2018 Fall Conference slated for Marshall

This year’s Fall Conference will be held at Marshall, hosted by Post 113.

“We hope to do some new things this year and make it a great experience for those who attend,” Ajutant Randy Tesdahl said. “We want it to be crammed with good information, and also fun.”

The agenda for the conference had not yet been finalized when this edition went to press.

The conference will be held Oct. 26-27 with the Auxiliary sessions at the Ramada Inn, and the Legion sessions at Southwest State University.

The Department Legislative Committee will meet the day before the conference on Thursday, Oct. 26, at 7:30 p.m. at the university in the lower ballroom.

The Fall Conference is the Legion’s annual “School of Instruction.”

Expected to attend is leading candidate for National Commander 2019-20 Bill Oxford of North Carolina.

Registration will be at the Ramada from noon to 8 a.m. on Oct. 25, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Oct. 26 and 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Oct. 27.

A registration form and a list of Marshall motels is located on page 6 of this issue. Organizers are recommending those who plan to attend to register soon.

The post opens at 11 a.m. each day and offers a full menu. There will be bingo at noon Saturday.

The post will serve meals at lunch and at dinner time. There will be parking at both venues, but there will also be shuttles available. The college will be in session Friday and Saturday, so parking may be limited that day.

The Legion sessions will be in the SMSU banquet hall, and the Auxiliary sessions will all be at the Ramada. The Sons of the American Legion will meet at noon Saturday at the lower level beneath banquet hall.

The hospitality on Friday night will be at SMSU in the lower level meeting area. Shuttle service will be available.

There will be tables available for each district, and also a power supply.

It is recommended that visitors check for the latest road construction reports prior to driving to Marshall.

For more information about the conference, please contact Jeff Gay, 507-933-4576.

For more information about the Marshall area, go to visitmarshallmn.com or the city of Marshall website: city.marshall.mn.us/main.

SOUTHWEST STATE UNIVERSITY

Richfield hangs in there as largest post in Minnesota

Once one of the largest posts in the nation, Minneapolis Richfield has downsized a bit but is still the largest post in the state. These numbers are based on the final 2017 membership report.

1. Richfield 435
2. Rochester 92
3. West Duluth 71
4. Apple Valley 1776
5. Hutchinson 96
6. Waite Park 428
7. East Grand Forks 57
8. Brainerd 225
9. Anoka 102
10. Osseo 172
11. Albert Lea 56
12. Moorhead 21
13. Willmar 167
14. North St. Paul 624
15. Austin 91
16. Rosetown 542
17. Winona 9
18. Park Rapids 212
19. Coon Rapids 334
20. New Ulm 132

1,340
976
882
881
763
760
747
722
720
688
676
638
630
623
606
601
594
574
574
572

Richard Jansen of Richmond will serve on the Constitution and Bylaws Committee as the National Commander’s Representative.

Don Pankake of Hutchinson will serve as vice chairman of the National Membership and Post Activities Committee.

Roger Olson of Hutchinson will be a vice chairman of the National Convention Resolutions Assignment Committee.

Phil Bellefeuille of Callaway, Jim Copher of Mound, Mark Dvorak of LeCenter, Sylvan Fort Brownsville, Victor Gades of Morris, Wayne Gilbertson of Zimmerman, Carl Hendrickson of Cloquet, and Richard Weg of Winsted, will all serve on the Americanism Council.


Curtis Norenberg of Roseville will serve as a consultant for the Aerospace Committee.


Dr. Carl Moon of St. Joseph will be the National Commander’s Representative on the

Continued on Page 2

Legion asks Congress for justice for Blue Water vets

The American Legion has joined with the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans and Paralyzed Veterans of America in sending a letter to the Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, urging the Senate to pass H.R. 299, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2018, before the 115th Congress convenes. The letter states that, “With our aging Blue Water Navy veterans continuing to suffer and die from illnesses that have already been legally and scientifically linked to Agent Orange exposure, Congress must finally provide them long-delayed justice by voting to pass H.R. 299 this year.”

The complete letter follows.

Dear Chairman Isakson and Ranking Member Tester,

On behalf of the millions of veterans we represent, we urge you to take every action necessary to ensure that a vote is held by the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, and then the full Senate, on H.R. 299, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2018, as soon as possible before the 115th Congress concludes. This bipartisan legislation was passed by the House earlier this year by a 382 to 0 vote. It is now time for the Senate to follow suit by swiftly passing H.R. 299.

This legislation would reverse an erroneous decision by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in 2002 that made thousands of Vietnam veterans – commonly called “Blue Water Navy veterans” – ineligible for health care benefits and for justice caused by exposure to Agent Orange. VA’s decision to issue new administrative rules requiring that a veteran, “…must have actually served on land within the Republic of Vietnam (RVN) to qualify for the presumption of exposure to herbicides” (M21-1, Adjudication Procedures Manual, Part III, Paragraph

Continued on Page 2

Minnesota’s national appointments are announced

National Appointments for Minnesota have been announced.

Minnesota will have two national chairmen and a host of vice chairmanships.

William Goede of Plainview will be chairman of the National Guard and Reserve Forces Committee.

Charles Kruger of Byron will be chairman of the Conventional Armed Forces Committee.

Peggy Moon, St. Joseph, will be vice chairman of the Children and Youth Committee.

Thomas Schoenhuber of Minnesota will be vice chairman of the Conventional Armed Forces Committee.

Don Walser of Hutchinson will be vice chairman of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

Richard Jansen of Richmond will serve on the Constitution and Bylaws Committee as the National Commander’s Representative.

Don Pankake of Hutchinson will serve as vice chairman of the National Membership and Post Activities Committee.

Roger Olson of Hutchinson will be a vice chairman of the National Convention Resolutions Assignment Committee.

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Continued on Page 2

Domestic herbicides” (M21-1, Adjudication Procedures Manual, Part III, Paragraph
FAIRMONT DONATES GAVEL — Fairmont Post 36 donated a gavel used at the St. Louis Caucus to National Commander Denise Rohan at the national convention held in Minneapolis. Fairmont Post Commander Steve Fossness made the presentation. The post has had the gavel in safe keeping for 100 years.

In the September issue, the Legionnaire incorrectly identified the post.

SOLDIER’S WISH — A Minnesota woman was the recipient of a Soldier’s Wish gift at the national convention held in Minneapolis. Zanquinnettee Washington received a handicapped equipped van from the organization that will help her rebuild her life after a near fatal accident in January of this year. She served in the National Guard and also was a professional women’s football player before the accident. She had been working at a homeless shelter for youth in the Twin Cities and would like to continue that work. Presenting the van were National Commander Denise Rohan, Minnesota Commander Mike Schaffer and Soldier’s Wish volunteer Mark Ochsnein.

National Appointments listed

Continued from Page 1 Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission.

Steven Kleinglass of North Venice, Florida, will serve on the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission as a consultant.

Bill Brockberg of Worthington will serve a three-year term on the Veterans Benefits Committee.

Mike Maza, LeCenter, Tom Conway of Argyle, Denise Milton of Bagley, Donald Skow of Lindstrom, and Paul Hassing of Montgomery will serve on the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Council.

Bruce Kottom of Buffalo, Darrel Redepenning of Fridley, and Wilson Spence III of Duluth will serve on the Veterans Employment and Education Council.

Those who were previously appointed to national committees are not included in this list.

Blue water sailors letter

Continued from Page 1 4.24(e)(1) was not based on any new scientific evidence or changes in law, and should therefore be reversed.

Despite statements and inferences made in a recent VA letter to the Committee, the National Academy of Medicine — formerly called the Institute of Medicine (IOM) — has not concluded that there is any scientific basis to treat Blue Water Navy veterans differently in regards to Agent Orange exposure compared to their peers who served on the land or inland waters in Vietnam. In fact, the most recent IOM report on Agent Orange published in 2016 found that, “…it is general acknowledged that estuarine waters became contaminated with Herbicides and dioxin as a result of shoreline spraying and runoff from spraying on land, particularly in heavily sprayed areas that experienced frequent flooding.” Further, the 2016 IOM report found that, “…the observed distributions of these most reliable measures of exposure [to TCCD] make it clear that they cannot be used as a standard for partitioning veterans into discrete exposure groups, such as service on Vietnamese soil, service in the Blue Water Navy, and service elsewhere in Southeast Asia.” In other words, looking at the most current observations and findings of exposure to Agent Orange in Vietnam veterans, the IOM found that there is not a scientific basis to exclude Blue Water Navy veterans based solely on the fact that their service was in the offshore waters.

In addition, a review of the legal history of the definition of “service in Vietnam” supports restoration of eligibility for Blue Water Navy veterans. In 1990, prior to enactment of the “Agent Orange Act of 1991,” a Centers for Disease Control (CDC) study found that Vietnam veterans who served in the waters offshore were 50 percent more likely to develop Non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma than other veterans. Subsequently, VA promulgated 38 CFR 3.313, which specifically defined “service in Vietnam” to include, “service in the waters offshore”; which remained in effect following enactment of the Agent Orange Act of 1991. Later that year, in November 1991, VA issued M21-1, part III, paragraph 4.08(k)(1)-(2) which noted, “In the absence of contradictory evidence, ‘service in Vietnam’ will be conceded if the records shows [sic] that the veteran received the Vietnam Service Medal,” which was awarded to veterans who served in Vietnam, including those on ships in the waters offshore.

Finally, the undersigned veterans organizations do not support imposing fees on service connected disabled veterans to receive VA home loan guaranties for new jumbo loans authorized by the legislation. Blue Water sailors have been legally and scientifically linked to Agent Orange exposure, and Congress must finally provide them long-delayed justice by voting to pass H.R. 299 this year.
October 2018 Minnesota Legionnaire Page 3

Does your library have this book?

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.

Also a great Christmas gift for that loved one.

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

Name ____________________________________________
Address ________________________________________
Number of copies
War Stories I _______ War Stories II _______ War Stories III _______
Amount enclosed $________

Amount enclosed $________

War Stories III is available. 111 stories of Minnesotans who went to war. Hundreds of photos and maps. You can also order online at mnlegion.org

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

4 FANTASTIC WAYS TO EXPERIENCE MNHS

1. SPIRITS OF THE CAPITOL

2. MINNESOTA 1918

3. YOUR FAMILY HISTORY
Learn family research basics in the workshop Genealogy 101, Oct 20, Gale Family Library at the Minnesota History Center, St. Paul.

4. MILITARY DISCOUNTS
Veterans and active military always receive discounted general admission at MNHS historic sites and museum around Minnesota. Visit soon!

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Mail Call

Parade decision To the Editor:
We much appreciated your editorial on the Convention in the current Legionnaire. Members of our Woodbury post were riveted to their TV screens when we witnessed the convention center expect to participate in the parade, and finding that it was over. Needless to say it was quite

Tom Grezbek

Flying the American Flag To the Editor:
One afternoon this summer, I heard that Governor Dayton had issued an order to fly the American Flag at half-staff for the murdered prison guard. This practice has to stop. First off, how our Federal Flag is flown should not be dictated by any State Governor. Second, Governor Dayton did not want this practice started but it needs to end. Second, when I was growing up, the only time the American Flag was flown at half-staff across the nation was for the first half of the day on Memorial Day; for 30 days following the death of a current or former President; for 10 days following the death of a Vice President, current or retired Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, or Speaker of the House of Representatives; and for any associated justice of the Supreme Court, member of the Cabinet, former Vice President, president pro tem of the Senate, majority leader of the Senate, minority leader of the Senate, majority leader of the House of Representatives or the minority leader of the House of Representatives, the flag is to be displayed at half-staff from the day of death until interment. In recent years however thanks to the liberal progressive agenda which wishes to diminish the significant and meaning of the American Flag, especially here in Minnesota, the Governor will drop the flag for every soldier, firefigher, policeman, paramedic, and now prison guard that dies. These “feel good” people who have the need to lower the flag at any opportunity are the same people who wish to make sure that everyone gets a trophies for playing games in school. We have 58,220 American soldiers who want to make sure that everyone gets a trophies for playing games in school. Instead sessions and the Friday night hos-
Annette Wuerzt Roseville

Flag Puzzler To the Editor:
Here’s an etiquette puzzler, a question and answer that are usually not covered in flag etiquette publications. Question: In January 1990, below the U.S. flag on a pole, we saw a Minnesota state flag (second priority) flying by the POW/ MIA flag (priority 3). This month, at several locations our state and POW/ MIA flags were reversed in order of display. That is, the POW/ MIA flag was second and the Minnesota state flag was third. Which is correct?
Answer: For their times, both are correct. The switch occurred in August 1990 when the United States officially designated the POW/ MIA flag as a national symbol. That act prioritized the POW/ MIA flag above the state flags.
Clark Jenson Hinckley

Problems with Choice To the Editor:
I recently learned from speaking to a number of different veterans that the privatized medical clinic services offered to veterans through the Choice Program/Community Care has been filled with problems. I have been told that a high number of veterans are so dissatisfied with the Choice Program/Community Care that they are returning to VA medical centers for their health care. They have dealt with issues such as difficulties in scheduling appointments, lack of coordination between physicians, and being personally billed for the medical care they received. They are updating that The American Legion helped create the VA medical system. Now it is time for The American Legion to support America’s military veterans by defending the VA medical system against deterioration of medical services.
I suggest that you create an online survey for veterans who have used the Choice Program to feedback to you on their personal experiences, and then share some of their positive and negative comments in your publication.
Happy Birthday the Choice Program for New Members. Your program was totally under the management of the VA medical system, and not the private sector, perhaps it would be an effective alternative to the health care offered at VA medical centers.
The VA has reported that there is a shortage of 40,000 personnel throughout VA hospitals and clinics nationwide.

Bill Goede, Plainview. Board Members include: Bob Locker, Blue Earth; Secretary Randy Tesdahl, Elk River; Treasurer, Redepenning, Coon Rapids; Vice President Don Amundson, Paul, MN, and at additional mailing offices. The Legionnaire is owned and published by The American Legion, Department of Minnesota, Room 300A, 20 West 12th Street, St. Paul, MN 55102-5000. Periodicals postage is paid at St. Paul, MN, and at additional mailing offices. The Legionnaire is a member of the Minnesota Newspaper Association and the American Legion Press Association. SUBSCRIPTION: $10 for non-members. Members receive the newspaper for free.
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WEBSITE: www.mnlegion.com
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Secretary Randi Tesdahl, Elk River; Treasurer, Brian Sollier, Director Mike, Vice President Don Amundson, B
Willmar Vet’s Day Dinner
All veterans from the Willmar area are invited to the Free Veteran’s Day dinner at the Willmar Post Home. It will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 12. In addition to the locally-grown buffalo and a wide variety of donated wild game with all the trimmings, Veterans and caregivers are welcome.

Round Tables
The World War II History Round Table will be held Thursday, Oct. 11, at the Historic Fort Snelling Visitor Center at 7 p.m. The program will be “Nazi Prisoners in Auschwitz” with author Arnold Kramer. The program will look at the various POW camps and the activities.

A second World War II program will be held on Thursday, Oct. 18, from 7 to 9 p.m., called “World War II: Battle of the Bulge.” The program will be held Monday, Oct. 22, with buffet dinner served at 6 p.m. at the Lowell Inn in Stillwater. Reservations can be made with Steve Anderson, 715-386-1268.

The Vietnam War Roundtable has also added a third program for the month on Saturday, Oct. 27, from 1:30 p.m. It will be on the story of the Japanese-American GIs of the 442nd Regiment. A donation of $5 is requested.

The St. Croix Valley Civil War Roundtable will feature “Civil War in Ireland” by John Cox. The program will be held Monday, Oct. 22, with buffet dinner served at 6 p.m. at the Lowell Inn in Stillwater. Reservations can be made with Steve Anderson, 715-386-1268.

The Vietnam War Roundtable will meet Monday, Oct. 15, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the University of Concordia in St. Paul. The program begins at 7 p.m. and admission and parking are free. The program will be “National Vietnam Veterans of the Vietnam War,” and veterans will discuss their experiences.

Legal Clinics
There will be a free drop-in legal clinic for veterans on Tuesday, Oct. 9, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center, Flag Atrium Balcony Room. The clinic could help with legal issues such as benefits, engagement, wills, debt collection, family law. It is co-sponsored by the Fredrickson and Byron law firm. For more information, call 651-200-2300.

A legal clinic covering the same subjects will also be held on Tuesday, Oct. 16, at the St. Cloud VA Auditorium in St. Cloud. It will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Stand Down
The St. Cloud Stand Down will be held Friday, Oct. 25, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the St. Cloud National Guard Armory, 157 10th St. S. Spot help will be available for veterans including employment, legal consultation, tax information, social services, wellness exam, housing and shelter, free haircuts and meals, wills, dental and eye-wear information. For more information, call the United Way, 800-543-7709.

Military Appreciation Dinner
The Lakeville Yellow Ribbon will sponsor the 10th annual Military Appreciation Dinner on Friday, Nov. 9, from 6-9 p.m. at the Trinity Evangelical Free Church in Lakeville.

There will be dinner, entertainment and prizes and the event is free to each veteran and one guest. Registration is required and can be made to www.lakevilleyellowribbon.com or call 612-382-4022.

Give To the Max
This year’s Give to the Max Day will be Thursday, Nov. 15. Veterans will have a chance to contribute to the operation of Legionville Safety Patrol Camp. More information coming soon.

Project New Hope
Weekend retreats are available for veterans and their families. Veterans will have access to education, training and skills necessary to manage their lives after wartime service.

There is no cost to participants or their families. For more information, go to projectnewhope.net.

Bridge to the Future
The Minnesota Submarine League is planning a Bridge to the Future Memorial that would use the sail and the rudder from the USS Minneapolis-St. Paul submarine (SSN708). That submarine served for 25 years.

The memorial will honor those who served on the Minneapolis-St. Paul.

The memorial will include a Bow Wake Pool, exhibits on crew members and missions, and a Lone Sailor Statue.

The memorial would be part of the grounds of the proposed AirSpace Museum at Fort Snelling.

For more information, go to minnesotasubmarineleague.org.

Memorial Walk
The St. Cloud Women Veterans Program will host a memorial walk for veterans and their families who have experienced pregnancy or infant loss. It will be held on Oct. 15, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the St. Cloud VA Medical Center.

It will be held on the campus walking path near Building 92.

Registration is not required and the public is invited to attend. For more information, call Amber Willert, 320-252-1670 ext6555 or email: amber.willert@va.gov.

Correction
Engebretson, Gerald N., 84, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 5, 2018. He was a member of Marietta Post 156.
Greetings American Legion Family,

If you missed Romp weekend you missed a very fun filled weekend. Other then a little rain Friday evening the weather was great. In addition the Riders put in over 80 hours of volunteer time repairing deer stands for the upcoming Disabled Veterans Deer Hunt. Much work was accomplished to ensure the deer hunt will be a success. Work was also done on the SAL building. If you would like to volunteer some time please give us a call.

A special thank you to Department Commander Darrel Redepenning for stepping by Saturday of the Romp to officiate officer installation. There were a couple of new faces this year in attendance. Keep in mind that the Romp only happens once a year. Dates for next year should be posted next month.

The weekend prior to the Romp was Camp-o-ree. One couldn’t have asked for better weather. The sunshine provided many hours for all those great activities that only happen at Legionville, steak fry, hog roast, fish fry and SAL omelette breakfast just to name a few. Oh yea, and the food was awesome.

The riding season is slowly winding down. There still are a few rides or events out there. Be sure to dress for the weather and stay safe.

Meetings for the Department of Minnesota Legacy Ride will be starting soon. If you know of a Post that would like to host the Riders for a stop, whether it be a rest (donut), meal or overnight stop please get in contact with one of the members of the committee. As always, Keep the chrome side up and the rubber side down.

MARSHALL AREA LODGING FOR THE FALL CONFERENCE

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<tr>
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<td>AmericInn (Elevator)</td>
<td>1400 E. Lyon St.</td>
<td>507-637-9424</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deluxe Motel</td>
<td>516 E. Main St.</td>
<td>507-532-4441</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quality Inn (Elevator)</td>
<td>1511 E. College Dr.</td>
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<td>Ramada Inn (Headquarters)</td>
<td>1600 E. College Dr.</td>
<td>507-532-3221</td>
<td>1600</td>
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<td>Bugay Inn</td>
<td>1100 E. Main St.</td>
<td>507-537-1461</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sleep Inn (Elevator)</td>
<td>1300 Nwakama St.</td>
<td>507-401-2042</td>
<td>1300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traveler’s Lodge</td>
<td>1425 E. College Dr.</td>
<td>507-532-6721</td>
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Plan to Leave with Actionable Ideas for your Squadron and District:

Topics that will be covered: Legionnism—Actual American Legion Extension Institute Courses

History & Organization

Learn why and how The American Legion came into existence after World War I.

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

The foremost pillar of American Legion service, learn the ways in which the organization is dedicated to compasionate care, timely delivery of benefits, career development and other areas of advocacy for those who have served in uniform.

National Security

Outlined here is The American Legion’s position on a strong, well-equipped and effectively deployed U.S. military, including a decent quality of life for those now in uniform and retirees of the Armed Forces.

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This pillar of American Legion service is filled with respect for the nation that those in the military swore with their lives to defend, from proper treatment of the U.S. flag to voter education to youth programs that make life-changning differences.

Children & Youth

The American Legion’s long-held position that “every child deserves a square deal” is explained here, to include such programs and efforts as the Child Welfare Foundation, the Family Support Network, Temporary Financial Assistance and other initiatives that aim to help children and youth follow their dreams, no matter their circumstances.

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WebMaster Wanted—The Detachment of Minnesota is looking to contract with a web savvy individual who can regularly update and help us develop and integrate our website. Please contact joe@axtoninnovations for more info. Thanks.

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Website: www.mnsal.org

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American Legion Riders
By Chuck Stone
Department Director

Sons of The American Legion
By Shawn Davis

Detachment Fall Conference Oct. 26-27


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Harvest Rally at Legionville

Members of the Auxiliary membership team show off their signs during the Harvest Rally at Legionville.

Members of the Legion membership team got hats to indicate the year was starting well.

Auxiliary President Jean Walker and Auxiliary Membership Chair Robin Dorf were prepared to be heard at the rally.

Membership Director Mike Maxa presented Sixth District Membership Director Jim Lucas with the Harvest Rally Award.

Photos by Department Historian Dennis DeLong.
Navy nurse in Vietnam

By Al Zdon

When Kay Bauer was in Vietnam, she was one of two Navy nurses in-country. The other one was her roommate.

And while she had some amazing and scary experiences in Vietnam, they were nothing like what awaited her when she got home.

Catherine Marie Wilhelmy was born in a neighbor-hood near the Schmidt Brewery in St. Paul, and grew up in what was farmland near the intersection of Larpenteur and White Bear Lake Ave.

She was the second of 14 children and attended Catholic schools in St. Paul until switching to St. Paul John-son for her last two years of high school.

“In Catholic school, we always wore uniforms. When I changed to public school, all of sudden I needed school clothes, and I didn’t have any. I needed a job and I got one as a nursing assistant for 25 cents an hour.”

“Remember when they had layaway? I bought clothes and put them on layaway, and in the fall I had clothes for school.”

She graduated in 1954 and went on to St. Catherine’s where she earned her bachelor’s degree. But she wanted to do one more year for her nursing degree.

“There were no loans for a fifth year and that’s why I joined the Navy.”

She and some friends went down to the recruiting station. “There was a long line in front of the Army office, and the Air Force office was closed. There was a short line in front of the Navy recruiter and I joined up.”

The Navy agreed to pay for Bauer’s (Wilhelmy’s) final year of college in return for a two-year commitment.

From St. Catherine’s she went to Newport, Rhode Island, for officer orientation. “I had enlisted as an E-3, but before her enlistment expired she met with an old Navy chief. She told him she was set on going home.

“The chief then explained to her that now that her enlistment expired she was nothing like what awaited her when she got home.”

The two years of her enlistment were a little rocky. “I was always in trouble. I was always challenging this and that.”

“Eventually, all seven made it to town. Bauer was unprepared for how primitive the conditions would be. “We had no electricity. We had no running water.”

She was invited to have a libation at lunch, and then another at dinner. “I thought this was a Navy ship and there was absolutely no alcohol. They straightened me out, and told me when we got to Hawaii exactly what I was supposed to buy. One of these, one of those.”

The officers on ship even managed to create a pool for the nurses to swim in. “But then we found out we were the entertainment.”

After a year in Japan, she got orders to Guam. “I said I wasn’t going to Guam, but I did. And I liked that too.”

Then it was back to the States and duty at the naval facility at Great Lakes in Chicago.

She was a lieutenant junior grade by now, and an officer tried to convince her to leave the Navy Reserves and join the regular Navy. “I said, ’I don’t think so. I don’t want to stay in this canoe club for another 20 years.’”

In the end, though, she did leave the reserves and join the full-time Navy. She became the head of the pediatrics area at the Great Lakes Hospital. She also headed up the education department at the station.

Kay Wilhelmy Bauer grew up in St. Paul, and joined the Navy when it was willing to pick up her tuition for nursing school. She served in both the Reserves and the regular Navy and retired as a captain. Her duty along the way included a little hospital in the far southern tip of Vietnam.

Eight years into her naval career, she was asked if she would take a posting to Vietnam. “They told me they needed another operating room nurse. I told them I wasn’t an operating room nurse. They said they didn’t care.”

This was in 1966, and the war in Vietnam was gearing into its most busy and deadly phase. “I never looked at it as going away to war. That wasn’t why I went. I went to take care of the results of war.”

She was to join a surgery team of six officers, Navy and Army, and one chief. There would be two Navy surgeons and two nurses in the little group.

She was issued two passports, one for the U.S. Agency on International Development and one from the Navy. For the first one, she would have to wear civilian clothes, and for the other, her uniform.

Arriving in Vietnam, and because she was headed to a combat zone, Bauer was issued her combat gear. “You can’t believe how much they gave us. Uniforms, boots, trenching tools. I had bandoliers all over me. But when they handed me the M-14 rifle, that’s when I fell over.”

They were sent to Rach Gia in Kien Giang Province in the southern tip of South Vietnam, about 160 miles from Saigon and not far from Cambodia and just down the coastline from Thailand. “We were so far south, nobody knew where we were.”

They flew into the city on a C-130 transport plane and were put off in what looked to be the middle of nowhere. “The guys on the plane were like, ‘So long, it’s been good to know you,’ and they were gone. There was just this abandoned building and the tarmac. There was nothing. We could see some rice paddies and forest.”

After a while a South Vietnamese Army Jeep showed up. “But there was only room for two. And so the remaining five of us just stood there in the middle of nowhere. I out-ranked one of the guys who got in the Jeep, but off they went.”

Eventually, all seven made it to town. Bauer was unprepared for how primitive the conditions would be. “We had no electricity. We had no running water.”
The room she and the other nurse shared had just room enough for two beds, with netting hanging from the ceiling to keep the mosquitoes and other pests away. The team they were replacing had left the day before, so there was no smooth transition of duties and no mentorship. It was starting from scratch.

“But we knew we were there to help these people.”

The hospital was all brick, with a kind of moat around it. “There was a latrine, but nobody used it because nobody cleaned it.

“Vietnam had been ruled by so many countries. It was French, then it was Japanese, then it was Chinese, then it was French again. The hospital was run by French nuns.”

The two nurses found another place to live, and hired a family to help out, including finding fresh vegetables every day. They paid them $45 a month.

“Now and then, they would hitch a ride into Saigon. “The Vietnamese had this unbelievable communication network. When I’d go into Saigon, the Vietnamese nurses would tell me every place I’d been. How did they do that?”

When wounded American troops were brought in, the doctors and nurses did what they could to have them evacuated to Saigon the same day. “They just shut down the hospital at night. There was no electricity. If someone died during the night, they died. If they lived, the nuns would take care of them again in the morning.’”

If wounded troops were brought in at night, the unit did the best it could, examining the soldiers by kerosene lanterns.

The hospital and the American medical team treated whoever came through the doors including civilians, U.S. military, Army of South Vietnam and even the Viet Cong. “How could you tell the VC from the civilians? We did not ask questions!”

Bauer said they were given advanced warning when the VC would come into town to recruit, and so they would stay home. “Nobody would interfere with them. They were not carrying arms. Isn’t that interesting?”

She said that true to what she had told the Navy back home, she did not work as an operating room nurse. “I spent as little time in the OR as possible, but I set up a post-op unit and a post anesthesia unit using Vietnamese civilians.”

The equipment was sparse and dated. “Our x-ray machine looked it was built in the 1800s. The only way we got fresh water was to catch rainwater in cisterns. There were no windows in the OR, but there were still flies in there all the time.”

The OR did have one portable generator that gave them light and kept some fans going in the room.

One day, word came to the unit that an island nearby had a rash of plague victims. “They wanted to know if I and the other nurse would go out to this island with a Vietnamese Army captain who would be my advisor. I should have known it might get interesting because the Army was in charge of the boat.

“We got up at 0 dark thirty to get on the boat. It was a Vietnamese junque.” It had a large cabin at the back and a steering compartment up front. “We went back to the cabin, but everybody was sick back there, so we stayed up on deck and put a poncho over our heads.

By noon, they had arrived somewhere near their destination. “We were still out a ways and the boat stops. We waited on deck, and finally a smaller boat arrived. They wanted us to jump down to this smaller boat. We had all this gear with us, but we did it. This boat went a ways, and it stopped. They told us we’d have to walk from here.”

Bauer and her companion had worn tennis shoes and swimming suits under their uniforms because they suspected it might be a wet day. They walked the last several hundred yards to higher ground. “We were sopping wet.”

Their job was to give plague shots to the local population. “We decided, though, that we’d have sick call first. The Army guy medic had brought some meds with him for various things, and we cleaned up some wounds.

“One thing I have to say is that there was no soap anywhere in the province. I would write home to my friends to send soap, but they all thought I was kidding and so they never sent any.”

The nurses helped who they could and then gave the injections to a large gathering of people, and then it was time to go. That’s when they found out the boat had left.

“We had brought nothing along, not even a toothbrush.” The nurses were invited to stay with the local head man at his house. “They had an extra bedroom, and the army captain got it. We got the dining room table. We were not happy campers.”

Dinner was served Vietnamese style, with the nurses squatting on the dirt floor along with the rest. “They’d pass us the food using their personal chopsticks. I don’t know if I liked that.”

Before bed, they decided to clean up as much as they could and they wore their bathing suits into the water. “You know, if we had gone bare-chested, nobody would have looked twice. But our legs were exposed and all the locals were pecking. Bare legs were not allowed.”
The movie was good, and as it wound up, Bauer looked out the window and to her horror, the sun had set. “I drove like crazy in the dark, though the bushes, over the bridges. My friend said, ‘I know you’re Catholic so where’s your rosary? I’ll pray while you drive.’

The next morning they learned that the base where they had visited had been attacked by mortars. The tent they had watched the movie in was blown up and the officer was killed.

The one invariable was the heat. “My supervisor used to joke in the states wondered how I was getting starch for my uniform. What I actually did was have some simple, light dresses made with a zipper down the front. That’s what I wore to work every day. I never wore tennis shoes. When they asked me, I told them I was wearing my summer blues.”

She arranged to have a big cistern built up high on their roof with a pull chain that would release a spray of water. “It was cold, but at least we had a shower.”

During her whole year in Vietnam she and her companion, later joined by another nurse, were the only Navy female nurses in Vietnam. “They had some in Saigon, but then a bomb came in and forbid that. They were permitted. They all went home. Just as we were leaving, another delegation of nurses from the Navy came into Saigon.”

Once, she was up to Da Nang to see about the need for nurses there. “I can’t tell you how hot it was in Rach Gia, but when I got up to Saigon, I was cold and I had to put a layer on. When I got to Da Nang, I was cold again and I had to put another layer on.”

One thing she noticed about the all-male naval hospital facility in Da Nang was that it was dirty. “They had plenty of soap, but nothing was clean except the people. You can only imagine what the place looked like.”

Later, female Navy nurses were sent to Da Nang.

While the Bauers were living in the Twin Cities area, when Kay had her real taste of violence emanating from the Vietnam War.

She worked in the Federal Building in downtown Minneapolis, and early one morning she got a calling her not to go to work. “They told me they had blown up my office. The whole end of the building was blown up. An anti-war terrorist had put two dozen sticks of dynamite under the front steps of the entrance near Bauer’s office. The whole end of the building was blown up.”

The official cause was listed as a gas explosion at the neighboring house, but the ONI had a different explanation. “They told me they thought the bombers had got the wrong house. There had been some plastic explosives stolen from the New Brighton Arsenal.”

None of the bombers was ever caught.

Back in Minneapolis for recruiting duty, Bauer experienced some of the terror of war she didn’t see in Vietnam. On the left is a clipping from the Minneapolis Tribune about an anti-war related bombing at the Minneapolis Federal Building. Bauer’s office was destroyed in the bombing, which was done at 3 a.m. The bomb blew up one end of the building. In the clipping on the right, the St. Paul Pioneer Press considered that the house next door to Bauer’s may have been destroyed by a bomb and not by a gas explosion as first reported. The Office of Naval Intelligence told Bauer that the bombers may have destroyed the wrong house, killing its occupants. The perpetrators may have been anti-war terrorists and the target may have been Bauer.

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Bauer gives out plague shots to civilians on an island near the hospital Bauer worked at.

She and Vern live in Coon Rapids.

This year, she was selected at the 2018 Minnesota Woman Veteran of the Year by the Women Veterans Initiative.

She and Vern live in Coon Rapids.

This year, she was selected at the 2018 Minnesota Woman Veteran of the Year by the Women Veterans Initiative.
FIRST DISTRICT
Gary Miller Commander

Very low numbers at Legionville this year, don't really know the attendance but could have been better. No turn in for Legion, good turn in for the Sons and Auxiliary though. I did see the posts get credit for their PUFL’S so that will bring up the membership numbers.

The First District will have their Fall Conference on Oct. 6 at Camp Ripley starting at 9 a.m. Annual Department Fall Rally will be Oct. 26-27 in Marshall Post 113. Registration is in this issue of the Legionnaire along with all the post information. Hope everyone one that they can join us please attend. You never know, you might learn something.

By the way congrats! to the new National Commander and the new SAL Commander and Officers for the year 2018-2019.

By the time you get this I will have been to Camp Ripley with any National S. The Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Mark Maloney, as well as all the other District Commanders and their Chairmen. We will be there Sept. 21-23. Sounds like it will be a lot of information and a great expense for all of us. (Too bad it’s not a Marine base.) But you should not be waiting for the renewals to send in their dues. Post membership directors and Commanders should be making contact with them. Don’t wait for them to mail it in and get it and ask them if they know of anyone that might join, you never know, right?

SECOND DISTRICT
Cindy Brunk Commander

Hello American Legion Family Members,

I could not write enough thank you cards to everyone that made the National 100 Year Convention such a success and a time we as a Legion Family made history. My thank you cards are going to go out over a 100 years ago the present Legion Family. Our continued success and existence will not be what we only did in the past 100 plus years but what we will strive to do in the next 100 years.

So as your Commander I will start my thank you out to all the Legion Family Members that have paid their dues. In Bulletin 11 (for you unfamiliar this is a report put out weekly by department), second district Legion members alone turned in over 1,100 memberships, thank you so much.

Remember you’re not only paying your dues, you are also making a donation for the future of our veterans.

I hope you all like my travels to the Second District Posts. Thank you for the warm reception and good food. I am here to serve you. Please help me to help you.

Our Fall membership events include:

October 9 – Luverne Veterans Home 9 a.m. starts with games, music, good food, and bingo. Everyone is invited and the veterans in the home are looking forward to seeing you.

October 13 – St James Post 2.00 p.m. Rally and Workshop with our own Department Membership Director Mike Maxa. Who knows a couple others may drop in on to see how we are doing plus membership turn in with St James Auxiliary.

October 26-27 – Fall Conference in Marshall, all information in Legionnaire.

Thank you everyone for the dedicated Information that so many of you were so kind to help me with. They will be going to print and distributed.

For God and Country.

THIRD DISTRICT
Carla Tappanner Commander

Greetings Thundering Third. We did it. We are in 1st place according to the last membership memo that went out. Congratulations to all of you that logged in at all the posts. You are doing an awesome job. Keep up the great work. Let’s stay in 1st place.

The 100 Year Convention was quite the experience. I’m hoping most of you got to go for at least one or two days. Tons of great speakers and we elected a new National Commander this year also. He is going to do great job. Just as an aside, he and I were both stationed in Washington DC with ‘The Old Guard’ years ago.

I’m really looking forward to attending more of the post activities that you are doing in your communities. Please let me know if you’re going on so I can come and support every-thing you are doing and help where I can. Feel free to email or call me anytime. Remember that we have to teach our communities what the American Legion is all about….we aren’t just the local bar. We are so much more.

‘Word to the Nation: Guard zealously your right to serve in the Armed Forces, for without them, there will be no other rights to guard.’
-- President John F. Kennedy

FOURTH DISTRICT
Lane Stunkel Commander

Greetings Fabulous 4th District

A new year has started for The American Legion, Department of Minnesota, with the conclusion of the National Convention.

Regarding membership everybody: To all of the members of the Fabulous 4th – thank you, as of bulletin 11, the 4th District slipped to 3rd place loss the ½ of a percentage point out of 1st, let’s keep it going. Let’s work hard to retain our current membership and to find new members. Post Commanders and Adjutants, and Membership Officer please reach out to your District Vice Commander, Mickey or myself for assistance, we are all here for assistance.

Keep those post members electing at large to District RCCC, October 10th – N. St. Paul.

4th & 5th District Membership Workshop, October 20th at 9 a.m. noon – Wold Chamberlain Post 99, 5600 34th Ave S, Minneapolis. Let’s have a 100% attendance from all post’s in the 4th District to attend.

Fall Conference, October 26-27 – Marshall

4th District RCCC, November 14th – N. St. Paul.

4th District ALA Membership Rally – November 28th – 5:30 Social, 6 p.m. Dinner – Rocktown Memorial

Again I challenge every member of the 4th District including (Auxiliary and SAL) to sign up one new member for your Post, Squadron or Unit – we will be a greater force that our membership numbers are up.

God bless each and every one of you the 4th District American Legion Family and please keep our ailing members in your thoughts and prayers. I know that you all for anything you do in your Post and Community, and all of the Volunteer work you do. God bless America.

FIFTH DISTRICT
Joe Bayer Commander

Greetings Fighting Fifth. Congratulations to the 5th District on making 60% on membership. It’s a great start but there’s a long way to go to reach 100%. This year I’m looking across the river and work more with the 4th District. There isn’t anything we can’t accomplish if we work together. Our next District meeting will be held at Wold Chamberlain Post 99 on October 2nd. Meetings start at 7:30 pm. and all are welcome.

We have a full calendar of events coming up. First, there is a membership rally on October 20th at Wold Chamberlain Post 99 hosted by our Department Membership Director Mike Maxa, starting at 9 am. Then there’s Shop, Ship and Share November 30 and December 1 at the Maplewood Mall starting at 10 a.m. Also there is a combined midwinter with the 4th District at Arcade/Phalen Post 577, on January 5. The doors open at 8, and the program starts at 9 a.m. Don’t forget about Fall Conference in Marshall on October 26 & 27. I’m asking all Posts to have representation. Remember, knowledge is power and that’s what we want knowledge. Hope everyone is having a great end of summer and a kick ass start to Fall.

SIXTH DISTRICT
Richard Cross Commander

It is October already and things are moving fast in the 6th District. We, as an American Legion Family, are in many challenges from Membership Dinners to American Legion Rider runs. The American Legion Auxiliary is pushing hard to complete their projects, and the Sons of the American Legion are working hard as well. The Big Sixth District is always ready for the challenges of the remainder of the year, which include, as always, helping the Veterans.

We have a treasure sitting in the middle of the 6th District: Yes, I am talking about Legionville. It is a resource for all Minnesota Legion Districts and is used by organization from state-wide. This treasure needs help, in the form of funds and labor for maintenance projects. The Legion, Sons of the American Legion and the Auxiliary have made trips, usually on a Friday, Saturday, Sunday, week-end, to Legionville throughout the year (not during the school time) to do different projects. We as a Department Legion Family must keep this treasure operational. Any help would be appreciated.

SEVENTH DISTRICT
Jeffrey Gay Commander

It’s officially Fall. With it comes colorful leaves, cooler temperatures, harvest and the Legion Fall Conference.

Conference attendance is not required but it’s highly encouraged as a time to learn, “play” and grow together, exchanging ideas with others Posts statewide and bolstering stronger camaraderie.

The Post Commanders Workshops are important tools for assessing your post or may become, at one time or another, a Post officer (which is everyone at your post). Encourage attendance to these and other workshops or training to assist you your knowledge of the Legion and their programs, to help streamline your meetings be more engaging and acquiring a means of communication highlighting your Posts achievements, events and community position thus enhancing membership. Discover how Posts can work together helping one another and what your District can do to help you better.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Fall Conference in Marshall.

EIGHTH DISTRICT
Wilbur Swanson Commander

Greetings Eighth District family. I hope everyone is doing well. I’d like to thank everyone who is working to make the American Legion a success as it is. Our membership can be. It takes all of us to make the effort to succeed. I encourage all Legion Posts, Auxiliaries, and Sons to step up in this centennial year and make it one to remember.

We are currently moving forward, we need to be aggressive in recruiting new members. The Auxiliary is pushing hard to complete their projects, and the Sons of the American Legion is making it one to remember. We need to keep on keeping on for veterans. While our membership is moving forward, we need to be aggressive in recruiting new members. The Auxiliary is pushing hard to complete their projects, and the Sons of the American Legion is making it one to remember. We need to keep on keeping on for veterans. While our membership is moving forward, we need to be aggressive in recruiting new members. The Auxiliary is pushing hard to complete their projects, and the Sons of the American Legion is making it one to remember. We need to keep on keeping on for veterans.

I ask every member to make it a personal goal to get at least one new membership in our organization this year. I want to send out a special thank you to all the post volunteers. They keep us going by donating their time and effort to the many events and functions. The increases in female members in the military offers us another source for memberships for both the Legion and our Auxiliary. Eligible members must be encouraged to join the Sons of the American Legion. I ask every member to make it a personal goal to get at least one new membership in our organization this year. I want to send out a special thank you to all the post volunteers. They keep us going by donating their time and effort to the many events and functions.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Fall Conference in Marshall.

TENTH DISTRICT
Paul Orson Commander

Fall conference in Marshall is right around the corner and I’m looking forward to all the information and presentation scheduled for the weekend. If you have not attended one, I think about heading southwest and attend.

I want to thank all those who have renewed but there are still a big number of you that have not. I ask all of you to renew so we can send our super team go to St Paul and Washington DC to maintain our current benefits and even maybe even increase benefits.

Minneapolis VA Hospital makes strides in quality

WASHINGTON — Using an annual web-based report scorecard that measures, evaluates and benchmarks quality and efficiency at its medical centers, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently released data that showed significant improvements at the majority of its health care facilities, including the Minneapolis VA Medical Center.

The Minneapolis VA Health Care System (Minneapolis VA) was one of the facilities that made positive strides in the benchmarks and is striving to continue progress. Minneapolis VA Chief of Staff Kent Cressley, MD. “It takes a concerted effort by clinicians and management to bring about change.”

October 2018 Minnesota Legionnaire Page 11
Deer River proud to be first ALR Chapter in state

This story first appeared in the Grand Rapids Herald Review, and is used with their permission.

By Britta Arendt

It all started with “two Indians and a white guy” and their bikes, explains Ken Bedeau of what became Minnesota’s first chapter of the American Legion Riders, a motorcycle group dedicated to remembering their veteran comrades lost in war.

Memorial Day weekend of 2002, Vietnam Veterans and friends Rob Burgess, Dave Cronin and Bedeau, all of the Deer River area, got on their bikes and headed to Washington D.C. for a Rolling Thunder Rally. The annual event gathers motorcycle enthusiasts and Veterans together to honor service members who lost their lives in war, prisoners of war and all who have defended this country.

Bedeau remembers being a part of a parade that year and joining 60-70,000 motorcycles in the parking lot of the Pentagon.

“The biggest one was a couple of years ago when there were a half-million of us there,” he said.

While joining the parade in 2002, the three men from Minnesota met a group from Michigan who were affiliated as American Legion Riders.

“They told us how to organize by working with the American Legion and when we got back home we did just that,” explained Bedeau who said they soon contacted Deer River American Legion Post No. 122 and other Veteran friends “who like the concept,” and three soon became the ‘elite eight’.

Since then, the American Legion Riders MN Chapter 1 has grown to 56 members and is governed by a board of directors. They meet monthly to discuss training, fundraising and event opportunities. And the concept has spread throughout the state with several Minnesota chapters establishing unique one metro group do what they feel is their duty as a reason for existence.

Bedeau and his buddies know better.

“We were looked at as a renegade group,” describes Bedeau of Chapter 1. “We still show up (at rides) and put on our ‘Chapter 1’ patch and it drives those guys nuts.”

Bedeau said he started riding motorcycle when he got home in 1970 after serving 14 months in Vietnam with the Mohawk Division of the Army’s 131 Aviation Company. Since then, he has logged 230,000 miles on his Harley-Davidson.

“It’s always been my thing,” he said of a riding a bike. “For me, it gives me a sense of meaning because we’re not alone. And to remember those that didn’t come home - some 58,000 - and, for what?!”

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At that gathering, Veterans were able to speak freely about their PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder), their dreams and nightmares.

Memorial Day is very important to Borst and the riders.

“For me, it gives me a sense of meaning because we’re honoring the fallen vets who didn’t get to be honored before,” he said. “When we go to the grave sites, it makes me feel sad but also good. If only people would’ve known what we went through over there.”

Borst and other riders were part of a Harvest Festival in Deer River that year.

“I’ve had a motorcycle since I was old enough to ride one,” said Borst of why he’s been riding for about 40 years. “I had one on base.”

Borst and other riders were part of a Harvest Festival in Deer River carrying flags on their bikes when they caught Hoge’s eye.

“I thought, how cool, and asked Jim, ‘how can I join?’”

Hoge not only joined the group, he served as chapter director for seven years, passing on his office just last October to Keith Kackman.

“What I enjoy with the rides and parades is that it gets people to remember the vets,” says Hoge. “Society, these days, so often lets them go to the wayside. Why I do it is to keep the vets in the public eye.”

This year’s ride schedule is an “aggressive” one, according to Kackman. After their duties during Memorial Day services, the riders will be in dozens of parades and group rides at least once a week through early September. Most of the rides range from 120-150 miles “so we have a nice long ride with a couple of stops,” explained Kackman who said raised money from rides through participation fees often goes toward bicycle giveaways for children at the Deer River Wild Rice Festival or to a resort vacation for veterans in Ely.

“We like to take care of our own,” he said. “We’re all brothers.”

Kackman emphasized that the group is not a motorcycle club but rather “a riders group.”

Members in the group range all ages, from teenagers to elderly. Those who want to join the group do not have to be a Veteran themselves. They can be a child of a Veteran or the Veteran.

“The more people we can reach out to the better,” added Borst.

For more information, find the riders online at dvetsclub.com/legion-riders/events or on Facebook at facebook.com/deerriveralr.

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The sea battle at Midway was a decisive American victory early in the war in the Pacific, but the battle at and around Guadalcanal a few months later may have been even more important.

"The U.S. seized the initiative at Guadalcanal, but it took six long months to do it," said Trent Hone, the author of Learning War, a book about the Navy up through World War II.

Hone spoke in September at the World War II Round Table at Historic Fort Snelling and was joined later by a battleship veteran of the South Pacific campaigns.

Hone noted that the two sides were on the same footing at that point of the war, and success at Guadalcanal was not a foregone conclusion. "America’s industrial base played a role later in the war, but at this point everything was much more evenly balanced."

At Midway, the U.S. had won a huge victory, but Guadalcanal was the first land action of the war. Hone said the American Admiral Ernest King, the commander of the U.S. Navy, was pleased with the attack on June 8.

"He had no approval from the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He only sought approval later."

At sea at this time, the two sides again had a major confrontation to land more troops on Guadalcanal. At the naval battle of nearby Savo Island, the U.S. took the advantage at sea during the day when the Japanese surrendered in Tokyo Bay, and then took a liberty, with a smile on his face and a bottle in his hand.

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Hone said that the air base the Japanese were constructing at Guadalcanal could threaten Allied supply routes. The attack was planned for Aug. 1, 1942, but was pushed back a week because the preparations were not quite ready.

The Marines landed at Guadalcanal, at a neighboring island of Tulagi, and other islands on Aug. 7. On the smaller island near Guadalcanal, Marines were fished, but the Marines had control in a few days.

Hone said, "You left us alone!"

At Guadalcanal, however, the landing of 11,000 Marines was crushed as the Japanese defenders moved to the high ground. The U.S. captured the airfield, later named Henderson Field, on the first day.

The Japanese launched bomber attacks on the U.S. fleet and the American carriers were withdrawn. "The Marines, as they always will remind the Navy, said, ‘You left us alone!’"

At the naval battle of nearby Savo Island, the U.S. took a pounding, losing three cruisers and having another cruiser and a destroyer hit by a Japanese carrier.

The Japanese only suffered damage to one cruiser. The remaining U.S. naval forces left the area, joining the carriers.

The Japanese launched more bombers during the day when the carrier planes could attack, but at night, the Japanese ruled the waves.

Marines on the island and had some success, although both sides were bringing in reinforcements. The Japanese were determined to retake Henderson Field and planned a major operation to land more troops on Guadalcanal.

Halsey told his commanders that the Japanese naval action had to be stopped. The task fell to Rear Admiral Daniel Callaghan, and he put his cruiser force in the direct line of the Japanese attack. "It was virtually a suicidal plan. It was cruisers going too to toe with battleships."

The action was close and furious. American ships had to lower their guns to near horizontal to fire at the Japanese ships. When it was over, the U.S. had lost everything but a cruiser and a destroyer, and the Japanese force had lost two destroyers.

Callaghan was killed.

But the battle stopped the battleship attack. Later that day, planes from Henderson Field and the Enterprise did great damage to the Japanese effort to land troops, sinking a cruiser and seven transports. Later a Japanese battleship was destroyed in another engagement with the shrinking U.S. fleet.

Only four Japanese transports reached Guadalcanal, and were able to offload some of the troops. But the transports and the supplies they carried were destroyed on the beach by aircraft fire.

The Japanese made one more futile attempt to deliver supplies in late November, but were again chased off by the U.S. fleet, which suffered more losses.

On Dec. 12, the Japanese Navy recommended withdrawing from the island. They were losing as many troops to starvation as to combat losses. By the end of the year, the plan was put into action as the U.S. renewed its effort to drive the Japanese off the island.

On Feb. 1, 5,000 Japanese soldiers were extracted by 20 destroyers on the west coast of Guadalcanal. In the end, the Japanese were able to evacuate over 10,000 troops from the island. By the end of the late 1943. The Colorado would help invasions of the Pacific islands by blasting the beach with its massive 16-inch guns. "They always talk about what those guns did to the enemy, but they also did a lot of damage to our own ship. The rivets were popped, the stanchions were crumpled. And then there was the damage to our own bodies. You just had to grab on to something solid when they fired. You never wanted to be lying down."

At the Battle of Okinawa, Colorado fired at the enemy for 34 consecutive days. On November 27, 1944, the ship was hit by two Kamikazes but survived. "The first one hit the water on the starboard and aft of the ship. The splash drenched the deck. The second one hit the boat deck and we had a lot of killed and wounded."

Colorado was anchored near the USS Missouri when the Japanese surrendered in Tokyo Bay, and then took a large amount of American prisoners of war.

"They were a very quiet, sober group. They were kind of withdrawn into themselves. When they detonated a mine near the ship, the POWs were a little shook up. They thought they were going through it all over again."

Marines rest in the jungle between enemy engagements on Guadalcanal.
The Auxiliary Bulletin

Minnesota accepted awards at Minneapolis convention

Minnesota proudly accepted the following National awards at our 2018 National Convention.

**Legislation**
- Best Outstanding Unit Program – Warren Unit #27
- Best Department Program – Northwestern Division – Jean Walker, Chairman
- Best Department Program - Northwestern Division – Diane Hayes, Chairman

**Public Relations**
- Outstanding Department Program – Northwestern Division – Robin Dort, Chairman

**National Security**
- Dorothy Pearl Award - Most Outstanding Department Award-Northwestern Division-Jean Horack, Chairman
- Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation
- Best Department Program – Northwestern Division

**VAVS**
- Perfect Attendance Award, Janet Thompson

**National Service**
- Membership
- Norma Tramm was named the National Auxiliary Membership Coordinator, Raleen Tolzmann was named the National Community Service Vice Chairman, Mary Hendrickson was named a Committee on the History Committee Chair, Marsha Bible was named a member of the National Constitution and By-Laws Committee, Chris Ronning is a member of the National Committee, Marsha Bible was named Northwestern Division Membership Chairman, Norma Tramm was named Northwestern Division American Legion Chairman, Shirley Frederick was named Northwestern Division Legislative Chairman, Jennifer Haywick was named Northwestern Division Public Relations, Ralene’s Chair, and Kay Reimann was named Northwestern Division Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation.

If you see any of these ladies please take a moment and congratulate them. This is a very large responsibility they have taken on along with their continued involvement with our own Department.

**FALL CONFERENCE**

Fall Conference will be held October 26-27 in Marshall, hosted by the Marshall American Legion Family #113. Our meetings will be held at the Ramada Inn Conference Center. On Thursday, October 25, at 7 p.m. there will be a Vendor shop held that will cover Leadership and how it works hand in hand with Membership and Public Relations.

**SECRETARY SANDIE’S NOTES**

We are on to October 2018 – I just can’t figure out where time goes. National Convention was fantastic. I volunteered to help with the parade being as it had to be held indoors. What an experience that was. Marshers thought they were done when they got to our area but they still had to walk back and forth waving their arms around in a long time. Good thing I am Bohemian – my arms naturally fly all over the place. We had a wonderful time to visit with members and their families, turning in our First Membership Rally at Legionville. It was a great place to learn more about our programs at the same time. Looking forward to seeing our members at this year’s conference.

**The President’s Column**

By Jean Walker

The year is getting busier day by day. Since I wrote my last column I have attended our annual National Convention in Minneapolis, the annual Camp-O-Ree and our Veterans Day Parade at the Mall in Maple Grove. It was a great time to visit with members and their families, turning in membership, and a little dancing. I think a good time was had by all. I also attended the Home and Hospital Representative meeting at Waite Park, the Ninth District Past President Parley luncheon in Thief River Falls and the Veterans Home Banquet in Dilworth.

Remember that October is Education and Constitution and By-Laws months. What is your Unit doing special for these programs? Every Unit should review their Constitution and Standing rules annually to make sure that they are current and comply with Department and National revisions.

Our Fall Conference is just right around the corner at the end of October. It is the great place to learn more about our American Legion Auxiliary programs. We will have some training on Saturday and every so the first time to serving alcohol. So please take the time to attend this year’s conference in Marshall. It is a time to reunite with friends and make some new ones and learn something about our great organization at the same time. Looking forward to seeing our members at this year’s conference.

Until next month, I am looking forward to visiting our units, districts and our Veterans Homes and Hospitals. Thank you again for all you do for our Veterans. Always, keep our active duty military, their families and our veterans in your prayers. God Bless America and all of you.

I am humble and grateful to belong to the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Minnesota. I was very honored to serve this past year as your National Committee Chairman for our ALA 98th National Convention.

We have an awesome American Legion Family.

We owe a huge “thank you” to our Auxiliary members who volunteered to make The American Legion’s 100th Convention and the American Legion Auxiliary’s 98th Convention a huge success. When you see these ladies, give them a pat on the back and “thank” them. Please say thank you for all they have done. Thank you for all you have done for our Veterans.

To be a success you need to know there were many things happening behind the scenes of the convention! They did an awesome job.

To my co-chairman, Robin, words cannot express my thanks for all you did and how you handled anything I asked of you. To the main chair, Robin Kottol and co-chair, Judy Ackerman, the chair, Marsha Bible and co-chair, Judy Stein, and co-chair Linda Kropskaens, and co-chair Mary Kuperus – you were awesome.

To the helpers/volunteers and guests – this is a list so long I don’t have room to list your names; this convention’s success was due to all of your hard work and dedication. I hope your “shin splints” have healed by the time you read this.

Again, from the bottom of my heart, and from all of your Minnesota Auxiliary members, “Thank you for making Minnesota proud of our American Legion Family.”

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

President Jean Walker

The Auxiliary Bulletin

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Secretary Sandie Deutsch

President Sandy Fredrickson

**Convention chair thanks volunteers**

Greetings to all the helpers/volunteers (the list is long so I don’t have room to list your names); this convention’s success was due to all of your hard work and dedication. I hope your “shin splints” have healed by the time you read this.

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**National Convention ALA Chairman, Sandy Fredrickson**

**Minnesota accepted awards at Minneapolis convention**

**NATIONAL APPOINTMENTS**

Following are the National Appointments that National President Sandy Fredrickson will serve with her title 2018/2019 Auxiliary year. In keeping up with the past years, Minnesota has a long list of appointees. This shows the leadership of our Members who have dedicated their time and efforts in serving our Veterans. Norma Tramm was named the National Auxiliary Membership Coordinator, Raleen Tolzmann was named National Community Service Vice Chairman, Mary Hendrickson was named a Committee on the History Committee Chair, Marsha Bible was named a member of the National Constitution and By-Laws Committee, Chris Ronning is a member of the National Committee, Tamara Opland was named Northwestern Division Membership Chairman, Carol Kottol was named Northwestern Division American Legion Chairman, Shirley Frederick was named Northwestern Division Legislative Chairman, Jennifer Haywick was named Northwestern Division Public Relations, Ralene’s Chair, and Kay Reimann was named Northwestern Division Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. If you see any of these ladies please take a moment and congratulate them. This is a very large responsibility they have taken on along with their continued involvement with our own Department.

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**President and the VAR Chairman**

For the past 15 years, Patty has been employed by Antea USA, Inc. as an Accounting Specialist and she is the coordinator of their Corporate Social Sustainability Committee. Patty is a member of Our Savior’s Lutheran Church and she is also a volunteer for the Centennial Theater Arts program. Patty and Larry are the parents of one daughter, Naomi Hill. We made a quick visit to Texas to see the kids – goodness, they are now 18 and do not mention their mother anymore. We are so proud of them. In the unit, she has held all of the offices in her district and taken on along with their continued involvement with our own Department.

**2019-2019 SCHOLARSHIPS**

The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Minnesota, will again offer eight ($8,100.00 scholarships) to deserving students who wish to further their education, attending any institution of higher learning. They must be a resident of Minnesota or a member of the Auxiliary, Legion or SAL.

This year is also the Past Presidents Parley Health Care Scholarship of which up to ten $1,000.00 scholarships are available to Minnesota Auxiliary members who are furthering their education in the health care field.

Our National organization is again offering three National scholarships this year i.e., the National President’s in the Spirit of Youth, the Scholarship for Junior members, and a scholarship for Non-Traditional Students.

The American Legion also offers a Legacy Scholarship. All of these forms were in the last Unit Meeting and are all posted on our website maula.org under the Scholarship tab. Be certain you use the current application forms. Share these with your schools and members and assist eligible persons to apply. If you are in need of additional forms, please duplicate those you received or request copies from the Department office.

**Lino Lakes American Legion Auxiliary Unit 566 and the 10th District Past Presidents Parley have endorsed Patti Coleman for Department 1st Vice President for 2019-20.**

Pattie Coleman

President and the VAR Chairman

Pattie is a member of Our Savior’s Lutheran Church and she is the coordinator of their Corporate Social Sustainability Committee. Patty is a member of Our Savior’s Lutheran Church and she is also a volunteer for the Centennial Theater Arts program. Patty and Larry are the parents of one daughter, Naomi Hill. We made a quick visit to Texas to see the kids – goodness, they are now 18 and do not mention their mother anymore. We are so proud of them. In the unit, she has held all of the offices in her district and taken on along with their continued involvement with our own Department.

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Frankie has her drivers permit, Cade hunts and fishes every day and baby Elizabeth – there are no words. That girl is so precocious does a great job hard on teaching her to say Gramma but that darned Grandpa kept breaking in to have her say Papa and only confused her. At the office we are diligently working on Fall Conference along with the day to day operations. As always, I tell the girls that the slow time is coming, riiniight.

There are quite a few very dedicated, wonderful women who are members of our organization that need all of your thoughts and prayers as they are fighting tough battles. Please remember them and all of our Veterans and Military, where would we be without them.

Fourth District looks for fulfilling year

Welcome to the 2018-2019 Auxiliary year. The 100th National American Legion Convention is in the history books. There was so much information and I look forward to sharing it with our units. There is so much excitement and enthusiasm to last thru the year. What a privilege we have in speaking with Legionnaire and Auxiliary members from around the world and all expressed how they were enjoying their visit to our great city.

The Hon. Elizabeth Dole addressed the Auxiliary speaking on the Elizabeth Dole Foundation that “supports military caregivers.” The caregivers reviews all of the spouses, parents, siblings and friends of the wounded, ill and injured veterans and servicemembers facing hardships.

We as Auxiliary members are “caregivers” thru our many programs and volunteering that support our veterans. It is these acts of “selfless caring” that amplifies who we are and those continuing to serve.

Fun night at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center is starting off with the Horse Racing activity and that is one of the favorites for the veterans. It is such pleasant experience to share in the fun and we all leave a little humbled but thankful for the opportunity to spend time with our heroes, our veterans.

At our E-Board meeting we discussed ideas to help build the funds for the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. Unit presidents were instructed to donate items for the silent auction at Fall Conference.

As our new year is just beginning there are several fundraisers coming up, BBQ’s and style shows. At this time there is nothing to report on the success of the fundraisers, but they will be fun.

Have a fulfilling year, everyone.

By Marsha Bible

Wikipedia defines a constitution as a “set of fundamental principles or established precedents according to which a state or other organization is governed. These rules together make up, i.e. constitute, what the entity is.”

Constitutions concern different levels of organizations. They define the principles upon which the organization is based and the framework in which laws are made and by whom.

October is Constitution & Standing Rules month. This committee’s purpose is to inform and educate our members on the importance and value of properly written, reviewed and updated documents, policies and procedures at the unit, district, department and national level. Rules are the basis for governing at all levels. It is important that we don’t take these documents for granted but that we review them on an annual basis to make sure that they are current and comply with department and national revisions.

How are Changes Made to the ALA’s Constitution and Standing Rules?

Unit, District and Department Constitutions are only revised at our Department Convention. Changes to Standing Rules are made at the appropriate level – the unit, district or department. Changes to the National Constitution and ByLaws are revised at the National Executive Committee Meetings and/or National Convention. A two-thirds vote is required for passage of amended proposals to the Constitution and there is a proper way to submit those proposals. The procedure is detailed at the end of each of the respective constitutions.

The National Constitution and ByLaws were revised at the 2018 Department Convention. No revisions were made to the National Constitution at the 2018 convention.

It was up to someone to write a resolution to add, delete or revise a part of our Constitution & Standing Rules at the District, Department or National level? Over the year’s most of the changes started at the local level.

NOTE: In Minnesota, the Unit and District Constitutions are uniform and are only revised at our Department Convention.

In order to make changes, certain steps are typically made.

The unit votes to submit the resolution to make the change and sends that resolution to their appropriate District prior to the District Convention. The District reviews all of the resolutions submitted and the delegates of the district vote to approve or not.

If the resolution is approved by the delegates at the district level, it is forwarded on to the Department Convention for their review and vote. If the resolution is approved by the delegates, it either becomes a part of the Unit, District or Department Constitution or is forwarded on to the National Convention for their review and vote.

Standing Rules

Department Standing Rules may be revised at our Department Convention and may be adopted by a majority vote.

District and Unit Standing Rules are revised at the appropriate level. Your current standing rules should have some type of clause at the end of them that state how rules may be changed. That determines the process that you need to use. Most Standing Rules require only a majority vote and may be amended or rescinded at any regularly scheduled meeting without prior notification.

The Unit, District and Department Constitution and Standing Rules may not be in conflict with the National Constitution and By-Laws. Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall govern the American Legion Auxiliary in all cases that are not in conflict with state statute, the constitution, the bylaws or any special rules of order adopted by the organization.

Resources Available (through American Legion Emblem Programs at emblem.legion.org or on one of the websites noted below)

National Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules (available at ALAforVeterans.org)

Constitution and Bylaws Program

Manual

Unit Handbook

Parliamentary Procedure

Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised

Constitution & Bylaws page (available at ALAforVeterans.org under Programs Action Page)

Informed members = happy members. Keeping your members informed as changes are made promote our Strategic Plan. Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have while reviewing and updating your documents.

MARSHA BIBLE

Cookbooks, magnets for sale

Our supply of cookbooks is getting low – don’t miss out on a great Christmas gift for a loved one. Also, we have a new supply of the Auxiliary Emblem magnets. Please contact us at 651-224-7634 or deptoffice@mnala.org to order yours today. Cookbooks are $25.00 plus $6.00 shipping and magnets are $5.00 each with a very nominal shipping charge. Both of these items are Department of Minnesota fundraisers to assist in making the Department upgrade it services to better assist our members.

October is also Education Month

Annually in October, we recognize the American Legion Auxiliary Education program. Are you planning your plans for American Education week November 12-18, 2018? For a list of events and recognition was in the September-October Auxiliary Bulletin or can be found on our website www.mnala.org under Resources Available (through American Legion Emblem Programs at emblem.legion.org or on one of the websites noted below)

National Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules (available at ALAforVeterans.org)

LINDA KROPUENSKE

Education Program and all you do for our active duty and those continuing to serve.

Constitution and Standing Rules month

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Reverse Mortgages

The future doesn't have to be uncertain.

The lower the Margin, the more you qualify for. Call for our low rates.

Call or email me for a free consumer guide and a personal quote.

Let a retired active duty veteran you can trust show you how you may benefit from a Reverse Mortgage.

Mike Kraus
Serving MN and WI
7365 Kirkwood Court North, Suite 300
Maple Grove, MN 55369
763-355-8540
mkraus@mulhomeloans.com

I BUY AND COLLECT MILITARY ITEMS

Including insignia, hats, helmets, and uniforms from WW I, WW II, Korea, Vietnam (I have not started my collection on Southeast Asia yet). I collect Army, USN, USAF, USMC, patches, pins, pictures and souvenirs from all periods.

CALL JOE, 612-801-4673 AFTER 6

Attention Veterans!

VETERANS on the LAKE RESORT
Ely, Minnesota

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