

Reports and Resolutions

ADOPTED BY THE
ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH ANNUAL

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION



THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA

at

WILLMAR, MINNESOTA

JULY 11, 12, 13, 2024

FOREWORD

These are the Department Convention Committee reports and resolutions adopted by the delegates at the Department Convention held in Willmar, Minnesota, July 11-13, 2024, and which constitute the recommendations upon which the 2024-2025 programs of The American Legion, Department of Minnesota will be formulated.

The Department's Constitution and By-Laws are printed in Appendix "A" of this book and correctly represent all amendments adopted through the 105th Annual Department Convention.

This booklet has been prepared for the information of the membership of The American Legion; therefore, it should be filed among your permanent records for convenient use and reference in the future.

MICHAEL MAXA
Department Adjutant

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2023-2024 DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER	Paul Hassing, Montgomery
VICE COMMANDER	Charles Stone, Owatonna
VICE COMMANDER	Victor Gades, Morris
VICE COMMANDER	Lynne Nottage, Minneapolis
VICE COMMANDER	Paul Edwards, Brainerd
VICE COMMANDER	Bill Gordon, Albertville
CHAPLAIN	Dean Knutson, Marshall
NATIONAL COMMITTEEMAN	William Barbknecht, Battle Lake
ALTERNATE COMMITTEEMAN	Peggy Moon, Walker
JUDGE ADVOCATE	Greg Colby, Northfield
TREASURER	Mark Dvorak, New Prague
HISTORIAN	Christopher Anderson, Hastings
SERGEANT AT ARMS	Brad Pagel, Slayton
MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR	Pam Krill, Blue Earth
SERVICE OFFICER	Ray Kane, Cottage Grove
DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT	Michael Maxa, Le Center

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

District	(District Representatives)
First	Mark Maloney, Winona Mary Hanson, Austin
Second	James Olson, Amboy Tom Behrends, Worthington
Third	Rod Reifsteck, Elysian Gary Richardson, Mahtomedi
Fourth	Teresa Ash, St. Paul David Dahl, St. Paul
Fifth	Richard Ward, Minneapolis Andru Peters, Lake City
Sixth	Anthony Koop, Ironton Karen O'Bar, Verndale
Seventh	Jan Ekert, South Haven Karen Welander, Sunburg
Eighth	Daniel Siats, Northome D. Marvin Hill, Virginia
Ninth	Steve NaSalle, Fergus Falls Terry Buraas, Wray, CO
Tenth	Matthew Berens, Andover Paul Orson, Circle Pines

AMERICANISM COMMITTEE

The Americanism Committee did not have any resolutions and therefore did not meet.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH COMMITTEE

The Children and Youth Committee did not have any resolutions and therefore did not meet.

CONSTITUTION AND BY LAWS COMMITTEE

The Constitution and By-Laws Committee did not have any resolutions and therefore did not meet.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

The Credentials Committee did not have any resolutions and therefore did not meet.

EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

The Employment Committee did not have any resolutions and therefore did not meet.

ENERGY AND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

The Energy and Conservation Committee did not have any resolutions and therefore did not meet.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee meeting was called to order at 1:24 pm in the Executive Boardroom at the Best Western, in Willmar, MN on July 11, 2024.

Dennis De Long is the standing Chairman and Rachael Hill is the standing Secretary.

All standing committee members were present except for Richard Wog and Paul Hassing.

Resolutions 11 and 13 were assigned to the committee.

Resolution 11 was passed with an amendment to remove the word “War” from the statement “The American Legion is an organization of War Veterans” since membership now allows all veterans regardless of war-time status. A motion and second approved the resolution as amended.

Resolution 13 was also passed with an amendment. After discussion, it was decided that a statement should be added to clarify that the district delegate allotments would be sent to the District Finance Officer rather than the individual delegate. An additional resolved clause was added and the wording was made clear. A motion and second approved the resolution as amended.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 pm.

Dennis De Long, Chairman
Rachael Hill, Secretary

Resolution 11

WHEREAS, The American Legion is an organization of War Veterans who have dedicated themselves to the service of the Community, State, and Nation; and

WHEREAS, This service is performed through The American Legion Four Pillars; and

WHEREAS, Membership is the driving force of The American Legion, Department of Minnesota;
and

WHEREAS, Membership is declining and the income from membership dues is declining to perform The American Legion’s basic programs; and

WHEREAS, It is the recommendation of the Department Finance Committee, in a meeting held at the Elk River Post 112, Elk River MN on September 19, 2023, and briefed to the Executive Committee on October 26, 2023, that a dues increase is necessary for the 2025 membership year to ensure long term solvency for the Department of Minnesota; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, The American Legion, Department of Minnesota Finance Committee, recommends a \$3.00 increase in Department dues for the 2025 membership year effective at the close of the 105th American Legion Department of Minnesota convention and, be it finally

RESOLVED, This resolution is sent to The American Legion, Department of Minnesota, 105th convention assembled in Willmar MN Jul 11-13, 2024, for concurring action.

Resolution 13

WHEREAS, The American Legion Department of Minnesota gives each department district an allotment to help offset costs for their elected delegates to attend the national convention, and

WHEREAS, The current formula, as outlined in the 1949 mandate in the department constitution and bylaws which states “That the Department shall contribute toward the delegates to National Conventions on the basis of two delegates for the first four thousand members or major fraction thereof in each District and one additional delegate for each additional four thousand members or major fraction thereof in each District plus the regular delegates-at-large”, is outdated, and

WHEREAS, With the decline in membership, the current formula creates inequities across the districts and their delegates, and

WHEREAS, As it currently reads, a district that is authorized two delegates receives two allotments per the amount as established by the department finance committee, and a district that is authorized ten delegates based on their membership could have only three allotments, and

WHEREAS, This creates a substantial difference in the dollar amount each individual delegate receives from their respective districts, which is notably unfair, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, The 1949 mandate in the department constitution and bylaws “That the Department shall contribute toward the delegates to National Conventions on the basis of two delegates for the first four thousand members or major fraction thereof in each District and one additional delegate for each additional four thousand members or major fraction thereof in each District plus the regular delegates-at-large” be rescinded; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the national convention delegates of The American Legion, Department of Minnesota, as elected by their respective districts are provided an allotment, at an amount set by the Department Finance committee, to help offset expenses at the national convention and, be it further

RESOLVED, That allotments provided for individual district delegates will be sent to the District Finance Officers for distribution, and be it further

RESOLVED, That all allotments be provided, both district and at-large delegates, for equal amounts establishing equality for each delegate attending the national convention and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent to The American Legion, Department of Minnesota, in convention assembled in Willmar, Minnesota, July 11-13, 2024, for concurring action.

THE COMMITTEE (MEMBERS PRESENT)

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>HOME TOWN</u>	<u>POST</u>
CHAIRMAN	Dennis De Long	Bloomington	435
MEMBER	Mary Jo York	Forest Lake	225
MEMBER	Carl Moon	Walker	560
MEMBER	Carl Hendrickson	Cloquet	71
DEPT TREASURER	Mark Dvorak	New Prague	45
DEPT COMPTROLLER	Rachael Hill	Elk River	112

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

The Legislative Committee meeting was called to order at 1:20 PM in the Green Mill, lower level at the Willmar Convention Center in Willmar, MN on July 11, 2024.

Wayne Beierman was elected Chairman and Betty Jass was elected Secretary.

All the districts were present except the eighth.

Resolutions 15, 16, 17, and 19 were assigned to the committee.

All resolutions were discussed and approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:07 PM.

Wayne Beierman, Chairman
Betty Jass, Secretary

Resolution 15

WHEREAS, The Veterans Affairs’ Veterans Pension program provides monthly payments to wartime Veterans who meet certain age or disability requirements, who have limited income and net worth within certain limits, and

WHEREAS, net worth requirements are laid out under § 3.274 and do not have an annual income in excess of the applicable maximum annual pension rate specified in § 3.23, and (vi)(A) is age 65 or older, and

WHEREAS, your yearly family income and net worth must meet certain limits set by Congress, and your net worth includes all personal property you own (except your house, your car, and most home furnishings), minus any debt you owe, and your net worth includes the net worth of your spouse, and

WHEREAS, you must be at least 65 years old or have a permanent and total disability or be a patient in a nursing home for long-term care because of a disability or are getting Social Security, Disability Insurance, or Supplemental Security income, and

WHEREAS, when a Veteran or spouse is in receipt of a VA Disability Pension, the VA currently does not have a limit on how far back the VA can look regarding income on running awards, and

WHEREAS, the Social Security look back period begins the date of one's Medicaid application for long-term care, and generally speaking, the "look back" is 60 months, {5 years}, and

WHEREAS, the Social Security Administration redetermines eligibility and benefit amounts of most recipients once every 1 to 6 years, and when you report a change that affects eligibility or payment (for example, marriage), they may review your record for other factors of eligibility such as income or resources for Social Security Supplemental Income program, and

WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service has a 3-year lookback for general audits, and

WHEREAS, the VA can and has caused severe hardship with the income look back having no limits going back as far as 30 years, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Organization of The American Legion appeal to the US Veterans Affairs to put in place a 5 year look back for income, and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded for Presentation to the Department of Minnesota Convention July 11-13, 2024 in Willmar, MN. for adoption, and be it finally

RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded for presentation to the American Legion National Convention on August 27-29, 2024, in New Orleans, LA for consideration and adoption.

Resolution 16

WHEREAS, The American Legion Department of Minnesota is steadfast in its commitment to advocate for the rights, benefits, and welfare of all veterans, recognizing their invaluable service to our nation; and

WHEREAS, delays in the processing of claims by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) can result in significant financial hardship for veterans and their families, awaiting compensation that is rightfully owed for service-connected disabilities; and

WHEREAS, such delays, especially those extending a year or more, deprive veterans of timely access to the financial resources necessary for their health, well-being, and economic stability; and

WHEREAS, the current lack of financial compensation for these delays does not reflect the financial strain and opportunity cost borne by veterans during the extended processing times of their claims; and

WHEREAS, instituting a policy to incur interest on retroactive payments of a year or more would provide a fair and equitable solution to compensate for these delays, aligning with the principle that veterans should not bear the financial burden caused by procedural inefficiencies; and

WHEREAS, this policy would also serve as an incentive for the VA to address and reduce claim processing times, thereby improving the overall efficiency of the veterans' benefits system and the timeliness of support provided to our veterans; now, therefore be it,

RESOLVED, that The American Legion Department of Minnesota supports legislation that mandates the Department of Veterans Affairs to pay interest on retroactive payments owed to veterans for claims delayed a year or more, ensuring veterans are compensated fairly for the time they have waited beyond a reasonable processing period; and be it further

RESOLVED, that The American Legion Department of Minnesota urges members of Congress, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other relevant stakeholders to advocate for and implement this legislative change as a matter of urgency, recognizing the financial injustices faced by veterans due to prolonged claim processing times; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be disseminated to appropriate legislative bodies, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and veteran advocacy groups to rally support for this critical issue and to facilitate the enactment of legislation that rightfully compensates our veterans for delays in receiving their earned benefits, and be it finally,

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to The American Legion, Department of Minnesota, in convention assembled in Willmar, Minnesota, July 11-13, 2024, for concurring action.

Resolution 17

WHEREAS, The American Legion Department of Minnesota is dedicated to advocating for the rights and benefits of veterans, ensuring they receive the support and recognition they deserve for their service to our country; and

WHEREAS, hearing loss is a prevalent issue among veterans, often resulting from exposure to loud noises during military service, which can significantly impact their quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the current Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) rating schedule for hearing loss may not adequately reflect the severity of the disability or the extent to which it affects veterans' daily lives, especially for those who require the use of hearing aids; and

WHEREAS, the requirement for hearing aids indicates a level of hearing impairment that should be recognized with a compensable rating, ensuring veterans receive the financial support necessary for their condition; and

WHEREAS, amending the current rating schedule to provide a minimum compensable rating for veterans with service-connected (SC) hearing loss requiring hearing aids would represent a fair and necessary adjustment to the compensation system, acknowledging the significant impact of hearing loss on veterans' personal and professional lives; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that The American Legion Department of Minnesota supports legislation to amend the current VA rating schedule to ensure that veterans with service-connected hearing loss who require hearing aids receive a minimum compensable rating of 40 percent; and be it further

RESOLVED, that The American Legion Department of Minnesota advocates for this change at the state and national levels, engaging with lawmakers, the VA, and other stakeholders to ensure the swift adoption of these necessary amendments; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be communicated to members of Congress, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other relevant parties to emphasize the importance of this issue and to garner support for the legislative changes required to better support our veterans with hearing loss; be it finally

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to The American Legion, Department of Minnesota, in convention assembled in Willmar, Minnesota, July 11-13, 2024, for concurring action.

Resolution 19

WHEREAS, The American Legion Department of Minnesota is committed to ensuring that veterans have access to the resources and support necessary for a dignified and comfortable life, acknowledging the sacrifices they have made in service to our nation; and

WHEREAS, the Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) and Special Housing Adaptation (SHA) grants are crucial programs designed to provide financial assistance to veterans with severe, service-connected disabilities, enabling them to live independently in a barrier-free environment; and

WHEREAS, the current grant rates for SAH and SHA programs may not fully cover the costs associated with adapting homes to meet the specific needs of severely disabled veterans, due in part to rising construction costs and the unique requirements of accessible home modifications; and

WHEREAS, an increase in the SAH and SHA grant rates would significantly benefit veterans by providing them with more substantial support to cover the necessary modifications, thereby enhancing their quality of life and ability to live independently; and

WHEREAS, adjusting the grant rates to reflect current and future economic realities is essential to ensure that these programs continue to serve veterans effectively and fulfill their intended purpose; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that The American Legion Department of Minnesota strongly supports and advocates for an increase in the grant rates for the Specially Adapted Housing and Special Housing Adaptation programs, to adequately address the needs of veterans with severe, service-connected disabilities; and be it further,

RESOLVED, that The American Legion Department of Minnesota urges Congress, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and relevant policymakers to review and adjust the SAH and SHA grant rates in a manner that reflects the increasing costs of home modifications and the critical importance of these grants in supporting veterans' independence and quality of life; and be it further,

RESOLVED, that this resolution be communicated to all relevant parties, including members of Congress, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and veteran advocacy

THE COMMITTEE (MEMBERS PRESENT)

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>HOME TOWN</u>	<u>POST</u>
FIRST	Charles Kruger	Byron	119
SECOND	Betty Jass	Lake Crystal	7
THIRD	Wayne Beierman	Eagan	594
FOURTH	Michael Ash	St. Paul	406
FIFTH	Richard Ward	Minneapolis	548
SIXTH	Jeff Thompson	Paynesville	271
SEVENTH	Carol Jackson	New London	537
NINTH	Bill Barbknecht	Battle Lake	30
TENTH	Kristy Janigo	Maple Grove	172

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee did not have any resolutions and therefore did not meet.

NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The National Security and Foreign Relations Committee did not have any resolutions and therefore did not meet.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Public Relations Committee did not have any resolutions and therefore did not meet.

RECREATION AND SPORTS COMMITTEE

The Recreation and Sports Committee did not have any resolutions and therefore did not meet.

REHABILITATION COMMITTEE

The Rehabilitation Committee meeting was called to order at 1:20 pm in Gallery 5 at the Willmar Convention Center, in Willmar, MN on July 11, 2024.

Robert Schmidt was elected Chairman and Stacy Foster was elected Secretary.

All districts were present except the fifth, eighth, and ninth.

Resolution 2 was assigned to the committee.

The resolution was passed as written.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:41 pm.

Robert Schmidt, Chairman

Stacy Foster, Secretary

Resolution 2

WHEREAS, anthrax is a potentially lethal infectious disease caused by the Bacillus anthracis bacteria, and
WHEREAS, military personnel, including veterans, may be at an increased risk of exposure to anthrax due to their service and occupational duties, and

WHEREAS, the anthrax vaccination was a preventive measure employed by the armed forces to protect personnel against the potential threat of anthrax, and

WHEREAS, concerns have been raised regarding the potential effects of the anthrax vaccination on the health and well-being of veterans who have received the vaccine, and

WHEREAS, it is essential to comprehensively assess and understand the short-term and long-term effects of the anthrax vaccination on veterans in order to provide appropriate medical care and support, Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, The American Legion Department of Minnesota urges the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), the Department of Defense (DOD), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the Department of Health (DOH) to initiate a thorough and independent investigation to evaluate the effects of anthrax vaccinations on veterans, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the investigation shall aim to assess the short-term and long-term health outcomes associated with the anthrax vaccine in veterans, including any potential side effects or adverse reactions, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the investigation will consider the medical records, experiences, and testimonies of veterans who have received the anthrax vaccine, as well as relevant scientific research and literature on the subject with the US Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Research and Development, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the findings of the investigation shall be made publicly available in a timely manner, ensuring transparency and accessibility for both veterans and the general public based on the investigation's outcomes, and be it further

RESOLVED, That responsible governmental authorities shall take necessary steps to provide appropriate medical care, support, and guidance to veterans who may have been affected by the anthrax vaccination, and be it finally

RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded to the National Adjutant of the American Legion for presentation to and action by the American Legion National Executive Committee in session at the spring meetings in Indianapolis, IN.

THE COMMITTEE (MEMBERS PRESENT)

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>HOME TOWN</u>	<u>POST</u>
FIRST	Robert Schmidt	Lake City	92
SECOND	Stacy Foster	Mankato	165
THIRD	Mike Kauss	Elysian	311
FOURTH	Teresa Ash	St. Paul	406
SIXTH	John Justin	Little Falls	46
SEVENTH	Mark Kern	Eden Valley	381
TENTH	Douglas Hookom	Anoka	102

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Resolutions Committee Meeting was called to order at 1:20 P.M. in the Green Mill at the Willmar Conference Center in Willmar, MN on July 11, 2024.

Joe Bares was elected Chairman and Lynne Nottage was elected Secretary.

All Districts were present, except the fourth and ninth districts.

Resolution 2024-12 was assigned to the committee and was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 P.M.

Joe Bares, Chairman
Lynne Nottage, Secretary

Resolution 12

WHEREAS, *The American Legion Officer's Guide and Manual of Ceremonies* defines female Legionnaires' exceptions of wearing The American Legion cap: "*Female Legionnaires should wear their caps in the manner prescribed for women in the armed forces. This is suitable for most situations, but taste and common sense should prevail. By American Legion tradition, a female Legionnaire may leave her cap on during the Pledge of Allegiance, the National Anthem, prayer and meals.*"; and

WHEREAS the need for equality in decision-making, leading, and managing for women veterans in The American Legion has yet to be achieved, and

WHEREAS in 1993 women were finally allowed to fly in a combat role in the United States (U.S.) Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS in 2016 all combat roles finally became available to women, and

WHEREAS, in 2020 the U.S. Navy issued the same style, type of headgear/hat to females as male counterparts; and

WHEREAS, females serving in the U.S. Armed Forces: active duty, Reserve component or National Guard do not have any gender exceptions in observing headgear etiquette; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion observes equality but has this exception for 'taste and common sense', which are vague subjective terms, to female Legionnaires; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion's current cap removal exceptions for females of when to render honor and politeness is a barrier and a step back in customs to the female veterans who have finally attained the right to serve alongside their male counterparts in the United States Armed Forces, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, to remove language in *The American Legion Officer's Guide and Manual of Ceremonies* separating female uniform cap practices different from males, such as: '*Female Legionnaires should wear their caps in the manner prescribed for women in the armed forces. This is suitable for most situations, but taste and common sense should prevail. By American Legion tradition, a female Legionnaire may leave her cap on during the Pledge of Allegiance, the National Anthem, prayer and meals* and be it further

RESOLVED, this resolution be forwarded to the Department Adjutant for presentation to the Minnesota Department of The American Legion convention assembled at Willmar, Minnesota on July 11-13, 2024; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the resolution be approved and forwarded to the National Adjutant for presentation to the National American Legion in convention assembled at New Orleans, Louisiana on August 23-29, 2024.

THE COMMITTEE (MEMBERS PRESENT)

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>HOME TOWN</u>	<u>POST</u>
FIRST	Sylvan Fix	Brownsville	595
SECOND	James Olson	Amboy	11
THIRD	Joe Bares	Jordan	3
FOURTH			
FIFTH	Lynne Nottage	Minneapolis	1
SIXTH	Paul Edwards	Brainerd	627
SEVENTH	Jan Ekert	South Haven	483
EIGHTH	David Nephew	Duluth	71
NINTH			
TENTH	Alan Davis	Princeton	347

SCHOOL-SAFETY PATROL COMMITTEE

The School Safety Patrol Committee did not have any resolutions and therefore did not meet.

TIME AND PLACE (CONV CORP) COMMITTEE

The Time and Place Committee did not have any resolutions and therefore did not meet.

2024 TROPHIES AND AWARDS

Father L.J. Fortin Trophy

To the Post which contributed the most outstanding record in promotion of The American Legion's "Back To God" movement

No Applicant

Lindell Community Service Bell

To the Post accomplishing the most outstanding single piece of community service work during the year

No Applicant

Frank J. Ring Boy Scout Trophy

To the Post with the most outstanding Boy Scout program during the year

No Applicant

Levi M. Hall School Patrol Trophy

For outstanding School Patrol activity

No Applicant

Joseph W. Finley Trophy

To the Post with the best all-around program of Post activities

No Applicant

Stafford King Conservation Trophy

To the Post or individual with the best conservation program

No Applicant

Americanism Trophy

To the Post with the best Americanism program

No Applicant

Lloyd Grossnickle

To the Post with the most outstanding single Children & Youth project

No Applicant

Hanson Education Trophy

To the Post contributing most to the field of education

No Applicant

2024 BLOOD WINNERS

District

1	Waseca Post 228, Waseca
1	Gittens-Leidel Post 595, LaCrescent
1	Joseph B. Lund Post 299, Mabel
2	Charles Flentje Post 461, Round Lake
2	Brewster Post 464, Brewster
2	Erwin March Post 64, Slayton
3	Chanhassen Post 580, Chanhassen
3	Manthey Asmus Post 433, Gaylord
3	Forest Lake Post 225, Forest Lake
4	North St. Paul Post 39, St. Paul
4	Rosetown Post 542, St. Paul
4	St. Paul Post 8, St. Paul
5	Minneapolis-Richfield Post 435, Minneapolis
5	Falldin Post 555, Minneapolis
5	Minneapolis Post 1, Minneapolis
6	Kriesel-Jacobsen Post 560, Zimmerman
6	Othmar Braun Post 612, Lake Henry
6	Richard Howard Ferrell Post 46, Little Falls
7	Austin F. Hanscom Post 167, Willmar
7	Henderson-Lewis Post 545, Spicer
7	Robert Ihlang Post 537, New London
8	Carl Anderson Post 262, Cloquet
8	Anderson-Claffy Post 109, Two Harbors
8	Pratt-Volden-Mickelson-Anderson Post 239, Virginia
9	Irvin Blix Post 16, Bagley
9	Hans E. Lian Post 444, Middle River
9	Haimerl Post 148, Dent
10	Delano Post 377, Delano
10	Edward B. Cutter Post 102, Anoka
10	Hansen-Hayes Post 178, Milaca

2024 AMERICANISM WINNERS

CERTIFICATE OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE 3M Post 599, St. Paul, MN

CERTIFICATE OF MERITORIOUS SERVICE Jens H. Jensen Post 243, Askov, MN

DISTRICT	POST NAME & NUMBER	LOCATION
1	Adams Post 146	Adams
2	Erwin March Post 64	Slayton
3	Scharmer-Berger Post 250	Arlington
4	St. Paul Post 8	St. Paul
5	Viking Post 493	Minneapolis
6	Oscar Jacobson Post 417	Little Sauk
7	Martin-Jensen Post 308	Franklin
8	Hurlbut-Ziemer Post 476	Lawrence Lake
9	Cornell-Syverson Post 17	Pelican Rapids
10	Jens H. Jensen Post 243	Askov

CHILDREN & YOUTH AWARDS

CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE

Category I	15-99 members	Post 147, Big Lake
Category II	100-299 members	Post 146, Adams
Category III	300-499 members	Post 134, Walker
Category IV	500 & over members	Post 56, Albert Lea

CERTIFICATE OF MERITORIOUS SERVICE

Category I	Post 361, Willow River
Category II	Post 122, Deer River
Category III	Post 91, Austin
Category IV	Post 102, Anoka

JIM OLDENBURG WINNER Not Awarded

LLOYD GROSSNICKLE AWARD WINNER Not Awarded

2024 COMMUNITY SERVICE WINNERS

MOST DOLLARS SPENT PLAQUE WINNERS

Category I	1-100 Members	Edward Born Post 343, Norwood
Category II	101-250 Members	Lee C. Prentice Post 36, Fairmont
Category III	251-700 Members	Woodcock-Herbst Post 216, Princeton
Category IV	701 plus Members	No Entry

HIGHEST HOURS AVERAGE VOLUNTEERED PLAQUE WINNERS

Category I	1-100 Members	Erwin March Post 64, Slayton
Category II	101-250 Members	Lee C. Prentice Post 36, Fairmont
Category III	251-700 Members	Aitkin Lee Post 86, Aitkin
Category IV	701 plus Members	No Entry

DISTRICT	CATEGORY	POST NAME AND LOCATION
First	I	Everett H. Hale Post 68, Spring Valley
	II	Louis McCahill Post 110, Lake City
	III	Adolph Oiseth Post 333, Kasson
	IV	NO ENTRY
Second	I	Lewisville Post 561, Lewisville
	II	Benjamin A. Remelle Post 7, Sleepy Eye
	III	NO ENTRY
	IV	NO ENTRY
Third	I	Bellechester Post 598, Bellechester
	II	Nicollet Post 510, Nicollet
	III	Hesley Jensen Post 491, Bayport
	IV	NO ENTRY
Fourth	I	NO ENTRY
	II	NO ENTRY
	III	NO ENTRY
	IV	NO ENTRY
Fifth	I	Viking Post 493, Minneapolis
	II	Art & Leonard Falldin Post 555, Minneapolis
	III	NO ENTRY
	IV	NO ENTRY
Sixth	I	James Kobernat Post 340, Hill City
	II	Al Besemann Post 482, Albany
	III	Davis-Darrow-Meyer Post 112, Elk River
	IV	NO ENTRY
Seventh	I	Stone & Groeneweg Post 237, Balaton
	II	Henderson-Lewis Post 545, Spicer
	III	Austin F. Hanscom Post 167, Willmar
	IV	NO ENTRY
Eighth	I	Hurlbut-Ziemer Post 476, Lawrence Lake
	II	Carl Anderson Post 262, Cloquet
	III	Anderson-Claffy Post 109, Two Harbors
	IV	NO ENTRY
Ninth	I	Theodore Stalemo Post 242, Fisher
	II	Kaleb E. Lindquist Post 24, Roseau
	III	NO ENTRY
	IV	NO ENTRY
Tenth	I	Hanson-Anderson Post 361, Denham
	II	Lee Goldsmith Post 201, Mora
	III	NO ENTRY
	IV	NO ENTRY

MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

PREMIER RACE AWARD

(Receives Plaque)

Anthony Koop District 6

BRONZE BRIGADE WINNER

(Receives Certificate, Patch, and Pin)

Frederick Rogers	Walker Post 134	21 new members
Mathew Winans	St Augusta Post 621	17 New Members
Patrick Vanreese	Roseville Post 542	17 New Members
James Hultgren	Osseo Post 172	17 New Members
Marvin Ostrum	North St Paul Post 39	16 New Members
Loren Sikkink	Zimmerman Post 560	15 New Members

SILVER BRIGADE WINNER

(Receives Certificate, Patch, and Pin)

Jessica Warzecha	Little Falls Post 46	30 new members
Pat Silovich	Forest Lake Post 225	28 new members
Todd Paddock	Forest Lake Post 225	27 new members

GOLD BRIGADE WINNER

(Receives jacket, patch, pin, and plaque)

No Entry

APPENDIX "A"
CONSTITUTION
THE AMERICAN LEGION

Department of Minnesota

ARTICLE ONE

Name

The name of this organization shall be "The American Legion, Department of Minnesota." Its principal office shall be maintained in the City of St. Paul.

ARTICLE TWO

Nature

Section 1. The American Legion is a civilian organization.

Membership therein shall not increase or decrease liability for military or police service. Former military or naval rank does not exist in The American Legion. No member shall be addressed by their military or naval title in any convention or meeting of The American Legion.

Sec. 2. The American Legion shall be absolutely non-political and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking political office or preferment.

ARTICLE THREE

Organization

Section 1. The American Legion, Department of Minnesota, is a Department of and subject to the jurisdiction of The American Legion.

Sec. 2. The American Legion, Department of Minnesota, shall be organized in units termed districts, which said districts shall correspond territorially to the Congressional districts of the State of Minnesota, as they were organized immediately prior to the reapportionment act of Congress, 1930, and of local units termed posts, except that all territory included in the present corporate limits of the City of Minneapolis and the City of Richfield shall be included in the Fifth District of the Department. District organization may be subject to the jurisdiction of The American Legion, Department of Minnesota. The posts within each County of each district may organize into County Councils under the jurisdiction of the Department of Minnesota, The American Legion. A staff of officers shall be elected and regular meetings of the Council held, and in all elections and other business transacted, each post shall have an equal vote:

Exceptions:

The Fourth (4th) and Fifth (5th) Districts' Officers shall preside in their respective Counties instead of County Officers; and

Rural Hennepin County, now a part of the Tenth (10th) District, shall organize itself into a Rural Hennepin County Council and function as a County Council; and

Present multi-County Organizations of less than District designation now in existence may remain and continue to function as County Councils; and

(4) Counties with three (3) or less posts within them may form a multi-County Council with immediate surrounding Counties, but in no case shall more than three (3) Counties organize into one (1) Council.

No post shall be received into this organization until it shall have received a charter from the national executive committee of The American Legion.

ARTICLE FOUR

Eligibility

Section 1. Eligibility for membership in this Department shall be governed by the provisions of the national constitution of The American Legion relating thereto.

Sec. 2. There shall be no form or class of membership except active membership as provided in the national constitution.

ARTICLE FIVE

Legislative Organization

Section 1. The legislative body of this Department shall be the Department Convention, which shall be held annually at such time and place as shall be fixed by the preceding convention in accordance with the national constitution. In the event that the time or place shall not be fixed by the preceding convention, it shall be fixed by the Department Executive Committee. Each convention shall adopt its own rules of order. In the event that, due to an emergency, National or State, it is for any reason impossible to convene the annual Department Convention, the Department Executive Committee, if it can be convened, shall be the legislative body for that year-shall elect Department Officers and transact all necessary Department business and legislation.

Sec. 2. The Department Convention shall be composed of delegates from each post, members of the Department Executive Committee, The Department Chaplain, Treasurer, Historian and the District Adjutants, but only authorized delegates from posts shall be entitled to vote at such convention.

Sec. 3. Each post shall be entitled to two delegates and to one additional delegate for each hundred members or major fraction thereof, whose department dues have been received by the Department Treasurer and whose district dues have been paid to their respective district officers 30 days prior to the convention for which they are chosen. The final voting strength of each post shall be determined 30 days prior to the convention. Each post shall choose its own delegates, who shall be members in good standing of such post. In addition, each post may choose alternate delegates to serve in the absence of the principal delegates. The vote of each post shall be equal to the total number of principal delegates to which it is entitled. The vote of any delegate absent and not represented by an alternate shall be cast by a majority of the delegates present from that post. Alternates shall have all the privileges of delegates except that of voting. A post not represented by either delegate or alternate shall have no vote. When provided by majority vote, the voting may be by district.

Sec. 4. The convention Credentials Committee shall be the final judge of the choice and qualification of the delegates.

Sec. 5. A quorum shall exist at a Department Convention when ten per cent of the posts are wholly or partially represented by duly chosen post delegates or alternates, as certified by the Credentials Committee.

ARTICLE SIX

Department Executive Committee

Section 1. The administrative power of the organization shall be vested in the Department Commander and the Department Executive Committee.

Sec. 2. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Commander and the Vice Commanders, the Department Chaplain, the Department Historian, the Department Sergeant at Arms, the Department members of the National Executive Committee, the immediate past Department Commander and two members from each district, who shall be the District Commander and the immediate past District Commander. A District Convention shall be held in each district not more than 60 days and not less than 15 days prior to the holding of the Department Convention at which District Convention each post shall have the representation to which it would then be entitled at a Department Convention and District Officers shall be selected annually, who shall assume their office at the close of the next Department Convention. In the event of a vacancy in the representation of any district on the Executive Committee, the district, in the manner provided by its constitution and by-laws, shall fill the vacancy for the unexpired term. In case of the inability of any member on the Executive Committee to attend any meeting he or she may select an alternate who shall have power to vote.

Sec. 3. The Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the Department Commander, but in no event more than 22 days after the final adjournment of the convention, and thereafter at the call of the Commander. The Commander shall call a meeting upon the written request of five or more members of the Executive Committee.

Sec. 4. The Executive Committee may select from its membership a sub-committee of three to seven members in addition to the Commander, for a specific task, and may delegate its power to said sub-committee. Proceedings of said sub-committee shall, however, be subject to review by the Executive Committee, as determined applicable.

Sec. 5. The Executive Committee or the Commander, with the consent of the Executive Committee, may appoint such standing committee members as may be necessary.

Sec. 6. All past National Commanders from the Department of Minnesota, while in good standing in their respective Posts in the Department of Minnesota, shall be ex officio members of the Department Executive committee with vote, and shall also be life delegates to all Department Conventions of the Department of Minnesota of The American Legion, with vote to be exercised by them with their respective Posts.

ARTICLE SEVEN

Department Officers

Section 1. The officers of this department shall be a Commander, five Vice Commanders, Adjutant, Treasurer, Chaplain, Historian, Judge Advocate, Department Service Officer, Assistant Department Service Officer, Sergeant at Arms and Membership Director.

Sec. 2. The Commander, Vice Commanders, Chaplain and Sergeant at Arms shall be elected annually by the convention and said election shall be held on the third day of the convention. The Commander, Vice Commanders, Sergeant at Arms and Chaplain elected by the convention shall not be eligible to succeed themselves in the same office.

Sec. 3. The representative on the National Executive Committee shall be elected by the Department Convention every odd numbered year for a term of two years. The Convention shall also elect an Alternate National Committeeman for the same term, who shall serve in the place of said National Executive Committeeman in case of his death, resignation, or incapacity.

Sec. 4. The Department Historian shall be elected for a one (1) year term at the Department Convention. In the absence of a satisfactory report the Historian shall be subject to recall at any department convention.

Sec. 5. Unless otherwise specially provided, the officers in Sections 2, 3 and 4 of this article shall serve until the adjournment of the next succeeding convention and thereafter until their successors shall have been duly chosen. A majority of all ballots cast shall be necessary for the election of the above named officers. In Elections where there are more than two candidates, the candidate receiving the fewest votes in each round of voting shall be eliminated.

Sec. 6. Except as otherwise provided, in case of a vacancy in any of the offices set forth in Sections 2 and 3, the Adjutant shall forthwith call a meeting of the Department Executive Committee and said committee shall by election

fill any such vacancy, provided that a vacancy in the office of Commander shall be filled from one of the Vice-Commanders, and the vacancy thereby created thereupon filled likewise by elections.

Sec. 7. The Adjutant, Treasurer and the Judge Advocate shall be elected by the Executive Committee. In 1998, the Adjutant shall be elected to a three-year term, the Treasurer to a two-year term, and the Judge Advocate to a one-year term. On the expiration of each such initial term, each such officer shall be elected to a three-year term. Said officers may be removed from office by the Executive Committee for failure to perform job duties satisfactorily or for misconduct., by due process IAW National Constitution and By Laws. The Department Executive Committee only, shall authorize the employment of such personnel as they may deem necessary for the proper conducting of the affairs of the Department, and shall allow them such salaries as may be necessary. All Department employees shall report to and be under the supervision of the Department Adjutant. The employment of such employees may be terminated by the Department Adjutant after consultation with the officers of the Department and ratification of the Department Executive Committee. Employees, if eligible, shall be members of The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, or dependents thereof. Except the Department Adjutant, all Directors and Department Service Officers shall be members of The American Legion. All persons who are permanently employed by the Department Adjutant shall have their employment confirmed by the Department Executive Committee at the first meeting of the fiscal year. The Department Membership Director shall be appointed by the Department Commander

Sec. 8. No Legionnaire shall hold or be elected by Convention or Executive Committee to more than one elected Department of Minnesota position.

ARTICLE EIGHT

National Representation

Section 1. The delegates-at-large to which the department is entitled in the National Convention shall be elected by the convention and shall include the incoming Commander, the incoming department representative on the National Executive Committee and the outgoing Commander.

Sec. 2. Additional delegates to which the Department is entitled shall be elected by a caucus of the delegates to the Department Convention from each District or at the various District Conventions of the State of Minnesota. The number of delegates to which each District shall be entitled shall be determined by the Department Executive Committee, which shall apportion delegates as nearly as possible on the basis of paid-up members in each district.

Sec. 3. The outgoing Department Commander shall be chairman of the delegation of the department to the National Convention. In the event the outgoing Commander is unable to attend, the chairman of the delegation to the National Convention shall be elected by the majority of the delegation at their first caucus.

ARTICLE NINE

Organization

Section 1 (a). Fifteen or more persons eligible for membership in The American Legion may apply for a charter as a post thereof to the Department Commander. Such application, when approved by the Department Commander or the Executive Committee shall be forwarded to the National Executive Committee of The American Legion. Every post charter shall be countersigned by the Department Commander and Adjutant.

(b). The Department Adjutant may apply for a charter for a Department at Large Post. The Constitution and By-Laws of said Post to be subject to the approval and ratification by the Department Executive Committee and to specifically provide that said post shall not be entitled to representation at any Department Convention or meeting.

Sec. 2. No post charter in the name of any living person shall be approved.

Sec. 3. Each post shall have a Commander, one or more Vice Commanders, Adjutant, Finance Officer, Historian, Chaplain, Service Officer, Post Executive Committee, and such other officers as the post may determine and shall select such officers who shall assume office no later than the close of the next Department Convention.

Sec. 4. Each post may prescribe its own constitution and bylaws not in conflict or inconsistent with the National and Department Constitutions.

ARTICLE TEN

Finance

Section 1. The revenue of The American Legion, Department of Minnesota, shall be derived from a portion of annual membership dues and from such other sources as may be approved by the Executive Committee.

Sec. 2. The amount of such annual dues shall be determined by the Department Convention and remain in effect until changed by subsequent action of the Convention. The annual dues shall be collected by each post and the portion designated as District, Department and National dues shall be immediately transmitted to Department Headquarters. No post shall be qualified for representation at any district and/or Department Convention until all of said dues have been fully paid.

Sec. 3. The fiscal year of the Department shall be October first through September thirtieth.

Sec. 4. All department officers responsible for national or department funds shall furnish adequate bonds conditioned for the faithful performance of their duties.

Sec. 5. The Department Finance Committee shall be composed of seven members. The Department Commander and the Department Treasurer shall be full members of the Department Finance Committee with vote for the term of their office. The Department Commander shall appoint, subject to ratification by the Department Executive Committee, members to fill expiring terms, no two members of said Finance Committee to be appointed from the same district; who shall serve for a full five year term, or until removed by a majority vote of the Department Executive Committee. The Adjutant shall be a non-voting ex-officio member and the Comptroller will be a non-voting secretary of said committee. The appointed member serving their last year on the committee shall automatically become its chairman. The Department Finance Committee shall be charged with the adoption of the annual budget of the Department, the handling and disbursement of funds under that budget, and such other duties as shall be prescribed by the Department Executive Committee.

ARTICLE ELEVEN

Discipline

The provision of the National Constitution and By-Laws relating thereto shall govern the discipline of posts and members of this department.

ARTICLE TWELVE

Individual Transfers

Upon application to the Post Adjutant any member of the post desiring to transfer to another post shall be entitled to a transfer card to such other post, provided all dues and assessments have been paid to date. Record of such transfer forthwith shall be transferred to the department headquarters.

ARTICLE THIRTEEN

Auxiliary

Section 1. The American Legion, Department of Minnesota, recognizes an auxiliary organization known as the American Legion Auxiliary.

Sec. 2. Eligibility for membership in the Auxiliary of the Department of Minnesota shall be governed by the provision of the National constitution of the American Legion relating thereto.

Sec. 3. The American Legion Auxiliary in the Department shall be governed by such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the National Executive Committee.

ARTICLE FOURTEEN

American Legion Family Hospital Association

Section 1. Each member in good standing in this department is a member of the American Legion Family Hospital Association, which is officially sanctioned and supported by The American Legion, Department of Minnesota.

Sec. 2. Each post shall raise 25 cents annually for the American Legion Family Hospital Association for each member in good standing. The money so raised shall be remitted to department headquarters with the state and national dues and by it remitted as speedily as may be to the American Legion Family Hospital Association. No post may be qualified for representation at the department convention or shall have a vote in department affairs while any part of this support of the Hospital Association remains unpaid. The Executive Committee may at any time in its discretion cause payment to the American Legion Family Hospital Association to be suspended and report the matter to the next convention for its action.

ARTICLE FIFTEEN

Amendments

Section 1. This constitution may be amended at any convention by the vote of a majority of the total authorized representation, provided that the proposed amendment shall have been read at such convention at least twelve hours before the vote thereon.

Sec. 2. Insofar as this constitution may at any time be in conflict with the provisions of the National Constitution, the latter shall prevail.

BY-LAWS

DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA

THE AMERICAN LEGION

ADMINISTRATION

1. The Department Commander shall be the executive head of the Minnesota Department, with full power to enforce the provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws and will of the State Convention. The Commander shall preside over all meetings of the Department, in Convention and meetings of the Executive Committee, and perform such other duties as custom and parliamentary uses require. The Commander shall appoint all necessary committees, except such as are otherwise provided for by the Department Constitution.

2. The Department Vice Commanders shall act as representatives of the Department Commander on all matters referred to them and shall, at the Commander's request, preside over Conventions or meetings of the Executive Committee and perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.

3. The Department Adjutant shall keep a record of all activities of the Department and Conventions and meetings of all Executive Committee. The Adjutant shall at each regular Convention and meeting of the Executive Committee, read the minutes of the preceding meeting and make such corrections as may be directed unless by a majority vote of the Delegates or Executive Committee, the reading shall be dispensed with. The Adjutant shall have the proceedings of each annual convention prepared and kept in permanent record. The Adjutant shall cause notice to be given of all meetings of Department or Executive Committee. The Adjutant shall keep a record of the membership of the local Posts. He shall collect all annual dues and pay the same to the Department Treasurer, taking a receipt therefor. The Adjutant is charged with the administration of the Department Headquarters, subject to the directions of the Commander or Executive Committee, and shall perform such other duties as the Executive Committee may direct. The Adjutant shall engage in no other occupation or profession during his term of office.

4. The Treasurer shall have custody of all funds of the Department, and shall deposit the same in its name in such bank or banks as the Executive Committee shall designate. The Treasurer shall present his books for inspection at any meeting of the Executive Committee or the Convention upon demand of any Delegate or member of the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall give bond to the Department in such sum as the Executive Committee shall direct.

5. The Judge Advocate shall perform such duties as may be required by the Commander or Executive Committee and shall act in an advisory capacity to the officers and committees of the Department.

5A. The Department Service Officer shall have charge and direction of all rehabilitation and service arising in the Department and shall be the official advisor of all District and Post Service Officers. The Department Service Officer shall perform such other service and rehabilitation duties as may be required by a Department Convention or the Department Rehabilitation Committee. The Department Service Officer shall prepare an annual report of the activities of his office, together with recommendations which shall be printed and distributed to all department officers and posts in such manner as the Department Rehabilitation Committee may determine.

5B. The Sergeant at Arms shall perform such duties as may be required by the Commander or the Executive Committee.

5C. Members of the Department and national Standing Committees shall be ex-officio members of the similar convention committees.

DISCIPLINE

6. Each Post of The American Legion shall be the judge of its own membership, subject to the restrictions of the National and Department Constitutions and By-Laws.

6A. Members may be expelled from The American Legion only upon a proper showing of cause and upon one or more of the following grounds, vis.: disloyalty, neglect of duty, dishonesty and conduct unbecoming a member of The American Legion. All charges must be made under oath, in writing by the accusers, and no member in good standing shall lose the membership until given a fair trial after due notice before the Post in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the Department Executive Committee.

6B. All questions affecting the election, eligibility and conduct of the national executive committeeman, or of the alternate, or of department officers or members of the Department Executive Committee, shall be referred to and determined by the Department Executive Committee. All questions concerning the election, eligibility and conduct of Post or District officers or members of Post or District Executive Committees, shall be referred to and determined by the Executive Committee of the Post or District involved, which shall be the final authority thereon.

RULES

7. Any mandate adopted by convention action shall not be changed during the year of its adoption and it shall continue to govern the state policy of the department unless changed by convention action.

7A. Any mandate of the Department or Executive Committee, which establishes a policy of continuing nature

and has the effect of governing the actions of the department, shall be set forth in a pamphlet which shall be supplemental to the Constitution and By-Laws and which shall be part of the governing rules and regulations of the department.

7B. The policy mandate pamphlet shall be kept up to date and changed as the mandates are changed.

RULES OF ORDER

8. At all Department Conventions and meetings of the Executive Committee, Robert's Rules of Order, revised 1915 edition, shall govern except when special rules shall be adopted by the convention or meeting, or wherein the same (Robert's Rules of Order) conflict with the Constitution and By-Laws.

AMENDMENTS

9. Amendments to these By-Laws may be made at any Convention by the vote of a majority of the delegates present, providing there is a quorum.

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA

at

WILLMAR, MINNESOTA

JULY 11,12,13, 2024

Reports and Resolutions

ADOPTED BY THE
ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH ANNUAL

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION