DEC looks at 2017-18 Department budget

The Department Executive Committee got a chance to look over the Department’s budget for the coming year at its meeting in Willmar during the Fall Conference.

The budget had been approved by the Department Finance Committee on Sept. 30.

The projected income for the year 2017-18 was listed at $321,000.

The DEC approved six changes to the Sons of the American Legion constitution and bylaws. The changes had been approved by the Detachment in June. The changes included:

SAL advisors will now be ex-officio members of all SAL committees.

SAL business (call for meetings, etc.) can now be done by email.

SAL disciplinary action will now need approval of the DEC.

The Detachment commander will now issue the call for the Detachment convention.

Five districts will constitute a quorum at meetings.

The Detachment Fall Conference will now be held in conjunction with the Department Fall Conference.

Only education shall take place, with no business coming before the body.

In other business:

-- The DEC was given an informational report from new Department Judge Advocate Greg Colby, Northfield. He noted that he does not give legal opinions to districts or posts, only to the Department.

-- Past National Commander Dan Ludwing, Red Wing, urged districts to find places in their district where there is a high school but no Legion post and to establish a post.

Employee salaries are projected to rise about $13,000 to $321,000. The DEC approved six changes to the Sons of the American Legion constitution and bylaws. The changes had been approved by the Detachment in June. The changes included:

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Continued from Page 1

The American Legion Post 113 for guidance on how they should be awarded. A plan was in the works. The afternoon of October 2nd, as he had finished with cards, he was ready to have some birthday cake. He was turning 97 that day.

Suddenly, through the doors marched The American Legion Post 113 Honor Guard and, with pomp and ceremony, posted the colors on either side of the podium. There were approximately 100 people in the room at the time including his wife of 70 years, family, friends, local dignitaries and members of the local Army National Guard full time staff. KEYC TV News from Mankato, MN was there to cover the event as well as local media sources.

"It was presented with the following awards: American Theater Service Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Theater Service Medal, World War II Victory Medal; Army Good Conduct Medal; Meritorious Unit Award; Honorific Service Lapel Pin."

David Sturrock of the Marshall City Council read, and presented to Mr. Labat, a proclamation stating “Peter B. Labat Day.” A local group of quilters in the Marshall area makes Honor Quilts for veterans and presented him with one during the presentation.

Marshall veteran gets his military awards 72 years later

Helping honor Pete Labat were Seventh District Vice Commander Jeffrey Gay, Col. Doug Simon’s and Major Kelly Wasberg.

Fall Conferences learn about youth programs

Continued from Page 1

"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.

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

There are sponsorship, advertisement and giving opportunities for businesses. If you know of a company that may want to take part in the 100th convention, please contact Michael Davy at (612) 247-9900 or mdavy@mnlegion.org.

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For more information, please visit: www.mnlegion.org
Legion working on plans to move bog blocking Legionville

There’s Plan A, Plan B, Plan C, and many more as time is running out to move a massive bog choking the shoreline of Legionville School Safety Patrol Camp on North Long Lake Near Brainerd.

The bog broke loose from the shoreline, about a quarter mile away on Legionville property, and floated across Merrifield Bay on North Long Lake.

Apparently not content with its new home, the bog, pushed by the wind, floated back across the bay and settled in directly in front of Legionville camp -- blocking the swimming beach.

It’s not small.

“It’s about three football fields long by about a football field wide,” said Department Adjutant Randy Tesdahl. “It’s got trees and everything.”

After it got to its present position, the Lake Owners Association staked it down to keep it from wandering further, destroying docks as it went.

The ideal solution would be to put it back where it came from, about a quarter mile away adjacent to some undeveloped Legionville land.

But that’s easier said than done.

First of all, whatever plan is chosen, it all must be done in a hurry. Once the lake ices in, the water level will drop, and the bog may permanently attach itself to that shoreline.

North Long Lake has been known to ice in as soon as mid-November.

As this issue of the Legionnaire went to press, Tesdahl was considering a half dozen options for moving the bog.

-- Contact has been made with the Evinrude Outboard Motor Co. to bring a number of high powered motors and boats that could drag the bog to its intended spot. Evinrude could use the project to garner publicity for its engines.

-- Another plan would be to assemble Minnesota’s top fishing pros and their boats to move the bog.

-- Contact has been made with the Minnesota National Guard for them to do a training exercise using Chinook helicopters to pull the bog.

-- Hiring a professional bog mover who would come in with tractors and barges to push and pull the bog. The service, however, could cost as much as $80,000.

Tesdahl said the Department of Natural Resources has been very helpful. “They have bent over backwards to help us out.”

Once a bog has been staked, the DNR can close the permit and allow no further action, but the DNR has indicated to Tesdahl that it will keep the permit open as the Legion tries to move the bog away from Legionville proper.

It’s estimated that the bog weighs a thousand tons, and once it’s adrift, the wind can move it quite easily.

Getting it moving is the problem, and may need massive power equipment to both push it from the beach and pull it down the shoreline to its former home.

A story in the Brainerd Daily Dispatch quoted a homeowner near Legionville. “I feel so bad where this bog landed, said Nicole Zoschke. “Where are these kids going to swim, where did their beach go, and where did their nice big lake go?”

The bog is made up of marshland, dead plant material and a row of tamarack trees.

A major problem is in trying to attach any kind of tow rope to the bog that would hold and not tear free.

Plan F or G, Tesdahl said, might be to break the bog into smaller pieces and move those to a different spot.

In the meantime, the project goes on. Stay tuned.

Get your copy now!
Mail Call

By Mike Schaffer

Chaplain’s Corner

By Ralph Schneekloth

“Service to God and Country” – it’s an American Legion program, yes, but the saying describes just as well our members’ concern and way of life.

No king is saved by the size of his army, no warrior escapes by his great strength.

Mail Call

Great speakers

To the Editor:

Are you aware of the communities to have the Boys’ and Girls’ Staters speak at their school or at a community event? How about the Veterans’ Day convocation?

On Thursday of Boys’ State Week, the House of Representatives and the State Senate convene. Officers of each are elected. Discussion of bills that are introduced first takes place, and bills get back to back each body. Some are passed, then presented to the other body. If passed there, on to the Governor for signing or a veto!

Those special interest groups have an effect on the bills’ outcomes, as it does in our own State Legislative.

Groups of young men prepare a stand on an issue, then visit with Legislators presenting convincing facts and opinions about their passion.

Those not in the legislature are busy with county business, and family-type events is what made us a vital part of our community then, made us be able to not to be a nonmember veteran.

Those are the same veterans that now say we don’t want any more.
What's Happening

Shop, Ship and Share

The 5th District, with help from the 5th District, will be presenting its annual Shop, Ship and Share program at the Maplewood Mall on Dec. 1-2. Boxes are packed with Christmas gift items for those serving overseas. Legion Family members can contribute to the program by donating for postage, and also by supplying the military with names and addresses of those deployed from our area.

Area schools will be collecting items for the packages. To make a donation, send them to: Shop, Ship and Share for the Military, Box 17035, St. Paul, MN 55170-0035.

1968 Returns

"The 1968 Exhibit" will return to the Minnesota History Center Dec. 3 following a five-year national tour. The exhibit was created by the Minnesota Historical Society, and now will be home for the 50th anniversary of that pivotal year in American history. That year included such events as the Tet Offensive, the assassinations of Martin Luther King and Bobby Kennedy, women’s rights, the pivotal year in American history. That year included such events as the Tet Offensive, the assassinations of Martin Luther King and Bobby Kennedy, women’s rights, the Democratic National Convention and Apollo 8.

It also includes a reconstructed Huey helicopter that was put back together by Minnesota veterans.

For more information go to mnhs.org.

Still time for funding

The 100 Cities/100 Memorials project has extended its deadline for a second round of funding. The Pritzker Military Museum and Library and the United States World War One Centennial Commission have offered $200,000 in matching funds to restore World War I memorials.

Any local government or Legion post that can put up $2,000 will receive $2,000 in matching money.

For more information, go to www.icc.org/100Memorials.

Military Appreciation Dinner

The Lakeville Yellow Ribbon and Trinity Evangelical Free Church will present their 9th annual Military Appreciation Dinner on Friday, Nov. 10 from 6-9 p.m. It will be held at the church, 10658 210th Street in Lakeville.

The evening will include dinner, entertainment and prizes. It’s free to every veteran and a guest, but reservations are required. To RSVP, call 651-382-4022 for more information.

MACY events

The Minnesota Veterans Council for Veterans will present several events in the coming weeks.

There will be a StandDown for veterans on Tuesday, Nov. 14, at the Verizon Wireless Center in Mankato. Free services provided include: meal, VA benefits info, clothing, haircuts, ID cards, chaplaincy, employment assistance and legal assistance. For more information, call 507-345-2858.

A free drop-in legal clinic will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 14, at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center in the Flag Atrium Balcony Room. There will be attorneys, county veteran service officers, and child support officers available. The clinic will deal with housing, employment, benefits, wills, debt collection, and family law. It will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call 651-200-4750.

Another legal clinic will be held Thursday, Dec. 7, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Anoka County Government Center. Call the number above for more information.

Pearl Harbor Rally

The Department’s Pearl Harbor Rally will be held on Saturday, Dec. 2, at West Duluth Post 71. Membership turn in is from 3-4:30 p.m. with dinner at 5 and the program to follow. Tickets are $20 per person. All district commanders and need to be purchased before the event.

Round Table events

The St. Croix Valley Civil War Roundtable will have the “2nd Battery Light Artillery, Minnesota Volunteers, 1861-1865” with speaker Daryl Duden. The meeting will be held at the Lowell in Stillwater with the dinner at 6 and the program at 7 p.m.

To make reservations, contact Steve Anderson at 715-386-1258.

The World War II History Round Table will meet on Thursday, Nov. 9, at the Historic Fort Snelling Visitor Center at 7 p.m. The subject will be “Allying for Victory” with author William T. Johnson who wrote “The Origins of the Grand Alliance.” It will discuss the partnerships between Churchill and Roosevelt to plan the Allied victory over the Axis in World War II. Admission is $5. This will be the Dr. Harold C. Deutsch Lecture for the year.

Flag Raising Ceremony

There will be a flag raising ceremony on Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2017, at the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services building in St. Paul.

The American Legion will participate in this event and speakers will include Luke Stunkel, Fourth District Commander and Teresa Ash, Fourth District Public Relations Chair.

The program will begin at 7:45 a.m. and will include a collection of retired flags.

For more information, call Ann Hadel, 651-602-4504.

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

By Jeremy Wolfsteller

Warning: Separation authority abused

I am an American, fighting in the forces which guard my country and our way of life. I am prepared to give my life for my country. Is there anything more honorable than Honorable Conditions (OTH).

What the military has struggled to do is identify if their service members pattern of behavior has changed. If a pattern of administrative misconduct happens can bar a veteran from accessing VA benefits like GI Bill, home loans, ability compensation through the VA.

Recently three DOD Directives from the Secretary starting up now, in 2017, have been directed at some mental health disorder a pre-existing problem that emerges in youth, disorders vs. evaluating service members for mental health conditions which could have contributed to their misconduct. If any misconduct happened due to the service member’s mental health condition, they should be given treatment, a profile if needed, and a proper medical board and honorable separation if the condition is permanent.

The Secretary of Defense has also made changes to the way the Discharge Review Boards and Board for Correction of Military Records handle a request for an upgrade. Prior to these directives, the boards were only upgrading an average of less than 10% nationwide annually.

Recently three DOD Directives from the Secretary starting in 2014, 2015 and 2016 were to give board consideration to upgrade requests that involve misconduct related to post traumatic stress disorder(PTSD) for all eras, military sexual trauma (MST) and military sexual harassment (MSH). The process for applying for an upgrade to the Department of Defense is very difficult. There are some law firms that assist veterans with these cases but sometimes with a fee. The American Legion is one of the only Veterans Service Organizations that has National and Department staff that are trained and provide free upgrade assistance.

With the new directives, we are seeing a higher percentage amongst the different branches of service boards. The American Legion Dept. of Minnesota has taken it a step further to identify these OTH cases that could have been because of a mental health condition developed in service by starting a pilot program consisting of local attorneys that provide free pro bono assistance putting together an application for severance pay to include an honorable discharge.

Unfortunately, many service members, dating back to WWII, were given an improper or inequitable discharge. One of the greatest betrayals of service members is when they return from Vietnam. Many of these veterans returned from deployment struggling with a mental health problem that was not even identified in Vietnam. That condition is now known as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). That condition can change the behavioral pattern in veterans and consequently lead them into a pattern of misconduct.

Rather than the military treating these veterans for their psychiatric conditions, and administering a medical board, the military boards and VA boards rule personal disorder/misconduct and give them an OTH.

Today with pressure from The American Legion along with Congressional support, the Secretary of Defense has issued multiple directives, guidance and regulations to the military branches in regard to discharging for personality disorders vs. evaluating service members for mental health conditions which could have contributed to their misconduct. If any misconduct happened due to the service member’s mental health condition, they should be given treatment, a profile if needed, and a proper medical board and honorable separation if the condition is permanent.

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The Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans will present several events in the coming weeks.

Another legal clinic will be held Thursday, Dec. 7, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Anoka County Government Center. Call the number above for more information.

Cemetery set for Cass Lake

The National Cemetery Administration has awarded the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe a $3.3 million grant to construct the Leech Lake Veterans Cemetery in Cass Lake.

The grant will fund the construction of a main entrance, an administration and maintenance facility, roads, an assembly area, a cremation shelter, grave sites, a memorial wall and landscaping.

The cemetery will serve 2,959 tribal veterans and families.

The project will develop about three acres of land.

The next closest national cemetery is at Fort Snelling, 224 miles away.

CENTENNIAL COINS - Sons of the American Legion

Adjutant Doug Bible sells a centennial coin to Ray Ozman at the Fall Conference. The commemorative coins, on sale for $10, will be available throughout the centennial year from the SAL.

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Another legal clinic will be held Thursday, Dec. 7, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Anoka County Government Center. Call the number above for more information.

For more information, go to www.lakevilleyellowribbon.com.
Fellow teammates look stunned as Third District Commander Gene Leifeld gives an answer during the Family Feud activity on Friday night. From left: Mary Kuperus, First District Commander Les Shaunce, First District President Cheryl Nymann, Department Commander Mike Schaffer, District 3 President Kat Benjamin, Leifeld.

When it was discovered there was no gavel at the podium, the American Legion Riders presented Commander Schaffer with a substitute, which he continued to use even after the gavel was found.

Author Alan Duff spoke on Americanism at the conference.

We wuz framed. First Vice President Jean Walker, President Donna Arends and Second Vice President Mary Hendrickson provided their own frame for a Fall Conference photo.

Membership Director Larry Ryan congratulates Second District Membership Director Cindy Brunk and Commander Randy Olson for winning the Kaisersatt Derby. Ryan informed them that instead of a plaque, they were winners of catfish fillets. Brunk took one look at the catfish innards and said, “Where’s my plaque?”

Leading Candidate for National Commander Brett Riestad of Virginia was a special guest of the Fall Conference. He got to see his first snowflakes of the year.

Holly Soria of the National Magazine staff told about events surrounding the Legion’s Centennial event which begins next year with the 100th National Convention in Minneapolis.

Fall Conference at Willmar
Quilts of Valor were presented at the conference. From left, front: Karen Welander, Heather Larson, Bert Marth. In back, John Grams, Myron Ehrich, Carl Hendrickson, Mike Schaffer, Darrel Redepenning, Carl Moon, Rollie Hanson, Tom Conway, Ray DeZurik.

Kandy Reagan and Sandy Fredrickson created and sold cookbooks for the Auxiliary.

Bill Goede, Plainview, was named Legionnaire of the Year by the Sons of the American Legion. Detachment Commander Shawn Davis presented.

Department President Donna Arends presented Honorary Junior President Courtney Rogat.
Bruce Peters loved hunting and trapping, and says he put on an Army test “enjoys walking in the woods with a rifle.” He was sent to Vietnam as an infantryman and he became the radio operator for his company. For a few minutes in a ferocious firefight, he became the company’s de facto commander.

Bruce Peters

By Al Zdon

Bruce Peters goes to reunions of his fellow Vietnam combat veterans now and then. Often they will go as a group to a local restaurant for a meal, but this presents a dilemma. None of the veterans likes to sit with his back to the open space in the room. None of them feels comfortable unless they’re facing the situation. “The problem is that there’s usually not enough wall space for 25 guys.”

Peters was born in Morris, Minnesota, but the family soon moved to land in the country so his dad, who ran a dry cleaning business, could indulge his real passion: beekeeping. Peters graduated from Alberta High School in their last class before the school closed. “I always told my kids that I was proud to have graduated in the top 20 of my class. Of course, I didn’t tell them there were only 19 in the class.”

He left home just after graduating from high school in the spring of 1967 and went to work for a plastics company in Willmar. “I was taking classes at the local community college, but I was working and dating this little gal, so school came third. Guys were getting drafted hot and heavy and I knew my name was going to come up. I didn’t know anything about Vietnam except what I saw on the news.”

Peters went to the local recruiter and asked what kind of a deal he could get if he enlisted, and ended up signing on for a two-year hitch. He reported to Fort Campbell, Kentucky, for basic training in July 1968 and then was off to Fort Lewis, Washington, for Advanced Infantry Training.

“I wrote on a test somewhere that I liked to go for long walks in the woods carrying a rifle. That was probably a dumb thing to write down. Of course they sent me to infantry school.”

He was due to finish the school in late November, and he and Claris, his betrothed, set a wedding date for Dec. 6. Of course, the Army had other ideas and kept him at the school after graduation.

“I arrived home on the morning of December 6th, ready to get married, but of course they had postponed the wedding. They married on Dec. 20th and 10 days later, Peters was on his way to Vietnam.

“I took a commercial flight. At the beginning of the trip there was a lot of joking around and bravado. We were just young guys. But afterwards it got pretty quiet on the plane.

“When we got there, the airplane captain announced that we were in a holding pattern because they were shelling Ton Son Nhat Airfield. So we all looked out the windows and we thought we saw puffs of smoke down below.”

The plane finally landed, but the attack was still going on and the men descended the ramp and ran for a nearby bunker. “The two flight attendants stood on either side of the stairs. They were the last ones in the bunker. I thought they were pretty brave for civilians.”

The first thing the men noticed about their new home was the stench. “We thought it was just the bunker that smelled that way, but when we came out, it was the same thing. What is that stink?”

The stink stayed with them for a while. “The farmers smelled that way, but when we came out, it was the same for him. They might be small when they got on you, but they could get four inches long when they were gorged with blood. You could get them off with a lit cigarette, and bug repellent burned like crazy too.”

The new infantryman was also instructed about varieties of booby traps, including hand grenades hooked up to a thin wire, either down below or in the branches above. “They’d take the fuse out, so it was instantaneous. The ones in the ground usually killed you, while the ones in the branches usually only maimed you.”

Another trap was a punji pit, razor-sharp bamboo poles in a shallow pit tipped with buffalo or human manure, and covered so you couldn’t see them until you stepped into the pit.

“This was guerilla warfare, and they wanted to put fear into the enemy. Even if they only wounded someone, it meant that a helicopter would have to be called in while everybody waited.”

Peters had arrived on Jan. 3, and by Jan. 18th he was assigned to the Ninth Division, 39th Infantry, 4th Battalion, Company D, 3rd Platoon.

Peters was given the job of carrying the radio for the platoon leader, but within days was promoted to being the RTO (radio transmission operator) for the company commander.

“Sometimes we were like kids with CBs, teasing each other on the two-ways. The NCOs would put an end to that.”

Coincidentally, he arrived at almost the same time as the battalion’s new commander, Col. David Hackworth, one of the most decorated soldiers in Vietnam and who had a reputation as a tough leader. It was Hackworth’s job to make a fighting force out of the 4th of the 39th, which up to that point had a poor reputation in combat.

Hackworth later became famous as a television military commentator. “One of the things with Hackworth was when you saluted an officer you said, ‘Hardcore Recondo.’ That’s what we called ourselves. And the officer would reply, ‘No f—ing slack!’

The unit encountered small arms fire on its first mission, and Peters asked his lieutenant if he had earned his Combat Infantry Badge yet. The answer was no. It was the same thing on his second outing, and the answer was no again.

“Then we went out on a night that was so black that you had to keep your hand on the guy in front of you to keep going. Then we got into a real fire fight. This was a lot of...
knocked the snot out of this area, and we were walking on
attack. VC. Like I say, it was a miracle.

He kept trying and trying, but nothing worked. All of a sud-
over their heads. The helicopters could see the signal, but
putting strobe lights in their steel helmets and holding them
another. They indicated their position to the helicopters by

He still was able to call in air support before he went
chest. He still was able to call in air support before he went

They know we're here. But the captain dug his heels in, and
stay there because our position had been compromised.
the mines themselves had been destroyed by the napalm.

Snipers were a constant danger for the troops. “We had
enough to pick up Tactics 101 from his previous COs,
the outcome of this fight would have been even more
terrorism.” Hackworth only got one thing wrong. Peters had
enlisted in the Army.

Bruce Peters has several parts in the book Steel my
Soldier’s Hearts by Col. David C. Hackworth. During
the fighting at the Co Co Canal, Hackworth wrote:

Private First Class Peters instantly became the act-
ing company commander. He called in gunships that
blasted the attacking VC while Spooky lit up the bat-
tlefield. Peters kept me informed back at Danger and
handled the besieged company like an old pro. Without
damned competent dratife PFC who’d been smart
enough to pick up Tactics 101 from his previous COs;
the outcome of this fight would have been even more
terrorism.”

Excitement for kid that hadn’t been in combat before. A
piece of mud got kicked up and hit me in the back of
the head, and I thought my head had been blown off.

“We were all digging a trench with our noses in the dirt, and
the VC got away.

“Suddenly a Viet Cong came diddly hopping around the cor-
ner. He had no idea we were there. He and the guy taking
a leak were only a few feet from each other and they were
both surprised. Our guy got out his .45 and emptied the clip
at this guy, and the VC had an AK-47 and emptied his mag-
azine at our guy.

“Nobody hit anything—Everybody hit the ground expecting a Viet Cong attack.
“We were all digging a trench with our noses in the dirt, and
the VC got away.

Peters part of war book

Peters pride and joy is this Victory motorcycle, cov-
ered with original patriotic artwork and quotes. He vol-
unteers for the Patriot Guard.

A clipping about the buffalo attack in the Morris newspaper.
Greetings from the Detachment of Minnesota.

Keep up the hard work, and be prepared for changes. That is in the policy for the American Legion.

Squadron Officer Reports. These are now over due. We need to get 100% reporting from all squadrons in order to figure these out next year.

If you are reading this, check with your squadron and see if it has been turned in. We would love to know who to send these to.

Speaking of membership, we had a great turn in at the Fall NFLC meeting.

They are working on improvements to MySAL, promotional material for the Sons of The American Legion, and other changes.

More to come there.

Greetings American Legion Family.

Hopefully everyone had a good time at Fall Conference in Willmar. Looking ahead we have Veterans Day. A great many programs and events will be taking place over the few days before and during November 11th.

I have no fewer than six appearances over a three day period. I will not rank them as I feel all are equally important.

Between dinner, school programs, ceremonies and home visits we will keep very busy. It is truly an honor and privilege to meet with fellow Veterans and to hear some of their stories.

I will be traveling on four wheels as my bike has been put away for the winter. Wherever you are please take some time to attend and or take part in an event honoring veterans.

Congratulations to Eyota Post 551 on their chartering a new Riders Chapter. I look forward to taking part in a few of their upcoming activities.

Thank you for your support in us a few short weeks. Please keep those that can not be with their families in your hearts and prayers.

Hopefully deployed service members will be able to return safely home to their families and loved ones.

Keep the chrome side up and the rubber side down.

New rules listed for baseball program

The National Executive Committee of The American Legion approved a number of rule changes for the American Legion Baseball program following the Baseball Committee’s extensive page-by-page review of the program’s rule book.

Listed below are some of the major rule changes approved, all of which demonstrate American Legion Baseball’s commitment to player safety and improving the quality of play.

National tournament play will feature seven-inning games.

Changes to pitch count

He tremendously successful first season with pitch count rules under the PitchSmart program, the Legion Baseball Committee, with the support of the department and its state directors, charted the 2018 season to be more in line with the suggestions from Major League Baseball and USA Baseball.

Each team will bat a maximum of nine batters per inning, down from 12. Batters will have a maximum of three pitches per plate, down from 12. Batters may only hit a maximum of two batters in any one plate appearance.

Batters will have the option to allow for courtesy runners and re-entry. Courtesy runners may bat for pitchers or catchers.

Graduate rule

Language has been removed from the rule book that required 19-year-olds to be former Legion players.

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Notes from the Fall Conference

Continued from Page 1

Leading Candidate for National Commander Brett Riester of Virginia gave a history lesson to those attending the Fall Conference at Willmar. “As we approach our Centennial, we need to celebrate our legacy. We need to talk about what we’ve done, and talk about where we’re going.”

He also urged Legionnaires to support a strong law and order program, and to strongly support public service officers. “We can do more to show our law enforcement personnel that we have their backs.”

Speaker Alan Huff said that America is the greatest experiment ever designed by man, but that most people now think the next generation of Americans will not have it better than this generation. He said the greatest threat to the U.S. is our dissatisfaction with government and politicians. “Many of our politicians think more about personal power than doing genuine public service. The private in the military does it for love of country. The politician is in it for a different kind of love.” Huff urged people to get more involved in their government, and he urged government to have more transparency, to review government budgets, for term limits to be imposed, and to get more veterans involved in the process. Huff is a retired Army officer.

“We need the courage to do the right thing.”

— Membership Director Larry Ryan said Minnesota was one of the state’s leaders in helping veterans with education.

— Rich Oelschlager invited posts that want to be part of the Sons of the American Legion to send their Constitution and Bylaws that had been recommended this past fiscal year, compared to 38 the year before.

The total payout to claimants was $20,519 including $5,887 to the Legion, $10,767 to the Auxiliary and $3,865 to the Sons of the American Legion.

The net assets of the association rose to $25,650, an increase of $1,100 from last year.

A motion to limit only two elected members from any one district was passed. The meeting also made changes to the Constitution and Bylaws that had been recommended by a lawyer to bring them up to date.

DEC meets

Continued from Page 1

The区委 of the American Legion sold Minnesota American Legion coins at the conference for $10.

Helly Sota, first assistant to the National Magazine staff, talked about posts doing their post histories and submitting them to the national website. “We need to connect with our lega-
ty to tell a story, to build awareness of the Legion.” She said a GI Bill history display, which is now at the World History to tell a story, to build awareness of the Legion.” She said it was important when a new member joins a post that they feel welcome and to encour-
gate our role in the world?”

— membership Director Larry Ryan said Minnesota was still in the nation, trailing France and Wisconsin. He said it was important when a new member joins a post that a major effort be made to make them feel welcome and to encour-
java.

“Stories have a powerful faculty in describing how we behave in the world.”

Novick, who has worked with Ken Burns on several award-winning documentaries, was asked if the Vietnam series was anti-war. “I don’t like to put a label on it. When we started, we checked our baggage at the door and tried to tell the story the best we could.”

What can we learn from Vietnam?

“War goes on. There are 58,000 names on that wall, and that means 58,000 families. And that’s not all of our tragedy. So many of those veterans still living among us are still hurting.”

O’Brien was asked about his type of writing which mixes fact and fiction. “I still love reading about Huck Finn, and he doesn’t wrong at the time. He said the greatest threat to the next generation of Americans will not have it better than we did.”

He said he didn’t generally take part in protests, but he did participate in a huge march down Grand Avenue in St. Paul to protest the student deaths at Kent State.

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Membership is doing very well. The Department is currently in 3rd place in the nation and is very close to 1st. We also are over 70% which is great for this time of year. We are 2nd District Fall Rally. Although the turnout was poor the program was very interesting and informative. More posts have to get involved with the District functions. We cannot function as a District with or without the help of our members. Some have never been to a District Rally. There should be at least one member from each post at the Rally. Myself and attended my first Pheasant Dinner. It was held at the Hastings Veterans Home. We had a great turn out and the meal was great. I had a tour of the Home after lunch. This is a fabulous facility. It has everything a person would want or need. If all our Veteran Homes are comparable to this one, we can be rest assured that our veterans are being treated great.

Veterans Day falls on Saturday this year so most activities in schools will be held on Friday. Please take an active role in your local programs.

SECOND DISTRICT
Randy Olson
Commander

During my time as 3rd District Commander this year I have been busy visiting with several posts. Posts are busy with activities to support their communities from Legion Riders, the American Legion (SAL) to the Auxiliary units. During my post visits I explain to need to talk to new members of the American Legion and what it’s all about. I believe we need to explain the four pillars of the American Legion (Pillar 1, Veterans, Pillar 2, National Security, Pillar 3, Education and Youth.) There is a pamphlet entitled “Why You Should Belong.” It has great resources on several programs I mentioned and contact information to the National American Legion and websites. If you are a new member this year continues to move forward it is important to thank the Vice Commanders, Membership Directors, and Posts for the job they are continuing to do with your help. Thanks to all the Legioiners who have renewed their dues.

Who ensured our first amendment rights? It was the military. Veterans Day is Saturday, November 11. Remember and honor our veterans who have served and are still serving. Consider attending a Veterans Day function in your community or post.

The American Legion will be hosting the 100th Anniversary in Minneapolis, Minnesota in August 2018. Mark your calendars with your American Flags and earn a special 100 year ribbon for your flags.

November 19th – VA Hospitalization Visit, 1PM
December 1st & 2nd – Shop Ship & Share, Maplewood Mall, 10AM to 5PM
November 11th – Veterans Day at the Hastings Veterans Home
November 19th – VA Hospitalization Visit, 1PM

November 1st – VA Hospitalization Visit, 1PM
December 1st & 2nd – Shop Ship & Share, Maplewood Mall, 10AM to 5PM
November 11th – Veterans Day in Minneapolis, Minnesota in August 2018.

As usual we start with a membership note. The Legion side membership is currently at 67.66% putting us in 6th place in the Department membership race. The Auxiliary side membership is currently at 42.69% putting us in 5th place in the Auxiliary membership race. Unfortunately I do not have the Sons of the American Legion membership numbers. November has two big events Veterans Day and Deer Hunting Season opener. I would to thank our fellow veterans and active duty and reservists for their dedication to serving and protecting our information. We should also like to thank the spouses and Vanity members for your support and dedication to our veterans. A quick reminder please do NOT hold membership renewals. I would like to thank the Spice and Revitalization for all our organizations to please send your renewals in weekly even if you only have one. If you are struggling with your member ship, I would like to work through it with your organization. I will help you in any way I can. November is Education Week Posts, Squads and Units are encouraged to celebrate their local teachers. Thank them for helping to educate and guide the next generation by having a luncheon or dropping off snacks at your local schools. Have a safe and successful hunting season.

I want to thank everyone in the 9th for working very hard on membership. We achieved the October National goal of 65.11% which put us at November’s goal (65%). I would like to see the December goal (75) by Veteran’s Day. We need everyone to work very hard to now and to make the December goal. Everyone who has not renewed their membership yet needs to please do so. November is Education Week posts, Squads and Auxiliary members should to thank our fellow veterans and active duty and reservists for their dedication to serving and protecting our freedoms we enjoy. Thanksgiving will soon be here and is a time to reflect on our blessings. Freedom has been given; let us never forget the freedoms we enjoy.

I am proud of the 7th, keep up the good work. We got off to a bad start but we made a pit stop, put on new tires and changed fuel and are making some moves although we have a lot of ground to make up. We will have a lot of wholesome fun meeting the members of the posts, the auxiliary, and SAL. I never get tired of hearing stories from the veterans. I have had a great time meeting you fellow veterans and the women and food. I have more membership dinners to attend and am looking forward to each one. Please, keep the invitations coming. I look forward to, and if not me my vice commanders will attend, but so far I have made them all.

I had the opportunity to attend the District Commanders weekend at camp Ripley put on by the Foreign Relations and National Security Committee. It was good to see Camp Ripley again since I spent 28 years there. It was good to see the changes that have taken place. We were given a tour of the post and some of the training sites. The classes we attended were very informative and I was given a lot of information about back and share with the post commanders and others. Most of all, we as new district commanders got the chance to meet each other and spend time getting to know each other better.

November 11th is Veterans Day. That is the day to remember our veterans and I hope every post is doing whatever they can to honor their heroes. I also would like to say thank you for your service and sacrifice serving our country.

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Ninth District
Tim Haugen
Commander

Thank you to all who support me and what I’m trying to do to excite and energize our great organization. It is impossible to do it alone, but with your support and dedication we can be rest assured that our veterans are being treated great.
Taps

Benton, Joseph W., 85, Army Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died Oct. 16, 2017. He served as chaplain and on the honor guard of Sandstone Post 151.

McDowell, Donald Rufus, 94, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died Oct. 21, 2017. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 212.

Schmier, Donald G., 86, Army National Guard veteran of the Korean War, died March 30, 2017. He was a member of Willmar Post 167.

Ray, Eugene E., 83, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 14, 2017. He was a member of the Honor Squad of Windom Post 206.

Flatgard, Donavan "Shorty," 80, Air Force veteran of the Korean War and the Vietnam War, died Sept. 3, 2017. He was a member of Willmar Post 167. He served in the Pacific aboard the USS Toledo (CA-133) and earned four Korean service ribbons. He was a member of St. Paul Post 577.

Taylor, Robert, 78, Marine veteran of the Vietnam War, died Sept. 24, 2017. He was a member of St. Paul Post 594.

Anderson, Bob, 81, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Oct. 8, 2017. He was a member of the color guard at New London Post 537. He served as a corpsman in Vietnam. He was also a member on the rifle squad at Little Falls Veterans Cemetery.

Kempion, Robert S., 85, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 5, 2017. He was a member of St. Paul Park Post 98.

Penning, John C., Jr., 91, Army veteran of World War II, died Sept. 24, 2017. He was a member of St. Paul Park Post 98.

Ischert, John J., Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Oct. 9, 2017. He was a member of St. Paul Park Post 98.

Jackel, Waldo A., 90, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Oct. 9, 2017. He served in Korea in Company F, 1st Armored Division. He was a section leader who earned two Bronze Stars. He was a member of Waconia Post 157.

Lannum, Gerald P., 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 25, 2017. He was a member of Waconia Post 157.

Ottman, Gary, 78, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died Sept. 25, 2017. He was a member of Red Wing Post 54.

Boyum, Rodney A., 77, Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, died Sept. 27, 2017. He was an airplane mechanic. He was a member of the Wabasso Post 267.

Rutherford, Richard, 76, Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, died Sept. 22, 2017. He was a heavy equipment operator. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 212.

Lentz, Ralph, 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Oct. 1, 2017. He was a member of Lake City Post 110.

Jarrett, Eugene, 86, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 28, 2017. He was a member of Lake City Post 110.

Svihel, Frank P., 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 29, 2017. He was a member of Cold Spring Post 455.


Marquardt, DuWayne G., 79, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 29, 2017. He was a member of Gaylord Post 433.

Blegen, Bruce K., 90, Navy veteran of World War II, died Sept. 14, 2017. He served with the 4th Marine Division in the Pacific, and later served on the LCI 462, participating in seven battles and seven landings. He served on the Honor Guard of Litchfield Post 104.

Prahl, Clinton Glenn, 86, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died Oct. 20, 2017. He served in England. He was a member of Gaylord Post 433.

Wilfahrt, Eldor A., 90, Navy veteran of World War II, died Oct. 22, 2017. He served in the South Pacific. He was a member of New Ulm Post 132.

Biedenbender, Gehard, 77, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Oct. 15, 2017. He was a member of New Ulm Post 132.

Broe, Edward Russel, 83, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 27, 2017. He was a member of Chaska Post 503.

Clark, Gerald W., 75, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Sept. 18, 2017. He was a member of Hillman Post 602.

Brockhoff, Earl E., 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 20, 2017. He was a member of Red Wing Post 54.

Thies, Alton, 86, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 9, 2017. He was a member of Red Wing Post 54.

Beauchaine, Russell, 84, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Oct. 3, 2017. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

Henderson, Roger, 90, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Oct. 5, 2017. He was a member of Marshall Post 113.

Clark, Dean, 89, Navy veteran of World War II, died Sept. 25, 2017. He was a member of Red Wing Post 54.

Wright, John, 73, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 27, 2017. He was a member of Arlington Post 250.

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Hello. Wow what a weather change. As I write this a West wind is blowing crazy.

Since the last issue, I have attended a Unit meeting, with great friends, a Fashion Show in Rostetown with great and new friends, a delicious Pheasant Dinner in St Cloud and witnessed firsthand what the Hospital Reps do for our Veterans here. I also attended a Membership Dinner where Auxiliary members received 50-60 plus year’s awards. Then of course a wonderful Fall Conference Fall Conference was in my opinion fantastic. All of the Department Chairmen that presented reports on their programs, did an outstanding job. The Poppy displays were beautiful.

The Thursday evening Leadership, Membership and Public Relations Workshop was tremendous. The Friday evening Family Feud game was a big hit. Thank you Membership Mary, Leadership Sandy Wersal and Public Relations Robin Dorf thanks to you for your extra efforts.

Thanks to Margie Keller and Pam Hoshal for freezing in the Atrium to secure a fantastic result for our Silent Auction. A huge thanks to all that donated such very good quality items for the auction.

Yes the hospitality area was cramped, and I am told plans are in the works to remedy that for 2020 when you return.

I am looking forward to more Unit meetings, visits, Pheasant Dinners, our Gift Shop Distribution Day, Veterans Day festivities and Gift Shops in the month ahead. Thank you all for the wonderful work you do.

GODWILL AMBASSADOR -- The First ever “Godwill Ambassador” award for 2017 was presented to Lois Davis, from Unit 294, Lake Crystal, MN on September 12, 2017. Kathy Burket, Past President 2nd District presented the award to Lois announcing that on behalf of the over 400 Auxiliary Units in Minnesota Lois was chosen to receive this prestigious award. This new award was created by the Department Strategic Planning Committee for someone in any unit that meets the requirements. The requirements are a great supporter of our Veterans, Patriotic, organized, hard worker, enthusiastic, helpful to others, and can be found wearing Auxiliary clothing and jewelry. All of the above describes Lois to a tee. Congratulations Lois on this awesome award. Keep up the good work. From left to right: President Kristeen Asleson, 2nd District Past President Kathy Burket, and Lois Davis.

The President’s Column

By Donna Arens

Fall conference at Willmar judged to be ‘great success’

The 85th annual Fall Conference was held in Willmar, Minnesota with The Best Western being the host hotel. The Auxiliary Conference at the Willmar Conference Center. The Conference was sponsored by the Willmar American Legion Family #113. The Auxiliary was blessed by receiving a $2500.00 donation from Chuck Stone representing the Pleasant Dinner group. This will be used in our December Gift Shop program for Veterans and their families. Margee Keller and Pam Hoshal stood up to the plate and ran our Fall Conference Silent Auction. The proceeds of this process goes to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. This is an Auxiliary program where the Auxiliary helps their members in times of emergencies. Chairman Cindy Nelson had her surgery and although she wanted to be there, she couldn’t. Along with Laura and Dorothy, Margee and Pam did a fabulous job. Thanks to the entire American Legion Family for making this a success. Over $5,000.00 was raised for the program.

HAPPY 98th BIRTHDAY

Does your Unit know November is “birthday month” for the American Legion Auxiliary? Will your Unit be celebrating? It was November 11, 1919, when the American Legion Auxiliary was established by a resolution adopted at the first National Convention of The American Legion here in St. Paul. It has grown to be more than 9000 Units and over 600,000 members. This November is the American Legion Auxiliary’s 98th birthday. We hope you are planning a celebration in your Unit. Do something fun and memorable as a Unit.

PEARL HARBOR RALLY

The Pearl Harbor Membership Rally will be held at the West Duluth American Legion Post 71 on Saturday, December 2nd. Turn in 3-4:30 p.m., with dinner at 5 and program to follow. You’re District President and Membership Chairman asks every Unit to have membership ready to be picked up when they a Legion representative comes to your area. Check with your Post Commander for your pick-up day and time.

Please do not hold membership in your Unit. Mail your transmittals on a regular basis. Just be prepared to give those last minute membership to the representative who comes to pick them up for the rally.

Let’s make this a special Holiday Season for our Department President Donna and Membership Chairman Mary as we continue to improve our membership counts. We need Colonial 150’s. We should only have the goose egg so we can win a contest for $500.00 from the National organization. We missed out on the $1,000.00 but I am very sure we can make the next deadline!! If you need any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Chairman Zandy Kessler or the Department Office.

CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOP

The Department Office and the Hospital and Home Representatives want to give a big thank you to the Units Members and the Department. We will select gifts for our Veterans through our Gift Shop Program. About 2,000 veterans participate in this program. A huge change this year for the Gift Shop is that the units will be approved by the Department Executive Committee to spend on our Veterans at the Gift Shop.

The Gift Shop committee has been busy shopping for the gifts and we would appreciate your Unit’s financial support of this program. Those who attended Fall Conference saw the nice quality and selection of items the veterans may choose from. Please include a generous cash donation in your Unit’s annual budget and send it to the department office earmarked Gift Shop. Let’s support our own Auxiliary programs first.

Donations to the Gift Shop are accepted all year. You may use Poppy funds and Gambling funds for this program. The Gift Shop is available to all veterans who are in the various facilities at the time of the Gift Shop including

Walker endorsed for Department President

Warren Unit 27, Ninth District Past Presidents Parley and the Ninth District, have endorsed Jean Walker for Department President for 2018-2019.

At the Unit level, she has held many positions including President. On the Department level she has served as District President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, chairman for several of the committees including Membership, Americanism, Education, Finance Chairman, Past Legislative Chairman and Chairman twice, VA&R Chairman. This year she will be serving as

Legislation Chairman and the Northwestern Division AEF Chairman. Walker has served on the Department NEC, Department, and National Conventions. She has also been Chairman of most the various conferences.

She and her husband, John, have been married 25 years and live in Warren. Jean is the office manager of the Community Services Company and John is a dispatcher - jailor with the Marshall County Sheriff’s Office.

Frederick endorsed for Department NEC

Hackensack Unit 202 has endorsed Shirley Frederick for a second two-year term for National Executive Committeewoman for 2018-2020.

She has the backing and support of the 6th District and their Past President’s Parley members. She is eligible for her second term by the Department Executive Committee. In the 6th District, she has been chairwoman of most of the programs including membership team 8 years and Chairman twice, Finance and Leadership Chairman 5 times, Field Service and Historian.

In the Department she has been chairman for Legislation, Leadership, Americanism, Membership (receiving top National Award) Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Community Service, Memorial & Chaplain, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security. She was president 2013-2014.

On the National level National Executive Committee she has been Chair of the Northwestern Division National Security Chairman for 2014-2015 Alternate NEC.

She retired in 2002 with 27 years of State of Minnesota service. She is the proud mother of five adult children, 21 grand and great grandchild and is active in her community and church.

Jean Walker

Shirley Frederick

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The Auxiliary Bulletin

No. 18-1

President Donna Arens

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

Secretary Sandie Deutsch
Auxiliary Bulletin

Continued from Preceding Page

regular day care patients. The Gift Shop is chaired by Vida Bacon and her Committee Member is Linda Deschenes. They are both giving much of their time to make this a very successful event.

GIFT SHOP DATES
Our representatives have announced the date(s) of their Gift Shop at their respective facility.
- Fargo VAMC: December 4
- Minneapolis VAMC: December 5 & 6
- Sioux Falls VAMC: December 12
- St. Cloud VAMC: November 27 - 29
- Fergus Falls VA Home: December 11
- Hastings VA Home: December 7
- Luverne VA Home: December 7
- Minneapolis VA Home: December 6 & 7
- Silver Bay VA Home: December 14

Please let the representatives know if you would like to volunteer at any of the facilities. It is a very rewarding experience.

SECRETARY SANDIE’S NOTES
Well, we made it through another Fall Conference and I must say thank you to all Auxiliary members who made the conference a huge success. The attendance was fabulous and we outnumbered The American Legion and The Sons of The American Legion combined. I hope everyone that attended had a good time as I did. It’s a lot of work to pull off all these events off but you soon forget the “work” part when getting together with the family. As I told the Legionnaires when I addressed them, I would like to thank Don Hayden, Polly and Diane, Linda D and Judy S, along with Sandy F and her nephews Dave Nelson for the wonderful time and comradery they all showed Jan, Julie and myself. I must say I really did learn a few new things and those “teachers” know what that is all about. We had such a good time – it is so much fun enjoying functions with the entire AL family. Also, thank you for the tremendous support you showed in purchasing our cookbooks and magnets – we ran out of both. We do have more cookbooks in the office and I will be ordering more of the emblem/magnets today. I have to run as I have much to do in 2 days – Finally off to Texas on Wednesday to see my three babies and their parents. Baby Elizabeth is already 5 months old and Brad did assure his father that she will know us when we get there. Have a very blessed and happy Thanksgiving. Enjoy each and every day you have and treat everyone as you want to be treated. It will make your life much more peaceful.

UPCOMING EVENTS
November 10 – Department Office closed for Veterans Day
November 23 – Thanksgiving (if you are in Montgomery-join us in the morning for a wonderful time)
December 1 – Poppy Orders Due
December 2 – Pearl Harbor Rally – West Duluth

November is Past Presidents Parley Month
November is Past Presidents Parley month. Celebrate the Past Presidents of your Unit. Your Unit’s Past Presidents may even include some that have served as a President of the District, Department and National levels.

The goal of the workshop is to keep Units, Districts and the Department strong.

The goal for the workshop is to keep Units, Districts and the Department strong.

This year the workshop will be with three programs working together to increase knowledge of our organization: Leadership, Membership, Publications, and any other questions attendees may have.

This will be a casual and informational setting for members to ask questions, share ideas with other members, and enhance your membership in the American Legion Auxiliary.

We need 32 members to hold the workshops so PLEASE get your reservations in! We Welcome Junior Members!

Purchased a “Support Our Troops” Plate? Call 631-47ROOPS
Visit www.minnesotalegion.org

Department of Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary Leadership Workshop
Saturday, December 2, 2017
Workshop Time 9am-2pm
$10 includes materials and lunch.

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LINDA KROPUENSKE

October 28, Auxiliary Membership

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<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Memvntes</th>
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<td>53.9%</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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