National Commander

National Commander Brett Reistad gave Minnesotans a little history and a little preview of the future during his tour of the state.

Reistad visited five posts, a military installation and a state university during his two and one-half-day visit to Minnesota in March.

"Those soldiers who gathered in Paris in 1919 to create The American Legion had a couple of visions in mind," Reistad said at Pequot Lakes. "One was to promote Americanism. The other was to build an infrastructure to take care of their comrades coming home."

The Legion, he said, was crucial in developing the Veteran's Bureau, later the Department of Veterans Affairs. Later on, the Legion was the prime mover behind the GI Bill, the legislation that allowed World War II returning veterans to go to school, buy houses and start businesses. "The bill fostered a time of great prosperity in America."

These days, the Legion is fighting to make sure that Blue Water veterans, Navy Vietnam veterans who served in ships at sea, get the same VA benefits as their comrades on the ground.

"We will continue to knock heads with Congress to get veterans the benefits they deserve," he said.

Reistad said the Legion sometimes has a public relations problem with the younger veterans. "We don’t have the word ‘veteran’ in our name, so we have to tell them who we are."

Earlier this year, the Legion gave grants to over 2,000 Coast Guard members who stopped getting paychecks because of the government shutdown. "They didn’t know who we were, but they know now. They know what we did."

One other bill before Congress, called "The Legion Act," or Senate File 504, would allow the Legion to pick its own dates for eligibility. This would allow the Legion to open up membership eligibility for any veteran who served since

Continued on Page 9

Reistad tours state

Water veterans, Navy Vietnam veterans who served in ships at sea, get the same VA benefits as their comrades on the ground.

"We will continue to knock heads with Congress to get veterans the benefits they deserve," he said.

Reistad said the Legion sometimes has a public relations problem with the younger veterans. "We don’t have the word ‘veteran’ in our name, so we have to tell them who we are."

Earlier this year, the Legion gave grants to over 2,000 Coast Guard members who stopped getting paychecks because of the government shutdown. "They didn’t know who we were, but they know now. They know what we did."

One other bill before Congress, called “The Legion Act,” or Senate File 504, would allow the Legion to pick its own dates for eligibility. This would allow the Legion to open up membership eligibility for any veteran who served since

Continued on Page 9

‘We couldn’t cry on duty, you could only cry afterwards’

Vietnam nurses speak out

By Al Zdon

When American soldiers were wounded in Vietnam, they often ended up at military hospitals in the care of nurses.

In the coming years, the soldiers would heap high praise on those nurses, and many would say the nurses saved their lives.

Five of those nurses gathered at the Vietnam War Roundtable in March at Concordia University to talk about their experience. The moderator was Dr. Kim Heikkila, who had written a book about Vietnam War nurses called ‘The Brotherhood of War.’

Heikkila filled in some of the statistics from the war.

About 11,000 women served in Vietnam and about 80-90 percent of them were nurses.

In January of 1965 at the beginning of the war, there were 15 women nurses in Vietnam. By November of 1968, with the war in full throttle, there were 24 hospitals and over 900 nurses.

The average age of the nurses was 23 and one-half years old. Only one third of them had more than two years of nursing experience. Ten nurses died in Vietnam.

Heikkila noted that the survival rate of soldiers who made it to the hospital was 98 percent. “Those nurses provided outstanding medical care.”

The five nurses, now mainly in their 70s, took turns telling their stories, sometimes laughing, sometimes too emotional to continue.

Joan Paulson, who served in the 67th Evacuation Hospital, said she joined the Army with the thought of paying back her parents who had financed her nurse training. “Plus they had a crackpot recruiter down in Rochester. He signed up about 30 of us.

He told us that no one would go to Vietnam unless they were asked.

That wasn’t necessarily true.

Her invitation to Vietnam was to find that her “hootch” or living quarters was only 30 feet from the runway where C-130s were taking off and landing 24 hours a day. “I thought I’d never sleep again. But in a week I was sleeping just fine.”

She found out in the hospital that the nurses were

Continued on Page 9

State Convention headed for Willmar

The 2019 Department of Minnesota Convention, the 101st since the founding in 1919, will be held in Willmar on July 11-13.

The Department Executive Committee will meet at 7 p.m. on July 10.

Official registration materials are on Page 2 of this issue. Registration is $15 per person or $18 at the door.

The official hotels for the convention will be the Best Western Plus and the Holiday Inn Express. Those planning on staying in Willmar should make their own reservations.

The phone number for the Best Western is 320-235-6060 and for the Holiday Inn is 320-231-2601. The Auxiliary and SAL will also be holding meetings at this time.

Legion Day at the Twins June 14th

The 19th annual American Legion Family Day at the Twins will be held at Target Field on Friday, June 14, at 7:10 p.m.

Diamond View seats on the Terrace Level, will be on sale for $22 each, while Field Box High Seats will sell for $38 each. There will be a service fee added to each order.

Commander Darrel Redepenning will throw out the first pitch.

To order by phone, call 1-800-33-TWINS and hit 0. At the start of your call, please reference the American Legion promotion. A $5 mailing fee will be added to each order if the tickets are mailed.

To order online, go to https://grouptickets.events/event/americanlegion561.

For groups of 20 or more, contact Brian Bessler at 612-659-4083.
Three Legion Mint coins now on sale

Honoring the 100th anniversary of The American Legion, the U.S. Mint has produced three collector coins: A half dollar, a silver dollar and a gold $5 coin.

The $5 coin will go for $421 each, the silver dollar for $51.95 each, and the half dollar for $26.95. Proof versions of these coins are available for slightly more per coin. The entire set can be purchased as a proof set for $301.50. They can be ordered by going to the national website: legion.org/coin.

If the entire run of coins is sold, The American Legion will realize $9.5 million from the U.S. Mint. More than half of the three-coin sets have already been sold. The coins went on sale March 14. Prices are expected to go up after April 15.

Dodge Center teen is Eagle of the Year

Continued from Page 1. The project included trimming and edging the infield, leveling the outfield, dragging the field, fertilizing and overseeding the turf, and raising money and constructing an outfield fence. The project brought in a Minnesota Twins Grant to help finance the field restoration. Volunteers helped out to a great extent. Peterson is active at Faith Lutheran Church in Dodge Center, and has been a worship assistant.

He is considering a future in music education, computer science or mechanical engineering. The support letters in his resume included several community people, noting Peterson’s leadership qualities.

Through his school career he has been involved in theater in lead roles, and in the musicals. He has earned high marks at vocal musical competitions. He has a 3.9 grade point average, and he has been involved in Math League, Knowledge Bowl, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the Honor Society, and the jazz band. He was on the cross country team and is a member of the golf team. He is class president at Triton.

His eligibility comes from the service of his grandfather, Julius Wedman Jr.

POST RENAMING — Eagan Post 594 was officially renamed Daniel R. Olsen Post during a renaming ceremony on March 15 at Eagan High School. The post is named for a Marine who deployed to Iraq in 2007. He was killed by a sniper at Saqlawiya, Iraq. Participating in the ceremony, from left: Wayne Beierman, Daniel’s sister Shelley Kamrud, Daniel’s parents Gwen and Wayne Olsen, and Post Commander John Flynn.

OFFICIAL REGISTRATION

AMERICAN LEGION & AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY 2019 DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA CONVENTION

I am registering as a representative of

☐ American Legion Post #
☐ Auxiliary Unit #
☐ SAL Squadron #
☐ Division #

I am registering as a
☐ State #
☐ Division #

A $15 registration fee and separate registration form is required for every person registering to attend the convention. If you are registering as a voting member of both the American Legion & American Legion Auxiliary, a separate registration form and $15 fee is required for each organization.

Registration at the door will be $18.

Mail registration form and payment to:
Legion Post 167
Attn: Greg Krause
220 19th Ave. SW
Willmar, MN 56201

Make checks payable to:

AMERICAN LEGION POST 167

(credit cards not accepted)

ST. PAUL-MINNEAPOLIS
MILITARY RELIC COLLECTOR SHOW
APRIL 13-14, 2019
CIVIL WAR★WWI★WWII★KOREA★VIETNAM★GULF WAR
WONDERS OF TECHNOLOGY BUILDING
ST.PAUL AT MN. STATE FAIRGROUNDS
After entering Main Gate off Snelling, take First Right on to Cosgrove!
SAT. 8AM-5PM ☝️剝 SUN. 9AM-2PM
ADMISSION: $6.00, CHILDREN 10 & UNDER FREE
BUY☆☆☆SELL☆☆☆APPRAISALS
CONTACT JOE DUDLEY (651) 291-1717 E-Mail- jdadl10415@aol.com

$1.00 OFF ADMISSION!
PRESENT THIS AD AT THE DOOR, YOU MUST HAVE THIS AD WITH YOU!
Veterans on the Hill Day

Several hundred veterans from across the state gathered at the Capitol in March to lobby for veterans legislation. The veterans came to “Veterans on the Hill Day,” first enjoying a lunch and a pep talk at the National Guard Armory, then marching up to the Capitol en masse led by a bagpiper.

In the Capitol Rotunda, they heard from Gov. Tim Walz and several legislators. American Legion Commander Darrel Redepenning, as chairman of the Commander’s Task Force, introduced the leaders of the other veterans organizations.

The event was planned and largely paid for by the Disabled American Veterans.

Walz looked out at the sea of veterans, many of them wearing service organization headgear, and said, “You know, my colleagues work in this building, but my peers are sitting in this room.”

Walz was a command sergeant major in the Minnesota National Guard and served as ranking member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee before leaving Congress to run for governor.

He said veterans’ benefits “are not a gift from the government, and it’s not like winning the lottery. There is an expectation that the rest of the country who did not serve will take care of you.”

He said veterans could help in the current climate of animosity in Congress and the Legislature. “There’s a difference between being political and being partisan. Vets lift us up to another place.”

Walz said that it was a goal for state government to become the 4th state in the nation to eliminate veterans’ homelessness.

Commissioner of Veterans Affairs Larry Herke said it was his job to try and make the vision that Walz projected come true. He praised the veterans who took time out for Hill Day.

“Some of you came from just up the street, and some of you got up early this morning to get on a bus and come here. I want to thank you for advocating for veterans.”

He said the fight against homelessness could be helped in two ways. One is for people around the state to identify homeless veterans so they can be helped, and the other is to let the MDVA know about affordable housing, particularly in the Twin City area.

Sen. Jerry Newton, ranking member of the Minnesota Senate Veterans and Military Affairs Committee, noted that he also was a command sergeant major and a Vietnam veteran.

He said veteran’s issues should be non-political. “Regardless of the political party, we have each other’s back, and we have your back.”

Rep. Bob Ecklund, the chair of the House Veterans and Military Affairs Division, advocated for the state’s veterans courts. “Many veterans are too proud to ask for help, but the Veterans Court has stepped in.”

The court tries to resolve veterans’ legal problems without sending the veteran to jail.

Rep. Bob Dettmer, the ranking member of the House veterans committee, said the number one priority is to eliminate the eight-year limit on the exclusion given to surviving spouses of veterans who died in service or because of their service. The exclusion would have no limit until the house was sold.

“Contact your lawmakers. We need to speak with one voice,” Dettmer said.

Department Commander Darrel Redepenning had the task of introducing the other members of the Commanders’ Task Force. Redepenning is the chairman of the group, which represents the major veterans service organizations in the state.
Greetings Legion Family,

I wouldn’t swear to it but I think the winter of 2019 is finally in the rear view mirror. I want to thank everyone for their patience and understanding on canceling the Appreciation Rally on March 9th. It’s a big reminder that you just can’t fight Mother Nature. Thankfully, we’ve been able to reschedule the rally for April 13th in LeCenter. It will now be an earlier event, with DEC’s starting at 10 a.m. and the meal at 1 p.m. and program to follow.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support during this busy month for your commander. With the National Commanders Tour, Veterans Day on the Hill and the Legion Birthday Dinners galore. Thanks to all of the posts that hosted meals for the National Commander. You all rolled out the red carpet and showed Minnesota pride.

Dodge City 2019 Department of Minnesota Oratorical contest. It is our volunteer and participants that make our programs a success. A special thank you to President Jean and Commander Hill and the Legion Birthday Dinners galore. Thanks to all of you for your hard work and making sure the certificates and travel funds are always being at the ready with pictures and interviews.

April is traditionally the month that we start testimonials and look ahead to new officers and district conventions. But we would like to remind you that it is a time we should have some work to finish with this membership year. The April 13th Appreciation Rally is an opportunity to finish our scheduled work so the membership is reflected in our post. When I look at membership numbers, I see several posts that have 1, 2, or 3 members short of goal. What a shame to finish a year short of our membership goal. Some may consider it a gift of membership for possible new members or to help out a needy delinquent member. It’s a win-win; help your post make goal and help out a fellow veteran at the same time.

Finally, I would also like to remind everyone of Commanded President Lonsdale’s monthly first Monday meeting. It is a great opportunity for the Allies. After Germany surrended, clearing villages and putting up telephone lines to strengthen the communication for the Allies. After Germany surrendered, the Allies started planning for the future. The two posts that did a magnificent job hosting the contest, Osseo/Maple Grove Post 172, and Anoka Post 102 who also provided everyone with a wonderful lunch. There is one person who did so much of the work behind the scenes and sent out the letters to the contestants, made room reservations, made sure the certificates and travel funds were available, just to name a few of her tasks so, thank you Jennifer Kelly. And last and certainly not least, Al Zdon for always being at the ready with pictures and interviews. Thanks so very much each and every one of you.

Sy Fix
Department Chairman
Cliff Newman
Vice Chairman
Letter to a veteran
To the Editor:
My 14-year-old granddaughter wrote this letter to her veteran friend.
Lester J. Wellentin
Lonsdale

Dear Mr. Don Jones,

I have been reflecting on the eight years of our friendship and how you have made such an impact on my life. It started when my parents brought me to the Rochester Airport to see you after the return of the World War II Honor Flight in 2011. At that moment I found out what it meant to be a United States soldier. You and many others made the ultimate sacrifice to our wonderful country. That evening, as we were chanting “USAI USAI” while you and many WW II Veterans were returning from Washington DC, tears came to my eyes, it was such a powerful moment.

As a former officer, I see the great presence of men and women like yourselves, who believe liberty is always worth fighting for. I want to say thank you for your service to our country. As I write this powerful statement, I would like to explain my personal definition. I thank you for your bravery, to leave friends and family behind to risk your life to protect our freedom. I cannot emphasize how amazing it is that this person would put themselves in harm’s way to protect people they have never met. I admire how you took the role of a U.S. soldier with dignity. I appreciate the things you sacrificed during your time in the Service: your family, time away from your home and the everyday life you once lived. This was all put on hold when you went into the Service, I truly thank you for that.

Mr. Jones, when we started to have lunch every month, you told me stories of your time in Europe and your time as a POW Corps member. You explained to me how you rode a train to Washington D.C. and walked along the boardwalk. The next day you boarded a ship and two weeks later arrived in Germany. You trained for four years in clearing villages and putting up telephone lines to strengthen the communication for the Allies. After Germany surrendered, you and your jeep went to a concentration camp. You told how you distinctly remember the smell and the sight of innocent people laying lifeless after the Nazis put them into a gas chamber.

You witnessed so many unimaginable things and have a miraculous story to tell. I believe one of my jobs as an American citizen is to share your story, so history doesn’t repeat itself. I will never forget those lunches because I was speaking with my hero. Mr. Don Jones, I thank you for your dedication, for your sacrifice, for your hard work and for your devotion to protecting our great country. Thank you for your service.

Gold dog tags
To the Editor:
I was very disappointed when my wife and I went up to the military museum at Camp Ripley. I read the article in the Legionnaire in 2015 about the Gold Dog Tags. In the summer of 2016, we were there and I gave them the name of the man that I was with. My dad had been a Marine and my, and all veterans. That was $100 for the four of us.

Last summer, we drove up again to see. I thought they were going to go this time and send us one, and also which I was going to put in a frame.

When we got there, we had to ask where they were. They were going to be. A Camp Ripley employee told me you had to send it back like it had come from a dumpster. It was very hard to even find them to read the names. Feels like I spent $100 for nothing.

I was quite upset, and my wife was upset. I just had to let you know how we feel about this deal.

Hendrickson
Round Tables
The Viet Nam Roundtable will meet Monday, April 15, at 7 p.m. at Concordia University’s Buete Auditorium. The roundtable is sponsored by the Minnesota Military Museum and Twin Cities Public Television and Concordia University.

The program is “Reporting on the War, Impact of the News.” The guest speaker will be Don Shelby, former WCCO newsmen and a Vietnam War veteran.

The World War II History Roundtable will meet April 11 at the Historic Fort Snelling Visitor Center at 7 p.m. The program will be LTG JK C. H. Lee, the chief of Logistics in the Vietnam War. The program will be by Hank Coxe, the author of “The General Who Wore Six Stars.” Veterans who participated in logistics are expected to speak. Admission is $5.

Fort Snelling Rifle Squad
The Fort Snelling Memorial Rifle Squad will be celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. Members must be veterans or members of a veterans organization. For more information or to volunteer, go to www.memorialrifle squad.org.

Film to premiere
A Minnesota documentary, Stalag Luft III, One Man’s Story, will premiere at the 38th annual Minneapolis-St. Paul International Film Festival. The film will be shown on April 9 at 7 p.m. at the Parkway Theater in Minneapolis, on Sunday, April 14, at 4:15 p.m. at the St. Michael Main Theater in Minneapolis and Wednesday, April 17, at 7 p.m. at the Marcus Rochester Cinema in Rochester. Tickets can be purchased from mff.org/festivals/mniff.

The film’s director is Charles Woehrle as he relives his experiences at Stalag Luft III during World War II. The Nazi POW camp was made famous by the film “The Great Escape.” Woehrle was one of about 10,000 prisoners at the camp. He grew up in Pine City and was a bombardier in the Eighth Air Force.

Fort Snelling Rifle Squad
The Fort Snelling Memorial Rifle Squad will be celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. Members must be veterans or members of a veterans organization. For more information or to volunteer, go to www.memorialrifle squad.org.

Film to premiere
A Minnesota documentary, Stalag Luft III, One Man’s Story, will premiere at the 38th annual Minneapolis-St. Paul International Film Festival. The film will be shown on April 9 at 7 p.m. at the Parkway Theater in Minneapolis, on Sunday, April 14, at 4:15 p.m. at the St. Michael Main Theater in Minneapolis and Wednesday, April 17, at 7 p.m. at the Marcus Rochester Cinema in Rochester. Tickets can be purchased from mff.org/festivals/mniff.

The film’s director is Charles Woehrle as he relives his experiences at Stalag Luft III during World War II. The Nazi POW camp was made famous by the film “The Great Escape.” Woehrle was one of about 10,000 prisoners at the camp. He grew up in Pine City and was a bombardier in the Eighth Air Force.

Civil War Symposium
The annual Civil War Symposium will be held Saturday, April 6, beginning at 9 a.m. at the Fort Snelling History Center. The theme will be “Working Women and the Civil War.” Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. with opening remarks by Steve Osman at 9 a.m. Activities include coffee and rolls, listening to the Military Museum at Camp Ripley and after-ride refreshments and lunch at a site to be determined. For more information or to let the organization know about your group’s involvement, call Jim Hesselgrave at 612-599-9149 or vfsmm.aol.com.

Military Ball – corrections
The 15th annual Military Ball will be held Saturday, April 27, at the Fest Building in Spring Grove. The speaker will be Dr. Eric Evenson who served with the Army Medical Corps in Vietnam.

The cost is $27 per person and the dinner will include pork and chicken. Attendance is by RSVP only.

Celebrate 150 years of the Civil War.

Fort Snelling Run
The annual Camp Ripley Motorcycle Run to benefit deer and turkey hunts at Camp Ripley will be held on Saturday, June 29. Registration will be from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and the route will begin at the VFW Post in Jenkins. Kickstands up at 11:30 a.m.

A $15 donation is expected from riders and $10 from passengers. Activities include coffee and rolls, listening to the Military Museum at Camp Ripley and after-ride refreshments and lunch at a site to be determined. For more information or to let the organization know about your group’s involvement, call Jim Hesselgrave at 612-599-9149 or vfsmm.aol.com.

The Fort Snelling Memorial Rifle Squad will be celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. Members must be veterans or members of a veterans organization. For more information or to volunteer, go to www.memorialrifle squad.org.

Film to premiere
A Minnesota documentary, Stalag Luft III, One Man’s Story, will premiere at the 38th annual Minneapolis-St. Paul International Film Festival. The film will be shown on April 9 at 7 p.m. at the Parkway Theater in Minneapolis, on Sunday, April 14, at 4:15 p.m. at the St. Michael Main Theater in Minneapolis and Wednesday, April 17, at 7 p.m. at the Marcus Rochester Cinema in Rochester. Tickets can be purchased from mff.org/festivals/mniff.

The film’s director is Charles Woehrle as he relives his experiences at Stalag Luft III during World War II. The Nazi POW camp was made famous by the film “The Great Escape.” Woehrle was one of about 10,000 prisoners at the camp. He grew up in Pine City and was a bombardier in the Eighth Air Force.

Civil War Symposium
The annual Civil War Symposium will be held Saturday, April 6, beginning at 9 a.m. at the Fort Snelling History Center. The theme will be “Working Women and the Civil War.” Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. with opening remarks by Steve Osman at 9 a.m. Activities include coffee and rolls, listening to the Military Museum at Camp Ripley and after-ride refreshments and lunch at a site to be determined. For more information or to let the organization know about your group’s involvement, call Jim Hesselgrave at 612-599-9149 or vfsmm.aol.com.

Military Ball – corrections
The 15th annual Military Ball will be held Saturday, April 27, at the Fest Building in Spring Grove. The speaker will be Dr. Eric Evenson who served with the Army Medical Corps in Vietnam.

The cost is $27 per person and the dinner will include pork and chicken. Attendance is by RSVP only.

Celebrate 150 years of the Civil War.

Fort Snelling Run
The annual Camp Ripley Motorcycle Run to benefit deer and turkey hunts at Camp Ripley will be held on Saturday, June 29. Registration will be from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and the route will begin at the VFW Post in Jenkins. Kickstands up at 11:30 a.m.

A $15 donation is expected from riders and $10 from passengers. Activities include coffee and rolls, listening to the Military Museum at Camp Ripley and after-ride refreshments and lunch at a site to be determined. For more information or to let the organization know about your group’s involvement, call Jim Hesselgrave at 612-599-9149 or vfsmm.aol.com.

The Fort Snelling Memorial Rifle Squad will be celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. Members must be veterans or members of a veterans organization. For more information or to volunteer, go to www.memorialrifle squad.org.

Film to premiere
A Minnesota documentary, Stalag Luft III, One Man’s Story, will premiere at the 38th annual Minneapolis-St. Paul International Film Festival. The film will be shown on April 9 at 7 p.m. at the Parkway Theater in Minneapolis, on Sunday, April 14, at 4:15 p.m. at the St. Michael Main Theater in Minneapolis and Wednesday, April 17, at 7 p.m. at the Marcus Rochester Cinema in Rochester. Tickets can be purchased from mff.org/festivals/mniff.

The film’s director is Charles Woehrle as he relives his experiences at Stalag Luft III during World War II. The Nazi POW camp was made famous by the film “The Great Escape.” Woehrle was one of about 10,000 prisoners at the camp. He grew up in Pine City and was a bombardier in the Eighth Air Force.

Civil War Symposium
The annual Civil War Symposium will be held Saturday, April 6, beginning at 9 a.m. at the Fort Snelling History Center. The theme will be “Working Women and the Civil War.” Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. with opening remarks by Steve Osman at 9 a.m. Activities include coffee and rolls, listening to the Military Museum at Camp Ripley and after-ride refreshments and lunch at a site to be determined. For more information or to let the organization know about your group’s involvement, call Jim Hesselgrave at 612-599-9149 or vfsmm.aol.com.

Military Ball – corrections
The 15th annual Military Ball will be held Saturday, April 27, at the Fest Building in Spring Grove. The speaker will be Dr. Eric Evenson who served with the Army Medical Corps in Vietnam.

The cost is $27 per person and the dinner will include pork and chicken. Attendance is by RSVP only.

Celebrate 150 years of the Civil War.

Fort Snelling Run
The annual Camp Ripley Motorcycle Run to benefit deer and turkey hunts at Camp Ripley will be held on Saturday, June 29. Registration will be from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and the route will begin at the VFW Post in Jenkins. Kickstands up at 11:30 a.m. and dancing at 8. The Cheers Big Band will play.

For more information, call Gary Buxegard at 507-498-4361 or email gjnlibx@springlev grove.coop.

Volunteers needed
Volunteers are needed to mentor a fellow veteran as they go through the process of becoming a Vet/Fisherman for the Duluth area. Female volunteers are especially needed.

For more information, contact Jim Booth at 218-393-1998 or email jeb2301@gmail.com.

Legion College
The National American Legion College will be held Nov. 3-8 in Indianapolis. Applications are being accepted. Minimum requirement is 12 credits. There will be 100 candidates who have served in the Lebanon/Grenada war era or later. A second candidate can be submitted from any war era, depending on availability of seats. The deadline is July 1, 2019. Applications can be obtained from Jennifer Kelley at the Department Headquarters, 651-291-1800.
Many Posts will be celebrating their 100 year birthday in the future and to ensure a more effective Legion, through training or health problems, or folks just moving to a different climate, many members in five to seven years, either due to death or health problems, or folks just moving to a different climate. The Legion must convert to a different, more modern way of operating, or we could lose our membership elephant” in the room as we discussed simply outreach, parades, community events, VA issues and, most importantly, how we can all work together to bring a better understanding of what we all really do.

We had a booth at an event last Saturday and invited them to participate. Lo and behold I had them there. The booth was so colorful with their Post flags, their American flags, their branch flags and old glory. We spoke with many vets and non-Vets and got our story out there.

I would like to also reach out to all the county Veterans so I am depending on help from the local Posts and I will support them in all I do.

Commanders can get together and do much the same with all of the Posts in their counties, having fun and commiserating as the story is told and, as a bonus, probably get some new members. The idea is to reach out to the community and we as leaders must take a difficult task, that of coming together and meeting to lay the foundation. It can be done, just call each other, only one of you has to take that first vital step.

We want to thank our National Commander for his visit to the 2nd District. The day was well attended by members and vets from the Silver Bay Veterans Home. Many thanks to Jennifer Havlck for her work and preparation.

The breakfast held at Post 71, West Duluth, the next morning had visitors from several posts and some had traveled a distance. Thanks to John Bonstadler and staff for an excellent meal. On both occasions, the National Commander gave out information that was important to all members and I would like to include this information to all members who could not attend these functions. I would like to put out a call for members to make an effort to attend our District meetings. Help us to get out information and let us know what we can do for your Posts. Your input is needed and we will listen to your concerns. We need to keep putting efforts up to increase membership at the top of our to-do list.

Thank you to the 9th District Auxiliary for again providing the St. Patrick Day doughnut making and sharing the doughnuts to nearby schools including the Black Market in South Korea. It was also at the Rally in Millville Post 572, not a very good turn out. But I was also at the Veterans Day on the Hill.

March was still a very busy month with cancela-
tions and postponements. Attended the 11th Girls Conference 3-16-19 in Owatonna Post 77, not a very good turn out. But they did very well with the ones that were there, so when you see any of these girls always give them some encouragement and support for the work they are trying to do. The night before I was in Bloomington Prairie Post 52 for a Legion Birthday Dinner, very good meal and program and also a good turn out. I was also at the Rally in Millville Post 579, 3-23-19.

On April 27th is the Department Commanders Town meeting so don’t forget you need to attend.

And again I cannot say it enough times to get your reports in on time. Also membership renewals and new members is getting close for time being up. So get them in also so we can be around for another 100 years.

March 9th. Please make sure Your Post gets as much membership year will be extracted from the National database as of April 9th, please make sure you get that done! April 9th is our deadline!! We still need memberships and cards for the 2020 membership year will be extracted from the National database as of April 9th. Questions, need help, please contact me.

Many Posts will be celebrating their 100 year Centennial. Congratulations. Get the Legion Family and your Community involved. Remember you don’t have to do everything but you can do something. Have fun, keep making memories, as you move forward into the next 100 years. I cannot thank all County Veterans Service Officers enough. June 1st is the day to be celebrating their 100 year membership and any changes to the Department prior to that date. Consolidated Post Reports have been sent out and are due June 1st so please fill them out and return to Department.

Questions, need help, please contact me. Many Posts are well on their way of celebrating their 100 year anniversary. Congratulations. Get the Legion Family and your Community involved. Remember you don’t have to do everything but you can do something. Have fun, keep making memories, as you move forward into the next 100 years. I cannot thank all County Veterans Service Officers enough. June 1st is the day to be celebrating their 100 year membership and any changes to the Department prior to that date. Consolidated Post Reports have been sent out and are due June 1st so please fill them out and return to Department.

As County Veteran Service Officer I called a meeting with reps from all of our county’s Legions and VFW’s as well asAuxiliaries and SAL’s. We met with Mr. Joe Steck from Congressman Hagedorn’s office to discuss what our office is doing for Veteran outreach in Jackson Co. Also participating was 2nd District Commander Cindy Brunk.

I heard our National Commander speak at the Anoka Post 102 about the things The American Legion has done over the last 100 years and the things we need to do over the next 100 years. I have to congratulate the Fighting Fifth on membership. I know that it’s been a while since we’ve been in third place this late in the membership year. For that I want to thank you. Now for the other programs. I hope that it is still remains a Children & Youth, Community Service and Service officer reports. We need to show what we do and get credit for it. We should have an organization depend on the National Kendig Fund and Reserve. I’m hoping that we all have Boys Stators ready for this summer as well as school safety patrols for the opening of Legoville. Now is also the time to start looking at the future leaders of our Posts, District and Department. Do we have qualified prospects and are we making sure we are training the right people for the right jobs of this great organization depends on it. I almost forgot to congratulate Johnathan Vickers, sponsored by Fallin Post 555 for plac ing third in the Department Portion of the high school o ra torial contest. Stand tall 5th, you’re doing well.

We had a great turn out. I was also at the Rally in Millville Post 572, not a very good turn out. But I was also at the Veterans Day on the Hill.

What a busy and special month the Legion had in March. The highlight was our 100th birthday on the 14th celebrating the start of the Paris Caucus. Posts around the district and state were deglazed, many events were held there. The 9th District Legionnaires and Auxiliary shared information with the veterans concerning the activities of the 9th District. Many members attended an American Legion Family project well done. Thank you to Deanna Mounts and the caring and helpful staff at the Veterans Home for making this a success.

It is time to send in various reports to the Department and National. Check the time schedules and provide the reports on time.

Thank you for renewing your membership and thanks to the new members of the 4th District. As of Bulletin 37, the 4th District slipped to 9th place, let’s work hard to retain our current membership and to find new members. The
April is Children and Youth Month. Where do I begin? To start, consider: Obtaining a speaker on one of our areas of concern or particular topic for a meeting. Conducting a community project with and for children. Forming a Community Committee on Children & Youth to discuss current problems, generate solutions and then take action. Sponsoring a carnival or show featuring young people to raise money for a community project. Sponsoring a classroom or school where particip ants can discuss some of their concerns. Using videos, if applicable, enlisting the aid of an individual familiar with the subject matter to both present it and be available to answer questions following the viewing. Use these suggestions, or develop your own projects, but get involved. Remember: The only limitation you have for youth programs and activities is your own imagination!

Legislative Action
Legislation to improve conditions for children is a focal point of The American Legion’s Children’s & Youth program. By working on behalf of sound legislation, the Legion, in accordance with mandated provisions, strives to bring into existence the necessary laws and regulations to meet the needs of all children. Whether the legislation involves a local matter, pertains to a problem of a particular state or is an item of national concern, it requires the efforts of all interested in the well-being of children and youth if it is to become law.

Most state assemblies begin their sessions early in the year. This is the best time to present legislators with any new legislation that may be needed. Within each community, there is a great deal of local legislative action, which deserves continued attention: city ordinances affecting streets, sidewalks and speed limits, school budgets, immunization, child abuse and neglect statutes, juvenile courts, local public welfare departments, playgrounds, traffic patterns, and so on. 

Promote your activities
You should publicize your programs and activities. Have the mayor or other local official issue a proclamation declaring April as Children & Youth Month. The post commander and squadron commander should issue a news release proclaiming April as Children & Youth Month and list what the post will be doing for its annual observance. (For a sample news release, see www.legion.org/youth.)

Report Sucesses
The post commander and squadron commander should keep a record of all children’s work at the post. The Children’s & Youth chairmen need to turn their attention to the annual reporting of expenditures and activities. Be sure you have an accurate record of all money spent for the benefit of children and youth by your post/unit/squadron during the current year. Shortly after the first of the year, American Legion department prepares copies of the Consolidated Post Report (CPR) for later distribution to posts. It is the responsibility of the post Children & Youth chairmen to program activities to the individual designated in the program activities section of the Consolidated Post Report.
NURSES TELL OF EXPERIENCES — Five nurses who served in Vietnam comprised the panel at the Vietnam War Roundtable held in March at Concordia University. They told of their time in Vietnam — sometimes funny, sometimes tragic experiences. From left: Moderator Kim Heikkila, Joan Paulson, Jeanne Mahaffey, Elaine Heiss, Mary Lu Brunner, and Mary Breed. The Vietnam War Roundtables are held every month at Concordia University in St. Paul.

Vietnam War nurses share their stories

Continued from Page 1

helped greatly by the patients themselves. “The GIs really took care of each other, they really cared for each other.”

She enlisted in the Army after a close friend was killed in Vietnam, and I went too.”

Heen learned to be a nurse at the Little Falls Hospital, and Vietnam was vivid technicolor.”

She learned to be a nurse at the Little Falls Hospital, and Vietnam was vivid technicolor.”

Jeanne Mahaffey was a Navy nurse who served aboard a hospital ship, the USS Sanctuary, just off the coast of Vietnam.

Mary Lu Brunner served in the 71st Evacuation Hospital.

She enlisted in the Army after a close friend was killed in Vietnam, and her brother was wounded. “The war was very personal to me. It was my generation going over there, and I wanted to be part of it.” At first she didn’t get orders to Vietnam. “My dad’s heart was in the right place. He told me to do my two years and get out.” But then she did get orders to the war. She worked 12 hours a day. The corpsmen, she said, “were like brothers. If ever in my life I needed someone to support me, that was our corpsmen.”

She said some wounded soldiers they couldn’t help at their hospital, and could only transfer them to another. “We fill them up with blood, and send them along. I pinned a note to one soldier asking that the nurses let me know how he did. I got a note back from a nurse in Japan that he was still alive, but I didn’t hear after that.” “We couldn’t cry on duty, you could only cry after wards.”

She talked about the burns and the suffering of the men. The white phosphorus was the worst.

She praised the work of the medics in the field and heli-copter pilots who brought the wounded in.

Breed said she went back to Vietnam in later years to visit.

To my unknown Soldier Boy

Your bleeding wouldn’t stop

the doctor kept yelling for blood

but I was frozen

your hand in mine

you kept calling for your mother.

I regret I didn’t know you.

I can’t tell your mother I was there.

Perhaps she would feel some comfort.

I felt none.

I regret I didn’t take your dying, broken, diet covered body

into my arms for her, for you, for me.

Your wounds

crying for help,

your pleading eyes,

will haunt me until my own death.

It was only a matter of minutes,

you were gone.

You kept calling for your mother.

I regret I didn’t know you.

I can’t tell your mother I was there.

Perhaps she would feel some comfort.

I felt none.

I regret I didn’t take your
dying body

into my arms for her, for you, for me.

Your wounds

crying for help,
your pleading eyes,
will haunt me until

my own death.

It was only a matter of minutes,

you were gone.
Reistad noted that there have been over 1,600 casualties in the military involving veterans in the gaps of membership eras. And, at all the stops, the national commander urged Legionnaires to buy the newly released U.S. Mint coins that are dedicated to the Legion. If all the coins are sold, the organization will realize a $9.5 million windfall.

Reistad also emphasized his program of calling Legion members who may be slipping away. “Call them up, find out how they are. See if there’s anything they need. It’s not just a renewal call, it’s a call from a buddy.”

Reistad made stops at posts in Two Harbors, West Duluth, Pequot Lakes, Brainerd and Anoka.

He also visited the 148th Fighter Wing in Duluth, an Air National Guard outfit that flies F-16s.

Over 1,000 Air Guardsmen serve in the wing, and over half of them were deployed this past year.

Command Chief Lisa Erickson told Reistad that the wing is one of only five fighter wings in the nation that are in constant deployment.

Reistad also was told that the 148th has some of the best pilots in the world, especially in flying under adverse weather conditions.

On the final day of the tour, Reistad and Department of Veterans Affairs Commissioner Larry Herke were welcomed to St. Cloud State University. St. Cloud is regarded as a national model for welcoming veterans, and has 622 taking classes.

The commander had lunch with student veterans and with members of the ROTC program.

Reistad later spoke at a reception and told the young veterans of the Legion’s part in passing the GI Bill. The new GI Bill, which allows veteran students to use it for as long as they want or pass the benefit along to a family member, is named the Harry Colmery Bill, for the Legion past commander who wrote the original GI Bill.

On the trip, Reistad greeted about 350 American Legion Family members and talked to seven members of the press. Minnesota was the 30th state that Reistad and his aide, Ken Knight, have visited. The other members of the traveling party were Commander Darrel Redepenning, Membership Director Mike Maxa and Adjutant Randy Tesdahl.
National Commander’s Tour

Department Commander Darrel Redepenning, left, and National Commander Brett Reistad, third from left, pose with veterans at a special event at St. Cloud State University. The university has 622 veteran students and is recognized nationally for its work with veteran students.

The 148th Fighter Wing flies F-16 fighters, and the traveling party got an up close look at the jets. Commander Reistad, his aide Ken Knight, Commander Redepenning, Membership Director Mike Maxa and Col. Troy Havener, the wing’s vice commander are shown.

Commander Reistad received a cook book from Two Harbors Unit Past President Nancy Hopper during the tour’s stop on the North Shore.

Commander Reistad got a briefing at the 148th Fighter Wing from Commander Chief Lisa Erickson and Major Troy Hendrickson, the wing’s executive officer.

Department Commander Darrel Redepenning talks things over with his dad prior to the National Commander Tour event in Anoka. Bud Redepenning served in 1966.

Past Department Commander Bud Redepenning salutes the crowd when the National Commander’s tour made its final stop in Anoka.
While Commander Reistad and his aide Ken Knight were taking pictures of the Duluth Harbor, Department Adjutant Randy Tesdahl climbed a snowbank to take a picture of them.

Past National Commander Dan Ludwig talked it over with Department Commander Redepenning at Anoka.

The tour even managed to squeeze in a quick tour of the Legionville School Patrol Training Center.

The food was colorful during the tour’s stop in Brainerd.

Reistad faced the press in Duluth.

Michael Fernlund took off his hat and entertained for a bit during a stop at Pequot Lakes.

Below: Signs greeted the National Commander wherever he went.
Mailman in New Caledonia

By Al Zdon

Jim Trench wanted to be an officer in World War II. Instead he wound up being a mailman in the South Pacific. And that was okay with him.

Trench grew up on a farm near Denison, Minnesota, about eight miles from Northfield. His father and grandfa-
ther before him had worked the land on a 320-acre farm that was first homesteaded in 1864. Trench, born in 1922 and never left the farm until the war.

His free time over, Trench was off to Camp Robinson in Arkansas to do infantry basic training. While there, he applied for Officer Candidate School and was accepted. “But at the same time, because I worked for my mother, I was also qualified for the Army Postal Service. I was transferred to New York City. That was absolutely outstanding. A kid from the farm gets to go to New York City.”

With his interest in sports, Trench was having the time of his life. “We went to the final game of the World Series, with the Yankees playing the Cardinals. We saw football games. We played on Broadway. We saw hockey games, and we never had to pay for anything. “I sure had a good time in New York City. It was the height of my military career.”

Again Trench applied for OCS, and again he was accepted. And again he was transferred before any orders came in for the officer’s school. “Forty-four of us from New York were sent to Oakland, California.” They arrived on April 1942. Trench did travel to Red Wing to register, and to ask for a deferment for the spring quarter. They granted it to him.

On July 2, he arrived at Fort Snelling to begin his mili-

tary career. This time the physical was no problem. Trouble was, the fort was having trouble processing the thousands of Minnesota draftees, and they sent Trench home for two weeks.

Part of that two weeks, he worked for his mother at the Denison Post Office, a job he had done off and on for sev-
eral years. His free time over, Trench was off to Camp Robinson in Arkansas to do infantry basic training. While there, he applied for Officer Candidate School and was accepted. “But at the same time, because I worked for my mother, I was also qualified for the Army Postal Service. I was transferred to New York City. That was absolutely outstanding. A kid from the farm gets to go to New York City.”

With his interest in sports, Trench was having the time of his life. “We went to the final game of the World Series, with the Yankees playing the Cardinals. We saw football games. We played on Broadway. We saw hockey games, and we never had to pay for anything. “I sure had a good time in New York City. It was the height of my military career.”

Jim Trench, home on furlough, stands in front of the post office in Denison, Minnesota, where his mother was the postmaster. Trench was a postal worker in the South Pacific at New Caledonia.

In April 1942, Trench did travel to Red Wing to register, and to ask for a deferment for the spring quarter. They granted it to him.

On July 2, he arrived at Fort Snelling to begin his mili-

tary career. This time the physical was no problem. Trouble was, the fort was having trouble processing the thousands of Minnesota draftees, and they sent Trench home for two weeks.

Part of that two weeks, he worked for his mother at the Denison Post Office, a job he had done off and on for sev-
eral years. His free time over, Trench was off to Camp Robinson in Arkansas to do infantry basic training. While there, he applied for Officer Candidate School and was accepted. “But at the same time, because I worked for my mother, I was also qualified for the Army Postal Service. I was transferred to New York City. That was absolutely outstanding. A kid from the farm gets to go to New York City.”

With his interest in sports, Trench was having the time of his life. “We went to the final game of the World Series, with the Yankees playing the Cardinals. We saw football games. We played on Broadway. We saw hockey games, and we never had to pay for anything. “I sure had a good time in New York City. It was the height of my military career.”

Again Trench applied for OCS, and again he was accepted. And again he was transferred before any orders came in for the officer’s school. “Forty-four of us from New York were sent to Oakland, California.” They arrived on

In April 1942, Trench did travel to Red Wing to register, and to ask for a deferment for the spring quarter. They granted it to him.

On July 2, he arrived at Fort Snelling to begin his mili-

tary career. This time the physical was no problem. Trouble was, the fort was having trouble processing the thousands of Minnesota draftees, and they sent Trench home for two weeks.

Part of that two weeks, he worked for his mother at the Denison Post Office, a job he had done off and on for sev-
eral years. His free time over, Trench was off to Camp Robinson in Arkansas to do infantry basic training. While there, he applied for Officer Candidate School and was accepted. “But at the same time, because I worked for my mother, I was also qualified for the Army Postal Service. I was transferred to New York City. That was absolutely outstanding. A kid from the farm gets to go to New York City.”

With his interest in sports, Trench was having the time of his life. “We went to the final game of the World Series, with the Yankees playing the Cardinals. We saw football games. We played on Broadway. We saw hockey games, and we never had to pay for anything. “I sure had a good time in New York City. It was the height of my military career.”

Again Trench applied for OCS, and again he was accepted. And again he was transferred before any orders came in for the officer’s school. “Forty-four of us from New York were sent to Oakland, California.” They arrived on

Jim Trench, home on furlough, stands in front of the post office in Denison, Minnesota, where his mother was the postmaster. Trench was a postal worker in the South Pacific at New Caledonia.

In April 1942, Trench did travel to Red Wing to register, and to ask for a deferment for the spring quarter. They granted it to him.
New Caledonia was a French colony and relations between the U.S. military and the French government were not always cordial. Here, Americans move airplanes through Noumea, the capital of the colony.

He enjoyed his work as a mailman. “Mail was very important to the soldiers, and we had a big job to do. I’ve always worked hard. I was obsessed with it.”

One day when he was stationed at the air base in the northern part of the island, a piece of mail arrived and it was open. “It was the secret bombing plans for Rabaul and New Britain. I gave them to the lieutenant, and he took care of them.”

Once he got to New Caledonia, Trench put aside his goal of officer’s school because OCS was not an option for those stationed overseas. Finally, in April 1945, that option was opened up and Trench once again was accepted.

“But they wanted me to extend my service time for a year and a half after the war. I turned it down. We all wanted to get out.”

New Caledonia was never under attack during the war, and Trench’s most serious encounter with danger came from his comrades in arms.

“A friend of mine and I were walking along a road one time, heading back to the base, and we were about a half mile from a Marine base. Suddenly we were attacked by three Marines from behind. I’m sure they were drunk. I was fighting two of them and my buddy was fighting the other one. I got a black eye and a broken nose and a broken rib.”

“Later, we went to the entrance to the Marine base and asked who had come in that night, and they said nobody. Sure.”

One of the sidelights of the attack was that the postal workers always wore sidearms. “But that night, we had turned them in. If we had had those sidearms, we would have been the ones convicted.”

The relations between the branches of the service were never great, Trench said. “It wasn’t long after that when a couple of Marines wandered onto our base, and they got beat up.”

In the spring of 1945, Trench, who had served 28 months overseas, was granted a 45-day furlough. He was given the choice of going to Australia, New Zealand or the United States. He chose home.

“It took 16 days to get to San Francisco and another five days on the train to get home to Minnesota. I arrived on July 2, 1945, exactly three years after I had joined the Army.”

The travel time was not deducted from his furlough. Trench was enjoying his extended vacation when he went on a family picnic near Red Wing. “All of a sudden I became violently ill and was throwing up. My foot was really swelling up. I must have gotten bit by something.”

He saw a couple of doctors, and one did surgery on the foot to relieve the swelling. He was finally sent to Fort Benning for officer’s school in two weeks.

“In less than two weeks, I was on a ship headed to the South Pacific.”

Didn’t he raise some heck with the army about his missed opportunity? “In those days, the Army didn’t pay much attention to you.”

Eight days out of port, Trench came down with pneumonia. “I was really, really sick. I spent 12 days in the Navy hospital aboard the troop ship.”

He was finally released, but was still weak. “They would get us up every morning and have us stand on the deck with our life preservers nearby. We were zig zagging, and they were afraid we’d get hit by a submarine. But I was so weak, I thought I’d fall in the water.”

After 23 days at sea, the ship docked five miles out of the port at New Caledonia. “There was so much ship traffic, we couldn’t get into the port. We had to climb down ropes to get on smaller boats that took us to the base.”

Trench was assigned to the 502nd Army Post Office on New Caledonia. Within a few days, he had a relapse of the pneumonia, and he was back in the hospital for 14 more days.

With his health restored, Trench began work at New Caledonia, which at that point of the war was one of the largest U.S. bases in the Pacific. “We would go out and meet the ships at the dock to collect their mail. Then we would take it back to the post office building and sort it.”

Trench recalls that all the mail sent home by the GIs was heavily censored. “My parents never knew where I was during the whole war.”

The postal workers slept in tents. “It was all right. One thing about life growing up on a farm, I didn’t mind the cold.”

He was sent around the island working at different post offices, and eventually settled in at Noumea, the capital. He rose to corporal and then Tech 4.

“I got to play a lot of baseball and softball, and that was an outstanding deal for me. I flew around the island from one base to another playing ball. I was a left fielder and I had a great year, hitting over .300 with a lot of line drives. And I was pretty fast in the outfield. I recall in an all-star softball game, I hit a homerun.”

New Caledonia was never under attack during the war, and relations between the branches of the service were not always cordial. Here, Americans move airplanes through Noumea, the capital of the colony.
Carol taught at Richfield High School, and wrote a book on microwave cooking that sold 12,000 copies. Carol died eight years ago after 63 years of marriage.

Trench worked days at State Farm Insurance and went to law school at night at the Minneapolis School of Law. He went into private practice and worked with several combinations of lawyers. He was the attorney for the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District for 40 years. For the last 14 years of his practice, he became a public defender for Hennepin County. He loved to do trial work, and he said one of his strengths was picking juries.

He’s had to give up golf in recent times because of leg problems, but at 97, he’s very active and still drives. “I work out a half an hour everyday, bending and stretching.” He makes his home in Richfield.

Jim Trech

Continued from preceding page

Snelling so that his furlough would stop ticking off. “I was given so much penicillin that I became allergic to it.” He was there a couple of weeks when the U.S. dropped the atomic bombs on Japan and the war ended. Meanwhile, his postal unit in New Caledonia had been sent to the Philippines.

“I spent 20 days in the hospital, and then I was sent to Camp McCoy to be processed out. I got out of the service on Nov. 17, 1945.” Then it was back to school. “The GI Bill was the greatest thing in my life.” He went back to the University of Minnesota and signed up for pre-law. His tuition was paid for, plus he got $65 a month in spending money and his books paid for.

He considered trying out for baseball again. “But I was 25 years old by then, and I was pretty serious about my studies.” He graduated from the University in 1948.

“I was thinking of going to Arizona for law school, but then I went to a party and met my wife Carol. That was the end of any thoughts about Arizona.” The two were married and had three children.
35 contestants head to Indy for annual Oratorical Contest finals

Fifty-three high school orators are headed to Indianapolis April 6-8 to compete in The American Legion's 82nd annual National Oratorical Contest to speak on the U.S. Constitution and compete for $48,000 in scholarships. The competitors won their respective American Legion post, district and state-level Oratorical Contest to earn a spot at the national level.

The contest will get underway April 6 at the Wyndham Indianapolis West Hotel with the young orators competing in the quarterfinals; the top nine contestants will advance to the semifinals. The contestants will present a rehearsed eight- to 10-minute oration on an aspect of the Constitution in front of judges, as well as a three- to five-minute speech on an assigned topic discourse — a phase of the Constitution selected from its Articles and Sections. The top three semifinal contestants will advance to the championship finals.

The championship finals will be held Sunday, April 7 at 10 a.m. EDT, and will be streamed on Facebook Live at www.facebook.com/americanlegionhq.

Of the 53 competitors, eight are returning from 2018. They include Colorado, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Mississippi, New York and South Carolina.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CONTESTANT NAME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>Marissa Gertz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montana</td>
<td>Sierra Diworth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>Audrey Worthing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevada</td>
<td>Perla Molina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Hampshire</td>
<td>Olivia Halle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>Ayokummuni Olawukeyside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>Sarah Morgan-Smith Myers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>Melissa Barnosky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>David Bainbridge Jr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Dakota</td>
<td>Madison Barndt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>Honor Persing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td>Clayton Ward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>Anraveka Mukherjee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>Selena Rose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puerto Rico</td>
<td>Kevin Caraballo-Irizarry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhode Island</td>
<td>Owen McCadden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>Jessica Scannell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Dakota</td>
<td>Keilly Gullther</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>Edward Carnes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>Tanner David</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utah</td>
<td>Josh Christensen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vermont</td>
<td>Avery Carter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>Nyla Miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>Sarah Crosby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Virginia</td>
<td>Trevor Swager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>Timothy Davis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyoming</td>
<td>Hailey Moss</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rolling Thunder registrations are now open through Post 177

Since 2012, American Legion Post 177 in Fairfax, Va., has hosted American Legion Riders from all over the nation who have traveled to the Beltway for Rolling Thunder activities. That isn’t changing this year, with registration already open for 2019’s Rolling Thunder activities.

But 2019 may have a nostalgic feeling to it. The national organization, Rolling Thunder Inc., has publicly stated that 2019 will be the last “Ride for Freedom” into the Pentagon, and that it will no longer be coordinating a national event or Memorial Day Weekend in Washington, D.C. A December 2018 letter signed by Rolling Thunder Inc. National Executive Director Artie Muller and National President Joe Bean stated that starting in 2020, state Rolling Thunder chapters will coordinate similar demonstrations at the local level over Memorial Day Weekend.

National American Legion Riders Advisory Committee Chairman Bob Sussan said the end of any national Rolling Thunder event won’t deter Legion Riders from continuing to bring awareness to the POW-MIA issue.

Meanwhile, American Legion Riders Chapter 177 Director Bruce Mersereau said his post is planning events like it has in past years. That includes the annual Friday night dinner and POW ceremony, the escorted ride to the candlelight vigil at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, a wreath-laying at Arlington National Cemetery and the Ride to the Thunder on Sunday morning. The post also will have vendors and host special guests throughout the weekend, including Gold Star families.

Post 177 is asking all Riders to register. There is no registration fee, but a $10 option is available to help defray costs.

For updates or for more information go to: http://www.alrrollingthunder.com/
### Air power in Europe during World War II

**By Al Zdon**

Thousands of British and American bombers roared over Europe dropping millions of bombs in World War II in an attempt to destroy Germany's ability to wage war. Looking back, historians grapple with the question of whether it was all worth it.

Historian Rich Muller of the Air Force Air University in Alabama, tackled that big question at the March meeting of the World War II History Round Table at Fort Snelling.

Muller spoke on the Combined Bomber Offensive, the attempt by the British and American air forces to severely cripple the German manufacturing and transportation sectors, and also to draw the Luftwaffe, the Nazi air force, away from supporting the battle fronts.

Muller, who teaches at the School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, was later joined by two veterans of the Army Air Corps.

Using air power to win a war was first tried in the Great War. "They wondered if there was a better way to fight a war than the human slaughter in the trenches?"

All the sides in World War I were ramping up their air power when the armistice was declared. "The war ended before any of this could have much of an effect."

Both in Great Britain and the United States, though, the notion of strategic bombing continued to gain favor in the 20 years to come, leading to the Combined Bomber Offensive.

When the Second World War did erupt, Winston Churchill leaned heavily on air power to save England from Nazi conquest. "He thought air power would weaken Germany eventually."

But Britain's first forays into this new type of warfare were disastrous. They flew missions during this day with no fighter escorts. "The British planes were easy pickings for the German fighters and the ground anti-aircraft fire."

American cars and trucks. And we would walk."

"The pilots often remarked that the flak was so thick you could walk on it."

"It was safer, but finding the targets was very, very difficult." A major report done in 1941, using intelligence data, showed that only one of five British bombs got within five miles of the target.

"One British official said the British bombing effort was like daily exporting 200,000 tons of metal in a general direction."

America began sending planes to England soon after it entered the war in 1942, but its first forays into bombing the German war machine were also horrific. With the British bombing at night, the Eighth Air Force took over the day - light attacks, and just like the British, the cost was enormous.

"They set a limit for U.S. crews of 25 missions to give them some kind of a target, but with eight or ten percent losses on every mission, the crews could see that the odds against them were almost insurmountable. One of the hardest jobs of the war was a bomber crewman."

A major problem was that the fighters protecting the missions from the Luftwaffe often had enough range to follow them all the way to the target.

By 1943, America and Britain had united on the Combined Bomber Offensive, which emphasized harming the German ability to make airplanes.

In July, 1943, the American and British attacks on Hamburg created the first bomber-induced firestorm in history. The blaze swept across the German city, destroying it and killing over 40,000 civilians. Later historians compared the toll of the firestorm to the firebombing of the Japanese population to the Holocaust, the Nazi plan that killed six million Jews and others.

German leadership reacted quickly to the strategic bombing by reorganizing its own air force and equipping its planes with effective air-to-air weapons such as rockets and heavy-armedness.

By late 1943, Germany’s air attack had almost completely switched from offensive, helping the soldiers on the battle fronts, to defensive, trying to defend the homeland. This was what the Allies were hoping would happen.

Anti-aircraft fire also increased. "The pilots often remarked that the flak was so thick you could walk on it."

American B-17s fly in formation en route to bombing German industries during World War II.

And all of what Germany had left was used in a desperate attempt to stop the bombing, and very little was used for close support of the ground troops.

While the U.S. could build enormous aircraft factories, like Willow Run in Michigan where a bomber would come off the line every hour, the Germans, because of the bombshell offensive, had to build its aircraft at many smaller factories.

They had only two weeks to get to the D-Day landings.

"Another saying during the war was that if you saw an aircraft and it was painted, it was British. If it had the natural metal, it was American. If it wasn’t there, it was German."

In the end, the effect of the bombing on German production, transportation and morale were deadly. "Germany had not gambled on a multi-year war against three of the largest industrial powers in the world. The bombing put a lid on production, especially in the industrialized Ruhr."

What were the ethical questions still remaining? "The moral questions are significant," Muller said. "Most of the casualties, especially from the British raids, were civilians."

**By Ver Jorgensen**

Ver Jorgensen joined the Army Air Corps and was sent to the training school in Grand Rapids, Michigan. "Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it," he joked.

In the 12-week class, the students learned to gather information about the weather and compile it. The Army used the Grand Rapids Civic Center for the classes and the students went to the city parks to gather meteorological information.

Training was moved to Colorado Springs where the young students learned how to read a weather map. They studied what had led up to a weather event. "Backcasting is a hell of a lot more accurate than forecasting."

I was then on to Denver where he became part of the 23rd Weather Squadron. "The information we gathered there was used all over the country."

Late in the war, he was sent to Iceland where he served with the 8th Weather Squadron. "Our weather station was on top of an 800-foot lava mound. The Brits had a radio tower up there. Every day, they would drive up the hill in American cars and trucks. And we would walk."

Bob Holmstrom has written a book, along with S. Fabian Butalla, called Warbirds in the Cloak of Darkness, available through Amazon and other outlets.

**BOB HOLMSTROM**

**IVER JORGENSEN**

**RICH MULLER**
Membership report for the Minnesota American Legion, March 20, 2019

| District | Goal 2019 | Total 2018 | Total 2019 | Weeks Gain | Total Posts 2019 | Goal 2018 Posts | % Of Goal
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District 1</td>
<td>8,553</td>
<td>8,495</td>
<td>7,834</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>15.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 2</td>
<td>6,793</td>
<td>6,709</td>
<td>6,233</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 3</td>
<td>11,262</td>
<td>11,197</td>
<td>10,523</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>93.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 4</td>
<td>2,281</td>
<td>2,263</td>
<td>2,074</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>90.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 5</td>
<td>2,340</td>
<td>2,318</td>
<td>2,146</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>91.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 6</td>
<td>6,089</td>
<td>6,013</td>
<td>5,569</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>91.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 8</td>
<td>3,998</td>
<td>3,956</td>
<td>3,620</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>90.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 9</td>
<td>6,482</td>
<td>6,417</td>
<td>5,912</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>91.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 10</td>
<td>9,539</td>
<td>9,485</td>
<td>8,717</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>93.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 11</td>
<td>2,009</td>
<td>2,084</td>
<td>1,816</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>90.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 70,688 | 70,210 | 64,934 | 261 | 555 | 113 | 91.8% | 68,156 |

**Income Statement September 30, 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Net Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Department Dues Income</td>
<td>$933,255</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: MN Legislator Portion</td>
<td>($244,997)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenue Enhancement Program</td>
<td>$219,817</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>$166,305</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>$68,067</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LT Insurance</td>
<td>$117,019</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations/Contributions</td>
<td>$1,825</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Kind Rent</td>
<td>$1,267</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Income</td>
<td>$3,438</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Department Income:</strong></td>
<td>$1,333,316</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Statement of Budget Expense September 30, 2018**

**2018 Legion Financial Report**

| Total Unbudgeted Annual Expense | $0 | $16,000 |
| Special Budget | Citizens Flag Alliance | $0 | $0 |
| National Emergency Funds Collected | $1,000 | $625 |
| Legal Expense | $1,000 | $500 |
| Operation Combat Warrior | $1,000 | $1,000 |
| **Total Special Budget Expense:** | $3,000 | $2,149 |
| **Total Annual Expense:** | $404,500 | $414,149 |
| FICA Expense | $8,040 | $8,017 |
| FUTA Expense | $150 | $80 |
| SUTA Expense | $120 | $124 |
| Group Health Insurance | $18,850 | $18,875 |
| Employee Retirement Fund | $10,000 | $11,381 |
| General Office Expense | $8,000 | $8,444 |
| Claims Office Expense | $10,000 | $16,674 |
| CSO Travel & Training | $10,000 | $9,237 |
| Hospital & Vet Assistance | $6,000 | $6,350 |
| Veterans Event Support | $10,000 | $10,000 |
| BOE & ACS Travel | $10,000 | $10,000 |
| Rehabilitation Committee | $10,000 | $10,000 |
| **Total Refund Expense:** | $299,000 | $287,779 |

**Committee Expense**

| Americanism | $6,000 | $4,261 |
| Blood Program | $250 | $250 |
| Chaplain’s Fund | $600 | $91 |
| Children & Youth Comm. | $1,000 | $1,518 |
| Commander’s Budget | $3,300 | $3,000 |
| Convention Corporation | $5,000 | $5,056 |
| Ops. Convention Comm. | $4,000 | $2,484 |
| Ops. D.C. & Foreign Affairs | $2,000 | $2,675 |
| Department Treasurer | $3,000 | $3,800 |
| Employment Committee | $1,200 | $1,237 |
| Energy & Cons. Comm. | $250 | ($1,400) |
| Executive Committee | $10,500 | $2,806 |
| Exec. Comm. Conf. Fund | $1,000 | $0 |
| Finance Committee | $4,000 | $3,305 |
| Historian | $1,000 | $795 |
| Ins. Trust Committee | $1,000 | $678 |
| Judge Advocate | $5,000 | $5,000 |
| Law & Order Committee | $1,000 | $372 |
| Legislative Committee | $4,000 | $2,883 |
| Membership (Inc., VFW & Ctr.) | $40,000 | $38,086 |
| Marching Dept/Color Guard | $1,500 | $1,500 |

**Total Undisputed Revenue:** $1,326,316
**Total Undisputed Expense:** $1,080,378

**Change in Net Assets:** $242,238

**Grand Total Budget vs. Actual:** $1,032,641
**Total Undisputed Revenue:** $1,080,378

**Total Undisputed Expense:** $1,080,378

**Change in Net Assets:** $242,238
Spring is here and I hope April’s weather is better than March. First off, I would like everyone to keep our American Legion Family members in your prayers with the flooding that is happening in the surrounding states including ours. We are family and let us help care of our family.

March has been a busy month for me traveling around the state. Started with a Venison Dinner at the Minneapolis Veterans Home. Then, onto the High School Oratorical Contest at the Anoka Post and I had the honor of being a judge for the contest. All the students did an excellent job. Then, onto the Oslo Unit 331 for one of the first 100th birthday parties for our American Legion. From there to Pequot Lakes Post to meet our American Legion National Commander Brett Reisdal. Then, to more birthday dinners at the Anoka Post and Stewart. My next outing was to our Capitol “Veterans Day on the Hill”. This is an excellent opportunity for us to speak to our Senators and Representatives about our priorities and how to protect Veterans benefits. From there, I attended a birthday dinner at my home Post of Warren. I have a few more visits scheduled for March but this article is due before I attend them so I will report on those next month. Thank you once again to all the Posts and Units for the hospitality I have received.

We have a busy month ahead of us. We will be having our rescheduled Membership Rally at the LeCenter Post 108 on Saturday, April 13th. Our DEC meeting will begin at 9:30 A.M. Our Department Junior Conference is the same weekend of April 12-13th at the Richfield Post and we will do our best to support our Juniors this weekend also. We must remember that our Juniors are our future leaders. Bring them to the conference. They do not have to be in an organized Junior Unit to attend for the day.

April is Children and Youth Month. What is your unit doing for our children in your community? As we all know, April 15th is the date that the Annual reports are due to the Department Office along with your award requests. Let us have 100% reporting this year. Don’t forget to toot your horn about what your unit is doing for our children, our veterans, and our communities. It is very important to report your hours and dollars donated. This is what we take to Congress to show how much is done by our members.

As always, thank you for all you do for our Veterans, their families and our communities.

Until next month, I would like to wish our American Legion Family a Happy Easter! God Bless all of you and God Bless America.

Schedule announced for National President’s Tour

The American Legion Auxiliary National President Kathy Dungan will be visiting Minnesota from May 13-16. As her stay is short, we will be conducting a mini-tour of our state. Following is a daily itinerary that we will be following.

Our group includes, along with National President Kathy, our own President Jean Walker, Department Membership Chairman Robin Dorf, National Executive Committeewoman Ralen Telmann and Chauffeur and Baggage Handler Extraordinaire Secretary Sandie.

Our National President is coming here to meet our Minnesota American Legion Family so please attend one of the functions to support President Kathy’s mission for our organization.

**Monday, May 13, 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Litchfield American Legion</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Social</td>
<td>320-693-9074-Post</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>222 No. Sibley Ave, Litchfield</td>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Dinner &amp; Program</td>
<td>320-877-7530</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barb Koellin</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Tuesday, May 14, 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morris American Legion</td>
<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Social</td>
<td>320-589-2040-Post</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>507 Pacific Ave., Morris,</td>
<td>11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>320-589-2147</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pam Gades</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:pgadesala@gmail.com">pgadesala@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Wednesday, May 15, 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fergus Falls Veterans Home</td>
<td>2:00</td>
<td>Tour</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park Rapids American Legion</td>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Social</td>
<td>218-732-5238-Post</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>900 1st St E, Park Rapids,</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
<td>320-333-6522 or</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lynn Spilman</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:lspilman@unitelc.com">lspilman@unitelc.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Thursday, May 16, 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sauk Centre American Legion</td>
<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Social</td>
<td>320-352-9931-Post</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67 12th St. So, Sauk Centre</td>
<td>11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>320-351-1206</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bev Huot</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Friday, May 17, 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Camp Ripley Veterans</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tour</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cemetery &amp; Museum</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waite Park American Legion</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Social</td>
<td>320-252-7880-Post</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 2nd Ave No., Waite Park,</td>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
<td>320-492-8977</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marsha Bible</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>320-252-3864 or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:marsha.bible@gmail.com">marsha.bible@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Monday, July 11, 2018, Auxiliary Membership**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Membership</th>
<th>Percent of Goal</th>
<th>Membership</th>
<th>Percent of Goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One</td>
<td>5,907</td>
<td>3,880</td>
<td>79.07%</td>
<td>3,880</td>
<td>79.07%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two</td>
<td>4,924</td>
<td>3,947</td>
<td>80.16%</td>
<td>3,947</td>
<td>80.16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three</td>
<td>4,427</td>
<td>3,716</td>
<td>84.03%</td>
<td>3,716</td>
<td>84.03%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four</td>
<td>720</td>
<td>569</td>
<td>78.61%</td>
<td>569</td>
<td>78.61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five</td>
<td>788</td>
<td>557</td>
<td>70.09%</td>
<td>557</td>
<td>70.09%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six</td>
<td>6,032</td>
<td>5,030</td>
<td>83.39%</td>
<td>5,030</td>
<td>83.39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seven</td>
<td>3,334</td>
<td>3,164</td>
<td>94.33%</td>
<td>3,164</td>
<td>94.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eight</td>
<td>1,623</td>
<td>1,251</td>
<td>76.94%</td>
<td>1,251</td>
<td>76.94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nine</td>
<td>3,344</td>
<td>3,365</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>3,365</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ten</td>
<td>5,129</td>
<td>3,979</td>
<td>77.46%</td>
<td>3,979</td>
<td>77.46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>108.13%</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>108.13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>36,988</td>
<td>29,596</td>
<td>80.02%</td>
<td>29,596</td>
<td>80.02%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DEC, RALLY RESCHEDULE**

The Department Auxiliary Executive Committee Meeting has been rescheduled for Saturday, April 13 at the American Legion Post 107, Le Center, Minnesota. Following our 10:00 a.m. meeting the Appreciation Rally will be held with dinner being served between noon and 1:00. Please try to be there – I can’t promise that the weather will be great this time either. I remember driving to pick up the National President last year on April 15 in a blizzard.

**JUNIOR CONFERENCE**

The Department Junior Conference will be called to order by Harley Donnelly, the Department Honorary Junior President on Saturday, April 13th, at the Richfield American Legion Post 435 and hosted by our 5th District. We are hoping many Juniors will attend their very own conference. On Friday, April 12 starting at 6:00 p.m. the 5th District is hosting a “fun” night at the Richfield Legion Club for all Juniors. Please come and enjoy the weekend.
The Children & Youth program emphasizes protecting, caring, for and supporting children and youth, particularly those of veteran’s and military families. We need to support the children and youth in our communities.

This year we’re working the “Star Spangled Kids” program. This program is to educate children and youth on the history of the United States from the aspect of patriotism, Americanism, and the U.S. Constitution. Work with local schools, find a teacher to connect with to support the American Legion Auxiliary programs, this will make your efforts so much easier. Units are hosting many other events for children and youth, for that I thank you.

Youth Hero Awards/Good Deed Awards are a way the American Legion Auxiliary can recognize youth in the communities who demonstrate good citizenship, either through brave physical act or a good deed. Work to Congress each year. Forms are also on our Department website. For those computer guru’s, just save those forms to your computer, fill them out and email them to us. How easy is that?

Trophy and Award entries are also due by April 15th unless otherwise stated in the rules. Be certain to label each entry with the name of the award you are applying for. Follow this year’s rules. A separate entry is needed for each award unless the Department winner is forwarded for National competition. Any Unit may apply for any award unless that is a requirement stated in the rules.

SECRETARY SANDIE’S NOTES

I can’t believe I got Al’s email yesterday – deadline time is tomorrow for the Legionnaire. It seems I just finished the last one. Time flies when you are having fun. My shoot out this month goes to a lady I just love – Carol Kottom. She has been visiting us in the Department Office and helping this month goes to a lady I just love – Carol Kottom. She has been visiting us in the Department Office and helping this month goes to a lady I just love – Carol Kottom. She has been visiting us in the Department Office and helping this month goes to a lady I just love – Carol Kottom. She has been visiting us in the Department Office and helping this month goes to a lady I just love – Carol Kottom. She has been visiting us in the Department Office and helping this month goes to a lady I just love – Carol Kottom. She has been visiting us in the Department Office and helping this month goes to a lady I just love – Carol Kottom. She has been visiting us in the Department Office and helping this month goes to a lady I just love – Carol Kottom. She has been visiting us in the Department Office and helping this month goes to a lady I just love – Carol Kottom. She has been visiting us in the Department Office and helping this month goes to a lady I just love – Carol Kottom. She has been visiting us in the Department Office and helping this month goes to a lady I just love – Carol Kottom. She has been visiting us in the Department Office and helping this month goes to a lady I just love – Carol Kottom. She has been visiting us in the Department Office and helping this month goes to a lady I just love – Carol Kottom. She has been visiting us in the Department Office and helping this month goes to a lady I just love – Carol Kottom. She has been visiting us in the Department Office and helping this month goes to a lady I just love – Carol Kottom. She has been visiting us in the Department Office and helping this month goes to a lady I just love – Carol Kottom. She has been visiting us in the Department Office and helping this month goes to a lady I just love – Carol Kottom. She has been visiting us in the Department Office and helping this month goes to a lady I just love – Carol Kottom. She has been visiting us in the Department Office and helping this month goes to a lady I just love – Carol Kottom. She has been visiting us in the Department Office and helping this month goes to a lady I just love – Carol Kottom. She has been visiting us in the Department Office and helping this month goes to a lady I just love – Carol Kottom. She has been visiting us in the Department Office and helping this month goes to a lady I just love – Carol Kottom. She has been visiting us in the Department Office and helping this month goes to a lady I just love – Carol Kottom. She has been visiting us in the Department Office and helping this month goes to a lady I just love – Carol Kottom. She has been visiting us in the Department Office and helping this month goes to a lady I just love – Carol Kottom. She has been visiting us in the Department Office and helping this month goes to a lady I just love – Carol Kottom. She has been visiting us in the Department Office and helping this month goes to a lady I just love – Carol Kottom. She has been visiting us in the Department Office and helping this month goes to a lady I just love – Carol Kott...
The future doesn’t have to be uncertain. Let a retired active duty veteran show you how you may benefit from a Reverse Mortgage.

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

Recreational Vehicles

Outdoor and Indoor Activities

Veteran Disability Evaluations (not affiliated with the VA)

Depression, Anxiety, Trauma, TBI

FREE Total Disability Screening

Kenneth L. Dennis, Ph.D.

Ken.Dennis@ju.edu • 800-595-4053

PEARLS

Evidence-Based Independent

Independent Living

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

Also available: Housing for Veterans, Nursing Home, Subsidized Rent, Homemaker services

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

Minnesota Veterans Home

1200 E. 18th Street

Hastings, MN 55033

Phone: 651-539-2486

Fax: 651-480-0058

Display, Protect and Preserve Your Memorial United States Flag in a Beautifully Handcrafted Solid Oak Flag Case with a Glass Front. Removable Back and Engraved Plate with Name and Branch of Service of Veteran.

"Made by Veterans for Veterans"

1-800-328-4298 or 507-373-4705

www.4seasonsvacations.com

SINCE 1967

Celebrating 50 Years

In Business!

NYC, New England Fall Colors

Canada Cruise

October 24-31, 2019

Tour Includes:

• 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Larry Alvey
• Delta Airlines flights, MSP to New York City
• Transfers to and from the airport
• Hotel at Times Square
• Lunch at VIRGIL’S BBQ

$2,999.00 Per Person Double Occupancy

$2,599.00 per person double occupancy

Tour Includes:

• 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Joyce Langerød
• Deluxe accommodations
• Deluxe motor coach transportation
• 15 meals: 10 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 1 dinner
• 52 mile Durango Silverton Train ride
• Additional to Do: Round trip Grand Canyon, Majestic Garden, Custom

$1,669.00 per person double occupancy

Tour Includes:

• 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Tammi Honey
• Deluxe accommodations
• Deluxe motor coach transportation
• 13 meals (including an Alaska Salmon Bake)
• Deluxe tour headquarter

$3,499.00 Per Person Double Occupancy

Tour Includes:

• 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Tammi Honey
• Deluxe accommodations
• Deluxe motor coach transportation
• 15 meals (including an Alaska Salmon Bake)
• Deluxe tour headquarter

$3,499.00 Per Person Double Occupancy

Monuments of Washington D.C.

May 17-21, 2019

Tour Includes:

• 4 Seasons Tour Director, Tammi Honey
• Round trip Delta, air, air/hotel Washington to D.C.
• 8 nights accommodations in the Washington D.C. area
• Evening folders and Washington Monument Tours
• 2 Breakfasts, 4 Dinners
• Free time through Washington National Cemetery
• Admission to George Washington’s Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens
• Guided tour of the White House

$1,649.00 Per Person Double Occupancy

$1,649.00 Per Person Double Occupancy