Skit encourages conversation on Legion post meetings

Fall Conference attendees got to see a skit that parodied an actual Legion post meeting, and illustrated what can go wrong. In the skit, done by the Mighty Legion Art Players, the treatment of women and younger vets, drinking at meetings, lack of following parliamentary procedure, and other no-nos were humorously displayed.

The discussion afterwards featured about 20 Legionnaires giving their thoughts on meetings and the Legion in general.

“A veteran is a veteran is a veteran,” Past National Commander Dan Ludwig said. “If you seek out younger veterans, treat them as equals, explain the value of our organization, they will stay and become leaders.” Ludwig said that posts that are hostile or indifferent to new faces will die. “The younger veteran doesn’t have time for that. We need to embrace them all. They need us and we need them.”

Continued on Page 2

Medical marijuana gets a close look from state agency

Minnesota has had legal cannabis for several years for medical purposes.

Dr. Tom Arnesson of the Minnesota Department of Health told the Fall Conference on how the state is monitoring the effects of the legal pot, including its ability to treat the symptoms of PTSD. Arnesson noted that Minnesota has a relatively restrictive medical marijuana law, including the provision that no cannabis can be purchased that can be smoked. Only highly processed liquid forms of the drug can be bought at the eight medical marijuana stores in the state.

Arnesson said the law also required that the legal pot’s usage and effectiveness be tracked and reported. “There is a tide sweeping across the country to legalize cannabis.”

Continued on Page 2

Historic Bridge still hot topic at Minnesota Vets Homes

A historic bridge on the west side of the Minnesota Veterans Home in Minneapolis has become a historic mess.

The bridge, built in the 1800s and protected as a historic structure, has been closed since 2014. This past year, the Minnesota Legislature approved $7 million to fix the bridge, but the project has run into several roadblocks.

Mike McEllinney, the chief of staff for the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs, gave a lengthy rundown at the Fall Conference on what’s new at the MDVA. Part of his report was on the bridge.

The bridge is essential, he said, because it provides a

Continued on Page 2

Legion Christmas outing with U of M hoops Dec. 21

The annual Legion Night with the Gophers will be Dec. 21 at Williams Arena.

Discounted tickets are $15 and up. The Gophers men’s basketball team will host North Carolina A&T in a game at 7 p.m.

Enter the link below in your browser: Or call Jacob at 612-626-1592, gilbertj@umn.edu

Waste Park Post 428 Color Guard will present the colors for the national anthem at the game.

https://umn.edu/AmericanLegionMBB18

Legion HQ now a secure area

The American Legion Headquarters and the Auxiliary Headquarters on the third floor of the Veterans Service Building at the Capitol are now accessible only by key card.

Those wishing access to the Legion spaces should call 651-291-1800 so they can be met in the lobby area of the building.

The Auxiliary can be reached at 651-224-7634. DAV and VFW Auxy are also not accessible.

Flying Corsairs in two wars Pages 10-12

BUT WE’VE ALWAYS DONE IT THAT WAY -- Commander Darrel Redepenning was one of the Mighty Legion Art Players who did a skit at Fall Conference at Marshall on the worst way to run a Legion meeting.

What appeared as a routine resolution to abolish a committee ran into a roadblock at the Fall Conference Department Executive Committee in October.

In fact the vote had already been taken on a measure to retire the Citizens Flag Alliance Committee when it was noted that there had not been a chance to have a discussion.

National Executive Committee Member Marland Ronning rose and said rather than abolish the committee it should just be set aside for now without appointing anyone to fill the one member slot on the committee.

Past National Commander Dan Ludwig addressed the DEC and gave a history lesson on the status of the Citizens Flag Alliance nationally. “It was very active during the 1990s. Although of late it hasn’t been that active.”

Ludwig said the Legion effort was to encourage Congress to approve a constitutional amendment to be sent to the states to make physical desecration of the flag illegal.

The effort came within a couple of votes in the Senate a couple of times, but never quite succeeded.

In recent years, Ludwig said, the Flag Amendment has not been a front burner issue.

“I agree that we should just leave it vacant for now. The day may come when it becomes a front burner issue as we seek the Flag Amendment again.”

Department Adjutant Randy Tesdahl said he had no problem with just vacating the committee rather than abolishing it, but he noted that continuing the committee means that it will still have to be carried on the rolls.

Tesdahl said that the Citizens Flag Alliance is only one of several committees that are being looked at as candidates for elimination or consolidation.

Commander Darrel Redepenning agreed, and said that there had been an informal meeting of past Department Commanders on ways for the organization to move forward, and that eliminating some committees was part of the discussion.

“What we need is for people to be truly engaged in our committees,” Redepenning said.

A new vote on abolishing the committee was taken and the motion was defeated unanimously.

In other business, the executive committee:

-- Elected Carroll Partridge of Oakdale to the Board of Publications.

Approved the budget for the coming year as presented by the Finance Committee. Total income for the year was projected as $1.31 million and projected expense $1.31, or a $20,000 expected surplus. Robin Picracy, Finance Chairman, said that employee salaries and national convention expenses were two areas of increase. Other line item increases were an increase of $4,000 in the Executive Committee Fund, and an $11,000 increase in the membership fund.
Jass runs for Dept. Chaplain

Betty M. Jass has been endorsed by Benjamin A. Remmelte, Post 7, Sleepy Eye, MN and The American Legion Rider Group, Post 132, New Ulm, for Minnesota Department Chaplain for 2019-2020. Jass has been a PUF member for over 22 years and is the current 2nd District National Security/ Foreign Relations Chairman, Sleepy Eye Post 7 Adjutant and Secretary for Post 132 Legion Riders.

Richard Skillestad has been endorsed by the Eyota Post 551 and 1st District for Department Sergeant at Arms for 2019-20. Skillestad has served the Eyota Post 551 as Commander, 1st Vice Commander, 2nd Vice, Chaplain, Service Officer, Legion baseball coach. He is currently the Service officer, Color Guard member and a member on the Executive board. In addition, he has held the office of Olmsted County Commander and Chaplain.

He has held various positions at the District level that includes Commander, 1st Vice Commander, Chaplain, Historian, and Law & Order Chairman. He is currently the Sgt. at Arms.

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His military experience was in the US Army from 1966 - 1968 stationed in West Germany as a member of the 3rd Cavalry. He had been married to the late Lavonne Skillestad for 50 years. He is currently retired from US Postal Service after 33 years.

Historic bridge still a project in Minneapolis

Continued from Page 1

Second entry to the veterans home for emergency vehicles. At present, there is only one route into the campus, and if that way is blocked, there is potential for disaster.

The state tried to fix the bridge in 2014, but, he said, “They welded 2014 steel to 1800s steel and it didn’t work. It didn’t pass inspection.”

A new problem on this go round is that the approach spans to the historic bridge have been deemed non viable, and need to be replaced. “A plan is to lift the bridge up and tear out the old approach spans and build new ones.”

McElhiney said there is some concern that lifting the bridge could damage it. Adjutant Randy Tesdahl asked if there was any way to get the bridge off the Minnesota Historical Society’s list of historic sites. “There’s got to be a way to do it without the common sense thing to do, especially in light of the safety issues.”

Adding to the problems, McElhiney said, is that there’s an endangered plant that grows under the bridge, and that may force the state to do the work in the winter time when the plant won’t be disturbed.

McElhiney said if all went well, it’s possible the bridge could be opened by the summer of 2020.

Other items McElhiney reported on included:

--- With much of the infrastructure work done at the homes, the MDVA is now looking to improve how the homes are run. One area is to speed up the process of getting a veteran a bed at the homes when one opens up. Another is to lower the high rate of turnover in nursing assistants. He said the assistants can now achieve tenure and pay raises.

--- The MDVA working with the three new veterans homes sites, approved by the Legislature this year for Bemidji, Preston and Montevideo. Each home will provide 72 beds. About 65 percent of the cost of creating the new homes will be borne by the federal government. He said that the Minnesota Department of Health will be setting the standards for the new homes.

--- A new veterans cemetery will be opened in Duluth this year, with a dedication next Memorial Day. It will be the third in the state. A fourth cemetery is being planned for the Redwood Falls area.

--- There are 236 homeless vets in the state, at last count, and the MDVA is continuing its effort to end “functional” homelessness. He said that thus far 1,533 homeless veterans have been housed.

Endorsements

RICHARD SKILLESTAD

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Skillestad runs for Sgt. at Arms

Hastings administrator hired

Michael Anderson has been hired by the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs as the new administrator at the Minnesota Veteran Home at Hastings. Anderson previously was the director at the Frazee Care Center. He has seven years experience in the health care field.

He and his wife, Allysa and two boys have relocated from the Perham area.

Hastings is one of five veterans homes in Minnesota. The system is run by the MDVA.

Betty Jass has been directly endorsed by Betty Jass has been directly endorsed by Larry Henning Realty and Auction Inc. 320-267-5984

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A GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR A VETERAN

Our preamble calls for us to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the great wars. The War Stories trilogy captures over 100 stories of Minnesotans who went to war. For our children and their children, let's preserve this history of our veterans.

Send to Department HQ
Room 300A, 20 W. 12th St.,
St. Paul, 55155

Name __________________________________
Address ________________________________
Number of copies
War Stories I   ____
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War Stories III   ____
Amount enclosed $______
All books are $29 each including shipping.

Also a great donation to your local libraries

War Stories III is available. 31 stories of Minnesotans who went to war. Hundreds of photos and maps. You can also order online at mnlegion.org

mnhs ad
Greetings Legion Family,

At the time of this writing I’ve just returned home from our Department Fall Conference in Marshall. What a great turnout of our Members of our Legion Family never thought our Department Fall Conference has historically been our educational conference and this year was no exception. We tried hard to mix things up with new topics, program updates and even a little humor (ask attendees about the Legion Arts Actors skit, “We’ve always done it this way”). Once again Marshall Post 113 were fantastic hosts and our thanks go out to them for another great Legion Family get-together.

With a busy October behind us, we turn our attention to a very important time for all veterans, Election Day and Veterans Day. Our right to vote is the envy of so many countries in the world. As we veterans swore to defend this beautiful country, we have not seen the loss of any of our brothers and sisters lives in the process. We are duty bound to assure that their lives weren’t lost in vain. Not only should we vote, but we should also be examples to all others to do the same. Wear your veterans cap or veteran caps when you go to the polls. Be proud that you are a defender of this basic American right. Continue to make a difference and vote.

Later the name changed to Veterans Day, a time to remember all those that came to the aid of their country. And especially for those that gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country. If you’re not a participant in a Veterans Day observation, please try to attend one. Then by all means take advantage of the numerous discounts and offers many businesses extend to us to commemorate this day. It hasn’t always been that way. As a Vietnam era veteran, it is an especially reflective time for me. Graciously accept their thanks and also be sure to thank one another. From me to all of you, thank you for your service.

In the October issue of the Legionnaire, in the Mail Call section titled “Flying the American Flag”, I also always read the number of discounts and offers many businesses extend to us to commemorate this day. It hasn’t always been that way. As a Vietnam era veteran, it is an especially reflective time for me. Graciously accept their thanks and also be sure to thank one another. From me to all of you, thank you for your service.

Later in November, we continue to give thanks as we celebrate Thanksgiving. A time to fend with family and give thanks for all the freedoms we enjoy in this country. I remember all too well in my life in the Army and not being able to turn it out to be true. I was foot-Note: 450 heaven to make it home every Christmas but not Thanksgiving. Even since then Thanksgiving has held a special meaning for me. Graciously accept their thanks and also be sure to thank one another. From me to all of you, thank you for your service.

In the event of the death of a present or former official of the government “The war to end all wars.” Unfortunately that if the flag didn’t turn out to be true. Later the name changed to Veterans Day, a time to remember all those that came to the aid of their country. And especially for those that gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country. If you’re not a participant in a Veterans Day observation, please try to attend one. Then by all means take advantage of the numerous discounts and offers many businesses extend to us to commemorate this day. It hasn’t always been that way. As a Vietnam era veteran, it is an especially reflective time for me. Graciously accept their thanks and also be sure to thank one another. From me to all of you, thank you for your service.

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Brewster vets dinner

A veterans supper and program will be held Sunday, Nov. 11, starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Brewster Post 464 host- ed by the Nobles County Council. Everyone is welcome.

Give to Legionville

Give to the Max Day in Minnesota will be Nov. 15. One of the organizations you can donate to is Legionville. To do so, go to givenm.org/giving-events/gtdml8 or just search for them on GiveMN.org.

On the main page, click on “donate now.” On the next page search for Legionville. Then click on the Legionville icon.

Legionville is the only full-service camp in the United States that provides training for school safety patrol. The camp had to close last year because of a bug. It will reopen in 2019.

Veterans Day at Cambridge

Cambridge Post 290 will host a program at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 11. Lunch will be served. A raffle will be held and honors will be paid to Howard McCarty, the namesake of the post who was killed in World War II. For more information, call Al at 763-645-1155.

Austin Film Festival

The World War I Armistice Centennial Film Festival will be held Nov. 9-11 at the historic Paramount Theater in Austin. Four films and bonus shorts will be shown begin- ning at 11 a.m. Admission is a free will donation.

The festival is sponsored by Austin veterans organiza- tions. For more information, call Eileen at 507-437-4563.

Mil. Museum special hour

The Minnesota Military Museum at Camp Ripley will have special hours to honor the centennial of the end of World War I. It will be open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 8 through Nov. 12. Two will be offered for the price of one on Nov. 9. The museum has an extensive World War II exhibit gallery.

Fall Conference Notes:

Virtual Medical Room

Veterans across the state are encouraged to use the developing Virtual Medical Room technology. Angela Nichols of the Minnesota VA Health Care System, told the Fall Conference that VRM can be valuable to those who find it difficult to physically travel to an appointment. Patients with mental health issues have found it valuable. The equipment allows for video on both ends. It can be used well for talking with a patient, but not for interactions where a medical exam needs to be done.

Nichols said that in addition to training school patrol leaders on how to control traffic safety, the campers also get sessions on bus safety, pedestrian safety, bike safety, seat- belt use and distracted driving.

Each day there were sessions. Some legion sessions get a visit from a State Patrol Helicopter, and also a demonstra- tion of K-9 dog use.

Paul Blanchard

Paul Blanchard, the coach of the Southwest Minnesota State Bombers, says he is concerned about compli- cations and criticism of the state baseball program. He noted that he had played Minnesota State baseball for four years at Wayzata and then coached at Edina when he was a student. He said it didn’t stop him from standing here today without Legion baseball. The benefits a student gets from Legion Baseball, you can’t put a price on them. The Bombers are glad to see these days in kids playing club baseball and leaving their Legion teams. As a scout he says he rather see a prospect on a Legion team rather than one from a community college. “I can tell in five minutes if a kid has the physical skills to play college baseball. I want to see how they interact with their coaches and teammates. What they’re really like. There’s too many ‘I’ guys out there, and I don’t want them.”

Criticisms of Legion ball included too much dis- parity in teams, all playing for the same state trophy. He suggested the Legion go to a three-tier system. He said the Legion needs to make better use of the electronic media. And he suggested the Legion have a full baseball program.

Eagle’s Nest

It would be a vast understatement to say that Melony Blonder, the founder and director of the Eagle’s Nest facilities in Minnesota, is a passionate person. She brought her mes- sage to the Legion at the Fall Conference with searing heat and occasional tears.

She said she began the Eagle’s Nest as a response to challenges her own family was going through. She decided the federal VA system was not working. “The VA does a lot of right things, and they do other things that are not so good. I could have tried to change the VA, but that ain’t going to happen.”

The Eagle’s Nest, which is one of Commander Darrell Redpenning’s projects this year, has two facilities, one in Sauk Centre and one in Anoka.

She said her facilities could be a model for helping vet- erans, one the VA should study.

Butler urged those who were curious about the Eagle’s Nest to visit it, and not to believe the rumors and gossip that may surround it.

She said she brings physical and emotional needs to politicians who use veterans issues to win elections. “It’s high time we stop allowing elected officials to use the veterans as a vote.”

Blacksmithing

The Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans will hold a free drop in legal clinic at the VA Medical Center on Tuesday, Nov. 13, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Attorneys and oth- ers will answer veterans questions.

Shop, Ship and Share

The annual Shop, Ship and Share program, sponsored by the 4th District with help from the 5th District, will be held Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 at the Maplewood Mall.

Veterans Day events

The Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans will have a free drop in legal clinic at the VA Medical Center on Tuesday, Nov. 13, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Attorneys and oth- ers will answer veterans questions.

A clinic will also be held Thursday, Dec. 6, at the Anoka County Government Center from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

MACV events

The Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans will have a free drop in legal clinic at the VA Medical Center on Tuesday, Nov. 13, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Attorneys and oth- ers will answer veterans questions.

St. Cloud Vets Day program

The St. Cloud Metropolitan Veterans Council will host a Veterans’ Day program on Sunday, Nov. 11, at Buildings 1 and 2 at the St. Cloud VA Hospital grounds. A reception will fol- low. For more information, call 320-255-6353.

Bells of Peace

The World War I Commission has announced the “Bells of Peace, A World War I Remembrance” will be held across the country on Sunday, Nov. 11. Bells will be tolled 21 times at 11 a.m. local time.

VMR

The World War II History Roundtable will be held Monday, Nov. 26, at the Lowell Inn in Stillwater. For dinner reservations, please call Steve at 715-386-1268. The pro- gram will feature “Abraham Lincoln and Thanksgiving” by Bryce Stenzel.

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Free Breakfast

A free Veteran’s Day breakfast will be held on Monday, Nov. 12, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Arcade-Phalen Post 577 in St. Paul. North End Post will help out. It will feature buns and S.O.S. along with eggs, bacon, sausage and toast.

Free Tableau

The World War II History Roundtable will be held at the Historic Soroco Farm and Fort on Saturday, Nov. 17, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. The event is open to military personnel and veterans.

It is free. For more information, call 320-746-8161.

Free Tableau

A large American Legion sign and advertising sign that used to serve the Austin Post is free for anyone who wants it. The Legion sign is 6x6 feet. The advertising sign is 10x3x14. Letters come with the sign. For more information, call Jim Rinehart, 612-991-4699.

Blacksmilling

Blacksmilling for Veterans will be held Monday, Nov. 12, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Ken’s Custom Iron in Avon. Blacksmilling can get good charity for those with PTSD. The event is open to military personnel and veterans.

It is free. For more information, call 320-746-8161.

Free Breakfast

A free Veteran’s Day breakfast will be held on Monday, Nov. 12, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Arcade-Phalen Post 577 in St. Paul. North End Post will help out. It will feature buns and S.O.S. along with eggs, bacon, sausage and toast.

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Greetings American Legion Family,

Hats off to the Marshall Legion Family on hosting this year’s Fall Conference. It all started with the shuttle drivers getting us to and from hotels, meeting locations and the Legion. The ladies at the registration desk and the Legion staff with their fast friendly service have gone above and beyond to provide service. Everyone needs it commend- ed on a job well done.

Coming up on December 8th we will gather in Faribault for the annual Pearl Harbor Rally. Under the guidance of Membership Director Mike, the looks to take on a slightly different approach. All I will say is you have to be there to see.

In the October issue of the Legionnaire there was a very nice article on the Riders on Deer River. A correction needs to be made as the Deer River Riders are Chapter 122 Rider Chapters are numbered accordingly with the Post they are affiliated with in the same manner SAL Squadrons and Women’s Auxiliary Units are. Minnesota Riders Chapter 1 is out of Minneapolis Post 1 in the 5th District. Please make note of this when forming a Riders Chapter at your post.

In a few weeks we will be taking a day off to gather with friends and family to give thanks for all that we have. In doing so let’s take a moment to give a special thanks for all the brave women and men wearing the uniform so that we can with family and friends sharing a meal and/or watching a football game or whatever activity you so choose to be doing that day. Happy Thanksgiving to you all and keep the chrome side up and the rubber side down.

American Legion Riders
By Chuck Stone
Department Director

Veterans Affairs
and Rehabilitation
Jeremy Wolfsteller

Burn pits, the new Agent Orange
Last year I wrote about this topic as it was gaining the spotlight nationwide. Here in Minnesota, a National Guard veteran had just passed away from an aggressive form of cancer that the family believed was related to working in open air burn pits during her deployment to Iraq. During that time, Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar introduced legislation that if passed would direct the Veterans Health Administration to create a Center of Excellence to research health effects of open air burn pits. Open air burn pits has been the topic of conversation amongst many Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. Early on in the war logistical opera-
tions were scarce, military units had to be self-sufficient setting up their area of operations. This included securing a perimeter, guard out-posts, sleeping quarters, dining facili-
ties, command centers, motor pools, just to name a few. But where are the bathrooms for over 300 men and women? Where does all the daily trash go? Let’s just say the ameni-
ties weren’t 5 stars. As for the compounds large amount of trash, well it was collected daily by lower enlistees who then brought it back in a large military truck to a place where engineers plowed a football field size area to burn and dispose of it. This area, “the burn pit” was usually within 500 to 1,000 yards of the basecamp so you could imagine the air quality wasn’t too good.

In 2004 service-members from the initial wave of deployments started returning home and they also started hav-
ing unexplained symptoms related to their health. Some of these conditions were related to respiratory, cardiovascular, advanced cancers, neurological and insomnia. In despera-
tion for answers, veterans turned to the Veterans Health Administration but since research on burn pits have yet to be conducted to proper treat, mitigate and rehabilitate the VA didn’t have the answers or treatment recommendations.

As the topic of conversation amongst many Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, the American Legion is excited to see this legislation be passed and will be advocating for full funding, and oversight to ensure this project is conducted at the highest level.

Could Burn Pits Be the new Agent Orange for this era of veterans? What does that mean for “presumptive condi-
tions?” VA has a long way to go to confirm health effects from burn pits, educate their doctors to screen, diagnose, treat, mitigate and rehabilitate. Once evidence of health effects are established(button) and confirmed, the American Legion to have VA create a Burn Pit Presumptive list can happen.

For information on the VA Burn Pit Registry: https://vet-
eran.mobiliehealth.va.gov/AHIBurnPitRegistry/;;page/home

Minnesota Sons of the American Legion

Sons of the American Legion
By Shawn Davis

When you read this, Fall Conference will have come to a close. I hope you all had a good time, and learned something as well.

Education is a key part of being a member of this organ-
ization. Education, our organization represents a key organ-
ization, the rest of the family to all the great programs and activities out there to benefit veterans, their families, and our communities.

Take what you have learned, and share it. Knowledge growth is one of the key ways to help this organization grow. If you did not go, reach out to someone who did. Ask them about what they learned, and how that can benefit you.

This is the time when membership should be rolling in. We made November’s membership goal at 35%. Are you recruiting new members?

Following up with the old members, asking them to renew, to get active, to make a difference? Do you think you get help us reach 12,000 members?

I hope to have good news about my Commanders Projects this year. I am asking for $2,000 for Child Welfare Foundation (CWTF), Brain Science, and Legionville. Not fancy, just $2,000 piece. All are good programs.

Brain Science is a Minnesota-based program of The American Legion. A number of years ago The American Legion came together with the University of Minnesota and the VA Medical System. The Legion funded with the VA Medical System funded with the science of brains, both healthy and with disease. This has implications for our service members as in the area of PTSD as well as our communities. This money will help con-
tinue the program and the related educational initiatives.

The annual John Zgoda Memorial Deer Hunt was held at Legionville. It included six hunters and 18 volun-
teers.

A group photo was taken in the Legionville training center.
A world War II marched on, the Allies began taking more and more German and Italian prisoners.

The British didn’t want them and the French had no country. It was decided that many of them would come to America. Liberty ships, the workhorse freighters that hauled millions of tons of war supplies to Europe no longer came back empty, but instead were filled with thousands of prisoners. Three speakers at the October World War II Round Table at Fort Snelling told of the hundreds of prisoner of war camps, in particular those that dotted the countryside of Minnesota.

Dean Simmons, a teacher at St. Thomas Academy and the author of Swords into Plowshares: Minnesota’s POW Camps during World War II, said the first prisoners, called POWs in that war, came from the campaigns in North Africa. The Liberty ships would arrive on the East Coast and the prisoners would be put on trains and sent throughout the country.

“Most of the camps were down South, but away from the coastal areas. There was a fear about sabotage, but that turned out not to be a major concern,” Simmons said.

Mostly the prisoners were sent to rural areas where there was a critical labor shortage because 16 million American men and women were in the military. In Minnesota, many of the prisoners were sent to places that had canning factories, logging, farms, brick and tile makers and nurseries.

As time went on, the prisoners, mainly German, were hired out by the government to farmers for odd jobs. “According to the Geneva Convention, they were to receive the prevailing wage, 60 to 90 cents per hour,” Simmons said. “But the government would charge them for room and board, and they would end up making about 80 cents a day.”

Still, that added up over months and months. “When they were released, many of them would buy coffee or other tradable goods that they could bring back to Germany and their families and sell on the black market.”

Simmons said the prisoners for the most part were treated well—“for two reasons. “One was because the U.S. strictly adhered to the Geneva Convention on prisoners of war, and the other reason was that it was hoped word would filter back to Europe and make it more attractive for enemy soldiers on the battle front to surrender.”

There were nearly 400,000 prisoners in all. About 40,000 came to the Midwest and many were administered by a base camp at Algoa, Iowa.

Simmons noted that the early prisoners were often the cream of the German Army, and some were fanatical in their devotion to the Nazi cause. They were, “often very young or much older, as Germany tried to fill out its ranks depleted by severe war losses.”

The new and the earlier prisoners often did notmesh well and there were cases where the older Afrika Korps prisoners would kill the new prisoners they thought were treasonous. “The tension in these camps was pretty high.”

The U.S. government executed about 20 of these fanatics at Fort Leavenworth.

The number of prisoners in the U.S. actually reached a peak in November of 1945, months after the war had ended. “We couldn’t send them back fast enough and new prison- ers still kept coming,” Simmons said.

At the end of the war, eventually all the prisoners were sent home, again on the Liberty ships. In the end, about 5,000 of the prisoners came back to the United States to live.

There was about one guard per eight prisoners. At the beginning, many who were sent to guard duty were not the cream of the crop of American soldiers. As the war went on, the Army would send veterans of the combat in Europe to surrender.”

Jerry Yocum, a retired general in the Army who later became a teacher at St. Thomas Academy, said that a nativity scene created by prisoners during the Christmas season. It has 60 half-sized characters. “The United States wasn’t what the prisoners had been told by the Nazi regime. They saw the real U.S.”

Yocum said Algoa, which had room for 3,000 prisoners, had 24 branch camps throughout the Midwest. At one point, Algoa was the base camp for over 10,000 prisoners of war.

He told of one incident where some of the local schoolboys near a branch camp decided to harass the prisoners.

“They waited under an apple tree and when the wagon with the prisoners came by, they began pelting them with apples. But the prisoners were bringing back the corn they had picked, and so they began flinging it at the boys.”

No one was supposed to take pictures of the prisoners, but hundreds of pictures exist from the time of the camps. In one, Yocum noted, a prisoner is shown holding the car- bine of the guard.

Lalim recounted one story where the prisoners who were painting a barn caught the family dog and painted a white stripe down its back and had fun yelling “Skunk, Skunk, skunk” in German as the dog ran around the yard.

“The daughter of the family was pretty upset about the whole thing, and later the prisoners apologized.”

Another time, a grateful farmer brought the prisoners into a local bar at the end of the day for food and drink. The prisoners were not well accepted by the other bar patrons. “The prisoners felt very uncomfortable and asked the farmer never to do that again.”

Another story from that time was that a local girl was found sitting in a haystack smoking a cigarette with a pris- oner of war. “The government was ready to charge her with a treasonous act, but they didn’t. She later became a nun. She said she had made a deal with God that if she got out of this scrape, she would dedicate her life to God.”

Living in their warehouse, the prisoners soon became an attraction for the people around Moorhead to come gawk. “They even had to put a prisoner traffic officer out front to keep the traffic moving. Eventually, they had to close the street in front of the camp,” Lalim said.

The government paid the prisoners, but charged the farmers. “The government eventually made a $14,000 prof- it from the camp.”

The longer the prisoners were there, the more they were accepted locally. “It became very integrated. “These young men became like people they knew, or similar to their own sons fighting overseas.”

By Al Zdon

The speakers at the October World War II Round Table were authors who had written about prisoners of war in the United States. From left are Jerry Yocum, Tom Lalim and Dean Simmons.
“I got you babe.” Lynn Duffy, Third District President, and Linda Kelly, Third District Membership Chairman, took on the roles of Sonny and Cher and did a Legion-orientated version of the duo’s classic. It was all part of a membership competition at the Fall Conference.

Past National Commander Dan Ludwig makes a point at the Fall Conference during a Legion session.

Fall Conference at Marshall

The Addams Family or the Fifth District? As part of the Membership Challenge event put on by the Auxiliary, the Fifth District came dressed as the Addams Family. Commander Joe Bayer was Gomez and Cari Lamb was Morticia. Leroy Gonzales, Fifth District SAL Commander, was Uncle Fester.

Isaac Timmerman of Marshall told of his experiences at Boys State.

The Mighty Legion Art Players brought a local Legion meeting to life at the conference.

Department Adjutant Randy Tesdahl put on his auctioneer’s hat to auction off a quilt for the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. The quilt brought in $270.

10th District Commander Paul Orson looked a lot like George Hamilton IV at the Membership Challenge.
Guard and Reserve Outstanding Enlisted Persons of the Year

SRMSGT RYAN FENTON  
Air Force Nat’l Guard  
133AW Ops Group  
St. Paul

YNI (AW1W) JESSICA BURBACH  
Navy Reserve  
Navy Ops Spt Center  
Minneapolis

SSG CHRISTOPHER ROSENTHAL  
Army Reserve  
Arden Hills

LCPL KULIN DAHLQUIST  
Marine Corps Reserve  
4th Law Enf. Bn  
Ft. Snelling

SSG ADAM WALKER  
Army Nat’l Guard  
A Co. 2-136th IN  
Detroit Lakes

TSGT MATTHEW REUTER  
Air Force Reserve  
27th Aerial Post Sq.  
Ft. Snelling

Also honored as Enlisted Persons of the Year but unable to attend because of duties:

Sgt. Tyler Sparks, RRN CO, Army National Guard, St. Cloud.

Boatswain’s Mate 2nd Class Grant Larson, U.S. Coast Guard Station, Duluth.

The American Legion Riders of Minnesota presented Legionville Director Wayne Gilbertson with a Rider sign that will be used in the remodeled chow hall.

Paul Blanchard, SMSU Baseball Coach

Melony Butler, Eagle’s Nest

Marland Ronning, National Executive Committeeman

Angela Nichols, VA, Virtual Medical Room

Sgt. Neil Dickenson, Minnesota State Patrol

Randy Tesdahl, former Marine Recruiter

Department Membership Director Mike Maxa presented a polo shirt to the 6th District’s Jim Lucas after the district won the Kaisersatt Trophy.
Lyle Bradley loves birds.

His home in Andover overlooks the Rum River and the house is surrounded by birds of all kinds. Binoculars are always at the ready.

He and his wife have observed 216 species, very close to record for Minnesota.

"The cranes were here this morning, and the swans should be here soon," he said.

His interest in birding goes back to his childhood, but it was during World War II that he fell in love with one particular bird, a love affair that lasted for years and continues to this day.

That bird was the Vought F4U Corsair, the standard fighter of the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II and the Korean War.

Bradley flew over two hundred missions in two wars in that beautiful bird.

Lyle Bradley was born and raised in Dubuque, Iowa. Growing up during the Depression, he took part in a variety of high school sports including football, softball, and cross-country.

As a teen-ager, his father came home one day and asked him if he wanted to go on a flight.

"He knew I was nuts about airplanes, plus he said he wanted to try flying too. They were selling rides at the airport.

The aircraft offering the rides was a Ford Tri-Motor, a transport often used for civilian passenger flights. "I don’t know what we were expecting, but you could walk all over the aircraft. There were no seats, just some benches. And, my God, it was noisy."

Bradley wanted to go to college, but had little money.

"My dad was working two jobs just to feed the family, so I knew that wasn’t a source of tuition."

He finally worked out a work-scholarship arrangement at the nearby University of Dubuque, a Presbyterian college.

"My job was to clean out the fieldhouse every day.”

In the fall of 1942, Bradley went down to sign up with the Marine Corps. The recruiter, though, told Bradley to stay in school through that semester. He would be called up in about a month.

Not long afterwards, a team of aviation recruiters came to the college. "Previously, you had to have a four-year college degree to be a flyer, but they had changed that. Now, you just had to be in college."

The Navy recruiter told Bradley to be in Minneapolis on his 18th birthday on Nov. 22nd to sign up.

As a cadet, Bradley registered perfect scores on aircraft recognition, an ability he attributed to his birding background. A Navy commander approached him after one of his perfect scores and said, “Cadet, do you realize cheating is a court martial offense?”

While a cadet, Bradley flew the Corsair, a Marine fighter, in both World War II and the Korean War. He once dropped six 500-pound bombs in Korea, providing close air support for the 1st Marine Division, at an altitude of 200 feet. “It’s not good for longevity.”

"But at least then I knew where I was. I could make out anything else on the subject."

Minneapolis was the next destination for the cadets, and they got to fly the famed Boeing Stearman, a bi-winged trainer that nearly every military aviator flew.

"About 20 of us took off from Fleming Field in South St. Paul one day. We were soloing in the Stearmans and learning aerobatics. I loved that airplane. We were flying a little higher than normal, and I looked down and all of a sudden the ground was gone. A fog had moved in."

The cadets had two choices at this point, bail out and let their Stearmans crash, or try to edge closer and closer to the ground, hoping to find it before it found them.

"We had no radios. I edged my airplane down, slowly, slowly. Suddenly something just zipped past by wing. I missed it by a few feet. It was that great, big ‘1’ on top of the First National Bank Building in Minneapolis.

"And at least then I knew where I was. I could make out
the Mississippi River and I just followed it all the way back to South St. Paul.

The Naval Air Station at Pensacola was next for Bradley. He got to fly the Vultee BT-13 and what the Navy called the SNJ and the Army called the AT-6. At Pensacola, the cadets were offered the choice of staying in the Navy or joining the Marine Corps. Bradley took his first love, and rejoined the Marines.

"Plus the Marine aircraft were almost all fighters or dive bombers, and that’s what I wanted. Mainly I wanted to fly the Corsairs. I’d had my eye on that airplane for a long time."

The Corsair was a gull-winged fighter-bomber designed for use on aircraft carriers, but the Marines used it both at sea and on land-based fields. It was a technologically-advanced aircraft that featured the largest engine available at that time, the Pratt and Whitney Double Wasp radial, capable of 2,000 horsepower.

Next stop for Bradley, though, was Green Cove Springs Air Base in Florida where he trained on Grumman F4F Wildcat, the Navy’s primary fighter early in the war. "I did not like that airplane. It tried to kill me about five times."

"One time the battery exploded and the plane caught fire. Somehow I got it down."

The worst incident, though, was when Bradley was leading a division of four planes. "We were doing live fire at a banner being towed by a plane about 100 miles out in the ocean.

"It was a hot day, and it was very hot in the cockpit, and so I cracked open the canopy. I think they had told us never to dive in that plane with the canopy open, but I made a dive from about 20,000 feet."

"The next thing I remember is that I came to and I was trying to pull the plane out of the dive at 6,000 feet. There was blood all over the cockpit and all over me. The canopy had crashed down and hit me right in the neck. I thought it had cut my jugular vein.

"I could hear on the radio the other guys. ‘Where’s Bradley? Where’s Bradley?’"

"With the loss of blood, I didn’t know if I could get back. I pushed the throttle to full power, tried to get rid of the broken canopy to no avail, and probably said a prayer."

"Somehow I coaxed the plane to St. Augustine and found the field. I waggled my wings to show I was in trouble, and they let me land right away. The last thing I remember was the wheels hitting the ground."

Bradley woke up in a St. Augustine hospital. "That was the closest call I ever had in training. My instructor came to see me in the hospital. I thought he was going to console me, but he just looked at me and said, ‘You stupid ass. I had it coming.’"

Done with fighter training, Bradley went across country to El Toro Air Station near Irvine, California. He finally got to fly his beloved Corsair. "We spend four days in ground school learning about the aircraft and then we did a cockpit checkout. It was very thorough.

"And then we took off. It felt so good."

The new pilots were gathered together soon after and told they would be starting FCLPs, or Field Carrier Landing Practices, which meant one thing: they would be flying their Corsairs off Navy carriers. "Three guys from the Navy, all Landing Signal Officers, briefed us. They let us know that if we ever didn’t follow one of their signals, we were in trouble. We wouldn’t be flying for a while."

The pilots practiced on a regular landing strip that had a carrier’s flight deck outlined in paint. Then it was off to Hawaii for carrier practice.

"We flew in the China Clipper, a huge Pan Am flying boat. The captain of the plane came back and asked if any of us were pilots and I said I was. He told me the co-pilot was sick, and would I mind flying in the right-hand seat? The co-pilot stayed in his seat through takeoff, but then he replaced him. Pretty soon the captain fell asleep, and I flew that airplane all the way to Hawaii. It took all night, and there was no auto pilot. When I finally saw Diamond Head, I was so happy. I was exhausted."

The new pilots had to land and take off five times on each of two carriers at Hawaii, and then it was on to the western Pacific on a transport plane. "We were on a C-54, but it had a bad oil leak and we had to stop at Johnston Island. There were five pilots and five Navy nurses. We had a couple of bottles of Southern Comfort, and we sat up all night and sang romantic songs. We sang quite well."

Next stop was Kwajalein. "They had just captured it, and they were still filling in the shell holes when we were there."

Next was Guam, where Bradley was assigned to VMF-222 for more training.

"My buddy and I bought some cigarettes, even though we didn’t smoke, and traded them to the natives for goggles and a spear. We did a lot of exploring in the reeds. Somebody found out and they asked us to get some octopuses to cook up for a party."

"My friend had the spear, but I could see an octopus in a hole in a reef. I thought I could reach in and just grab him. That was a mistake. He was way bigger than I thought he was, and pretty soon he had his tentacles around by head.
Bradley was assigned to the USS Bennington, an Essex-class aircraft carrier. There were two Marine fighter squadrons on board, along with a Navy fighter group, a torpedo bomber squadron and a dive bomber group.

Bradley said he liked his time aboard carriers. “If you ever want to see great teamwork in action, go on an aircraft carrier. The teamwork was good on the ground, but it was superb on a carrier.”

Did the Marine and Navy pilots get along? “There were no problems at all. We all went through the same training. What’s the difference.”

Once on board, Bradley wanted to make sure he knew his way around the ship, and, in particular, the stretch from the berthing compartment to the ready room – in case the lights went out on the ship.

“So I was going along with the eye’s closed, and I was just going through a hatchway when I ran into this guy. We really collided hard, and when my eyes cleared, I could see he had three stars on his shirt. He said to me, ‘Boy you have a hard head.’

“It turned out it was Admiral McCain, the grandfather of the guy. We worked for the Audubon Society in south Texas.”

Again the new pilots met with the Landing Signal Officer. “It was the same thing. He said we absolutely had to follow the signals. He said, ‘If you don’t, we’ll have to report you. Period.’ We knew they were serious. We had one pilot who screwed up twice, and, bang, he was gone.”

By now it was January 1945, about a half-year from the end of the war, and Bradley was finally going to see combat after two years of training.

On one of his first missions, the Marines attacked an island where the Japanese had based the Kamikaze planes that were doing so much damage to the U.S. fleet.

“I wished I had brought my binoculars along because I thought I might see an albatross on the island. So the next time they got together, Bradley revealed that he and another pilot were told that Chinese troops were coming down a certain road. “We came in about 20 feet above the deck, and they never saw us coming. It was a regular-assed formation, and they were all lined up on the road. We opened up with our .38s all the time. The North Koreans weren’t very far away.”

The pilots would have to get up during the night to start the Corsairs’ engines because otherwise they would freeze solid.

Bradley was flying the new version of the Corsair, which had a hundred horsepower more than the World War II version and also had 35 mm cannons instead of 50 caliber machine guns. Still, the prop plane was no match for the Russian MIG jets they often saw. “We could see them overhead. They never came down after us, and there was no way we could attack them, they were so much faster.”

Bradley managed to kick his feet above the water, and his friend came hustling over with the spear. He managed to spear the octopus, and the animal released his grip on Bradley. “I don’t think I could have lasted much longer. He saved my life. We kept at it and we did get enough octopuses for a party.”
Cannabis studied in Minnesota

Continued from Page 1

Minnesota is the only state that is actually studying its cannabis. PTSD has been included in the list of diseases that qualify for purchasing cannabis since August of 2017. The major category for cannabis users has 13,000 legal users, although Arneson qualified the "legal" adjective. "It's not that all illegal under federal law."

At present, Minnesota has 13,000 legal users, although Arneson qualified the "legal" adjective. "It’s not that all illegal under federal law."

About 16 percent of Minnesota users get the cannabis to treat PTSD. There are 1,300 doctors registered to prescribe marijuana, and Arneson says the list is growing.

Part of the study of the drug’s effects is studying the body’s endocannabinoid system. “We didn’t even know it existed 30 years ago. And we’re finding it to be an important part of the body.”

Arneson said cannabis’ effects on the system are "not magic. It’s all chemistry and biology." He explained that there are basically two types of medical marijuana available for patients to get high. The other type contains CBD, which has many healing properties, but does not produce a user’s high.

As a doctor, Arneson said he would not recommend any cannabis usage until a patient is in their mid-20s, when the brain stops developing.

Each time a patient gets a new prescription, they are asked to take a survey for the state. He said over 50 percent do so, which is a high volunteer rate.

Two reports have been created thus far from the accumulated information. They have reported on what works, what doesn’t work for patients thus far in the program.

The second report is on PTSD. There are 750 Minnesotaans receiving marijuana for PTSD, and most are in the 25 to 50 age range. Arneson said only 13 percent have PTSD from military causes. The largest cause is childhood sexual abuse.

As time goes on the state will learn more about how valuable or not valuable cannabis can be in treating PTSD and other maladies.

The American Legion is seeking a federal study on cannabis as a useful drug in treating PTSD.

Coney, Mark A., 58, Army veteran of the Lebanon/Grenada/Panama era, died Oct. 4, 2018. He was a past commander of the Lebanon Post 157 and was a member of the Department’s Strategic Planning Committee. He was a past adjutant of Hardwick Post 478. A service will be held at 5 p.m. at St. John’s Catholic Church in Luverne at 10:30 a.m.

Klinkner, Steven Patrick, 67, Army National Guard veteran of the Vietnam War, died Sept. 25, 2018. He was a member of Hardwick Post 478.

Thordson, John N., 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 27, 2018. He was a member of Hamline Post 418.

Burdorf, Alfred Jacob, 95, Army veteran of World War II, died Sept. 24, 2018. He was a member of Arlington Post 230.

Sullivan, L. John, 84, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 25, 2018. He was a member of Arlington Post 230.

Pederson, Oscar, 91, Navy veteran of World War II, died Sept. 24, 2018. He was a member of Hastings Post 2 and a member of the American Legion.

Hubert, Dennis R., 78, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died Sept. 5, 2018. He was a member of Anoka Post 102.

Staunton, John S., 87, Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 22, 2018. He was a member of Anoka Post 102.

Buse, Daniel, 73, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Sept. 28, 2018. He retired from the National Guard. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

Tebbe, James, 87, Army veteran of the Korean and Vietnam Wars, died Sept. 20, 2018. He served for 25 years and did two tours each in Korea and Vietnam. He was a member of Anoka Post 102.

Petersen, Eric T., 85, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Oct. 1, 2018. He was a district vice commander.

Hitchcock, Philip Arthur, 85, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 29, 2018. He was a member of Pine Island Post 184.

Eischens, Leonard, 97, Army veteran of World War II, died Oct. 1, 2018. He was a district vice commander.
Greetings Fabulous 4th District. Regarding membership everything: To all of the members of the Fabulous 4th – thank you, as of bulletin 15, the 4th District moved up to 2nd place, 2 percentage points out of 1st, let’s keep it going, let’s work hard to retain our current leadership and to find new members. Post Commanders, Adjutants, and Membership Officers please reach out to your District Vice Commander, Mickey or myself for assistance, we are all here to help each Post make 100%. Keep these dates in mind.

4th District SAL meeting November 7th, N. St. Paul Post 39

Veterans Day Breakfast, N. St. Paul Post 39, open to all Veterans, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., November 9th.

Veterans Day Breakfast, Arcade Phalen Post 577, open to all Veterans, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., November 12th.

4th District RCCC, November 14th – N. St. Paul, E-Board 6:30 and general meeting 7 p.m.

VA: We’re asking all Posts to have at least two representatives show up for one of the days to help. Then there’s shop, shop and share November 30 and December 1 at the Veterans Home starting at 10:00 a.m. Also there is a combined midwinter with the 4th District at Arcade/Phalen Post #577, on January 5, 2019 doors open at 8:00 a.m., program starts at 9 a.m.

Greetings Fighting Fifth. By the time this goes to press we will have had both a membership workshop and Fall Conference. That’a a lot for one month, but well worth it. The holidays are fast approaching and our attention turns to family and friends. Don’t forget about our ‘Legion Family’ and our goals for this year.

There will be a membership revitalization at Minneapolis/Richfield Post 435 on November 15, 16, & 17 from 9 until 3 on Thursday and Friday and 9 until noon on Saturday. We are asking all Posts to have at least two representatives show up for one of the days to help. Then there’s shop, shop and share November 30 and December 1 at the Veterans Home starting at 10:00 a.m. Also there is a combined midwinter with the 4th District at Arcade/Phalen Post #577, on January 5, 2019 doors open at 8:00 a.m., program starts at 9 a.m.

Greetings Seventh District.

Greetings Thundering Third.

Fall is in the air and I am one happy camper. The colors are amazing and the bonfires and s’mores are abundant. Of course the most amazing is upon us also. Good luck to all our hunters in the district. I already got my buckle at the Disabled Veteran’s Hunt at Camp Ripley a couple weeks ago. Very exciting.

We still need to get going on our membership. We’ve dropped to 6th place but we have time to get back to 1st place. Get out and spread the word about The American Legion. Setting up a membership booth at local grocery or Walmart type store would be beneficial in outreach and recruiting. Sell them on the benefits of membership and then let them know it may be a great gift for someone hard to buy for! Consider a PFLU too!

Call your District for help, get the “Promotional kit” to lend a professional look to your display.

Greetings from the Roaring 9th.

As we take time to remember the Veterans that have “given their last full measure” let us think about those serving in uniform now. We owe our freedom to those who have sacrificed for our country. Our service men and women are on the front lines defending our democratic form of government. Our freedoms are at test in many parts of the world. Remember our service men and women in your thoughts and prayers.

Many Posts will be participating in programs at high schools on Veterans Day. Pass on to the students that our freedoms require constant vigilance and protection from those who would do us harm. That our flag represents the lives and service of millions of our citizens who have given their service to protect and die for our freedoms.

There are those who live remembering family members who have died in service to our Country. Gold Star families live with the knowledge of the ultimate cost of defending our country. Give remembrance to their sacrifice for our Country.

Greetings from the Eighth District.

Hello out there in the Eighth District. I looked out on my deck and saw all the leaves and a light blanket of snow. I guess now that a new season is here but, up north we expect that. I hope everyone has received the new 2018-2019 yearbook; if not, let me know.

Our membership is moving along and we need to encourage each member to use their membership key to maintain their membership continuations going. Many of the benefits available to Legion members look at the continuous years of membership for eligibility.

Fall Conferences is over and I hope those who attended enjoyed their time there and learned something they could use to better our mission. The Auxiliary is active and doing a great job. I am thankful for their service and dedication. I’m appreciative for all of the Legion family that gives their time and effort to further the Mission of The American Legion.

Let us all have a joyful Thanksgiving this year with thanks to those who have given so much for our freedom.

With the holidays approaching everyone is in the spirit of giving. Whether you do it through a donation display at local grocery or Walmart type store would be beneficial in outreach and recruiting. Sell them on the benefits of membership and then let them know it may be a great gift for someone hard to buy for! Consider a PFLU too!

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Greetings from the Ninth District.

As we take time to remember the Veterans that have “given their last full measure” let us think about those serving in uniform now. We owe our freedom to those who have sacrificed for our country. Our service men and women are on the front lines defending our democratic form of government. Our freedoms are at test in many parts of the world. Remember our service men and women in your thoughts and prayers.

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Greetings Fourth District.

As the winds howl, the snow falls and the temperatures dip it’s difficult to go out so we all have time to hunker down with a cup of hot cocoa by our side, a notebook on our desk and a phone in our hand. Now you can focus on what’s been put aside during the busy months before.

All Legos can help their Posts and Districts by taking the past-member list and calling them to garner a new membership. I’m sure you know someone (Friend, grandchild, nephew) in the Reserves or the Guard you can contact to sign up for a museum and for names and contact information of their military friends.

Much can be done from the comfort of your favorite chair but going out is a good excuse for a cup of coffee and some conversation.

With the holidays approaching everyone is in the spirit of giving. Whether you do it through a donation display at local grocery or Walmart type store would be beneficial in outreach and recruiting. Sell them on the benefits of membership and then let them know it may be a great gift for someone hard to buy for! Consider a PFLU too!

Call your District for help, get the “Promotional kit” to lend a professional look to your display.
DENT FISHING TRIP — Dent Post 148 sponsored a fishing outing for veterans at the Fergus Falls Veterans Home. The day included fishing and a meal.

TRACY FLAG RETIREMENT — Tracy Post 173 conducted a flag retirement ceremony attended by the Boy Scouts and members of the community.

ALBERT LEA HONORS NAMESAKE — Albert Lea Post 56 recently observed the 100th anniversary of the death of the post’s namesake, Leo Carey. Post member Larry Tonder did the research. Carey was aboard the USS Tyler when it was torpeded. He was the radioman on the ship, and he went down with the ship. He was 24 years old.

CLOQUET LONGTIME MEMBERS — Cloquet Unit 262 recently presented with tacks honoring longtime members. From left: Ruth Ann Gillmor, Rhonda Stevenson, and Donna Gillmor. In front is Betty Lavan.

ELBOW LAKE MEMORIAL HALL — The Veterans Memorial Hall at Elbow Lake celebrated its 10th year this year. The exhibit hall features artifacts, uniforms, service records and murals. The artists who painted the murals gathered at the hall: Judy Lohse, Lois Fagerberg, Lenore Bevins and Vicky Haraldson.

CLOQUET OLD TIMERS — Cloquet Post 201 honored 50-year members recently. Commander Greg Ardner, left, presented certificates to Ron Hines, Ron Larson and Paul Larson.

REDWOOD FALLS SHOOTERS — Redwood Falls Post 38, in association with the 4-H Shooting Sports Program, sponsored a Junior Air Rifle Postal competition. Advancing to national regionals were Catherine Turbes and Jared Zollner. Coaches, on left and right, were Larry Weidell and Mike Zollner.

RICHFIELD TEAM TRAVELS — The Richfield Post 435’s Junior Shooting program traveled to the Junior Olympics National Championship and the NRA Championships this year. From left, front: Taylor and Jackie. In back, Megan, Lizzie, Ruby, Trina, and Anthony.

TYLER MOVIE — The movie Farmer of the Year was shot in part at the Tyler Post 185 hall. The movie was released this year and tells the story of a veteran attending a World War II reunion. It was written and directed by Kathy Swanson, whose father is a member of the post.
MILITARY BALL -- The annual Military Ball held at Spring Grove with 163 persons in attendance. Rev. William Reese, a Vietnam veteran, was the speaker. The annual ball is held every April.

MONTICELLO COOKIES -- Monticello Unit 260 baked, packed and shipped 30 boxes of cookies to American troops. From left: Diane Peters, President Cathy Giroux, Judy Adamson, Sandy Staples, Tobias Giroux, Luella Giroux, Roseann Duran, Bette Alford, Mary Simonet, Mabel Liefert.

BACKUS FISHING OUTING -- Veterans from the Eagle's Nest at Sauk Centre and their hosts, the Backus Post 368, had the annual fishing outing on Lake Hattie. The Tuck-A-Way Resort co-sponsored the event.

WABASHA COUNTY DAY -- Posts from Lake City, Wabasha, Kellogg, Plainview, Millville, Elgin and Mazeppa participated in the 61st annual Boys and Girls Wabasha County Day. County leaders made presentations for 36 students.

EAGAN FLAG PROGRAM -- Eagan Post 594 expanded its flag donation program to the city of Eagan. These flags will be used at several city locations including City Hall, the First Department and the Police Department. From left: Commander John Flynn, Eagan Supervisor of government Buildings Mike Sipper and Adjutant Wayne Beierman.

ELYSIAN COLOR GUARD -- When St. Jarlath's Cemetery in Waseca County celebrated its 150th birthday, the Elysian Post 311 Honor Guard was part of the ceremony. Three Civil War vets are buried in the cemetery.

HOLDINGFORD FISHING OUTING -- Logan Hoheisel holds the flag at the start of the Holdingford Post 211 fishing outing. The event hosted 24 local veterans who caught over 40 pounds of fish. Photo courtesy the Albany Enterprise.

ARLINGTON HONOR -- Arlington Post 250 honored Albert Burdorff for 70 years of membership. He was flanked by Commander Don Seeman and Adjutant Gene Schultz.

CURRIE HONOR -- Currie Post 322 Past Commander Mark Shaw presents a 70-year continuous service certificate to William Pattinson, a World War II veteran.
BAGLEY PROCLAMATION — Mayor Sid Michel of Bagley signed a proclamation declaring August 24 as American Legion Day in Bagley. In attendance were, in front, Dennis Henkemeyer and Post Adjutant Ken Braaten. In back, Unit President Cheryl Grover and Denise Milton.

NORTH ST. PAUL SAL DONATION — Bird Partridge presented a check from the North St. Paul SAL Squadron 39 to Bill Morris of the Veterans Rest Camp.

OLIVIA FLAG RETIREMENT — Olivia Post 186 members put flags on the fire during a flag retirement ceremony attended by many members of the community.

FAIRMONT DONATION — Fairmont Post Commander Steve Fosness presented Martin County Historical Society’s Jim Marushin with a Savage Arms 1863 musket and bayonet and a Springfield 1873 rifle.

COLOR GUARDS FROM ALL OVER — Legion color guards from Balaton, Lake Benton, Tyler, Russell and Ivanhoe along with the Minnesota Army National Guard Marching Band led the Aebleskiver Days Parade in Tyler.

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2018 Fall Conference was a
great success at Marshall

The 86th annual Fall Conference was held in Marshall, Minnesota on October 26-27. The Conference was sponsored by the Marshall American Legion Family #113. Teri Richardson and her crew ran our annual Fall Conference Silent Auction which the proceeds goes to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. This is an Auxiliary program where the Auxiliary helps their members in times of emergencies. Thanks to the entire American Legion Family for making this a success. More information will be in the next issue.

PEARL HARBOR RALLY

The Pearl Harbor Membership Rally will be held at the Faribault American Legion Post 43 on Saturday, December 8th, with turn in from 11:00 a.m. until noon. There will be a brunch at 12:00 noon with the program to follow. The Auxiliary is still using get-togethers as a Membership Rally so make sure and bring many along!! Robin Dorf is doing a phenomenal job with Membership this year so let's make the Pearl Harbor Rally be special with record turn ins. Keep Department Secretary Sandie busy.

CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOP

The Department Office and the Hospital and Home Representatives want to give a big thank you to the Units and Posts that have contributed funds to our Gift Shop program this year. The veterans at the four (4) VA Medical Centers and the five (5) Minnesota Veterans Homes will be selecting gifts for their loved ones through our Gift Shop program. About 2,000 veterans participate in this program. A huge change this year for the Gift Shop is the amount that was 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 would appreciate your Unit's financial support of this program. Please include a generous cash donation in your Unit's annual budget and send it to the department.
November is Past President’s Parley month

We encourage all Units to have a Past Presidents Parley. I am giving you ideas to establish your parley in your Unit.

- Units are encouraged to establish a Past Presidents Parley consisting of their past Unit presidents. This group can continue their support of the organization by using their experience, knowledge and wisdom to be goodwill ambassadors and to strengthen our organization and help maintain its growth.
- Past Presidents Parley can play an important part in the mentoring of current members to develop knowledgeable leadership within the Unit. They can support and assist in a recruitment effort for new members.

KAREN THYGESON
Chairman

DEPARTMENT PUFL WINNER -- Winner of the Paid up for Life Member contest was Katherine Swanson-Bolz, a member of Apple Valley Unit 1776. At right is Unit President Maryalyce McCabe.

MISSION TRAINING -- Minnesota Auxiliary members attended mission training in Sioux Falls.

BRUNO FOUR WHEELERS -- The Bears Den in Bruno held a Veterans four wheeler ride with half of the proceeds going to the Bruno American Legion. The American Legion Auxiliary had a very successful day selling baked goods.

MISSION TRAINING -- Every year the Marietta American Legion Auxiliary walks in the Lac qui Parle Hope Network Walk of Hope in Madison and Dawson. The Walk of Hope is a fundraiser that supports those battling cancer in Lac qui Parle County and is also an event that recognizes everyone who has battled cancer.

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