FBI, the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board, Boy Scouts of America, Minnesota National Guard, Minnesota Department of Transportation and the Minnesota Historical Society.

One such myth was talking about suicide could lead to the person taking his or her life. The reality is when a person hints at suicide it gives permission for others to talk about it, she said.

“T,” Monsebroten said.

Another myth was there are talkers and doers, that some people only bluff at actually killing themselves because they want attention. “T.” Monsebroten said.

State Historical Society gathers input for potential name change

By Tim Engstrom

FORT SNELLING — The unorganized territory called Fort Snelling is owned by many entities: The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board, Boy Scouts of America, Minnesota National Guard, Minnesota Department of Transportation and the Minnesota Historical Society.

The society is asking Minnesotans whether the 23-acre part it owns and operates — the land around the original 1819 diamond-shaped fort — should have a name reflecting the broad span of history. Presently, those 23 acres go by the name Historic Fort Snelling.

The primary Dakota word proposed for the society’s area is “Bdote,” meaning confluence. If changed, says MNHS Deputy Director of Learning Initiatives Kevin Marijala, the diamond would still be called Fort Snelling.
Continued from Page 1

Input meetings across the state have revealed strong emotions for and against a name change. Some favor “Bdote,” Dakota for confluence, while others favor keeping “Historic Fort Snelling. Some prefer a combination such as “Fort Snelling at Bdote” and, in another twist, some dispute the term “Bdote.”

The Minnesota Historical Society held six input sessions around the state. One of them was on Monday, Oct. 14, at the Boy Scouts of America’s Base Camp just west of Historic Fort Snelling. About 70 people attended.

Manjaha noted that, ultimately, any naming decision rests with the Legislature. Two state senators and one representa-
tive were at the Oct. 14 session. Others have appeared at the other sessions.

Like most historical preservation societies, the Minnesota Historical Society, at all of its sites, seeks to “deepen and enrich” its portrayal of a place by showing his-
tory over a broad reach of time, up to the modern, rather than a singular moment, said Rachel Abbott, the society’s manager of interpretive programs.

At Historic Fort Snelling, for instance, there are exhibits ranging from native activity prior to and during white settle-
ment to Japanese-Americans breaking codes at the Military Intelligence Service Language School during World War II.

Anchorage, meanwhile, Snelling is going through a capital proj-
et. The visitor center, built in the mid-1980s, is dilapidated and has water damage. The revitalization plan aims to build a new visitor center inside the 1904 cavalry barracks and the 1930s-era armory, at a cost of more than $34 mil-
lion, with $19.5 million from the Legislature and the rest from pledges. It is slated to be completed in 2023.

The idea is instead of mothballing the historic barracks, repurpose them. Plus, it would allow year-round program-
moving. Presently, the fort is open April to October.

“We know this can be correct,” said Kylee Parsons, director of Native American initiatives for the Minnesota Historical Society and a member of the Flandreau Santee Sioux.

She said it is well-documented that Dakota called the confluence Bdote or Mdote. She said the orthography — the way spoken words are written into letters — differs based on dialects, as happens in any language. In any inter-
pretation, she said, it is a soft B that is almost an M.

“All are correct is the interesting point,” Beane said.

She said Dakota and Lakota are part of the larger Siouxan language, and people from various dialects can understand one another. Often, however, the words might not fit precisely into the English-pronounced alphabet.

She noted the Stephen Riggs dictionary as one documen-
tation of the geographic use. The Dakota dictionary written in 1852 by Riggs, a Christian missionary who lived among the Dakota starting in 1937, is available for anyone to see at online at archive.org. The book does not offer “Bdote” but has an entry for “Mdote.” The entry, which employs a geo-

graphic explanation in parentheses, says: “n. the mouth or junction of one river with another (a name commonly applied to the country about Fort Snelling, or mouth of the St. Peters; also the name appropriated to the establishment of the Fort Company at the junction of the rivers, written Mendota): the outlet of a lake.”

The St. Peters is the Minnesota River. The Riggs diction-

ary explains the book’s orthography. It says B and M have the same sounds they do in English. However, Riggs added: “Some Dakota, in some instances, introduce a slight b sound before the m.”

Comments

At the session, feedback was about equal for both sides. Some said they felt changed the name covers up history or reinstates history. About as many felt a name is needed, but near the end, people heard another take.

Ed LaBelle, a Dakota born 86 years ago on the Sisseton reservation in South Dakota and a Twin Cities resident since World War II, spoke Dakota and English at the Base Camp meeting, noting the holiday, “By the way, Happy Columbus Day!”

He said the task force gathering the input is not favoring one way or the other for a final result and is open to any possibility.

“It could absolutely be Historic Fort Snelling,” Parsons said.

Language questions

The input session left people with questions about the term “Bdote.” The Legionnaire reached out to Kate Beane, director of Native American initiatives for the Minnesota Historical Society and a member of the Flandreau Santee Sioux.

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tation of the geographic use. The Dakota dictionary written in 1852 by Riggs, a Christian missionary who lived among the Dakota starting in 1937, is available for anyone to see at online at archive.org. The book does not offer “Bdote” but has an entry for “Mdote.” The entry, which employs a geo-

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Tour designed originally by Dr. Brooke Farrey, Medical Officer, NOW, who served in Europe.

"It is not an either-or. It can be both,” he said.

He offered alternatives in Dakota language for Holy Earth, LaBelle served in Korea and his father fought in World War I.

Historian Bruce Glarud said Historic Fort Snelling “is not a very elegantly inclusive name” and added “Bdote is histor-

ically not what it was called,” noting the band that lives nearby called it “Mdote.”

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tation of the geographic use. The Dakota dictionary written in 1852 by Riggs, a Christian missionary who lived among the Dakota starting in 1937, is available for anyone to see at online at archive.org. The book does not offer “Bdote” but has an entry for “Mdote.” The entry, which employs a geo-

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TALKING IT OVER — Dakota member Ed LaBelle, right, speaks with a woman interested in his viewpoint on the term “Bdote” after the Oct. 14 session.
Endorsements
Knutson runs for Sgt.-at-Arms

Pederson-Tripp Post 357 of Ashby has endorsed Dean Knutson for the position of Department of Minnesota Sergeant-at-Arms for the 2020-2021 membership year. Knutson is a 31-year continuous Paid up for Life member and is eligible for membership through his 29 years of service in the United States Army. He served from 1974 through 2003 with an honorable discharge. Knutson has served at post level as Commander, 1st Vice Commander, 2nd Vice Commander and Service Officer. Knutson has served at District Level as Commander (twice), Vice Commander at Large, Membership Director and Area A Vice Commander (twice). Knutson has served at Department level as District 2 and District 7 Vice Commander and Sergeant-at-Arms. Knutson has served at National on the Americanism Commission for five years.

Eiden endorsed for vice-cmdr.

Arthur and Leonard Falldin Post 555 in Minneapolis endorsed Ray Eiden for Vice Commander, Fourth and Fifth Districts, Department of Minnesota for 2020-2021. Eiden is a past Membership Director of his Post and is currently serving as Adjutant and Finance Officer. At the district level he has served as Chaplain, Vice Commander and Commander. He is currently serving his second term as Adjutant. Eiden is also Chairman of the Fifth District Hospital Visitation and the Blood Program.

At the Department level he is on his third year on the Post Development Committee. Eiden served in the United States Army from 1970 to 1972. He served 14 months in Bitburg, Germany. He was employed with the State of Minnesota, Department of Employment and Economic Development, for 34 years in programming retiring as a senior systems analyst.

He and his wife Connie currently reside in Northeast Minneapolis.

THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR YOUR VETERAN

The Three War Stories books include 100 stories of Minnesotans who have gone off to war. The books do not glorify war, but simply honor the young men and women who left their homes, their jobs, their lives to defend their nation. Buy one at a time or get the whole set.

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DEAN KNUTSON

RAY EIDEN

THE 1ST MINN.

EXPLORE THE CIVIL WAR
Learn about the battle flags, art, memorials, and Minnesota's role in the Civil War during the Capitol Civil War Tour, Sat, Nov 16, Minnesota State Capitol, St. Paul.

GATHER FOR THE HOLIDAYS
Celebrate the season with MNHS! From A Victorian Christmas at the Alexander Ramsey House, and a WWI Christmas at the Charles Lindbergh House, to the Christmas Traditions Tour at the James J. Hill House and more, you'll find great events around the state at mnhs.org/holidays.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FANTASTIC WAYS TO EXPERIENCE MNHS

REMEmBER THE FITZGERALD
Edmund Fitzgerald Memorial Beacon Lighting, Sun, Nov 10, Split Rock Lighthouse, north of Two Harbors.

HEAR FROM MINNESOTA VETERANS
Explore the Vietnam Era Oral History Project, which features 95 interviews documenting the experiences of Minnesotans during the Vietnam War era. Listen online at bit.ly/95interviews.

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Plan your visit or purchase online • mnhs.org • 1-844-MNSTORY
Greetings Minnesota American Legion Family.

District Training In A Box – Phase One is now available through the mini-training series called “Tools and Resources” section and click on “District Training In A Box.” These may be downloaded and revised to fit your training requirements at the state or district level.

Statewide training for MyLegion.org is in process of being developed. Additional information on this vital training will be forthcoming. Posts will be encouraged to attend this training. The tentative plan is to have several different sites around the state to provide hands on training. The Commanders Task Force (CTF) has met twice since July and will be meeting on a monthly basis. The following nine Veteran Service Organizations make up the CTF: the American Legion, AMVETS, Disabled American Veterans and Vietnam Veterans of America.

We come together to represent one voice on issues veterans to formulate a strategy going into the legislative year. We are now at an Advisory board to the Commander of the Minnesota Department of Veteran Affairs on State veteran’s issues. In a future article, I will be listing our legislative priorities.

Posts should be working on their Oratorical contest! If your post does not have an Oratorical contest, please discuss the possibility of such a contest with a member of your Post. Each district has an Oratorical Chairman, call him or her and discuss the process to start your own contest.

I’ve witnessed several contests over the years and the kids that participate are amazing and have a sincere appreciation for our Constitution.

Happy Thanksgiving to all. Keep all our veterans in your thoughts each day, but especially on Veterans Day, November 11th. Let’s all be thankful for all who took an oath to defend our country in the past, present and young men and boys that are about to take the oath and put their lives on the line each day for us. For God and Country.

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**Editorial**

**The Big Change**

There may be some dismay or trepidation out there as the Minnesota American Legion begins a period of transition.

Both the adjutant and the communications director will be retiring as of the first of the year. The Department’s finance officer will follow in the coming year.

That’s about 55 years of experience walking out the door, or maybe it’s tottering out the door, in a short time. There is no doubt there will be times when that experience will be missed.

But this should not be a time of concern, it should be a time of celebration. These Department employees are going to a richly deserved point of their lives where there is no time clock, no rush hour commute, no more answering the call of every member.

More than that, this is an incredible opportunity for the staff at the Legion to recreate itself.

That 55 years of experience may have kept the ship on a steady keel, but the experience that their replacements are bringing to the job might mean that the ship will gather some wind in its sails and head off to parts unknown.

Organizations must change. As Vince Lombardi used to say, “if you’re not moving ahead, you’re going backwards.”

Staff changes like this provide a splendid opportunity for change, a fresh perspective and a new vitality.

The Legion is at a critical point, and not because of the staff transition. It’s at a crisis because our membership is declining at a steady but alarming rate, and because many of our posts are losing their relevancy in their communities. The membership problem is unlikely to change, although there are some signs that there might be a light at the end of the tunnel, and hopefully it’s not another train.

The VFW gained members this past year. That could be an indication of the times and our capabilities.

But if you just follow the numbers, the Minnesota American Legion will probably end up at some point with as many members as it had prior to World War II, or about one-third the size it had at all time high in the early 90’s.

The question then becomes how do we maintain our stature as an advocacy group for our Constitution.

We probably need to streamline down to about 10 committees and make sure those committees have members who are interested in being there. An old guru on the top of the ladder in the 1950’s was asked what the key to success is. He said, “Find something you love, and work your butt off to make it better.”

We have too many committees and too many committee members who are dead in the water.

If the concern is that if we don’t have a bunch of commies, we won’t have call-ins for our major meetings, there’s probably some creative ways to solve that issue.

And many other issues. That’s why this change of com-

An issue is a great opportunity to re-create the organization where change is the norm and not the exception. We can’t stay the same and fulfill our mission to veterans, our constitutional priorities.

We look forward to new peo-

Five years down the road, the Minnesota Legion can look back and point to this time and realize how it set the stage for the organization’s revival.

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**Guest editorial**

‘Shoot, communicate and move on out’

By Tim Engstrom

I used to jump out of perfectly good airplanes.

When people learn that, they often comment I must be crazy. Perhaps, say, but I then add the truth is most jumpers are a bit scared each time, like anyone else. If we aren’t, then we know we have achieved crazy. To me, what makes the paratroopers of the 82nd Airborne Division extraordinary is the ability to overcome challenges, whether it is jumping from planes, hiking 12 miles in under three hours with full gear or deploying abroad without even the chance to say farewell to loved ones.

As a result, these soldiers go, go, go. I worked with these men and our 82nd Signal Battalion used to sing: “Shoot, communicate and move on out.”

Years later, long after I left the U.S. Army, I still find I have a need to “communicate” even in the shortest of situations. As the years passed, I appreciated the veterans, which led me to this position.

I am a prescious teacher. I cannot find the words to describe how much we love our boys.

Some of you might know me from my newspaper career. I grew up in rural Iowa and got my journalism degree from Iowa State University after my Army stint. I was a reporter for a few years before becoming the managing editor in Ellensburg, Washington, in 2001.

In 2006, I came to Minnesota, working as the managing editor of the Albert Lea Tribune. We wanted to live in this state to be near relatives. (Many of my Iowa relatives now live in the Twin Cities; hers are all in the Chicago area.) I was imbued with a new found sense of being a “citizen.”

For another two years, I edited both the Eden Prairie News and the Lakeshore Weekly News.

I look how I’ve been a reporter for a long time. It’s a perfect fit. I also look forward to visiting posts all over Minnesota, especially ones in my former communities, and dedicated members such as Arnie Mulso of Post 56 in Albert Lea and Jim Fish of Post 30 in Ferguson News. My newspaper career came at a time when news outlets established and very much grew their websites and social media presences. Basically, I have one foot in conventional print media and another in the new electronic media, and I look forward to bringing these skills to our fine organization.

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That’s about 55 years of experience walking out the door, or maybe it’s tottering out the door, in a short time. There is no doubt there will be times when that experience will be missed. But this should not be a time of concern, it should be a time of celebration. These Department employees are going to a richly deserved point of their lives where there is no time clock, no rush hour commute, no more answering the call of every member.

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Five years down the road, the Minnesota Legion can look back and point to this time and realize how it set the stage for the organization’s revival.
World War II veterans who did not receive a medalation during the dedication of the World War II Memorial at the State Capitol in 2007 can receive one at 11 a.m. Sunday, November 28, at the Minnesota Veterans Memorial site on the Capitol grounds.

Schaub said, "I am well-versed in the military aspects and have an appreciation for veterans and will never forget that's who this program represents," Schaub said.

Montgomery Thanksgiving

Montgomery Post 79 is set to hold its Klondike Days on Friday, Nov. 22. The meal raffle starts at 6 p.m. and turkey and ham dinner is at 7 p.m. The post will have its annual homestead home Tom and Jerry and Bloody Mary cocktails start at 8 a.m. Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 28. It will be the last holiday for the post at this location. Thanksgiving dinner is slated for 1 p.m. Please call Post 79 at 507-364-7779 to make reservations.

Concert to help vets

The Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans will host an afternoon of live music, food, drinks and a giant silent auction. Proceeds go to help MACV end veteran homelessness in the Twin Cities.

Calling Tommy's West, 4724 Nicollet Blvd., Minneapolis. Nov. 28. The concert starts at 1 p.m. The concert finishes at 5 p.m.

Free legal clinic

There will be a free legal clinic for low-income veterans between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 12, at the VA Medical Center Flag Atrium Balcony Room 28 114. Attorneys will be available through the day to assist veterans with questions, legal forms and counsel. Topics listed are housing, employment, benefits, debt collection, income maintenance, expungement and family law to include child support. Staff from the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans will be on hand, along with county veterans service officers.

Veterans Day St. Cloud

The St. Cloud Metropolitan Veterans Council is sponsoring a Veterans Day program at 1:30 p.m. Nov. 11 in Building 8 of the St. Cloud VA Medical Center. A reception follows. Veterans, their families and members of the public are invited. Parking is available north and east of Building 8.

Appointments

Continued from Page 1

Alan Davis Sr. of Princeton will serve on the Americanism Commission.


Mark Dvorak of Le Center will serve on the National Capital Area Americanism Commission. Committee member Fernlund of St. Cloud will serve on the Media and Communications Commission. Michael Ash of St. Paul and Wayne Hammon Jr. of Le Roy will serve on the Media and Communications Commission.


Tom Conway of Argyle, Patrick Logan of Bloomington, Denise Milton of Biggley, Donald Skow of Lindstrom and Jeremy Wolfchiller of Mankato will serve on the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Council.

Paul Hamas of Montgomery, Bruce Kotton of Buffalo and Roy Machle of Fridley will serve on the Veterans Employment and Education Council. Bishop Dan Williams Sr. of Vadnais Heights will serve on the Veterans Education and Employment Commission.

Wilson Spence III of Duluth will serve on the Employment and Veterans Preference Committee.

DEC hires PR firm

Continued from Page 1

Council for Veterans and the County Veterans Services Officers Association.

Long said the company does a variety services for clients ranging from helping them tell their story in a positive way, crisis communications, helping with social media, special events and producing annual reports.

Getting and keeping clients will be a goal, Long said. "Kevin and I have spent a career building relationships."" freedom.

The committee approved the expenditure.

Dvorak said this kind of help was greatly needed. "We've been fighting public relations for years and not getting anywhere." Gary Miller of the First District asked if there were other builders for the Frogs. Dvorak said there was no other company that does what SnowGlobe does for veterans.

In other business:

The committee passed a series of motions to accomplish the hiring of Mike Maxa as the new Department Adjutant, replacing Randy Tesdahl who is retiring at the end of the year. Maxa has created the position of assistant adjutant for Maxa until the end of the year. The second motion hired Maxa to fill the position. The third motion moved Maxa to full-time duty for two years and fixed the date of Tesdahl's term.

A resolution was passed that transfer the duties of Department of Minnesota Commander Mark Dvorak appointed Schaub to a two-year appointment as a vice director. The baseball program has three vice directors, from which the committee will elect a director to a one-year term. Schaub was elected at the fall meeting on Oct. 11.

Schaub replaced Mike Perry, who served as director since October 2019.

Schaub is a retired teacher. He and his wife, Shari, have three grown children. Kelsi, who is married, resides in Bloomington. Daughter Madison lives in Chaska and son Griffin in Olivia.

Visa directors are Jeff “Slick” Miller and Brandon Raymo. Jim Peck is the Junior Director. Miller oversees Division I baseball, Raymo Division II and Peck the Junior level.

Peck also will be liaison to the state director.

Committee assignments, with chairmen listed first, are:

Division I Advisory: Mike Gort, Gail Kalata, Bruce Young.

Junior Legion Advisory: Brandon Raymo, Scott McCreadie, Kyle Nutting.

• Three-class Proposal: Young, Arvidson, Peck.

State Veterans Day program

The official Veterans Day ceremony for the state of Minnesota happens Nov. 11 at the Veterans Memorial Community Center in Inver Grove Heights.

A free breakfast starts things off between 8:30 and 9:30 a.m., followed by the program at 10.

The ceremony is hosted by the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs and the Minnesota Commanders’ Task Force, which comprises the American Legion and other veteran service organizations.

Ludwig to speak in Hastings

Dan Ludwig, former national commander of the American Legion, will speak at the Veterans Day program at the Veterans Home in Hastings on Friday, Nov. 8. U.S. Air Force Midwest Winds is to perform. The home is at 1200 18th St. in Hastings.

Snowmobile ride

All veterans are welcome to enjoy a day of snowmobiling in northern Minnesota. The Veterans Appreciation Ride takes place Saturday, Nov. 27, at Butternut Lake, and it includes one night of lodging and three free meals.

Participants are encouraged to bring their own snowmobiles and clothing, and the Minnesota American Legion will provide refreshments. They will be provided, said retired Sgt. Larry Shepherd of Anoka Post 102.

He said registration ahead of time is required. Go to mnvetsnowmobileride.org and download the form.
Minnesota American Legion Membership Chart

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Hello from your Sons of the American Legion. It has been a busy month since I last wrote. The John Zgoda Memorial SAL Disabled Veterans Deer hunt was held the first weekend of October. We had five hunters and 17 volunteers helping out. Two does and one buck were harvested. More stories are made and a good time was had by all, even with the rain. Thank you to all who participated and made a successful and memorable hunt.

I went to the Full National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting a week later and attended Commander School. That was a learning experience. I enjoyed attending the classes and picked up tips that will help me be a better commander. I also received a new copy of the Commanders and Adjutants book. These will be made available for those who would like a copy at Fall Conference and after.

After that we have preparation for the Pearl Harbor Rally along with Midwinter conferences. All the while we need to continue to work on getting our membership turned in. The numbers have been coming in slowly, but as we continue to contact our members the renewals should increase.

We should also be aware and recruiting based on the membership changes as a result of the Legion Act. I know we have SAL members who are now eligible to join The American Legion. Join as a dual member. And as we recruit new members to The American Legion, there is opportunity for the growth of the Sons of the American Legion.

I hope you have a great Thanksgiving, and I look forward to seeing you all at the next rally.

Cdr. Dave Vulcan
dhwulcan@gmail.com
Adjudant Dennis Henkemeyer
dennish56621@hotmail.com
Website: www.mnsal.org

Minnesota Sons of the American Legion News

ZGODA VOLUNTEERS — Sons of the American Legion volunteers gathered at Legionville for the annual John Zgoda Disabled Veterans Deer Hunt. Five hunters participated.

September 2019 Membership Report

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There were several calls to arms to fight the epidemic of veterans’ suicide at the fall conference, but perhaps none so powerful as when Department of Minnesota Chaplain Betty Jass took the podium to tell her own story.

Jass noted that she had recently returned from the national chaplain’s school, and that she would be sharing what she learned about veterans’ suicide with other chaplains in the state.

Her own story took place 16 years ago after she had been in a serious car accident that left her in constant pain. “I was driving home one night. I was withdrawn, I was in pain, and I hadn’t had any sleep. My tunnel vision was as big as a ‘we’re back to OK.’”

Jass said she was thinking about a rope she had in the garage and how it could end all her problems.

She spent five days in the doctor’s care and learned much about what she was going through, including the fact that she had some PTSD from her military career. “I found out my problems came from three or four things. It was a combo deal. But I also found out that somebody really did care about me. There were people at that time who adopted me as their veteran.”

Jass said this is such a toughy problem that people don’t want to talk about it. “But it’s such an important topic. It’s somebody’s life. I was in that deep, deep, dark valley, and I sought help. Nobody judged me.”

“I love life, I love the Legion, I love helping people.” Jass also stressed that we need a spiritual foundation in our lives. “We need God in our lives so he can help us protect this country.”

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

199 Fall Conference notes

“American Legion Day” in Minneapolis. The Legion and city are working together to install a new plaque at Peavey Plaza in downtown Minneapolis. The plaza is the site of the first national convention in 1919, and two plaques already there mark that convention and the birth of the Auxiliary. The new plaque will commemorate the 100th convention in Minneapolis in 2018.

— Legionville benefitted from several large donations at the conference including $15,000 from Bloomington Post 550 and $5,000 from St. Louis Park Post 282.

— Andy Garvais spoke on the state veterans’ cemeteries in Minnesota and said the life of most veterans cemeteries is being extended because more veterans families are choosing cremation rather than casket burial.

— National Vice Commander Bruce Fuerbesch of Iowa noted that Minnesota was in second place in the nation in membership. He said, nationally, over 19 million veterans are eligible for Legion membership.

— Computers are getting faster before people have time to catch up, and Maj. Dan Wily of the 119th Wing of the North Dakota Air National Guard was present at the 2019 Fall Conference to speak about it. He is the communications flight commander and is in charge of information technology. He said cyber is changing how, why and where the military flies. It’s the concept of “asymmetric warfare.”

“Anyone with the proper skills now has the ability to cause catastrophic damage,” Syl said. Phishing, ransomware and other malware target not merely high-profile places like the Department of Defense but also schools and hospitals, he said. He said America needs “educated cyber citizens” and needs an engineering shift from computers as a convenient environment to bring them for security. He also told people to prepare for machine learning — artificial intelligence.

— The 2020 Fall Conference is slated to take place Oct. 22-24 at Breezy Point Resort on Pelican Lake, about 20 miles north of Brainerd. Nisswa Post 627 hosts. Pat Logan of Bloomington resigned from the Convention Corporation Committee. The committee named Phil Bellefeuille of Callaway the chairman and John Schuchterbauer of Minnesota as vice chairman. Bellefeuille said he would like to hear from posts interested in hosting future conferences and conventions. His email is p4budbellefeuille@yahoo.com, and his phone is 218-847-3648. The 2020 Department Convention is July 16-18 at Jackpot Junction Casino Hotel in Redwood Falls.

— Paul Dillard, a candidate for national commander and past commander for the Department of Texas, described growing membership as the key challenge for this generation of The American Legion. He said not enough people are making personal contacts with potential new members and with existing members who haven’t renewed. “Personal contact is what we’ve lost.” He said the doughboys who launched The American Legion following the First World War didn’t have the internet. Many didn’t have phones. They reached out to people in person. They saw the need.

— Doug Buchanan, the administrator at the Minnesota Veterans Home in Fergus Falls, said the outside ratings for the vets’ homes in Minnesota is very high. There are 769 beds in the state for veterans.

— Annette Kuyper spoke on Minnesota’s Yellow Ribbon program and said there were 93 networks in the state. The organization helps the families of veterans who have been deployed. One thing she cautioned about was the over abundance of “Care” packages sent by people and groups back home. “They are a burden to the chaplains and others. A lot of them don’t get opened, or get burned.” She said Minnesota recently sent a Guard contingent of 700 overseas. “They don’t need care packages, they need help for their families like snow shoveling or child care.”

— Jim Kellogg noted that Nov. 11 has been declared “American Legion Day” in Minneapolis. The Legion and city are working together to install a new plaque at Peavey Plaza in downtown Minneapolis. The plaza is the site of the first national convention in 1919, and two plaques already there mark that convention and the birth of the Auxiliary. The new plaque will commemorate the 100th convention in Minneapolis in 2018.

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Leading Candidate for National Commander Paul Dillard of Texas takes in a meeting of the Department Executive Committee prior to the Fall Conference. Sitting with him, from left, are candidate for Department Commander Tom Fernlund of St. Cloud, NECman Bill Barbkncht of Battle Lake, National Vice Commander Bruce Feuerbach of Iowa, and Past National Vice Commander Al Davis of Princeton.

Tess and Al Davis were chosen co-Legionnaires of the Year by the Sons of the American Legion.

Country star Connie Lee and her band were the entertainment at the hospitality event on Friday night.

Legion Rider Steve Sullivan was honored for directing the Legacy Run, gathering over $1 million, for the last ten years.

Department Adjutant Randy Tesdahl, who will retire at the end of the year, shared his final thoughts with the Fall Conference audience.

The Fifth District honored the Auxiliary on its 100th birthday during the Auxiliary musicale.
Legion military awards were presented

Those who also received the Outstanding Enlisted Person of the Year Awards from the National/Security Foreign Relations Committee, but unable to attend, were:

- SSG Nicholas S. Romie, Moorhead, nominated by Moorhead Post 21.
- SrA Shane D. Stede, Forest Lake, nominated by Minneapolis Post 99.
- PO-E01 Austin D. Hawk, nominated by Moorhead Post 21.
- SGT Alexander D. Huntimer, Branden, SD, nominated by U of M Post 548.
- SMSGT Catherine A. Lammers, Apple Valley, nominated by U of M Post 548.

Richard Oelschlager helps the 10th District distribute hotdogs at the hospitality event.

Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs Larry Herke spoke on the activities of the MDVA.

Riders Steve Sullivan and Chuck Stone were honored for their long service to the Legion Riders by Past Detachment Commander Shawn Davis.

National Vice Commander Bruce Feuerbach of Iowa spoke of the importance of membership.
Some Problems at Utah Beach

By Al Zdon

USS Susan B. Anthony had a good record of service.

The transport ship (AP-72) had begun life as an ocean liner, Santa Clara, in 1930 and had sailed the oceans for a decade before World War II began and Uncle Sam welcomed the ship into the fleet.

While still a student, Santa Clara had transported Walt Disney and his staff to Chile for the making of “Three Caballeros.”

It was reconfigured into a transport ship and renamed Susan B. Anthony after the American suffragist, one of the few Navy ships named after a woman.

The ship participated in Operation Torch, the invasion of North Africa, in late 1942, and then the invasion of Sicily in 1943. In between, she hauled soldiers and supplies across the Atlantic.

The ship’s luck ran out on June 7, 1944, off Utah Beach in the D-Day plus-1 landings at Normandy.

In her hold that day was a young soldier named Jack Schramm from Minneapolis. As he waited with his comrades for the landing, a massive explosion rocked the large ship.

It began to sink.

It was Schramm’s first taste of war, and the ship was still 10 miles from the beach.

One Sunday morning, he got a call from a high school classmate. “He said he was coming right over. When he got there he said the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor. I said, ‘Where?’ Nobody knew where Pearl Harbor was.’”

At about the same time, his mother and father had purchased a delicatessen on Lake Street. “I felt I needed to be around to show them how to run the store, and so I waited for the Army to draft me.”

He didn’t have to wait long. On March 31, 1942, he got his greetings from the federal government.

“They sent me to Camp Barkeley in Texas for basic training. The Army was making the transition from World War I to World War II. The structure was changing, the weapons were changing, and the preparation for war was changing.”

He was assigned to Company F, 359th Regiment of the 90th Division. The division was originally from Texas and Oklahoma, and the T-O became the division’s nickname, the “Tough ‘Ombres.”

His civilian experience as a storekeeper helped and he was promoted to buck sergeant not long out of boot camp.

“I had gone from buck private to buck sergeant and some people didn’t like that. One guy said to me, ‘Hey, you’ve got to go through the ranks like everyone else.’ But then the Army decided that the NCO in charge of supplies had to be a staff sergeant, and so I became a staff sergeant. It was still 1942.”

The division did maneuvers in Louisiana and in California. “We got to play in the sand out there.”

Then it was on to Fort Dix in New Jersey. “We went into New York for a weekend, and it was great. We were planning on going back to New York the next weekend, but instead we were on ship going to England.”

The ship was in a convoy, and despite the perilous waters of those days, it made it to Scotland unscathed. “It was an English ship and they were saving their food for the English people. So we had toast and orange marmalade for 14 days. I don’t eat orange marmalade anymore.”

One Sunday morning, he got a call from a high school classmate. “He said he was coming right over. When he got there he said the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor. I said, ‘Where?’ Nobody knew where Pearl Harbor was.”

The division ended up near Amesbury, England, and began training some more. “We set up our camp on a hill, and you could sit on that hill at night and watch the Germans bombing London.”

They were sent to Ireland to catch their ship, USS Susan B. Anthony, for transport to the beaches at Normandy.

The area off the coast of France had been swept for mines, all except one.

“We hit it, and it just blew us out of the water.”

JACK SCHRAMM
At home in Anoka

2,500 soldiers crowded into the hold of the transport ship Susan B. Anthony during the D-Day landings at Utah Beach in Normandy. One of those was a young Minnesotan who had made staff sergeant during his first six months in the Army. And then the ship hit a mine and started to sink.

JACK SCHRAMM
In the Army in 1942
Schramm was in the hold with all his gear waiting for the word to transfer over to the Higgins boats for the final trip to the beach when the mine hit. “I had a buddy on the ship right behind us and he saw the mine hit. He said it lifted my ship out of the water enough so he could see the propellers turning on the bottom of the ship.”

In the hold, there was deep consternation. It was dark, and the ship was beginning to tilt to one side. “Then they told us to drop our gear and get on deck. They opened the hatches, and I think I was the first one to make it to the deck.”

The ship had lost all power and the rudder jammed in a hard left turn. By 8 a.m., the ship had taken on a great deal of water and was beginning to settle. There was an eight-degree list to the port side.

The captain of the ship, Commander T.L. Gray, wanted to get the ship back to an even keel to see if it could be saved. “They had all 2,500 of us move to one side of the ship.” The human ballast worked, and the ship leveled out, but it was too late.

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“There was just too big a hole in the bottom of the ship.”

At 8:22 a.m. the fleet tug USS Pinto came alongside with the intention of bringing Anthony to shallow water. But fires broke out in the engine and fire rooms, and the captain decided to abandon ship. Pinto and two destroyers came alongside. “They were so close that you could just jump from one ship to the other.” It was something of a miracle, but all 2,689 troops and crew of the USS Susan B. Anthony were rescued. By 9:05, nearly everyone had left the ship, and the decks were awash as the ship slowly sank.

“We watched it go down.” Schramm’s new temporary ship was a British destroyer. “All of a sudden, at a certain hour, they announced tea and cigarettes, but nobody got it.” The men left the Higgins boats in chest-high water and waded into Utah Beach. “On my way out, I saw something in the bottom of the boat and I grabbed it. It turned out to be a package of Old Golds and a hand grenade. I gave away the cigarettes, but I kept the hand grenade.”

On the way to the beach, they got another greeting. “The Germans flew over and were shooting, but nobody got hit.”

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Many of the troops had left their rifles and other gear aboard the transport. “At first they gave some of the guys Japanese rifles. I don’t know where they got those. Then the next day, we all got American rifles.”

The regiment was sent into the St. Mere Eglise area where many paratroopers and gliders had landed. “Somebody didn’t work it out very good. The gliders were supposed to land in open fields, but instead they landed in the woods. A lot of boys got killed.”

Some of the gliders also caught fire. “I was on a detail to get bodies off the gliders. It was like at a medical office, the skin was all burnt off and it was just muscle and bones left. We were very careful with the dog tags to make sure they were attached to who they belonged to.”

Some days later, the division earned its reputation in capturing Hill 122 from the German army. Part of the division fought on and kept the hill, suffering over 5,000 casualties. “There was some furious fighting.”

It was on to Perriers in late July and Schramm’s unit was pinned down by three German tanks. “There was a lot of shooting, and our boys were shooting bazookas at the tanks, but they ran out of ammunition. I went back and got some bazooka shells. You could only carry two at a time.

I was heading back to get more when I got hit.” Schramm was hit by shrapnel from an artillery shell that landed near him at 2 p.m. on July 26. The shrapnel hit him in the throat and jaw and also in the back. “You don’t feel any pain because the shrapnel is red hot when it hits you. It cooks the meat.” The hot fragment cauterized the wound.

“I was helped from the field by the medics. One of the medics put some stuff in the wound to stop the bleeding. I don’t know if I got morphine, but I suppose I did.

“I had a friend, Tony, who was a sergeant in the medical corps, and when he saw me he said, ‘You’re not walking anymore.’ And they brought up a stretcher that got me to ambulance. He was taken to the 102nd Evacuation Hospital where he stayed overnight. “The next day they put me on an airplane. These were the same airplanes they had dropped the paratroopers with. Already they had converted them by putting beds in them. I was wondering if we were going to make it. It was my first airplane ride in my life.”

Schramm was safely deposited at a hospital near London.

He spent some weeks in the hospital, and the neck wound was healing well. “They were looking for guys to pose for a photo at the fort. For what it’s worth, Schramm is in the front row, eighth from the left.

The 90th Division was sent to Fort Dix, New Jersey, to get ready to board a troop ship for England. F Company posed for a photo at the fort. For what it’s worth, Schramm is in the front row, eighth from the left.

Schramm is shown in Europe in 1944.

After getting wounded in France, Schramm’s account was written up in a couple of Minnesota newspapers.

In the early 1920s, Schramm as a toddler.

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get them back to the front lines, but I told them I couldn’t lift my arm. I couldn’t hold it up. They said there must be shrapnel in there yet and they’d have to take it out.”

After another surgery, he was put on a hospital ship that took him to Charleston, South Carolina. “It was a nice trip, although we got into a little rough weather.”

He was back in the United States in mid-December, just in time to miss the Battle of the Bulge.

Next was a hospital train to an Army Hospital in Clinton, Iowa. “I was hospitalized for a couple of weeks and then they sent me home to recuperate and told me to come back in two weeks. And then they told me to come back in two weeks, and so on.”

By May, he was healed and assigned to Hot Springs, Arkansas. “I didn’t have any job, so I just hung around at this nice hotel. We’d go down to dinner, and it would be served by all these guys in white clothes.”

Next it was on to Camp Claiborne where he was assigned to a cadre of training engineers. Schramm was in charge of supplies. He was given his discharge in November. “I had quite a few points by then.”

He was back home and worked at his parents’ delicatessen. He married Martha in April 1947, and they had three children. He held several jobs, and lived in Lake Crystal for many years running a food store.

“I could see that it was the food brokers who were making the money, though. We were just scraping by at Lake Crystal. So we moved back to the Twin Cities, and I became a broker.” He retired in 1984.

On December 5, he will celebrate his 100th birthday. “My favorite thing to do is sleep,” he said with his sly smile. But he also finds time to work on the computer, and he has done extensive genealogy research through the years. He also was an amateur photographer and he collected stamps.

He and Martha live in a Methodist community in Anoka. “You want to know the secret to live to be 100 years old?” he asked.

“Keep breathing.”
Hospital Association elects two members

The American Legion Family Hospital Association re-elected a member and elected a new one at its annual meeting in Mahnomen in October.

Albert Marth of New Ulm was re-elected to her position representing the American Legion.

In the other election, Theresa Rudnicki of Waite Park was elected unopposed to an Auxiliary position. She is replacing Sharon Thiemecke who has completed a three-year term.

The board heard a report from its claims coordinator Roger Myren.

The association had an increase in the number of claims this past fiscal year with 33 total. That compares with 14 the year before, 18 the year before that, and 38 in 2016.

Likewise, the amount of expense for the association went up, reflecting the claims. This past year, there was $49,000 in expenses compared to $31,000 last year.

Total income for the association was $50,000, compared with $49,000 last year.

Donations received stood at $15,000, the same amount as last year.

Dues income was at 27,500 this year, compared with $28,000 the year before, probably reflecting the fewer number of members in two of the three supporting organizations, the Legion and the Auxiliary. The other organization is the Sons of the American Legion.

Medical expense for the association was $48,678 this year, compared to $17,000 last year.

The association’s assets now stand at $250,000 compared to $269,000 the prior year, $251,000 in 2017 and $247,000 in 2016.

The Family Hospital Association pays off medical bills that Legion Family members may be having trouble dealing with.

The three organizations pay dues into the hospital association.

Bowling tourney will be held in Dayton

The Minnesota State American Legion Family Bowling Tournament is set for March 21 to April 18, 2020. The tournament will be at Sundance Lanes in Dayton.

Singles and doubles begin at noon Saturdays and 9 a.m. Sundays. Four-person team bowling is at 3:30 p.m. Saturdays and noon Sundays.

The tournament is open to all members 18 years of age or older of The American Legion, Sons of the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary. The entry fee is $22 per person per event, plus an optional $2 for all events. All participants must carry a current membership card.

Forms are available at mnlegion.org. All requests for reservations, information and otherwise should be directed to Cari Lamb, tournament secretary. Her address is 3217 19th Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55407. Her cellphone is 612-968-4839. Her email is crlmb74@gmail.com.

Lamb suggests making hotel reservations in the Osseo-Maple Grove area early.

Participants who had reservations in last year’s tournament must send entries and all fees to her postmarked by Dec. 31. Failing to meet the deadline opens time slots for requesting teams.

On any given date, entries can be taken for up to one hour prior to bowling if opening are available, but she requests teams to make requests two weeks in advance.

The entry form says the 10-pin rule is in effect. The 10-pin rules says if your average is 10 pins higher in league bowling after 21 games than your last year’s average, you must report this average as the average to be used in the tournament.

Bowlers may enter both singles and doubles or can bowl in the singles or doubles event only, but they must inform Lamb.

Division I is the Legion division, and Division 2 is the Auxiliary division.
A crucial moment in history, during World War II, the Allies were faced with a number of huge decisions. How would they invade Europe? Who would be privy to the secrets of the planned atomic bomb? Could America and the United Kingdom agree on a unified strategy?

How could we get enough troops and supplies overseas to mount an invasion? Without these and other history-changing decisions up in the air, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt did what he thought was best. With the future of the world at stake, he carefully chose his next move.

He went fishing.

Author Philip Padgett outlined the history of that time at the October meeting of the World War II Round Table at the Minnesota Legionnaire Center. He was joined later by two crew members of B-29 bombers who told some amazing tales about their service and lives.

Padgett shared most of his working career advising national security and international negotiations at the highest level. A native Marylander, he spent several years researching his first book, *Avocating Overlord*, which takes a peek at the behind-the-scenes battle that led to the invasion of Europe on June 6, 1944.

Roosevelt and Winston Churchill had met in Casablanca in January 1943. Churchill wanted three U-boats working together on the bombing of Europe, and do joint planning on how to re-enter the continent. Roosevelt was uneasy about this staged scene regarding information about the atomic bomb the U.S. was developing. "Should we share this terrible weapon?"

Britain's scientists had done much critical work on the bomb, but soon realized they didn't have the resources to build up troops and supplies faster than the Germans. They knew that after a while people would notice and be sure that the president wasn't in the White House and then the British and American team, began planning the invasion. They decided that it would take and there was no Allied strategic commander "who would not proceed if it was determined there were more vague assurances about future involvement, and Churchill was not happy.

Roosevelt and Winston Churchill had met in Casablanca in January 1943. Churchill. "There was a feeling on both sides that they could respond."

So, in the midst of all this furious planning, negotiating and intrigue, a meeting between Churchill and Roosevelt was planned.

"On Friday, July 30, 1943, with the whole world in crisis, FDR decided to go fishing in Canada. They didn't tell anyone. They knew that after a while people would notice that the president wasn't in the White House and then the rumors would start." Padgett quoted Roosevelt after several days had gone by with no mention of his absence in the press, "We sure gave the rumors would start."

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Medics and medevacs saved many lives during the Vietnam War

By Al Zdon

One of the crucial difficulties in fighting the jungle war in Vietnam was treating and rescuing wounded American soldiers.

The October meeting of the Vietnam War Roundtable featured a medic and a medevac helicopter pilot who told of their harrowing experiences during the war.

Bill Struzinski went to Hill High School in St. Paul and then on to Mankato State University in 1964. "I got sick and had to drop out of school in 1966, and that wasn’t a good thing." He was immediately re-classified 1-A by the government and was drafted.

Struzinski trained at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky, and one of his choices for an Army career was to be a medic. "I thought I’d learn all this emergency first aid and I could use that the rest of my life."

He went through advanced infantry training, and of his class of 508, 490 were sent to Europe. Ten, including Struzinski, were sent to Vietnam.

His medical training was only 10 weeks. "They told us that for the next four years we would work with other veterans."

"The first few days were nerve wracking. The other guys wanted to know when we were going to get back to Mankato State and was able to share experiences with other veterans.

The October panel included medic Bill Struzinski, moderator Doug Bekke, and medevac pilot Jim Williamson.

Williamson spent 28 years in the Army and retired as a colonel. He later was an administrator of a nursing home near Mankat.

Williamson’s full story is in War Stories III, a compilation of veterans’ stories available through the Minnesota American Legion.

The Vietnam Roundtable was moderated by Doug Bekke and hosted by Randall Dietrich. It is a joint program of the Minnesota Military Museum, Twin Cities Public Television and Concordia University in St. Paul where the meetings are held on the third Monday of the month.
Haugen, Merlyn, 95, Army veteran of World War II, died Oct. 13, 2019. He was a member of Eden Post 5.

Elbinger, Richard James, 78, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died Oct. 10, 2019. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 157.

Klicker, Dean C., 84, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 24, 2019. He was a member of Thief River Falls Post 117.

Kelly, Thomas Willard, 85, Army and Army Reserve veteran of the Vietnam era, died Sept. 20, 2019. He was a member of New Ulm Post 132.

Klim, Joseph John, 84, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Oct. 2, 2019. He served as Post 216 commander.

Klinker, Teresa Irene, 69, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Aug. 17, 2019. She was a member of Alexandria Post 87.

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Greetings to the American Legion Family from the mighty First District.

We are well into the new membership year. We are working in the process of notifying members of the society and revitalization in the local legion posts armories and on college campuses and the 1982nd and 1982d lists.

We encourage veterans in eligibility and benefits some don’t know about. Have a veteran service officer come and speak at your membership dinner, rally or have a special event for the local legion chapter, post veterans and people ready to help you fill out the forms. Do not put them off if they are ready to sign up.

It is real close. Many programs, event and dinners in your local areas to attend and support and honor all the veterans.

November 10, is the 100th birthday of the American Legion Auxiliary. Happy Birthday to all. Thank you for all of the support you give to the veterans.

The holidays are coming up soon. Support our deployed and their families.

Pray for all deployed troops whether here or over seas defending our freedoms. Veterans thank you for service.

Greetings to the American Legion Family.

Veterans are almost upon us. Do you have a program that you put on or someone in your community does? If so, invite all the area veterans to your program, include them by doing a buddy check on them. All it takes is that one person to care and make them feel welcome. Ask them how they are doing, take the time to listen to them. As veterans, we all need to make sure that time is not used as a one time or another. With the buddy check you don’t have to just stop with Veterans Day, check on them every week, or as that is all it may take for them to become an American Legion Family member if they are not one already. Moving forward towards the end of the year and the holidays coming up, this can be a very difficult time for some of them, invite them to a meal or some other gathering. Show them who we are as Legion Family, and what we can do to help them. If we don’t invest in ourselves and show others what we can accomplish, who is going to do it? Still Serving America.

Greetings to the American Legion Family.

One thing I have learned as I travel around the Sixth District attending membership dinners is that there are an amazing number of ways for people to make chicken taste good. I am also learning that there are an amazing number of great people in this district.

On the membership front, I see several posts who are already at 100% and several more who are at the 80-90 percent range. Keep up the good work and as you are recruiting, don’t forget to talk about the Legion Act.

The E-board approved the appointment of District Adjutant Susan Edwards, Sgt at Arms Jim Lucas, ALR Liaison Officer Leslie Kruft and Boy’s State Chairman Don Smith. Thank you to one and all for stepping up.

We are having some good successes in the area of improving communication in the district by using direct email, a Sixth District Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/MNSixthDistrict/, and most recently, the establishment of a district website at http://www.mn6thdistrict.org/

At a recent District Executive Committee meeting, the district confirmed the district-level endorsements of Tom Fernlund for Department Commander and Susan Edwards for Department Adjutant for the 2020-21 term of office.

I want to take the time to wish the entire American Legion Family a Happy Thanksgiving. I hope everyone can spend the day with people you love and people who love you.

Greetings from your Commander.

November being the month we celebrate all those men and women who wore the uniform of our Country, past and present; there are so many events happening for us to attend. Check with your school and community for times, and make it to as many as you can. Show them that Legionnaires are out there working with and for people. Let them know who we are, and keep our brand visible to the public.

Make visits to our older veteran friends in the nursing homes and care facilities. Show your love, concern for their welfare, and appreciation for their past service.

With the passage of the Legion Act, members are encouraged to talk about your veterans to offer membership in the Legion now. We truly need these veteran’s to be among our ranks for their valuable insight.

Let me know when your Post is meeting, and I will try to attend meetings that I can. Also encourage our rank and file members to contact me with suggestions and comments about Legion and veteran issues. There are so many things going on, and up-coming. I’m sure the rank and file are interested and have some input. Legionnaires are encouraged to attend Legion events, and especially regular Post meetings; greater attendance provides more context in discussions.

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Greetings from The Thundering Third

Fall Conference is behind us. If you attended, please send me an email with your thoughts and suggestions. I also encourage our rank and file members to contact me with suggestions and comments about Legion and veteran issues.

The Fourth District just finished the formal part of the revitalization effort at North St. Paul Post 39 last weekend. I say the formal part because many of us have lists where we called and spoke with veterans who asked us to send them a letter about the post in their area. So we have home work to do to follow up efforts. The Department headquar ters even sent over two employees to assist our efforts. While I only had one positive transfer; I’m still working on a few. Others who were there or took their list home have reported better results.

If you would like to join us on the 3rd Sunday of the month at the VA Medical Center at 1 p.m. in the meeting room just off the main rotunda. We then go up to the rooms and give them the forms and find out how the VA is treating them and wish them well.

We are well into the new membership year. We are working in the process of notifying members of the society and revitalization in the local legion posts armories and on college campuses and the 1982nd and 1982d lists.

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It’s hard to believe that November is here. The months since my installation have just flown by. I hope you got all the Halloween candy you wanted and are now looking forward to the upcoming holiday season and time spent with family and friends.

My October calendar was packed with many special outings and Auxiliary events. Our 100th Anniversary Committee under the leadership of Chairman Karl Olterness and Pam Hoshal have a special day planned with cash prizes, door prizes, food specials, etc. I hope my doc tor will allow me and my new hip the chance to participate.

In this month when we spend some time remembering what we are thankful for, I’d like to send a special thank you out to my husband, Carl, who has been my chauffeur for many of the events I’ve attended this Auxiliary year.

A perfect example would be Saturday, October 5, when he dropped me off at Rosetown Unit 542 for a Luncheon/Style Show, roamed around St. Paul for almost three hours, then picked me up for our trip down to a Membership Dinner at the Westside Post. He drove us all the way back to Cloquet after the conclusion of a very filling dinner and fun program.

Another Membership Dinner in October found us having a great evening at Brainerd Post 255. The Cocktail Party at Bagley American Legion Family #166 Joanie Krantz and her crew ran our annual Fall Conference Silent Auction which the proceeds goes to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. This is an Auxiliary program where the Auxiliary helps their members in times of emergencies. Thanks to the entire American Legion Family for making this a success. Our donations exceeded $4,300. Heartfelt thanks for our American Legion Family for supporting our program.

PEARL HARBOR RALLY

The Pearl Harbor Membership Rally will be held at the Rosetown Memorial Post 542 on Saturday, December 7th, with registration from noon until 1 p.m. Lunch will be at 1 and the program will follow. The Auxiliary is still using these get-togethers as a Membership Rally so make sure and bring many along.

CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOP

The Department Office and the Hospital and Home Representatives want to give a big thank you to the Units and Posts that have contributed funds to our Gift Shop program. Again this year, the veterans at the four (4) VA Medical Centers and the five (5) Minnesota Veterans Affairs Medical Centers will have exclusive gifts for their loved ones through our Gift Shop program. About 2,000 veterans participate in this program. A huge change this year for the Gift Shop is the amount that was approved by the Department Executive Committee to spend on our Veterans at the Gift Shop.

The Gift Shop committee has been busy shopping for the gifts and would appreciate your Unit’s financial support of this program. Please include a generous cash donation in your Unit’s annual budget and send it to the department office earmarked under Gift Shop. Let’s support our own Auxiliary programs first.

Donations to the Gift Shop are accepted all year. You may use Poppy funds and Gambling funds for this program. The Gift Shop is chaired by Vida Bacon and her Committee Member is Linda Deschen. They are both giving much of their time to make this a very successful event.

GIFT SHOP DATES

Our representatives have announced the date(s) of their Gift Shop at their respective facilities.

American Legion Auxiliary Warren Unit 27 and the Ninth District Executive Committee endorsed Jean Walker for Alternate NEC for the 2020-2022 Auxiliary years. She has been an active member of Warren Unit 27 for 26 years. Her eligibility is through her late father, Joseph Penk a World War II veteran. She is a Paid Up For Life member.

At the unit level, she has held many positions including President. On the District level she has been a Past President, 2nd Vice President, Chairman for several of the committees including, Membership, Americanism, Education, Finance Chairman, Past President, and Pepper, Legislation, District Advisor and History.

On the Department level, she has served as chairman for Memory Book, Americanism, Leadership, Girls State Counselor, Membership, VA&R, Legislation, Northwestern Division AEF Chairman and Department President and this year Girls State Chairman and the Northwestern Division Education Chairman. Jean has attended many conventions.

She and her husband, John, have been married for 27 years and live in Warren. They have one son. Jean is retired and John is a dispatcher with the Marshall County Sheriff’s Office. Jean is very active in her community.
October was Auxy Education month

By Pam Gades, Department Education Chairman

The Education Program promotes the American Legion Auxiliary’s role in providing quality education for children and adults through classroom activities, literacy programs, scholarship promotion and support education beyond high school, with a special emphasis on children of veterans and servicemembers.

National Programs

Action Plan

(Please watch for detailed information and reminders on these in the Unit Mailings)

Enhance respect for the sacrifices of our military heroes among Veterans in Community Schools programs at local schools. Details were included in the September-October Unit Mailing.

Promote American Legion Auxiliary scholarships, and award local scholarships at the department and unit levels. Scholarship applications are available for download on the national website (www.ALaforVeterans.org/scholarships).

Do not forget the Department of Minnesota Education Scholarship as your unit prepares your annual budget. Please budget funds for this, to support eight $1000 scholarships.

Support Give 10 to Education, American Education Week and Teacher Appreciation Week.

Assist and support veterans pursuing higher education.

Support Give 10 to Education

Assist and support military children with educational opportunities.

Box Tops for Education NEW! Download the app!

No more clipping, no more sending Box Tops to school.

Download the app for your phone, choose a local school, and scan your receipts. The school will receive $0.10 for each qualifying item. For more information, go to: www.boxtops4education.com and find the Box Tops Product List here: http://bit.ly/2lnOzS

Join the facebook group: ALA Education Program (www.facebook.com/groups/1489034401420831/)

Past President’s Parley shares ideas

SANDY FREDRICKSON

As we celebrate our 100th American Legion Auxiliary Anniversary let’s involve our Past Presidents of our organization. Our Units, districts, and department all have Past President’s. This is the year to take pictures and tell your stories. You may be surprised as to hear some insight from those who helped build this organization. You may gain new ideas from their old ideas.

As we know the purpose of the Past Presidents Parley is to focus on these members as mentors and encourage them to share their knowledge. Past Presidents are here to help build a stronger future for our organization and make a difference in the life of our organization and members. We are not here to tell you how to do it.

Focus on President Mary’s theme, “Remember, Honor, Serve.”

The important things the Parley does and represents are: knowing about the Department PPP Scholarship, enter in the unit Woman of the Year contest, and the Salute to Servicewoman Award.

Every unit should have a parley. If not, try something new this year and establish one. You may be surprised of members that haven’t participated in a long time. They may enjoy hearing from you and you may open new doors.

Busy months ahead for VA&R Program

The next two months are very busy for Minnesota’s Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Program. November 11th is Veterans Day. Are you planning something to honor and thank the veterans in your community for their service to God and Country? Our Gift Shop elves, Mary French (651-455-1841) and Lynn Olson, have been very busy shopping. Distribution will be at North St. Paul on (651-455-1841) and Lynn Olson, have been very busy shopping. Distribution will be at North St. Paul on

Extra elves are always appreciated at the facilities. Hope you can join one or even all of the Gift Shops. December is Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation month. National is encouraging us to plan an event to do something to make a difference in the lives of our veterans and their families. The sewing patterns will be published in the next Unit Mailing, something new is being added. The patterns will be labeled as to which facility uses them. Storage space is limited at all of the facilities, please contact the Rep to be sure they are in need of items before using your precious time to make the items.

President Mary Hendrickson welcomes SAL Commander Dave Vulcan to the convention.
Reverse Mortgages

The future doesn't have to be uncertain.

The lower the Margin, the more you qualify for. Call or email me for a free consumer guide and a personal quote.

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

Mike Kraus
Loan Officer
NMLO ID #283509
7365 Kirkwood Court North, Suite 300
Maple Grove, MN 55369
763-355-8540
m kraus@mulhomeloans.com

I BUY AND COLLECT MILITARY ITEMS
Including insignia, hats, helmets, and militaria from WW I, WW II, Korea, Vietnam. I have not started my collection on Southeast Asia yet. I collect Army, USAF, USN, USMC, patches, pins, pictures and souvenirs from all periods. CALL FOR: 612-801-4673 AFTER 6

Attention Veterans!

I am looking for disabled veterans, duty duty and military families to purchase.

Mailbox full?

Get your Legionnaire by email.
Go to: mnlegion.org
Click on “Legion Publications”

All Legion, Auxiliary and SAL members can receive the Legionnaire via email.

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