

Gun 3 from USS Ward to move away from Capitol

New Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum to display it

ST. PAUL — The gun that fired the first American shot at an enemy in World War II is moving.

Many readers of the Legionnaire know the history the Ward gun: On the morning of Dec. 7, 1941, No. 3 Gun on the USS Ward fired on and sank a Japanese midget submarine attempting to infiltrate Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii, marking the first shots fired by the United States

in the war. It took place about 90 minutes prior to the Japanese air attack.

The USS Ward was a World War I-era destroyer that had been put into mothballs in 1921 and recommissioned in January 1941.

The 4-inch/50-caliber gun is on the grounds of the Minnesota Capitol Complex just east of the Veterans Service Building because it was

manned by Naval Reservists from St. Paul. It sat mounted starboard amidships.

Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum Director Randal Dietrich said the museum plans to move it within the next 120 days, in late summer or early fall.

“The museum is looking to provide a long-term home for it free

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The weapon that fired the first American shot in World War II will be hauled away in late summer or early fall and taken to the new Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum so it may be preserved.

‘The gift of life’

Zimmerman’s blood program led state with 730 units

By Tim Engstrom

ZIMMERMAN — The American Legion Department of Minnesota almost always is among the best in the nation in terms of blood donation.

The national American Legion divides the 55 departments into categories based on size, and Department Blood Chairman Terry Larson has been recognized twice at national conventions for ranking first. He has been chairman since 2019.

This Legion year, the department had 144 posts reporting, with a total of 10,040 units donated. This figure exceeds last year’s total of 7,205 units. Larson will find out how Minnesota finishes at the 106th American Legion National Convention in Tampa, Fla.

Larson’s annual report listed the top two or three posts in each district for donating blood, plus the district totals. The annual committee reports are found at mnlegion.org. With a mouse, hover on “Department,” then hover on “TALMN Committees” and “Annual Committee Reports” link is visible.

The district with the most was the 3rd District, at 3,020. However, the post with the most was Kriesel-Jacobsen Post 560 in Zimmerman, at 730 units. Wow! Who is the Legionnaire



American Legion Post 560 Adjutant Bob Lundgren and his wife, Unit 560 member Patty Lundgren, sit at a table in the post home. Blood donation is a program of The American Legion, and it falls under the pillar of National Security. The Lundgrens provide an example of how to run blood drives.

running the blood drives for the post and what can other posts learn?

That would be Past Post Commander Bob Lundgren. He is the adjutant, membership director and blood chairman. Plus, he gets recruitment help from his wife, Past Unit President

Patty Lundgren.

They started the post’s blood drive efforts from scratch back in May 2019. Bob says he had been donating blood at St. Cloud VA Medical Center and bringing members over there in a van. He found the director of the American

Red Cross and talked about having drives in Zimmerman.

The first one was held in the basement of the post home. The space was cramped for 35 appointments.

Since that time, the post has had

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Cmdr.: There’s no place for violence in politics

Assassinations hard to fathom

Editor’s note: This was written on June 14 prior to law enforcement apprehending the suspect.

By Carl Moon
Commander

ST. PAUL — Our hearts go out to the families and friends of Past Speaker Melissa Hortman and her husband, Mark. Our sincere wishes for a full recovery go to Sen. John Hoffman and his wife, Yvette.

The American Legion Department of Minnesota unequivocally condemns political violence. There is no place in civil society for assassinations, violent acts or violent rhetoric. They run counter to the peaceful discourse required by the American form of government.

We are deeply saddened by the heinous actions of today, June 14, Flag Day, right here in our own state. This

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Hunting, fishing licenses to be \$5 for many disabled veterans

Legislature yields a few small victories

ST. PAUL — The biggest disappointment of the legislative session is this:

The American Legion and other veteran organizations in the Minnesota Commanders’ Task Force have been trying for 14 years to increase the thresholds for disabled veterans receiving the property tax value exclusion.

Meanwhile, home values continue to rise and rise. In 2024, state Rep. Jerry Newton and others thought this would pass — finally. Nope. In 2025, it died again. It died in the same place it always dies: the Minnesota Senate Tax Committee.

Efforts by the CTF and the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs to pass a claim shark bill died this session when certain senators paid more attention to the shark organizations than the veteran organizations. But the session did bring much-needed awareness to the issue.

“There is far too much scamming going on in the veterans world — in Minnesota and across the country — than the public realizes,” said American Legion Legislative Chairman Kristy Janigo.

Initiatives to reduce taxes on

charitable gambling were tied to the sports-betting bill, and when that died early in the session, so did tax cuts for charitable gambling despite some effort to having it stand on its own.

Janigo said two bright spots were preventing drastic cuts by the House to the MDVA’s homeless prevention program and garnering \$300,000 of new funding to Lutheran Social Service to provide free meal services to veterans in need outside of Anoka, Hennepin and Ramsey counties (where Metro Meals on Wheels already provides).

“This is a big win for Greater Minnesota. It deserves the services veterans in the metro receive,” she said.

The organizations of the CTF work together, and DAV of Minnesota Legislative Director Trent Dilks accomplished a major goal.

“Just over 10 years ago, I proposed my first initiative for the CTF: reduced-cost hunting and fishing licenses.

Starting March 1, 2027, veterans rated 50 to 99 percent disabled will pay only \$5 for hunting and fishing licenses. (Veterans rated 100 percent already received free ones.)

Dilks researched states with free hunting and fishing licenses for veterans and found those licenses do not count toward the calculation the

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2025 Minnesota Boys State

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2025 DECEMBER 5-7
Faith Haven Camp near Battle Lake, MN



The state-level officials of Minnesota Boys State were elected on Friday, June 13. Here are their office, names and the post that sponsored them: From left are Associate Justice Tyler Hodge, Associate Justice John Kopacek, Chief Justice Ayoub Farah (he shaved his head to look like a judge, won the election, then shaved off the remaining hair), Attorney General Rowan Novak, State Auditor Harshil Patel, Secretary of State Zander Carbonneau, Lt. Gov. Briley Olsonawski and Gov. Luke McCrea. Minnesota Boys State was held June 8-14 at St. John's University.



Delegates run for offices with stump speeches.



This boy might look like he's on his phone needlessly, but he's actually voting.



Whiffleball was played indoors because the rain prevented an outdoor game of kickball.



Cities have basketball teams. Here, the champs and runner-ups show their sportsmanship after the game.



Volleyball was popular among the Boys State delegates.



The Boys State choir, directed by Murray and Julie Bright of Walker, had a lot of fun delivering Friday entertainment.



Gov. Luke McCrea accepts his special governor's pin from Director Kyle Oldre of Hardwick Post 478.



Elected governor in 2024, Tucker Fournier delivers a stirring farewell address about the challenges he faced growing up and the importance of overcoming obstacles in life to accomplish goals.

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2025 Boys State Officers

Governor: Luke McCrea, Clearwater Post 323
Lt. Gov.: Briley Olsonawski, Thief River Falls Post 117
Sec. of State: Zander Carbonneau, Hardwick Post 478
Auditor: Harshil Patel, St. Louis Park Post 282
Attorney General: Rowan Novak, Osseo-MG Post 172
Chief Justice: Ayoub Farah, Cosmos Post 126
Assoc. Justice: John Kopacek, Grand Rapids Post 60
Assoc. Justice: Tyler Hodge, Luverne Post 123
Boys Nation Senators:
 Zander Carbonneau, Hardwick Post 478
 Noah Hanson, Blue Earth Post 89
Samsung Scholar: Matthew Watters, Stewartville Post 164

Boys State shines again

By Neil Kruse

Boys State counselor

COLLEGEVILLE—American Legion Minnesota Boys State 2025 was a full week of activities. Filing for city office occurred Sunday night.

Monday the students learned about parliamentary procedure and local government and elected city officials. They also heard from township, city and county representatives from the St. Cloud area. Chorus practice began, as well as team competitions by city in kickball, basketball and volleyball.

Tuesday morning the guys learned about the political process, then began living it. Divided into two parties, the boys debated issues and endorsed candidates for legislative offices and selected delegates to the county, then state party conventions. Former Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Paul Anderson addressed the young men about the judicial branch of government.

On Wednesday, the state party

conventions were in full swing. By the end of the day, each party had developed their platform and endorsed candidates for state offices. A current state senator and representative presented their duties to the group in the evening session. Boys State representatives and senators were elected.

The Boys State Legislature opened on Thursday morning, as did county board meetings. Ordinances, resolutions and bills were submitted, debated and passed or voted down. Each party presented their state office candidates and platforms to all of Boys State that night.

This led to Friday morning's election of state officials. County and legislative business continued throughout the day, with bills that were passed by both houses given to the newly elected governor. He used his judgment as to whether to sign or veto those bills. The chorus provided a rousing concert in the evening, followed by addresses by the outgoing and incoming governors.

Legion Night at Target Field



Department Vice Commander Joe Jansen filled in for Commander Carl Moon to toss out the first pitch for the game between the Minnesota Twins and Seattle Mariners on June 25. The Twins won 2-0.



Department Membership Director Carla Tappainer raised the American flag with the help of Department Service Officer Janet Lorenzo, friend Trudy Mattys and Assistant Department Service Officer Jason Storm.



It rained and stormed all day right up until the opening ceremonies. About 75 tickets were sold for The American Legion section, but the rain chased many ticket holders away. Some, however, showed up, and we appreciate them.



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The Legion accomplished a lot this year

Since this will be my final article as your commander, I wanted you to know some of the Department of Minnesota accomplishments from this past membership year.

In the 2023-2024 year, an Internal Affairs Committee was established but no committee members were selected. At the post-convention DEC meeting Saturday, July 13, committee members were appointed and approved. Steve Fosness of the 2nd District was appointed chairman.

A Boys State Ad Hoc Committee was also formed to draft a formal standard operating procedure for the oversight and operations of the Minnesota Boys State program. This will be presented to the DEC at the 2025 Department Convention for approval. Thank you to the committee members, and a *very special thank-you*, to Joe Bares of Jordan Post 3 for his outstanding research and assistance in drafting the SOP.

At the 2024 Fall Conference in St. Cloud, the Minnesota American Legion Riders presented their Constitution & Bylaws to the DEC, which ratified the document.

When my wife, Air Force veteran Peggy Moon, was department commander in 2014-2015, she assisted in getting the Riders established as a formal Minnesota American Legion Family program, and the program has operated under an SOP for the past decade.

It was my honor to preside over the approval of their Constitution & Bylaws. It's a shame that neither of us ride. Congratulations, Riders. You have become such an important part of the family.

From fall 2024 to now, I have been proud to represent The American Legion on the Minnesota Commanders' Task Force (CTF) and serve as the chairman. Thanks to Stewart Mednick of the Jewish War Veterans for serving as the vice

Commander's Column

Carl Moon



chairman, and thanks to Cole Trace of the MDVA for providing staff support.

It was a very difficult year legislatively for all of the veteran service organizations. The Legion was extremely fortunate to have Kristy Janigo as our legislative chairman. Good luck, Kristy, in your future political career. We sorely need veterans in elective office.

At the 2024 Department Convention, Jim Kellogg was elected as Minnesota's candidate for national vice commander. At the 2025 National Convention in New Orleans, Jim was installed as the national vice commander for the Midwest Region. Congratulations, Jim, and from everything I have heard, you're doing an outstanding job.

A formal relationship with Minnesota Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Cadet Program was established. Previously, Curt Norenberg, as a member of the National Security/ Foreign Relations (NS/FR) Committee, had been providing a \$1,000 scholarship yearly to the Cadets from Minnesota American Legion Foundation Fund 63.

Unfortunately, due to Curt's ailing health, no scholarship was given in the 2023-2024 year. I requested that the NS/FR Committee assign a member to be the CAP liaison for the department. Brad Pagel of Slayton Post 64 was appointed. A \$2,000 scholarship was donated to cover both the 2023-24 and 2024-25 years. If you want to learn more about CAP, speak with Judge Advocate Greg Colby.

The department has been very fortunate to have had extremely competent national representatives in both Bill Barbknecht of Fergus Falls Post 30 as our NEC and Peggy Moon of Zimmerman Post 560 as our alternate NEC

for the past six years. Both have decided not to run this next year but remain important and respected department assets. They both deserve some rest.

A new department service officer, Janet Lorenzo, and our new assistant department service officer, Jason Storm, have been hired with input from VA&R Committee Chairman Pam Krill. Welcome and good luck in your new positions.

Your department vice commanders were kept busy this past year, not only representing me as commander at events I was unable to attend but also assisting Department Membership Director Carla Tappainer and her program.

Speaking of membership director, I was very fortunate and proud to have Carla as ours this year. Though we didn't achieve the membership numbers we were hoping for, Carla worked tirelessly to keep everyone informed on where department stood nationally, every month.

Thank you to all the committee chairs for guiding our programs throughout the year. Committee reports are found at the Department of Minnesota website, mnlegion.org.

A final thank-you to *all* of our Department of Minnesota staff. You guys *rock*!

It has sincerely been my honor, and I have been very proud to have served as your commander.

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

Opinions expressed in Mail Call are that of the authors and do not reflect the opinion of The Minnesota Legionnaire or The American Legion.



Dan Morgan/North End Post 474

It's an M151, but five people is a little snug.

reading the stories of the brave veterans of World War II. In the June edition of The Minnesota Legionnaire, we were honored to read the firsthand accounts of boots on the ground — and in the air — of four more members of the Greatest Generation.

In the not-too-distant future, we will lose this select group of G.I.s forever, so it is incumbent on us, the recipients of their sacrifices, to record as many of these historic eyewitness experiences of war as possible.

The April 22 World War II History Round Table in St. Paul

featured an outstanding discussion among four vets with B-17 experience — and also with a remarkable combined age of 404 years!

Thanks to the Legionnaire for reporting and preserving the valuable accounts of Jim Rasmussen, Les Schrenk, John Luckadoo and Bob Holmstrom. Now, more than ever, Americans need to be reminded of what they did to "save the world."

**Bruce Lindquist
Minneapolis Post 1**

The one-dimensional consumer lens

As a little girl, those 30-second commercials on the television informed me that I could be all I wanted to be, enjoy a cold beverage on a hot day and buy the car of my dreams. The Barbie dolls I played with had unreal figures and frankly a great array of clothes for just about any occasion one could imagine.

Fast forward to today's filters, fillers and silicone injections and the line between organically real and the plastic-doll reality has become blurred. *Superficial* and *surface* are a few words that come to mind. *Depth* has become not as important as looking good in front of the camera. Looking our best has taken on a hyper-charged drama.

Along the same lines, the word "submit" became a bad word as the American ideal of being whatever we wanted to become mantra has been chanted more and more. Objective truth has been pushed aside for a more easygoing and palatable subjective life.

Suffering became an enemy to vanquish. Managing acute pain evolved into removing all of it. *Compassion* is born

Chaplain's Corner

Kelley Ackerman



from discomfort, pain and suffering. Even our compassion is hyper-sensitive, touchy even to a slight sense of out of ordinary.

Practicing a faith invites one to look beyond the fillers, filters and awesome wardrobes while one struts their unchecked independence. Practicing a spiritual faith invites unfulfilled wants to sit down with what is within one's reach and what is unattainable. Practicing faith helps one to determine a want from a need, a goal from a purpose and a vocation from a job.

Spirituality is the practice to deepen the recesses of meaning to include cloudy days, gloomy realities and unmet desires with not so much a mental, psychological understanding but a sense of reality beyond the tangible, beyond what the eye can see, the ear can hear, and the body can touch. A faith includes mystery, trust, hope and an awareness of belonging to what is greater than a human can build.

I am sure you know that wisdom is earned through trials, tribulations and not feeding your hungry ego. I invite you to join me in practicing a faith with yourself, your God and among community where knowledge is secondary to wisdom. May your faith transform you into a you that is more compassionate, kind, loving, patient, humble and invested in our tomorrow.

Thank you for allowing me into your lives as the department chaplain. It is a privilege I do not take lightly. My prayer for you to be blessed by God remain yours.

Interested in other faith's holy days? Visit interfaith-calendar.org.

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

Join us for the Fund 85 Run July 24-26

Hello Legion Family!

The Minnesota American Legion Riders will meet in Willmar on Friday, July 11 at 4:30 p.m. in Gallery 5-7. Everyone is welcome to attend. We hope to see many of the Legion Riders, including members from all the new Legion Rider chapters.

There will be an election for the positions of director, assistant director and secretary/treasurer. Please bring with you the incoming district representative to be introduced during the meeting.

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

The Fund 85 Run will take place July 24-26. The kickoff party will be July 23 at the Forest Lake Post 225. Social hour is at 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 Country Inn & Suites in Forest Lake.

Thursday evening, we will be staying in McGregor and a block of rooms is available at Crossroads Hotel. Friday evening, we will stay in Walker; there is a block of rooms at Walker Country Inn; another hotel in Walker is the Walker Hotel. Saturday, we will end at Paynesville Post 271 and a block of rooms is available at Paynesville Inn & Suites next door. We expect to arrive in Paynesville at 5 p.m. for the ending party.

The Legacy/Mission Run will be hosted by the Walker American Legion Riders on Aug. 16. The details will be posted on Facebook and on our website: www.mnaalr.org.

If you would like assistance

Legion Riders

Jody Hassing



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

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The Minnesota Legionnaire

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

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Web: mnlegion.org/legionnaire

Editor: Communications Director Tim Engstrom

Editor Emeritus: Al Zdon

Board of Publication: President Carl Moon, Walker; Vice President Paul Hassing, Montgomery; Secretary Mike Maxa, Le Center; Treasurer Al Davis, Princeton; David "Chip" Manson, Spicer; Carroll Partridge, Oakdale; Paul Edwards, Brainerd; Kelley Ackerman, Pine Island, Steve Fosness, Fairmont

Mail Call

'Taps' had a lot of Brainerd vets

Today I received my June issue of The Minnesota Legionnaire; I'm writing to express my gratitude for your ongoing efforts in the production of the newsletter, but also to marvel at the extraordinary number of Brainerd veterans in "Taps."

As you well know, a total of 23 members of Post 255 were lost, and that is remarkable.

I grew up in Milaca, but moved to the Twin Cities before I served in the U.S. Army, 1962-64. I'm currently a member of Minneapolis-Richfield Post 435, and we've had our difficulties recently.

No need to respond; I just thought you'd like to know that we're paying attention.

**Wally Norland
Mpls.-Richfield Post 435**

WWII stories never get old

I never tire of hearing and

Taps



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

Name of Deceased	Age	Date of Death	Branch	Era	Cont. Years	Post
Ahlberg, Steven	88	6/7/25	Army	Korea	39	Worthington Post 5
Alstead, Larry D.	80	6/2/25	Navy	Vietnam	54	Paynesville Post 271
Note: After the service, he became a trooper with the Minnesota State Patrol.						
Anderson, Irvin G.	91	6/6/25	Air Force	Korea	36	Arlington Post 250
Note: He was a gunner in the Korean War, flying 144 missions.						
Aul, William F.	89	6/15/25	Air Force	Korea	40	Bloomington Post 550
Note: He was a member of the honor guard for 35 years.						
Bergan, Patrick R.	82	4/24/25	Navy	Vietnam	49	Albert Lea Post 56
Bicknese, Guy E.	92	5/12/25	Army	Korea	45	Worthington Post 5
BlEIFus, Michael A.	62	5/27/25	Army	Leb/Gren	8	Stewartville Post 164
Blomquist, Richard E.	92	12/12/25	Army	Korea	20	New Ulm Post 132
Note: He was assigned to his unit's signal battalion as a company clerk in Germany.						
Bohne, Duane R.	90	6/11/25	Navy	Korea	61	New Ulm Post 132
Note: He was stationed at Naval Station Argentia in Newfoundland as an aviation electronics technician.						
Bosshart, Rodger R.	89	3/17/25	Navy/ANG	Korea/VN	67	Truman Post 115
Bottelberghe, Robert L.	89	6/9/25	Army	Vietnam	34	Minneota Post 199
Briggs, Warren D.	83	6/9/25	Army	Vietnam	36	Austin Post 91
Cate, Don L.	79	5/14/25	Navy	Cold	57	Brainerd Post 255
Note: He was on the executive board.						
Crowe, Merle E.	99	5/19/25	Navy	WWII	36	Rochester Post 92
Dahlen, Terry L.	78	2/12/25	Navy	Vietnam	7	Bloomington Post 550
Eggen, Harley	92	6/8/25	Army	Korea	56	Milaca Post 178
Note: He served as section chief of radio communications for the 75th Field Artillery Battalion.						
Ellison, Glenn V.	94	6/13/25	Army/AF	Korea	31	Springfield Post 257
Note: Serving in the infantry, he was among the first troops to arrive in Korea at the war's onset. He wrote a book about his experiences called "The View from a Foxhole." He went on to an Air Force career, becoming a flight engineer for one of the Air Force One jets.						
Ellsworth, Pregler "Jim"	99	5/29/25	Navy	WWII	53	New Ulm Post 132
Note: He attended training at Farragut Naval Training Station in Idaho in May 1944 and served in Boreno and the Philippines with a floating maintenance unit, attaining the rank of seaman 1st class before discharge in February 1946.						
Erickson, Gordon K.	94	12/25/24	Army	74	Pipestone Post 6	
Note: He served 42 years with the National Guard, retiring as a sergeant major.						
Esala, Dean J.	54	3/30/25	Army	Bos/Iraq/Af	15	Virginia Post 239
Fahning, Gerald H.	93	5/31/25	Army	Korea	68	Dodge Center Post 384
Note: He was known for organizing and volunteering for many needs and causes in his community, including the American Legion post.						
Finch, Charles	76	6/5/25	Army	Vietnam	50	Litchfield Post 104
Gladfelter, Paul H.	98	5/28/25	Navy	WWII	14	Fairmont Post 36
Note: He was a member of the post's honor guard.						
Greig, John R.	78	5/18/25	Marines	Vietnam	27	Motley Post 124
Note: He served two tours in Vietnam.						
Guse, Earl A.	80	5/14/25	Army	Vietnam	26	Waseca Post 228
Note: He served in Japan as a pharmacy specialist, which influenced his civilian career as a pharmacist.						
Gust, Anthony P.	81	3/21/25	Army	Vietnam	1	Greenbush Post 88
Hanttula, James E. Sr.	83	5/5/25	Army	Vietnam	17	Grand Rapids Post 60
Note: The Army sent him to Hawaii, Alaska and Georgia.						
Heinen, David M.	83	5/28/25	Army	Vietnam	24	Lake Henry Post 612
Hemerick, Jerome L.	93	6/16/25	Navy	Korea	31	Silver Lake Post 141
Kierzek, George T.	92	5/23/25	Army	Korea	34	Holdingford Post 211
Note: He was post chaplain for many years.						
Kilian, Alcuin F.	95	5/3/25	Air Force	Korea	64	Mpls-Rich. Post 435
Note: He worked on B-29s as part of the 509th Bomb Wing Strategic Air Command at Walker AFB in Roswell, N.M. He also served two temporary duties in England.						
Knutson, Roald J.	94	4/26/25	Army	Korea	22	Minnesota Post 1982
Lindstrom, Dehl D.	94	5/17/25	Army	Korea	42	Cambridge Post 290
Note: He was the recipient of a Bronze Star for Valor for his actions in the Korean War. In 2024, he was awarded a Congressional Gold Medal for his bravery and heroism.						
Lundon, Michael T.E.	85	5/30/25	Navy	Cold	66	Le Center Post 108
Note: He was a past post commander and adjutant.						
Lynch, Lloyd P.	78	5/19/25	Navy	Vietnam	18	Rochester Post 92
Note: He served aboard the seaplane tender USS Salisbury Sound.						
Marquardt, Myron D. "Mark"	88	5/20/25	Navy	Cold	63	Fairfax Post 205
Note: He was a corpsman who served at Kodiak Island in Alaska.						
Martin, Gary B.	81	5/26/25	Army	Vietnam	61	Mpls. Gopher Post 440
Note: He was stationed in Okinawa as a fuel and repair specialist and later stationed at Fort Carson, Colo., as a radio operator. He was a current vice commander for the 5th District. He was commander for the 5th District in 2015-16. He was 5th District adjutant 2000-01, 2002-03 and 2007-08. He was a past post commander and had many post positions over the years.						
Metzler, Melvin B. "Butch"	82	5/11/25	Army	Vietnam	6	Waseca Post 228
Mortensen, Richard	97	4/1/25	Army	WWII	60	Cosmos Post 126
Note: He served with the 304th Signal Battalion in Yokohama, Japan, supervising 50 enlisted men as a staff sergeant.						
Musburger, Jerry P.	86	5/27/25	Army	Vietnam	57	Chaska Post 57
Nelson, Doyle E.	95	6/15/25	Army	Korea	67	Ely Post 248
Noyd, Richard C.	82	5/25/25	Army	Vietnam	31	St. Peter Post 37
Peglow, Harvey G.	86	5/6/25	Air Force	Vietnam	53	Owatonna Post 77
Pessek, Steven G.	67	5/7/25	Air Force	Cold	24	Pequot Lakes Post 49
Peters, Andru M.	84	5/14/25	Army	Vietnam	57	Lake City Post 110
Note: He played Legion Baseball in high school. He served in the 7th Army Support Command. During the Pawlenty administration, he began advocating at the Legislature for veteran legislation in Minnesota. His obituary says he was involved in six bills signed into law by governors. He also served on state boards for trails and rails and the city council. He was the present Wabasha County Council commander, a past 1st District vice commander, a past 5th District vice commander and a past post adjutant.						
Petersen, Calvin P.	86	5/22/25	Army	Vietnam	15	Raymond Post 420
Note: He served a year in Thailand.						
Pfiefer, Hilbert B. Jr.	85	4/8/25	Army	Vietnam	21	Dodge Center Post 384
Note: "Fife" was a color guard commander for many years.						
Pierskalla, Kenneth E.	89	5/29/25	Navy	Korea	35	Waite Park Post 428
Note: He was a navigator on airplanes, sitting directly behind the pilot.						
Prescher, Douglas H.	77	5/17/25	Army	Vietnam	34	Waseca Post 228
Note: He was a drill sergeant.						
Reynolds, John H.	80	6/22/25	Air Force	Cold	59	Hutchinson Post 96
Note: He was stationed at Izmir Air Station, Turkey. Southeastern Europe NATO commands were headquartered there over the years, even though it technically is in Asia. (Today, the base is HQ for NATO's Allied Land Command, aka LANDCOM, which oversees land warfare.)						



Gary Martin

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All-Family Events Calendar

July 9: Minnesota American Legion & Auxiliary Department Executive Committee Meetings, Willmar

July 10-12: 106th Department Convention, Willmar

July 11-13: American Legion Baseball Centennial Classic Tournament, Milbank, S.D.

July 12: Department Executive Committee, Willmar

July 18-25: Boys Nation, Marymount Univ., Va.

July 19-26: Girls Nation, Bolger Center, Potomac, Md.

July 24-27: ALR Fund 85 Ride, kickoff at Forest Lake Post 225, ride to McGregor, ride to Walker, finish at Paynesville Post 271

July 28-31: Minnesota American Legion Baseball Div. I-A State Tournament, Burnsville

July 31-Aug. 3: Minnesota American Legion Baseball Div. I State Tournament, St. Michael

Aug. 1: Final session of Legionville ends

Aug. 1-3: Minnesota American Legion Baseball Div. I Jr. State Tournament, Bloomington

Aug. 1-3: Minnesota American Legion Baseball Div. II State Tournament, Ely

Aug. 2: ALA Workshop, Anoka Post 102

Aug. 2-3: Minnesota American Legion Fastpitch Softball State Tournament, Fairmont

Aug. 3: ALA Department Executive Committee, Anoka Post 102

Aug. 6-10: AL Baseball Central Plains Regional, Fargo

Aug. 8-10: Minnesota American Legion Baseball Div. II Jr. State Tournament, Hayfield

Aug. 8-10: Auxiliary Junior Fun Weekend, Legionville

Aug. 14-17: American Legion World Series, Shelby, N.C.

Aug. 16: ALR Legacy/Mission Run, Walker Post 134

Aug. 18-22: National Legacy Run, ending at national convention in Tampa

Aug. 22-28: 106th National Convention, Tampa, Fla.

Sept. 1: Registration opens for Junior Shooting Sports

Sept. 4-7: Camporee, Legionville

Sept. 11-14: Minnesota ALR Romp, Legionville

Sept. 15: Sons of The American Legion Birthday

Oct. 1-2: John Zgoda Deer Hunt, Legionville

Oct. 4-5: SAL Disabled Veterans Turkey Hunt, Legionville

Oct. 4: Veteran Suicide Prevention & Awareness Day, "Be the One," Red Baron Arena, Marshall

Oct. 6: Fall Meetings, Indianapolis

Oct. 23: Minnesota American Legion Department Executive Committee, Kelly Inn, St. Cloud

Oct. 24-25: Fall Conference, River's Edge Convention Center & Kelly Inn, St. Cloud

Nov. 10: American Legion Auxiliary Birthday

Nov. 11: Veterans Day, local observances

Taps

Continued from Page 5

Rupprecht, Dennis W.	71	2/16/25	Army	Vietnam	17	Owatonna Post 77
Note: He served in Germany.						
Scheierl, Gary L.	75	5/30/25	Army	Vietnam	50	Eden Valley Post 381
Note: He was the recipient of a Bronze Star for his actions in Vietnam.						
Schleicher, Donald R.	82	3/14/25	Air Force	Vietnam	21	Shakopee Post 2
Note: Stationed at Lincoln AFB, Neb., he also served temporary duty in the Azores during the Cuban Missile Crisis.						
Schlekewy, Robert W.	85	5/16/25	Army	Cold	6	Cannon Falls Post 142
Note: He served in the Airborne, with 54 total jumps. In a midnight exercise, he landed upside down in a forest and was found the next morning. In his final jump, his parachute would not open. Entangled, a fellow paratrooper was able to use a knife to cut open his parachute sack, then deploy his chute. He requested a transfer immediately after. In 1958, he was stationed at the same base in Germany as Elvis Presley.						
Schmidt, Ronald S.	77	5/30/25	Army	Vietnam	30	Holdingford Post 211
Schneider, Thomas P. "Tuly"	79	5/22/25	Army	Vietnam	43	Rush City Post 93
Note: He served as an MP, then became a state trooper, then a State Capitol security guard.						
Schuette, Duane D.	86	5/24/25	Navy	Cold	35	Glencoe Post 95
Schumacher, Curtis R.	80	5/19/25	Army	Vietnam	35	Rochester Post 92
Shepersky, Allen "Dean"	97	6/20/25	Army	Korea	5	Woodbury Post 501
Sigurdson, Howard G.	99	5/5/25	Army	WWII	59	Albert Lea Post 56
Silovich, Patrick J.	71	6/3/25	Air Force	Vietnam	16	Forest Lake Post 225
Note: He served as an air traffic controller at K.I. Sawyer AFB near Marquette, Mich. He was the current commander of Post 225. In fact, he was in a photograph in the Legionnaire as recently as the June 2025 issue, showing Post 225 hosting star Ann-Margret for a Vietnam Veterans Day observance.						
Simon, Victor J. "Vic"	90	6/21/25	Army	Korea	50	Cambridge Post 290
Sletten, Gary D.	72	5/25/25	Army	Vietnam	48	Willmar Post 167
Snodgrass, Larry R.	87	5/15/25	Air Force	Vietnam	42	Eden Valley Post 381
Sonnabend, Dennis D.	83	1/4/25	Marines	Vietnam	62	Amboy Post 276
Note: He was a member of the honor guard.						
Staub, Richard	102	unk.	Air Force	WWII	5	Lake City Post 110
Stevens, Darrel M.	92	6/11/25	Army	Korea	41	Windom Post 206
Note: He was assigned to the 9th Infantry Division HQ in Göppingen, Germany, where he served in the air section.						
Switzer, Thomas L.	77	5/19/25	Army	Vietnam	41	Elk River Post 112
Note: He served in Vietnam as a combat MP.						
Talsma, Raymond H.	77	5/25/25	Navy	Vietnam	42	Chandler Post 338
Note: He served as a mechanic in the Seabees.						
Taylor, John T.	80	3/18/25	Navy	Army	25	Bloomington Post 550
Tesarek, Frank Jr.	86	5/18/25	Army	Korea	2	Roseau Post 24
Note: He served as a forward observer in the artillery with Howitzers at Fort Sill, Okla., then as a supply clerk at a unit at Fort Lewis, Wash.						
Thompson, Michael J.	75	4/29/25	Air Force	Vietnam	15	Pequot Lakes Post 49
Tishman, Cheryl	64	6/13/25	Navy	Leb/Gren	1	Le Center Post 108
Tollefson, David L.	83	6/21/24	Army	Vietnam	26	Farmington Post 189
Totman, Gerald D.	99	6/3/25	Army	WWII	35	Pipestone Post 6
Note: He was the post's oldest post commander.						
Unger, Ron W.	80	6/1/25	Marines	Vietnam	20	Motley Post 124
Note: He served as a helicopter mechanic and had a White House clearance. He participated in search and rescue operations in Japan.						
Walterman, Marlyn J.	92	6/8/25	Army	Korea	40	Fairmont Post 36
Westrup, Jerome A. "Jerry"	82	5/31/25	Army	Vietnam	53	Eden Valley Post 381
Wieczorek, Robert L.	93	6/22/25	Navy	Korea	41	Winona Post 9

Riders to raise dollars

Continued from Page 4

Minnesota American Legion Riders.

having me talk to your chapter or district about the proposed Constitution & Bylaws, please contact me.

God bless and keep the rubber side down.

Jody Hassing of Bloomington Unit 550 is the director of the

Is there anything else for the good of the Legion?

National Report

Bill Barbknecht

As we look forward to the Department Convention, we will again see new officers, new ideas and new leadership. As I said earlier in this letter, let's all work together for our veterans (past and present), families and our communities.

As this will be my last article as your NEC, Donna and I THANK the entire Department of Minnesota staff for all of your help these past six years. Donna and I look forward to spending more time with the families and maybe a few little trips to the Dakotas and Minnesota.

I would be remiss to add we are expecting a new little great granddaughter in Indiana around Christmas so, of course, we will make a trip to the Hoosier State



also to welcome her. We will keep working for all our veterans, families and communities.

I have been lucky to have the BEST Alternate NEC Peggy Moon. She was always ready to step in and fill in for me when I needed her. Thank you seems like it is not adequate for all her help and support. I am sure she will be a huge help to the newly elected NEC and alternate, as I will be also.

Have a great time in Tampa Bay at the National Convention Aug. 22-28. Dan Wiley of Kansas will be elected your next

national commander. Dan is also a cattleman and is great friend. I will be watching his progress during the year and positive he will do us all proud. Tampa Bay is Commander Carl Moon's old hometown where he was raised.

It has been a very learning experience this past six years. I have enjoyed so much and appreciate the mentorship, from my past NECs and Past National Commander Dan Ludwig. Be respectful to each other and always help someone is my leaving request. Donna and I look forward to doing what we choose, when we choose.

Thank you all. Warmest regards.

Bill Barbknecht of Fergus Falls Post 30 is the Department of Minnesota's National Executive Committeeman. His term ends at the close of the National Convention on Aug. 28.

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Legion members encountered Hartman, Hoffman

Continued from Page 1

violence happened to our neighbors — our fellow Minnesotans — and no matter how many news reports we receive, it's hard to fathom.

Department Legislative Chair Kristy Janigo, Past Legislative Chair Bob Hart, past department commanders, along with the Legion staff and other Legionnaires involved with our efforts to support veterans at the Capitol would encounter Hortman and Hoffman frequently in committee hearings, office visits and various events like the

Legion Legislative Mixer. With their track records, both lawmakers can be considered to be friends of veterans in their communities and at the Capitol.

The American Legion Preamble promotes peace and goodwill, law and order, and the principles of justice, freedom and democracy. As an organization, we resoundingly hope the killer is apprehended with alacrity and justice prevails swiftly.

Going forward, let's work toward peaceful solutions through sound and logical dialogue.



Melissa Hortman



John Hoffman



Bob Lundgren stands in front of Post 560 in Zimmerman. He is next to a large Legion Emblem that previously was on the building of Minneapolis-Richfield Post 435. Post 560 offered to pay, but Post 435 ended up giving it to Post 560.

Blood program helps membership

Continued from Page 1

blood drives about every other month, getting about 55 units per drive. Donors must wait 56 days before donating again.

“We’ve always made quota except once,” Lundgren said. “Those people who came to the first one are still coming today, only now we hold the drives at the new fire station.”

Zimmerman and Livonia Township constructed a new fire hall in 2020 and 2021, and it doubles as a community event center.

Bob reached the 730 number by adding the units from the Post 560 drives with the ones from members and patrons going to the St. Cloud VA and other area blood drives.

“Some people are already loyal to their donation place, or it’s convenient for where they work,” he said.

One of the obstacles to blood drives is getting enough people to sign up in order for the Red Cross (or other blood providers) to send its staff. Bob said he has 66 slots for each drive, but then there are some deferrals, cancels and no-shows.

Deferrals are when a donor might be ineligible to donate. Such factors might be low iron, high blood pressure, fever, recent travel to malaria-risk countries, recent vaccinations, certain medications, pregnancy, irregular pulse, STD or a recent tattoo. The list goes on.

To be sure, donors can have high or low blood pressure and still donate, but there is an acceptable range. Many people with blood pressure issues give blood.

Bob said his goal is at least 49 out of that 66 who are able to donate blood each drive. He sends an email out a week ahead of time to his list of donors, and Patty works hard at recruiting new donors.

The next Post 560 blood drives are July 10 and Sept. 11, both at the fire station, at 26140 136th St. NW.

Patty said donors sit down for a small snack after they donate, and she asks them whether they want to sign up for the next drive.

“I make a homemade meal for the blood drive workers and a dessert, too. The Red Cross workers all want to work on our drives,” she said.

She isn’t allowed to provide homemade food for the donors.

Auxiliary member Roxanne O’Brien volunteers her time to

Minn. blood donations

Shown are districts and their top posts. Figures are in terms of units of blood, which is roughly a pint.

- 1st District:** 25 posts reporting 1,124
- Winona Post 9: 344
 - Waseca Post 228: 234
 - La Crescent Post 595: 168
- 2nd District:** 18 posts reporting 1,721
- New Ulm Post 132: 350
 - Wabasso Post 263: 319
 - Fairmont Post 36: 253
- 3rd District:** 17 posts reporting 3,020 units
- Chanhassen Post 580: 352
 - Montgomery Post 79: 300
 - Waconia Post 150: 240
- 4th District:** Two posts reporting 82
- Rosetown Post 542: 77
 - St. Paul Business & Professional Post 450: 5
- 5th District:** Nine posts reporting 59
- Hellenic Post 129: 19
 - Mpls. Post 1: 12
 - Mpls.-Rich. Post 435: 11
- 6th District:** 21 posts reporting 1,355
- Zimmerman Post 560: 730
 - Melrose Post 101: 350
 - Little Falls Post 46: 127
- 7th District:** 20 posts reporting 963
- Willmar Post 167: 288
 - Spicer Post 545: 108
 - Kerkhoven Post 223: 115
- 8th District:** Seven posts reporting 54
- Cloquet Post 262: 40
 - Grand Marais Post 413: 12
 - Virginia Post 239: 10
- 9th District:** 10 posts reporting 578
- Bagley Post 16: 320
 - Roseau Post 24: 26
 - Moorhead Post 21: 172
- 10th District:** 15 posts reporting 1,084
- Anoka Post 102: 350
 - Milaca Post 178: 224
 - Coon Rapids Post 334: 155

This year the Department of Minnesota had 144 posts reporting with a total of 10,040 units. Last year it had 126 posts reporting with a total of 7,205 units.

help sign in donors, saving Bob time. Bob does much of the setting up. He might get away for a couple hours in the middle,

then he’s there to clean up at the end. Patty said two other Auxiliary members also give their time to help.

“We’ve recruited Auxiliary members because they see what we are doing, and they want to join,” Patty said. “It makes the public aware a little bit, and we have a good time.”

Bob agrees: “It’s helped post membership, too.”

Bob Lundgren was Post 560 commander from 2016 to 2020. Patty Lundgren was unit president from 2014 to 2020.

Bob served in the U.S. Army from October 1972 to 1975, graduating from Princeton High School in 1972. He went to basic at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., then AIT at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Md.

He was a recovery specialist trained to drive tow trucks and semis, and the Army sent him to Freidberg, Germany, where he was in the 122nd Maintenance Company in the 3rd Armored Division handling parts for tanks and trucks.

After the Army, he worked for a railroad before getting into general contracting. Patty was a real-estate agent, and they met in 1978. She, too, was a Princeton graduate, but they didn’t know each other in school because he is four years older. They gravitated to Zimmerman where her family and church were, and they had a son and a daughter. Today, they have four grandchildren, too. Patty and Bob have been married for 48 years.

She started her own real estate agency in 1989. He started his own contracting firm in 1987.

The blood drives cost the post no money, just time. Bob and Patty’s advice for posts or units launching blood drives is this: be consistent, start somewhere and set up the entire year’s schedule in January.

“We used to put fliers all over town,” Patty said, “and now we don’t need them. People just know about it.”

Larson said Bob and Patty Lundgren do a great job. Larson also is the blood chairman for Forest Lake Post 225. In the early 2000s, he restarted a blood program that hadn’t been in existence since the mid-1990s.

The reason? “It’s the gift of life. That’s the main thing.”

In his report, Larson wrote: “The American Legion considers this program so important it falls under the jurisdiction of national security.”

What’s coming up at the museum?

from the elements,” he said.

The new home is going to be at the new Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum being constructed just east of Camp Ripley along Minnesota Highway 371, slated to open in 2026.

U.S. Navy History & Heritage Command owns the gun. In 1958, the Navy loaned it to the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs under an agreement that the state maintain it.

In January, Dietrich, Navy League of Minnesota President Joe Fraser and Navy veteran Brooks Berg went to Washington to meet with Navy officials about relocating the Ward gun.

“The Navy was suitably impressed with our plan” Dietrich said.

Back in Minnesota, museum officials were in touch with the Capitol Area Architectural & Planning Board, which maintains the monuments and memorials at the Capitol Complex. It had concerns about moving it out of St. Paul, considering its tie to the city. After a window for public input, the CAAPB green-lighted the removal. The need for maintenance and shelter mattered more.

Veterans Affairs Commissioner Brad Lindsay signed off, letting the museum be the recipient of the gun, rather than the MDVA.

“In the museum, when folks walk into the gallery space, with displays from the Civil War to the Global War on Terrorism, the first thing they will see is that Ward gun,” Dietrich said.

The museum has contracted with St. Paul conservator Paul Storch, who will help restore

the gun.

“It is being lost to time currently where it is,” Dietrich said “It really shouldn’t have been outdoors that long. We saved the gun as a result of this commitment to do the restoration work.”

USS Minneapolis-St. Paul

A submarine is rising out of the dirt on the grounds of the museum construction site. No, it’s not the Canadians with a below-ground spy machine. It’s the USS Minneapolis-St. Paul, a Los Angeles-class submarine commissioned in 1984 and decommissioned in 2008. It participated in the Persian Gulf War.

It served in the Atlantic, but after serving, it was sent to Puget Sound in Washington state. Custody of the submarine’s sail and rudder were shipped to the museum. (Despite common parlance, upper part of a modern sub is not a conning tower. It’s called a sail in America and a fin in Great Britain.)

“We are saving a piece of naval history that was bound to be lost if we had not stepped in,” Dietrich said. “It is a huge undertaking. Now people drive by on the highway and can see a submarine coming out the prairie of Minnesota.”

USS Saint Paul

The USS Saint Paul Association has been fundraising to establish a commemorative memorial on the Capitol campus. The association’s vice president, John Franz, penned a letter to the editor that published in the May 2025 issue of The Minnesota Legionnaire, asking for charitable

contributions, and that same letter went to American Legion posts across the metro.

Dietrich said the Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum has been in conversations with the association’s leadership about how the museum can perpetuate the stories of the heavy cruiser. The association is having its 2026 reunion in September in Arizona, and it plans to have its last one in 2027 in St. Paul, hopefully coinciding with the memorial coming into existence.

The ship was commissioned on Feb. 17, 1945, and christened by Mrs. Marie McDonough, the wife of the mayor of St. Paul. She participated in fighting in the Pacific Theater of World War II. She was in Tokyo Bay during the formal surrender on Sept. 2, 1945. She went on to fight in the Korean War and has much experience patrolling the risky Taiwan Strait.

The USS St. Paul starred in the John Wayne movie “In Harm’s Way” before returning to service to fight in the Vietnam War. She was decommissioned in 1971. Its bell is displayed on the third floor of St. Paul City Hall.

The USS Saint Paul Association is a 501c3 nonprofit organization and can accept charitable gambling donations. It has raised \$30,487 so far. The goal is \$250,000. To donate, mail a check to USS Saint Paul Association, PO Box 929, Greenville, OH 45331. Call Vice President John Franz with questions at 571-431-9450. Franz served a two-year tour on the St. Paul in Vietnam, before serving on land in Vietnam.



Someone call the National Guard! There is a submarine rising up out of the ground outside the new home of the Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum. Wait! It’s the sail of the USS Minneapolis-St. Paul.

They are looking for disabled vets

The Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Minnesota is looking for disabled veterans interested in participating in the John Zgoda Disabled Veterans Deer Hunt and the new *Disabled Veterans Turkey Hunt*, both at Legionville.

The deer hunt is Oct. 1-2, and the turkey hunt is Oct. 4-5. Many volunteers in the SAL make these events possible, and many memories are made.

To apply, contact any of the following SAL members and ask for a form: Dave Vulcan 507-380-5095, Dave Bilderback 507-250-1057, Steve Bilderback 612-220-1333, Chuck Stone 507-213-7517.



Past Department Commander and disabled veteran Paul Hassing smiles after shooting a deer in 2024 at Legionville.

Members have key role in gambling

The Gambling Control Board wants licensed organizations to successfully raise funds for good causes. But to achieve that goal, we need the help of their members. Time and again, we see that organizations with the most gambling problems often have the least membership involvement.

It's not a coincidence — it's common sense. The more eyes on an operation, the less likely someone is to attempt theft or fraud. But what exactly should members be watching?

Follow the money

In the film "All the President's Men," Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein's informant encouraged them to "follow the money" if they wanted to uncover the truth behind the Watergate scandal.

That advice applies just as well to charitable gambling. Whether it's pulltabs, tipboards, bingo, paddlewheel or raffles, every gambling activity has a way to calculate how much money should remain once the game is done.

Take paper pulltabs as an example: Each game has a set ticket price, number of tickets and number of prizes. If all tickets are sold and prizes paid, the organization should have the game's ideal net receipts (gross sales minus prizes). If some tickets remain unsold, they must be kept as proof. Winning tickets must also be

Guest Column

Laura Wade



kept to document prize payouts.

This documentation allows trustees, gambling committee members, accountants and regulators to verify the gambling manager's reports to the state and to the membership. In well-run organizations, members routinely audit a sample of games each month. These spot checks often catch — and more importantly, deter — attempts to underreport net receipts and skim profits.

The next step is to track the money from your Legion club or other gambling sites to the bank. Game tracking forms show both how much money the organization should have (net receipts) and how much it actually has (cash-in-hand). Differences between these amounts create "cash longs" or, more commonly, "cash shorts." Either way, cash-in-hand amounts must reach the bank. The only way to confirm that happened is to compare game records to actual bank deposits. If no one is checking, it's easier for money to go missing.

Even once funds reach the gambling bank account, members should follow the checks, electronic payments and transfers going back out of the account. One group was shocked to find the gambling manager's

ex was still being paid wages — even though they'd moved out of state a year earlier.

Another discovered that the organization had been conned into donating money to a fraudulent nonprofit. Both issues could have been avoided, and maybe even prevented, with closer membership oversight.

Trust, but verify

Nearly 40 years ago, President Ronald Reagan told the Soviets, "Trust, but verify." That's good advice for gambling operations too. And when verifying your trust in those running your gambling operation, remember this advice: "Follow the money."

More Information?

The Gambling Control Board's website, www.mn.gov/gcb, has a new look with even more easy-to-find information than before. It's a great place to learn more about charitable gambling.

Laura Wade is the executive director of the Minnesota Gambling Control Board.

Legislature honors Secret War vets

Continued from Page 1

federal government uses for distributing dollars for wildlife conservation and outdoor recreation programs. He proposed the "Minnesota Model," which keeps a \$5 fee in place, which will allow the state to count those licenses in the federal calculation.

In other words, the state will get back \$19 for every \$5 license purchased.

"It took 10 years. Some years, one party would carry it. Another year, the other party would carry it, and depending on who would carry it, the other would lose interest," Dilks said. "This was an example of politics at its worst. This year, it was actually an example of politics at its best."

He said Gov. Tim Walz proposed it, with some cooperation from the DNR. Sen. Andrew Lang resurrected it in the Senate, saving it from getting pushed another year. That meant it had bipartisan and agency support — the trifecta needed.

"This is how our system was meant to work. I'm glad we could get it done."

The Veterans & Military Affairs Omnibus Bill passed, signed by the governor on May 23.

It funds the Department of Military Affairs (Minnesota National Guard) at \$29,487,000 in the first fiscal year and \$33,458,000 in the second. The first fiscal year ends June 30, 2026. The second ends June 30, 2027.

The bill funds the MDVA at \$142,457,000 for the first and \$146,710,000 the second. This



Minnesota Department of Military Affairs Executive Director Don Kerr and Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs Commissioner Brad Lindsay testify on SGUs during a committee hearing at the Capitol on Friday, May 16. Kerr, a retired colonel, has been in his role for 18 years and plans to retire this year. Legislators thanked him for his many years at the Legislature.

covers its many programs: cemeteries, grants to VSOs (including the Legion), honor guard reimbursements, Minnesota G.I. Bill, Gold Star Program, CVSO grants, Camp Bliss, LSS CORE home-delivered meals, veteran assistance, veteran homelessness, Hometown Hero Outdoors, Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum, the eight veteran homes, among others.

What's new is the veterans affairs commissioner must form an advisory task force on the Special Guerilla Units and Irregular Forces in Laos. The new law allows veterans of the Secret War in Laos — generally people from Minnesota's Hmong population — who are naturalized citizens or lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States to be entitled to the following privileges:

- "Veteran" designation on drivers' licenses and state ID cards.
- Purchase of grave markers.
- Burial in state veteran

cemeteries.

- Certified copies of vital records.
- Veterans preference in hiring.
- Honor guard reimbursement.

Another new item in the bill calls on the commissioner to place a memorial plaque in the court of honor of the Capitol grounds to recognize the service and sacrifices of the state's Gold Star and Blue Star families. The process to do this will go through the Capitol Area Architectural & Planning Board.

The memorial design must be furnished by the Gold Star and Blue Star groups, the bill states.

One line in the bill requires the commissioner to create a comprehensive plan to prevent veterans from dying by suicide.

Also, veterans in Minnesota can look for new veteran health navigators in community-based hospitals to help veterans figure out the ever-complicated health care system and make informed choices.

Listening Post



Andrew Eggenberger/Lake City Graphic

Lake City Mayor Brian Quinn was on hand recently as representatives of Lake City Post 110 presented Lake City Police Department staff with a "Certificate of Commendation for Public Service." From left are Quinn, post member Steve Brandt, Emergency Management Director John Yorke, Chief Cory Kubista, Investigator Matt Klees, Officer Tony Cox, Officer Mike Becklund, Sgt. Bill Weist, Post Commander Dick Grobe, and Post Treasurer Ray Neimczyk.



Albert Lea Post 56 members receiving the 60 Continuous Years certificates at a ceremony April 21 were, from left, Ronald Knutson, Robert Knutson, Eugene Lysne and Lupe Gasca.



Zimmerman Chapter 560 of the American Legion Riders has hit the \$500,000 mark in donations since 2016. The majority of the funds raised come from events they organize, such as Second Amendment bingo, raising around \$25,000 at each one, along with purse bingo, rides and raffles. Everything raised is donated to veterans in the community, to veteran organizations and to state and federal VA facilities.

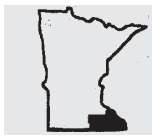


On May 14, Dent Post 148 presented four Perham-Dent High School seniors with scholarships. A \$1,000 scholarship was presented by Donna Gill in memory of her husband Marion Gill a longtime member of Post 148. Pictured from left are Mike Johnson, Jerry Huebsch, Carter Flatau, Cash Burk, Molly Meyer, Macey Minten, Robert Wagenmann and Donna Gill.



From left are Redwood Falls Post 38 Commander Dennis Kissner and Junior Shooting Sports team members Nick Plaetz, Griffin Deterling, Owen Horesji and Shaun Matthews. The team participated in the Minnesota American Legion CMP State Championships, where it took second. Kissner awarded medals. Matthews received gold, Horesji silver and Deterling and Plaetz bronze.

District commanders



1st District

Mark Maloney III



The conclusion of a term represents a milestone in organizational leadership and governance. It is a time for reflection, celebration, and the assessment of goals achieved. As the curtain closes on a term, it provides an opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of strategies employed, the progress made, and the challenges faced. For any leader, particularly a district commander, the end of term is a moment to pass on the baton with pride, leaving behind a

legacy of unity, collaboration.

We were to be able to make a winning team and brought us from eighth place to first place. It takes everyone in the district, not just the officers, to make a winning team. So, as they say, you need walk the walk; do not talk the talk.

God bless America and protect our troops.



2nd District

James Olson



Greetings, 2nd District!

Two years have gone by since I was elected to my first term as your district commander. It has been an honor to serve you as the commander of the 2nd District, and I have enjoyed all of it. Traveling the district, meeting Legionnaires and attending events has been incredible. Every post I have visited in the district has been very welcoming!

I would like to sincerely thank the officers of the 2nd District for all their hard work over the past two years, as well. When I needed something done, I knew I could depend on each of them to make it happen.

I would also like to thank the Pipestone Post 6 American Legion Family for the fantastic job they did hosting the District Convention! If you did not attend, you missed out on a great time with great people. It would have been nice to see more Legionnaires in attendance.

The 2026 Mid-Winter Conference will be hosted by Hardwick Post 478 and the District Convention will be hosted by Redwood Falls Post 38.

Looking forward, I would like to congratulate Tom Behrends

from Brewster Posts 464 on his election as the new 2nd District commander as well as all the newly elected officers of the 2nd District! I know we have great leadership in the 2nd District in our future!

We have several initiatives coming up to help spread the word about The American Legion and SAL in the 2nd District. We will attend Farm Fest near Redwood Falls Aug. 5-7 to help get the word out. Join us there in our booth, if you can.

We will be selling 3-foot-by-5-foot flags to help offset the cost of the booth as well as taking memberships for NEW Legionnaires and SAL members.

Though I am finishing up my term as district commander, you aren't quite free of me yet. Incoming Commander Behrends has appointed me to the 2nd District adjutant position, pending approval of the District Executive Committee. I look forward to continuing to serve the Legionnaires of the 2nd District!



3rd District

Joe Tappainer



I wish to thank the 3rd District for electing me as commander for the 2024-25 year. At the time of this writing, we are in third place for membership at 95 percent. I have had some trying health conditions and would like to thank my vice commanders for stepping up and helping out when needed. I won't be going

away but will be helping our new commander, Amy Larsen of Lonsdale Post 586.

I hope to see all of you at the Department Convention this month!



6th District

Frank Grittner



Greetings from the Big 6th District.

At last report, we are currently at 95.13 percent. While that leaves us around 3 percent behind last year, we knew it was going to be a difficult membership job this year. But we kept our heads in the game and worked hard for each and every membership.

We remembered that "Together We Can" do wonderful things. It is still not too late to get those

memberships renewed and new Legionnaires signed up for 2025.

Our 6th District Convention was once again a success. *Thank you* goes out to Brained Post 255 for hosting us once again this year. It was great to see some folks I hadn't seen in a while, and especially some new faces in the crowd.

With that said, I would be lacking if I did not say I would like to see more participation in our district events. These are important for the conduct of district business, and we need to have input from ALL posts. If you don't have post representation, your post doesn't have a voice in decisions that are made.

It is now time to look forward to the Department Convention in Willmar. Some big decisions will be made, old friendships renewed, and new bonds made. I hope to see many of you there and that the 6th District has a strong showing. Especially since we will be honoring our own Dr. Carl Moon for his

leadership this past year as department commander.

One final note, as I say thank you for the past year, I can also say I am even more excited about the coming year. I am proud to have been chosen to lead our BIG 6th District for another year. For those posts I visited last year, thank you for your hospitality, and I look forward to seeing you again. For those posts that I was unable to visit, you have my promise to do my absolute best to visit your post meetings or events in the coming year.

Until next time, stay safe, and "Be the One" because "Together We Can" do wonderful things.



7th District

Carl Wilson



This year has been an interesting and rewarding journey. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the posts that donated to my Commander's Project — Soldier 6. Your generosity made a real difference.

I also want to thank each and every one of you for your support throughout the past year. It has truly been an honor to serve as your 7th District commander. As we move forward, I hope you will continue to give the same support, guidance, and encouragement to the incoming leadership. They will need it just as much as I did.

With this change, I expect to

have a little more time off, now that I will no longer

be representing the 7th District as commander. However, I'm not stepping away from service. I will continue working for The American Legion as the 7th District Chairperson for Legion Junior Shooting Sports — a program I am passionate about and proud to support.

Thank you all again for your dedication and friendship. Until we meet again: stay healthy and help a veteran whenever you can.

For God and Country,



8th District

Gene Swanson



Hello to the 8th!

Thank you to all those members who showed up for our convention. I extend my thanks to Taconite Post 301, for hosting the convention and to Lawrence Lake Auxiliary for providing the food. It was great!

I congratulate Steven Birkenmeyer of Cloquet Post 262, our new district commander for 2025-2026, as well as Dan Siats who was endorsed to be the 8th and 10th districts' nominee for department vice commander.

All of our other positions stayed the same with the exception of an open position for chaplain. Anyone interested should call the commander.

Recommendations from the 8th District Constitution & By-Laws Committee were submitted and accepted. The changes and the old and current By-Laws Committee can be

accessed by going online and downloading them.

I encourage our membership to bring forth their ideas and concerns to the attention of our officers. This will give us a way to program an agenda to get things done that are of interest and also what programs we can put into effect. Without input and membership interest, we cannot meet the goals of The American Legion.

Legion Baseball and Fast-pitch Softball are in full swing. I encourage our attendance at games.

The world situation is very concerning currently. Please all remember to pray for our service members and leadership.

May God bless the American Legion Family.



9th District

Steve NaSalle



Hello, Roaring 9th District American Legion Family!

Now that the 9th District Convention is behind us, I would like to take this opportunity to thank East Grand Forks Post 157 for a smooth and successful convention. A special thank-you to Post Adjutant Dave Regalla for his above and beyond expectations organizing our successful convention. Thank you, Dave!

In addition, I would like to welcome and congratulate new 9th District Commander Dennis

Henkemeyer. I have no doubt he will serve the 9th District Family well.

Alright, post commanders, adjutants and 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 out to your current members to get their

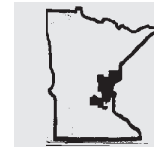
dues in before the 2025 Department Convention, which begins July 10.

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."

— *Author Unknown*

Respectfully in your Service,



10th District

Kristy Janigo



Thank you to everyone who came to our 10th District Family Testimonial. We had a great turnout of family members who supported President Bethany Dickert, SAL Squadron Commander Tom Olson, Riders Director Dan Freund and me.

My post, Osseo-Maple Grove Post 172, really outdid themselves with the pork loin meal, which was delicious, and patriotic decorations in the hall. Thank you to Post Commander Jacob Lynch for generously hosting our joint testimonial!

I am super grateful for my leadership team who did so much for the district this year. Adjutant Paul Orson kept us organized. Bruce Kottom is a talented finance officer who has made sure we carried out our fiduciary duty as a nonprofit.

Our web designer, Jennifer Cole, won a national award for her work on the 10th District website redesign. Matt Berens had this idea and started conversations with Jennifer last

year.

We picked up where he left off and got it done this year. I'm thankful to Junior Past Commander Matt Berens and Past and Incoming Commander Bill Gordon for providing me with sound advice.

My project this year was Every Third Saturday, a non-profit serving homeless and justice involved veterans. We raised over \$16,000 of the \$20,000 goal by convention.

If you've not had the chance to donate to my commander's project, Every Third Saturday's donation page is everythirdsaturday.org/monetary-donations for credit card donations.

If issuing a check, please send a check directly to Every Third Saturday, 5402 43rd Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55417. Write "10th District" in the subject line.

In service,



Clarissa Post 213 donated \$1,000 to the Eagle's Healing Nest in Sauk Centre. Eagle's Healing Nest Director Shawn Kor receives a check from Post 213 Commander Butch Booker. Post 213 was one of the first supporters of the Nest and continues to be a supporter. Kor was a guest speaker at the Clarissa Community Memorial Day Program.



Soldier's 6 CEO Ed Abrahamson receives a \$2,600 from 7th District Commander Carl Wilson. Soldier's 6 is a service canine provider in Inver Grove Heights.



The Auxiliary Bulletin

No. 25 Vol. 9

President Judy Ackerman • Secretary Christie Avant, christie@mnala.org

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

651-224-7634

July 2025

Let's all recognize, respect, remember

This year has flown by. Department Convention is right around the corner. Please make plans to attend and hear about the accomplishments of our members, units, districts and the department. I can't wait to celebrate the success of the Minnesota American Legion Family with all of you.

It has been a privilege and an honor to represent the members of the American Legion Auxiliary across the state. I've enjoyed the hospitality of the units, posts, squadrons and districts at their events. You are amazing and work wonders in your communities for our veterans, active military and their families. Please continue the work you do as you carry on the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary.

This year's theme of "Back to the Basics: Recognize, Respect, Remember," has been filled with wonderful memories and

President's Message

Judy Ackerman



successes. Keep following our traditions and continue to build on our foundation.

Our programs depend on the members and their creative ideas. Recognize our veterans, all our veterans; especially that one group of veterans that is not always recognized — our female veterans. Thank you so much for what our veterans have done for us. Respect. Treat everyone with the respect that you want to be treated with. Remember the sacrifices that the generations before us made to ensure the freedoms that we have.

Junior Fun Weekend is coming up in August. The registration forms were in the June unit mailing. Please sign them up by July 18 and bring them

to Legionville Aug. 8-10, so they can make new friends, learn about our programs and have fun.

It's never too early to start your plans for next year.

Again, thank you for the support and hospitality over the last year. I've made a lot of memories and will treasure them forever.

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



The constitutional officers for 2025 Minnesota Girls State are Attorney General Eliza Rowan, Lt. Gov. Christy Watras, Gov. Sasha Unger, State Auditor Isabelle McMahan and Secretary Of State Audyn Molesky.

National Convention is coming up

ST. PAUL — The 2025 National Convention will be held in Tampa on Aug. 23-27.

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 16. All reservations for the States Dinner (\$65) and the American Legion Auxiliary Luncheon (\$40) must be ordered through the Department Office.

New Presidents

Congratulations to the 10 district presidents-elect who will serve their respective districts for the 2025-2026 year:

- District 1:** Wanda Prescher
- District 2:** Kristen Donnelly
- District 3:** Ann Bovey
- District 4:** Sandra Gibson
- District 5:** Becky Nelson
- District 6:** Wendy Grittner
- District 7:** Mary Kuperus
- District 8:** Tamara Martin
- District 9:** Denise Milton
- District 10:** Brandi Christensen

May each of you have a most successful year of service as you assume the leadership of your District for the 2025-2026 Auxiliary year.

The deadline is July 25. If national allows for more reservations after that time, there will be a price increase for the tickets.

Most of all, have fun along the way.

Girls State finds a way

By Wanda Prescher
Girls State Chairman

ARDEN HILLS — The American Legion Auxiliary's 78th Minnesota Girls State took place June 15-21 at Bethel University in Arden Hills.

Our session started with a very sad major event that changed the week. A big thank-you to our staff for their positivity and help with adjustments that were made during the week.

Throughout the week, Americanism was a big part of the program. Some of the highlights were the flag-folding ceremony, teaching the citizens about the POW-MIA table and citizens taking part in a flag retirement ceremony.

Americanism guest speaker Rachael Hill spoke about what Americanism meant to her. A veteran and widow of a veteran shared her very moving story. The citizens took part in a candlelight ceremony honor and remember our fallen Minnesota soldiers.

On Thursday, Minnesota Supreme Court Chief Justice Natalie E. Hudson came and spoke. She emphasized the importance of justice and integrity and met separately with the constitutional officers.

Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon came and spoke to the citizens about the importance of their participation in Girls State. His message was about leadership, responsibility, pride in being active citizens and the power of every single vote. He stressed how one single vote can make a difference and change their future.

Thursday evening was the installation of the constitutional officers and reception following for parents and guest. Thank you to the 5th and 6th districts for this year's sponsorship!

Friday, our annual trip to the Capitol was canceled. We had to shift gears, and we did just that. Thank you to everyone involved in ensuring the citizens were still able to complete the legislative work and hold mock trials they had worked so hard to prepare for. The staff and citizens made it happen at Bethel University, and it was a great day! Friday evening ended with the Girls State Talent Show!

Thank you to everyone who supported Girls

Girls State Committee

Chairman: Wanda Prescher
Director: Peggy Tesdahl
Education Director: Amelia Tesdahl
Committee Members: Renee Seuss and Jen Stolz
Americanism: Kolette Karhlert

Girls State Officers

Gov.: Sasha Unger, Wayzata Unit 118
Lt. Gov.: Christy Watras, Mankato Unit 11
Sec. of State: Audyn Molesky, Peterson Unit 526
Auditor: Isabelle McMahan, Osseo Unit 172
Attorney General: Eliza Rowan, New Germany Unit 601
Chief Justice: Julianne Peterson, Howard Lake Unit 145
Justice: Gabrielle Kelley, Anoka Unit 102
Justice: Riley Delaney, Gully Unit 603

Girls Nation Senators

Seenaa Gobena, Chatfield Unit 197
Ellis Landry, Osseo Unit 172

Other awards

Samsung Scholar and Americanism Award: Sarah Jensen, Anoka Unit 102
Spirit Award: Seenaa Gobena, Chatfield Unit 197

State somehow this year! Without all of you, we would not be able to do this! Thank you to units that sponsored girls they did not even know but wanted them to have that opportunity to attend. You made a difference for Seenaa Gobeena, Audyn Molesky and Christy Wacker.



Department President Judy Ackerman with SAL Past National Vice Commander Robert Bristol and Detachment Commander John Weiss at the Detachment Convention in Morris on June 28.



Department President Judy Ackerman with 2025 Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Governor Sasha Unger.

Legion Bowling

Results from the 2025 Minnesota American Legion Bowling Tournament Held in March and April at Sundance Entertainment Center, Dayton Hosted by Osseo-Maple Grove Post 172

Men’s Team Competition

Women allowed in men’s events. Scores compiled by Bowling Chairman Dave Wendt.

There were 67 men’s teams. Shown are the top 56. Scores in the table descend by team total. Due to scoring software issue, we were unable to list individual men’s scores on the team competition. We hope to have them in 2026.

Name	Total
Excelsior Post 259	2769
Litchfield Post 104 #3	2762
Osseo-MG Post 172	2711
Litchfield Post 104 #7	2703
Lewiston Post 90 #1	2699
Litchfield Post 104 #6	2696
Hutchinson Post 96 #2	2676
St. Joseph Post 328 #2	2659
Arcade-Phalen Post 577 #9	2659
Willmar Post 167	2656
Lewiston Post 90 #2	2653
Gaylord Post 433 #1	2640
Rushford Post 94 #2	2633
Waite Park Post 428 #4	2631
Mahtomedi Post 507 #2	2617
Rushford Post 94 #3	2616
Litchfield Post 104 #8	2611
Arcade-Phalen Post 577 #1	2610
Stewartville Post 164 #1	2601
Osseo-MG Post 172 #2	2597
Hutchinson Post 96 #1	2596
Arcade-Phalen Post 577 #7	2591
Waite Park Post 428 #3	2575
Mahtomedi Post 507 #1	2571
Arcade-Phalen Post 577 #2	2569
Robbinsdale Post 251	2556
West Duluth Post 71 #1	2547
Mahtomedi Post 507 #3	2543
Janesville Post 281	2542
Hamline Post 418 #2	2540
St. Joseph Post 328 #3	2538
Elk River Post 112	2535
Arcade Phalen Post 577 #6	2533
Gaylord Post 433 #2	2529
Le Center Post 108	2518
Arcade-Phalen Post 577 #4	2518
Stewartville Post 164 #5	2518
Stewartville Post 164 #3	2516
Waite Park Post 428 #5	2511
Arcade-Phalen Post 577 #5	2510
Litchfield Post #4	2494
Buffalo Post 270	2493
Litchfield Post 104 #2	2491
Minneapolis Post 1	2489
Waite Park Post 428 #1	2489
Mahtomedi Post 507 #4	2481
Rushford Post 94 #1	2465
Stewartville Post 164 #2	2465

Stewartville Post 164 #4	2459
Cosmos Post 126 #1	2453
Waite Park Post 428 #2	2453
Litchfield Post 104 #1	2446
Bloomington Post 550	2442
Hamline Post 418 #1	2439
Milroy Post 274	2434
Litchfield Post104 #9	2412

Women’s Team Competition

Milroy Unit 274	2693
Janice Van Overbeke	670
Diane Sik	726
Terri Sik	705
Sue Beek	592
Cold Spring Unit 455 #1	2594
Linda Thompson	686
Cindy Goepfred	676
Bev Grose	675
Norma Tramm	623
Hutchinson Unit 96 #1	2515
Donna Telecky	667
Ashley Miller	697
Lori Klima	663
Carol Damlow	616
Shakopee Unit 2	2503
Tami Paul	633
Lisa Sneller	625
Denise Leska	623
Heather Sandbloom	622
Cold Spring Unit 455 #2	2495
Doreen Lemke	682
Lynn Bower	608
Doris Torborg	713
Dolores Schroeder	623
Rushford Aux 94	2446
Andrea Hoheisel	724
Patty Highman-Moe	716
Cherie Heglund	690
Stefanie Heglund	656

Men’s Singles

The “total” column is the handicap score, not a total of the three games.

Name	1st	2nd	3rd	Total
Dale Lipovsky	278	234	268	798
Travis Theis	171	277	235	776
Dave Telecky	215	279	196	753
Eric Stuefen	247	268	226	753
Kevin Kurze	212	247	181	748
Tim Boecker	194	178	225	747
Ty Mullenbach	212	191	194	735
Jeff Broberg	225	266	223	735
Dave Anderson	180	205	183	733
Dave Loso	200	230	192	730
Dave Walz	201	237	223	730
Dean Walz	258	172	215	729
Josh Telecky	246	228	234	708
Chris Zander	180	211	196	725
Nathan Frederiksen	172	185	130	721
Anthony Carlson	280	200	219	720
Patty Highman-Moe Bryan Thelen ...	159	184	184	716
Lydell Sik	135	204	201	711
Reggie Saks	199	190	179	709
Dave Brown	210	201	172	709
Tom Miller	204	238	235	707
Landon Majerus	127	153	190	707
Trent Merkins	200	178	181	706
Trent Mullenbach	200	217	183	705

	July 2025			
Brad Reinhard	214	171	173	705
Patrick Hahn	133	103	148	605
Adam Goetzke	233	228	243	704
Roger Roeder	183	223	258	703
Cory Hanson	162	237	163	703
Steve Sandler	201	200	202	702
Aarin Frederiksen	140	190	131	701
Chuck Loso	202	213	183	700
Jeff Wendt	152	256	216	699
Chris Pugh	194	210	201	698
Thomas Mullenbach	173	156	158	697
Mike Twedt	202	197	166	697
Doug Walz	269	213	182	697
Tony Holtz	187	219	164	696
Mike Newcomb	213	139	232	695
Marty Mendard	161	155	148	695
Todd Rogers	205	206	198	693
Justin Hengel	185	237	255	692
Lorne Berg	157	196	200	691
Scott Mueller	191	232	222	690
Kevin Kick	201	191	244	690
Tyler Hiller	245	224	210	688
Ben Prigge	172	203	258	687
Jesse Duenow	269	234	180	683
Russell Merkins	177	238	202	683
Alex Eide	205	193	196	681
Arden Schuft	203	205	150	681
Daryl Husfeldt	208	183	176	681
Jeff Mueller	163	173	242	680
Nick Peterson	217	177	193	680
Joey Brickmann	186	147	203	677
Gordan Keller	147	185	176	676
Marty Reps	210	153	187	676

Men’s Singles

T. Mullenbach/T. Mullenbach	1491
J. Williamson/A. Eide	1465
D. Walz/K. Kurze	1453
T. Hoheisel/A. Hoheisel	1444
T. Lagoon/B. Wasieleski	1433
R. Leonard/G. Nelson	1380
B. Broberg/B. Rardin	1376
T. Mullenbach/J. Bundy	1373
S. Strusinski/M. Peterson	1369
J. Wendt/D. Wendt	1363
“D. La Bar/D. Lipovsky	1362
C. Dupre/J. Bender	1352
T. Miller/J. Telecky	1350
R. Rowher/F. Herme	1349
T. Holtz/D. Holtz	1349
L. Sik/J. Beek	1344
D. Husfeldt/R. Nordling	1343
A. Goetzke/J. Broberg	1342
B. Roth/M. Fahey	1336
J. Karels/B. Karels	1336
N. Busch/R. Holets	1334
K. Koelln/T. Koelln	1332
K. Blaschko/T. Doheny	1331
J. Brickmann/C. Zander	1329
S. Mueller/L. Majerus	1326
T. Arndt/R. Arndt”	1325
S. Feind/S. Feind	1324
C. Hendrickson/T. Schacht	1321
J. Mueller/J. Fortsch	1320
B. Reinhart/D. Brown	1319
K. Holets/D. King	1313
B. Wiedrich/E. Stuefen	1309
M. Fisher/B. De Bolt	1308
C. Pugh/T. Mullenbach	1307
R. Theis/T. Theis	1306
L. Schmeling/A. Schmeling	1305
B. Kruger/J. Johnson	1303
M. Menard/M. Odell	1302
M. Reps/B. Prigge	1302

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D. Blasing/C. Rogers	1301
M. Witthus/M. Nelson	1301
B. Thibodeau/A. Schmidt	1299
J. Carlson/G. Keller	1297
L. Sik/L. Sik	1297
A. Frederiksen/G. Peterson	1297
D. Weisbrich/F. Anderson	1293
S. Kick/K. Kick	1293
N. Berg/B. Gohman	1293
K. Seeman/M. Niebuhr	1291
N. Seeman/T. Boecker	1291
J. Highum/M. Moe	1289
R. Pfannenstein/D. Loso	1288
D. Walz/D. Walz	1284
A. Carlson/A. Carlson	1282
J. Mohs/P. Kuehl	1279
G. Damlow/A. Parpart	1275
D. Frederiksen/L. Schmeling	1275
B. Lagoon/T. Rogers	1274
P.Reker/S.Pearse	1273
M. Morse/K. Lagoon	1272
N. Frederiksen/N. Peterson	1269
M. Twedt/T. Loso	1264
J. Carlson/A. Carlson	1264
D. Anderson/S. Sandler	1262
C. Gilbertson/T. Simpson	1257
D. Hegland/P. Highman-Moe	1256
P. Hahn/L. Gonzales	1253
S. Heil/J. Smallman	1251
D. Stierlen/M. Lian	1250
D. Boll/A. Larson	1250
R. Saks/A. Court	1248
W. Bumlet/A. Heydt	1247
R. Frank/R. Roeder	1243
J. Jensen/J. Grande	1240
J. Christenson/C. Loso	1239
A. Lilly/L. Peterson	1239
M. Lange/S. Mann	1238
J. Anderson/J. Anderson	1237
G. Ide/L. Berg	1237
T. Loomis/K. Unnusch	1225
D. Telecky/J. Duenow	1225
L. Wirtz II/T. Hiller	1224
J. Christenson/R. La Liberte	1224
L. Stadther/J. Frederiksen	1224
J. Rich/F. Malec	1223
L. Lamb/A. Schuft	1219
B. Moe/D. Moe	1217
T. Merkins/R. Merkins	1214
D. Anderson/R. Smith	1213
T. Danielson/A. Randall	1209
T. Hiller/V. Hiller	1209
R. Evers/C. Hanson	1207
J. Hengel/B. Klocker	1204
B. Karels/B. Karels	1204
L. Berg/L. Berg	1203
J. Schumacher/M. Tollefson	1203
D. Schultz/G. Guggenbergh	1202
D. Stepka/T. Gibbs	1199
B. Bruggermeier/J. Bruggermeier	1196
T. Frederiksen/D. Fisher	1192
B. Thelen/D. Triske	1190
B. Stower/T. Berken	1183
C. Utne/D. Karels	1182
B. Phillipp/C. Phillipp	1177
M. Newcomb/J. Masich	1175
P. Fisher/B. Bushman	1168
C. Gohman/T. Fernlund	1166
S. Broberg/C. Schwarzbauer	1163
D. Wolter/R. Widmer	1156
R. Theis/N. Dircks	1149
R. Swanson/K. Neil	1144



Shown is the staff from the 2025 Minnesota Girls State.



Photo by Shawn Davis/Squadron 435
A Girls State alumna and Air Force veteran, Minnesota American Legion Alternate NECman Peggy Moon waves at the citizens and guests at the inauguration on June 19.

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