Baseball decision to come May 9

Convention, Legionville, etc. all cancelled

BLOOMINGTON — The Minnesota American Legion Baseball Committee held the first virtual meeting in its history on April 11. But that’s not what made news statewide.

It was the decision to not make a decision on whether to have a 2020 Legion Baseball season. The committee decided to hold off until May 9 to make a decision.

“We didn’t feel it was our turn at bat,” said Director Randy Schaub.

After all, the Twins hadn’t cancelled their season. The Minnesota State High School League hadn’t cancelled spring prep sports at that point. Legion Baseball usually is third in that lineup in terms of season openers, so it made sense to not leapfrog the other baseball organizations, he said.

Meanwhile, everything else on the planet was shutting down.

The Department Executive Committee had cancelled the Department Convention, slated for July 15-18 at Jackpot Junction in Morton, and it had urged other Legion Family activities to cancel.

And cancel they did:
• Boys State at St. John’s in Collegeville June 14-20.
• Girls State at Bethel University June 14-20.
• Legion College at Camp Ripley May 29-31.
• Legionville School Patrol Camp along North Long Lake near Brainerd June 14-Aug. 7.
• Sons of The American Legion Detachment Convention June 26-27

No one left behind …

Technology changes VA critical care

Minneapolis hospital leads the way in how specialists can treat patients from afar

By Tim Engstrom

MINNEAPOLIS — It’s the middle of the night. A patient in critical care needs a doctor — now.

In the olden days, across America, someone at the hospital had to call a physician at home, wake him or her up, then speak over a telephone.

In fact, in many parts of the country, that method remains common. But an even greater problem is this — the country is short on critical care physicians.

The VA Medical Center in Minneapolis led the nation in changing the way doctors care for patients in intensive care, ways that provide more information to doctors and get the patients home faster.

The program is called VA Tele-Critical Care-West, and the Administrative Officer, Andrew Nelson, said it all started in 2006, when Dr. Robert Bonello, a critical care physician at the Minneapolis VA, read a story about telemedicine in ICU settings.

Bonello, who retired in September 2019, began research on the concept for VA critical care, Nelson said.

By 2008, the intensive care units within VISN 23 (VA hospitals in Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska), began a pilot program to connect ICU physicians with families of patients. The pilot was shutting down.

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continued on page 2

No one left behind …

Legion and VFW Riders join forces to provide military honors for a veteran

By Tim Engstrom

The American Legion Riders partnered with the Veterans of Foreign Wars Riders to honor a fallen soldier

Inset: Mitchell Lee Olson in his obituary photo. Main: Paul Hasing, president of the Minnesota American Legion Riders, drives past the house of Mitchell Olson’s mother and father in Minnetonka on April 11. Olson was a 34-year-old veteran of the Iraq War who had been buried without military honors, until the Legion and VFW Riders provided drive-by honors.

Legion and VFW Riders join forces to provide military honors for a veteran

By Tim Engstrom

The American Legion Riders partnered with the Veterans of Foreign Wars Riders to honor a fallen soldier

continued on page 2
Are you a Minn. veteran impacted by COVID-19?
There is funding relief available

ST. PAUL — Has the coronavirus restrictions caused you to lose your job? Has it shut down your veteran-owned business? The American Legion suggests you get your documentation ready for Monday, April 6, when you can apply for relief from the state of Minnesota.

That’s because Minnesota veterans impacted by COVID-19 may be eligible for grants from the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs.

Starting April 6, the MDVA began accepting applications from Minnesota veterans who have been financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

MDVA awards one-time financial relief grants in the amount of $1,000.

Funding is available for both Disaster Relief Grants and Special Needs Grants.

“We are grateful to Gov. Tim Walz and the Minnesota Legislature for their support of Minnesota Veterans in the recently enacted Emergency Response package,” said MDVA Commissioner Larry Herke. “Minnesota Veterans and Staff for COVID-19, 19 with 16 positive cases and three or four deaths.

“The good news is we are discharging several. We get them. They get better, and they are doing OK,” he said. “If we can do things via telethon or telecall, we are alright.”

He said if the situation worsens, the VAMC will have capacity. It also has been buying ventilators and identifying alternate roles for staff members. If a surgeon is not doing surgeries or an emergency room nurse not handling emergences, they have fallen back on other training.

“Many of them have not served in those roles in many years. They were trained, but they have not served in those roles,” said Kelly. He said the hospital is doing its best to preserve personal protective equipment, or PPE.

Some services that can be done are happening, he said; dialysis and cancer care are two examples.

He noted many civilian systems were losing revenue, but the VA has been weathering the storm.

He said many civilians systems are losing revenue, but he noted the VA is well-funded.

He said if there is anyway to thank the staff, it would be welcomed.

“Are you thinking to find innovative ways and fresh ways to really thank our staff,” Hughes said.

He said the MDVA is working to alleviate fears among front-line workers.

“This is one job you can’t do by telework. You can’t call in sick for a long time. This is 24/7 work you do every day of the week,” Hughes said.

MDVA Chief of Staff Mike McElhinney said the MDVA has been planning for Skilled Nursing Care, which is May 10-16, and celebrating health care workers and what they do.

The Commanders’ Task Force also went over much of its legislative efforts. The response is many legislative efforts have been put on hold with the Legislature addressing COVID-19 funding.

Kelly described it as a once-in-a-lifetime “special needs” grant to assist with problems such as housing, lost job, unable to get work.

“No lost of agencies were called out for special funding, but we were,” Johnson said.

Get ready now for a big thank-you to nurses

ST. PAUL — The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs has renamed Skilled Nursing Care Week. The agency now is calling it Minnesota Veterans Home Week.

And a drive-by thank-you is in the works.

“Invite your friends and organizations to come and help us celebrate the week of May 10-16, 2020,” said Commission of Veterans Affairs Larry Herke.

He said the staff are having fun at the Minnesota Veterans Home a great reputation and said they are rising up during the challenge of the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Herke said the MDVA is planning a drive-by celebration for the staff on the week of May 10, similar to drive-by birthday parties.

“We encourage you to participate with your veteran service organization at one of the Minnesota American Legion distribution leads:

Luvrene Veterans Home & Sioux Falls VA: Randy Olson 507-525-6532

Silver Bay Veterans Home: Jennifer Havlick 218-834-4975

Hastings Veterans Home: Mike Ash 612-499-1404

Fergus Falls Veterans Home & Fargo VA: Bill Barkbnecht 218-770-6264

Minneapolis Veterans Home and Minneapolis VA: Ken Gistbon 651-329-8220


Do you want to donate?

Minnesota American Legion distribution leads:

Luvrene Veterans Home & Sioux Falls VA: Randy Olson 507-525-6532

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Fergus Falls Veterans Home & Fargo VA: Bill Barkbnecht 218-770-6264

Minneapolis Veterans Home and Minneapolis VA: Ken Gistbon 651-329-8220


You have 3 options:

• Contact your local county veterans service officer (CVSO).

• Apply online at MinnesotaAmericanLegion.org/COVIDRelief.

To apply for the Special Needs Grant

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• Apply online at MinnesotaAmericanLegion.org/COVIDRelief.

To apply for the Disaster Relief Grant

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• Apply online at MinnesotaAmericanLegion.org/COVIDRelief.

The VA Medical Center adjusts for COVID-19 health care

VA Medical Center in Minneapolis on Good Friday, April 10.

How does the VA need now?

Kelly said PPE — gloves, face shields, masks — continue to be in demand.

The CTF also heard from Douglas Hughes, deputy commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs.

He noted the Minnesota Veterans Homes also have a no-visitor policy in place, except for end-of-life situations.

Hughes listed what is needed:

• A Minnesota resident.

• A veteran or the surviving spouse of a deceased veteran as defined by MN Statute 197.447.

Eligible applicants must be:

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The VA Medical Center in Minneapolis on Good Friday, April 10.

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A Memorial Day speech fitting for present times

**Editor’s note:** The Legionnaire recognizes most or all Memorial Day ceremonies on May 25 will not happen. Let retired Lt. Gen. Richard Nash’s words serve as your Memorial Day speech during the statewide stay-at-home order.

This year’s Memorial Day will be like no other any of us alive have ever experienced. Our daily lives, family activities, employment and social interactions have dramatically changed.

We have heard over and over and rightfully so, we are all in this together. Never in the last century have so many people been impacted to the very core of our existence where our health and lives are at risk.

We are being asked by our local state and national leaders as well as our best medical and research minds to stay at home, minimize travel, keep our social distancing and take personal responsibility for our well-being. With this being the facts for the foreseeable future, we are approaching a significant national holiday which is extremely important to all Americans and has been since the late ’60s when Decoration Day was formally established, but measured to reduce their exposure to one another.

We must not let Memorial Day be just another self-isolation day without meaning or awareness. Take this special day, adjust your routine and remember those that gave and are still giving “their last full measure of devotion” and who paid the ultimate price for our freedom by honoring what they gave to all of us as we enjoy the lives we cherish today.

Those men and women suffered far more and overcame unimaginable obstacles much greater than what we are now experiencing.

We must not forget the battle of the Chosin Reservoir, Hue City, Iwo Jima, D-Day, Argoine Forest or the Second Battle of Falujah. We have lived through tremendous challenges as a country throughout our long history. The greatest generation survived four years of war on two fronts, we weathered the 9-11 attacks and continue with the longest conflict in our history with Iraq and Afghanistan.

Never before nor should we now suspend honoring those who have served and died. We are currently seeing service members who are dying while performing their duties fighting COVID-19 around the globe.

These men and women are on the front lines today along with all of our civilian first responders, doctors, nurses, healthcare providers and those taking care of our elderly family members. Memorial Day this year is a day when we should all pause, reflect, and pray for those lives lost since the beginning of our Republic. We must pause for a moment of silence, think of all of those who have died or been killed in conflicts. Think of their families left behind and what their lives could have been and be very grateful that they stood up and filled the ranks alongside of extremely brave men and women of all services to protect you and me.

The willingness of American’s veterans to give their lives for something greater than their own self existence must be honored and we owe that debt to their memories and acknowledge it this Memorial Day regardless of the daily challenges we are facing.

Think about how you might spend this day safely and consider calling a veteran. Thank them for serving and talk about their service and console them if they have fellow service members who were lost in action. Consider sending a donation that day to one of our Minnesota Veterans Homes, donate to your local American Legion or VFW Posts.

Use one of the many technologies and social media outlets to connect with a distance relative who served in one of our long history of service. We can do simple things like flying the flag or a visit to a cemetery near you to search for a veteran of the past.

Finally, taking time during the day, stop long enough and reflect on how with everything considered, how better off you and your family is partially due to those that have fought and died on behalf of our nation.

Those we honor on this day gave their very existence for the people and the nation they loved. The least we all can do, regardless of what is going on around us, is to stop, reflect, say a simple prayer and a thank you. They have earned our undying gratitude.

We will overcome our current crisis because we as a nation can rally, pull together our collective talents, and focus on defeating this current dilemma. America is strong because of the people. That’s just what we do in dark and trying times.

**Blake Madison**

ADRIAN — Blake Madison, an 18-year-old sponsored by Adrian Post 32, is The American Legion Department of Minnesota’s Eagle Scout of the Year. Madison earns a $1,000 scholarship from the Department of Minnesota. The honor was announced March 14. His entry now competes for a National American Legion scholarship.

For his Eagle Scout project, he worked with the city staff in Adrian to build a large, outdoor chess and checkers board at the Adrian Municipal Campground and named it after a 58-year Scouting leader who enjoyed chess. Arnie Dwire.

Madison is the captain of the top Knowledge Bowl team at Adrian High School and has led it to state competition. He is the leader of the school’s Chess Club and several times has earned the award for highest scorer on the school’s Mathematics League. He is the leader for the junior varsity golf team, has been involved in band for many years and was selected for the southwest Minnesota Honor Band.

Madison maintains a 4.07 grade-point average, and he always places on the “A” honor roll, earning academic letters and individual academic awards. He earned a 34 on his ACT.

He became a member of the National Honor Society as a sophomore. The group helped organize the moving of books when the library had to relocate. It helped with special transportation for veterans to attend the community’s Veterans Day program, and it helped organize the school’s graduation ceremony.

Madison said he donates blood when the American Red Cross Blood Mobile flags,” Madison said.

With Scouting, Madison is enrolled with Troop 32 of Adrian and Troop 134 of Worthington. He was chaplain for three years with Troop 32 and den chief for two years. He served as Order of the Arrow representative and attended several OA conclaves. He has attended the Northern Tier High Adventure Camp and the Missouri River High Adventure Base.

Through his Scout troops, he has volunteered at the Veterans Home, sent care packages for troops, given care packages for local sick children and donated time doing concessions at local races and ice-fishing contests.

“We have sponsored ceremonies to properly dispose of flags,” Madison said.

The troops helped clean a veterans memorial, prepare a Veterans Day meal and aided the local American Legion Post with community events.

He has earned 28 merit badges, the 50-Miler Award and an Eagle Palm. 

Photo by Worthington Globe

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**MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**3 WAYS TO EXPLORE HISTORY AT HOME**

Even though our sites are temporarily closed, you can keep exploring history online.

Check out these digital resources and learn something new!

**1 HEAR FROM THE GREATEST GENERATION**

Check out Stories of Minnesota’s Greatest Generation, an online collection of personal stories that follow members of this remarkable generation through the pivotal decades of the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s. Listen at mnhs.org/mgg.

**EXPLORE THE CIVIL WAR**

Watch dozens of videos about Minnesota’s rich, complex Civil War history and explore our Civil War collections, battle flags, artifacts, and much more at mnhs.org/civilwar.

**SEARCH DIGITAL RECORDS**

Use our online Minnesota People Records Search to search and download fully digitized records from the WWI Gold Star Roll and Minnesota State Census. Accessible for free at mnhs.org/search/people.
Serenity needed during troubled times

“As we are living day by day with this COVID-19 virus inerruption to our lives, God is with us when you’re dealing with the storms of life, but this can be especially difficult when we can see that ways are not as they should be.”

“God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.”

--- Betty Jass, Chaplain

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Can’t believe Omar was in Legionnaire

Sir: I was concerned, disappointed and angry that there was a photo of Ilhan Omar with Legislative Committee Chairman Robert Hart of Stillwater Post 48 in the recent Legionnaire. This woman represents our nation, our founders, our culture, Christianity, The American Legion, our borders, and anything and everything else that signifies freedom, capitalism, individuality, civil liberties, the Second Amendment. I could go on and on.

I’ve been around 79 years and have seen a lot to get angry about, and when I look at that photo, the angrier I get. My God! We are losing our country because of the agendas, and goals of people like her.

It’s too late for Americans my age, but consider our children’s and grandchildren’s future, for Pete’s sake! If you are not aware of Omar’s history, you can look it up and don’t give me any P.C. B.S.

Betty Jass is the chaplain for The American Legion Department of Minnesota.

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Mail Call

Good Morning: This is a Buddy Check.

The buddy check is a procedure carried out by a buddy system where each buddy checks that the other’s diving equipment is functioning correctly before the start of the dive. As we learn the same thing. To look out for our fellow team members.

For more information on the buddy check, please contact Jennifer Havlick at: Jennifer.havlick@outlook.com.

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Don Schroedl in 1974

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Minnesota loses long-serving NEC member

Don Schroedl, 98, of Minneapolis, died April 7. Funeral services and burial at Fort Snelling were private.

Schroedl, an Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, served 22 years as NEC member, from 1973 to 1995. He was a 66-year paid-up-for-life member of the American Legion and belonged to Post Office Post 540.

He was 5th District commander for 1967-68, Department vice commander for 1972-73, acting Department commander for 1973-74 and alternate NEC member 1974-75.

Schroedl served on the advisory board for the Minnesota World War II Veterans Memorial and the board for the Servicemen’s Center at the airport.

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Tim Engstrom

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Board of Publication: President Mark Dvorak, Minneapolis; Carroll Partridge, St Paul; Paul Edwards, Brainerd; Dennis Henkemeyer, Bagley; Patti Coleman, Prague; Vice President Don Amundson, Blue Earth; President Tim Engstrom, Pelican Rapids

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E-mail: tengstrom@mnlegion.org

"Letter." It’s as easy as 1-2-3...
Obituaries

The Minnesota Legionnaire reserves the right to edit all obituaries for style and brevity.

Please send to tengstrom@mnlegion.org or in the mail to the Department of Minnesota.

Mandatory Credit

Andren, Clifford A., 96, Navy veteran of World War II, died Feb. 15, 2020. He was a member of Willmar Post 167.

Ballew, Bill R., 93, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died March 2, 2020. He served as a military policeman investigator with the Army Air Corps and played the trumpet in the Army Air Forces Band. He was a 57-year member of Willmar Post 167.

Barnett, Ronald, 72, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died March 15, 2020. He was a member of Millard Post 311.

Bender, Donald J., 90, Army veteran of the Korean War, died March 23, 2020. He was a 61-year member of Winona Post 9.

Borchardt, Eugene, 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died March 27, 2020. He was a 55-year member of Fairmont Post 36. He served as a chaplain and in the honor guard.

Carlson, James Kenneth, 95, Navy veteran of World War II, died March 21, 2020. He loaded ammunition in an anti-aircraft gun aboard an aircraft carrier in the South Pacific and played French horn and trombone in an onboard band. As an architect, he designed the Winona Post Home. He was a member of Winona Post 9.

Dahlen, Donald E., 87, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died April 14, 2020. He was a 43-year member of Jackson Post 130.

Davison, David C. “Spuds,” 77, Army National Guard veteran of the Vietnam War, died March 16, 2020. He was a member of Winona Post 9.

Decker, Larry A., 70, Army veteran of Vietnam War, died March 12, 2020. He was in the 101st Airborne Division and received the Bronze Star. He was a member of St. Paul Post 1982.

Dolny, John Richard, 99, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II and the Korean War, died April 13, 2020. He retired at age 60 in 1981 with 39 years of service with over 10,000 hours as a command pilot, 135 combat missions and 211 combat hours. The major general was inducted into the Minnesota Aviation Hall of Fame in 1998 and an exhibition on his career is on display at the Minnesota Air National Guard Museum. He was from Minneapolis.

Ellers, Donald W. “Fuzzy,” 83, Army veteran of the Korean War, died April 1, 2020. He was a member of New Prague Post 45.

Goor, Dwight D., 73, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died April 1, 2020. He was a 41-year member of Anoka Post 102.

Hammerschmidt, Jerome “Joe,” 91, Army veteran of the Korean War, died March 13, 2020. He was a member of Fulda Post 318. He served as an engineer with the 1st Cavalry.

Hanson, Vernon O., 80, Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, died March 14, 2020. He was a member of Cambridge Post 230.

Hassel, Arthur “Skip,” 73, Army veteran of the Vietnam era, died Nov. 1, 2019. He was a 45-year member of St. Paul North End Post 474.

Haugstad, Elmer W., 95, Army veteran of World War II, died March 21, 2020. He was a 55-year member of St. Paul North End Post 474.

Kemper, Dale, 88, Army veteran of World War II, died March 22, 2020. He was a member of Lismore Post 311.

Kemp, Robert E., 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died March 22, 2020. He was a member of Lismore Post 311.

Ludingi, James L., 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died April 3, 2020. He was a member of Worthington Post 9.

Marple, Stanley L., 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died March 20, 2020. He was a 41-year member of Eden Valley Post 318.

McCoughney, Jay, 95, Naval Air Corps veteran of the Pacific Theater in World War II, died March 29, 2020. He was a radioman and a gunner in a two-seat dive bomber. He was a retired Minneapolis Fire Department captain. He was a 32-year member of Buffalo Post 270.

Millard, Raymond L., 83, veteran of the Vietnam War, died Jan. 13, 2020. He was a member of Rush City Post 93.

Moen, Richard O., 90, Army veteran of the Korean War, died March 30, 2020. He was a member of Spring Grove Post 5.

Naber, Lawrence Jr., 75, Army National Guard veteran of the Vietnam War, died April 6, 2020. He was a member of Marshall Post 113 and active in the honor guard.

O’Brien, Oscar E., 90, Navy Reserve and Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died Feb. 27, 2020. He was a 43-year member of Willmar Post 167.

Paplow, Wayne E., 70, Army Reserve veteran during Vietnam era, died Jan. 27, 2020. He was a past commander and membership chairman for Dundee Post 386.

Petier, William K., 73, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died March 24, 2020. He was a member of Grand Rapids Post 60.

Pflueger, David A., 72, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died March 25, 2020. He was a member of Dundee Post 386.

Proft, Walter August, 95, Air Force veteran of World War II, died March 29, 2020. He was a radio operator for 5-17 aircraft and served as a communications officer for 20 years. He lived in Germany and Okinawa. His final assignment was Duluth. He was a member of North St. Paul Post 39.

Rasmussen, David, 77, Army and Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, died March 26, 2020. He was a member of Thief River Falls Post 117.


Ruhland, George M., 92, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died March 27, 2020. He was a 43-year member of Eden Valley Post 381.

Sanborn, Clinton E., 77, Army National Guard veteran of the Vietnam era, died March 19, 2020. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 26.

Severance, Lewis, 96, Army Air Forces veteran of World War II, died March 7, 2020. He was a 60-year member of Kasson Post 335.

Stangl, Norman, 92, Army veteran of the Korean War, died March 30, 2020. He was a member of Elysian Post 311.

Stratmann, Kenneth, 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Feb. 27, 2020. He was a 54-year member of St. James Post 33.

Thoresen, Jerry, 94, Air Corps veteran of World War II, died March 18, 2020. He was a dentist in civilian life. He was a 65-year member of Blue Earth Post 89.

Tillemans, Lawrence P., 93, Army veteran of World War II, died Feb. 28, 2020. He was a 53-year member of St. Joseph Post 328.

Tracy, Eugene R., 89, Army veteran of the Korean War era, died April 5, 2020. He was in the Corps of Engineers stationed with East Asia Occupational Forces. He was a member of Round Lake Post 461 and active in the honor guard.


Yutrenka, Ted, 82, Navy veteran of the Korean War era, died Feb. 28, 2020. He was a past commander with Argyle Post 353 and a 44-year member.

Zobel, Walter “Wally,” 70, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died April 2, 2020. He served with the 1st Cav and the 7th Cav. Reg. “Ghost Battalion” as a mortarmen and was awarded the Bronze Star and Air Medal. He was a first vice commander and membership director within New Ulm Post 132.

Department of Corrections

The Minnesota Legionnaire received incorrect information regarding a young woman who had been submitting a story via social media and in the traditional media. If you or anyone know anyone seeking a fulfilling career supporting Minnesota veterans and their families, please encourage them to explore opportunities with MDVA.

For more information on current openings, visit our Work for MDVA webpage. Thank you for your support of Minnesota veterans!
Veterans often have questions on Compensation & Pension Exams

Once a service member transitions to veteran status and begins using VA entitlements, they will become familiar with compensation and pension exams (C&P exams). C&P’s are a common phrase in the Veterans Affairs jargon that is used to discuss a process when a veteran file’s for service-connected disability compensation is reviewed.

C&P’s are a part of a duty to assist a law that requires VA to gather information that may help support the veterans claim. Under recent changes implemented by the Appeals Modernization Act, the VA’s duty to assist is limited to first-time claims and supplemental claims. C&P exams are used to diagnose, determine a priority of disabilities and provide a medical opinion if it was likely or not connected to a veteran’s time in service. This is known as a Nexus opinion.

FACTS, not MYTHS. C&P examiners do not decide claims and these examiners do not provide medical treatment. Around 90 percent of the examiners are third-party contractors the VA uses, which was established in 2016 when VA awarded $6.8 billion to companies such as Quality Timeliness Costumers Service Medical QVC and Lional Corporation (LHC) to administer VA C&P exams for establishing disability benefits. So, if you get a call from these contractors, you are not being solicited.

If you have ever had a C&P exam, you know how poorly VA examined you in out in less than 20 minutes. Prior to the exam, VA sends the examiner specific disability benefit questionnaires (DBQ’s) based on what the veteran filed for; the examiner administers the exam using those questions and are supposed to provide an adequate opinion based on facts like a veteran’s medical history, examinations, lay statements and be supported by adequate rational backed by medical research.

Honestly in 20 minutes if a doctor can do all this, they must have extraordinary talent. Therefore, I would not want a 20-minute C&P exam opinion that would be the sole basis for my claim determination. That is why it is especially important for veterans to enter the claims process once they have held a diagnosis and treatment plan in place either through VA or their private provider. This plan includes a “nexus opinion.” VA’s duty to assist requires VA to consider all evidence a veteran provided, including medical records and lay statements when deciding a claim, not just the C&P examiners medical opinion.

If a veterans C&P examiner failed to take time to thoroughly review the examiners entire record like considering lay statements from other veterans, family members, diagnosis records or opinions, the examiner’s facts or theories by the record and it negatively affects the rating, then veterans can file for an inadequate exam stating VA failed to fulfill its duty to assist.

Remember, do not go into this alone. There are experts waiting to assist you at no cost. Those experts can assist your veteran service officers or your appointment veteran service organization like The American Legion.

Jeremy Wolfsteller is the Department of VA and Rehabilitation service officer. His email is jwolfsteller@mlj Legion.org.

Hello Legion Family,

I hope everyone is staying healthy and doing what you need to do in order to keep your sanity. It is great to see so many of our Legions stepping up and helping others. The American Legion Family truly made up less than 20 minutes of your time to check out The American Legion Bootcamp. It is an online course that you can take. It is free to Legions and is one of the best things you will get a lot out of it.

Lastly, I know people are scared and frustrated. You want things to go back to normal, and you might want someone to blame. This isn’t the time to focus on politics in the Legion. We are a nonpartisan organization that has to work with both sides to get the things done. Everyone has a role, and their families deserve. We all have our opinions, and that is our right. Let’s keep them out of the Legion.

Thank you, and May God bless all of you.

Paul Hassing is the director of The American Legion Riders for the Department of Minnesota.

###

**VA & Rehabilitation**

**Jeremy Wolfsteller**

It’s not the time for politics in the Legion

Legionners have more to do than to focus on politics in the Legion.

Legion Riders

Paul Hassing

The American Legion Riders

Riders for the Department of Minnesota

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**Legion membership chart as of April 23**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Total</th>
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Legion membership chart as of April 23

Due to the pandemic and related restrictions and cancellations and economic hardships, it has been decided for national to move the April 2020 Legion membership dates on one calendar.

The new target dates are

• April 95 percent target date: May 13.

• May 100 percent target date: June 17.

Delegate Strength date: July 24.

With this being said, the extract dates will remain the same.

There is an extract that took place April 10, for the sixth and final renewal notice.

The extract for the first four of April 2020 in July will be May 13.

Adjutant Mike Maxa said: “Please continue to send in all dues that you have received prior to this to ensure members do not receive this renewal notice. Whether it is through the mail or through our electronic programs, we highly encourage the online method.” Please don’t sit on membership.

“Now is a great time to start using mylegion.org. We have been seeing years online membership processing in the future. Well, my friends, the future is here and knocking at your door.”

He said people can contact him, District leaders or other Legion members. They can also visit the website to find a local Legion.

Mike Maxa

Legion membership chart as of April 23

###

New subcommittee

**Continued from Page 1**

“We think this is an opportunity to take the situation we have now and use it to benefit us in the long term. As far as our ability to community and to connect with younger members who are more technology-driven,” said Jennifer Havlick of Two Harbors.

The subcommittee members already Zoom has set up for the Districts. The hopes is to spread the technology to be in common use among Posts, too.

Want to attend your Post meeting but you’ve got to cook supper or watch a young child play in the lawn sprinkler? Maybe you are just tired of the car and it’s traffic headache to reach the Post. Attend via videoconference.

Department 4th and 5th Vice Commander Teresa Ash of St. Paul will head up the subcommittee. Havlick, as secretary of the Strategic Planning Committee, will work with the technology education portion. Also on the subcommittee are 3rd District Commander Linda Dvorak and Historian Mike Ash, both of whom will provide training with video conferencing and MyLegion.org, and 2nd District Membership Director Randy Olson, who will work with the Legion on COVID-19 response supplies needed around the state.

Tom Fernlund, chairman of the Strategic Planning Committee, will be looped in on the subcommittee’s activities.

Mike Ash said when the state and country began to shut down, so did many Legion Posts. In fact, they needed to do the opposite — find the ways and means to continue Veterans.

“THAT’s what our organization is about,” Teresa said. “It goes back to 1919. There’s a fight to move The American Legion forward. It’s just about managing people’s expectations, she said. “I believe they don’t do stuff they don’t believe they can do.”

Legion Riders

Paul Hassing

The American Legion Riders

Riders for the Department of Minnesota.

Politician’s picture provokes perusers to post pen paper to an online compiler

All-American

Tim Engstrom

Post 48, and his buddies are on your case. You tell him about the photo because they know he and Omar are complete polar opposites on the political spectrum. But Hart was glad to have his photo with her because he understands the value of sitting down and talking with her on behalf of veterans everywhere.

What’s Not Happening?

Someone asked: Where’s “What’s Happening?”

Since everything has been cancelled, I would need to call it “What’s Not Happening?” above a lot of white space.

What’s Not Happening?

If the gatherings return, so shall the “What’s Happening?” section.

Front Page

Readers liked the flag-draped Legionnaire nameplate across the top of the Front Page in the April issue. I did that because of the COVID-19 situation that is going through. I thought I would show our patriotism in such times.

I didn’t know at the time that the idea would work so well, since planning pictures of all 10 (Minnesota has eight representatives, two senators). Hart belongs to Stillwater

It’s not the time for politics in the Legion
This famous photo by war photographer Robert Capa is from March 24, 1945, just before the jump over the Rhine River. The paratrooper is Jim Conboy Jr. of the 513th Parachute Infantry Regiment. He was from Pennsylvania. Just after landing, his right leg was shattered by a 20 mm shell and later amputated. After the war, Conboy earned a bachelor’s of business, married and had four sons and a daughter. He worked for Conde Nast from 1953 to 1997. He died in 2004. (Dallas police officer J.D. Tippit, killed trying to apprehend Lee Harvey Oswald, also served in the 513th PIR.)

Author James Fenelon is at left in this screenshot from YouTube. Fenelon himself served 12 years in the Army and was a paratrooper and pathfinder. In 1988, he was a private at age 18 going through jump school at Fort Benning. He went through the infantry museum, saw a small exhibit about the airborne in World War II Europe and it mentioned Operation Varsity as “the drop across the Rhine.”

In my naive, I had assumed I had learned everything I needed to know about World War II in my high school history class, and I was a little dismayed I hadn’t heard of this operation. I had heard of the jump into Normandy, Market Garden in Holland, but I wasn’t aware of the 17th Airborne Division or their jump across the Rhine.

Over the years, he wanted to see more written about the 17th Airborne, and finally his wife challenged him to do something about it. He got to know the 17th Airborne guys. In fact, he was at a reunion and was walking back to his hotel room and noticed a group of veterans pushing a brass luggage cart. Instead of luggage, there was an 80-year-old man. Was there a medical emergency? Nope. The fellow drank too much.

They asked Fenelon to help. He learned they wanted to leave the cart at the door of the man’s hotel room, knock and run away before his wife opens the door.

“Now I knew why they recruited me, because I could run,” he said. He made a clean getaway.

“I got high-fives and slaps on the back and was invited to join them back at the bar.”

Fenelon found where these paratroopers get together, they go back in time, to when they made their best friends.

The U.S. Army formed five paratrooper divisions during World War II. The 82nd and 101st were formed during World War I and were part of the Army Reserve between wars. They were brought into the active-duty Army and designated airborne divisions in 1942. The other three were new divisions formed in 1943: 11th, 13th and 17th.

The 11th served the Pacific Theater, while the others were assigned to Europe.

At the time of Operation Varsity, the 17th Airborne Division had three regiments: the 515th Parachute Infantry Regiment, the 507th Infantry Regiment and the 194th Glider Infantry Regiment, all of which had support of field artillery, medical, signal and so on. Miley, a West Point grad who served at the end of World War I, spent 15 years as a lieutenant during the reduced military in the interwar period. He was an advocate of physical fitness and professional development. He was positioned well when the Army expanded in the late 1930s. As a major, he was tapped for the first organized unit of paratroopers, the 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment.

Fenelon said Miley was instrumental in paratrooper traditions that exist today. He asked a captain to design jump wings for graduating jump school, then sought approval from the War Department for paratroopers wearing them. He got approval for paratroopers wearing jump boots with dress uniforms and the blooming of their trousers for a distinct look.

The way his troops behaved — getting into fights and living hard — plagued his career until he became commander of the 17th Airborne.

“When they got to England in September 1944, the entire division, 8,000 guys, were allegedly banned from London for two weeks after a peculiarly egregious bar fight in London that included switchblades. These are guys who would fight at the drop of a hat,” Fenelon said.

The Allies made their broad push across Europe starting in November 1944, when the Germans counterattacked — the Battle of the Bulge. The 17th Airborne was sent into this campaign. Fenelon said their entry into combat was not elegant. Miley and his staff took intelligence reports at face value and believed Germans were withdrawing. In fact, panzer units were coming forward. This resulted in casualties.

The 17th was assigned to Gen. George S. Patton’s Third Army flank and what it lacked in experience, it made up for in courage. The 17th never lost an objective for more than a couple of hours. If the Germans kicked them out of a city, the paratroopers countered. The aggression held up the reputation of airborne units, but it was costly.

There was a portion of the 17th that did have combat experience, Fenelon noted. It was the 507th PIR, commanded by Edson Raff, nicknamed Little Caesar. He was short and had a high opinion of himself. He had led the Army’s first combat jump in North Africa.

“They either loved him or they hated him, and most of them hated him,” Fenelon said.

The 507th had jumped in Normandy. Miley didn’t like Raff, because Raff needed him. Raff didn’t smoke or drink and loved to focus on squad- and platoon-level tactics — fundamentals like marksmanship and small-arms techniques. It paid off in the Battle of the Bulge because Raff had fewer casualties than other units in the division.

In mid-February of 1945, the 17th pulled out of rest camps so it could replace casualties. Guys like Sgt. John Chester, a farm kid from Missouri used to rising at 3:30 a.m. for chores before school, had the job of integrating the new soldiers.

“He’s kind of one of these legendary guys you hear about when they join the Army,” Fenelon said. “They think the Army is actually a vacation because you could sleep in.”

Awake at 6 a.m., three meals a day, Chester was quickly promoted to sergeant, and he was in charge of a 75mm Pack Howitzer. He drilled to make sure everyone on the squad could do all the jobs. His guys became the fastest gun crew, so commanders would cherry-pick his people to raise the competence on other crews. Chester then brought the replacements up to speed.

The 17th got time with actress-singer Marlene Dietrich sporting jump boots on a USO Tour. The soldiers again routinely got into fights. They even caused a minor international incident when some of them beat up some British MPs in Paris, Fenelon said.

They also were trained to jump with new single-point-release harnesses. They had been accustomed to three-point harnesses, and they didn’t want to change. The Army, though, had too many paratroopers to drowning or shooting in Normandy because the men couldn’t get out of the harnesses fast enough after landing.

“When someone is shooting at you, you want to get unencumbered as soon as possible,” Fenelon said.

The new doors on the C-46s bothers them too. (Planes twice the volume of C-47s.) They didn’t like the double doors and weren’t used to a door on the left. Commanders parked trucks at the back of the planes so the paratroopers could climb in and practice.

Only Miley and his staff knew the plans for Operation Varsity, but all the men knew the next mission was unlike any before.

“Unlike the jumps into France or Holland, this was going to be an invasion, not a liberation, and the sudden drop and the paratroopers would be cut off,” he said.

Fenelon said Miley’s people were selected for their attitude. He picked his people to raise the competence on other crews. Chester then brought the replacements up to speed.

“Miley’s people were selected for their attitude. He picked his people to raise the competence on other crews. Chester then brought the replacements up to speed.”

Continued on Page 8
Operation Varsity took place north of the German city of Wesel, between the Rhine and Issel rivers. The British dropped up north, while the Americans dropped to the south. On the night of April 13, the 17th Airborne soldiers with mohawk haircuts listen to German radio allegedly because it had been training. They saw the airplanes and some Germans took Nazi propaganda at face value, thinking they were attacks. They got out and moved to their bridges.

"I'm a little bit familiar with airborne tactics. I helped plan the Nazi invasion of Crete. "My own experience in Crete verified that the Germans wanted to capture an intact bridge on the Rhine near Wesel, and set up a defensive perimeter as troops cross the water. Ten Issel River bridges needed to be held by glider personnel."

British Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery preferred to stop at the Rhine and build up divisions and equipment. Montgomery wanted two airborne divisions to land on the far side of the Rhine near Wesel and set up a defensive perimeter as troops crossed the water. Ten Issel River bridges needed to be held by glider personnel. German Gen. Alfred Schlemm was an accomplished soldier, artilleryman and aviator who was familiar with airborne tactics. He had helped plan the Nazi invasion of Crete. "His own experience in Crete verified that the point of most vulnerability in airborne troops is when they landed," Fenelon said.

The Allies learned March 18 that any element of surprise was lost. Schlemm had captured a copy of an after-action report of Operation Market Garden. What's more, the Germans had jets taking recon photos of French airfields where the 17th had been training. They saw the airplanes and gliders. They knew the Allies had Wesel at the top of their list. The Allied commanders never shared this fact with the men — but the German propaganda machine did.

"GI's almost universally in Europe liked to listen to German radio allegedly because it had better American music than American stations did," Fenelon said.

On March 23, 1945, the German radio had an announcement, by name, for the 17th Airborne Division, to leave the paratroopers at home and head for the Rhine. The air force would have to deal with the Rhine itself. That's what they landed on, and it's what they left behind.

"The soldiers realized: "The mission was still on because they wouldn't have fed us this way if it wasn't on.""

On March 24, 1945, aircraft took off from 12 airfields in France and 11 in England in what became the largest airborne armada to date. There were 1,500 troop transports, 1,300 gliders and more than 500 fighter escorts. Trailing them were 240 B-24s rigged to drop supplies, fuel, medical and extra ammo.

"If you stood there and watched the first aircraft come over, it would have taken three and a half hours before the last aircraft would have passed overhead," Fenelon said.

The American Legion Riders outside the Hopkins VFW.

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**Thinking suicide?**

- **Veterans Crisis Line**: 800-273-8255, press 1
- **Veterans Health Care**: 877-927-8387

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**Need help with**

- **Vets Linkage**: 888-546-5838

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**Legion and VFW Riders honor vet**

"USA, USA," Mitch's mom, Sylvia Olson, chanted as the parade passed the couple's Minnetonka home.

Then, 30 miles away in Coon Rapids, the bikers also rode past Mitch's wife and home. Surrounded by a handful of friends and family, Megan blew a kiss and wiped away tears as the bikers passed.

"Full military honors will come later. But a wife and a family, so weighted with grief, needed every ounce of support now. "God bless every single one of them," Mitch's mom said after the motorcycles had passed. "Stay healthy and hug your kids."

"She knows had the tables been turned her son would have saddled up, too."

"Mitchell would have loved this; he would have really loved this," Casey said.

On otherwise quiet streets, love is showing the way in dark days.

After, Casey Olson, the sister, emailed everyone who made the event happen. She wrote: "We cannot begin to thank you for what you are and your organizations have done for my brother and our family. When I saw those fire trucks, motorcycles, police and ambulance come around the corner, it finally gave me some relief. In this difficult time of social distancing we have been carrying such a heavy load and your arrival felt like you were there to pick up the burden for us. You were truly the first responders to our grief and your presence comforted my weary heart. This has given us such peace we cannot thank you enough. Thank you for not leaving my brother behind."

"I had been thinking clearly, I know this is not the decision he would have made," Casey says. "There was some level of pain there that couldn't be eliminated."

"Mitch's marriage to his wife, Megan, and the birth of their son, Hunter, brought Mitch joy. Casey says Veterans Administration counseling also helped her brother, but the epidemic of veteran suicides is a mystery we, as a country, are still solving."

"With the loss of their family and friends I feel empty," Casey said. "Mitchell would have loved this; he would have really loved this," Casey said. "On otherwise quiet streets, love is showing the way in dark days."

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**Minnesota Legionnaire**

May 2020
S T. PETER — It was June 1967. Bruce Frey had graduated from St. Peter High School. His life was ahead of him. He and five of his buddies were having beer and talking. Join or get drafted? Hoping to stay together, they decided to join the Navy under the buddy system. He entered the Delayed Entry Program in August and went to boot camp in January.

He went from MEPS in Minneapolis to the Great Lakes Training Center, then to Camp Barry, where during processing the people there found Frey needed glasses. That delayed him two weeks, and he was unable to remain with his pals.

They found Frey had a skill: He could type 60-70 words per minute. He got to the Minneapolis airport, then to Camp Barry, and pursued a career in sales and marketing. He tried to adjust swiftly to civilian life, hardly mentioning his military background. He had seen protesters at Travis AFB and was called a “baby killer” and asked “How can you do this?” outside of Customs at the San Francisco airport.

He got to the Minneapolis airport, and all was quiet on the Midwestern front. But St. Peter is home to Gustavus Adolphus College, and one day, as the Vietnam War continued overseas, students had a protest with upside-down flags. A bunch of local veterans wanted to confront them. Frey said, but a patrol blocked the road.

He got married to his wife, Susan, and they had a daughter, Stacy. The same thing happened to him that happened with his Navy MOS. He ended up doing something else.

He couldn’t find sales work, but he got a state job as a security counselor at the Minnesota Security Hospital in St. Peter. He did that for 30 years. He still teaches security classes for the hospital, often to contractors.

He had known Susan from high school, when he worked with her at the Red Owl grocery store. After the Navy, they connected at Sioux Trail Bowling in St. Peter. Their daughter lives in St. Peter with her husband, Wally. They have two children, a daughter and a son, both young adults.

These days, Frey, 78, is active with the St. Peter Area Vietnam Veterans Last Man Club. It began running the Last Man Club Golf Classic in spring 2016 at Shoreland Country Club in St. Peter. Proceeds benefit the organization’s Veteran Relief Fund, which provides emergency assistance and unmet needs to local veterans, usually when no local, state or federal aid exists. Doling out around $30,000, the fund has helped more than 40 vets.

The Last Man Club Golf Classic is scheduled for Friday, June 19, and it remains scheduled mainly because the organizers haven’t met. It’s a month and a half away.

“We either need to move it back into the fall or figure it out in the next few weeks,” Frey said. They have been busy signing up participants and getting sponsors. There are 160 golfers signed up — completely full. If you want to play, try next year, like in February.

The outing has 90 hole sponsors so far, Frey said, and there is room for more. The website is lmcclassic.com.
COVID-19 impacted the VA’s plans for connecting via Tele-Critical Care

Continued from Page 1 using technology. On Aug. 2, 2011, two connected. By 2012, there were seven hospitals.

The group of doctors could help each other out whenever and wherever and with greater information. Nelson said that was key because of the national shortage of critical care specialists.

The VA Medical Center in Spokane, Washington, was interested. By March 2012, they were activated, and the program expanded to Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Colorado, Nevada, among others. In 2015, the U.S. Air Force wanted to look at the program. The Navy did, too.

“The Air Force said, ‘How can we incorporate that program to help us?’” Nelson said. The VA, he said, has a problem of smaller, rural facilities not having enough critical care specialists to cover consistently. They get covered by medical hospitalists (basic docs who cover a lot of bases). Now, thanks to the Tele-Critical Care program, they have a critical-care doctor immediately available who can walk them through what’s needed.

Nelson said Congress encourages collaboration and provided grant money that brought Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas, on board, as August 2015.

The program does use a software system that provides two-way audio-video plus patient analytics to help detect and prevent patient deterioration. Doctors and nurses have access to medical records, test reports, X-ray images and patient bedside monitors. The software pulls together information from all these sources to point out the acuity or severity of the patient. “We didn’t take anything away from the staffing at the hospital,” said Nelson, a retired Air Force master sergeant. “The military would call us a force multiplier.”

Cincinnati started a telemedicine program for intensive care about six months after Minneapolis did. The two programs tie together ICUs and step-down units, plus other critical care needs, for the VA Health Care System nationwide.

The program in Cincy is called VA Tele-Critical Care-West. The Cincinnati one covers east of the Mississippi River, and Minneapolis covers west of the Mississippi River with some overlap back and forth.

The VA Tele-Critical Care-West services include VA hospitals and one Air Force facility, plus four more VA hospitals in the pipeline to join. Nelson said that’s about 234 beds, when fully implemented in the West there will be 800 to 850 beds covered when the expansion is completed. At any given time of day, there are physicians and nurses on the West shift.

“Instead of one in-service care physician at every hospital, we can have doctors on shift to advise a resident or guide them through a procedure or a process,” he said.

The East and West programs are working to get to the point where they can back up each other, Nelson said. Say the Internet goes down or power goes for the East, then West can cover them.

Tele-Critical Care has become a priority for VHA Telehealth community, which leads the nation in Telehealth resources and patient care. Nelson said the plan was to keep expanding the next eight to 10 years, until Minneapolis and Cincinnati are connected to every ICU VA nationwide, but that is now planned to happen in about five years.

The VA is distributing mobile carts to every VA hospital, to help extend the reach of Tele-Critical Care during the COVID-19 pandemic. This enables the Tele-Critical Care programs to reach any ICU in the VA system.

But until then, the doctors and nurses have used technology from the outpatient telehealth system — especially iPads and the VA Video Connect platform. Nelson said the Tele-Critical Care crew made a huge effort to find temporary solutions with existing VA telehealth resources. Now physicians go room to the rooms with iPads, talking to patients while having another expert on the video screen.

He said the Tele-Critical Care has shown some achievements:

• A reduction in the amount of ICU patients being transferred to other facilities, such as a university hospital.
• An improvement in mortality rates as compared to community hospital programs.

“I can’t put a price on saving a life. We are starting to see data that we show the program is worth its cost,” Nelson said.

The SAL Update:
Events, gatherings are cancelled, but the Sons membership drive is on

Greetings from the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Minnesota to the entire American Legion Family.

With all the things that have gone down in the last month, if you not heard, the National Convention was cancelled for this year.

The Detachment of Minnesota followed suit and our summer convention (campsout) scheduled for June 26 and 27 has been cancelled.

For The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary, their convention scheduled for July in Redwood Falls has been cancelled. Many other things have been cancelled due to the uncertainty of things and the challenge of scheduling.

Boys State, Girls State, Ota-torical, Junior Shooting Sports, the list goes on.

After the resolution that came out of National, all National officers will remain in their positions (or similar to their agreement to stay) for the next year, until we can have a convention and elect new officers and appoint new chairs. A similar resolution was generated for Detachment, and that is what we are doing as well. So, if you live in District or Squadron is doing the same, that means you can mail in your officer reports in as soon as you get the forms. Let’s have 100 percent turn-in this year!

Dave Vulcan is the commander of the Detachment of Minnesota for the Sons of The American Legion.

Mail Call
Where there’s a will, there’s a way

Good day to all,

As we are all dealing with things we have never dealt with before, I hope to find all are doing as well as they can be. Our safety concerns remain. I know many meet-
gings, fundraisers, and event have been cancelled all over, and it is hurting income for our Squadrions and Posts that make donations to our Legion and community programs.

This year has been like no other, and we need to do what we can do. Let me share some stories from my home Detach-
ment of Merchantland that show we can work in these circumstances.

Squadron 2 Harry White, Squadron 60 Laurel and more have worked with the Legion and asked permission from the local and state government to open for a blood drive.

Permission was granted each time, and the American Red Cross was happy that The American Legion helped them in a time when blood is getting low.

Great work being done to help many during the lockdown in Maryland. In Glen Burnie, south of the Baltimore Airport, American Legion Post 40 has taken to Facebook and had fliers to raise money for the Post. They have 60 numbers using PayPal and then YouTube for live drawings. They have raffled off three iPads, a power washer, gift cards and more and have raised over $2,000.

In these times we need to help what all of our programs we have, and we cannot forget to help take care of our Post home, too. Take the time to plan what we can do once we are allowed to get back to normal and get creative with what we can do to help.

As Sons of The American Legion, we have always been known for finding ways to make money for the programs and also to work the program.

Let’s all just accept that we have lost our fundraisers and opportunities to work the program.

Let’s find new ways to carry on the programs and get more people involved. We can do it. We just need to put our minds together. Even if it’s on a conference call because we can’t meet right now, let’s challenge ourselves to step up to the challenge and continue on.

We cannot change what has been taken from us because of the virus and how it has cancelled so many things. We can come back strong if we are prepared to and are ready to.

We are the Sons of The American Legion, it is our jobs to assist and carry on. Let’s get working on what’s next. Share what you are doing with others and help everyone come back strong. I hope to see all of you soon and hear more of the great works we are doing.

Serving Those That Served,
Full Steam Ahead,

Don “JR” Hall
Americanism Chairman Sons of The American Legion

April 14, 2020 Membership Report

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Department of Minnesota Membership Bulletin No. 9</th>
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<td>National Goal</td>
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<td>District 1: 7,189</td>
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<td>District 2: 1,335</td>
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<td>District 3: 2,066</td>
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<td>District 4: 375</td>
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<td>District 5: 302</td>
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<td>District 6: 1,578</td>
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<td>District 7: 1,816</td>
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<td>District 9: 846</td>
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<td>District 10: 1,653</td>
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<td>District 11: 1,163</td>
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<td>Total: 11,596</td>
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Same Duty

Last Year
Despite social distancing, Brainerd’s 194th Armor Reg. did not forget Bataan

By Tim Engstrom

BRainerD (remotely from Bloomington) — The motto of the 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 194th Armor Regiment, is: “Remember Bataan ... Never Forget!”

The 78th annual wreath-laying ceremony in Brainerd in honor of the 194th Armor Regiment soldiers who endured the brutality of the Bataan Death March happened April 9 despite the statewide shutdown.

The ceremony’s audience, however, attended via Facebook Live.

“The current state of our community and the world has prevented us from gathering in person today, but thanks to many technological advances over the years we can now continue this tradition during this somber day, and honor the memories of those who fought on the Bataan Peninsula, online,” said Capt. Michael Popp, commander of Headquarters Company, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 194th Armor Regiment.

In the battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Company are in Brainerd, A Company is in Alexandria, B Company is in East St. Paul, C Company in Sauk Centre, D Company in St. Cloud and G Company is at Camp Ripley.

Lt. Mitchell Welinski read the unit’s history to the soldiers present for the ceremony and to the 463 viewers watching live on Facebook. (Viewers who missed it can still see it at the Facebook page titled “1st Combined Armed Battalion, 194th Armor.”)

On Feb. 10, 1941, the 34th Tank Company of the Minnesota National Guard out of Brainerd, under the command of Ernest B. Miller, was sent to Fort Lewis for training.

There, it was combined with National Guard tank companies from St. Joseph, Minnesota, and Salinas, California, to form the 194th Tank Battalion, with Maj. Miller appointed as commander of the new formation. A Company was the Brainerd guys, B Company was from St. Joe, and C Company was Salinas.

The National Guard was instrumental in America’s readiness before the country’s entry into World War II. Miller and his 194th Tank Battalion were the first U.S. tank unit in the Far East when they were sent in the summer of 1941.

The 194th Tank Battalion was awarded three presidential unit citations, “The soldiers who lost,” General John D. Murphy, division commander, said. “We remember these men who so bravely left the Brainerd Lakes area to fight for and protect our freedoms. We remember those who never had the chance to return home, paying the ultimate sacrifice for the Philippines or on the Japanese hellships as prisoners of war.

…” among other things…”

The 194th Tank Battalion was awarded three presidential unit citations, said Welinski.

“Those prisoners, without food or water, experienced extreme cruelty and atrocities dealt by the Japanese,” he said. “Nearly 10,000 troops died both American and Filipino.”

Hundreds died at Camp O’Donnell. Many prisoners were spread throughout the Philippine Empire, and they often were packed onto unmarked Japanese ships called hellships and taken to labor camps in Japan, including men still living in Brainerd.

“Many of these unmarked POW warships were sunk unknowingly by the U.S. Navy en route to Japan, killing many POWs,” Welinski said.

Eighty-two officers and enlisted personnel of the tank company out of Brainerd, and 64 of them went with the 194th Tank Battalion to Bataan in the Philippines. Of them, one was wounded and evacuated, two went to officer candidate school, three were killed in action, 29 died as prisoners of war and 29 survived captivity. Only 32 men survived and returned to live in the Brainerd Lakes area following World War II.

Capt. Philip Wong, battalion commander, said, “We remember those who never had the chance to return home, paying the ultimate sacrifice for the Philippines or on the Japanese hellships as prisoners of war. We remember those who came home again after enduring the unimaginable horrors of being a prisoner of war and the lives they lived in the post-War World.

Many of the men, he said, went on to be active in the Brainerd Lakes area, living life as they had before the war while giving back to the community and raising families.

The 194th Tank Battalion had 226 soldiers who call Brainerd their home station. Overall, there are 733 men who missed it can still see it at the Facebook page titled “1st Combined Armed Battalion, 194th Armor.”

…” among other things…”

Despite social distancing, Brainerd’s 194th Armor Reg. did not forget Bataan
Kneeling, from left, are Kevin Carrigan and Cory Fouquette. In the main row are Kay Nowak (Larry’s sister) Norby Nowak (Larry’s nephew), Leon Pesina, Vuirlig Vacek, Gerry Ardolf (Larry’s son), Gary Mallak, Bonnie Ardolf (Larry’s daughter) and Joann Ardolf (Larry’s wife). In the back row are Ron Miskosky, and Gary Nowak (Larry’s brother in law). Working the camera is Bob Nowak (Larry’s nephew).

They visited through the window

On Saturday, April 18, seven members of the Silver Lake American Legion Post 141 visited a fellow member at the Good Samaritan Home in Howard Lake. The member is Larry Ardolf, and there were members of Larry’s family present, as well.

The visit had to be done through the window to Larry’s room inside due to the pandemic. The idea for the visit started with a call from Bonnie to Cory Fouquette saying that Larry was having a difficult time with failing health and recently without visitors due to the pandemic. Larry is a past commander of Post 141, longtime Past Financial Officer at Post 141, Past 3rd District American Legion officer and 46-year member of The American Legion.

2019 Legion financial report

INCOME STATEMENT: SEPT. 30, 2019

Department Income

Dues Income $865,294
Less: MN Legationaire Portion $234,490
Revenue Enhancement Programs $120,064
Grants $105,812
Investment Income $92,237
UTT Insurance - Royalties $205,791
Donations / Contributions $1,747
In-Kind Rent $83,598
Miscellaneous Income $42,291
Total Department Income: $1,282,345

STATEMENT OF BUDGET EXPENSE: SEPT. 30, 2019

Total Headquarters Expense: $597,720
Unbudgeted Annual Expense: $587,525
Unbudgeted Adj. Entries: $0

Total Unbudgeted Annual Expense: $151,417

Total Special Budget Expense: $3,000

Total Headquarters Expense: $1,344,500

Railing for the Man

Hibbing Post 222 built hand railings and cemented apron so Jack Lund can get into the house with his walker. Just coming home from nursing home after breaking his pelvis. From left are Larry Pocrnich, Jack Lund, Al Nikolai.

Grocery Delivery

Tyler Post 185 member Jim Brust prepares to deliver groceries to a customer of the Maynard’s grocery store in Tyler. During this COVID-19 crisis, Post 185 members are covering the normal Friday delivery routes in order to free up Maynard’s staff to remain in the store to help customers.
Greetings from the mighty First District American Legion family. We all need to stay strong, active, and raise the flag. We The American Legion will prevail. COVID-19 is still active and we need to do all preventive things possible to hold it at bay and continue to do the Buddy Checks. It may be a way to remind some that they need to do that. It is time to get reports into the District and Department.

Some of the deadlines have been extended, but some of the mail has taken longer. Send to the correct address that saves time and confusion. Thank you for all the work everyone has and is doing for all veterans and supporters. Thank you for your support. Thank you to all of the first responders and all medical personnel.

Pray for the deployed and their families. God Bless. For God and Country!

5th District
Andrew Rose Sr.

Greetings Fighting 5th Family. I pray you are all well and abide by the rules and regulations to keep you and your families healthy. Gov. Tim Walz has extended the stay-at-home order until May 4. We should follow this and the reinstitutions of the CDC and MDH.

The next 5th District meeting will be May 5, where we will be taking nominations for the 2nd, 3rd and 4th vice commanders. This will be a teleconference meeting. More information will be sent in the 5th District News Flash, generated by 5th District adjutant, Ray Eiden. I hope to be reached at edenr@aol.com.

Tom McKenna, at the 3rd Saturday, wanted all veterans to know that the closing date for the office is closed, they are still supporting veterans in need. The supply store is full and can accommodate needs for clothing, shoes, quilts, etc. And they do have plenty of CO2. So, if you need extra CO2, or money set aside for emergency financial support, they will contact you directly at 952-356-5116 or every third Saturday.

Don’t forget our veterans at home who are isolated. I’m sure they all have phones.

Wayne Glenston is now back at home after successful hip surgery, and will be getting out on April 24. Let’s wish him a happy birthday and many more 612- phone calls. He seems to be happy to hear from all.

The 5th District, wishes to extend its condolences to the parents and families of Wall Lyndsay (Court House 310) and Don Schrodel (Post Office 546). They will be missed by all.

During this awkward time, we will be going through many changes.

Our means of communication will be different. We have persevered for 100 years, through the difficulties and obstacles. We may start out small and slowly, but keep moving forward. Support, love, and understanding is the key to success. We need to keep the line of communication open.

Please help others. Pray for our troops at home and abroad. Stay safe. May God bless all of you.

6th District
Paul Edwards

Greetings to the Minnesota Legion Family. I have heard stories of an ancient curse that says, “May you live in interesting times.” We think we can all agree that we are living that curse.

On April 15, the 6th District Executive Board met online to discuss and act on a resolution to cancel the 2020 District Convention, and to extend this convention to the next District Convention. Since all leadership in the Legion is voluntary, several options for personal or public health considerations and the following leadership changes to take effect in June: Ashley Yoder will take over as vice commander for the North Sub District. Mike Jones will become the Cass/Hubbard County Council commander. Ken Toole will become the Boy Scout chairman. Dewanye Collins will join the 3rd District Executive Legionville Board as representative from the 6th District.

On May 2021, the 6th District is still in 3rd place in the Department, with 29 posts at 100 percent of goal or higher and 15 posts at 103 percent of goal or more to qualify for the National Commander’s Award. I will complete the paperwork and submit it to the National Commander for consideration.

It is a heck of a way to get the summer off. I got the yard raked, driveway swept, snowplows put away, shovels washed, and put the camper on the road, as it’s going to be sitting in the yard. It looks like another month before it will get back to normal. We still can get some membership and supporter reports and in.

Hope everyone is staying healthy and safe. What a change this has pandemic has made concerning the programs of The American Legion. Even though things have been cancelled, we still need to keep in touch with each other and see how we can help each other.

Now that there is a lot of home time, it is the perfect time to be working through the past due membership roster as well.

It is time to get reports into the District and Department.

We have a task force concerned about the programs of The American Legion. Even though things have been cancelled, we still need to keep in touch with each other and see how we can help each other.

Now that there is a lot of home time, it is the perfect time to be working through the past due membership roster as well.

Please keep the faith and if you can’t get out to help our fellow American Legion members, please do the Buddy Check and tell your post commanders and district officers if any contact is needed. Help. Thanks for all you do to make this situation better.

The end of June will be packet time to show the rest of the “cancelled” seems to be used if we can still serve. I have been a part of several people have used video conferences calls.

We aren’t sure yet how this will go. We will wait to see what kind of restrictions we are faced with. Do you have access to MyLegion.org? The 3rd District currently has 34 of our 64 posts who are actively using MyLegion.org. We have another 17 that at some point signed up for access but we have not accessed in a while, their access has probably been swept to the other site. We please try to keep an eye on this and always be sure to get your story into the Department.

We have a task force continuing to limit the very kind of meetings that we utilize regularly. We will try to complete things possible using various methods, like phone and video streaming. At the Post level, limiting our meetings size and distance may continue to work given that so many Posts conduct business regularly in a few.

The Department has decided on regular meetings for various functions via Zoom. So if you are currently invited, or wish to be included, please join in. I continue to urge Legionnaires to take part in District committees, as chair or just be a member to help out.

Hopefully, by the time you read this (or shortly after) our communities will be starting to function normally; it will be full swing. It was sad to hear of the idol of Northshore and Till. Post 1921 AD lists. The members are there, and in many cases, discus have never been asked to join a certain post. The American Legion has always been a strong voice for the American veteran. We cannot let this get us down.

Remember “Keep Veterans First.”
Sad to lose so many events, but glad to be near 30,000

President's Column
Mary Hendrickson

As I write this column, Gov. Tim Walz has just extended the stay-at-home directive to May 4, though it could be farther out by the time you read this.

Last month, I talked about the new normal. Unfortunately, the new normal is changing day-to-day as information arrives in the press. We will make it through this coronavirus pandemic, but as we all know, it will include a painful period of stress, personal loss and financial hardships.

As political activist and revolutionary Thomas Paine said in 1776, “These are the times that try men’s souls.”
The American Legion Auxiliary has always been known as a patriotic and a service organization. I am so proud of Auxiliary members who quickly stepped forward to sew masks, face covers and gowns for our veterans’ homes and hospitals as well as their local medical and senior housing facilities.

You are living my President’s Theme of “Remember, Honor, Serve.” Other members have contributed to local food shelves and made telephone calls to neighbors and friends asking if they need any help during these difficult times. Every contribution and every gesture of help makes our current situation more tolerable.

I am disappointed that my scheduled visits in April had to be canceled. There were events scheduled on one of the 30 days in April including the National President’s Tour. Our Junior Convention scheduled for April 18 was also a victim of coronavirus.

The new District Junior presidents were elected at their conventions in March (at least 30 days before the Department Junior Convention as required) and take office on April 18 on what would have been the last day of the Department Convention.

Congratulations to each of them.

As you are probably aware by now, the National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, was canceled, followed quickly by the cancellation of our Department Convention scheduled for July 15-18 at Jackpot Junction Casino in Morton.

National and District (as well as most District) officers will continue in their current positions until the next convention in 2021.

National President Nicole Clapp wants us to remember that since there were no conventions, 2020-2021 is really just an extension of the current year. Of course, there will be new beginnings. New membership data will begin being recorded at the end of the fiscal Auxiliary year.

Speaking of membership, I would love to see the Department of Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary reach 30,000.

We are tantalizingly close. I know our numbers have slowed due to the loss of membership rallies and regularly scheduled local Auxiliary unit meetings. This time of isolation is a golden opportunity to contact members who have not yet renewed.

For those of you with great granddaughters, the next few months are your last opportunity to sign them up as members under their veteran great-grandparent.

We will have to follow new membership guidelines, which states NEW MEMBERS CAN ONLY BE MORE THAN TWO GENERATIONS REMOVED from the veteran. Let’s sign up those great granddaughters now! Thank you, Membership Chairman Sharon Thiememeck, and our District Membership chairmen, for all your efforts this year.

In closing, I’d like to acknowledge Department Executive Secretary Sandie Deutsch, our office staff and current trainees/upcoming new Department Executive Secretary Marsha Bible for keeping the office going, answering a large quantity of telephone calls and emails and keeping me current with all the new, ever changing, developments within our organization at all levels.

They have been my anchors in the last few weeks. A District resolution paper (one of those things we do, therefore documents) was recently emailed to all District presidents. They will review it with their District Executive Committees and choose to ratify or decline it. In it, it was suggested that local units may choose to keep their same officers or meet to hold new elections at a safer time.

Stay at home; Stay healthy; Stay the course.

Mary Hendrickson is the president of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota.

It’s a new world out there

Department executive secretary position filled

Marsha Bible has been hired to replace retiring Secretary Sandie Deutsch who is retiring on July 18. Marsha is a longtime member of the Waite Park Auxiliary Unit 428. Marsha has held many positions within the organization on the Unit, District, Department and National levels.

Marsha has also served as Department of Minnesota President. Marsha has started working in the office on a full-time basis as of July 18. Please welcome Marsha, she is an asset to the organization and is ready and willing to take over.

Cancellations

As with the rest of the world, the Department of Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary is experiencing a time like no other. We are doing our best in the Department Office to keep you, the members informed of cancellations, changes, etc. Following are the cancellations which will not be rescheduled this year:

• Legion Style Safety Patrol Camp
• There will be no National President’s Tour
• National Convention in Louisville

Please go to our Department website www.mnla.org as we are trying diligently to update this as we hear of new cancellations. I received a notice from Gov. Tim Walz’s office that I will not be receiving a Poppy Proclamation this year.

As far as Poppy Days go, please keep in mind that we are supposed to support the Poppy program year-round so we encourage you to have your Poppy distribution days but wait until the all clear is given to be able to get back out in the public, maybe Fourth of July, Labor Day weekend or even Veterans Days.

All of the Poppy orders have been shipped out of the Department Office from orders we have received. They can still be ordered if anyone needs them.

COVID-19 Ad Hoc Subcommittee

The American Legion has put together an Ad Hoc Committee in regards to giving our organization’s support to combat the COVID-19 virus.

Patti Coleman has been appointed by President Mary Hendrickson as the Auxiliary representative to the committee. This is an American Legion Family project. There is more information in regards to this committee within The American Legion pages.

2020/2021 American Auxiliary Year Resolution

Following is a resolution that was passed by the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota Executive Committee. The resolution cancelled the July 2020 Convention at Jackpot Junction in Morton. Please note that all 2019/2020 Officers, Chairmen and Committee members will remain in place for the 2020/2021 Auxiliary year.

All District presidents were sent this resolution via electronic communication in order for them to put together resolutions at the District level.

Poppy Month of May has arrived

May is Poppy Month and Poppy Distribution Day. If the stay-at-home order is lifted, it would be fine to hold distribution as normal, but remember some people may not be back to work, or have a job, so smile and just give them a poppy to wear.

After the stay-at-home order is lifted, Units may need to hold a second distribution, or some kind of fundraiser to help out your poppy fund. Some of you know I like to think outside the box, so here we go: Units can consider doing distribution day this year on July 4 or Veterans Day in November.

Pick a day and get your public relations chairman to get the word out to the community about what day would work for your unit.

We will work the Poppy Poster Contest digitally this year. At my report for the Fall Convention, I mentioned we may have to do this someday — well here it is! This is a good year to start this, and next year we will continue to do posters digitally as a money saver. We need to use the poppy all year long, not just in May, this is a great program that serves our veterans in two ways — by them making the poppy and the Units giving money back to the veteran’s programs.

The support you gave the poppy auction items at Fall Convention was amazing! A total of over $1,000 was given to the Servicemen’s Center at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. Let’s use that great feeling to get us through this ups and downs world in 2020.

— Sandy Wersal, poppy chairwoman

Get assistance for members sewing masks

As many of our Auxiliary members are working very hard sewing masks and other needs for the nine VAHCS and Veterans Homes that we provide assistance to, there are members that are having financial struggles of their own at this time.

Department Secretary Sandie presented a budget request to the Finance Committee, who recommended that the request be approved. The Department Executive Committee approved the recommendation, which would provide members a one-time only reimbursement, of up to $50 provided receipts are sent in to the Department Office.

Following are the criteria:

• Receipts must be sent in to the Department Office with your name and address included.

• Reimbursement is for one-time only per member (must be a Department of Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary member)

• Receipts must be for materials to be used for supplies for the above named facilities.

There is a cap of funds earmarked for this endeavor and reimbursed, the program will be over.

This is a very small way that our organization can help them during COVID-19 and provide the very hard-working members with a little assistance.

Poppies

Sandy Wersal

Homemade masks such as this one are handy but still cost money to make.

2020/2021 District Goal Membership

Last Year

One 4,177 3,884 92.99% 3,978
Two 4,191 3,884 92.77% 4,021
Three 4,064 3,735 91.90% 3,882
Four 624 567 90.87% 584
Five 609 549 90.38% 579
Six 5,393 5,014 92.97% 5,134
Seven 3,369 3,054 90.65% 3,221
Eight 1,363 1,251 91.78% 1,284
Nine 3,618 3,318 91.71% 3,463
Ten 4,304 3,885 90.26% 4,075

2020/2021 District Goal Membership

This Year

One 4,177 3,884 92.99% 3,978
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Six 5,393 5,014 92.97% 5,134
Seven 3,369 3,054 90.65% 3,221
Eight 1,363 1,251 91.78% 1,284
Nine 3,618 3,318 91.71% 3,463
Ten 4,304 3,885 90.26% 4,075

Totals 31,884 29,334 92.00% 30,394

Auxiliary members sell poppies throughout the month of May

Department Convention

• President Mary and Commander Mark’s Testimonial – this has been rescheduled for June 26, 2021
• Department Convention
• The Junior Convention had been cancelled and will not be rescheduled until 2021
• Legionville Safety Patrol Camp
• There will be no National President’s Tour
• National Convention in Louisville

Please go to our Department website www.mnla.org as we are trying diligently to update this as we hear of new cancellations.

A lot of work has been done to prepare and ready the organization for this year. We are being recorded at the end of the fiscal year.

Thank you for keeping us in mind during these difficult times.

Sincerely,
Mary Hendrickson
Adams Legion Family steps up, donates sanitizer, masks to VA

MINNEAPOLIS — Many Posts of The American Legion continued to serve veterans in a time of national crisis, and one way was to provide personal protective equipment and hand sanitizer to veterans hospitals and veterans homes.

Adams Post 146 was among them. Only they did it with a maple twist.

On April 10, Past Department Commander Jim Kellogg, a member of Post 146 who also is the chairman of the Department National Security/Foreign Relations Committee, drove up from Adams to the Minneapolis VA Medical Center with his wife, Brenda, to deliver 250 bottles of hand sanitizer and several packages of handmade facemasks.

Kellogg credited the donation to the entire Legion Family at Post 146. The masks, made by Auxiliary Unit 146, allow VA staff members to get longer use out of N95 masks and are useful for anyone lacking a mask. The VA stopped accepting visitors in March, except for end-of-life care and for patients who need assistance at outpatient clinics.

The hand sanitizer, however, was made by Sapthre Maple Products, based in Adams. It makes whiskey and maple syrup. But since the COVID-19 pandemic hit the globe, the company came out with hand sanitizer, too. Rub it on your hands, and it smells lightly of maple.

The Legion Post purchased 200 of the bottles, and the other 50 donated by Sapthre. You might have noticed the company name is quite similar to the Adams Post commander’s name: Lynn Sathre.

The owner of Sapthre Maple Products is Kevin Sathre, Lynn’s nephew. Kevin is a member of Squadron 146 of the Sons of The American Legion.

Kellogg coordinated the donation through Department Service Officer Jeremy Wolfsteller, who worked with Ron Devall, director of volunteer community resource services at the VAMC.

Kellogg found that, even if the Adams Post wanted to donate to the community-based outpatient clinic (CBOC) in Albert Lea, the donation had to go through the VA hospital in Minneapolis, which then distributes.

They also brought materials for patients to read but those were not allowed inside. Even the Minnesota Legnaire, which usually circulates 125 copies at waiting rooms inside the hospital, is not allowed, because reading materials get passed among patients and visitors.

Those 250 bottles only lasted a week or so. On April 20, Kellogg returned with 25 additional gallons — yes, gallons — of hand sanitizer, donated in part by Lyle Post 105 and in part by personal donations.

Let’s see. The bottles were 60 ml. That’s about 2 ounces. There are 32 ounces in a quart, four quarts in a gallon. So a gallon fills about 64 bottles. That means 25 gallons fills 1,600 bottles.

Adams Post 146 Commander Lynn Sathre hands a check to his nephew, Kevin Sathre, for Sapthre Hand Sanitizer. The younger Sathre is a Sons of The American Legion member. At right is Adams Squadron 146 Commander Dean Kiefer.

As you all know, my days are numbered but you aren’t done with me yet. I can’t ever remember giving a 10-month notice before! First off I want each of you to welcome Marsha Bible with open arms. I am sure she will do a great job. She is very knowledgeable in regards to the American Legion Family and will be able to answer any of your questions — if she can’t she will get the answer for you. I am not writing my farewell letter yet — that will be coming shortly. I have to do some soul searching for that one as it will be very hard to put in words. Carol Kottom knows how I like to talk so I am sure I will be up to the task.

This month I want to send special hello’s and love to my wonderful friend Karen Thygeson, also Virginia Whaley who I hope is doing well during this time. Also, Delores “Bardy” Horton who I miss as well. Call me, and we can chat. These are three wonderful ladies who are very near and dear to my heart.

I want to let you know that I have been trying my hardest to keep the Department Office going and up to date. I have been having one person, sometimes two as we sat apart, in the office each day. Jan, Jocelyn and I have the capabilities of working from home and if I don’t have a person in the office the phones are transferred to one of us so we can help you with any of your needs. I would like to thank all of the Units who have submitted Annual Reports. We have received almost 250 Unit reports. This is more than we received when there wasn’t a pandemic! Please don’t hesitate to call or email with any questions or concerns you may have.

On a personal note, by the time you read this Christopher Michael Deutsch will be a part of our family. Neither hell nor high water will keep this Papa and Grammie from going to Texas to meet this precious person. Little Elizabeth has been practicing her big sister skills on her doll. She even gave it a tattoo on the forehead. This will be interesting.

I am so looking forward to performing my first and probably only wedding on Aug. 8 for Bill and Donna — what an honor. After they hear my sermon they might have hoped to pick someone else (just kidding you two sweeties). Next month will be my farewell, and I will be turning the reins over to Marsha. Everyone please follow the rules and stay safe and healthy — as I have been told many times “this too shall pass.”

Sandie Deutsch is the executive secretary for the American Legion Department of Minnesota.
All of us at 4 Seasons Vacations say THANK YOU to all who have traveled with us in the past and hopefully again in the future. As we navigate through this uncertain time we want everyone to stay healthy and safe. We want you to know we are here when you’re ready to travel again!

Thank you!

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Congratulations to Legs’ regulars and the new members who attended Legs’ Memorial Day event at the North shore of Lake Minnetonka.

I would like to remind everyone that legs will be closed on Memorial Day.

I would like to invite all to the American Legion Auxiliary Chapter 60 Memorial Day Services at the American Legion Post 38.

I would like to wish everyone a happy Memorial Day.

Are you the son of a veteran? Maybe you are a veteran and the son or grandson of one? Either way, join your local Sons of the American Legion.

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