Welcome to Minneapolis!
Minnesota hosts the 100th National Convention

Grab your flags and head for Minneapolis this month. The 100th annual convention of The American Legion will be held at the Minneapolis Convention Center. It will be held just a few blocks from where the first convention was staged in 1919.

All kinds of special plans are in place for the convention, which will be held August 24-30.

One goal for the Department of Minnesota will be to have as many flags in the annual parade as possible. It is traditional for Minnesota to march with massed flags in the national parade.

The record was set at the 1994 convention in Minneapolis when Minnesotans carried over 700 flags in the parade.

The parade will begin at 4 p.m. on Sunday, and will head south down Nicollet Avenue, starting at 5th Street, and ending at 36th Street. It’s the same street where the first national parade was held.

There will be 14 Minnesota high school bands in the parade, and six American Legion bands including the Ninth District Band. Minnesota, as host, will march last in the parade.

Parade attire is gold shirts and shorts. Department has a limited amount of the official Minnesota parade yellow/gold shirts available. Call 651-291-1800.

(The reading of the resolution brought controversy. The National Executive Committee had already passed a similar resolution. After lunch on Friday, a re-written motion was brought back to the floor.

In the new version, only those participants who are actually advancing to national competition need to meet the citizenship, residency or visitor status. It was passed on a voice vote. The convention was the first in memory of the President’s Award for his efforts in public relations for The American Legion."

Continued on Page 4

Redepenning takes helm of state Legion

ROCHESTER — The 100th annual convention of the Minnesota American Legion featured a historical first.

Darrel Redepenning of Fridley was installed by his father, Past Department Commander Bud Redepenning in an emotional ceremony to conclude the convention.

Darrel Redepenning becomes the 102nd state commander. Bud Redepenning served from 1986-87.

Redepenning named Mike Maxa of Le Center as his Membership Director.

The Department does well in NALPA annual awards

The winners of the National American Legion Press Association Awards have been announced. The Minnesota Legionnaire was the first place winner for Department publications for Departments over 40,000 in size. The Legionnaire also won a second prize for photography.

The Department's Facebook Page was judged the best in the nation. Jennifer Havlick, chairman of the Public Relations Committee, will accept the honor at the awards banquet in Minneapolis.

The Star-Tribune took second place in "external editorials" for an opinion piece on veteran's issues.

In addition, Department Adjutant Randy Tesdahl was presented with the President’s Award for his efforts in public relations for The American Legion.

(More information on the parade is on page 17.)

The Department will also have two gifts for the 10,000 or so expected to attend the event. Each delegate, alternate and guest will receive a replica of the 1919 convention badge.

They also will receive a 24-page booklet from the Department containing historical information about the first convention, and advertising from those Minnesota companies that have supported the Minnesota effort.

The Department plans to have four displays of historical artifacts, including George Washington Bentley’s uniform and other memorabilia. Bentley, from Montgomery, Minnesota, was the last living founder of the Legion.

Much of the convention is limited to those who have registered, but guests can register for $25 if they are a member.

There will be a host of meetings and events on the weekend prior to the actual convention proper, which starts on Tuesday, Aug. 28.

♦ A band contest will be held Saturday, Aug. 25, at the convention center auditorium at 1 p.m.

♦ The Color Guard competition will be held Friday, Aug. 24, at 5 p.m. in Hall B.

♦ The ANAVICUS breakfast will be Sunday at 7 a.m. Sunday in Room 200.

Continued on Page 17

DEC has some good discussions

ROCHESTER — In a busy Department Executive Committee meeting, some of the hotter discussions were saved for the end.

First, a proposal to add a temporary Department Vice Commander ran into some controversy.

Vice Commander Bill Stump moved and Vice Commander Dan Williams seconded a motion to make Membership Director Larry Ryan a temporary vice commander. Stump said that

Continued on Page 2

A FAMILY AFFAIR — New Commander Darrel Redepenning was installed by his father, Past Department Commander Duane "Bud" Redepenning at the state convention in Rochester. It’s the first time in Minnesota Legion history that commanders from two generations of the same family have served.
Colby, who serves on the Northfield City Council, said strategic planning “is go, go, go. It takes a ton of time and it’s very laborious.”

Colby said, “I know one thing, you can’t do strategic planning by meeting quarterly (as the state committee does.) You have to meet often. You have to meet all the time.”

The Judge Advocate noted that the Legion is “one hell of an organization, and the programs are terrific.”

“But there are structural problems. The time to make changes is now. But you don’t have a blueprint.” He said a strategic committee should include younger members who are inheriting the Legion’s future.

Olson also noted that Legion meetings and conventions tend to be tedious, and younger veterans have trouble taking time off for an event that does not have an excitement factor to it.

In the end, Olson and Pagel didn’t make it through their list of nine problems with the Department’s operation.

The meeting began with the DEC approving a new policy for disciplining its own members.

The policy was called “standards of conduct and disciplinary procedures,” and Colby said at this time the DEC doesn’t have the power to deal with its own members.

The policy outlined reasons a member might be removed from the DEC. They included being charged with a felony, engaging in acts of sexual harassment, or someone who engages in discrimination.

Barbknecht moved and Past Department Commander Tom Conway seconded to approve the new policy.

Past District Commander Sy Fix noted that language was “vague.” Colby said that was intentional since it’s up to the DEC to determine how serious a breach of conduct is.

Fix also wondered what a district would do if the DEC removes their commander from its membership.

The DEC voted unanimously to adopt the policy.

In other business at the Department Executive Committee:

Robin Picary said the Finance Committee was investigating ways to increase revenue or cut expenses.

The 100th annual National Convention is “good to go” according to Convention Corporation President Jeff Olson. He introduced National Convention and Meetings Director Bridget Robinson. She advised delegates to the national convention be in their seats for the beginning of the program on Tuesday, Aug. 24.

She also noted that both the Vikings game and Twins game were offering reduced ticket prices.

Legionnaire Insurance Trust Chairman Bill Barbknecht said LIT would return $57,000 to the Minnesota Legion this year. Next year will be a bonus year, and the state should get over $100,000.

Membership Director Larry Ryan said he has conceded the membership contest to Wisconsin, and will attend their national caucus and sing “the worst rendition ever” of “Go Pack Go.” He said Minnesota was just shy of 98 percent of goal for the year.

Strategic Planning Chairman Merlin Ellefson said that last year the committee created an ad hoc committee. He said five people have been identified as candidates for the committee.

Legionville was forced to cancel its training this year, President Wayne Gilbertson said. The good news, though, is that the bog has been moved. He said the bog has been a financial burden to the camp and he said that Legionville’s financial situation was in “dire straits.” He said the new kitchen at the camp should be ready in two or three weeks. Rich Oechsliger said the Legion Riders’ goal of $200,000 for the Legacy Scholarship was within reach.

National Convention committee member Jim Kellogg said volunteers are needed for the Minnesota Nice booth at the National Convention. He said his email address is jamesekg@gmail.com.

The Public Relations Committee is selling Legion logos with a magnetic attachment for $5, Jennifer Havlick, chairman, said.
Endorsements

Dvorak runs for commander

Mark J. Dvorak has been endorsed by Charles Borak Post 45, New Prague, and the Third District for Department Commander for 2019-2020.

Dvorak has been a PUFL member for over 22 years and is the current Post Commander for Post 45. At the District level, Dvorak was the Adjutant 2010-2013, 2016-2019, Commander 2013-2014.

He has held the following positions at the Department level, Hospitalized Veterans Committee 2014-2016, Sgt-At-Arms 2015-2016, Membership Director 2016-2017. He has been a member of the National Americanism Council since 2016.

Dvorak served 22 years on Active Duty; six years in the Air Force and 16 years in the Minnesota Air National Guard on Active Duty, retiring from the Air Force in 1995. Mark has a BS Degree in Accounting and retired in 2010 as a Senior Accountant for United Health Group. He is a 2017 graduate of The American Legion College and completed The American Legion Basic Training Course in April 2018.

Olson endorsed for commander

The Melvin E. Hearl American Legion Post 21 of Moorhead and the 9th District has endorsed Gary H. Olson as a candidate for Department Commander for 2019-2020.

At the post level, Olson was Commander twice. He joined the Wheaton Post 80 in 1968 and Roseau Post 24 in 1971 before joining Post 21 in 1978.

At the District level he has served as commander, 2010-11 and membership director.

At the Department level he served as Chaplain for 2011-12, Sergeant At Arms for 2013-2014 and Historian for 2014-2015.

He served on the Brain Science Committee for 2015-2018 as Vice Chairman.

At the National level he has served as National Assistant Sergeant At Arms for seven years.

He has 37 years of military service, including eight years in the North Dakota Air National Guard and 29 years in the Air Force Reserve retiring in 1993. In his personal life, he and his wife Becky have three sons and six grandchildren. Gary operates an insurance agency.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE AMERICAN LEGION FOR 100 YEARS OF SERVICE TO VETERANS!

The highest-ranking enlisted soldier to ever serve in Congress is running for Governor.

As governor, Tim Walz will continue fighting to ensure veterans are treated with the dignity they deserve.

VOTE FOR TIM WALZ on August 14th

WALZ FLANAGAN FOR MINNESOTA

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MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FANTASTIC WAYS TO EXPERIENCE MNHS

1. VISIT HISTORIC FORT SNELLING
   Don’t miss a visit to Minnesota’s first National Historic Landmark—a restored 1820s fort that tells the stories of soldiers, veterans, and many others who crossed paths here. Historic Fort Snelling, St. Paul.

2. RECEIVE DISCOUNTED ADMISSION
   Veterans and active military always get a discount on general admission at MNHS historic sites and museums, including Mill City Museum in Minneapolis and the James J. Hill House in St. Paul. Pay us a visit!

3. MEET THE GREATEST GENERATION
   Explore true stories from an inspiring generation of Americans in our Minnesota’s Greatest Generation exhibit. On view at the Minnesota History Center, St. Paul.

4. REMEMBER THE YEAR 1968
   Experience the highs and lows of an unforgettable year in The 1968 Exhibit—including combat stories from Vietnam War veterans and a “Huey” helicopter. On view at the Minnesota History Center, St. Paul.

PLAN YOUR VISIT OR PURCHASE ONLINE • MNHS.ORG • 1-844-MNSTORY

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WALZ FLANAGAN FOR MINNESOTA
COMMANDER'S COLUMN
By Darrel Redepenning

Greetings Legion Family,

I'm Darrel Redepenning and I am very honored and humbled to be your new Department Commander. This year marks our 100th year of serving our fellow veterans, our children and our communities. A great time to look at our history and the impact our organization has made in Minnesota. A time to celebrate, a time to say: look at what a difference we've made. Because that is exactly what we do, we make a difference and we have for 100 years. Thus my theme this year: “100 years of Making a Difference.”

My election this year created a little history in and of itself. I am the first Department Commander in Minnesota to be the son of a Department Commander. My Dad served in 1986-1987 and needless to say, was thrilled to have me follow in his footsteps. Dad is 91 and Mom is 87 and I've been concerned for the months leading up to the convention, if they would be healthy enough to be there. Then much to my surprise, I had to rush my wife Donna to the emergency room only 10 days before the convention.

For the first time ever, I went to a convention alone. But by Saturday morning the three of them and the rest of my family were all there. As you imagine, emotions were running high and after my Dad spoke, I doubt that there was a dry eye in the place. I'll be forever grateful to the American Legion for their kindness even for my father and my family.

I've had a whirlwind of activities since then as we approach the 100th National Convention in Minneapolis. As of this writing, I have just finished making all final appointments of the important committees in our Department. The first DEC and Membership Meeting is August 4th. Off to Indianapolis for National Training on August 9th. Then back for the state and national Legacy Runs, both ending at my home post in Anoka on the 12th and 23rd. In between I will be picking up the city and county proclamations commemorating our centennial.

Then the 100th National Convention. Wow, what a fun month August will be. What a great time to be in The American Legion Family. Fun can be habit forming. Don’t miss out on it, tell your friends. There has never been a better time to join The American Legion.

Mail Call
Coincidence
To the Editor,

My name is Chris Bladl and I recently read your article in the Minnesota Legionnaire – Fighting in Italy With The 34th Division during WWII and a friend of mine gave me the paper to read. As I read about Don Halverson I had this feeling that I had come from somewhere. As I read I then realized he was from the 168th Infantry – G Company, which was same as my Grandfather. I couldn’t believe the coincidence because the name, city and home town similarities it had to some of the information I had about my Grandfather.

I felt compelled to share this picture with you which was given to me by my Grandma with some other collectibles from my Grandpa’s time in the war. In the bottom right of the picture is none other than Don Halverson. My Grandpa had been wounded just prior to the end of the war and was in a hospital when they took the picture. They sent it to him with the words “End of the 34th” on the back.

Chris Bladl
Janesville, WI

Redepenning elected at 100th convention

where there were no contested elections.

The five Department Vice Commanders elected were: Wayne Hammond Jr., Richard Weg, Dick Ward, Tom Fernlund, and Jennifer Havlick.

Redepenning, a member of Anoka Post 102, has been elected to a new three-year term on the Board of Publications.

Three delegates-at-large will be Gary Olson, Tom Sanders and Chuck Stone.

Redepenning told the convention, “The American Legion has had 100 years of making a difference. We must preserve this great organization.”

He said he was Legion Family friendly, noting that his wife, Donna, and his mother were very active in the Auxiliary and his father was a past commander.

He said that like many Vietnam veterans, he was not happy with the reception he got when he came home. But he said his experience in the Legion helped heal the wounds.

He spoke glowingly of his father. “When I was small, I felt 10-feet tall when I walked by his side. My heart was full of pride.”

And father Bud returned the sentiment: “I’ll tell you, Darrel, from the time you were a baby in my arms, I’ve been proud of you. I want to thank you for being my son.”

Redepenning told the convention, “The American Legion has had 100 years of making a difference. We must preserve this great organization.”

He said his experience in the Legion helped heal the wounds.

Chaplain’s Corner
By Bonnie Hanson

First, I want to thank my Post, Buffalo 270 and the 10th District that endorsed me to be your Minnesota Department Chaplain for 2018-2019. I am so happy. I was honored to stand on stage and see all the other new officers that I will be with and realize how much can be learned from all of them.

I have a sign hanging as you walk into my house that says, “live, well laugh often and love much.” No matter what goes on around us, for a minute think how we can try and make a difference. I have tried to think about and about the wording in the “The Golden Rule.” Do unto others and as they would do unto you. There are so many phrases that come to my mind this Sunday afternoon. How can I help those that just want to talk and just remember sometimes that might be all that they want to do, through the years and the jobs that I have held I have been very good at just listening and not judging.

We all have had heartaches in the years and I have looked to God to help me understand and get through it, he is always in our hearts and mind. The prayer that I have in my heart is: Psalm 23: 1. The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. 2. He maketh me lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. 3. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake. 4. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. 5. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. 6. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I dwell in the house of the Lord forever. I just want to put this out to all my American Legion Family that if you would like to come to any of your events or rallies I will be open to them. Just email me or send me a card. Please keep the members that are sick in your prayer or give them a phone call or a message sometimes. When they hear from others it lifts them up.

God Bless America. Keep our servicemen and women safe for they are keeping our country safe.

The photo was taken at camp Patrick Henry near Norfolk, Virginia, on Nov. 4, 1945. Top row: John E. Gallegher, Joe E. Donegon, Major C. Freeman. Bottom row: Walter J. Czekanski, Ray Schall, Donald J. Halverson. Titled “End of the 34th.”

The Minnesota Legenardian
Official Publication of and Owned Exclusively by The American Legion, Department of Minnesota
Al Zdon, Editor
First published in 1920 as the Hennepin County Legionnaire, the Minnesota Legionnaire is now in its 98th year of publication. It is published monthly by The American Legion, Department of Minnesota, Room 300A, 20 West 12th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55102, and is available at all legion posts in the state, St. Paul, MN, and at additional mailing offices. The Legionnaire is a member of the Minnesota Newspaper Association and the National American Legion Press Association.

SUBSCRIPTION: $10 for non-members. Members receive the Legionnaire as part of their dues.


ADVERTISING RATES: Contact Al Zdon, 651-291-1800

EMAIL: azdon@mnlegion.org

WEB SITE: www.mnlegion.org

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POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to The Minnesota Legenardian, 20 W 12th Street, St. Paul, MN, 55102-2000. (USPS No. 013-679.) (ISSN No. 1644270)
Mental Health Summit
The 6th annual Veterans Administration and Community Mental Health Summit will be held at the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis, Aug. 20. It will focus on mental health issues for veterans and military. For more information, contact Amy at amy.woold1@va.gov.

Meat Raffle
There will be a meat raffle at the Montgomery Post 79 on Friday, Aug. 10, starting at 6 p.m.

Fall Conference
The Fall Conference will be held at Marshall, hosted by Post 113, on Oct. 26-27. Headquarters and registration will be at the Ramada. The Legion meetings will be at Southwest Minnesota State University and the Auxiliary meeting will be at the Ramada. Hospitality will be held at the college on Friday night. Shuttle transportation will be available. Rooms should be reserved as soon as possible. Any questions, call 507-933-4576 or email: jlymang@gmail.com.

Golf Outing
The 4th Annual Boys Legacy Golf Tournament will be held on Friday, Sept. 7, at Island Lakes Course in Shoreview. Proceeds go to the Veterans Resilience Project. For more information, call 612-269-8248.

Post 1 Comedy Club
The Eagles Aerie 34 and Minneapolis Post 1 has created the Post One Comedy Club with monthly shows on the third Thursday of the month, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Doors open at 7 p.m. The host is Loiner. The venue has a new kitchen and new staff. General admission tickets are $10 in advance. Every Legion member who shows an ID will receive a coupon worth $5 toward food and drinks. For more information: facebook.com/PostOneComedyClub.

Town Hall Meeting
The American Legion will sponsor a town hall meeting at the Richfield Post 435 on Monday, Aug. 6, at 7 p.m. Veterans and family members are invited to talk about VA health care.

VA Summer Games
The 4th annual VA Summer Games will be held Saturday, Aug. 4, at Building 96 at the VA Medical Center in St. Cloud. They are open to all veterans enrolled at the St. Cloud system. For more information, call 320-252-1670.

Lanesboro Calendar
Lanesboro Post 40 is offering a special calendar for sale to raise funds for preservation of the post’s historic post home. The building, built in 1873, is on the National Historic Register. The calendar honors the 100 years of The American Legion and was designed and created by the post. It is in full color.

The cost is $10 each. For more information, call 507-951-9750 or 507-259-1668 or email drjnmeyer@yahoo.com.

Air Force Musicians
The Air Force group Statler will perform on Thursday, Aug. 16, at the Rotary Pavilion, Veterans Memorial, Levee Park in Hastings at 7 p.m. The seven-piece band plays a variety of music.

Montevideo Town Hall
There will be a town hall meeting and a ceremony honoring Vietnam veterans in Chippewa County on Tuesday, Aug. 21, at 5 p.m. at the Montevideo VA Clinic. The event is sponsored by the St. Cloud VA Health Care System. For more information, call 320-252-6353.

MACV events
Two legal clinics and a stand down are coming in Minnesota sponsored by the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans.

Legionville Camp
General Manager
The Camp GM will be responsible for the overall operations and maintenance of the camp. Resumes can be sent to: The American Legion Department of Minnesota Room 300A 20 West 12th Street St. Paul, MN 55155-2000 Attn: Legionville Board

HELP WANTED

Notes from the Department Convention:

- Communications Director Ralph Huesmann said the Minneapolis VA is going through a major renovation and all primary clinics will be on the 4th floor. He said use of the hospital dropped in 2017, for the first time in many years. He said many Vietnam veterans did not have a good VA experience after the war, and the VA is now working to get them back in the system.

- Al Lund, the director of Allied Charities in Minnesota, said that in the past, charitable organizations could count on making six percent on each wager, and that is now down to 3.5 percent because of state taxes. "You can’t squeeze the golden goose too much before you kill the goose. We’re overtaxed." If the trend continues, it could kill the gaming license too much before you kill the game. We’re doing only 10 percent of what we could be doing.

- St. Paul Post 348 hosted the Department of Veterans Affairs Breakfast and a check presentation to INTERFACE veteran services. The event was open to all veterans on the second Tuesday of each month except for October and March when two programs will be held. Admission is $5 at the door.

- The meetings of the Round Table will once again be at the Fort Snelling Visitor Center. They will begin at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month except for October and March where two programs will be held. Admission is $5 at the door.

- The clinics, offering counseling on housing, employment, benefits and more will be held Thursday, Sept. 6, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Anoka County Government Center and on Sept. 26 at the Fargo VA HCS Third Floor Auditorium from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information call 800-222-5155.

- Nisswa Post 627, and Park Rapids Post 212.

- At the 6th annual Veterans Administration and Community Mental Health Summit, representatives from the congressional delegation will also be present. If you are unable to attend, you can send your questions or comments to MNTownHall@legion.org.

- Staff of The American Legion National Headquarters and the state offices will be on hand in addition to VA staff.

- The final credentials report included:

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- The Legionville Program for the coming year.

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- A town hall meeting for veterans will be held at 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Target Center. All veterans are welcome.

- Services include: meals, VA benefits, Legal Aid, housing support, clothing, public benefits, haircuts, employers, healthcare screening, and mental health support.

- The 6th annual Veterans Administration and Community Mental Health Summit will be held at the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis, Aug. 20. It will focus on mental health issues for veterans and military. For more information, contact Amy at amy.woold1@va.gov.

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- Nisswa Post 627, and Park Rapids Post 212.

- Round Table, vets needed

- For more information, call 320-252-6353.
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

By Heather Larson

Growing up I always knew I wanted to follow in my Grandpa’s footsteps in joining the military. That dream became a reality when I was 17 years old and made the decision to join the Minnesota Army National Guard. In March 2004, while still a Junior in high school I made the decision to travel across the United States at a young age was the best for me. I went to MEPS and was sworn in. I enlisted in the Army National Guard as a 9C6 Food Service Specialist with the dreams of becoming a pastry chef one day. Since I had joined while being a junior, I attended basic training between my junior and senior years of high school. Once I graduated basic training I returned to high school and did what normal 18 year old seniors did; worry about homecoming, what colleges to apply to and hang out with my friends before my senior year was completed. June 2005, I graduated high school and was off to AIT to become Food Service Specialist. Shortly after completing AIT, I was informed that my unit was deploying. I was deployed 2005-2007 with the 34th Infantry Division to Iraq. This was one of the biggest deployments that units have seen since World War II.

After my deployment in Iraq, I attended school at Normandale Community College for Criminal Justice. This is where I had met Jeremy Wolfsteller at the Veteran Service Center. Being a young female veteran, it was not the easiest to navigate the whole world of benefits. There were other veteran students at school that managed to make this transition easier. While attending Normandale, I began working at the Veteran Service Center as well as assisting other veteran students with their education benefits. While I was able to gain a better understanding of the different educational benefits for Veteran students, I had a difficult time understanding health benefits and service connect claims.

I first started using the VA Health Care System when I was 20 years old and at the time, had a tough time navigating the system. I have seen how much the VA Health Care System has changed in the last 10 years for women Veterans. I am amazed at the difference of care. When I first started using the VA, I was often times asked by staff members if I was there to pick up other old male veterans. I was always frustrated when I had to explain to some staff members that I was in fact a veteran of the war in Iraq and was there for an appointment myself.

I am fortunate that I have been serving in the Army National Guard since I was 17 years old and still continue to serve currently; I have been grateful for the experiences and deployments that I have been on. Having the experiences as a young female veteran who has navigated educational benefits and the VA Health Care System, it has given me opportunities to assist other young Veterans (both male and female) and Soldiers in my unit.

American Legion Riders

By Chuck Stone

Greetings American Legion Family,

Wow. That was one awesome celebration our 100th convention turned out to be. It is true, a celebration of that magnitude is 100 years in the making. Hats off to the Rochester Legion Family for all hard work in planning and pulling of our Centennial Convention. Next up, see you in Minneapolis, but not before the Department of Minnesota Legacy Ride.

The Department of Minnesota Ride will take place the first two weekends in August, 3, 4, 5 & 10, 11, and 12. Kickoff party will be at Forest Lake Post 225 Thursday August 2nd. Our Stand down celebration will be at Anoka Edward B. Cutter Post 102 Sunday, August 12th. If you can not be on the ride, grab a friend and come meet us at one of our many stops. Heck, bring a car full of friends along.

I would like to extend a big “thank you” to “Tokyo” Mike Grooms and the Riders at Rushford Chapter 94 for their work in honoring U.S. Navy Seaman First Class Joseph Johnson. Joseph was killed on the U.S.S. Oklahoma during the attack on Pearl Harbor.

The Rushford Post bears his name. After the ceremony I had the privilege of listening to Norm Ebner talk about his experience as part of the landing on D-Day. Norm went ashore on the beaches of Normandy. Norm is the brother-in-law of Johnson and was presented the flag from Johnson’s casket.

I also learned that day that other previously unidentified remains that have now been identified will be returning home, four from Minnesota.

I would like to thank all the Riders for their confidence in me in electing me to another year as their leader. It is a great honor and privilege to lead the best group of Riders in the country.

Keep the chrome side up and the rubber side down.
Chuck Stone

MINNESOTA MILITARY RADIO -- Department Adjutant Randy Tesdahl creates the latest 30 second spot on Minnesota Military Radio. Tesdahl promoted the upcoming national convention in Minneapolis.
District Commanders

FIRST DISTRICT
Gary Miller
Commander

I want to start by saying thank you for putting your trust in me to represent the First District as your First District Commander. (I think I got the First in plenty.) We are now past the State Convention and will be past the great time you read this. Also thanks to Post 92 for a very good convention and great fireworks display, and thanks to Jim Keppler for making it all real in the picture you always and all the others that helped to make it a great time in Austin.

Also the E: Board & membership will be meeting Aug. 4 in Anoka. So my first meeting will be very soon as your Commander. Plus a very exciting month of August, I can start the 100th American Legion in 2018 with a First District Delegate as the First District Commander. The last one I attended was in Indy. 2013 (that’s plenty of facts.)

Now that everyone has had a breath of fresh air we can start membership all over again because that’s what will keep us going for another 100 years, and with our NEW members we can not survive, I know I will not be around for that next 200 year convention but I would hope The American Legion will be. So get busy again and get your members in to your Post or anybody’s Post. Let give the others Post a run for the top again.

SECOND DISTRICT
Cindy Brunck
Commander

Hello American Legion Family Members,

The American Legion has hit an exciting time and cornerstone of this great organization. I sincerely hope as a Post you are telling your story or stories by going on line and getting your post registered for the Centennial Celebration. Do not please miss this opportunity.

I am looking forward to our celebration in Dundee as Jospeh Snelling Post 286 celebrates its first 100 years on July 28th. What a wonderful time it has been meeting such great people and coming together to make this celebration happen. We are thankful all of their members will be taking their Saturday to participate in the parade. Thank you.

Our convention will start on August 24th. If your unable to go for the entire time, catch the bus and come up for the day, call Jim Mertens 507-627-3868 or myself 507-360-7116 for more details.

I would like to thank my Membership Director Ryan Hendrickson for the vice commanders and the 2nd district post membership directors for helping us to get the membership packets delivered. Some of you had to send someone else to pick them up, some of you drove out of your way, and mailed them in. Whatever you did to help us get off the goose egg many, many thanks. CPR reports, the deadline has been extended to August 14th so please send those reports in now.

My theme this year is "Got Freedom? Thank a Vet!" and I look forward to coming out to meet each and every one of you at a post meetings, and to thank you and tell you about my project.

THIRD DISTRICT
Carla Tappiner
Commander

I want to start by saying thank you for putting your trust in me to represent the Thundering 3rd District of Minnesota. I am truly humbled, and I will do everything in my power to make this a great year. We already are off to an awesome start. We are the first district to get off the goose egg and have all our officer reports in by convention. Thanks to all my Vice-Commanders who really did all the hard work to get that done.

My theme for this year is “Our Future Depends on Our Veterans.” It’s very important for us to stick together, grow in membership and make sure we keep pushing for legislation to help our veterans. We need to educate our younger veterans so they know what we are and what we do.

My project for this year is the Hastings Veteran’s Home Remodeling and Renovations. We have a new coffee bar for all to enjoy. Please consider donating so we can get this done right away.

I would like to remind you that I’m always available for anything you need, even if it’s just to sit and talk over a cup of coffee. “If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.” — John Quincy Adams

FOURTH DISTRICT
Lane Stunkel
Commander

Greetings Fabulous 4th District,

This year has started for The American Legion Department of Minnesota with the conclusion of the Department Convention July 19th through July 21st. I want to thank all of our District Officers and Committee Chairs for all of your hard work last year, and I am looking forward to a great 2018 – 2019 year of work.

First of all we are off of the Goose Egg and all Officer Reports are in to the Department – thank you Commanders, Adjutants and Officers – great job.

With the 2019 membership packages out, let’s work hard to find new members, most importantly retain our existing members. The membership packages should be sent to all of our members in prayer, with our new members to thank you for all you do in your Post and Community, and all of the volunteer work you do. God bless America.

Still Serving America

FIFTH DISTRICT
John Austin
Commander

Greetings and salutations from the Fighting Fifth.

Congratulations to all the newly elected Department, District, County, Post Officers as well as Auxiliary, Junior and SAL officers. A huge thank you to the people of Rochester and to McCoy Post for hosting the convention. I, along with my bang-up crew of SAL Officers and Legion Officers, are grateful for the shuttle buses they provided for us. (Getting old isn’t for sissies.)

I wish to thank the Post 320 for their help to support what we have shown me for the past year. It has been a humble and large learning experience. As I pass the gavel on to John Austin, I know he will be a great commander. Here’s to a great National Convention in our home state.

Retiring commander,

Walt Lyndsey

SIXTH DISTRICT
Richard Cross
Commander

Hello American Legion Family Members,

Membership is upon us again. We as a Legion must expand our numbers to survive. We have heard this time and time again. As everyone knows, it is everybody’s responsibility to sign up new memberships. I could go on and on about this for hours, but there is no sense in beating a dead horse. You know what to do, so let’s do it.

The upcoming year is starting with a lot of energy in the Legion community. Things at Legionville are moving along at a fast pace. Some posts have some new leadership, some have the same leaders as last year. The American Legion has its 100 Year Anniversary coming up and we are being contacted and conferences and conventions are being planned. It is going to be an exciting year.

May God bless our veterans.

SEVENTH DISTRICT
Jeffrey Gay
Commander

“Then was that, this is now and what we do today will influence tomorrow.” With that in mind our plan for the future of The American Legion must include today’s young Veterans to come and continue as our future leaders.

The future of our programs rest in our membership and unity working together in our communities to invoke excellence for all ages and reestablishing our worth and our ideals within our host communities.

Let us to embrace Family Activities providing events for all ages, wholesome in nature, which are all inclusive. Our younger Veterans are busy with “life”, doing things with their families as well as themselves, why not make the Legion that center point for them.

Let them know that this is their Post as well as ours. Allowing them to express their own values and ideas that provide them a chance to gain experience before holding an office. Make it clear that we need them and them realize what the Legion has to offer them, a chance to benefit programs and history of not just The American Legion but of their post as well.

We can make this centennial year a year of education, excitement and growth in the 7th District. Spread the work. We can only be done as a team.

EIGHTH DISTRICT
Wilbur Swanson
Commander

Greetings to the Legion family of the Eighth District. Here we are at the start of a new year with our conventions behind us. In the future, I hope to see better participation in the District functions, as this will get our messages out to our other members. Plans have been made to get post officers who have not been received by now but if not, contact Jennifer. If any post has not sent in their officers list, please do so. We need to give our Post officers the best opportunity so we can meet our targets as the year progresses. I encourage all Posts to encourage members to seek out new members. We need to let people know what our available programs are. As a support organization for all veterans, our actions are for their benefit. Remember, the goal of The American Legion is the Four Pillars. We need to support our elected officers in the successful completion of their duties. Our officers have a responsibility to meet the requirements of their positions with dedication and involvement. Let’s all work to get the 9th District more active and involved in our mission. Thank you, in advance, for your time and efforts. God bless the Legion family and the USA.

NINTH DISTRICT
Arlie Rude
Commander

Greetings from the Mighty 10th District. I want to thank the district for electing me your 2018-19 District Commander at our District Convention in Clearwater 16 June. It is going to be a fun and exciting year.

The rest of the 2018-19 10th District family leadership team is SAL Commander Jeremy Coppler of Mound, Riders Director Jeremy Christenson of Delano and Auxiliary President Sandy Locker of Fridley. I want to thank last year’s team of Commander Paul Hassing, President Jodi Hassing, SAL Commander Steve Sullivan and Riders Director Diane Walker for a job well done.

I want to congratulate our 2018-19 Department Commanders Darrel Romine of Detroit Lakes, Commander Paul Orson of Fosston. Our organization meeting is August 18 in Fosston. I encourage all posts in the 9th District to have a representative attend. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. at the school. Thank you all membership directors for getting the 9th District to third place in the membership standings. Let’s work to increase the membership and be in first place in 2019.

Enjoy your summer. For God and Country.
Instead of hospitality rooms, Rochester Post 92 sponsored a picnic with live music following the parade. Several hundred Legion Family members enjoyed the free food and hospitality just outside the Mayo Civic Center.

Annual Parade and Picnic

World War I hats were issued to districts as part of the celebration of Minnesota’s 100th Department Convention.

Department Juniors and families enjoyed the picnic.

Soon-to-be-elected Department Commander Darrel Redepenning rode in the parade with Legacy Run Director Sully Sullivan.

Fifth District dignitaries got a lift at the parade.

Minnesota’s Ninth District Band, the only district band in the nation, paraded down the street in Rochester.

Department officers marched the route.

At the conclusion of the parade, the Legion Family was treated to the Dixieland Pickup Band and banjoist Debbie Schreyer.

The picnic included free food to all who attended, from the Legion or the community.
Auxiliary Installation

Tears were flowing when Past Department President Lori Skallerud presented Arends with a historic pin.

Installing Officer Karen Thygeson had a hug for incoming President Jean Walker of Warren.

Installing Officer Karen Thygeson reads the oath to the new officers.

Outgoing President Donna Arends presented incoming President Jean Walker with the gavel.

Memorial Service

Tenth District President Jodi Hassing and District Commander Paul Hassing place roses in the vase.

Gene Eiden played taps on the trumpet.

President Donna Arends and Commander Mike Schaffer lit memorial candles during the ceremony.

Department Chaplain Ralph Schneekloth

Keynote Speaker Bishop Dan Williams

Soloist Diane Toogood

Auxiliary Chaplain Carol Holmgren
100th annual convention in Rochester

Commander Mike Schaffer donned his World War I doughboy hat during the convention. The hats were a souvenir of the 100th Department Convention.

The Ninth District Band provided a wake up call on Saturday morning at the Civic Center.

Parade marchers started on the far side of the river and wound their way to the Civic Center for the picnic.

National Executive Committeeman Terry Nelson of Wyoming brought greetings.
Law Officer and Fire Fighter award winners are honored

BRIAN FINKE
Firefighter of the Year

DAVID WATSON
Regional Law Officer of the Year

CURT BOEHME
Law Officer of the Year
Legion Installation

Installing Officer Marland Ronning instructs newly-elected Department Commander Darrel Redpenning on his duties. Ronning did the entire installation ceremony from memory.

Past Department Commander Denise Milton presents outgoing Commander Mike Schaffer with his miniature set of colors.

Past Department Commander Bud Redpenning posed with his son Commander Darrel Redpenning with the traditional gold nameplates of all the commanders in Minnesota’s 100 years. Bud said the badge is a lot longer than when he was commander.

Nina Schaffer attaches the past commander’s pin to her husband.

Donna Redpenning places the commander’s hat on her husband.

Newly named Membership Director Mike Maxa outlined his membership plan for the year.
American Legion Legacy

take part in this year’s
participants have signed up to
weeks remaining for regis-
Online Legacy Run registration

PUBLIC AND FAMILIES.
VETERANS, DISABLED GENERAL
ACTIVE DUTY AND ABLE BODIED
RESORT FOR DISABLED VETERANS,
Future Planning Services
All cabins have a lake view.
www.veteransonthelakeresort.org
email: vetlake@frontiernet.net
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Gateway to the BWCA.
and open 12 months a year.
This is your northern
With less than two
weeks remaining for regis-
tation, more than 460 par-
ticipants have signed up to
partake in this year’s
American Legion Legacy
Run.

Stapling Party
Minnesota will be giving high quali-
ty replicas of the first 1919 conven-
tion badges to those attending this
years 100th convention. A card
needed to be stapled to each
badge, though, explaining the gift.
Eagan Post 594 stepped forward to
do the job. Over 10,000 pieces
were stapled. At left, Past National
Commander Dan Ludwig joined the
crew. At bottom, Kenny Peterson,
left, and Gary Griett volunteered.

Bog-gone-it!
Volunteers win the battle of the bog

About nine months after a
wandering bog settled in
front of the Legionville
Camp swimming beach, it
has gone home.
The bog broke loose from the Legionville prop-
erty last October, creased around the lake driven by
wind, took out a few docks, and then settled in for
the winter at the beach.

Too late to mount a
major effort to remove the
bog before North Long
Lake iced over, a group of
volunteers gathered in May
to move the four-acre bog.
It didn’t work.
The volunteers, mainly
the Lake Property Owners’
Association and Adjutant
Randy Tesdahl, settled on a
new plan of cutting the
monster bog into bite-sized
pieces and moving those
one by one.

Part of the bog helped by
breaking loose again, but it
was soon corralled back to
it’s former home.
In July, the last piece
was removed.
It was too late for this
year’s camp, which was
canceled, but Legionville
officials promise a better
Legionville next year.

Online Legacy Run registration
With less than two
weeks remaining for regis-
tration, more than 460 par-
ticipants have signed up to
partake in this year’s
American Legion Legacy
Run.

Online registration for
the 2018 Legacy Ride will
end Aug. 11. All riders
and passengers who register
online before Aug. 1 will be
mailed the registration
packet with patches and
map book materials before
national staff departs.
Those who register on or after
Aug. 1 will be mailed their
registration packets on or
after Sept. 1 (while supplies
last) as staff returns from
copyright duties.
The Legacy Run will leave Hutchinson, Kan.,
where Post 68 will host kickoff events – on Aug. 19
and arrive in Minneapolis for the 2018 National
Convention. The ride will make stops in Missouri,
Iowa and Wisconsin before finishing Aug. 23 at Anoka
Post 102 in Minnesota.
The 2017 Legacy Run
raised a record $1,224,653
– the fourth straight year the
ride raised more than $1
million.

For more information
about this year’s Legacy Run, go to the national web-
site: legion.org.

USAA and Legion sign
new contract
The National Executive
Committee of The
American Legion signed a
new contract with USA
extending through 2023.
The national headquar-
ters as allocated up to $1
million to share with the
Departments who continue
to participate in the USAA
program. States must con-
tribute free advertising and
other promotions.
The credit card program
with the insurance compa-
nany, however, has been
canceled. States will no longer receive
money from this program.

How will you pay for
expenses that Medicare
doesn’t cover?

With the high cost of healthcare today,
Medicare Supplement insurance is becoming
necessary for more and more Americans. That’s
why it’s good to have that you now have a choice
of Standardized Medicare Supplement plans at
affordable group rates, offered to members like
you. All plans are underwritten by a company
known for its prompt, personal, responsive service.

Other features include:
• The Freedom of choosing your
  doctors and hospitals
• Outstanding Customer Service available from
  licensed representatives ready to
  answer your questions.
• Hands-free claims processing in
  about 7 days
• Excellent service from a company with an
  A (Excellent, 3rd out of 10 ratings) A.M. Best rating for
  financial stability.
Make sure you can pick the
expensive that Medicare doesn’t
cover and help protect your family’s
retirement savings. Apply today
for the peace of mind you want,
as affordable Legrande Insurance
Trust member rates.

Legionnaire Insurance Trust Members
Medicare Supplement Reply Card
For your FREE Information Ask on the Medicare Supplement Insurance Plans complete and return this coupon.
Name:
Address:
City: State: Zip: Phone:
Send to: Medicare Supplement Processing Dept.
P.O. Box 151
Valley Forge, Pa. 19482-0946

800-247-1771
Awards and presentations made at the 2018 convention

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS -- Posts that contributed the most volunteer hours and money to their communities were honored. From left: Carl Renalls for 3M Post 599, both hours and money, Category I; Rich Cross, Melrose Post 101, both hours and money spent, Category III; Roger Stoick, St. Michael Post 567, most dollars spent, Category IV; Tom Fernlund, Waite Park Post 428, most volunteered hours, Category IV; Tom Burns, Hamline Post 418, most volunteered hours, Category II.

BOWLING TROPHY -- The team winner of this year’s Minnesota American Legion Bowling Trophy was Brainerd Post 255. From left: Commander Mike Schaffer, Bowling Chairman John Torma, Bowling Secretary Cari Lamb and Post Adjutant Paul Edwards.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE -- Rushford Post 94 and St. Charles Post 190 were honored with national awards for Distinguished Service. From left: Commander Schaffer, Chairman Glenn Mueller, Art Tobkin, Americanism Chair.

AMERICANISM -- Nashwauk Post 307 won a national Certificate of Meritorious Service Award. From left: Commander Schaffer, Americanism Chair Art Tobkin, and Larry Pocrnich, accepting for the Nashwauk Post.

EMPLOYMENT AWARD, MEDIUM-SIZED COMPANIES -- The winner of the Employment Award for medium-sized companies went to Bic Graphic Co. of Sleepy Eye. From left, Commander Mike Schaffer, Betty Jass, representing the Sleepy Eye Post 7; Blake Seas, representing Bic; and Employment Chair Carl Moon.

EMPLOYMENT AWARD, LARGE COMPANY -- Fagan Inc. of Granite Falls won the Employment Award for large companies. From left: Commander Mike Schaffer, Chelsea August, human resources director for Fagan, Chairman Carl Moon.

BOYS STATE -- An Appreciation Award was given to Spicer Post 545 for sponsoring Joseph Hillenbrand, Boys State Director’s award winner. Richard Wog accepted for the post.

BOYS STATE -- An Appreciation Award was presented to Wayzata Post 118 for sponsoring Boys State Director’s Award winner Colin Dosedel. Accepting for the post was District Commander Paul Hassing.

BOYS STATE -- New Ulm Post 132 was given an Appreciation Award for sponsoring Peter Spengler, winner of the Myron and David Way Award. Bert Marth accepted for New Ulm.

ORATORICAL CHAMPION -- Emily Parker was honored with a plaque. She finished second in the national Oratorical Contest. From left: Commander Schaffer, Parker, Chairman Linda Dvorak and Vice Chairman Sy Fix.
More honors and awards from the 2018 Department Convention

BLOOD AWARDS -- Certificate winners for the Department’s Blood Program gathered on the stage at the Rochester Mayo Civic Center.

SILVER BRIGADE -- Barb Olson of Forest Lake Post 225 was the Silver Brigade winner for top recruiter. From left: Commander Mike Schaffer, Forest Lake’s Terry Larson, Membership Director Larry Ryan.

RECRUITER OF THE YEAR -- John Lenvik of Apple Valley Post 1776 once again earned honors as the top membership recruiter in the state. During the year, he recruited 82 new members. It is the fourth time Lenvik has earned the honors. He was also honored as a Gold Brigade winner. From left: Commander Mike Schaffer, Lenvik, Membership Director Larry Ryan.

THIRD PLACE COLOR GUARD -- Eyota Post 551 took third place in the Color Guard competition. From left: Vice Commander Bill Stump; District Commander Gary Miller; Parade Coordinator Dave Bode.

POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR -- Curt Boehme, a police officer with the Lino Lake Public Safety Department, won this year’s Law Officer of the Year. From left: Commander Schaffer, Boehme, Tom Merino, accepting an award to Lino Lakes Post 566 for sponsoring Boehme, and Law and Order Chair Tom Conway.

POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR -- Curt Boehme, a police officer with the Lino Lake Public Safety Department, won this year’s Law Officer of the Year. From left: Commander Schaffer, Boehme, Tom Merino, accepting an award to Lino Lakes Post 566 for sponsoring Boehme, and Law and Order Chair Tom Conway.

THIRD PLACE COLOR GUARD -- Eyota Post 551 took third place in the Color Guard competition. From left: Commander Mike Schaffer, Post 566, accepting a plaque for sponsoring Boone, and Law and Order Chairman Tom Conway.

REGIONAL WINNER -- David Watson, a detective from the Lakeville Police Department was honored as The American Legion Law Office of the Year for the Central States Region. From left: Commander Mike Schaffer, Watson, Committee Chair Tom Conway.

POST REHABILITATION AWARDS -- Rehab award winners gathered on the stage to accept their certificates at Rochester. Winners of the awards included: Gerald McConkey, Brewster Post 464; John Weiss, St. Paul Arcade Phalen Post 577; Charles Wesley, Minneapolis Johnnie Baker Post 291; Steve Eisenreich, Cross Lakes Fifty Lakes Post 500; John Smith, Kingston Post 463; William W. Hanegmon, Chisholm Post 247; Terry Buraas, East Grand Forks Post 157; Frank Menter, Anoka Post 102.
More honors and awards from the 2018 Department Convention

GOOSE EGG AWARDS -- The Districts that got off the Goose Egg were presented certificates. From left: Commander Mike Schaffer, Third District Commander Gene Leifeld, First District Commander Les Shaunce, Sixth District Commander Ken Johnstone, Fifth District Commander Walt Lindsley, Fourth District Commander Lane Stunkel.

SECOND PLACE COLOR GUARD -- District Commander Gene Leifeld accepted the trophy for second place color guard for Silver Lake Post 141. From left: Vice Commander Bill Stump, Leifeld, Parade Coordinator Dave Bode.

PARADE DISTRICT WINNERS -- The District winners in the annual convention parade received checks. From left: Vice Commander Bill Stump; First District Commander Les Shaunce, second place; Third District Commander Gene Leifeld, third place; Second District Commanders Cindy Brunk and Randy Olson, first place; Parade Coordinator Dave Bode.

TOP COLOR GUARD -- Waite Park Post 428 again won the top color guard award and will be this year’s official state color guard. From left: Vice Commander Bill Stump, Veronica Fernlund, Tom Fernlund, Wes Thompson, Ken Johnstone, Bob Mace, Parade Coordinator Dave Bode.

LEGACY RUN REPORT -- Steve Sullivan gave a report on the Riders 2018 Legacy Runs in Minnesota. The Minnesota Legion Riders are aiming at collecting a quarter million dollars for the Legacy Scholarship.
Minnesota hosts 100th convention

Continued from Page 1

The National Commander’s Banquet will be Tuesday in Hall E at 6:30 p.m. There are no tickets available at this time.

An exhibition hall will be open from Friday through Tuesday at the Convention Center. Minnesota will have a “Minnesota Nice” booth where Minnesota items can be purchased including a special SPAM can, made just for the convention.

Those who would like to volunteer to work at the booth should contact Jim Kellogg at jamesckg@gmail.com.

There will also be a Legion Family night with the Twins on Saturday, Aug. 25, at 6:10 a.m. National Commander Denise Rohan of Wisconsin will throw out the first pitch. To order tickets, call 1-800-53-TWINS and hit “0” to get an attendant. Please promote this event.

And there will be a fight with the Vikings. The pre-season game will be Friday, Aug. 24, at 7 p.m. at U.S. Bank Stadium with tickets at $20. Tickets are through Ticketmaster, promo code: LEGION.

There will be a post parade party at the Convention Center, Ballroom B, Level One. It will feature Minnesota’s own Ninth District Band. It will be co-sponsored by Resource One and will also feature the American Bombshells.

Minnesota delegates will be staying at the Hyatt Regency, but all roads are blocked. Minnesota volunteers will be handling many of the chores around the convention, including stuffing the gift bags and staffing the distinguished guests lounge.

Parade Information

Sunday August 26 2018 Starts at 4:00 PM

The National convention parade will start at Fifth St. S. and proceed south on the Nicollet Mall to 13th Street S. At the disbanding area, marchers will take a left and proceed to the Minneapolis Convention Center while vehicles will continue down Nicollet Mall.

Directions for buses bringing marchers and bands to the parade, drive north on Hennepin Ave. and take a right into the North terminal parking lot (The Staging Area) just before Washington Ave. Unload and exit onto Washington Ave. Proceed to 3rd Ave. S. and take a right and proceed to 16th Street E, take a right and proceed into the bus area behind the Convention Center.

For the Department of Minnesota, we are in Division 6 and do not stage till 5:45 pm. DO NOT show up early. Please adhere to the Parade Order of March. Marching times are 3:30 pm.

There will be a parade department chairmen meet- ing on Saturday August 25 at 2:00 PM at the Minneapolis Convention Center Room 103.

D &T There will be a Department of Minnesota parade committee meeting following that meeting. I would love your attendance.

For information about the Department of Minnesota unit in the parade call the Minnesota Department Post 51 President James Link at 612-201-5151. For information on other units in the parade, contact Bridget Robinson, Director National Convention, 1-800-317-639-1292.

Tom Schottenbauer
National Parade Chairman

Taps

Hirmer, Robert C., 89, Army veteran of World War II, died June 24, 2018. He was a medical techni- cian, and served in occupied Japan. He was active in The American Legion since 1948 and served as Marshall Post 113 State Commander in 1991-92. He was a member of the Department Baseball Committee. He was a member of the Department Baseball Committee.

Howe, Bert H., 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 26, 2018. He was a member of Zimmerman Post 560.

Poole, Thomas Michael “Mike,” 78, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 14, 2018. He served in the 82nd Airborne. He was a member of Hackensack Post 202. He was a member of the 82nd Airborne.

Thompson, Thomas “Richard” R., 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 1, 2018. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Ehset, Harlin P., 91, Army veteran of World War II, died July 9, 2018. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.


Seeman, Donald E., 86, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 14, 2018. He was the commander of Arlington Post 2.

McManus, William, 80, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 13, 2018. He was a member of Pine City Post 51.

Fellegy, Ronald, 61, Army veteran Panama-Grenada war era, died June 4, 2018. He was a member of Bowwus Post 642.

Hendrick, Dewey A., 86, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 24, 2018. He was a member of Jackson Post 130.

Phillips, John C., 93 Army veteran of World War II, died June 26, 2018. He parachuted into Germany during Operation Varsity with the 17th Airborne Division. He was wounded and earned a Purple Heart. He was a member of Austin Post 91.

Cordes, Clifford, 94, Army veteran of World War II, died June 9, 2018. He was a longshoreman, and the ship he was working on was attacked by a Kamikaze plane in New Guinea. He was a member of New Ulm Post 132.

Grussing, Daniel, 90, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 26, 2018. He was a prisoner of war for two years. He was a member of Clara City Post 485.

Meyer, Raymond E., 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 24, 2018. He served in Germany. He was a member of Gaylord Post 433.

Nash, Michael Ray, 84, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 29, 2018. He was a member of Red Wing Post 54.

Cleminski, Nicholas Joseph, 78, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 20, 2018. He served in Germany. He was a member of Rush City Post 93.

Werness, Richard W., 66, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 24, 2018. He served 20 years in the National Guard and retired as a sergeant first class. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

Petersen, Guy George, 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 4, 2018. He was in the Army missile program.

Markling, Walter J., 85, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 5, 2018. He went to cook school. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 212.

Bollig, Jean, 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 7, 2018. He was a member of Gary Post 505.

Babinski, Francis H., 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 30, 2018. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

Hrudy, Edward J., 97, Army veteran of World War II, died June 26, 2018. He was a past commander of Lonsdale Post 586.

Hron, James Benjamin, 92, Army veteran of World War II, died July 10, 2018. He served in Europe and was a military policeman in the 267th Infantry. He was a member of Chaska Post 57.

Tulden, Robert, 86, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died July 10, 2018. He served in Naval Air. He was a member of Marshall Post 113.

Tesch, Willbur, 90, Army veteran of World War II, died July 1, 2018. He went to cook school. He was a member of Long Prairie Post 12.

Fluegel, Albert, 88, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died July 1, 2018. He was a member of Cambridge Post 290.

Correction

Moe, Darrell Ivan. 83, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 14, 2018. He served as a helicopter me- chanic. He was a three-time past commander and finance officer for Viking Post 493.
First off, I will be the first to admit that I am not a good article writer. So here it goes. This past year just flew by and here we are at our 99th Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary Convention. President Donna did a fantastic job and I commend her for it. The fireworks were great and being installed on Saturday by my good friend Karen was so special. The installation went so fast. I would again like to thank the 9th District for their support and all of the members of the Department of Minnesota. I would not be holding this office without your support. The Past Presidents have left some big shoes to follow. They are my mentors. I have all of your numbers on speed dial. Especially the ones on the advisory committee.

My theme this year is “Veterans Are Our Stars.” My symbol is the Star. This year I am going to focus on: Who We Are, What We Do and Why We Matter. We matter because our Veterans matter. We want to be around for a long time to continue to support our Veterans, their families, and our communities.

My Department Project: Collecting $25,000 to create Patriot’s Park at the Minnesota Veterans Home, Fergus Falls. It will have benches, bushes and vines growing over the pergola, a dock, and a monument with matching granite benches. The monument will have three soldiers and the motto: “No One Left Behind” with the emblems of all the branches of service. The reason for the short dock is for the motto: “No One Left Behind” with the emblems of all the branches of service. The reason for the short dock is for maintenance of the pond, plus the recreational staff plan to showcase what your Units are doing to promote President’s Awards of Excellence. Each recipient was given a gift from President Donna.

The recepients were:
- Americanism – Rosie Court, St. Joseph Unit 328, District 6
- AEF – Diane Lechner, Park Rapids Unit 212, District 6
- Children and Youth – Bonnie Dupee, Hackensack Unit 202, District 6
- Community Service – Debra Bigelow/Caryl Nymann, Plainview Unit 179, District 3
- Constitution/Standing Rules – Lesley Christoffer, Okahena Unit 253, District 1
- Education – Tammy Eggerglass, Mound Unit 398, District 10
- History – Nancy Stanton, Mahtomedi Unit 507, District 3
- Junior Activities – Michelle Towey, Hayfield Unit 330, District 6
- Parent/Child – Shirley Frederick, Hackensack Unit 202, District 6
- Legislation – Janice Evans, Elysian Unit 311, District 3
- Memorial – Mary Jane Haakon, Hayfield Unit 330, District 6
- National Security – Doris Kampsen, Spicer Unit 545, District 7
- Past Presidents’ Parley – Karen Orr, Anoka Unit 102, District 6
- Public Relations – Cheryl Fredenburg, Bemidji Unit 14, District 6
- Poppy – Cathy Rossing, Melrose Unit 19, District 2

On Saturday, July 21, we closed another chapter of the American Legion Auxiliary and “Lighting Veterans Paths” under the inspirational direction of President Donna Arends. The annual Department Convention was held at the Kahler Grand Hotel in Rochester, hosted by the American Legion Post and Unit 92 of Rochester and approximately 215 Delegates, Alternates and Guests representing 101 Units hearing the various reports and conducting the business of the Auxiliary over the three days of the convention.

Our special congratulations to newly elected Department President Jean Walker, Department First Vice President Mary Hendrickson, Department Second Vice President Patti Coleman and National Executive Committee woman Raleen Tolzmann who assumed their duties at the close of the Department Convention. Walker went on to appoint Alternate NEC Karen Thygeson to a one year term to replace newly elected NEC Raleen Tolzmann. President Walker has chosen “Veterans Are Our Stars” as her theme for the 2018-2019 Auxiliary year. Her symbol is a Star. The ratification and election of 27 delegates and 27 alternates to the 2018 National Convention in Minneapolis brought the business portion of the convention to a close.

Donna Arends will serve as our Delegation Chairman, Sandie Deutsch will serve as our Delegation Secretary and Shirley Frederick will be representing us as our National Executive Committee woman.

Our appreciation and congratulations are given to Donna for her dedicated service as Department President this Auxiliary year. She traveled to all areas of the state and did her best to honor all of her invitations. Donna represented our organization with grace and dedication and I can’t thank her enough.

SPECIAL THANKS

Our special thanks to Evelyn Lyke and Shirley Oberle, Auxiliary Convention General Chairman and Co-Chairman and all of the members of the Rochester and 1st District American Legion Family who helped make this a successful convention. Their many hours of planning were reflected in the smooth operation of our 99th annual convention.

AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

At the Department Convention President Donna was most pleased to present her special “Presidents Awards of Excellence” to those Unit members in each of the following programs. These awards were based on the Unit’s annual report and the activities it carried on under the program. Each recipient was given a gift from President Donna.

The recipients were:
- Americanism – Rosies Court, St. Joseph Unit 328, District 6
- AEF – Diane Lechner, Park Rapids Unit 212, District 6
- Children and Youth – Bonnie Dupee, Hackensack Unit 202, District 6
- Community Service – Debra Bigelow/Caryl Nymann, Plainview Unit 179, District 3
- Constitution/Standing Rules – Lesley Christoffer, Okahena Unit 253, District 1
- Education – Tammy Eggerglass, Mound Unit 398, District 10
- History – Nancy Stanton, Mahtomedi Unit 507, District 3
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- Legislation – Janice Evans, Elysian Unit 311, District 3
- Memorial – Mary Jane Haakon, Hayfield Unit 330, District 6
- National Security – Doris Kampsen, Spicer Unit 545, District 7
- Past Presidents’ Parley – Karen Orr, Anoka Unit 102, District 6
- Public Relations – Cheryl Fredenburg, Bemidji Unit 14, District 6

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation – Barb VanEly, Chaska Unit 57, District 3
Service to Veterans – Shirley Frederick, Hackensack Unit 202, District 6

DEPARTMENT APPOINTMENTS

The following Department President Jean’s appointment for the 2018-2019 Auxiliary year of “Veterans Are Our Stars” were approved by the Department Executive Committee:

- Americanism – Beth Dickert
- Children and Youth – Sandy Wensel
- Community Service – Theresa Radunick
- Constitution and Standing Rules – Marsha Bible
- Education – Linda Kruppenske
- Finance – Carol Barbinecht, Chairman
- Becky Nelson
- Judy Ackerman
- Cheryl Schauman
- Judy Hassing

- Girls State – Mary Kuperus, Chairman
- Peggy Tedahl, Director
- Amelia Tedahl, Educational Director
- Bethany Dickert, Americanism
- Lesley Christoffer, Committee Member
- Kelli Frederickson, Committee Member

- Junior Activities – Kristin Donnelly
- Leadership – Dee Buckley
- Legislation – Mary Hendrickson
- Membership – Robin Dorf
- Memorial/Chaplain – Margie Keller
- National Security – Vicki Bibeau
- Parliamentarian – Carol Kottum
- Past Presidents’ Parley – Karen Thygeson
- Poppy – Sharon Barnes
- Public Relations – Cheryl Nymann
- Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation – Patti Coleman
- Service to Veterans – Lesley Christoffer

- Gift Shop – Linda Deschenes, Chairman
- Mary French, Committee Member

- Audit Committee – Lynn Spilman, Chairman, Suzette Maluchnik and Vida Bacon

- Special Appointments:
  - Auxiliary Emergency Fund – Teri Richardson
  - Armed Forces Center – Chris Ronning
  - Brain Science Foundation – Jill Mueller
  - Jessie Hoppe
  - Maureen Gustafson

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

- LEGIONNAIRE AUXILIARY PAGES

- Ladies, I am looking for your help this year. I would like to make our two pages, YOUR two pages. Please get me the items you would like to share with other members. Please send your documents to me via email in the word version and any pictures send as jpeg attachments. It makes both my life and our Editor Alice’s life much easier. I would like to showcase what your Units are doing to promote President Jean’s “Veterans Are Our Stars” this year.

- AUXILIARY WEBSITE – mnala.org

You will all see a new look to our Department website. Many hours went into developing a new site and we hope
you use it. If there is anything you want posted, please be sure to contact the Department Office and we will get it on there. Anything you want on the calendar can be added as well.

**2018 FALL CONFERENCE**

Our annual Fall Conference will be held in Marshall, Minnesota on October 26 & 27, 2018. More details on registration and accommo-

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS**

Elections were held and appointments were ratified and following will be leading your Auxiliary for 2018-2019:

- Department President Jean Walker
- Department First Vice President Mary Hendrickson
- Department Second Vice President Patti Coleman
- National Executive Committeewoman (2 year term)
- Raleen Tolzmann
  - Department Secretary Sandie Deutsch
  - Department Treasurer Jan Lauby
  - Department Chaplain Margee Keller
  - Department Historian Karla Otterness
  - Department Parliamentarian Carol Kottom

**Secretary Sandie’s Notes**

Just like a bad penny I'M back. I just keep showing up. So another Auxiliary year is in the books and I have a bit of a mixed bag of feelings. President Donna is now Past President Donna and I will miss working with her so she has become such a wonderful friend to me. I only wish good things for her in the future. On a brighter side, I now get to work with President Jean. I remember way back when, I just started my job and Jean was the 9th District President. I remember back in the day seeing pictures of class reunions in our paper for 25 and 30 years and thinking to myself, my goodness – those people are OLD. Guess who that leaves me? I’m not ready to push daisies yet but 45 years since high school seems like a long time ago. Kudos to my classmates – it seems like many of them haven’t aged a bit, or they just have good hairdressers. Until next month – enjoy the rest of your summer.

**UPCOMING EVENTS THIS YEAR**

August 3-5 - Junior Fun Weekend - Legionville

**Civic Honor** — The League of Minnesota Cities honored The American Legion and Auxiliary for developing tomorrow’s leaders through Boys State and training & National Junior Training – Membership – Legionville

**October 8-9** – Mission Training & National Junior Convention – Minneapolis, Minnesota

**September 4 – Labor Day – Department Office Closed**

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**NEW DEPARTMENT OFFICERS**

- Front, left to right: Sandie Deutsch, Department Secretary, Mary Hendrickson, 1st Vice President, Jean Walker, President, Patti Coleman, 2nd Vice President and Jan Lauby, Department Treasurer. Back row: Michelle Weaver, 1st District President, Kristen Donnelly, 2nd District President, Lynn Duffy, 3rd District President, Lynn Olson, 4th District President, Carl Lamb, 5th District President, Sharon Thiemecke, 6th District President, Pam Gades, 7th District President, Zandra Kessler, 8th District President, Mary Hendrickson, Past President and Sandra Locker, 10th District President.

**Posts of Elevation ($5,000 and up)**

- Roosevelt Post 490
- Marvin Martin Post 80
- North Shore Post 26
- Rublee Post 372

**Posts of Perfection ($1,000 to $4,999)**

- Austin Post 93
- Choteau Post 157
- East Grand Forks Post 127
- Ely Post 183
- Goodhue Post 192
- Minnetonka Post 119
- Roseau Post 94
- Sauk Post 55
- Sherburne Post 80
- St. Cloud Post 118
- Vernak Post 96

**October 3-5 – Junior Fun Weekend - Legionville**

**Secretary Sandie’s Notes**

Mary Ann Davis, who is our Hospital/Home Representative at the Minneapolis VAHCS would like to thank everyone for the donations you left for her in Rochester. She collected over 300 bottles of assorted toiletries for our Veterans. She truly appreciates it and hopes you keep collecting them. You can bring them to Fall Conference in Willmar and we will make sure she gets them.
Reverse Mortgages

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And click on Legion Publications

I BUY AND COLLECT VINTAGE MILITARY ITEMS:
Including insignia, hats, helmets, and uniforms from WW I, WW II, Korea, Vietnam. If you have not started your collection or Southeast Asia yet, I collect Army, USAF, USN, USMC patches, pins, pictures, and souvenirs from all periods. CALL JOE, 612-801-4673 AFTER 6 PM

UNITED UNION OF ROOFERS, WATERPROOFERS & ALLIED WORKERS Local 96

Northern Rocky Mountains
September 5-17, 2018

Tour Includes:
• 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Cindy Meany
• Deluxe motor coach transportation
• 13 nights accommodations including dinner in Mount Rushmore's Lodge
• Christmas in Graceland
• Christmas Parades
• Gift of the Magi Christmas Dinner at the Napa River Inn
• Luggage handling for one suitcase per person

$2,159.00 per person double occupancy

New York City
November 7-11, 2018

Tour Includes:
• 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Larry Alvey
• Delta Airlines flights, Minneapolis to NYC
• Times Square on New Year's Eve
• Radio City Music Hall: “The Rockettes Christmas Spectacular”
• Liberty Island & Statue of Liberty
• Manhattan Island City tour
• 9/11 Memorial and Museum
• Harbor cruise with lunch

$2,599.00 per person double occupancy

Smokey Mountains
October 22-29, 2018

Tour Includes:
• 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Cindy Meany
• Deluxe motor coach transportation
• 7 nights accommodations & 11 meals
• Hollywood Theme Park
• Float Walls of Paducah
• All Day guided tour of Smoky Mountains National Park
• Shows: Grand Ole Opry, Country Tonite, Smoky Mountain Opry
• Luggage handling for 1 suitcase per person

$1,499.00 per person double occupancy

Hawaiian Islands Cruise
January 28 – February 10, 2019

Tour Includes:
• 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Larry Alvey
• Round trip Delta Airlines flights Minneapolis to Honolulu, Hawaii
• Overnight at Minneapolis Airport Hotel
• Overnight at Honolulu Airport Hotel
• All transfers to and from the airport, hotel and pier
• Round trip Delta Airlines flights Minneapolis to Wash. D.C.
• Circle Island Tour of Oahu
• Lei Greeting upon arrival in Honolulu
• All meals and entertainment onboard the CORAL PRINCESS
• Deluxe motor coach transportation
• Overnight atmath the Millennium Hotel on the Strip
• All transfers to and from the airport, hotel and pier
• Leopard Safari Hunt, Kekaha Kai State Park
• Circle Island Tour of Oahu
• Safari Park Adventure

$5,779.00 per person double occupancy

Hawaiian Islands Cruise
January 28 – February 10, 2019

Tour Includes:
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• Leopard Safari Hunt, Kekaha Kai State Park
• Circle Island Tour of Oahu
• Safari Park Adventure

$5,779.00 per person double occupancy

Monuments of Washington D.C.
May 17-21, 2019

Tour Includes:
• 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Larry Alvey
• Round trip Delta Airlines flights Minneapolis to Washington D.C.
• 4 nights accommodations in the Washington D.C. area
• Transfer between hotel, airport & pier
• All meals
• Deluxe motor coach transportation
• Luggage handling for one suitcase per person
• Admiration to all National Parks
• Christmas in Graceland
• Christmas Parades
• Gift of the Magi Christmas Dinner at the Napa River Inn
• Luggage handling for one suitcase per person

$1,499.00 per person double occupancy