



Dennis Dalman

**Anoka Vet Center Director Craig Towle, holding scissors, prepares to cut the ribbon officially opening the St. Cloud Vet Center Outstation. From left are a VA staff member, veteran Casey McCulloch, veteran Paul Evangelist, Michael Fisher of VA Readjustment Counseling Service, Towle, a VA staff member, veteran Vincent Smith, St. Cloud Mayor Dave Kleis and MDVA Deputy Commissioner Eric Meittunen.**

## Minn. finally gets 4th Vet Center

Ceremony opens outstation in St. Cloud

By Dennis Dalman

ST. CLOUD — A long-deferred dream came true on a sunny morning of June 13 when a dedication ceremony officially opened the new Veteran Center Outstation in southeast St. Cloud.

The center will serve veterans and families throughout central Minnesota. Vet Centers provide readjustment counseling for veterans, servicemembers and

their families, with no impact on their medical records.

About 125 people attended the outdoor event in front of the Vet Center at 330 S. Hwy. 10, where a ribbon-cutting followed speeches given by veterans. In the audience, under a large tent awning, were many veterans and their family members who sat and listened intently to sometimes heart-rending memories, redeemed by the speakers' upbeat

optimism and inspiration. St. Cloud Mayor Dave Kleis was a member of the audience.

The program was emceed by Craig Towle, director of the Anoka Vet Center. The keynote speaker was Michael Fisher, chief officer of the Readjustment Counseling Service. An aide to Sen. Amy Klobuchar read a statement from the senator congratulating St. Cloud for its new Vet Center.

The event began with a color guard

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## Minn. Boys State turns 75

Past Boys Nation President Greg Orman speaks on political division

ANOKA — Greg Orman got to meet U.S. President Ronald Reagan after being elected president of Boys Nation in 1986. He graduated from Mankato East High School in 1987.

He attended Princeton University, and in 1988, while in New York City, he witnessed a scared father with two daughters on the subway. Crime in the Big Apple was six times the rate it is today.

"I thought, I want to give that man confidence in life," he told attendees of the Minnesota Boys State 75th Anniversary Banquet on June 8 at Anoka Post 102. "I realized my father was right. I wanted to put the lessons of Boys Nation in play."

He followed his father's advice, and that was to gain economic security first. In the Kansas City area, he

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When Montevideo asked for a veterans home, suddenly all cities wanted one

By Tim Engstrom

MONTEVIDEO — Montevideo American Legion Post 59 Past Commander Marv Garbe told it like it was at the dedication of the new 72-bed veterans home in Montevideo on May 31.

Garbe, chairman of the local Veterans Home Committee that has pushed for a veterans home to be built in Montevideo for 16 years, said it was 12 years to get state bonding dollars, two years to get federal VA funding and two years to construct the building.

Of the original four members of the committee from 2007, two have passed. They were Kenny Hill and Don Lofthus. Only Dennis Anderson and Garbe remain. All are or were Post 59 Legionnaires. Anderson was the Chippewa County veteran service officer at the time.

"Our research indicated there were 1,500-plus veterans in Minnesota that could be placed in a veterans home. Our mission was that a veterans home could be constructed in Montevideo so our veterans had a place in their area for care and within reasonable traveling distance for the family to visit," he said.

## Dedicated



Montevideo American Legion Post 59 Past Commander Marv Garbe speaks at the dedication ceremony on May 31. Behind him is state Sen. Andrew Lang of Olivia Post 186.

In January 2008, they met at Post 59 with late state Sen. Gary Kubly (a Vietnam veteran) and state Rep. Lyle Koenen to talk about bonding dollars for a veterans home.

They moved forward, met with MDVA and began a preapplication process. They testified before committees at the Capitol. They thought they had

succeeded in winning lawmakers over.

"After that, the floodgates opened and every community in the state thought they were the best place for a veterans home. After a couple years of going down and testifying and nobody could make a decision, the legislature in their infinite wisdom decided to appoint a committee, which made it take

longer," Garbe said.

They could not agree on a location or criteria. After a couple of years, the committee decided there were too many requests and threw them all out and started over, Garbe said. Montevideo reapplied with a 72-bed proposal, not 90.

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## Veterans win some and lose some during 2024 Legislature

ST. PAUL — It was the best of times. It was the worst of times.

The 2024 Minnesota Legislature had its ups and downs, from when gambling charities thought they might finally see long-promised tax relief, to the end of session, when it went "poof."

There was the good news of funding for the operations of three new veterans homes, and the heartbreak from the failure to pass increased property-tax breaks for disabled veterans.

Get ready to read the rollercoaster:

### Charitable gambling tax relief goes up in smoke

The sports-betting bill that would

have provided meaningful tax breaks for charitable gambling for all licensed charities across the state did not make it to the finish line in the 2024 session.

It cleared seven House committees, including the House Ways & Means Committee on May 10. Then it awaited a hearing on the House floor on May 15. It never came. Advocates were hoping it could reach a conference committee. It was rescheduled for May 17. Again, no hearing.

What happened? The belief is the



Kristy Janigo

House leadership didn't think it had enough votes, so they declined to bring it for a floor vote.

Tax breaks for charitable gambling was a major push for The American Legion Department of Minnesota this past session because revenue from charitable gambling is crucial in efforts to assist veterans, bolster veterans programs and strengthen communities.

"Sports betting is not going to happen this year," said American Legion Legislative Chairwoman Kristy

Janigo, who watched the proceedings from the Senate Gallery at the State Capitol. "We put in some valiant effort including some last-ditch things the past few hours. We won't have our charitable gambling tax cuts. Next year we need to watch our numbers closely to assess how much the e-tab changes affect our revenues."

In the 2023 session, the Minnesota Legislature scaled back electronic pulltabs by banning bonus games, free plays and the open-all button, under an argument that they were too close to tribal casino slots. E-tab supporters point out slots have jackpots, variable

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**Commander: Anti-police sentiment has got to end**

*Editor's note: The following statement was sent to the media in Minnesota in the wake of the death of Minneapolis Police Officer Jamal Mitchell. Email tengstrom@mnlegion.org if your local newspaper wishes to reprint this.*

**By Paul Hassing**  
Department Commander

The second clause of The American Legion preamble to its constitution reads; "To maintain Law and Order," a clause that is recited before all official meetings.

Minnesota cannot expect to conduct a civil society, build an economy and practice a vibrant democracy amid crime and indifference to crime. The anti-police sentiment flourishing through

some parts of Minnesota has to stop. We are not a lawless society, and we need to have respect for all Minnesotans and obey the law.

It was a disgrace to see Hennepin County Attorney Mary Moriarty use a State Patrol traffic stop for her own political purposes. Two troopers feared for their lives, and one had to fire his sidearm to protect the life of the other. Moriarty felt murder and manslaughter charges were in order despite national experts saying the contrary.

In other words, she set aside clear legal principles to score political points with an electorate she felt wanted to see law enforcement in prison despite the evidence. We were glad to hear Gov. Tim Walz was going to pull her off the case if she

hadn't dropped the charges.

It is in this anti-police environment where criminals feel brazen enough to shoot the police officers who are on the streets fighting crime trying to keep the citizens of Minnesota safe. Our hearts and prayers go out to Minneapolis Police Officer Jamal Mitchell's family. This brave man was killed in an ambush shooting on May 30. Minnesota needs officers like Mitchell, who previously had gone into a burning building to save a life.

His killer had a lengthy criminal record, with two warrants out for his arrest. No doubt he should have been behind bars from his August 2022 arrest for illegal possession of a firearm. Instead, he was released without bond, then skipped his hearing. It goes without saying:

Mitchell would be alive today.

The Minnesota American Legion calls on leaders in all parts of this state to stand behind law enforcement. They have dangerous jobs and have to make difficult decisions affecting the lives of citizens. They work in the public eye. Divisive political rhetoric only makes their work more difficult. It's time to stop the rhetoric.

Minneapolis Police Chief Brian O'Hara said it well: "People really, really want police protection. They just want good police officers. But then you have wealthier residents on the other side of town who are still screaming to get rid of us, even though the most that happens in their neighborhoods is change getting stolen out of their cars."

**What's happening?**

**Baseball game to honor vets**

RICHFIELD — Minneapolis-Richfield Post 435 hosts the 2024 Salute to Service on Friday, July 5, with a baseball game and a tribute to veterans, servicemembers and their families.

The pregame activities begin at 6:30 p.m. The game, between Richfield and Holy Angels, is at 7 p.m. at Richfield High School Baseball Field.

There will be a special recognition of Marine Corps

enlistee Connor Wolke, an RHS graduate.

**Who is going to Forest Lake on July 4?**

FOREST LAKE — "Cheers to 100 Years" is the theme of the Fourth of July Celebration in Forest Lake, where the city and American Legion Post 225 organizes a large parade and fireworks display every year.

The parade begins at 10 a.m. July 4. The fireworks are at 10 p.m.

There are festivities July 3-7, with live music most nights. Visit post225.com for a complete listing.

**Cornhole for a good cause**

ROCHESTER — To benefit the Invisible Wounds Project, Rochester Post 92 is hosting the Post 92 Cornhole Tournament.

There is a fee of \$20 per team. There will be 24 teams. People can register by contacting the bar at 507-282-1322.

**Who is going to Albert Lea on July 3?**

ALBERT LEA — The Albert Lea Area Chamber of Commerce will host the annual Third of July Parade.

The parade starts at 6 p.m. July 3 down Bridge Avenue and onto Fountain Street.

The annual fireworks display is at dusk on July 4. It no longer will be fired from City Beach. Instead, the display will be at the Blazing Star Landing between Fountain and Albert Lea lakes.

**Legion Baseball state tournaments are on way**

MAPLE GROVE — Let's play two.

Hey, why play only two baseball games when you can have an entire tournament?

The American Legion State Baseball Tournaments are as scheduled:

July 28-Aug. 1: Minnesota American Legion Div. I-A Sr. State Tournament, Alimagnet Park, Burnsville

Aug. 1-4: Minnesota American Legion Baseball Div. I Sr. State Tournament, Gleason Fields, Maple Grove

Aug. 1-4: Minnesota American Legion Baseball Div. I Jr. State Tournament, Bloomington

Aug. 2-4: Minnesota American Legion Baseball Div. II Sr. State Tournament, BOLD High School Baseball Field, Bird Island

Aug. 9-11: Minnesota American Legion Baseball Div. II Jr. State Tournament, St. Charles

There were 367 total American Legion Baseball teams from Minnesota this year. It doesn't top the 383 from last year, probably because Babe Ruth changes some of its age requirements, but it remains higher than most years of this decade.

The Div. I-A tourney is a regional experiment this year to gauge interest in a state Div. I experience for second-level or middle-enrollment teams. If deemed successful, the State Baseball Committee will expand it statewide in 2025.

**Legion Softball is up, too**

MAPLE GROVE — Minnesota American Legion Fastpitch Softball has reached 32 teams, its highest number of teams since it began two seasons ago.

The state tournament is Aug. 3-4 at Bemidji City Park, near the Bemidji Curling Club.



**Legionville registration is still open**

BRAINERD — Camp sessions don't wrap up until Aug. 2. That means, registration for July sessions remains open.

Visit legionville.org to sign your little camper. The local post usually pays the \$500 fee. Email rhill@mnlegion.org for info.

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• National Underground Railroad Freedom Center  
• American Sign Museum  
• Patriots Landing  
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• Radio City Music Hall: The Rockettes Christmas Spectacular  


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# Behind scenes are the unsung heroes

*Editor's note: This column is also the commander's report to the 2024 Department Convention. Find all officer and committee reports to the convention at [mnlegion.org/annual-committee-reports/](http://mnlegion.org/annual-committee-reports/).*

## Commander's Column

Paul Hassing



looking forward to announcing the final total at the Department Convention.

Speaking of conventions, I was a bit disappointed in the turnouts at a lot of district conventions. We can do better. If you are a post commander and you are running such a great post that you don't need to at least send a representative to the District Convention, don't you feel like you should share your success with the rest of us. We really could use the help.

On the other hand, if you are a post commander and need help, or ideas, or anything to help you make your American Legion post better, you should be going, or at least sending a representative from your post.

There is a lot of information, years and wisdom at these events. If your post is going through something, chances are good that someone has already gone through it. I don't see any reason why every post shouldn't be attending, at least the district conventions. I get that the Department Conventions can be far to travel to, but district conventions should be attended by at least one person from every post.

One thing that I really learned this year is the number of unsung heroes we have in the Minnesota American Legion Family. Everywhere I went, there were great people working very hard to make the lives of veterans and their families a little bit better. Our American Legion could not run if it weren't for those who work behind the scenes to help get things done. I knew this but seeing it firsthand day in and

day out at every stop was inspiring. We have so many great people in our family. If I could have done anything different this year, I think I would have spent less time focusing on things that I thought were broken and spent more time focusing on what is working. We have so many good things going on in The American Legion, and we don't talk about them enough. We need to be telling our story for future generations. We need to be proud of what we have accomplished.

Most of the Legionnaires I meet don't like to brag about what they have done or don't realize the impact they have made on their communities, state or nation, but we need to let people know. The future of our organization depends on it, and the future of our veterans, and their families depends on the future of our organization.

I will cherish this year for the rest of my life, and I can't thank you enough for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your department commander. I hope I didn't let you down.

For Steve "Sully" and Diane Sullivan, thank you for pushing me and inspiring me. You are the best.

I hope to see all of you on "The Road Ahead."

God bless all of you

*Paul Hassing of Bloomington Post 550 is the commander of The American Legion Department of Minnesota. His theme is "The Road Ahead."*

Greetings, American Legion Family.

I have a lot of people to thank. If I listed all of you one by one, it would take up the whole article if not the whole paper. My family, especially my wife, Jody, deserve a very special thanks for all the love and support they have given me — not only this year but through all the years.

I also owe a lot to the past department commanders for the advice and support I received. I am also grateful for the best department staff in the entire American Legion. Mike Maxa, Tim Engstrom, Jennifer Kelley, Misty Padilla, Rachael Hill, Ray Kane and Janet Lorenzo work so hard to make us all look good and make our jobs easier. Thank you so much for all you do.

I got the opportunity to travel around our great state over the year. My favorite part was attending dinners at small posts. Seeing the hard work, and pride of our Legion Family volunteers, is truly amazing. I've gained a few pounds, and my tires are worn down, but it was worth it.

It didn't matter if it was a big occasion, or just a snack, a meeting, or a parade, the hospitality was always spectacular. You should all be very proud of yourselves. Great job.

Thank you everyone who donated to the Minnesota Veterans Assistance Fund (Minnesota American Legion Foundation's Fund 85). I asked for a very lofty goal of \$100,000, and we have surpassed that amount. I am

## 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.*

### Police deserve our support

Over email, I read Commander Paul Hassing's public statement, "Anti-police sentiment has got to end."

I've enjoyed living in St. Paul since my family moved here from Maryland in October 1956. I've always supported law enforcement, especially the St. Paul Police Department. Last December, I donated \$1,000 to the St. Paul Police Foundation. I donated another \$1,000 in June, and I'll continue to make contributions every six months.

In my opinion, we have one of the best police departments in the nation, and they deserve

more support and higher salaries. Only a very small percentage of our citizens have what it takes to qualify, and everyone in our wonderful city should appreciate the exceptional courage and dedication of our law enforcement officers.

**Barry Mommsen**  
St. Paul Post 1975

### Ripley hunts are well-done

I really enjoyed reading "Ripley's believe it," having been a volunteer/helper for several turkey and deer hunts. I agree with Steve Hanson's comment about it being an honor to help

these guys.

My hunters have taken two turkeys but no deer! Those hunts are well-organized and well-run by Tom Kramin and others, and they provide a great opportunity to get outdoors and enjoy nature.

**Milan Schmiesing**  
Willmar Post 167  
Elks Lodge 952

### Why did it take so long?

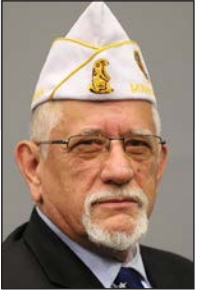
The commander's article regarding support for law enforcement was excellent. And needed. I read it at Legionnaire.org. (Find it on Page 2.)

I do have an issue with Gov.

# No matter how life goes, look to God

## Chaplain's Corner

Dean Knutson



There is not a day that goes by I am sure in everyone's daily schedule, that there is at least one time that we make a mistake, and after we realize that we have made the error, we feel bad, down on ourselves and even second guess our decision in that circumstance.

It seems to be human nature that we just want to fight our way forward before thinking out the situations before acting on them. It is in times like these that we have a tendency to make bad decisions and causing harm in one way or another to something or someone who is important in our lives.

When it seems like the everyday circumstances and situations come our way they begin to weigh us down and cause despair and anxiety within us. We need to remember that no matter how hard we try to make everything go the way we would like it to or try to make our will more important, we need to remember that it is God's will that must be done in our lives.

We were never promised by God that by believing in him that life would be free of challenges and difficulties, but it could seem like to us that life is just the opposite and there seems to be more and more challenges that come our way.

God does not tell us we need to believe in him but offers us the choice to believe or not. It is through these challenges that come before us that we can face them because of our belief in

God, and we can learn from them and grow stronger in our faith in God. It is through these times that we need to understand that it is God's will that needs to be done in our lives as human beings can be very outspoken and tough-willed at these times it always seems to go a whole lot better if we submit to God's will.

One of the most trying areas that man tries to instill their will the most is probably in the area of being able to ask for forgiveness or being able to give forgiveness.

There are numerous verses in the Bible that refer to the act of forgiveness and the phrase that stands out the best is and I quote, "Forgive others and you will be forgiven."

We are supposed to put unto others as God's chosen one's, the holy and heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience that God has bestowed upon us. God came into this world as a loving and forgiving father, not one to condemn the world but to show love and gentleness and as we live by God's will the act of forgiveness' either asking for or giving, although it may be hard it times will somehow in it's own way will not become such a large challenge to us.

In closing, let us go forth and serve the Lord our God always with joyful and open hearts.

Important holidays in July and August are:

- July 1: Canada Day/ Dominion Day
- July 2: National Firefighters Day
- July 3: National Hawaii Day
- July 4: Independence Day
- July 7: Islamic New Year
- July 14: Bastille Day
- July 25: National Hire a Veteran Day
- Aug. 4: Coast Guard Birthday
- Aug. 6: Hiroshima Day
- Aug. 12: Victory Day (conclusion of WWII)
- Aug. 12: Tisha B'Av
- Aug. 15: Assumption of Mary
- Aug. 16: National Airborne Day
- Aug. 18: National Couples Day
- Aug. 19: National Aviation Day
- Aug. 21: Senior Citizen Day
- Aug. 26: Janmashtami

*Dean Knutson of Ashby Post 357 is the chaplain for The American Legion Department of Minnesota.*

Tim Walz saying he was going to move the case involving Trooper Ryan Londregan to another jurisdiction. Walz only said that after the charges were dropped (only expressing concerns prior).

Walz and Attorney General Keith Ellison have done a great deal of damage to the law enforcement community and the judicial system. It is my hope and prayer voters wake up and elect better leadership into office.

**Gary Zylstra**  
Chanhassen Post 580

### Anyone want to help them get a machine?

On behalf of Vikingland Junior Shooting Sports, I am reaching out to humbly request your support and generous contribution toward our new club. We believe that your commitment to making a positive impact aligns perfectly with our mission, and we kindly request your consideration in supporting our efforts.

Vikingland Junior Shooting Sports is a 501(c)3 organization that provides opportunities for youth to learn about, practice for, and compete in state, national, and international amateur marksmanship competitions. Vikingland Junior Shooting Sports is not a social club. It is a competitive training club, all participants have an interest in shooting, a desire to compete in matches, and may eventually acquire their own equipment

to continue and advance in the program.

Our club has affiliated with Brandon American Legion Post

278 to teach youth rifle safety and procedure and lets children participate in an Olympic skill

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## The Minnesota Legionnaire

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

Official publication of  
The American Legion  
Department of Minnesota

**About:** The Minnesota Legionnaire (USPS 013679) (ISSN 01644270) is published monthly by The American Legion, Department of Minnesota, 20 W 12th St., Room 300A, St. Paul, MN 55155-2000.

Periodicals postage paid at St Paul, Minnesota, and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Minnesota Legionnaire, 20 W. 12th St., St. Paul, MN 55155-2000.

First published in 1920 as the Hennepin County Legionnaire, the Minnesota Legionnaire is now in its 101st year of publication. The Legionnaire is a member of The American Legion Media Alliance.

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# Candidates for the department election shaping up

## OFFICIAL BALLOT

The American Legion, Dept of Minnesota  
Election of Officers 2024-2025

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

Like This: 



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

Department Vice Commander (Vote for 5)	
Veronica Fernlund	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joe Jansen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pam Krill	<input type="checkbox"/>
James Marano	<input type="checkbox"/>
Don Skow	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write In	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write In	<input type="checkbox"/>

Chaplain (vote for one)	
Kelley Adelsman	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write In	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historian (vote for one)	
Karen O'Bar	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write In	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

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

## Come do the business of the Legion at the convention in Willmar

WILLMAR — The 105th American Legion Department of Minnesota Convention is July 11-13 at the Willmar Conference Center, with some standing committees meeting on July 10. Willmar Post 167 is hosting.

The official registration form is found on this page. The registration fee is \$15. To encourage early registration, the fee goes up after June 26 to \$25. That will be the fee for registration at the door, too. Be sure to include one form per participant.

Need another form? It is available for download as a PDF at [mnlegion.org/department-convention](http://mnlegion.org/department-convention).

Registration is available online through Eventbrite by visiting [mnlegion.org](http://mnlegion.org) and selecting "events." Anyone also can find the links at [mnlegion.org/department-convention](http://mnlegion.org/department-convention) or [mnlegion.org/calendar](http://mnlegion.org/calendar). Eventbrite will charge a \$2.85 fee.

The Department of Minnesota Convention Corp. thanks Auxiliary member Carrie Werner of Redwood Falls Unit 38 for helping with registration. She can answer registration questions. Her email is [carriewerner@gmail.com](mailto:carriewerner@gmail.com).

Organizers urge members to make lodging reservations as early as possible directly with

the hotels. Ask for "The American Legion block."

Best Western Plus: 320-235-6060  
Holiday Inn Express: 320-231-2601  
Country Inn & Suites: 320-214-0300  
AmericInn: 320-365-1995

This is the first of five years the convention will be hosted at the Willmar Conference Center. A five-year deal struck last year reduces conventions costs.

The convention is where the statewide Legion membership conducts its business and elects new officers.

### 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**  
• Carl Moon, Zimmerman Post 560

**Vice Commander (vote for five)**

• Veronica Fernlund, Waite Park Post 428

• Joe Jansen, North St. Paul Post 39

• Pam Krill, Fairmont Post 36

• James Marano, Keewatin Post 452

• Don Skow, Forest City Post 225

**Chaplain**

• Kelley Adelsman, Pine Island Post 184

**Historian**

• Karen O'Bar, Bertha Post 366

**Sergeant-at-arms**

• Betty Jass, Sleepy Eye

Post 7

### Board of Publications

• Paul Hassing, Bloomington Post 550

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

Most candidates for department offices announced 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 June 26. However, nominations still can come at the convention.

All of the terms are for one year except Board of Publications. It is a three-year term.

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

Proposed convention resolutions are printed on Page 14. Convention reports were printed as a PDF online to save printing costs.

"These are reports on what is done with your dues," Hassing said. "You deserve to know."

Visit [mnlegion.org](http://mnlegion.org), then hover over "Department," then "TALMN Committees," and you should see the link for the 2024 Committee Reports.

Resolutions are available to review on Page 12. Delegates, be sure to review them prior to the convention.

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



### DEPARTMENT CONVENTION REGISTRATION

— Official Form —

A registration fee of \$25 for each person attending, whether a delegate, alternate or a guest, must accompany this form.

Make your check payable to "American Legion Post 167" with "Dept. Convention" written on the memo line.

Please mail this form with your check to:  
Carrie Werner  
36898 County Hwy. 6  
Redwood Falls, MN 56238  
Registration before June 26 was \$15.

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.



Come see Past National Commander Dan Ludwig do his infamous stance, "The Lüdwig" (emphasis on the ü), when he stands at the microphone.

## Mail Call

Continued from Page 4

sport while fostering healthy competition. All interested youth under 18 years old (or high school seniors no older than 20) are welcome, regardless of gender or physical ability. Shooters are trained to use a .177 air rifle, and levels vary from beginners learning safety basics to winners of the Legion-affiliated National Championship, which consists of regional champs competing in a shoulder-to-shoulder match.

We are writing to request a donation to help us purchase an Orion for Clubs Electronic Management System and the 1st year club license. This bundle includes a laptop with preloaded software for creating and joining virtual matches for shooters. It scores paper targets quickly, accurately, and transparently. It uploads shooting results to results centers. It also reports our sanctioned competitions

directly to the Civilian Marksmanship Program. This system will also allow our shooters to join virtual matches.

A quote from Scopos, the company that provides Orion for Clubs, says it costs \$1,137.25.

Your support will be invaluable and greatly appreciated. Any amount, no matter how small, will make a significant difference in our efforts.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 320-304-0809 or Carl Wilson at 320-304-5333 or [vikinglandjss@outlook.com](mailto:vikinglandjss@outlook.com).

Any check can be sent to: Vikingland Junior Shooting Sports, 211 8th Ave SE, Elbow Lake, MN 56531.

**Hope Wilson  
Brandon Unit 278  
Co-founder, Vikingland Jr.  
Shooting Sports**



Not to be outdone, Past National Vice Commander Al Davis has his own well-known stance, too. His is called "The Al Davis" (emphasis on the The).



# Step right up, folks, and get yer sports rankings right here!

Scheels Top 20 Rankings as of June 28.

- Div. I Sr.**
1. Eden Prairie
  2. Farmington
  3. Excelsior
  4. Tri-City Red (New Brighton)
  5. Mankato American
  6. Mankato National
  7. Forest Lake
  8. St. Paul Hamline Purple
  9. Foley
  10. Stillwater
  11. Hastings
  12. Osseo
  13. Fridley Gold
  14. Perham
  15. Andover
  16. Edina
  18. Wayzata
  19. Shakopee
  20. Becker

4. Springfield
5. Parkers Prairie
6. Montevideo
7. Glenwood-Lowry
8. New London-Spicer
9. Sleepy Eye
10. Ada
11. Wadena
12. Redwood Falls
13. Ashby
14. Chatfield
15. Breckenridge
16. Dilworth
17. St. Charles
19. Cannon Falls
20. Watertown

- Softball**
1. Virginia
  2. St. Cloud
  3. Wadena
  4. Browerville/Clarissa
  5. Swanville
  6. New York Mills
  7. Fairmont
  8. Bemidji
  9. Minneota
  10. Melrose

- Div. II Sr.**
1. Esko
  2. Le Sueur-Henderson
  3. Zumbrota-Mazeppa

# Taps

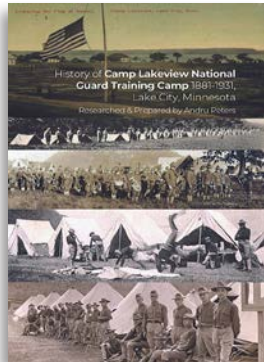


Please send "Taps" entries to [tengstrom@mnlegion.org](mailto:tengstrom@mnlegion.org) or mail to 20 W. 12th St., Room 300A, St. Paul, MN 55155, or visit [mnlegion.org/taps](http://mnlegion.org/taps). Thank you.

Name of Deceased	Age	Date of Death	Branch	Era	Cont. Years	Post
<b>Adams, Kenneth E.</b>	82	3/19/24	Navy	Vietnam	2	Eyota Post 551
<b>Adler, Gary N.</b>	72	5/14/24	Army	Vietnam	5	Millville Valley Post 579
<b>Alama, Ricky G.</b>	68	4/30/24	Navy	Vietnam	10	Litchfield Post 104
<b>Attig, Harry W.</b>	95	5/12/24	Army	WWII	26	Glenville Post 264
<b>Balbach, Donald E.</b>	93	6/23/24	Air Force	Korea	34	New Ulm Post 132
Note: He enlisted at 17 and served six years, reaching technical sergeant. He was trained as an aircraft mechanic, crew chief supervisor and flight engineer. He worked on B-29, T-33, C-45 and C-47 aircraft.						
<b>Beardsley, Charles D.</b>	85	5/23/24	Army	Vietnam	8	Aitkin Post 86
<b>Berger, Erling M.</b>	94	6/10/24	Army	Korea	70	Alexandria Post 87
<b>Bjerkelund, Bruce L.</b>	85	5/26/24	Air Force	Vietnam	30	Hutchinson Post 96
Note: He was past post commander.						
<b>Blessing, Robert P.</b>	78	5/3/24	Marines	Vietnam	17	Motley Post 124
Note: His military career spanned 22 years, reaching master sergeant.						
<b>Boser, Leon J.</b>	87	5/19/24	Army	Vietnam	34	Pierz Post 341
Note: He was a past post commander.						
<b>Boser, Leon J.</b>	87	5/19/24	Army	Vietnam	34	Pierz Post 341
<b>Brake, Donald S.</b>	91	5/26/24	Navy	Korea	47	Lismore Post 636
Note: He served aboard the USS Los Angeles serving in the Western Pacific during the Korean War.						
<b>Breitbach, Dennis H.</b>	74	5/24/24	Army	Vietnam	7	Pierz Post 341
<b>Brown, Peter W.</b>	91	5/30/24	Army	Korea	5	Aitkin Post 86
<b>Bungum, Donald N.</b>	92	5/12/24	Army	Korea	56	Chisago City Post 272
Note: He served with the 11th Airborne Division. He was the post bugler. He interviewed more than 175 veterans for the Veterans History Project at the Smithsonian Institution.						
<b>Carver, John E.</b>	89	4/10/24	Air Force	Korea	41	Spicer Post 545
<b>Chambard, Scott A.</b>	68	5/16/24	Air Force	Vietnam	22	New Ulm Post 132
Note: He served as a munitions maintenance specialist at Grand Forks AFB.						
<b>Chmielewski, Florian W. Sr.</b>	97	4/23/24	Air Force	Korea	25	Denham Post 361
Note: He was a state senator for 26 years, first elected in 1970, but was best-known as an accordion player with the Chmielewski Funtime Band, often appearing at Legion and VFW posts. He is in the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame and the International Polka Association Hall of Fame. He served in the military 1950-54 and was a Pine County commissioner 1960-70.						
<b>Clair, Allen F.</b>	94	5/6/24	Army	Korea	54	Austin Post 91
<b>Cline, Lawrence P.</b>	105	5/17/24	Army	WWII	38	Millerville Post 527
Note: He was stationed in Australia. He was a cryptographic technician who repaired and maintained top-secret signal equipment, code machines and radios. He may have been the oldest Minn. Legionnaire. (Dept. does not have all the ages.)						
<b>Dale, Raymond J.</b>	79	1/10/24	Army	Vietnam	29	Spicer Post 545
<b>Doerr, Lyle C.</b>	95	11/5/23	Army	Korea	48	Stillwater Post 48
Note: He finished his Minnesota National Guard career as assistant adjutant general for the 47th Infantry Division and was instrumental in establishing what now is the Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum at Camp Ripley.						
<b>Duggan, Earle W.</b>	95	1/28/24	Marines	WWII	6	Lake City Post 110
<b>Eikmeier, Edward W.</b>	88	4/24/24	Army	Korea	53	Pipestone Post 6
<b>Eustis, Shirley A.</b>	88	4/25/24	Air Force	Korea	40	Albert Lea Post 56
Note: She was a past post commander.						
<b>Faerber, Isidor P. "Izzy"</b>	93	5/27/24	Army	Korea	71	New Ulm Post 132
Note: He served in the National Guard, and his unit was called up to active duty in January 1951. He spent 19 months at Camp Rucker training new draftees.						
<b>Farka, Ward W.</b>	98	6/2/24	Navy	WWII	4	Alexandria Post 87
<b>Flatgard, Ronald V.</b>	93	5/16/24	Army	Korea	36	Windom Post 206
<b>Fleming, Dean L.</b>	98	5/13/24	Army	WWII	53	St. Paul Park Post 98
<b>Fluck, Gerald J.</b>	82	5/5/24	Army	Vietnam	17	Hector Post 135
Note: He was stationed in Giessen, Germany. His stay was extended 2 1/2 months because of the Berlin Crisis.						
<b>Franzen, Brian C.</b>	75	5/11/24	Army	Vietnam	51	Spicer Post 545
<b>Frein, David J.</b>	76	4/28/24	Army	Vietnam	10	Austin Post 91
<b>Gibbons, Gary B.</b>	91	2/25/24	Army	Korea	30	Alexandria Post 87
<b>Gilbertson, George B.</b>	95	2/22/24	Army	WWII	76	Ada Post 26
Note: According to his obituary, he was an MP in Japan selected to serve on "the general's guard." (It was unclear whether this meant Gen. Douglas MacArthur or a lower-ranking general, such as a division commander.)						
<b>Gjessing, Morris O.</b>	98	5/15/24	Navy	WWII	58	Moose Lake Post 379
Note: He became a corpsman stationed at a Seattle hospital. Next, he served aboard the USS Adonis repair ship, cruising to Okinawa and Shanghai, among other ports. After the war, he reenlisted and served on the USS Wisconsin battleship and later he became a cartographer at the U.S. Navy Hydrographic Office in Washington, D.C., which sent him to Greenland and to many Caribbean Sea locations.						
<b>Goblirsch, Gerald P.</b>	74	5/2/24	Army	Vietnam	37	New Ulm Post 132
Note: He was a military policeman assigned to the 720th MP Battalion. He deployed to Vietnam for one year.						
<b>Grant, Gary J.</b>	68	4/28/24	Navy	Cold	8	Clearwater Post 323
<b>Hale, Reginald V.</b>	93	2/23/24	Army	Korea	62	Alexandria Post 87
<b>Halverson, Ernest C.</b>	80	5/6/24	Army	Vietnam	57	Albert Lea Post 56
<b>Hamann, Fred H.</b>	92	6/5/24	Army	Korea	19	Deer Creek Post 283
Note: He was stationed in Japan, where he met the love of his life, and they were married at the American Embassy in 1954.						
<b>Helmin, William E.</b>	71	5/18/24	Army	Vietnam	47	Hillman Post 602
<b>Hepola, Russell D.</b>	89	5/20/24	Marines	Korea	54	New York Mills Post 116
Note: He played football for Itasca Community College while waiting to enter the service. After boot camp, he found himself on the front lines in Korea with the 1st Marine Division and served with honor.						
<b>Hess, Allen J.</b>	85	6/8/24	Army	Vietnam	17	Lake Henry Post 162
<b>Hirsch, Donald A.</b>	90	5/26/24	Army	Korea	19	Little Falls Post 46
<b>Hopke, Terry L.</b>	86	5/29/24	Navy	Vietnam	31	Waite Park Post 428
Note: He worked as an engineer at the St. Cloud VA from discharge all the way to retirement.						
<b>Horner, Jerome R.</b>	91	5/7/24	Army	Korea	43	New Ulm Post 132
Note: He signed with the National Guard at 17, then graduated high school, then became part of the 135th Infantry Regiment at Camp Rucker, Ala.						
<b>Horsch, William L.</b>	83	4/5/24	Army	Vietnam	2	Delano Post 377
Note: He served in the Signal Corps.						
<b>Hoyhtya, Loren W.</b>	79	5/12/24	Navy	Vietnam	20	Deer Creek Post 283
Note: He was stationed in the Mediterranean twice. After active duty, he joined the Navy Reserve.						
<b>Johnson, Richard L.</b>	80	4/22/24	Army	Vietnam	4	Bemidji Post 14
<b>Keller, Ewald K.</b>	93	3/25/24	Army	Korea	36	Gaylord Post 433
<b>Ketter, George H.</b>	98	2/28/24	Army	WWII	69	Alexandria Post 87
<b>Kirkland, Larry E.</b>	78	2/10/24	Army	Vietnam	53	Byron Post 119
<b>Kragenbring, Randall L.</b>	77	3/29/24	Army NG	Vietnam	22	Spicer Post 545
<b>Kremer, Eldred L.</b>	78	5/11/24	Army	Vietnam	5	Watkins Post 453
<b>Krispin, John W. "Jack"</b>	77	6/9/24	Navy	Vietnam	56	Rosetown Memorial Post 542
Note: He served aboard the destroyer USS Cogswell as a boatswain's mate.						
<b>Krueger, Raymond E.</b>	80	5/13/24	Air Force	Vietnam	22	Hutchinson Post 96
<b>Larson, Charles W.</b>	92	5/29/24	Army	Korea	29	Austin Post 91
<b>Larson, Donus W.</b>	76	6/1/24	Army	Vietnam	54	Worthington Post 5

## History of Camp Lakeview

National Guard Training Camp 1881-1931



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# Who is coming to Pipestone Post 6?

*Editor's note: This column is also the director's report to the 2024 Department Convention. Find all officer and committee reports to the convention at [mnlegion.org/annual-committee-reports/](http://mnlegion.org/annual-committee-reports/).*

This year has gone by so fast! I can't believe that the Department Convention is right around the corner. The Minnesota American Legion Riders will meet in Willmar on Friday July 12 at 4:30 p.m. in Gallery 5-7.

Reminder, we will be voting on the proposed Constitution & Bylaws. If you would like a copy, please contact myself ([jodyhassing@gmail.com](mailto:jodyhassing@gmail.com) or our secretary at [secretary@mnalr.org](mailto:secretary@mnalr.org)), and we will send you a copy for your chapter to review and vote on. All are welcome and encouraged to attend the MNALR Convention. We look forward to hearing and seeing everyone. Please remember all motions must originate from one of the district representatives or MNALR department officers, and only those same individuals are allowed to vote.

I hope by now each of the chapters in the state has sent in the Chapter Consolidated Report to our secretary at [secretary@mnalr.org](mailto:secretary@mnalr.org). I am looking forward to sharing all we have done this year with The American Legion.

The Fund 85 Run is in the final stages of planning. The kickoff party will be July 24 at Pipestone American Legion Post 6. The doors will open at

## Legion Riders

**Jody Hassing**



4 p.m., dinner will be at 6 p.m., and the program will start at 7 p.m. A block of rooms has been reserved at Grandstay Hotel & Suites in Pipestone.

Thursday evening, we will stay in Montevideo and a block of rooms is available at the Grandstay. Friday evening we will stay in Austin; there is a block of rooms at the Days Inn and right next door to the Days Inn is the AmericInn.

Saturday we will end the day in La Crescent and a block of rooms is available at Baymont Inn Onalaska. The ending party will be July 28 at Bayport American Legion Post 491. We usually plan to arrive at the ending location between 1 and 2 p.m., more details to follow.

The National Mission Ride will be hosted by Slayton American Legion Riders on Aug. 17. The details will be posted on

Facebook and on our website: [www.mnalr.org](http://www.mnalr.org).

If you would like assistance setting up a chapter at your post, please let me or your district Riders representative know so we can help you get things going. If you are interested in having me talk to your chapter or district about the proposed Constitution & Bylaws, please contact me.

I will give a complete recap of the year at the Department Convention.

God bless and keep the rubber side down.

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



## Come on out

Not a Legion Rider? Want to present a donation from your post to Fund 85, which is the Minnesota Veterans Assistant Fund?

Come to the ending party at Bayport Post 491 between 1 and 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 17, and make your presentation.

## Department scholars named

The Department of Minnesota Education Committee has awarded the following scholarships:

### Memorial

- Brock Dewey, Ashby, \$500, UND
- Nick Tobkin, Detroit Lakes, \$500, U of Minn., Twin Cities
- Alaura Dahl, Backus, \$500, Central Lakes College
- Kendall Dyke, Kasson, U of Wis., La Crosse
- Hana Thompson, Mentor, \$500, U of Minn, Duluth
- Brooklyn Loew, Askov, \$500, NDSU

### Foundation

- Beth Powers, Dumont, \$500, MSU, Mankato
- Ian Barber, Worthington, \$500, U of Northwestern
- Jackson Barber, Spicer, \$500, U of Minn., Twin Cities

### Nurses Training

- Kailey Fossell, Hoyt Lakes, \$1,000, St. Cloud State U.
- Trisha Gebhart, Detroit Lakes, \$1,000, College of St. Benedict
- Paige Maurer, Foley, \$1,000, College of St. Benedict
- Brynn Froelich, Farmington, \$1,000, Gustavus Adolphus College
- Anna Meeker, Green Isle, \$1,000, College of St. Benedict.

## All-Family Events Calendar

- June 27:** Dedication of Preston Veterans Home
- June 28-29:** SAL Detachment of Minnesota Convention, Forest Lake Post 225
- July 1:** Dedication of Bemidji Veterans Home
- July 4:** Independence Day, local ceremonies
- July 10:** Department standing committee meetings, Willmar Conference Center, Willmar
- July 11:** Department Executive Committee meeting, Willmar Conference Center, Willmar
- July 11-13:** Department of Minnesota Convention, Willmar Conference Center, hosted by Willmar Post 167
- July 12:** Department ALR Meeting, Willmar
- July 19-26:** Boys/Girls Nation, Washington, D.C.
- July 24:** Fund 85 Run Kickoff Party, Pipestone Post 6
- July 27:** Navy Blue Angels perform at the Fargo AirSho, Fargo Air Museum, Hector International Airport, Fargo
- July 28-Aug. 1:** Minnesota American Legion Baseball Div. 1-A Tournament, Burnsville
- July 28:** Fund 85 Run Ending Party, Bayport Post 491
- Aug. 1-4:** Minnesota American Legion Baseball Div. I Sr. State Tournament, Maple Grove
- Aug. 1-4:** Minnesota American Legion Baseball Div. I Jr. State Tournament, Bloomington
- Aug. 2:** Final session of Legionville safety camp ends
- Aug. 2-4:** Minnesota American Legion Baseball Div. II Sr. State Tournament, Bird Island
- Aug. 3-4:** Minnesota American Legion Fastpitch Softball State Tournament, Bemidji
- Aug. 9-11:** Minnesota American Legion Baseball Div. II Jr. State Tournament, St. Charles
- Aug. 9-11:** Junior Auxiliary Fun Weekend at Legionville
- Aug. 17:** Minnesota ALR National Mission Ride, Slayton
- Aug. 18-22:** American Legion Legacy Run, end in New Orleans at the 105th National Convention
- Aug. 15-20:** American Legion World Series, Shelby, N.C.
- Aug. 23-29:** 105th National Convention, Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, New Orleans
- Sept. 5-8:** Camporee, Legionville
- Sept 12-15:** Legion Riders Romp at Legionville
- Sept. 13-15:** NS/FR Weekend, Camp Ripley
- Oct. 1-6:** John Zgoda Memorial Deer Hunt, Legionville
- Oct. 7-10:** Fall Meetings, Sheraton Hotel, Indianapolis
- Oct. 24:** Department Executive Committee meeting, River's Edge Convention Center, St. Cloud
- Oct. 24-26:** Fall Conference, River's Edge Convention Center, St. Cloud

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# Focus on the positive aspects this summer

## National Report

Bill Barbknecht



With all our district conventions over, congratulations to all the newly elected district commanders and also to those that are staying on an extra year.

Maybe try to meet with those posts you were not able to the first time? May you enjoy the best years in The American Legion. You may meet new people and make new friends in the Legion Family.

A big thank-you to Department Commander Paul Hassing for exceeding his goal of over a \$100,000 and then some. The dollars will help a lot of veterans and families.

Congratulations to Officer Scott Kostohryz of Moorhead Police Department as being named the Midwest winner for American Legion Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

Congratulations to KARE 11. It wins the American Legion Fourth Estate Award in the Broadcast Category. The awards will be presented at the National Convention in New Orleans in August 2024.

Baseball and Girls' Fast-pitch Softball are in full swing. Thanks to our baseball and softball committees. Softball has more teams than it ever has had, and baseball remains the biggest in the country. Go take part in a game in your area. Veterans get in for free.

2024 dues will be collected until the end of December. Please get those into the Department Headquarters as soon as possible.

As always, have you been doing Buddy Checks? Go see those members who have not renewed yet.

A gentle reminder as we start the new year, we must *all* work together or we will not be successful at reaching our goals.

How about the Memorial Day programs? How was yours?

My post, Fergus Falls Post 30, held an excellent Memorial Day program as I am sure many other posts did. I am always so grateful to see young families with their children teaching them the true meaning of Memorial Day.

Please teach our children to turn this current mantra around. The next holiday, the Fourth of July, would be a great place to start. Make plans with your members for a history lesson there.

A huge thank-you to our department staff as they do so very much for all our members. It's not an easy task by any means. Thank you, staff members.

Donna and I look forward to seeing many of you at the Department Convention in Willmar, July 10-13. As we look forward to a new year, new leaders and new ideas. "Be the One" to help others in any way shape or form.

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



### DRIVE HOME YOUR SUPPORT!



Purchase a plate and support MN Military members, Veterans and their families. [MinnesotaVeteran.org/SOT](http://MinnesotaVeteran.org/SOT)

## Taps



Continued from Page 6

<b>Lelwica, Thomas E.</b>	78	5/27/24	Army	Vietnam	57	Winona Post 9
<b>Lothar, David T. "Stony"</b>	89	5/27/24	Army	Korea-L/G	9	Zumbrota Post 183
Note: He served in the National Guard for 33 years, reaching first sergeant.						
<b>Mace, Robert M.</b>	81	6/15/24	Army	Vietnam	57	Waite Park Post 428
Note: He served as sergeant-at-arms for the Department of Minnesota in 2004-05 and 2008-09. He was a past chairman of the Department Bowling Committee, which organizes the Minnesota American Legion State Bowling Tournament. He was post commander in 1991-92 and 2010-11, and he served 50-plus years on the honor guard.						
<b>Mensink, Harlan W.</b>	96	5/14/24	Navy/Army	WWII/Korea	75	Ostrander Post 544
Note: He served in the Navy aboard the USS Current, a rescue and salvage ship, during World War II. After, he got married and worked at an Ostrander bank but was called back to service in 1951, serving in the Army's 440th Signal Aviation Construction Battalion in Korea until 1953, then serving in the Army Reserve until 1960. Yes, he returned to the bank, retiring as its president. He also is a former Ostrander mayor and council member. He was a charter member of Post 544.						
<b>Menz, Garry J.</b>	75	4/15/24	Navy	Vietnam	32	Dent Post 148
Note: He served for 23 years. He served aboard the supercarrier USS Forrestal and made three deployments, one with 7th Fleet in Vietnam and two with 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean Sea.						
<b>Miller, James D.</b>	93	4/24/24	Army	Vietnam	43	Monticello Post 260
<b>Miller, Richard U.</b>	88	12/5/23	Air Force	Korea	51	Kasson Post 333
Note: He served in the SAC unit for the 8th Air Force at Westover AFB, Mass.						
<b>Monson, Donavon C.</b>	80	5/27/24	Army	Vietnam	58	Willmar Post 167
<b>Morrison, Terry L.</b>	78	5/14/24	Air Force	Vietnam	14	Worthington Post 5
<b>Nelson, Gordon L.</b>	86	5/2/24	Marines	Vietnam	15	Albert Lea Post 56
<b>Novak, Mark A.</b>	74	8/24/23	Navy	Vietnam	13	Janesville Post 281
<b>Osborn, Gregory A.</b>	73	12/22/23	Army	Vietnam	3	Hayfield Post 330
<b>Ostlie, Junior R.</b>	91	6/5/24	Air Force	Korea	54	Lester Prairie Post 463
<b>Paschke, Howard W.</b>	95	5/8/24	Army	Korea	36	Blue Earth Post 89
Note: He served as a 1st lieutenant in the Artillery Corps in Korea.						
<b>Peik, David M.</b>	81	5/25/24	Navy/Marines	Vietnam	18	Albert Lea Post 56
Note: He served two tours in Vietnam.						
<b>Peterson, Richard D.</b>	90	4/28/24	Army	Korea	5	Willmar Post 167
<b>Raether, Keane K.</b>	72	5/25/24	Army	Vietnam	34	Waconia Post 150
<b>Reinert, LeRoy J.</b>	81	5/23/24	Air Force	Vietnam	28	Hutchinson Post 96
<b>Rice, Douglas D.</b>	87	5/24/24	Navy	Korea	50	Waite Park Post 428
<b>Rolander, Robert R.</b>	84	5/23/24	Army	Vietnam	58	Hutchinson Post 96
Note: He was a past post commander.						
<b>Schloeder, Thomas H.L.</b>	93	5/2/24	Navy	Korea	5	Litchfield Post 104
<b>Schluter, B. Nicholas Jr.</b>	89	4/30/24	Air Force	Vietnam	56	Cass Lake Post 284
<b>Seifert, Larry B.</b>	78	5/30/24	Army NG	Vietnam	38	Graceville Post 297
<b>Solberg, Harlan A.</b>	91	5/25/24	Army	Korea	64	Greenbush Post 88
<b>Solberg, Ronald L.</b>	77	9/22/23	Army	Vietnam	13	Eyota Post 551
<b>Spain, David J.</b>	83	5/5/24	Army	Vietnam	34	Lake City Post 110
<b>Spandrel, Charley W.</b>	94	6/5/24	Army	Korea	71	Little Falls Post 46
<b>Stenslie, Layne A.</b>	75	4/27/24	Army	Vietnam	34	Deer Creek Post 283
<b>Stiller, Donald S.</b>	91	5/12/24	Army	Korea	91	Holdingford Post 211
<b>Stoltz, Emil J.</b>	91	2/6/24	Air Force	Korea	36	Alexandria Post 87
<b>Stotesbery, Howard S.</b>	81	5/19/24	Army	Vietnam	50	Graceville Post 297
Note: He served in Da Nang.						
<b>Stumpf, Carroll J.</b>	93	6/12/24	Marines	Korea	57	Little Falls Post 46
<b>Sturgis, Gene C.</b>	80	1/31/24	Army	Vietnam	14	Eyota Post 551
<b>Sweigert, Thomas W.</b>	73	6/1/24	Navy	Vietnam	5	Rosetown Post 542
<b>Thompson, Harold J.</b>	98	4/28/24	Navy	WWII	66	Alexandria Post 87
<b>Thompson, Robert L.</b>	88	2/3/24	Army	Vietnam	39	Bramner Post 255
<b>Tichy, Charles D.</b>	87	4/24/24	Navy	Korea	50	Bloomington Post 550
<b>Tooker, Irvin W.</b>	91	5/25/24	Army	Korea	71	Walker Post 134
Note: He was a past 7th District membership director, past 2nd District commander, past 6th District vice commander and honorary 6th District commander. He was a past post commander and Cass County Council commander.						
<b>VanWey, Charles C.</b>	86	5/26/24	Army	Korea	51	Albert Lea Post 56
<b>Verby, Craig R.</b>	75	4/29/24	Navy	Vietnam	9	Swanville Post 313
<b>Vogt, Leonard D. Jr.</b>	77	4/15/24	Army	Vietnam	13	St. Peter Post 37
<b>Wagner, Edwin E.</b>	97	6/15/24	Army AF	WWII	44	Rochester Post 92
<b>Walquist, Robert L.</b>	77	5/12/24	Navy	Vietnam	54	Willmar Post 167
<b>Winans, Charles W.</b>	70	3/3/24	Air Force	Vietnam	37	Eyota Post 551
Note: He and his wife formed Charlie Bill & the Mostly Country Band, which played at many Legion posts and other venues over 30 years.						
<b>Winter, Erwin F.</b>	95	5/6/24	Army	Korea	41	Montevideo Post 59
<b>Wolff, David J.</b>	81	5/17/24	Navy	Vietnam	18	New Ulm Post 132
Note: He served as an airman on the flight deck of the USS Independence and was stationed at San Diego, Calif., and Beeville, Texas.						
<b>Woods, John R. "Woody"</b>	80	6/15/24	Air Force	Vietnam	25	St. Peter Post 37
Note: He served two tours of duty in Vietnam, at Phan Rang and Tuy Hoa.						
<b>Zabel, Vern R.</b>	72	5/27/24	Navy	Vietnam	51	Blue Earth Post 89
<b>Ziebarth, Donald D.</b>	91	4/21/24	Army	Korea	44	Cambridge Post 290
Note: His brother died in January, and combined they had a total 91 years of continuous membership.						
<b>Ziegler, Robert E. "Ziggy"</b>	92	5/30/24	Army	Korea	44	Rosetown Post 542



Bob Mace



Irvin Tooker



Department Membership Director Pam Krill, Twins mascot T.C. Bear and Department Commander Paul Hassing stand for a photograph at Target Field on May 24, when Hassing and Krill threw out first pitches for American Legion Day at Target Field. On the right, Hassing, Krill, relatives and Post 172's James Hultgren walk out on the field.





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# Endorsements

## Adelsman endorsed for department chaplain

The Rev. Kelley Adelsman has been endorsed for chaplain of The American Legion Department of Minnesota by the Minnesota 3rd District Convention and Charles Cowden Post 184, Pine Island. She is a PUFL member of The American Legion. Her qualifying terms of military service encompass: U.S. Army 1984-89 and the Minnesota Army National Guard 2006-12.

At the department level she was elected chaplain for 2021-22 and appointed for January to July 2023. At the 3rd District, she was vice commander 2019-21, historian 2022-23 and chaplain, 2023-24.

For Pine Island Post 184, she was chaplain 2012-13, service officer 2012-13 and 2020-21 and 2nd vice commander and Executive Committee member

2022-2023.

In 2019, Adelsman was selected and attended National American Legion College. For three years (2022 to 2024), she has had the distinct honor of being a National American Legion College Facilitator, or "tator." She has been an active member of the Department of Minnesota Training Committee since 2020. In 2021 she was endorsed for National American Legion chaplain.

Adelsman has been an ordained minister since 2007. She completed a Master of Divinity degree and has an ecclesiastical endorsement through Converge (formerly Baptist General Conference). She was one of the first of six Minnesota Army National Guard chaplains to complete a unit of clinical pastoral education through a new

partnership with the St. Cloud VA Health Care System and the National Guard.

She completed an additional five units at Mayo Clinic and St. Cloud VA Health Care System respectively. She has been a chaplain in the National Guard, hospice chaplain and bereavement coordinator for Mayo Clinic and the Mayo Clinic Health Care System.

This year, she created a new podcast hosted by the Department Media & Communication Committee called "Spotlight on Spirit." Listen in, like, subscribe and follow at YouTube channel for Minnesota American Legion or Spotify "Spotlight on Spirit." You can find it at legionnaire.



Kelley Adelsman

org, too. This podcast creates safety to talk with others on how spirituality and a practiced religion deepen one's sense of purpose, identity and value.

This following year, 2024-2025 (God willing), she plans to work with others (Frank Gifford of the 6th District and the Rev. Cindy Yanchury of the 3rd, to name two) to develop a Chaplain Manual for the Department of Minnesota that will provide information and how-to aids for chaplains in our department.

Adelsman resides in Pine Island with her spouse, Mike, of 29 years. They enjoy their three grown children.

## Jansen backed for department vice commander

It is with great honor that Christie-DeParcq American Legion Post 406 in St. Paul nominates Joe Jansen for the position of vice commander for the 4th and 5th districts of the Department of Minnesota for the 2024-2025 term.

Jansen's dedication and service to The American Legion at all levels make him an exceptional candidate for this important role. At the post level, Jansen has served with distinction as

commander, vice commander and on numerous committees over many years. His leadership and commitment have been invaluable assets to Post 406.

Jansen's contributions extend well beyond his post. At the 4th District level, he has taken on critical responsibilities such as district commander, vice commander, chaplain and serving on several district committees. His experience and knowledge gained from these roles will

undoubtedly benefit districts 4 and 5.

Furthermore, Jansen has represented the Department of Minnesota for many years as the liaison for the Armed Forces Service Center at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. His veteran advocacy and support for our active-duty military personnel are truly commendable.

He is an Army veteran of the Vietnam era and has 29 years

of continuous American Legion membership.

Jansen's proven track record of leadership, dedicated service and passion for The American Legion's mission and values make him an ideal candidate for vice commander. We wholeheartedly endorse Jansen for this position and are confident in his ability to serve the 4th and 5th districts with integrity and commitment.

See his photo on Page 5.



Grant Hartman/MDVA  
Army Maj. Gen. Edward Chrystal speaks at Minnesota's 50th Anniversary Vietnam War Commemoration on June 14 at the Mall of American in Bloomington.



The Rotunda at the Mall of America was packed with people for the event.

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# ON-SITE DOCUMENT DESTRUCTION



# Disabled veterans to get into arboretum free

Continued from Page 1

prize structures and unlimited bets, far from resembling e-tabs.

Janigo and many others within The American Legion and Allied Charities of Minnesota fear the changes will make e-tabs less entertaining, thus harming e-tab revenue. The changes go into effect in January 2025 — noticeably after the November elections.

The sports betting bill, if approved, would have provided relief for charitable gambling estimated to be \$7 million the first year, \$24 million the second and \$40 million onward. It included language to allow posts to use more of their net receipts to fix their buildings.

The impression made in one session often translates over to the next. Janigo hopes the tax cuts can be accomplished in the 2025 session.

## Veterans and Military Omnibus remains undefeated

It was the third year in a row that the Legislature passed the Veterans and Military Omnibus Bill, removing most of the veteran-related legislation from partisan politics. It also was the third year the bill was passed about two weeks prior to the end of the session.

Gov. Tim Walz signed it into law May 8.

The new law allows counties to fund Veterans Day observances just like they do for Memorial Day ceremonies, and it removes a \$300 cap. It lays the groundwork for a fourth State Veterans Cemetery, to be in the Bemidji area. It allows county veteran service officers and VSO service officer to receive discharge papers and vital records from county records at no charge. It codifies the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs' Central Pharmacy for the veterans homes. It aligns admin staffing structure within the MDVA. It allows a grant for Metro Meals on Wheels to use this fiscal year's funds next year.

The bill increases the biennium spending by \$132.15 million, totaling \$378.68 million. That's \$90.06 million for the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs and \$39.14 million for the Minnesota Department of Military Affairs.

The bill provides a \$33.23 million operating adjustment for the MDVA, \$20.06 million in operational funding for the veterans homes opening in Bemidji, Montevideo and Preston, \$17.6 million for the Army Combat Fitness Test Field House in Arden Hills, \$15 million for service bonuses to post-9/11 veterans, \$7 million to increase Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans housing grants and \$3 million in enlistment and retention bonuses.

## Lawmakers disable property-tax relief for disabled veterans

With rising home values, the Legion, DAV and other Minnesota Commanders' Task Force organizations, felt it was time to alter the property-tax exclusions veterans with a VA disability rating of 70 percent or more receive (or surviving spouses).

As part of the Homestead Market Value Exclusion, it allows veterans with a service-connected disability of 70 percent to receive a \$150,000 exclusion to their assessment, and veterans with 100 percent receive a \$300,000 exclusion.

The 2024 bill called for an exclusion base amount for 2023 to be \$400,000 and, thereafter, to be adjusted for housing market adjustments based on U.S. Department of Commerce annual reports.

The bill also allows qualifying spouses who previously were denied to apply again, even if the veteran had not applied prior to death.

In 2020, Minnesota passed a law ending the eight-year sunset for surviving spouses to receive the tax benefit. Importantly, the new bill would have allowed the spouses whose benefit expired prior to the 2020 law to reapply.

After debate on the House floor, the language was amended into the Tax Omnibus Bill on a 128-0 vote. There was no corresponding Senate version when the two chambers met in conference committee, which ended up going behind closed doors.

When the dust settled and the compromise announced, only about an hour before the gavel dropped for the end of the session, the language had been stripped out, said DAV of Minnesota Legislative Director Trent Dilks, who watched the whole thing play out.

He said it didn't really die because of party politics. It was the House in favor and the Senate not.

## Veterans Restorative Justice Act wants some numbers

In 2021, Minnesota passed the Veterans Restorative Justice Act. The bill had bipartisan authors and, though it had faced much debate over five years and had unexpected opponents, it was approved with bipartisan support and signed into law on a sunny June day.

Primarily, the bill allows access to veterans courts for veterans before a judge in counties without veterans courts. It sets uniformity among the veterans courts and determines eligibility. Veterans courts restore veterans to society who have committed lower criminal offenses, rather than leaving them with criminal records for what could be someone dealing with unseen wounds of combat. There are several probationary steps, but one upside is the court typically requires the veteran to get the proper VA counseling, not merely general counseling.

The Minnesota American Legion had a major role in pushing for passage of the VJRA by keeping the topic alive.

In 2023, the Legislature approved a technical fix, and the governor signed it. The change allows veterans charged with a crime to find out whether they are eligible for deferred prosecution before entering a plea or going to trial. They may request an eligibility assessment first.

In 2024, the Legislature approved, with the governor signing, requiring courts that use VRJA to provide results to the Sentencing Guidelines Commission, which then will produce an annual report by Jan. 15.

Attorney Ryan Else of the Veterans Defense Project said this helps the VDP bring the legislation to other states. Lawmakers often desire numbers, not merely anecdotes.

The Nebraska Legislature unanimously passed its veterans justice program based on Minnesota's and with input from the independent Council on Criminal Justice, with Gov. Jim Pillen signing it in April. The American Legislative Exchange Council, a nonprofit organization of conservative state legislators and private citizens that drafts proposed legislation, adopted the legislation as part of its Criminal Justice Task Force Model this past spring, too.

"We are moving," Else said, regarding bringing it to other states. "It's happening. It's just happening slower than we'd like."

Former U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel is from Nebraska and has stated his strong support for the legislation in news reports. Else and Veterans Defense Project attorney Brock Hunter were advisers to a commission in Nebraska that drafted the legislation.

## Disabled veterans ready to visit Minnesota Arboretum

Mike Schachterle, a member of Chanhassen Post 580, had a really good idea and brought it to Minnesota American Legion Legislative Chairwoman Kristy Janigo and to state Rep. Lucy Rehm. Together, they advocated for a law to provide free admission to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum for disabled veterans and a guest.

The measure passed as part of the Omnibus Tax Bill. The new law requires that the disabled veteran provide an ID card verifying the disability is service-connected. It goes into effect Jan. 1.

## Minnesota to launch Purple Star Schools



Each participating state has its own Purple Star Schools emblem. This is what Ohio's looks like.

An effort led by state Rep. Peggy Bennett of Albert Lea, Purple Star Schools are now in Minnesota. It passed within the Education Omnibus Bill.

Schools designated "Purple Star Schools" demonstrate to military families that they are military-friendly. Military children move every two or three years. Some schools are ahead of their progress, so the kids need to catch up, and some schools are behind, so they relearn lessons.

"Sometimes it is difficult for my teachers to understand my struggles," said Genevieve LaPorte, 12, whose father served in the Army her entire life. She testified before the House Veterans Affairs Committee. "Having extra support for these issues would be so helpful for many military kids who deal with the same thing that I do."

"As our military members and their families move from state to state, providing for a smooth educational transition for their children is key to eliminating one of the largest concerns the parents face," said Shane Preston, the Department of Defense's liaison for state legislation regarding community and family in the Great Lakes area, when testifying.

The measure allows the Department of Education by July 1, 2026, to set up requirements to be designated a Purple Star Schools. Preston said among them are a staff member to act as a liaison between military families and the school and training for teachers to understand the challenges military-connected students face.

Minnesota becomes the 40th state to have Purple Star Schools. The public will begin to see the designations during the 2026-27 school year.

A fiscal note says the Department of Education already has assistant commissioner who supports military-connected students who will administer the program, with about \$5,000 in expenses to get it rolling.

The Minnesota Commanders' Task Force, at the urging of The American Legion, wrote a letter in support of Purple Star Schools.

## No property-tax relief for veteran organizations

Many states do not charge property taxes on posts of The American Legion, VFW, Amvets and other congressionally chartered organizations A. because members served to defend the country, and B. because they contribute so much to needs within local communities.

State Reps. Mark Wiens and Steve Elkins, along with 12 other authors from both parties, want the same for Minnesota. Their bill, HF4038, passed the House Veterans Affairs Committee but didn't get a hearing. The Property Tax Committee chairman urged veterans to get behind the sports-betting bill instead because it contained tax cuts for charitable gambling.

He reasoned posts with gambling licenses at their post homes can use proceeds to pay property taxes.

Not all posts possess gambling licenses, however.



Past Boys Nation President Greg Orman, who is a Mankato East graduate, speaks June 8 at Anoka Post 102 for the 75th Anniversary Banquet of Minnesota Boys State. He spoke on the need for less partisanship in America and how veterans are trusted to lead the country forward.

# Polls on who Americans trust the most: veterans

Continued from Page 1

built a lighting concepts company into a \$1 billion business, then co-founded a private equity firm, then launched a fitness company. He also is a partner in the ownership of the building on Hennepin Avenue that houses the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis.

Then he made his foray into politics.

Previously, Orman had registered at times as a Republican and others as a Democrat.

"Partisanship had replaced problem solving and getting things done," he said. "The fears of John Adams had come true. Loyalty to party now is greater than loyalty to country."

Adams, the second U.S. president, once said, "There is nothing which I dread so much as a division of the republic into two great parties, each arranged under its leader, and concerting measures in opposition to each other. This, in my humble apprehension, is to be dreaded as the greatest political evil under our Constitution."

Orman became a proponent of the "fulcrum strategy" for the U.S. Senate, whereby a third group of elected senators would have just enough numbers to deny a majority to either of the two major parties. He and others couldn't find anyone brave enough to run outside the party.

In 2014, he ran for U.S. Senate as an independent in Kansas. Orman, in fact, was ahead of incumbent Pat Roberts after Democrat Chad Taylor dropped out and many conservative groups were endorsing Orman.

Orman had campaign funding from left and right sources. However, the Republican Party led an unprecedented rescue campaign for

Roberts to convince Kansas voters Orman is a Democrat. If Orman had won, the Senate would have had three independent senators.

Orman met former Kansas Sen. Bob Dole shortly after the narrow loss. Dole told him if he had said he was a Republican he would be in the Senate now.

"But would I get anything done after being elected?" Orman asked.

Dole admitted, "No."

Orman's book is "Declaration of Independents" and is about how political independence leaves citizens free of obligations to special interests and party bosses.

Orman said Minnesota Boys State had a huge impact on his life and remains so today, always reminding him to remain above the fray of polarization.

"Division is at its highest level since the Civil War," he said. He cited recent polls about trust. "Trust in institutions has gone the wrong way. The only group of people with growing trust — is veterans. You are going to have to continue to lead the way out of darkness."

The 75th Anniversary Banquet featured Past National Commander Dan Ludwig, state Sen. and Past Boys State Gov. Zach Duckworth, Boys State Director Kyle Oldre, Past Boys State Director Mike Bredeck, former Assistant U.S. Attorney Hank Shea and Boys State Dean David Way.

Oldre also read a statement from Past Boys State Director Tom Nelson, an Army captain who is currently deployed to the Mideast. Nelson spelled out age-old problems causing war and strife for the Mideast and pointed out how, in contrast, programs like Boys State and Girls State foster tomorrow's leaders in America.



Minnesota Boys State counselors past and present, along with spouses, recent governors and longtime supporters, enjoyed a meal together June 8 at Anoka American Legion Post 102.





Many veterans and their supporters were in St. Cloud on June 13 for the dedication of the Vet Center outstation, including Department Commander Paul Hassing, center.

## Vet Centers provide counseling for veterans, servicemembers, families

Continued from Page 1

posting flags near the speakers' lectern, then an invocation followed by the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of "The Star-Spangled Banner." After the hour-long ceremony, the center was opened for guided tours.

The American Legion Department of Minnesota has pushed the federal VA for the expansion of Vet Centers in Minnesota since passing a state resolution in 2011.

After the Legion produced an analysis showing how Minnesota was among the worst states for the ratio of veterans to Vet Centers, and because of the efforts of Legion members Phil Ringstrom, Tom Mullon and Jeremy Wolfsteller, as well as the VFW's Tommy Johnson, the Minnesota Commanders' Task Force took up the cause in 2019.

It had the support of several commanders at the time, but it was the Legion's Mark Dvorak who convinced the CTF to take on the effort. The veterans called for three new Vet Centers: St. Cloud, Mankato and Bemidji. Larry Herke, who was the state veterans affairs commissioner at the time, brought the clout of the state government to the matter. He got Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz to join the push. They set up meetings with VA Secretary Denis McDonough, including one with Ringstrom and McDonough alone during the pandemic.

The outstation in St. Cloud is the result of those efforts.

Walz, who is an Army National Guard veteran, spoke at the ceremony. He thanked and praised St. Cloud and its veterans for working to get a Vet Center for all veterans who live in the area.

Walz said he has talked through the years to many veterans who told him this: "I would be dead today if not for Vet Centers."

The new Vet Center is one of more than 300 such centers in the United States and its territories. The St. Cloud one is called an outstation because it is a "satellite" clinic managed by the Anoka Vet Center. Other Vet Centers in Minnesota are in Richfield (St. Paul Vet Center) and in Duluth.

Vet centers began in

1979 in response to the many Vietnam veterans in need of help. Each Vet Center is a non-medical counseling facility that offers a variety of social and psychological services that are provided free of charge to veterans, current service members and their families. The Vet Center, many of whose staffs include veterans, provide completely confidential counseling for depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and the psychological after-effects of military sexual trauma. The centers also make referrals for clients to the VA Health Care System for health services and benefits.

Close to 350,000 military veterans live in Minnesota. In contrast, Wisconsin has 331,000 veterans, and it has five Vet Centers. North Dakota claims 55,000 veterans, and it has four.

The following are some of the comments made by three of the dedication ceremony's speakers:

### Casey McCulloch

Casey McCulloch, who had been in the Florida National Guard, did a tour of duty in Iraq where she witnessed many traumatizing events. Though she was not wounded physically, she developed post-traumatic stress disorder and suffered anxiety and panic attacks for 13 years. Her life, she said, had become an empty shell, and she had thoughts of wanting to die.

Then one day, a year ago, she summoned up the courage to go to a Vet Center where she blurted out the words "I need help." Saying those three empowering words were the beginning of a new, happy, productive life for McCulloch.

### Paul Evangelist

A former U.S. Marine and Vietnam veteran, Paul Evangelist,



Gov. Tim Walz, right, stands with Phil Ringstrom, a Sartell veteran who advocated for Vet Center expansion since the mid-2000s.

vividly remembers coming home to America and getting in a taxi to go to the airport.

When he told the cab driver he was just back from Vietnam, the driver said this to him: "Aren't you Marines the ones who kill babies and women over there?"

It was an awful moment because Evangelist knew right there and then that he had left one war to have to confront another "war" at home — hostility and dislike from so many people he would meet.

It wasn't until years later, when he was 69, that Evangelist sought treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder and began to "rebuild" his life.

He predicted the new St. Cloud Vet Center will be a "safe harbor" for so many veterans and their families.

### Vincent Smith

Vincent Smith, too, is a Vietnam veteran who was a military policeman and dog-handler. He later became a biology teacher.

He talked of the tight and loving bond he developed with his dog named Tap, who was adept at sniffing out heroin. Tap's cruel death — he'd been killed and then eaten — devastated Smith and took him years and years to get over.

Smith's talk at times had the audience rollicking with laughter when he recalled with witty, wild remarks his adventures and misadventures as a boy, as a soldier and as a teacher.

He talked of the time the school superintendent visited his biology classroom and a cockatiel made a mid-air fluttering dash toward the man's head, causing him to fall to the floor. "What was that?!" the man asked.

"A cockatiel," said Smith. "He's one of the animals I use in my teaching."

"Well, I'm sure glad you don't teach about elephants!" said the exasperated superintendent. The audience erupted with laughter.

### Contact

Any veteran, servicemember or their family members who would like to make an appointment at the St. Cloud Vet Center Outstation should call 763-503-2220. That number is the same for the Anoka Vet Center.

# Montevideo gets its veterans home

Continued from Page 1

Lawmakers changed, too. Kubby passed in 2012. Koenen filled his Senate seat. Tim Miller became state rep. There were years with no bonding bills. They kept having to go back and regroup.

"During that time, I received a note from Pat Kubby, spouse of the late Sen. Kubby, who said Gary told her to tell Marv to never give up."

Angela Steinbach, assistant manager, reinvigorated the committee. There was another election; they had to reeducate legislators. They joined forces with Bemidji. Later, they joined with Preston.

Thanks to Sen. Andrew Lang, Tim Miller and Rep. Dean Urdahl and numerous other legislators, bonding passed in 2018. They found the land cost was not included in the bonding request. It was "all hands on deck to raise that money," he said.

Then COVID happened. Finally, in March 2021, the feds announced their share of the funding. Tina Smith's office called Montevideo City Hall, and then-Commissioner Larry Herke called Garbe, both announcing the federal money had been approved.

"I could hardly believe it," Garbe said.

The many trips to St. Paul paid off.

"It's amazing that all three projects were approved — Montevideo, Bemidji and Preston. Remember I put them in the order they started working on them, not alphabetically," he added.

Gov. Tim Walz complimented Garbe on summarizing the long process.

"There were some hard truth bombs being dropped right there," the governor said.

At the top of his comments,

though, Walz asked for a moment of silence for Minneapolis Police Officer Jamal Mitchell, who was slain in the line of duty May 30.

Walz said the Montevideo Veterans Home will be present for veterans as long as Minnesota exists.

"This community of Montevideo took on a responsibility that will be there as long as this great nation stands."

He praised the veterans community for avoiding partisan politics, and he praised Vietnam veterans for changing the way America welcomes home veterans and cares for veterans. He read a certificate from Sen. Amy Klobuchar.

Seventh District Congresswomen Michelle Fischbach said attacks on law enforcement need to stop.

"We need to support law enforcement and have their backs," she said.

She praised Montevideo for being a veteran-friendly community and said the Montevideo Veterans Home will be a place to care for veterans and western Minnesota residents won't have to travel so far to see loved ones.

State Sen. Andrew Lang, a major in the 34th Aviation Brigade and vice chairman of the Senate State & Local Government & Veterans Committee, called on the governor to prompt the Senate to return to having a Senate Veterans & Military Affairs Committee.

Walz agreed he would push for that.

Lang said it is true that veterans are an area where parties come together. He and Walz both spoke about how the Legislature has completed, passed and signed the Veterans & Military Omnibus Bill two weeks early for three years in a row, removing much of the

veteran-related legislation from partisan politics.

Lang told the story of how the construction of new veterans homes came to be funded at the Capitol in a bonding bill. He credited past state Rep. Bob Dettmer of Forest Lake for the idea of funding three new vets homes, not having to pick one of the three finalists.

Redwood Falls Mayor Erich Winter said his grandfather moved into the Montevideo Veterans Home and was the first veteran to die at the home. Erwin F. Winter passed May 6.

He was impressed by how the staff held a flag ceremony, with staff and veterans saluting.

"I will remember that the rest of my life. It was the staff that did that," Winter said. "I am grateful that he was only five minutes away from me at that time."

Grabe presented a \$2,500 check from the American Legion 7th District.

### The largest gift ever

After that, friends of the late Steven J. Williams spoke. The Army veteran who served in the Vietnam War gave the largest gift ever to a Minnesota Veterans Home. He gave \$2.8 million from his estate, for the benefit of the Montevideo Veterans Home.

The community room at the home is named for him. He died in March 2018. His brother, Jim, was trustee of the estate and ensured the donation went as planned while the project awaited state and federal funding.

After college, Williams accepted a job in sales for Hormel Foods in Austin. He invested in the company he worked with for over 30 years and was able to use proceeds from his investments for the large gift. He grew up in Montevideo.



A crowd of veterans and supporters packed the Steven J. Williams Community Room at the new Montevideo Veterans Home. The veterans home in Preston is to be dedicated on June 27 and the Bemidji one on July 1.



Several elected officials, veterans, donors and administrators stood for a photo together after the dedication.



# Resolutions of the 2024 convention

*Note: The Department Executive Committee passed two resolutions before the Appreciation Rally at Montgomery Post 79 in March. Resolution No. 2024-06 extends burial benefits to veterans who had opted for a plaque or urn. Resolution No. 2024-07 broadens eligibility for VA loans. They were reported upon in the April issue and already have been forward to National HQ. Resolution No. 2024-01 was a modification to the Department Strategic Planning Committee the DEC approved in 2023.*

## Department of Minnesota Resolution No. 2024-02

**Resolution No.:** 2024-02

**Date Received:** 18 October 2023

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

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

WHEREAS, anthrax is a potentially lethal infectious disease caused by the *Bacillus anthracis* bacteria, and

WHEREAS, military personnel, including veterans, may be at an increased risk of exposure to anthrax due to their service and occupational duties, and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Department of Minnesota Resolution No. 2024-03

**Resolution No.:** 2024-03

**Date Received:** 6 November 2023

**Title:** Clarify and restate the intent of Article II, Section 2 of the National American Legion Constitution and By-Laws.

**Author:** Paul Edwards, Department of Minnesota Vice Commander

WHEREAS, the charter of the American Legion states under § 21706. Political activities, "The corporation shall be nonpolitical and may not promote the candidacy of an individual seeking public office", and

WHEREAS, Article II, Nature, Section 2 states, "The American Legion shall be absolutely nonpolitical and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment", and

WHEREAS, The American Legion uses political methods in support of its legislative agenda and priorities to support the four pillars of the American Legion, and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has Legislative Committees and Chairs at the national, department and district levels whose function it is to use political methods to work with federal and state legislators to support The American Legion's policies, legislative agenda, and programs, and

WHEREAS, many Legionnaires interpret Article II, Section 2 to mean that Legionnaires are forbidden to hold or express a political opinion on any topic, and

WHEREAS, the definition and interpretation of the word "political" has changed since the Constitution was first written, now



therefore be it

RESOLVED, by the members of the Department of Minnesota Executive Board in regular meeting assembled that Article II, Section 2 of the National Constitution be changed from, "The American Legion shall be absolutely nonpolitical and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment." To read "The American Legion shall use political tools and methods in pursuit of legislative action to support the furtherance of its legislative priorities and agendas but shall be absolutely nonpartisan and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment" and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be presented for consideration to the Department of Minnesota Convention to be convened at Wilmar, Minnesota on July 11-13, 2024, and be it finally

RESOLVED, that upon approval this resolution be forwarded to the National Adjutant for presentation and consideration at the National Convention to be held New Orleans, LA, on August 23-29, 2024.

## Department of Minnesota Resolution No. 2024-04

**Resolution No.:** 2024-04

**Date Received:** 8 November 2023

**Title:** Supporting Operation Green Light for Veterans Constitution and By-Laws.

**Author:** MN American Legion College 14 October 2023 Class

WHEREAS, the American Legion Posts and all affiliated entities, have great respect, admiration, and the utmost gratitude for all the men and women who have selflessly served our country and this community in the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, the contributions and sacrifices of those who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by our citizens; and

WHEREAS, the American Legion Posts and all affiliated entities, seeks to honor individuals who have made countless sacrifices for freedom by placing themselves in harm's way for the good of all; and

WHEREAS, veterans continue to serve our community in the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, religious groups, civil service, and by functioning as County Veterans Service Officers in 29 states to help fellow former service members access more than \$52 billion in federal health, disability and compensation benefits each year; and

WHEREAS, approximately 200,000 service members transition to civilian communities annually; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 20 percent increase of service members will transition to civilian life in the near future; and

WHEREAS, studies indicate that 44-72 percent of service members experience high levels of stress during transition from military to civilian life; and

WHEREAS, active military service members transitioning from military service are at a high risk for suicide during their first year after military service; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties encourages all counties, parishes and boroughs to recognize Operation Green Light for Veterans; and

WHEREAS, the American Legion Posts and all affiliated entities, appreciates the sacrifices of our United States military personnel and believes specific recognition should be granted; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, with designation as a Green Light for Veterans County, the American Legion Posts and all affiliated entities, hereby declares through the month of November as a time to salute and honor the service and sacrifices of our men and women in uniform transitioning from active service; therefore, be it further

RESOLVED, that in observance of Operation Green Light, the American Legion Posts and all affiliated entities, encourages its citizens in patriotic tradition to recognize the importance of honoring all those who made immeasurable sacrifices to preserve freedom by displaying green lights in a window of their place of business or residence from November 6th through the 12th, 2024, therefore, be it finally

RESOLVED this resolution be forwarded the Department of Minnesota for approval at the Department Convention held in Wilmar MN July 11-13, 2024 and upon approval be forwarded to the National American Legion for approval at the Nation Convention be held in New Orleans, August 23-29, 2024.

## Department of Minnesota Resolution No. 2024-05

**Resolution No.:** 2024-05

**Date Received:** 8 November 2023

**Title:** Electronic Recognition Certificates

**Author:** MN Legion College, 14 October 2023 Class

WHEREAS, The American Legion, which is an organization decreasing in membership and whose membership is greatly valued, and it is the goal of the American Legion to increase and maintain membership, and the American Legion should recognize the value of its members years of service and show appreciation of achievement, and

WHEREAS, Emblem Sales carries recognition certificates for very low cost, the loss of sales would be offset by saved wages, employee benefits, material handling savings and efficiency increase by not carrying this low dollar item, and therefore be it

RESOLVED electronic certificates be made available free of charge to posts, and these certificates be available through the myLegion.org website with years of service, and these certificates carry the uploaded signature of the National Commander in a manner comparable to our current membership cards, and be it further

RESOLVED this resolution shall be approved and forwarded to the Minnesota Department Convention held July 11-13, 2024, in Wilmar, Minnesota and therefore be it finally

RESOLVED the approved resolution be forwarded to the American Legion National Convention held August 23-29, 2024, in New Orleans, Louisiana.

## Department of Minnesota Resolution No. 2024-08

**Resolution No.:** 2024-08

**Date Received:** 30 April 2024

**Title:** Paid Up for Life Pricing Structure

**Author:** MN American Legion College April 2024 Class

WHEREAS, The American Legion is committed to encouraging veteran membership into perpetuity by offering Paid Up for Life (PUFL) memberships, and

WHEREAS, the current American Legion PUFL membership is based upon a member's age according to legion.org which states "Age is the primary component used in the new pricing structure...", and

WHEREAS, the flat rate would increase the number of PUFL memberships and assist the American Legion in achieving their goals, and

WHEREAS, the current PUFL membership rates actually work contradictorily towards encouraging PUFL membership now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, this Resolution would significantly benefit veterans by providing them with a flat rate of \$750 for all PUFL memberships, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the approved resolution be forwarded to the Department Adjutant for presentation to the Minnesota Department of the American Legion in convention assembled at Wilmar, Minnesota on July 11 through 13, 2024; and be it finally

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

## Department of Minnesota Resolution No. 2024-09

**Resolution No.:** 2024-09

**Date Received:** 30 April 2024

**Title:** Burial Equity for Guard & Reserve Act 2021

**Author:** MN American Legion College April 2024 Class

WHEREAS, some reserve and guard veterans are true veterans even though they do not qualify fully for all the benefits as the veteran definition used federally for a standard for burial in a National Veteran Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, we feel the Legion should support all members of the guard and reserves, their spouses, and children to be eligible for burial at state owned veteran's cemeteries; and

WHEREAS, Public law 117-103 known as The Burial Equity for Guards and Reserves Act signed into law by the President on March 15, 2022 (see attached) allows states to establish a condition for a grant to allow certain Guard, Reserves, and Reserve Officer's Training Corps individuals and their dependents to be interned in state cemeteries if the state so wishes; and

WHEREAS, guard and reserve veterans put on the uniform, made themselves available to be called to active duty as needed, put their families under the same stresses of time away for training to be able to serve our country, and were under the same call up and stop loss orders as those who had served on active duty; and therefore be it

Continued on Page 13



# Resolutions

Continued from Page 10

RESOLVED, that the American Legion College Department of Minnesota class held at Camp Ripley on April 25 through April 28, 2024 that the American Legion Department of Minnesota strongly support, advocate, and lobby to lawmakers in Minnesota and any relevant Minnesota state entities to expand burial qualifications in Minnesota State Veteran cemeteries as permitted by the Burial Equity for Guards and Reserves Act, and be it finally

RESOLVED, that upon approval this resolution be forwarded to the Department Adjutant for presentation to the Minnesota Department of the American Legion in convention assembled at Willmar, Minnesota on July 11 through July 13, 2024.



## Department of Minnesota Resolution No. 2024-10

Resolution No.: 2024-10

Date Received: 30 April 2024

Title: Medical Records Filed with the VA & NPRC-MPR

Author: MN American Legion College April 2024 Class

WHEREAS, currently the veteran's military medical records are only sent to the National Personal Records Center, Military Personnel Records (NPRC-MPR) in St. Louis, Missouri; and

WHEREAS, currently, a veteran must submit a Form VA 10-5345A to obtain their records; and

WHEREAS, this will streamline the process for the Veteran Administration to obtain veterans' medical service records; and

WHEREAS, veterans' medical records may have errors, omissions, and/or irregularities that the veteran can efficiently correct prior to their submission to their local Veterans Administration; and

WHEREAS, this will provide the opportunity for the veteran to update, correct, and modify their medical service record for their local VA; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, upon separation from the military, all veterans be given the opportunity to have a copy of their military medical records sent to the Veterans Administration Center of their choice, as well as the National Personal Records Center - Military Personnel Records (NPRC-MPR) be it further

RESOLVED, by the American Legion College Class April 25-28, 2024, be it further

RESOLVED, that upon approval this resolution be forwarded to the Department of Minnesota for presentation and consideration at the Department Convention in Willmar, MN July 2024 be it finally

RESOLVED, upon approval this resolution be forwarded to the National Adjutant for presentation and consideration at the National Convention, in New Orleans, Louisiana August 2024

## Department of Minnesota Resolution No. 2024-11

Resolution No.: 2024-11

Date Received: 8 May 2024

Title: Membership Annual Dues Increase

Author: Department Finance Committee

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Department of Minnesota Resolution No. 2024-12

Resolution No.: 24-12

Date Received: 20 May 2024

Title: Female Wearing of The American Legion Cap Exceptions

Author: Rev. Kelley Adelsman, 3rd District, Dept. of MN American Legion

WHEREAS, The American Legion Officer's Guide and Manual of Ceremonies defines female Legionnaires exceptions of wearing The American Legion cap: "Female Legionnaires should wear their caps in the manner prescribed for women in the armed forces. This is suitable for most situations, but taste and common sense

should prevail. By American Legion tradition, a female Legionnaire may leave her cap on during the Pledge of Allegiance, the National Anthem, prayer and meals."; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, The American Legion's current cap removal exceptions for females of when to

render honor and politeness is a barrier and a step back in customs to the female veterans who have finally attained the right to serve alongside their male counterparts in the United States Armed Forces, now, therefore be it

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

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

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

## Department of Minnesota Resolution No. 2024-13

Resolution No.: 2024-13

Date Received: 11 June 2024

Title: National Convention Delegate Allotment

Author: Department Finance Committee

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Department of Minnesota Resolution No. 2024-14

Resolution No.: 2024-14

Date Received: 18 June 2024

Title: Reduce Training Committee Members

Author: Department Training Committee

WHEREAS, Resolution 2020-1 established the Training Committee consisting of eight (8) members assigning three (3) to be responsible for MyLegion.org training and five (5) members to serve as a committee to establish a Legion College, including curriculum, date, and place of training, and

WHEREAS, a resolution passed by Executive Committee at La Crescent, MN confirmed the makeup of the Training Committee at seven (7) members and established that the entire committee had responsibility for both the College and MyLegion.org, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Minnesota Legion College has conducted five (5) sessions at Camp Ripley with great success proven by a number of students who have moved into more responsible positions in the American Legion at post, district and department levels, and

WHEREAS, seven (7) staff members has proven to be more than necessary, adding unnecessary expense to the operation of the college, in the form of per diem, mileage and cost of lodging, and

WHEREAS, necessary training that falls outside the expertise of the assigned staff has been conducted by experts in their field such as the Department Judge Advocate, the Department Service Officer, a suicide prevention counselor and others, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the assigned number of staff members of the Department of Minnesota Legion College be reduced from seven (7) to six (6), and be it further

RESOLVED, that the assigned staff members will serve for (1) 5-year term, (1) 4-year term, (1) 3-year term, (1) 2-year term, and (2) 1-year terms, with the committee electing their own Committee Chair, and be it finally

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

## Department of Minnesota Resolution No. 2024-15

Resolution No.: 2024-15

Date Received: 25 June 2024

Title: VA Pension Program

Author: Department Service Officer Ray Kane

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# 105th Legion Convention Program

**105TH ANNUAL CONVENTION  
OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA  
WILLMAR, MINNESOTA  
JULY 11-13, 2024**



## WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 10, 2024

3-7 p.m. Registration, Austin F. Hanscom Post 167,  
220 19th Ave., SW, Willmar

## THURSDAY MORNING, JULY 11, 2024

6 a.m. Registration, Willmar Conference Center,  
-noon Main Entrance  
7-8 a.m. Caucus of all delegates and alternates by districts  
8:30 a.m. Department Executive Committee Meeting,  
Gallery 5-7  
10 a.m. American Legion Convention Sessions,  
Willmar Conference Center, Gallery 5-7  
**CALL TO ORDER:** Paul Hassing, Department  
Commander, Montgomery  
Advancement of the colors: Bloomington Post 550  
Invocation: Dean Knutson, Department Chaplain,  
Marshall  
POW/MIA flag: Jim Kellogg, NS/FR Committee,  
Taopi  
Brad Pagel, Department Sergeant at Arms, Slayton  
Pledge of Allegiance  
"The Preamble": Recital by  
Commander and Delegates  
Greetings:  
• Paul Hassing, Department Commander,  
Montgomery  
• The Honorable Doug Reese, Mayor, Willmar  
• John Christenson, Commander,  
Austin F. Hanscom Post 167, Willmar  
• Jan Ekert, 7th District Commander,  
South Haven  
• Victor Gades, Department Vice  
Commander, Morris  
• Jon Olson, General Convention Chairman,  
Willmar

**10:25 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  
10:40 a.m. Announcement of Department Convention  
Committees & Instructions: Michael J. Maxa,  
Department Adjutant, St. Paul  
11 a.m. Recess

## 11:20 A.M. JOINT MEMORIAL SERVICE, JACKPOT JUNCTION, WILLMAR CONFERENCE CENTER, GALLERY 5-7

## THURSDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 11, 2024

### 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 Willmar Conference Center, Legion Head-  
quarters Office, for assistance in preparing a typewritten  
report for presentation to the Convention assembled on  
Friday, July 12, 2024.

3. All Convention Committee reports should be presented  
and accepted in final form before adjournment on Friday,  
July 12, 2024, thus disposing of all business other than  
that which has been scheduled for Saturday morning.

**2 P.M. GAMBLING SEMINAR, JACKPOT JUNCTION,  
WILLMAR CONFERENCE CENTER, GALLERY 5-7**  
Moderator: Kristy Janigo, Legislative Committee  
Chairman, Maple Grove

## FRIDAY MORNING, JULY 12, 2024

6:30 a.m. Registration, Willmar Conference Center,  
-noon Main Entrance  
7-8 a.m. Caucus of all delegates and alternates by districts  
8:30 a.m. CALL TO ORDER: Paul Hassing, Department  
Commander, Montgomery

Respect To Colors  
Invocation: Dean Knutson, Department  
Chaplain, Marshall  
Pledge Of Allegiance  
8:35 a.m. Reports:  
• Credentials Committee, Lynne Nottage,  
Chairman, Minneapolis  
• Finance Committee, Dennis Delong,  
Chairman, Bloomington  
• Legislative Committee, Kristy Janigo,  
Chairman, Maple Grove  
• Training Committee, Linda Dvorak,  
Chairman, New Prague  
9:05 a.m. SAL Report: John Weiss, 2023-2024 SAL  
Detachment Commander, Woodbury  
9:10 a.m. Youth Representatives:  
• 2024 Eagle Scout Of The Year Jackson  
Kramer: Chip Manson, Boy Scout Chairman,  
Sunburg  
• 2024 Legion Boys State Representative:  
Kyle Oldre, Director, Luverne  
• 2024 Oratorical Contest Winner Elijah Cox:  
Jamie Brooks, Chairman, Minneapolis  
• 2024 Junior Shooting Sports: Jared  
Sturgill, Chairman, Champlin  
9:30 a.m. Update: Ben Johnson, Deputy Commissioner,  
Minn. Department of Veterans Affairs  
9:45 a.m. Awards & Presentations:  
• Gary Weaver, President, American Legion  
Hospital Assn., La Crescent  
• Karen Welander, Children & Youth  
Chairman, Sunburg  
• Tess Davis, Americanism Chairman,  
Princeton  
• Don Skow, Education Chairman, Lindstrom  
• Representative, Safety-School Patrol  
• Pat Logan, Law and Order Chairman,  
Bloomington  
- Shelby Bonczek, Law Officer of the Year  
- Brian Gustafson, Firefighter of the Year  
• Terry Larson, Blood Chairman, Shafer  
• Tom Clabo, Community Service Chairman,  
Hutchinson  
• David Wendt, Bowling Chairman, St. Michael  
• Luis Campero, Employment Chairman,  
Sauk Rapids  
10:10 a.m. National Rehabilitation Service Awards  
& Update: Ray Kane, Department Service  
Officer, St. Paul  
Pat Cliff Award to Outstanding Post Service Officer  
10:30 a.m. Reports:  
• Baseball Committee: Randy Schaub,  
Director, Danube  
• Fastpitch Softball Committee: Mike  
Arvidson, Director, Parkers Prairie  
**10:45 a.m. Convention Committee Reports**, in order listed  
• Americanism  
• Children & Youth  
• Constitution & By-Laws

## FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 12, 2024

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

• 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.)  
2 p.m. Greetings: Sharon Cross, Dept. President,  
American Legion Auxiliary, Sauk Centre,  
& Christie Avant, Dept. Secretary,  
American Legion Auxiliary, St. Paul  
2:30 p.m. Final Membership Awards: Pam Krill, Dept.  
Membership Director, Blue Earth

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  
include: Dept. Commander, Sgt.-at-Arms, Chaplain,  
Nominated Dept. Commander, Nominated Sgt.-at-Arms,  
Nominated Chaplain, Installing Officer and Outgoing  
District Commanders

### VOTING AT WILLMAR CONFERENCE CENTER FOR ONE HALF HOUR (30 MINUTES) FROM TIME OF RECESS IN CHAMBER BOARDROOM.

## SATURDAY MORNING, JULY 13, 2024

7-10 a.m. Registration, Willmar Conference Center,  
Main Entrance  
**8 a.m. Polls Open**, Chamber Boardroom  
**8:30 a.m. Polls Close**  
8:30 a.m. 9th District Band, Gallery 5-7  
9 a.m. CALL TO ORDER: Paul Hassing, Department  
Commander, Montgomery  
Pay Respect To Colors  
Invocation: Dean Knutson, Department  
Chaplain, Marshall  
Pledge Of Allegiance  
9:05 a.m. "Convention Memorial Service": Dean Knutson,  
Department Chaplain, Marshall  
9:30 a.m. Report: American Legion Riders: Jody Hassing,  
Director, Montgomery  
National Report: William C. Barbknecht,  
National Executive Committeeman, Battle Lake  
Report: Legionnaire Insurance Trust: William C.  
Barbknecht, Chairman, Battle Lake  
9:40 a.m. Final Report: Credentials Committee  
Final Report: Resolutions Assignment 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: Paul Hassing,  
Department Commander, Montgomery  
Donations accepted at this time  
**10:05 a.m. Announcement of Election Results and  
Introduction of Newly Elected Officers**  
• Department Commander  
• Five Department Vice Commanders  
without numerical designation  
• Chaplain  
• Historian  
• Sergeant-at-Arms  
• Member of Publication Board  
for a 3-year term  
• Five Delegates-at-Large to the National  
Convention  
• Five Alternates-at-Large to the National  
Convention

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

### INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS ELECT

11:25 a.m. Announcements: Mike Maxa, Department  
Adjutant, St. Paul  
11:30 a.m. Benediction  
Secure POW/MIA Drape  
Retirement of the Colors  
Adjournment

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

The annual committee reports are published online  
at the department's website, [mnlegion.org](http://mnlegion.org). Look  
for them under the "Department" tab, then hover on  
"TALMN Committees." You will see "Committee Re-  
ports." They are in a downloadable and printable PDF.



Rank	Post	Dist.	Mbrs.
1	Apple Valley Post 1776	3	832
2	Mpls.-Richfield Post 435	5	704
3	Forest Lake Post 225	3	669
4	Anoka Post 102	10	663
5	Rochester McCoy Post 92	1	649
6	Duluth Post 71	8	638
7	Osseo-MG Post 172	10	591
8	Moorhead Post 21	9	573
9	North St Paul Post 39	4	556
10	Brainerd Post 225	6	528
11	Park Rapids Post 212	6	490
12	New Ulm Post 132	2	463
13	Hutchinson Post 96	3	461
14	Winona Post 9	1	449
15	E. Grand Forks Post 157	9	446
16	Albert Lea Post 56	1	439
17	Little Falls Post 46	6	435
18	Walker Post 134	6	434
18	Waite Park Post 428	6	434
20	Willmar Post 167	7	420
21	Rosetown Mem. Post 542	4	395
22	St. Paul Park Post 98	3	393
23	Austin Post 91	1	379
24	Red Wing Post 54	3	379
25	Chanhassen Post 580	3	372
25	Detroit Lakes Post 15	9	372
27	Owatonna Post 77	1	342
28	Faribault Post 43	3	340
28	Aitkin Post 86	6	340
30	Fairmont Post 36	2	323
31	Thief River Falls Post 117	9	314
32	Bloomington Post 550	10	307
33	Elk River Post 112	6	306
34	Hastings Post 47	3	304
34	Fridley Post 303	10	304
36	Bagley Post 16	9	302
37	Mankato Post 11	2	285
38	Buffalo Post 270	10	284
39	Wayzata Post 118	10	280
40	Stewartville Post 164	1	276
41	Bayport Post 491	3	269
42	Le Center Post 108	3	268
43	Savage Post 643	3	267
44	Litchfield Post 104	7	266
45	Coon Rapids Post 334	10	264
46	Zimmerman Post 560	6	263
47	Waseca Post 228	1	260
48	Cambridge Post 290	10	259
49	Bemidji Post 14	6	251
49	Montevideo Post 59	7	251
51	Chaska Post 57	3	248
51	Fergus Falls Post 30	9	248
53	Eagan Post 594	3	245
54	Nisswa Post 627	6	238
55	St. Peter Post 37	3	231
56	Kasson Post 333	1	229
57	St. Joseph Post 328	6	228
58	New London Post 537	7	227
59	Monticello Post 260	10	225
60	Crosslake-Fiftylakes Post 5006	6	220
61	Alexandria Post 87	7	219
62	La Crescent Post 595	1	218
63	Grand Rapids Post 60	8	217
64	Melrose Post 101	6	216
65	Sauk Centre Post 67	6	213
66	Marshall Post 113	7	209
67	North Mankato Post 518	3	206
68	New Prague Post 45	3	204
68	Waconia Post 150	3	204
70	Pequot Lakes Post 49	6	202
71	Wabasha Post 50	1	201
71	Minneapolis Post 1	5	201
71	Spring Post 455	6	201
74	North Branch Post 85	10	199
74	Princeton Post 216	10	199
76	Two Harbors Post 109	8	193
77	St. Michael Post 567	10	189
78	Robbinsdale-Crys. Post 251	10	188
79	Long Prairie Post 12	6	186
80	Delano Post 377	10	183
81	Ashby Post 357	7	182
81	Lino Lakes Post 566	10	182
83	Northfield Post 84	3	180
84	Hayfield Post 330	1	179
84	Hopkins Post 320	10	179
86	Eyota Post 551	1	178
86	Rosemount Post 65	3	178
88	Virginia Post 239	8	177
89	Roseau Post 24	9	176
90	Elysian Post 311	3	174
90	St. Augusta Post 621	6	174
90	Golden Valley Post 523	10	174
93	Morris Post 29	7	172
94	St. Paul Post 577	4	171
94	Spicer Post 545	7	171
96	Hackensack Post 202	6	170
96	Pine City Post 51	10	170
98	Albany Post 482	6	167
98	Mora Post 201	10	167
100	Paynesville Post 271	6	165
100	Cloquet Post 262	8	165

# Where does your post rank for members?

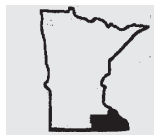
Sure, it's not fair to compare big and small cities, but, for curiosity and going into a new Legion year, it is good to know how all Minnesota posts stand

102	St. Louis Park Post 282	10	164
103	Aurora Post 241	8	163
103	Clearwater Post 323	10	163
105	Adams Post 146	1	160
105	Silver Lake Post 141	3	160
105	Hugo Post 620	3	160
105	Milaca Post 178	10	160
109	Excelsior Post 259	10	158
110	Stillwater Post 48	3	157
111	Lake City Post 110	1	156
112	Pipestone Post 6	2	155
112	White Bear Lake Post 168	4	155
114	Shakopee Post 2	3	154
115	Chisholm Post 247	8	153
116	Eden Valley Post 381	7	150
117	St. Francis Post 622	10	148
118	Rice Post 473	6	147
119	Holdingsford Post 211	6	145
120	Blue Earth Post 89	2	144
120	Jackson Post 130	2	144
120	Baudette Post 217	6	144
123	Ironton Post 443	6	143
124	Hillman Post 602	6	142
125	Plainview Post 179	1	141
125	St. James Post 33	2	141
127	Springfield Post 257	2	139
128	Lonsdale Post 586	3	138
129	Lake Crystal Post 294	2	137
130	Mabel Post 299	1	133
131	Brooklyn Center Post 630	10	132
132	Sauk Rapids Post 254	6	131
132	Foley Post 298	6	131
134	Spring Grove Post 249	1	130
135	Middle River Post 444	9	128
136	Woodbury Post 501	3	125
137	Backus Post 368	6	124
138	Caledonia Post 191	1	122
139	Deer River Post 122	8	121
139	Crookston Post 20	9	121
141	Redwood Falls Post 38	2	119
141	Cannon Falls Post 142	3	119
141	Mound Post 398	10	119
144	Montgomery Post 79	3	114
144	Lake Wilson Post 285	2	113
144	Richmond Post 292	6	113
144	Maple Lake Post 131	10	113
148	Hibbing Post 222	8	112
149	Lake Park Post 181	9	109
150	Eagle Lake Post 617	2	108
150	Morristown Post 149	3	108
150	Nicollet Post 510	3	108
150	St. Cloud Post 76	6	108
154	Millville Valley Post 579	1	107
154	Pine River Post 613	6	107
156	Warren Post 27	9	106
157	Byron Post 119	1	105
158	Lanesboro Post 40	1	104
158	Pine Island Post 184	3	104
160	Lakeville Post 44	3	103
160	Deerwood Post 557	6	103
160	Underwood Post 489	9	103
163	Sleepy Eye Post 7	2	102
164	Big Lake Post 147	6	101
164	Wheaton Post 80	7	101
166	Warroad Post 25	9	100
167	Round Lake Post 461	2	99
168	St. Charles Post 190	1	98
169	Windom Post 206	2	97
169	Farmington Post 189	3	97
171	Rushford Post 94	1	96
171	Houston Post 423	1	96
173	Lowry Post 253	7	95
174	Lake Henry Post 612	6	94
174	Howard Lake Post 145	10	94
176	Bowlus Post 642	6	93
176	Ely Post 248	8	93
176	Karlstad Post 445	9	93
179	Motley Post 124	6	91
179	Post 137	6	91

257	Duluth Z.-W. Post 28	8	59
261	Bellechester Post 598	3	58
261	Bruno Post 563	10	58
263	Brownston Post 143	3	57
263	Burnsville Post 1700	3	57
263	Swanville Post 313	6	57
263	Bird Island Post 430	7	57
267	St. Paul Hamline Post 418	4	56
267	Kimball Post 261	6	56
267	Sartell Post 277	6	56
267	Clearbrook Post 256	9	56
267	Gonvick Post 304	9	56
267	Ogilvie Post 640	10	56
273	Proctor Post 106	8	55
273	Plummer Post 623	9	55
275	Kellogg Post 546	1	54
275	Hardwick Post 478	2	54
275	St. Paul 3M Post 599	4	54
275	Marietta Post 156	7	54
275	Brandon Post 278	7	54
275	Erskine Post 596	9	54
281	Denham Post 361	10	53
282	Slayton Post 64	2	52
282	Winthrop Post 314	3	52
282	Mpls. Viking Post 493	5	52
282	Upsala Post 350	6	52
282	Taconite Post 301	8	52
282	Lancaster Post 214	9	52
288	Edgerton Post 42	2	51
288	Luverne Post 123	2	51
288	Northrop Post 522	2	51
288	Jordan Post 3	3	51
288	Mendota Hts. Post 521	3	51
288	Mpls. Hellenic Post 129	5	51
288	Milan Post 359	7	51
288	Fertile Post 238	9	51
296	Benson Post 62	7	50
296	Waverly Post 305	10	50
298	Preston Post 166	1	49
298	Kenyon Post 78	3	49
298	St. Paul Chr.-DP. Post 406	4	49
298	Bertha Post 366	6	49
298	Cosmos Post 126	7	49
298	Parkers Prairie Post 219	9	49
298	Fisher Post 242	9	49
305	Lakefield Post 4	2	48
305	Chicago City Post 272	10	48
307	Lismore Post 636	2	47
307	Le Sueur Post 55	3	47
307	Crystal Aviation Post 511	5	47
307	Clarissa Post 213	6	47
307	Browerville Post 293	6	47
312	Le Roy Post 161	1	46
312	Sanborn Post 286	2	46
312	Easton Post 569	2	46
312	Bellingham Post 441	7	46
312	Millerville Post 527	7	46
312	Effie Post 182	8	46
312	Moose Lake Post 379	8	46
312	Pelican Rapids Post 17	9	46
312	Stephen Post 390	9	46
321	New Richland Post 75	1	45
321	Watertown Post 121	3	45
321	Roosevelt Post 371	9	45
321	Twin Valley Post 431	9	45
325	Emmons Post 317	1	44
325	Winnebago Post 82	2	44
325	Stewart Post 125	3	44
325	Lafayette Post 300	3	44
325	Clara City Post 485	7	44
325	Babbitt Post 535	8	44
331	New York Mills Post 116	9	44
332	Trimont Post 373	2	43
332	Norwood Post 343	3	43
332	Chokio Post 629	7	43
332	Fosston Post 114	9	43
336	Zumbrota Post 183	3	42
336	Mahtomedi Post 507	3	42
336	Hector Post 135	7	42
339	Wadena Post 171	6	41
339	Hill City Post 340	6	41
339	Madison Post 158	7	41
339	Rush City Post 93	10	41
339	Cokato Post 209	10	41
344	Minnesota Lake Post 287	2	40
344	Belview Post 309	2	40
344	Hills Post 399	2	40
344	Kiester Post 454	2	40
344	Mpls. N. Side Post 230	5	40
344	Cass Lake Post 284	6	40
344	Hazel Run Post 559	7	40
351	Wabasso Post 263	2	39
351	Kelliher Post 470	6	39
351	Villard Post 175	7	39
351	Nashwauk Post 307	8	39
351	Barnum Post 415	8	39
356	West Concord Post 295	1	38
356	Brooten Post 288	6	38
356	Evansville Post 188	7	38
356	Dassel Post 364	7	38
356	Herman Post 378	7	38



# District commanders



## 1st District Mark Maloney III



Wow, what quick year I had. I started as 1st District commander thinking I knew the answers and found out that I had only a fraction of them, but I did realize one thing. Teamwork is what was needed in my district and teamwork is what makes things work better in every thing you.

As I had visited post in my area, I found that post who treat the local SAL, Auxiliar and Riders members as equals had a better attitude throughout the year and solved the post problems as a family.

I also ran into posts where post commanders had taken to the notion that they are CEO and can act alone and do as they please.

Well, that's when I checked the books. This is a place that the district officers can help with post problems and help find the answers for them to solve the post problems that may come up.

It has worked in five of my posts, which were wise to

contact the district officers.

I will say to those who say American Legion district or department people can't do anything show me how they only are limited to how they limit themselves.

We are not limited in educating the posts in how they can keep law and order in their posts.

Remember, as president Lincoln stated, "A house divided will fall unto itself."

So, let's stay united. Our mission and duty are to help the veterans to make a peaceful transition back to peaceful life.

We can do that if we are not bickering amongst ourselves. Let us keep strong, show people we are here, and show we care and that bring people back. We also cannot be afraid to try new things. If we do not adapt, we will be left behind.

Thank you.

continue to thrive and make a difference in the lives of those we serve. Please know that I will always be a proud supporter of The American Legion and its mission.

Though I may no longer be with you in person, my spirit and support remain steadfast. I am excited to see all the great things you will accomplish in

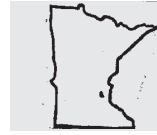
the future. Remember, our work is never done, and our commitment to our veterans is eternal.

Thank you once again for the incredible journey and for being such an integral part of my life. I will cherish the memories we have created and the bonds we have formed.

With deepest gratitude and best wishes.

Grittner and give him our full support as he leads us through the next wonderful year!

I hope to see you in Willmar and New Orleans at department and national conventions!



## 4th District Teresa Ash



Well, it's been great year. There have been many great events in the 4th District.

We have had a new group of members that took over leadership roles in the district. It has been a great success. They have decided that they are ready to take on their next roles.

The 4th District has a full slate of officers, all of whom are new to the organization and ready to take it into the next generation. We are proud of their success and look forward to seeing them grow in the organization.

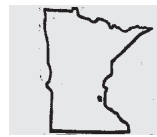
We take our hats off to their

passion, drive and desire to see the organization grow for all the generations to come.

Don't forget to come to the Ramsey County Central Committee (our name for the 4th District Executive Committee) each month to support an encourage them.

See everyone at Department Convention.

Watch Facebook for all information.



## 5th District Dick Ward



District conventions are completed and new district officers are champing at the bit to get going on their mission. Congratulations to them all.

The 5th District Convention was held in a new venue and very well-received. Great thanks to our team for organization an awesome event in a new location. Special thanks to: Gary Martin, Shawn Davis, and Matt Verkuilen — awesome job.

The 5th District Memorial Day Ceremony was a huge success. Master of ceremony and chief organizer Joe Bayer did an outstanding job indeed. The Minneapolis Veterans Home served as a reverent and patriotic location for such a solemn occasion. Speakers included Sen. Amy Klobuchar, Rep. Ilhan Omar, and Department Commander Paul Hassing.

Our 5th District Project was Every Third Saturday, an organization assisting veterans right here in our neighborhood. I

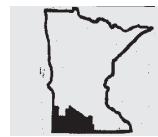
would like to thank all who donated to this awesome cause.

Tom and Jessy McKenna graciously accepted contributions from 5th District American Legion and the 5th District Auxiliary. They serve as wonderful stewards on behalf of our veterans in need in Minnesota's urban core. Thank you, Tom and Jessy.

Now it's off to Wilmar for the Department Convention. I'm looking forward to catching up with all my friends across Minnesota, but wondering what Carla Tappainer has up her sleeve for re-admittance to the Past Commanders Club!

Thank you for all you do in support of our veterans and The American Legion.

"To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness."



## 2nd District James Olson

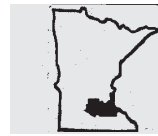


Greetings, 2nd District! I would like to thank all of the Legionnaires who took time out of their busy schedules to attend the 2nd District Convention! Post 36 did a fantastic job with the hosting duties. I hope to see more posts represented and more Legionnaires at the district mid-winter conference that will be held in Bricelyn and at the district convention next year in Pipestone.

I would also like to thank the Legionnaires of the 2nd District for a wonderful year! I have thoroughly enjoyed visiting many of the posts in the district throughout the year and getting to know Legionnaires that I have not had the opportunity to meet before. We have a lot of work to do as a district. I have confidence that we will get there.

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank the Legionnaires of the 2nd District for having the confidence in me to re-elect me as the 2nd District commander for the coming year. I believe that if you ask any past district commander, they will tell you that one year is not nearly enough time to accomplish the goals that you start out with.

This next year will be busy for the district officers and the district committee chairs. Let's do everything we can to make it a successful year for the Legionnaires and posts in the Solid Second District!



## 3rd District Rod Reifsteck



As I sit down to write this letter, I find myself filled with a mix of emotions. The time has come for me to bid farewell to this remarkable team and embark on a new chapter in my life. While I am excited about the future, I am also deeply grateful for the experiences and memories we have shared together.

Over the years, I have had the honor and privilege of working alongside each of you. Your dedication, camaraderie and unwavering commitment to our mission have been truly inspiring. The American Legion stands as a beacon of service, honor and support for our veterans, and being a part of this organization has been one of the most fulfilling experiences of my life. I want to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to each of you:

- To our leadership, thank you for your guidance and vision. Your leadership has been instrumental in driving our initiatives and achieving our goals.

- To my colleagues, thank you for your hard work and teamwork. Together, we have faced challenges, celebrated successes, and grown stronger as a unit.

- To our volunteers and supporters, thank you for your tireless efforts and dedication. Your selfless contributions have made a significant impact on the lives of our veterans and their families.

As I move on, I carry with me the lessons learned and the friendships forged during my time with The American Legion. I am confident that the team will



## 6th District Anthony Koop



Greetings and salutations from the *Big 6th!*

Good news, everyone! We are sitting at 98.77 percent for membership!

That is 4.29 percent higher than last year at this time!

The Legion Family Testimonial was very fun with President Patti Gunderson and SAL Commander Bob Foss. It was very nice that we could all get together and be a part of each other's celebration.

Meeting people from the other parts of the American Legion Family was the best part. The 6th District Convention was held at Brainerd Post 255 on June 1.

I want to congratulate Mr. Frank Grittner as our new district commander. He has done an

outstanding job this past year as the South sub-vice commander and has held the role of district chaplain as well. He will make the Big 6th proud.

Congrats as well to all of the elected and appointed officers. Your job is to assist our commander and all of the 6th District, and I know you will do well. As my year comes to a close, I want you all to know how much I appreciate all of your hard work and dedication.

With your help, we have had a great year and will continue to strive for even greater success. Let us all welcome Commander



## 7th District Jan Ekert



Greetings to all of my fellow Legionnaires.

To start off, I want to thank all of the members of the Mighty Seventh for the confidence you placed in me a year ago by electing me as your district commander, and to ask all of you to provide the same support, encouragement and kindness to our incoming Commander Carl Wilson.

I know he will do a fantastic job. Congratulations to all of the 7th District's new officers and chairpersons. You will all do great things as you bring innovative ideas to the table. Use the resources that are available at both the department and national websites. Ask those who have held the position you find yourself in for mentoring or to simply ask questions.

This year has been a challenge for all of us. I am hoping that you all have made new friends within the Legion and brought a few new ones to us.

I am hopeful that this article reaches you before the Department Convention and that I have the opportunity to see many of you there. The convention offers many opportunities to see how the department works, how we as Legionnaires can affect change, offer new ideas and meet new comrades.

We have all served this great country of ours in many different ways. For that, I say, "Thank you for your service and sacrifice."

Now is the time to remember those who we have lost, those who we have not seen in a long time, and those who we may find are in need of our support and encouragement. "Be the One," check on someone you have not seen at your post meetings for a long time. Call them to say hello or better yet make a trip out to see them. Remember, "No One Left Behind." Do those buddy checks.

To all of the members of the 7th District and beyond, it is your experience, knowledge,

and willingness to serve that will make the tasks we face easier. We are a great TEAM.

To all of the members of the 7th District, I looked forward to your support, input and even criticism, because that is how we develop solutions and make things happen. Together we can and have done amazing things.

And now for some of the more tedious work, deadlines are coming up for reports that need to be submitted. Your post adjutant should have gotten many in the mail. Make sure you are completing the Consolidated Post Report as that is one of the documents the national commander uses data from when he reports to Congress about what The American Legion is doing. Remember to make copies of the reports you send in and send them to the person or place that is noted on the form.

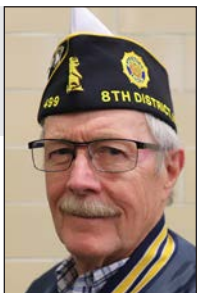
A gentle reminder on my Commander's Project and a *big thank you* to the posts that have donated to it. It is veterans helping veterans. I am to the halfway mark on the low end of my goal of \$5,000 to \$10,000 for the veterans at the Montevideo Veterans Home.

At the dedication in Montevideo, I had a cashier's check presented to their administrator in the amount of \$2,500. I am hopeful that some of you may still be talking to your post about donating to this endeavor. If so, please make your checks payable to the 7th District Commander's Project, and mail them to me at 31693 733rd Ave, South Haven, MN 55382.

Again, I look forward to seeing many of you at the Department Convention as well as in the upcoming year, as I will be your membership director once again. Remember our strength lies in our numbers. *Veterans Helping Veterans.*



## 8th District Dan Siats



Greetings to the 8th District, known as the District of Lakes and Pines! It's been a very short three months being the interim commander for the 8th District. Thanks to all that have been there to lead your vast experience in all American Legion matters!

Our District Convention on June 8 at Aurora Post 241 was very well-attended. Thank you, Aurora Post 241, for an awesome job of hosting the convention!

The district is always looking for more members to be involved even a little bit. All officers are holding their same positions, except for commander. Our incoming commander for 2024-2025 is Phillip Bodle of Hibbing Post 222.

If you've thought about

going on an Honor Flight and have been putting it off, don't wait! If you need help finding when the next trip from Minneapolis or any other major airport is, ask your county veterans service officer.

They'll help you get in contact with people who can assist you. The flights are free of charge for any veteran who served in a branch of the U.S. military during World War II, the Korean or Vietnam wars, or a veteran from any service era who is currently terminally ill.

The mission of the Honor Flights is to celebrate America's veterans by inviting them

Continued on Page 17



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356	Winger Post 200	9	38
356	Hawley Post 382	9	38
363	Amboy Post 276	2	37
363	Wanda Post 385	2	37
363	Askov Post 243	10	37
366	Comfrey Post 244	2	36
366	Good Thunder Post 616	2	36
366	Lester Prairie Post 463	3	36
366	St. Paul B&P Post 450	4	36
370	Chatfield Post 197	1	35
370	Ellendale Post 296	1	35
370	Green Isle Post 408	3	35
370	New Germany Post 601	3	35
370	Mpls. U of M Post 548	5	35
370	Barrett Post 351	7	35
370	Cottonwood Post 503	7	35
370	Perham Post 61	9	35
370	Maple Plain Post 514	10	35
379	Mpls. Giantvalley Post 2345	34	34
379	Mpls. Gopher Post 440	5	34
379	Balaton Post 237	7	34
379	Warba Post 432	8	34
383	Grand Meadow Post 140	1	33
383	Hendricks Post 195	2	33
383	Henderson Post 74	3	33
383	Appleton Post 72	7	33
383	Elbow Lake Post 321	7	33
383	Audubon Post 339	9	33
389	Laporte Post 462	6	32
389	Grand Portage Post 2009	8	32
389	Nielsen Post 336	9	32
390	Sandstone-Finl. Post 151	10	32
393	Storden Post 391	2	31
393	St. Paul Burt Post 4444	4	31
393	Danube Post 227	7	31
393	Northome Post 499	8	31
397	Madison Lake Post 269	2	30
397	Jeffers Post 401	2	30
397	Arlington Post 250	3	30
397	Renville Post 180	7	30
397	Clinton Post 258	7	30
397	Halma-L. Bronson Post 315	9	30
403	Peterson Post 526	1	29
403	Freeborn Post 552	1	29
403	Truman Post 115	2	29
403	Lucan Post 467	2	29

# MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

403	Russell Post 460	7	29
403	Moose L. Fires Post 1918	8	29
409	Claremont Post 422	1	28
409	Battle Lake Post 289	9	28
409	Oslo Post 331	9	28
412	Westbrook Post 152	2	27
412	Hanska Post 365	2	27
412	Dundee Post 386	2	27
412	Bena Post 2001	6	27
412	Kensington Post 268	7	27
412	Beardsley Post 302	7	27
412	Newfolden Post 427	9	27
419	Elgin Post 573	1	26
419	Milroy Post 274	2	26
419	Clements Post 519	2	26
419	Avoca Post 576	2	26
423	Ellsworth Post 196	2	25
423	Kerkhoven Post 223	7	25
423	Sacred Heart Post 229	7	25
423	Harris Post 139	10	25
427	Mpls. Longton Post 618	5	24
427	Hanley Falls Post 127	7	24
427	Wood Lake Post 556	7	24
430	Canton Post 400	1	23
430	Mountain Lake Post 389	2	23
430	S. St Paul Post 481	3	23
430	Atwater Post 375	7	23
430	Kettle River Post 360	8	23
430	Beroun Post 347	10	23
436	Harmony Post 81	1	22
436	Mpls. J. Baker Post 291	5	22
436	Mpls. Gager Post 581	5	22
436	Pillager Post 100	6	22
436	Gary Post 505	9	22
436	Lindstrom Post 83	10	22
436	St. Bonifacius Post 597	10	22
443	Plato Post 641	3	21
443	Menahga Post 448	6	21
443	Int'l Falls Post 66	8	21
443	Okllee Post 159	9	21
447	Ghent Post 564	7	20
447	Littlefork Post 490	8	20
447	Mentor Post 421	9	20
447	Ham Lake Post 2000	10	20

451	Hokah Post 498	1	19
451	Ostrander Post 544	1	19
451	Waldorf Post 587	1	19
451	Elmore Post 192	2	19
451	Starbuck Post 325	7	19
451	Brookston Post 562	8	19
457	Jasper Post 133	2	18
457	Pinewood Post 438	6	18
457	Franklin Post 308	7	18
457	Nassau Post 536	7	18
457	Hendrum Post 434	9	18
462	Wykoff Post 369	1	17
462	Chandler Post 338	2	17
462	Sioux Valley Post 614	2	17
462	Grygla Post 162	9	17
466	Vesta Post 306	2	16
466	Eagle Bend Post 280	6	16
466	Avon Post 538	6	16
466	Echo Post 204	7	16
466	Garvin Post 273	7	16
466	Prairie Post 1998	7	16
466	Henning Post 18	9	16
466	Hallock Post 63	9	16
474	Post 534	2	15
474	Grey Eagle Post 547	6	15
474	Boyd Post 198	7	15
477	Rochester Post 446	1	14
477	Hoffman Post 393	7	14
477	Big Falls Post 494	8	14
477	Goodland Post 575	8	14
477	Dilworth Post 397	9	14
482	Hartland Post 266	1	13
482	Cambria Post 329	2	13
482	Ruthton Post 506	2	13
482	Gibbon Post 226	3	13
482	Mpls. Bearcat Post 504	5	13
482	Akeley Post 363	6	13
482	St. Leo Post 524	7	13
482	Taunton Post 604	7	13
482	Alvarado Post 35	9	13
491	Wendell Post 426	7	12
491	Stacy Post 312	10	12
493	Victoria Post 1995	3	11
493	Wolverton Post 370	9	11

493	Halstad Post 402	9	11
496	Austin Spam Post 570	1	10
496	Whalan Post 637	1	10
496	Seaforth Post 275	2	10
496	Delavan Post 486	2	10
496	Bigelow Post 496	2	10
496	Dovray Post 632	2	10
496	Kilkenny Post 380	3	10
496	Clarkfield Post 169	7	10
496	Biwabik Post 160	8	10
505	Fountain Post 492	1	9
505	Morton Post 344	7	9
505	Buffalo Lake Post 469	7	9
505	Gilbert Post 138	8	9
505	Gully Post 603	9	9
505	Willow River Post 163	10	9
505	Dayton Post 531	10	9
512	Lake Lillian Post 615	7	8
512	Strandquist Post 466	9	8
514	Coates Post 3333	3	7
515	Granada Post 319	2	6
515	St. Paul 3H Post 1975	4	6
517	St. Clair Post 650	2	5
517	St. Paul D. Bluff Post 515	4	5
517	Duluth TG8D Post 342	8	5
520	Mpls. Courthouse Post 3105	5	4
520	Mpls. Smith Post 468	5	4
520	Rothsay Post 376	9	4
520	Taylor Falls Post 392	10	4
524	Mpls. Bainbridge Post 3555	3	3
524	Euclid Post 539	9	3
526	Mpls. F&P Post 396	5	2
526	Mpls. Novak Post 5222	5	2
526	Beltrami Post 626	9	2
529	Hitterdal Post 13	9	1
529	Edina Post 471	10	1
531	Dakota Post 1111	1	0
531	Revere Post 582	2	0
531	Ulen Post 412	9	0
531	Cedar Post 509	10	0

**534 posts for a total of 53,897 active members as of June 26, 2024. Thanks to Membership Coordinator Misty Padilla for her assistance with this listing.**  
 Note: Some posts have turned in their charter and are awaiting on acceptance from the national organization.



Milaca Union Times  
**Milaca Commander Lew Ratajczak and Gabriel Olson stand together at Milaca High School Awards Night. Olson was recognized for being a Boys Stater.**



**Northome Post 499 Commander Daniel Siats thanks LaVon Weinborner of Mizpah Local Roots Greenhouse for her thoughtfulness in making and donating the memorial wreaths placed at seven local cemeteries during Memorial Day ceremonies.**

## District Commanders

Continued from Page 16

to share in a day of honor at our nation's memorials. We want to thank Aurora Post 241 Adjutant Stave Bionich and a great group of veterans from the Iron Range. Their day spent sprucing up the grounds around the Silver Bay Veterans Home was appreciated! Thank you to all of the

Auxiliary members for the continuous support for veterans! Thank you for volunteering! Veterans helping veterans! Together we can! Be the One! Thank you to our veterans for being a member of The American Legion! To uphold and defend the Constitution of The United States of America! Thank you!



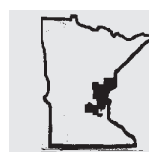
### 9th District

Steve NaSalle



Hello, Roaring 9th District American Legion Family! Now that our 2024 district convention is behind us, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Moorhead post for a smooth and successful district convention. A special thank you to our district vice commander at-large, Tim Haugen, for his above and beyond expectations organizing our successful convention. Thank you, Tim! In addition, I would like to welcome and congratulate our newest district vice commander, Cecelia Sundstrom, to our 9th District family. All right, post commanders, post adjutants and post membership directors, now that your post elections have concluded, we must ensure that all your post forms (PORs & CPRs) have been filled out properly and sent to the department for updating ASAP. These forms are mandatory,

so let's have a 100 percent districtwide success rate getting these forms in on time. If you need assistance, please contact Tim Haugen, our district vice commander at-large. Remember, we still have a few posts that haven't reached membership goals, so please continue to reach to your current members to get their dues in before the 2024 Department Convention, which begins July 10. Please continue to be mindful of our members who are homebound or in assisted living facilities and remember our buddy checks. Our comrades deserve our attention. "Those who can, do. Those who can do more, volunteer." — Unknown  
 Respectfully in your service.



### 10th District

Matthew Berens



What a long, strange trip it's been! Greetings one last time from the Mighty Tenth. I would first like to congratulate Kristy Janigo for being elected as your 10th District commander for the 2024-2025 American Legion year. Kristy brings an astonishing amount of energy to the table, and knowledge well beyond her years. I also want to thank everyone not just in the 10th District, but the Department of Minnesota as a whole. You have all been bedrocks of support and positive affirmation. I would not trade any of you for any amount of pulltabs or Fireball. And a special thanks goes out to my family and all the good folks in my hometown of Benson. They have been following me in the Legionnaire and on social media — and in person. All of their positive comments and kind words have been such a great bless-

ing during my time as commander. Lastly, I want to add one thing: get involved at the post, district or department level, whether it's with the Legion, Auxiliary, Sons or Riders. This year, as commander, has been an amazing experience filled with amazing people. What you put into The American Legion experience will yield positive memories to be cherished for a lifetime. Sure, there are some challenges along the way, and we all need to pitch in, but in my opinion, the end game is well worth the effort. Again, thanks to you all for being a part of the greatest organization for the greatest veterans on Earth. God bless you, and God bless America.



**The 3rd District's Has-Been Dinner at New Prague Post 45 on May 17 recognized outgoing SAL Commander Dave Arend Jr., American Legion Commander Rod Reifsteck, and ALA President Deanna Meyer. All three were hilariously roasted by emcee Kim Carlander. They sang the national anthem for the dinner attendees and played a rousing game of "True or False." Arend Jr will stay another year as SAL district commander.**





Alex Booth/Minnesota Boys State

Above are the boys elected as Constitutional Officers at the 2024 session of Minnesota Boys State. Front row, from left, are Associate Justice Kaden Freeman, Gov. Tucker Fournier and Secretary of State Wyatt Pohlen. In back are Chief Justice Ethan Backes, Associate Justice Logan Schad, Attorney General Lonnie Gilbert, Lt. Gov. Cade Wright and Auditor Ethan Leimer.

### Constitutional Officers for 2024 Boys State

Office	Name	Sponsoring Post
Governor	Tucker Fournier	Osseo Post 172
Lt. Governor	Cade Wright	Woodbury Post 501
Secretary of State	Wyatt Pohlen	Taunton Post 604
State Auditor	Ethan Leimer	St. James Post 33
Attorney General	Lonne Gilbert	Watertown Post 121
Chief Justice	Ethan Backes	Osseo Post 172
Associate Justice	Logan Schad	Melrose Post 101
Associate Justice	Kaden Freeman	Blackduck Post 372

Fournier and Gilbert were selected to be Boys Nation Senators from Minnesota. Boys Nation is July 19-26 in Washington, D.C.

## Minnesota Boys State elects officers

By Neil Kruse  
Minnesota Boys State

COLLEGEVILLE — Celebrating the 75th session of Minnesota’s American Legion Boys State began with a banquet at Anoka Post 102 on Saturday, June 8.

Following a tasty meal, former Boys State Director Mike Bredeck spoke and introduced guest speakers Hank Shea, Greg Orman, and Zach Duckworth.

Dave Way was recognized for his contributions over the 50 years he has served the organization. Counselors from the past caught up with each other and current counselors were excited about the upcoming week.

The nearly 170 young men to participate this year were divided amongst six cities and three counties for the week at St. John’s University in Collegeville. Informative speakers about the three branches of Minnesota’s government, as well as

local government officials, answered questions of the young men interested in boosting their knowledge of their state’s political happenings.

Gov. Tim Walz, a Legion member of Mankato Post 11, visited on Thursday and spoke to the boys.

The week concluded with an energetic chorus concert, followed by Gov. Nick Meuleners passing his powers on to the newly elected governor, Tucker Fournier.

Thank you to the Legion visitors during the week. I hope they have a better understanding of Boys State and even more will visit next year. Encourage the young men you sponsored to pass on their knowledge and experiences to the guys in the class behind them. Parades, local celebrations, and fairs are places they can spread the word of the positive results of their participation in 2024.

My thanks to you for your American Legion post’s financial and verbal support!



As the rain began to fall more heavily, a group of children lined up behind the Hayfield Post 330 veterans with their umbrellas to shield them from the weather during the Memorial Day ceremony.



Woodbury Post 501 Commander Bob Dolan, second from right, awards a retirement gift to AFJROTC Commander Maj. Tom Petzold, an aerospace science instructor at Woodbury High School and third from right.



Veterans and supporters dance at the 17th annual Military Ball, held April 20 in the Fest Building in Spring Grove. It is organized by members from Spring Grove Post 249, Caledonia Post 191 and Houston Post 423.

## Uniforms, tuxes and dresses make for a fun evening in Spring Grove

By Jan Lee Buxengard

SPRING GROVE — The 17th annual Military Ball, hosted by the military family, was held April 20 at the Fest Building in Spring Grove.

The attendance of 102 encompassed a wide range of the tri-state area and with many wearing their military or veteran organization uniform.

Ret. Navy Cmdr. Christian Myrah of Spring Grove was emcee for the event.

Flag detail was organized by John Geiwitz of Houston. Presentation of colors for the opening ceremony included U.S. flag bearer Paul Hosfield of Burnsville, POW/MIA flag – Howard Wilson of Tomah, Wis., and flag escorts Lowell Stephas of Fountain and John Iverson of Medford. Service flag bearers were: Army, Steve Hauschildt of Winona; Marines, Earl Roberts of Mindoro, Wis (assisted by Allen Buxengard of La Crescent); Coast Guard, Gary Buxengard of Spring Grove; Navy, John Geiwitz of Houston; and Air Force, Brad Buege of Houston.

Arlyn Pohlman of Caledonia led the POW/MIA ceremony “Remember”, with Robert Karlsbroten of Houston assisting at the table for one.

For the final salute ceremony, Gary Buxengard read the Roll Call, honoring the 54 veterans of Houston County who answered their last call during calendar year 2023. Randy Denstad of Caledonia rang the bell twice after each name, followed by Cheers Big Band trumpet players providing a military salute of echo taps.

Following toasts the catered meal was served by Good Times of Caledonia.

Guest speaker was Siri Corson, a student at Fillmore Central High School. In March of 2023 as a junior, she placed



Paul Hosfield presents the U.S. flag, escorted by John Iverson.



Speaker was Siri Corson of Fillmore Central High School.

second in the nation in the Voice of Democracy essay contest.

“What makes a veteran an important part of our society lies, not only in the act of laying one’s life down for the sake of the nation we call home, but also in their selflessness and integrity,” she said.

Corson’s great-grandfather, Manford Corson, served in World War II.”

After the flags were retired and the candle on the POW-MIA table extinguished, Cheers Big Band played music for dancing and listening pleasure for the remainder of the evening. The eight-piece ensemble was sponsored again this year by Ellestad family members in memory of Mervin and Norma Ellestad.

**Next year’s ball**  
Save the date of April 26,

2025, for the 18th annual Military Ball.

This event is planned and carried out by a committee of volunteers from American Legion posts in the local area, including Randy Denstad, Arlyn Pohlman and Lucille Lemke of the Caledonia post; John Geiwitz of the Houston post; Fordyce and Marge Brevig, Gary and Jan Lee Buxengard, Nancy Dahl and Kathy Schiessler of the Spring Grove post.

The committee expresses appreciation and gratitude to everyone who has helped in any way to make the ball the special event that it is. If you are interested in being on this committee, want to help support or want more information about the event, please contact the Buxengard’s at 597-498-3461 or janleebuxengard@gmail.com



The POW/MIA ceremony is performed by Arlyn Pohlman and assisted by Robert Karlsbroten.



# Legion Bowling

Results from the 2024 Minnesota American Legion Bowling Tournament Held in April at Sundance Entertainment Center, Dayton Hosted by Osseo-Maple Grove Post 172

## Men's Team Competition

- Top 5:**  
 1. Mahtomedi Post 507 #2  
 2. Litchfield Post 104 #6  
 3. Waite Park Post 428 #3  
 4. Litchfield Post 104 #5  
 5. Mahtomedi Post 507 #1  
 Scores in the table descend by team total.



The Department of Minnesota bowling team was Jason Voss, Sharon Cross, Jody Hassing and Paul Hassing.

Name	1st	2nd	3rd	Total
<b>Mahtomedi Post 507 #2</b>				<b>2903</b>
Bob Lagoon	207	235	244	686
Ken Lagoon	216	275	263	754
Mark Morse	238	273	237	748
Todd Rogers	218	238	259	715
<b>Litchfield Post 104 #6</b>				<b>2765</b>
Brandon Karels	235	199	247	681
Cody Utne	231	264	184	679
Jason Karels	198	246	214	658
Joey Karels	249	237	261	747
<b>Waite Park Post 428 #3</b>				<b>2751</b>
Kevin Kruse	208	260	203	671
Dean Walz	221	254	207	682
Dave Walz	270	215	219	704
Doug Walz	187	261	246	694
<b>Litchfield Post 104 #5</b>				<b>2643</b>
Brad Bruggermeier	175	262	206	643
Bryan Kruegel	235	241	207	683
Jack Bruggermeier	248	196	194	638
Jesse Johnson	229	213	237	679
<b>Mahtomedi Post 507 #1</b>				<b>2635</b>
Cole Dupre	243	202	211	656
Gary Nelson	231	202	209	642
Jacob Bender	204	254	230	688
Roger Leonard	209	220	220	649
<b>Mahtomedia Post 507 #4</b>				<b>2627</b>
Frank Falkenberg	230	212	222	664
Josh Williamson	235	187	209	631
Marty Mendard	262	233	199	694
Matt Odell	220	202	216	638
<b>Elk River Post 112</b>				<b>2626</b>
John Wirtz	218	175	222	615
Tyler Hiller	218	227	226	671
Aaron Schmidt	204	234	236	674
Lenno Wirtz	242	241	183	666
<b>Osseo Post 172 #3</b>				<b>2621</b>
Jim Deschene	198	246	222	666
Scott Bridell	231	174	224	629
Steve Walkdorf	205	241	208	654
Tim Lind	235	206	231	672
<b>Milroy Post 274</b>				<b>2620</b>
Jordy Beek	251	182	197	630
Lanny Sik	249	229	206	684
Leroy Sik	264	191	187	642
Lydell Sik	234	216	214	664
<b>Mahtomedi Post 507 #3</b>				<b>2614</b>
Bill Waseleski	198	220	217	635
Meg Peterson	219	254	230	703
Samantha Wlaters	211	167	223	601
Steve Strusinski	210	212	253	675
<b>Litchfield Post 104 #9</b>				<b>2599</b>
Angela Carlson	224	191	214	629
Anthony Carlson	239	238	202	679
Austin Carlson	267	241	225	733
Jesse Carlson	196	180	182	558
<b>Gaylord Post 433 #2</b>				<b>2576</b>
Kenneth Seeman	194	216	230	640
Cory Hanson	224	198	197	619
Mike Witthus	208	220	188	616
Myron Nelson	232	233	236	701
<b>Litchfield Post 104 #3</b>				<b>2559</b>
Dan Clark	207	239	149	595
Gary Holtz	229	213	212	654
Rod Nordling	248	187	212	647
Tony Holtz	230	225	208	663
<b>Arcade Phalen Post 577 #4</b>				<b>2555</b>
Brian Schultz	171	223	227	621
Bryce Schultz	205	237	197	639
Kevin Rud	249	158	227	634
Troy Melton	226	232	203	661
<b>New Ulm Post 132 #2</b>				<b>2553</b>
Bob Roth	161	246	234	641
Brian Reinhart	226	196	200	622
Dave Brown	178	210	222	610
Mike Fahey	200	285	195	680
<b>Arcade Phalen Post 577 #3</b>				<b>2553</b>
Hans Meizinger	178	211	278	667
Mark Nuenberg	229	230	219	678
Mike Casey	185	207	220	612
Ron Snaza	221	176	199	596
<b>Wilmar Post 167</b>				<b>2545</b>
Chuck Loso	204	203	191	598
Gordon Keller	210	193	205	608
Joel Carlson	202	219	270	691
John Christenson	208	232	208	648

<b>Stewartville Post 164 #5</b>				<b>2539</b>
Jay Bundy	203	182	202	587
Roger Roeder	215	219	235	669
Rollie Frank	195	225	244	664
Ty Mullenbach	211	189	219	619
<b>Gaylord Post 433 #1</b>				<b>2538</b>
Ryan Evers	221	209	179	609
Mark Niebuhr	234	231	193	658
Larry Lamb	183	197	220	600
Arden Schuft	203	243	225	671
<b>Waite Park Post 428 #5</b>				<b>2535</b>
Nate Berg	235	209	218	662
Brian Gohman	203	162	212	577
Jason Mohs	209	233	215	657
Paul Kuehl	267	207	165	639
<b>Bloomington Post 550</b>				<b>2532</b>
Dan Schultz	235	225	234	694
Gary Guggenberger	164	205	204	573
Kevin Kick	197	254	204	655
Scott Kick	187	211	212	610
<b>Litchfield Post 104 #7</b>				<b>2531</b>
Bryson Karels	207	169	189	565
George Karels	182	209	227	618
Jake Grangroth	205	195	226	626
Phillip Karels	227	205	290	722
<b>Hutchinson Post 96 #2</b>				<b>2531</b>
Tom Miller	170	230	206	606
Tyler Duenow	154	201	248	603
Jesse Duenow	202	262	221	685
Josh Telecky	184	216	237	637
<b>Duluth Post 71 #1</b>				<b>2509</b>
Carl Hendrickson	158	184	228	570
Gary Marcum	224	234	214	672
Neil Busch	207	203	224	634
Ron Holets	217	199	217	633
<b>Arcade-Phalen Post 577 #9</b>				<b>2495</b>
Chris Kanneman	220	192	220	632
Doug Holtzkamp	200	165	176	541
Jay Crapps	174	198	259	631
Ron Andreotti	287	214	190	691
<b>St. Paul Hamile Post 418 #3</b>				<b>2495</b>
Joe Uzpen	180	141	171	492
Steve Broberg	236	214	262	712
Jason Smallman	221	215	225	661
Craig Schwarzbauer	216	218	196	630
<b>Waite Park Post 428 #1</b>				<b>2488</b>
Tom Fernland	199	232	182	613
Chris Gohman	175	242	184	601
Jeff Hieserich	179	202	191	572
Matt Lange	215	250	237	702
<b>St. Joseph Post 328 #4</b>				<b>2481</b>
Brad Phillipp	181	195	260	636
Chad Phillipp	155	212	222	589
Cody Towle	215	220	237	672
Richard Pfannenstien	180	191	213	584
<b>Waite Park Post 428 #2</b>				<b>2479</b>
Nicholas Seeman	220	194	204	618
Justin Hengel	182	183	199	564
Josh Hangel	226	229	238	693
Lance Hangel	178	216	210	604
<b>St. Paul Post 418 #1</b>				<b>2477</b>
Robert Broberg	169	172	167	508
Brad Rardin	236	269	215	720
Adam Goetzke	190	219	191	600
Jeff Broberg	205	259	185	649
<b>Hopkins Post 320</b>				<b>2473</b>
Larry Muehlberg	143	218	199	560
Adam Moles	216	216	200	632
Craig Skorheim	206	227	202	635
Craig Taylor	219	231	196	646
<b>Stewartville Post 164 #4</b>				<b>2469</b>
Chris Pugh	175	229	160	564
Tayla Stier	171	202	213	586
Trafe Mullenbach	229	214	225	668
Trent Mullenbach	234	209	208	651
<b>Robbinsdale-Crystal Post 251</b>				<b>2463</b>
Todd Arndt	240	221	176	637
Robby Arndt	222	183	173	578
Jeff Wendt	175	174	218	567
Dave Wendt	218	243	220	681
<b>Cosmos Post 126 #1</b>				<b>2459</b>
Devin Frederiksen	188	236	201	625
Geral Peterson	222	188	185	595
Lorlane Schmeling	235	210	241	686
Nathan Frederiksen	190	188	175	553
<b>Litchfield Post 104 #8</b>				<b>2457</b>
Chris Holtz	193	196	243	632
David Wolter	214	181	183	578
Loren Berge	194	207	220	621
Trent Merkins	217	196	213	626
<b>Osseo Post 172 #2</b>				<b>2455</b>
Chad Mundahl	256	226	204	686
Dennis Young	192	216	206	614
Jeff Rasmussen	191	165	189	545
Todd Danielson	221	164	225	610
<b>Arcade Phalen Post 577 #6</b>				<b>2451</b>
Chris Reynolds	214	196	196	606
Phil Nuhfer	199	253	205	657
Scott Morgan	243	193	200	636
Steve Housewright	183	187	182	552
<b>Arcade Phalen Post 577 #5</b>				<b>2442</b>
Alex Kollos	178	172	256	606
Bruce Kollos	196	197	191	584
Dan Bartel	285	176	221	682
Kelly Morris	195	203	172	570
<b>Litchfield Post 104 #10</b>				<b>2439</b>
Brian Debolt	189	177	250	616
Don Holtz	178	222	186	586
Gerald Ide	153	211	208	572
Markl Fisher	250	209	206	665
<b>Anoka Post 102</b>				<b>2430</b>
Dennis Anderson	202	230	170	602
Dennis Stierien	176	224	213	613
Michael Lian	200	207	154	561
Richard Smith	235	207	212	654
<b>Stewartville Post 164 #2</b>				<b>2422</b>
Jerry Jensen	176	178	194	548
Jim Grande	234	214	187	635
Sonny Fiend	189	196	195	580
Sue Fiend	218	211	230	659
<b>St. Joseph Post 328 #1</b>				<b>2419</b>
Dave Loso	219	265	198	682
Jay Kraus	226	188	212	626
Richard Halloran	182	141	207	530
Tim Loso	189	189	203	581
<b>Arcade Phalen Post 577 #10</b>				<b>2418</b>
Don Sinna	163	229	179	571
Gary Swenson	179	228	227	634
Jim Mroszak	177	195	206	578
John Jarosiewicz	228	186	221	635
<b>Stewartville Post 164 #1</b>				<b>2417</b>
Anthony Lilly	222	237	233	692
B. Verbout-Kveen	153	193	136	482
Lance Peterson	217	263	205	685
Roger Peterson	182	196	180	558
<b>Minneapolis Post 1</b>				<b>2407</b>
Patrick Hahn	211	232	212	655
Cari Lamb</				



# Legion Bowling

## Women's Team Competition

**Top 3:**  
 1. Cold Springs Unit 455 #2  
 2. Milroy Unit 274  
 3. Cold Springs Unit 455 #1  
 Scores in the table descend by team total.

Name	1st	2nd	3rd	Total
<b>Cold Springs Unit 455 #2</b>				<b>2414</b>
Cindy Geopferd	208	205	203	616
Judi Schreiner	192	187	216	595
Linda Thompson	192	204	195	591
Norma Tramm	214	176	222	612
<b>Milroy Unit 274</b>				<b>2403</b>
Diane Sik	198	207	173	578
Janice Van Overbeke	185	169	201	555
Sue Beek	168	208	234	610
Terri Sik	217	237	206	660
<b>Cold Springs Unit 455 #1</b>				<b>2304</b>
Deloris Schroeder	206	177	207	590
Doreen Lemke	168	167	214	549
Doris Torberg	216	189	178	583
Lynn Bower	203	181	198	582
<b>Delano Unit 377</b>				<b>2296</b>
Brandi Henning	172	167	197	536
Carol Daniels	203	200	191	594
Janet Klein	173	176	154	503
Kim Breitung	232	198	233	663
<b>Litchfield Unit 104</b>				<b>2295</b>
Andrea Hoheisel	169	232	180	581
Cherie Hegland	188	201	236	625
Kristine Houland	208	194	205	607
Stefanie Hegland	159	156	167	482

## Men's Singles (top 20)

Name	1st	2nd	3rd	Total
Matt Lange	234	261	266	761
Travis Frederiksen	288	233	223	744
Adam Goetzke	278	183	276	737
Todd Danielson	210	266	259	735
Dave Walz	258	235	229	722
Chris Gohman	279	255	184	718
Jeff Broberg	257	214	245	716
Ryan Rohwer	209	254	252	715
Matt Odell	269	225	216	710
Cory Hanson	257	251	201	709
Jesse Johnson	267	215	225	707
Peter Fisher	256	188	262	706
Frank Anderson	237	252	215	704
Chris Holtz	281	205	212	698
Steve Woldorf	233	282	179	694
Meg Peterson	205	256	229	690
Duane Haas	248	219	223	690



Joel Carlson	269	209	211	689
Trent Mullenbach	261	205	221	687
Brian Skochenski	231	258	196	685

## Women's Singles (top 10)

Name	1st	2nd	3rd	Total
Sue Beek	241	223	238	702
Terri Sik	175	245	231	651
Kara Schmoll	183	225	239	647
Doreen Lemke	202	183	253	638
Janice Van Overbeke	219	222	197	638
Doris Torberg	227	193	217	637
Donna Telecky	215	214	205	634
Angela Carlson	210	191	227	628
Anita Heydt	197	167	256	620
Becky Nelson	214	215	190	619

## Men's Doubles (top 20)

Name	1st	2nd	3rd	Total	Team
Nate Dircks	203	248	197	648	1441
Steve Mann	234	263	296	793	1441
Gary Nelson	225	254	273	752	1388
Roger Leonard	231	190	215	636	1388
Justin Hengel	240	217	208	665	1382
Josh Hengel	213	268	236	717	1382
Steve Waldorf	206	246	208	660	1369
Scott Bridell	222	224	263	709	1369
Wesley Hoskins	256	228	207	691	1353
Richard Smith	215	202	245	662	1353
J. Bruggermeier	223	214	227	664	1351
B. Bruggermeier	231	228	228	687	1351
Jim Deschene	222	212	232	666	1339
Tim Lind	249	209	215	673	1339
Jordy Beek	188	246	248	682	1336
Sue Beek	227	205	222	654	1336
Ray Theis	230	256	224	710	1336
Randy Theis	168	191	267	626	1336
Chris Holtz	213	206	197	616	1329

Loren Berg	208	253	252	713	1329
Jerry Jensen	191	246	201	638	1327
Jim Grande	185	277	227	689	1327
Cole Dupre	208	218	244	670	1325
Jacob Bender	225	209	221	655	1325
Ron Holets	159	218	258	635	1320
Gary Marcum	280	213	192	685	1320
D. Frederiksen	214	187	217	618	1319
L. Schmeling	238	262	201	701	1319
David Telecky	197	251	231	679	1315
Brian S.	210	190	236	636	1315
Richard Wegler	186	233	196	615	1308
Frank Anderson	203	246	244	693	1308
Nicholas Seeman	298	221	183	702	1308
Lance Hengel	182	202	222	606	1308
Angela Carlson	202	249	213	664	1307
Anthony Carlson	181	227	235	643	1307
LeRoy Sik	174	213	217	604	1306
Lydell Sik	239	269	194	702	1306
Kenneth Koelln	244	199	195	638	1305
Timothy Koelln	205	214	248	667	1305

## Women's Doubles (top 10)

Name	1st	2nd	3rd	Total
Doris Torberg	213	229	209	651
Delores Schroeder	211	242	202	655
Brandi Henning	208	210	262	626
Kim Breitung	195	233	222	650
J. VanOverbeke	209	202	186	597
Terri Sik	199	243	229	671
Donna Telecky	248	203	215	666
Kara Schmoll	218	169	198	585
Norma Tramm	231	225	207	663
Judi Schreiner	202	191	191	584
Cari Lamb	219	199	177	595
Becky Nelson	188	214	216	618
Cherie Hegland	191	211	204	606
Stefanie Hegland	218	175	205	598
Cindy Geopferd	181	162	211	554

Linda Thompson	227	176	232	635	1189
Doreen Lemke	198	174	209	581	1164
Lynn Bower	195	211	177	583	1164
Carol Daniels	202	202	230	634	1149
Janet Klein	182	160	173	515	1149

## Men's All (prize winners)

Name	Singles	Dubs	Team	Total
Steve Mann	643	793	663	2099
Lorlane Schmeling	683	701	686	2070
Matt Lange	761	597	702	2060
Gary Holtz	683	708	654	2045
Todd Danielson	735	699	610	2044
Trafe Mullenbach	634	735	668	2037
Frank Anderson	704	693	635	2032
Trent Mullenbach	687	694	651	2032
Phillip Karels	652	649	722	2023
Lydell Sik	657	702	664	2023
Travis Frederiksen	744	634	642	2020
Gary Nelson	625	752	642	2019
Cody Towle	677	668	672	2017
Jim Deschene	683	666	666	2015
Jeff Broberg	716	649	649	2014
Steve Woldorf	694	660	654	2008
Matt Morese	591	669	748	2008
Ryan Rohwer	715	645	648	2008
Joel Carlson	689	623	691	2003
Matt Odell	710	652	638	2000
Trevor Gibbs	637	748	613	1998
Scott Bridell	659	709	629	1997
Austin Carlson	662	598	733	1993
Loren Berg	605	718	669	1992
Dave Walz	722	565	704	1991
Chris Gohman	718	668	601	1987
Brad Rardin	649	617	720	1986
Jesse Johnson	707	598	679	1984
Steve Broberg	572	698	712	1982
Nicholas Seeman	659	702	618	1979
Tim Lind	632	673	672	1977
Cory Hanson	709	648	619	1976
Ray Theis	670	710	594	1974
Jordy Beek	660	682	630	1972
Jacob Bender	623	655	688	1966
Lenny Wirtz	652	645	666	1963
Mark Fisher	640	655	665	1960
Gary Marcum	602	685	672	1959
David Telecky	622	679	658	1959
Craig Skorheim	655	666	635	1956
Richard Smith	639	662	654	1955

## Women's All (prize winners)

Name	Singles	Dubs	Team	Total
Anita Heydt	620	763	608	1991
Terri Sik	651	671	660	1982
Sue Beek	702	654	610	1966
Angela Carlson	628	664	629	1921
Kim Brietung	597	650	663	1910
Doris Torberg	637	651	583	1871
Becky Nelson	619	618	629	1866
Kara Schmoll	647	585	626	1858
Donna Telecky	634	666	549	1849
Lori Klima	608	605	635	1848

## POST 98



# Have you tried the Fo' Cheezy?

328 Grill shows customers like new, interesting dishes

By Peter R. Bartling

ST. PAUL PARK — Named after the nearby city of St. Paul, this community has an economy historically developed in part by its location paralleling the Mississippi River: transportation, shipping and manufacturing. It also features an entertainment center offering food, beverages and pulltab gaming — American Legion Post 98, also known as The 328 Grill.

The 328 Grill, away from urban clutter with ample off-street parking, got its name from its street address of 328 Broadway Avenue. It first opened in 2012 and is operated in part by Chef Mik German. German spent twenty-nine years in the food and beverage industry, and his hospitality industry experience manifests itself in the delights and service he and his staff offer

their patrons.

The 328 Grill features culinary management under the control of German, while the bar manager and general manager are responsible for beverages and service staff. Under this arrangement, German leases space in the post.

Specialties include a multitude of desired items, two of which are the MN Poutine appetizer and the Fo' Cheezy burger. The MN Poutine features tater tots topped with Ellsworth cheese curds and chicken wild rice soup, while the Fo' Cheezy offers any burger or sandwich on parmesan-crusting brioche bread with melted cheddar and pepper jack Cheez Whiz — in essence a cheese-loaded burger or sandwich.

My review: Nothing says lovin' like something from Chef German's kitchen!

Eat in, take out or rent banquet

space — all are available.

Having grown the 328 Grill business significantly over the last three years, German is ready to take his skill and expertise to other American Legion clubs and share his success model.

Elements in his success equation include good food, integration of front dining and backroom functions, mutual respect for all parties involved in ongoing operations, a welcoming patron culture, and a walk-the-walk orientation.

If you are seeking casual dining, where both children and adults are welcome, with warm and friendly service, offered in an atmosphere of fun and frivolity, the 328 Grill is the place to go. Bon appetit!

Peter R. Bartling is a member of Wayzata Post 118. He is doing a series on food and staff of American Legion posts.



At Post 98 in St. Paul Park, the beverages are separated from food side in terms of management, but to customers, it's all on one bill like at any restaurant.



Chef Mik German handles the culinary side at St. Paul Park Post 98.



A Navy veteran stands for a photo with a pulltab seller at Post 98.



# Listening Post



Friendly faces everywhere. The 10th District took a big group photo of nearly everyone who attended the 10th District Convention at Fridley Post 303 on June 1.



On June 9, Albert Lea Post 56 performed the unserviceable flag ceremony, retiring and disposing of American flags in a dignified manner.



George C. Johnson Post 460 in Russell marches into a cemetery in full uniform for Memorial Day.



Carl Moon, left, president of Legionville, spoke about the camp at a meeting of Jewish War Veterans Post 354 in St. Paul. Here he is with JWV Department Commander Stewart Mednick.



Hamel American Legion Post 394 and VFW Post 5903 presented colors at a Memorial Day ceremony at Plymouth City Hall. The ceremony featured Plymouth Concert Band, Purple Heart recipient and Army veteran Jeremy Wolfsteller, Navy veteran Bill Goins and local officials.



Zimmerman Post 560 and the Woody Williams Foundation dedicated a new Gold Star Families Memorial on June 8. It is at 12187 257th Ave. NW in Zimmerman. About 400 people attended.



Pequot Lakes Post 49 held a Memorial Day ceremony and presented three certificates for 50 years of continuous service and awarded a Quilts of Honor quilt to the 50-year recipients.



Fosston Post 114 Vice Commander Jon Vig accepts a check from Lengby Fosston Knightriders Snowmobile Club Member Parker Nelson. The donation will go toward Post 114 Legion Baseball.



On May 15, after 5 years, Douglas Taube stepped down from commander of Farmington Post 189 due to health reasons. He administered the oath to the new commander, Jeremy Plaster.



Fairmont Post 36 Scholarship Committee Member Bob Altman and Auxiliary Unit 36 President Velma Schaal award \$31,000 in scholarships, at \$1,000 each, to Fairmont Area High School seniors. They also gave \$1,000 scholarships to seniors at Granada Huntley East Chain and Martin Luther.



Post 148 Dent presented scholarships totaling \$2,500 on May 22 to four Perham High School students. Pictured are Adjutant Robert Wagenman, Callie Poss, Delaney Kellogg, Emily Reed, Stella Strong and presenter Mike Johnson.





# The Auxiliary Bulletin

No. 24 Vol. 10

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

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

## Farewell and thanks for lasting memories

My year as American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota president is coming to a close. I have had wonderful opportunities as I attended parades, meetings, memorials, membership rallies, mission training, mid-winters, district conventions and more.

I love meeting our members and learning how units are doing things differently with the common goal of service not self along with seeing our history within Legion posts around the state.

I attended American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State as a counselor this year. It is always an exhilarating, impactful and exhausting week all at the same time. It is a program that instills civics in its citizens while they are creating their city, county and state government. The citizens had a surprise visit when Gov. Tim Walz and Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan stepped on stage to speak with them and answer questions. Every girl in my city said that was the best part of that day!

Getting to hear National Commander Dan Seehafer speak at Veterans Day on the Hill and traveling with the National President Lisa Williamson as we highlighted some of our many veterans facilities were also definitely highlights of this past year. Having the opportunity to

### President's Message

Sharon Cross



hear the message "Be The One" has been very impactful.

Thank you, Minnesota, for supporting the American Legion Family "Be the One" initiative. Be the one to save one. Our VA Health Care System is a great resource for the S.A.V.E. suicide-prevention training. Schedule one in your area and invite the public.

Plan to attend the Department Convention at the Willmar Conference Center on July 11, 12 and 13. It starts at 8 a.m. on Thursday and Friday and we plan to end by noon on Saturday. Food and entertainment at Willmar American Legion Post 167 on Thursday evening. A joint American Legion Family gathering at the Convention Center on Friday evening with the 9th District Band followed by karaoke. Will Commander Paul Hassing be in his "Elvis" costume to sing karaoke?

To my American Legion Family, thank you does not seem enough for all you have accomplished this past year as you "Danced Into the Hearts of Veterans," volunteered in your community and at our veteran homes and hospitals. The Montevideo Veterans

Home was dedicated on May 31. The Preston Veterans Home dedication is June 27 from 1:30 to 4 p.m. and Bemidji Veterans Home dedication is at 1 p.m. July 1. My project, the baby grand digital player piano has been delivered and set up in time for the dedication ceremony at the new Bemidji Veterans Home. I am so excited! Thank you for all your donations. All excess funds will go toward the recreation and activities funds for Preston and Montevideo.

It is you who have made the difference. Who will you plan to mentor? What are your ideas to grow your organization so that we may continue in service not self. How will you continue to make that difference? Thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

*Sharon Cross of Bemidji Unit 14 is the president of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota. Her theme is "Be The One to Dance Into the Hearts of Veterans."*

## National Convention is in New Orleans

ST. PAUL — The 2024 National Convention will be held in New Orleans Aug. 23-30.

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 29. All reservations for the States Dinner (\$65) and the American Legion Auxiliary Luncheon (\$40) must be ordered through the Department Office. Deadline is July 24. If national allows for more reservations after that time, there will be a price increase for the tickets.

## 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. 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.

## It's time to pick up membership packets

Please call the Department Office at 651-224-7634 to have your unit's membership packet brought to the 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 the Department Convention.

## 2024-25 District Presidents

Congratulations to the 10 District Presidents who were elected at their respective district conventions to serve the 2024-2025 year:

- District 1: Michelle Weaver, La Crescent Unit 595
- District 2: Kollett Kaehlert, Mankato Unit 11
- District 3: Tamara Thayer, Elysian Unit 311
- District 4: Sandra Gibson, White Bear L. Unit 168
- District 5: Cari Lamb, Minneapolis Unit 1
- District 6: Dori Hamilton, Kimball Unit 261
- District 7: Sandy Wersal, New London Unit 537
- District 8: Tamara Martins, Duluth Unit 71
- District 9: Donna Rae Jacobson, Moorhead Unit 21
- District 10: Bethany Dickert, Fridley Unit 303

## Sending in content

When sending in photos and write-ups for the Auxiliary section of The Minnesota Legionnaire, please send JPGs and Word docs. Include a description of the event and list all individuals in the picture. Department Secretary christie@mnala.org. Thank you.



Minnesota Girls State elected its 2024 Constitutional Officers. From left are Associate Justice Anna Rains, Auditor Gabriella Symens-Otero, Chief Justice Emmo O'Donnell, Lt. Gov. Molly Petrowitz, Gov. Toluca Tellaeche Ramirez, Secretary of State Harriet Johnson, Associate Justice Ella Hunkins and Attorney General Alexandra Fierst.

## Minn. Girls State elects its officers

By Linda Kelley  
Girls State Chairman

ARDEN HILLS — The American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State was held in June, and it was great. We had 177 young juniors as our citizens. They were kept very busy all week.

They learned about our governmental elections, participating in city, county, and state elections. They wrote state and federal bills for issues that were important to them. They learned about folding the flag and witnessed a flag retirement ceremony.

Representatives from all three branches of our government spoke to citizens, including Gov. Tim Walz and Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan.

Toluca Tellaeche Ramirez was elected as the governor of Girls State, and her running mate, was elected lieutenant governor.

The following citizens were elected to Constitutional Offices:

Governor: Toluca Tellaeche Ramirez, Pine Island Unit 184

Lieutenant Governor: Molly Petrowitz, Little Falls Unit 46

Secretary of State: Harriet Johnson, Pequot Lakes Unit 49

State Auditor: Gabriella Symens-Otero, Windom Unit 206

Attorney General: Alexandra Fierst, Eagan Unit 594

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court: Emma O'Donnell, Bloomington Unit 550

Associate Justices: Ella Hunkins, Watertown Post 121, and Anna Rains, Duluth Unit 71

The inauguration was held on Thursday night, with many family members enjoying the night.

The weeklong election process peaked with their trip to our State Capitol. They started out the day by singing several songs including the Girls State Song in the Rotunda of the Capitol. Part of the group moved on to debate their bills

on the floor of the Senate and House of Representatives. Keeley Runge served as the speaker of the House of Representatives and Lillie Violet served as the president of the Senate.

Others moved to the courtrooms in the Judicial Building to conduct their defense or offense for their mock trial. They also had the opportunity to tour the Capitol. These experiences will stay with them as they step forward into their adult life.

Though Governor Walz was not at the Capitol on Friday, he invited the Girls State governor and lieutenant governor to visit his office and sit behind the governor's desk. It was quite an honor.

Many participated in our Girls State Choir and talent show on Friday night. Saturday morning found the citizens packing up and saying goodbye to their new friends. Their governor gave her farewell speech at the final assembly. They sang the Girls State Song for the last time and even requested to sing "America, America" one more time.

It was announced that Taylor Bierwerth, sponsored by Paynesville Post 271, and Makena Ries, sponsored by Bayport Post 491, will represent Minnesota as senators at Girls Nation. They will travel to Washington, D.C., for a week in July.

Our committee and staff members hope is that this will always be a memorable week for these young people. We hope they have met lifelong friends and take away the workings of our state and federal elections.

Thank you to all units and posts that have participated in sponsoring these young people. Thank you to the Gambling Committees of three posts that donated to our program.

These Girls State citizens are our future parents, politicians, leaders, doctors, nurses, lawyers, judges, and most important they are our future voters. We wish them all well in their future endeavors.



From left are Americanism Chairman Mary Kuperus, Minnesota Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, Minnesota Girls State Director Patti Coleman, Girls State Education Director Bethany Dickert and Girls State Chairman Linda Kelly.



## Department Convention Schedule

The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota Convention takes place at the Willmar Conference Center, 240 23rd St. SE, Willmar.

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

### Wednesday, July 10, 2024

Pre-Convention Department Executive Meeting 1 p.m. Ruffs Restaurant

### Thursday, July 11, 2024

District Caucuses (Auxiliary) 8:15 a.m. Various locations  
 Convention Session 9:15 a.m. Galleries 1-4  
 Joint Memorial Service 11:15 a.m. Galleries 5-7  
 Convention Committee Meetings (Auxiliary) 2 p.m. Various locations

### Friday, July 12, 2024

District Caucuses (Auxiliary) 8:15 a.m. Various locations  
 Convention Session 9:20 a.m. Galleries 1-4  
 Past Department Presidents Luncheon 11:30 a.m. Green Mill Restaurant  
 Convention Reconvenes 1:30 p.m. Galleries 1-4  
 American Legion Family Gathering 7 p.m. Galleries 5-7

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

Department President: Judy Ackerman, Northrup Unit 522  
 Department 1st Vice President: Robin Dorf, Monticello Unit 260  
 Department 2nd Vice President: Linda Kelly, Pine Island Unit 184

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 10 a.m. on Thursday, July 11. 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!

Stop by Willmar American Legion Post 167, 220 19th Ave. SW. The post will have lunch and dinner specials both days and provide transportation between the post and the Willmar Conference Center.



Department Presidents bowls at the Minnesota American Legion State Bowling Tournament in Dayton in April.



Auxiliary members make their presence known at Veterans Day on the Hill at the St. Paul Armory on April 17.



2024 ALA Minnesota Girls State Committee members, staff and councilors



Tenth District Honorary Jr. Auxiliary President Liliana Campero presents a check for \$10,000 for her President's Project, made out to the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans, from Bloomington Post 550. With her is her father, Past Post 550 Commander Luis Campero. They were at the 10th District Auxiliary Convention.



Department President Sharon Cross and Department Commander Paul Hassing stop for a photo at the Commander's Testimonial Dinner on June 22 at Montgomery Post 79.



Bloomington Unit 550 President and Minnesota ALR Director Jody Hassing, buttons her husband's jersey as he is about to toss out the first pitch at a Twins game on May 24.







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

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