



Farmington and Osseo advance

The Tigers beat Orioles 2-1 in state title game

By John Sherman

MAPLE GROVE — The 24th victory of the season for the Farmington Post 189 team gave the Tigers a berth in the Central Plains Regional in West Fargo, N.D. The 25th victory made Farmington the 2024 Div. I champ.

That's because Minnesota gets to send two teams, not just one, to the regional. The runner-up this year was Osseo Post 172.

Though rain and lightning caused changes to the schedule of the 16-team tournament, the weather was perfect Sunday, Aug.

4, for the championship game at Gleason Fields, which lasted only an hour and 37 minutes with Farmington beating Osseo 2-1.

"This is Farmington's first trip to a regional," head coach Kevin Conrad said following a 13-7 win over Forest Lake Post 225 in the semifinal game. The semifinal actually began on Saturday night at 7:04 p.m., but lightning in the sky over the park caused the game to be halted for almost 45 minutes.

Teams finished the semifinal Sunday morning, Aug. 4. Then the third-place game was held, with Mankato Post 11 National

beating Forest Lake Post 225 by a score of 11-2.

In the title game that same day, Farmington pitcher Kelin Rasmussen was solid through the first five innings and Dillon Carlson finished the last two frames.

"This is a moment to remember," Rasmussen said after the game. "I took the opportunity today and ran with it."

What was working for the righthander? "My two-seam fastball, my four-seam fastball and my slider," he said. "And I threw a few change-ups to their left-handed hitters."

His fastball was arriving at the plate at
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Jim Peck, who has been involved in Legion Baseball for 61 years, hands the Outstanding Player Award for the Div. I State Tournament to Farmington's Trevor Rasmussen, who successfully reached base 12 times in a row.

St. Cloud wins softball title

Bemidji hosts this time; Fairmont to host next time

By Tim Engstrom

ST. CLOUD — The St. Cloud Post 76 Hype defeated La Crescent Post 595 by a score of 3-2 July 28 to capture the Minnesota American Legion Fastpitch Softball championship.

Both teams take home the classic A-frame trophies of the Minnesota American Legion Baseball and Softball programs. The tournament was hosted by Bemidji Post 14 on July 26, 27 and 28 at Bemidji City Park.

Ella Voit was named Outstanding Pitcher of the Tournament. In three games, she pitched 21 innings and gave up 7 hits, 2 earned runs, no walks and struck out 40 batters. She pitched in the title game, throwing a complete game. She gave up 3 hits, 0 earned runs and struck out 10 batters. Taylor Vought was selected as the Outstanding Player of the Tournament. In the three games,

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New Moon

New commander known for career as eye doctor at the St. Cloud VA

By Tim Engstrom

WILLMAR — The delegates at the 105th Department of Minnesota Convention elected Dr. Carl Moon of Zimmerman Post 560 to be commander for the 2024-24 membership year.

"I've got some great people with us, and I think we're going to have a lot of fun this year, too."

Moon's theme for the years is, "ACT: Accountability, Communication and Transparency."

His fundraising project this year is the Veterans Defense Project. He hopes to raise \$60,000. The VDP and the Minnesota American Legion were instrumental in passing the Veterans Restorative Justice Act in 2021. The act allows veterans in counties without veterans courts to transfer their cases to ones with veterans courts. Also, the act standardizes veterans courts so they aren't so different from county to county. Nebraska has since copied Minnesota's lead and passed its own VRJA with help from the VDF staff.

In 1972, Moon was awarded the Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship, through the U.S. Air



Waterama Queen Stella Meyer, youngest granddaughter to new Department Commander Carl Moon, pins a special commander pin to the lapel of Moon's suit. Moon's wife, Peggy, was the first female commander of the Department of Minnesota and is the alternate NECman, and Moon has joked that he won't be known as Peggy's husband anymore. The fact is, he has served in many roles himself already.

Force, to attend Southern College of Optometry, in Memphis, Tenn.

He served in the Air Force 1976 to 1984. He is a PUFL member with 34 years of continuous American Legion service.

In the 6th District, he served as commander, vice commander, County Council commander, chaplain and, most recently, as membership director.

On the Department of Minnesota level, he served as Employment

Committee chairman for five years, chairman of Finance Committee 2022-2023 and is currently the president of the Legionville Board of Directors.

On the national level, he is the
Continued on Page 11



On Friday, July 12, at the Department Convention in Willmar, Kelley Adelsman of Pine Island Post 94 describes Resolution 24-12, which calls for the removal of female-specific language in the Officer's Guide & Manual of Ceremonies.

Should women and men have same Legion cap treatment?

WILLMAR — The 105th American Legion Department of Minnesota Convention approved a resolution to remove language that separates American Legion female cap practices from males.

The voice vote on Friday, July 12, was so narrow that Commander Paul Hassing could not discern one side from the other. A hand count of delegates revealed a majority in favor of removing the language.

It was numbered Resolution 24-12 and states: "RESOLVED, to remove language in The American Legion Officer's

Guide & 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.'"

The resolution came from the 3rd District. Author Kelley Adelsman of
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What's happening?

Legionville is ready for Camporee

LEGIONVILLE — The 58th annual Camporee is taking place Sept. 5-8 at Legionville on North Long Lake north of Brainerd.

Organized activities begin Thursday, Sept. 5. There are RV hookups, camping and dormitories available. Be sure to bring your own linens and blankets.

To stay overnight, the fee is \$10 per day per person Wednesday and Thursday. It goes to \$15 for Friday and Saturday. There is a \$100 family maximum. Ages 3 and under are free.

All active military are free on Saturday.

To participate, just show up, register on site and camp.

To visit during the day is \$5. This event is a fundraiser for the Legionville Education Center. All fees are nonrefundable. It is a chance for families to enjoy the scenic setting of Legionville.

A full program with times has yet to be determined. Email legionvillecamporee@gmail.com with any questions.

Harvest Rally set for Fridley

FRIDLEY — The Harvest Rally is happening Saturday, Sept. 21, at Fridley Post 303 and will be hosted by the Sons

of The American Legion Detachment of Minnesota.

Social hour is at 3 p.m. Membership turn-in is at 4 p.m. There is a 5 p.m. dinner, followed by the program.

The dinner is \$25 per person. The meal has not been set, but Adjutant Doug Bible says quality is their goal.

Meals must be purchased before Sept. 16. People can register on Eventbrite or by mailing a check to Jason Voss, 5213 Howe Lane, Brooklyn Center, 55429. Put down the number of people and names.

Rallies planned for this year

ST. PAUL — Save the dates. Other rallies have been planned for the coming Legion year.

The Pearl Harbor Rally will be Saturday, Dec. 7, at Spicer Post 545 and will be hosted by the American Legion Riders. It starts with an 11 a.m. social hour and a noon meal, followed by a program.

The Sweetheart Rally takes place Saturday, Feb. 8, at Roy-alton Post 137. This one starts at 11 a.m., also, with a noon meal and a program to follow.

The Appreciation Rally is set for Saturday, March 8. The time and location have not been determined.

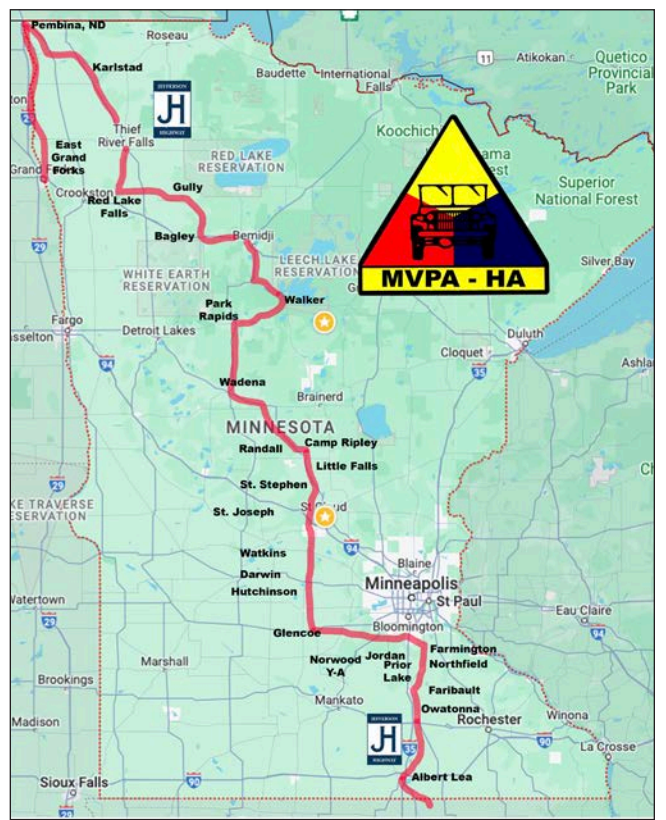
Military vehicle convoy to cross state

ST. STEPHEN — Details are still coming out about the Military Vehicle Preservation Association's big convoy.

Called the 2024 Jefferson Highway Historic Military Vehicle Convoy, it musters in East Grand Forks, then heads to the northern border to then take the highway's historic route south to Louisiana. It departs East Grand Forks Oct. 1 and ends Oct. 30 in New Orleans.

Overnight stops within the state are Bemidji, Itasca State Park, Camp Ripley, Hutchinson and Albert Lea.

St. Stephen sent the Legionnaire a flier for a stop in that small town. The convoy stops at



MVPA-HA Military Convoy route through Minnesota.

about 9 a.m. in the St. Stephen Church parking lot and will depart around 10:30 a.m.

There will be a POW/MIA hot air balloon, the convoy, fire trucks, police cars and Model A's, along with classic cars.

Call 800-365-5798, email hq@mvpa.org or visit mvpa.org. See the map above.

Fall Conference near end of Oct.

ST. CLOUD — The Fall Conference is planned for Oct. 24-26 with committee meetings on Oct. 24.

A meeting of the Department Executive Committee takes place on Oct. 24, too.

Like in recent years, the conference will feature breakout sessions on Friday and Saturday. The Fall Conference is hosted by the Department Convention Corp.

It takes place at the Best Western Plus Kelly Inn in St. Cloud. A registration form is on Page 15.

POW/MIAs to be recognized

GREENFIELD — The city of Greenfield welcomes any and all

Americans for National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

It happens at 5:30 p.m. Sept. 20 at Central Park, 7200 Greenfield Road.

United States flags and POW/MIA flags are flown on this day and joint prayers are made for POWs and MIAs. The date is not a federal holiday but it is observed by many.

Retirees, this day is for you

RED WING — The Joint Retiree Appreciation Day is slated for Sept. 7 at Treasure Island Resort & Casino.

The event is organized by the Minneapolis Navy Retired Activities Office. Visit its Facebook page for updates. The event runs from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The day focuses on veterans and has many presentors and exhibitors.

Cruise benefits vets memorial

STILLWATER — It's time for the 22nd annual Stillwater Veterans Memorial Benefit Cruise.

This happens on Aug. 19 on Stillwater River Boats, 525 Main St., South Stillwater.

Boarding starts at 4:30 p.m. The boat departs at 5:45 p.m. and plans to return at 8 p.m.

The guest speaker is the retired Army Gen. Paul M. Nakasone. Listen to the tunes of the SummerTime Capella Quartet Singers. There will be a buffet dinner, raffles, gifts and beautiful scenery.

A limited number of complimentary tickets for veterans are available, with tickets available to veterans at a discounted price of \$15 after the free tickets are claimed. All other guests are \$35 per ticket for adults and \$15 per ticket for children 17 and under.

All proceeds raised go toward the maintenance of the Stillwater Veterans Memorial and directly support annual Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies and other on-site programming. Visit StillVetMem.org to book a seat.

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New commander announces project

I first want to congratulate all of the vice commanders and department officers on their election. I especially want to thank all of you who voted for our team and thank you for the trust you have imposed in us that we will represent our department in a professional manner that will make you proud.

We are dedicated to having a successful year, and with your support and involvement, I know "We will"!

My theme this year is "ACT": Accountability, Communication and Transparency.

I want our department committees and officers to be Accountable to their respective district committees and officers for support and guidance. Communication goes both ways. I want our district committees and officers to keep in touch with their respective department counterparts with any concerns or questions, and I want our department officers and committees to keep our district counterparts informed with programs and filing deadlines.

The final leg of my theme is Transparency. Both district

Commander's Column

Carl Moon



and department officers and committees must remain open to any questions and or problems they are having and attempt to resolve any issues with respect.

My project is the Veterans Defense Project. Their mission is to restore and return veterans involved in the criminal justice system to the communities they served. They are a 501(c)3, and I am seeking to raise \$60,000 to support their mission.

VDP along with the Minnesota American Legion was instrumental in enacting the Veterans Restorative Justice Act in Minnesota, which became law in 2021. This law expanded veterans courts to veterans in counties without them, among other things. The VDP is seeking funding to expand access to the VRJA for veterans in underserved areas.

I want to thank the many past department commanders,

membership directors, and friends who have offered and continue to offer their suggestions and support. A special thank you to Bill and Donna Barbknecht for their friendship, concerns and support.

I want to thank the Zimmerman Post 560 Color Guard for coming to Willmar to retire the Colors at the close of convention, but more importantly for agreeing to be the Department Color Guard for the 2024-2025 year. You did a great job and made me very proud to be a member of Post 560.

Carl Moon of Zimmerman Post 560 is the commander of The American Legion Department of Minnesota. His theme is "ACT: Accountability, Communication and Transparency."

It isn't member poaching; it's disrespect

Some American Legion posts and districts have recently grappled with concerns over "member poaching" between posts and districts. However, this perspective overlooks a fundamental truth: Members cannot be "poached" if their current environment provides respect, opportunity and inclusivity.

At its core, The American Legion thrives on the diverse experiences and dedication of its members. Yet, in some posts, a culture has developed that alienates newer or younger veterans, hindering the organization's growth and relevance. The notion of "poaching" deflects attention from these internal challenges that prompt members to seek more welcoming environments elsewhere.

One prevalent issue is the perception that younger members or recent joiners are "too young" or inexperienced to hold positions of importance. This ageist attitude not only disregards the valuable skills and fresh perspectives these veterans bring but also contradicts the Legion's mission of serving all generations of veterans.

Moreover, many posts struggle with longstanding leadership resistant to change. Some members who have held positions for years refuse to step aside or mentor potential successors. This creates a stagnant environment where ambitious and capable members see no path for advancement or meaningful contribution.

The reality is that members who feel valued, respected and see opportunities for growth within their current post are unlikely to be lured away. When veterans choose to transfer to another post, it's often a reflection of seeking an environment that aligns with their expectations of respect, inclusion and opportunity for service.

Posts that successfully retain and attract members typically exhibit the following characteristics:

- Inclusive culture that values all members, regardless of age or length of service.
 - Clear pathways for advancement and leadership development.
 - Active mentorship programs pairing experienced members with newcomers.
 - Openness to new ideas and adaptability to changing veteran needs.
 - Regular rotation of leadership positions to bring in fresh perspectives.
- To address these issues, Legion leadership at all levels should consider:
- Creating formal mentorship programs to develop future leaders.
 - Establishing committees that give voice to newer and younger members.

Guest Column

Michael Ash



- Regularly assessing post culture and practices to ensure inclusivity.
- Providing leadership training and development opportunities for all members.

In conclusion, the concept of "member poaching" in The American Legion is a mischaracterization of a deeper organizational challenge. Members who feel respected, valued, and see opportunities for growth within their posts are naturally inclined to stay.

By fostering environments that embrace all members and provide clear paths for advancement, posts can not only retain their current membership but also attract new veterans eager to serve.

The future of The American Legion depends on its ability to adapt and remain relevant to all generations of veterans. By addressing these internal challenges head-on, the Legion can ensure its continued vitality and effectiveness in serving America's veterans for years to come.

Michael Ash of St. Paul Christie-DeParcq Post 406 is a past Department of Minnesota commander.

The term 'legion' is an inclusive one

Legion means *many*. It does not mean many as in *many of the exact same* — I tend to think of the Borg from the "Star Trek" series or an orc from the "Lord of the Rings," those without unique features, personalities, drives or any other differences, just faceless, nameless beings all with exact mission.

The American Legion is a *variety of many of the same species* (i.e. human). I think of Shawn Davis' SAL class on generational differences that he presents at Minnesota American Legion College. (Thanks, Shawn!)

G.K. Chesterton (1874-1936) was an author, Christian apologist, philosopher, and literary/art critic whose quips continue providing fodder to challenge what and why of an actionable belief.

G.K. had been searching for the right religion to practice for himself. He analyzed all major religions before deciding. When his newspaper editor learned of his conversion to Catholicism, he told G.K. he cannot write about religion. The editor was apparently concerned about one of his writers diving off into penned proselytizing as newspaper writing at the turn of the 20th century was about reporting the facts of what, who, where, why and how without attempting to influence.

G.K. quipped he cannot not write about religion for as politics is that horizontal relationship men (people) have with one another, religion is that vertical relationship men (people) have with God (Creator, god, G-d, gods), everything is either about one or the

Chaplain's Corner

Kelley Adelsman



other. His writings delve into ideologies and philosophies that define what and why we do what we do.

Today, there is a website, school and many books or essays available: <https://www.chesterton.org/who-is-this-guy/>.

The many people who founded The American Legion might have known of G.K. Chesterton even though he lived in England. When putting pen to paper outlining who TAL is and why — the spiritual virtue of serving another for those who have served in uniform, their families and our future was the spotlight. Our Preamble and new national TAL mission statement: "To enhance the well-being of America's veterans, their families, our military, and our communities by our devotion to mutual helpfulness," attest to that.

Our organization is both non-political and non-religious. What you vertically and horizontally believe are freedoms we all stood strong in uniform for and were willing to lay our life down for (as many have). We are *legion*: Christians, Jewish, Buddhist, Hindu, Sikh and Muslim religions. Spiritual practices of our Indigenous tribes, Pagan/Wiccan beliefs and Atheists, Agnostics have equal footing of freedom. When we put TAL cap on and various emblems of our organizations, we vow to respect our spiritual and political differences for together we

are stronger and better.

An asset to remind us of our vertical freedoms in TAL are the chaplains. They are to point us to that divine dimension which grounds us all to greater spiritual goods to benefit another through compassion and kindness. In TAL we work for: a just military, goodwill, mutual helpfulness, respect, kindness.

Chaplains provide opportunities to remember our brothers and sisters through ritual. Chaplains provide awareness that all are valued in our republican democracy over an autocracy where only one is valued to be served. Chaplains do not have the role to judge the spiritual beliefs of another or convert to their belief system.

Finally, chaplains are to help us remember that many have worked for the future we are living in and we are to work for justice, fairness and peace for those who will come after us. Chaplains in The American Legion exist to serve *all* Legionnaires and when that TAL cap is on you can trust that they are here to serve everyone.

I am so thankful for those who serve as Legion chaplains. Thank you, chaplains!

Kelley Adelsman of Pine Island Post 184 is the chaplain for The American Legion Department of Minnesota.

Great job at the tourney

Thank you, volunteers, for all your work.

Coaches have been very complimentary, and after the championship game, I overheard people talking about how their team had stayed at a tournament hotel and the tournament paid for it. And another person who looked like a mom said, "Yeah, the Legion is really good to these kids!"

And another said, "Both are good teams; too bad only one gets to go to Regional." And a man said, "No, both teams get to go to West Fargo is what I heard."

When a hitter comes to bat with a runner on second base, and that hitter grounds out to second, runner on 2B advances to 3B. The little thing of hitting behind the runner put the runner on 3B. Then 3B runner scores maybe on a base hit, another ground ball, a tag up or even a passed ball. The hitter who grounds out to second did the little thing that set everything up but often is unnoticed.

We had a number of you do the little things that maybe went unnoticed but made this tournament a success.

Thank you for all you do for Legion Baseball!

Bruce Young
3rd Dist. Baseball Director
Apple Valley Post 1776

The Minnesota

Legionnaire

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

Official publication of
The American Legion
Department of Minnesota

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Email: tengstrom@mnlegion.org

Web: mnlegion.org/legionnaire

Editor: Communications Director Tim Engstrom

Editor Emeritus: Al Zdon

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Taps



Please send "Taps" entries to tengstrom@mnlegion.org or mail to 20 W. 12th St., Room 300A, St. Paul, MN 55155, or visit mnlegion.org/taps. Thank you.

Name of Deceased	Age	Date of Death	Branch	Era	Cont. Years	Post
Abrahamson, Howard L.	92	6/24/24	Navy	Korea	27	Two Harbors Post 109
Barcus, Keith D.	76	6/29/24	Army	Vietnam	12	Bagley Post 16
Barr, John C.	99	6/2/24	Navy	WWII	54	Rosetown Memorial Post 542
Block, Gregory W.	75	7/19/24	Navy	Vietnam	47	Spicer Post 545
Note: He served on the aircraft carrier USS Hancock. He was the final checker on the F-8 Crusader.						
Block, Winthrop J. "Windy"	78	6/22/24	Army	Vietnam	51	St. Peter Post 37
Note: He was past post commander.						
Brinkman, Bruce B.	84	7/22/24	Navy	Vietnam	46	Gaylord Post 433
Brossard, Gary E.	86	6/7/24	Navy	Vietnam	50	Eden Valley Post 381
Ebertowski, Dennis M.	79	7/17/24	Army	Vietnam	6	Winona Post 9
Elder, Forrest W.	94	1/2/24	Navy	Korea	69	Lake Park Post 181
Note: He was a radar and sonar operator on a submarine, stationed out of San Diego.						
Esping, Gary D.	86	7/3/24	Army	Vietnam	17	Woodbury Post 501
Fisher, Richard A.	79	6/21/24	Navy	Vietnam	11	Owatonna Post 77
Fournie, Eugene C.	100	6/20/24	Coast Guard	WWII	50	Bloomington Post 550
Note: He also served in the Navy, mainly in the South Pacific.						
Gay, Ronald C.	74	7/1/24	Army	Vietnam	43	Little Falls Post 46
Note: He was past commander for 1989-90.						
Giefer, Ronald C.	86	5/31/24	Army	Vietnam	36	Nicollet Post 510
Grossman, Peter G.	94	6/20/24	A/AF/M	K/VN	55	Northfield Post 84
Hackbarth, Gary L.	86	6/16/24	Army	Korea	45	Austin Post 91
Hall, William B.	98	6/1/24	Air Force	WWII/Korea	17	Mpls.-Richfield Post 435
Note: He retired as a lieutenant colonel.						
Hentges, Frank J.	81	5/31/24	Army	Vietnam	14	Eden Valley Post 381
Hill, Gary A.	83	5/30/24	Army	Vietnam	40	Anoka Post 102
Holland, Roger O.	80	7/13/24	Air Force	Vietnam	43	Roseau Post 24
Jacobs, Eleanor A.	88	2/26/24	Navy	Vietnam	42	Lake Park Post 181
Note: She was an electronics tech stationed in Newport, R.I., where she met her husband. They had children, and she managed officer clubs or country clubs wherever he was stationed, receiving accolades for growing their popularity.						
Jewell, James E. "Sonny"	89	6/15/24	Air Force	Vietnam	35	Roosevelt Post 371
Johnson, Richard H.	96	7/6/24	Army	Korea	52	New London Post 537
Note: He started the New London ambulance service, was fire chief for 10 years, was president of the Fire Department Relief Association.						
Kasten, Duane H.	89	4/5/24	Army	Korea	49	Seeforth Post 275
Kirgis, Grant A.	75	5/18/24	Air Force	Vietnam	36	Rochester Post 92
Note: He earned an award from the mayor for his work with the disabled.						
Klein, Gideon	98	8/4/23	Navy	WWII	22	Rochester Post 92
Note: He earned his wings at the Naval Air Technical Training Center in Memphis in 1944 and served until 1946. He was known in Rochester for his small business advocacy.						
Knakmuhs, Lloyd	90	6/4/24	Army Res.	Korea	45	Revere Post 582
Note: He was a past post commander.						
Koenck, Robert J.	90	9/25/23	Army	Korea	20	Rochester Post 92
Koob, Raymond J.	85	12/7/23	Navy	Korea	63	Mpls.-Richfield Post 435
Kunert, Otis W.	77	7/2/24	Navy	Vietnam	33	Ostrander Post 544
Linn, Gerald E.	94	7/6/24	Army	Korea	67	Paynesville Post 271
Lloyd Donald F.	92	9/2/23	Army	Korea	12	Rochester Post 92
Mahoney, James W.	86	1/14/24	Army	Vietnam	8	St. Joseph Post 328
Manlick, Daniel J.	60	7/2/24	Army	GWOT	20	Little Falls Post 46
Note: He served two terms as post commander.						
Martin, Darold E.	96	7/10/24	Navy	WWII	34	Benson Post 62
Matchinsky, James G.	85	7/29/24	Army	Vietnam	30	Melrose Post 101
Mikkelson, Ernest V.	89	8/25/23	Army	Korea	57	Lake Park Post 181
Note: He was stationed in Korea during the war.						
Miller, Lyman E.	85	7/18/23	Navy	Vietnam	9	Rochester Post 92
Montgomery, John F.T.	81	4/25/24	Navy	Vietnam	13	St. Peter Post 37
Murray, Ronald L.	81	5/26/24	Air Force	Cold	38	Byron Post 119
Nester, David C.	76	7/2/24	Army	Vietnam	50	Wabasso Post 263
Note: He was stationed in Giannitsa, Greece, serving in an artillery unit.						
Newgard, David S.	83	7/30/24	Air Force	Vietnam	28	Albert Lea Post 56
Newton, Keven R.	75	7/12/24	Marines	Vietnam	14	Rochester Post 92
Nolan, Thomas J.	92	6/26/24	Army	Korea	62	Owatonna Post 77
Nordick, Ralph B.	90	11/8/23	Army	Korea	33	Lake Park Post 181
Norton, Kenneth E.	84	6/8/24	Navy/NG	Vietnam	19	Flensburg Post 136
Orton, Harold L.	92	3/11/24	Army	Korea	50	Brooten Post 288
Otteson, Kenneth L.	81	5/23/24	Navy	Vietnam	27	New London Post 537
Pagel, Carroll M.	87	7/2/24	Army	Vietnam	20	Benson Post 62
Palm, James M.	85	7/2/24	Army	Vietnam	7	Le Center Post 108
Prigge, Roger L.	89	6/24/24	Navy	Vietnam	36	Bloomington Post 550
Quast, Kenneth A.	91	5/30/24	Air Force	Korea	28	Excelsior Post 259
Sadauskis, Thomas W.	80	6/13/24	Army	Vietnam	11	Albert Lea Post 56
Sagedahl, Charles E.	93	4/13/24	Marines	Korea	35	Brooten Post 288
Schubert, Joseph J.	93	7/4/24	Navy	Korea	68	Little Falls Post 46
Shatek, Mark D.	67	7/2/24	Army	Leb-Gren	4	Albert Lea Post 56
Shea, Leonard J. Jr.	89	3/7/24	Navy	Korea	20	Anoka Post 102
Smith, Robert V.	95	7/15/24	Marines	Korea	16	Austin Post 91
Soule, James D.	94	6/23/24	Army	Korea	50	Cannon Falls Post 142
Spilman, Edward G.	88	5/29/24	Army	Vietnam	22	Brainerd Post 255
Note: He was a past post commander.						
Staska, Berlyn W.	96	6/13/24	Air Force	Korea	66	Owatonna Post 77
Note: He served as an instructor with the 3450th Air Training Command at Warren AFB in Wyoming.						
Stellmach, Ronald L.	81	6/19/24	Navy	VN/Panama	60	Delano Post 277
Sullivan, James G. "Sully"	93	12/16/23	Army	Korea	59	Rochester Post 92
Note: He was a private who quickly moved up to staff sergeant and offered entry to West Point, which he declined.						
Swanson, David R.	77	5/23/24	Navy	unk.	2	Minneapolis-Richfield Post 435
Thomas, Michael D.	76	7/5/24	Army	Vietnam	47	Litchfield Post 104
Note: He received the Purple Heart and was wounded twice in separate incidents.						
Tobkin, Arthur D.	81	6/26/24	Navy	Vietnam	49	Bagley Post 16
Note: He served as 9th District commander 2002-03 and Department Vice Commander 2015-16. He had served on the American Legion National Americanism Council since 2019. He was a past chairman of the Department Americanism Committee and presently was serving on the committee at the time of his passing. He was a past post commander, too.						
Weite, Kenneth D.	74	9/20/23	Army	Vietnam	54	Albert Lea Post 56
Wendlandt, Harlan H.	88	6/25/24	Army	Leb-Gren	12	Gaylord Post 433
Werre, Milton A.	91	7/14/24	Army	Korea	3	Anoka Post 102
Wiger, Oliver E.	92	7/23/24	Army	Korea	26	Little Falls Post 46
Williamson, James P.	91	7/9/24	Army	Korea	23	Austin Post 91
Zempel Richard E.C.	88	12/17/23	Navy	Korea	2	Anoka Post 102



Arthur Tobkin

All-Family Events Calendar

- Aug. 7-11:** Central Plains Regional Baseball Tournament, West Fargo
- Aug. 9-11:** Junior Auxiliary Fun Weekend at Legionville
- Aug. 12:** Eagle Group of Minnesota Veterans Golf Tournament, Crystal Lake Golf Course, Lakeville
- Aug. 17:** Minnesota ALR National Mission Ride, Slayton
- Aug. 18-22:** American Legion Legacy Run, end in New Orleans at the 105th National Convention
- Aug. 15-20:** American Legion World Series, Shelby, N.C.
- Aug. 15:** Tee It Up for the Troops, Willow Creek Golf Club, Rochester
- Aug. 19:** Stillwater Veterans Benefit Cruise, riverboat
- Aug. 23-24:** Tribute Fest, Bayfront Festival Park, Duluth
- Aug. 23-29:** 105th National Convention, Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, New Orleans
- Sept. 4-6:** CTF Summit, Camp Ripley
- Sept. 5-8:** Camporee, Legionville
- Sept. 7:** Joint Retiree Appreciation Day, Treasure Island Resort & Casino, Welch
- Sept 12-15:** Legion Riders Romp at Legionville
- Sept. 13-14:** NS/FR Weekend, Camp Ripley
- Sept. 14:** Veterans Fest, Hastings
- Sept. 16-18:** MACVSO Fall Conference, Cragun's Resort, Brainerd
- Sept. 20:** National POW/MIA Recognition Day, Central Park, Greenfield
- Sept. 21:** Harvest Rally, Fridley Post 303
- Sept. 21:** Color Ruck, Hyland Park, Bloomington
- Oct. 1-6:** John Zgoda Memorial Deer Hunt, Legionville
- Oct. 1-31:** Jefferson Highway Convoy, Military Vehicle Preservation Association, East Grand Forks to New Orleans, several stops in Minnesota the first week
- Oct. 5:** Veterans Suicide Prevention & Awareness Day, The Depot in Duluth
- Oct. 7-10:** Fall Meetings, Sheraton Hotel, Indianapolis
- Oct. 8-10:** Minnesota Veterans Outdoors Deer Hunt, Camp Ripley
- Oct. 10-13:** Minn. American Legion College, Camp Ripley
- Oct. 24:** Department Executive Committee meeting, River's Edge Convention Center, St. Cloud
- Oct. 24-26:** Fall Conference, River's Edge Convention Center, St. Cloud
- Nov. 11:** Veterans Day, local ceremonies
- Nov. 11:** Minnesota Official Veterans Day Program, Veterans Community Center, Inver Grove Heights
- Dec. 7:** Pearl Harbor Rally, Spicer Post 545
- Feb. 8:** Sweetheart Rally, Royalton Post 137
- March 8:** Appreciation Rally, location TBD

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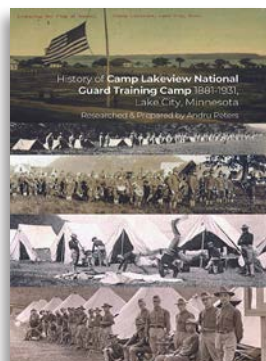
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651-345-3045 or cadancinbear@yahoo.com



You say you want a constitution ...

Hello, Legion Family!
 The last weekend of July the American Legion Riders rode to raise money for all Minnesota Veterans in need as we visited Legion posts and veterans homes in southern Minnesota. We were able to visit and tour two new veterans homes in Montevideo and Preston. We also stopped and visited with residents at the Hastings Veterans Home. We raised over \$37,000. Thank you, Riders and Legion Family members!

The Minnesota American Legion Riders have been operating from an SOP (standard operating procedure), and we now are working to approve the Minnesota American Legion Riders Constitution & Bylaws.

During the Department Convention in the middle of July, the American Legion Riders voted to approve its Constitution & Bylaws; however, it must be ratified by the American Legion Department Executive Committee. The DEC tabled the vote to give DEC members time to look it over.

They requested we add in a line regarding our budget being presented to the Legion DEC; the SAL also has this line in its Constitution & Bylaws. Due to this request, the American Legion Riders will meet again at the Romp in September and vote on the revised Constitution & Bylaws, which will be presented to the DEC right before the Fall Conference in October.

If you would like a copy, please contact myself

Legion Riders

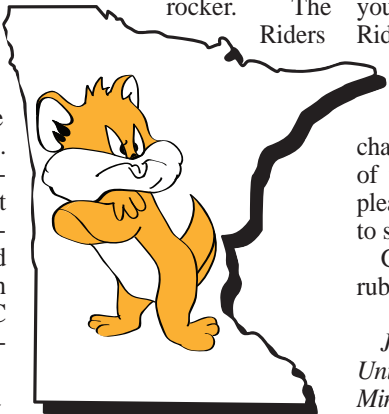
Jody Hassing



(jodyhassing@gmail.com) or Secretary Shawn Davis (secretary@mnalr.org), and we will send you a copy for your chapter to review and vote on. All are welcome and encouraged to attend the MNALR Romp and meeting. We look forward to hearing and seeing everyone.

Please remember all motions must originate from one of the district representatives or MNALR department officers and only those same individuals are allowed to vote.

Another topic of discussion during the MNALR Department Convention was the third patch or lower rocker that many of the older chapters in Minnesota are wearing. We are beginning to receive a lot of flack from motorcycle clubs (better known as MCs) around the state regarding this lower rocker. The Riders



have been asked to remove the lower rocker by several of the MCs.

For the safety of all, we are requesting that chapters with the lower rocker remove it. I want to thank John Weiss, 4th District representative, for already sending this request to the chapters in the 4th District.

The National Mission Run will be hosted by Slayton American Legion Riders on Aug. 17. The run will begin in Brewster and end in Pipestone. The closest hotels to the beginning point are in Worthington.

If you would like assistance setting up a chapter at your post, please let me or your district American Legion Riders representative know so we can help you get things going. If you are interested in having me talk to your chapter or district or attend one of your meetings or events, please contact me I would love to see what you are all doing.

God bless and keep the rubber side down.

Jody Hassing of Bloomington Unit 550 is the director of the Minnesota American Legion Riders.

Thieves want to steal from veterans

By Kristy Janigo and Ray Kane

Thieves are working aggressively to steal from veterans, veteran service organizations, veteran nonprofits and government agencies that work with veterans.

It's a numbers game. If they get one success out of 100 attempts, that's worth their efforts. Don't fall prey to their predator tactics.

A post for a veteran service organization received a text from someone claiming to be a Hennepin County veteran service officer and asking for \$200. Soon, the CVSO learned the same message was sent to another post. This time, the post shared a screenshot.

In another case, people sat in front of a home in their car for a long time, then knocked on the door and sought knowledge of a veteran who was related to the homeowner. They got angry when it was denied. In yet another, a husband-wife duo at a post's bar late at night kept asking veterans for their middle names, after hearing their other names. The husband claimed to be an Army veteran. When asked where he took AIT, he said Korea. Clearly, he was a fake.

People who work as veteran service officers at the federal, state and county levels, as well as veteran service organization are quite familiar with calls from masked numbers seeking knowledge of personnel information, especially DD-214s.

Some go so far as to claim being nurses, medical staff or first responders, or they claim to be investigators of medical malpractice or negligence.

The American Legion Department of Minnesota is working with the Minnesota Attorney General's Office to fight claim sharks and fraudulent attempts at personal information of veterans.

- Be smart. Check the email address or phone number, not merely the name of the sender, to see if it is real. Many scammers claim to be from an organization you know or trust.

- Protect the personal information of your loved ones, fellow veterans and their spouses. Scammers will use personal information they have in order to gain more personal information from you. Don't be fooled by it.

- Veterans have earned the benefit of representation with no cost to the veteran. Do not pay for VA claims when veteran service organizations and county veteran service officers provide claim services for no charge. Contact The American Legion or your CVSO to take advantage of benefits you have earned. You will have a trusted veteran on your side.

- Resist any pressure to act immediately. You always, always have time to think and gain reflection on any topic.

Here is a list of the types of common scammer tactics:

Spoofing: Disguising an email address, social media profile, sender name, phone

number or website to convince you that you are interacting with a trusted source.

Phishing: Email sent with the intention of deceiving you to act. Example: You see emails from the department commander, telling you to reply, but you realize it isn't his true email address.

Smishing: This is phishing via text message. Facebook Messenger is full of this problem. We regularly see it tell us Facebook will cancel our Facebook Page if we don't act within 24 hours.

Vishing: This is phishing via phone. The caller usually makes recipients believe they will be fined or miss out on an opportunity.

Tell Me About Yourself: During a phone call, the scammer may ask you to verify who you are by asking you to confirm your personal information. Sometimes, they act like they are loan officers or some other trusted position.

To report fraud, visit the Minnesota Attorney General's Office at www.ag.state.mn.us/Consumer/Scams, or call 651-296-3353 (Twin Cities) or 800-657-3787 (outside the Twin Cities).

The VA has a toll-free Veteran Identity Theft Helpline at 855-578-5492. The VA also provides further tips for fraud prevention at this website: www.va.gov/initiatives/protecting-veterans-from-fraud/.

Kristy Janigo is the 10th District commander, and Ray Kane is the department service officer.

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Which district has the most titles?

Understanding divisions:
In American Legion Baseball across the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico, "Senior" means players 19 and under and "Junior" is for players 17 and under.
In Minnesota, Div. II teams come from schools with grades 10-12 enrollments below 400. Div. I teams typically have 10-12 enrollments 400-3,600, though some below-400 schools will play up. A good example is Healy High School in Pierz, which competes as Pierz Post 341. Standing at 303 students, the coach could pick Div. II, but he chose Div. I instead and his

team even made it to the Div. I State Tournament this season. Find enrollment reports on all teams at minnesotaligionbaseball.com.
Before this season, Div. I-A was Tier I-A, and it was a small side tournament for second teams. Now it has expanded to allow metro-area mid-enrollment teams and next year might open up statewide.
Fastpitch softball is for girls' softball teams statewide, and presently there is one division.
Div. I Sr.
4th: 32
10th: 20

5th: 15
1st: 8
2nd: 6
3rd: 6
6th: 6
9th: 2
7th: 1
8th: 1
Div./Tier I-A Sr.
3rd: 3
10th: 3
9th: 1
Div. II Sr.
3rd: 10
6th: 9
1st: 5
2nd: 3

9th: 3
7th: 5
5th: 1
8th: 1
Div. I Jr.
10th: 11
3rd: 4
Div. II Jr.
7th: 3
1st: 1
6th: 1
10th: 1
Fastpitch Softball
1st: 1
2nd: 5
6th: 1

Congratulations to new commander and champs

National Report

Bill Barbknecht



Congratulations to Dr. Carl Moon of Zimmerman Post 560 for being elected 2024-25 commander for The American Legion Department of Minnesota, and to all the department officers.
I cannot thank Paul Hassing of Bloomington Post 550 enough for all he did this past year as commander. Among other achievements, he raised over \$134,000 to help our veterans and their families. All the miles he traveled to spread the good word of what The American Legion does for veterans, their families and communities.

Thank you, Paul and Jody, for all your work.
Minnesota American Legion Baseball and Fastpitch Softball. Thank you to all who helped sponsor teams. A lot of fundraising work is done in the winter to make these programs successful in the summer.
The American Legion World Series will be Aug. 15-20 at Keeter Stadium in Shelby, N.C. Eight teams make it from a 64-team national tournament. There are eight teams at eight sites. Donna and I hope one of Minnesota's two qualifiers, Div. I Sr. champ Farmington Post 189 and runner-up Osseo Post 172, win the Central Plains Tournament in West Fargo.
Let's mention the other champs:
St. Cloud Post 76 won the softball title.
Becker Post 193 won Div. I Jr. The team from Holy Family (outside sponsor) out of Victoria won Div. I-A. Sleepy Eye Post 7 again won the Div. II Sr. The Div. II Jr. happened after the Legionnaire went to press.

Legionville summer camp has been a big success this past year and is coming back. Thanks to all the parents and posts who sent kids this summer.
The National Convention will be in New Orleans Aug. 23-29. A large delegation from Minnesota will be in attendance. Sunday, Aug. 25, will be the Minnesota get-together at the National World War II Museum. The 9th District Band will be playing that evening.
As we start a new year, *pay your dues*. Please, it's not the price you pay; it's the price you paid to belong. It's an honor to belong to The American Legion. Be the One to sign up a new member.

Bill Barbknecht of Fergus Falls Post 30 is the Department of Minnesota's National Executive Committeeman.

Endorsements

Dvorak endorsed for department commander

Linda M. Dvorak has been endorsed by Charles Borak Post 45, New Prague, and the 3rd District for the office of Department of Minnesota commander for 2025-2026.
Dvorak has been a PUF member for over 22 years. She has held various positions within Post 45, including adjutant, finance officer, membership director and commander. She is a current member of the American Legion/Park Ballroom Board of Directors/Board of Trustees, a member of the New Prague Veterans Color/Honor Guard and the New Prague Veterans

Memorial Committee.
At the district level, Dvorak was the adjutant 2013-2019, 2021-present, membership director 2018-2019 and commander 2019-2021. She has held the following positions at the department level: membership director 2022-2023, Oratorical Contest chairman, and Oratorical vice chairman, chairman of the Internal Affairs Ad Hoc Committee and has been a member of the Department Training Committee since 2019, serving as the chairman.
Dvorak has been a delegate to 13 consecutive national

conventions. She has been a member of the National Security Committee since 2023 and currently serves on the National Aerospace Committee. She is a 2022 graduate of American Legion National Legion College. She completed American Legion Basic Training in July 2020. She is a member of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 45 in New Prague, a life member of the DAV, a member of the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Military & Veterans



Linda Dvorak

Museum and an active member of St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church.
Dvorak served 27 years in the Air Force/Air National Guard, retiring from active duty in 2002. She has an AA degree in educational systems technology from the Community College of the Air Force. She retired in 2019 after 15 years as a special assistant to senior leadership within the Minnesota Air National Guard.

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Fridley Post 303 earns Sportsmanship Trophy

Continued from Page 1
about 90 miles per hour.

"We have another week of baseball and a chance to finish the summer on a good note," Coach Conrad said. "Everybody has a job to do."

With a deep pitching staff, Farmington has a chance to go deep in the regional Aug. 7-11. The ultimate experience would be a trip to the American Legion World Series in North Carolina. But it will be one game at a time.

"We want our pitchers to throw strikes, pitch to contact and let the defense go to work," Coach Conrad said. "I am looking forward to another week with the boys."

Morning rain upset the tournament schedule on Thursday, Aug. 1. Three of the four fields — Osseo Memorial, Delano Municipal and St. Michael Lower Rec — had to reschedule games. Only Gleason Fields remained on track. That's because it has an artificial turf field. Maple Grove and Burnsville played a particularly wet game, with Maple Grove winning 8-6.

Fridley Post 303 Gold took home the Father David Moran Sportsmanship Trophy. Trevor Rasmusson of Farmington received the Fred Wannamaker Most Outstanding Player Award. At one point, he reached base 12 times in a row, two of which were doubles.

Div. II

The Div. II State Tournament was held in Bird Island at Lions Memorial Field, where Sleepy Eye Post 7 defeated Glenwood-Lowry Posts 187 & 253. Fosston Post 114 captured third with a 6-0 win over Rushford Post 94.

Sleepy Eye started the tournament by beating a tough New London-Spicer team 5-0, which went on to capture the consolation prize. Then Sleepy Eye faced Fosston, winning 4-3, before winning the title by a score of 7-4.

The eight-team tournament was held Aug. 2-4. Arian Saenz of Sleepy Eye received the Tony Sipe Most Outstanding Player Award. Rushford received the Rocky Wedin Sportsmanship Trophy.

Div. I Jr.

Becker Post 193 took home the

Div. I Jr. title at Red Haddox Field in Bloomington on Aug. 4 with a victory over Fergus Falls Post 30.

Fergus Falls seemed to be in the driver's seat, having beaten Becker 7-2 on Aug. 3 in the double-elimination tournament. However, when it came time for the title game, Becker, after knocking out New Ulm 8-3, won 4-1, handing Fergus its first loss. That meant a second and true title game was played, with Becker winning 14-8.

The Ron Nenovich Sportsmanship Award went to Chanhassen Post 580. The Jim Peck Most Outstanding Player Award went to Riley Girard of Becker.

Div. II Jr.

The Minnesota American Legion Baseball Div. II Jr. State Tournament takes place in St. Charles on Aug. 9-11, after the Legionnaire goes to press. Read about the results in the next issue, which arrives in mailboxes in late September.

Div. I-A

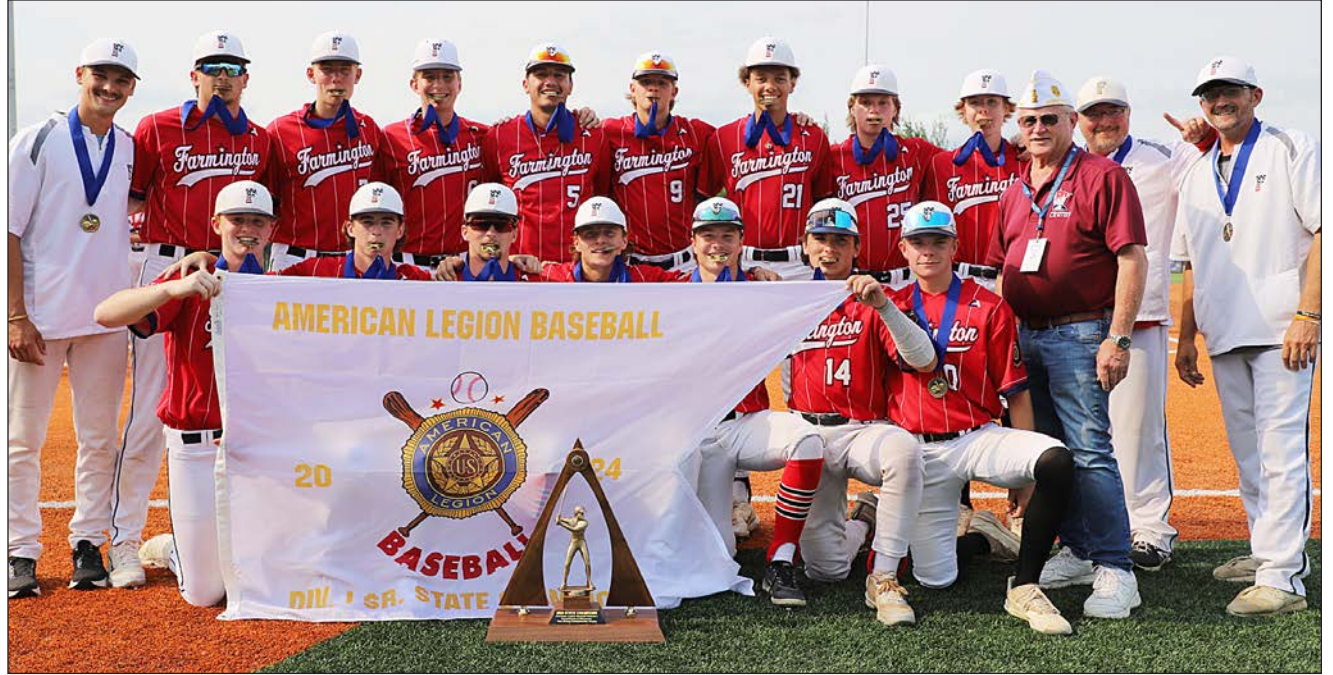
Minnesota American Legion Baseball this year expanded the Tier 1-A tournament to be the Div. I-A tournament, increasing its prominence and allowing second squads and teams from schools with mid-level enrollments to compete. It was held July 29-Aug. 1 at Alimagnet Park in Burnsville.

What's a second squad? Some places support multiple teams, with the second or third team having a name or color, such as Eden Prairie #2 or St. Michael Golds. As for mid-level enrollments, that means teams like Zimmerman or Red Wing. They are too large for Div. II but not big enough to truly compete against big-school rosters.

Holy Family Legion won the tournament, made up of players from Holy Family Catholic School in Victoria and sponsored by a baseball association instead of Legion post, which happens in some places without posts.

The team defeated Red Wing Post 54 by a score of 8-0 in the title game of the double-elimination tournament. Holy Family knocked out Richfield Post 435 in a 10-inning game to get there, winning 4-3. Richfield tried to play its way back in but were stopped by Red Wing in a 10-3 contest.

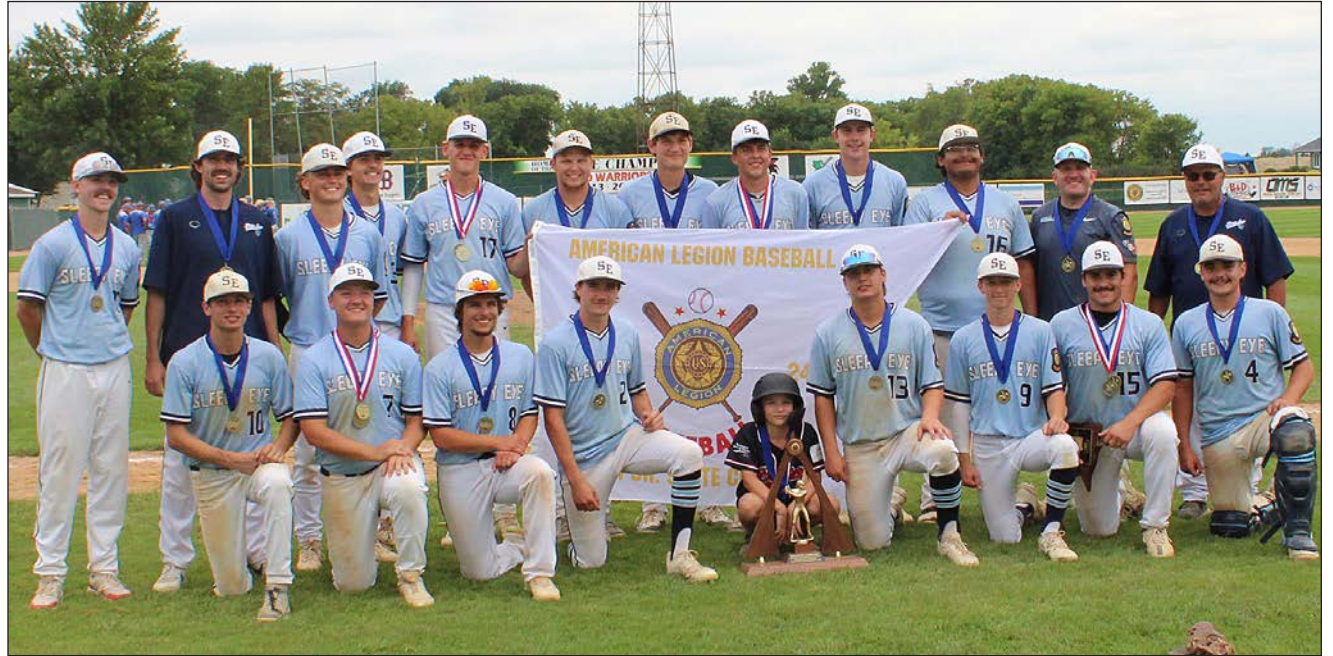
MINNESOTA DIVISION I SENIOR BASEBALL CHAMPIONS



Department Commander Carl Moon, third from right, stands with the players and coaches of Farmington Post 189 and the championship trophy on Aug. 4 after defeating Osseo 2-1 at Gleason Fields in Maple Grove. The Tigers are coached by Kevin Conrad, Mason Conrad and Jay Parsons. Mankato Post 11 National won third place, beating Forest Lake Post 225 by a score of 11-2. Read more about the Div. I Sr. State Tournament in The Gazette at mnlegion.org/the-gazette/ and see the tournament results bracket by going to minnesotalegionbaseball.com. Find out how the teams did in West Fargo by visiting legion.org/baseball and checking the schedule.

Tim Engstrom

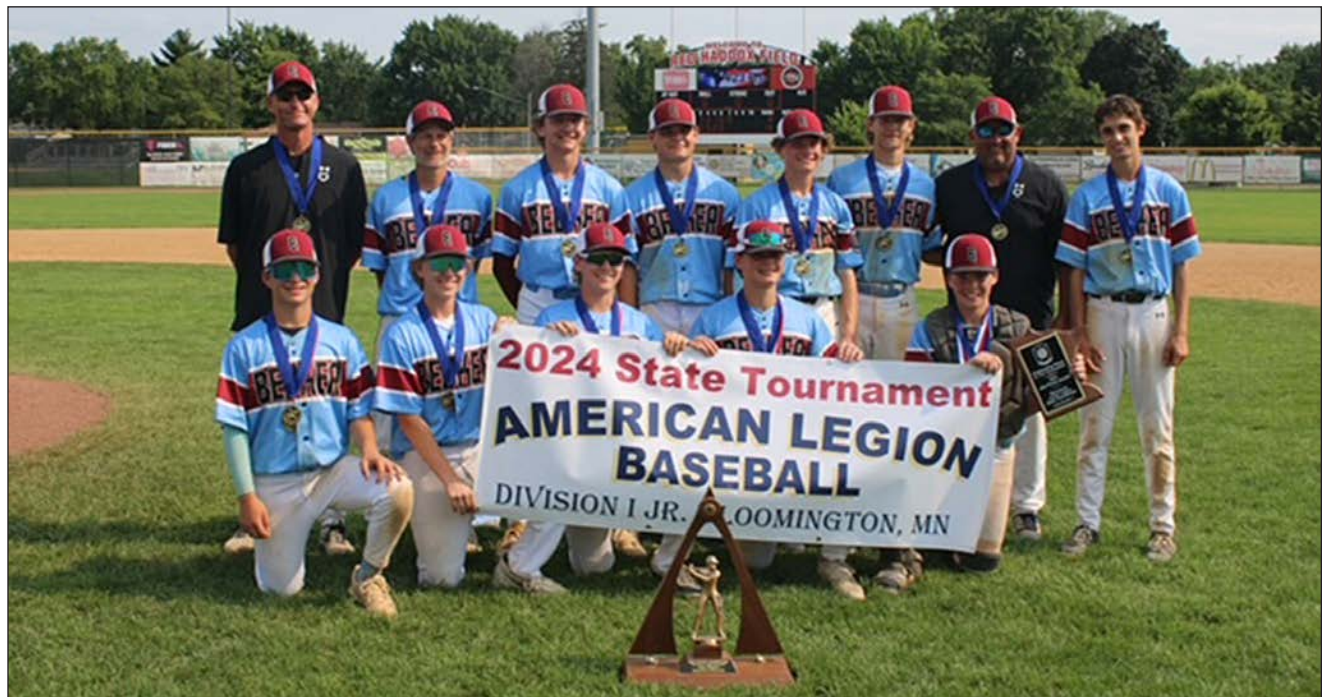
MINNESOTA DIVISION II SENIOR BASEBALL CHAMPIONS



Coaches and players with Sleepy Eye Post 7 hold the championship flag and pose with the trophy on Aug. 4 at Lions Memorial Field in Bird Island after defeating Glenwood-Lowry Posts 187 & 253 by a score 7-4. Fosston Post 114 won third place 6-0, defeating Rushford Post 94. New London-Spicer Posts 537 & 545 was the consolation champion, winning 6-5 over Le Sueur-Henderson Posts 55 & 74. This is the second year in a row Sleepy Eye won it. Coaches for Sleepy Eye are Zach Haala, Jackson Huiras, Luke Mielke, Aaron Nesvold and Brandon Streich. Bruce Woitas is the team manager. Past Department Commander Paul Hassing was at the tournament for its duration.

Joe Bares

MINNESOTA DIVISION I JUNIOR BASEBALL CHAMPIONS



The title of champion for the Div. I Junior Tournament, held at Red Haddox Field in Bloomington, went to Becker Post 193, which won 14-8 over Fergus Falls Post 30. The tournament doesn't have a third place game. Still, a third place plaque is given, and it went to New Ulm Post 132, as they were the last one still standing besides Becker and Fergus Falls.

Jack Scott

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MINNESOTA FASTPITCH SOFTBALL CHAMPIONS



Credit

Past Department Commander Tom Fernlund, right, Minnesota American Legion Fastpitch Softball Director Michael Arvidson, second from right, and Assistant Directors David Thompson and Luann McMahon, left and second from left, stand with players and coaches of St. Cloud Post 76, which goes by the mascot name of Hype. They beat La Crescent Post 595 by a score of 3-2 on July 28 to win the big trophy. Upsala Post 350 took third place, winning 4-0 over Melrose Post 101. Visit minnesotalegionsoftball.com for results. Registration for 2025 begins Jan. 1.

Softball Sportsmanship Award went to Belview

Continued from Page 1

she went 6-11 in at-bats, scored 3 runs, drove in 4 runs and had 4 doubles and 1 home run.

In the big game on Sunday, Sam Dingman scored first for St. Cloud at the top of the fourth inning. St. Cloud added a run on a wild pitch later the same inning. La Crescent scored on a St. Cloud error in the bottom of the fourth. Ellie Meyers of St. Cloud hit a triple, then Voit



drove in a run at the top of the sixth inning. La Crescent got another run in the bottom of the seventh. The team had the

tying run on second base when a strikeout ended the game.

This is St. Cloud's first year as a Legion Fastpitch Softball team. Teams find American Legion Fastpitch Softball less expensive than traveling softball programs, and the kids play closer to home more frequently.

The Sportsmanship Award went to Belview Post 309.

Teams qualifying for state were: Bemidji Post 14 (Host),

St. Cloud Post 76, La Crescent Post 595, Wadena Post 171, Parkers Prairie Post 219, Belview Post 309, Upsala Post 350 and Melrose Post 101. The website for Minnesota American Legion Fastpitch Softball is minnesotalegionsoftball.com. Registration opens up in January.

The tournament is headed to Fairmont in 2025, with Post 36 hosting. Softball Director Mike

3rd Dist. director makes Hall of Fame

By John Sherman

OSSEO — Third District American Legion Baseball Director Bruce Young of Shakopee is one of this year's Minnesota American Legion Baseball Hall of Fame inductees.

In addition to running the 3rd District, Young is the Division I State Tournament Director.

Young's career as a Legion coach began in 1986 with Minneapolis Hellenic Post 129.

"I enjoyed coaching the Minneapolis kids," Young said. "My son Joe was a Minneapolis kid and a started coaching him in youth baseball."

During his early years as a Legion coach, Young was a college basketball and baseball assistant coach. He worked in both sports at Macalester College and was also a baseball assistant at Concordia University in St. Paul.

Young's Legion coaching career took a new direction when he applied for the Apple Valley job. "My friend Larry Engen lived in Apple Valley and told me they were looking for a Legion coach," Young recalled. So the contact was made with Apple Valley Legion Athletic Director Dick LeSavage.

Young's reputation as a college coach helped him land that job. He quickly put Apple Valley on the map in the 1990s and won the Division I title in 2002 when the tourney was held in Marshall.

"That team defeated Excelsior in the finals," Young said. "Our guys were thrilled to win it."

Apple Valley finished second



Third District Director Bruce Young, center, stands with Department Commander Carl Moon and Baseball Director Randy Schaub on July 31 at Osseo Post 172.

in state in 2004, 2007 and 2009 to earn berths in Legion regional tournaments.

"It was a tremendous experience watching our kids enjoy success in the regionals," Young said. "We had a great coaching staff with people like Al Newman, Bill Goodman, Jeff Buck, Tom Butler, Gregg Bjorklund, Rod Teichrow, Patrick

"Sarge" Ryan and Jeremy Engen. They worked with the kids on baseball fundamentals and taught the right values. I couldn't have done it without them."

Young said he appreciated the teamwork among baseball directors as much as he appreciated his working relationships with assistant coaches.



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Arvidson said the Minnesota American Legion Fastpitch Softball Committee is considering making the tournament double-elimination for next season.

He also heard from the Legion Softball program in North Carolina, which was the first state to offer Legion Softball, and

there is a movement afoot to get an American Legion Softball World Series. States with Legion Softball that Arvidson knows of are Minnesota, North Carolina, South Carolina, Massachusetts, California, Idaho, New York and Wisconsin. There may be others in fledgling mode that haven't gotten off the ground.

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Content from

The Gazette

A publication of
Minn. American
Legion Baseball

We asked 6 baseball moms:

By Tim Engstrom

What is it like following your American Legion Baseball team all summer?



Jessica DuRose

Son: #20 Mason DuRose, 1st Base & Pitcher
Team: Mankato Post 11 National

"It has been an absolute joy. We have a great group of kids and parents who have stuck together since the boys were 10 years old. We are stuck in hotels every weekend, and these parents have been amazing."



Charlene Beavers

Son: #3 Carson Beavers, Center Field & 1st Base
Team: Rochester Post 92 Redhawks

"For this team, it has been particularly exciting because they have never been playing better as boys and now men. After this year, they will go different directions, graduating and moving on."



Samantha Lee

Son: #5 Keegan Lee, Pitcher & Catcher
Team: Forest Lake Post 225 Rangers

"It's fun because we get to do it together. We have a great group of families. We traveled a ton this summer. I basically lived in a hotel. It allows you to see new places and new ballparks."



Shari Rantz

Son: #11 Jake Rantz, 2nd Base & Pitcher
Team: Fridley Post 303 Gold Eagles

"It's exciting to be involved as a parent. We see other families. We got to see all the nostalgic ballparks. We got to see all the other kids on other teams that they played against as kids."



Summer Krzoska

Son: #17 Gavyn Krzoska, Right Field & Pitcher
Team: Osseo Post 172 Orioles

"It's just been a lot of fun watching the team as a whole. Every game a different player steps up and makes the play. We have a great group of boys who support each other. No matter the outcome, we are happy with the season."



Beth Stember

Son: #49 Connor Stember, Pitcher & 2nd Base
Team: Farmington Post 189 Tigers

"I like watching the boys develop as players and as people. The ballparks have been interesting. Legion Baseball has some great coaches who support the kids and help them grow as a team."



John Sherman

Craig Anderson is the executive director of the Minnesota High School Baseball Coaches Association and is an advocate of American Legion Baseball.

Coaches are big key to Legion Baseball

By John Sherman

MAPLE GROVE — Anderson notes how high school and Legion ball work together

Craig Anderson, Executive Director of the Minnesota High School Baseball Association, never gets enough baseball.

For the second year in a row he is serving as a site coordinator at the American Legion Division I State Tournament. The 2023 State Tournament was a lot closer to Anderson's hometown of Pine Island with headquarters in Rochester. This year, he traveled all the way to Delano to work at Legion ballgames.

Anderson sees the synergy between high school and American Legion Baseball, based on how the programs mesh in Pine Island.

"Legion Baseball gives high school players twice the opportunity to have fun," Coach Anderson said. "Some of the players I coached in high school had dads who are Legion members. They were great partners in the summer program."

Pine Island won the State Division II American Legion title in 1995. It is always nice to win championships, but the experience of Legion ball offers more than that with its emphasis on sportsmanship, teamwork and Americanism.

"I have always had a lot of respect for the American Legion," Coach Anderson said. "My dad was a Purple Heart recipient in World War II. He was wounded in France on the sixth day of the invasion. After he recovered, he returned home to the farm and raised six kids."

As one of those kids, Craig Anderson was a star athlete at Mabel-Canton High School in Southern Minnesota. He took his baseball skills to Winona State University where he became captain and an All-Northern Intercollegiate Conference pitcher. He graduated from Winona in 1975. Anderson's wife Sue was his "high school sweetheart."

To be able to stay in coaching as long as I have, you need a great partner," Anderson said. "Sue is fantastic."

In addition to coaching baseball for 36 years at Pine Island, Anderson taught sixth grade and coached eighth-grade football.

He coached Legion ball all but two summers, when he took time off to spend more time with his two young children.

After retiring from education, Anderson became executive director of the high school baseball coaches group.

What's going on with the Legion Baseball patch?

Last season, many team uniforms began sporting the new American Legion Baseball brand mark instead of the American Legion Baseball crossed-bats emblem. The 2023 National Rulebook allowed it.

However, in the off-season, the National Americanism Commission basically said, "Hold on. You marketing people jumped the gun here."

The commission voted to keep the crossed-bats emblem as the patch on baseball uniforms, and now the 2024 rulebook disallows it.

National staff says the brand-mark patches are fine for the 2024 and 2025 seasons, but after that, they can't be on uniforms any longer.

As a result, the Minnesota American Legion Baseball Rulebook, under Rule 9.A.5, states:

"Any player, coach or manager who does not have an American Legion Baseball emblem on either the left sleeve or left chest of his uniform shirt, wind shirt or jacket will be removed from the game. Explanation: The American Legion Americanism Committee is encouraging all teams to switch back to the crossed-bats American Legion emblem. If a team has uniforms with the new brand mark, it is allowed in 2024 and 2025 but discouraged going forward. The brand mark is allowed for promotional purposes — such as signs, ads, souvenirs or fan clothing."



Department Commander Carl Moon reads the Code of Sportsmanship to players from Maple Grove and Burnsville to begin the Div. I Senior State Tournament in Maple Grove. Then he tossed out the first pitch and was there on the final day for trophy presentation.



Hugh Hultgren, son of Osseo Post 172 Vice Commander James Hultgren and an SAL member, sports a Minnesota Legion Baseball cap and tosses out the first pitch on Saturday morning.



Larry Hop, a member of Osseo-Maple Grove 172 who has been involved in the baseball program for many years, tosses out the first pitch at the Div. I title game in Maple Grove.



Tenth District Commander Kristy Janigo reads the Code of Sportsmanship on Sunday before the third-place game.

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Department Convention debates where resolutions should come from

By Tim Engstrom

WILLMAR — The 105th American Legion Department of Minnesota Convention dealt with a process issue on its opening day, July 11.

In the end, the convention system worked itself out.

Citing how one of the resolutions this year alters a mandate from 1949, Al Davis of Beroun Post 347 said founding fathers of the Minnesota American Legion had strict thoughts about resolutions emanating from districts. He said there are 17 resolutions this convention, of which 16 are not from districts. They are from standing committees or Minnesota American Legion College.

He moved that the convention rule all of them out of order except the one from a district.

After debate from both sides, the convention approved Davis' motion and the sole surviving resolution of the convention was Resolution 2024-12, which was out of the 3rd District. The resolution seeks to remove language from The American Legion Officer Guide & Manual of Ceremonies on how females wear Legionnaire caps, considering that the U.S. Armed Forces does not make gender considerations for wearing of caps. It is written by Kelley Adelsman of Pine Island Post 184.

Past National Commander Dan Ludwig of Red Wing Post 45 weighed in on the issue. He noted there are two sides to the issue.

"Resolutions by and large



First District Commander Mark Maloney gives his two cents on the matter of resolutions, saying that they need to come out sooner rather than later.

shouldn't come up at a department convention as the first place," he said.

Mary Jo York of Forest Lake Post 225 countered, saying standing committees regularly bring resolutions to department. Some of the posts and district aren't always able to recognize needed changes at the department level.

She is on the Department Finance Committee and pointed how its two resolutions involve matters at the statewide level — department dues and evening up how allotments are distributed to national convention delegates.

Judge Advocate Greg Colby cited a 1968 mandate on requirements for resolutions.

He said tradition holds they come through districts, but it does not require it.

"It doesn't clearly state it has to go through districts," he said.

Several others shared their views, including a secondary debate about a motion cannot be rescinded at the same convention once approved.

A recess was called for the purposes of time, as the Memorial Service was next, followed by a lunch hour.

The convention reconvened at 1 p.m.

Colby reread Davis' motion and said Robert's Rules of Order does allow an amendment to an approved motion. He said seven of the 17 resolutions are crucial for conducting business at the department in the coming year.

Ludwig moved to amend the motion to exclude the two Finance Committee resolutions and the five relating to Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation.

The convention approved the motion, then finished for the day. Eight resolutions survived, and nine were sent back down.



Mary Jo York of Forest Lake Post 225 argues in opposition to the cap resolution.

Cap resolution is sent up to national

Continued from Page 1

Pine Island Post 184 said the military no longer requires different cap standards for men and women. She aimed to equalize uniform standards.

"A military person is a military person is a military person," she argued.

Mary Jo York of Forest Lake Post 225 said The American Legion has more important things to address. She said she is proud of her Legion cap and her military service.

"I find it difficult to believe I can't eat a meal because my hat is on," she said.

Veronica Fernlund of Waite Park Post 428 said she prefers the distinction between men and women. Men and women are different.

Teresa Ash of St. Paul Christie-DeParcq Post 406 said: "My uniform isn't pink."

She said, when she is on a date, she wants her husband to open the doors and pay the bill.

"However, when I am in uniform, I am an equal individual to every individual in this room," she said.

The resolution, titled "Female Wearing of The American Legion Cap Exceptions," now goes to national for consideration at the 105th National Convention, taking place Aug. 23-29 in New Orleans.

Here is a summary of seven other resolutions approved at the 105th Department of Minnesota Convention:

24-2: "Assessing the Effects of Anthrax Vaccinations on Veterans, Service Members and National Guard Personnel"

This resolution passed the Department of Minnesota last year. It comes from the Department VA&R staff following in-depth research reports from the U of M Brain Sciences Research Chair, which the Minnesota American Legion and Auxiliary founded.

Basically, the primary link for Gulf War syndrome is the anthrax vaccine veterans of that era received, the researched showed, and the resolution calls on the VA to do further research and to consider necessary steps of providing medical care.

At the 104th National Convention in Charlotte, the convention committee handling it said it needs to be broadened to include federal workers who received the experimental shot but were not servicemembers. The resolution being sent to New Orleans this year simply has the new language.

24-11: "Membership Annual Dues Increase"

Membership dues is one of those things that cannot be done by the Department Executive Committee and can only be done by the delegates



Mahtomedi-Willernie Post 507 took home the traveling bowling trophy.

during a convention.

The delegates approved a \$3 increase effective at the close of the convention. The resolution came from the Department Finance Committee.

The portion of dues that go to the Department of Minnesota now is \$16.75.

24-13: "National Convention Delegate Allotment"

The convention rescinded a 1949 mandate for the formula the Department of Minnesota uses for funding delegates to national conventions.

This is what the 1949 mandate said: "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."

The new formula provides equal amounts as set by the Finance Committee.

24-15: "VA Pension Program"

The VA's disability pension program provides monthly payments to wartime veterans 65 years or older meeting certain criteria, which includes income. Presently, there is not a limit on how far back the VA can look at a veteran's income to determine eligibility. However, with Social Security, the look-back period is generally five years.

This resolution notes the VA has been known to look back as far as 30 years, causing hardships. It calls for the Legion to set a limit of five years for looking back at income.

24-16: "Retroactive Payments for Delayed VA Claims"

The Department of Minnesota supports legislation that requires the VA to pay interest on retroactive payments owed to veterans for claims delayed a year or more. The resolution calls on the VA, Congress and others to support and implement this legislative change to ensure veterans receive the benefits they are due.

24-17: "Provide a Minimum Compensable Rating for Veterans with Service-Connected Hearing Loss Requiring Hearing Aids"

This resolution said the 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.

The resolution calls on the national organization, as well as Congress, the VA and other stakeholders, to join in support of it.

24-19: "Advocating for the Increase of Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) and Special Housing Adaptation (SHA) Grant Rates for Veterans"

SAH and SHA grants provide financial assistance to veterans with severe service-connected disabilities. However, the present levels do not fully cover costs of adapting homes to meet specific needs of severely disabled veterans, because of rising construction costs and the high expense of special modifications.

The resolution calls on the national organization, as well as Congress, the VA and other stakeholders, to review and adjust the rates and join the Department of Minnesota in support of it.



Crosby-Ironton Transportation was recognized as the Veteran Employer of the Year.



Jackson Kramer of Hutchinson was recognized as the Eagle Scout of the Year.

A new membership director, treasurer

Continued from Page 1

national commander's representative to the VA&R Commission and is one of only four members appointed to the TBI/PTSD Committee. He is a member of the Sons of The American Legion Squadron 560. Moon is also a proud member of the Auxiliary Unit 560.

Moon was employed at the St. Cloud VA as an optometrist for 20 years and retired in 2020. He and his wife, Peggy, have been married 49 years, have two daughters, two grandsons and four granddaughters. Peggy is an Air Force veteran,

Alternate NECman and a past commander of the district and department.

Other department officers elected at the convention were:

- Vice Commander Districts 1&3 Don Skow
- Vice Commander Districts 2&7 Pam Krill
- Vice Commander Districts 4&5 Joe Jansen
- Vice Commander Districts 6&9 Veronica Fernlund
- Vice Commander Districts 8&10 James Marano, who declined and the role defaulted to Bill Gordon.
- Chaplain Kelley Adelsman

- Historian Karen O'Bar
- Sergeant-at-Arms Betty Jass
- Board of Publications three-year-term Paul Hassing

Commander Moon appointed Carla Tappainer of Apple Valley Post 1776 as the membership director. The DEC elected for Al Davis of Beroun Post 347 as treasurer for a three-year term.

The Department Executive Committee appointed Mike Ash of St. Paul Christie-DeParcq Post 406 to a three-year term on the Board of Publications.

Find a list of committee members, department officers and district officers at mnlegion.org.

Listening Post



Minnesota Boys State Dean David Way and counselor Larry Pocrnich, who helps with sports, stand with softball equipment Boys State donated to Legionville. Boys State participants now play kickball instead.



Woodbury Post 501 Vice Commander JoAnne Kramer awards a Certificate of Appreciation to Boys State participant Cade Wright, who was elected lieutenant governor at Minnesota Boys State in June.



About 10 vehicles participated in the Independence Day Decorated Vehicles Parade at the VA Minneapolis and Minneapolis Veterans Home.



Members of Barnum Post 415 ride on a trailer in the Spring Fever Days Parade in Barnum in June.



Dawson Post 177 Commander Paul Iverson, right, presents 50-year certificates to, from left, Curtis Johnsrud, Merlin Ellifson and Charles Pearson.



Fairmont Post 36 Commander Steve Fosnes presents a \$1,200 donation to Bass Seekers Committee members Dave Vogel and Mike Thate for youth fishing.



Savage Post 643 sent in a picture of its officers for 2024-25.



Lonsdale Post 586 donated six fire suppression tools to the Lonsdale Fire Department. From left are Brian Wermerskirchen, Post 586 Commander Amy Larsen, Lonsdale Fire Chief Joe Pumper, Bernie Franke, Ross Johnson, Farmington Freemason Lodge Master Jason LaVoi.

The American Legion is a non-political org.

Judge Advocate

Greg Colby



The American Legion Department of Minnesota Constitution & Bylaws states: Article 2, Section 2., "The American Legion shall be absolutely nonpolitical 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."

right as an American citizen, but you cannot do it when wearing Legion apparel or at an official function of The American Legion. Stay *non-political* when representing The American Legion.

By the definition of the above statement Legionnaires when wearing American Legion apparel do not make political statements. When we are in uniform, wearing our covers, Legion-branded apparel and make a political statement it appears to the public you are speaking on behalf of The American Legion.

Since we are on the subject of The American Legion being nonpolitical and your post wants to host a candidate to inform the community of the candidate's position is OK.

The only official statements that will be made against or for any politician or policy would be made by our national commander.

But you have to offer the same to all candidates and there are no pictures with The American Legion emblems, personnel in uniform, or in front of the post identifying the building as an American Legion post home.

The Department of Minnesota commander will make the decision with the Department Executive Committee if we support the national stance. We are not saying you cannot be involved in the campaign process as it is your

Bottom line is: Don't do it. And if you are in doubt, call the Department of Minnesota at 651-291-1800.

Greg Colby of Northfield Post 84 is the Department of Minnesota's judge advocate.



Carol Kaune of Quilt of Valor Group Cannon Quilts presented Quilts of Valor to Raymond D. Ozmun (Army-Camp Rucker) and Richard C Ozmun (Navy-USS Forrestal) at the Northfield Post 84 meeting on July 16. Post member and brother Eugene D Ozmun (Navy-USS Forrestal) was in attendance with his quilt, which he received in his hometown. The brothers have been members of Post 84 for 70 years.



The Belland family of Forest Lake found the 2024 American Legion Post 225 Medallion. The medallion hunt raises funds for the July 4 fireworks display in Forest Lake. Their hunt ended when 10-year-old Jaelynn Belland reached inside a little free library at Lakeside Memorial Park. Pictured are Alexis Belland, Kathy Jahr, Dorothy Belland, David Belland, Jaelynn Belland and Dave Arend Jr.



Lanesboro Post 40 carried out their annual flag-retirement ceremony at Bass Pond in Lanesboro.

District commanders

1st District Mark Maloney III



Greetings, 1st District. As I start my second year as 1st District commander, I have more experience than my first year. Which I think makes it easier to do the tasks of the district without the learning curve and can concentrate on the task at hand running out of the gate. If you have the time and patience, then by all means do it. If you tried it, then ask yourself, is it worth it? My answer would be yes, because it gives you a purpose and something to look forward to if you are retired or need a way to feel needed.

They may need some help with paying bills, to help prevent homelessness. Do we not owe our veterans a better way of life than we are giving them, and do we not owe them more respect than what we are giving them?

Also, as I go throughout the district, I have seen post employees sitting around and not really doing what the employees were hired to do. Bartenders sitting with customers. Gambling managers sitting at the bar drinking and not doing the job for which they were hired.

So, post commanders, could you please take my advice and have your employee standards in place and have your employees sign them. We do not need to lose any post revenue due to stupidity, especially the liquor or gambling licenses.

We all had that calling to serve a greater purpose as we joined the military. And wondered what life after the service would be like. Well the answer is joining a service support group making it better for the active-duty members to have a better chance then and better life in the service then we had and make it better for their families to live on the pay they receive.

Also making sure they have the help do the job asked of them to protect our freedoms. We take for granted we did our job as they are now doing the jobs we passed on to them. Now is our turn to make sure that the government and the United States citizens has their back.

In closing, I will say this year I will pay to the post who has the most attendance at the district events throughout the year a one three-year membership. The commander of that post can then give the three-year membership program to the individual who attended the most district events during the year excluding district officers.

2nd District James Olson



Greetings, 2nd District! The 2025 membership year is underway and dues are rolling in! We had a huge turnout for the membership packet pickups in the district. Of 81 posts, 72 showed up at the meetings. There were a couple meetings that had more posts represented than what we get at the previous district convention!

We're getting it done! On another note, the 2nd District is off the Goose Egg with 100 percent of the posts submitting Consolidated Post Reports and Officer Reports. A huge thank you goes out to every post in the district for getting this done!

We are working on getting meetings set up around the district regarding veterans benefits and other topics of interest that were suggested by the Legionnaires at the membership packet pick up meetings. The district is working with the CVSOs and MDVA to present information at these meetings. You asked for

Delegates from the 2nd District will be attending the National Convention in New Orleans at the end of August. We will each be coming back with a full report in the September edition of the 2nd District newsletter.

4th District Jon Haworth



The 2024-2025 year has arrived, and the 4th district is hitting the road with a great new program called The Legion Cruisers. This new program will be similar to our Legion Riders program, only with classic/modified car enthusiasts.

check events around the districts to stay in contact and provide services for our members in addition to reconnecting events at our military facilities to provide services and resources to our service members.

We are currently working on the details of the program and would like to invite any 4th District Legion Family members who would like to participate in the development of this new program to send an email to 4thdistrictamericanlegion@gmail.com.

We are working on outdoor events such as ruck marches, range days and motivational 5K events. If you have any ideas for new events/groups please let us know. It is our plan to increase

our membership and community profile throughout our district. Your post membership goals will be sent out to your post adjutants this week. Our goal this year is to make 100 percent or greater.

District officers are always

available to assist your posts, so please do not hesitate to contact your district area vice commanders, membership director or myself for assistance. We are all looking forward to an exciting year and can't wait to see you in the coming months.

5th District Lynne Nottage



Happy new Legion year! Greetings from the 5th District. The summer is just flying by. Our post and district meetings start up again next month. I want to take a minute and thank all the past commanders of the 5th District with the offers to help this year in keeping our district active and running smoothly.

We have a challenge ahead. We need to work at providing an active and helpful district for all of our posts. As a team we need to be helpful and available to our Legionnaires, whether it be an individual veteran or an entire post.

We need good and clear communication among us. One thing I do want to push heavily is our Minnesota Legion College. This is an amazing program; it revitalizes the Legionnaires that attend, and we need to be there when they propose their ideas,

whether it's something completely new or rejuvenating something that's been done in the past. Our district has a lot of positions and committees to fill. Anyone out there looking for something new and different or a challenge, come to a meeting and let's get you busy. There is a slight change to the district's September meeting.

We will be meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 10, at 6:30 p.m. at Wold-Chamberlain Post 99. Zoom will be available for this meeting. If you do not get the notification, please contact our adjutant, Ray Eiden.

Also, Post 99 will be serving hamburgers on Tuesdays for \$6. Come and have dinner, too! Hope to see you there!

6th District Frank Grittner



Greetings from the big 6th District. I want to start off by thanking Immediate Past Commander Anthony Koop and his team for all the hard work they put in during his tenure.

Congratulations to all the newly elected officers at the posts, districts and department. I look forward to a productive, fun year working with each of you.

It was great seeing everyone at the Department Convention in Willmar. Many familiar faces and old friends were there, but I also got to meet many new people. It is great to see new faces step into leadership roles within our Legion Family. Those of us that have been around for a while need to make sure we are stepping into the role of mentor to these new leaders, just as those before us did for us.

My theme this year is two-fold. The first is "Together We Can."

This is in reference to all that we can accomplish if we bond together. The American Legion Family is an amazing force when we step up and work together.

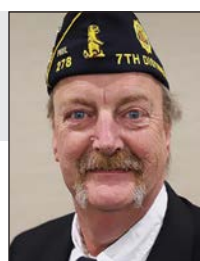
We do some much for our veterans, youth and communities. None of us can do all the wonderful things we are known for alone.

The other theme is "Bearish For Membership." It is going to be challenging this year, but if we all put our minds to it and work together, I know we can make it a successful year. I'm willing to put in the work. Are you?

My Commander's Project is to raise funds to purchase "theater seating" furniture for the multipurpose room at the new Bemidji Veterans Home. Currently, they are "constructively reappropriating" furniture from one of the resident units so they can have movie night. We need to show our veterans in this new home that we remember and care about them.

I look forward to seeing all of you in my travels this year. I hope to see you at Camporee at Legionville on Sept. 5-7, especially at the 6th District fish fry on Saturday.

7th District Carl Wilson



First off, I would like to introduce myself. I am Carl Wilson from Argonne Forest Post 278 in Brandon.

This is my first time being a district commander, so hopefully I don't mess it up too bad. My Commander's Project is Soldier 6, a great organization that trains K-9's to be battle buddies to help veterans, law enforcement, first responder and correctional

officers, throughout Minnesota to help guide them through difficult times. I am hoping to raise \$10,000 for this project.

My theme for the year is, "Service to Veterans from the Past To the Future."

District 7 will also be working

to hold two revitalizations this year in hopes of increasing our numbers in the district and letting veterans in the district who are not Legion members see what the Legion has to offer them.

I will support Department Commander Dr. Carl Moon with his three objectives of "Accountability, Communication and Transparency." It is my belief that

communication is key to running a great district, so if I make some mistakes along the way please reach out to me and let me know.

A different way is not always the wrong way. The old way of doing things is not necessarily the best way. We need to progress and sometimes that means making changes to the way we do things. Thank you for all you do!

8th District Philip Bodle



Legionnaires of the 8th District of Minnesota, my name is Philip Bodle, your district commander for this year. I am looking forward to visiting the posts in our Great Northern Area!

I have several visits planned already. Please reach out to me or my vice commanders if you or your post need us to assist. I'm hoping together we can help

our veterans and our communities succeed and thrive!

I will announce my Commander's Project in next month's column. Remember, we are "One Family of Veterans." We need to strive to work together.

9th District Steve NaSalle



Hello Roaring 9th District American Legion Family!

Now that our 2024 105th Department Convention is behind us. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for a great year, and I am honored to be your district commander for a second term. Let's start the 2024-2025 fiscal year out with a bang!

Our first new year bang is to get those post reports in ASAP! We still have some posts out there that haven't completed their Post Officer's Report (POR) or their Consolidated Post Reports (CPR) yet.

Therefore, post commanders, post adjutants and post membership directors, please get these reports in ASAP. These reports should be completed directly after your post elections and sent into department. Remember, if you need assistance, please contact Tim Haugen, our district vice commander at-large.

Our second new-year bang is to reach out to our current members who haven't paid their 2024 dues. Unfortunately, for those who haven't paid their dues before July 1, the new

rate is now in effect.

Along with reaching out, every American Legion member should be recruiting new members. A great way to recruit new members is to utilize your 1982 list. The 1982 list consists of members in your area who are not assigned to a specific post, but assigned to Post 1982, which is state-affiliated.

When speaking to a potential new member, please let them know the advantages and benefits in being affiliated with your post.

Our third new-year bang is to continue to be mindful of our members who are homebound or in assisted living facilities. Remember our buddy checks, especially those who are in the hospital or who are recovering from surgery. Our comrades always deserve our attention.

"Only our individual faith in freedom can keep us free." — Dwight D. Eisenhower

10th District Kristy Janigo



First, I want to thank the members of the 10th District for putting your trust in me to be your commander. Many of you may already know me as your American Legion Department of Minnesota Legislative Chair.

I served in the North Dakota Army National Guard 2000-2006 as a 92W water treatment specialist with active service stateside in 2003. I got my start in veterans advocacy as a policy director for a Hennepin County commissioner where I helped the commissioner form and execute his veterans' platform.

I am now doing direct service work as an assistant county veterans service officer (ACVSO), where I have discovered a passion for helping homeless and justice involved vets. It is not easy work, but I enjoy learning, understanding and retelling veterans' stories in the pursuit of life-changing federal benefits.

My theme for this year is "Do Your Part," a nod to a wartime slogan for the Women's Army Corps (WACs), to acknowledge all the important roles each of us plays in this organization. I think it fits well with the 10th District Auxiliary President Bethany Dickert's theme "Lift Each Other Up."

My project is Every Third Saturday, a nonprofit near the VA Medical Center that helps homeless veterans by giving them emergency funding and the chance to shop for supplies in their store. They have resource and job fairs for the veterans and a peer support group called Warrior's Return for justice involved vets and vets recovering from addictions.



The Auxiliary Bulletin

No. 25 Vol. 1

President Sharon Cross • Secretary Christie Avant, christie@mnala.org

Dept. HQ: Veterans Service Building, St. Paul, MN 55155 651-224-7634 August 2024

Incoming pres. coming to the Fall Conference

ST. CLOUD — The Department of Minnesota Fall Conference will be held at River's Edge Conference Center in St. Cloud Oct. 24-26. The Department Executive Committee will meet at 11 a.m. Oct. 24.

Besides the annual Poppy Contests and the Auxiliary Emergency Fund Silent Auction, we are excited to announce Incoming Nation President Trish Ward will be speaking at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 24 in the main auditorium of the Convention Center, where the Auxiliary holds their main sessions.

All of the Department of Minnesota American Legion Family are invited to hear Ward's message. She is an engaging and dynamic speaker, said Executive Secretary Christie Avant.

Department President Judy Ackerman said she is thrilled Minnesota can host Ward, who is expected to be the national president by the

time Fall Conference happens. More details will be in the next Legionnaire, posted on mnala.org and Facebook. Registration and hotel information is on page 15.

Ward joined the Auxiliary in 2000, shortly after she moved from Los Angeles to the small town of Louisburg, Kan. As a new small business owner, she wanted to get more involved in her brand-new community.

As the years passed, Trish's involvement in the ALA grew, and she was able to receive various personal development opportunities through the leadership positions she held. Recently, she was national Children & Youth chairman.



Trish Ward



Front row from left are 1st Vice President Robin Dorf, Department President Judy Ackerman and 3rd Vice President Linda Kelly. Second row from left are 1st District President Michelle Weaver, 2nd District President Kollett Kaehlert, 3rd District President Tamara Thayer, 4th District President Sandra Gibson, 5th District President Cari Lamb, 6th District President Dori Hamilton, 7th District President Sandy Wersal, 8th District President Tamara Martin, 9th District President Donna Rae Jacobson and 10th District President Bethany Dickert.

President's Project is the veterans homes

It seems like yesterday that the 2024 Department Convention was just starting. Here we are, the election is over, and I have embarked on this journey as your department president for 2024-25. Thank you to everyone for your support. We are in this together.

This year is the year to go "Back to the Basics: Recognize, Respect, Remember." We need to Recognize all veterans, men and women. Everyone needs to be treated with Respect. Remember all those that have given their all for the love of country. Remember our traditions.

The project chosen for this year has two parts. Part 1 is to raise funds for rehabilitation equipment for at least four of our eight Minnesota Veterans Homes. The equipment that is at the top of their wish list is a Kinevia Duo and a Scift Stepper.

These pieces of equipment will allow patients to roll up to the equipment and either peddle or work on upper body. Please see the pictures and descriptions of the equipment in the unit mailings.

Part 2 is to raise funds and products for personal care kits for female veterans that will be seen at the new women's clinic at the Minneapolis VA that will open in the spring of 2025. The required items will be in the unit mailing.

Plans are under way for this

President's Message

Judy Ackerman



year's Fall Conference.

The big news is that the incoming National President for 2024-2025, Trish Ward, will be joining us for Thursday night. Let's spread the word and get as many members to attend Fall Conference in St. Cloud to meet and hear National President Trish Ward. The Thursday night session is open to the entire American Legion Family. The more the merrier.

Thank you to our units and districts for the work that you do every day to support our veterans, active-duty military, their families and your communities. Your dedication to the mission of The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary programs is evident in the work that you do.

Please toot your own horn to anyone and brag about what you do in your local media (newspaper, radio, Facebook, twitter, Instagram, webpage). Please send the Department Office pictures of your events. You never know. Your picture could make the big screen at Department Convention.

Thank you to the veterans, units and other volunteers who have taken on the task to learn how to make poppies. We are still in need of poppy makers.

If you know of a veteran who would like to learn how to make poppies, please contact Department Poppy Chairman Lorinda Kies, the Department Office or me. We will teach them how to make them.

Speaking of poppies, something different is going to be tried. Please come to Fall Conference and participate in a poppy-making challenge/competition event.

September is Junior Activities Month. Find ways to get your juniors involved within your unit. Ask them to help with promoting your events on social media.

Annual reports are a permanent fixture in our organization. Keep track of what your unit is doing. More in-depth explanations on what is needed for this coming year's annual reports will be brought forward in the next few months.

Judy Ackerman of Northrop Unit 522 is the president of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota. Her theme is "Back to the Basics: Recognize, Respect, Remember"



Tenth District 2023-24 Auxiliary Honorary Junior President Liliana Campero, center, hands a donation check for \$10,815 for the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans on July 30 to help the organization to support veterans exiting homelessness in Minnesota. She is with Bloomington Unit 550.



Then-President Sharon Cross addresses the Department Convention held in Willmar in mid-July.



Members of the Department Executive Committee cheer on a chairman during the DEC meeting held Aug. 3 at Anoka Post 102. From left are 2nd District President Kollett Kaehlert, 3rd District President Tamara Thayer, 4th District President Sandra Gibson and 5th District President Cari Lamb.



Minnesota Girls State Gov. Toluca Tellaehc Ramirez of Pine Island addresses the Department Convention in Willmar in mid-July.

ALA Dept. of Minnesota Executive Committee

Department President	Judy Ackerman
Department 1st Vice President	Robin Dorf
Department 2nd Vice President	Linda Kelly
National Executive Committee	Jean Walker
Alt NEC	Raleen Tolzmann
Department Chaplain	Vida Bacon
Department Historian	Patti Coleman
Department Parliamentarian	Raleen Tolzmann
Department Secretary	Christie Avant
Department Treasurer	Shannon Brown
Past Dept President	Sharon Cross
1st District President	Michelle Weaver
2nd District President	Kollett Kaehlert
3rd District President	Tamara Thayer
4th District President	Sandra Gibson
5th District President	Cari Lamb
6th District President	Dori Hamilton
7th District President	Sandy Wersal
8th District President	Tamara Martin
9th District President	Donna Rae Jacobson
10th District President	Bethany Dickert

Committee Appointments

Department President Judy Ackerman's appointments for the 2024-2025 Auxiliary year of "Back to the Basics: Recognize, Respect, Remember" were approved by the Department Executive Committee:

Americanism	Kollett Kaehlert
Aux. Emerg. Fund	Brandi Christensen
Bowling	vacant
Children & Youth	Anne Steffen
Community Service	Becky Olson
Constitution & Standing Rules	Marsha Bible
Education	Sharon Voltz
Finance Chairman	Norma Tramm
Finance Committee 1	Mary Hendrickson
Finance Committee 2	Cavalene Regan
Finance Committee 3	Tonia Betterman
Finance Committee 4	Jill Davis
Gift Shop Chairman	Sandy Wersal
Gift Shop Committee	Becky Nelson
Girls State Chairman	Wanda Prescher
GS Director	Peggy Tesdahl
GS Education Director	Amelia Tesdahl
GS Committee 1	Renee Suess
GS Committee 2	Jen Stoltz
Junior Activities	Jean Walker
Leadership	Carol Kottom
Legislation	Linda Kelly
Membership	Hope Wilson
Memorial	Vida Bacon
Memory Book	Northrop Unit 522
National Security	Mary Kuperus
Armed Forces Center	Chris Ronning
Parliamentarian	Raleen Tolzmann
Past Pres. Parley	Shirley Frederick
Poppy	Lorinda Kies
Public Relations	Cari Lamb
Risk & Compliance Chairman	Ceryl Schaudman
Risk & Compliance Committee 1	Kathy Kessler
Risk & Compliance Committee 2	Deanna Meyer
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation	Robin Dorf

Veterans Home & VA Hospital Representatives:
 MN Vets Home Bemidji Denise Milton
 MN Vets Home Fergus Fall Doris Lafayette
 MN Vets Home Hastings Darlene Wondra
 MN Vets Home Luverne Jeannette Mertens
 MN Vets Home Minneapolis Sandy Gibson
 MN Vets Home Montevideo Jennifer Hurst
 MN Vets Home Preston Wanda Prescher
 MN Vets Home Silver Bay Nancy Hopper
 Fargo VAMC Becky Olson
 Minneapolis VAMC Janet Thompson
 Sioux Falls VAMC Diane Strassburg
 St Cloud VAMC Jan Benson

Brain Sciences Foundation Board of Directors:
 see mnlegion.org/committees for full board
 Brain Science Chairman Anna Eells
 Brain Science, Member 1 Barbara Hopewell
 Brain Science, Member 2 Patty Gunderson

American Legion Family Hospital Association
 see mnlegion.org/committees for full board
 ALA President Judy Ackerman
 ALA Member Jenny Nelson
 ALA Member Theresa Soltis



Meet the 2024-25 membership director

By Hope Wilson
 Membership Chairman

Hello, Department of Minnesota! I would like to introduce myself. My name is Hope Wilson. I am a five-year member of Unit 278 in Brandon. I am eligible through my husband, Carl, an Army veteran, and my brother Josh, a Marine veteran.

In my brief but exciting five years, I have held positions in my unit such as membership, co-president and currently president. In my district as membership, legislative, 1st and 2nd vice and president, and now as department I am taking on the challenge as membership chairman.

I am not alone in this challenge, as I have everyone in the department helping me. My biggest helpers will be your 10 district membership chairmen and their presidents.

Let's grow the ALA's Junior program this year

By Jean Walker
 Junior Activities Chairman

The goal of the American Legion Auxiliary Junior Activities program is to develop Junior members age 17 and under into future leaders. This program will help our Juniors become engaging, productive members who will want to continue their membership into adulthood.

This year I hope to build the Junior Activities program with one member at a time by giving Junior members a voice and an

opportunity to participate. It is recommended that Juniors participate in Senior meetings and help out with activities.

Juniors can work with the Seniors and even contribute new ideas and suggestions. This year let us all promote and encourage Junior participation in the Patch Program, Poppy Poster Contest, Junior History, Americanism Essay Contest, and apply for scholarships, which in turn will teach them about the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Everyone can contribute to history of Auxiliary

By Patti Coleman
 Historian

Every day is an opportunity to make history. It is up to the historian to document the events of today to be remembered tomorrow.

As you embark on a new year of service, remember to record the information about all your ALA and American Legion Family events. Make a point of documenting the specifics immediately following the event or occasion. Trying to remember later can cause you to forget some of the special details that make your unit stand out from the others.

Take and print lots of photos. This documentation will make it much easier to report on your accomplishments next spring.

Unit historians should work closely with the unit secretary so you both have accurate records. Try to put yourself in the place of our members of the future. None of us know what that picture will look like as our organization and membership evolves, but accurate records can keep what you have done now "alive" for them. Your history is the legacy of your ALA unit.

Auxiliary is there when the chips are down

By Brandi Christensen
 AEF Chairman

The AEF was established in 1969 and is a national grant program to provide temporary monetary assistance (up to \$3,000) to eligible members who have endured significant financial setbacks because of an act of natural or personal crisis.

This is possible all by donations. Members helping members.

AEF funds may be awarded to members whose primary residence has been devastated by disaster, flood, tornadoes, fires, hurricanes, earthquakes or other catastrophic events.

Hardship grants may be awarded to members that have past/overdue expenses pertaining to their primary shelter and basic household utilities due to medical or employment reasons.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Members who are current on dues and have been members for three (3) consecutive years.
- Cannot be used for medical expenses or debts from credit cards.
- Applicants for disaster assistance must apply within six (6) months from the disaster event.
- One grant (disaster or hardship) per grantee within a 12-month period.
- Must submit all qualifying documentation including pictures, invoices, bills, ECT.
- All applications must be submitted online at www.ala-forveterans.org

This is such a great program and an awesome cause to donate to!

More information will be on the Department website and National Website.



MINNESOTA AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY FALL CONFERENCE

2024 Fall Conference Official Registration

Mail to:
 Minnesota American Legion Convention Corp.
 P.O. Box 166
 Princeton, MN 55371

Registration sliding fee:
 Registration received by Oct. 14: \$15
 Registration at mnlegion.org: \$15 + \$2.85 service fee
 (Online registration is available until noon Oct. 18)
 Registration at the door: \$25

Only the pre-registered will receive a booklet.

Registration fees are for each person attending, except for Junior SAL and Junior Auxiliary members. Please copy and send a separate form for each person attending. Everyone must pay the registration fee.

Checks only by mail; bank cards are accepted online. Please indicate "Fall Conference" on the memo line. Please make checks payable to:
Minnesota American Legion Convention Corp.

Conference dates:
 Oct. 25-26, 2024
 Various committees meet Oct. 24.

Contact the hotel directly for your reservations:
Headquarters hotel:
 Best Western Plus Kelly Inn, St. Cloud
 320-253-0606

Nearby hotels:
 Courtyard by Marriott, St. Cloud
 320-654-1661
 Grand Stay Residential Suites St. Cloud
 320-251-5400

	District	Post	Unit	Squadron
Name	_____			
Address	_____			
City	_____	State	_____	Zip

Meals: Pre-purchased meals are available for \$15 each. The meals are breakfasts on Friday and Saturday and a lunch on Friday. Please indicate with your check which meals you desire. The deadline is Oct. 11. Meals are available to purchase at mnlegion.org until then, too.

Bring out your baked goods!

By Brandi Christensen
 AEF Chairman

The Silent Auction to support the Auxiliary Emergency Fund is back again this year at Fall Conference. It's time to get together as a unit/post/squadron or family to come up with a theme basket or maybe even two.

You can also bring in quilts, books, patriotic items, pictures, jewelry, American Legion family items or decorations.

Everyone loves bake sales! I know we have some wonderful bakers out there. And I hope you come through for a huge bake sale that will go with the silent auction. Bake sale items will be a free will donation.

We will also be taking monetary donations. To go along with Department President Judy's symbol each monetary donation that comes in will be a Lego block (building blocks) to make towers.

I am hoping to have a great silent auction for an even greater cause!

Volunteers Needed!

If you would love to help with the auction whether it be setting up or working during the auction, please contact me or the Department Office. Brandi Christensen at Brandichristensen21@gmail.com.





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¹Medicare-contracted doctors compared to internal Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota data, April 2024. Some network limitations may apply. ²Quarterly balance does not carry over. Blue Cross Medicare Advantage is a PPO plan with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in Blue Cross Medicare Advantage depends on contract renewal. Each healthcare provider is an independent contractor and not our agent.

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