You did good, Minnesota

Top Photo:
A huge delegation of the Minnesota American Legion Family erupted when it was announced that this year’s donation to the Legacy fund would be $251,000. Commander Denise Rohan accepted the record donation for Legacy scholarships.

Bottom Photo:
Minnesota filled an exhibit hall with over 400 American flags during the 100th National Convention at the Minneapolis Convention Center. The parade was moved indoors when organizers feared it might rain. An estimated 400 flags were carried.
All 7,000 delegates and guests to the Legion, Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion conventions in Minneapolis received a packet, and in that packet they received an exact replica of the original convention badge worn at the first national convention in Minneapolis in 1919. They also received a booklet with history about that first convention, along with some Minnesota history of the first few years. But the Minnesota connection didn’t end there.

On the stage on Tuesday of the convention, a major highlight was the gathering of about 40 members of the Legion family to present Commander Denise Rohan with a check for $251,000 for the Legacy Scholarship Fund. The money was raised by the American Legion Riders of Minnesota on their two Legacy runs.

It was by far the largest donation of the convention, and probably the largest donation ever given to the Legacy Fund.

Another highlight was the the talk given by former Vikings football coach Bud Grant at the National Commander’s Banquet. He went over the veterans he knew in his early years, growing up in Superior, Wisconsin. He explained, the the cheers of the large audience, the difference between a “star” and a “hero.”

Diane Carlson Evans, who grew up on a dairy farm near Buffalo and attended the schoolhouse. My mom was a registered nurse who worked. My parents helped everyone in the community. My parents were good citizens.”

Governor Mark Dayton also spoke on Tuesday, and noted he had served in the Senate with John McCain, who had died several days before. “He had a true devotion to his ideals.”

Mayor Jacob Frey of Minneapolis vowed to end veterans homelessness in Minneapolis, noted he had served in the Senate with John McCain, who had died several days before. “He had a true devotion to his ideals.”

Jeff Olson, the president of the National Convention Corporation of Minnesota, had the Minnesota volunteers in the audience stand up to be recognized.

On Wednesday, Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., spoke to the convention and the the talk given by former Senators John McCain, D-Ariz., and John Kerry, D-Mass. Also Tuesday, Rep. Tim Walz, D-Minn., was the primary sponsor of coins being developed by the U.S. Mint to commemorate the first 100 years of the Legion. After his talk, he and others unveiled the coins showing various designs with Legion art work.

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Visit the Veterans Corner, sit down, get some free coffee and a chat. Located in NE corner of the building. Family invited.
Bill Goede succeeds Dick Horn as new Department Treasurer

The Department has a new treasurer.

Past Department Commander Bill Goede was elected Treasurer at the August Department Executive Committee meeting.

Longstanding Treasurer Dick Horn was not present at the meeting, nor was Goede. When the call for nominations was made, Goede was the only nominee and he was elected unanimously.

Goede, who served as Department Commander from 2001-02, has served on the Department’s Finance Committee for many years.

Horn was first elected to the Treasurer’s post in 1997, replacing Gene Kahlke.

The treasurer also serves on several other Legion entities including the Legionville Board and the Board of Publications.

The bylaws of the Department say the treasurer shall have custody of all funds of the Department and shall present his books to the Executive Committee upon demand. The treasurer has a $3,600 budget for the year.

Goede will serve a three-year term.

Past National Commander Dan Ludwig said that Commander Redepenning should be seeking out a new member of the Finance Committee to replace Goede. One DEC member noted that it was legal for a member to serve as both an elected and an appointed position. Ludwig said, “It may be legal, but I don’t know that you’d want to do that.”

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By Darrel Redepenning

Greetings Legion Family,

As forecasted, August sure was a busy and fun month. We kicked off our first Team 100 get-together at my home post of Anoka. Membership Director Mike Maxa laid out our program and then we met our first 100 members, announcing all of this year’s committee appointments. I also announced my projects for the year as Legionville and Anoka’s Eagle A-1ing.

With previous storm damage, the infamous “bog” and lost revenue from closing the Safety Patrol Camp for this summer, Legionville needs some help. Anoka’s Veteran’s Healing Nest has one remaining cottage that is really a mess. Both really need some help and money. I hope all of our posts in Minnesota can be generous in helping out.

The second week of August was the five department Vice Commanders, Membership Director Mike Maxa, Adjutant Randy Kjosvik, and the National Membership Training in Indianapolis. This was my third time, but I swear each one has been more entertaining and motivating. It was an opportunity to meet with your counterparts from other Departments and brain storm. A couple key words this year were “diversity” and “branding.” It was interesting to see how diverse our organization has become. Several Department Commanders introduced themselves as a “first” from their

The 100th Convention

By Mike Maxa
Department Membership Director

Our potential and the amount of effort we put forth. The theme I have chosen to energize us is: “Triple R” – Recruit-Retain-Renew: Recruit: seek out eligible veterans and ask them to join the American Legion. Retain: Give these new recruits a reason to stay. Keep them informed ask them to help and listen to their needs. Renew: When they leave the ranks and feel a part of our organization they will renew. Our Minnesota department alone is averaging about 3,000-plus membership losses a year. What can we attribute to this? attraction, retention, lack of interest, no time for us, wanted, uninterested… and the list can go on and on. I see a lot of opportunity.

Our eligibility to join is the longest running time of eligibility in the history of our organization. That is twenty-eight years. Our eligibility to join is the longest running time of eligibility in the history of our organization. That is twenty-eight years. That is twenty-eight years. That is twenty-eight years. That is twenty-eight years. That is twenty-eight years. That is twenty-eight years. That is twenty-eight years.

I believe it is my duty to my country to love it; to support its Constitution; to obey its laws; to respect its flag and to defend it against all enemies. (Authored Version.)

American Legion Family chaplains have compassion hearts dedicated to service “for God and country.” They help members connect with God and act as spiritual guides in the practice of prayer and the understanding of how we can help one another.

The American Legion is comprehensive in nature embracing all religious faiths, and denominations within its ranks. The chaplaincy being non-denominational and non-sectarian, wishes to minister to the spiritual needs of all members.

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What’s Happening

Apple Valley Craft and Bake Sale
The Apple Valley Unit 1776 will hold its annual craft and bake sale on Saturday, Oct. 27, at 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the post. A variety of vendors will be on hand. For more information, call Marlene at 651-423-2493.

Membership Rally
The Fall Harvest Membership Rally for the Department of Minnesota will be held at Legionville. Turn-in will be from 3-4 and the program will be at 4:30.

Bomber’s Moon Ball
The annual Fall Bomber’s Moon Ball will be held Saturday, Sept. 8, at Fleming Field in St. Paul. Doors will open at 6 p.m. with a free dance lesson at 7, dancing at 8, and a World War II costume contest. Tickets are $17 at the door. There will be warbirds rides the day of the dance. It is sponsored by the Commemorative Air Force. For more information, go to caim.org.

Camp-O-Ree
This year’s Camp-O-Ree will be held Sept. 6-9 at Legionville. There will be new additions to the outing including Friday evening and Thursday night round the fire. The Brainerd Legion will be helping in the bar area. Those attending can bring their campers or sleep in the dorms. For more information, contact bluetatto1@hotmail.com.

Welcome Her Home
The Welcoming Her Home Gala, hosted by the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans, will be held Thursday, Sept. 6, at CHS Field in St. Paul from 5-9 p.m.

Student Essay Program
(Heml) Post 14 will be sponsoring a Student Essay Program for World War I. Area schools are invited. Essays should be about a family or community member who served in the Great War. Winning essays will be read on Veterans Day and the writer will receive a cash award. For more information go to www.mnalphgraciepost14.org and click on youth programs.

Emblem Sales Tax
Emblem Sales will now start charging sales tax for sales made in Minnesota. The standard state rate of 6.875 percent will apply. In addition, another 1.15 percent of local taxes will be applied for the coming 11 months. The total is 8.025 percent. Charging will be exempted. Customers will need to add the sales tax on mail and fax orders. On internet and phone orders, the tax will be automatically included. If an order is submitted by mail or fax, and the tax is not included, Emblem Sales will contact the customer. Those entities that are exempt from sales tax will have to submit their tax exemption certificates to Emblem Sales. For more information, contact bmahrky@ legion.org.

Brewster Flag Retirement
The Nobles County Council will be holding a flag retirement ceremony on Sept. 10 at 7 p.m. hosted by Brewster Post 464. Bring your old flags. It is open to the public. For more information, call 507-360-7116.

MACY events
The Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans will be sponsoring two events. On Tuesday, Sept. 11, there will be a Drop-In Legal Clinic at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center in the Flag Atrium Balcony Room from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Veterans can get information on housing, employment, benefits, expungement, wills, debt collection, family law and child support.

On Saturday Oct. 20, there will be a Stand Down for veterans from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Verizon Wireless Center, Mankato. Services available will include meals, VA benefits, clothing, housing, public benefits, haircuts, employment assistance and legal assistance.

Round Table, vets needed
The World War II History Round Table is looking for veterans who would like to share their experiences, and has also announced its program for the coming year.

Endorsements
Barbknecht endorsed for NEC
Bill Barbkneccht, a member of Underwood Post 489, has been endorsed by the post for the office of National Executive Committeeman representing the Department of Minnesota for 2019-2021. He was also endorsed at the 9th District Convention. Barbkneccht is a 49-year member of the American Legion. He has served as District Commander, Department Commander, Vice Commander, and currently serves as the Department Membership Director in which the Department reached all time highs. He presently serves as the Legislative Insurance Trust Chairman for the Department and is serving his 4th year as Alternate Executive Committeeman.

Barbknecht has been married to his wife Carol for 48 years. She has served as Department President. They have one son and one daughter who are veterans as well as their spouses. They reside at rural Battle Lake.

Barbknecht served in the United States Marine Corps from 1968 to 1970 and he served for 20 years in the North Dakota Air National Guard at Fargo.

He retired after 38 years with the US Postal Service. He presently serves as the State Director of Selective Service.

Moon endorsed for Alternate NEC
Peggy Moon has been endorsed for Alternate NEC by Kriesel-Jacobson Post 560, Zimmerman, and the Sixth District, for the years 2019-2021.

Moon has been a member of The American Legion for 41 years and was awarded a Life Membership by her Post in 1997. She has served as Commander, Adjutant, Chaplain, and was on the Post Honor Guard. She served in the Air Force from 1971-1974. On the District level, Moon served as Commander, Vice Commander, Public Relations Chairman, Children and Youth Chairman, and currently serves as the Commandant Advisor.

On the Department level, Moon has served as Employment Chairman, and Children and Youth Chairman. She served as Membership Chairman 2009-2010, and as our Department Commander 2014-2015. On the National level, she serves as vice-president for the Board of Directors, American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, and as vice-chairman of both Children and Youth Council.

She and her husband, Carl, have been married for 44 years, have two daughters and six grandchildren.

Veterans are needed for programs on:
Guadalcanal
Those who guarded German POWs
Pearl Harbor veterans, any service
German veterans
Intelligence veterans
Women veterans
Supply and logistics veterans
Normandy veterans.

Please contact Don Patton, 612-867-5144, if you are such a veteran or know of one.

The meetings of the Round Table will once again be at the East St. Paul Snelling Visitor Center. They will begin at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month except for October and March when two programs will be held. (Note: the meeting day, Thursday, was incorrectly reported in the August issue of the Legionnaire.) Admission is $5 at the door.

Sept. 13 -- “Guadalcanal, Thrwing the Japanese Advance” with author Trenz Home and veterans of the South Pacific; Oct. 11 -- Nazi Prisoners in America with author Arnold Krammer; Oct. 25 -- “Deutche Lecture with Geoffrey Wawro, author of Sons of Freedom; Dec. 13 -- Pearl Harbor; Jan. 10, Nazi Military high command; Feb. 14 -- FDR’s advisors; March 14 -- Intelligence from the skies; Mar. 28 -- Women in the war; April 11-- Logistics in Europe; May 9 -- Normandy Landings.

Women vets luncheon
The annual fall luncheon of the Women Veterans of Minnesota will be held Saturday, Oct. 27, at Apple Valley Post 1776. There will be a 10 a.m. meeting and noon lunch.

Tickets are $20. For more information, contact Colleen Crew at 952-925-1629. Guests are welcome and women veterans are encouraged to attend.

Veterans ATV Ride
The second annual Veterans ATV Ride will be Saturday, Sept. 22, leaving from the Bear’s Den in Bruno at 11 a.m. Entry is $20 per person. Half the money will support Post and half will go to the Fun Run. There will be a bake sale and silent auction. Call 763-221-3138 for more info.

Mail Call
Legion support to Homes
To the Editor:
Dear Legion and Auxiliary Members:
Collectively, the Minnesota Veterans Homes care for approximately 700 veterans across the state who proudly served their country. Now it’s our turn to proudly “serve those who have served.”

Staff at each of the Homes continually seek new and unique ways to enhance the lives of our Residents to assure a healthy balance of physical, mental and spiritual activities. We wish to recognize your invaluable contributions, both individually and as an organization as they allow us to achieve this goal.

We also want you to know that being good stewards of your donation is not only a commitment to you but consistent with state policy.

The Minnesota Veterans Homes, wish to thank you again for your constant support.

Sandy Larson
Debra H. Murre
Ward Wallin
Volunteer Service Coordinators
Minnesota Veterans Homes

Junior Shooting Sports
To the Editor:
Junior Shooting Sports is alive and well in Minnesota. I read with interest the Annual Reports to the Convention of the Department of Minnesota American Legion. Conferences to the shooters, from Minneapolis who qualified for both the NRA and Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) championships.

I’d also like to mention that Minneapolis-Richfield American Legion Post 435 X-Men Air Rifle Team, took the American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Minnesota State Championship, as well as 2nd place at the NRA Junior Air Rifle Championships in Bloomington, IL. They include Elizabeth Carlson, Ruby Pozoski, Paige Roskop, and Katrina Hendrickson.

Congratulations to all the shooters in this great program. Keep up the great work!

Shawn Davis
Commander, Detachment of Minnesota
100th National Convention
Minneapolis

Minnesota Department Adjutant Randy Tesdahl joined the American Bombshells on stage at the post-parade event at the Convention.

Even the National Commander has to wait in line for chow as the Legion Riders concluded their ride at Anoka Post 102.

The Minnesota Boychoir was a highlight of the Memorial Service on Sunday of the convention.

Newly elected National Commander Brett Reistad of Virginia shared the stage with new SAL National Commander Doc Gibbs of New York and Auxiliary National President Kathy Dungan of Mississippi.

Vice President Michael Pence addressed the delegates on Thursday. He said, “Peace only comes through strength, and we need The American Legion to promote that strength.” He said the VA would be working on shortening waiting times, and that a new law has allowed the VA to let go 3,200 employees for negligent behavior.

Minnesota’s Ninth District Band performed for the after-parade party at the convention center.
National Commander Denise Rohan and Past National Commander Dan Ludwig handed out souvenir replicas of the 1919 Minneapolis convention badge to the members and leaders of the Minnesota Boychoir.

Jeff Stoffer, head of media relations at The American Legion, was the “one” in one hundred in the hallway of the Minneapolis Convention Center.

Minnesota volunteers loaded a truck with packets that were delivered to states at their hotels.

Re-enactors put on a Broadway musical type performance commemorating 100 years of American Legion history. The stage show opened the convention.

Minnesota's Diane Carlson Evans, the founder of the Vietnam Women’s Memorial in Washington, spoke to the delegates. She recalled getting an American Legion award when she was at Buffalo High School.

Minnesota Vikings Coach Bud Grant explained the difference between a star and a hero at the National Commander’s Banquet. It was the first time in many years that anyone has spoken at the banquet.

Minnesota Auxiliary President Jean Walker and Chaplain Margee Keller had fun at the post-parade party at the convention center.

Theodore Roosevelt IV, the grandson of the founder of The American Legion, and great grandson of the president, spoke on the opening day of the convention. Roosevelt was chairman of the honorary committee celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Legion.

Members of the Anoka Post 102 lined the streets to welcome the American Legion Riders on their last stop of this year’s Legacy Run.
Department Adjutant Randy Tesdahl won NALPA’s most prestigious honor, the President’s Award, presented by President Mark Sutton.

Minnesota Auxiliary Chaplain Carol Holmgren participated in the National Memorial Service.

Secretary of the VA Robert Wilkie spoke at the Wednesday session.

Jennifer Havlick, chair of the Public Relations Committee, accepted the award for Best Facebook pages. NALPA President Mark Sutton presented.

Chuck Kruger of Byron delivered the Conventional Armed Forces Subcommittee report.

The NALPA award for Best Newspaper for larger departments went to the Minnesota Legionnaire, as did a second place for photography. Al Zdon accepted.

Minnesota Auxiliary members waited for the national installation ceremony to begin.

Minnesota Auxiliary Chaplain Carol Holmgren participated in the National Memorial Service.

Jeff Olson, president of the National Convention Corporation of Minnesota, posed with Commander Denise Rohan.

Minnesota Congressman Tim Walz and Commander Rohan unveiled a coin honoring the 100th anniversary of the Legion. Walz authored the bill. More information on the coins can be found at: usmint.gov.

The National Commander delivered a strike at Minnesota Twins game on Saturday night.

Department Commander Schaffer and NECman Marland Ronning presented checks for the National Emergency Fund and Operation Comfort Warriors.

Bill Goede of Plainview stood by as a motion made from the floor was debated at the convention. Goede chairs the National Guard and Reserve committee.

Ralph Schneekloth of Mabel, Minnesota’s Department Chaplain, was the emcee for the Memorial Service on Sunday.

Chuck Kruger of Byron delivered the Conventional Armed Forces Subcommittee report.

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Jeff Olson, president of the National Convention Corporation of Minnesota, posed with Commander Denise Rohan.

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Edina players celebrate Nick Azar’s walk-off home run as the host team defeated Buffalo 11-8 in a game midway through the Division I Tournament at Edina.

2018 Baseball tourneys in Edina, Pelican Rapids

LaCrescent’s Sam Weiser scored the winning run in a semi-final game against Stephen-Argyle. LeSeuer-Henderson won the Division II title at Pelican Rapids.

Tom Gupton of LeSueur-Henderson pitched the winning game vs. LaCrescent in the finals.

Tri-City Red players hoist the hardware high as they won the Division I tournament for the second year in a row.

Tri-City Red’s Jonah Sparks races home with a run as Wayzata’s Sam Westermeyer chases an errant throw in the title game. Tri-City coach Nik Anderson watches.
Between innings, Edina Assistant Coach Nick Kennedy recounts a story for Coach Gene Larkin as the players listen in.

Tri-City fans captured the moment as the team lined up for a photo with their championship trophy.

Past Department Commander Mike Schaffer presents the Outstanding Player of the Division I Tournament Award to Tri-City’s John Solfest.

Wayzata’s Sam Westermeyer earned the Robb Wassenaar Pitcher of the Year in Division I.

Vice Director Slick Miller and Trista Olson present the Division II Tony Sipe Outstanding Player award to Cole Pengilly of LeSueur-Henderson. Olson is the daughter of Tony Sipe.

Minneapolis American Legion Baseball Award Winners

Dave St. Peter
Featured Speaker

Jarvis Anderson
Legion Hall of Fame

CDR. Daniel Purkat
New London Post of the Year

Cori Porisch
Daughter of Jim Larson, Hall of Fame

Doug Palmer
Graduate of the Year

Mitch McCloud
Coach of the Year

Jim Clancy
Legion Hall of Fame

TOM BEAN
Featured Speaker

September 2018
Baseball tourneys at Edina, Pelican Rapids

Continued from Page 1

moved into the losser's bracket finals with the scrappy group from Roseville.

Tri-City was up 5-0 early and 10-5 going into the last inning before Rosetown mounted yet another comeback effort.

Rosetown plated four runs and had a runner at third with nobody out when Tri-City stopped the tying run with a bang-bang play at the plate. Two more outs followed, and Tri-City got the final game with a 10-9 victory.

In the championship game, with Red facing Wayzata, it looked like the last team standing might win it. The score was tied 7-7 after two innings. A big six-run fourth inning, though, salted it away for Tri-City and they went on to win their second title in two years by 16-8.

John Sofset of Tri-City was named the Outstanding Player of the tournament both for his hitting and pitching, while Sam Westernmeyer of Wayzata was the Outstanding Picher Award. Buffallo was the winner of the Sportsmanship Award.

Both Wayzata and Tri-City went on to the Great Plains Regional at Dickinson, N.D., but the result was not good. Both teams lost their first games, and then played each other. Tri-City won 10-5, eliminating Wayzata, but then lost its next game to also exit the tournament. Dubuque County of Iowa went on to the World Series.

Other teams in the Division I tourney were: Minneapolis Gopher Post, Eilen Prairie, Winona, St. Michael, Eastview, Coon Rapids, Alexandria, Sauk Rapids, Mankato National, Woodbury Blue, and Brainerd.

At Division II, a major rain delay on Friday pushed the games back, but the tournament managers got the tourney back on track.

Stephen-Argyle, La Crescent, Sauk Centre and LeSueur-Henderson all won their opening games. La Crescent then topped Stephen-Argyle 5-2 and LeSueur-Henderson beat Sauk Centre 11-2 to advance to the final game.

LeSueur-Henderson's pitching, which only allowed three runs in the entire tournament, came to the fore in the title game and they defeated La Crescent 5-0.

Cole Pengilly of LeSueur-Henderson was named the Outstanding Player Award. Stephen-Argyle was also the third place winner, topping Sauk Centre 5-2. Wadena beat New London-Spicer 4-1 for the Consolation Trophy. Other teams in the tourney were host Pelican Rapids and Springfield.

Both LeSueur-Henderson and LaCrescent went on to the Regional Tournament at Wahpeton, N.D., and both teams did well. LeSueur-Henderson lost its first game, won its second, and then fell to La Crescent and was ousted from play.

La Crescent won one and lost one and then went on a tear, winning three straight games to make it to the title game. In the championship game, the Fargo Bombers defeated the Minnesota team 5-4.

The Division I Banquet was held at the Doubletree Hotel in Bloomington the night before the tournament started.

Dave St. Peter, the president of the Minnesota Twins, was a featured speaker and talked about trading popular players Brian Dozier and Eduardo Escobar. "I plan to talk to both of them about rejoining the Twins."

Mr. St. Peter challenged the players to give it their best. "As you go forward, give back to the game which has given so much to you."

Tom Bean, a combat veteran, told the players, "You need to do the right instead of the easy wrong, even when nobody is looking."

Awards given out at the banquet included Doug Palmer, formerly of New Ulm, as the Graduate of the Year, Jarvis Anderson of Plainview, Jim Clancy of Minneapolis and Jim Larson of Minneapolis were honored with being named to the Minnesota Legion Baseball Hall of Fame. Cori Porisch accepted for her father, Jim Larson, who died recently.

Lars Anderson of New Ulm, as the Graduate of the Year. The Division I Junior Division was won by Tri-City Red Post 513, front row, from left: Will Rogers, Brett Bateman, Justin Langer, Channing Cole, Middle Row: Scott Becker (Coach), Cole Stenstrom, Carter Traczcy, Ike Mezzenza, Hunter All, Stevie Larson (Statistician), Back Row: Scott Kalthoff, Jake Christopherson, Ty Koehn, John Solfest, Josh Bonde, Matthew Herold, Matt Strong. Not pictured: Jonah Sparks, Ben Jepko, Nik Anderson (Head Coach), Lars Anderson (Coach), Jake Hanzlik (Coach), Matt Larsen (Coach), Nate Fredrickson (Coach), Steve Grasley (Manager).


DIVISION I CHAMPIONS -- Tri-City Red Post 513, front row, from left: Will Rogers, Brett Bateman, Justin Langer, Channing Cole, Middle Row: Scott Becker (Coach), Cole Stenstrom, Carter Traczcy, Ike Mezzenza, Hunter All, Stevie Larson (Statistician), Back Row: Scott Kalthoff, Jake Christopherson, Ty Koehn, John Solfest, Josh Bonde, Matthew Herold, Matt Strong. Not pictured: Jonah Sparks, Ben Jepko, Nik Anderson (Head Coach), Lars Anderson (Coach), Jake Hanzlik (Coach), Matt Larsen (Coach), Nate Fredrickson (Coach), Steve Grasley (Manager).

Minnesota’s
2018 - 2019
Leadership Team

DARREL REDEPENNING
Fridley COMMANDER

WAYNE HAMMON JR.
Le Roy VICE COMMANDER

RICHARD WOG
Willmar VICE COMMANDER

DICK WARD
Minneapolis VICE COMMANDER

TOM FERNLUND
St. Cloud VICE COMMANDER

JENNIFER HAVLICK
Two Harbors VICE COMMANDER

MIKE MAXA
Le Center MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

DENNIS DELONG
Bloomington HISTORIAN

BONNIE HANSON
Rockford CHAPLAIN

RYAN HILL
Brewster SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

GARY MILLER
Eyota DIST. 1 COMMANDER

LUCINDA BRUNK
Brewster DIST. 2 COMMANDER

CARLA TAPPAINER
Apple Valley DIST. 3 COMMANDER

LANE STUNKEL
St. Paul DIST. 4 COMMANDER

JOE BAYER
Minneapolis DIST. 5 COMMANDER

RICHARD CROSS
Sauk Centre DIST. 6 COMMANDER

JEFFREY GAY
Jackson DIST. 7 COMMANDER

WILBUR SWANSON
Duluth DIST. 8 COMMANDER

ARLO RUDE
Thief River Falls DIST. 9 COMMANDER

PAUL ORSON
Circle Pines DIST. 10 COMMANDER
Theme: “Veterans Are Our Stars”
Symbol: Star
My Focus this year is: Who We Are, What We Do and Why We Matter.
Project: collecting $25,000.00 to create Patriot’s Park at the Minnesota Veterans Home Fergus Falls. It will have benches, bushes and vines growing over the Pergolas, a dock, and a monument with matching granite benches. The monument will have three soldiers and the motto: No one left behind, with the emblems of all the branches of service. The reason for the short dock is for maintenance of the pond, plus the recreational staff plan to do remote control boat races with the Veterans. This will be a place for our veterans to go with their families or friends.
Any additional funds will be split between the other four Veterans Homes, Hastings, Minneapolis, Luverne and Silver Bay for their recreational fund.

25 year member of Unit #27 in Warren, she became a member under her father Joseph Penk, a World War II Army Veteran. She has served as President four terms, served as 1st and 2nd Vice President, Executive Committee Member as well as holding most chairmanships.
On the District as Chair of finance, Membership Chair, Past President’s Parley Chair, Memory Book Chair, District Advisor, Executive Committee Member, 1st and 2nd Vice President and served as District President in 2011-2012.
On the Department level, she has served as Memory Book Chair, Americanism Chair, Girls State Counselor, Color Bearer, Leadership Chair, Membership Chair, VA&R Chair, Legislative Chair and Northwestern Division AEF Chair.
She has attended many District, Department and National Conventions.
She has also attended 4 National Mission Training Conferences and two DC Legislative conferences.
She is married to John Walker and has one son; Michael Blumberg married to Heather and has two precious grandchildren, Arietta and Bennett who mean the world to her.

Commander Darrel Redepenning was elected at the 2018 Department Convention in Rochester in July. He will serve for one year.
Redepenning is a 46-year member of Anoka Post 102 and has served two terms as commander of the post. He was made a life member of the post in 2011. He served as 10th District Commander in 2010-11.
At the Department level, he has served as Membership Director, 2012-13 and Vice Commander, 2015-16. He has served on the Rehabilitation Committee, was the Trophies and Awards Chairman, and has been a judge of the Oratorical Contest.
Redepenning serves on the national American Legion Veterans Education and Employment Commission.
He served in the U.S. Army from 1970-73 and was a Specialist 5. Darrel and Donna Redepenning have been married for 42 years, and they have two sons. Donna is a past 10th District President. Darrel’s father Duane (“Bud”) is a past Department Commander. It is the first father-son commander duo in the history of the Department.
Redepenning is retired from the Hennepin County Medical Center where he was a senior planning analyst and a manager of orthopedic products, working in surgery for 25 years.
His theme for the year revolves around the centennial of The American Legion: “100 Years of Making a Difference.”
Ed Schulte grew up in Hallock. He was part of the 24th Division, the first division sent to South Korea after the North Koreans invaded the country. The division stood its ground at the Pusan Perimeter.
and settled in, waiting for the advancing North Korean army to get there. Schulte, along with the others, dug in. "I dug a foxhole at the junction of two roads, but the captain came by and told me to get the hell out of there because if a truck came by, it would kill me." It was getting dark and Schulte didn’t have time to dig another foxhole, so he settled in for the night under a truck.

"During the night, a mortar dropped right into the foxhole I’d been in.

The 24th met the enemy at that spot on about July 15. "It seemed like three or four guys were missing every day." The division was able to temporarily stop the advance. "All we could do was stand our ground, and that was it." In the first 17 days of fighting, the division had 3,600 casualties.

Schulte didn’t have time to dig another foxhole, so he set up a defense. If a truck came by, it would kill me." It was getting dark and Schulte said, "I already had tipped over the dozer once that day, but as the day wore on the North Koreans started coming up the streets firing. "I started running for the depot, and I got about halfway there I saw a tank on a flatcar. As I ran past, the tank blew up. I kept running, and there was another GI behind me. He told me that he had been ordered to blow up the tank when he saw Gooks in the railroad yard."

The battle of Taejon was brutal, and the division lost 1,500 men killed or wounded in three days. Schulte was sent back to his dozer, and was brought out on a rail car to the countryside. "I had no idea where I was, where I had been, or where I was going." He hid the dozer in a peach orchard and survived for a week eating peaches and watermelons.

A new train came by and picked up Schulte and the dozer and took them to the Nakdong River at what was called the Pusan Perimeter, the last stand before the Americans were pushed into the sea.

There were a few days of rest, and Schulte grabbed a bar of soap and headed to a nearby stream to bathe. As he finished up, he looked and saw he was sharing the water with a dead body. "It was scummy and smelly. I promised myself I would pay more attention next time I wanted a bath." Instructions on what the engineers were supposed to do were sometimes sketchy. "They would tell me what I had to do, and then I would figure it out myself. One day, an officer stopped me and gave me a rifle. I already had an M-1, so I took both rifles and hung them from one of the levers."

"The rice paddies were the biggest trouble for us. The rice paddies were really looking forward to a hot meal, but it didn’t happen."

"The battles were fought from hilltop to hilltop, and the dozers plowed supply roads up to the front lines on the high ground. "The rice paddies were the biggest trouble for us. So when one of us got stuck in a rice paddy, the other dozer was close by to pull us out." Much of the work was done on treacherous terrain and a slip could send the dozer over the edge. "I did this four or five times, and was always able to jump off."

The U.S. forces stood off the North Korean advance and slowly began to push back north. Schulte remembers when they were building a road next to the Han River near Seoul that he had to drive his dozer underwater with just the air filter sticking out to create the road.

In September, the U.S. launched a major offensive at Inchon, cutting off many of the North Korean troops, and kept heading north.

"We went all the way to the Yalu River (the border between North Korea and China), but then the Chinese came in and pushed us all the way back to south of Seoul. "It was on Thanksgiving Day. Oh, gosh, it was cold. We were really looking forward to a hot meal, but it didn’t happen."

By wintertime, the combat engineers were cutting roads south of Seoul. "There was lots of frost in the ground, and you had to be very careful." Much of the work was on the edge, just above the rushing river.

"I had already tipped over the dozer once that day, but the tracks just couldn’t hold the frozen ground. So, over I went. I thought, ‘Here I go again.’"

"But this time, when the dozer hit the water I was still in my seat. I could feel that dozer settling in on me when I grabbed some of the levers and pulled myself out and up. At least I knew enough to hold my breath."

"An officer came over and asked if anything was broken. I looked at the dozer and said, ‘I don’t think so.’ He said, ‘No, No, I mean you.’"

I took the officer that this job couldn’t be done. You’re always on shaky ground when you talk back to a captain, but he wasn’t the one who just ended up in the water."
Schulte sometimes had a soldier assigned to his bulldozer just to protect him. “When they do this, I know it’s going to be a hazardous job.” Since Schulte would be concentrating on the job, the other GI would warn him if it was getting a little dicey. “But there were times when I’d look down and see the bullets making indentations on the hood. You couldn’t hear them only see them.”

While working on one job, Schulte decided he and his bodyguard would try to get some sleep in an abandoned house. “It had been a bad day. There was fighting all the time. We got to the house, and I parked the dozer behind it where no one could see it, and we went in the house. “Pretty soon, though, we could hear voices outside the house and so we grabbed our rifles.” Schulte and his comrade kept quiet in the house. “They took a long time, and then went away. It was just getting into daylight. We went out and nobody was there. We thought we had taken the night off, but it didn’t work that way.”

One of the jobs Schulte was assigned was to dig graves for the enemy dead. “It stunk so bad, I threw up. That was really bad.”

The 24th Division, the first to be called into action in Korea, had been encircled at Pusan, fought its way all the way to the Chinese border and had been pushed back into South Korea again before re-establishing the Main Line of Resistance along the original border between North and South Korea.

The heavy casualties and retreating, Schulte said, were not good for the morale of the troops. At about the same time that President Truman relieved General MacArthur of his command, Schulte was promoted to sergeant. He said MacArthur’s dismissal improved morale considerably.

Schulte earned a five-day rest pass to Japan and flew to the island. “The pilot asked me to come up and watch the landing. I was shaking in my boots because I saw the plane was going 100 miles an hour and I was used to five miles per hour.”

A company set up headquarters south of Seoul, and Schulte and other heavy equipment operators were called and given medals. Schulte had earned a Bronze Star, and the citation read, “On many occasions, he labored for long periods without adequate rest or relief and by his untried efforts earned the respect of all with whom he was associated.”

By this time, the war had entered a stalemate period and the 24th was withdrawn. The Division had lost 10,000 casualties in 18 months of fighting. Schulte had been sent home early, after one year of combat.

“This time we were on a troop ship, and we made it back across the Pacific in five days. We were pretty happy to be going home.”

On this crossing, Schulte was put in charge of a group of men. “Everybody was vomiting down in the hold, and I couldn’t take it. I smacked up to the deck and managed to get some fresh air by the door. I wasn’t there long though before a sailor came up to me and told me I couldn’t be there.”

Schulte pleaded with the swabbie to allow him to stay up on deck, but the sailor pointed out that where they were standing was in direct view of the captain on the bridge. “He told me to go around back where the captain couldn’t see me and he let me get some fresh air.”

Schulte said there were high spirits on the ship, and much gambling. “There were these games of craps going on, and some of the guys had a lot of money they had won.”

But then the unimaginable happened, just as the ship was nearing San Francisco. “An officer came on the speaker of the ship and congratulated us on our time in Korea. And then he said that one year had been added to all our enlistments.”

Schulte, in the end, only had to stay in six months longer, most of which he spent at Camp McCoy in Wisconsin. “I think the Army knew they had a problem. The guys who had come back from the war, they couldn’t control us. It was better to send us home.”

Before he got out, he began his GED program again and passed the test and earned his diploma.

On his way home to Hallock, Schulte, who had bought a car, got pulled over by a policeman in Mahnomen for speeding. “He saw my uniform and let me go. He just told me to be careful. But when I got to Thief River Falls, I was speeding again, and he was waiting for me.”

“I just took off. When I got to Warren, I pulled around the courthouse and hid. He went flying on by, heading for North Dakota. I went the other way. That was a little exciting, too.”

Schulte suffered with nightmares and other PTSD symptoms for about three years after the war, but they eventually tapered off.

Schulte tried to find work in Milwaukee and other places, but ended up back in Hallock hauling gravel and operating a back hoe.

It was there he found Yvonne, his true love. But it wasn’t an easy courtship at first.

He and Yvonne had made arrangements for their first date.

Yvonne said, “But then I heard that Edwin was engaged. And so I wasn’t home when he came to get me.”

Schulte picks up the story from there. “I drove 18 miles over bad roads to pick her up and she wasn’t there. I figured that was that.”

But a few weeks later, Yvonne was at a hockey game, and had found out by that time that Schulte wasn’t engaged. Schulte saw her in the stands, with a smile on her face.

“After the game I was ready to go home, but she was hanging around and I met her in the warming house. Well, the rest is history.”

The two got married, had four children and five grandchildren.

Schulte was working for a natural gas company and got offered a promotion, but he would have to move to Molaca, immediately. “Imagine what it was like for me,” Yvonne said. “I had two jobs, four kids and no car. But we made it work.”

Not long after that, Schulte was offered a promotion in Osceola, Wisconsin, which he again accepted. “You know, I had offers after that, but I decided to stay in Osceola. I didn’t want to get divorced.”

Yvonne has worked for H&R Block for many years, and still does taxes for family and friends.

The two have moved into a smaller house in Osceola and they like to go for walks in the morning.
Greetings Legion Family,

By the time you read this the 100th National Convention will be over with. It sounds like it will be a convention of all conventions. Hope as many of you as possible got there. (Yes, I’ll be there) but what a way to better start our 100th with a big parade. We can start getting a better start on memberships as we’ve been around for 100 years. Let’s get started on the next 100 with lots of new members.

I was in Eau Claire when the State Legion Riders came through for a pit stop, at Austin when the National Legion Riders stopped there. Already had a Ex-board meeting in Anoka, and just finished helping for 3 days at Universal Marine Hero’s Days. I got to talk to lots of vets expressing there problems with the Legion and the VA. But also good reports that they have had with both also. Plus getting several prospects both men and women.

A few of the things coming up: Legionville Camp-o-ree will be Sept 6th-9th. We always have a good time, and of course Harvest Rally will be held at the same time. Don’t forget the 3rd Annual 1st Dist. Steak night. Don’t worry, I will also have a Rally in Kasson on Sept. 22, and a rally in Mabel Oct 6. Also I would like to mention a couple of things. One is that my personal theme for this year is Semper Fidelis (which means Always Faithful). With a slight change Semper Fidelis to Fidelis to all veterans. And plan “C” for my project, can’t do Preston project and State Commander took plan B for his, so mine will be for Boys to Help state to help the ones that can’t afford to help the event or help events that are having trouble for funds so more boys can go that of course includes scholarships. God bless you, our troops and God bless the USA.

SECOND DISTRICT

Cindy Brunk
Commander

Hello American Legion Family Members,

As I pondered on what to say this month I thought how much easier and all I could write on if this article wasn’t due until after the convention.

Needless to say I’m very thankful for passing thoughts as there’s plenty to talk about.

Greetings from the Fighting Fifth.

Much has happened since our Department Convention. Sadly, John Austin resigned as Commander of the 5th District. We would like to appreciate what you have done for the 5th District, John, and look for your continued support. A special election was held and now you’re stuck with me. I’m hoping we can try to move forward. There is much to do in a very short time with National Convention finishing and our first membership rally at Legionville. This must mean that summer is over and we’re back to work on programs and helping our communities. I want to thank the officers of the 5th District and program chairs for helping with the transition and look forward to working with all of you. Our first District meeting will be held at Minneapolis Post 1. I’m looking for a successful year for the District, Department and National.

Here’s to 100 years of service to the community, state and nation.

Greetings from the Fighting Fifth.

Hi Legion family,

As you read this, the 100-year National Convention in Minneapolis has concluded. You can imagine, it was exciting and information filled.

The most impressive was the Legion Parade it was very stirring. The Legionville Camp-O-ree is coming up early in September and it’s a fun event. The best part is the comradeship among Legion Family Members. It is always nice to be with people who think alike.

There are Post and Department events coming up this month. It would be nice to see your friendly faces there. As always, membership is something on which the American Legion is dependent. Please form a membership committee to help the post membership director. Everyone knows that it is everybody’s job, but more than not, the job is handed to one person to do, and that person is left holding the bag. The committee elevates the visibility of this challenge. If you have three people calling and finding new members, progress can be made. So, if you have not already have a membership committee at your post, thank you. Good job.

SEVENTH DISTRICT

Jeffrey Gay
Commander

Every day is a great day to be a Legionnaire. Camaraderie, love for America, member benefit and more. However, there is much more we can all learn about our own organization and pass on to other Veterans who are not “yet” enjoying the value of membership. With that said I will repeat how important it is for us to re-educate ourselves before we can talk about it with others.

Take the time and personal initiative to explore your membership benefits, explore your Legion’s many programs and share this with your Post. Talk to your Post about becoming an active participant in these, and other, programs to help them help their host community and pique the interest of younger Veterans and their families.

District 7 will be hosting a training event for Commandants and Adjutants on September 29, location yet to be determined. A letter or post card will be forthcoming. This is beneficial to all Posts and your presence is strongly encouraged. It will be fast paced with no time for boredom! I look forward to seeing you at this event.

EIGHTH DISTRICT

Wilbur Swanson
Commander

Greetings.

I hope that the people who had the opportunity to attend the National Convention took advantage of doing so. This is a chance to learn a lot and experience how The American Legion operates and functions. If you are like me, you can always learn something new.

Best wishes for the 100th Convention to be successful and promote the mission. Our Commander’s motto this year, “100 years of making a difference”, should be a goal for us all. If we make an effort in what we do and work to recruit new members, we will make a difference. I encourage all posts to focus on membership and get your reports in. I want to thank all of our volunteers for the many hours and effort put in to make our posts successful. May God bless the Legion family and the U.S.A.

TENTH DISTRICT

Paul Orson
Commander

1st month is complete with lots of activity within the Mighty 10th District. Membership renewal is going well. The new online renewal process is embraced by many but there are posts that are hesitant but with more talk between posts, I believe this will change.

The 100 National Convention last week was completed, and it was great to hear the good news and walk thru all the exhibits. The special 100 anniversary events were also great to be a part of. The parade was a success and was great to see the flags in the MN delegation. Hats of to all those who volunteered to make this event what it was.

Hope to see you all up at Legionville for the District and Department Harvest Rally this fall and the other great activates scheduled for this weekend. Remember to bring your appetite.
Rehab Committee

Minnesota is a great state for veterans because of the vast array of programs benefits and services offered to them. DEC is the VA’s Veterans Health Administration, Veterans Benefits, Cemetery Administration, State VA, County Veterans Offices and all the Non-profits, they are a lot of moving parts in the world of serving veterans.

So who is tasked with keeping up with all these agencies to make sure they’re providing accurate and the highest level of care for the veteran? DEC is working closely with the DEC for these agencies to ensure they have what they need to continue the great work they do for our veterans?

The American Legion Department of Minnesota finance committee approves an annual budget for a Department level Rehabilitation Committee which consists of past VA officials, Veteran Service Officers and experts in the fields of veterans advocacy. Minnesota has one of only a few Department Rehabilitation Committees left in the country.

The committee is tasked by The American Legion to stay engaged with veterans services in Minnesota and the Dakota’s and make recommendations on state and federal services. The committee is satisfied.

Some of these agencies are the Veterans Health Administration, Veterans Benefits Administration, National Cemetery Administration, Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs including the 5 Veterans Homes, Vets Centers, the 30 non-profits, other non-profits that deliver care and services to veterans.

Committee members are appointment by the Dept. Committee Chair. The committee has a full-time appointment. The committee is also there to assist these agencies with legislative action or lobbying to ensure they provide the best care and services to veterans.

The committee’s mission is critical especially now with the VA Healthcare systems concerns are being heard and that VA leaderships are making changes.

The Rehab committee conducts 10-15 site visits per year where the time is spent with the veterans and families.

Published on the Department website for all members and to the public.

The meeting went on for about another hour, and then was adjourned without allowing the Legion membership to participate. The meeting was nearing its conclusion. March 18 Legionnaire's reporter. DEC said that some 33 positions have been eliminated, and that some of these taking early retirement include Billy Johnson, Jeff Brown and Jack Querfeld. Ronning said the staff trimming will result in hundreds of thousands of dollars in savings.

The meeting was adjourned without allowing the Legion membership back into the meeting. No announcement was made of what had transpired.

News Briefs

Buckler resigns

National American Legion Auxiliary Secretary and Executive Director Mary “Dubbie” Buckler announced her resignation from that post at the States Dinner during the National Convention in Minneapolis.

Buckler, of Indiana, has served for ten years.

V4V grants

Minnesota Veterans 4 Veterans Trust Funds has announced its grants for August. $15,000 will go to help fund the Vet’s Home for the Armed Forces Service Center at the airport. $75,000 went to purchase two vehicles for a transportation program for veterans in southwest Minnesota.

New VISN 23 Director

Robert P. McDivitt has been named the new director of the VA’s Veterans Health Care Network, one of 18 health care systems in the VA. The network covers Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota. He has served for 18 years, and is an Army veteran.

Rochester VA clinic moving

The Rochester VA Community Clinic will move to the old Fleet Farm store south of Rochester in 2019. The VA has signed a 10-year lease for the property which will have 16,000 square feet, or 6,000 square feet more than the existing clinic. The clinic will now be able to offer imaging services.

Dental clinic opens at vets home

Veterans Home in Minneapolis, has opened. It is the first fixed dental clinic in a veterans home in the nation.

Wind turbine departing

The wind turbine at the St. Cloud VA Medical Center will be removed next year. A study showed that the turbine would not bring enough financial return to the institution.

Minneapolis VA cancer site

The Minneapolis VA Healthcare System will be one of 11 nationwide to participate in this of the individual, the meeting will be closed to everyone who was not a member of the DEC, including the Legislator’s reports.

TR IV recognized

Theodore Roosevelt IV received the “Good Guy” award at the Minneapolis Convention. He is the chairman of the centenary 1898 assembly committee for the Legion.

DEC meeting

Continued from Page 3

to have that situation.

In other business, the DEC - heard from new Commander Darrel Redepenning about his projects for the year. One project will be Legionville and restoration of the shoreline at the camp following the removal of the bog. The second project will be the Eagle's Nest Healing Center in Anoka, providing repairs for a tragic. His plan for the year will be: "100 years of making a difference."

- SAC Detachment Commander Shawn Davis is entering his second year. He will continue to build for the future of the Legion program. His projects are the Brain Science Foundation and developing an obstacle course at Legionville.

- Daryl Hatmon, membership director for the 10th District, said the paperwork for creating a new post at Holmen, just west of La Crosse, is nearly complete. The DEC voted to approve the new charter. All members will be new and not from other posts. The post number will be 2018.

- Membership Director Mike Maxa said his theme for the year will be the three Rs: Retain, Renew, "Ask them, get them involved. If they have a reason to be part of the organization, they’ll stay around. Our success depends on the effort we put in." Maxa said there would be workshops and that part of the recruiting effort will be aimed at colleges and Guard and Reserve bases. He said that each rally this year will be planned and put on by a different group. He has a plan to create an annual, a Georgia Rally, a Sweetheart Rally, Auxiliary, and Appreciation Rally. The American Legion.

- National Commander Marland Redepenning spoke on the downsizing at National Headquarters. He said that 33 positions have been eliminated, and that some of those taking early retirement include Billy Johnson, Jeff Brown and Jack Querfeld. Ronning said the staff trimming will result in hundreds of thousands of dollars in savings.

- Past National Commander Dan Ludwig talked on membership and staff cutting. He noted that in his time in the Legion, membership had gone from 2.8 million to less than 2 million. That decline has resulted in the loss of over $15 million in revenue to the national headquarters.

- He said another change will be that when Minnesota or another other Department invites a Past National Commander to come and speak, the Department will now pay for airfare.

- New Commander Darrel Redepenning offered some ideas for the future. He said going after college-age veterans was important. "They think we’re just a bar and grill, and we need to tell them more about the Legion, including that we were responsible for the GI Bill they’re using." He also said that recruiting women into membership has to be a priority.

So who is tasked with keeping up with all these agencies and not from other posts. The post number will be 2018.

The meeting was adjourned without allowing the Legion membership back into the meeting. No announcement was made of what had transpired.

American Legion Riders

By Chuck Stone

Department Director

Greetings American Legion Family,

Sweeney, secretary, is from Rochester.

After hearing Past Department Commander Mike announce our Legacy turn-in of $251,000 I am left speechless.

This was a result achieved when everyone comes together working towards a common goal. Also notable is the large turnout of the Department of Minnesota Legion Family for the National Parade on Sunday. I have heard a few different numbers of those marching with flags. I was near the front of our formation. As I looked at the convention I was most impressed as I looked back was that trail elements of Minnesota was yet to enter the hall.

September is upon us and that brings a few items to mind. First and one of great importance is children returning to school. Please as you drive about have extra awareness, keep those children safe - they are our future. Yes, even though Legionville was closed this year there will be our annual Camp-O-Ree and the Riders’ Romp. These two weekends are for the Minnesota Legion Family to come together and celebrate our accomplishments this past year. Also in keeping with tradition a few volunteer hours to help spruce up the camp. There are a number of things that need to be done, many of which are light duty and can very easily be accomplished by a couple of Family members. If you are unsure, please ask the staff, “What and where may I lend a hand?” There will be plenty to eat and fun to have by all who attend.

Pretty soon the Legacy Ride Committee will start looking at the 2019 Ride. There is much talk about the format. If you have a suggestion, reach out with one of the committee members and share your thoughts and ideas.

Mark your calendars 25-27 October for Department Fall Conference in Marshall. Watch for more information to come.

Keep the chrome side up and the rubber side down.
Legion Day at the Twins

As I prepare for the National Convention here in Minnesota, I reviewed my previous article from last year at this time. I have to reiterate what I said then. Thank you for all you do. Making donations to Child Welfare Foundation (CWF), National Emergency Fund (NEF), American Legion Legacy Scholarship, and so much more. Volunteering your time at the Minnesota Veterans Homes, the VA, at memorials and as part of Honor guards. And let us not forget all the fund raising activities we do. But as you read this after the National Convention, keep in mind we have another year, more goals, and more work to be done. Membership cards were received late from National, but have been distributed. Squadron Officer reporting forms are due now. Camporee fundraiser is the first weekend in September. The John Zgoda Memorial Disabled Veteran Deer hunt is coming up.

So thank you for all that you have done, and will do this next year. We will make it a great year.

Legionville is a piece of property owned by The American Legion north of Brainerd, MN. Located on North Long Lake, the over 500 acres of woods, swamp, campgrounds, and beach is used primarily for the Legionville School Safety Patrol Training. This property has been part of The American Legion since 1948 when the first section of land was purchased to find a permanent home for this program. The facilities are also used by members of the American Legion Family including the SAL for their Detachment Convention (Campout), The American Legion Auxiliary for their Junior Fun Weekend, and The American Legion Riders for their ROMP.

The Legionville School Safety Patrol program dates back to 1921 with the idea of a School Patrol. This idea grew and was adopted statewide by the Legionville School Safety Patrol Training. This property has been part of The American Legion since 1948 when the first section of land was purchased to find a permanent home for this program. The facilities are also used by members of the American Legion Family including the SAL for their Detachment Convention (Campout), The American Legion Auxiliary for their Junior Fun Weekend, and The American Legion Riders for their ROMP.

The Schaffer Family posed with TC Bear after the commander threw out the first pitch. From left: Nina Schaffer, Commander Mike Schaffer, TC, daughter Maria Schaffer and grandson Ayden Schaffer.

Greetings to the American Legion family, this year’s Camp-o-Ree will be Sept. 6th thru Sept. 9th it will be as good as last year and maybe better. This year we added bingo Thurs.nite and more on Friday. This year the Brainerd legion will be helping us at the bar area. So I hope to see every one there with smiles, let’s make it a great year for Legionville and raise lots of money to help the camp. If anyone wants to help please let Cliff or Dennis know and we will put you to work. Thanks and see you there.

Dennis Blue co-chairmen

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The Legionville School Safety Patrol program dates back to 1921 with the idea of a School Patrol. This idea grew and was adopted statewide by the Minnesota Highway Patrol. In 1935, Earle Brown, the first Chief of the Minnesota Highway Patrol, approached The American Legion to help create a uniform training program. This program is still used today.

The Zgoda Deer Hunt is a popular event in Brainerd, MN. The hunt is held on the Legionville property and is open to disabled veterans. The event includes lodging, meals, and hunting gear. The proceeds from the hunt are used to support veterans and their families.

The Schaffer Family posed with TC Bear after the commander threw out the first pitch. From left: Nina Schaffer, Commander Mike Schaffer, TC, daughter Maria Schaffer and grandson Ayden Schaffer.

Minnesota Sons of the American Legion News

Zgoda Deer Hunt

It’s time again to start planning for the SAL Disabled Vets Deer Hunt. Named for the man instrumental in founding the hunt, Past Detachment Commander John Zgoda. This year’s hunt will take place October 5-6-7, 2018 at Legionville in Brainerd, MN. We need nominations starting now. Please have them in by 9/28/18. Please contact any one of the following SAL Members:

Dave Vulcan: dvulcan@gmail.com or 507-380-5095

Dave Bilderback: dbilderback@aol.com or 507-250-1057

Lloyd Schaeffer: lschaeffer@co.carver.mn.us or 952-457-2981

Steve Bilderback at 612-220-1333

Hunt includes ammo, meals, guns, deer processing. Vets must get their own license and please let any of the contacts know if you’ve hunted this event before as they are always looking for new hunters each year.
The Worthington Band was one of 14 signed up from Minnesota to march in the annual parade. Because of a weather report, the parade was moved indoors into the Minneapolis Convention Center. No rain fell that afternoon.

The Worthington Band

National Parade

The Jordan band was the last high school band to march in the parade. Because of the move indoors, and a lack of communication, some Minnesota bands arrived late for the parade. Jordan just made it.

Minnesotans carrying about 400 flags marched past the reviewing stand.

The flags just kept on coming in Hall B of the Convention Center.
Commander announces his appointments

Department Commander Darrel Redepenning announced his appointments for committees for 2018-19 at the Department Executive Committee meeting.

The following list includes only appointments for this year and does include those who will continue to serve.

Larry Pocrnich of Hillman will be re-appointed to a three-year term on the Americanism Committee. Art Tokkin will continue as chairman.

Robert Bly of Mankato was named Boy Scout Chairman, Tom Clabo of Hutchinson was named Community Service chair, and Don Skow of Lindstrom was named a Recreation Chair.

Tom Nelson of Jackson was named Boys State Director and Jared Sturgill of Chamin will serve as chair of Junior Shooting Chairman.

Syvan Fix of Brownsville will continue to chair the Oratorical Contest and Cliff Newman of Blaine will serve as vice chair.

Gene Laffey of Rockford and Virgil Walker of Apple River will serve as chairman. Bonnie Hanson of Rockford and Virgil Wagner of Middle River will be re-appointed.

Joel Jansen of Arden Hills will again be the representative to the Armed Forces Service Center.

Tom Sanders of Pine City will chair the Blood Program, and Karen Welander of Sunberg will chair the Children and Youth Committee and Veronica Fernlund of St. Cloud will be vice chair.

A Story of Oakdale will chair the Citizens Flag Alliance.

Richard Grobe of Millville was appointed to a five-year term on the Education Committee. Lynne Nottage of Minneapolis was given a new three-year term on the Finance Committee and will continue as chairman. Bonnie Hanson of Rockford and Virgil Wagner of Middle River were re-appointed.

Jeff Gay, Jackson, was appointed to a new three-year term on the Education and Training Committee.

Carl Moon will continue as the chair of the Employment Committee. Tom Mullin of Eagan will chair the Energy and Conservation Committee.

Rick Oelschlager of Andover was named to a five-year term on the Finance Committee.

Tom Mullion of Eagan will be the Legion’s member of the Fort Snelling Cemetery Association.

Mark Divordan, LeCenter, will chair the Fund for Hospitalized Veterans. Wes Thompson, Sartell, Roland Hanson, Austin, and Tim Haugen, Moorhead were also re-appointed.

Tom Conway of Argyle will chair the Law and Order Committee. Larry Ryan of Oakdale and Jeff Brokaw of Winnebago were re-appointed to the committee.

Scott Phillips of Winnebago will be the liaison to the American Legion Insurance Trust.

Bill Barrows of the Battle Lake will chair the committee of the American Legion Insurance Trust. Eric Wilkens of Detroit Lakes was given a new three-year term on the committee.

Roger Myran of Eagan will be the Department’s representative on the Legionville Board of Directors.

Peggy Moon of St. Joseph, Randy Olson of Winnebago, Bob Hart of Oak Park Heights, and Tim Aniol of Oakdale were re-appointed.

Joe Jameson of Little Falls Post 46.

The Youth Cadet Law Enforcement chairman post was not filled but will be in the future.
As we focus on Who We Are, What We Do and Why We Matter, we have started out in the right direction. Robin Dorf, our Membership Chairman, has great plans for the year. Her theme this year is “Together We Shine for Membership” using the Star as the team symbol, focusing on working together and positively. Membership payoffs will be a fun event at our upcoming Fall Conference.

There will be a lot going on this year. Information will be forthcoming in our upcoming Unit mailings. At Fall Conference this year, each of our Program Chairman will be setting up their own individual display boards and will be around to answer questions about their program area. Let’s make this Conference a learning event so our members can take information back to their Unit members and share what they have learned.

I will put more information on my travels in the upcoming unit mailings and on my Facebook page. I hope to keep really busy this year traveling around the Department to visit units and attend their functions.

As we start this year let us all work together for our Veterans, so everyone will know Who We Are, What We Do and Why We Matter. This is a TEAM effort and there is no I in TEAM. When we work together we will accomplish amazing things.

Always remember to keep our active duty military, their families, and our veterans in your prayers. They gave up a lot in one day. The highlight was hearing about our Membership plan for the year.

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Auxiliary Bulletin
Continued from Preceding Page


The awardees for the 2017/2018 Past Presidents Parley Scholarship are as follows: Alexandra Rud, sponsored by Unit 485 Clara City, Emily Schuetel, sponsored by Unit 257 Springfield, Brianna Rut, sponsored by Unit 79 Montgomery, Beth Ann Nikolas, sponsored by Unit 323 Clearwater and Kendra Hartmann, sponsored by Unit 36 Fairmont.

We received many applications this year and thanks go out to Education Chairman Mary French and Past Presidents Parley Chairman Linda Kroppeske who has the task of selecting the awardees. Thanks also to all of our Units for taking part in this very wonderful part of our Education and PPP programs.

**JUNIOR FUN WEEKEND 2018**

The 2018 Junior Fun Weekend was held August 4-5 at Legionville. Junior Activities Chairman Tamara Opland, Department President Jean Walker, incoming Junior Activities Chairman Kristen Donnelly and Department Honorary Junior President Harley Donnelly kicked off the weekend with over 50 Juniors and Seniors in attendance. This was a great turnout especially because we didn’t know we would be able to use the Legionville facility until the first of July. Please plan on attending next year – what a great way to spend time with your daughters and/or granddaughters and learn about our wonderful country, along with enjoying the Legionville facility and all it has to offer.

**SECRETARY SANDIE’S NOTES**

Here we go, off and running with another Auxiliary year. I look forward to working with President Jean and the rest of our members this year. August Workshop went very well this year. I keep trying to streamline the format and have more time for members to work on their programs and also have a little training for our new District Presidents. We are going to have a great year. Just a note to the August Workshop group – Kid Rock ROCKED! I made it to Red Wing with time to spare. I never saw so many people in my life at an outdoor concert. Being up for 21 hours straight was well worth it (until I hit the wall on Sunday). I will be in Texas while you are reading this. I tried with all my might to hold out until the kids could come home for Christmas but my heart won out – I just had to see my three little ones. I hope to see everybody in Marshall the end of October.

**District project is Healing Nest**

We are so excited to get the year started. Our project will be to recognize what our veterans have done for us and honor them. We of the 10th District will be asking everyone to help us provide a place for our veterans that need a fresh start. Our project is the Healing Nest. The Healing Nest is an organization that already has a facility in Sauk Centre, MN and now has a multiple building facility in Anoka to be used for veterans men, women and families. We of the 10th feel and hope this will be a good project to help with the homeless veterans and help reduce the suicide rate.

‘Saluting our veteran’s sacrifices and delivering the honor they earned.’

Sandy Locker, 10th District President

**Junior Activities gets youth involved**

The Junior Activities program inspires active participation in members age 17 and under so that they will become engaging, productive members who will want to continue their American Legion Auxiliary membership into adulthood.

What can you do to build your Junior Auxiliary program and increase memberships? The answer is one member at a time. How to do this, is to sign up your daughter, granddaughters and great granddaughters. Continually ask members to sign up their eligible daughter, granddaughters and great granddaughters. Become familiar with the American Legion Family eligibility requirements. Invite your Juniors to your meetings, let them help. Ask them to lead the pledge, preamble or give prayer. Be flexible but keep an orderly meeting, try not to dwell a lot on them to lead the pledge, preamble or give prayer. Be flexible but keep an orderly meeting, try not to dwell a lot on protocol (there’s always time for that).

Help your Juniors earn patches in the patch program, you may also learn something new.

Watch the unit mailings throughout the year for more information on trophies and awards. There will be guidelines on each trophy, award and Poppy contests for the year.

Department Junior conference will be April 13-14 place. It is to be determined.

Harley Donnelly is your 2018-2019 Honoray Department Junior President. Her theme is “Jrs working their MAGIC for Veterans”. Her symbol is the Unicorn.

Harley’s project is to raise money for the VA homes and hospitals activity fund. This fund is used for the residents that can go off campus so they can go to the fair, popcorn, ice cream treats, movies, bingo and so much more. This fund can also be used for the residents that are not able to go off campus as well by bringing entertainment to them.

Let’s all work some magic and collect change for the Dept. Honoray Jr. President’s project to help put a little MAGIC in the lives of our Veterans.

Kristen Donnelly
Junior Activities Chairman 2018-2019
Donnelly.kristen83@gmail.com

You can find more resources at www.ALAforveterans.org

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