committee. Gallery 5 Room
8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Department Convention Lunch
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Audit Committee Meeting
Back of Men’s room
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Audience at large
12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m. Caucus Meeting
Back of Men’s room
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Department Wives’ Meeting
Back of Men’s room

THURSDAY EVENINGS – WORKSHOPS – Galleries 1 - 4

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. – 2017-18 SCHOLARSHIP AUGUST 2017 – 2018 SCHOLARSHIP

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Panama Canal Cruise
March 25 - April 9, 2018
Tour Includes:
- 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Larry Ayres
- Roundtrip Delta flight from Minneapolis
- 1 night pre-cruise in Ft. Lauderdale
- 1 night pre-cruise in St. Lucie
- Visit 5 port of call including Ft. Lauderdale & Los Angeles
- Cruise gratuities
- Transfer to and from the ship
- All tours included while on the ship
- All meals and entertainment while aboard
- All transfers to and from the airport and pier

Starting at $4,679.00 Per Person Double occupancy

Minnesota Twins Spring
Training in Florida
March 8-18, 2018
Tour Includes:
- 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Cindy Meaney
- 4 Seasons tour manager transportation
- 10 nights accommodations
- 18 meals: 10 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 7 dinners
- Anheuser Busch Brewery Tour, St. Louis, MO
- Best of Nashville Guided tour
- Coca Cola Factory Tour, Atlanta, GA
- 2 spring Training baseball games

Luggage handling for one suitcase per person

Starting at $1,799.00 Per Person Double occupancy

San Antonio Riverwalk
February 4-11, 2018
Tour Includes:
- 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Cindy Meaney
- 7 nights accommodations, with 2 nights on the Riverwalk
- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- 15 Meals: 7 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 3 dinners
- Market Square (San Antonio)
- Riverwalk district
- San Fernando Cathedral
- San Antonio History Tour
- The Alamo
- Magnolia Market Silos
- Christmas lights tour including Zoo lights at the Lincoln Park Zoo
- Luggage handling for one suitcase

Starting at $1,299.00 Per Person Double occupancy

Christmas in Chicago
December 3-5, 2017
Tour Includes:
- 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Cindy Meaney
- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- 2 nights accommodations
- 3 Meals and 1 Holiday hors d’oeuvres party
- Goodwill Dine A Christmas Carol
- The Wonderful Express
- Christmas around the World Tree display
- City Tours of New Orleans and Baton Rouge
- Mardi Gras World
- 2 nights in Baton Rouge
- Roundtrip Delta flight from Minneapolis to New Orleans
- 7 nights accommodations, with 2 nights on the Riverwalk
- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- 15 Meals: 7 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 3 dinners
- Luggage handling for one suitcase per person

Starting at $599.00 Per Person Double occupancy

Attention: Posts
Dec. 17, 2017
Tour Includes:
- 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Larry Ayres
- Roundtrip Delta flight from Minneapolis to New Orleans
- 3 nights in New Orleans
- Natchez Mississippi River Cruise and lunch on the ship
- Mardi Gras World
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Starting at $1,499.00 Per Person Double occupancy

Mailbox
How will you pay for expenses when Medicare doesn’t cover?
With the high cost of healthcare today, Medicare Supplement insurance is becoming a necessity for our more and more Americans. That’s why it’s important to know that you now have a choice of competitive Standardized Medicare Supplement plans offered to subscribers like you. All plans are underwritten by a company known for its prompt, personal, responsive service.

Other features include:
• The freedom of choosing your own doctors and hospitals who accept Medicare.
• Outstanding Customer Service available from courteous representatives ready to answer your questions.

Benefits:
• Full hospitalization and nursing care benefits.

Annual Open Enrollment Period:
• October 15 - December 7 (2018)

Lowest our rates can be underwritten by a company known for its prompt, personal, responsive service.

Let a retired active duty can not you can trust show you how you may benefit from a Reverse REVERSE MORTGAGES

Mike Kraus
Loan Officer
7365 Kirkwood Court North, Suite 300
Maple Grove, MN
763-345-8540
mkraus@mulhome loans.com

How can you benefit from a Reverse REVERSE MORTGAGE?

The future doesn’t have to be uncertain.

Evaluate yourself on how and why Reverse Mortgages work.

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

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- 15 Meals: 7 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 3 dinners
- Luggage handling for one suitcase per person

Starting at $1,499.00 Per Person Double occupancy

Monuments of Washington DC
April 27- May 1, 2018
Tour Includes:
- 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Larry Ayres
- Roundtrip Delta Air from Minneapolis
- 4 nights accommodations in the Washington DC area
- 4 breakfasts and 4 dinners
- Evening guided Memorial and Monuments tour
- Two full day guided tours of Washington DC
- Breakfast daily
- River Walks of Washington
- WW II Memorial, Capitol Hill, Embassy Row, Korean War Veterans Memorial, Smithsonian, Lincoln Memorial
- Luggage handling for one suitcase per person

Starting at $1,499.00 Per Person Double occupancy

New Orleans & Baton Rouge
May 10-15, 2018
Tour Includes:
- 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Larry Ayres
- Roundtrip Delta flight from Minneapolis to New Orleans
- 3 nights in New Orleans
- 2 nights in Baton Rouge
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Starting at $4,879.00 Per Person Double occupancy

3 Reasons to join a full service Travel Agency. We specialize in selling Mexico, Hawaii, Cruises, Europe, and the entire World. Trust our experience, Love your vacation!!

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS IN BUSINESS!

Minnesota Legionnaire
October 2017

Celebrate Albert Lea, MN

130 West Clark Street
Ely, Minnesota
7365 Kirkwood Court North, Suite 300
Albert Lea, MN

www.4-seasons-vacations.com

1-800-328-4298 or 507-373-4705

SINCE 1967
CELEBRATING 50 YEARS IN BUSINESS!

Page 16

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