No contested elections at Department Convention

For the first time in many years, there are no contested elections foreseen at the Minnesota Department Convention, slated for Rochester on July 19-21. Darrel Redepenning, Anoka, is the sole candidate for Department Commander. Redepenning will succeed Commander Mike Schaffer at the convention.

Other state officers are also running unopposed:
Wayne Hammon Jr., Le Roy; Richard Wog, Willmar; Dick Ward, Minneapolis; Tom Fernlund, St. Cloud, and Jennifer Havlick, Two Harbors are candidates for Department vice commanders.
Bonnie Hanson, Rockford, is running for Department Chaplain and Ryan Hill of Brewster is running for Department Sergeant at Arms.

Darrel Redepenning, Anoka, is the sole candidate for Department Commander.
Redepenning will succeed Commander Mike Schaffer at the convention.

WALL THAT HEALS -- A veteran finds a name on the Vietnam Wall that Heals at the Minnesota Capitol. Twin Cities Public Television brought in the scale-model wall as part of a weekend honoring Vietnam-era veterans.

Legionville closed for the season; bog war goes on

Major progress was made in removing sections of the giant floating bog that settled in last fall at the Legionville Camp north of Brainerd.

But the gains, mainly removing a large section right in front of the beach, didn’t come fast enough to prevent the closure of the camp for the year.
Legionville Board President Wayne Gilbertson said, “not enough progress has been made to ensure the safety of our campers.”

Early efforts to move the whole bog at once, or large portions of it, failed. The new tactic is more of a “slice and dice” campaign, with smalls sections of the bog being cut off by a chain saw and then pushed and pulled about a quarter mile away by recreational boats -- to the area where the bog began its journey last year.

Even with the beach open in front, it was felt that extending as far as you can see will be a great patriotic gift from us to The American Legion during this centennial year.”

Bringing the flags to the 2018 National Convention parade

The 100th American Legion National Convention is less than two months away, and planning is in its final stages.

Minnesota, as it has done for decades, will have massed colors in the annual parade on Sunday, Aug. 26.

State leaders are hoping that posts will bring their colors to march in the annual parade.

When Minnesota hosted the National Convention in 1994, the Minnesota delegation carried over 1,000 flags through downtown Minneapolis.

“We’re hoping the posts will again participate in large numbers,” Commander Mike Schaffer said. “The sight of colors
Legionville closed for 2018

A view from the camp’s flagpole shows the progress made on the bog in front of the swimming beach.

Continued from Page 1

the huge bog sections to the right and left constituted a safety hazard for the campers.

The new dining hall at the camp also was not quite finished in time for the camp’s opening.

The bog proved to be a tough customer during the initial efforts by volunteers to help it back to its wilderness home.

A winter at the Legionville beach and lower lake levels helped the bog attach itself to the lake bottom in places.

The new strategy has been effective, although it means slow, hard work.

As this edition of the Minnesota Legionnaire went to press, the entire right side of the bog had been cut into smaller pieces and was ready to be moved away from the beach area.

Legionville is a full-service camp that features intensive training of school safety patrol methods. The Legion and the State Patrol work together on that training, as well as bus safety training. The Minnesota AAA is also a partner.

The camp was first held in 1936 at a former CCC camp near Bemidji.

The name “Legionville” was voted on by those attending that first camp.

Legionville was not held during World War II, but it has been held each year since then until now.

A major part of the camp is the swimming and other water sports including kayaking and canoeing.

The camp received a major grant from the Minnesota Legislature this past year to improve the kitchen facilities.

The entire kitchen and dining room were gutted, and work continues on restoring the building to use.

Legionville is the only such program in The American Legion. It is expected to resume full operation in the summer of 2019.

Flag retirement ceremony at Big Marine

Patti Leko, on horseback, carries a symbolic flag in a procession at the Veterans Rest Camp on Big Marine Lake. Each year, the flag retirement ceremony held at the camp is one of the largest in the nation. It is sponsored by the Fourth District.

Below, 9,000 worn-out flags are respectfully destroyed during the ceremony.

Photos by Lou Michaels.

100 HOLES – Department Service Officer Jeremy Wolfsteller stops for a short break on hole 67 during the 100 Holes for Hope, a golf event sponsored by PGA Minnesota and Treasure Island Casino. Wolfsteller is a combat-disabled veteran for whom golf has been part of the healing process. The professionals and amateurs completed 100 holes on the longest day of the year. From left are Ian Lenard, Fox 9, and disabled veterans Wolfsteller and Martin Caraway.

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

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

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

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

Advanced Technology Allows Many Macular Degeneration Patients To See Again
And Allows Low Vision Patients To Drive Again

For many patients with Macular Degeneration, the world has literally disappeared before their eyes. They have lost the ability to see and do many of the things they love, like being able to recognize the faces and facial expressions of friends and relatives, watch TV, cook, sightsee and read.

Unfortunately, there is no cure for Macular Degeneration. However, if you suffer with the disease, there is hope. Thanks to low vision technology, Dr. Chris Palmer is helping patients reconnect to the things in life they love to see and do.

“The first step toward determining if a person would benefit from low vision rehabilitation is to speak to them personally. This is done with a 10 minute free phone consultation. If we determine the person may benefit from care, a low vision evaluation will be scheduled”.

In Minnesota, low vision drivers can use Bioptic Telescope Glasses to better see street signs and traffic lights. This allows many people with macular degeneration or diabetic retinopathy to continue safely driving and keeping their independence.

Call today for a free phone consultation and see if you could benefit from low vision technology.

888-882-2040
Dr. Chris Palmer
Medical Optometrist

www.LowvVisionOfMN.com
My year as the Commander of the Department of Minnesota American Legion is nearly at an end. It has been an amazing and challenging year. I want to thank you all for making it a great year. With the aid of my GPS, I saw the four corners of the state. With the aid of my GPS, I saw the four corners of the state. With the aid of my GPS, I saw the four corners of the state. With the aid of my GPS, I saw the four corners of the state.

I have served Minnesota and the Legion in various capacities since 1991. I have been a member of the Legion for more than 25 years. I have been a member of the Legion for more than 25 years. I have been a member of the Legion for more than 25 years. I have been a member of the Legion for more than 25 years.

The Legion is a non-profit organization that serves the needs of veterans and their families. The Legion is a non-profit organization that serves the needs of veterans and their families. The Legion is a non-profit organization that serves the needs of veterans and their families. The Legion is a non-profit organization that serves the needs of veterans and their families.

Thank you for your support and for helping me to serve the needs of veterans and their families. Thank you for your support and for helping me to serve the needs of veterans and their families. Thank you for your support and for helping me to serve the needs of veterans and their families. Thank you for your support and for helping me to serve the needs of veterans and their families.
Family Day at Twins

The 15th annual Minnesota American Legion Family Day at the Twins will be Friday, July 13, at Target Field at 7:10 p.m.

The game will be against the Tampa Bay Rays.

Tickets are available at a discount of $21 each in the Diamond View section. There will be scorecard recognition at every post attending the game.

The Legion will also have representatives doing the American Flag raising and the Twins Territory Flag Raising.

Commander Mike Schaffer will throw out the first pitch. To order tickets, go to 1-800-33-TWINS and hit “GO” to get your tickets at an early rate. At the start of the call, reference the special American Legion promotion.

A $5 service fee is added for each order. Tickets will be mailed.

For more information, contact Brain Bessler at 612-659-4083.

Rosetown Centennial

Rosetown Post 542 will be celebrating its centennial with an event on Saturday, Aug. 25, (during the weekend of the National Convention) at the post. There will be free bar-b-q, pot luck and other events with sides and a live band on the deck. All veterans and active military are invited.

There will be a commemorative Koozi for $1, and 100 of those will have a drink chip inside.

Drop-in Clinic

The Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans will have a free drop in legal clinic at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center on Tuesday, July 10, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will be in the Flag Atrium Balcony. Topics will include housing, unemployment, benefits, expungement, wills, debt and national flags. Legion Riders are invited.

For more information, call 615-200-4750.

Coffee Talk

The St. Cloud VA Health Care System will offer a coffee talk on July 14 from 9-11 a.m. at the Max Beilke Clinic in Alexandria. The talk will cover benefits to veterans and families, information on how to use the VA system, and information on how to enroll in the VA system.

For more information, call 320-255-6340.

Golf Tournament

The Minnesota, Assistance Council for Veterans will be sponsoring a Golf Tournament on Tuesday, Aug. 30, at the Deer Run Golf Club in Victoria. There will be a shot-gun start at 1 p.m.

The goal is to raise $15,000 to support homeless veterans in Carver County. There are various levels of support including an individual golfer at $125 each. The program will feature free golf range, a social hour, steak and chicken dinner and an awards presentation and live auction.

For more information call 612-310-8356 and ask for Mark.

Dundee Centennial

The Dundee Post 386 will be celebrating its 100-year-anniversary on Saturday, July 28. There will be a parade line-up at noon and posts are encouraged to bring their post ambulance. Legion Riders are invited.

There will be games, food stands, a pork chop supper, a program and a dance.

There will be a trailer for veterans to ride in if they can’t march in the parade.

Mental Health Summit

The 2018 St. Cloud VA Veterans Mental Health Summit will be held on July 10 from 8 a.m. until noon. The VA invites veterans, families, and professional health providers.

For more information, contact Julie Wolf at 320-252-1670, extension 7511.

Taps

Price, Robert, 89, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 6, 2018. He was a member of Mora Post 201.

Ness, John, 90, Army veteran of World War II, died June 8, 2018. He served in Japan on occupation duty with the 25th Division, Headquarters Company. He was a member of Dassel Post 427.

Weiers, Flavian II, 91, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 20, 2018. He was a member of New Prague Post 204.

Buech, Oliver P., 86, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 25, 2018. He was a member of New Prague Post 345.

Jacobsen, Earl D. “Jake,” 93, Army veteran of World War II, died June 4, 2018. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 54.

Doe, Donald R., 85, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died May 22, 2018. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Jenson, Clair F. “Terry,” 81, Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 31, 2018. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Claussen, Forrest D. “Foffie,” 97, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 31, 2018. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Deraney, George, 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 8, 2018. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

Westergaard, Robert K., 88, Army National Guard veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 9, 2018. He was a member of Milaca Post 178.

Dolphin, Donald R., 90, Army veteran of World War II, died June 3, 2018. He served in Germany in the U.S. Army Band. He was a member of Austin Post 91.

Westervelt, Richard, 84, Army veteran of World War II, died May 31, 2018. He served in the Asian-Pacific Theater in the Philippines and Guam. He was a past member of Hans Post 135, and a member of Hutchinson Post 96.

Werner, Wilbert II, 89, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 27, 2018. He served stateside. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 54.

Johnson, Wesley R., 85, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 6, 2018. He was a member of Milaca Post 178.

Sharratt, Thomas, 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 13, 2018. He served as a forward observer of artillery. He was a member of Marshall Post 113.

Sletten, Norris, 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 24, 2018. He served in the artillery and attained the rank of first lieutenant. He was a member of Marshall Post 113.

Jacobson, Donald R., 98, Army veteran of World War II, died June 1, 2018. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Marquardt, Rolland R., 97, Navy veteran of World War II, died June 9, 2018. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 4.

Barclay, Robert L., 91, Army veteran of World War II, died June 13, 2018. He was a member of Austin Post 91.

Dunlap, Doug, 90, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 15, 2018. He was a member of Arlington Post 256.

Forsberg, Carl, 91, Navy veteran of World War II, died June 13, 2018. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Mattson, James L., 86, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died May 6, 2018. He was a member of Dassel Post 364.

Sundsvold, Lon D. “Suds,” 65, Army and Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 24, 2018. He served for 14 years. He was a member of Kewatin Post 17.

Uecht, Roman J., 92, Army veteran of World War II, died June 6, 2018. He was a member of Edin Valley Post 381.

Jarcho, Craig S., 66, Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 29, 2018. He was a member of Hanley Falls Post 382.

Albertsen, Arvid Jerome, 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 12, 2018. He was a light vehicle driver. He was a member of Alexandria Post 87.

Schwerin, Harlan, 90, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 21, 2018. He was a member of Wood Lake Post 55.

Streeman, Harold Edmund, 83, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died May 19, 2018. He was a staff sergeant. He was a member of Brownston Post 143.


Peters, Wayne L., Jr., 74, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 19, 2018. He served in Europe and was a staff sergeant. He was a member of New Ulm Post 132.

Lien, Gary Arnold, 75, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 25, 2018. He was a member of Red Wing Post 54.

Matheson, Harry S., 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 15, 2018. He served in Germany. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Watts, Elwood D., 93, Army veteran of the Korean War, died June 7, 2018. He was a master sergeant. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 212.

Parsons, Kenneth W., 75, Army National Guard veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 13, 2018. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 212.


Westergaard, Robert K., 75, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died June 14, 2018. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Obituary Policy

Obituaries of members of the Legion will be published in the Minnesota Legionnaire in a monthly column under the heading “Taps.”

Obituaries must be recent, within the last two months prior to the publication of the new edition of the Legionnaire. For example, the February edition would only contain obituaries from January and December.

While the obituaries are brief, the Legionnaire does seek certain information for our readers:

1. Complete name of deceased.
2. Age at death.
3. Branch of service and war or wars the veteran served in.
4. Exact date of death.
5. Additional information about the veteran’s service background including unit, type of service, place of service, medals, etc.
6. The post, unit or squadron the deceased belonged to.
7. Additional information about Legion service including officer posts held.

The Legionnaire reserves the right to edit all obituaries for style and brevity.
THURSDAY MORNING, JULY 19, 2018
7:00 a.m. CALL OF ALL DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES BY DISTRICTS
8:30 a.m. ACADEMY OF the AMERICAN LEGION CONVENTION SESSIONS – Mayo Civic Center, Presentation Hall, Rochester
9:00 a.m. GREETINGS: Larry Ryan, Department Membership Director, Oakdale
9:15 a.m. REPORT: Larry Ryan, Department Membership Director, Oakdale
9:20 a.m. REPORT: Randall White, National Membership Director, New York
9:25 a.m. REPORT: Mike Schaffer, Department Commander, Duluth
9:30 a.m. REPORT: Mike Schaffer, Department Commander, Duluth
9:35 a.m. REPORT: Bill Barbknecht, Legionnaire of the Year, Duluth
9:40 a.m. REPORT: Mike Perry, American Legion Auxiliary, St. Paul
9:45 a.m. REPORT: Mike Perry, American Legion Auxiliary, St. Paul
9:50 a.m. REPORT: Mike Perry, American Legion Auxiliary, St. Paul
9:55 a.m. REPORT: Bill Barbknecht, Legionnaire of the Year, Duluth
10:00 a.m. REPORT: Mike Perry, American Legion Auxiliary, St. Paul
10:05 a.m. REPORT: Mike Perry, American Legion Auxiliary, St. Paul
10:10 a.m. REPORT: Mike Perry, American Legion Auxiliary, St. Paul
10:15 a.m. REPORT: Mike Perry, American Legion Auxiliary, St. Paul
10:20 a.m. REPORT: Robin Picray, Finance Committee Chairman, St. Paul
10:25 a.m. REPORT: Robin Picray, Finance Committee Chairman, St. Paul
10:30 a.m. REPORT: Robin Picray, Finance Committee Chairman, St. Paul
10:35 a.m. REPORT: Robin Picray, Finance Committee Chairman, St. Paul
10:40 a.m. REPORT: Robin Picray, Finance Committee Chairman, St. Paul
10:45 a.m. REPORT: Robin Picray, Finance Committee Chairman, St. Paul
10:50 a.m. PRESENTATIONS BY: Carl Moon, Employment Committee Chairman, St. Joseph
11:00 a.m. ANNOUNCEMENT OF DEPART-MENT CONVENTION COMMITTEES AND INSTRUCTIONS
11:05 a.m. RECESS
11:10 a.m. JOURNAl MEMORIAL SERVICE – Mayo Civic Center, Presentation Hall
11:15 a.m. JOURNAl MEMORIAL SERVICE – Mayo Civic Center, Presentation Hall
THURSDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 19, 2018
1:00 p.m. MEETINGS OF ALL CONVENTION COMMITTEES.
1:30 p.m. CONVENTION COMMITTEE REPORTS
2:00 p.m. GAMBLING SING-SIMAR, Mayo Civic Center, Presentation Hall
2:30 p.m. FINAL MEMBERSHIP AWARDS: Larry Ryan, Department Membership Director, Oakdale
3:00 p.m. NOMINATIONS FOR DEPARTMENT OFFICE
4:30 p.m. BENEDICTION
RECESS
VOTING AT MAYO CIVIC CENTER FOR ONE HALF HOUR (30 MINUTES) FROM TIME OF RECESS
FRIDAY EVENING, JULY 20, 2018
7:00 p.m. CONVENTION PARADE – 6:00 p.m. Parade Line-up
AFTER PARADE BBQ – Immediately following parade, food & cash bar, fireworks
SATURDAY MORNING, JULY 21, 2018
8:00 a.m. POLLS OPEN for voting at Mayo Civic Center
9:00 a.m. POLLS CLOSE
9:30 a.m. CONCERT: Ninth District Band
9:45 a.m. CALL TO ORDER: Mike Schaffer, Department Commander, Duluth
9:50 a.m. CALL TO ORDER: Mike Schaffer, Department Commander, Duluth
10:00 a.m. CALL TO ORDER: Mike Schaffer, Department Commander, Duluth
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10:45 a.m. CALL TO ORDER: Mike Schaffer, Department Commander, Duluth
10:50 a.m. CALL TO ORDER: Mike Schaffer, Department Commander, Duluth
11:00 a.m. ANNOUNCEMENT OF ELECTION RESULTS AND INTRODUCTION OF NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS
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11:45 a.m. ANNOUNCEMENT OF ELECTION RESULTS AND INTRODUCTION OF NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS
12:00 noon RECESS
FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 20, 2018
1:30 p.m. CONVENTION COMMITTEE REPORTS
1:45 p.m. GREETINGS: Donna Arends, Department President, American Legion Auxiliary, Willmar
2:00 p.m. CONVENTION COMMITTEE REPORTS
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11:45 p.m. CONVENTION COMMITTEE REPORTS
12:00 a.m. CONVENTION COMMITTEE REPORTS
THURSDAY, JULY 19 – HERITAGE HALL
7:30 a.m.  Briefing and Rehearsal for the Processional – Heritage Hall
8:00 a.m.  District Caucuses (10) meet
8:00 a.m.  Convention Credentials Committee Meeting – Civic Center Green Room
8:00 a.m.  Convention Rules Committee Meeting – Lord Essex
9:00 a.m.  Auxiliary Session convenes – Sandy Deutsch
9:05 a.m.  Processional – All Colors (see procession line-up)
9:10 a.m.  Call to Order – Donna Arends, Department President
9:15 a.m.  Invocation – Carol Holmgren, Department Vice President
9:20 a.m.  Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag – Joanie Krantz, Americanism Chairman
10:05 a.m. Convention Committee Report – Finance, Shirley Oberle, Rochester Auxiliary Unit 92 President
10:10 a.m. Presentation of the Department President's Pin to Newly Elected Department Presidents – Karen Thygeson
10:20 a.m. Report for the Past Department Presidents – Carol Holmgren, Past Department President
10:25 a.m. Memorial Service for Past Department Presidents – Linda Kropuenske, Chairman
10:40 a.m. Department Accountant and Bookkeeper – Evelyn Lyke, Auxiliary General Chairman
10:45 a.m. Convention Committee Report – Community Service, Joanne Joachim, Chairman
10:50 a.m. Convention Committee Report – Legislation, Jean Walker, Chairman
10:55 a.m. Convention Committee Report – Financial, Beverly Otteman, Chairman
11:00 a.m. Convention Committee Report – Membership, Mike Schaffer and Adjutant Doug Bible
11:05 a.m. Convention Committee Report – Auxiliary Bowling Trophy – Sue Nunlee
11:10 a.m. Convention Committee Report – The American Legion Family – Carol Holmgren
11:15 a.m. Convention Committee Report – Recess
11:20 a.m. Convention Committee Report – Department Second Vice President, Sharon Thiemecke, Chairman
11:25 a.m. Convention Committee Report – Department President
11:30 a.m. Convention Committee Report – Past Department Presidents, Secretary Sandy Deutsch
11:35 a.m. Convention Committee Report – Recess
11:40 a.m. Convention Committee Report – Department Secretary
11:45 a.m. Convention Committee Report – Department President
11:50 a.m. Convention Committee Report – Recess
12:00 p.m. Convention Committee Report – Department Secretary
12:05 p.m. Convention Committee Report – Department President
12:10 p.m. Convention Committee Report – Birthday – Donna Arends – Elizabethan Home
12:15 p.m. Convention Committee Report – Department President
12:20 p.m. Convention Committee Report – Department President
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3:35 p.m. Convention Committee Report – Department President
3:40 p.m. Convention Committee Report – Department President
4:00 p.m. Convention Committee Report – Department President
FRIDAY, JULY 20 – HERITAGE HALL
7:00 p.m. Parade Time, line up at 6 p.m.
SATURDAY, JULY 21 – HERITAGE HALL
9:00 a.m. Department President’s Pin – Department President
9:05 a.m. Call to Order – Donna Arends, Department President
9:10 a.m. Invocation – Carol Holmgren, Department Chaplain
9:15 a.m. Convention Committee Report – Executive Committee – Karen Thygeson, Chairman
9:20 a.m. Presentation of The American Legion, Commander Mike Schaffer and Adjutant Randy Tesdahl
9:25 a.m. Presentation of Sons of The American Legion, Commander Mike Schaffer and Adjutant Randy Tesdahl
9:30 a.m. Presentation of The American Legion Detachment Commander, Shawn Davis and Adjutant Doug Bible
9:35 a.m. Presentation of Sons of The American Legion Detachment Commander, Shawn Davis and Adjutant Doug Bible
9:40 a.m. Presentation of The American Legion Auxiliary, Karen Thygeson, Chairman
9:45 a.m. Presentation of Sons of The American Legion Auxiliary, Karen Thygeson, Chairman
9:50 a.m. Convention Committee Report – Convention Rules, Marsha Bible, Chairman
9:55 a.m. Convention Committee Report – Finance, Shirley Oberle, Rochester Auxiliary Unit 92 President
10:00 a.m. Convention Committee Report – History, Karla Otterness, Chairman
10:05 a.m. Convention Committee Report – Past Presidents Parley, Linda Kropuenske, Chairman
10:10 a.m. Presentation of the Past Department Presidents – Karen Thygeson
10:20 a.m. Presentation for the Past Department Presidents – Carol Holmgren, Past Department President
10:25 a.m. Memorial Service for Past Department Presidents – Linda Kropuenske, Chairman
10:40 a.m. Announcement of Americanism Essay Winners – Evelyn Lyke, Auxiliary General Chairman
10:45 a.m. Community Service – Joanne Joachim, Chairman
10:50 a.m. Education – Mary French, Chairman
10:55 a.m. Memorial – Carol Holmgren, Chairman
11:00 a.m. Convention Committee Report – Leadership, Sandy Wensel
11:05 a.m. Convention Committee Report – Membership, Mike Schaffer and Adjutant Doug Bible
11:10 a.m. Convention Committee Report – Auxiliary Bowling Trophy – Sue Nunlee
11:15 a.m. Convention Committee Report – The American Legion Family – Carol Holmgren
11:20 a.m. Convention Committee Report – Recess
11:25 a.m. Convention Committee Report – Department Secretary
11:30 a.m. Convention Committee Report – Sandy Deutsch
11:35 a.m. Convention Committee Report – Recess
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7:00 p.m. Convention Committee Report – Department President
Resolutions to the Convention 2018

Resolution 1
The following Resolution originated from the Rehabilitation Committee and is submitted for consideration by the 2018 Department Convention, to be held in Rochester, Minnesota, July 19-21, 2018.

Tricare Accepted as Affordabe Care Act Coverage
WHEREAS, The Affordable Care Act requires you to maintain basic health care coverage, called minimum essential coverage; and,
WHEREAS, TRICARE health plans including TRICARE Reserve Select meet the minimum essential coverage; and,
WHEREAS, The American Legion includes a provision “To maintain law and order”; and,
WHEREAS, Immigration to the United States can be generally categorized as either legal or illegal; and,
WHEREAS, Those non-citizens holding a valid passport, NEXUS card or visa have been granted authorization to be within the United States legally; and,
WHEREAS, If someone comes into the U.S. without a passport, NEXUS card or visa or continues to remain in the United States by overstaying after their visa has expired, that person is breaking the law; and,
WHEREAS, It is paramount that The American Legion maintains its responsibility to its members to uphold the Constitution of the organization and safeguard The American Legion brand; and,
WHEREAS, A similar resolution pertaining to National-level participation has been passed by the National Executive Committee, now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED, That beginning in 2019, The American Legion of Minnesota will require that all youth participating in State-level youth programs of the organization be a legal United States citizen, or possess legal residency or visitor status to be in the United States; and,
RESOLVED, That the American Legion will require proof of legal citizenship, residency or visitor status from all potential youth participants prior to their acceptance for participation in a national-level youth program of the organization; and,
RESOLVED, That the following may be accepted as proof of legal status:
- Records of birth that are original or a document certified by a State Bureau of Vital Statistics, Department of Health or other governmental agency that’s authorized to certify birth documents (notarized photocopies of birth certificates, hospital records, baptismal records, school records or certificates will not be accepted)
- A court-certified copy of legal adoption papers showing date and place of birth
- A state-issued driver’s license or state-issued identification (ID) card that is in compliance with the federal REAL ID Act of 2005, Pub. L. 109-13, 119 Stat. 302
- A government-issued passport with proper endorsement for visiting the United States
- A U.S. government-issued military ID card or dependent ID card
- In the case of a foreign birth, a potential participant may present any certificate or document duly issued to the bearer by the U.S. Department of State or the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, such as a NEXUS card
- Other documents as may be reviewed and approved by the National Legionnaire; and, be it further RESOLVED, That potential participants will be denied participation in State-level youth programs of the organization if they do not comply with providing proof of legal citizenship, residency or visitor status in the United States, or who are not a legal citizen, resident, or visitor in the United States; and,
RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to The American Legion State Convention July 19-21 in Rochester, Minnesota for concurring action.

OFFICIAL BALLOT
The American Legion, Dept of Minnesota
Election of Officers 2018-2019
To Vote, Make an X in the box next to your choice
Like This:

Department Commander (vote for one)
Darrel Redepingen

Department Vice Commander (vote for one)
Wayne Butterfield
Richard Brouler
Dick Ward
Tom Fernlund
Jennifer Havlick

Historian (vote for one)
Bonnie Hanson

Sergeant-at-Arms (vote for one)
Ryan Hill

Board of Publication (vote for one)
Don Amundson

National Convention
Continued from Page 1
two-year celebration of the first century of The American Legion.
Minnesota will have other surprises for the 10,000 delegates and others expected at the convention. Each visitor will get a metal replica badge of the first convention held in Minneapolis in 1919. Each will also get a booklet with Minnesota advertising and history of the first convention. A display in the convention corridors will feature George Washington Bentley, the last surviving founder of the Legion. His World War II uniform and other artifacts will be in a display case. The convention will be presided over by National Commander Denise Rohan of Wisconsin.
## Auxiliary Team

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## Auxiliary Singles

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## Auxiliary Doubles

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## Legion Team

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## Legion All Events

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<th>Placing</th>
<th>Post Name</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Payout</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>101 Center</td>
<td>Brian Gordon</td>
<td>$3,430.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>209 Winnebago</td>
<td>Ken Thiele</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>101 St Cloud</td>
<td>Matt Banka</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>490 Underwood</td>
<td>Nick Defehr</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>432 Twin Valley</td>
<td>Gene Henningson</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>256 Windom</td>
<td>Matt Gangstee</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>116 Litchfield</td>
<td>Doug Walz</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>138 Kassan</td>
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Legion Doubles

Placing Post Name Score Payout
1 138 Litchfield Brad Osgood 1409 $160.00
2 220 East Grand Forks Mike Monson 1309 $160.00
3 150 Perham Dan Johnson 1280 $160.00
4 135 Perham Dan Johnson 1280 $160.00
5 129 Perham Dan Johnson 1280 $160.00
6 106 Perham Dan Johnson 1280 $160.00
7 109 Perham Dan Johnson 1280 $160.00
8 129 Perham Dan Johnson 1280 $160.00
9 135 Perham Dan Johnson 1280 $160.00
10 138 Litchfield Brad Osgood 1409 $160.00

Motors Fall Quiet at the Minnesota Classic Car and Bike Show

After Four Years the Detachment Car Show Committee has decided to disband. While the Minnesota Veterans Classic Car and Bike show has grown each year in attendance as well as donate-able funds...the ability to muster workers each year has become a difficult obstacle to overcome. The concept of a statewide Car show event was sound and the upside was tremendous...it was soon dis- covered that the establishment of new locations makes and demand for the Detachment Car Show event, by default, a local one. That means the promotion, attendance and workers all come from the local area. The Committee decided this fall and grew greatly and moved locally to Veteran’s Causes each year. The Detachment had faith enough in the idea to support the formation of a statewide event. It was a success by all measures. Special thanks to David and Sue Long, Barb Vigil, Dean Mathis, Missy Haubrich, Lloyd and Lori Shaffer, Beb and Kat Benjamin, Casey Lenort, John and Carrie Pliffee, and especially to Dave and Sons and their family.

Membership—What the Pillars Stand On

The beginning of all of our programs of service and honor begin with dedicated and motivated members. We often get caught in the numbers, and they do tell a story, but not all of it. Making sure that your membership program pro-

épion focuses on Recruitment—ensures new ideas and per-

sonalities. And Retention keeps the ranks filled with enough members. It’s amazing how many hands make light work a reality. Contact any of your District and Detachment Leaders for help and ideas. It goes beyond the creation. We are calling the team members, and service and camaraderie that keeps SAL Members engaged. Check out www.mnsl.org for ideas and contacts. Spread the word on the membership program. The Pride of America, throw her heritage...”

Your Story is what keeps the 4 Pillars of The American Legion Standing.

PULF—The Best Kept Secret

The Paid Up For Life or PULF program is established as a self-sustaining membership program for those desirous to join a lifetime membership. It is designed to pro-

vide a more convenient option for those who move fre-

quently or maintain both summer and winter mailing addresses. This program is also for those members who feel it is an honor or distinction to say they are a PULF Member in the State. It is a great way to recognize the SAL Member who has dedicated years to the Squadron or District. It could be the ideal gift for parents or grandpar-

tents to give to their Son. When you become a PULF Mem-

ber, you receive a pin signifying your status. Changes will be made to our PULF program due to Dues Increases and other factors. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Tim Weaver at timweaver595@gmail.com.

Children and Youth

Children & Youth is guided by three main objectives:

To strengthen the family unit, to support quality organiza-

tions that provide services for children and youth, and to pro-

vide communities with programs that meet the physical, emotional, educational and spiritual needs of young people.

The Family Legacy strongly supports traditional family values, assistance for at-risk children, and activities that promote their healthy and wholesome development. The Legion further recognizes that the natural family is the fun-

damental unit, inscribed in human nature and centered on the voluntary union of a man and woman in a lifelong covenant of marriage.

They also address Media Violence. The American Legion supports appropriate state and federal legislation to restrict the excessive use of violence, vulgarity and immoral expressions in movies, television programs, news, video games and the Internet.

While these are just a few of the focus areas of Children and Youth, it is part of who we are as an American Legion Family.

Take Credit for all you do.

Check out our Detachment website at www.mnsl.org. Here you will find everything you need to know, as well as links to our newsletter and record all of your efforts. One of the forms is the Consolidated Squadron Report form. This spreadsheet pro-

duces data you can fill in for donations, hours worked, causes supported in your community and for the Veterans in your area that you may have helped this past year. These forms also can give you ideas of areas you may not have supported but could in the future. Even if you don’t have an active program, please send in an electronic version of this form or a paper copy. Send your Adjutant at sal-adjdmn@gmail or to the Department of Minnesota Headquarters in St. Paul.

Web Master Wanted: Are you savvy working online? Can you work within the popular web templates? Our Detachment is looking for someone to invest a few hours each week updating provided content, forms and news on our website. Are you motivated by Veteran’s causes and can you work with volunteers? Compensation is negotiable. Please email your qualifications to joc@axtoninnovations.com.

Legion Bowl

The Minnesota State Legion Bowling Tournament was held at Oseutivo Grove Maple this year. The tournament was part of the competition with 2,892 score, far outstanding second place Stewartville who finished with 2,721.

Bowling for Brainerd were Ken Blaschke and Mike Houder of LCenter with a 2,339 total.

The singles winner for the Legion was Nick Dehler of Underwood with a total of 795. The Legion All-Events champ was Mike Houder of LeCenter with a 1,499.

On the Auxiliary side, Brainerd won the team title with a 2,264. Second was Osseo Post, Gary Harmon, Ronda Latham and Kim Wagner made up the team.

The singles winner was Karen Sorem of Rushford with a score of 671. The All-Events champ was Sheri Giesen of Belle Plaine with 1,967.

The doubles winners for the Auxiliary was Sherri Pierce and Pam Zschiesche of North Branch with 1,306. Next year’s tournament will be hosted by Osseo-Maping Grove Post again, and the bowling will be at the Sundance Lanes in Litchfield.

For more information, contact the Bowling Secretary Cari Lamb at crlbf74@gmail.com.

Brainerd, Lanesboro win 2018 Minnesota Legion bowling titles
MVH room dedicated to Skip Schmidt

Private First Class Wallace “Skip” Schmidt was a hero when he came home from Vietnam. He had joined the Marines as part of the Twins Platoon, a group of Marines that had been sworn in together at Metropolitan Stadium before a Twins game in 1967. Schmidt was in Vietnam as part of the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, known as the “Magnificent Bastards.”

In fighting at Lam Xuan in March, 1968, he rescued four of his wounded comrades and dragged them to safety. He later received the Silver Star for his actions.

As the battle progressed Schmidt was hit by mortar fire, and he ended up in a hospital ward on a ship. He was honorably discharged from the Marines for his wounds in October of 1968.

When he got home, as his story is told by Christy Sauro in her book on the Twins Platoon, he wore his uniform at first, proud of his service to his nation. After a few days, though, he was back in civvies, and he told his family that wherever he went in uniform people would stare at him, or openly ridicule him for his time in Vietnam.

As time went on, he avoided people his own age because of their views on the war. As more time went by, his mental health deteriorated as he dealt with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. He withdrew more and more, and had trouble keeping jobs.

He was angry and finally forced his girlfriend away. He told his sister, “All my friends died. Some died in my arms. They’re all dead. Everybody died,” he said. “I shouldn’t be here. I shouldn’t even be alive.”

Schmidt tried the VA, but the government didn’t recognize PTSD at that time, and eventually he just walked away from the treatment.

In November of 1972, four years after he came home to what he thought would be a hero’s welcome, he hanged himself in his one-room apartment. The family was devastated, even more so when the Catholic Church refused to say a funeral mass for Schmidt because suicide is a mortal sin.

It’s a sad story, one told about too many Vietnam veterans, but it had a redeeming quality in June as the community room at the brand new Building 22 at the Minnesota Veterans Home in Minneapolis was dedicated in Skip Schmidt’s honor.

A host of speakers at the event told Schmidt’s story. Sauro noted that his fellow Twins Platoon member was ranked in the top five of his infantry training. “He was a highly motivated young man.”

Schmidt’s sister Shannon Monahan told the large group gathered in the community room how when her brother was overseas, the family sent letters, “Care” packages, and how they lit candles on an almost daily basis at the church.

“He was always asking for socks, and we couldn’t figure out why. We found out that he was giving them to his fellow Marines.”

Monahan said her brother “was as much a combat casualty as those who died in the war.”

“He was deeply wounded in more ways than we’ll ever know.”

She said those who have PTSD should not keep their pain to themselves. “We encourage them to tell your story. We are listening.”

The dedication included words from Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs Commissioner Larry Shellito and Deputy Commissioner Douglas Hughes. The event was co-sponsored by the Vietnam Veterans of America.

A display greets visitors as they enter the community center in the building, showing off Schmidt’s Silver Star citation and other memorabilia.

He is finally the hero he thought he was when he came home.
Past National Commander of the Sons of the American Legion Joe Mayne told the citizens about the power of public speaking.

Boys State

Meals are always a highlight at St. John’s cafeteria.

Counselor Todd Hennen explained the concept of federalism.

When the Boys Staters gather as one large group, the session often begins with the Pledge of Allegiance.
Girls Staters at the Bethel University campus contributed to the Ralph Reeder Food Shelf in New Brighton.

Girls State

Dacia Hinkhouse, who works in the Minnesota House Chief Clerk’s Office, has been a longtime volunteer when the Girls Staters come over to hold a legislative session at the Capitol.

Courtney Rogat, who was the honorary Junior President this year, read the new bills to the elected Girls State House members during their session. Behind her is Girls State Speaker of the House Ingrid Wilder.

Everyone has a chance to speak in the democratic process.

Girls Staters came over to the Capitol on Friday of their week to hold sessions in the House and Senate Chambers. They had a chance to introduce bills, debate them, make amendments and vote them up or down.
Post 92 offers food, music at convention

Rochester Post 92, the host of this year’s Department Convention, has announced a schedule of activities at the post during the convention.

Posted July 18
• 5-6 PM - Entertainment
The Turkey River All-Stars
7-8 PM - Dinner
Veteran Burger Night
• 7-11 PM - Entertainment, Colt 45

Thursday, July 19
• 11:30 AM-1:30 PM - Lunch
• 2-5 PM - Entertainment
• 5-7 PM - Dinner, Mac & Rhino

Friday, July 20
• 11:30 AM-1:30 PM - Lunch, Brats & Beans
• 2-5 PM - Entertainment, The Gopher Tones
• 5-7 PM - Dinner, Burger or Chicken Sandwich, Pasta/Potato Salad, Chips
• 7-10:30 PM - Entertainment, Drifters Legends Show
The post will also be offering shuttles from the post, Mayo Civic Center and the hotels.
Legacy Run routes announced for this summer

More information is available at mnlegacyrun.org. Registration forms available at stops. Registration fee is $30 per person. (all stops tentative at this time)

Kick off party - Thursday, August 2nd, 2018

Forest Lake, MN American Legion Time to be determined.

First Weekend - August 3rd through August 5th
Stops subject to change without notice.

Friday, August 3rd
Forest Lake American Legion
Bayport American Legion
North St. Paul American Legion
Hastings Vets Home
Red Wing American Legion
Elyota American Legion
Kiester American Legion
Mankato American Legion
Overnight hotel - River Hills Motel (507) 388-8688

Saturday, August 4th
Mankato American Legion
Lake Crystal American Legion (Breakfast)
New Ulm (Oak Hills Living Center)
Nichollet American Legion
Eagle Lake American Legion (Lunch)
Elysan American Legion
Waseca American Legion
Montgomery American Legion
Faribault American Legion
Overnight hotel - Boarder Inn (507) 334-9464

Sunday, August 5th
Faribault American Legion
Wayzata American Legion (Breakfast)
Delano American Legion
Buffalo American Legion
Kunhardt American Legion
St. Cloud VA
Watseka American Legion

Second Weekend - August 10th through 12th
Stops subject to change without notice.

Thursday, August 9th
Marshall - Sleep Inn (507) 337-0103

Friday, August 10th
Marshall American Legion
Montevideo American Legion
Morris American Legion
Lowry American Legion (Lunch)
Elbow Lake American Legion
Fergus Falls American Legion
Detroit Lakes American Legion
Overnight hotel Mahnomen - Shooting Star Casino 1-800-453-7827

Saturday, August 11th
Shooting Star Casino
Bagley American Legion (Breakfast)
Walker American Legion
Remer American Legion
Bovey Memorial Ball Field
Atkin American Legion
Ironon-Crosby
Legionville School Patrol Camp
Brainerd American Legion
Overnight hotel Onamia - Eddy's Resort (320) 532-3657

Sunday, August 12th
Onamia American Legion
Camp Ripley - Gold Star Family Weekend
Little Falls American Legion
Monticello American Legion
Anoka American Legion (Final Stop)
(end of the 2018 MN ALR Legacy Run.)

Notes: Times and stops are subject to change. This ride is rain or shine. Extreme weather such as extreme heavy rain, hail, lightning, or dangerous winds would stop the run till it passes over.

American Legion Riders
By Chuck Stone
Department Director

Greetings American Legion Family,

Let the fun and excitement begin. As we gather in Rochester for the 100th Department of Minnesota Convention, be sure to bring a fellow Legion, SAL or Auxiliary member along who hasn’t been to a convention. Commander Mike has promised that this is going to be BIG. Do you have a Department of Minnesota Centennial coin? If not come to Rochester July 19-21 and get one. They are really awesome and sponsored by none other than the Detachment SAL. Celebrating 100 years of existence only happens once in a lifetime. The Riders will be leading the Department of Minnesota Parade on Friday evening. More information will be available at the convention. Hope to see you there.

Now that riding season is in full swing, the calendar is filling up faster then my pen can write with all the rides, benefits, parades and fund raisers. The Department of Minnesota Legacy ride is back to the first two weekends in August. Festivities start Thursday August 2nd at Forrest Lake post 225. I have been told the Forrest Lake Riders there have been working in close relationship with the rest of the Legion Family and have one big special evening planned. After many miles have been traveled and numerous Legion Posts visited we will end the ride at Anoka post 102. Please come and visit us as we come through or near your town. You can even join in and come celebrate with us.

I see some new faces taking over the controls in a couple of the districts. Congratulations the new officers stepping up. Your jobs are important otherwise you wouldn’t have been chosen to them. It is your job to lead the Riders through the next year and beyond. Those of you who have passed the gavel, your job is not over. You will be looked upon for guidance at times. It is your expertise that will help the new leaders grow.

Keep the chrome side up and the rubber side down.

Minnesota Veterans Home
1200 E. 18th Street
Hastings, MN 55033

Phone: 651-539-2486
Fax: 651-480-0058
Adjutant

Despite the fact that we are adjusting in size along with the overall lower numbers of veterans today. Our programs continue to touch the lives of veterans, their families and youth from all across the state.

We continue to explore new ways to get our face and name out there through promotional opportunities that incorporate our American Legion Logo. And relationships that bring the message of our organization to others in ways that we may not have explored in the past.

The organization is needing to make some serious changes in relation to processes and operations related to the size of the Department of Minnesota. No significant changes have been made other than lowering staff numbers from 12 to 7 staff since the days of 135,000 Minnesota Members. We still operate with just as many committees and committee members, just as many meetings and just as many services provided. We need to find ways to save funds and yet still maintain those programs that give to the 8 pillars that our organization standards for.

VAD&R committee managed by our Department Service Officer Jeremy Wolfsteller met with the senior leadership at each state and federal VA facility that serves Minnesota veterans as they do each year. They ask the difficult questions relating to care, facilities and budget. They are respected in the veteran’s community because they work closely with all key stakeholders at the Local, State and National levels. They provided training to the County Veterans Service Officers (VSOs) through the National offices and to State VSOs by taking them to Indianapolis and Washington DC to attend our in-house VSO training.

Youth remain one of our focuses and many from all across the state participated in our American Legion Oratorical Contest where they prepared and gave oratory presentations on the Constitution of the United States of America. Several won scholarships money for their efforts.

We sent several hundred boys from across the state to Boys State for one week where they learned firsthand from our state leaders how our government operates. They will form city, county and state offices and draft and make legislation that will run those entities.

The American Legion along with the Minnesota State Highway Patrol and AAA trained hundreds of boys and girls on road cross and school bus safety at our Legionville training center in the Brainerd Lakes area on North Long Lake.

The hog, oh boy, the hog has been a challenge but we are winning. There will be a swim area this summer. We will prevail on the cleaning of the center portion of the bog.

On a good note, The American Legion and especially The American Legion School Safety Patrol Camp at Legionville have been in the news nearly nonstop from mid-May to early June. And the relationships that have strengthened as a result of the community coming together on moving the hog are awesome. The North Long Lake Association, the Minnesota DNR, Highway 3 Marine, Evirnade Outdoor Engines, Peterson Towing of Brainerd. And many local contractors and heavy equipment operators have all freely donated their time and energy in this effort.

For that, The Minnesota American Legion is grateful. Americans remain a top priority as we provided honors to thousands of veterans as final respects were given at military funeral honors all across the state. In addition to funerals and last honors we continue to be the leaders in the community when it comes to parades, flag etiquette, and the get out the vote programs.

Supporting a strong National Defense is ever so evident in our presence on the state and National Capitol steps whether fighting for the continued support of Minnesota’s Active National Guard elements or in DC fighting for improvements for those currently serving like the new GI Bill.

My thanks to Minnesota’s 70,000+ members of this great organization for all you do in your communities. And my heartfelt thanks to the staff of our Department Headquarters, Jennifer, Al, Mary, Michelle, Jenny, Heath, Tracy and Shawn. Your efforts to keep things rolling are so greatly appreciated.

Randy Tedzahl
Department Adjutant

Commander

Last July at the Department Legion Convention I said that you had given me the honor by electing me Commander, and I also said there was a great responsibility and duty expected of me.

My year’s travels have taken me to the four corners of Minnesota, to places, events and towns I’d only heard of: I’ve met so many veterans, young and well-served alike, all with stories of pride in their posts and what their doing in the community. The VSOs are tasked to learn what attracted you and I when we first joined The American legion, community involvement and family events. Yes they have new and different ideas, but then didn’t we all?

Many are joining through the Legion Riders, Legion, Auxiliary and SAL alike, but won’t join otherwise. They’re slowly finding out what The American Legion, Auxiliary and SAL do, and more are becoming officers in the Legion Family.

My travels have taken me to events for disabled veterans at Camp Ripley, Veterans on the Lake at Ely for fishing, deer hunts at Legionville and Camp Mountain. Two changes of command, first at Camp Ripley, the other at Rosemount with the Red Ball Division, truly an honor to observe this, and it seems hundreds of places too numerous to list here.

My theme for the year was Learn, Mentor & Prepare, which in its simplest form means be willing to work with those (mentor) that have been elected to serve the office you’ve given up. I’d had many comments on my theme, please take it to hear and follow through on this. After all it’s your posts future we’re talking about here.

Absolutely need to thank Larry Ryan for serving with me as Membership Director of Minnesota. Well done, couldn’t have asked for any better effort, first to achieve 95% by target date, since I can’t remember when. My Department Vice Commanders have been Rosemary Niesen (1 & 3), Steve Klinker (2 & 7) Bishop Dan Williams (4 & 5), Eric Wilkens (6 & 9), Bill Stump (8 & 2). Couldn’t have hand picked a better, more dedicated, hard working fun group to work with. Why they were even planning on the places to Indianapolis for the Membership workshop. Thanks to my other Department Officers, Glenn Neubert-Historian, Ralph Schneekloth - Chaplain, Garylee Davenport - Sgt-at-Arms, Judge Advocates - Greg Colby, and Aide de Camp Richard Skillstedt. Well done one and all.

Thanks also to the District Commanders for the hard work carrying out your duties as Commander. Thanks to all the Legionnaires that gave of themselves talents to serve on the Department Command Committe this year. A personal thank you to you Randy, Laura, Jennifer, Michelle, Mike for keeping this Commander informed, on time and where he needed to be, when he needed to be there.

Last, but certainly not least thank you to my bride of 40 years Nina, for allowing me to give my time to a veterans organization I have truly enjoyed being a part of.

It has been my district honor and pleasure to have served as your Department Commander for the 2017-18 year. I trust I’ve lived up to your expectations and served Minnesota well.

Mike Schaffer
Department Commander

Vice Commander

1st and 3rd Districts

What an honor it has been to serve as the 1st and 3rd District Vice Commander for the Department of Minnesota, Thank You. I can’t begin to tell you how much I enjoyed working with Commanders Mike Schaffer and Membership Director Larry Ryan. This 2017-2018 year has gone by so fast that I barely got time to really appreciate my co-horts, Department Vice Commanders Bill “Stumpy” Stump (4-10th), Dan “Bishop” Williams (4-5 th), Eric Wilkens (6-9 th) and Steve “wonder” Klinker (2-7 th). My trip to Indianapolis with them all to meet with National Commander Denise Rohan and the other Department Vice Commanders from the various states was a rewarding fun trip. What an honor, I truly enjoyed going to The American Legion Posts on behalf of Commander Mike when he was in July, to attend to all the events. As a Department Vice Commander you are always meeting and making new friends as I did, what a great experience. The commander for the 1st District, Vice Commander Leo Shuinance and 3rd District Commander Eugene Leffeld was great. I also got to hear about all of the hard work the 1st District Gary Miller and 3rd District Jim Flemming Membership Directors where going through in getting and retaining the memberships in there respective Districts. To sum it all up it was a job well done by all and truly a Big Thank You All. Congratulations Commanding Mike, Membership Director Larry and to the 1st and 3rd Districts for a job well done.

For God and Country, bless you all.

Rosemary Niesen
Department Vice Commander

Vice Commander

2nd and 7th Districts

I was honored to serve the Department of Minnesota and Commander Mike Schaffer as one of the five Vice Commanders for the Department. In January, I attended the leadership training in Indianapolis where the Vice Commanders bonded with Commander Mike to plan for a successful Veteran program year. In September, the membership rally at Legionville was an outstanding gathering. What a beautiful camping facility for all Legionnaires to enjoy.

The 2nd District annually hosts a fishing outing for the Lewrene Veterans Home which was held at Becker’s Resort, Lake Benton. A beautiful perfect Fall day for the Veterans to enjoy riding the ponds in the lake and a trip out.

The Department Fall Conference in October was held in Willmar, host by Post 167. The presentation by the Quilts of Valor was so impressive recognizing Veterans from all walks of life.

The Lewrene Veterans Home hosted the November Peansuant Dance which the meal was delicious and plenty. The Veterans have so much to learn when you take the time to listen. I was invited to the Sleepy Eye Post 7 for their Veterans Eye Post Dinner, A great meal, very interesting Veteran speaker, and recognition of the Veteran’s attendance.

In January, the 2nd District Legion Mid-Winter Conference was held at Bricelyn Post 165. The National Commander, Denise Rohan, made a tour of Minnesota in February and I visited with her at the Fulda Post 318.
Vice Commander 4th and 5th Districts

I thank the Fourth and Fifth Districts for electing me and affording this Legion the high honor of serving as your Vice Commander for the 2017-2018 year. I have served you, the Department and our national organization with great pride and much satisfaction.

Over the past year, we have represented the Department and Commander in various events and meetings. In some cases, we had the privilege of being at the same event with our distinguished Department Commander and these was great during this year of service. We also worked with the Legislative Committee, on the Iowa front. In the 6th and 9th District area. It is inspiring to see that value that people see in Commander at several events and speak at a variety of events across the country. It is also inspiring to see the respect Commander Mike Schaffer at numerous events. In some cases, we had the privilege of being at the same event with our distinguished Department Commander and these was great during this year of service. We also worked with the Legislative Committee, on the Iowa front.

It was such a humbling experience to meet so many people from different walks of life. Their dedication to the American Legion was evident in everything they did. It was a pride to say that I was part of this organization as a Minnesota American Legion Department Vice Commander.

Vice Commander 6th and 9th Districts

2017 – 2018 was fantastic year across the 6th and 9th Districts. Membership is always a challenge but both districts did a fantastic job in recruiting new members, ensuring current members stay involved, and learning more about The American Legion from a Department level and from a District level. As 6th and 9th Districts Officer, I always made it a goal to share insights and ideas from districts across the state. Our Department has been well represented in membership efforts as we presented ideas and opportunities. In some cases, such as the Post that meets in the Minneapolis Veterans Homes, some members who are in the Post and some who are not, are both served by the Post. I met and talked with many leaders who put a lot of hard work and dedication into the American Legion Department of Minnesota in good hands and the mission will continue. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Historian

First and foremost, I want to thank everyone on Commander Schaffer’s team for the help in getting all the pictures and events captured. Also, thank you to all American Legion members who elected me and trusted me to serve as the Historian for the Department of Minnesota. I have had the opportunity to help capture and preserve the records of our Department and keep them for future generations.

As I began this report, I stop to think how fast this past year has passed. All of us need to make sure that we spend more time with our families, both from both of us. Thank you, Chris, for the many hours of organization, help with the convention and the like. Thank you to all the members of the Department and the staff who have been so helpful.

I remember all the trips and the many miles driven to attend these many meetings and conventions. This has been an extremely successful year in Indianapolis for the 100th birthday.

Lastly, as your Historian, I want to thank you for the love and time you have dedicated to Commander Mike and I am working on the books and would love to include everyone I can to write this year. I can tell you that I love The Fourth District and many of you I missed I wish I could have been there.

Respectfully submitted,
Ralph Schueller
Department Chaplain

Historian

As a Branch 32 member, I have been lucky to be a part of the American Legion for over 70 years. My first interruption by ongoing health problems. I would like to thank Al Zdon for allowing me to serve as your Treasurer and I look forward to serving you all for many more years to come.

Department Judge Advocate

The following is an overview of the Department’s investments between 2017-2018.

W. V. Stump Jr. Department Vice Commander

Treasurer

As Treasurer, I serve on the Department Finance Committee, Management Committee and the Audit Committee. It has been my pleasure to serve you again this past year as your Department Treasurer.

The Treasurer is charged with the responsibility and administration of all the funds received by the Department. I would like to thank the Department Executive Committee. Some of the duties include over seeing accounting principles, and financial processes of the Department Headquarters staff. It has been a pleasure to serve you all and I look forward to serving you in the future.

Richard L. Legg
Department Treasurer

Dan Williams
Department Finance Committee

It has been one of the most distinct honors and humbling times in my life to serve as the 6th and 10th District Department Vice Commander. It was an honor and privilege to serve such a great organization and to be a part of Mid-Winter and their Convention.

During the past year, I had the privilege of representing Department Commander at several events and speak at a variety of events across the 6th and 10th Districts. It was my pleasure to represent that value that people see in the Legion and the direction we are headed.

Robert T. Shafer
Department Vice Commander

An amazing Veteran leader. The 2018 February Sweetheart Membership Rally was held in Stillwater. N. 38. P. F. Anderson was the winner of the big drawing prize, the icy snowstorm. The ultimate gathering in April was for Commander Mike Schaffer. Commander and his team at the Minneapolis VA Health Center in Minneapolis. We also attended or took part in the 150th birthday of the Minneapolis Veterans Home; some members who are in the Post and some who are not, are both served by the Post. I met and talked with many leaders who put a lot of hard work and dedication into the American Legion Department of Minnesota in good hands and the mission will continue. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Dan Williams
Department Finance Committee

One of the best department staffs in the country. Speaking of Randy, I may have wronged him in one of the past years. I hope I can make it right this year. I would like to thank the Americanism Committee members Larry Pourench and Tim Davis, for their able assistance during the past year. I would also like to thank the Chaplains and their Assistants of the seven Sub-Committees of the Americanism Committee, for their dedication and hard work over the past year. They are: Boy’s State representa- tives Thomas Nelson and Lee Talkalson, Community Service representa- tive Jennifer Kofia, Education representative Dan Skow, Junior Shooting Sports representative Leon Dalbe, Boy Scout’s representative Tom Hallfell, National representatives Linda Dvorak and Sy Sax, Finance – School Patrol representative James Blackley, and the District Americanism representative Jennifer Kafka. I would like to thank all of them for their help and understanding.

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Colorado

Americanism

I would like to thank Department Commander Mike Schaffer for allowing me to serve as his Americanism Chairman for The American Legion, Department of Minnesota, and wish you a successful convention in September.

I would also like to thank my Americanism Committee members Larry Pourench and Tim Davis, for their able assistance during the past year.

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The following is an overview of the Department’s investments between 2017-2018.

The Department Adjutant, Treasurer and Judge Advocate are each elected to serve one year. The Department Adjutant and the Commander serve on the Department Executive Committee meeting each year after the Department Convention.

The Americanism Committee includes: American Legion Eagle Scout, American Legion Americanism Chairman, American Legion Americanism Committee, American Legion Department Judge Advocate, American Legion Department Vice Commander, American Legion Department Chairman, American Legion Department Treasurer, American Legion Department Adjutant, and American Legion Department Judge Advocate.

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The Minnesota Twins again are playing exciting ball this year. They have 38 wins and only 14 losses in the first 52 games. The games are still interesting. If you haven’t treated your patrollers to a Twins game, consider doing it. The next home game is Friday, August 10 against the Seattle Mariners.

The Minnesota Department of the American Legion Safety Patrol is a valuable part of the Boys State Program. It is the only facility ever developed for this purpose. Training sessions had to be cancelled this year due to safety concerns with the presence of “The Bog.” The North Long Lake Auxiliary and the Alexandria C&Y worked very hard in June of this year to help us. We want to thank everyone for their patience and understanding while we work on moving “The Bog” back to where it came from. From what they tell us, the bunk was a safe haven that has been taken advantage of. We are very appreciative of all the help and assistance of many, part of Legionville would be lost. This is the first time in 16 years that the Safety Patrol has not had 63 deaths compared to 36 residential fire fatalities in 2016; in Minnesota; 57 in 2015 and 63 in 2014. The final fire-fatigue figure was 35 in 2009; the high was 134 in 1976. Install smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. Test them monthly and replace them every 10 years. Use flameless candle substitutes instead of real ones. Never leave food cooking on the stovetop unattended. Keep flammable materials at least three feet away from any heat source.

This past year, the Employment Committee received over seven nominations for the Employer of Veterans Award. Of the top three companies selected, two were for the National Veterans Employment and Apprenticeship Division (NAVARD). The third company was the Alexandria American Legion Post 87 for the small company category of 50-201 employees was Fagan, Inc. of Granite Falls. The company submitted by the Alexandria American Legion Post 87 for the small company category of 50-201 employees was Fagan, Inc. of Granite Falls.

Children and Youth

Since the American Legion adopted the first set of bylaws, Children and Youth has been one of the four pillars that the Legion is built on. We know that children are our future, they will be tasked with keeping America strong. The commitment of Legion is keeping our children and youth strong.

The post C&Y annual reports have been submitted. This is very important so the national office knows what this state has done.

This report lets our communities know what we are doing for them. Any questions you may have about the report are available on the LG1004 form that has the post to file. The formula for number of C&Y points is: C&Y points = number of participants / number of eligible students x 100 - 20. I would like to remind posts that all volunteer hours are also counted as volunteer credit. I am sure that you are aware of the number of volunteer hours and credit points your local communities often have less than 10.

This program is successful because of all the district chairmen and department staff working together to make children and youth a priority. Successful children make successful citizens.

Children and Youth

Convention Corp.

The Convention Corporation Committee is pleased to announce the schedules for Conventions/Conferences for 2018/2019 (to include the 100th Anniversary National Convention in Minneapolis)

Minneapolis – National Convention – 100th Anniversary August 24-25, 2019

Rochester – Department Convention – July 22, 2018

Hibbing – Post #44, 3rd Place-Duluth Post # 180

This Convention Corporation Committee is looking for bids from Posts and the Auxiliary to host future Department Fall Conferences. Please contact the Convention Committee or Department Adjunct for further information.

Employment

This past year, the Employment Committee received over seven nominations for the Employee of the Veteran Award. Of the top three companies selected, two were for the National Veteran Employment and Apprenticeship Division (NAVARD) for the beginning of the fiscal year (July 1, 2018) through (May 31, 2019) can be seen below:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, it is my pleasure to report on this fiscal year’s activities. I am reporting on all activities from the beginning of the fiscal year (July 1, 2018) through (May 31, 2019). A complete fiscal year report will be provided to the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and the SAL at our annual meeting held at the Fall Conference. The post C&Y annual reports have been submitted. This is very important so the national office knows what this state has done.

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Pat Logan, President Convention Corporation Committee
Legionnaire Insurance Trust

Catholic Church. Finke previously owned Unique Carpetry in Fridley. He obtained his insurance license in 2014 and closed his business. He became a building and fire inspector in Lino lakes in 2016. He responds to Fire Station 1.

Legislative

The Legislative Committee is chaired by Peggy Moon and assisted by Robert Hart, Gary Larson, and Lyse Foltz, in addition to ten District Commanders.

The American Legion works with eight other federally chartered veterans service organizations (VSOs) and their allies (AVAs) as part of the Commanders Task Force (CTF). The CTF created a legislative agenda which focuses on establishing a lifetime homestead property tax exemption, pay or benefits protections, support of MDVA’s request for asset preservation, and expansion of veterans courts.

This was a short session for the legislature, as they convened February 6th, 2018. On Monday, February 26th, the Hearing of House Committee 15 were heard in the Senate Voting Room. They ended the following bills were signed by Governor Dayton.

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Committee for the National Convention this year. We are excited to show off our new facilities to everyone in the future.

Following our Committee meeting on Sunday we worked at a booth at the annual open house at Camp Ripley. This gave us a firsthand look at how organized our booth was in terms of our displays. We have had several requests for a booth in all of our Districts. It gives us a way to know you will enjoy it.

I am happy to share that I have been asked to attend the Minnesota Rehabilitation Awards event this past year. Our enlisted personnel awards were presented at Fall Fest. I was one of our staff members who were able to attend the Washington Conference We received briefings on several topics and found it to be very informative. Minnesota was the highlight of the event National Commander Rohan did an excellent job of presenting our organizations.

I want to thank all of our District Committees and commander of the future they have done this past year and look forward to seeing their nominations. Call me if you have any questions or need help. I am excited to support Commander Mike for the privilege of serving as Chairman this past year.

John R. Sturdevant
National Security Foreign Relations

Post Operation Home

Post Operation Home is a one member team and doesn't really get any interaction with the public in the department. We work with all of the VA, MDVA, legislative process and the American Legion.

Rehabilitation

The Minnesota American Legion Rehabilitation Department is a five-member committee comprised of organizational members with a background, knowledge, or professional expertise related to the delivery of VA benefits, programs, and services. Committee members are charged with the responsibility of the delivery of Rehabilitation to all new members and the remaining portion of the term of a resident member. Past and present Rehabilitation members have been former directors or administrators of VA medical centers, state veterans homes, county veterans service officers, Vet Center Team Leaders, American Legion State Organizational Leadership and Department Service Officer all with a working knowledge of the VA, MDVA, legislative process and the American Legion.

We want to thank Osseo-Maple Grove Post for hosting the 2018 American Legion dining St. Paul Tournament. This development from 2017-18 Tournament was held by the Osseo-Maple Grove Post 170. The board voted to have the tournament at the same location, St. Paul District 4 in Downtown St. Paul. We will be holding the 2019-2020 conference at the same location. If interested in hosting the Tournament, please send in the form to the Secretary of the State. We are doing the tournament at 6 weeks. This is working out quite well, so get your reservations in to save the spot your next year.

We want to thank the legionnaires of Minnesota and all of our members for all their help in the tournament. We are grateful to all of you.

Bill Brockberg
Raymond D. Ozmun, Advisor

The American Legion was founded and holds the roof above the head of all Legionnaires. It is time for me to step down and for some younger Americans to run the program.

Heather Larson, our Department Administrative Assistant. District Rehabilitation Committee and the State Rehabilitation members are also integral members of our committee. Together we make up Minnesota Rehabilitation. Each segment of the Minnesota Rehabilitation has an integral member appointed to the committee. We are in the process of recruiting the well-known benefits provided by the United States and Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs.

Rehabilitation is one of the four pillars on which The American Legion was founded and holds the roof above the head of all Legionnaires. Because of the role we play in Minnesota, it is very important to keep the Minnesota community strong and functioning. This year we meet with every VA Medical Center that treats Minnesota veterans to talk about the work we do for them. We make sure they know we are here for them.

The Minnesota Rehabilitation Committee members take pride in the American Legion Rehabilitation and are honored to serve the veterans of Minnesota.

Wilson W. Sponse III, Chairman
Rehabilitation Committee

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VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS, directs that public buildings should be made

A special thank you to Al Zdon and Laura Weber at State Headquarters for the work they have done this past year and look forward to seeing you next year also.

Thank you Commander for allowing me to be the Chairman this year.

John W. Turma
Bowling

HEALTH THAT WILL LAST - A woman makes a rubbing at the replica of the Vietnam Memorial that was brought to the Capitol by Twin Cities Public Television in late June.
Greetings from the First District:

First District Commander
Lee Shaunsie

Greetings from the Third District.
Greetings 3rd District and American Legion Family.
We are getting close to finishing another year and begin
with a new 100-year National American Legion. New Commanders
and Officers are in place and we wish them all success and
the best with your program this year. Membership has been
a great challenge and I believe working together to achieve
our goals is what is needed.
Membership is all of our responsibility so let’s all con-
tinue to move forward with membership. We are in the sea-
sions of parades and town festivals ask potential members and
veterans what we can do to help out.

First District Commander
Eugene Leifeld

As of Bulletin 50 andDept. Convention Delegate
commander, delivered the remains. Chuck Stone looks on.

As always, keep our men and women who are serving
our country and nation in your thoughts and prayers.

_Greetings from the Fourth District:

Fourth District Commander
Lane Stunkel

Hello Fabulous 4th District.
I want to thank the members of the 4th District American Legion
for voting for me in for a 2nd Year
—Thank you.

As of Bulletin 50 and Dept. Convention Delegate
Bulletin, the 4th District membership is at 93.47%, we are
less than 2 percentage points out of 1st Place, let’s keep
the pressure on, next month make it 1 point or better. Please
reach out to your Vice Commanders and Membership
Division Officers. It is your job to make sure the CPR report for your Post and send
them in. Right now the Department has received CPR report from 34.6% of Posts — for those Posts that have not yet
sent one out yet please reach out to your Vice Commander or myself, we are here to help. We need to fill out the
CPR and get it in to Department Headquarters by July 1.

Many Thanks to those who attended the Mini Shop Ship &
Share at Bethel College — another successful mission —
Thank you.

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Many Thanks to those who attended the Mini Shop Ship &
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Thank you.
Hello American Legion Auxiliary sisters, Legion Family and all others.

Wow, this just is so unbelievable to comprehend that this is my very last letter as your Auxiliary President. It truly has been a remarkable year. I have tried to share with you all some of my travels and experiences this year. I have received very kind words and comments about that so, I will close this letter and will try to catch you all up.

After the National Presidents tour in mid April, I enjoyed a Unit meeting in the 7th District at Fairfax. What a wonderful group of ladies. Talk about getting things done for a smaller Unit, that is it. I was honored to witness your 7th District President, Karla do a wonderful job of installing their new officers for the year. Great job 7th District be proud of Karla.

Then Membership Mary along with others again your 3rd District President and one was on deck and we got a new Unit in Eagan chartered. What a very exciting night for all of us. Welcome Eagan Unit.

From there I attended a Mother Daughter Dinner in Rochester Unit 92. A great event, again your 1st District President Cheryl was in attendance. Always a delight to be with District Presidents and Unit Members. Not forgetting the great camaraderie and delicious food from all.

May started with a Mother’s Day Banquet at North Branch. Your 10th District President Jodie was in attendance there also. Always good to enjoy events with them. Great food and this Unit invited Units from the area, so it was a well attended filled evening with old and new friends.

From there off I went to the 8th District with your President Anna and a beautiful Memorial service in jacobswall Unit. Again a smaller Unit doing great things.

My thoughts were to travel across country and visit the Silver Bay Veterans Home that next day. However in checkpoint on the map, I found we were so back track we were on deck and we got a new Unit in Eagan chartered. What a very exciting night for all of us. Welcome Eagan Unit.

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Many governmental officials made time in their schedules to be with us at American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State and we are grateful to each of them. Among the other highlights were the Law Enforcement and Judiciary Panels, the Flag Retirement Ceremony, the Thursday night Inauguration Ceremony with Chief Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court Lorie S. Gildea administering the Oath of Office, and the trip to the State Capitol on Friday which puts in to practice all they have learned throughout the week.

Thank you to the Unit American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State Chairmen throughout the state for the work that you have done to bring these young women to our wonderful program. Thanks as well is extended to the dedicated volunteers who spent the week at Bethel University with the citizens. This program cannot function without you. And finally to our 2018 American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State Director Peggy Tesdahl, Chairman Patti Coleman, Education Director Amelia Tesdahl, American Chairman Joanie Kranz, Committee members Zandra Kessler and Sally Strasser. Thanks for another terrific year at American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State.

JUNIOR FUN WEEKEND

The 10th Annual Junior Fun Weekend is scheduled to be held August 3-5, 2018. We will not have a definite answer
as to holding it at Legionville until June 30. As soon as it is determined if the Legionville facility is safe to hold the Fan Weekend, we will post it on our website www.mnala.org and notify all District Presidents. A large portion of the bog has been moved but we want to make sure that the safety of our members comes first. As you know the entire Legionville Safety Patrol Camp had to be postponed this summer. Any information will be posted as soon as the Department Office receives it.

2018-2019 DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

Our congratulations to the ten District Presidents-Elect who will be serving their respective Districts for the 2018/2019 year:

1st District – Michelle Weaver, LaCrescent Unit 595
2nd District – Kristen Donnelly, Northrop Unit 522
3rd District – Lynn Duffy, St. Paul Park Unit 98
4th District – Lynn Olson, Roseville Unit 542
5th District – Sue Martin, Saint Paul Unit 41
6th District – Sharon Thiemcke, Templin Unit 14
7th District – Pam Gades, Morris Unit 29
8th District – Sandra Keeslar, Two Harbors Unit 109
9th District – Lynn Carr, Thief River Falls Unit 117
10th District – Sandra Locker, Fridley Unit 303

They each have of you a most successful year of service as you assume the leadership of your District for the 2018/2019 Auxiliary year.

UNIT OFFICERS’ LIST

All Units should have held their elections for the 2018-2019 Auxiliary year by now. Your incoming secretary and Membership Chairperson should be appointed and ready to assume their duties.

Each Unit was asked to return their officers’ list for the coming year to the Department office by June 12th. We are still missing officer’s lists from 113 Units.

These lists are very important as we develop our mailing lists for the year from them. NO 2019 membership cards/packets will be given to your Unit until we have received your 2018-2019 list. You can download the form on our website mnala.org to your own computer, fill it out and email it in to us. It is as simple as that. We will have all membership packets at Department Convention.

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

Please note that there was an error in the June Legionnaire— the correct dates of Department Convention are July 19 – 21, 2018.

The 99th Annual Department Convention will be held at the Kahler Grand Hotel in Rochester with the Rochester American Legion Family 92 serving as hosts. Department President Donna Acrends will call the Convention to order at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 19. We hope that your Unit plans to be represented. All Auxiliary sessions will be held in the Heritage Hall of the Kahler Grand Hotel. The following members have declared their candidacy for Department office.

President – Jean Walker, Warren Unit #27
First Vice President – Mary Hendrickson, West Duluth Unit 71
Second Vice President – Patti Coleman, Lino Lakes Unit 566

National Executive Committeewoman – Raelen Tolzman, Minnesota Lake Unit 87

Nominations for Department officers will be held Thursday morning. A secret ballot will be voted for any office where there is more than one candidate. Balloting hours will be in the convention rules. Where there is but one candidate the vote will be by acclamation. There will be nominations for delegates-at-large to the National Convention, and election by secret ballot if there is more than one nomination. The same rules used for election of department officers will apply. There will be two Poppy contests at the Department Convention this year. The first is to make a Table Centerpiece and the second is Poppy Wreath. The criteria for both contests is in the Trophy and Awards booklet and also on our website; www.mnala.org.

All entries must be at the Department Convention by 9:00 a.m. on Thursday the 19th. Tables will be set up in the Display area for your entries. Winners will be announced during the Poppy report on Friday.

Please see the complete convention program printed elsewhere in this issue of the Minnesota Legionnaire.

NATIONAL CONVENTION

Our 2018 National Convention will be held in Minneapolis, August 24 – 30, 2018. All Auxiliary Delegates and Alternates elected at the District Conventions should already have their information packets. If you would like a packet, please contact Sandie at the Department Office. You can register through the Auxiliary Department Office but housing requests must go through The American Legion.

Housing requests must be sent to: The American Legion, State Veterans Service Building, 20 W 12th St #300, St.

A TRUE LEGION FAMILY -- On Thursday, May 31, the Marvin Minner family from Spring Valley attended the Minnesota Twins game and Marvin, at 84 years of age and a 70+ year member of The American Legion along with his wife Pat, who was a First District President twice was invited to raise the American Flag prior to the game. Many of Marvin and Pat’s family also attended the ceremony. You can see by the Twins Kiss Cam, everyone was having a wonderful time. Thanks go to their daughter JoEllen Isenberg, also a Past First District President for submitting this to the Auxiliary office.

**FUNERAL PLANS FOR VETERANS**

Purple Cross has been serving America’s Veterans since 1948 and continues to offer the best funeral plans available. With Funeral Preplanning you can:

- Protect your burial funds from nursing home expenses
- Protect your family from financial burden in time of grief
- Gain piece of mind knowing your funeral is taken care of

Yes, I would like to know more about:

- Traditional Funeral Cost
- Cremation Cost
- Payment Plan Options
- Discount Plans

For a free Funeral Preplanning Cost Estimate, please return this coupon to Purple Cross, 15116 Saint Rd NE, Prior Lake, MN 55372 or call Jerry Albrecht at 952-226-3839. Absolutely no obligation!

Name: ________________________________________
Address: ______________________________________
City/State: ______________________________________
Phone: ________________________________________
Birth Date: ________________________________

**EAGAN DONATION**

-- Eagan American Legion Auxiliary Unit 594 donated $553.25 to the Minnesota Veterans Home in Hastings. This money was collected when four members of this recently started Auxiliary unit handed out poppies in remembrance of our nation’s fallen, during a four-hour period at Sam’s Club Eagan. Unit President Sandy Smith and Unit Vice President Sue Flynn presented the check to Sue Register – Volunteer Services Coordinator, at the Veterans Home. This donation will be directed for the veteran resident’s gardening activities, which includes the total cost of installing a heater in their greenhouse. The unit members who participated at Sam’s Club were: Unit Treasurer Paulette Stark, Betsy Russomanno, Sandy Smith, and Sue Flynn.

Paul, MN 55155. If for any reason you are not planning to attend, yet were elected a Delegate or Alternate, please notify the Department Secretary immediately and prior to our Department Convention. There will be packets available at the Department Convention for those At Large Delegates and Alternates elected at the Convention. Please note that The American Legion will only make your housing reservations until July 24, 2018.

All registrations and reservations for the States Dinner, Women of the Year Luncheon must be received by July 26th. The credentials and housing lists as well as reservations for dinner and luncheon must be finalized and forwarded to our National organization.
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