



Scott Kostohryz

## Community matters to firefighter, officer

Both Firefighter of the Year and Law Enforcement Officer of the Year are receiving their recognitions this year for their all-around community efforts.

**Law Enforcement Officer of the Year**  
The Minnesota American Legion Law Enforcement Officer of the Year is a patrol sergeant with the Moorhead Police Department.

Scott Kostohryz received his law enforcement training at Alexandria Technical College, then received further education from Minnesota State University, Mankato, St. Cloud State University and Minnesota State University, Moorhead, completing his bachelor's degree.

He started in 2004 with the Moorhead Police Department. He had been a Police Explorer in Mankato, and he was able to

restart a Police Explorer post in Moorhead.

Over the years, he has served as a field training officer, SWAT team member and a detective. He presently leads the use-of-force instruction in areas of defensive tactics, Taser and mobile field force. He supervises the School Resource Officer Program and a patrol team.

As a patrol sergeant, he is responsible for a beat within the city, and he leads

community-oriented policing efforts, including as liaison to the homeless.

He also leads the Police Athletics & Activities League, or PAL, which impacts 2,500 kids in the city through programs such as Shop with a Cop or kids playing hockey with officers or a summer bicycle giveaway.

Kostohryz has been married to his wife, Heather for 22 years, and they have three

**Continued on Page 6**

## Minn. Legion Baseball turns 100

The program leads nation in teams

MONTEVIDEO — Minnesota American Legion Baseball leads the nation again in having the most teams in the nation this season. And this season is the 100th of the program.

This time around, the figure is at 382, one less than last season's total. No other department reaches 300.

There is one guy who is in charge of keeping track of registration, and his name is Brandon Raymo. He is one of two vice directors on the state committee, and he is an SAL member with Montevideo Squadron 59.

Why is Minnesota American Legion Baseball so successful?

"We have a strong history of community-based baseball," Raymo said. "Outstate Minnesota plays a big part where travel ball is not accessible or it is far away."

**Continued on Page 9**

## Always a Marine

From Eagle Scout to Gulf War combat to transition years to Legionnaire

By Tim Engstrom

SCANDIA — Christopher Anderson sometimes wakes up at 2 a.m. with an idea for a video promoting The American Legion.

He hops on the computer and, using the software Final Cut Pro and an image service he subscribes to, he'll have it done by 4:30 or 5 a.m. or so.

You can see his videos often on the Facebook page for American Legion Department of Minnesota. He is a member of the American Legion Department of Minnesota Media & Communications Committee, better known as the M&C Team.

When Anderson, 53, was interviewed for this story, he, his wife Christine and Department Service Officer Ray Kane were camping together at the Veterans Campground on Big Marine Lake near Scandia. It was the early June weekend of an annual ceremony to retire 15,000 flags. Many veterans from all around come for the program.

"He's my best buddy," Anderson said. "I don't make friends fast. I have a lot of acquaintances and only a few friends. I've never been an outgoing person."



Christopher Anderson and his wife, Christine, like to camp at the Veterans Campground on Big Marine Lake. Anderson is the immediate past commander of Hastings Post 47. He's now the gambling manager.

As a kid, Anderson, who graduated from Moorhead High School in 1989, wanted to be a police officer. He earned Eagle Scout at age 14. He was in hockey, soccer and golf. He even played some Legion Baseball.

His uncle had been in the Marines, and he thought he'd follow the same

path, seeking to be a military police officer.

"The uniform was so damn cool," Anderson said. "You want to join the best of the best."

Commencement was June 5, and the next day he was on an airplane to San Diego, where he went to the Marine

Corps Recruit Depot. It was the first airplane ride of his life.

After that, the U.S. Marine Corps sent him up the California shore to Camp Pendleton for advanced infantry training. Then he attended MP school at Lackland AFB. At the time, MPs with

**Continued on Page 8**

## Meet the new MDVA deputy commissioner of healthcare



Deputy Commissioner Eric Meittunen is a Persian Gulf War veteran and Mankato State graduate. He began in late May.

MINNEAPOLIS — The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs gained a new deputy commissioner of healthcare in late May.

Eric Meittunen, 56, leads the five veterans homes, the adult day center and suicide prevention efforts. The system is welcoming three additional veteran homes this year. His hiring comes after the release of the prior deputy commissioner in March, which itself followed alleged workplace issues at the Hastings Veterans Home.

Meittunen joined the Army National Guard in Duluth at age 17. He became a 35E, an electrical repair specialist, with the 109th Light Equipment Company. Meanwhile, he attended college at

Mankato State University for aviation and was selected for officer candidate school at Camp Ripley.

The 109th was the first unit from Minnesota deployed to Saudi Arabia for the buildup to the Persian Gulf War in 1990.

"We had practiced for deployment many times, but doing it was different," Meittunen said. "Fortunately, we had a good team."

They went to King Fahd International Airport west of Dammam.

"When we first arrived, logistics were focused on equipment arriving. We had to do repairs without cannibalizing. However, there was a mail

**Continued on Page 9**

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# Memorial Day

Scenes from Fort Snelling

By Jonathan Haworth



Department Commander Jennifer Havlick rides in a Jeep driven by a leader within the Shriners.



A color guard from the Twin Cities Squadron of U.S. Naval Sea Cadets carries Old Glory on the parade route through Fort Snelling National Cemetery.



Flags adorn graves at Fort Snelling National Cemetery. On the left is the gravestone for Henry Meyer, who served in the Spanish-American War and died in 1960.

## American Legion Veterans



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- Accompanied by a 4 Seasons Tour Director
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- 8 Nights Accommodations
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- Guided tour of a Louisiana Plantation Destrehan Plantation
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- Mississippi Agriculture & Forestry Museum
- National Ornamental Metal Museum

**\$1,599.00 pp**  
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## New England Cruise

October 5-14, 2023



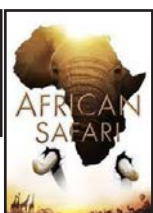
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- Transfers in Nairobi
- Pre-paid gratuities
- Game drives in custom made 6-person Safari vehicles



Memorial Day speakers included ret. Lt. Cmdr. Mike Peterson of the U.S. Navy Reserve, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz and U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar, among others.

## PROJECT NEW HOPE

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- 29-30 SEPT & OCT 1 GOOD EARTH VILLAGE NEAR SPRING VALLEY, MINN.
- 1-3 DECEMBER 2023 INSPIRATION POINT NEAR VINING, MINN.



A classic warbird, the B-25 Mitchell Bomber, flies overhead during the ceremony.

# Candidates for the department election shaping up

## OFFICIAL BALLOT

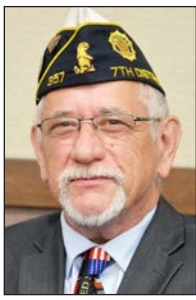
The American Legion, Dept of Minnesota  
Election of Officers 2023-2024

To Vote, Make an X in the box next to your choice

Like This: 



**Paul Hassing**



**Dean Knutson**



**Joe Tappainer**



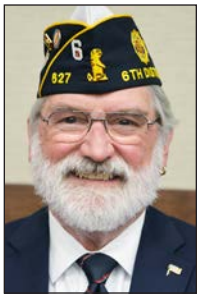
**Randy Olson**



**Christopher Anderson**



**Brad Pagel**



**Paul Edwards**



**Chuck Stone**



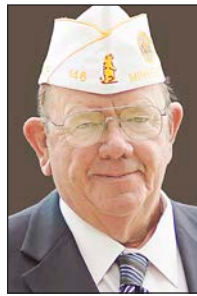
**Bill Barbknecht**



**Peggy Moon**



**Michael Ash**



**James Kellogg**

## Who from Minnesota will be picked for national vice commander?

REDWOOD FALLS — The 104th Department Convention, hosted by Redwood Falls Post 38, takes place July 13-15 at Jackpot Junction Casino Hotel. One interesting aspect at the convention in Redwood Falls is the selection of a national vice commander from the region. It is Minnesota's turn to nominate a national vice commander, and this convention determines the nominee.

The Department Executive Committee meeting is at 7 p.m. July 12. Some committee meetings take place on July 12, too.

Attendees must make their own housing reservations with their hotel of choice. All delegates, alternates and guests must pay the \$15 registration fee. Use the form below. After July 1, the fee becomes \$18.

Hotel rooms are \$120 plus tax per night. Use block "American

Legion State Convention." Reservations are on a first-come-first-served basis.

Jackpot Junction Casino Hotel can be reached at 507-697-8000 or 800-946-2274. It is at 39375 County Highway 24, Morton.

"The convention is a time to conduct the business of The American Legion," said Department Commander Jennifer Havlick. "Thank you for taking three days out of your busy lives to come to Redwood Falls. We hope to see new faces and familiar ones, too."

### How to register

You can register for the convention following the instructions below in the box, or you can visit [mnlegion.org](http://mnlegion.org) and hover over "Events," then click on "Dept Convention."

There, the department, by



**Bill Gordon**



**Lynne Nottage**



**Victor Gades**

working with Post 38, is able to take registrations online using Eventbrite, an event planning and marketing tool.

This is the first time for the Department of Minnesota using Eventbrite, and it might just become the way registration for all department rallies, conferences and conventions are handled.

Look for it to expand in use in the future as department leaders seek ways to get young veterans to participate in statewide activities.

### Candidates for office

Elections of officers take place at the convention, and a new slate of department officers will be announced on the final day of the convention.

Here are the announced candidates for department officers and their home posts:

#### Commander

• Paul Hassing, Bloomington Post 550

#### Vice Commander (vote for five)

• Victor Gades, Prairie Post 1998

• Paul Edwards, Nisswa Post 627

• Chuck Stone, Owatonna Post 77

• Bill Gordon, St. Michael Post 567

• Lynne Nottage, Minneapolis Post 1.

#### Chaplain

• Joe Tappainer, Apple Valley Post 1776

• Dean Knutson, Ashby Post 357

• Randy Olson, Winnebago Post 82

#### Historian

• Christopher Anderson, Hastings Post 47

#### Sergeant-at-arms

• Brad Pagel, Slayton Post 64

#### Board of Publications

• Paul Edwards, Nisswa Post 627

Here are the announced candidates for national officers from

Minnesota and their home posts:

#### NECman

• Bill Barbknecht, Underwood Post 489

#### Alternate NECman

• Peggy Moon, Zimmerman Post 560

#### Vice Commander (vote for one)

• Michael Ash, St. Paul Christie-DeParcq Post 406

• James Kellogg, Adams Post 146

Voting takes place on the Friday evening and Saturday morning of the convention. A sample ballot is printed on the right.

Candidates for department offices announce their candidacies in the form of endorsements printed in The Minnesota Legionnaire. This way, the entire Minnesota American Legion membership can be aware of candidacies.

The deadline for appearing on the ballot was the press date of this publication, June 22. However, nominations still can come at the convention.

Some might wonder how Paul Edwards could be on the ballot for department vice commander and Board of Publications. The Board of Publications oversees The Minnesota Legionnaire, and it is a separate nonprofit entity from the department itself.

The convention call and the convention rules were printed in the June issue of The Minnesota Legionnaire.

Proposed convention resolutions are printed on Page 10. Convention reports were printed as a PDF online to save printing costs.

Visit [mnlegion.org](http://mnlegion.org), then hover over "Department," then "TALMN Committees," and you should see the link for the 2023 Committee Reports.

"We hope to see Legionnaires in great numbers," Havlick said. "We have a great time sharing our camaraderie each year."



## DEPARTMENT CONVENTION REGISTRATION

— Official Form —

A registration fee of \$15 for each person attending, whether a delegate, alternate or a guest, must accompany this form.

Make your check payable to "American Legion Post 38" with "Dept. Convention" written on the memo line. No credit cards will be accepted.

Please mail this form with your check to:

Redwood Falls Post 38  
P.O. Box 354  
Redwood Falls, MN 56238  
Registration after July 1 will be \$18.

Legion \_\_\_\_\_

SAL \_\_\_\_\_

Auxiliary \_\_\_\_\_

District # \_\_\_\_\_ Post/Squad/Unit # \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Delegate \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate \_\_\_\_\_

Guest \_\_\_\_\_

Delegate at-Large (Auxiliary) \_\_\_\_\_

(Choose Past Dept. President or Dept. Exec. Cmte.)

If additional registrations accompany this request, this registration form should be photocopied for each person. The registration fee must be enclosed for each person.

Department Commander (vote for one)	
Paul Hassing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write In	<input type="checkbox"/>

Department Vice Commander (Vote for 5)	
Chuck Stone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lynne Nottage	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paul Edwards	<input type="checkbox"/>
Victor Gades	<input type="checkbox"/>
William Gordon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write In	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write In	<input type="checkbox"/>

NECman (vote for one)	
William Barbknecht	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write In	<input type="checkbox"/>

Alt NECman (vote for one)	
Peggy Moon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write In	<input type="checkbox"/>

Chaplain (vote for one)	
Dean Knutson	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joe Tappainer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Randy Olson	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write In	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historian (vote for one)	
Christopher Anderson	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write In	<input type="checkbox"/>

Sergeant-at-Arms (vote for one)	
Brad Pagel	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write In	<input type="checkbox"/>

Board of Publications (vote for one)	
Paul Edwards	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write In	<input type="checkbox"/>

National Vice Commander (vote for one to endorse)	
James Kellogg	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michael Ash	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write In	<input type="checkbox"/>

Voting hours at the 104th Department Convention are for one hour after convention recess on Friday, July 14, and from 8 to 8:30 a.m. Saturday, July 15. The election results are announced shortly after 10 a.m. Saturday, July 15, followed an installation of the elected officers.

## Plan summer camp for the kids today!

Registration for Legionville Education Center remains open!



Visit [legionville.org](http://legionville.org).

Sun.-Fri. sessions began June 11, and you can still get in on July and August sessions.

The camp is for students who will be between 9 and 13 years old by Sept. 1.

Learn safety for school patrol, swimming, first aid, CRP, internet, canoeing and more.

# Committees did heavy lifting this year

*Editor's note: This is the commander's end-of-year annual report. Read all of the annual reports as a downloadable PDF at mnlegion.org by hovering over "Department," then "TALMN Committees." You'll find "Annual Committee Reports" on the right.*

As we approach the end of the 2023 Legion year, it's time to take a moment to reflect on our journey.

The Department of Minnesota has always been a leader of our American Legion pack. Even when we struggle, we stand together and move forward for our veterans.

Our year started off with our Department Finance Committee making some difficult decisions about budgeting in an effort to ensure a balanced budget that our members can be proud of. We have created an Internal Affairs Ad-hoc Committee that has worked hard on issues from reviewing our Department By-laws, Administrative Manual and our Outline of Authorizations. All these documents are designed to assist our department at all levels in accomplishing our mission.

This committee and our department vice commanders have assisted posts and districts with internal issues and conflicts. There will be a resolution to make this important committee a standing committee of the department.

Our training committee completed the first of two Minnesota Legion College sessions in 2023. They also conducted

## Commander's Column

Jennifer Havlick



training around the department requested by posts and districts.

Our Media & Communications Committee has been traveling around the department providing livestreaming of department and district events throughout the year, along with maintaining all 11 Facebook pages (department and 10 districts), Instagram and TikTok accounts.

Our Veterans Administration & Rehabilitation Committee hired two staffers — a department service officer and an assistant department services officer. Both the DSO and ADSO will be fully accredited and working around the clock for veterans and their families across Minnesota.

Another rock star committee is our Legislative Committee. For months, it worked hard to get our veterans omnibus bill passed for the second year in a row. They were also the tip of the spear when it came to responding to the Minnesota legislators' damaging tax omnibus bill. This bill has a devastating impact on revenue for e-pull-tabs in our charitable gambling efforts, which aid all of our communities and programs.

Even after the close of the legislative session, this team continues to work hard to ensure that veterans issues are front and center with our elected officials.

I could go on and on about the

dedicated volunteers who continue to work the programs of The American Legion, but I don't have enough space. I want to take a moment to thank all our posts for their dedication to the mission of The American Legion. Your dedication and hard work for veterans is unparalleled.

We still have some work to do in membership. We are still struggling with department at-large renewals and overall new member recruiting. I would like to encourage all our members to be visible as Legionnaires in their communities. Visit your schools, city councils, county commissioner meetings, county fairs and local events to remind our neighbors the great work we do in our communities. Remind them we are the greatest veterans service organization not only in Minnesota but in the nation.

In closing, thank you all for your support throughout this year. Keep up the great work, and get out there and do great things.

*Jennifer Havlick of Duluth Wisted Post 28 is the commander of The American Legion Department of Minnesota. Her theme is "Honoring Our Past by Securing Our Future."*

# Prescription: Just rest 1 day a week

Whatever happened to Sabbath? Gods design for us. Our mind, bodies and spirit need it to stretch out, stretch up and soak in nothingness, to nourish family without distractions. So, what happened to it? Our lives are ruled by a do more, be more and enjoy more philosophy today.

Organizational planning and assessment help us regain a necessary rest for our mind, body and soul. The SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) measures the current condition of operation.

Strengths: what are the resources, mission, geography, skill sets available to you?

Weaknesses: skill set, availability, time, resources?

Opportunities: training, growth, rest, consolidate?

Threats: resources; time, capability, capacity?

Project planning is another way to determine future direction. It includes measuring the sustainability (how long can it continue?), viability (amount of resources needed), scope of the project (focus and avoid 'creep' — that human tendency to extend beyond current project and what it can adequately accomplish), resources (what is needed: people, skill, tools), time needed and the interest of those wanting to complete the project for.

## Chaplain's Corner

Kelley Adelman



Project planning and the SWOT analysis can unearth one reason why a Sabbath (rest) has diminished from our week. We no longer live by an agrarian calendar, but we have switched to an industrial consumer calendar with machines (cellphones, computers, videogame consoles) that are on and available 24/7.

So even if the sun goes down, our circadian rhythm can be interrupted to keep active. When a machine breaks due to overwork, we can easily understand the breakage — we pushed it beyond its capability.

Assimilating this understanding into how we operate our bodies, mind and soul seems to be experiencing a challenge. In the medical world preventive care is preferred. An uninterrupted day for family and rest is hard to come in our 21st century lifestyles.

Sabbath rest remains vital. Sabbath is for us holistically. In our culture today psychological and medical professionals have done research and concluded that body and mind do indeed need downtime for mental and physical health. We need a day to unplug, to

disengage and to invest in family and our own life.

Sabbath rest is a godly exercise, like a prescription a doctor writes. Farmers can also tell us about the benefits of letting their soil go inactive for a year. That rest results in better soil. My prayer is we will submit to a Sabbath each week. If you physically exercise daily, you know what a gift it is to your muscles to have a day of rest.

Today's world is designed to continue 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Albeit we can choose to take a day off, disconnect and love on ourselves and our family knowing God is the one who prescribed it for us.

My prayer for each of you is there is one day a week with no phones; no social media, and you spend time with your family — to laugh, to invest and to express gratitude.

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

# Mail Call

Send letters to the editor for Mail Call to [tengstrom@mnlegion.org](mailto:tengstrom@mnlegion.org).

*Editor's note: All letters are the opinions of the writers and not necessarily The American Legion or The Minnesota Legionnaire. We do favor dialogue as key to the American form of government.*



## Lund column shed light on e-tab issue

Reading the article written about the changes to electronic gambling made my blood boil. Mr. Allen Lund's article was factual, informative and very well-written. I champion Lund's comment with regard to not patronizing any of these establishments in the future; however, I will go further.

I will forward the article to people on my email list as well as post it on social media. I will also add that attending any events hosted at these casinos, such as concerts, also supports this syndicate.

What's more, I am thoroughly disgusted with Gov. Tim Walz, himself a veteran and a former high school football coach, that he would sign into law such an atrocious bill that hurts veterans and their unending desires to serve their local communities and youth programs.

As for the other politicians listed in this article, I am disgusted with them as well, disgusted because these individuals failed to educate themselves and perform any critical thinking on the impact this will have on Legion charities and the impact it will have on the recipients from the proceeds from electronic gaming.

In closing, I quote Mr. Lund's comment that these politicians should be ashamed of themselves, but they know no shame. Lastly, vote.

**Rick O'Brien**  
St. Michael Post 567

## Why aren't people rising for the flag?

Following St. Louis Park's recent Parktacular Parade, Post 282 Commander Dick Brammer mentioned to me in frustration that he was very disappointed in the lack of respect shown for our nation's flag.

Representing Post 282's Color Guard, Commander Brammer noticed that hardly a soul stood for Old Glory as it passed by the spectators assembled along



Dan Morgan/North End Post 474  
"These ole black boots don't breathe till you take 'em off."

the route. Noting that "maybe 5 percent" actually stood as it went by, he said he was actually thankful for even that small number.

As Commander Brammer said, standing for the American flag at public gatherings symbolically shows that we are all Americans, no matter our race, religion or political persuasion.

I've noticed an uptick (again!) in verbal and physical attacks on the flag, seen as a "threat" by some.

Why is that? Since when has the blood red of its stripes stood for anything other than the ultimate sacrifice made for us — the eternally grateful — still living? How can rational citizens, lucky enough to thrive among the blessings of the "greatest experiment" in the history of mankind, be indifferent in the presence of the Stars and Stripes?

**Bruce Lindquist**  
Minneapolis Post 1

## Thanks for birthday cards

I wish to thank everyone for the numerous cards received

for my 101st birthday. Most were from Minnesota, but also California, Texas, Nebraska and Oregon. Two were special, including one from a long-lost friend in San Antonio. And one was from a Minnesota "Mustang

Marine." I am looking forward to my 102nd birthday. (The Albert Lea Fire Department will be on standby.)

**Lupe Gasca**  
Albert Lea Post 56

# The Minnesota Legionnaire

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

Official publication of  
The American Legion  
Department of Minnesota

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**Web:** [mnlegion.org/legionnaire](http://mnlegion.org/legionnaire)

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## AMERICAN LEGION

### New logo is inspiring

I like the new American Legion Department of Minnesota logo. I have written a fitting description of it:

*The North Star gives us the light and guides us in Moving Forward*

*The Trees are a reminder of our creator and the beauty all around us*

*The Path shows us "This is the Way" to help others and reach out*

*The Red White and Blue colors represent the Love for our Country*

See you at the convention.

**Kurt Roettjer**  
St. Paul Post 8

# Taps



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

Name of Deceased	Age	Date of Death	Branch	Era	Cont. Years	Post
<b>Alcott, Orville E.</b> Note: He served aboard the USS Essex.	86	5/12/23	Navy	Cold	26	Stewartville Post 164
<b>Anschutz, Robert L.</b> Note: He served as a paratrooper.	92	5/31/23	Army	Korea	39	Lakefield Post 4
<b>Archer, Lloyd H.</b>	89	6/2/23	Army	Cold	22	Zumbrota Post 183
<b>Aydt, Wilbur F.</b>	95	6/4/23	Navy	WWII	44	Chanhasen Post 580
<b>Bergloff, Lawrence S.</b>	93	3/23/23	Army	Korea	70	Bloomington Post 550
<b>Bodin, Bruce H.</b>	89	5/25/23	Marines	Korea	21	Red Wing Post 54
<b>Boelke, Richard A.</b>	78	5/233/23	Air Force	Vietnam	28	Albert Lea Post 56
<b>Burton, Donald O.</b> Note: He served as a paratrooper.	91	6/13/23	Army	Korea	48	Stewartville Post 164
<b>Carda, Richard A.</b>	92	5/28/23	Army	Korea	14	Janesville Post 281
<b>Carlson, Phillip J.</b>	90	1/5/23	Army	Korea	39	Amboy Post 276
<b>Carlson, Steven H.</b>	67	4/9/23	Air Force	Vietnam	40	Red Wing Post 54
<b>Cesafsky, Joseph J.</b> Note: He was a past commander of the Montgomery and Northfield posts.	89	8/11/22	Air Force	Vietnam	48	Montgomery Post 79
<b>Chandler, Thomas L.</b>	57	5/18/23	Navy	Leb/Gren	7	Little Falls Post 7
<b>Cherne, Anthony J.</b> Note: He commanded the post honor squad for 15 years.	75	5/10/23	Army	Vietnam	52	Albany Post 482
<b>Cleveland, Rodney A.</b>	91	12/24/22	Navy	Korea	40	Grand Rapids Post 60
<b>Downing, Thomas J. Jr.</b>	90	5/7/23	Army	Korea	7	Elk River Post 112
<b>Dutt, Herbert J.</b>	93	4/14/23	Navy	Korea	32	Willmar Post 167
<b>Engel, Myron H.</b> Note: He served as a pilot.	89	3/29/23	Marines	Korea	33	Bloomington Post 550
<b>Engel, Willard J.</b>	84	6/13/23	Army	Cold	45	Marshall Post 113
<b>Farr, Roy A.</b>	94	5/19/23	Army	Korea	36	Arlington Post 250
<b>Felling, James J.</b> Note: He was the post finance officer. He served in Vietnam and was the recipient of two Pearl Heart medals, along with several other decorations.	76	5/27/23	Army	Vietnam	26	Little Sauk Post 417
<b>Fisk, Richard C.</b> Note: He was post commander in 1973 and served many years as sergeant-at-arms. He participated in the Mankato Area Veterans Memorial Squad, providing honors for 2,003 veterans.	94	5/24/23	Korea	Cold War	53	Mankato Post 11
<b>Flaschenriem, Lawrence L.</b>	88	5/21/23	Army	Korea	61	Watkins Post 453
<b>French, Duane L.</b> Note: He transferred to an air-sea rescue unit as a radio operator.	90	6/1/23	Coast Guard	Korea	33	Milaca Post 178
<b>Fuchs, Ronald D.</b> Note: He received the Purple Heart, and he was active in the post honor guard.	74	4/25/23	Navy	Vietnam	38	Waseca Post 228
<b>Garry, Paul W.</b>	94	5/25/23	Army	Cold	12	Lake City Post 110
<b>Gierok, Theodore F.</b>	91	4/29/23	Army	Korea	67	Winona Post 9
<b>Glanton, Wayne</b> Note: He served as 5th District commander 2014-15. He served with the 189th Engineer Aviation Battalion at Elgin Field in Florida.	101	unreported	Army	WWII	72	Mpls. Jonnie Baker Post 291
<b>Griep, Michael A.</b>	73	5/16/23	Army	Vietnam	46	Pine River Post 613
<b>Grote, John G.</b> Note: He served with the 3750th Air Police Squadron at Sheppard AFB in Texas.	93	3/7/23	Air Force	Korea	36	Winona Post 9
<b>Hanson, Clair J. "Bud"</b>	90	6/5/23	Army	Korea	73	Walnut Grove Post 267
<b>Hengel, Charles A.</b>	83	5/6/23	Army	Vietnam	41	Bloomington Post 550
<b>Henke, Robert C.</b> Note: He served as the quartermaster for the USS Knox.	76	5/8/23	Navy	Vietnam	42	Hutchinson Post 96
<b>Herfindahl, Duane C.</b> Note: He served as a chaplain's assistant at Arlington Cemetery and later aboard the USS Sierra.	94	4/15/23	Navy	WWII	61	Grand Rapids Post 60
<b>Hieserich, Luverne T.</b> Note: He served as a medic, then worked at the St. Cloud VA for 35 years.	71	5/11/23	Army	Vietnam	34	St. Joseph Post 328
<b>Hites, Donald E.</b> Note: In his military career, he was stationed at air bases in Holland, Germany, Vietnam and throughout the USA.	90	5/12/23	Air Force	Korea	34	Grand Rapids Post 60
<b>Hopper, Donald G.</b>	79	5/12/23	Army Res.	Vietnam	53	Pine River Post 613
<b>Hughley, Brent W.</b>	58	5/21/23	Army	Leb/Gren	5	Millville Post 579
<b>Hurd, Ernest A. "Birdie"</b>	76	5/26/23	Army	Vietnam	1	Hackensack Post 202
<b>Jensen, Otto F.</b> Note: The retired colonel served in multiple command roles in his career, most notably with 3rd Battalion of the 3rd Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard).	83	5/27/23	Army	Cold	52	Janesville Post 281
<b>Kalz, Roger E.</b> Note: He was stationed at the BOMARC Missile Base 10 miles northeast of Duluth, working on refrigeration and power production.	82	5/26/23	Air Force	Vietnam	26	New Ulm Post 132
<b>Keogh, Keith M.</b>	89	6/11/23	Navy	Korea	53	St. Peter Post 37
<b>Klever, Marlowe M.</b>	87	5/23/23	Army	Korea	40	Deer Creek Post 283
<b>Kop, Richard J.</b>	84	5/25/23	Marines	Korea	51	Walker Post 134
<b>Lande, Max E.</b>	96	5/5/23	Navy	WWII	14	Waseca Post 228
<b>Liestman, Gerald F.</b>	80	4/24/23	Marines	Vietnam	6	Litchfield Post 104
<b>Linnemann, Roger E.</b>	92	5/29/23	Army	Korea	46	St. Joseph Post 328
<b>Lorentz, William J.</b> Note: He served in combat with the 194th Tank Regiment.	91	6/3/23	Army	Korea	48	St. Joseph Post 328
<b>Lund, Lyle R.</b>	90	4/14/23	Army	Korea	62	Chaska Post 57
<b>Macho, Michael F.</b> Note: He served in the Naval Air Corps assembling parachutes.	67	6/9/23	Navy	Vietnam	8	Stewartville Post 164
<b>Majeski, Richard C.</b>	72	4/15/23	Army	Vietnam	9	Holdingsford Post 211
<b>Maxwell, Richard A.</b> Note: He served as a paratrooper with the 101st Airborne Division.	81	5/9/23	Army	Vietnam	30	Winona Post 9
<b>Mueller, Thomas H.</b>	76	6/4/23	Air Force	Vietnam	52	New Ulm Post 132
<b>Mullenbach, David N.</b> Note: He was a past post commander and adjutant and the Post 56 Legionnaire of Year in 2012. He served two terms as a Freeborn County commissioner. He was known to local children as Santa Claus.	79	6/5/23	Army	Vietnam	25	Albert Lea Post 56
<b>Nies, Sheldon A.</b>	82	5/28/23	Navy	Vietnam	40	Hutchinson Post 96
<b>Olson, Steven C.</b> Note: He delivered ammunition by helicopter in Vietnam.	78	5/4/23	Army	Vietnam	28	Lyle Post 105
<b>Ordorff, Dwayne R.</b>	78	5/18/23	Navy	Vietnam	1	Lake City Post 110
<b>Parrish, Leonard L.</b>	84	5/19/23	Army	Cold	31	Lake City Post 110
<b>Peil, Lawrence J. Sr.</b>	95	5/17/23	Army	WWII	67	Pine City Post 51
<b>Pluth, Rudolph N.</b> Note: He served on the heavy cruiser USS Rochester, flagship for the commander of the 6th Fleet.	94	5/30/23	Navy	Korea	35	Two Harbors Post 109
<b>Pruter, Lawrence "Bud"</b> Note: He served in Korea and Japan.	90	5/26/23	Air Force	Korea	39	Red Wing Post 54
<b>Pueringer, Joseph</b> Note: He was a member of the post color guard.	69	5/23/23	Army	Vietnam	10	Thief River Falls Post 117
<b>Qualle, Russell L.</b>	90	6/12/23	Army	Korea	28	Cannon Falls Post 142



Wayne Glanton

## All-Family Events Calendar

- July 1:** 4th of July Celebration, Warroad
- July 2:** 4th of July Fireworks, Coon Rapids
- July 3:** Third of July Parade, Albert Lea
- July 3:** Summer Fete 2023, Bloomington
- July 4:** Forest Lake Post 225 Fourth of July Celebration
- July 4:** St. Peter's Old-Fashioned 4th of July, St. Peter
- July 4:** Fourth of July Parade, Edina
- July 4:** 4th of July Grand Day Parade, Spicer
- July 4:** 4th of July Parade, Eagan
- July 4:** Lake Minnetonka 4th of July Fireworks, Excelsior
- July 4:** Annual Boat Parade, Prior Lake
- July 4:** Duluth Fourth Fest, Duluth
- July 4:** 4th of July Float Competition, Finlayson
- July 4:** Independence Day, many other local ceremonies
- July 12:** DEC, Jackpot Junction Casino, Redwood Falls
- July 13-15:** Department Convention, Jackpot Junction Casino, Redwood Falls
- July 20-22:** American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Competition, Colorado Springs, Colo.
- July 21-29:** Boys Nation, Girls Nation, Washington, D.C.
- July 26-28:** Dept. Service Officers School, Indianapolis
- July 27-29:** Membership Workshop, Indianapolis
- July 26:** Legacy Run Kickoff Party, North Branch Post 85
- July 27-30:** Minnesota American Legion Baseball Div. I Sr. State Tournament, Rochester
- July 27-29:** Minnesota American Legion Baseball Div. I Jr. State Tournament, Burnsville
- July 28-30:** Minnesota American Legion Baseball Div. II Sr. State Tournament, Roseau
- July 28-30:** Minnesota American Legion Fastpitch Softball State Tournament, New York Mills
- Aug. 6:** Milaca Post 178 Fly-In Breakfast, Milaca Airport
- Aug. 4-5:** Minnesota American Legion Baseball Prospect Series, Reynolds Field, Univ. of Northwestern, Roseville
- Aug. 4-6:** Minnesota American Legion Baseball Div. II Jr. State Tournament, Granite Falls
- Aug. 4-6:** Junior Fun Weekend, Legionville
- Aug. 10-15:** American Legion Baseball World Series
- Aug. 12-13:** ALA Officers & Chairmen Workshop, Melrose Post 101
- Aug. 15-20:** American Veterans Traveling Tribute, Murray County Fair, Slayton
- Aug. 19:** Fund 85 Run (Minn. Veterans Assistance Fund), Forest Lake Post 225
- Aug. 25-31:** 104th National Convention, Charlotte, N.C.
- Sept. 16-17, 22-24:** Americanism Conference, Indy
- Oct. 9-12:** Fall Meetings, Indianapolis
- Oct. 12-15:** Minnesota Legion College, Camp Ripley
- Oct. 26-28:** Department Fall Conference, River's Edge Convention Center, St. Cloud
- Nov. 11:** Veterans Day, local ceremonies

## National Report

Bill Barbknecht



District conventions are done, and the American Legion Baseball and Fastpitch Softball seasons are going on. Please take in a game, you will enjoy it.

The 104th Department of Minnesota Convention will be in the Solid 2nd District, hosted by the Redwood Falls American Legion Post 38. The gambling seminar is on Thursday, July 13, at 2 p.m. Please attend and hear what happened at St. Paul. *Not good.*

We look forward to the National Convention in Charlotte, N.C., Aug. 25-31, where we will elect Dan Seehafer from our neighboring state of Wisconsin for our national commander. Maybe this is a year Minnesota will get a team in the Baseball World Series in Shelby, N.C., in August 2023. It's been since Burnsville made it there in 2013. "Be the One."

Please check on your post members and others that may not be having a good time in their lives. We help each other while on active duty or not. So please "Be the One" to do the checking.

It is also time to go see those that have not renewed their membership as yet. It may just take that personal inquiry to help in so many ways. They need our Legion as our Legion needs them.

I thank the Minnesota American Legion Riders, for all they do for the Legion Family. We lost a great rider in Zandra Davenport. Our thoughts and prayers go to Garylee. We are all here for you, buddy.

In closing, The American Legion supports everyone, not like some elected officials in St. Paul, where they pick a group of people and forget our veterans, children and communities. We will have elections again, and we must never let them forget what they did to our communities, fire departments, EMTs and schools. Legislators just helped a certain group of lobbyists and big donors.

Enjoy your summer. Plan a post picnic or a special activity at your post home. Until next time if I can be of any help please call 218-770-6264. We are all volunteers. Donna and I always enjoy hearing of such activities, through social media or at Legion functions in the future.

*Bill Barbknecht of Underwood Post 489 is the Department of Minnesota's National Executive Committeeman.*

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## FREE TRAINING!

On any **American Legion** subject: Leadership, Officer Roles, Conducting Meetings, Committee Responsibilities, **You name it!** Tell us when, where (in person or via Zoom) and what. We'll do the rest. Contact us at [trainingcomm@mnlegion.org](mailto:trainingcomm@mnlegion.org).

# Taps

Continued from Page 5

<b>Range, David D.</b>	74	5/18/23	Navy	Vietnam	50	Rochester Post 92
<b>Rothmeier, Joseph S.</b>	85	5/14/23	Army	Korea	13	Springfield Post 257
<b>Rued, David E.</b>	91	6/3/23	Air Force	Korea	55	Aitkin Post 86
Note: He served in the Minnesota Senate from 1978 to 1982.						
<b>Ruppert, Daniel J.</b>	79	5/31/23	Army	Vietnam	51	Bloomington Post 550
<b>Saeger, Jack L.</b>	96	6/11/23	Navy	WWII	17	Litchfield Post 104
Note: He served as storekeeper on USS LST 598 and was in the Battle of Okinawa.						
<b>Scheffert, James W.</b>	89	5/25/23	Army	Korea	63	Le Center Post 108
<b>Schellin, Carl W.</b>	73	11/8/22	Army	Vietnam	51	Aitkin Post 86
<b>Schmalenberg, John</b>	77	5/13/23	Army	Vietnam	32	Fisher Post 242
Note: He served with the 173rd Airborne Brigade in the Vietnam War. He earned a Bronze Star and later was Polk County administrator.						
<b>Schneider, John H.</b>	93	4/19/23	Army	Korea	65	Albany Post 482
<b>Schwieder, Daniel A.</b>	75	2/24/23	Army	Vietnam	54	Amboy Post 276
<b>Seezs, Jeffery M. "Merm"</b>	62	5/23/23	Air Force	Leb/Gren	9	Marietta Post 156
<b>Spina, Stanley L.</b>	66	4/27/23	Army	Vietnam	20	Roosevelt Post 371
<b>Stein, Albert T.</b>	90	11/29/22	Army	Korea	35	St. Joseph Post 328
<b>Stender, Loren H.</b>	79	5/22/23	Navy	Vietnam	46	Anoka Post 102
<b>Stittsworth, Willis A.</b>	94	2/25/23	Army	Korea	47	Bemidji Post 14
<b>Talle, Herman L.</b>	91	3/2/23	Marines	Korea	54	Anoka Post 102
<b>Terry, Carrol A.</b>	100	5/25/23	Merchant M.	WWII	11	Winona Post 9
Note: He served on oil tankers in the North Atlantic, Caribbean, Pacific and Asian theaters between 1943 and 1946.						
<b>Thornton, Edmund F.</b>	80	5/18/23	Army	Vietnam	19	Lake City Post 110
<b>Vining, John D.</b>	78	12/27/22	Army	Korea	6	Clara City Post 485
<b>Wadd, Lowell J.</b>	97	5/12/23	Navy	WWII	XX	Waseca Post 228
<b>Walania, Richard</b>	71	3/6/23	Army	Vietnam	44	Eagle Lake Post 617
<b>Witte, Harold I.</b>	89	4/12/23	Army	Korea	25	Hector Post 135
<b>Wollin, Donald A.</b>	84	5/25/23	Army	Vietnam	41	Warba Post 432
<b>Wourms, Terrance H.</b>	84	2/1/22	Air Force	Korea	34	Grand Rapids Post 60
<b>Yttrevold, Martin O.</b>	72	6/8/23	Marine	Vietnam	7	Albert Lea Post 56

## Moorhead police officer enters smoke-filled house

Continued from Page 1  
children: Carter, 19, Evan, 17, and Abby, 14. They are active in sports and church. Carter presently is attending the U.S. Naval Academy.

On Jan. 8, 2009, a mail carrier reported a house fire. At the same time, Moorhead firefighters were occupied with a large structure fire. Icy roads and the other fire delayed the response.

"The front door was locked, but he found the back door open and announced his presence. There was no answer, but he observed the smoke-filled room and could make out a person's legs visible through the smoke in a reclined position on the furniture," according to a life-saving award he won.

The person was asleep and unaware of the fire. Kostohryz radioed dispatch and escorted the resident to safety.

On Feb. 18, 2012, he was the first to respond to a call at a railroad bridge. A woman called dispatch and threatened to jump onto the street below. Before she could climb over the safety rail, Kostohryz intervened by restraining her and getting her to a medical facility for treatment.

One day in 2013, an officer arrived at a scene before medical professionals and assumed CPR responsibilities for an adult man. He requested a defibrillator, and Kostohryz arrived and administered the shock and assisted with compressions. The medical team arrived and took over, and the man's life was saved.

Kostohryz also has been honored for being a leader in drunk-driving arrests and showing

teenagers the perils of driving while impaired.

His nomination came with letters of recommendation from the Moorhead police chief, Clay County sheriff, Moorhead superintendent, MSU-Moorhead director of public safety and Moorhead High School principal.

### Firefighter of the Year

The Minnesota American Legion Firefighter of the Year is a captain with the North Branch Fire Department.

Jason Russell has been with the department for 14 years, and he served 13 years prior in Wyoming, which is just south of North Branch.

With Wyoming, he served as an emergency medical technician, too, and was captain for four years. He was loaned at times to the U.S. Department of the Interior to fight wildfires and worked as a crew boss.

Opening his own business in North Branch — Russell's Automotive, 36189 Forest Blvd. — led to him switching fire departments. He and his wife, Brooke, have three children: Lexi, 16, Aubrey, 13, and Asher, 11. The father volunteers

for local sports. He has served as an adviser for Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts and as president of a local scholarship fund.

Russell enjoys hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, softball. He is involved in archery and trapshooting with his own children.

"Jason has been an invaluable leader sharing his knowledge and experience with younger members. At a time in their careers where many others would be slowing down, Jason has increased his time and commitment," wrote North Branch Post 85 Commander K. Rick Hals.

The commander said Russell now spends time mentoring the next generation of firefighters.

Russell received life-saving awards from North Memorial as a Wyoming firefighter. In 2000, he received congressional recognition, too.

Both Russell and Kostohryz are slated to appear at the 104th Department Convention in Redwood Falls this month.

Also coming is the Eagle Scout of the Year, Jackson Kramer of Hutchinson. He was featured in the April 2023 issue of The Minnesota Legionnaire. His project was educating people how to retire flags.

## DRIVING THE OMNIBUS



Officials from the Minnesota Commander's Task Force, a legislative group from congressionally chartered veteran service organizations, were on hand in St. Paul on Friday, June 16, when Gov. Tim Walz ceremonially signed the second Veterans & Military Omnibus Bill into law. In front is Vicky Garrison of Paralyzed Veterans of America. In the long row, from left, are John Flores of AMVETS, Jennifer Havlick of The American Legion, Trent Dilks of Disabled American Veterans, Rep. Jerry Newton of Coon Rapids, Gov. Tim Walz, Sen. Judy Seeberger of Afton, Ellsworth Fields of Disabled American Veterans, Barry Hendrickson of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Lou Michaels of the Jewish War Veterans and Mike Maxa of The American Legion. This session, the governor, House and Senate leaders, members of both parties, along with the CTF organizations, agreed that separating veterans issues from civilian issues via annual omnibus bills is good for Minnesota politics.

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## BY POPULAR REQUEST ...

N ABELER	Y FATEH	N LANG	Y PAPPAS
N ANDERSON	Y FRENTZ	Y LATZ	Y PHA
N BAHR	N GREEN	N LIESKE	Y PORT
Y BOLDON	N GRUENHAGEN	N LIMMER	N PRATT
Y CARLSON	Y GUSTAFSON	N LUCERO	Y PUTNAM
Y CHAMPION	Y HAUSCHILD	Y MANN	N RARICK
N COLEMAN	Y HAWJ	Y MARTY	N RASMUSSEN
Y CWODZINSKI	Y HOFFMAN	N MATHEWS	Y REST
N DAHMS	N HOUSLEY	Y MAYE QUADE	Y SEEBERGER
Y DIBBLE	N HOWE	Y MCEWEN	N UTKE
N DORNINK	N JASINSKI	N MILLER	N WEBER
N DRAHEIM	N JOHNSON	Y MITCHELL	N WESENBERG
N DRAZKOWSKI	Y KLEIN	Y MOHAMED	Y WESTLIN
N DUCKWORTH	N KORAN	Y MORRISON	N WESTROM
Y DZIEDZIC	N KREUN	Y MURPHY	Y WIKLUND
N EICHORN	Y KUNESH	N NELSON	Y XIONG
N FARNSWORTH	Y KUPEC	Y OUMOU VERBETEN	

American Legion and Auxiliary members from around Minnesota asked to have the votes on e-pulltabs in the Minnesota Legislature printed in the Legionnaire. On May 21, the Minnesota Senate voted on the Omnibus Tax Bill, with its plan to scale back e-pulltabs. The result is shown at top, with a 34-33 vote in favor of passage. The green Y's voted for the bill. The red N's voted against. This means the red N's supported keeping e-tabs as they had been.

ACOMB	EDELSON	HOWARD	MEKELAND	QUAM
AGBAJE	ELKINS	HUDELLA	MOLLER	REHM
ALTENDORF	ENGEN	HUDSON	MUELLER	REYER
ANDERSON, P. E.	FEIST	HUOT	MURPHY	RICHARDSON
ANDERSON, P. H.	FINKE	HUSSEIN	MYERS	ROBBINS
BACKER	FISCHER	IGO	NADEAU	SCHOMACKER
BAHNER	FOGELMAN	JACOB	NASH	SCHULTZ
BAKEBERG	FRANSON	JOHNSON	NELSON, M.	SCOTT
BAKER	FRAZIER	JORDAN	NELSON, N.	SENCER-MURA
BECKER-FINN	FREDERICK	JOY	NEU BRINDLEY	SKRABA
BENNETT	FREIBERG	KEELER	NEWTON	SMITH
BERG	GAROFALO	KIEL	NISKA	STEPHENSON
BIERMAN	GILLMAN	KLEVORN	NOOR	SWEDZINSKI
BLISS	GOMEZ	KNUDSEN	NORRIS	TABKE
BRAND	GREENMAN	KOEGEL	NOVOTNY	TORKELSON
BURKEL	GROSSELL	KOTYZA-WITTHUHN	O'DRISCOLL	URDAHL
CARROLL	HANSEN, R.	KOZLOWSKI	OLSON, B.	VANG
CHA	HANSON, J.	KOZNICK	OLSON, L.	WEST
CLARDY	HARDER	KRAFT	O'NEILL	WIENER
COULTER	HASSAN	KRESHA	PELOWSKI	WIENS
CURRAN	HEINTZEMAN	LEE, F.	PÉREZ-VEGA	WITTE
DANIELS	HEMMINGSEN-JAEG	LEE, K.	PERRYMAN	WOLGAMOTT
DAUDT	HER	LIEBLING	PETERSBURG	XIONG
DAVIDS	HICKS	LILLIE	PFARR	YOUAKIM
DAVIS	HILL	LISLEGARD	PINTO	ZELEZNIKAR
DEMUTH	HOLLINS	LONG	PRYOR	SPEAKER
DOTSETH	HORNSTEIN	MCDONALD	PURSELL	HORTMAN

There was a interesting moment on April 27 in the Minnesota House of Representatives to specifically vote against removing language harmful to e-tabs. In this case, the red dots voted against removal. In other words, the green dots supported keeping e-tabs as they had been. The result of the vote was 66-58 to keep the harmful language, with 10 not casting votes for one reason or another. The American Legion is indeed political when it comes to veterans issues and its mission of supporting local communities, and e-tabs helps in those charitable efforts. Still, despite this or any legislative vote, remember to remain nonpartisan. Party does not matter. The vote itself matters.

## The SAL Update:

### Thanks to everyone who helped out these 2 years

Greetings and SALutations!

As you are reading this, we have just finished our Detachment of Minnesota Convention. I would like to thank Anoka Post 102 for hosting our convention. I would also like to thank National Vice Commander David Mennel for attending. It was truly an honor and privilege to have you visit Minnesota.

In my last article, I took time out to thank my dart family and work family for everything they do so I can be your detachment commander. The list is too long to name people specifically last month, but they all know what they mean to me.

With this being my last article for the Legionnaire, I would like to give out some final acknowledgements:

To the Gittens-Leidel Post, Unit, and Squadron 595 Family in La Crescent, I would like to thank you for supporting me throughout this journey. It has been 27 years since I was first signed up as a member of my squadron, and if you would have asked me 27 years ago if I would be writing this, I would have laughed in your face and said

### Detachment commander

Tim Weaver



no way. Thank you all for supporting me and believing in me.

To the 1st District American Legion Family, thank you for everything that you have done. I was district commander in 2011 for the first time and it started a long and winding road. The names are too many in the district who guided me along, but we made it with every step of the way.

To the detachment officers and chairmen, I am just one person and could not have done this alone. We did great things together and raised a lot of money for very worthwhile causes. One that comes to mind is \$17,625.09 for the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation in 2021-22. There are a lot of projects that we worked together on to help raise funds for, and I know that we will continue to do so. Thank you all!

To Tom Fernlund, Patti Coleman, Ashley Stai, Jennifer Havlick, Mary Kuperus,

Sydney Borntreger and Ted Berg, it has truly been an honor to serve with you as the leadership of our great state. This has been two years that I will never forget as long as I live. Thank you!

To my father, Gary, thank you for being my chauffeur and my sounding board with ideas. You are the reason I am a member of the Sons of The American Legion. I know there were things that you may have rather been doing, but I appreciated every road trip, hotel stay, meal and everything in between. Most importantly, I appreciate you supporting me in this journey. I love you.

To my wife, Michelle, I love you so much and you have been by my side for 17 years as of this November, and we will have been married for 10 of those

years. I cannot imagine doing this journey with anyone other than you at my side. Thank you for everything you did, everything you didn't do, and at times just listening when I needed to rant. I love you.

Finally, to my mother, Chris; and grandmother, Bev, I'm sorry that neither of you are here in person to read this or have been to see the past two years. Both of you are the reason the poppy is my symbol and what pushed me to decide to be detachment commander. When I had ordered my commander pins, I received two pins that were in a separate bag from the rest which I knew was a sign I was doing something right. I can only hope that I did both of you proud. I love you both and miss you every day.

As always, please keep all our service personnel, both domestic and abroad in your thoughts and prayers.

*Tim Weaver of La Crescent Squadron 595 is the commander of the Detachment of Minnesota for the Sons of The American Legion.*

## Department of Minn. Commander's Project

ALMOST!

Department Commander Jennifer Havlick's Project raises funds for Minnesota families receiving mortgage-free smarthomes from Tunnel to Towers Foundation.

She also hopes to raise funds for Project Delta, which creates service dogs for veterans from rescue/shelter dogs, and for Eagle's Healing Nest, which helps veterans with the invisible wounds of war.

Contribution Deadline: July 15

Mail to American Legion Dept. of Minnesota, 20 W. 12th St. Room 300A, St. Paul, MN 55155-2000



Goal: \$60,000

Present: 96% at \$57,390

Shout out to Deer River Post 122 for a \$3,000 donation! Also thanks goes to Moorhead Post 21 and individual donors.

Make checks out to: Minnesota American Legion Foundation Fund 82. The foundation is a 501(c)3. Gambling funds are permitted.

Date of graphic: June 22

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### 25TH ANNIVERSARY GUN AND GEAR RAFFLE

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# Legion College is a good way to get skills noticed

Continued from Page 1

the Air Force, Marines and Navy all trained at Lackland. Anderson also got married in 1989.

His duty station ended up being Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort in South Carolina.

A few months later, on Aug. 2, 1990, Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein ordered his million-man army to invade Kuwait. In October, Uncle Sam sent Anderson and his unit, the 273rd Marine Wing Support Squadron, to Saudi Arabia. They went up to the border with Kuwait and were attached to the 1st Marines Division.

There, they waited. Once Desert Shield became Desert Storm, they watched Air Force and Navy sorties fly over, artillery barrages going north over the horizon, British Harrier jets take off and land straight up and down and Patriot missiles shoot down Scud missiles over their heads.

"I was so glad I had the stars and stripes on my shoulder, and I was not the other guys," Anderson said.

Anderson carried the M203 grenade launcher on his M-16. When the ground war came, the 1st Marines headed into Kuwait City. They did some urban fighting house to house. He saw enemy bodies. He may have been responsible for some of those enemy deaths, but it's not easy to tell for sure with a grenade launcher and the fog of war.

However, most of the time there, he said, was spent performing security and putting flexicuffs on EPWs — enemy prisoners of war. They would work with transportation units to take them to holding areas in the open desert.

And he saw the devastation



Anderson is a 3rd District vice commander. He and his wife enjoy camping at the Veterans Campground on Big Marine Lake, northeast of the Twin Cities.

left on the Highway of Death. It's a six-lane road in Kuwait north out of Kuwait City to the Iraq border, and in Iraq it becomes Highway 8. The other options are either indirect roads or bare desert. When coalition forces were driving Iraqi army out of Kuwait City, it was the most direct motorized retreat for them.

Between Feb 25 and 27, 1991, coalition forces attacked the retreating Iraqi personnel and between 1,400 and 2,000 vehicles. It started by attacking the head and rear vehicles, trapping all others on the road. From there, the destruction lasted 10 hours.

Anderson didn't view the entire Highway of Death, but he did see the portion nearest to Kuwait City.

"It was a turkey shoot. Everyone called it that," he said. "You'll never forget the stench of a burnt body. That's for sure."

They weren't in Kuwait long, he said, before they went back south. The unit went to King Fahd International Airport, where they were checking everyone for contraband.

Back in the States, Anderson met his son for the first time, 5-month-old Christopher Jr.

"I didn't have a say on the name, and they figured if I didn't survive the war there would be another me around," Anderson said.

This was not the age of cell-phones and instant communication. Most Gulf War troops had to pen letters home and carried pocket-sized film cameras. They developed the film after returning home.

He got to watch the birth of his son via the modern miracle of videotape — after he got home.

"Two complete strangers got to see the birth of my child before I did," he said.

Like many veterans, it took time to adjust after combat, death and destruction.

"The military does a great job of treating you for going to war, but they don't know how to treat you for coming back," Anderson said.

He left the Marines in 1993, and he and his family moved back to Minnesota. He and his wife split up in 1994, and she gave birth to their second son, Riley, in 1995. He met his current wife, Christine, in

1994 after the divorce, and they began dating in 1995. They were married in June 1997.

"She's my rock. She's seen it all with me over the years. It's why I'm successful over the years," he said.

In 1995 and 1996, Anderson went to Interstate Business College to learn autoCAD engineering softball. CAD stands for computer-aided design. The software is key for engineering and machining drafting and creation.

He moved to Wyoming first to work for a mining corporation, then was recruited away to work for an environmental firm in Colorado. He worked for the city of Bloomington in 1998 doing design work and inspecting. He lived in Richfield at the time, and he joined Bloomington VFW Post 1296 in 2009. He served as commander of it in 2012.

"My wife told me to get out of the house and join the VFW to spend some time with other veterans," Anderson said.

Later, he was with VFW Post 5555 in Richfield. He joined Richfield American Legion Post 435 in 2014.

Today, he works for Dakota County as a senior engineering technician. He's been there for 19 years. He runs the county lab in Empire Township, where he tests concrete and other materials. He and Christine live in Hastings. He was the commander of Hastings American Legion Post 47 until mid-June.

"I like thriving, active posts," he said. "I just slid from 1st vice commander to commander when the commander of our post had a health issue and had to step down."

Having been involved in both the Legion and VFW, he said he is turned off by some — not all — VFW members thinking the VFW is "superior" to other organizations because its members have deployed to combat zones or served in hostile waters. In the Legion, any veterans who have served anytime since Dec. 7, 1941, may join. (Of course, both require honorable service, too.)

He remains a member of both organizations and likes when they work well together.

In April 2022, Anderson went to Minnesota American Legion College at Camp Ripley and became excited about all that the Legion does for veterans. He learned the Four Pillars, conflict resolution, how to write resolutions, how to run a meeting and how to mentor new members.

"It made me want to become a better Legionnaire," he said. "It was good being around like-minded people."

He met then-1st District Commander Mike Parry and Past Department Commander Mike Ash, who witnessed his electronic skills and video-making capabilities. He became a member of the Department of Minnesota Media & Communication Committee at the 2022 Department Convention in Willmar.

As part of the committee, Anderson met Kane, who was on the M&C Committee at the time and now is the department service officer. Kane now is a member of Anderson's post, too.

At the 104th Department Convention in Redwood Falls this month, you no doubt will see the duo running around together.

# American Veterans Traveling Tribute

## Vietnam Memorial Wall & Cost of Freedom Exhibit

August 15-20  
 Slayton, MN

Murray County United Soccer Fields on Juniper Ave during the Murray County Fair

### Schedule of Events

**Tuesday, Aug 15**  
 Noon: Escort from Fulda to Slayton  
 1-3 p.m.: Set-up  
 7 p.m.: Opening Ceremonies  
 8 p.m.: Entertainment

**Wednesday, August 16**  
 7 p.m.: USO Show (fairgrounds)  
 \* Bob Hope impersonator and Fulda Big Band

**Friday, Aug 18**  
 TBD: Huey from Upper Midwest Vietnam Helicopter Association

**Saturday, Aug 19**  
 TBD: Huey from Upper Midwest Vietnam Helicopter Association  
 3:30 p.m. Closing Ceremonies  
 Flag Retirement

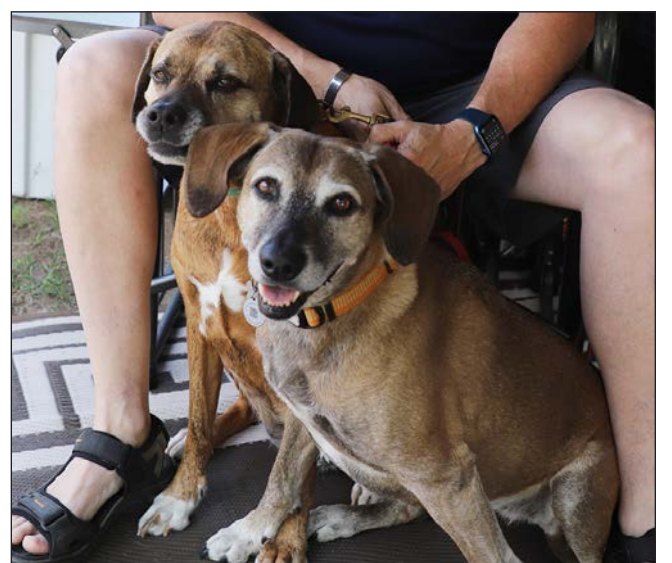
**Sunday, Aug 20**  
 TBD: Tear-down




Scan me for more info



American Legion Erwin March Post 64 Slayton, MN  
 Brad Pagel, Commander



Anderson's two dogs are Karlee and Jennie.





Deputy Commissioner of Healthcare Eric Meittunen stands in front of Building 10 on the campus of the Minneapolis Veterans Home on June 8. He comes to the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs, which runs the homes, after working for health providers around the state and in Detroit in the field of safety and risk reduction.

## The mission during the Gulf War became mail sorting and delivery

Continued from Page 1

backlog. This other unit that did mail was overwhelmed. There were football fields of mail waiting for distribution. At that point, we realized why we were there."

The 109th pretty much took over and created a more efficient offloading system based on zip codes. Sometimes, they were working in MOPP gear. Other times, they wouldn't notice the annihilation of a Scud missile because they were focused on mail.

The 109th received a letter from Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf thanking them for speeding up mail for troops across the region.

"This had an impact on the morale of the troops up north," Meittunen said.

The Army then sent the 109th to King Khalid Military City 120 miles south of the Iraq border, but they went a long way to get there — over to Riyadh, then up. That's a nine-hour journey in a regular car and probably slower as a military convoy.

Meittunen had a 1946 Willy's Overland Jeep in the war. How? Hey, it's a National Guard unit, and they brought a Jeep.

They didn't cross into Iraq, but they were familiar, like other soldiers, with the Scuds, the chem dumps and burn pits.

After the ground war, the 109th returned to Khobar Towers, a housing complex near King Abdul Aziz Air Base in Dhahran. Many coalition units stayed there as they prepared equipment for return via air and sea.

The unit flew to where they deployed from: Fort McCoy, Wis. People lined the route as they drove back to Duluth.

"It was a touching experience. I hope others will continue on with that," Meittunen said.

He decided aviation was great, but it wasn't the career for him. He pursued a graduate degree at the University of Wisconsin-Stout.

"It was a good setting — a small town — to be reacclimated," he said.

No longer drilling, Meittunen

wanted to distance himself from the military.

For college, Meittunen interned at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester. His master's thesis involved reducing nurse risk, and his work became Mayo policy. He became a quality consultant, moving around all departments and hospitals ensuring compliance and accreditation. He was there 12 years.

He earned an MBA from the Carlson School at the University of Minnesota and worked for the health care system in the United Kingdom. He lived outside of London for two years handling risk control and safety.

He then led clinic quality



and efforts to improve scores for HealthPartners, based in Bloomington. He was promoted to participate in the Coordinated Care Delivery System at HealthPartners' Regions Hospital in St. Paul.

"We were able to attract the most patients because of how we treated patients," he said.

However, after the CCDS closed at Regions, he began a consulting company and contracted with Fairview to improve satisfaction. His team brainstormed, designed, tested and implemented best practices. The effort was successful.

Meittunen then went to work in Detroit, where he worked on determining the right length of stay for patients. After that, his career path led him to Hennepin County Medical Center where he looked at how to better serve the patients based on the care HCMC offers.

When the job outline for deputy commissioner of healthcare at the Minnesota

Department of Veterans Affairs popped up, he applied. The position requires the applicant to be a veteran, and he felt it was a good match.

"I thought this is fabulous," he said. "If I have a chance to bookend my career, this is it."

The first place he toured was the Hastings Veterans Home, which is a domiciliary geared primarily for veterans dealing with substance abuse and other wellness issues, rather than a nursing home like the other four sites. He met the veterans residing there. He spoke with the staff and learned why they enjoy serving veterans.

"I'm just trying to learn about others, and I've been impressed," Meittunen said. "Ultimately, the needs of the veterans come first. To succeed with those needs, we need to be supportive of the needs of our staff."

He spoke of creating a culture of trust and rapport, which he said would lead to improved outcomes.

Meittunen visited Fergus Falls June 24 and is visiting the other homes in person over the summer.

As for the three new nursing homes, Meittunen said he is focused on construction and staffing. He said the progress is in good shape, and he needs to make sure things stay on track.

He resides in Edina with his wife, Stacey, who is vice chair on the board of directors at Second Harvest Heartland, which is primarily known for fighting hunger in the region by being the wholesaler for food shelves.

They have twin sons, Wyatt and Dillon, age 14.

Meittunen volunteers with the Hennepin County Substance Abuse Court and Veterans Court.

He didn't seek veterans benefits or VA medical care until he met a Navy veteran in 2019 who was the CEO of the Northpoint Clinic in Minneapolis.

Meittunen found VA health care to be "life-changing" and says he is a better person as a result. He said he wishes to help others give it a try.

# Minn. Legion Baseball celebrates 100 seasons

Continued from Page 1

It also helps that, in general, travel ball (or club baseball) costs more than Legion ball. Players on a lot of Legion teams don't pay any fees because the local Legion post covers costs along with the players themselves doing fundraisers such as an annual banquet or car washes and so on.

"In Montevideo, the kids pay for a uniform, glove and shoes. That's it," he said.

He said Montevideo American Legion Post 59 funds the town's Div. II Sr. team, and Montevideo VFW Post 380 funds the Div. II Jr. team. Both teams participate in the Legion Baseball program, and the Junior team won the state title last year.

Teams playing Legion Baseball are sponsored overwhelmingly by Legion posts, but a handful are sponsored either by a VFW post or their local baseball association.

This year, Minnesota flirted with 400 teams. They were around 395 before dropping down to 383, then 382.

"Teams think they will have enough players and sometimes guys get jobs or play somewhere else or decide to spend the summer at a cabin up north, so some teams have to drop out," Raymo said.

The other vice director, Jeff Miller, said Minnesota was praised at the American Legion Spring Conference in Indianapolis.

"They said we set the example of how to run a baseball program."

He said many state baseball committees allows mega-teams from multiple school districts in an effort to win the American Legion World Series. Minnesota seeks to have the most kids playing baseball and adheres to keeping teams to their local communities.

Miller said Minnesota also cares a lot about big and small schools. Some states have problems when one or the other side take control of the state committee and disrupts that balance.

"We don't always get along," Raymo said, "but there is good debate."

Fastpitch softball for high school girls is not a national program — yet — but several departments have it. This is Minnesota's second year.

## Best in the country!

Minnesota has led the nation in baseball teams since 2014. Here are the total number of teams Minnesota American Legion Baseball has fielded in this decade of being the best:

2014:	306
2015:	306
2016:	323
2017:	357
2018:	351
2019:	366
2020:	0 (canceled)
2021:	372
2022:	383
2023:	382

Director Michael Arvidson said there are 28 teams registered, one more than last year.

All members of the Minnesota baseball and softball committees remind coaches to get their registration complete, and Raymo said it is more complicated than the public may imagine.

For baseball, everything is tracked digitally through the national registration system at [baseball.legion.org](http://baseball.legion.org) — fees, insurance, abuse training and background check. For softball, it is done at [minnesotalegion-softball.com](http://minnesotalegion-softball.com).

Furthermore, Minnesota state law requires coaches to undergo concussion protocol training.

Another advantage in Minnesota is the state committees for softball and baseball programs pay for the background checks and other requirements, he said, and it helps to have the Scheels St. Cloud store as official sponsor. Raymo said it prevents raising fees.

Raymo tracks all of the teams in spreadsheets and reminds fellow committee members to contact teams in their districts that have fallen behind the deadlines.

"It's a lot of work. We will have something like 1,100 coaches this year. All those steps had to be done by June 10, and the roster deadline was June 15," he said.

The biggest challenge, he said, is baseball coaches are busy in the spring with high school baseball, and it is hard for them to find the time to get steps done for Minnesota American Legion Baseball.

Much of the reason for Minnesota standing out has been growth in Junior Legion teams. Senior Legion is 19 and under. Junior Legion is 17 and under. Division II is for teams from school districts (called "base school" in the rulebook) from schools with 10th-12th-grade enrollment of 400 or less. Division I is for the rest.

Minnesota Legion Baseball began in 1923. There was one division, and today is considered Div. I Senior. This year would be the 101st season, but COVID resulted in the cancellation of the 2020 season. That makes 2023 the 100th season. However, it is only the 97th postseason. The first postseason was played in 1926.

Did you know the Minnesota American Legion Baseball Div. I Senior State Tournament is 21 years older than the Minnesota State High School League State Baseball Tournament?

Div. II play began in 1987. Div. I Junior began in 2009. Div. II Junior began in 2017.

"Adding Junior Baseball for the rural areas six years ago was a big jump," Raymo said. "Teams came over from VFW and Babe Ruth programs."

He said Minnesota also treats the four state tournaments with equal importance. Champions and runners-up get the same trophies and medals, regardless of division or age group.

## A new mobile app

Minnesota American Legion Baseball this season has a new mobile app. It is the first department in The American Legion with a cellphone app of any sort.

Baseball Secretary Tim Engstrom created the app as a means to save money on printing and postage for rulebooks. Now, Minnesota American Legion Baseball and National American Legion Baseball rules, along with Major League Baseball rules, all can be found in a single place at the touch of a button.

To find it, search the app store for "Minnesota Legion Baseball" and it pops up. The app is free and has no in-app purchase. However, it does allow teams to report scores. The app has daily scores from baseball games all around the state, and it has the rankings for each division as well as history, contact information and the Code of Sportsmanship.



To download the app, search for "Minnesota Legion Baseball" in the iPhone's App Store or Android's Google Play. You can find rules, scores, history and more.

# Resolutions of the 2023 convention

*Note: The Department Executive Committee passed a resolution at the Fall Conference in October to expand Minnesota American Legion Fastpitch Softball. It was Resolution No. 2023-1. That is why the resolution below begins with 2.*

## Department of Minnesota Resolution No. 2023-2

**Received:** 15 Mar 2023

**Title:** Modification to include Correctional Officers for Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

**Author:** District 7 {Carl R. Wilson}

**Summary:** A resolution to modify the eligibility of the American Legion National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award to include all Correctional Officers.

WHEREAS, Current eligibility is for U.S. citizens, male or female and living, active, full-time, and paid, sworn law enforcement officers entrusted with full authority and the powers of arrest, assigned to or fully recognized by municipal, county, district, or state police; highway patrol; sheriff's office or as a sworn federal law enforcement officer (FBI, Secret Service agent, U.S. Marshal, National Park Police, U.S. Capitol Police, etc.) Military police officers or investigators are eligible if they are state law enforcement certified and

WHEREAS, There are approximately 500,000 trained or certified Correction Officers employed by County, State or Federal Law enforcement agencies and in many jurisdictions, they are considered Law Enforcement officers, who supervise 2.5 million inmates, and their primary duty is to maintain and control those individuals that have violated the laws of our nation, and secure those individuals that are duly arrested and

WHEREAS, Correction Officers regularly interact with those arrested, some of which may have severe emotional or mental health problems, by entering their cell, transporting them from point A to B or break up fights, all while providing the arrestees basic medical needs, legal rights, spiritual needs, and civil rights, that may have a meaningful impact on the lives of incarcerated people, all while putting their lives on the line everyday they go to work generally working unarmed, equipped with communication devices only so they can summon help if needed resulting in thousands of Correction Officers being injured every year, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, by the 7th District of the Department of Minnesota in conference assembled at Granite Falls on January 28th, 2023, that the requirements for the award for Law Enforcement Officer of the Year be amended to include Corrections Officers, and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded for Presentation to the Department of Minnesota Convention July 12-15, 2023 in Redwood Falls, MN. for adoption and upon adoption and be it finally

RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded for presentation to the American Legion National Convention August 25-31, 2023, in Charlotte, North Carolina for consideration and adoption.

Approved and submitted to the Department of Minnesota for concurring action 15/03/23.

**Karen Welander**  
7th District Commander

**David "Chip" Manson**  
7th District Adjutant

## Department of Minnesota Resolution No. 2023-7

**Received:** 22 May 2023

**Title:** Creation of the Technology and Innovation Committee

**Author:** Third District {Sarah Sturner}

WHEREAS, The American Legion Department of Minnesota's membership has declined as the older generations are not being replaced by the younger generations and

WHEREAS, Multidirectional communication at all levels is difficult as there is a lack of streamlined operational communication methodology and

WHEREAS, Communication and outdated methodology affects every aspect of the American Legion's success, from the Department to the post level and

WHEREAS, lack of coordination, steering, standardization, and strategic planning for modern, efficient communication, business processes, and engagement through innovations and technology creates inefficiencies that hinder membership recruitment, engagement and

WHEREAS, almost every organization today has an information technology or systems department responsible for providing ways to implement and facilitate the flow of information through the company and: now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the 3rd District Executive Board in Annual Convention assembled in Forest Lake, MN on May 19th and 20th, 2023, That The American Legion Department of MN shall establish a Technology and Innovation Committee at the Department level; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Technology and Innovation Committee's purpose is to support and enhance Department operations,



programs, and all committees through technology and process innovation, by driving solutions that result in increased membership, engagement, ease of use, and automation, for Posts Districts, and Department; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Technology and Innovation Committee shall consist of five appointed members, including an elected Chair, and shall report to the Department Commander; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Department Communications Director, Department Adjutant, Department Service Officer, and Department technical and innovation employees and contractors shall sit on the Committee as non-voting staff advisors, and the remaining members will be selected at large based on knowledge or education pertaining to technology and innovation and experience required as an active Post Officer and a District Officer; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Committee members must ensure training and either be able to use and train others on newly introduced technology and innovation (business processes and services) by creating and documenting training guides or using a third-party provider and disseminating them statewide via the department website, email, social media, and in-person training at Legion College, Fall Conference, and other training opportunities; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That of the five members appointed immediately following the 2023 Department Convention, three shall serve a term of three years, one shall serve a term of two years, and one shall serve a term of one year; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That thereafter, appointments to fill expiring terms shall be made annually by the Department Commander, and such appointments shall be for terms of three years; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Department Commander is authorized to make such interim appointments as may be required to fill vacancies in unexpired terms and to replace inactive members or those members deemed ineffective; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Department Commander may appoint such consultants and Department Commander's Representatives as he may deem appropriate; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Technology and Innovation Committee is recommended to meet a minimum of once monthly and provide reporting to the Department Commander; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That upon approval, this resolution will be forwarded to the Department Adjutant for consideration and action by the Department of MN Convention regularly convened at Redwood Falls, MN, on July 12-15, 2023, and upon the adoption of such committee, the Department Adjutant shall update Department records to reflect the above.

Approved and submitted to the Department of Minnesota for concurring action 5/22/23.

**Gary Richardson**  
3rd District Commander

**Linda Dvorak**  
3rd District Adjutant

## Department of Minnesota Resolution No. 2023-8

**Received:** 22 May 2023

**Title:** Creation of the Grants, Funding and Nonprofit Services Committee

**Author:** Third District {Sarah Sturner}

WHEREAS, billions of dollars were lost in 2022 in unused grants across the nation; some of which fell underneath at least one of the American Legion's 4 Pillars and

WHEREAS, during the Pandemic, US restaurants applying for grants lost \$5 million due to submitting applications with incorrect information and

WHEREAS, some of the billions of dollars in unused grant funds were applied for but rejected because the applying organizations didn't meet application deadlines or have the correct information necessary to apply for the grant; Tax ID number, tax reporting, incorrect Form 990s or have organized supporting information and

WHEREAS, without organizing and centralizing this effort, The American Legion Department of MN is losing out on grants, benefits afforded to nonprofits such as tools and services, and modern fundraising methods and: now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the 3rd District Executive Board in Annual Convention assembled in Forest Lake, MN on May 19th and 20th, 2023, That The American Legion Department of MN shall establish a Grants, Funding and Nonprofit Services Committee at the Department level; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Grants, Funding, and Nonprofit Services Committee's purpose is to support Department operations, programs committees, districts, and posts through research, detecting

trends, determining current best practices by providing knowledge, and documentation around modernizing fundraising, applying for grants and technical tools and various services afforded to nonprofits; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Grants, Funding and Nonprofit Services Committee will effectively train and disseminate information in the following areas but not limited to best practices and workflows regarding grant applications, requests for donations, starting a 501C3, yearly requirements, creating a Legion Family fund, templates of letters to governing bodies, opening a checking account correctly, filing and understanding a Form 990, applying for grants and technology tools and services afforded to nonprofits, and knowing what to look for when signing paperwork; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Grants, Funding and Nonprofit Services Committee will research modern, effective fundraising methods, and legal charitable fundraising methods (outside of daily gambling operations), create and document guidelines, and publicly acknowledge and award successful districts and posts; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Grants, Funding and Nonprofit Services Committee members must ensure training by creating and documenting training guides or using a third-party provider and disseminating them state-wide via the department website, email, social media, and in-person training at Legion College, Fall Convention, and other training opportunities; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Grants and Funding Committee will collaborate with Legion Family leadership and committees to exchange knowledge, and the Committee will take part in Department strategic planning; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Grants, Funding and Nonprofit Services Committee shall consist of five appointed members, including an elected Chair, and shall report to the Department Commander; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Department Comptroller, Department Adjutant, Department Service Officer, and Department grant writing employees and contractors shall sit on the Committee as non-voting staff advisors, and the remaining members will be selected at large based on knowledge or education about grants, nonprofit fundraising, charitable gambling fundraising, and nonprofit tools and services and experience required and a member in good standing in The American Legion Department of Minnesota; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That of the five members appointed immediately following the 2023 Department Convention, three shall serve a term of three years, one shall serve a term of two years, and one shall serve a term of one year; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That thereafter, appointments to fill expiring terms shall be made annually by the Department Commander, and such appointments shall be for terms of three years; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Department Commander is authorized to make such interim appointments as may be required to fill vacancies in unexpired terms and to replace inactive members or those members deemed ineffective; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Department Commander may appoint such consultants and Department Commander's Representatives as he may deem appropriate; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Grants, Funding and Nonprofit Services Committee will meet a minimum of once monthly and provide reporting to the Department Commander; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That upon approval, this resolution will be forwarded to the Department Adjutant for consideration and action by the Department of MN Convention regularly convened at Redwood Falls, MN, on July 12-15, 2023, and upon the adoption of such committee, the Department Adjutant shall update Department records to reflect the above.

Approved and submitted to the Department of Minnesota for concurring action on 5/31/23.

**Gary Richardson**  
3rd District Commander

**Linda Dvorak**  
3rd District Adjutant

## Department of Minnesota Resolution No. 2023-9

**Received:** 22 May 2023

**Title:** Resolution for Department National Security & Foreign Relations Committee

**Author:** District 7 Executive Committee

WHEREAS, In September each year, Department National Security & Foreign Relations Committee conducts training and introduction of National Security programs to District Commanders and District National Security & Foreign Relations Committee Chairs at Camp Ripley, near Little Falls, MN; and

WHEREAS, Department National Security & Foreign Relations Committee members (currently five members and one Member Emeritus) during this same weekend at Camp Ripley, reviews, grades and select its annual Outstanding Enlisted Members of the Year; and

WHEREAS, District National Security & Foreign Relations Committee Chairs often deeply supports, promotes and helps Guard & Reserve Units submit applications for the Outstanding

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# Resolutions

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Enlisted Members of the Year program; and

WHEREAS, Department National Security Committee members attend this annual event via a formal Call Letter and District National Security Committee Chairs & District Commanders attend via invitation; and

WHEREAS, District National Security & Foreign Relations Committee Chairs are already at Camp Ripley at the time the 5-member committee discusses and selects the winners; and now be it

RESOLVED, Seventh District Executive Committee passed a resolution at its District Convention, May 20, 2023, that regardless of status (Call Letter or Invitation), the Department of Minnesota National Security & Foreign Relations Committee change its policy to allow attending District National Security & Foreign Relations Committee Chairs to participate in discussions and voting on the Outstanding Enlisted of the Year selection process; and be it further

RESOLVED, this resolution be forwarded to the Department Convention to be held in Morton, Minnesota July 12 – 15, 2023 for concurring action; and be it finally

RESOLVED, if approved, the Department National Security & Foreign Relations implement this new policy at its September 2023 Camp Ripley event.

Approved and submitted to the Department of Minnesota for concurring action 5/22/23.

**Karen Welander**  
7th District Commander

**David “Chip” Manson**  
7th District Adjutant

## Department of Minnesota Resolution No. 2023-10

Received: 22 May 2023

**Title:** Resolution to Change/Modify District & Department of Minnesota Constitution and By-Laws

**Author:** District 7 Executive Committee

WHEREAS, Department of Minnesota Constitution, page 9, ARTICLE ELEVEN in Discipline says, “The provision of the National Constitution and By-Laws relating thereto shall govern the discipline of posts and members of this department”, and

WHEREAS, National Constitution, page 22, Section 1. “A charge that any Post should, for any good and sufficient cause, have its charter cancelled, suspended or revoked may be initiated by any intermediate body between the Post and the Department, or by any three Posts of the Department in which the Post accused is located or the Department Executive Committee. A charge may be withdrawn only with the consent of the Department Commander”, and

WHEREAS, The National Constitution only identifies discipline as “cancelled, suspended, or revoked charters” and does not provide other Post discipline options, and

WHEREAS, Department Executive Committee needs other options to address the serious issues facing our members, Posts, Districts and Department, and

WHEREAS, these additional options should include the possibility of probation, banishment, and/or removal of Posts and/or Post Officers directing or participating in such actions; and now be it

RESOLVED, Seventh District members passed a resolution at its annual District convention on May 20th, 2023 at Spicer Post 545, that District and Department of Minnesota Constitutions and By-Laws be amended to provide appropriate options that allows District and Department DEC’s to address the serious situations being faced at Posts, Districts & Department levels; and be it further

RESOLVED, this resolution be forwarded to the Department Convention to be held in Morton, Minnesota July 12 – 15, 2023 for concurring action; and be it finally

RESOLVED, if approved, the Posts identified by the DEC in 2023 as “problem” posts be notified of these new options and that recurrence of said events will result in further/more immediate action.

Approved and submitted to the Department of Minnesota for concurring action 5/22/23.

**Karen Welander**  
7th District Commander

**David “Chip” Manson**  
7th District Adjutant

## Department of Minnesota Resolution No. 2023-11

Received: 22 May 2023

**Title:** Special Committee Be Established to Study MN Department District Boundaries & Recommendations to Realign and/or Combine districts.

**Author:** District 7 Executive Committee

WHEREAS, Per Department of Minnesota Constitution, Article Three, Section 2, the current MN Department District Boundaries are established based on Congressional Districts as organized prior to the reapportionment action of Congress, 1930; and

WHEREAS, Few American Legion Districts continue to use the County Council program and Congressional Districts are realigned each decade based on political priorities and changes in demographics; and



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WHEREAS, Since 1930, the number of veterans residing in Minnesota Counties have migrated to other locations in search of employment opportunities, housing, and medical facilities; and

WHEREAS, there are Districts already working closely together to share resources, manning, program goals, etc.; and

WHEREAS, Membership goals & number of posts supported vary greatly from one District to another; and now be it

RESOLVED, The members of District 7, Department of Minnesota, passed a resolution at its District Convention meeting on May 20, 2023, at Spicer Post 545 asking the Department of Minnesota to establish a Department Realignment Committee - made up of District & Department Officers to - study and prepare a report on potential realignment and/or elimination of current district boundaries - evaluating number of posts per district, drive time to posts (north-to-south, east- to-west) number of legion members per district officer; number of veterans in each county, etc.; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this approved resolution be forwarded to the Department of Minnesota Adjutant for presentation to the Department Convention attendees/select committees assembled for its annual convention in Morton, MN July 12-15, 2023; and be it finally

RESOLVED, the final approved recommended realignments be voted on at the October 2023 Fall Conference DEC meeting and formally implemented at the close of the 2024 Convention.

Approved and submitted to the Department of Minnesota for concurring action 5/22/23.

**Karen Welander**  
7th District Commander

**David “Chip” Manson**  
7th District Adjutant

## Department of Minnesota Resolution No. 2023-12

Received: 31 May 2023

**Title:** Virtual and Online Training Development

**Author:** Submitted by: Robert J. Schmidt/ Commander Post 110

WHEREAS, The rising costs associated with sending members to attend the Minnesota Legion College have become prohibitive for many Posts in greater Minnesota, and

WHEREAS, Potential attendees are less likely to attend if they are not financially supported by their Post or if they have to pay out of pocket to cover the costs, and

WHEREAS, The continued success and increased effectiveness of the American Legion depends upon the future development of members and leadership at all levels of the American Legion, and

WHEREAS, We live in a fast-changing world and have seen rapid advances in electronic technology and virtual training platforms such as Zoom, Google Meet, Microsoft Teams, Vimeo, and

WHEREAS, Electronic and Virtual training has been proven to offer several benefits. Students can take the classes from their chosen location, at their own pace, offering geographic flexibility, and eliminating the costs of meals, lodging, transportation, and

WHEREAS, Many of the states organized under the American Legion have already developed online education platforms for members and officers of the American Legion that provide online training and workshops in assorted curriculums ranging from American Legion Basic Training to Officer Leadership Training, and

WHEREAS, The continued success and increased effectiveness of the American Legion depends upon further improvement in the performance of state, district, and post members and officers, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Louis McCahill American Legion Post 110, assembled in Lake City, Minnesota, on April 17, 2023, adopted Resolution No. 1, requesting that the American Legion Department of Minnesota immediately fund, create, and staff a comprehensive online training program for members to include the Minnesota American Legion College, and be it

RESOLVED, That Post 110 requests that: Resolution No. 1 be presented and discussed by the membership assembled at the 1st District American Legion Convention at Kasson Post 333, in Kasson, Minnesota on May 20 2023, and urges that it be adopted. And be it

RESOLVED, Upon approval and adoption at the 1st District Convention, Resolution No. 1. be forwarded to the Minnesota Department Convention being held in Redwood Falls, Minnesota on July 12-15, 2023, for their consideration. The 1st District of the American Legion, Department of Minnesota urges members at the Department Convention to adopt Resolution No. 1.

Approved and submitted to the Department of Minnesota for concurring action 5/22/23.

**Mary Hanson**  
1st District Commander

**Wayne Hammond Jr.**  
1st District Adjutant

## Department of Minnesota Resolution No. 2023-13

Received: 31 May 2023

**Title:** Serviceman Voluntary Association with The American Legion

**Author:** District 1 & Post 90

WHEREAS, The American Legion is a Congressionally Chartered organization directed to safeguard the interests and welfare of Servicemen and veterans; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is only open to membership by qualified Veterans of the United States military; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is mindful of protecting all private information of Servicemembers and Veterans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Lewiston American Legion, Post 90, assembled in Lewiston Minnesota on September 30th, 2022, That the American Legion requests the Congress of the United States, in its next session, pass a bill requiring all active duty that are retiring or ending their term of service be given paperwork at the time of their out- processing that allows them to volunteer their contact information to the National Office of the American Legion and further,

RESOLVED, this resolution approved and submitted to the first district for action on 9/30/2022 be forwarded to the First District American Legion Convention assembled on May 20th, 2023, at Kasson American Legion Post 333 in Kasson, MN for concurring action and upon their approval be forwarded to the American Legion Department of Minnesota Convention assembled in Redwood Falls, MN on July 12-15, 2023 for concurring action, and be it finally

RESOLVED, upon concurring action by the Department be it forwarded to the National American Legion Convention to be assembled on August 25 - 31, 2023 in Charlotte, North Carolina for consideration.

Approved and submitted to the Department of Minnesota for concurring action 5/22/23.

**Mary Hanson**  
1st District Commander

**Wayne Hammond Jr.**  
1st District Adjutant

## Department of Minnesota Resolution No. 2023-14

Received: 12 June 2023

**Title:** Resolution for Department Americanism Programs to be chaired by American Legion Members

**Author:** American Legion Nelsan Horton Post #104, Litchfield

WHEREAS, the American Legion adopted an Americanism Committee at its first convention held in Minneapolis, MN November 1919 and included Americanism as one of its Four Pillars; and

WHEREAS, the American Legion’s Constitution requires current American Legion membership. This membership confers the honor of voting at Post, District, Department and National levels when decisions are made by the American Legion as it performs its constitutional mandates; and

WHEREAS, committee-appointed chairmanships have been, at times, given to non-American Legion members over American Legion members and/or waived by Posts, Districts and Departments. It is imperative that the information and authorization goes through the local Post and is signed off for sponsorship, control and liability reasons so the local Legion Posts are knowledgeable and in charge of all American Legion Americanism programs; and

WHEREAS, while the American Legion values non-members who contribute/volunteer as members of Americanism Committees and their programs; many American Legion Auxiliary, SAL, Riders, teachers, mentors, coaches, etc. are not members of the American Legion. When approved by an American Legion Chairperson, these volunteers are afforded the opportunity to serve as committee members; and

WHEREAS, National, Departments, District and Posts have accepted non-American Legion sponsored Americanism programs and thus non-Legion chairpersons in baseball, softball, oratorical contests and other Americanism programs. This is especially concerning and important if changes need to be made to stay within American Legion-adopted goals. By-passing American Legion membership as Chairpersons, or not communicating through the local American Legion Post, or other leadership positions such as business managers, etc. could create many problems for the

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# Resolutions

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local Post or the American Legion and what it stands for; and WHEREAS, the concern of accepting non-Legion sponsorship as policy does not follow what was adopted and included in the original Constitution and By-Laws; and

WHEREAS, by the American Legion retaining control of Committee Chair positions, Business Managers, etc. the Legion's objectives of its Americanism Committee programs will continue to be maintained into future programs. Important objectives of such programs include demonstrating respect of our flag, teaching the value of citizenship, the practice of standing for the National Anthem and the practice of reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, Code of Sportsmanship, etc. By ensuring all information and control goes through the American Legion Post these values are followed; and

WHEREAS, by retaining and maintaining control of Americanism Chairmanships and communication through the American Legion Posts it demonstrates the American Legion Values its programs. It is assured these Chairs and Posts receive the current publications, magazines, and the latest information which enhances and makes it important to eligible Veterans to join the American Legion and be involved in the Americanism programs; and now be it.

RESOLVED, Nelsan Horton Post #104 of Litchfield, Minnesota at a regular meeting held in 2022 and reaffirmed at its January 30, 2023 meeting, adopted Americanism Resolution reaffirming that Americanism committees shall follow American Legion Constitution and By-Laws and adopt procedures for all National, Department, District and Legion Posts official appointments of Americanism Committee Chairs be made only to current American Legion members; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution was considered and approved at District 7's June 2022 District Convention and reapproved at District 7 Executive Committee meeting April 1st, 2023; and be it further

RESOLVED, this resolution be forwarded to the Department Convention to be held in Morton, Minnesota July 12-15, 2023 for concurring action; and be it further

RESOLVED, if approved, this resolution be implemented within all Department of Minnesota Americanism programs beginning with the new 2023-2024 membership year; and be it finally

RESOLVED, if approved, this resolution be forwarded to the American Legion National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina August 29-31, 2023 for concurring action.

Approved and submitted to the Department of Minnesota for concurring action 6/12/23.

**Karen Welander**  
7th District Commander

**David "Chip" Manson**  
7th District Adjutant

## Resolutions before the Department of Minnesota Executive Committee

Editor's note: The proposed resolutions printed in full in the Legionnaire are for the general membership to read so posts can instruct their delegates how to vote on them. Please read them thoroughly.

## Where to find annual reports from each of the committees?

To save printing costs and space for post-level submission, the annual committee reports will be published online at the department's award-winning website, [mnlegion.org](http://mnlegion.org). Look for them under the "Department" tab, then hover on "TALMN Committee." You will see "Committee Reports." They are downloadable PDF in printable booklet form. If you are attending the convention, printing them to bring is recommended.

Meanwhile, there are other resolutions before the Department Executive Committee, which meets on July 12, the evening before the convention begins. There, it is to consider six resolutions. Here is a summary of them:

### Department of Minnesota Resolution No. 2023-3

**Date Received:** 28 Mar 2023

**Title:** Create an Internal Affairs Committee

**Author:** Department of Minnesota Internal Affairs Ad Hoc Committee

**Editor's summary:** Commander Jennifer Havlick created the Internal Affairs Ad Hoc Committee during her term, and this resolution proposes making it a standing committee of the Department of Minnesota. The resolution charges the committee with reviewing the Constitution & By-Laws, along with mandates, authorizations and working with the judge advocate.

The resolution creates a three-person committee, each with staggered three-year terms.

### Department of Minnesota Resolution No. 2023-4

**Date Received:** 28 Mar 2023

**Title:** Department of Minnesota Constitution & By Laws Electronic version only

**Origin:** Department of Minnesota Internal Affairs Ad Hoc Committee

**Editor's summary:** This resolution explains cost of printing the Constitution & By-Laws is burdensome and reminds the DEC the committee recommended the Constitution & By-Laws be made available in electronic version only, with the Internal Affairs Committee providing updates as they are approved.

### Department of Minnesota Resolution number: 2023-5

**Received:** 1 May 2023

**Title:** Change to Constitution and Mandates

**Author:** Department Executive Committee

**Editor's summary:** This resolution calls for amending the Department of Minnesota Constitution to remove where it states in Section 7, Sentence 5 the following: "The Department Service Officer shall be selected by the Standing Department Rehabilitation Committee and shall be paid such salary and expenses as may be determined by said committee with the approval of the Department Executive Committee." The resolution also would rescind the corresponding 1948 DEC mandate that put Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Committee in charge of the department service officer.

This action would bring the department service officer and assistant department service officer under the same supervisor — the adjutant — as the rest the other four department staff.

The resolution notes that the adjutant is responsible for filling out grant paperwork for funding the two positions in the first place. They are the only staff positions supervised by a committee rather than the adjutant.

### Department of Minnesota Resolution No.: 2023-6

**Date Received:** 28 Mar 2023

**Title:** American Legion Flag & Emblem Sales, Female Uniform Availability

**Origin:** Department of Minnesota Legion College Class of 4/23/2023 {Team Red Dragons}

**Editor's summary:** This resolution stems from the most recent Minnesota Legion College class, held in April at Camp Ripley. It says American Legion Flag & Emblem Sales should offer female sizes and uniforms on all apparel, "so that all female veterans have uniforms that fit their needs and preferences." Presently, it is common knowledge that Emblem Sales has a limited amount of women's clothing and most items are sized for men.

### Department of Minnesota Resolution No.: 2023-15

**Date Received:** 13 June 2023

**Title:** Preserve Housing for Veteran Students Pursuing Online Education

**Author:** Janet Lorenzo Assistant Department Service Officers, Ray Kane Department Service Officer and Marissa Capra

**Editor's summary:** This resolution calls for the Department of Minnesota to take up an effort to ask the federal government to preserve housing benefits for students veterans pursuing online education under Chapter 33 of the G.I. Bill.

Supporting documentation argues it is important to not limit G.I. Bill housing benefits for students taking online courses. "Many veterans, due to their unique circumstances, such as disabilities, family responsibilities, or geographic limitations, find online education particularly suitable for their needs." Reasons given are flexibility, geography, transition to civilian life, access to specialized programs and cost savings.

The resolution asks the DEC to forward this resolution to the Department Convention for consideration.

### Resolution No.: 2023-16

**Date Received:** 13 June 2023

**Title:** Assessing the Effects of Anthrax Vaccinations on Veterans, Service Members and National Guard Personnel

**Author:** Ray Kane Department Service Officer and Janet Lorenzo Assistant Department Service Officer

**Editor's summary:** An April visit to the University of Minnesota Brain Sciences Center, which is a research chair created and endowed by The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary here in Minnesota, yielded interesting facts about the anthrax shots many Persian Gulf War-era veterans received. This discussion was covered in the May issue of The Minnesota Legionnaire.

The Brain Sciences Center researchers found an accelerated brain atrophy among recipients of the shot compared to the general population, as well as other areas of health, such as respiration and bowel dysfunction.

The findings, however, never made it into VA policy. In the meeting, everyone acknowledged that all veterans who received the anthrax shot ought to be automatically enrolled for VA healthcare.

This resolution calls for the VA to investigate the findings and evaluation of the effects of the anthrax vaccination on those who received it and make its findings publicly available. It also calls for continued research and for the VA to adjust based on emerging evidence.



Commander Jennifer Havlick tossed out the first pitch for the Minnesota Twins game against the Kansas City Royals on May 26. It was American Legion Day at Target Field, and many Legionnaires enjoyed the camaraderie of watching the American pastime. Two members of the Department of Minnesota Media & Communications Committee joined the commander on the field. From left are Commander Jennifer Havlick, M&C Committee member Amy Larsen, Twins mascot T.C. Bear and M&C Committee member Christopher Anderson (who is featured on the front of this issue).



The two senators from Minnesota Boys State who will attend Boys Nation in Washington, D.C. July 21-29 are Jacob Bigalk, top, and D.J. Wade. With them in these images is Minnesota Boys State Dean David Way. Bigalk is the recipient of the Myron & David Way Award for Outstanding Boys Stater. He is from Cannon Falls High School and was sponsored by Cannon Falls Post 142. Wade is the recipient of the Chic & William Zweiner for Outstanding Boys Stater. He is from Park High School in Cottage Grove and was sponsored by St. Paul Park Post 98.

# 104th Legion Convention Program

**104TH ANNUAL CONVENTION  
OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA  
MORTON, MINNESOTA  
JULY 13-15, 2023**



## THURSDAY MORNING, JULY 13, 2023

7-8 a.m. Caucus of all delegates and alternates by districts  
8:30 a.m. American Legion Convention Sessions:  
Jackpot Junction, Dacotah Exposition Center  
CALL TO ORDER: Jennifer Havlick, Department  
Commander, Two Harbors  
Advancement of the colors: Charles Borak,  
Post 45, New Prague  
POW/MIA flag: Jim Kellogg, NS/FR Committee,  
Taopi  
Carla Tappainer, Department Sergeant at Arms,  
Apple Valley  
Invocation: Kelley Adelsman, Department  
Chaplain, Pine Island  
Pledge of Allegiance  
"The Preamble": Recital by  
Commander and Delegates  
Greetings:  
• Robert Larsen, President,  
Lower Sioux Indian Community  
• The Honorable Tom Quackenbush, Mayor,  
Redwood Falls  
• Dennis Kissner, Commander,  
Melvin Daskam Post 38  
• Pam Krill, 2nd District Commander,  
Blue Earth  
• Ryan Hill, Department Vice Commander,  
Brewster  
• Dawn Breikreutz, General Convention  
Chairman, Redwood Falls

**8:50 a.m. Reading of the Convention Call:** Michael J.  
Maxa, Department Adjutant, St. Paul  
Approval of Dept Convention Published  
Program By Convention Attendees  
Report Of Convention Credentials Committee  
Report Of Convention Rules Committee  
Advance Reading of Constitutional Amendment  
Resolutions: Greg Colby, Department Judge  
Advocate, Northfield  
9 a.m. Report: V4V, Don Pankake, Member, Hutchinson  
9:15 a.m. Mick Aguirre, Commander's Task Force  
Chairman & Past Department Commander  
DAV of Minnesota  
9:25 a.m. Martin Howes, President, Minnesota  
Association of County Veterans Service Officers  
9:35 a.m. Reports:  
• Kristy Janigo, Legislative Chairman,  
Maple Grove  
• Mike Ash, Training Chairman, St. Paul  
• Randy Schaub, Baseball Director, Danube  
• Michael Arvidson, Softball Director,  
Parkers Prairie  
• Teresa Ash, Media & Communications  
Chairman, St. Paul  
10:35 a.m. Report: Linda Dvorak, Internal Affairs Ad Hoc  
Committee, New Prague  
*recommended changes to  
Department Constitution & By-Laws*  
11 a.m. Announcement of Department Convention  
Committees and Instructions, Michael J.  
Maxa, Department Adjutant, St. Paul  
11 a.m. Recess

## 11:20 A.M. JOINT MEMORIAL SERVICE, JACKPOT JUNCTION, DACOTAH EXPOSITION CENTER

## THURSDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 13, 2023

1 p.m. Meetings of All Convention Committees

### Instructions:

1. Members serving on Convention Committees will  
please be prompt in attendance at assigned committee  
meetings.  
2. Each committee will elect its own Chairman and Sec-  
retary. When work is finished, the Chairman or Secretary,  
(or both) will report to the Convention Department Head-  
quarters at Jackpot Junction, Prairie Winds, Legion Head-  
quarters Office, for assistance in preparing a typewritten  
report for presentation to the Convention assembled on  
Friday, July 14, 2023.  
3. All Convention Committee reports should be presented  
and accepted in final form before adjournment on Friday,

July 14, 2023, thus disposing of all business other than  
that which has been scheduled for Saturday morning.

**2 P.M. GAMBLING SEMINAR, JACKPOT JUNCTION,  
DACOTAH EXPOSITION CENTER  
MODERATOR: KRISTY JANIGO, LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE  
CHAIRMAN, MAPLE GROVE**

## FRIDAY MORNING, JULY 14, 2023

7-8 a.m. Caucus of all delegates and alternates by districts  
8:30 a.m. CALL TO ORDER: Jennifer Havlick, Department  
Commander, Two Harbors  
Respect to Colors  
Invocation: Kelley Adelsman, Department  
Chaplain, Pine Island  
Pledge of Allegiance  
8:35 a.m. Reports:  
• Credentials Committee, Lynne Nottage,  
Chairman, Minneapolis  
• Finance Committee, Carl Moon,  
Chairman, Walker  
• Legionville, Carl Moon, President, Walker  
8:50 a.m. SAL Report: Tim Weaver, 2022-2023 SAL De-  
tachment Commander, La Crosse, Wis.  
8:55 a.m. Youth Representatives  
• 2023 Eagle Scout of the Year Jackson  
Kramer, Hutchinson  
• 2023 Legion Boys State representative  
• 2023 Oratorical Contest Champion  
Megan Blonigen, Paynesville  
• 2023 Junior Shooting Sports  
9:15 a.m. Update: Brad Lindsay, Interim Commissioner,  
Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs  
9:30 a.m. Awards & Presentations:  
• Robert Bristo, President, American Legion  
Hospital Assn., Minneapolis  
• Karen Welander, Children and Youth  
Chairman, Sunburg  
• Tess Davis, Americanism Chairman, Princeton  
• Don Skow, Education Chairman, Lindstrom  
• James Blakesley, Safety-School Patrol  
Chairman, Aitkin  
• Pat Logan, Law & Order Chairman,  
Bloomington  
• Scott Kostohryz, Law Officer of the Year  
• Jason Russell, Firefighter of the Year  
• Terry Larson, Blood Chairman, Shafer  
• Tom Clabo, Community Service Chairman,  
Hutchinson  
• Kristy Janigo, Legislative Chairman,  
Maple Grove  
• Bob Mace, Bowling Chairman, Waite Park  
10:10 a.m. National Rehabilitation Service Awards:  
Ray Kane, Dept. Service Officer, St. Paul  
Pat Cliff Award to Outstanding Post Service Officer  
Minnesota Physician of the Year Award  
10:25 a.m. Report: Minnesota American Legion Foundation,  
Lloyd Ricker, President, Paynesville  
10:35 a.m. Convention Committee Reports, in order listed:  
• Americanism  
• Children & Youth  
• Constitution & By-Laws  
• Employment  
• Energy & Conservation  
• Finance  
• Legislative  
• Membership  
• National Security/Foreign Relations  
• Public Relations  
• Recreation-Sports  
• Rehabilitation  
• Resolutions  
• Safety-School Patrol  
• Internal Affairs Ad Hoc Committee  
• Time & Place (Convention Corp.)  
11:15 a.m. Announcements: Mike Maxa, Department  
Adjutant, St. Paul  
11:30 a.m. Recess

## FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 14, 2023

1:30 p.m. Remaining Convention Committee Reports,

as listed above  
2 p.m. Greetings: Mrs. Mary Kuperus, Dept. President,  
American Legion Auxiliary, New London,  
& Christie Avant, Dept. Secretary,  
American Legion Auxiliary, St. Paul  
2:30 p.m. Final Membership Awards: Linda Dvorak, Dept.  
Membership Director, New Prague  
Gold Brigade Winners  
Other Membership Awards  
2:45 p.m. Nominations for Department Office  
3:30 p.m. Voting Rules: Greg Colby, Department Judge  
Advocate, Northfield  
3:40 p.m. Recess

\*\* Installation Ceremony Practice following recess, to in-  
clude: Dept Commander, Sgt at Arms, Chaplain, Nominat-  
ed Dept Commander, Nominated Sgt at Arms, Nominat-  
ed Chaplain, Installing Officer

**POLLS OPEN FOR VOTING AT JACKPOT JUNCTION CASINO HOTEL FOR  
ONE HOUR FROM TIME OF RECESS IN CROSSED ARROWS C.**

## SATURDAY MORNING, JULY 15, 2023

8 a.m. Polls re-open for voting at Jackpot Junction,  
Crossed Arrows C  
8:30 a.m. Polls close  
9 a.m. CALL TO ORDER: Jennifer Havlick, Department  
Commander, Two Harbors  
Respect to Colors  
Invocation: Kelley Adelsman, Department  
Chaplain, Pine Island  
Pledge of Allegiance  
9:05 a.m. "Convention Memorial Service": Kelley Adelsman,  
Department Chaplain, Pine Island  
9:30 a.m. Reports:  
• Legion Riders: Ted Berg, Director, Hanska  
• National: William C. Barbknecht, National  
Executive Committeeman, Battle Lake  
• Legionnaire Insurance Trust: William C.  
Barbknecht, Chairman, Battle Lake  
9:40 a.m. Final Report of Credentials Committee  
9:45 a.m. Mike Maxa, Department Adjutant, St. Paul  
Voting of Delegates at Large & Alternates  
at-Large  
Caucus  
9:50 a.m. Report & Presentation: Jennifer Havlick,  
Department Commander, Two Harbors  
9:55 a.m. Donations accepted at this time  
10:05 a.m. Announcement of election results and  
introduction of newly elected officers  
• DEPARTMENT COMMANDER  
Presentation of Department Commander's Badge  
Presentation of Past Department Commander's  
Insignia by Jennifer Havlick's Family  
Presentation of Miniature Department Colors  
to Retiring Commander, Tom Fernlund,  
Past Department Commander, St. Cloud  
• NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN  
• ALTERNATE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEEMAN  
• NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER  
ENDORSEMENT  
• FIVE DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDERS -  
without numerical designation  
• CHAPLAIN  
• HISTORIAN  
• SERGEANT-AT-ARMS  
• MEMBER OF PUBLICATION BOARD  
for three-year term  
• THREE DELEGATES-AT-LARGE TO THE  
NATIONAL CONVENTION

NOTE: The Department is entitled to five (5) Dele-  
gates-at-Large. The Department Constitution provides,  
under Article 8, Section 1, that: "The Delegates-at-Large to  
which the Department is entitled in the National Con-  
vention shall be elected by the Convention and shall include  
the incoming Commander, the incoming Department  
representative on the National Executive Committee, and  
the outgoing Commander." The National Constitution  
provides, under Article 7, Section 3, that the National Ex-  
ecutive Committeeman shall be a delegate with vote, which  
shall be exercised with their respective Departments.

Installation Of Officers Elect

11:30 a.m. Benediction  
Secure POW/MIA drape  
Retirement of the Colors by Bloomington Post 550  
Adjournment

# Legion Bowling

Results from the 2023 Minnesota American Legion Bowling Tournament  
 Held in the spring months at Sundance Entertainment Center, Dayton  
 Hosted by Osseo-Maple Grove Post 172

## Men's Team Competition

- Top 5:**  
 1. Litchfield Post 104  
 2. St. Paul Hamline Post 418  
 3. Stewartville Post 164  
 4. Hopkins Post 320  
 5. St. Paul Arcade-Phalen Post 577
- Scores in the table descend by team total.



Post	Name	1st	2nd	3rd	Total	Team
104	Chris Holtz	211	213	227	651	2637
104	Loren Berg	214	210	258	682	
104	Russell Merkins	220	188	219	627	
104	Trent Merkins	213	201	263	677	
418	Dale Lipovsky	189	269	191	649	2624
418	Dennis Ross	198	219	182	599	
418	Derek Labar	250	226	247	723	
418	Shawn Flinn	207	207	239	653	
164	Jay Bundy	223	201	150	574	2611
164	Roger Roeder	251	250	283	784	
164	Rollie Frank	181	220	194	595	
164	Ty Mullenbach	203	201	254	658	
320	Adam Moles	242	200	231	673	2608
320	Craig Skorheim	235	287	177	699	
320	Craig Taylor	189	260	161	610	
320	Larry Muehlberg	208	198	220	626	
577	Andy Nicol	252	230	218	700	2597
577	Ed Lovell	251	198	191	640	
577	Gene Nagle	187	209	189	585	
577	Mike Casey	199	232	241	672	
104	Brad Bruggemeier	208	258	178	644	2582
104	Bryan Kruger	176	199	252	627	
104	Don Holtz	235	249	221	705	
104	Romea Widmer	194	187	225	606	
513	Corey Hanson	211	192	198	601	2572
513	Gary Marcum	173	182	214	569	
513	Jody Bueng	240	223	210	673	
513	Lynn Christenson	184	282	263	729	
281	Clinton Rogers	203	214	193	610	2566
281	Dave Blasing	214	201	198	613	
281	Floyd Herme	210	198	248	656	
281	Ryan Rower	223	258	206	687	
126	Devin Frederiksen	224	182	288	694	2556
126	Gerald Peterson	197	189	210	596	
126	LorLane Schmeling	254	212	237	703	
126	Nathan Frederiksen	179	195	189	563	
104	Brad Ziegenhagen	206	237	196	639	2548
104	Brian Debolt	188	205	219	612	
104	Mark Fischer	188	253	238	679	
104	Rod Nordling	217	183	218	618	
328	Brad Phillip	257	235	211	703	2547
328	Chad Phillip	194	188	217	599	
328	Cody Towle	236	209	194	639	
328	Rich Pfannenstien	202	213	191	606	
167	Chuck Loso	249	165	239	653	2527
167	Gordy Keller	199	229	209	637	
167	Joel Carlson	196	200	202	598	
167	John Christenson	196	232	211	639	
550	Scott Kick	172	186	211	569	2525
550	Kevin Kick	180	235	277	692	
550	Jay Yurecko	218	192	243	653	
550	Gary Guggenberg	170	218	223	611	
328	Marvin Schmitz	226	214	260	700	2520
328	Mike Tollefson	190	199	232	621	
328	Mike Twedt	202	210	199	611	
328	Ron Rennie	190	195	203	588	
428	Brian Gohman	223	228	221	672	2517
428	Jason Mohs	207	176	184	567	
428	Nate Berg	212	178	236	626	
428	Paul Kuehl	217	202	233	652	
94	Donny Hegland	219	213	255	687	2516
94	Duane Hegland	143	224	232	599	
94	Loren Berge	218	187	239	644	
94	Luther Berge	206	192	188	586	
274	Diane Sik	204	225	185	614	2508
274	Jordy Beek	178	210	190	578	
274	LeRoy Sik	204	250	245	699	
274	Susan Beek	213	207	197	617	
328	Dennis Weisbrich	203	192	178	573	2489
328	Arnold Court	200	221	227	648	
328	Richard Wegler	178	154	238	570	
328	Frank Anderson	203	243	252	698	
71	Brian Thelen	193	206	198	597	2487
71	Ray Satterfield	237	216	226	679	
71	Neil Busch	169	235	176	580	
71	Ken Holets	236	203	192	631	
428	Chris Gohman	175	205	191	571	2481
428	Jeff Hieserich	234	234	215	683	
428	Tom Fernlund	180	198	211	589	
428	Tom Kempenich	190	194	254	638	
164	Anita Heydt	258	236	201	695	2476
164	Brett Bushman	149	198	210	557	
164	Pete Fischer	211	177	253	641	
164	Wayne Bamlet	198	176	209	583	
320	Christopher Dore	220	198	231	649	2474
320	Duane Lundquist	234	191	174	599	
320	Gary Kull	190	201	199	590	
320	Gary Zieba	204	258	174	636	
172	Chad Mundahl	222	172	190	584	2470
172	Jeff Rasmussen	240	176	170	586	

172	Steve Erickson	184	187	125	496	
172	Steve Waldorf	196	424	184	804	
71	Dawn King	207	179	179	565	2468
71	Ron Holets	170	196	205	571	
71	Jace King	193	180	224	597	
71	Dan Triske	227	236	245	708	
102	Dennis Anderson	236	213	206	655	2466
102	Dennis Stierlen	169	213	209	591	
102	Michael Lian	193	218	159	570	
102	Richard Smith	241	152	257	650	
164	Anthony Lilly	184	224	195	603	2448
164	Brandon Kueene	218	145	227	590	
164	Lance Peterson	263	238	207	708	
164	Roger Peterson	162	201	184	547	
126	Doug Fischer	268	284	201	753	2446
126	John Frederiksen	223	197	162	582	
126	Josh Lies	200	206	195	601	
126	Travis Frederiksen	150	186	174	510	
1	Becky Nelson	189	222	229	640	2441
1	Cari Lamb	184	187	208	579	
1	LeRoy Gonzales	194	174	211	579	
1	Patrick Hahn	218	194	231	643	
577	Dan Bartel	240	218	221	679	2434
577	Jeff Chaney	184	152	257	593	
577	Kelly Morris	194	238	177	609	
577	Mike Bailey	174	197	182	553	
418	Adam Goetzke	178	184	247	609	2428
418	Bob Broberg	183	206	214	603	
418	Brad Rardin	186	212	208	606	
418	Jeff Broberg	211	196	203	610	
418	Angie Perrizo-Salaba	167	227	195	589	2427
418	Harry Peka	244	226	220	690	
418	Jason Smallman	185	169	184	538	
418	Joe Uzpen	215	195	200	610	
433	Larry Lamb	231	201	221	653	2424
433	Myron Nelson	171	179	187	537	
433	Ken Seeman	208	219	204	631	
433	Mike Witthus	225	193	185	603	
251	Dave Wendt	200	241	220	661	2421
251	Jeff Wendt	199	225	223	647	
251	Robby Arndt	155	196	207	558	
251	Todd Arndt	171	205	179	555	
164	Chris Pugh	210	201	255	666	2418
164	Tom Mullenbach	171	187	208	566	
164	Trace Mullenbach	194	250	172	616	
164	Trent Mullenbach	176	198	196	570	
108	Jesse Doheny	151	166	213	530	2416
108	Kelsie Holbrook	227	178	254	659	
108	Ken Blaschko	214	191	259	664	
108	Tom Doheny	165	186	212	563	
94	Gary Quavre	208	180	225	613	2412
94	Kathy Unnasch	190	201	240	631	
94	Tim Hoheisel	195	192	181	568	
94	Tim Loomis	188	203	209	600	
96	Matt Beilke	279	213	228	720	2409
96	Tyler Duenow	211	180	213	604	
96	Tom Miller	190	162	201	553	
96	Josh Telecky	159	193	180	532	
328	Dave Loso	197	223	209	629	2408
328	Jay Kraus	205	201	205	611	
328	Richard Halloran	212	195	154	561	
328	Tim Loso	249	188	170	607	
428	Dave Walz	234	247	192	673	2403
428	Dean Walz	147	205	163	515	
428	Doug Walz	155	235	227	617	
428	Kurt Busch	215	167	216	598	
94	Bill Moe	203	207	164	574	2397
94	Dan Moe	228	195	216	639	
94	Mickey Moe	237	191	202	630	
94	Patty Moe	192	162	200	554	
207	Bob Lagoon	184	279	236	699	2395
207	Ken Lagoon	186	196	201	583	
207	Mark Morse	188	193	179	560	
207	Todd Rogers	185	196	172	553	
577	Gary Swenson	235	247	220	702	2392
577	Jerry Anderson	197	187	147	531	
577	Jim Mroszak	145	212	181	538	
577	Jim Steadman	211	199	211	621	
104	Anthony Carlson	175	200	203	578	2387
104	Austin Carlson	221	255	187	663	
104	Derek Carlson	202	191	123	516	
104	Jesse Carlson	215	203	212	630	
172	Matt Gangste	229	180	197	606	2383
172	Scott Bridell	186	237	187	610	
172	Tim Lind	183	205	168	556	
172	Todd Danielson	176	216	219	611	
104	Brandon Karels	206	147	228	581	2382

104	Bryson Karels	195	295	212	702	
104	Drew Karels	212	159	162	533	
104	Gerald Ide	189	203	174	566	
112	Chad Degroat	221	203	235	659	2380
112	John Wirtz	201	183	192	576	
112	Leonard Wirtz	195	219	194	608	
112	Tim Hiller	173	174	190	537	
11	Bonnie Walton	211	194	212	617	2367
11	Dale Walton	179	174	185	538	
11	Jan Evans	190	195	192	577	
11	Mack Evans	209	225	201	635	
164	Jerry Jensen	166	174	190	530	2362
164	Jim Grande	198	178	192	568	
164	Scott Jacobson	223	205	201	629	
164	Sue Feind	221	200	214	635	
104	Dave Boll	172	182	190	544	2360
104	Gary Holtz	158	223	235	616	
104	Kenneth Koelln	172	166	181	519	
104	Timothy Koelln	235	230	216	681	
577	Alex Kollos	157	205	225	587	2354
577	Brian Schultz	183	223	242	648	
577	Bruce Kollos	193	208	181	582	
577	Bryce Schultz	201	157	179	537	
577	Mike Maskrey	173	197	199	569	2337
577	Phil Nuhfer	191	263	26		

# Legion Bowling

## Women's Team Competition

### Top 3:

1. Rushford Unit 94
2. Waconia Unit 150
3. Delano Unit 377

Scores in the table descend by team total.

Unit	Name	1st	2nd	3rd	Total	Team
94	Andrea Hoheisel	213	196	222	631	2496
94	Cherie Hegland	199	219	202	620	
94	Kristine Houland	215	194	193	602	
94	Stefanie Hegland	212	191	240	643	2480
150	Irene Nelson	197	211	166	574	
150	June Hilgers	193	204	216	613	
150	Sharon Giesen	195	196	242	633	2461
150	Stephanie Hodge	240	209	211	660	
377	Brandi Henning	221	182	247	650	
377	Carol Daniels	193	195	195	583	2434
377	Janet Klein	194	207	214	615	
377	Kim Breitung	208	220	185	613	
455	Cindy Geopferd	182	173	239	594	2371
455	Doreen Lemke	186	201	188	575	
455	Doris Torberg	226	213	259	698	
455	Marilee Wegner	194	193	180	567	2338
144	Carol Barlage	177	212	169	558	
144	Crystal Davis	240	188	215	643	
144	Judy Jacques	194	182	190	566	2338
144	Pat Koeppe	184	224	196	604	
377	Angela Winterhalter	181	198	169	548	
377	Janice Overbeke	202	193	221	616	2338
377	Linda Tramm	217	218	172	607	
377	Pam Hoshal	186	194	187	567	

## Top-10 winners in other categories

### Men's Singles

Name	1st	2nd	3rd	Total
Adam Moles	275	269	231	775
Brad Bruggemeier	237	292	239	768
Trent Merkins	240	250	262	752
Scott Bridell	221	262	268	751
Brandon Kueene	246	238	257	741
Josh Telecky	213	280	246	739

Matt Beilko	245	235	256	736
Ron Laliberte	218	249	269	736
Dan Moe	238	224	267	729
Jesse Johnson	219	268	237	724

### Women's Singles

Name	1st	2nd	3rd	Total
Angie Salaba	234	243	247	724
Cari Lamb	202	255	217	674
Tammy Eitiger	213	261	199	673
Jessica Anderson	194	236	222	652
Carol Daniels	216	210	216	642
Sharon Giesen	187	211	243	641
Crystal Davis	208	223	205	636
Patty Moe	233	199	203	635
Carol Damlow	191	242	199	632
Brandi Henning	188	211	229	628

### Men's Doubles

Name	1st	2nd	3rd	Total	Team
Bob Lagoon	254	228	266	748	1468
Todd Rogers	208	266	246	720	1448
Angie Perrizo-Salaba	249	236	271	756	
Harry Peka	224	212	256	692	1440
Leroy Sik	248	250	227	725	
Lydell Sik	244	252	219	715	1435
Dave Loso	216	214	225	655	
Tim Loso	302	250	228	780	1416
Mickey Moe	217	185	265	667	
Dan Moe	213	236	300	749	1369
Corey Hanson	201	232	213	646	
Lynn Christenson	200	267	256	723	1360
Tom Mullenbach	199	219	280	698	
Trafe Mullenbach	220	237	205	662	1359
Rollie Frank	206	196	240	642	
Roger Roeder	251	214	252	717	1359
Jason Mohs	216	261	211	688	
Paul Kuehl	211	226	234	671	1356
Derek Labar	224	233	217	674	
Dale Lipovsky	191	247	244	682	

### Women's Doubles

Name	1st	2nd	3rd	Total	Team
Jessica Anderson	235	241	220	696	1307
Tammy Eitiger	219	179	213	611	1297
Andrea Hoheisel	211	227	220	658	

Kristine Houland	179	229	231	639	1282
Hilda Anderson	215	199	187	601	
Irene Nelson	209	235	237	681	1266
Brandi Henning	216	193	224	633	
Kim Breitung	194	244	195	633	1263
Sharon Giesen	213	205	220	638	
Stephanie Hodge	244	178	203	625	1257
Janet Klein	206	205	179	590	
Carol Daniels	203	227	237	667	1216
Carol Damlow	189	219	204	612	
Donna Telecky	195	208	201	604	1176
Doreen Lemke	157	226	180	563	
Doris Torberg	201	222	190	613	1170
Marilee Wegner	188	190	211	589	
Cindy Geopferd	183	202	196	581	1153
Cari Lamb	221	210	176	607	
Becky Nelson	174	173	199	546	

### Men's All

Name	Doubles	Singles	Team	Total
Roger Roeder	717	643	784	2144
Lynn Christenson	723	683	729	2135
Dan Moe	749	729	639	2117
Bob Lagoon	748	657	699	2104
Dave Walz	696	699	673	2068
Trent Merkins	637	752	677	2066
Harry Peka	692	671	690	2053
Brad Bruggemeier	637	768	644	2049
Donny Hegland	672	685	687	2044
Craig Skorheim	644	698	699	2041



# What's happening?

## Mark calendar for Fund 85 Run

FOREST LAKE — The Fund 85 Run starts and ends at Forest Lake Post 225 this year.

Registration opens at 8:30 a.m., with kickstands up at 10 a.m.

The road captain will lead the group on a four-hour ride.

There will be entertainment that evening at Post 225 and an announcement on how much was raised.

Fund 85 is the Minnesota American Legion Foundation's Minnesota Veterans Assistance Fund. Many American Legion posts help struggling veterans in their communities, and it can be difficult for many Legion volunteers to discern who is a veteran and what would be the best solution to a veteran's struggle.

The purpose of Fund 85 is to assist American Legion posts with the finances and vetting needed when helping our fellow veterans.

Watch for more about the Fund 85 Run on its Facebook page and on the mnalr.org website.

## War displays coming to Slayton

SLAYTON — Slayton American Legion Post 64 is hosting a tribute display.

An 80 percent replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington arrives Aug.

15, during the Murray County Fair, and will feature opening ceremonies at 7 p.m.

This display is from American Veterans Traveling Tribute. It will also have a tribute to the veterans of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as other wars and conflicts going back to 1914.

## Wings of the North Air Show coming

EDEN PRAIRIE — Do you like classic airplanes? The Wings of the North Air Expo is coming up this month.

Take the whole family to Flying Cloud Airport in Eden Prairie 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. July 22 or 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. July 23.

Tickets are sold online at \$25 for adults, \$5 for kids 6-17.

At the gate, the price for adults is \$30. Kids still are \$5.

The website is wotn.org.

There will be 30 to 40 aircraft to visit. The hangar is full of displays, and there are pancake breakfasts available 8 to 11 a.m. each of the two days.

## Air Museum offers coffee

The Fargo Air Museum offers "Veteran's Coffee Hour" from 10 a.m. to noon on the second Wednesday of every month.

Some upcoming dates are July 12, Aug. 9, Sept. 13, Oct. 11, Nov. 8 and Dec. 13.

Coffee and doughnuts are provided for free. The gatherings

are provided by Moorhead Post 21, Fargo Air Museum and Sandy's Donuts & Coffee Shop.

The Fargo Air Museum is 1609 19th Ave. N.

## School hosts Vietnam wall

MONTICELLO — Pinewood Elementary School will host The Wall That Heals, a Vietnam Veterans Memorial three-quarters replica and mobile education center, July 20-23.

Admission is free, and the wall is open to the public 24 hours a day starting 10 a.m. July 20 and ending 2 p.m. July 23.

## Milaca to host POW/MIA balloon

MILACA — Milaca Post 178 on Sunday, Aug. 6., hosts the annual Milaca Municipal Airport Fly-In Breakfast.

The breakfast features a POW/MIA hot air balloon, which will offer free rides, weather permitting.

The event runs from 8 a.m. to noon at the airport. The cost is \$12 for people ages 12 and older. It is \$8 for ages 6 to 12, and free for 5 and younger.

The breakfast offers pancakes, sausage, ham, eggs, fruit and a beverage.

## Post 21 to host classic car show

MOORHEAD — Moorhead

American Legion Post 21, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 941, Valley Vintage Car Club and the Northern Lights Corvette Club are hosting a classic car show this summer.

Called Veterans Vintage Car Show, it happens once a month. Two have happened already, but the next three are set for July 19, Aug. 16 and Sept. 20.

The shows, hours 5 to 8 p.m., honor all veterans. There are no registration fees. They happen at Post 21, 303 30th St. N., in Moorhead.

## State softball tournament to be in NY Mills

ST. PAUL — Minnesota American Legion Fastpitch Softball is in its second year. It has 28 teams, one more than last year.

Rankings of the teams are available at minnesotal legion-softball.org.

The state tournament is in New York Mills July 29-30.

## Get out to the old Legion ballgame

ST. PAUL — Minnesota American Legion Baseball has teams all across the state.

And it has state tournaments around the state. Legion members get in free to any American Legion Baseball game.

The Div. I Sr. State Tournament is July 27-30 at Mayo

Field in Rochester (home of the Honkers) and other fields in the city. State Patrol Chief Col. Matt Langer will throw out the first pitch on the second day of action, Friday, July 28. Get there by 9:40 a.m. to watch him.

Div. II Sr. State Tournament is up north in Roseau at Gilbertson Field July 28-30. Roseau Post 24 is right across the parking lot from the field.

Div. I Jr. State Tournament is at Alimagnet Field in Burnsville on July 27-29.

Div. II Jr. State Tournament is in Granite Falls Aug. 4-6 at Richter Field, which is about two blocks from Granite Falls Post 69.

Be there!

## Cribbage clash

OSSEO — Osseo-Maple Grove Post 172 plays host to a cribbage tournament at 1 p.m. July 16.

The contest is organized by the Maple Grove Community Organization. Register at mgco.org.

## Wrestling romp

BUFFALO — Buffalo Post 270 welcomes the American Wrestling Federation on July 8.

The show begins at 6 p.m. and ends around 8:30 p.m.

The post's website, buffalo-legion.org, says to watch for further details as the date nears.

**Geoffrey A. Forbes, MS**  
**VA Accredited Claims Agent ★ U.S. Army Veteran**  
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# Polaroids of Rock County!

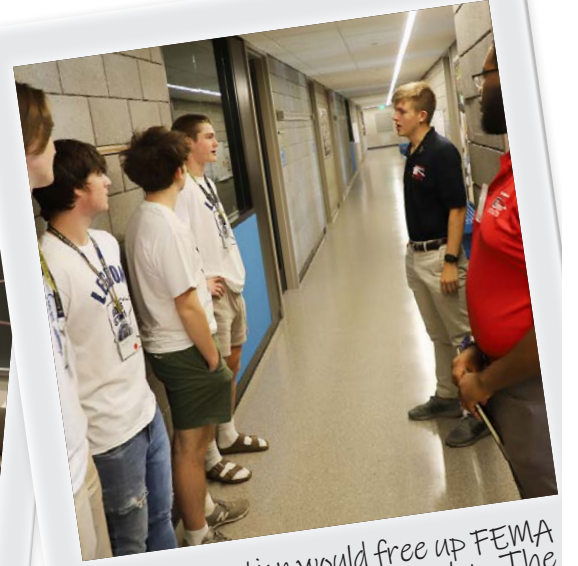
Boys Staters run into an uncooperative governor as residents lose their homes



Counselors announce Rock County has been flooded. A dam burst. Damage is in the millions. People are homeless. Some have died.



County officials debate what to do. They decide to ask the governor to declare a state of emergency. They send a crew to find him.



The declaration would free up FEMA money to help the county. The governor says no. The boys don't expect this. They go back.



Rock County asks the House of Representatives for help. They seem busy with fiscal matters but the Rock County rep decides to help.



The Senate also is busy. The Rock County senator returns to his home county. He also is running for governor of Boys State.



The Rock County state senator and state representative ask the governor to come to Rock County to see the damage.



The governor says he will not declare a state of emergency. It was a county dam that the county failed to maintain. It is their own fault!



Everyone is stunned! The state senator (and governor candidate) says, "See ya," and returns to the Senate.



His opponent in the governor's race, the Winona mayor, hears this and comes to help Rock County. The local officials are impressed.



The senator soon returns to his county, and the two governor candidates agree to set politics aside and find solutions.



The Rock County officials decide to seek funding from the House and Senate. The House even talked about impeaching the governor.



Too late for impeachments. It was time to go play sports. Boys State offered volleyball, kickball and basketball this year.



The next day, the Winona mayor is elected governor of Minnesota Boys State. His name is Nick Meuleners and, in real life, is from Winsted.



# Listening Post



At the 3rd District Convention at Forest Lake Post 225 in May, Gene Liefeld and Ray Ozman hunt down Pat Logan.



Third District Commander Gary Richardson presents the 3rd District Commander's Award to Past Department Vice Commander Pat Logan.



Rosemary Niesen, a past recipient, smiles with Logan. Niesen was Logan's mentor in the Legion.



On June 11, Legion Post 56 performed the ceremonial burning of unserviceable flags in a proper and dignified way. Post Commander Ole Olson and Sergeant-at-Arms Albert Allen performed the ceremony. The American Legion Riders of Chapter 56 aided in tending the fire.



Memorial Day was held at the Fountain Lake area in Albert Lea. Every year a wreath is dropped by air and land in honor of deceased veterans. The day's ceremony is held at the Graceland Cemetery. Several military groups presented the wreath at Graceland and a large crowd was present.



Nation of Patriots is a group of volunteers based out of Beaver Dam, Wis., who initiated a motorcycle fundraiser that travels to all 50 states in 115 days. The fundraiser gives all of the monies to injured veterans. Albert Lea Chapter 56 Legion Riders are a part of the ceremony. This year 10 bikes from Post 56 traveled to Papillion, Neb., to be a part of the official kick off May 20.



On May 1, Backus Post 368 donated \$10,000 to the Pine River-Backus High School. The money is separated into ten \$1,000 scholarships to assist high school seniors in furthering their education. Pictured from left are Post 368 1st Vice Commander Sue Niehaus, PR-B High School Counselor Mary Sigan and Post 368 2nd Vice Commander Bobbi Taylor. This scholarship donation is made possible through the post's charitable gambling program and its charitable gambling business partner Willards Saloon & Eatery, 121 Front St. N. in Backus.



On May 5, Backus Post 368 donated \$5,000 to the Cass County Fair Board. The funds help various aspects of the county fair held in Pine River. Pictured from left are Cass County Fair Board representatives Rhonda Adkins and Katie Hemsworth, and Backus Post 368 member Larry Kostka and Commander Brad Taylor. This donation is made possible through the Backus American Legion's charitable gambling program and its charitable gambling business partner Willards Saloon & Eatery. Stop on in and check out the place at 121 Front St N. in Backus.

# Listening Post



State Baseball Secretary Tim Engstrom, right, hands Past State Baseball Director Mike Perry a \$4,000 check to support the Minnesota Legion Prospects Series. It takes place Aug 4-6 at Reynolds Field at Northwestern University in Roseville. Players form into all-star teams and compete. It also gives players 17 and under a chance to meet college scouts. The \$4,000 check comprises \$2,000 from Scheels, the official sponsor of Minnesota American Legion Baseball, and \$2,000 from the Minnesota American Legion Baseball Committee itself. Perry helps lead the Prospects Series.



Bloomington Post 550 Gambling Manager Tim Engstrom presents a \$5,500 check to Dick Middleton of Chanhassen Post 580. The check is made out to Veterans 4 Veterans Trust Fund with "Carillon Fund" in the memo. Middleton is seeking to raise \$90,000 to bring music, chimes, bells and other sounds back to the carillon at Fort Snelling National Cemetery. With Post 550's donation on June 19, the total was at \$43,765.



Eagan Post 594 volunteers performed street clean up along Duckwood Drive in Eagan on Saturday, April 29. The volunteers picked up lots of trash that included an abundance of car parts from the roadsides and winter debris that had blown into the trees and shrubs on both sides of the street. Numerous bags of roadside garbage were collected. Pedestrians commented on how much better the Duckwood Street looked after the street clean up. Visit [post594.org](http://post594.org).



Post 148 Dent conducted ditch clean up on May 15th. Interesting side note, a wallet containing over \$500 was found and returned to a grateful owner.



A Memorial Day Program was held jointly by Dent Post 148 and Perham VFW Post 4020 at the Veterans Museum in Perham.



Officers of Dent Post 148 were installed June 5.



Eagan Post 594 has resumed cooking breakfast at the Fisher House at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center. Preparing meals at the Fisher House was suspended during COVID. The American Legion volunteer team cooks breakfast at the Fisher House the second Saturday of each month. This breakfast is prepared and served to the VA Patient caregivers who reside at the Fisher House while their loved ones are cared for at the VA Hospital.



On May 19, 2023, four Parker Elementary students were awarded scholarships to attend Legionville Safety Patrol Camp. This is the second year that the Elk River Legion Family has contributed to the Children & Youth Pillar of the American Legion in this manner. From left are Commander Greg Artman, President Cathy Artman, recipients Kate, Josie, Elsa and Easton (not picture), Vice President Michele Smith and Adjutant Greg Crow.



Elk River Auxiliary Unit 112 made quilts for veterans. The idea was presented by the District 6 Auxiliary leadership for the opening of the three new veteran homes in Preston, Montevideo and Bemidji. In addition to making quilts, Unit 112 members reached out to the quilting community. This effort resulted in the presentation of 30 quilts at the May 4 Auxiliary meeting. The quilts were delivered to the District 6 Convention in Brainerd on June 3.



Barry Kintner was officially sworn in as membership director for Farmington Post 189 at the May meeting.



Future Leaders of Minneapolis Squadron 1 are the Hahn boys. Here they are at the 5th District Convention. From left are Odin, Devin and Gavin.



Rick Gail/Post 253  
Keynote speaker Ret. Brig. Gen. Greg A. Haase and Lowry Post 253 Commander Tom Hills lead the retirement of flags at the conclusion of the Post 253 Memorial Day program in the Lowry Community Center. Haase served 35 years as an Air Force pilot, retiring in 2018. His years of service include St. Paul, Afghanistan, Germany, Arlington, Va., and Washington, D.C., a career totaling 5,300 flight hours on T-37, T-38 and C-130 aircraft.

# Listening Post



On Flag Day, Hayfield Post 330 members helped dedicate the new "Wall of Honor" at Field Crest Care Center. The wall has photos, and names, of the veterans who reside at the care center. From left are Jerry Nelson, Frank Moon, Vince Reynolds and Craig Bauman.



La Crescent Post 595 awards \$500 scholarships to students who meet requirements of the application. They must be a child or grandchild of a Legion member and provide letters of recommendation, letters of future intent and community involvement on a description of what veterans or The American Legion means to them. From left are Post 595 Scholarship Committee Chairman Sy Fix and students Autumn Iverson (alternate), Molly Bills, Olivia Meyer, Novalee Rose Kerns, Joseph Hammell and Sam Oliver.



Hugo Post 620 wants Legionnaires statewide to know it has returned to a fully operating kitchen with a new menu. The post now serves lunch, too, opening at noon most days and 4 p.m. Mondays. Chef Greg Clarke displays crab legs he prepared for customers on June 7.



Member Bill Ogle receives a certificate for being a 65-year member of The American Legion. He is with Red Wing Post 54.



University of Minnesota Post 548 1st Vice Commander Mike Wybierala, and his daughter Brenna, above, distributed Cases of Apples to the teachers and staff of Saint Rose of Lima Catholic School, which is at 2072 Hamline Ave. N, in Roseville. They were very appreciative.



Minneapolis North Side Post 230 donates another \$1,000 to the Ukrainian American Community Center in Minneapolis. In the photo on the right, Post 230 Commander Richard Tetzlaff, left, presents a check to Ukrainian American Community Center Director Paul Jablonsky. The main purpose for the donation is to aid wounded Ukrainian soldiers with medical supplies needed because of the ongoing attacks from Russia. None of the money goes for bullets or bombs but rather for desperately needed medical supplies and the cost to get them to Ukraine. In the photo on the left, are Roger Dusbabek, Jablonsky, Jeff Jarosz, Tetzlaff and Steve Kozicky. Jablonsky said there are as many as 250 refugee families per month currently coming to Minnesota to escape the hostile and dangerous conditions caused by the war on Ukraine. He said many have lost their homes and family members. Post 230 is proud to be helping them.



A lot of volunteers helped to pull flags at Fort Snelling National Cemetery, reported Joe Bares of Jordan Post 3. He said the volunteers began at 8 a.m. the day after Memorial Day. There are over 253,000 interments at the cemetery, and installing and removing the flags is a daunting and often thankless task.

# Listening Post



Deb Williamson, left, is sworn-in as the new 1st vice commander for Rochester by Post 92 by Commander C. Gilmore, right, during the monthly membership meeting on April 18. She also serves as the post's membership chairman.



Farmington Post 189 held its third annual flag disposal ceremony on Flag Day, June 14. The post burned approximately 80 flags this year along with burying of the ashes as well.



Department Service Officer Ray Kane, left, and Assistant Department Service Officer Janet Lorenzo, right, were on hand to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Fergus Falls Veterans Home. The three men in the middle, from left, are state Sen. Jordan Rasmusson, Deputy Commissioner Eric Meittunen (see story on front page) and Fergus Falls Veterans Home Administrator Jonathan Stone.



Woodbury Post 501 held two events close to each other. One, on May 20, was its Poppy Day fundraiser. The other, on May 22, was for awarding a scholarship to an AFJROTC cadet.



Fairmont Post 36 Commander Steve Fosness stands with Boys State attendees from Fairmont Area High School: Hudson Laven, Ty Nawrocki and Isaac Sheard. The three represented Fairmont at Minnesota Boys State held June 11-17 in Collegeville.



Several cars, trucks, vans and motorcycles were decorated for the Memorial Day parade at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center and the Minneapolis Veterans Home. About 150 people gathered to participate or watch. The next parade is slated for 11 a.m. on July 4, Independence Day. Anyone is welcome to join or watch the parade. Everything starts and ends in the VA parking lot.



Fairmont Post 36 members Jeff and Jodi Schultz present a \$1,000 scholarship from their post to their grandson, Travis Schultz in Ridgecrest, Calif.

# District commanders



## 1st District

Mary Hanson



Greetings from the 1st District.

My year as 1st District commander is coming to an end. I would like to thank all of the 1st District officers and the membership for all of their support. It has been a great year, meeting new people and learning new things.

I want to wish all the newly elected officers in the Department of Minnesota a great year. Take advantage of all of the opportunities that come your way. It will go by very fast.

Membership is our biggest issue. Without members, The American Legion will cease to exist. Everyone needs to help with membership. This is not just up to the post leadership.

Keep applications for the Legion Family handy.

Bring up the Legion in conversations with people you meet. You never know where a new member will present themselves. And when they do join make sure they are mentored. It will make a difference.

The 104th Department Convention will take place July 13-15 at Jackpot Junction Hotel Casino in Morton. You should attend if you are able. New officers will be elected and resolutions will be voted on among other business. You need to be there to make your voice heard.



## 2nd District

Pam Krill



Greetings, 2nd District Legionnaires,

What a ride! As we close a chapter on another year, we need to remember we do great things together. Each and every one of us has our purpose. I want to say "thank you" to each of you who have taken the time to mentor me this year, provide guidance and leadership. You have helped me grow this year, and I appreciate all of the help.

As we start the journey into next year let's stay strong and focus on what can we do differently next year to be just as successful. Our district continued to run strong all year and as June 2023, we have been holding steady in fourth place for membership. Congratulations on your efforts; you have all done an amazing job and should

be proud. This year, we had 13 posts reach 100 percent or more, 41 posts at 90 percent or more, and 23 posts who have reached 80 percent or higher! You all have done some amazing work and have plenty to be proud of.

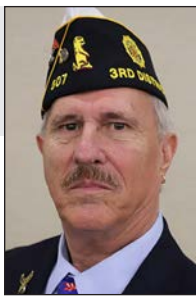
Please enjoy the rest of your summer; make sure you get your new officer information to the district for the district directory. To make it easier, we have created a new 2nd District email address: mn2nddistrict@gmail.com.

Congratulations to all of the new 2nd District officers, and I know you will all do great things this coming year.



## 3rd District

Gary Richardson



Happy Fourth of July! Independence Day is a day to remember and celebrate the establishment of our great Republic, our Constitution and Bill of Rights.

The governing documents that this country was founded on is something that every American should take the time to read and familiarize themselves with. After all, it is one of the things every legal immigrant to this country has to familiarize themselves with before taking the oath of citizenship.

This past year has been insightful and informative. I have learned much and look forward to what comes next. I want to thank my team and the Department of Minnesota this past year for their assistance and to their commitment to The American Legion. As a new team and commander take the reins, I ask that you support

them in all that they do.

Now is not the time to slow down. I ask you all to continue your efforts to recruit more members and get back some of those members that have become inactive. Our membership numbers are our voice in the halls of Congress and at the State Capitol. If you know a veteran, ask. The worse they can say is no.

There is always strength in numbers, so, if someone asks why they should join, let them know that their membership counts in our continuing fight for veterans rights and benefits.

It has been an honor to serve as 3rd District commander this past year! Stay safe in all your travels, and thank you for all you do!



## 4th District

David Dahl



My days as the commander of the Fabulous 4th District are coming to an end. It has been a real experience being involved at this level. I've worked with some wonderful people, to whom I am very grateful. Thank you to all who have made my tour as commander a success!

There are two activities that I will continue to be involved with outside of my local post. First, if asked, I will continue to be the department's representative on the Board of the Armed Forces Service Center (AFSC).

I ask individual members for their time as volunteers and posts and individuals for financial support for the AFSC's continued operation. Go to mnafsc.org to become a volunteer or to donate money — or both.

Second, I have been a part of the Department of Minnesota Suicide Prevention Coalition

and was a part of the group to start the "Coffee Talk" program which meets at the Veterans Resource and Empowerment Center (aka Every Third Saturday or simply ETS). I plan to continue my involvement in those activities.

I especially want to thank the next generation of veterans who have stepped forward to be the leaders of the Fabulous 4th. It's going to be a growing, learning experience for all of us. I wish everyone the best. All should know that if there should be a time when they need help, all they need to do is ask. But until asked, we older vets will be standing on the sidelines cheering.

Still serving! Serving veterans and serving our communities.



## 6th District

Karen O'Bar



Wow, what a year! I feel like I was getting a good grip on being district commander, and I'm soon to be immediate past commander. Our new 6th District commander is Anthony Koop of Ironton Post 443. I look forward to this next year. Please give Koop and his board any help they may require. We are a family and as such we can do anything we put our minds to.

As of June 15, our Mighty 6th District is in 1st place. We are at 94.32 percent. The 6th and 9th districts are also in first place with 93.1 percent. I'm so grateful for our 6th District family.

You all made this happen!

I would like to thank the nine other district commanders that shared our year together. I may not have talked to all of you but the ones I did get to know has meant a lot to me.

I hope to continue with my Legion Family here in 6th District. There are so many new adventures to look forward to.

Again, thank you to the whole Legion Family. We can do amazing things daily.



## 7th District

Karen Welander



Greeting to the Mighty 7th District family

This year as your district commander has been a rewarding experience. Don't forget, we still have the rest of 2023 for membership renewals. Never stop.

Just yesterday I found two people who thought "the Legion" was a bar. We all must educate the public about what we do. It is the individual programs that the public see and that is the emphasis we should be telling the public about.

The new technology will help bring our story to our communities. Make no mistake; it is the future.

We have strived to be

veterans serving veterans as well as serving our communities. We have asked and provided help and guidance to all without hesitation. It is great to work with so many people who care about veterans and their communities. I see more to come as we adjust to the new technology.

Thanks also to all the department staff at headquarters for their assistance.

I am a proud to be an American; I am proud to be a veteran; and I am proud to be a member of The American Legion. Thank you. For God and Country.



## 8th District

Larry Pocrnich



Hello veterans, I was not in here last month, and the only excuse I have is I was packing for vacation the wife and I were going on. I forgot the letter.

So, this may be my last time as I will not be the district commander this year. Jennifer

Havlick will be the commander after she is done at department conventions in July. I will be looking for a vice commander for the border area of

International Falls and places around there. Contact me if you are interested.

Same goes for Lumberjack area, which is the east side of the 8th District, from Moose Lake and up to Grand Portage.

I have enjoyed working with the posts in the 8th and will continue to help where I can. You can still donate to

my project of supporting the Wounded Warrior United, Minnesota, by sending donations to: 8th District Commander Project, P.O. Box 592 Hibbing, MN 55746.

Thank you all for your support and volunteer hours you put in to help the veterans. We have made a difference in veterans lives. God bless America.



## 9th District

Terry Buraas



I attended the spring meetings in Indianapolis, which everyone should be allowed to attend at least once. A lot of money is donated to The American Legion and people in the general membership always are asking where it goes.

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, which granted two organizations \$565,000 for the calendar year 2023. This 501c3 corporation is mandated to the philanthropic priority to support worthwhile youth-serving projects and to assist in the dissemination of information to the general public. Since 1955, the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation has awarded more than \$19 million to organizations to assist children of this country. This is where the money goes!

Temporary Financial

Assistance for the current year has given grants totaling \$8,374.56. So far TFA requests have been remaining low. This grant is to families with minor children in the home to provide heat, water, lights, rent so the family can stay together. This is an under-used program and departments need to stress the importance of keeping the family together.

To be sure, many departments, districts and posts have their own veteran-aid programs, and in the Department of Minnesota, it is the Minnesota Veteran Assistance Fund. To donate, write the check to "Minnesota American Legion Foundation" and write "Fund 85" in the memo.



## 10th District

William Gordon



Summer is here. Reach out to our community and get the names of the students attending Legionville Safety Education Center this year. Remember, they do not have to be dependents of veterans; any child can go between the ages of 10 to 13 years old.

You can find out all the information you need at legionville.org.

Also, it's time to start pulling together that Consolidated Post Report. Time for you to tell your story of what you do in your communities. No one else can tell it better.

Please send copies of your CPR to me or the district adjutant and to department before you send it off to national save a copy to your computer or paper files and then email or mail it to us.

If you mail a copy to the district, we will ensure that the department and national get a copy of it. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Our strength is in our ability to work as a team, Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Juniors, Sons of the Legion and the Legion Riders. Together we are unstoppable!

I know, I have seen it, in many of the posts I have visited. That means respecting each other, a commander who must threaten, belittle, shout, demean the members and staff is not a commander. We have no room for you in our organization. The very best thing you can do for your post, and our organization, is to resign your position!

Why do we have dictator commanders? The answer is simple: inaction. The power of

the membership comes from your constitution and bylaws. I personally think every post should have past commanders counsel the current commander (same for units; with past presidents counseling the current president).

They just need to be available by telephone or to have a short meeting with the leadership from time to time when they need help. Another word for it is called mentoring.

There is no shame in seeking advice and feedback. You as the leader must be strong enough to accept the truth. Lead with respect. Be the type of leader that does not need a title, someone people like to work with. We are all human, and no one is perfect.

A dictator commander is like a cancer; they can eat away at the camaraderie, helpfulness and support of a post. You are the only one who can stop it.

Start by having some of the past leadership meet with your dictator, explain the reasons their current behavior is not acceptable. Allow them some time to change, before moving to censor or remove them. Discipline metered properly can help make good people better.

We are veterans strengthening veterans.

It has been my honor and privilege to have served the members of the Mighty 10th District. One of the most important things I have ever learned is to listen.



# The Auxiliary Bulletin

No. 23 Vol. 12

President Mary Kuperus • Secretary Christie Avant, christie@mnala.org

Dept. HQ: Veterans Service Building, St. Paul, MN 55155

651-224-7634

July 2023

## Girls State week was an awesome time

The Department of Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary and I send our condolences to the family and friends of 8th District American Legion Auxiliary President Zandra Davenport.

Zandra will be missed by many. She was the second district president to pass away this year. We will have a time of remembrance for both Zandra and Dolly Zitur at the department convention.

The 76th American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State was June 11-17 at Bethel University in Arden Hills. It was an awesome week for the 200 young women who attended. They were able to learn about leadership, Americanism and government. Thank you to all the volunteers and especially to the hard-working Girls State Committee for your willingness to spend a week of your time! The flag retirement ceremony was held inside due to the air quality outside. Thank you to the 10th District 40&8 for presenting the ceremony.

The American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State governor is Tanvi Manickam sponsored by Osseo-Maple Grove Unit 172. Congratulations to Gov. Tanvi and to her sponsoring unit.

Thank you all for the donations toward the Department President's Project. Our goal was to raise \$30,000 to help refit and install stained glass windows from the old Minneapolis Veterans Home into the three new veterans homes being opened this year. If there are more funds than needed for that project, the other five veterans homes will receive an equal amount toward their

### President's Column

Mary Kuperus



activity funds. Please continue to donate if you can. The end of convention will be the cut-off date.

The 103rd American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota Convention is coming very soon! Have you registered? Please do so. It is being held at Jackpot Junction Casino Hotel on July 13-15 in Morton, just east of Redwood Falls. Registration forms and hotel information have been in the Legionnaire previously and again appear on Page 3.

This is my last article to write as the department president. In the beginning, I didn't think I would know what to write about. I sit here tonight after being gone for a week at ALA Minnesota Girls State, overtired and behind on many things. I still don't really know what to say.

I do know that I am so grateful for having the opportunity to serve as president of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota. I have been so honored to represent this department in so many ways and so many places.

Serving with American Legion Department of Minnesota Commander Jennifer Havlick, Sons of The American Legion Detachment Commander Tim Weaver, Minnesota American Legion Riders Director Ted Berg and American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota Honorary Junior President Sydney Borntreger has made this an awesome year. We may not have been together everywhere

we went; however, I enjoyed every minute that we spent together. Thank you all for your service to our Department of Minnesota American Legion Family.

Thank you all for what you do for our veterans, military, their families and your communities. Thank to the units, posts, squadrons, chapters, counties and districts for your leadership teams. Thank you to every member on all levels for your dedication to our programs and the mission of our organization.

Congratulations to the new 2023-2024 Department of Minnesota American Legion Family leadership team. I know you all will serve this department well. Just remember to have some fun along the way!

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve as your department president for the 2022-2023 year. I will never forget this experience!

As we "Serve and Honor Every Day," let's remember all veterans who have served our country at home and abroad. Thank you for all you do for our veterans and military!

*Mary Kuperus of New London Unit 537 is the president of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota. Her theme is "Serve and Honor Every Day."*



Minnesota Girls State Constitutional Officers

## 76th session of Minn. Girls State wraps up

By Yolanda Dailey  
Girls State Chairman

ARDEN HILLS — The 76th session of American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State was held June 11-17, 2023 at Bethel University in Arden Hills.

Close to 200 young women from all over the state of Minnesota attended the session to learn about all branches of government and politics on the city, county and state level.

They heard from speakers and panels on city government, county government, the judiciary, law enforcement, political parties, legislative consultants.

Our Americanism speaker was Veteran and Gold Star wife Rachel Hill.

Hill talked of the ultimate sacrifice that many families including hers have made to ensure the freedoms that we often take for granted. The citizens realized that truly "Freedom Isn't Free."



Gold Star spouse Rachael Hill spoke at Minnesota Girls State.

The citizens participated in poppy making, witnessed a flag-disposal ceremony, wrote bills for consideration by the Girls State Legislature, held mock trials and put on a game show-themed variety show.

## National Convention is in Charlotte

ST. PAUL — The 2023 National Convention will be held in Charlotte Aug. 25-31.

All Auxiliary delegates and alternates elected at the district conventions should already have their information packets. If you would like a packet, please contact Department Secretary Christie Avant at the Department Office. All housing requests must go through The American Legion even if you are an Auxiliary delegate. We

encourage Auxiliary members to register as Auxiliary delegates/alternates instead of guests. If you have been elected as a delegate or alternate at your district convention and are not planning to attend, please notify Department Secretary Christie Avant immediately and prior to the Department Convention.

There will be information packets available at the Department Convention for anyone who is elected as a delegate or

alternate at-large at the convention. Please note that the deadline for pre-paid housing reservations is July 20. All reservations for the States Dinner (\$60) and the Public Spirit Award Luncheon (\$35) must be ordered through the Department Office. Deadline is July 25. If national allows for more reservations after that time, there will be a price increase for the tickets.

### 2023 Girls State officers and award winners

Governor  
Lt. Governor  
Secretary of State  
State Auditor  
Attorney General  
Chief Justice  
Associate Justice  
Associate Justice  
Girls Nation

Tanvi Manickam, sponsored by Osseo 172  
Rita Li, sponsored by Chanhassen 580  
SeSe George, sponsored by Osseo 172  
Tristyn Maras, sponsored by Windom 206  
Cassidy Abraham, sponsored by Twin Valley 431  
Savannah Berg, sponsored by Belle Plaine 144  
Emily Walsh, sponsored by St. Louis Park 282  
Kaily Burgau, sponsored by Underwood 489  
Sr. Senator, Alex Funk, sponsored by Bayport 491  
Jr. Senator, Emily Walsh, sponsored by St. Louis Park 282  
Nawras Zaki, sponsored by Austin 91  
Kiera Kirchner, sponsored by Madelia 19  
Katrina Brekke, sponsored by Elysian 311

Girls State Americanism Award  
Samsung Scholarship Entry  
Girls State Spirit Award



Participants of Minnesota Girls State sing in the Minnesota State Capitol Rotunda.



Artwork by Minnesota Girls State citizen Beth Powers

## Department Convention Schedule

The detailed program is available at the convention. Here is a condensed version:

<b>Wednesday, July 12, 2023</b>		
Pre-Convention Department Executive Meeting	1 p.m.	Tatanka III
<b>Thursday, July 13, 2023</b>		
District Caucuses (Auxiliary)	8:15 a.m.	Various locations
Convention Session	9:15 a.m.	Grand Eagle Ballroom
Joint Memorial Service	11:15 a.m.	Dacotah Exposition Center
Convention Committee Meetings (Auxiliary)	2 p.m.	Various locations
<b>Friday, July 14, 2023</b>		
District Caucuses (Auxiliary)	8:15 a.m.	Various locations
Convention Session	9:15 a.m.	Grand Eagle Ballroom
Past Department Presidents Luncheon	11:30 a.m.	Dacotah Dining
Convention Reconvenes	1:30 p.m.	Grand Eagle Ballroom

**The following members have been endorsed for department office:**

Department President: Sharon Thiemecke, Bemidji Unit 14  
 Department 1st Vice President: Judy Ackerman, Northrup Unit 522  
 Department 2nd Vice President: Robin Dorf, Monticello Unit 260

Nominations will be on Thursday morning. When there is more than one candidate nominated, elections will take place by balloting. There will also be nominations for delegates at-large to the National Convention.

Please remember to bring your entries for the Poppy Contest. All entries must be at the convention by 9 a.m. on Thursday, July 13. Tables will be set up in the display area for the entries. Winners will be announced during the Poppy report on Friday. It's not too late to register! (See Page 3.)

## CONGRATULATIONS!



Sharon Thiemecke of Bemidji Unit 14 and Richard Cross of Melrose Post 101 and Waite Park Squadron 428 were married May 28 in Legion and Auxiliary caps "because it is a way to show support for the American Legion families," they said.



Irma Johnson, 100, received her 50-year honor guard pin at Mabel Post 299 Legion Family birthday supper.



At a recent Mabel Unit 299 brunch, members celebrated Rosemary Welper recently becoming a U.S. citizen.

## Send in Unit Officer Lists

Unit Officer Lists were due in the Department Office June 15. If you have not submitted yours, please email them immediately to [deptoffice@mnala.org](mailto:deptoffice@mnala.org). These lists are important as we develop our mailing list for the upcoming Auxiliary year. Your unit will not receive your membership card packet until we have a current list. This list is required each year even if you are keeping the same officers.

## Time for membership packets

Please call the Department Office at 651-224-7634 to have your unit's membership packet brought to Department Convention. Those packets pre-ordered can be picked up in the Department Office any time Thursday or Friday. Any packets not picked up will be mailed out the week after Department Convention.

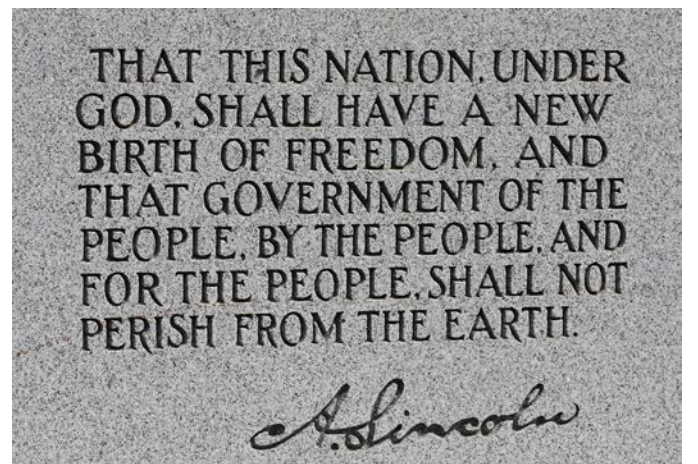
## 2023-24 District Presidents

Congratulations to the 10 District Presidents who were elected at their respective district conventions to serve the 2023-2024 year:

- District 1: Michelle Weaver, La Crescent Unit 595
- District 2: Kollett Karhlert, Mankato Unit 11
- District 3: Deanna Meyer, Brownston Unit 143
- District 4: Mary French, North St. Paul Unit 39
- District 5: Cari Lamb, Minneapolis Unit 1
- District 6: Patti Gunderson, Upsala Unit 350
- District 7: Hope Wilson, Brandon Unit 278
- District 8: Sharon Voltz, Grand Rapids Unit 60
- District 9: Rebecca Olson, Moorhead Unit 21
- District 10: Anne Steffen, Coon Rapids Unit 334



Things were groovy at the 3rd District Convention in Forest Lake. Sporting hippie clothes were, from left, 3rd District SAL Commander Dennis Bjorklund, 3rd District Legion Commander Gary Richardson and 3rd District Auxiliary President Kim Carlander.





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