



Dept. Convention to review constitutional mandates



Mike
Maxa

Also, Auxiliary to propose a dues increase

WILLMAR — All convention committees will have to meet at the 106th American Legion Department of Minnesota Convention in July.

They will need to review the mandates in the Department Constitution & By-Laws.

“They will need to decide whether these mandates are relevant in today’s world,” said Department Adjutant Mike Maxa.

The 19-page document has a constitution of 15 articles, a set of bylaws covering

administration, discipline, rules, rules of order and rules for amendments — all followed by applicable mandates from over the years going back to the first department convention in 1919 in Rochester.

The mandates stem from approved resolutions and some get cleaned off the books every five years if they are found to be pointless. The oldest still in existence is from that 1919 convention. It says, “Urge adoption and implementation of a Universal

Military Training or Universal Service Act.”

All these years later, where members gather and have casual conversations, it is common to hear many of them say Americans should serve their country in one way or another — in civil or military service — for two years.

The mandates take up the bulk of the document, so printing them in the Legionnaire is not possible. However, members can download the Department Constitution & By-Laws in advance of the convention by going to mnlegion.org. With a mouse, hover

on “Department,” then click on “Governing Documents.”

Once there, open the folder that says “Constitution & Bylaws.” Download. Print.

Convention committees typically meet to review resolutions, and committees with resolutions will have to review them, too.

An example of a mandate that needs revision is this one from 2010: “That the Oratorical Contest be held on the District Level before December 31st of each year and the Department Contest no later than January

Continued on Page 11

Trooper says, ‘Crash into me’

Legion to honor quick-thinking officer of the law

MOORHEAD — Have you ever seen the Keanu Reeves movie “Speed”? This story is like that.

Zachary Gruver, a Minnesota state trooper out of the Moorhead office, is the American Legion Department of Minnesota Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer for 2025. His actions saved a young man’s life.

Sam Dutcher was driving a 2022 Honda Pilot near Harwood, N.D., on Sept. 17, 2024, when it began accelerating out of control.

According to multiple news reports, the 18-year-old tried pressing on the brake pedal. He tried undoing the accelerator. Nothing he did would get the midsize SUV to stop or slow down. Dutcher called his mother. She was afraid her son was going to die and called 911.

Dispatchers reached Dutcher, and they discussed other options, like

Continued on Page 7

From radio to food

Tom Lyons is known for Minn. Military Radio, but now he is feeding veterans

By Tim Engstrom

GOLDEN VALLEY — Vietnam veteran Tom Lyons is best known in the Minnesota veterans community as the founder and past host of Minnesota Military Radio.

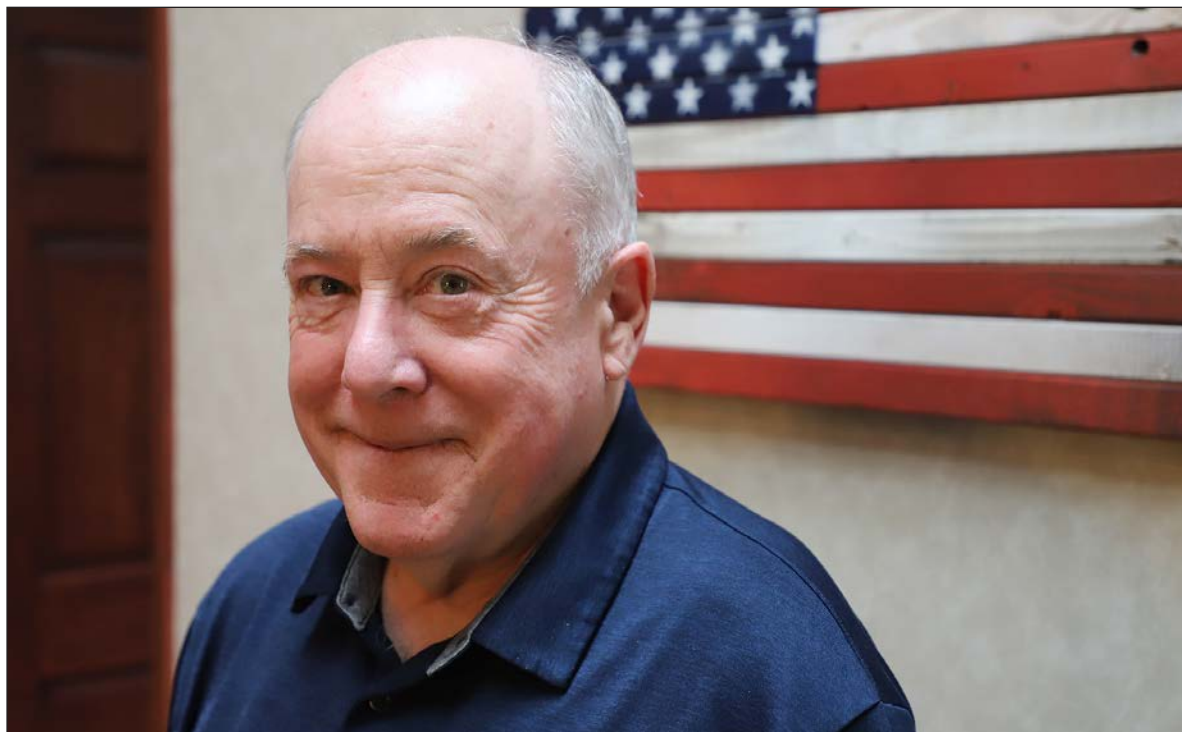
Nowadays, he’s involved in a new cause — feeding veterans.

“It bothers me that there are veterans going to bed at night hungry,” he said. “I’ve reached the conclusion I have to give back.”

In January 2024, studies by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs found that 11 percent of veterans are “food insecure,” meaning they lack reliable access to food, whether it is money, physical limitations, family looking after them or other resources.

The VA decided to OK the use of its system of medical centers to provide food to veterans. The Minneapolis VA was able to use non-appropriated federal funds plus donations from Second Harvest, DAV Foundation and others to get a food pantry rolling in April 2024.

Minneapolis VA Director Pat Kelly doesn’t want the program to rely on federal, state or local grants. He met



Tom Lyons is an Air Force veteran and a Legionnaire with Wayzata Post 118. He is the founder and principal partner of Faelon Partners Ltd. in Golden Valley. He helped to found a nonprofit to fund food distribution for veterans. It is called Minnesota Veterans Food Pantry. Its website is mnvp.org.

with Lyons, DAV of Minnesota Adjutant Butch Whitehead and Minneapolis VA Director of Civic Engagement Rachel Hammer, to come up with ideas.

Whitehead and Lyons told Kelly that they would form a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization to fund the food pantry.

“We’ll be your fundraising arm,”

Lyons said.

“We wanted to launch a separate nonprofit so that we could make sure it had the flexibility to help all Minnesota veterans, not just in the metro,” Whitehead said.

Lyons received the IRS letter by the end of 2024. The nonprofit is called

the Minnesota Veterans Food Pantry. Its website is mnvp.org.

Lyons made the first donation on Jan. 2, 2025. Then he got some Vietnam veteran buddies to pony up. He also set up his account to automatically give. Now, he wants the readers of The Minnesota

Continued on Page 8



Four World War II veterans with B-17 experience spoke at the April 22 World War II History Round Table in St. Paul. From left are Jim Rasmussen of the 100th Bomb Group, Les Schrenk of the 92nd Bomb Group, John Luckadoo of the 100th Bomb Group and Bob Holmstrom of the 492nd Bomb Group.

WWII History Round Table packed for B-17 veterans

ST. PAUL — Centenarian veterans commanded the stage April 22 at the Dr. Harold C. Deutsch WWII History Round Table.

There were 404 years of life experience among four men that evening.

John H. Luckadoo, 103, was the guest of honor. He served as a B-17 Flying Fortress pilot and copilot with the famed 100th Bomb Group of the 8th Air Force. He is the last surviving pilot from the group’s original cadre. He was the subject of the book “Damn Lucky” by Kevin Maurer.

Luckadoo spoke at the April 22

WWII History Round Table, which is a monthly series that takes place at the 3M Auditorium in the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul, except in the summer.

The place was so packed that the organizers had to provide a video feed to a second room. The 3M Auditorium holds 314. (I don’t know what the extra room holds.) It was the highest attendance for the series.

“After experiencing war,” Luckadoo told an attentive crowd, “I can tell you that anybody who goes to war does not come back the same

Continued on Page 9

What's happening?

Legion Day at Target Field is June 25

MINNEAPOLIS — Attend

American Legion Day at Target Field. The Minnesota Twins take on the Seattle Mariners at 6:40 p.m. June 25.

We welcome anyone who is part of the American Legion Family: veterans, relatives,

supporters, Legion Baseball & Softball players, coaches and their families, and anyone who participates in any American Legion program, such as the Riders, Oratorical Contest, Boys and Girls State, Legionville, you name it. We want to have the largest American Legion presence ever at this game.

Be there for all the action. Purchase your discounted tickets here: <https://fevo-enterprise.com/event/American8>

The tickets are \$42 and the seats are a bit past third base.

The purchase deadline is June 20. Commander Carl Moon will toss out the first pitch, and Membership Director Carla Tappainer will raise the U.S. flag.

For groups of 20+ and special requests, please reach out to Liz Pilarski: lizpilarski@twins.com or 612-659-3852.

Community volunteers needed for VA Wheelchair Games

MINNEAPOLIS — The Minneapolis Veterans Affairs Health Care System is looking for volunteers for the National Veterans Wheelchair Games, July 17-22, in Minneapolis — the world's largest adaptive sports and rehabilitation event designed exclusively for U.S. military Veterans



Photo by Jeff Bowen

Veterans in wheelchairs play basketball at the 2024 National Veterans Wheelchair Games in New Orleans.

with disabilities.

Volunteer opportunities are available for ages 10 and up to assist with greeting Veterans at the airport to helping with setup and registration. Register to volunteer. Shifts start at four hours, and groups are welcome to serve as a team.

"We are expecting more than 500 Veteran athletes to join us this summer in Minneapolis," said Director of the Minneapolis VA Medical Center Pat Kelly. "It's important that we provide our Veterans an opportunity to showcase their talents and experience this life-changing event."

This summer marks the 44th year of the National Veterans Wheelchair Games, co-presented by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and Paralyzed Veterans of America. Over 20 competitions, including 11 Paralympic sports are being featured. Most events will take place at the Minneapolis Convention Center. It is also the second time the Minneapolis VA has hosted the event since 2005.

The National Veterans Wheelchair Games inspire Veterans to persevere through daily challenges by exposing them to organized sports and encouraging them to seek recreational opportunities within their communities, regionally, nationally, and beyond.

For questions, email NVW-Gvolunteers@va.gov.

Legionville still accepting campers

BRAINERD — The first session of summer camp at

Legionville begins June 15.

Spots are still open. There is time to register. Dates are:

June 15-20, 2025

June 22-27, 2025

July 6-11, 2025

July 13-18, 2025

July 20-25, 2025

July 27 – Aug 1, 2025

Visit legionville.org to learn about registration. Posts may use gambling dollars to send kids to the camp.

Fort Snelling to recognize women vets

MINNEAPOLIS — Women Veteran Recognition Day happens 1 to 4 p.m. Thursday, June 12, at Historic Fort Snelling, 200 Tower Ave.

Bring a lawn chair. There will be a DJ playing music and food trucks.

A demonstration of historic rifles is at 1 p.m., with a national service officer speaking at 1:15 p.m.

The day celebrates the contributions and sacrifices of women who have served in the military. June 12 is the anniversary of the signing of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948, which allowed women to serve as permanent members of the armed forces, not just temporarily in times of war.

Rosemount helps patient

ROSEMOUNT — Rosemount Post 65 is holding a charitable event 4-8 p.m. Saturday, June 21.

Called Florence's Alzheimer's Benefit Concert, it features live music and a "huge silent auction."

The event honors Florence Mieloszyk and her decedents.

Among the performers is Lakeville musician Thomas Engelhardt, who is lining up other acts.

The event hopes to raise at least \$1,600.

Save date for Summer Bingo

BLOOMINGTON — Bloomington Kennedy Activities Foundation and Bloomington American Legion Post 550 are holding their big annual Summer Bingo event on Monday, July 22, at the Sports Page Bar & Grill.

The action begins at 6 p.m., but arriving early is a good idea to get a seat.

Games are \$7 per packet. There is \$99 payout for games 1-5 and a \$500 payout for overall.

Of course, there are video races, too.

Freeway Ford is the sponsor of Summer Bingo.

Post 550 conducts charitable gambling at the Sports Page. BKAFF and Post 550 work closely together to help local youth activities.

Don't miss Thunder in the Valley

RUSHFORD — The Rushford American Legion Riders Chapter 94 present Thunder in the Valley on Saturday, June 7.

Street-legal vehicles are welcome. The event is held rain or shine.

Entry is \$25 per rider and \$15 for passengers.

Registration is from 9 to 10 a.m. Stops are planned for Beaver Bottoms Saloon in Fountain, American Legion Post 249 in Spring Grove (lunch), Main Street Bar in Hokah, The Shed in Ridgeway and American Legion Post 94 in Rushford.

Proceeds to benefit veterans, veteran programs and their families.

Trolling for the Troops July 5-6

CAMP RIPLEY — Trolling for the Troops is a program of Minnesota Veterans Outdoors, a joint effort by veteran service organizations, including the American Legion Department of Minnesota, to provide outdoor experiences for disabled veterans.

Trolling for the Troops takes place June 5 and 6. It is headquartered at Camp Ripley, with fishing at Mille Lacs Lake and on the Mississippi River.

All meals and lodging are provided free of charge.

Applications were due April 10. Space is always limited.

However, if you want to get involved for 2026, visit mnvet-soutdoors.org.

Minnesota Veterans Outdoors also organizes an annual turkey hunt in the spring and deer hunt in the fall.

Minnesota DAV is in Immediate Need for Additional Volunteer Drivers

Minnesota DAV is in immediate need of additional volunteer drivers. This FREE service provides Veterans with transportation to and from their VA medical appointments and has transported over 15,000 Veterans this year

Contact your nearby VA Medical Center Voluntary Services Office and ask how to become a volunteer driver

Minneapolis: 612-467-2050

St. Cloud: 320-255-6365

www.dav.org/help-dav/volunteer/drive-a-van

Regions in high need of drivers include:
Blue Earth, Brown and Sibley Counties
St. Cloud Area
(Morrison, Mille Lacs, Kanabec & Wright Counties)



You do not need to be a Veteran or DAV member to volunteer. Drivers must be fully vaccinated.

DAV
OF MINNESOTA

PROJECT NEW HOPE

Military Family Retreats at no cost to Veterans



"At Project New Hope, we are driven by our mission - to provide education, training and skills necessary to manage their lives after wartime service."

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO WWW.PROJECTNEWHOPE.NET OR SCAN THIS CODE:

2025 MINNESOTA RETREATS

2025 MAY 2-4
Camp Shetek near Slayton, MN

2025 JUNE 6-8
Osprey Wilds near Sandstone, MN

2025 OCTOBER 3-5
Good Earth Village - Spring Valley, MN

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

Bravo Zulu House opens veteran-specific sober home

Critical gap in care for PTSD is recognized

By Leah Call
Mankato Free Press

WINNEBAGO — Instead of just thanking veterans for their service, Bravo Zulu House sends the message of welcoming them home to a place where they can address challenges.

During the grand opening of the first all-military sober living facility dedicated specifically to serving veterans with PTSD, veteran Mike Gilligan told the audience the phrase “Thank you for your service” is used too often and sometimes abused when talking to veterans.

“There’s two words instead of the five words, ‘Thank you for your service’ that will light a veteran’s eyes, especially the ones that are clouded with PTSD,” Gilligan said. “Those words are ‘Welcome home.’”

Tucked away in Winnebago and surrounded by fields, the facility aims to address the mental health challenges contributing to veteran suicide. Its grand opening was celebrated on Wednesday and will be checking veterans in by mid-June.

As a member of the board of directors, Tim Murray spearheaded the initiative after recognizing a critical gap in veteran care. The facility represents a holistic approach to addressing the challenges faced by veterans returning from service. Murray is also a board member and CEO of Trinity Sober Homes, a St. Paul nonprofit providing shelter and recovery to men who struggle with alcoholism.

“I have the privilege of serving as your



Photo by Casey Ek/Mankato Free Press
Kathy Jorgensen deposits cash into a donation box at the grand opening for the Bravo Zulu House on Wednesday in rural Winnebago. The home, which will serve male veterans suffering from substance abuse and post-traumatic stress disorder, will begin its operation in June.

leader of this small but mighty organization dedicated to the war on PTSD,” he said.

Ret. Gen. Joseph Votel, a board member of the project, said the need for such specialized support is urgent and noted that veterans with substance abuse disorders face significantly higher suicide rates compared to the general population.

Ground broke on the house in September 2024 and the facility is built around an integrated care model intended to support sobriety, physical and mental health and spiritual development. At capacity, the home has 12 beds. Services include counseling

and trauma-informed care, structured fitness programs, canine therapy and hydroponic gardening. On the property sits not only the house with 12 separate bedrooms, but also a warehouse that will eventually house the gym and the hydroponic garden.

Supported by a coalition of partners, including the Mayo Clinic Health System and Housing First Minnesota, the house integrated behavioral health services tailored specifically to veterans’ needs. Sofia Humphries from Housing First Minnesota emphasized the importance of providing a

Continued on Page 21

THE AMERICAN LEGION Department of Minn. Commander’s Project

Department
Commander Carl
Moon’s Project
raises money
for the Veterans
Defense Project.

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

Make checks out
to: **Minnesota
American
Legion
Foundation**
Memo: **Fund 82.**

Fund 82 is the
fund for the
Commander’s
Project. The
foundation
is a 501(c)3.
Gambling funds
are permitted.

The Veterans
Defense Project
defends veterans
and aims to
expand veterans
courts across the
state and nation.

Date of graphic: May 20

Goal:
\$60,000

Thanks to posts
21, 64, 143, 165,
177, Unit 102
and Chapter
560. Thanks
to several
individual
donors, too.

Present:
70% at
\$41,982

Scan the
QR code below
to donate over
any cellphone.



Donate at mnlegion.org



PULL TAB SHREDDING & STORAGE

Pull Tab Services Shredding & Storage

Call us today!
952-758-2980

Best Service
GUARANTEED
Best Price



*Veteran and Family
Owned and Operated*

www.VeteranShredding.net

ON-SITE DOCUMENT DESTRUCTION

The busiest Legion season is kicking in

I hope everyone had a chance to honor and remember our fellow veterans who have retired to the Post Everlasting on this recent Memorial Day. Peggy and I attended the program at Fort Snelling and afterwards the program at the Minneapolis Veterans Home. These are always very moving events.

'Tis the season of testimonials and district conventions. My congratulations to President Judy Ackerman, Commander John Weiss, Director Jody Hassing and Honorary Junior President Teriana Richards on their year. It's been great working together and getting to know one-another.

The district conventions that Peggy and I attended had great turnouts but it is so hard to attend them all due to being scheduled over the same two weekends. Fortunately, I have great vice commanders and a membership director who attended the ones that I was unable to make.

I want to thank all of those who braved the cold and rain

Commander's Column

Carl Moon



over the Legionville Work & Play Weekend, May 16 and 17. They managed to get everything done and still had time for a little fun.

Speaking of Legionville, our School Safety Camp sessions begin weekly on June 15-20; ending July 27- Aug 1, 2025. Please consider sponsoring students for this great educational and fun program. Cost is \$500 per student, and registration is open.

Speaking of great programs, Boys State and Girls State are fast approaching so please also consider sponsoring students who are between their junior and senior years.

Come see your commander, trying to not embarrass himself, throwing out the first pitch at the Twins game on June 25. Tickets are available.

Peggy and I will be riding in the Fourth of July Parade in Forrest Lake. Hopefully, it is rain-free.

Looking forward to Department Convention July 10-12. And finally, please consider donating to my project, the Veterans Defense Project, to help expand veterans courts to our rural counties. I was hoping to raise \$60,000, and we are currently at \$43,182.10. My sincere thank you to all who have contributed.

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



Visibility zero today and yesterday it was 50 degrees. Minnesota! Typical!

Mail Call

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

Minn. Legion scholarship mattered

My name is John Kendall. I was a recipient of the 2023 Minnesota American Legion Baseball Scholarship.

I used the money to pay for my tuition at Lake Superior College's aviation maintenance technology program. The scholarship was very helpful to me in graduating college debt-free, which was a goal of mine coming out of high school. I have now accepted a job as an aircraft mechanic in Blaine and would like to thank the Minnesota American Legion for assisting me with my education, which has allowed me to start a career in a field I love.

Thank you.

John Kendall
played for Virginia Post 239

2 columns really inspired good in people

Thank you for the May issue, especially the Chaplain's Corner and the SAL Update.

Chaplain Kelley Ackerman's affirmation of the many ways people express their faith and spirituality is so important in these days when so many struggle to not be angry about differences.

Then there was SAL Detachment Commander John Weiss's story about a VA nurse overhearing a patient's veteran friend on the phone contemplating suicide. Her heroic call to the police in the city where that veteran was triggered a team effort that saved his life. Stories like that always give people ideas for good.

Larry Johnson
Bloomington Post 550
Army Medic 1970-72
Veteran Resilience Project
Volunteer

Boys State is coming up next week

The 76th session of Minnesota's American Legion Boys State will soon be in session. June 8-14 is the gathering time at St. John's University.

American Legion members are invited to observe for a day. Sunday is an organizational and

"get to know each other" period. Monday includes city campaigning and the election of city officers. Tuesday and Wednesday the boys will be involved with the political process — city and county caucusing and the State Party Convention where nominees for state offices will be selected by each party. There will be more city business, as well as an introduction to county government

Election of legislators and county board members will lead to Thursday's meetings of the Legislature and county boards. Thursday night each party has a half hour presentation of their candidates and party platform to all of Boys State. Friday includes the election of state officers, legislative and county board activities, and finishes with a choir concert and commencement speaker.

Saturday, scholarships and other awards are presented as the week concludes. Come see what your sponsorship provides for the young men from your post.

For further information, visit www.mnboysstate.org. Thank you for your continued support of this valuable program!

Neil Kruse
Counselor
Minn. Boys State

The one-dimensional consumer lens

'Tis spring cleaning and garage sale season. Items are sold or donated that no longer serve us. Good deals are aplenty.

The way of life during the 1920s began to change for Americans. One pronounced way was a rise in wages which paired well with the Industrial Revolution's increase in machine-made products. More stores and financial opportunities also became available.

Buying goods for the home, shop and lifestyle moved from a chore to an adventure as options increased. Many other changes have occurred in the last 100 years, whereby our relationships have become more transactional. Transactions are more about fairness and less about forgiveness, compassion, kindness, mercy, grace and sometimes even honesty.

A consumer-minded person says: "Did you get what you paid for?" and "Did you get a good deal?" or "What will you have to give up?"

Time is viewed as an

Chaplain's Corner

Kelley Ackerman



investment and too much time is costly. When considering the cost of a relationship, purchase or hobby, at least a 50/50 transaction is expected. If it goes above or below, then it wasn't fair. If we get more, or a valuable item for less, well then, we are the winner and the seller is the loser — not a fair, beneficent exchange.

In today's marketplace, the consumer usually has the upper hand, for options are many, and if not satisfied there, you will go elsewhere.

I wonder what it would be like if the multi-dimensional rich, spiritual strengths of grace, mercy, and forgiveness had an equal footing along with fairness in our relationships? What would our response be like if someone didn't get our order exactly how we ordered it?

Reaching into our spiritual bank to give mercy deposits,

cred- its that might not be immediately evident.

I have seen grace extended at many American Legion events in ways that let me know spiritual values of honoring purpose and respect remain. When practicing grace, trusting the outcome is not in our hands, but our response is.

How we treat others when the consumer lens is not worn says everything about our character, as their character is not in demand to produce the same result. Let God be the final judge of another's character.

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

Fund 85 Run changes and saves lives

Hello, Legion Family!

This year has gone by so fast! I can't believe that the Fund 85 Run is in the final stages of planning and is fast approaching. The kickoff party will be July 23 at the Forest Lake American Legion Post 225.

Social will begin 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 the Country Inn & Suites in Forest Lake.

Thursday evening, we will be staying in McGregor, and a block of rooms is available at the Crossroads. Friday evening, we will stay in Walker; there is a block of rooms at the Walker Hotel and at the Walker Inn. On Saturday we will finish the run in Paynesville at approximately 5 p.m. There is a block of rooms at the Paynesville Inn & Suites.

The Mission/Legacy Run will be hosted by Walker American Legion Riders on Aug. 16. There is a block of rooms at the Walker Hotel and at the Walker Inn. The details will be posted on Facebook and on our website: www.mnalr.org.

The American Legion Department Convention will be July 10-12 in Willmar. The MNALR will at the same location on Friday, July 11, at 4:30 pm. 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. I am looking forward to sharing all we have done this year with The American Legion.

If you would like assistance setting up a chapter at your post, please let me or your district

Legion Riders

Jody Hassing



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.

God bless and keep the rubber side down.

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

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.

To advertise: 651-424-4612 or use the email below
Subscription: \$20 for non-members for one year or \$35 for two years. Members receive the Legionnaire as part of their dues. The Minnesota Legionnaire delivers anywhere in the United States, its territories or its overseas military addresses. Under our postal status, we cannot mail to international addresses.

Address: The Minnesota Legionnaire, 20 W. 12th St., Room 300A, St. Paul, MN 55155-2000

Phone: 651-291-1800, 866-259-9163

Fax: 651-291-1057

Email: tengstrom@mnlegion.org

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

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
Ammann, Martin T.	83	4/21/25	Navy	Vietnam	22	Rosetown Memorial Post 542
Note: He served aboard the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise, participating in the blockade of Cuba during the Cuban Missile Crisis. (History buffs know the Enterprise was the world's first nuclear-powered ship.)						
Armstrong, Richard L.	80	4/10/25	Army	Vietnam	37	Rochester Post 92
Aune, Patrick D.	77	unk.	Air Force	Vietnam	35	Chanhassen Post 580
Beavers, LaVerne A. "Bob"	99	2/22/25	Navy	WWII	38	Brainerd Post 255
Beech, John E.	80	5/10/25	Army	Vietnam	42	Lewiston Post 90
Note: He served a tour in Vietnam.						
Benson, Robert W.	96	5/13/25	Army	Korea	31	Owatonna Post 77
Berg, Gordon R.	80	4/4/25	Navy	Vietnam	53	Blackduck Post 372
Bisted, Gerald L. "Moose"	83	8/29/24	Army	Vietnam	19	Brainerd Post 255
Bodin, Warner D.	87	5/1/25	Air Force	Korea	52	Cloquet Post 262
Bohn, Gerald E.	98	3/13/25	Army	WWII	24	Chaska Post 57
Boughton, Stephen L.	86	2/27/25	Army	Vietnam	28	Brainerd Post 255
Brendt, Bruce R.	85	4/28/25	Army	Vietnam	42	Austin Post 91
Breth, Eugene L.	90	4/21/25	Army	Korea	38	Holdingford Post 211
Brundell, Bruce B.	83	3/8/25	Army	Vietnam	7	Alexandria Post 87
Note: He served a tour in Vietnam as a helicopter mechanic.						
Bzdok, Ambrose	90	4/26/25	Navy	Korea	53	Little Falls Post 46
Clark, Michael H.	78	3/22/25	Army	Vietnam	33	Anoka Post 102
Note: He was the founder of a local honor guard.						
Clark, Patrick J.	75	1/10/25	Army	Vietnam	27	Anoka Post 102
Note: He was stationed in Panama.						
Couette, Michael J.	72	4/24/25	Army	Vietnam	31	Maple Lake Post 131
Note: He specialized in long-range artillery and was a member of the 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley, Kan. He also served in Germany.						
Czaplewski, Robert F.	93	4/12/25	Air Force	Korea	65	Spring Valley Post 68
Note: He was a ground radio operator serving in Japan.						
Dahl, Hans A.	96	3/27/25	Air Force	Korea	72	Willmar Post 167
Note: He served a tour in Germany.						
DeBates, Robert J.	94	4/15/25	Army	Korea	36	Adrian Post 32
Deering, Verne B.	89	4/10/25	Army	Vietnam	13	Little Falls Post 46
Note: A baseball phenom, the Cleveland Indians drafted him out of St. Cloud State, then later he played baseball for the Army in Europe.						
Dehning, Scott W.	63	12/24	Navy	Leb/Gren	4	Brainerd Post 255
Dewalt, Donald H.	89	5/1/25	Marines	Vietnam	4	Rochester Post 92
Dittel, Lawrence A.	92	4/9/25	Marines	Korea	28	Rosetown Memorial Post 542
Note: He received the Purple Heart fighting in the Korean War. He went on to serve as a sheriff's deputy and a firefighter.						
Doering, Lee E.	97	5/6/25	Army	WWII	78	Alexandria Post 87
Note: He served in the 19th Infantry Regiment of the 24th Infantry Division in Occupied Japan. (He spent many years as a member with Marshall Post 118.)						
Engstrom, David L.	78	4/5/25	Army	Vietnam	41	Worthington Post 5
Erdmann, Dean V.	79	5/5/25	Navy	Vietnam	19	Rochester Post 92
Erickson, Dale E.	91	4/5/25	Air Force	Korea	58	Minneapolis-Richfield Post 435
Note: He was stationed in England as an airplane mechanic.						
Falconer, James A.	84	9/12/24	Army	Vietnam	60	Brainerd Post 255
Note: He was stationed in Panama.						
Fargo, Richard A. "Rick"	77	9/22/24	Army	Vietnam	2	Brainerd Post 255
Note: He served as a first lieutenant in the Old Guard (3rd Infantry Regiment) in Washington, D.C.						
Farley, Raymond B.	91	4/12/25	Army	Korea	66	Alexandria Post 87
Floyd, David F.	56	4/27/25	Navy	Vietnam	22	Bemidji Post 14
Franzen, Richard B.	79	3/24/25	Navy	Vietnam	30	Winona Post 9
Note: He served in the Navy Reserve for nine years after three in the regular Navy.						
Gallagher, Robert L.	81	11/11/24	Army	Cold	4	Brainerd Post 255
Glerner, Jon R.	86	4/9/25	Army	Vietnam	39	Rochester Post 92
Note: He served in Germany.						
Goodell, Richard L.	87	4/30/25	Army	Korea	29	St. Peter Post 37
Note: He was stationed in West Berlin.						
Grams, John E.	90	5/13/25	Army	Korea	60	St. Paul North End Post 474
Note: He served as a teletype operator and was stationed in Georgia. Then he went to Germany, where he played basketball for an Army squad over there. He was department vice commander 2011-12. He was 4th District commander 1987-88. He is a post past commander and adjutant, among other post roles. At the national level, he served as vice chairman of the Foreign Relations Council in 1995-96.						
Hayenga, Bruce E.	82	3/28/25	Army	Vietnam	30	Lowry Post 253
Note: He was stationed in Germany.						
Heinecke, Hugh D. "Buzz"	90	9/20/24	Army	Vietnam	48	Minneapolis-Richfield Post 435
Note: He was drafted, trained in missiles and served in Kitzengen, Germany.						
Hengel, George W. "Buddy"	81	4/4/25	unk.	Vietnam	39	Bloomington Post 550
Higginbotham, Keith W.	75	4/13/25	Army	Vietnam	26	Bagley Post 16
Holling, Bill H.	101	12/14/24	Army	WWII	58	Hardwick Post 478
Note: Born in Germany, he came with his parents to Minnesota when he was 1, in late 1924. They farmed, and, in 1934, they sold the farm and returned to Germany. After one month, they came back to Minnesota and rented a farm. (For context, Germany in 1934 was turning upside down politically. It was the year Adolf Hitler declared himself Führer, becoming an absolute dictator.) In 1944, at age 21, Holling was drafted into the Army and fought honorably against his country of birth in the Battle of the Bulge.						
Horn, Devin E.	42	4/14/25	Army	Iraq	19	Deer Creek Post 283
Note: He served in Operation Iraqi Freedom with the Minnesota National Guard's Apache Company, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 194th Armor Regiment in 2004-05.						
Isebrand, Bruce K.	81	3/17/25	Navy	Vietnam	40	Brainerd Post 255
Jacobson, Curtis V.	98	3/29/25	Army	WWII	47	Willmar Post 167
Jenson, Donald G.	93	1/31/25	Army	Korea	73	Brainerd Post 255
Note: He served with the 194th Tank Battalion for two years during the Korean War. After, he was commissioned as an officer in Armor Branch (tanks) and later served in Quartermaster. He was employed at Camp Ripley from 1956 to 1986, then was the federal government's military property and fiscal officer for all of Minnesota. He retired in 1991 as a colonel after 40 years of service in the active-duty Army and the Army National Guard. He is memorialized at the Court of Honor at Camp Ripley.						
Johnson, Carl M.	91	4/15/25	Army	Korea	20	St. Peter Post 37
Johnson, Richard N.	94	3/27/25	Air Force	Korea	20	Bemidji Post 14
Note: He served for seven years as an MP. He studied crime at Hamline, then became a parole officer. Soon, he was hired by the Bureau of Indian Affairs as a criminal investigator and served two tours. One was on the Red Lake Reservation; the other at the Choctaw Reservation in Philadelphia, Miss., which coincided with Southern civil unrest in the 1960s and the killing of three civil rights workers. He became a despised "Yankee outsider," according to his obituary. (He later worked for the Bureau of Land Management in the Pacific Northwest.)						



John Grams

DRIVE HOME YOUR SUPPORT!



Purchase a plate and support MN Military members, Veterans and their families.
MinnesotaVeteran.org/SOT



Promote your American Legion post on our cutting-edge BingosWHERE app!



Kelly Hendrickson
612-801-9067
kelly@bingoswhere.com

161 FERNBERG RD.
ELY, MINNESOTA 55731
218-365-6900
VETERANSONTHELAKERESORT.ORG



OPEN YEAR-ROUND!
FOR ALL VETERANS, DISABLED PUBLIC, THEIR FAMILIES & FRIENDS.





Help wanted

Age 55+ workers needed for part-time light custodial work at rest areas and state parks in Minnesota.
Apply at www.greenviewmn.com or call Green View at 651-639-1913.



Veterans Linkage Line
your link to experts
minnesotaveteran.org | 1-888-LinkVet

HELP IS HERE
FOR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES



SERVING MINNESOTA VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

All-Family Events Calendar

June 7: 2nd District Convention, Pipestone Post 6
June 7: 5th District Convention, Holiday Inn/Green Mill (I-35W & 94th), Bloomington
June 7: 8th District Convention, Taconite Post 301
June 7: 6th District Convention, Brainerd Post 255
June 7: 10th District Convention, Buffalo Post 270
June 7: 9th District Convention, E. Grand Forks Post 157
June 8-14: Minnesota Boys State, St. John's Univ.
June 15-21: Minnesota Girls State, Bethel University
June 15-Aug. 1: Six weeklong sessions of youth camping at Legionville
June 25: American Legion Day at Target Field, Minnesota Twins vs. Seattle Mariners, Minneapolis
June 27-28: SAL Detachment of Minnesota Convention, Morris Post 29
July 4: Independence Day, local ceremonies
July 9: Minnesota American Legion & Auxiliary Department Executive Committee Meetings, Willmar
July 10-12: 106th Department Convention, Willmar
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: Fund 85 Ride, location in N. Minn. TBD
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. 2-3: Minnesota American Legion Fastpitch Softball State Tournament, Fairmont
Aug. 8-10: Minnesota American Legion Baseball Div. II Jr. State Tournament, Hayfield
Aug. 6-10: AL Baseball Central Plains Regional, Fargo
Aug. 14-17: American Legion World Series, Shelby, N.C.
Aug. 8-10: Auxiliary Junior Fun Weekend, Legionville
Aug. 16: Minnesota Legacy Run, Walker
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: Amporee, Legionville
Sept. 11-14: Minnesota ALR Romp, Legionville
Sept. 15: Sons of The American Legion Birthday
Sept. 28-30: SAL Disabled Veterans Turkey Hunt, Legionville



• POLITICAL BUTTONS WANTED! •

Collector buys all types of old political buttons, badges, ribbons, posters and misc. campaign items.

• Call or text Paul: 952-200-7490 •

Advertising Material

Estate Lawyer

- Trusts & Wills
- Wealth Transfers
- Health Directives
- Business Succession
- Firearm Trusts
- Elder Matters
- Probate



Attorney Jasper Berg

952-222-9462

SERVING ALL AREAS OF MINNESOTA



IAJ LAW, LLC
LawyerJ.com

Taps	Continued from Page 5					
Johnstone, Richard	87	4/27/25	Army	Cold	4	Mora Post 201
Note: He patrolled the German-Czech border.						
Keller, Fred W.	96	5/17/25	Navy	Korea	55	Backus Post 368
Note: He served aboard the attack transport USS Okanogan and dock landing ship USS Comstock in the Far East during the war.						
Klang, James B.	89	2/5/25	Army	Korea	47	Brainerd Post 255
Note: He served 30 years with the National Guard.						
Klava, John C.	88	4/20/25	Army	Vietnam	64	White Bear Lake Post 168
Kotula, Thomas J.	94	11/25/24	Air Force	Korea	10	Brainerd Post 255
Note: He served as a dentist stationed at Norton AFB in San Bernadino, Calif.						
Kreuser, Bruce D.	71	2/7/25	Army	Vietnam	28	Chaska Post 57
Laackmann, Marvin L.	90	2/7/25	Army	Korea	51	Hardwick Post 478
Lacher, Larry P.	77	5/2/25	Marines	Vietnam	25	Chanhassen Post 580
Note: He served for six years including a tour in Vietnam.						
Langerak, James R.	89	4/22/25	AF/Navy	Korea	9	Bemidji Post 14
Larsen, David L.	86	4/11/25	Army	Vietnam	17	Hutchinson Post 96
Lehnen, Glenn H.	80	4/19/25	Marines	Vietnam	33	Chisago City Post 272
Leonard, William E.	74	4/25/25	Army	Vietnam	49	Morris Post 29
Lindquist, Derald E.	91	11/23/24	Army	Vietnam	6	Appleton Post 72
Loegering, Jerome A.	92	3/31/25	Army	Korea	47	Barnesville Post 153
Loney, Corey J.	81	9/30/24	Air Force	Vietnam	3	Brainerd Post 255
Note: He served in Vietnam as a data analyst.						
Lukens, Alan L.	90	5/22/24	unk.	Korea	42	Brainerd Post 255
Lundin, Palmer B. "Tiny"	88	4/14/25	Army	Vietnam	17	Bagley Post 16
Madsen, Arnold D.	93	4/26/25	Army	Korea	1	Fairmont Post 36
Note: He was stationed in Japan.						
Malcomson, Clark A.	95	3/12/25	Air Force	Korea	37	Lindstrom Post 83
Note: He was a navigator on a B-29 Superfortress.						
Malenke, Donald E.	83	5/14/25	Army	Vietnam	39	Round Lake Post 461
Note: He served in France during the Berlin Crisis of 1961.						
McCalla, Roger D.	76	2/22/25	Army	Vietnam	1	Minnesota Post 1982
Meer, Daniel J.	59	4/3/25	Army	Persian Gulf	15	Albany Post 482
Note: He had a 22-year career in the Wisconsin Army Reserves and National Guard, including a deployment to Iraq.						
Meyer, Ernest	97	4/4/25	Army	WWII	16	Willmar Post 167
Meyer, Jerome A.	78	4/19/25	Army	Vietnam	31	Hutchinson Post 96
Miller, John Jr. "Jay"	97	2/26/25	MM/AF	WWII/Korea	74	Monticello Post 260
Note: He was a past post commander and a longtime 40&8 member. As a general contractor, he helped build the existing post home.						
Modica, Darrell D.	88	4/6/25	Air Force	Vietnam	26	Willmar Post 167
Note: He served as post chaplain and on the Post Executive Committee. He served on the post honor guard playing "Taps" and placing flags at cemeteries.						
Montgomery, Timothy J.	79	4/1/25	Army	Vietnam	5	Waite Park Post 428
Note: He served in Vietnam.						
Mudick, Dale R.	79	5/7/25	Army	Vietnam	4	New Ulm Post 132
Note: He served in Germany, then volunteered for Vietnam, where he became a forward observer. He was awarded the Bronze Star for actions against hostile forces, and the sacrifices he made for his country remained with him for life.						
Nelson, Jimmie E.	95	1/12/25	Army	Korea	17	Bagley Post 16
Nelson, Thorild K. "Tory"	94	5/4/25	Army	Korea	7	Nicollet Post 510
Nelson, Werner H.	87	1/31/25	Army	Vietnam	47	Brainerd Post 255
Nettestad, Chester F. "Chet"	78	4/14/25	Air Force	Vietnam	57	Pelican Rapids Post 17.
Note: He spent eight years in the Minnesota National Guard, then 22 with the Happy Hooligans of the North Dakota Air National Guard, where he was a master sergeant. He served many years as post commander and on the post honor/color guard.						
Nobrega, Fred T.	90	5/11/25	Navy	Vietnam	31	Rochester Post 92
Note: He volunteered for the Naval School of Aviation Medicine in Pensacola, Fla., where he learned to fly and underwent survival training. He was assigned to the Navy's Aerospace Crew Laboratory in Philadelphia where he worked on the early days of the Apollo Project and from which he received a letter of commendation.						
Nordby, Dale E.	86	10/18/24	Marines	Vietnam	10	Brainerd Post 255
Nystrom, Arthur W.	99	11/7/24	Army	WWII	71	Brainerd Post 255
Note: He served in the Army Air Forces as a waist gunner on a B-24 Liberator with the 702nd Bomb Squadron, 445th Bomb Group, 8th Air Force, in Tibenham, England. He flew 35 combat missions from Sept. 28, 1944, to April 20, 1945. He received France's Legion of Honor Medal.						
Olson, Kim I.	70	4/8/25	Army	Vietnam	47	Bagley Post 16
Ommen, Duane F.	91	3/11/25	Army	Korea	5	Walker Post 134
Note: A Ranger, he served on several dangerous missions behind enemy lines, leading his squadron back to safety. He received the Bronze Star and Purple Heart for his actions in the war.						
Ostrowski, Lawrence "Larry"	94	12/4/24	Army	Korea	25	Brainerd Post 255
Note: He enlisted at 17 and received the Purple Heart by the time he was discharged at age 20. His obituary doesn't indicate where he got the injury, but the timeline fits for being wounded in the first year of fighting in Korea.						
Parisian, Jack M.	94	4/28/25	Air Force	Korea	73	Osseo-Maple Grove Post 172
Note: He was stationed at Hamilton AFB, Calif.						
Peppel, Glen O.	88	6/20/24	Army	Korea	48	Brainerd Post 255
Peterson, Ronald L.	82	4/10/25	Army	Vietnam	52	Bagley Post 16
Pfeiffer, J.C.	84	4/1/25	Navy	Vietnam	38	Winona Post 9
Randall, James L.	86	7/3/24	Army	Korea	44	Brainerd Post 255
Ranger, Harold E.	80	4/16/25	Navy	Vietnam	6	Albert Lea Post 56
Reiter, Anthony J.	98	4/21/25	Navy	WWII	9	Rosetown Memorial Post 542
Note: He joined at 17 and served as a seaman aboard the battleship USS West Virginia during the battles of Surigao Strait, Leyte Gulf, Iwo Jima and Okinawa. His obituary says he just may have been the "last man standing" from his ship. Later, he was involved in St. Paul and Ramsey County politics, including holding the position of county land commissioner.						
Richardson, Frank M.	93	5/16/25	Air Force	Korea	34	Rochester Post 92
Rients, Arnold H. Jr.	78	5/10/23	Air Force	Vietnam	53	Jackson Post 130
Rose, Arnold R. "Dick"	90	4/14/25	Army	Korea	7	Rosetown Memorial Post 542
Rudie, Orlean P.	93	3/27/25	Air Force	Korea	47	Pelican Rapids Post 17
Ruppert, David M.	75	3/27/25	A/N Reserve	Vietnam	16	Winona Post 9
Note: He served in the Army National Guard 1972-87, then Navy Reserve 1987-96, totaling 24 years.						
Sabatke, Donald A.	92	5/8/25	Air Force	Korea	9	Rochester Post 92
Samuelson, Charles L.	94	2/25/25	Army	Korea	39	Cannon Falls Post 142
Samuelson, Marlo	83	4/7/25	Army	Vietnam	46	Monticello Post 260
Schackel, David H.	81	12/16/24	Army	Vietnam	57	Alexandria Post 87
Schindler, Edward J.	87	12/3/22	Army	Vietnam	14	Anoka Post 102
Schulte, Joseph B.	81	4/16/25	Army	Vietnam	23	St. Paul Business & Professional Post 450
Note: He was post commander in 2010, 2011 and 2012.						
Schuster, Donald D.	89	3/4/25	Navy	Korea	36	Chaska Post 57
Scott, Dwight R.	93	3/12/25	unk.	Korea	47	Bloomington Post 550
Smith, Patrick W.	89	3/28/25	Marines	Korea	69	Le Center Post 108

Endorsements

Gessler endorsed for department historian

On April 7, Spam Post 570 in Austin endorsed Sandy Gessler for department historian.

Gessler currently serves as the historian for Post 570 and for the 1st District.

She is a past commander for Post 41 in Grafton, N.D. She resides in Albert Lea now. She has been a Legionnaire for 46 years.

She is interested in having a Minnesota entry in the American Legion National Historian Contest.

She participated in it while living in Florida.

Gessler served in the regular Army from September 1975 to May 1977 and was honorably discharged. She served in the North Dakota National Guard from April 1981 to June 1985, also honorably. Later, she served honorably in the Nebraska National Guard and the Army Reserve in Florida. With the Reserve, she deployed to Iraq for Operation Enduring Freedom in 2003.

Her final military stint was again with the North Dakota National Guard, from 2008 to 2012, when she was honorably discharged with a medical disability. She has a 100 percent VA rating.

In the military, she served in dispatcher and transportation roles. In the years between serving, she was having children.

She has three grown children, ages 26, 45 and 48.



Sandy Gessler



State Trooper Zach Gruver stands with rescued driver Sam Dutcher, who was at the wheel of a runaway SUV.

Honda Pilot reached speeds over 100 mph

Continued from Page 1

putting the vehicle in neutral. Nothing worked.

Clay County Deputy Zach Johnson was speaking to Dutcher when the Pilot picked up even more speed. The computer system had taken over. They tried stop sticks to pop his tires, and that didn't work.

With police cars following him, Dutcher would cross through busy intersections and enter Minnesota on Clay County Road 26 heading east. News reports say he was reaching 113 mph as he sped toward Hitterdal. The problem was that about 3 miles east of Hitterdal, the county road ends and gravel begins. After 1 more mile, the gravel turns north, and going straight at high speed was no longer an option.

Trooper Gruver took action before the pavement ran out. He sped past Dutcher at 130 mph while Deputy Johnson spoke with Dutcher on the phone. Johnson told Gruver to crash into the back of the State Patrol car.

When the two vehicles collided, the Honda's computer detected a crash and slowed it

down. Dutcher's brakes worked once again.

The officers and Dutcher received praise, for their actions under pressure, from people across the country and spoke with ABC's "Good Morning America" in October 2024.

Gruver said if he did anything differently, it would have been to attempt the crash to stop the Honda before speeding through Hitterdal, which has a busy railroad through it.

On top of it all, Gruver and his wife were weeks away from the birth of their first child.

Moorhead American Legion Post 21 Commander Paul Leeman nominated Gruver for the Outstanding Officer honor. Gruver has been a trooper for five years. He is a graduate of Moorhead High School.

He previously worked as a police officer in Glyndon and Moorhead before becoming a state trooper. He volunteers with youth events held by the Moorhead Police Activities League, such as Shop with a Cop or hockey games.

Gruver will receive the American Legion honor at the Department Convention in July.

NaSalle backed for department vice commander



Steven NaSalle

Steven NaSalle has been endorsed for department vice commander by Adamson-Norman Post 30 in Fergus Falls.

NaSalle is the current commander for the 9th District, having served in the role since 2023. He has been a Legionnaire for 23 years.

He is a retired U.S. Air Force veteran, serving from 1981 to 1992 with combat deployments to the Grenada Invasion of 1983 and to the Persian Gulf War of 1991. He was with TACP (Tactical Air

Control Party). The Air Force would attach him to Army units to call in airstrikes. Because he was Airborne-qualified, he often served with Airborne infantry.

He was chaplain for Chanhasen Post 580 in 2020-21. He was commander for Chaska Post 57 in 2017-20. He served as 3rd District vice commander in 2020-22. He was 9th District vice commander 2022-24.

He is the chair of the 9th District National Security/Foreign

Relations Committee and represents the 9th District on the Legionville Board of Directors. He is a past 9th District director for the American Legion Riders and continues to be a member with Moorhead Chapter 21. He is a member of Moorhead SAL Squadron 21, too.

At the department level, he is on the Credentials Committee.

He and his wife live in Fergus Falls. He has four grown children. The oldest son, Anthony, serves in the Kansas National Guard.

Siats supported for department vice cmdr.

Dahlgren-Ettestad Post 499 of Northome has endorsed Daniel Siats for department vice commander for the 8th and 10th districts.

Siats is a 50-year member of the American Legion and PUFL. He served in the Army 101st Airborne Division from May 1972 to May 1975 at Fort Campbell, Ky., and was

an infantry squad leader.

In his post, he has been communications director, vice commander and for the past four years commander.

In the 8th District, he has served as interim commander and vice commander for the Border Area. He is also a graduate of the Minnesota

American Legion College.

He and his wife, Ann, have been married for 50 years and live near Northome, which is the furthest west post in district.

Ann is the 8th District Auxiliary Americanism chairman and works closely with the local school district for Americanism!



Daniel Siats

Ehrich endorsed for department vice cmdr.

Myron Ehrich has been endorsed by Lanmego Post 295 of West Concord and the 1st District for department vice commander. He served in the U.S. Marines from 1972 until 1976. His father was a World War II Army veteran.

At the post level, he has served as commander for 15 years, adjutant for two years and membership director for 10 years. At the district level, he served as a county commander, chaplain, sergeant-at-arms, membership director and commander.

He has served on several district committees.

Ehrich has been a Legionnaire for 27 years. He is also an active member of the Marine Corps League, Vietnam Veterans of America and the 40&8.



Myron Ehrich

Taps

Continued from Page 6

Note: He was past post commander.

Smith, Robert J.	81	4/17/25	Army	Vietnam	11	Backus Post 368
Sprink, Arthur M.	97	4/8/25	Army	Korea	47	Edgerton Post 42
Note: He served at Fort Richardson, Alaska.						
Stander, Nevin W.	82	4/22/25	Army	Vietnam	12	Spring Valley Post 68
Swabb, James P.	92	12/14/24	Air Force	Korea	1	Brainerd Post 255
Note: He served in Japan during the war.						
Swanson, Victor W.	88	5/6/25	Army	Vietnam	4	Northfield Post 84
Swenson, Orville P.	87	4/9/25	Army	Vietnam	50	Cloquet Post 262
Note: He served with the 18th Surgical Hospital in Vietnam.						
Thompson, Dennis F.	79	4/10/25	Army	Cold	38	Owatonna Post 77
Thompson, LeRoy I.	91	2/22/25	Army	Korea	32	Brainerd Post 255
Thorson, Gary A.	85	4/18/25	Air Force	Vietnam	20	Bagley Post 16
Note: He served in the telephone maintenance office at bases in Louisiana, California and Greenland.						
Timm, Albin A. Sr.	92	4/17/25	Army	Korea	18	Zumbrota Post 183
Van Dam, Henry M.	86	4/8/25	Army	Vietnam	47	Chandler Post 338
Ware, Daniel J.	89	5/4/25	Marines	Korea	7	Stewartville Post 164
Weinzierl, Andrew J.	99	4/15/25	Navy	WWII	80	Waconia Post 150
Wersinger, Gerald D.	80	4/9/25	Army	Vietnam	18	Benson Post 62
Williams, John A.	97	11/14/24	Navy	Korea	71	Brainerd Post 255
Wilson, James A.	82	2/9/25	Army	Vietnam	14	Brainerd Post 255
Witt, Steven R.	78	5/7/25	Navy	Vietnam	46	Rochester Post 92

Note: He was in the Seabees.

Wuert, Arthur H. 91 4/16/25 Army Korea 68 Lake Henry Post 612

Note: He was a member of the drill team.

This firefighter combines skill and determination

SLEEPY EYE — The American Legion Department of Minnesota Outstanding Firefighter for 2025 is an assistant fire marshal for the Sleepy Eye Fire Department who has loads of passion for the job.

Shaun Heiderscheidt was 35 when he joined the department in May 2013. Older than most rookies, he jumped right in with a thirst for knowledge and quickness to boot. It was hard to beat him to take his favorite seat on the fire truck, according to his nomination papers.

"Shaun's vast knowledge because of schooling and his ability to work with others toward a common goal have made these intense situations calmer and easier to work," wrote Sleepy Eye 1st Assistant Chief Scott Krzmarzick.

He said Heiderscheidt has been involved in countless fires, but he also is a great teacher and leader for young recruits. He is now the assistant fire marshal.

The nomination papers told about a fire west of Sleepy Eye. A farmhouse had a fire in the attic, with children possibly in an upstairs bedroom. Heiderscheidt was part of the first truck to arrive and his team made entry, found

the kids and got them out. Other firefighters with building-saving knowledge arrived, and they tried to attack the fire from within. However, high winds weren't helping, and the fire crawled through stud cavities until it surrounded the firefighters.

They shifted to an exterior attack. Heiderscheidt got the ladder in place, and the crew went on top. The roof "had turned to Jell-O" and collapsed a few minutes after they got off. Not one to give up on the structure, Heiderscheidt decided to remove the bottom row of siding and

spray water up each stud cavity. "It was hard work, but it paid off," Krzmarzick wrote. "We were able to extinguish the flames and save countless photo albums, keepsakes and family memories for these people. Not all important saves are for a life."

Heiderscheidt volunteers by speaking to businesses and schools and doing the community education on fire prevention. He has a wife and two children.

He will be at the Department Convention to accept his award. He was nominated by Sleepy Eye Post 7 Commander Donald Gedrose and Adjutant Betty Jass.



Shaun Heiderscheidt



LEGION NIGHT AT TARGET FIELD WILL BE WED., JUNE 25!



Inmates, prison officials and Commander Carl Moon stand up for the chartering ceremony for Post 1918. The meeting had about 30 men.

Minn. Legion charts new post in a prison

By Steve Brooks

MOOSELAKE—Minnesota Post 1918 in Moose Lake Correctional Facility just the second to charter in one of the state's prisons.

Because a Minnesota Legionnaire is a strong believer in second chances, the American Legion department now has its second post based inside a prison.

American Legion Post 1918 recently had its chartering ceremony inside of Minnesota Correctional Facility-Moose Lake, which consists of two separate facilities. The post was chartered in the medium-security facility there that houses roughly 1,000 men.

The idea of chartering the post came from Legionnaire and Sons of The American Legion member Glenn Mueller, whose membership is through American Legion Post 90 in Lewiston, Minn., but who also is serving as membership chairman for Post 1918. Mueller has held multiple positions at the post, district and department level and took a job at the prison after his wife retired from the Mayo Clinic and they moved into the area.

Following the graduation ceremony after Mueller completed his training to become a plant maintenance engineer at Moose Lake, he said he stood up to salute the U.S. flag, which drew the attention of one of the assistant wardens.

"I was asked, 'Are you a veteran?' and I said, 'Yes, I am.

I'm very proud of my service,'" Mueller said. "I was asked, 'Will you work with the veterans here?' I said, 'Sure, I will, in a heartbeat.' I met with them a month later, and I met with them a second time and asked, 'Would anybody be interested in starting an American Legion post?' I looked it up and saw a lot of other states are doing it, so why don't we try it?"

Mueller said starting the post is an attempt to give its members a leg up when they leave prison. "Most of them are going to be (out) in the next five to seven years. When they get out, I don't want them to be homeless," he said. "I want to be able to put them in a post, whether it's in Edina, Mankato, wherever they're going. I want to be able to put them in a post so they can help that post out, and that post can help them."

"I want them to have a place in society when they get out. Maybe they need some benefits when they get out. I'm just proud to be able to step up and help them out where I can."

Mueller began passing out membership applications, and within a month 22 of them had been filled out. He went through them to ensure all of the applicants met eligibility requirements. He also passed out pamphlets on various American Legion programs to get the veterans some insight into the organization.

Mueller sent the charter application into department headquarters but had to deal with two surgeries, which caused a delay in the process. But his

persistence paid off when the department approved the charter and then National HQ provided the final approval.

In mid-April, the post received its charter during a ceremony at the prison. There were a total of 35 charter members, including Moose Lake Assistant Warden Brian Collins.

"All of you who rose your hand and said the oath and swore to defend the Constitution, wore the uniform, your service matters and it continues to matter today," Collins said during the charter ceremony. "I refuse to accept that people are judged by the worse day that they have had."

Mueller has a similar view of the members of Post 1918. "We've all done our share of bad things. Some people a lot worse than others," he said. "And they got caught. And you pay the price. Everyone deserves a second chance."

"I'm a Legionnaire that believes if I can help out another Legionnaire, I don't care about being paid back. I want to help that individual have a better life all the way around."

Minnesota had a post chartered in 1998 for the prison in Appleton, Minnesota. The prison was the privately held Prairie Correctional Facility, so the post was Prairie Post 1998. The prison closed in 2010 following the expansion of state-owned prisons in Faribault and Moose Lake.

The post was taken over by the district shortly after by the 7th District. It still has 13 members.



Moose Lake Post 1918 Commander Mark Altenhofen presents a certificate of appreciation to Lewiston Post 90 member Glenn Mueller, a maintenance engineer at the Moose Lake prison. Post 1918's namesake is "Minnesota Fires" after massive wildfires that swept the North Woods in 1918.



Volunteers distribute food to veterans at the Veteran Food Pantry at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center on May 20. The pantry takes place on the third Tuesday of every month inside the auditorium just off the Flag Atrium. (This photo was taken in a manner not to show any recipients, just the volunteers.)

From Minot, to Vietnam, to Duluth ...

Continued from Page 1

Legionnaire to visit the website and contribute, too.

The food pantry takes place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (or out of food) on the third Tuesday of each month in the auditorium of the Minneapolis VA Medical Center. No ID is needed. All a veteran has to do is walk in.

Kelly said there are plans to expand it to VA clinics in the Twin Ports and Chippewa Falls before the year ends.

"Tom is an unbelievable partner and advocate and sponsor," Kelly said. "He can support as much as we can do. He's made this his next mission, and he's really gone after it."

Kelly said the pantry serves an average of 230 veterans each time.

Whitehead said the board wants to look into Greater Minnesota partners, such as Channel One in Rochester, and conduct food shelves in places across the state. They could work with local Legion and VFW posts, DAV chapters, county service officers and local veterans communities.

"We're definitely in the early stages here," he said. "The problem is Minneapolis VA Medical Center can't touch all of the veterans."

Another possibility is armories. The board wants to look at National Guard or Reserve soldiers and airmen who deal with food insecurity.

Foster child to airman

Thomas W. Lyons, 72, is a 41-year member of Ernest Aselton American Legion Post 118 in Wayzata. He is an Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War.

His father served in the Marines in World War II. His mother died when he was 11, and he grew up in a foster home. Lyons, who had a high draft number, enlisted in the Air Force to earn the G.I. Bill.

The first place the Air Force sent him for duty was not far away at all: Minot AFB in North Dakota. He wanted out of there, so the Air Force, in 1971, sent him to Vietnam to the 432nd Combat Support Group, where Lyons served in the accounting and finance department at Cam Ranh Bay.

Fast forward to May 15, 1972. The base closed early, and the Air Force was sending airmen home or to other places. Lyons had to remain behind to keep payroll going for the personnel

guys who were processing everything. Later, the Air Force airlifted them out. His 13-month tour had ended after 12 months.

The Air Force sent him back to the Midwest — to Duluth AFB. (In 1982, the Duluth AFB became the Duluth Air National Guard Base.) There, he transferred to the Air National Guard as part of a voluntary program called Palace Chase. It provides incentives for active-duty personnel to transfer to Air Force Reserve or National Guard components. Lyons switched to the 133rd Airlift Wing and was able to begin college early.

Next stage of life

Over the years, he has become active in the Legion and other veteran organizations. After college, he became an administrator for a Minneapolis law firm.

The law firm specialized in personal injury but also handled mergers and acquisitions. Lyons worked there for 10 years and became adept in the field.

"I brought many assets to the table. I did the spreadsheets and learned mergers and acquisitions the hard way," he said.

By 1985, the law firm planned to send Lyons to Wyoming, so he changed course and decided to set up his own firm. This became Faelon Partners Ltd., which is a business brokerage firm offering representation for mergers, estate and financial planning and acquisitions. Primarily, the firm helps clients buy or sell businesses.

Lyons resides in Prior Lake with his wife. They have a son and two grandchildren.

A lot of shows across the radio dial are all talk and few guests. MMR is guest-after-guest. The focus is on the military and veteran community, not the host.

"It's not about me. It never has been," Lyons said.

Lyons has hosted 740 radio shows for Minnesota Military Radio. He now substitutes once a while.

Doug Wortham, the new host, is a retired Minnesota National Guard command sergeant major and a Legionnaire with Willmar Post 167.

Lyons first got into radio with drive-time spots called "Today's Business News Radio," typically heard on WCCO 830 AM or KTLK News Talk 1130 AM. His voice still can be heard on those ads.

Back in 2010, KTLK personality Andrew Lee (who died in 2022 and best known for the former morning show "Justice & Drew") called up Lyons about wanting to start a one-hour Sunday morning public-service program. KTLK would provide the engineering and promos. The host job would be a volunteer.

"When can we begin?" Lyons said.

Then they connected with the Minnesota National Guard, the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs, the Minneapolis VA, the Minnesota Commanders' Task Force, Beyond the Yellow Ribbon and the Minnesota Association of County Veteran Service Officers. All of them play a role in assisting the radio program.

"The stories are compelling," Lyons said. "The hardest thing I ever had to do was step away and let Doug take over."

Lyons has been a volunteer on the board of directors for the Minnesota Military Family Foundation for 21 years. He became involved through the legendary Harry Sieben, a trial attorney, a former speaker of the Minnesota House and former adjutant general of the Minnesota National Guard.

Since 2004, the foundation, abbreviated as MMFF, distributes money through grants to Minnesota military families that are in need of assistance. It works with chaplains and Soldier and Family Readiness Centers at the armories across the state. Since its inception, it has given over 2,600 grants totaling more than \$7 million.

Food pantry

The Minnesota Veterans Food Pantry has a small six-veteran board. The organization doesn't handle the food or logistics of setting up the pantry.

"Its sole purpose is to raise the money to pay for the food," Lyons said. "Veterans are proud and often not comfortable going to the local food shelf but they will go to the VA."

Anyone wanting to volunteer with food distribution can go through Rachel Hammer, director of civic engagement at the Minneapolis VA.

For Lyons, he is busy recruiting helpers to continue to cause and be donors to it, too.

"I don't think about my aches and pains when I am helping other people."



John Luckadoo, 103, takes a seat April 22 at the WWII History Round Table. Behind him are some of the men who made his visit possible. Air Force history buffs can learn more about the 8th Air Force at its national museum's website: mightyeighth.org.

Luckadoo: 'We don't know what our current generation would do.'

Continued from Page 1

person."

He said he has made it his mission in the time he has left to recognize civilians who served their country "to come out of the homes and into the factories to out-produce the world."

Asked whether today's generations would answer the call his generation did, he said, "We don't know what our current generation would do, and we didn't know."

In the 100th, he had four enemies: fear, fighters, flak and freezing cold.

"If you survived as we did, you were just damn lucky," Luckadoo said. "You see friends go down in flames all around you, and you think, 'How in the world did I ever find myself in this spot?' You grow up really fast."

Maurer was there, too, and he gave a presentation on Luckadoo's story.

Luckadoo was born in March 1922 and raised in Chattanooga, Tenn. He and his childhood classmate, Leroy Sullivan, wanted to fly. Sully joined the Royal Canadian Air Force. Luckadoo's mom wasn't having it. He ended up joining the U.S. Army Air Forces after the Pearl Harbor attack.

Eventually, the two old pals met up in England. Sully flew Spitfires. Lucky flew B-17s.

Sully said, "You are nothing but a truck driver."

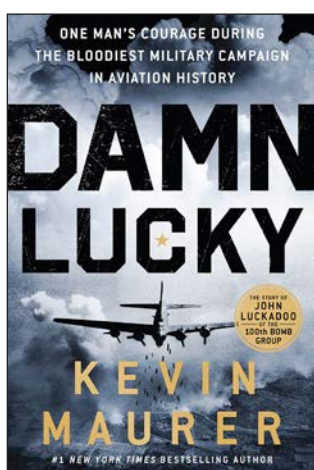
Lucky replied, "This war needs truck drivers, too."

Maurer retold the history of Germans having air superiority over Europe. American military leaders, relying on the Norden bomb-sight, felt they could win the war with bombs dropped at 25,000 feet from airplanes in tactical formations during the day. The British RAF opposed this and conducted their raids at night at low altitudes.

Even with the bombsights, Americans still were unsure where the bombs landed.

"We were guinea pigs sent out to prove this theory," Luckadoo said. "When you drop bombs five miles up, it goes through all kinds of air currents before it hits the ground. You are lucky if you hit the target."

In October 1943, Luckadoo completed 25 missions and



finished his tour in October 1943. The average life expectancy for B-17 crews in the Bloody 100th was seven missions.

The 100th Bomb Group was portrayed in the Apple TV mini-series "Masters of the Air." It is meant to be a companion to "Band of Brothers" and "The Pacific."

The tale of Sullivan is noteworthy. His father had died in May 1921 of blood poisoning before he was born. That meant he was his mother's only child. As a single mother, she raised him from birth and had been against him going into the military, eventually relenting to his feverish desire.

Sully was flying a Hawker Typhoon on Nov. 7, 1943, when the engine busted right after take-off at an airfield in Woodbridge, Suffolk. He managed to pass over some trees and keep it aloft 600-800 yards before the aircraft spun into the ground.



He was a month away from turning 22. He is buried in Brookwood Military Cemetery south of London.

Other veterans featured that night were:

• **Les Schrenk, 101, Long Prairie.**

He was a ball-turret gunner

in the 92nd Bomb Group. His B-17, named "Pot O' Gold," was shot down by German fighters on Feb. 22, 1944, near Thisted, Denmark, and he managed to get out, depart the plane and deploy his parachute. All 10 men bailed out, and all survived except the pilot, who drowned in a lake.

The men were captured, interrogated and beaten. Schrenk spent 15 months as a POW. The Germans moved him from stalag to stalag as the Russians advanced. Finally, they had no place to put them so they marched and marched to evade the Allies, in what became known as the German Death March. Eighty-six days and 800 miles later, the English Army liberated them.

In April 2012, Schrenk met the German pilot, Hans Hermann Muller, who had shot down his aircraft but didn't fire again after seeing them bail out. "I wanted to thank him for not finishing us off," he said.

• **Bob Holmstrom, 99, Maplewood.**

A pilot, Holmstrom flew on 30 suicide missions over Germany, at times almost to Russia and Switzerland, as part of a clandestine group called the Carpetbaggers. They never dropped a bomb. Instead, they dropped supplies to 350,000 people in the underground resistance. They would fly 500 feet high or lower to evade radar and just above stalling speed at 120 mph so they could read ground signals and deploy parachutes. Sometimes, they would drop spies, too, but they weren't allowed to talk to them.

• **Jim Rasmussen, 101, Edina.**

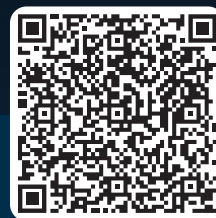
Though not part of the original cadre, he, too, flew missions with the Bloody 100th Bomb Group — 32 of them, beginning near the end of 1944. He was a navigator.

Always the wisecracker, Rasmussen told a story about how the B-17 crew takes a leak. He said there is a forward relief tube. Prior to urinating, they are supposed to tell the ball-turret gunner to turn toward the rear.

He forgot, so the gunner's view was covered in piss, obscuring his view even after it dried for the rest of this mission.

No Veteran left behind.

If you or a Veteran in your life is struggling, we're here for you. In its mission to support Minnesota Veterans, their families, loved ones and survivors, the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs offers a broad range of mental health and suicide prevention resources. Together, we can end Veteran suicide in our state.



Scan to learn more or visit
MinnesotaVeteran.org/EndVetSuicide

Serving Minnesota Veterans
and their families.

LEGIONNAIRE BENEFITS

As a Member of the Legion Family, You Know How Important
It Is to Help Protect Those in Need ...

NOW WE CAN HELP THE LIT PLANS CAN HELP WITH

- Hospital HELP Plan
- Cancer Care
- Accidental Death Protection
- On-The-Move Travel Accident
- Emergency Assistance Plus
- ID Resolve
- Medicare Supplement Insurance
- Health Insurance
- Dental Insurance
- Long-Term Care
- Lifeline Medical Alert Service
- Device Guard

Hospital HELP Plan — Provides benefits for hospital stays including intensive care, cardiac care, care for cancer, rehabilitative facilities, and V.A. hospitals.*

Cancer Care — Provides important protection and a daily benefit if you are hospitalized due to cancer.*

Accidental Death — Helps provide financial protection for you and your family. Up to \$5,000.00 LegionCare AD coverage at no cost to Legionnaires is available: (activation required).* You can also purchase additional Accident coverage up to \$100,000.00.

On-The-Move Travel Accident — Provides up to \$200,000.00 coverage when fatally injured in a covered accident while traveling, plus \$500.00 per day if a covered accident lands you in the hospital.*

ID Resolve — Provides 24-hour identity theft resolution that helps protect your money, your time and your financial reputation.

Emergency Assistance Plus — Provides you with 24/7 emergency medical and travel assistance services should something happen to you or your family while traveling away from home.

Medicare Supplement Insurance — Supplements your Medicare Coverage at group rates.

Health & Dental Insurance — Request a quote on various Health & Dental Insurance Plans designed with you in mind.

Long-Term Care — Can help provide home health care, supervised adult care, and more.

Lifeline Medical Alert Service — Provides fast access to help in the event of a fall or medical emergency so you can live confidently and independently.

DeviceGuard — A simple, comprehensive, and affordable way to protect your devices—from smartphones to laptops to digital doorbells. Flexible plans and bundles ensure that you only pay for the protection you need.



ENDORSED BY YOUR
AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT

To Learn More and Enroll, Visit www.TheLIT.com
For Questions Call 1-800-235-6943



The graduates of the 2025 Minnesota American Legion College are shown above. They graduated on April 27 at Camp Ripley. In front, from left, are Treasa Severson of Elysian Post 311, Mary Rono of Ironton Post 443, Samia Hollinger of Minneapolis Post 1, Sherri Hernandez of Forest Lake Unit 225 and Deborah Massey of Lake City Post 110. In the second row are Nathaniel Molitor of Hastings Post 47, Morgan Maidl of Hastings Post 47, Jeremy Copher of Mound Squadron 398, Steven Birkemeyer of Cloquet Post 262, Lyle Adams of Hutchinson Post 96, Craig Hartman of Golden Valley Post 523. In the third row are James Green of North St. Paul Post 39, Don Pankake of Hutchinson Post 96, Paul Lesch of Lino Lakes Post 566, Glen Neville of Squadron 225, Sheffey Massey of Lake City Post 110. Not pictured is Brian Griffin of St. Paul Post 8 and David Menzhuber of St. Joseph Post 398.



Answers to the quiz on post numbers

Below are the answers to the three Post Number Quizzes found on Page 13.

- Quiz 1**
- 1 Minneapolis
 - 2 Shakopee
 - 3 Jordan
 - 4 Lakefield
 - 5 Worthington
 - 6 Pipestone
 - 7 Sleepy Eye
 - 8 St. Paul
 - 9 Winona
 - 10 Lake Benton
 - 11 Mankato
 - 12 Long Prairie
 - 13 Hitterdal
 - 14 Bemidji
 - 15 Detroit Lakes
 - 16 Bagley
 - 17 Pelican Rapids
 - 18 Henning
 - 19 Madelia
 - 20 Crookston
 - 21 Moorhead
 - 22 Red Lake Falls
 - 23 McGregor
 - 24 Roseau
 - 25 Warroad
 - 26 Ada
 - 27 Warren

- Quiz 2**
- 39 North St. Paul
 - 71 Duluth, West
 - 117 Thief River Falls
 - 56 Albert Lea
 - 77 Owatonna
 - 580 Chanhassen
 - 96 Hutchinson
 - 225 Forest Lake
 - 132 New Ulm
 - 1776 Apple Valley
 - 172 Osseo-Maple Grove
 - 550 Bloomington
 - 157 East Grand Forks
 - 102 Anoka
 - 134 Walker
 - 435 Minneapolis-Richfield
 - 91 Austin
 - 92 Rochester McCoy
 - 212 Park Rapids
 - 542 Rosetown
 - 43 Faribault
 - 428 Waite Park
 - 54 Red Wing
 - 98 St. Paul Park
 - 255 Brainerd
 - 167 Willmar

- Quiz 3**
- 323 Clearwater
 - 100 Pillager
 - 184 Pine Island
 - 598 Bellechester
 - 105 Lyle
 - 271 Paynesville
 - 234 Minneapolis-Giantvalley
 - 64 Slayton
 - 501 Woodbury
 - 57 Chaska
 - 222 Hibbing
 - 148 Dent
 - 518 North Mankato
 - 141 Silver Lake
 - 595 La Crescent
 - 298 Foley
 - 108 Le Center
 - 199 Minneota
 - 79 Montgomery
 - 613 Pine River
 - 146 Adams
 - 303 Fridley
 - 282 St. Louis Park
 - 207 Cleveland
 - 248 Ely
 - 579 Millville
 - 112 Elk River

Milaca

RECFEST

Find us on

milacarecfest.com

SINCE 2010

HISTORIC REC PARK BANDSHELL

MILACA, MN

JULY 24TH THRU 27TH

2025

THIS YEARS BANDS TO INCLUDE:

MONROE CROSSING - ROE FAMILY SINGERS - STEAM MACHINE - BLUE GROOVE -
DOUBLE DOWN DAREDEVILS - RUSTY PLAYGROUND - ROSIE DAZE -
KOHLRABI SOUP - AMANDA WALBRIDGE - BARBWIRE

HOURS OF
BLUEGRASS MUSIC
AND
WORKSHOPS

VENDORS
JAM SESSIONS
CAMPING
DANCING

BRING YOUR OWN INSTRUMENT! - PLAN TO STAY & LEARN TO PLAY!

#ecrac

#ArtsLegacy

MILACA

Country Fest

REC PARK
MILACA, MN

SEPTEMBER 4-5-6 & 7, 2025

THIS EVENT IS FREE FOR:
VETERANS, FIRERFIGHTERS AND
FIRST RESPONDERS
AND JULY RECFEST CAMPERS
COME & ENJOY COUNTRY BANDS
COUNTRY LINE & FOLK DANCING & JAM SESSIONS!

Convention has 1 contested race

Continued from Page 1

31st of the following year. (Repeals Mandate of 1989.)”

In truth, the Department Oratorical Contest typically falls on the last Saturday of February. The district ones often happen in late January or early February.

Another example is one from 1955: “Recommend to all District Officers that some method be devised to stagger and group according to geographical locations, the time and place of District Conventions and Fall Rallies to make it possible for Department Officers to officially attend and give time to each one.”

Good luck with the “some method” part.

Auxiliary dues
A proposed \$5 dues increase

is the biggest item of business for the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota.

The portion of ALA dues that presently goes to the department is \$12. A resolution that proposes to amend the finance section of the standing rules would make it \$17 effective in 2027.

The department so far has nine resolutions for review. Executive Secretary Christie Avant said the resolutions can be found at the department website, mnala.org.

Registration
The Department Convention is July 10-13. Registration begins at 3 p.m. Wednesday, July 9, at Willmar Post 167.

To sign up with a check, use the form below. The fee is \$20.

To sign up online, go to the

Events part of the department website, mn-legion.org, and select “Dept Convention.”

Online registration is through Eventbrite. The fee is \$20, plus a \$3.18 convenience fee.

Registration after June 26 goes up to \$30 by mail and \$30 plus a convenience fee online. Registration at the door also is \$30.

The convention is when the business of The American Legion gets done. New department officers are elected. Committee chairs give their reports on what they accomplished in the past year. Resolutions are voted upon and some are sent up the chain to the National Convention.

The event is also a time for sharing ideas. Membership directors learn membership tips. Gambling managers hear from Gambling Control Board staff. New district commanders learn from old district commanders.

Camaraderie and mutual helpfulness are on display, with great entertainment at Willmar Post 167. A shuttle service to the hotels is planned out, too.

A gambling seminar takes place at 2 p.m. Thursday, July 10. A joint memorial service is at 11:20 the same day. The full schedule is printed in this issue.

Elections
There is one contested race so far for the 2025 convention. It is for the position of Alternate National Executive Committeeman.

Unless others come along or are nominated from the floor, the races have shaped up to be:

- Department Commander: Linda Dvorak of New Prague Post 45.
- Department Vice Commander (vote for five): Karen Welander of Kerkhoven Post 223, Steve NaSalle of Fergus Falls Post 30, Myron Ehrich of West Concord Post 295, Daniel Siats of Northome Post 499 and Dennis DeLong of Minneapolis-Richfield Post 435.
- NECman: Carl Moon of Zimmerman Post 560.
- Alternate NECman: Paul Hassing of Bloomington Post 550 or Tom Fernlund of Waite Park Post 428.
- Chaplain: Jim Mead of

Bloomington Post 550.

- Historian: Sandy Gessler of Austin Spam Post 570.
- Sergeant-at-Arms: Gary Richardson of Mahtomedi-Willernie Post 507.
- Board of Publications: David “Chip” Manson of Spicer Post 545.

Delegates vote either 30 minutes from time of recess on Friday, July 11, or from 8 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday, July 12.



Chip Manson

Camaraderie
For members who arrive Wednesday, July 9, they are free to explore Willmar and the local activities. The website willmarlakesarea.com lists several local options for dining and things to do.

Of course, registration begins Wednesday at Willmar Post 167, so a good portion of Legion Family members will be there eating supper and playing pulltabs.

Willmar Post 167 will have entertainment on Thursday evening, July 10. Last year, there was live music and dancing. As of press time, the entertainment for 2025 hasn’t been confirmed, but it likely will be live music.

The Auxiliary Department of Minnesota hosts a mixer at 7 p.m. Friday, July 11, in the convention hall. The entertainment will be live music. A special guest is NW National Vice President Debra Albers.

DEC meetings
The Minnesota Auxiliary DEC has a meeting at 11 a.m. Wednesday, July 9, at Ruff’s Wings & Sports Bar. The place is attached to the Best Western Plus hotel.

The Minnesota American Legion DEC meets at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, July 10, in Gallery 5-7 of the Willmar Conference Center, right before the convention itself begins in earnest at 10 a.m.

The Legion DEC meets once again 30 minutes after the convention adjourns shortly before noon Saturday, July 12. In between the convention and the meeting, department officers have their official photos taken.

All members are welcome to attend DEC meetings.



OFFICIAL BALLOT

The American Legion, Dept of Minnesota
Election of Officers 2025-2026

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

Like This:

Department Commander (vote for one)	
Linda Dvorak	
Write In	

Department Vice Commander (Vote for 5)	
Karen Welander	
Steve NaSalle	
Myron Ehrich	
Daniel Siats	
Dennis De Long	
Write In	
Write In	

NECman (vote for one)	
Carl Moon	
Write In	

Alt NECman (vote for one)	
Paul Hassing	
Tom Fernlund	
Write In	

Chaplain (vote for one)	
Jim Mead	
Write In	

Historian (vote for one)	
Sandy Gessler	
Write In	

Sergeant-at-Arms (vote for one)	
Gary Richardson	
Write In	

Board of Publications (vote for one)	
David "Chip" Manson	
Write In	



2025 Dept. Convention Official Registration

Convention dates and location:
July 10-12, 2025, Willmar Conference Center
Various committees meet July 9

Make check out to:
American Legion Post 167

Write on memo line:
Dept. Convention

Mail to:
Carrie Werner
36898 County Hwy. 6
Redwood Falls, MN 56238

Registration fees:
Registration received by mail by June 26: \$20
Registration received by mail after June 26: \$30
Registration over Eventbrite by June 26: \$20 + service fee
Registration received over Eventbrite after June 26: \$30 + service fee
Registration at the door: \$30
(+ service fee if using a card at the door; cards not accepted at the door after noon Friday, July 11)

Register before June 26 to receive a booklet.

Registration fees are for each person attending, whether a delegate, alternate or a guest.
Please copy and send a separate form for each person attending. A single check is fine. Junior SAL and Junior Auxiliary are not charged a fee but must send a form.

About you:

Check one: ☐ Legion ☐ Auxiliary ☐ SAL

Enter numbers: District Post/Unit/Squadron

Check one: ☐ Delegate ☐ Alternate ☐ Guest

(Auxiliary only) Delegate at-large:
(Choose Past Dept. President or Dept. Exec. Cmte.)

Name

Address

City State Zip

Thank you!



Linda Dvorak



Karen Welander



Steve NaSalle



Myron Ehrich



Daniel Siats



Dennis DeLong



Carl Moon



Paul Hassing



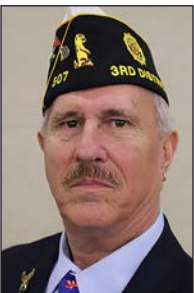
Tom Fernlund



Jim Mead



Sandy Gessler



Gary Richardson

106th Legion Convention Program



**106TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA
WILLMAR, MINNESOTA
JULY 10-12, 2025**

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 9, 2025

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

THURSDAY MORNING, JULY 10, 2025

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
• Brain Science: President
• Convention: Chairman
• Department: Treasurer
• Foundation: President
• Hospital Association: President
• Legionnaire: Editor
• Legionville: President
10 a.m. American Legion Convention Sessions,
Willmar Conference Center, Gallery 5-7
CALL TO ORDER: Carl Moon, Department
Commander, Walker
Advancement of the colors: Zimmerman Post 560
Invocation: Kelley Ackerman, Department
Chaplain, Pine Island
POW/MIA flag: Gary Olson, NS/FR Committee,
Moorhead, & Betty Jass, Department
Sergeant-at-Arms, Lake Crystal
Pledge of Allegiance
"The Preamble": Recital by
Commander and Delegates
Greetings:
• Carl Moon, Department Commander,
Walker
• The Honorable Doug Reese, Mayor, Willmar
• John Christenson, Commander,
Austin F. Hanscom Post 167, Willmar
• Carl Wilson, 7th District Commander,
Elbow Lake
• Pam Krill, Department Vice
Commander, Blue Earth
• Jon Olson, General Convention Chairman,
Atwater

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, Burnsville
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, WILLMAR CONFERENCE
CENTER, GALLERY 5-7**

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 10, 2025

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 11, 2025.
3. All Convention Committee reports should be presented
and accepted in final form before adjournment on Friday,
July 11, 2025, thus disposing of all business other than
that which has been scheduled for Saturday morning.

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

FRIDAY MORNING, JULY 11, 2025

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: Carl Moon, Department
Commander, Walker
Respect To Colors
Invocation: Kelley Ackerman, Department
Chaplain, Pine Island
Pledge Of Allegiance
8:35 a.m. Reports:
• Credentials Committee, Lynne Nottage,
Chairman, Minneapolis
• Finance Committee, Richard Wog,
Chairman, Willmar
• Legislative Committee, Kristy Janigo,
Chairman, Maple Grove
• Training Committee, Jennifer Havlick,
Chairman, Two Harbors
9:05 a.m. SAL Report: John Weiss, 2024-2025 SAL
Detachment Commander, Woodbury
9:10 a.m. Youth Representatives:
• 2025 Eagle Scout of the Year Ryan Kuehn:
Chip Manson, Boy Scout Chairman, Spicer
• 2025 Legion Boys State Governor (to be):
Kyle Oldre, Director, Luverne
• 2025 Oratorical Contest Winner Elijah Cox:
Jamie Brooks, Chairman, Minneapolis
• 2025 Junior Shooting Sports: Carl Wilson,
Chairman, Elbow Lake
9:30 a.m. Update: 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
• Paul Orson, Americanism Chairman,
Circle Pines
• Don Skow, Education Chairman, Lindstrom
• Rod Reifsteck, Representative,
Safety-School Patrol
• Pat Logan, Law and Order Chairman,
Bloomington
- Zachary Gruver, Law Officer of the Year
- Shaun Heiderscheidt, 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: Janet Lorenzo, 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
• Veterans 4 Veterans: Don Pankake, Hutchinson
10:45 a.m. Convention Committee Reports, in order listed
• Americanism
• Children & Youth
• Constitution & By-Laws
11:30 a.m. Recess
FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 11, 2025
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: Judy Ackerman, Dept. President,
American Legion Auxiliary, Fairmont,
& Christie Avant, Dept. Secretary,
American Legion Auxiliary, St. Paul
2:30 p.m. Final Membership Awards: Carla Tappainer,
Dept. Membership Director, Apple Valley
Gold Brigade Winners, Other Membership Awards
2:45 p.m. Nominations for Department Officers

3:30 p.m. Voting Rules: Greg Colby, Department Judge
Advocate, Burnsville
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 12, 2025

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: Carl Moon, Department
Commander, Walker
Pay Respect To Colors
Invocation: Kelley Ackerman, Department
Chaplain, Pine Island
Pledge Of Allegiance
9:05 a.m. "Convention Memorial Service": Kelley Ackerman,
Department Chaplain, Pine Island
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 4 delegates at-Large (see note below)
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
• National Executive Committeeman
• Alternate National Executive Committeeman
• Member of Publication Board
for a 3-year term
• Four Delegates-at-Large to the National
Convention

NOTE: The Department is entitled to five (5) Dele-
gates-at-Large as determined by the national organiza-
tion. The Department Constitution provides, under Article
8, Section 1, that: "The Delegates-at-Large to which the
Department is entitled in the National Convention shall
be elected by the Convention and shall include the in-
coming Commander, the incoming Department represen-
tative on the National Executive Committee, and the out-
going Commander." The National Constitution provides,
under Article 7, Section 3, that the National Executive
Committeeman shall be a delegate with vote, which shall
be exercised with their respective Departments.

District 11 has two authorized delegates which the De-
partment Membership Director is an automatic attend-
ee to the National Convention. The second delegate
from District 11 will be elected by convention. This was
authorized by the officers of Post 1982 and District 11 at
their annual meeting at the 2024 National Membership
Workshop.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS ELECT

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

The DEC meeting with newly elected officers will com-
mence 30 minutes after the close of the 106th Depart-
ment of Minnesota Convention in Gallery 5-7.

Resolutions of the 2025 convention

Note: In 2024, The Minnesota Legionnaire's frequency changed to nine times a year instead of 12. As a result, the 2025 Special Convention Issue is arriving in mailboxes earlier than it has in past years. There remain several districts holding their district conventions after this June 2025 issue goes out. THUS, any further resolutions will be printed in the July 2025 issue of the Legionnaire, which sends to the press right before Independence Day. This means July 2025 copies may or may not arrive in mailboxes in time for when delegates depart from their homes for Willmar. Please keep in mind that all resolutions will be available for all delegates on site at the Department Convention.

Department of Minnesota Resolution No. 2025-01

Resolution No.: 25-01
Date Received: 19 May 2025
Title: Expanding the Presumptive Agent Orange Exposure Due to Soil Contamination on the Korean DMZ to August 31, 2001 (The Tappainer Act)
Author: Post 586 {Marissa LaCourt}

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recognizes that veterans who served in certain areas of the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam War are presumed to have been exposed to Agent Orange and other herbicides, which has led to various health problems; and

WHEREAS, Agent Orange was used extensively on the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) to clear vegetation and reduce concealment for enemy forces during the period of April 1, 1968, to August 31, 1971; and

WHEREAS, many veterans who served on the Korean DMZ during the above-mentioned period were exposed to Agent Orange and other toxic herbicides, but their service has been excluded from the VA's presumptive exposure list; and

WHEREAS, the VA has recognized soil contamination from Agent Orange on the Korean DMZ, and some veterans who served after 1971 are suffering from conditions associated with Agent Orange exposure, yet they remain ineligible for benefits due to the VA's limited presumptive service connection timeline; and

WHEREAS, there is growing evidence that soil contamination from Agent Orange remained in the DMZ area for many years



after the last known use of the herbicide, potentially affecting veterans who served beyond August 31, 1971; and

WHEREAS, veterans who served in the DMZ up to August 31, 2001, may have been unknowingly exposed to toxic herbicides due to residual contamination from Agent Orange, putting them at risk for the same health conditions as those veterans who served within the original presumptive period; and

WHEREAS, these veterans and their families deserve recognition, support, and access to appropriate medical care and benefits for the health effects caused by Agent Orange exposure; and

WHEREAS, the American Legion has long been a vocal advocate for fair treatment of all veterans, ensuring they receive the benefits and recognition they deserve for their service and sacrifices;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the American Legion urges the United States Congress and the Department of Veterans Affairs to expand the presumptive exposure for veterans who served on the Korean DMZ to include those who served until August 31, 2001, due to the ongoing risk of exposure to soil contamination from Agent Orange; and

Be it further RESOLVED, that the American Legion calls for appropriate funding and research to assess the impact of Agent Orange exposure on veterans who served in this region and to provide them with the medical care, benefits, and recognition they are entitled to under the law; and

Be it further RESOLVED this resolution was approved at Post 586 general membership meeting May 1, 2025 and this resolution is forwarded to the Department of Minnesota Third District convention scheduled for 17 May 2025; and

Be it further RESOLVED this resolution was approved at the Department of Minnesota Third District convention scheduled for 17 May 2025, and this resolution is forwarded to the Department of Minnesota convention 10-12 July 2025; and

Be it finally RESOLVED, this resolution upon approval at the Department of Minnesota convention is forwarded to The American Legion National convention 26-28 August 2025 for concurrent action.

Department of Minnesota Resolution No. 2025-02

Resolution No.: 25-02
Date Received: 28 May 2025
Title: Timely Distribution of Membership dues to the Departments.
Author: Adams Post 146

WHEREAS, The American Legion is composed of the National, Department and Post Organizations; and

WHEREAS, each of these is dependent upon annual dues collected; and

WHEREAS, each of these operates on an annual budget based up on the amount of dues collected to meet their cash flow needs; and

WHEREAS, all dues paid by the members of each Post are collected by the National Headquarters annually; and

WHEREAS, each Department relies on the timely distribution of the dues collected by the National Headquarters to meet their cash flow needs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by American Legion Post 146, Adams, Minnesota in regular meeting on April 13, 2025, that the National Headquarters distribute dues they collect no later than the 28th day of the month following their collection; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the First District Convention in Lake City, Minnesota on May 17, 2025 for their approval, and be it further

RESOLVED, that upon approval, a copy be forwarded to the Department of Minnesota Convention in Willmar, Minnesota on July 10, 11, and 12, 2025 for their approval; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, that a copy if this resolution be forwarded to the 106th National American Legion Convention in Tampa, Florida on August 22 thru 28, 2025 for concurring action.

Post Number Quiz!

How well do you know the post numbers of the Minnesota Legion?

There are 3 match games below. The first one is the lowest post numbers. The second is a mix of big posts. The third is a mix of the rest. Draw a line from the number to the city. Answers are on Page 10.

1	Lake Benton	39	Apple Valley	323	Elk River
2	Ada	71	Mpls.-Richfield	100	Minneota
3	Bemidji	117	Forest Lake	184	Fridley
4	Hitterdal	56	Anoka	598	Bellechester
5	Lakefield	77	Rochester McCoy	105	Hibbing
6	Madelia	580	Duluth, West	271	Cleveland
7	Worthington	96	Osseo-Maple G.	234	Chaska
8	Shakopee	225	N. St. Paul	64	Pine River
9	Mankato	132	Brainerd	501	Pine Island
10	Roseau	1776	Park Rapids	57	Silver Lake
11	Red Lake Falls	172	New Ulm	222	Millville
12	St. Paul	550	Hutchinson	148	Paynesville
13	Bagley	157	E. Grand Forks	518	Montgomery
14	McGregor	102	Albert Lea	141	La Crescent
15	Warren	134	Little Falls	595	Slayton
16	Crookston	46	Walker	298	Woodbury
17	Long Prairie	435	Waite Park	108	Ely
18	Sleepy Eye	91	Willmar	199	Adams
19	Jordan	92	Rosetown	79	Clearwater
20	Pipestone	212	St. Paul Park	613	Foley
21	Detroit Lakes	542	Austin	146	N. Mankato
22	Minneapolis	43	Red Wing	303	St. Louis Park
23	Pelican Rapids	428	Chanhassen	282	Dent
24	Henning	54	Owatonna	207	Mpls. Giantvalley
25	Warroad	98	Faribault	248	Lyle
26	Moorhead	255	Thief River Falls	579	Pillager
27	Winona	167	Bloomington	112	Le Center

Call for 106th Dept. of Minnesota Convention

The 106th Annual Convention of The American Legion, Department of Minnesota, is hereby called in conformity with provisions of the Department Constitution and By-Laws, and by action of the Department Executive Committee, sponsored by Willmar American Legion Post 167 and held at Willmar Conference Center in Willmar, Minnesota, July 10, 11, 12, 2025.

PURPOSE OF CONVENTION

The Convention is called for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing year, amending the Constitution and By-Laws, and for the transaction of such other business as may be brought before it.

REPRESENTATION AT CONVENTION

The Department Convention shall be composed of delegates from each Post, members of the Department Executive Committee, the Department Chaplain,

Treasurer, Historian, and the District Adjutants, but only delegates from Posts shall be entitled to vote at such Convention, (Sec. 2, Article 5, Department Constitution). Each Post shall be entitled to two delegates and to one additional delegate for each hundred members or major fraction thereof, whose Department dues have been received by the Department Treasurer and whose District dues have been paid to their respective District officers, 30 days prior to the Convention for which they are chosen. The final voting strength of each Post shall be determined 30 days prior to the Convention. Each Post shall choose its own delegates, who shall be members in good standing of such Post. In addition, each Post may choose alternate delegates to serve in the absence of the principal delegate, (Sec. 3, Article Five, Department Constitution). Delegates or alternates must register in order to vote.

GAMBLING SEMINAR MEETING

The Gambling Seminar will be at 2:00 PM on Thursday, July 10, 2025, at the Willmar Conference Center, Willmar, Minnesota.

DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

A meeting of the Department Executive Committee has been called and will be held at 8:30 A.M on Thursday, July 10, 2025, in Willmar, at the Willmar Conference Center, as specified in the upcoming Call to Meeting.

STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Standing Department Committee Meetings will be held at Willmar Conference Center, Willmar, Minnesota, in the meeting rooms to be determined. These rooms will be confirmed in each committee's Call to Meeting.

AMERICANISM

4:00 P.M., Wednesday, July 9, 2025 TBD

CHILDREN & YOUTH

4:00 P.M., Wednesday, July 9, 2025 TBD

FINANCE

4:00 P.M., Wednesday, July 9, 2025 TBD

NATIONAL SECURITY

4:00 P.M., Wednesday, July 9, 2025 TBD

REHABILITATION

4:00 P.M., Wednesday, July 9, 2025 TBD

GENERAL SESSIONS

Willmar Conference Center Thursday, Friday, Saturday

HOUSING AND REGISTRATION

For the 2025 Department Convention, hotel reservations will be done "on your own" directly with the hotel. Please call the hotel directly and use block "The American Legion": Best Western Plus – 320-235-6060 or Holiday Inn Express – 320-231-2601. A registration fee of \$20.00 for each Delegate/Alternate and/or Guest must be paid. Payment can be made through Eventbrite at

mnlegion.org/events/calendar or sent by check to: Carrie Werner, 36898 Co Hwy 6, Redwood Falls, MN 56238. Registration checks should be made payable to "AMERICAN LEGION POST 167" with "Department Convention" in the memo line. Registration will be \$30.00 after June 26th.

DEPARTMENT HQ OFFICE

A temporary Legion Department Headquarters office will be set up at Willmar Conference Center in a room still to be determined starting Thursday, July 10, 2025 for convention service and business during convention business hours only. Meetings will start ON TIME as scheduled unless otherwise announced.

Carl Moon Department Commander

ATTEST: Michael Maxa Department Adjutant

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this 1st day of May, 2025

Rules for 106th Dept. of Minnesota Convention

To the Post Commanders:

The Rules Committee submits the following proposed Rules for the Convention to be held in Willmar, Minnesota, July 10, 11 and 12, 2025:

- 1) With the following modifications, Robert's Rules of Order, revised, be adopted for this Convention.
- 2) (a) That the speech of any Delegate, recognized by the Commander, shall be limited to three (3) minutes and no more.
(b) Where a motion is made to table a resolution, the sponsor shall be entitled to speak to the Convention for three (3) minutes on the subject, and three (3) minutes rebuttal be granted to the maker of the motion to table before the motion is put.
- 3) That the Floor be permitted but once to any individual on any subject, except with the unanimous consent of the Convention.
- 4) (a) That all resolutions, with the exception of those prepared by Convention Committees, must be presented in writing signed by the author thereof, not later than 9:00 A.M. the first day of the Convention, to the Department Adjutant who shall refer them to the Resolutions Assignment Committee without debate. Each District Delegation Chairman or Secretary will meet with the Department Resolutions Assignment Committee at 9:00 A.M. of the first day of the Convention to be informed as to the resolutions assigned to each Convention Committee, then provide copies of those resolutions to the representatives they have appointed to said Convention Committee. The Resolutions Assignment Committee is responsible for receiving, registering and accounting for all resolutions forwarded to it by the Department Adjutant and all committee originated resolutions.
(b) Resolutions containing matters of legislation shall be cleared by the Convention Legislative Committee.
(c) In the event a convention committee does not receive any resolution assigned to that committee, said committee has no requirement to meet.
- 5) On matters where voting has been by roll call vote, when the poll of any Post Delegation is demanded by the Delegate of any Post, the Secretary of the Convention shall poll the vote of that Delegation by Delegates, without debate or discussion.
- 6) That on Roll Call, the Chair or Acting Chair of each Delegation on the Floor shall announce the vote of this Delegation.
- 7) No person, not duly accredited, shall participate directly or indirectly in debate on any subject before the Convention, but Past Department Commanders and members of the Department Executive Committee shall have the privilege of speaking from the Floor, but not of voting, except as Delegates.
- 8) That no Delegate be permitted on the Convention Floor unless certified by the Delegate's Post as Delegate or Alternate and that every Delegate or Alternate, to be duly accredited, must be registered.
- 9) That the published program be approved by this Convention.
- 10) No person or Delegate shall act by proxy for any Post. No Post shall vote unless at least one registered and accredited Delegate or Alternate be present on the Convention Floor.
- 11) The voting shall be by acclamation, except when a Roll Call is demanded by the Chair or Acting Chair of at least three Delegations; and except

for elections which shall be as follows:

- (a) The election of Department Officers, NEC positions, and the Member of the Board of Publications shall be by written ballot unless there is but one candidate or, in the case of election of Vice Commanders, there are but five candidates.
 - (b) The election of candidates for other positions shall be by District as set forth in Rule 14 below. Candidates receiving the highest number of votes in one round of voting shall be elected to the positions.
If there are more than five candidates for Vice Commander, those five receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected. Cumulative voting shall not be allowed.
The printed ballot shall include the names of all candidates who have notified the Department Office of their candidacy at least 30 days prior to the first day of the Convention.
For the election of Department Officers and NEC positions, the Tellers shall issue to the Delegation Chair of each registered Post the number of written ballots equal to the delegate strength of that Post. Said Chair shall sign for the ballots. Ballots shall be issued and the polls shall be open during the following times:
(a) Friday, for one hour after recess of the Convention, with a starting time to receive ballots no more than one hour after the Department Commander or his designated vice commander gavels the session of the convention into recess. A time less than an hour may be set by agreement between the Department Commander or his designee, the Department Adjutant, and the Department Judge Advocate.
(b) Saturday, from 8:00 A.M. until 8:30 A.M. No ballots shall be counted before Saturday morning. No ballots shall leave the polling place.
The District Commander of each District shall appoint a Teller. Tellers shall elect among themselves two Tellers from the Districts which have no candidate for Commander. These two Tellers, and the Judge Advocate, shall tabulate and total the election results. The result of each contest shall be confidential and shall be placed in a separate envelope and delivered to the Commander.
If there is a written ballot contest which has not resulted in a majority vote (except for Vice Commanders), the Commander will be informed immediately. Then, written ballots for that contest shall be distributed immediately in accordance with these Rules and be cast within one-half hour of completion of the distribution. Tabulation and reporting shall be in accordance with these Rules. Results of the vote count shall be reported to the Convention. All ballots and results shall be destroyed immediately following the close of the Convention, unless there is a motion to preserve.
- 12) Nominations for Department Officers and NEC positions shall be held on the afternoon of Friday of the Convention. Nominations shall be made from the Floor on Roll Call by Districts, in ascending order starting with the District whose number matches the last digit of the year of the Convention; each District may present as many candidates as it chooses. Thereafter, nominations may be made from the Floor.
13) Nominating speeches for Department Officers shall be limited to five (5) minutes. There will be no seconding speeches allowed for any candidates.



- 14) When the convention has adopted a Motion to suspend the rules and vote on a matter by District, each District may vote its entire voting strength. If the matter is the election of individuals for any open positions (such as Department Delegate at-Large), each District may vote its voting strength times the number of open positions, but shall not vote more than its voting strength for any one individual. The call for District votes shall be in ascending order starting with the District whose number matches the last digit of the year of the Convention.
- 15) In the event more than two candidates are nominated for any office, the balloting shall continue until one candidate shall have received a majority of the votes cast. In elections where there are more than two candidates, the candidate receiving the fewest votes in each round of voting shall be eliminated.
- 16) No personalities or partisan politics shall be discussed or indulged in on the Convention Floor, and the Department Commander shall prohibit such indulgences.
- 17) (a) Rules Committee approves the following list of Convention Committees to be chosen at this Convention, each District to choose one representative on each Committee:
Americanism
National Security/Foreign Relations
Children & Youth
Public Relations
Constitution-By-Laws
Recreation-Sports
Employment
Rehabilitation
Legislative
Resolutions
Membership
Safety-School Patrol
(b) The following Department Standing Committees are approved as Convention Committees:
Finance
Next Meeting Place
(Convention Corp. Committee)
Resolutions Assignment
Credentials
- 18) Mandates of the Convention shall be reviewed every five years to determine if said mandates are still applicable and relevant. Mandates shall be reviewed by the applicable standing committees of the convention. The first review shall be conducted in 2025 and every five years thereafter, beginning in 2030.
- 19) The order of business of the Convention shall be in accordance with the printed program, except that the election of officers shall be a special order of business, to be held in accordance with Rules 11 and 12. The order of election of Department Officers shall be as follows:
Commander
Five Vice Commanders, without numerical designation
Chaplain

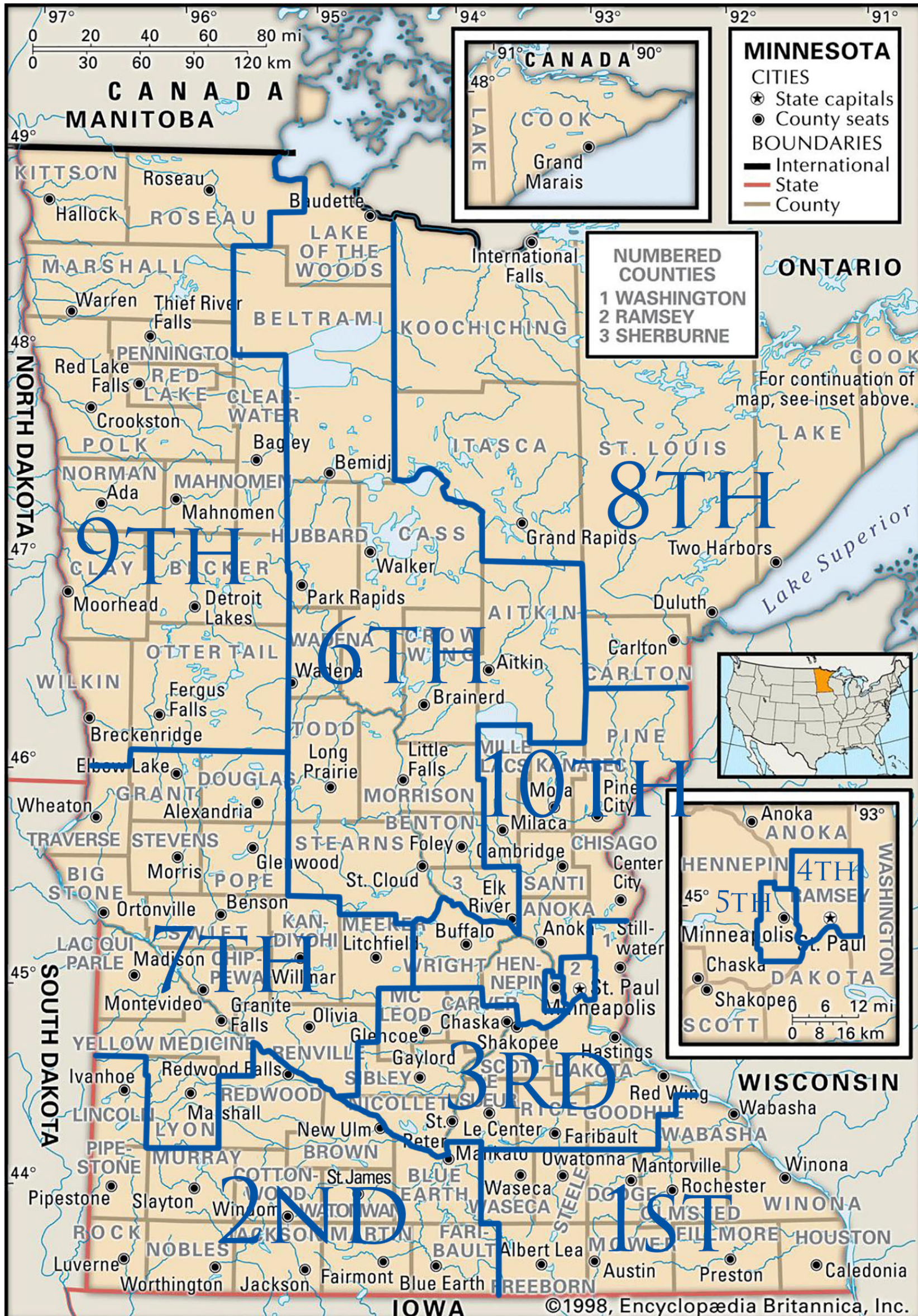
- Historian
Sergeant-at-Arms
Member of Publication Board, for three-year term
Delegates-at-Large to the National Convention
Five Alternates-at-Large to the National Convention
National Executive Committeeman and Alternate National Executive Committeeman (when appropriate)
- 20) The Committee Chairman shall inform the Department Commander when the report is ready to be presented, and the Department Commander shall recognize it as an order of business. The committees reporting action on Resolutions must read all approved Resolutions. It is sufficient to report all rejected Resolutions by number, unless requested by a Delegate to set a Resolution aside for separate consideration.
 - 21) All printed reports, which shall have been handed to the Convention Committees, shall be referred to the proper Convention Committee for action.
 - 22) No Band, Drum Corps or other musical organization shall be permitted in the Convention Hall without the invitation of the Department Commander.
 - 23) (a) Any Guests who are not on the official program as speakers shall be introduced by the Department Commander only, and shall be limited to an address of not more than three (3) minutes.
(b) The Commander is to adhere as nearly as possible to the printed program so that guests, and others to be honored, are presented without undue delay.
 - 24) No elective political office holder shall be permitted to speak during the Convention except the Chief Executive of the State of Minnesota, and the Chief Executive of the Convention City, or such persons as are on the official printed and published program.
 - 25) All major speeches shall be limited to fifteen (15) minutes and all others not to exceed five (5) minutes.
 - 26) No intoxicating liquors shall be sold or dispensed in the building of the Convention meeting, except as authorized by the Convention Corporation.
 - 27) The Roll Call of Posts shall be called in numerical sequence in accordance with Post numbers assigned, including the city or town, beginning with Post No. 1, except in odd numbered years the order of call will be reversed, but only those Posts having one or more duly registered and accredited Delegates or alternates accredited prior to 9:00 a.m. as confirmed by the Credentials Committee, shall be included in the Roll Call at any time.
 - 28) Posts challenging exclusion from the Roll Call shall consult with the Credentials Committee for resolution of the problem.

THE COMMITTEE: (Members Present)

DIST.	MEMBER	HOMETOWN
First	Mark Maloney	Winona
Second	James Olson	Amboy
Third	Joe Tappainer	Apple Valley
Fourth		
Fifth	Lynne Nottage	Minneapolis
Sixth	Frank Grittner	Elk River
Seventh	Pete Flannery	Hancock
Eighth		
Ninth	Steve NaSalle	Fergus Falls
Tenth		

Know the districts of the Department of Minnesota

American Legion structure is good to know for the sake of understanding how we can help each other



Listening Post



The Willmar Post 167 Honor Guard stands at parade rest during a recent burial service. Looking sharp!



The St. Michael Post 567 Honor Guard presents the colors at Albertville Cemetery on Memorial Day.



The St. Michael Auxiliary Unit 567 presents colors at Albertville Cemetery on Memorial Day, too.



At Albertville Cemetery on Memorial Day, the Legion and Auxiliary are joined in presenting the colors by Scout Troop 541.



Bloomington Post 550 member Melford Lundgren, an Army veteran who joined in 1975, receives his 50-year certificate. With him are Past Department Commander Paul Hassing and Post 550 Chaplain Jim Mead. They stand beside a display of Lundgren's service made by Auxiliary member Christine Nagel. It says, "Our veterans are our treasure!"



Hollywood actress and bigtime Vietnam veteran supporter Ann-Margret, center, listens to a story from Vietnam War veteran Tom Edwards about the impact of her USO shows on the troops. Forest Lake Post 225 hosted the actress on March 30, the day after Vietnam Veterans Day, March 29.



Retired longtime WCCO anchor Don Shelby applauds Ann-Margret during her visit to Forest Lake Post 225. Twin Cities PBS visited the post to cover the gathering. Post 225 annually holds a major event for Vietnam Veterans Day.



Forest Lake Post 225 Commander Pat Silovich shakes hands with Ann-Margret. Sitting between them is Pat's wife, Cindy. Hundreds packed the post for the gathering.

Listening Post



I served in the military from October 1964 to October 1966. I volunteered my draft number and ended up in the 25th Division's 27th Infantry Regiment in Hawaii. From there, I was sent to Vietnam in January 1966.

My granddaughter recently helped me receive a Bronze Star that was awarded to me 50 years late. I am very proud of her and thankful for her hard work. American Legion Post 298 in Minnesota is where I feel most connected to as it is my hometown of Foley.

They have done a lot of fundraising and established a veterans memorial in Foley. I have participated in many functions with them, including breakfasts and luncheons at the Legion.

Wearing my Vietnam hat around has allowed me to receive many thank-yous from people, which has been therapeutic for me. I am currently dealing with Agent Orange and am on disability.

I am grateful for the American Legion and their support for veterans and their families.

Army veteran George Tupy, a 50-year member of American Legion Post 45 in New Prague who served in the Korean era, was honored for his 67 years on the New Prague Area Veterans Color/Honor Guard. He is a past post commander, too.

Earl W. Kothman
St. Cloud



The Glenville American Legion Auxiliary Unit 264 hosted a party April 26 to welcome new Legion Riders to Post 264. The event also saw new people sign up for Riders Chapter 264 and for Post, Squadron and Unit 264.



At the April meeting of Oscar Lee Post 177 in Dawson, Post Commander Paul Iverson and Department Commander Carl Moon presented Leonard Swenson with a certificate for 70 years of continuous membership in The American Legion.



Above, Lee C. Prentice Post 36 Scholarship Chairman Robert Altman presents a \$1,000 scholarship to Bethany Foster along with Auxiliary Unit 36 President Velma Schaal.

Above left, Altman and Schall present \$1,000 scholarships to Elsa Thompson, Madison Lewis, Lindsay Diegnau and Jackson Madsen.

Bottom left, Altman and Schall present \$1,000 scholarships to Emily Anderson, Meia Schuett, Berent Kosbab.



Bloomington Post 550 Commander Dan Welch hands out 50-year membership certificates at the post's April 14 meeting. Above top, he gives one to Gerald Linder, and, above, he gives another to Larry Moen. Linder is an Army veteran of the Vietnam era. Moen is a Marine veteran of the Vietnam era. Both joined in 1975.

Listening Post

He has given 25 gallons in 65 years

By Tom Cherveney
West Central Tribune

WOOD LAKE — Lifelong blood donor Larry Peterson, of Wood Lake, marks milestone in his lifesaving mission.

Three times a year, Larry Peterson makes it a practice to save lives.

This time, his life-saving practice made him something of a celebrity.

Peterson donated the unit of blood at the Willmar Community Center on Tuesday that brought him to the 25-gallon mark as a lifetime blood donor.

"It's really something, I can tell you that," a smiling Peterson said shortly after the unit was collected.

He had intended to reach the milestone one week earlier in Montevideo, where it all began 65 years ago.

The Red Cross had a large cake and a certificate to honor him on the achievement, but he wasn't able to donate that day.

Peterson, 84, donated his first unit of blood on Dec. 7, 1960, at the age of 19.

"My dad took me along the first time in Montevideo, at the old National Guard Armory," Peterson told the West Central Tribune. "He said, you come along and donate your blood."

His father, Ray, had been a longtime donor, said Peterson. At that first visit, Peterson learned something that has made him a valuable donor for the Red Cross ever since. He learned that his blood type is O negative, which makes him a universal donor. His blood can be transfused into virtually any recipient regardless of their blood type.

There's no question that donated blood has a big impact on the lives of recipients, whether it is by helping them through a surgery or, in many cases, saving their lives after a traumatic injury.

Peterson believes he has possible saved hundreds of lives through the years.

Years ago, there have been occasions when Peterson was called from his work as a machinist at a hydraulics manufacturing plant in Granite Falls to the local hospital to donate blood directly to individuals facing an emergency need.

Lying side by side, blood flowed from his arm directly to the patient. He still gets emotional talking about the experiences, and he has plenty of reason to be proud. In each of those cases, he was told the recipient survived.

On top of it all, Peterson is what the Red Cross terms a "power red" donor. He typically donates two units each visit. A special machine is used to return plasma and platelets to the donor to allow a safe donation of two units, according to the Red Cross. Power red donors can donate once every 112 days, hence Peterson's three trips a year.

It's fair to say that giving is just in his blood



Larry Peterson of Wood Lake is the commander of Wood Lake Post 556. He has been a Legionnaire for 44 years. He is an Army veteran.

— no pun intended. Along with a career as a machinist for more than 43 years, he donated his time to serve as a volunteer firefighter in Wood Lake for 26 of those years.

After he donated blood for the first time with his father, Peterson was drafted into the U. S. Army. He donated blood while in the military and has continued ever since.

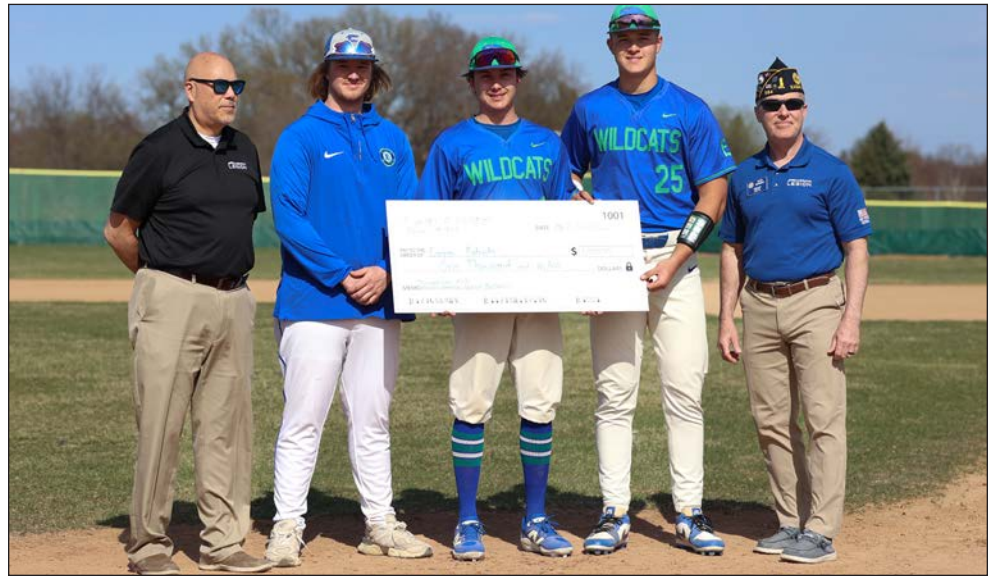
Larry and his spouse, JoAnn, will celebrate their 60th anniversary in April. She is a coordinator volunteer for Red Cross blood drives in Wood Lake. They are the parents to four adult children, a daughter and three sons. Two of their sons and two grandsons also have type O blood.

Through the years, Peterson kept all of the cards and letters he received from the Red Cross as he reached donor milestones. Letters informed him that his blood was sent to save lives at hospitals all over the country, from California to Connecticut and to places closer to home, including Willmar and St. Paul.

The Red Cross does not have statistics on milestones like Peterson's according to Lynette Nyman, regional communications manager with the Red Cross. But she noted that milestones like his are definitely worth noting and celebrating.

He schedules his donations at locations within an hour's drive of his home, and Red Cross workers who take his blood know him well. "They love me, each place I go," he said laughing. They know who is coming.

Know this: He plans to continue donating, I'll keep going as long as I can." He said after reaching his 25-gallon milestone.



On April 23, 2025, Daniel R. Olsen American Legion Post 594 participated in the Eagan Baseball Youth and Community Night at Eagan High School Wildcat Stadium. Post 594 presented a \$1,000 donation to the local American Legion baseball team, the Eagan Patriots, and the Post 594 Color Guard presented the colors prior to a varsity baseball game between the Eagan Wildcats and the Apple Valley Eagles." Above, left to right, are Post 594 Finance Officer Paul Kovach, three players and Commander John Rayman. At top, from left, are Color Guard members Danny Seanoa, Lance Ashland, Wayne Beierman, Joel Duffina and Mark Franscone.



Top left, Albert Lea Post 56 Adjutant Tom Norby presents Duane Thomas with the 2025 Legionnaire of the Year Award. Top right, Post 56 Commander Ole Olson presents Lupe Gasca a Certificate of Appreciation as the oldest Post 56 member. Above, receiving the 50 Continuous Years service certificate were, from left, Marlowe Wangen, Harold Saunders, Jon Rhiger, Ronald Mathews, Ronald Linde, and Myron Levisen. Not present were Thomas Cibert and William Daly. This happened on April 21.



PFC Jack Volker accepts a check from Chatfield Post 197 member Greg Forbes.



Pvt. William Kester accepts a check from Chatfield Post 197 member Linda Forbes.



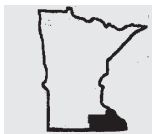
Pvt. Ethan Schoenfelder holds his scholarship and check from Chatfield Post 197.



Pvt. Connor McGill holds a check from Chatfield Post 197.

Chatfield Post 197 provided \$1,000 military scholarships to four local Marines. Should a graduate of Chatfield High School enlist in any branch of the military and complete training and receive their first orders, they will receive \$1,000 in appreciation of their demonstrated commitment to serve the United States of America.

District commanders



1st District Mark Maloney III



Reflecting on the past two years of being a district commander and doing the job with PTSD has been a profound experience. It is a testament to the strength of character and resilience that can emerge from the most challenging circumstances.

As a commander, the responsibility to lead, inspire and care for the members of the American Legion is paramount. Despite the personal battles with PTSD, the commitment to elevating the district to first place and the unwavering care for its members has been the driving force behind this journey.

Post-traumatic stress disorder is a mental health condition triggered by experiencing or witnessing a traumatic event. Symptoms can include flashbacks, nightmares, severe anxiety and uncontrollable thoughts about the event.

For veterans, PTSD is a lingering shadow of their service, affecting their daily lives and mental well-being. The journey of managing PTSD while fulfilling the duties of a district commander has been an intricate balance of personal healing and professional dedication.

Leading with PTSD comes with unique challenges. The weight of responsibility can sometimes exacerbate the symptoms, making it difficult to navigate the complexities of command. However, it is the same experience that fosters a profound sense of empathy and understanding towards fellow members who might be battling their own demons. This shared experience creates a bond that is both unspoken and powerful,

forming the foundation of a supportive and resilient community.

The journey to make the 1st District first place in membership is not solely about accolades or recognition. It is about fostering a sense of unity, purpose and pride among its members. Despite the personal struggles, the role of a commander is to inspire and lead by example. Turning adversity into strength involves harnessing the lessons learned from PTSD to create a compassionate and understanding environment where every member feels valued and supported. Despite nay sayers

I have shown that the members are the rulers. Post commanders are not kings. They are facilitators, ensuring the will of the members is enacted and the mission of The American Legion is conducted. I feel some of the best post commanders would look around at other posts and see how they differ in their day-to-day operations, and they would glean the best ideas from them.

When making a decision, ask: "Am I acting in my interest or in the Legion's interest?" Then act in the Legion's interest. Be selfless.

I also want to remind folks that the Legion is not a top-down organization. It is a bottom-up organization. No department officer can bully a district officer who has performed research and asked judge advocates about proper steps. Knowledge is power. Position isn't power.



2nd District James Olson

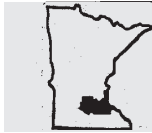


I look forward to seeing all of you at the district convention hosted by Post 6 in Pipestone! Every post should be sending delegates to the district convention to elect new officers and handle the business of the 2nd District. Registration forms were mailed to all of the post adjutants and the form is in the district newsletter. No matter how large or small your post is, we all have a voice. If you don't show up, you can't complain about what happens at the convention.

As a district, we are only about 300 Legionnaires away from hitting our 100 percent goal. Looking back from 2021 to present we have over 450 Legionnaires

who have not renewed. There are around 7,000 veterans who live in the 2nd District who don't belong to the American Legion yet. We must get outside of the four walls of our posts and get those veterans to join us as Legionnaires!

My time as the 2nd District commander is coming to an end soon. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as commander, and I would like to thank the Legionnaires of the 2nd District for having the confidence in me to serve all of you for two terms. Let's finish out strong!



3rd District Joe Tappainer



Here we are heading into our convention season. We need one big membership push to get us over the hump. The end of the month (June) we start all over with the 2026 membership packets. The 3rd District convention went off well.

We got our business done and tons of fun was had by all!

Thank you, Forest Lake Post

225, for hosting! We have a whole new slate of officers champing at the bit to get started next month.

Unfortunately, we are short one vice commander. Please, look into your heart and consider

applying for that position. I have been honored to be the 3rd District commander for this past



4th District Jon Haworth



There's a lot of talk about the 4th and 5th District merging. People mainly want this to happen because they can't find people that want to take leadership positions in posts and district positions.

This is an epidemic that is touching many American Legion posts and their districts. Nowadays, it seems like we can't find people as easily as we did from the 1970s to the 1990s. Even though technology and communication are at our fingertips, life has become a hectic and battle scars are deeper than we ever thought they would be.

When I talk to people about joining The American Legion, they always ask, "Well what's in it for me?"

We reply with, "Well, you get to help other veterans, be a part of an amazing organization and be a part of the community."

While that's great and all, people are looking for what they can get out of joining an organization, especially if they are paying dues there.

"Why should I be a part of this?"

We need to start asking people what they expect to get/receive when they become Legionnaires, and then give it to them. Maybe then we can figure out how to get people to join and stay. Mergers won't help us if we don't figure

year, and I want to thank everyone for their support!

out how to receive and retain members.

The Legion Cruisers meetings have been going well. We've consistently had at least four members at the meetings. We decided to change the meeting date from the second Sunday of the month to the second Saturday of the month. As most people go to church and aren't able to attend the meetings.

On June 14, anyone that's interested in the Legion Cruisers can meet us at the Arcade Phalen American Legion at 10 a.m. with your cool car and hopefully have a little car show. After that, we're going to leave Post 577 at 11 a.m. and cruise up to the disabled vets camp for the flag retirement.

If anyone would like to be a supporter (don't have a cool car but want to support us) we will gladly accept you. If you don't want to meet us at the post, you can meet us at the flag retirement ceremony with your cool car!

I would love it if people within my district would reach out to me and let me know the different happenings and good things that are going on so I can put it in this newsletter.



6th District Frank Grittner



Greetings from the Big 6th District.

Here we are at the time of year where we are trying to wrap up the Legion year. Our joint 6th District leadership testimonial was recently held at St. Augusta Post 621.

I can't thank the leadership and staff of Post 621 enough. We had a wonderful meal, and everyone was welcomed with open arms. And we had some good-natured fun while we celebrated our year.

A special thank you goes out to my fellow 6th District leadership members: Auxiliary President Dori Hamilton, SAL Commander Bob Foss, and AL Riders Liaison Jason Pierce.

What a privilege it has been to serve the BIG 6th District with all of you. We should all be proud of the work we have done this past year.

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at our BIG 6th District convention on June 7 in Brainerd. The Legion and SAL will be meeting at the Post 255 home while the Auxiliary will meet at Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church. Every

post, unit, squadron should be sending representation to this convention, as well as the Department Convention in Willmar on July 10-12.

Only by showing up at these events do you have a voice in the direction we are taking. These events are where we do our most important business and elect our leadership for the coming year. So, if you don't attend, then you shouldn't complain later when things aren't going the way you think they should.

Last, but surely not least, I'd like to say *thank you* for all the warm welcomes I have received this past year. Travelling around our Big 6th District, and visiting the Posts, has been one of the highlights of my year as Commander. Many of you have probably heard that I am running for re-election, and that is true. However, I wanted to let you know what an honor I feel it has been to represent you.

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



7th District Carl Wilson



As we reflect on the achievements of District 7 in 2024-25, the commitment to youth development through programs like the American Legion Junior

Shooting program has been a standout highlight.

This year, local youth have had the opportunity to participate in a program that not only promotes marksmanship but also instills important values such as discipline, teamwork and sportsmanship.

The Junior Shooting program has seen a significant uptick in participation. Young shooters from various posts in District 7 gathered regularly to hone their skills under the guidance of experienced instructors. Beyond just marksmanship, the program also emphasizes safety practices, responsibility and the importance of community service.

This year, the participants were actively involved in local outreach and support activities, further reinforcing the core values of The American Legion.

In addition to the successful Junior Shooting program, the District 7 Convention held in Elbow Lake, hosted by Brandon Post 278, was a significant event for the district. The convention not only served as a platform to celebrate the accomplishments of the past year but also as an opportunity to plan and strategize for future initiatives.

Attended by numerous members from various posts, the convention featured discussions on veteran services, youth programs and community engagement. It was a day filled with camaraderie, shared experiences and the strengthening of bonds among Legionnaires.

One of the key highlights of

the convention was the election of new officers for District 7. Members engaged in lively discussions about leadership qualities and the vision for the upcoming year. The elected officers are poised to drive the district forward, focusing on enhancing existing programs and exploring new initiatives to benefit both veterans and the community at-large.

The newly elected leadership emphasized the importance of collaboration and innovation. They are determined to build upon the successes of the Junior Shooting program and encourage more youth involvement in all Legion activities. Their vision includes enhancing outreach efforts to ensure that more young people in the community can experience the benefits of American Legion programs.

As District 7 moves forward, the combination of the dynamic Junior Shooting program and the passionate leadership from the recent convention will undoubtedly lead to another successful year. The commitment to youth and community service remains at the heart of the American Legion's mission, and with dedicated members at the helm, the future looks bright for District 7.

Overall, 2024-25 has been a year of growth, collaboration and achievement in District 7, strengthening the ideals of The American Legion and serving as an inspiration for what lies ahead.



8th District Gene Swanson



Hello to the 8th! I hope everyone had the opportunity to reflect on this past Memorial Day. We need to take time to remember and pay our respects to those who have passed. I imagine that our convention will be over by the time you read this, but I want to thank Taconite Post 301 for hosting the event and also thank the Lawrence Lake Auxiliary Unit 476 for the meals. I am sure it was enjoyed by all.

I hope that all our posts will step up and support all of the new district officers for the 2025-26 year. We can only "be all we can be" if we make the effort to work hard to support

our goals.

I would like to point out something I read the other day, and I paraphrase: "This is my district. It is composed of people just like me. It will be friendly if I am. It will do great work if I work. It will make generous gifts to many causes if I am generous. It will bring others into our membership if I bring them. It will be a district of loyalty and service. I dedicate myself to the task of being all the things I want our district to be."

May God bless the American Legion Family.



9th District Steve NaSalle



Now that my second term as your district commander is coming to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our entire 9th District for a smooth and successful second term. It has been an honor serving all of you! I want to personally thank 9th District President Donna Rae Jacobson and SAL Commander Dennis Henkemeyer for their hard work and dedication during this term.

Excellent Job, and thank you for your support. A special thank you to our district vice commander at-large, Tim Haugen, for his above-and-beyond expectations organizing our successful membership program and our district newsletter. Thank you, Tim!

In addition, I would like to congratulate all of our posts who have reached or exceeded 100 percent membership. Thank you all!

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

Continued on Page 21

District Commanders

Continued from Page 20

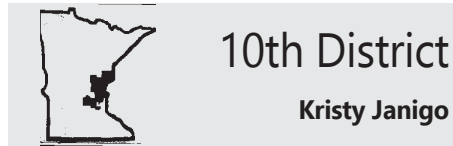
these forms in on time. If you need assistance, please contact Tim Haugen.

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 July 10-12.

Please continue to be mindful of our members who are home-bound 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 yours in service.



Thank you to everyone who came to St. Paul for Veterans Day on the Hill April 9. Approximately 650 veterans were there to advocate for our legislative priorities. By the time you receive this issue of the Legionnaire, the 2025 session will have ended. (Well, sort of.)

Thank you for using our grass-roots actions at mnlegion.org/action. Check back next year for new action items. The 2026 legislative platform should be available at mnlegion.org/legislation around December.

I am excited to see what my successor, Paul Hassing, will do with the Legislative Committee in the future, as I step back from this role to pursue other things.

One last reminder about the 10th District Convention. It is June 6 and 7 at Buffalo Post 270. June 6 is a Friday, and that is when the banquet takes place, with social hour beginning at

5 p.m. June 7 is a Saturday. The convention begins in earnest at 9 a.m.

I attended the Every Third Saturday Gala April 25 to celebrate their accomplishments serving homeless and justice involved veterans, along with many of my other partners in the work. If you've not had the chance to donate to my commander's project, Every Third Saturdays' donation page is <https://www.everythirdsaturday.org/monetary-donations-for-credit-card-donations>. If issuing a check, please send a check to attention: Every Third Saturday, 5402 43rd Ave. S. Minneapolis, MN 55417. Write "10th District" in the memo line.

In service.

Where to find annual reports from each of the committees?

The annual committee reports are published online at the department's website, mnlegion.org. Look for them under the "Department" tab, then hover on "TALMN Committees." You will see "Committee Reports." They are in a downloadable and printable PDF.

What's Happening?

Bring your old flags to Veterans Campground

MARINE ON ST. CROIX — The Flag Retirement Ceremony at the Veterans Campground on Big Marine Lake is set for Saturday, June 14.

Latest time to bring your flag to be added to the ceremony rack is 11 a.m. on the day of the event. Ceremony begins at noon.

This ceremony is open to the public. There is a short program, then the burning of thousands of American flags being retired, followed by the annual Potluck Luncheon.

Anybody up for Big Band dancing and classic aircraft?

SOUTH ST. PAUL — The Spring Big Band Hangar Dance is coming up.

Doors open at 6 p.m. Saturday, June 14, at Fleming Field in South St. Paul. It is at 310 Airport Road, Hangar 3.

Dance Lessons from TC

Swing can be taken at 7 p.m.

Music from the Roseville Big Band starts at 8 p.m. and plays until midnight.

There is a vintage clothing contest, gourmet food trucks and photo-ops with historic aircraft and vehicles. Feel free to wear classic military uniforms, too.

The event is organized by the Minnesota Wing of the Commemorative Air Force, a national aircraft preservation association with three units in the Land of 10,000 Lakes.

Visit cafmn.org to learn about their flights, events and museum.

Resources will be at CHS Field

ST. PAUL — The Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans holds its Summer Salute on Tuesday, June 10.

It is a one-day event that provides support service and resources for homeless or at-risk veterans all in one location.

The Summer Salute takes place at CHS Field, 360 N. Broadway St., St. Paul, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The event is free, and registration is not needed. However, people may sign up in advance on Eventbrite for no charge.

Legion's Eagle Scout of the Year is from Woodbury

WOODBURY — The American Legion Department of Minnesota Eagle Scout of the Year is a junior at Woodbury High School whose Eagle Scout project was motivated by his grandfather, who fought in the Army in the Vietnam War.

Ryan Kuehn's grandfather died as a war casualty on this 30th birthday. Kuehn feels connected to veterans as a result. He built 15 wooden donation boxes for Woodbury Post 501 so they can store the money when members of the public donate to them. The post had been using plastic ice cream buckets for its annual Poppy Day collections.

"The wooden boxes will also provide a more professional-looking donation box that will hopefully go toward raising more funding to support local Woodbury charities, Woodbury High School and American Legion programs," Kuehn wrote.



Ryan Kuehn

He went about drafting the boxes, getting materials (which were donated by his father), making all the parts, working with a laser-engraver, then organizing a crew of volunteers to assemble the boxes. The volunteers were adults and Scouts, who were rewarded with a lunch.

Kuehn is with Troop 9072 and has earned numerous merit

badges.

He has a long record of community service: volunteering to ring bells for the Salvation Army, picking up trash in a park, packing meals, planting trees, among other acts.

However, it should be noted this young person took American sign language in high school and joined the ASL Club. He went on to participate in deaf and hard-of-hearing snowboarding lessons in and out of school time. Kuehn himself is a hard-of-hearing person.

"He has innate knowledge of what it is like to live in a world that does not consider his needs," said English teacher Samantha Valenta. "Due to this knowledge, he has empathy for others, which will help him help others and live out the Eagle Scout way."

He is involved at St. Ambrose Catholic Community. He is hoping to finish high



This is one of 15 donation boxes Kuehn has made.

school with a 3.9 grade-point average. He was deciding between the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities or the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He hasn't decided a major yet.

Attend the department convention to find out how his GPA turned out and where he will go to college. He will be there to accept his award.

Nominating him was Woodbury Post 501 Commander Bob Dolan.

'We had to be a part of this'



Photo by Casey Ek/Mankato Free Press

Guests at the grand opening of the Bravo Zulu House are greeted by a taxidermied elk head as they file through the home's atrium. At capacity, the home will have 12 beds.

Continued from Page 3

dedicated space for veterans to recover and rebuild their lives.

"We knew we had to be a part of this. This wasn't just shelter. This was innovation. This was purpose. This was a place where veterans come to rediscover themselves," Humphries said.

An average of 22 veterans die by suicide daily, about 30,000 veterans exit inpatient facilities each month and an estimated 90 percent of these individuals experience PTSD,

according to the Bravo Zulu House website.

Other key supporters include veterans Jack Zimmerman, Steve Chase, Gilligan and others who champion the project. Zimmerman is a Purple Heart recipient and advisory board chair. He said many lives have been lost unnecessarily because there wasn't proper support.

"With places like this, guys have a place to heal. We have community. That's where guys can heal," he said. "As long as I have air in my lungs, I'll be here to make sure

that these houses are here to stay, and there's more of them."

Bravo Zulu originates from a naval signal meaning "well done." The project emerged from grassroots community efforts, with funding primarily sourced from local businesses, individual donors and veteran support, who raised \$1.3 million collectively. The facility represents a model that could potentially be replicated across the state and nation, Votel said.

Murray said the house stands as a testament to community-driven solutions in veteran care, offering hope and healing to those who have sacrificed for their country. He said Gov. Tim Walz proclaimed May 28 as "Bravo Zulu House Day" and the proclamation itself reads it is a "beacon of hope for veterans nationwide."

Votel said future plans include developing a specialized facility for female veterans, who face a 75 percent higher suicide rates due to military sexual trauma. The organization is seeking to raise \$1.25 million to fund lift and wheelchair-accessible rooms, dog kennels for the therapy program and the hydroponic farming system.

The grand opening coincided with Memorial Day week and featured a proclamation from Sen. Amy Klobuchar, read by her outreach director Chuck Ackman, as well as speeches from 1st District Congressman Brad Finstad and Mayors Jean Anderson and Lee Baarts, from Winnebago and Fairmont respectively.

Endorsements

Minneapolis-Richfield Post 435 has endorsed Dennis DeLong for the position of Minnesota department vice commander 2025-2026.

DeLong has served as 1st vice commander, 2nd vice commander, executive board member, finance officer, property and finance member and holding corporation member at Minneapolis-Richfield Post 435.

At the district level, he has served as district commander, 1st vice commander, 2nd vice commander, 3rd

vice commander, adjutant, finance officer, Employment Committee chair, Finance Committee and Constitution & Bylaws chairman.

At the department level, he has served as department vice commander (4th & 5th District), department historian three times, sergeant-at-arms, member of the Minnesota American Legion Foundation Board of Directors and currently serves on the Department Finance Committee. He is a past chair of the Finance

Committee, too.

At Post 435, he has served as 1st vice commander and finance officer. He is part of the Fort Snelling National Cemetery Memorial Rifle Squad.

He served in the Navy from 1975 to 1980 as a disbursing clerk 2nd class on the USS Jose, a combat supply ship. He spent time at Oak Knoll Naval Hospital in Oakland, Calif., where he had two surgeries on his right knee.



Dennis DeLong

Can Minnesota have 100% CPR?

In order for us to be eligible for 100 percent award by national all CPRs must be in before July 1. If you are using hard copy, they must be into Department HQ no later than June 23. That will give us time

to get those reports sent in by July 1. Online reports should be done by June 30. If you have started one? Don't forget to submit it.

Every post has something to report. If you look at the form item 124 and 125 are automatics to check — 124 because of the 25 cents of our dues go to Hospital Association so take

the 25 cents times the number of members in your post and round up to the nearest dollar. And 125 filled in because it took who ever filled out the form volunteer time to do it — rounding up to the nearest hour.

We can't procrastinate. June 25 will creep up on us. Then there will be this mad rush to get the job done.

In case you haven't noticed I am absolutely 100 percent passionate about finally getting Minnesota and our commander on the national stage. This is so doable.

Let's do this! Thanks, everyone.

Sy Fix
Americanism Committee
La Crescent Post 595



The Auxiliary Bulletin

No. 25 Vol. 7 President Judy Ackerman • Secretary Christie Avant, christie@mnala.org

Dept. HQ: Veterans Service Building, St. Paul, MN 55155 651-224-7634 June 2025

Thanks to the units for inviting me over

This year has flown by. Department Convention is right around the corner.

I hope you are planning to join us in Willmar to hear about all the successes of the units in the department. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at convention.

The end of April and the beginning of May had unit visits to Minnesota Lake, Nashauk, Roseau, Fisher and North Branch. Thank you to these units for their invites. It is always fun and interesting to see how other units work the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Many units are working on their Memorial Day programs to honor our fallen veterans. It is a day to honor those veterans who gave the ultimate sacrifice to our country.

June will bring 6 District conventions. Please go to your district convention and hear what

President's Message

Judy Ackerman



the units did.

June is Girl State month. Girl State will be held June 15-21 at Bethel University. Hopefully your unit is sending at least one girl if not more to this educational opportunity. What an opportunity for these young women to learn about local and state government.

June 14 is Flag Day. Show your patriotism by displaying Old Glory. You might even go to the flag-retirement ceremony at the Veterans Campground on Big Marine Lake. It starts at noon.

Thank you to everyone who came to the testimonial. Your presence was a very special gift to me to help celebrate this year of going "Back to the Basics:

Recognize, Respect, Remember."

I hope everyone who attended had a great time. I know I did and my grandchildren enjoyed themselves.

God bless our fallen veterans, our veterans, active military and their families. God bless America.

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."

District membership standings

- 1. 92.93%..... District 6
- 2. 92.61%..... District 3
- 3. 94.89%..... District 1
- 4. 88.86%..... District 9
- 5. 87.82%..... District 2
- 6. 87.82%..... District 7
- 7. 87.29%..... District 8
- 8. 86.85%..... District 10
- 9. 80.74%..... District 4
- 10. 66.74%..... District 5



National membership standings

- Western Division 95.95% up from 92.64%
- Southern Division 95.70% up from 92.05%
- Eastern Division 95.63% up from 92.20%
- Central Division 93.02% up from 90.33%
- Northwestern Division 89.09% up from 87.36%

Memberopoly in review

By Hope Wilson
Membership Chairman

Minnesota has a hefty membership goal of 26,014 members. On the National membership report of May 14, Minnesota reported 23,190 members. This number is 876 members short of where we were a year ago. Membership is still trickling in, but not at a rate we need to meet the goal.

This is also the time of year when our snowbirds are returning home from their warm roosts. It is a great time to reach out to any of them that may not have paid their dues yet. Give them a quick call or send a card and ask if everything is going OK. Do they need a little help paying for their membership this year, or did they simply forget?

Take a peek at "your" individual units, see where you are today and where you were last year at reporting date; if not using ALAMIS, wait, wait,

wait — everyone should be using ALAMIS.

It's a great tool for membership. OK, so if not using ALAMIS, cross-reference transmittals to ensure all are processed accordingly. Has everyone that you sent in for processing been processed?

One of the things that I have come across while doing membership this year is that when I reviewed membership rosters and went through the names, especially the PUFL or HLM ones, I found many deceased members on the roster. Each unit needs to have due diligence in maintaining their membership lists to ensure that the member is deceased; we report it to the Department Office.

Looking over the year, we had one new charter started this year, but many, many charters disbanded.

If your unit is looking at disbanding, please reach out to your department membership

chairman, your district president or the Department Office. Any of these people can give you the information that you will need to make an informed decision about this.

We would like to talk with your unit on the options your unit has. We don't like closing charters. There is a procedure that must be followed to close a charter. This is not a decision that an individual can make.

If you are considering disbanding due to 990 non-compliance issues, explore the possibility of getting your tax-exempt back under the national ALA group exemption number.

This should be a no-cost method to bring your Unit back into compliance, there will be paperwork involved in this process.

It has been exciting working as your membership chairman this year, and I hope we continue finding ways to increase our membership.



Department Commander Carl Moon playfully teases Department President Judy Ackerman at her testimonial on May 17 held at the Best Western hotel in Fairmont.



On May 25, Albert Lea American Legion Auxiliary Unit 56 President Beth Birch presents Preston Veterans Home Volunteer Coordinator Gabby Kenniberg, along with fellow staff members, a donation toward veteran activities and needs.



On May 5, Roseau Unit 24 hosted its annual, highly anticipated, luncheon for neighboring units and 9th District officers. President Judy Ackerman was honored to be invited and is the photographer of this picture showing the great turnout.



Nashauk Unit 307 held its annual Memorial Service on May 1. Pictured is Department President Judy Ackerman and Unit 307 President Patricia Derfler.



Pictured with Department President Judy Ackerman during her May 6 visit are the members of Fisher Unit 318.



Department President Judy enjoyed her visit to North Branch Unit 85 for the Mother's Day Banquet. While there she visited with Past Department President and Past National NWD Vice President Beverly Otterness.



2024-2025 South Dakota Department President AnnaMae Warnier and her husband, Paul, celebrate Minnesota Department President Judy Ackerman and her accomplishments at the testimonial dinner in Fairmont. Warnier and Ackerman served as district presidents in 2006-2007 under Department President DeeDee Buckley.



Past Department President Mary Kuperus of New London Unit 537 shakes hands with National Commander James LaCoursiere Jr. of Connecticut during his visit to the Fagan Figthers WWII Museum in Granite Falls in late March. She donated \$100 to his project, the American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation.

Department convention is next month

WILLMAR — Please join us at the 105th Department Convention being held July 10-12 at the Willmar Conference Center.

Prior to the Convention, the Department Executive Committee will meet at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 9. Auxiliary district caucuses will take place on both Thursday and Friday mornings at 8:15 a.m. The convention sessions will begin at 9:15 a.m. Find the registration form on Page 3 of this issue of The Minnesota Legionnaire.

Convention Schedule

Wednesday, July 9

Pre-Convention Dept. Executive Meeting 11 a.m.

Thursday, July 10

District Caucuses (Auxiliary) 8:15 a.m.

Convention Session 9:15 a.m.

Joint Memorial Service 11:30 a.m.

Convention Committee Meetings (Auxiliary) 2 p.m.

Friday, July 11

District Caucuses (Auxiliary) 8:15 a.m.

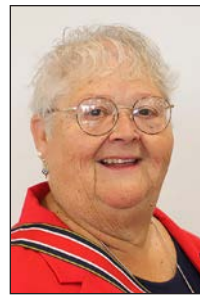
Convention Session 9:15 a.m.

Past Department Presidents Luncheon 11:30 a.m.

Convention Reconvenes 1:30 p.m.



Robin Dorf



Linda Kelly



Jody Hassing

Saturday, July 12

Convention Reconvenes at 9 a.m.

Election of 2025-26 Officers 10:45 a.m.

Installation of 2025-26 Officers 11:00 a.m.

Candidates

The following members have been endorsed for Department office:

• Department President: Robin Dorf, Monticello Unit 260

• Department 1st Vice President: Linda Kelly, Pine Island Unit 184

• Department 2nd Vice: President: Jody Hassing, Bloomington Unit 550



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.

Notes

• Call to Department Convention was in the May 2025 Legionnaire page 15, the June Unit Mailing and can be found on the Department webpage.

• Please remember to bring your entries for the Poppy Contest. All entries must be at the convention by 9 a.m. on Thursday, July 10th. Tables will be set up in the display area for the entries. Winners will be announced during the Poppy report on Friday.

Come to the 16th Junior Fun Weekend

BRAINERD — Make plans to have your Junior members attend the 16th Annual Junior Fun weekend, Friday through Sunday, Aug. 8-10.

The Fun Weekend will be at the Legionville Safety Summer Camp (on North Long Lake, near Brainerd). The registration fee will be \$25 per person if reservations and payment are received in the Department Office no later than July 18.

Reservation forms and general information can be found on the Department webpage www.mnala.org.

Department of Corrections

In the May 2025 issue of The Minnesota Legionnaire on Page 15, the Auxiliary Unit pictured with Department President Judy Ackerman and National Commander James LaCoursiere is Fairbault Unit 43.



Reverse Mortgages

The future doesn't have to be uncertain.

Don't let inflation get the best of you. Lock in your line of credit now while home prices are still high. Call or email me for a free Information Guide and personal quote.



MIKE KRAUS
MN Loan Officer
NMLS ID #283509

Let a retired active-duty veteran show you how you may benefit.



NMLS ID #9908

1709 Tullamore Ave.
Bloomington, IL 61704
Call or email me at:
763-355-8540

mike@teamusamtg.com



Serving all of Minnesota



In the next issue ...

The historic gun from the USS Ward, which fired the first American shot on an enemy in World War II and was mainly staffed by St. Paul men, is presently on the Capitol Complex campus near the Veterans Service Building.

It might be moved to a new location soon. Where could it go? Learn more about it in the next Legionnaire.

NEW RULES... STILL GREAT GAMES!



Arrow is leading the way developing new E-Tab games under the new rules – players are already embracing Arrow’s latest games!



MINNESOTA CHARITIES
Win with Arrow!



**ASK YOUR DISTRIBUTOR
ABOUT OUR E-TAB PROMOTION!**