Oxford of North Carolina elected Legion Commander

Bill Oxford of North Carolina was elected National Commander of The American Legion at the organization’s 101st convention in Indianapolis.

Oxford recounted dozens of American Legion programs and said it is up to us, who are carrying forward the legacy into the second hundred years, to keep those programs strong.

He served as Department Commander in 2010-11, and he chaired the national Legislative Commission, and the Veterans Employment and Education Commission.

Part of a family of nine, Oxford grew up in Lenoir, N.C., joined the Marine Corps and served in Vietnam as a mechanic on an A-6 Intruder.

He later served in National Guard and the Army Reserve and retired as a colonel.

Commander sets up ad hoc committees

Two new ad hoc committees were created and staffed by Department Commander Mark Dvorak at the August Department Executive Committee held in Osseo.

One committee will look at setting up and running a Minnesota Legion College. The other will examine the Minnesota Legion’s bylaws and constitution and suggest changes and deletions.

The college committee will work to establish the college. There is a national week-long college, but Minnesota has not had one for many years.

The Department has been putting a renewed emphasis on training, and having a college is seen as a way of helping Legion leadership and potential leadership gain a better understanding of the organization’s programs, history, and purposes.

Dvorak announces his appointments

Commander Mark Dvorak announced his appointments to various Department committees at the August Executive Committee meeting in Osseo.

There will be no post activities at this year’s fall conference.

A baseball legend

Excelsior teammates chase down Jarod Wandersee after he connected for a single in the bottom of the seventh for a walk-off victory over two-time state Division I champion Tri-City Red in a quarter-final game at Cold Spring. Photo by John Sherman.

Excelsior, Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton win state Legion baseball championships

By Al Zdon

Excelsior and Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton respectively won the Division I and Division II Minnesota American Legion Baseball tournaments this year.

Minnesota representatives went on to a measure of success in the Central Plains Regional Tournaments with Excelsior making it to the final game before bowing out, and Plato, the second place finisher in Division II, winning the regional.

Excelsior, coming into the tournament at Cold Spring with a gaudy 47-2 record, was clearly the class of the tournament, and they proved it by winning the state title without losing a game.

The Fire Club was mightily tested, though, in a quarter-final game against Tri-City Red, the state champs the last two years. Tri-City was up 6-5 heading into the bottom of the seventh, but Excelsior pushed across two runs for the walk-off victory.

In the championship game, Excelsior outlasted Edina 3-1. Both teams moved on to the national regional tournament, and they proved it by winning the state title without losing a game.

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Fall Conference set for Shooting Star

This year’s Fall Conference will be held at Shooting Star Casino and Hotel in Mahnomen from Oct. 25-26, sponsored by Bagley Post 16.

A registration form is on page 3 of this Legionnaire.

The conference is considered the school of instruction for the Legion year, and often features education programs and guest speakers from the national organization.

Those seeking rooms should contact the hotel directly at 1-800-453-7827. Those calling should ask for the American Legion room block: 6536.

Registration is $15 per person if received by Oct. 1, $18 after that, and $20 at the door.

There will be no post activities at this year’s fall conference.
Appointments

Continued from Page 1

Lindquist Abjaev, Jareed Sturgill of Champlin, Junior Shooting Sports.

Kyle Oldre of Luverne was named Boys State Director replacing the retired Tim Schaefer. Oldre is a former member of the Finance Committee and a current member of the Post 553, Windom.

Natalie Gornick of Anoka was named chairman of the Oratorical Contest, replacing Sylvan Fix.

Jan Jansen of Aroon Hills will be the Legion’s representative to the Armed Forces Service Center. Terry Larson of Shafter will chair the blood program.

Karen Welander of Sunberg will chair the Children and Youth Committee and Vincent Vornhold of St. Cloud, will serve as vice chair.

Tim Schottenbauer of Minneapolis was appointed to a five-year term on the Convention Corporation.

Virgil Wagner of Middle River was appointed to a three-year term on the Credentials Committee. Lynne Nottage of Minneapolis will chair the committee.

Paul Edwards of Brainerd was named to three-year term on the Education and Training Committee. Carl Moon of Walker will chair the Employment Committee.

Richard Wog of Willmar was named to a five-year term on the Finance Committee. Tom Buras of Fergus Falls will chair the committee.

The Fort Snelling Cemetery Association representative will be Tom Mullon of Eagan.

Tim Haugen of Moorhead will chair the Fund for Hospitized Vets. Christine Wendt of New Prague will join the committee.

Susan Edwards of Brainerd will chair the Law and Order Committee replacing Tom Conway.

Chuck Stone of Owatonna will chair the Riders liaison.

Bill Barkbrescht of Battle Lake will serve a three-year term and chair the Legionnaire Insurance Trust Committee.

Richard Cross of Sauk Centre will chair the Department’s representative on the Legionville Board of Directors, replacing Roger Myren.

Bob Hart of Oak Park Heights will chair the Legislative Committee replacing Peggy Moon. Deon Ford of Apple Valley will join the committee.

Sylvan Fix of Brownsville will be the new membership director.

Richard Janssen of Richmond and Gary Olson of Moodhoo were re-appointed to three-year terms on the Brain Science Foundation.

Lloyd Ricker of Dawson was re-appointed to a five-year term on the Minnesota Legion Foundation.

Last year’s Legionnaire, Paul, was named to a five-year term on the National Security and Foreign Relations Committee.

Eugene Leifeld of Zumbrota was appointed to a three-year term replacing Richard Wog. Jim Kellogg was named chairman.

Glenn Mueller of St. Charles will chair the Placement Feed Committee replacing Chuck Stone. Rod Reifeleck of Elyssian will serve as vice chair.

Cindy Brunk of Brewster was named to a five-year term on the Minnesota Legion Foundation.

Michelle Haugen of Owatonna will chair the Post Development Committee.

John Flynn of Eagan will complete a four-year term that was vacated by Eugene Leifeld.

Tim Burley of Hutchinson was appointed to a three-year term on the Public Relations Committee. Brad Pagel of Granite Falls was appointed to a three-year term on the Public Salary Committee. He will replace Chuck Stone.

Slayton will serve a two-year term and replace John Flynn, and Paul Orson of Circle Pines will replace Ralph Schneckloth.

Gary Mumkholm of Ramsey was re-appointed to a five-year term on the Rehabilitation Committee.

Al Davis of Princeton was re-appointed to a three-year term on the Resolutions Assignment Committee and will be the chairman.

Gary Weaver of La Crescent will be the advisor to the Sons of the American Legion. Joe Niesen of Cologne will be the new Vice Chairman South.

Randy Schub of Danube will replace Mike Perry as a vice director of the Baseball Committee. Brandon Raymo of Montevideo was appointed to a three-year term as vice director.

John Torma of Eveleth will continue as chair of the Bowling Committee. Tom Skuzia of Sauk Rapids will join the committee.

Carla Tappainer was named to a five-year term on the Strategic Planning Committee replacing Dan Williams. Mike Maxa, Le Center, will serve a two-year term replacing Brad Pagel.

Tom Fernlund of St. Cloud will chair the committee and Maxa will serve as secretary.

Don Pankake of Hutchinson was re-appointed to a two-year term as a Legion representative on the Veterans 4 Veterans Committee.

Ad hoc committees named by Dvorak

Continued from Page 1

The college committee must assemble a staff, set a meeting time, create an application process, develop a budget and do other tasks to get the college functioning.

Named to the ad hoc committee were Mike Ash, St. Paul, Paul Edwards, Brainerd, Sy Fix, Brownsville; Denise Milnor, Bagle and Linda Dvorak, Le Center. The committee will elect its own chairman and secretary.

The Constitution and Bylaws ad hoc committee will look at the Department’s official documents and legal construction.

Periodically, the Department goes through its standing resolutions to see which ones have become obsolete or need to be updated.

The committee will include Past National Commander Dan Ludwig, Red Wing; Ray D’Zurik, Breezy Point; Al Davis, Princeton; William Goede, Plainview, and Department Judge Advocate Greg Colby of Northfield.

Proceedings of both sub-committees will be subject to review by the DEC.

In other business, the DEC:

— Re-elected Dennis Henkemeier, Bagley, to a three-year term on the Board of Publications. Brian Medinnus, Austin, was also nominated, and a paper ballot election was held. The vote totals were not announced.

— Was informed by Commander Dvorak of his project for the year. Seventy-five percent will go to the Wounded Warriors Project. The other 25 percent will go toward the Warriors Guide Service program. The non-profit helped 400 veterans this past year. The other 25 percent will go toward the Memorial Deer Hunt and Legionville, split evenly.

— Heard from Membership Director Sy Fix. He noted that because of the nature of politics, advocacy for a party candidate will eventually hurt the organization and veterans this past year. All Cold War veterans are now eligible for membership. He said his motto for the year will be "Communicate, communicate, communicate." He said that it’s difficult to stop the membership decline, but that the new Legion Act had been passed by Congress, opening up membership to any veteran who served from World War II on. All Cold War veterans are now eligible for membership.

— Was told by Judge Advocate Colby that Legionnaires will elect its own chairman and secretary.

— Re-elected Dennis Henkemeier, Bagley, to a three-year term on the Credentials Committee. Lynne Nottage of Minneapolis will chair the committee.

— Was informed by Legionville President Wayne Gilbertson that the school safety patrol camp needed an $8,800 commercial water heater. He said it was one more unmet need and that the camp has caused the committee to have financial difficulties this year. He said Legionville has established a “Go Fund Me” page with a goal of raising $50,000.

— Was told by Judge Advocate Colby that Legionnaire should not engage in political activities while wearing Legion gear or at Legion functions. Posts may not have funders for candidates and should members wear buttons for a candidate on Legion time. No photos should be taken with candidates while wearing Legion gear. He said that because of the nature of politics, advocacy for a party candidate or party candidate will eventually hurt the organization and veterans as time goes by.

— Heard that a “Go Fund Me” page had also been set up for Past Fourth District Commander Lance Stunkel who has had severe medical issues. Money was collected at the meeting for his family.

— Heard from Past National Commander Ludwig about making sure that new members are treated well at the posts. “It’s not that inviting to join a post if it’s still doing business like 1955. Treat new members with respect and listen to them.”
Endorsements

Tom Fernlund endorsed for Department Commander

Tom Fernlund has been endorsed by Silver Star Post 428 in Waite Park and the 6th District for Department Commander for the 2020-2021 year.

He served in the Air Force from 1981-1992. He is a 27-year honorary life member at Waite Park and served as Post Commander two terms and is currently the Adjutant.

On the District level Fernlund served as 6th District Commander, Adjutant, Vice Commander, County Council Commander, Membership Director and held several chairmanships.

On the Department level he served as Vice Commander, Membership Director, Sergeant-at Arms and is currently the Strategic Planning Committee Chairman.

On the National level, he serves on the Media and Communications Commission and is a 2007 graduate of The National American Legion College.

Tom is a member of ANAV-ICUS and NALPA. He is a member of the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 428, 40/8 Voiture 415, DAV and is the St. Cloud Area Metrovet Finance Officer.

He has been employed at Rex Granite Co in St. Cloud as a Sales Representative for 18 years. Tom and his wife Veronica (Air Force Veteran and Past 6th District Commander) have been married 30 years and have two sons, two daughters and two grandsons. Daughter Kaitlin is currently serving in the Navy and son Michael is serving in the MN Army National Guard.

Minnesotan named to head national DAV

ORLANDO, Fla.—Retired Minnesota Army National Guard Veteran Stephen Whitehead was unanimously elected national commander of the more than 1 million member DAV (Disabled American Veterans) today at the organization’s 98th National Convention in Orlando, Florida. Whitehead is the first post-9/11 Veteran chosen to lead the organization and will lead the organization as it marks its centennial in 2020.

He earned a Bronze Star on a deployment to Iraq. Whitehead joined DAV and was elected to lead as adjutant of the organization’s Department of Minnesota in 2012. He currently serves as executive director of the Disabled American Veterans of Minnesota Foundation, and has been instrumental in the creation of the department’s outdoor program.
Greetings Minnesota American Legion Family. I wish every Legion Family Member could attend a National Convention at least once. Tuesday, the first day of the Convention is when the American Legion Youth Awards are given out. National Oratorical winner, Eagle Scout Of The Year, Legion Baseball Player Of The Year, Boys Nation President and Junior Shooting Sport Winners are all introduced and recognized and say a few words to the delegation. These kids are amazing. The Youth Awards are one of the Convention highlights for me.

Our Legion Riders are amazing. Minnesota Legion Riders drove hundreds of miles over a two-weekend period and traveled all over the state collecting donations for the Legacy Scholarship Fund. The Legacy Fund provides scholarships to the children of our fallen heroes since 9/11. A few years ago, eligibility was changed to include Veterans who are 50 percent or more disabled since 9/11. A special thank you to, Steve (Sully) Sullivan for leading the Legacy Run for the past 10 years. Sully is a proud member of the Sons of The American Legion and a true leader. He will be stepping aside from a leadership position but will continue to ride for the rest of my term and up to the Legacy Run will be Auxiliary member Jody Hading. Congratulations Jody. Our Legion Riders exemplify the true spirit of The American Legion Family. I should mention that a check for $175,000.00 was given to the National Commander on Tuesday, August 27th at the National Convention in St. Louis for the Legacy Scholarship Fund. The excitement of giving to a total 10-year donation of $1,116,385.00 by the Minnesota Legion Riders. Unbelievable.

A few post-9/11 veterans have joined thus far. The following: 75% will go to Wounded Warriors Guice Service, a 501c3 here in Minnesota, not to be confused with Wounded Warriors Project. The reason Warrior Guice collectively serves Minnesota veterans. They work with disabled veterans, helping them heal through recreational therapy. More information will be provided at the Harvest Rally at Legionville on September 7th. Legionville will receive 25%. Make all checks payable to the following fund: MN American Legion Fund 82, Commander’s Project, and mail to American Legion Department of Minnesota. For God and Country.

To the Editor:

It should be lowered for the death of a service person. I am writing about the editorial on flag abuse in the August Legionnaire. With the difference of flying the U.S. flag at half mast or half staff? Half staff is for shore stations. Half mast is aboard ships.

Bob Stock

Croskaile

Lowering the Flag II

To the Editor:

I am so happy that someone is keeping an eye on Gov. Walz. I did not approve of Gov. Dayton constantly having us lower the flag for people we had not even heard of. We are not lowering our flag under the present administration nor did we under Gov. Dayton. Enough is enough. This should be only for the President and special armed forces. I hope others are outraged as I am. Gov. Walz should read your editorial.

A veterans wife.

Grace Shuller

Brainard

Legion Act guidelines

To the Editor:

Here is a simplified explanation of the new guidelines following the passage of the Legion Act.

Membership eligibility in the American Legion has been expanded to include practically all military veterans who served on active duty. The new regulations states that eligibility is for serving anywhere within these time frames and for at least one day: April 6, 1917, to Nov. 11, 1918, and December 7, 1941 to Nov. 11, 1918, and December 7, 1941 to Nov. 11, 1918, and December 7, 1941. Post-9/11 veterans or those who served during a war or conflict that was declared by Congress. This includes active duty or active duty as a reservist or National Guard. Eligible veterans must be honorably discharged or still serving honorably.

Clark V Peterson

Hinckley

The Legion Act

News item from the recently concluded National Convention in Indianapolis. The Legion Act, recently passed by Congress, has made 4.2 million additional veteran-eligible members for membership in The American Legion.

Second news item from the convention: Thus far the Legion has signed up 1,400 of those newly eligible members.

Wow, they’re not exactly knocking down the doors to get into the Legion are they?

True, it’s only been a month since President Trump signed the bill. It’s certainly not enough time to see whether the newly-created wartime veterans will respond to the call to join the Legion.

But what if only 00033 percent of the new veterans have joined thus far should give us pause to wonder why. Do you suppose that those veterans, many of whom have tried to join the Legion in years past and have been turned down, might be a little resentful? Or maybe it’s more simple. They’ve lived without the Legion all these years, why should they join now? It’s a mystery why the Legion waited until now to finally seek from Congress the expansion of the term wartime veterans to include what we often refer to as Cold War veterans. We understand that the Legion wanted to protect the status of the organization, and the official explanation was that the Legion would lose its benefits and privileges provided by Congress if we included anyone who hadn’t served during active duty.

Legion officials, including almost every national commander for the past 30 or 40 years, would always say that if you served during World War II or Korea, you should go through the proper channels and a resolution up through the departments to the national convention. And you have to be a veteran to vote. Today, those resolutions would be dead. Even before they could get to the floor of the convention based on the fact they weren’t worded correctly or some other flimsy excuse.

But all credit should go to the current leadership that pushed for and achieved the inclusion of the Cold War veterans. It’s long overdue.

But how do we attract these eligibles, many of whom are disgruntled or simply don’t care anymore? It would be up to our Legion to tell these brothers and sisters in arms that we should have done this 20 or 30 years ago. It wouldn’t hurt to let them know that we consider our service just as valuable to our nation as any other veteran of our armed forces. It wouldn’t hurt to greet these Cold War veterans as the long lost family members that they are. When you make that call to the man or woman who is now eligible to join, maybe the best way to start is to say: Thank you for your service, and we’re sorry it took so long.

Chaplain’s Corner

By Betty Jass

I’m in awe.

Have you ever been “in awe” of anything in your life? I asked a few people and some of their answers were found to be a little consternated. In God’s right hand, a successful harvest or those blazing fall colors. I’m sure many of you have other things in your life that you would exclaim as your “in awe” moment. Today, I’m in awe of the Minnesota American Legion Riders and their Legacy Scholarship Run.

I’m in awe of the commitment of all the Riders who donate their time and money to ensure that our goal is met each year. Everyone pays for their own gas, food and hotel rooms while on this run. They have a great spirit as this run goes for two-3 day-weekends in August through all kinds of rain, heavy winds and fog. The comradery with each other just heightens our purpose.

I’m in awe of the community outreach as they became a significant participant in the Minnesota American Legion Scholarship run each year. Many American Legion posts opened their doors and provided food and refreshments and other different Legion offices were offered for donations for backdrops. Along the streets and roads many people waved their American flags in support of our cause. Many of the towns we visited along our route provided us escorts to keep our whole group together. Thank you so very much.

I’m in awe of the generous hearts of everyone, young, small, thin, elderly and the many organizations that donated to our Legacy Scholarship Run. A couple of them put us in the air as we stopped at the different towns just kept on building as we continued our run. There was a “sparkle” in people’s eyes as they lined up and presented their donations to Sully. We even had to let a few of them use Sully’s Crying Towel.

I’m in awe of The Minnesota American Legion Riders’ tenacity in becoming the first state to reach one million dollars and more in a 10-year period. Congratulations to everyone for all your love, dedication and purpose. This was accomplished without any accidents with thousands of motorcycles and people. My hat is off to you in salute to your accomplishments.

Finally, but not least, I’m in awe of God’s guidance as we started and ended each day’s ride. We dedicated each day to the victims and their families for they are the reason we ride. The American Legion’s Legacy Scholarship provides college scholarship money to children of American Legion members who served post-9/11. A veteran or a service person must have a combined VA disability rating of 50 percent or greater.

So, what or who have you been “in awe” of lately? God has given us so many moments in our lives whether it’s a newborn child, a colorful sunset, or the blazing fall colors. You decide.

I’m in awe.
Abel, Francis Harvey, 90, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 6, 2019. He was a member of Breckenridge Post 53.

Johnson, Jerry, 70, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 28, 2019. He was a fireman in the engineering division on the aircraft carrier USS Bon Homme Richard. He was a member of Duluth Post 135.

Burchas, Raymond, 97, Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 20, 2019. He served in the Europe/Africa/Eastern Theater. He was a member of Backus Post 368.

Beck, Richard G., 91, Marine Corps veteran of World War II, died Aug. 3, 2019. He served in the 1st Engineering Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 1st Marine Division in coastal China. He was a member of Champlin Post 600.

Bromenschenkel, Victor J., 93, Army veteran of World War II and Korea, died July 31, 2019. He was a member of Wayzata Post 428.

Dr. Chet Sommers, 85, Navy and Navy Reserve veteran of the Vietnam War, died Aug. 8, 2019. He was a member of Willmar Post 167.

Engelby, Vincent D., 92, Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 17, 2019. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 5.

Fick, Joseph E., 84, Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War, died July 23, 2019. He was a member of Waconia Post 150.

Fisher, Larry M., 74, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died Aug. 22, 2019. He served in Korea. He was a member of Austin Post 91.

Fuhrman, Martin Charles, 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 16, 2019. He was a mechanic. He was a member of Austin Post 91.

Garthus, Jay, 84, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 5, 2019. He served in Germany. He was a member of Milleville Post 579.

Gutknecht, Ervin G., 81, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 19, 2019. He was a member of Pine City Post 5.

Hansen, Donald R., 94, Navy veteran of World War II, died Aug. 3, 2019. He was a member of Alexandria Post 87.

Horn, John, 88, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died July 10, 2019. He served in the Air Force as a pilot and had many duty stations including Newfoundland, Canada. He was a member of Millville Post 579.

Hartmann, Gary A., 97, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 9, 2019. He was a member of Alexandria Post 87.

Hettten, Richard Alan, 73, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 11, 2019. He served in Vietnam. He was a member of Roseau Post 24.

Holmes, Dare M., 92, Navy veteran of World War II, died July 30, 2019. He was a B Division Freeman on the USS Wichita and later became a boilermaker. He was a member of Mora Post 201.

Huehn, Clifford “Hooley,” 96, Marine Corps veteran of World War II, died Aug. 1, 2019. He served in the 49th Marine Division, 24th Regimental Weapons Company and was in combat at the Marshall Islands, Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima. He was a past commander and service officer of the Vermilion Valley Marine Division, 24th Regimental Weapons Company.

Jacobson, Rodney H., 80, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died Aug. 8, 2019. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 5.

Johnson, Clark Richard, 89, Army and Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 10, 2019. He served in the United States Army Air Forces in the motor pool. He was a member of Alexandria Post 87.

Johnson, John F., 92, Army veteran of World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, died Aug. 17, 2019. He was a member of the Bemidji Armory. Contact MACV for more information.

Joranson, Jerry, 70, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 28, 2019. He was a fireman in the engineering division on the aircraft carrier USS Bon Homme Richard. He was a member of Duluth Post 135.

Kalsman, Harold H., 86, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 22, 2019. He was a member of Middle River Post 444.

Lancecker, Myron L., 86, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 31, 2019. He was a member of Pequot Lakes Post 49.

Lee, John S., 92, Navy veteran of World War II, died July 22, 2019. He was a member of Pillager Post 150.

Lorge, Gerald “Bud,” 94, Navy veteran of World War II, died July 30, 2019. He was an aviation radioman third class, and he served on the carrier USS Intrepid. He was a member of St. Peter Post 37.

Magnuson, Lee G., 88, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 10, 2019. He was a mechanic in the 458th Fighter Day Squadron. He was a member of Mora Post 201.

Morsching, Nelmer J., 89, Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 4, 2019. He served in the United States Army Air Forces in the motor pool. He was a member of Middle River Post 311.

Ness, Eldon N., 82, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 10, 2019. He served as a boiler operator on the USS Coral Sea. He was a member of Millville Post 579.

Olson, Kyle O., 79, Army National Guard veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 30, 2019. He served in the United States Army. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Peterson, Roger William, 97, Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 15, 2019. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 212.

Pickett, Paul Joseph, “Joe,” 80, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 28, 2019. He was a member of Austin Post 91.

Polpeka, Paul Joseph, 86, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died July 30, 2019. He served in England and Korea. He was a member of Glencoe Post 95.


Rolf, Donald J., 79, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died July 25, 2019. He was a member of Waconia Post 150.

Roth, Deacon Jerome, 93, Navy veteran of World War II, died Aug. 8, 2019. He was a chief petty officer. He was a member of Bowlos Post 642.

Rouleau, Jerome T., 75, Air National Guard veteran of the Vietnam War, died Aug. 5, 2019. He served 38 years and retired as a chief master sergeant. He was a member of West Duluth Post 46.

Schaper, Herbert O., 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 7, 2019. He served with headquarters company of the 135th Infantry, 34th Division in camp at Rock Creek. He was a member of New Ulm Post 132.

Schultz, Russell Donald, 89, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died July 12, 2019. He served in Greenland. He was a member of Alexandria Post 87.

Senke, Ronald G., 80, Army veteran of the Cold War, died Aug. 10, 2019. He served in the United States Army in Pine City Post 51.

Skiltings, DeWayne, 86, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 12, 2019. He served in Korea for three years and three months. He was a member of Long Prairie Post 12.

Stanchfield, Sherri, 82, Army Reserve veteran of the Cold War, died Aug. 15, 2019. He was a member of St. Paul Business and Professional Men’s Post 450.

Steenblock, Daniel R., Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Aug. 5, 2019. He played trumpet in the 5th Army Band. He was a member of Redwood Falls Post 38.

Steinbach, Donald J., 92, Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 5, 2019. He was trained at Fort Sill as a bazooka and machine gunner. He was a staff sergeant and served in Germany. He was a member of New Ulm Post 13.

Stevens, Allard E., 98, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died Aug. 8, 2019. He was named the outstanding Air Force Reserve officer in the nation in 1970. He was a member of St. Cloud Falls Post 127.

Swenson, Carroll, 90, veteran of the Korean War, died July 31, 2019. He was a member of Gary Post 505.

Teeman, Stanley D., Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 1, 2019. He was a member of Pine City Post 51.

Dennis, 89, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 15, 2019. He was a member of Little Falls Post 46.

Weber, Reuben E., 94, Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 5, 2019. He earned the Europe/Africa/Middle East ribbon and a Purple Heart. He was a member of Little Falls Post 46.

Wentzel, Art, 74, Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, died Aug. 10, 2019. He was a member of Elysian Post 311.

Werner, John L., 83, Marine veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 12, 2019. He was an honor guard member of Dent Post 148.

Zacher, Ernest, 91, Army veteran of the Korean War, died July 29, 2019. He was awarded two bronze stars. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.
American Legion Riders
By Chuck Stone
Department Director

Congratulations to one and all. Department of Minnesota American Legion Family you are a one million dollar Department. Donations over the last 10 years have totaled over one million dollars. The 2019 Department of Minnesota Ride covered 1,500 miles in six days. Many of those on the ride can add a couple more days and miles just so they could get to the starting points and home again afterwards. Mother Nature was very nice to us this year and we had a very light mist but no measurable rainfall. Also noted on this year’s ride was a record number of treks. Riders are not getting younger, just more seasoned. There were a number of new faces on this year’s ride which tells me the word is getting out and we are growing.

I hope with our one million dollar milestone a couple of riders reached a personal milestone of their own. One rider turned the odometer on his motorcycle to 50,000 miles while another turned his 100,000 miles. Congratulations and I wish them many more miles of safe happy riding.

Steve “Sully” Sullivan announced he will be retiring form chairman of the Legacy Ride. Thank you Sully for an amazing 10 years. Sully has volunteered hundreds of hours of hard work promoting, planning and participating in the program. Sully has also been an adviser to me the past three years.

This will be my last column as your Department Director. It has been an exciting fun-filled three years. The growth of the Minnesota American Legion Riders is strong. More impressive is hearing the dollar totals and volunteer hours donated not only to the Ride but to their communities. Building wheelchair ramps, mowing lawns, shoveling snow and clean up after a storm are just some examples.

I hope as many of you as possible will come early and volunteer a few hours painting please do so. Keep the chrome side up and the rubber side down.

Minnesota Sons of the American Legion News

Sons of The American Legion
By Gary Vulcan
Detachment Commander

Greetings to the American Legion Family, it’s been a very busy couple of months. Starting with attending the Minnesota American Legion Convention in Willmar July. I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to the Raspberry Parade, it was a wonderful day out and the parade was very well attended. It was the first time since convention that Commander Mark, President Mary, Honorary Jr. President Emily, LRA Director Paul and myself were together for an event.

On August 3rd I attended Commander Marks Executive Board meeting in Osseo. Then on August 11th I attended the second part of the convention in Willmar July. I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to the Raspberry Parade, it was a wonderful day out and the parade was very well attended. It was the first time since convention that Commander Mark, President Mary, Honorary Jr. President Emily, LRA Director Paul and myself were together for an event.

Mission Act Update
VA is several months into implementing a part of the VA Mission Act of 2018 that rolled out June 6, 2019. The part I’m talking about is the Veterans Community Care Program, (VCCP).

This is the Veterans Health Administration’s (VHA) greatest transformation of healthcare that offers eligible veterans outside VA’s facility walls. The purpose of this American Legion backed legislation was to consolidate all of VA’s Care in the Community Programs into one organization.

Doing this makes it seamless for veterans to receive care anywhere anytime and allows VA employees to administer the program effectively.

Having one authority one organization simplifies the process for VA to determine eligibility and coordinating the care for the veteran all while delivering world-class customer service. This all starts with a consultation from a veteran’s VA Provider.

The Provider determines if the veteran meets any of the eligibility criteria or new access standards, entering in a consult referral to the VA Care in the Community Program Office where a VA employee will receive the consult, contact the veteran to schedule an appointment with the closest network provider that can provide the specific care needed.

The VCCP uses community providers that have entered into a contract with the VA. These providers are administered through Trivist Healthcare Alliance.

Over the last couple months VA has seen a large amount of veterans in Minnesota enter into the VCCP for specialty care services while keeping their VA Primary Care Provider.

The reason is simple; MPLS VA is the only VA in the Region that provides specialty care services. For many veterans it’s just too far to travel when they don’t have to any more. In this time this atrophies the VA in a way where a large portion of VA budget is being spent paying community providers versus going towards VA infrastructure, staffing and expansion efforts.

What VA is doing to compete with VCCP is offering veterans more tele-health options to see their VA providers remotely. VA has since rolled out a video on demand virtual medical room are where veterans can conduct VA appointments wherever they’re as long as they have a smartphone, internet and email.

One last topic I want to discuss is advancement in VA urgent care services issued under the Mission Act. There are a few types of urgent care network locations, Retail and Urgent Care.

Retail locations include a walk-in health clinic, other than an office, urgent care facility, pharmacy, or independent clinic located within a retail operation. The reasons why you would seek care at a retail location include treatment of an uncomplicated illness such as a sore throat or earache. Urgent locations include an office or a clinic, whose purpose is to diagnose and treat illness or injury for unscheduled, ambulatory patients seeking immediate medical attention (outside from emergency rooms). Reasons why you would seek care at an urgent location include treatment of more pressing illnesses or injuries that are not life-threatening, like splintering, casting, lacerations, or wound treatment. VA’s requirements for urgent care are only for non-life threatening illnesses like colds, strep throat or pink eye. There’s a couple eligibility requirements I’ll mention like a veteran must have been seen by a VA provider within 24 months and the urgent care provider must be in VA’s 3rd party network.

As of August 2019 VA has signed up 5,000 urgent care providers Nationwide since the Mission Act. There is also a co-payment policy that requires priority group 1-5 to pay $30 for urgent care visits in a calendar year, priority 6 is the same as 1-5 if it’s service related it’s not then it’s $30 per visit and priority 7 & 8 it’s $30 per visit.

To find out if you’re eligible for the VCCP please visit VA’s website under the Office of Community Care: https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/ve terans/general.care.asp To find out where the nearest in-network urgent care provider is near you: https://vaenrcarelocators.triwest.com

Congratulations to one and all.

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation
By Jeremy Wolfsteller

1057 and Lloyd Schaeffer at 952-457-2981. The application for disabled veterans to apply is include with this article and can be found on the SAL webpage. Thanks for all you do,
Excelsior, DGF win Legion tourneys

Continued from Page 1

2. The winning run scored on a single, a balk, a passed ball and sacrifice fly.

Fargo went on to finish second in the World Series at Shelby, North Carolina. Idaho Falls won the national title by a score of 5-3.

The Fire Club placed several on the regional all-tournament team: Jarod Wandersee was the defensive player of the tournament; John Hanson was selected as the best second baseman; Michael Sturek was the top designated hitter, and Garrett Synstelien was named the best starting pitcher. Drew Schmidt of Edina was named one of the top outfielders.

Excelsior finished its season at 56-4, one of the top records in the history of Minnesota Legion Baseball.

In Division II, Plato and Dilworth reached the final game of the tournament at Ely, and DGF outlasted Plato in the title game 2-1. Caledonia finished third, defeating Wadena 4-1. BOLD won the consolation title with an 11-5 win over Lewiston.

Other teams in the tourney were Breckenridge and host Ely. Breckenridge was the winner of the Rocky Wedin Sportsmanship Trophy. Jacob Stetz of DGF won the Tony Sipe Outstanding Player Award. He went 5 for 11 at the plate, scored two runs, and made great plays in center field.

At Waupun, Wisconsin, for the Regional tournament, Plato defeated DGF 6-0 to advance, and faced host Waupun in the championship game. The hosts were ahead 4-3 going into the bottom of the 7th but Plato loaded the bases with no outs.

The game was tied on a hit batter, and then Ty Christensen laid down a squeeze bunt and Dane Schwartz scored the walk-off winner. Michael Waibel of Plato hit a home run in the game.

Waibel, Christensen and Korey Johnson were named to the all-tournament team.

In Junior action, in the Division I tourney in Bloomington, Hopkins was the champion and Excelsior was the runner-up. In the Division II Junior Tournament in St. Charles, Aikin was the champion and Esko the runner-up.

In the Division I 1-A tournament, for teams that opt out of the Legion tournament, Edina was the champion and Eagan was the runner-up.

The Division I and II tournaments were preceded by a banquet.

In Cold Spring, the Legion honored Howard Nathe of Grey Eagle as its Graduate of the Year. Nathe was a star player in high school, served four years in the Navy during the Korean War, and came back to play for the Gophers, helping to win the the 1960 World Series. Nathe was All-Big Ten in his junior and senior years, and was the team’s MVP in 1961 as both a pitcher and outfielder.

He led his Melrose American Legion team to the runner-up Trophy in 1952, and he later coached the Montevideo Legion team.

Also honored was Bruce Barron of Minneapolis and Harlan Nepp of Pipestone who were named to the Minnesota American Legion Baseball Hall of Fame. Barron told the banquet crowd of over 500 that Legion Baseball should go to three divisions and offer title hopes to the mid-sized schools. Nepp did not attend the banquet.

Rob Fornasiere, the retired Gopher assistant coach, was the featured speaker and told the players to persevere in baseball and life. “Do you have the will to follow through and win? Do you have an attitude of success that’s bigger than your fear?”

Dick Jonckowski was the emcee for the banquet.

At the Division II Banquet in Ely, Steve Agee of Sacred Heart was honored for winning the Legion’s Coach of the Year, and Ely was honored for being the Post of the Year. Mike Max was the featured speaker.

Next year’s Division I Tournament will be hosted by Burnsville, and the Division II tourney site is at Sacred Heart.

State Baseball Director Mike Perry resigned his position at the conclusion of the state tournaments. He has been director for eight years.
Baseball 2019: Cold Spring and Ely

ACROSS THE DIAMOND — Excelsior first baseman Justin Kloster fires from his knees to get a runner at the Cold Spring Baseball Park.

Andrew Enck of Edina and Matt Mortensen of Excelsior both look to the umpire after a close play at third base. Enck was safe.

Edina’s Drew Schmidt is safe at first on a close play.

Cold Spring Post 455 presented the colors on the opening day.

Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton players celebrate their Division II championship on the final day of the tournament in Ely.
Jacob Stetz of Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton accepts his Tony Sipe Outstanding Player of the Year for Division II plaque from Vice Director Jeff Miller.

Nick Thimsen of Excelsior accepts the Fred Wannamaker Outstanding Player of the Year award for Division I from Department Commander Darrel Redepenning.

Past National Commander Dan Ludwig presents a championship medal to Jim Peck, longtime Baseball Committee member and team manager for the Excelsior team.

Jacob Stetz, outstanding player of the tournament, makes a sensational catch in center field.
Minnesota’s 2019 - 2020 Leadership Team

MARK DVORAK
Le Center
COMMANDER

MIKE MAXA
Le Center
VICE COMMANDER

BILL BROCKBERG
Worthington
VICE COMMANDER

TERESA ASH
St. Paul
VICE COMMANDER

TIM HAUGEN
Moorhead
VICE COMMANDER

ROBERT LOCKER
Fridley
VICE COMMANDER

SY FIX
Brownville
MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

MIKE ASH
St. Paul
HISTORIAN

BETTY JASS
Lake Crystal
CHAPLAIN

RICHARD SKILLSTAD
Eyota
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

DALE WELLIK
Dodge Center
DIST. 1 COMMANDER

BRADLEY PAGEL
Slayton
DIST. 2 COMMANDER

LINDA DVORAK
Le Center
DIST. 3 COMMANDER

JOE JANSEN
Arden Hills
DIST. 4 COMMANDER

ANDREW ROSE
Minneapolis
DIST. 5 COMMANDER

PAUL EDWARDS
Brainerd
DIST. 6 COMMANDER

DEAN KNUTSON
Dalton
DIST. 7 COMMANDER

ANNE KOSKINEN
Ely
DIST. 8 COMMANDER

LOWELL PHILP
Shevlin
DIST. 9 COMMANDER

THOMAS ALLEN
Clearwater
DIST. 10 COMMANDER
Mark
Dvorak

Department Commander
2019-2020

Mark Dvorak was elected the 103rd Department Commander of the Minnesota American Legion at the annual convention held in Willmar.

Dvorak, who resides in Le Center and belongs to New Prague Post 45, will serve for the 2019-20 Legion year.

Dvorak served in the U.S. Air Force and was a career non-commissioned officer in the Air National Guard, retiring in 1995. He has a bachelor’s degree in accounting from Minnesota State University at Mankato, and he worked for United Health Care as a senior accountant. He is a graduate of The American Legion College.

At the department level, Dvorak served as Membership Director and Sergeant-at-Arms. He was Third District Commander from 2013-14, and served as district adjutant numerous times. At the national level, he serves on the Americanism Council.

Dvorak is married to Linda Dvorak who is currently serving as Third District Commander. They have six children, 13 grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

His theme for the year is “For Love of Country,” and his project is raising funds for the Wounded Warriors Guide Service and for Legionville.

Mary
Hendrickson

Department President
2010-2020

Theme: Remember Honor Serve
Symbol: Poppy
Projects:
- Purchase 2 used golf carts for Veterans on the Lake
- Purchase a retractable awning for Silver Bay Veterans Home bus
- Excess funds for PTSD Programs in Minnesota
Unit: has held almost all committee chairmanships numerous years on the Executive Committee
- 3 terms as Unit Secretary
- 3 terms as 2nd Vice President
- 3 terms as 1st Vice President
- 5 terms as Unit President
8th District: has held almost all committee chairmanships numerous years on the Executive Committee
- 3 terms as District Treasurer
- 3 terms as District Secretary
- 2009-2010 District 2nd Vice President
- 2010-2011 District 1st Vice President and Membership Chairman
- 2011-2012 District President
- 2012-2013 Education Chairman
- 2013-2014 Community Service Chairman
- 2014-2015 Department Historian
- 2015-2016 Leadership Chairman
- 2016-2017 Service to Veterans Chairman
- 2017-2018 Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Chairman
- 2018-2019 Legislation Chairman
- 1st Vice President
- 2019- President
National
- 2016-2017 NW Division Legislation Chairman
- 2017-2018 Public Relations Committee Member
- 2018-2019 History Committee Member
Howard Nathe grew up in central Minnesota playing baseball. He played town ball when he was 16 and led the league in hitting. He led his Melrose American Legion Team to the championship game in the state in 1952. His four-year hitch in the Navy during the Korean War first took away the chance to play America’s Pastime, and then gave it back to him.

Howard Nathe could really play baseball.

As his career proved, he was one of the finest Minnesota amateur players to ever pick up a bat and glove. He played for the Gophers, winning a World Series game in 1960 and being named the most valuable player of the 1961 team.

He has been inducted into the University of Minnesota Sports Hall of Fame.

He played American Legion baseball, leading his team to the state championship game. Later he coached Legion ball for many years.

Nathe pitched and played outfield, or almost any position the coach needed him at. His physical talent was only matched by his competitive nature.

Legendary Gopher’s Coach Dick Siebert said of Nathe: “He plays the game for all it’s worth.”

Yet for two years as a young man, Nathe didn’t play any baseball at all. He was too busy serving his country on a destroyer in the western Pacific during the Korean War.

Howard Anthony Nathe was born in Padua in central Minnesota, a wide spot in the road about 10 miles from Sauk Centre. His father was the butter maker at the local creamery.

One of his earliest memories is when he was three or four years old and he stuck his finger into a push lawn mower. The accident almost severed his index finger on his right hand.

“It was damn near cut off. They put my hand between two pillows and rushed me to the doctor in Brooten who sewed it up. But after that, the finger was always stiff. I could hardly bend it. But you know, later on I think it helped me throw my slider.”

When he was six, his father got the job as manager of the creamery in New Munich, and the family settled into their new home.

“The problem was that the guy my dad replaced at the creamery had five kids, and the local kids missed their friends and didn’t take a liking to me. You talk about getting bullied.”

On my way home from school, the town kids would chase me. I learned how to run pretty fast. One time, they were just behind me and I just got to the porch and in the door when one of the kids stuck his head in the door. My mom hit him over the head with a broom.”

With no male friends, Nathe ended up playing with female neighbors Marlene, Eileen and Mootz. “We would play kitten ball on the gravel street. Eileen was one hell of a softball player.”

He finally made friends with a local boy named Charlie who had a very large big brother. After that, the local bullies kept away from him. Charlie later became his catcher on local teams.

Life revolved around outdoor activities. “We had no television. We didn’t even have a telephone.”

Gong to Sacred Heart Elementary School in New Munich, he joined a “midget” team of seventh and eighth graders. “I pitched and Charlie caught. Once we traveled all the way to Moorhead to play. That was a big deal. We had them beat, but then we lost.”

The nearest high school was at Melrose, and Nathe played town ball for many years there. He also played on the New Munich amateur baseball team as a 16-year old, following the footsteps of his dad, Cap, who had played for the team.

He threw right and batted left. He led the league in hitting that first year with a .455 average, and the team won the Stearns County town ball title.

In his senior year, Nathe’s basketball team went to the regional finals in Brainerd, only to lose to Brainerd in a rugged final that almost turned into a riot.

“Our coach was so mad at the officials that he knocked the loud speaker off the table. In the locker room, he walked around and punched dents into all the lockers.”

In baseball, he led his team to the American Legion Baseball tournament, and the team won its first two games. In the state championship, though, a St. Paul North End pitcher threw a no-hitter and the Melrose team lost 18-0 finishing as the runner-up.

When he wasn’t playing sports, he worked for his dad at the creamery. “A lot of it was lifting these 65 pound boxes of butter. It helped me get stronger. At home I worked on our hobby farm. You didn’t lay around the house, or they’d find something for you to do.”

One of his chores at home was to scrub the floor with a brush and homemade soap every Saturday. “I used to time it so that I could do it while the Gopher football games were on the radio. I was hooked on the Gophers. I couldn’t imagine how great it would be to play for the Gophers.”

Nathe graduated in 1953, and on Aug. 17 he joined the Navy. “They had a draft in those days, and I didn’t want to go to the Army and die in a foxhole. I could swim, so I figured if a torpedo hit my ship, I could swim away.”

He recalls that farmers in those days would buy farms for their sons so they could get a deferment from the draft. “Of course, the rest of us called them draft dodgers.”

Boot camp was in San Diego and lasted 12 weeks. “But when everybody else went home on leave after training, another guy and I had to stay. I had been a pretty good clarinet player in high school, and they had tested me to see if

Howard Nathe grew up in central Minnesota playing baseball. He played town ball when he was 16 and led the league in hitting. He led his Melrose American Legion Team to the championship game in the state in 1952. His four-year hitch in the Navy during the Korean War first took away the chance to play America’s Pastime, and then gave it back to him.
I should go to musician’s school.” The results of the test hadn’t come back, and so Nathe languished at the recruit training center waiting for orders.

Finally, he got his two weeks at home. “When I got back, I went in and asked them if I had orders yet. The guy looked at my paperwork and pointed out the window at a ship in the San Diego harbor. He said, ‘There’s your orders.’”

Nathe’s new home was the USS Duncan (DDR-874), a World War II-era destroyer that had been converted into a radar ship.

It is his first assignment, like most new sailors, was in the scullery washing pots and pans. “I was assigned to the Melrose American Legion team sits glumly in the dugout while absorbing a 15-0 defeat in the state championship game in 1952. The Legion manager kept the scorebook.

Howard Nathe, number 42 in white, played for the Navy Security team in Washington. While basketball wasn’t his first sport, he did get an offer after the service to play hoops for the University of Pennsylvania.

With two years at sea, Nathe put in for shore duty and was assigned to Washington D.C. “They needed a lot of yeomen in Washington.” He was assigned to the Naval Research Center on Constitution Avenue, not far from the White House. He lived in a barracks just across the Potomac near Arlington. “You could see the Pentagon from there.”

“I had a top secret clearance. Part of my job was to go pick up the mail twice a day. I’d have to walk past the Washington Monument and the White House to a federal office building. I think it’s the same building that Trump owns now.”

One of the employees at the post office was a disabled man who loved to talk baseball with Nathe. He told the man he could play some ball, and the man finally asked if he would like to tryout with a team called the Air Force Jets.

Nathe followed in his father’s footsteps and played for the New Munich amateur team at age 16. He led the league in hitting at .455, and the team won the Stearns County trophy.

He graduated from high school in Melrose in 1953 and joined the Navy.

The Melrose American Legion team sits glumly in the dugout while absorbing a 15-0 defeat in the state championship game in 1952. The Legion manager kept the scorebook.

Young Nathe as an altar boy at Sacred Heart School in New Munich. He graduated from high school in Melrose in 1953 and joined the Navy.

Nathe’s first home in the Navy was the USS Duncan (DDR-874), a radar destroyer that sailed the Pacific.

The early 1950s was a time when baseball was a popular pastime in the Navy. Nathe was assigned to the USS Duncan (DDR-874), a radar destroyer that sailed the Pacific.

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The manager was named Ted Brown and he looked at Nathe skeptically and said he’d like to see him throw a few.

“He got one of the players over to catch me, and this guy had a fielder’s glove. It’s kind of an insult to a pitcher that a guy going to be his teammate has a regular glove. So I let him have it as hard as I could throw.”

“After I had thrown a few, he said, ‘Hey coach, you’d better get the catcher out here.’ It was mission accomplished for me. Now they all had their eyes on me.”

Manager Brown had Nathe field some fly balls and take a few swings with a bat that was over, he said, ‘We’d like to sign you to a contract.”

And so the kid from small town Minnesota was now playing on one of the best teams in the D.C. area. The team often played its games at Lafayette Park, across the street from the White House.

“I remember one time, we went to the federal prison in Maryland to play an exhibition with the prison team. I was playing the outfield that day. I looked up in the stands, and everyone was black. All the players on both teams were black. I was a little apprehensive, but, you know what, they treated me okay.”

During one game at a field in Washington, Nathe went behind the dugout to get a drink. While he was bent over the fountains, someone yelled at him, “Why don’t you play for a white team?”

“I was walking away, but I turned around and said, ‘Because last year I won the pitcher of the year.’ That was the end of that conversation.”

Nathe recalls that one of his fellow pitchers on the Jets was a human being named “Chicken” Long. “His hands were so big that the baseball looked like a golf ball when he was holding it.”

One time, the team had seven and seven other teams were playing in a tournament down south. “The coaches had a meeting and they didn’t come out and they didn’t come out. Finally, Coach Brown came to the mound and yelled at him, ‘Why don’t you play for a white team?’”

Nathe’s problem was because it was an all-black team.

The problem was because it was an integrated team.

A s time went by, Nathe was also playing on two other teams in the area, a Navy team and a semi-pro team out of Fredricksburg, Maryland. “I would pitch on Saturday and play outfield for the Fredricksburg team that was owned by a guy who had a huge restaurant.”

“The team was called Tom’s Colonial, and they paid a player a back case of beer for a home run, and a case of beer if you were the winning pitcher. There were 10 guys on the team who had played professional ball.”

Did the Navy mind that he had to leave work early sometimes to play? “No, they thought it was an honor that I was being paid to play. Most of the games were at night, so I usually got my sleep and played the next day.”

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Did the Navy mind that he had to leave work early sometimes to play? “No, they thought it was an honor that I was being paid to play. Most of the games were at night, so I usually got my sleep and played the next day.”

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Minnesotans line up to present a check for $175,000 to the National Legacy Scholarship Fund. The Minnesota Legion Riders staged two runs in August around the state to raise the money. The donation put Minnesota over the million dollar mark. Past Department Commander Darrel Redepenning challenged the rest of the states to match Minnesota’s effort, “If you can,” he said with a smile.

101st National Convention

Pat Nelson of Hayfield Unit 330 was one of five winners nationally of the Goodwill Ambassador Award given at the Auxiliary Convention.

Vice President Mike Pence was on the big screen.

Bill Oxford of North Carolina became the new National Commander of The American Legion, replacing Brett Reistad.

The convention led off with a Broadway-style song and dance about the history of the organization.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo addressed the American Legion Convention.

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert Wilkie said the VA was not trying to privatize.
Minnesota’s national officers had a change of command at the post-convention NEC meeting. From left: Past National Commander Dan Ludwig, Past NECman Marland Ronning, NECman Bill Barbinek, Alternate NECman Peggy Moon.

At the Minnesota Caucus, Past Department Commander Darrel Redepenning handed off the symbolic gavel of leadership to incoming Department Commander Mark Dvorak.

Bill Goede, Plainview, and Chuck Kruger, Byron, stood by on the platform while the Report on National Security was presented.

Mary Ludwig, left, led a team of past first spouses to welcome the wife of Bill Oxford, Jackie Oxford, center, to the role of First Spouse.

Bill Goede, Plainview, and Chuck Kruger, Byron, stood by on the platform while the Report on National Security was presented.

Past National Commander Dan Ludwig accepted a plaque honoring Minnesota for putting on the 2018 National Convention, the centennial convention of the organization. Making the presentation was Past National Commander Denise Rohan of Wisconsin, who president over the Minneapolis Convention.

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Greetings from the first district American Legion family. The district picnic was held in Dodge Center Sunday. We had beautiful weather and great food in the west park. A fun day and lots of sharing of great ideas.

National Convention this week and September starting with the Camp-O-REE at Legionville, lots of comradery, food and fun. Mamoutville MariGold Days activities are coming up with a parade on September 8th. My project this year is split between Legionville and PTSD, half of the funds go that way each year.

Pray for our deployed troops and all serving our country and support the families that are left at home. Veterans, thank you for your service.

September is the month that the Eagle Scout of the Year and the Oratorical information is sent out. Do you have an Eagle Scout that you want to submit? Have you worked with the high schools in your area to get someone for the Oratorical Contest? Does your district have an Oratorical Contest? Now is the time to get these two very important important Legion programs going.

About a month ago I was asked to find 2 members of each branch of the service that were in Vietnam during the Vietnam War to be part of a Change of Command ceremony for the Minnesota Air National Guard on Friday August 10th. The incoming commander wanted to honor them. I then contacted the commander introduced each Veteran by rank, name and branch of service, then had them stand. He thanked them for their service and then asked everyone to line up and shake their hand. The emotions of these 8 individuals was awe inspiring and I am so glad I was able to be a part of it. So, thank you all for your service.

Greetings to everyone in the Department of Minnesota and the Minneapolis Seventh.

Time has a habit of getting away from all of us each and every day but even so we need to always focus on our task at hand and that being that we need to be constantly working for the betterment of the Veterans of this great nation.

Greetings from the Ninth District.

Our year got off to a good start with a great organization meeting. Good ideas were exchanged and conditions that need improvement were discussed.

The Legion Act was passed. It should open up some avenues for us. Just remember that the majority will not come to you. We need to go out and ask them. Let Veterans know by any means. Communicate what we can do for them and about how they can help others.

National Convention held in Indianapolis

Continued from Page 1

He and his wife, Frances, have two children.

The convention was addressed by Vice President Mike Pence who noted that he had won the American Legion Oratorical Contest in Indiana when he was in high school.

"It began a love affair I've had with the Constitution of the United State. Thank you.

Pence spoke of the trade war with China. "We have put China on notice that we will no longer tolerate their abusive trade practices."

And the vice president spoke glowingly of the Mission Act, a bill that allows veterans more freedom in choosing where to receive their VA care.

He said that with the new laws, the VA and now more easily fire people who are not doing their jobs. Since Trump took office, over 7,000 have been fired.

He also noted that wait times at the VA are now less than the standard at private hospitals.

Secretary of State Mike Pompao said, "We're not going to apologize for America any more. Our foreign policy will be based on the principles of our founding fathers."

VA Secretary Robert Wilkie also praised the Mission Act, which allows veterans to seek care outside the VA system. The change has been criticized by some as the first step in privatizing the VA.

"Our budget is at $220 billion, and there have been no budget cuts. We had 390,000 more appointments last year. That's a strange way to privatize the VA."

He said the effort to give the VA access to all military and civilian medical records was making progress.

"Doctors should never have to guess what you've gone through in life."

And, he said that beginning in January, all Agent Orange benefits will now be available to Navy blue water veterans, those who served on ships off the coast.

Wilkie said the agency has hired 2,000 more employees to process the new claims.

The Minnesota Riders again made a big splash at the convention by presenting a check for as well as the various benefits it also provides. One of the best membership tools we have other than Communicate, Convention, Communicate is gongo onto mylegion.org and using the National post at large to see how many people from your District have renewed online and get in touch with them to ask if they have thought about a transfer to a post within the District membership. It is the task before us. Let's give it our best effort that we can build the membership numbers within the Department of Minnesota. Let's remember also that our American Legion Family, so let's do what we can to help the Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion as well. As my motto for the year says "Keep Veterans First."

Greetings from the 9th District.

Second District

Greetings to all the Sixth District Legion Family.

Wow. What a crazy few months. Seems like the ship has been running maximum warp ever since the District Convention in June.

The Sixth District is off the goose egg and memberships seem to be flowing into Department at a steady rate. For those who have been around, I have issued a Steak Dinner Challenge to the posts in the District. The District is divided into small, medium and large post categories. Small is under 20 members, Medium is 21 to 100 and Large is 101 or more. In each category, I will treat the Post Commander, the Membership Chair and their significant other to a Steak Dinner at the Choctaw Casino. I am not including the PULF posts in this challenge. The first winner in the small post category is Laporte #462. For the medium category, Bay City #108 and Duluth #493 are tied for the lead. The Large post is open. With the District newsletter sent out by direct email and all the articles have been published on the District Facebook page. www.facebook.com/MNSixthDistrict

I hope to see many of you at the Department Camporee on the weekend of September 7. I intend to appoint a new Adjutant, Sgt at Arms and Legion Rider Liaison on that weekend. Come and see who the new folks are and cheer for the district as the membership numbers are announced. And now off to the National Convention for more high-speed activity.

Greetings to everyone in the Department of Minnesota and the Minneapolis Seventh.

Hello fellow 4th District members, we enjoyed the singing of the National Anthem by Connie Lee at our August Ramsey County meeting on Aug. 14th. She was kind enough to talk about a program to help veterans at Eagle's Nest near Sauk Centre. Well, you are saying to yourself what's in it for us in Ramsey County? Three things: 1. They accept any veteran that has a problem adjusting to civilian life, which means one or more of your guys or gals from Ramsey County could receive free treatments. 2. She talks about the great things the American Legion does for the vets in her country music. You and I know the younger troops listen to country music. (Payment can be made using gain-
The 2019 National Convention was held in Indianapolis, August 23-29. The Convention was well attended by the entire American Legion Family. Nicole Clapp from the Department of Iowa was installed as our National President for the 2019-2020 year. Kathy Daudstiel from the Department of Kansas will serve as the National Vice President.

PRESIDENT'S PROJECT
Our Department President Mary Hendrickson has chosen the following as President’s projects for the 2019/2020 year. Her wish is to raise funds to purchase two used golf carts for Veterans on the Lake near Ely. Silver Bay Veterans Home has a bus which takes Veterans to events in the Twin Cities area. Mary would like to provide a retractable awning for the bus so Veterans don’t have to sit in the hot sun or rain. Any excess funds will go toward PTSD programs in Minnesota, including the Journeys Program at the Minneapolis VAHCS.

PRESIDENT’S VISITS
If you would like to have our Department President attend a function or meeting of your Unit, please invite her. She has dedicated this year to serving the American Legion Auxiliary, its programs, and working with you, our Unit members, in a meaningful and helpful manner. President Mary would like the opportunity to work with each of our Units and Districts and is more than happy to join you, schedule permitting.

Invitations should be directed to the Department President and sent to Sandie Deutsch, Department Auxiliary, American Legion Auxiliary, State Veterans Service Building, 20 W. 12th St., Room 314, St. Paul MN 55155. Please do NOT send invitations to her home address; invitation form will be included in the first Unit Mailing.

FALL CONFERENCE
Fall Conference will be held Friday and Saturday, October 25-26 hosted by the Bagley American Legion Family. It will be held at the Shooting Star Casino/Hotel in Hibbing. Housing and pre-registration information are included in this issue of the Minnesota Legionnaire. Please use this phone number for reservations – 1-800-453-7827 and ask for the American Legion room block #6536. There are still many rooms available.

Fall Conference is intended to be a school of learning about the Auxiliary and its programs. We also had a lot of fun. We will be having the Membership payoff on Friday night and you need to attend that as Chairman Sharon Thiemeyer has a great evening planned.

SILENT AUCTION
A silent auction will again be held at our Fall Conference with the proceeds going to support the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. This has become a tradition at Fall Conference, giving each of us the opportunity to help. Chairman Joanie Krantz is asking for new or gently used items to be included in this Fall Auction. All items will be very welcome. We are looking for the very popular Theme Baskets again this year from Units, Districts, TAL, SAL or TMT. The baskets bring in a tremendous amount of donations for our program. Remember bidders can all be members of The American Legion Family. We look for support from all members, including Auxiliary. All things must be received in your Unit or at the Department Office no later than 5:00 p.m. the evening or early Friday morning. Bidding will be on Friday only from 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Be sure to attend and place your bids - the items last year were simply wonderful.

2020 POPPY ORDERS
Orders for the 2020 Poppies are now being accepted. An order form will be included in the first Unit mailing. Pricing in effect for this year: Small Poppies - $2.00 a hundred plus shipping. (Small poppies must be ordered in lots of 100 only); Large Poppies are $18.00 a dozen. Rather than increase the price of poppies we have done away with the price break of ordering over 500 poppies this year. We have plenty of poppies in inventory and can ship as soon as you want them. Our Department Chairman Sandy Wersal is working very hard to make this a very successful year.

SECRETARY SANDIE’S NOTES
Another wonderful year working with The American Legion Family is in the books – now on to 2019/2020 with President Mary. I didn’t know about her and absolutely love is her sense of humor. She always has some sort of cute remark for things. Please remember to invite her to your Unit, you will be sorry. She and Carl both have a heart of gold and are very dedicated to our mission. By the time you are reading this I hopefully will be back from Indianapolis unscathed and hopefully will have a new employee at the post that I worked at in St. Cloud all day at the Auxiliary workshop and then toodled down the freeway (quite fast) as I volunteered to work at the Post. Well, let me tell you about our show on Sunday morning. Bartending is the most fun when you are super busy and that we were. My highlight was when good old Shotty – no, I mean Candidates – he didn’t do anything. I’m not sure what reason my heart was fluttering for, either the shock factor or something else LOL. I must say our Legosians and Seen did an outstanding job and this may sound prejudiced, but I was so proud of Shotty – he worked his tail off – countless hours from Friday through Sunday to make sure everything was run off without a hitch – even the rain held off. And YES Leon, it was you I mentioned in last month’s article.

2019/2020 AUGUST WORKSHOP

Coleman endorsed for Dept. President

PATTI COLEMAN
Independent Rural Living

Senior apartments for elderly and those with disabilities. Safe, convenient, comfortable, and affordable rural living in Southeast Minnesota.

Also available: Nursing Home, Subsidized Rent, Homemaker services

Contact: Samantha 507-864-7714 or www.goodshep-rushford.org

July 31, 2019, Auxiliary Membership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Membership to Date</th>
<th>Percent of Goal</th>
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I BUY AND COLLECT MILITARY ITEMS
Including insignia, hats, helmets, and uniforms from WW I, WW II, Korea, Vietnam, (I have not started my collection on Southeast Asia yet). I collect Army, USAF, USN, USMC patches, pins, pictures and souvenirs from all periods. CALL JOE, 612-801-4673 AFTER 6 PM.

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Get your Legionnaire by email. Go to: mn legion.org
Click on “Legion Publications”
All Legion, Auxiliary and SAL members can receive the Legionnaire via email.

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Loan Officer
MNLS ID #283509

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