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A note to our readers: U.S. Postal Service increases for periodicals have hit The Minnesota Legionnaire hard. The Postal

Service raised rates by 8 percent in May 2021, and it is raising rates for periodicals again by 8.5 percent this month. Postage costs us about \$13,000 each month — by far our largest expense. The Legionnaire is its own nonprofit organization and is applying for grants and intends to hold a special fundraiser next spring, rather than merely pass on our expenses to you.

One way some of you can help us reduce postage costs is to sign up to receive the Legionnaire as a PDF delivered via email. Just go to mnlegion.org/legionnaire/ and scroll down to “Get the e-edition instead.” Feel good about yourself if you do. By signing up, you help us avoid drastic measures such as publishing every other month.

The Minnesota

Legionnaire

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A PUBLICATION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY

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For God and Country

August 2022

DEC hears from dept. candidates for next year

Media and Communications Committee members Mike Parry and Kristy Janigo record a podcast. It is called Minnesota American Legion Patriots Podcast, and it will debut in September.



Executive committee met twice in Willmar

WILLMAR — The first Department Executive Committee meeting took place about a half hour after the end of the convention July 16, instead of the norm of two weeks later, saving a weekend of travel during a busy Legion summer. That first meeting is a good time to figure out who is running for what next year. Past Department Membership Director

Paul Hassing of Bloomington Post 550 announced he was running for 2023-24 department commander. He also the past director of the American Legion Riders. His endorsement is in this issue. Past 6th District Commander Paul Edwards of Nisswa Post 627 and Past 7th District Commander Victor Gades of Morris Post 29 are running for department vice commanders. NECman Bill Barbknecht

and Alternate NECman Peggy Moon are running to retain their seats. The first DEC took action, too. It reappointed Bill Goede of Plainview Post 179 to a three-year terms as treasurer, and it reappointed Carroll “Bird” Partridge of St. Paul 3M Post 599 to a three-year term on the Minnesota Legionnaire Board of Publications. And the DEC approved a resolution, approving a change to the Law Enforcement Continued on Page 3

Idea: Train all on issue of suicide

Convention passes several resolutions

WILLMAR — The primary business of a Legion convention is to review and decide on resolutions. One of the resolutions that passed came from Winnebago Post 82 and involved suicide prevention. It called for posts of The American Legion to seek out qualified trainers who then train all members on preventing suicides. A resolution passed calling for the VA to eliminate the presumptive time frame for air particulates in claims relating to the Southwest Asia theater. It notes presently “a veteran must meet Continued on Page 3

Women appear in just about half of all leadership roles

By Tim Engstrom

WILLMAR — At the 103rd Department of Minnesota Convention, Jennifer Havlick of the 8th District emerged as the winner of the election among delegates to determine the 2022-23 commander for the Department of Minnesota. After the announcement on the convention’s final day, Garylee Davenport of the 7th District gave his votes to Havlick to make the results unanimous. Havlick belongs to Duluth Wisted Post 28 and resides in Silver Creek Township near Two Harbors. Davenport lives in Atwater and is a member of Spicer Post 545. “My goal is to work as a team,” Havlick said. She noted Minnesota is the best state when it comes to The American Legion. She said Tunnels to Towers, which provides homes to wounded veterans, will be her fundraising project, and suicide prevention will be a major priority. Her theme is “Honoring Our Past

The pick is Havlick



Candidates for department commander, Jennifer Havlick and Garylee Davenport hug, after Havlick was announced at the winner of the election by delegates from posts across the state.

by Securing Our Future.” Political campaigns, said National Executive Committeeman Bill Barbknecht, could take a lesson in civility from Havlick and Davenport. “There are no losers here today,” he

said. “There’s a few runners-up.” In the other contested race, Carla Tappainer of Apple Valley Post 1776 captured the role of sergeant-at-arms. She ran against Dean Knutson of Ashby Post 357.

It was a day of victory for women veterans. This Legion year, women will fill roles as commander, sergeant at arms, historian, alternate NECman, membership director, 1st District Continued on Page 10



This rendering shows the front structure, along Portland, is an L-shaped four-story apartment building over a two-story garage. The U-shaped building would be a five-story apartment building over a one-level garage, and the square building, in between, is a two-story restaurant and banquet hall over a two-level garage. Motorists would access the parking garages from south-side entrances.

Richfield Post 435 reveals plans to re-imagine site

RICHFIELD — Lawmakers showed up left and right for a meeting about the future of Minneapolis-Richfield Post 435. And that future does not involve selling the property. There were state Reps. Emma Greenman, Patricia Torres-Ray, Michael Howard, Donald Raleigh and Kaela Berg. There was state Sen. John Jasinski, who sits on the Senate bonding bill committee. Veterans Affairs Commissioner Larry Herke and Richfield Mayor

Maria Regan Gonzalez were there, too. The emcee, former Blaine Mayor and Transportation Commissioner Elwyn Tinklenberg, led the talk as a consultant on behalf of Post 435. “I hope you understand how important it is so many legislators came,” he said. The vision for the site where Post 435’s building and parking lot is now along Portland Avenue calls for completely new Continued on Page 2



This cross-section rendering of the Post 435 site shows the parking lot beneath and how the buildings sit on the site's downhill slope.

Many Legion posts sell when they have options

Continued from Page 1

construction. It is going to be called Veterans Village.

"It can serve as a model to preserve posts like this all over the country," said Commander Adam Seamans.

The plans call for a restaurant with bar not operated by the post, banquet space for weddings, reunions and other gatherings, along with apartments and underground parking, all right next to a Richfield centerpiece — Veterans Park with its Legion Lake — as well as the Richfield Ice Arena and Richfield Outdoor Pool.

"It was important to the city to protect the unique character for the site," Tinklenberg said. "They wanted to build something that would fit in."

He described the project further.

There will be underground



A shot of the existing Post 435 building taken last winter.

and surface parking for a total of 360 spots. Townhomes will line Portland Avenue, with the main building behind them. Post 435 will have 1,800 square feet of office space. The restaurant will have 6,000 square feet, with a large outdoor seating

area with a view of the park, and above the restaurant will be a banquet facility with another 6,000 square feet.

The plan calls for a winding sidewalk with trees and shrubs, creating a community space that focuses on the Honoring All Veterans Memorial in the park.

There will be 195 apartments, with 20 percent classified as "affordable" and the rest at market rates. They will be particularly aimed at veterans. Four units will be for reserved for families who have loved ones staying at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center.

The apartments, Tinklenberg said, can't be exclusively for veterans because of the financing involved, but they can be veterans-preference.

The post will own the apartments, the offices, the restaurant and the banquet space, the entire ball of wax. The restaurant and bar will be operated by a third party, not the post. Construction begins in July 2023, Tinklenberg said.

"We're in the beginning of a marathon," said Post 435 Immediate Past Commander Mark Barthel, president of the new Post 435 Holding Corporation.

He said the holding corporation will receive revenue from the tenants and use it to pay off the debt.

Regan Gonzalez said she was excited to support this project and to keep Post 435 an integral part of Richfield.

The restaurant investor is an Air Force veteran who has been in the restaurant business for 20 years, involved in Twin Cities concepts such as Green Mill, Crooked Pint Ale House.

Paul Dzubnar, CEO of St. Paul-based Hightop Hospitality, grew up in White Bear Lake. He said he involved in the Post 435 project because he loves America, loves veterans and knows how to operate restaurants.

"What an opportunity to do a lot of good in a lot of different ways," he said.

He said the restaurant will offer traditional American fare, and there still will be fish fries like the old Post 435 had at times.

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MEMBERSHIP MOJO!



Then-Membership Director Paul Hassing recognized then-6th District Membership Director Karen O'Bar with the New Member Award, which is for being the district that brought in the most new members.



Hassing congratulates then-Vice Commander 6&9 Carl Moon on winning the New Member Award.



Hassing also presented O'Bar with the plaque for winning the Premier Race, a point race among districts to encourage membership growth.



Hassing awarded Paul M. Siebert of Forest Lake Post 225 a Silver Brigade Membership Award, and Post 225's Terry Larson accepted on his behalf. See Page 6 for the other Silver Brigade winner.

Should Gen. Grant be promoted?

Bipartisan legislation in Congress seeks to promote Gen. Ulysses S. Grant to the highest rank in the Army: General of the Armies.

This honor was bestowed on Gen. George Washington for America's bicentennial, but it didn't take place until 1978. The only other general to receive this honor is World War I's John Pershing.

The effort with Grant failed to get done before his 200th birthday on April 27, 2022, but the push continues.

Jim Cox of Circle Pines Post 566 asked that Legion members

in Minnesota contact their U.S. senators and representatives and inform them that they would like to see Gen. Grant's promotion go through.

Grant won the Vicksburg campaign for the Union, capturing control of the Mississippi River, and after a decisive victory at Chattanooga, President Abraham Lincoln put him in command of the Union Armies.

For 13 months, Grant fought Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee until Grant accepted Lee's surrender Appomattox Courthouse in Virginia. Grant was sworn in as president in 1869.

Department looking at getting its own logo

Continued from Page 1

Officer of the Year award to include correction officers.

A list of Commander Jennifer Havlick's committee appointments will be printed in the next issue of the Legionnaire and will be posted on the department website in early August. Adjutant Mike Maxa urged members to take their committee appointments seriously and to take action.

Judge Advocate Greg Colby reminded members of their statutory duties, such as taking minutes, following procedures and seeking to fulfill the mission of their committees.

The DEC, under then-Commander Tom Fernlund, met on July 13, prior to the convention, too.

Adjutant Mike Maxa said a 1955 mandate remains in effect, recommending district conventions to consider geography and schedules so that the department commander can visit all of them. He noted there had been four on a single weekend this year.

Finance Committee Chairwoman Mary Jo York noted many districts have traditional weekends on their calendars.

Maxa said the mandate only says "recommend" and that he just would like an effort to coordinate.

Linda Dvorak of New Prague Post 45 (and later named department membership director) created an administration manual for districts, and she said she is working on a book of authorizations.

The Fall Conference, it was said as a reminder, will take place at the River's Edge Conference Center in St. Cloud Oct. 28-29, with a DEC meeting Oct. 27.

Reports

Wilson Spence, chairman of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Committee, called on veterans to help with state and federal cemeteries.

"They need volunteers to clean markers of deceased veterans and to help in the office," he told the convention.

Spence described how his committee visited state veterans homes, VA hospitals and federal and state cemeteries, ascertaining problems. He noted Fort Snelling National Cemetery particularly could use assistance.

Pam Krill, chairwoman of the Strategic Planning Committee, said a survey the committee reveals The American Legion is missing the mark when it comes to marketing to younger veterans. She said veterans know the Legion's role in garnering benefits for veterans and aiding in the local communities, yet it has been difficult to grow.

Media & Communications Committee Chairwoman Teresa Ash thanked her team and said the districts have gained attention from the efforts of her committee to livestream more department and district events.

The DEC members got to see a preview of two leading possibilities for a department logo, which had arrived at

the office shortly before the convention time. Past National Commander Dan Ludwig asked department staff to get them both approved at the National HQ, then bring them back to the DEC for approval.

That way, no matter which is selected, the DEC will know it is good to go, he said.

The logo would be used on clothing, bags, documents, gear and other Department of Minnesota-related matters. Many other departments have created their own logos, too. They will be printed in the Legionnaire after receiving national approval.



SAL Convention

Sons of The American Legion Detachment Adjutant Doug Bible, past SAL national commander, reported on the SAL convention that took place in June in East Grand Forks. There were 50 members from 20 squadrons. SAL National Vice Commander Jeff Vrabel of Ohio and leading national commander candidate Christopher Carlton of Indiana visited, along with Department Commander Tom Fernlund and President Patti Coleman.

The Detachment Executive Committee approved a \$90,000 budget and five resolutions:

- Endorsement of Casey Lenort for SAL national chaplain.
- Endorsement of Robert Bristo for SAL national vice commander.
- Establishment of a member training and development committee.
- Sponsorship of two members to attend Minnesota American Legion College.
- Detachment officer caps.

They made donations of \$100 for Minnesota Legacy Run, \$1,000 for National Emergency Fund, \$300 to Brain Science, \$1,400 for the Zgoda Memorial Disabled Veterans Deer Hunt and \$4,225 to American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. Commander Tim Weaver's project raised \$17,000, the highest per capita in the Central Region and well above his goal of \$11,000.

Weaver was elected to serve a second term.

Detachment award winners were:

- Scrapbook, first place: 3rd District
- Squadron activities, first place: Chaska
- Americanism, first place: Arcade-Phalen
- Americanism, second place: Richfield
- Children & Youth, first place: Chaska
- Children & Youth, second place: East Grand Forks
- VA&R, first place: Chaska
- VA&R, second place: Richfield

Endorsements

Hassing endorsed for Minnesota commander

Paul Hassing has been endorsed by Earl C. Hill Post 550 Bloomington and the 10th District American Legion for department commander for the 2023-2024 year.

Hassing has served in the Regular Army 1982-1989, Army Reserve 1994-1997, Army National Guard 2001-2004, Army Reserve 2004-present. He is currently serving as an Active-Duty Army Reserve career counselor with plans to retire in June 2023. He is a 17-year member of The American Legion at Bloomington and has served two years as post commander and two years as post adjutant.



Paul Hassing

On the district level, Hassing served as 10th District commander, judge advocate, vice commander. He has held several chairmanships, too.

On the department level, Hassing served as membership director and on the Strategic Planning Committee. He served two years as state director for the American Legion Riders. He is a member of the Bloomington chapter of the Riders.

On the national level, he serves on the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Council and is a 2010 graduate of the National American Legion College. Hassing is a member of ANAVICUS and

40/8 Voiture 481.

Paul and his wife, Dr. Jody Hassing, reside in Montgomery

and have five children and eight grandchildren (all members of the Legion Family).

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Kane backed for historian

St. Paul Park Post 98 proudly endorses Ray Kane for department historian for the Legion year 2023-2024.

Kane currently is a member of the St. Paul Park Post 98.

He has served as first and second vice commander at the post and is currently the finance officer. He also does the bulk of the of media and communications work to keep members of the community and post informed of Post 98 events.

Kane also plans and organizes

post events and works with volunteers to make each a success. He sits on the Gambling and Donations Committee to ensure our post funds are used in the most efficient manner and provides help to as many veterans as possible.

Because of his knowledge of a variety of media and his excellent communications skills, he was selected to serve on the Department Media and Communications Committee. He has worked with each district in the state to

Continued on Page 6



Ray Kane

Resolutions address health care problems

Continued from Page 1

the following basic entitlement criteria: Has manifested chronic asthma, chronic rhinitis and/or chronic sinusitis, to include rhinosinusitis, within 10 years of separation from the last period of military service." The resolution calls for the VA to strike the 10-year limit.

The convention passed a resolution citing inequity with the Veterans Health Administration's wait time standards. The resolution states: "When VA cancels a veteran's appointment and the next availability to be seen is outside the wait time Access Standard, the veteran becomes eligible for care in the community."

The convention approved a resolution to amend the Veteran Health Administration's Behavioral Health Autopsy Program, which gathers quantitative and qualitative information related to veterans' deaths by suicide reported to VA facilities. The resolution wants VHA to amend the BHAP form to include a section for veterans that only receive primary care that answer questions on diagnosis, symptoms, pain manager and last seen at clinic, that VHA share information with the state Department of Health and that trends and patterns be made available to veteran service organizations.

And it approved a resolution

calling for the VA to not consider disability ratings based on effects of treatment and remain on the evaluation of a disability, and that ratings for mental health disorders should remain on the frequency, severity and duration of symptoms. It also states "that VA justify in detail the appropriateness of VA rating the disabilities of U.S. veterans using the World Health Organization's criteria, based on the entire world population rather than veterans who have experienced traumas and disabilities from military service."

A resolution to add correction officers to the Law Officer of the Year award was passed at the Saturday, July 16, Department Executive Committee.

The six resolutions mentioned above will be forwarded to the National Convention in August in Milwaukee.

Other resolutions that passed but are not forwarded to national involve adding a member to the Media & Communications Committee, bringing it to five, and advocating for a state license plate for military retirees.

Resolutions under consideration were printed in the July issue. Resolutions that failed to pass can return, typically amended, either at a later DEC meeting, the next convention or not at all.

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Many months of work have led up to this moment. I am truly humbled by your support that brought me to stepping into the high office of department commander.

I would like to thank God for this amazing opportunity. Without his help and guidance, I would be truly lost. A big shout-out to my Army veteran husband, Scott Havlick, for his unwavering support through this campaign along with so many Legion Family members who stood by me while I traveled around the state. You are all truly amazing.

Less than 48 hours after being elected, I had the awesome opportunity to ride in the Raspberry Festival parade in Hopkins. The next day, 4th District Commander David Dahl and I attended a Division I American Legion Baseball game. I led the teams in reciting the Legion Baseball Code of Sportsmanship, and he lead the singing of "The Star-Spangled Banner." What an amazing group of young men we have representing Legion Baseball.

As I write this article, your department membership team prepares to travel to Indianapolis to meet with other departments throughout out the country to talk about and share idea how we can assist our post, counties and districts be successful in our mission to assist veterans, families and our communities.

Commander's Column

Jennifer Havlick



Our Legion Riders are hard at work preparing for our Minnesota Legacy Run along with the National Legacy Run. Remember Minnesota has led the nation in donations to the Legacy Scholarship fund for more than 10 years, and I have no doubt that we will continue to do so. You can find this year's Minnesota Legacy Run schedule at <https://www.mnlegacyrun.org/2022-run/>. I encourage everyone to donate what they can to this amazing scholarship.

Our Legion Riders lead us right into the American Legion National Convention hosted by our neighbor to the east, the Department of Wisconsin. It's a great opportunity to meet and talk with other Legion Family members about how we can work together to accomplish our mission.

Hopefully by now you have figured out that this year is all about the mission of The American Legion. Our focus will be strengthening our programs, reaching out to our communities and the veterans in them. We have an amazing selection of programs for veterans, their families, and our communities to participate in and benefit from.

Our job as the American Legion Family is to make sure they are strong and available in every community in Minnesota. Your department leadership team is here to help our posts, counties and district be successful, so please do not be afraid to reach out for our help. The Department Training Committee is available to provide training in a variety of areas, the Media and Communication Committee is available to assist you with getting your messages out. Just ask.

Lastly your Department Membership Director Linda Dvorak and I continue to be available to assist with MyLegion.org and membership processing training. Lastly but not least, if you are struggling, please reach out. We are here for you. You are not alone. We are a family, and we are Legion Strong.

"Honoring Our Past by Securing Our Future."

Jennifer Havlick of Duluth Wisted Post 28 is the commander of The American Legion Department of Minnesota.

Housing Support forces many homeless veterans to make choice

Editor's note: The American Legion Department of Minnesota supports the passage of the bill mentioned in this piece. Please help us get it passed in 2023.

Nearly 20,000 Minnesotans experience homelessness every night.

This staggering statistic underscores the extent of the homelessness crisis. But thanks to coordinated efforts, progress is being made to address it.

Since 2000, the percentage of people experiencing homelessness who are military veterans has decreased to 7 percent. Our state is on its way to becoming the fourth in the United States to eliminate veteran homelessness, with 85 of 87 Minnesota counties achieving an effective end to veteran homelessness.

Our work isn't done, though, and there is no one single solution to the problem.

This past legislative session, Minnesota lawmakers had an opportunity to further disrupt trends in homelessness by reforming a little-known state program called Housing Support. Unfortunately, it was one of many proposals left on the table when legislators adjourned.

More than rent assistance, Housing Support is a permanent supportive housing program that combines housing assistance with services. It serves low-income seniors and adults with disabilities — including veterans — who are at risk of homelessness in all regions of the state. It ensures they aren't just able to pay rent and utilities but have access to everyday

essentials like food, bed and linens, and laundry, too.

Under current law, veterans and others who receive Housing Support must pay a portion of their income toward housing, and it's here the need for reform comes in.

Unlike earned income from wages, individuals receiving veterans benefits, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Retirement, Survivors & Disability Insurance (RSDI) can be required to pay their full benefit toward their Housing Support costs — except for a \$111 monthly allowance.

For them, the door to home through Housing Support could cost as much as 90 percent of their monthly income.

Unwilling or unable to forfeit control of 90 percent of income they served or otherwise qualified for, there are individuals experiencing homelessness who are declining Housing Support and choosing to stay in shelter or on the streets instead.

There are tenants struggling to pay their housing obligation each month, putting them at risk of eviction and homelessness, because \$111 simply isn't enough to cover other basic needs, like a phone, transportation, personal hygiene supplies, support for children or family members, and emergency expenses.

The bill before the Legislature would have ensured veterans

and individuals with disabilities wouldn't pay more than 30 percent of their monthly benefits toward Housing Support. As one more tool in our toolbox to end homelessness, it would have offered more Minnesotans a path to a stable home and removed roadblocks for those working toward greater housing and financial independence. But despite strong bipartisan support, it didn't make it across the finish line.

Housing Support remains one of Minnesota's best tools to help people exit homelessness and prevent future homelessness, but it's not perfect. When lawmakers return next session, reforming how Housing Support treats veterans and disability benefits should be a shared priority. It's one more part of the solution — bringing us one step closer to ending homelessness for all veterans and ensuring every Minnesotan has a place to call home.

Lorna Schmidt is the public policy manager for Catholic Charities of St. Paul & Minneapolis, a nonprofit social services provider whose mission is to serve those most in need and to advocate for justice in the community.



Guest Column

Lorna Schmidt

For God and Country, we associate ...

I'm not one to write long newsletters, so this will be short.

I wish to thank you for the overwhelming support given to me as the 2022-23 Department chaplain. I will do my best to uphold the duties of this position.

A major purpose of chaplaincy is to help a person grow in their relationship with God and one another. The founding members of The American Legion considered this of utmost importance as stated in the Preamble to our Constitution: "For God and Country, we associate ourselves for the following purposes ..." (The 10 principles of the Preamble).

The World War II GI founders knew that we, as Americans, receive all rights and privileges from our Heavenly Father. In the 33rd book of Psalms, verse 12, it states: "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord."

Even as people of different faiths, we are to be in unity with one another and our Creator. I happen to be of the Christian faith, to which I will be unapologetic; that being said, I will strive to respectfully do my best

Chaplain's Corner

Larry Otto



while ministering to people of all faiths or non-faith groups. I ask for your help as I fulfill department chaplain duties during this tenure.

I may say "Merry Christmas" or "Happy Easter," but I will also honor other faith groups by acknowledging their special days, such as Hannukah, Passover, Kwanza, etc. I will need and will also appreciate your help in this regard.

The 10th principle of American Legion's Preamble says, "To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness." May we all do so.

If you are ever in need of my assistance, do not hesitate to call, text or email me. I will do my best to help in any way I can (507-475-1023, larryandem2@gmail.com).

Being department chaplain is not something I take lightly. Some may say, "He's using it as a stepping stone for higher

office." I, personally, don't believe there is any higher office in this organization than that of serving our God and Creator as chaplain of Minnesota's American Legion. That is what I truly believe. God has placed me here for a reason; I just pray that I fulfill that reason.

So, as we begin this new chapter in our lives together, I pray we will all discover a closer walk with God. As we do, pray for our military personnel here and abroad. Check on fellow veterans, and lend a hand to someone in need.

Until next month, go with God's Peace and Grace.

Larry Otto of Ellendale Post 296 is the chaplain for The American Legion Department of Minnesota.

Mail Call

Send letters to the editor for Mail Call to tengstrom@mnlegion.org.

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

There are so many people happy to help

For the past few months, I have focused on my experiences and challenges related to my inability to walk. The doctors and therapists working with me will always have my thanks and respect.

I was discharged from inpatient care to outpatient going forward. My gaze is now focused on the challenges being placed on family caregivers on a daily basis. How many such angels can there be? For every owner of a scooter, wheelchair and maybe every walker, there is someone that helps them through their day.

So add these to the list of selfless willing workers and spouses that help lighten the load for many of us.

So much depends on our shared vision and willingness to look past old grievances and rekindle the family feeling: United We Stand. Divided Is Not an Option.

And while my more active days may be behind me, I have no doubt that I can find the vim, vigor and vitality to remain engaged as can many of us.

Bob Hart
Past 3rd District Commander
Past Legislative Chairman
Stillwater Post 48

Service officer serves veteran with heart condition

I want to express my appreciation to Department

Service Officer Jeremy Wolfsteller and to let The American Legion know what a valuable asset he is.

I was recently granted a 100 percent disability for ischemic heart disease due to my exposure to Agent Orange in Vietnam. I knew Jeremy as he belonged to the same health club that I did.

About a year ago, Jeremy approached me at the club

and advised that he had heard I was having heart-related issues. Jeremy explained to me how the Veterans Administration had declared some heart-related issues could be caused by Agent Orange.

I had been diagnosed with several heart-related issues; however, ischemic heart disease was not one of those issues, and I had not heard of it before.

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Name of Deceased	Age	Date of Death	Branch	Era	Cont. Years	Post
Adams, Thomas C.	82	7/9/22	Marines	Cold	37	Coon Rapids Post 334
Albers, Vernon J.	96	6/11/22	Navy	WWII	33	Redwood Post 38
Ambrose, Frank	87	6/30/22	Army	Korea	40	Windom Post 206
Anderson, Gordon L.	92	6/7/22	Army	Korea	55	Pine Island Post 184
Benjamin, Gerald	88	6/30/22	Air Force	Korea	66	Jackson Post 130
Berard, Russell	92	6/15/22	Marines	Korea	27	Two Harbors Post 109
Bergmann, James M.	61	4/2/22	Air Force	Leb/Gren/Gulf	16	Long Prairie Post 12
Bergstrom, Charles L.	96	6/22/22	Navy	WWII	63	Roseau Post 24
Betcher, Paul C.	72	6/9/22	Army	Vietnam	19	Bellechester Post 598
Betcher, Paul C.	72	6/9/22	Army	Vietnam	19	Bellechester Post 598
Borzykowski, John M.	80	6/7/22	Army	Vietnam	54	Winona Post 9
Borzyskowski, John M.	80	6/7/22	Army	Vietnam	55	Winona Post 9
Brisk, Bernard S.	93	6/15/21	Army	Korea	31	Pierz Post 341
Brown, James R.	90	6/19/22	Army	Korea	30	North St. Paul Post 39
Brua, LeRoy G.	91	6/23/22	Army	Korea	61	Moorhead Post 21
Carlson, Richard	79	4/19/22	Army	Vietnam	36	Two Harbors Post 109
Carstensen, George T. Jr.	90	12/21/21	Army NG	Korea	70	Pipestone Post 6
Christian, Charles B.	89	6/30/22	Army	Korea	63	Blue Earth Post 89
Note: He served in the Korean War and worked on small-flag detail for Post 89 on Memorial Days for over 35 years.						
Crever, Thomas H.	84	6/8/22	Army	Vietnam	12	Hugo Post 620
Dahl, Curtis A.	82	2/17/22	Air Force	Vietnam	18	Lake City Post 110
Dale, Roger L.	86	6/25/22	Army	Vietnam	8	Marshall Post 113
Ewert, William H.	95	7/4/22	Army	WWII	75	Janesville Post 281
Feekes, Douglas L.	73	11/4/21	Navy	Vietnam	8	Pipestone Post 6
Fisher, Elmer J.	90	6/18/22	Army	Korea	34	Coon Rapids Post 334
Fix, Jacob J.	89	5/17/22	Army	Korea	40	Stewartville Post 164
Fourre, Frank P.	91	4/30/22	Army	Korea	44	Richfield Post 435
Note: He served in the 2nd Armored Division in occupied Germany.						
Fritz, Philip L.	96	5/28/22	Army AF	WWII	75	Chaska Post 57
Note: He flew 27 missions as a nose gunner.						
Gabbert, Richard L.	91	5/22/22	Marines	Korea	40	Faribault Post 43
Goettl, Roger F.	88	7/12/22	Army	Korea	55	Le Center Post 108
Hansen, Louis R.	81	3/31/22	Navy	Vietnam	9	Rosetown Post 542
Harrison, Michael J.	65	1/2/22	Army	Vietnam	39	Two Harbors Post 109
Hayes, Lloyd C.	94	7/1/22	Navy	WWII	38	Pierz Post 341
Helmerick, Daryl L.	77	6/26/22	Air Force	Vietnam	55	Little Falls Post 46
Hermanson, Gary B.	81	5/5/22	Army	Vietnam	1	Minnesota Post 1982
Hillukka, Wayne E.	79	6/17/22	Army	Vietnam	8	Park Rapids Post 212
Hoffman, Wilfred	91	3/17/22	Army	Korea	58	St. Leo Post 524
Holtzworth, Robert W.	87	6/29/22	Navy	Korea	3	Stewartville Post 164
Hudson, Thomas L.	64	12/25/21	Navy	Vietnam	35	Elk River Post 112
Lacer, Vincent P.	81	6/7/22	Army	Vietnam	44	Aurora Post 241
Note: He was 8th District commander 2000-01, Department of Minnesota vice commander 2004-05 and a past post commander.						
LaFriniere, James	77	3/23/22	Navy	Vietnam	4	Bagley Post 16
Larson, Kerry	73	6/17/22	Army	Vietnam	47	Breckenridge Post 53
Lien, Gordon A.	89	6/27/22	Army	Korea	19	Litchfield Post 104
Lind, Wayne J.	unk.	unk.	Navy	Vietnam	2	Grand Portage Post 2009
Note: He was a indeed member, but we cannot find further information about his passing.						
Lipinski, Joseph	69	6/12/22	Navy	Vietnam	45	Chaska Post 57
Ljungren, Charles A.	96	3/31/22	Navy	WWII	34	Sebeka Post 456
Lockhart, Russell L.	89	6/8/22	Air Force	Korea	25	Rosemount Post 65
Loidolt, Raymond L.	98	7/20/22	Marines	WWII	76	Pierz Post 341
Long, David H.	86	7/13/22	Air Force	Korea	37	Park Rapids Post 212
Lundmark, Roger W.	82	3/18/22	Army	Vietnam	30	Bagley Post 16
Martin, Calvin F.	89	7/1/22	Army	Korea	40	Pillager Post 100
Maxwell, Brent A.		7/17/22	Navy	Cold	23	Red Wing Post 54
Note: He was a member of Seal Team 2 and was wounded in combat in 1981.						
McPhee, Anthony F.	93	5/23/22	Army	Korea	9	Bagley Post 16
Moore, Ellyz E.	90	7/4/22	Air Force	Korea/VN	44	Mora Post 201
Note: He has a 26-year career and earned the Bronze Star.						
Morrow, Dale G.	85	7/7/22	Navy/AF	Korea/VN	44	Park Rapids Post 212
Neve, Robert E.	90	5/30/22	Army	Korea	7	Spring Grove Post 249
Neylon, John M.	77	3/30/22	Army NG	Vietnam	50	Two Harbors Post 109
Nistler, Roman B.	88	6/21/22	Navy	Vietnam	30	Litchfield Post 104
Olson, Edwin E.	92	7/12/22	Army	Korea	66	Litchfield Post 104
Note: He served in the 82nd Airborne Division.						
Olson, Melvin C.	90	7/10/22	Marines	Korea	33	Bloomington Post 550
Note: He served with the 1st Marine Air Wing in Korea.						
Peil, Kenneth E.	41	3/23/22	Army	Korea	41	St. Paul Arcade-Phalen Post 577
Peterson, Keith W.	73	7/10/22	Navy	Vietnam	48	Rochester Post 92
Reynolds, Dennis E.	79	6/30/22	Army	Cold	10	Dent Post 148
Rose, Delbert R.	87	6/1/22	Navy	Korea/VN	33	Minneapolis Post 1
Note: He was a past 5th District commander and post commander.						
Rudolph, Donald E.	76	7/4/22	Army	Vietnam	43	Grand Rapids Post 60
Note: He is the son of Medal of Honor recipient Donald E. Rudolph Sr.						
Sampson, Norman J.	89	6/21/22	Navy	Korea	46	Red Wing Post 54
Sampson, Norman J.	89	6/21/22	Navy	Korea	46	Red Wing Post 54
Shaw, Christopher M.	59	6/24/22	Navy	Leb/Gren	2	Anoka Post 102
Singleton, Richard Sr.	76	5/27/22	Army	Vietnam	7	Two Harbors Post 109
Steinert, Clifford L.	72	6/6/22	Navy	Vietnam	5	Moorhead Post 21
Stuttgen, Leonard	91	6/21/22	Army	Korea	46	Elk River Post 112
Thompson, David R.	67	6/13/22	Air Force	Vietnam	2	Aitkin Post 86
Thoreson, Orland E.	92	7/11/22	Army	Korea	8	Rochester Post 92
Tinsley, Kenneth W.	75	6/27/22	Army	Vietnam	7	Apple Valley Post 1776
Note: He was a Purple Heart recipient.						
Tonga, Anthony	78	5/28/22	Navy	Vietnam	24	Faribault Post 43
Topp, Victor J.	87	7/6/22	Army	Korea	50	Eden Valley Post 381
Torkelson, Jerry C.	78	6/18/22	Army	Vietnam	42	Windom Post 206
Tritz, Donald J.	98	6/28/22	Army	WWII	74	Graceville Post 297
Note: He served in the European Theater.						
Ulrich, John	86	7/18/22	Air Force	Korea	26	New Ulm Post 132
Vistad, Raymond O.	87	7/18/22	Army	Korea	19	Roseau Post 24
Vogen, Wallace P.	92	7/17/22	Army	Korea	11	Lanesboro Post 40
Vongroven, Gordon W.	75	6/11/22	Navy	Vietnam	40	Spring Grove Post 249

Continued on Page 6

All-Family Events Calendar

Aug. 3-7: Div. I Baseball Regional, Rapid City, S.D.
Aug. 5-6: Div. II Jr. Baseball State Tournament, Ely
Aug. 5-7: Department Junior Fun Weekend, Legionville
Aug. 11-16: Baseball World Series, Shelby, N.C.
Aug. 13: ALA August Workshop, Willmar Post 167
Aug. 13: ALA DEC meeting, Willmar Post 167
Aug. 20-23: Minnesota Legacy Run
Aug. 21-25: National Legacy Run, ending in Milwaukee
Aug. 26-Sept. 1: National Conventions, Milwaukee
Sept. 8-11: Legionville Camporee, Legionville
Sept. 10: Harvest Rally, Legionville
Oct. 8-9: SAL Fall Meetings, Legion HQ, Indianapolis
Oct. 10-13: TAL Fall Meetings, Legion HQ, Indianapolis
Oct. 27-29: Department Fall Conference, River’s Edge Convention Center, St. Cloud

What’s happening?

Oops! National messed up ‘member since’

ST. PAUL — The American Legion Department of Minnesota HQ has received many calls about the “member since” on the 2023 membership renewal notices. The notices have last year paid, not the year you joined.

“Rest assured that your membership record reflects the correct number of continuous years,” Adjutant Mike Maxa said. “National is aware of this snafu and is working to fix the problem moving forward. If you have any questions feel free to reach out to your department.”

Suicide hotline has a new number

ST. CLOUD — The Veterans Crisis Line has a new number: Dial 988 then Press 1.

Veterans will still be able to call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, chat at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat, and text 838255 to reach responders.

This change is a result of the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020, which requires all telephone service providers in the U.S. to activate 988 by July 16, 2022, for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

Because VA administers the Veterans Crisis Line through the Lifeline’s national network, the Veterans Crisis Line is affected by this transition.

The new, shorter number directly addresses the need for ease of access and clarity in times of crisis, both for veterans and non-veterans alike.

Though the number is changing, the Veterans Crisis Line dedicated service is still the same.

To reach the Veterans Crisis Line, veterans will still Press 1 after dialing 988 to connect with qualified, caring responders.

The Veterans Crisis Line is evaluating a possible new text option for veterans and their supporters to reach caring, qualified responders 24/7. The implementation timeline is to be determined.

The Veterans Crisis Line is available 24/7, 365 days a year

to provide confidential crisis support to Veterans and their loved ones.

Minnesota Legacy Run to get rolling

ANOKA — Is there some sort of motorcycle ride going on?

Yes, there is. It is the 2022 Minnesota American Legion Legacy Run, and this year, it is one ride instead of two. It is a replica of the original route 10 years ago.

The Legacy Run raises funds for Legacy Scholarships, which provide full-ride scholarships for the children of veterans killed or wounded in the post-9/11 wars. Minnesota provides the largest donation annually at the National Convention, and it doesn’t plan to slow down this year either, despite being one ride instead of broken into two.

The kickoff party is Friday, Aug. 19, at Anoka Post 102. The overnight hotel is the AmericInn in Coon Rapids, 763-323-0010.

The ride gets rolling at 8 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 20, from Post 102 and goes to North St. Paul Post 39, then to Minneapolis-Richfield Post 435, Rosemount Post 65, Lake City Post 110 and Winona Post 9, with the AmericInn being the hotel. Call 507-474-7700 to reserve a room.

It’s kickstands up at 7:30 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 21, from the hotel, then on to Rushford Post 94, Austin Post 91, New Ulm Post Post 132, Redwood Falls Post 38 and Montevideo Post 59. The hotel is Grand Stay, and its number is 320-269-8000.

Kickstands up at 8 a.m. Monday, Aug. 22, and the destinations are Morris Post 29, Underwood Post 489, Detroit Lakes Post 15, Park Rapids Post 212 and Walker Post 134, and the Walker Hotel can be reached at 218-547-2200.

Riders are back at it by 8 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 23, leaving for Backus Post 368, Phil Windorski Memorial Baseball Field in Bovey, McGregor Post 23 and West Duluth Post 71, finishing between 1 and 2 p.m.

Riders wishing to ride on to the National Convention will depart between 4 and 5 p.m., staying Tuesday night at the Days Inn in Hurley, Wis. Call

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Endorsement

Continued from Page 3

successfully train and support their presence on social media. Kane also works with the Department Training Committee to train Legionnaires.

Mail Call

Continued from Page 4

Jeremy had me obtain my medical records, and when he saw these records, he felt there was enough to file a claim with the VA, which he did. He also encouraged me to work with my doctor which resulted in several more heart-related tests. A few months after submitting my claim, the VA denied my claim due to a lack of sufficient information. After a period of time, my doctor advised that these tests showed for certain that I

had ischemic heart disease and started treatment immediately. Jeremy submitted these records to the VA and sometime later, the VA notified me that they were granting me a 100 percent disability for ischemic heart disease.

It is possible that if not for Jeremy, I would never have found out that I had ischemic heart disease or submitted a claim for it or that I would be receiving treatment for this disease.

Words cannot describe what Jeremy did for me in this situation. I had previously referred several veterans to Jeremy

He is the board president of the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon for the Mississippi River Valley and the most recent recipient of the Lions Clubs International highest form of recognition, The Melvin Jones Award. This award honored Kane for his exemplary service to the club and community.

He resides in Cottage Grove with two dogs. He is the son of Roger and Carol Kane.

for his assistance. I know that Jeremy helped these veterans and is continuing to help one of them. Jeremy also met with a group of veterans including myself to explain veterans benefits and answer our questions.

One of those veterans is now receiving a 100 percent disability based on Jeremy's information. Jeremy's desire to help fellow vets is incredible and he is an invaluable asset to the American Legion.

Stephen A. Gilkerson
Minnesota Post 1982

We will see you at the National Convention

Congratulations to all the newly elected officers, post, district and department. May they bring new ideas with them on how to help our veterans, families and communities. That is what we are all about.

Girls and Boys States and Nation were a great learning experience for all. American Education Week is not that far off either. Another great program of The American Legion is the Department Service Officer Training. We are lucky to have good service officers.

Our suicide prevention program has been working many hours to help prevent any more. You are the one that can help. One loss of life is too many. Please talk to anyone that you think might need some help. Tomorrow maybe too late.

I must thank our Media & Communications Team and Training Committee. Many good things happened this past year because of their hard work.

American Legion World Series will be Aug. 11-16 in Shelby, N.C., followed by the National Legacy Run Aug. 21-25, leading into the National Convention in

National Report

Bill Barbknecht

Milwaukee Aug 26-Sept 3.

A BIG thank you to softball Department Commander Tom Fernlund, his wife, Veronica, and Membership Director Paul Hassing. A year to remember as the first year of girls' fastpitch softball. We had 27 teams, more than any other department in their first softball season.

Now is the time to plan your membership dinners. New cards are out so I hope every post has a membership drive planned. Still, go out and ask those to renew that did not sign up again.

Also, any new members, in this day and age, of course, the excuse is "way too busy." Please explain all the programs we have for their children, both educational and financial. They may be as busy as they choose to be.

We had a very good year raising funds

for the Hope Foundation. I thank Pat Logan and the entire Bayport Post 491 for the large donation, as well as every other donation received. It all adds up to our gain.

In closing, enjoy the rest of your summer. Please support your American Legion posts. WATCH for the bikes. Our American Legion Riders are doing so much for our veterans and families.

Donna and I look forward to seeing many of you at the National Convention in Wisconsin. Call anytime 218-770-6264.

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



Have Boys Staters speak at your post

Minn. Boys State

Neil Kruse



As we venture into August, I hope your sponsored Boys State attendee has told you of his experience at St. John's in June.

Whether it is the speakers, the election process, or the relationships developed, our goal is for a top-notch experience for all involved. Encourage them to tell schoolmates entering their junior year (their parents, too) about Boys State and all the benefits of participating.

I also believe by promoting other public means (parades, town celebrations, start of school events) of getting the word out, we'll pick up more students interested in what Boys

State and Girls State offer.

The young men in the program are the prospects for giving politics a more positive feeling in our highly divided society right now. They are the road to cooperation in town meetings, state legislatures and federal government.

Thank you for all you do to help improve your neighborhood, community and state!

Neil Kruse is a counselor for Minnesota American Legion Boys State.



At the Department Convention in July, then-Membership Director gave a Silver Brigade Membership Award to Richard Grobe of Lake City Post 110 for his membership efforts.

Taps



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Wallace, Joseph G.	87	2/13/22	Army	Korea	46	Mora Post 201
Wesley, Deborah	71	6/11/22	Army	Vietnam	15	Faribault Post 43
Westin, Richard A.	83	5/1/22	Army	Cold	34	Bloomington Post 550
White, Gerald C.	95	1/4/22	Army AF	WWII	36	Winger Post 200
Wiese, Paul M.	76	6/16/22	Army	Vietnam	5	Bemidji Post 14
Willis, George E.	91	7/20/22	Unk.	Korea	60	Red Wing Post 54
Willis, Gerald A.	93	6/20/22	Army	Korea	68	Marietta Post 156
Wolfe, Robert C.	75	7/7/22	Marines	Vietnam	16	Red Wing Post 54
Wuellner, Harold L.	81	3/13/22	Army	Vietnam	42	Pierz Post 341
Wyvell, Harland A.	80	6/8/22	Marines	Vietnam	21	Coon Rapids Post 334

Note: The day after high school graduation in 1944, he enlisted as an aviation cadet and was sent to learn radio mechanics at Truax Airfield in Wisconsin. The reverend doctor is the past 9th District chaplain.

What's happening?

Continued from Page 5

715-629-9731. The Radisson Hotel in Fond du Lac, Wis., is the overnight spot for Wednesday, Aug. 24. Call 920-638-4175. This is available for Thursday, Aug. 25, if you don't have to be in Milwaukee until Friday. A block of rooms is reserved under "MN Legion Riders" for both Hurley and Fond du Lac.

103rd National Convention is packed with action

MILWAUKEE — The Minnesota delegation to the 103rd National Convention will be housed at the Hilton Milwaukee City Center, 509 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee.

The Hilton, Hyatt and the Pfister hotels will serve as American Legion Headquarters hotels, too. Most business sessions will be at the Wisconsin Center. The American Legion National Convention is Aug. 26-Sept. 1. The SAL holds its convention Aug. 26-28.

Room reservations must be made through the Department of Minnesota and are given on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact Program Coordinator Jennifer Kelley before 3 p.m. on business days to find lodging rates and registration fees at 651-291-1800 or jkelley@mnlegion.org.

Registration at the Hilton Milwaukee City Center's Usinger Room will be Thursday, Aug. 25, noon to 4 p.m., Friday, Aug. 26, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday, Aug. 27, 8 a.m. to noon.

The Minnesota delegation will caucus at the Hilton's Empire Room 8 to 10 a.m. Monday, Aug. 29. Past Commander Tom Fernlund will host a Minnesota party 5 to 7 p.m. Sunday, in the Empire Room. Free-will donations are accepted to offset costs.

Tickets to the National Commander's Banquet on Tuesday, Aug. 30, evening were sold at the Department Convention.

The American Legion Auxiliary's States Dinner is at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 31, and are purchased through the Auxiliary Department Office.

The Color Guard Contest will be 4 p.m. Friday, Aug. 26, at the Wisconsin Center. The Competitive Band Concert will be 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 27, at the Wisconsin Center. The Patriotic Religious Service is set for 11 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 28 at the Wisconsin Center.

Sunday also will feature Milwaukee Oktoberfest on Fitch Plaza. Tickets must be purchased through www.kegelsinn/legionnaires.

Many Legionnaires are going to see the Brewers on Monday. National Commander Paul Dillard throws out the first pitch.

Zgoda Deer Hunt is slated for next month

BRAINERD — The SAL John Zgoda Memorial Disabled Veteran Deer Hunt is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 29, through

Sunday, Oct. 2, at Legionville Education Center.

Applications are now accepted for any disabled veteran interested in participating in this hunt. If there are more applicants than openings, a lottery will be held to select the hunters. Applications can be found on the mnsal.org website under "Resources," or contact one of the co-chairs for the Deer Hunt: Dave Vulcan at 507 380-5095, Dave Bilderback at 507-250-1057, Steve Bilderback at 612-220-1333 and Chuck Stone at 507-213-7517.

The SAL John Zgoda Memorial Deer Hunt is named after past Detachment of Minnesota Commander John Zgoda, who envisioned the hunt for our disabled veterans in our state. Working with The American Legion, he sought out and finally got the permissions needed to do this hunt. The first hunt was held in 2007 and four disabled veterans participated. The event now has up to six participants every year.

The hunt is held in Late September or early October at Legionville.

Beer, burgers and live music

BECKER — Becker SAL Squadron 193 is hosting a fundraiser for the Minneapolis Fisher House.

It is called Beer, Burgers and Rock 'n Roll. It takes place 5-10 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 13, rain or shine, at Becker Post 193, 12155 Hancock St.. Donations are set at \$20 or \$50 for a family. Bring your own chair or blanket.

The band will be St. Cloud-based Kat Blue. Fisher homes are like Ronald McDonald homes but for VA hospitals.

Corn and brats, together again

NORTH ST. PAUL — North St. Paul Post 39 will hold its annual Brat and Corn Feed on Sunday, Aug. 14, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., or until all the food is gone.

Proceeds help Post 39 donate to Veterans Rest Camp on Big Marine Lake, Minnesota American Legion Baseball, local schools, annual scholarships and to the North St. Paul Food Shelf.

St. Cloud VA honored

ST. CLOUD — In recognition for continuing achievement and innovation in health care sustainability, the St. Cloud VA Health Care System has received the 2022 Top 25 Environmental Excellence Award from Practice Greenhealth, the nation's leading organization dedicated to environmental sustainability in health care. The award is one of the 25 Environmental Excellence Awards given each year to honor environmental achievements in the health care sector.

This is the sixth year that the St. Cloud VA has earned the Top 25 distinction and means veterans are cared for by an organization that is mindful of its impact.

The SAL Update:

Project is Veterans & Children's Fund

This is the time of year where we as an American Legion Family look back on the past year and also look forward to the future. At our Detachment Convention, I was elected to serve a second term as commander.

It is my honor and privilege to be your commander. I would like to congratulate Legion Commander Tom Fernlund, Auxiliary President Patti Coleman, Honorary Junior President Ashley Stai and Riders Director Ted Berg on a fantastic year!

I consider you all part of my extended family, and it was an honor and privilege to serve with you. I would also like to wish Legion Commander Jennifer Havlick, Auxiliary President Mary Kuperus, Honorary Junior President Sydney Borntrager and Riders Director Ted Berg a great upcoming year.

We can and will do great things in Minnesota and

Detachment commander

Tim Weaver

continue to promote the American Legion Family!

During my first year as commander, my project was the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. I had set a goal of \$11,000 for my project, and all I can say is we blew that away.

As of May 31, we raised \$17,625.09! I cannot thank everyone who donated to my project enough.

For my second year, I have chosen the American Legion Veterans and Children's Fund, or VCF, for short. This is another great program, and I cannot wait to see what we raise. Any checks for my project should be made out to The American Legion Foundation and in the memo line, please put Fund 99 so that

way it goes directly to my project.

My goal for 2022-2023 is \$12,500.

The 50th SAL National Convention will be in Milwaukee on Aug. 26-28. I cannot wait to talk about everything we have achieved and are going to achieve in the future. As always, please keep our service personnel, both domestic and abroad in your prayers.

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



We did it, and thanks to all of you!

I'm pleased to first report that as of when you are reading this, we have reached and surpassed the 100 percent membership mark for our detachment!

I am so pleased with all the work that has been done this year to accomplish this goal. In addition to that, we were able to charter six new squadrons and reactivate several more. We all know the saying that begins with, "It takes a village."

The Detachment of Minnesota is a very strong village, and it shows not only in membership, but in the work we do to help veterans, their families and the community. None of what we do would be possible without your help and support, so thank you!

As expected however, our work is not yet done. We still have some squadrons who haven't turned in membership and we have some members who have not renewed for 2022.

Membership Director

Matthew Verkuilen

Please remember, we can and will happily still accept 2022 renewals until Dec. 31. Let's not forget about those members of our Legion Family who may just need a personal check in (also known as a Buddy Check) to reinforce that they are more than just a membership number, that they are important to your squadron and to the Sons of the American Legion.

With July 1 recently upon us, it also means that we can start collecting 2023 renewals. I always recommend starting early whenever possible so that the hard push is able to be done during the first part of the year rather than trying to scramble toward the end.

Unfortunately, due to a national shortage of the cardstock

paper used for membership cards, printing and distribution have been delayed. We will get your membership packets to the districts and squadrons as soon as we receive the cards, and we sincerely apologize for the delay.

To end on a positive note, I am looking forward to what we can accomplish this next year, and even more looking forward to seeing how all of you remain #SALSTRONG.

Matthew Verkuilen is the membership director for the Detachment of Minnesota for the Sons of The American Legion.



Detachment Commander Tim Weaver holds his gift from Department Commander Tom Fernlund.



Weaver addresses the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota.



Weaver announces to the American Legion Department of Minnesota Convention the results of his project, the Child Welfare Foundation.



SAL member Robert Bristo gives a report on the American Legion Family Hospital Association.

Training Committee has resources to aid your post with any issues

By Kelley Adelsman

The American Legion's four-fold mission of service to veterans, youth, defense and Americanism contributes to this positive good for all American society. It is easy to get lost in the many opportunities all aimed at service to our communities and military veterans.

Defining the how, what, where, when and who has a variety of resources. A very valuable assist is your fellow Legionnaires, current and past leaders. There are so many dedicated individuals who have done deep dives into subjects and carried out programs — they will surely assist in the spirit of camaraderie.

Technology now has electronic copies of American Legion manuals and events calendars and the like. Internet searches of The

American Legion and www.mnlegion.org are treasure troves of information.

Each of the 10 districts and most of the individual posts have websites. They offer an overview of what they do and who to contact.

We in the Training Committee also come to your post and provide in person teaching upon request when at least five members will be in attendance. We also invite Subject Matter Experts as warranted. The 2 1/2 day Minnesota American Legion College creates a comfortable learning setting where the how-to, what-if and how-can conversations happen.

All of us who comprise the Minnesota American Legion do so to be a beneficial force for good today and into the future and with the many resources available — our good legacy will continue.

Legacy Run is looking to be a blast

Greetings Legion Family,

This past month has been busy with chapter runs and district runs. There are too many to list, but I would like to mention a couple that stood out.

Post 91 Riders from Austin in 1st District had their Prevent 22 Run in which they raised \$22,000 for the Eagle's Healing Nest. The 10th District Riders did a run for Magnus Foundation.

The 10th District Legacy Ride was July 23 and 24. Slayton Riders had a run July 23, and the first Fund 85 run went out of St Peter July 30 to raise money for the Minnesota American Legion Veterans Assistance Fund.

I want to thank Past Commander Tom Fernlund, Past President Patti Coleman, SAL Detachment Commander Tim Weaver, and Past Honorary Junior Auxiliary President

Ashley Stai for an outstanding year this past year. You all excelled at your goals and set great examples of what the American Legion Family is all about.

I would also like to congratulate our new commander, president and honorary president. Like me, the SAL detachment commander will serve another year. I am looking forward to this new year of leadership and hope it goes as well as last year.

As a reminder we will be having our Legacy Run Aug 20-23. (See Page 5 for details.) We will have our kickoff party in Anoka on Aug. 19. On Aug. 20, we leave from Anoka Post 102 and end in Winona. On

the 21st we end in Montevideo. On the 22nd end in Walker, and on the 23rd we end in West Duluth. And then some of us will ride out to Milwaukee for the National Convention.

For more info on the Legacy run follow us on Facebook and MNALR.org

In closing, please keep our Legion Family members that are dealing with medical issues in your prayers.

Ted Berg of Bloomington Post 550 is the director of the Minnesota American Legion Riders.

Legion Riders

Ted Berg



At the Department Convention in Wilmar, Department Commander Tom Fernlund presents \$10,000 checks to representatives from four of the five Minnesota Veterans Homes for their recreation programs. The fifth one received a \$10,000 check, too. Fernlund also raised \$5,000 for a commercial dishwasher and another \$5,000 for a utility trailer, both at Legionville. Another \$18,000 raised over his goal has yet to be determined.



Winona American Legion Riders Chapter 9 presents a \$22,000 check to Melony Butler of Eagle's Healing Nest.



JENNIFER HAVLICK
Two Harbors
COMMANDER

Minnesota's 2022-23 Dept. Leadership Team



DUANE ANDERSON
Elysian
VICE COMMANDER 1&3



RYAN HILL
Brewster
VICE COMMANDER 2&7



RANDY BASTYR
Oakdale
VICE COMMANDER 4&5



Gary H. Olson
Moorhead
VICE COMMANDER 6&9



PAUL ORSON
Circle Pines
VICE COMMANDER 8&10



LINDA DVORAK
New Prague
MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR



TERESA ASH
Saint Paul
HISTORIAN



LARRY OTTO
Ellendale
CHAPLAIN



CARLA TAPPAINER
Apple Valley
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

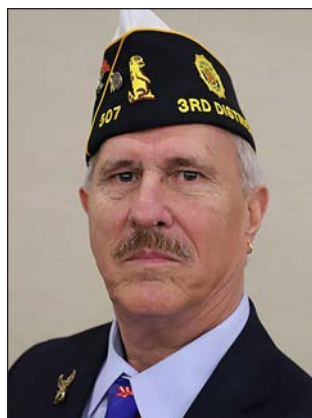
District Commanders



MARY HANSON
Austin
DIST. 1 COMMANDER



PAM KRILL
Fairmont
DIST. 2 COMMANDER



GARY RICHARDSON
Mahtomedi
DIST 3 COMMANDER



DAVID DAHL
St. Paul
DIST. 4 COMMANDER



LYNNE NOTTAGE
Minneapolis
DIST. 5 COMMANDER



KAREN O'BAR
Verndale
DIST. 6 COMMANDER



KAREN WELANDER
Sunburg
DIST. 7 COMMANDER



LARRY POCRNICH
Hibbing
DIST. 8 COMMANDER



TERRY BURAAAS
Grand Forks, N.D.
DIST. 9 COMMANDER



WILLIAM GORDON
Albertville
DIST. 10 COMMANDER

JENNIFER HAVLICK

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER
2022-23

Jennifer Havlick was elected the 105th department commander of the Minnesota American Legion at the annual convention, held July 14-16 in Willmar.

Havlick, who resides in Silver Creek Township near Two Harbors and belongs to David Wisted-Zenith City Post 28 in Duluth in the 8th District, will serve for the 2022-2023 Legion year. She presently serves on the National Veterans Administration and Rehabilitation, Veterans Benefit Committee.

She has served on the Department of Minnesota's Training Committee, American Legion Family Hospital Association Trustees and on the Legionville Board of Directors. She has been active in assisting posts in learning MyLegion.org, and she is a past 8th District commander. She has served many roles in her district, from membership director to public relations.

She served in the U.S. Army in 1998. She was an emergency medical technician from 1986 to 1996 working on both paid and volunteer ambulance services in New York. In 2001 Havlick worked as the international emergency officer coordinator for a disaster response organization and continues to assist it today.

Havlick retired from her public access coordinator position with the City of Two Harbors in 2021, where she served 15 years.

She met her husband, Scott Havlick, a Persian Gulf War veteran, here in Minnesota. Havlick has an adult daughter who resides in Florida and manages a major event center.



MARY KUPERUS

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT
2022-23

Mary Kuperus is a member of New London Unit 537 in the 7th District. She is eligible for membership through her late father, Earl Manson. He served in World War II in the U.S. Army. He was a member of the New London Post 537 for many years. Mary is also eligible through her husband, Bill Kuperus. He served in the U.S. Army for 20 1/2 years during the Persian Gulf War era.

Bill is a PUFL member of New London Post 537 and is currently the 1st vice commander.

Mary joined the American Legion Auxiliary in 1984 as a young wife and mother of three children. She served alongside of Bill with the many moves between Fort Riley, Kan., and Germany. Bill served in Korea his last year while Mary and their children moved back to Minnesota.

Mary Kuperus has served on the unit, district and department levels. She served as the 7th District president in 2010-2011. On the department level, she has served as the chairman for the Children & Youth, Community Service, Junior Activities, Poppy, Membership, Girls State, Leadership and VA&R programs.

Kuperus retired in May of 2021 after 32 years working in the education field as a Library Assistant and Paraprofessional in schools in Fort Riley and New London-Spicer. She is a board member of the New London to New Brighton Antique Car Run. She enjoys camping with her family and doing craft projects when there is time.

Kuperus is humbled and honored to serve as the Department of Minnesota president for the 2022-2023 year. She is excited to work with The American Legion, Sons of the American Legion, Junior members, and the American Legion Riders.

"As a Legion Family, we can do so much for our veterans, military, and their families."





Then-Commander Tom Fernlund, Law & Order Chairman Pat Logan, Forest Lake School Resource Officer Megan Olstad and Forest Lake Post 225's Terry Larson stand together after awarding Olstad the American Legion Law Officer of the Year award.

Continued from Page 1

commander, 2nd District commander, 5th District commander, 6th District commander and 7th District commander.

Havlick appointed Linda Dvorak as membership director, and Dvorak pointed out half the district commanders are women. Six of 15 department-level officers are women.

Besides Havlick and Tappainer, let's recap the other ballot winners:

- Vice Commander 1&3: Duane Anderson of Le Center Post 108.
 - Vice Commander 2&7: Ryan Hill of Brewster Post 464
 - Vice Commander 4&5: Randy Bastyr of North St. Paul Post 39
 - Vice Commander 6&9: Gary Olson of Moorhead Post 29
 - Vice Commander 8&10: Paul Orson of Fridley Post 303
 - Chaplain: Larry Otto of Ellendale Post 296
 - Historian: Teresa Ash of St. Paul Christie-DeParcq Post 406
- The NECman and Alternate NECman were not up for election this year. Also wearing white caps are Adjutant Mike Maxa, Judge Advocate Greg Colby and Treasurer Bill Goede.
- The district commanders are elected at district conventions. They are:
- 1st District: Mary Hanson of Austin Spam Post 570
 - 2nd District: Pam Krill of Fairmont Post 36
 - 3rd District: Gary Richardson of Willernie Post 507
 - 4th District: Dave Dahl of St. Paul Post 8
 - 5th District: Lynne Nottage

of Minneapolis Post 1

- 6th District: Karen O'Bar of Bertha Post 366
- 7th District: Karen Weland of Willmar Post 167
- 8th District: Larry Pocrnich of Hibbing Post 222
- 9th District: Terry Buraas of East Grand Forks Post 157
- 10th District: William Gordon of St. Michael Post 567

Members can find district commanders and department officers, along with staff, listed at the department website, mn-legion.org, with their email addresses.

In other action, Past 7th District Commander David "Chip" Manson of Spicer Post 545 was named to the Minnesota Legionnaire's Board of Publications.

Past 6th District Commander Paul Edwards of Nisswa Post 627, Past Department Vice Commander Pat Logan of Bayport Post 491 and Minnesota American Legion Riders Director Ted Berg of Bloomington Post 550 were selected to be delegates at-large at the National Convention in Milwaukee.

Willmar Mayor Marv Calvin opened the convention by showing his appreciation for veterans and for America.

"I don't think any of us thought it would get to where it is," he said. "Some cities are not even saying the Pledge of Allegiance. I pledged to always say the Pledge."

Legionville

Legionville President Gene Leifeld said the camp should receive \$147,000 at the end of September in the state conservation program called Reinvest

in Minnesota, or RIM.

The SAL Detachment of Minnesota, he said, feels Legion and Auxiliary members are not taking the Camporee seriously, and he said if Legionville loses the Camporee, it will lose a good source of income. He encouraged members to attend.

The Camporee is Sept. 8-11. The email for the organizing committee is legionvillecamporee@gmail.com.

Legionville, Leifeld said, is installing a donor wall on the east wall of the training center building. It is also getting a new side-by-side.

He said Legionville so far has had 345 students register.

V4V Trust Fund

Past Department Commander Don Pankake said Past Department Commander Darrel Redepenning replaced Past Department Commander Marlin Ronning on the Veterans 4 Veterans Board of Directors. Pankake also is on the board and gave his report.

He said some V4V grant examples are:

- \$25,000 for Allina Veteran Hospice Fund.
- \$10,000 for Every Third Saturday.
- \$70,000 for the DAV transportation program.
- \$32,000 for Independent Lifestyles PTSD family therapy.
- \$30,000 (\$7,500) to VSO auxiliaries for projects.
- \$15,000 to the MSP Armed Service Center.
- \$60,000 to Magnus Foundation.
- \$20,000 to Mandatory Fun

Outdoors.

He said the V4V portfolio peaked at \$6.7 million, and 19 grants were approved, with \$335,000 distributed.

"In concert with MDVA, we strive to focus on high impact, broad coverage support for Minnesota veterans," Pankake said.

He said the original portfolio in 2007 was \$5.4 million, with \$2.6 million granted to 198 grantees. The Minnesota commissioner of veterans affairs has final approval on all grants but has never had to disapprove one.

Legislative

State Sen. Andrew Lang, a Legion member with Olivia Post 186, is the chairman of the Senate Veterans and Military Affairs Finance and Policy Committee.

He said both parties use veteran-related legislation as leverage, so this past year the political climate was right to push for a veterans omnibus bill. Reps. Bob Dettmer and Bob Ecklund were involved in getting it passed. (The items in the bill were reported in the June 2022 issue.)

Lang said it is important to pass omnibus bills annually so it becomes the norm.

Then-1st District Commander Mike Parry, a former state senator himself, asked whether lawmakers could reduce state taxes on charitable gambling. Lang said he has offered those bills dozens of times. So has Dettmer. A floor discussion ensued about the notion of a constitution referendum that ultimately led Lang to say: "It's never a good idea to follow California."

Past Department Vice Commander Pat Logan asked if lawmakers could reduce taxes on Legion and VFW posts in light of the \$9 billion state surplus. Lang agreed and said tax reduction is the No. 1 priority. He wouldn't mind a tax reduction for Legion employees, too.

The convention heard from Trent Dilks, legislative director of the DAV of Minnesota.

He said it took five years for the Homestead Property Tax Exclusion to pass, which ended an eight-year sunset for surviving spouses receiving the tax exclusion. He said in those five years, no one voted against it, and veterans bills like it would die in committee, by being stuck to other legislation or in other out-of-sight ways.

By having an annual veterans omnibus bill, lawmakers will vote directly on veteran-related legislation.

"We deserve stand-alone consideration from this point forward," Dilks said.

He called on Legionnaires to speak with their lawmakers this fall and ask: "Will you commit to a veterans omnibus bill in the next session?"

DAV of Minnesota Past Commander Ron Haugen, chairman of the Minnesota Commanders' Task Force, thanked Legion members for their support in passing legislation and their support for the DAV, such as the DAV's clothing funding source. (Many Legion posts have a green DAV clothing box outside.)

MACVSO

Roseau County Veteran

Service Officer Martin Howes, president of the Minnesota Association of County Veteran Service Officers, said World War I veterans had to wait 24 years to receive a bonus after receiving the certificate. Vietnam War veterans had to wait 20 years to get presumptive diagnosis for many war-related ailments. Gulf War veterans still are seeing Gulf War syndrome being pushed further down the road.

"It's a head scratcher for me," he said.

He said Minnesota passed the CVSO law in 1945, creating positions in each county where veterans are aiding veterans with their benefits.

"We're here for you," Howes said.

Finance

Mileage for department events is going to 50 cents, up from 40, after the Finance Com-

the honor.

The Small Employer Award went to Rock On Trucks, nominated by Waite Park Post 428. The company does hauling and truck repair, and its trucks have many themed paintjobs: Veterans Wall, Police, Fire, 101st Airborne, Purple Heart, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and so on.

Kevin and Krystal Vierkant said they hire veterans whenever they can because they are reliable, trustworthy workers

National

National Executive Committeeman Bill Barbknecht said there will be no national dues increase.

He said the Department of Minnesota received \$90,145 from LIT, \$7,298 from Emblem Sales, \$37,772 from national revenue sharing and \$39,554 from USAA. He said it is "in-



Chris Fernlund places a pin on his father's jacket. His father, Tom, had just completed a year as department commander. Chris is in the Air Force, stationed in New Mexico at Kirtland AFB.



Candles were in use during the Memorial Service on Thursday, July 14.

mittee meets in September to set the department budget, said Finance Committee Chairwoman Mary Jo York of Forrest City Post 225.

She encouraged committee chairs to have Zoom meetings to save mileage. If your committee must travel to a district function, send the closest person.

York said the department has been profitable the past two years, though it has lost 9 percent in stock investments. It lost 1 percent in fixed-asset investments.

Employment

Luis Campero of Bloomington Post 550, chairman of the Employment Committee, handed out plaques to winners of Employment Awards.

The first was the Medium Employer Award, which went to the St. Paul-based Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans, better known as MACV. It has 67 employees, of which 33 are veterans.

MACV Duluth's Kevin Beichler said MACV helps veterans with housing, employment and legal affairs. Bloomington Post 550 nominated MACV for

excusable" that Emblem Sales is out of flags and that a Legion cap takes 10 weeks.

"Maybe we look at a different source of making things," he said.

He said The American Legion has the best product to offer veterans but said members often are poor salesmen. He said even in the digital age it is important to speak to people face to face.

"A veteran is a veteran no matter what race, color, religion, what journey you are on," Barbknecht said.

Judge Advocate

Judge Advocate Greg Colby said post commanders cannot merely ban members. It must be a decision of the post membership in consultation with the post, district and department constitutions and bylaws. It also requires due process. Banning, he said, is considered a form of discipline.

SAL

Commander Tim Weaver said the Detachment of Minnesota achieved 100 percent membership, totaling 11,065 and forming six new squadrons.

Continued on Page 11



Then-Commander Tom Fernlund, Law & Order Chairman Pat Logan, Eagan Firefighter Paul Burgett and Eagan Post 594's Wayne

Commissioner thanks Legionnaires for helping omnibus bill get passed

Continued from Page 10

His goal for his second year as commander is to raise funds for the Veterans and Children Foundation. (See Adjutant Doug Bible's report to the DEC for more SAL information.)

Boys State

Minnesota Boys State Governor Nathaniel Janssen of New Ulm was there with his parents.

He said he didn't understand the scale and importance of Boys State until he went through it. "As one of the counselors told me, it's sort of like drinking from a firehose," he said.

Boys State, he said, is the best way to learn civics hands on, but it is risky that he said that because, he noted, his father was his government teacher.

He said he honors his grandfather, who served 50 years on the township board after returning from World War II, and he hopes to represent Minnesota well at Boys Nation in Indianapolis, which was the last week of July.

The country is facing a steep divide, "but after participating in Boys State, I realize our future is in good hands."

Oratorical Contest

Minnesota Oratorical Contest Champion Megan Blonigen said she thought the Legionnaires who run the program misread the results when she won the contest back in February and would be going to Indianapolis for the National Oratorical Contest.

"Before national, I had never been on an airplane," she told the convention.

She said she met many young people from across America and now wants to go into politics and government. She reported no animosity among competitors and everything was constructive.

"It was an amazing experience and an amazing opportunity for me," she said.

Commissioner

Minnesota Veterans Affairs Commissioner Larry Herke, who mentioned he went to Boys State in 1980, said Minnesota has 304,000 veterans, and the number goes down by about 6,000 a year.

He mentioned only one lawmaker voted against the Veterans Omnibus Bill, and it was a state representative who had been voting against everything.

Herke thanked veteran service organizations for helping get the bill approved. Members contacted their senators and representatives or attended Veterans Day on the Hill.

In the bill was a bonus for post-9/11 veterans. It pays in tiers of either \$600, \$1,200 or \$2,000. Details are at minnesotaveteran.org. Be ready to upload a DD214 or W9 (if still in military).

There are 48,603 eligible veterans, Herke said. So far (as of his presentation), 8,000 applied and 2,000 had been approved.

Legionnaire Eric Ahlness of North St. Paul Post 39 asked why the bonus language excludes veterans of Operation Inherent Resolve, the military intervention against ISIL in Iraq and Syria.

Herke said that needs to be fixed in the next legislative session, along with funding for veterans who became Minnesota

residents though they didn't join as Minnesota residents.

His agency is bringing on three new state veteran homes, in Bemidji, Preston and Montevideo, and he needs to hire about 600 full-time and part-time employees.

The new state veterans cemetery in Redwood Falls will have a dedication on May 28, 2023, Herke said. There will be a soft opening prior to the dedication.

There are two counties left in the effort to bring Minnesota to functional zero for veteran homelessness, he said. Those two counties are Hennepin and Ramsey. He said he needs landlords to work with him. He has a budget to provide tenancy support.

"I want to be the fourth state in the nation to declare functional zero," Herke said.

Law & Order

Pat Logan, chairman of the Law & Order Committee who himself was a police officer for 29 years, recognized the Minnesota American Legion's Law Officer of the Year and Firefighter of the Year.

School Resource Officer Megan Olstad of the Forest Lake Police Department said if it weren't for the commander of an American Legion post, she wouldn't be in law enforcement.

She joined the Forest Lake force 15 years ago and has been the school resource officer for six years. She thanked Forest Lake Post 225 for nominating her.

Firefighter Paul Burgett of the Eagan Fire Department described the icy bridge on which he saved two lives and his own.

"It looked like something out of bumper cars," he said.

He is a member of Minneapolis Post 1 and said The American Legion has stood the test of time. He thanked Eagan Post 594 for nominating him.

Their stories were printed in the June issue of the Legionnaire.

Family Suicide Prevention Coalition

Adjutant Mike Maxa said there is a new veteran suicide hotline number, 998 Press 1. It does not replace the 800 number.

He said VA has met with the coalition since January as part of a partnership with The American Legion.

"If there's any organization that's going to make a difference, it's this one," Maxa said.

Several young veterans stood behind Maxa and expressed their interest in helping to prevent suicides. James Hultgren of Osseo Post 172 said his first tour to the Sandbox was eye-opening, but by the second tour, everything changed.

He said it took years away from him and made him grow up faster. He said it is important to talk about it and get them the help they need.

Chris Anderson of Hastings Post 47 said many returning veterans lack support. He finds putting together videos therapeutic. He showed one set to music on the screen.

Kristy Janigo of Post 172 said she went 12 years of her life away from the veterans community and said it is important to reconnect.

"We can't do it if weren't not

in this together," she said.

She said veterans experience a lot of guilt: serving but not deploying, deploying but not seeing combat, seeing combat but surviving. The only ones to not experience guilt, she said, are the ones who never came home.

Eric Ahlness of North St. Paul Post 39 recognized the fall of Kabul and its similarity to the fall of Saigon, and both of their effects on Afghanistan and Vietnam veterans. Help, he said, is available.

American Legion Riders

Last year, the American Legion Riders in Minnesota alone raised \$175,000 for Legacy Scholarships, presenting the check at the National Convention in Phoenix, said Director Ted Berg.

This year, the Legion Riders will have its Legacy Run starting Aug. 19 in Anoka but also host the Fund 85 Ride to raise funds to assist Minnesota veterans. It will be July 30 in St. Peter.

Berg reported that the Riders changed the director position to a two-year term, so he will have another as the director.

Fund 85

Fund 85 is the Veteran Assistance Fund under the Minnesota American Legion Foundation, said Adjutant Mike Maxa.

He said \$52,000 has been granted to support 15 veterans so far, and there are three more applications in the works.

The fund, he said, has sustained fairly well. It began with \$135,000, and it presently has \$125,000.

Farewell remarks

Several other committees gave reports, and they are not all covered here. Committee reports are available at the department website, mnlegion.org. Some further information is in the photos with this story.

Departing Commander Tom Fernlund said his farewell comments. He brought up the new committees during his watch and thanked St. Paul's Teresa Ash and her Media and Communications Committee, which replaced the Public Relations Committee, and he thanked Michael Arvidson of Parkers Prairie. He thanks the Department HQ staff, too.

He noted how Minnesota American Legion Baseball is the largest in the country, the Oratorical Contest is rebounding and the legislative efforts have been outstanding in the past two years.

Fernlund had a goal of raising \$60,000 for his project and ended up with \$78,000. He gave \$10,000 to each of the five state veterans homes for their recreation programs, and \$5,000 for a dishwasher at Legionville and \$5,000 for a utility trailer at Legionville. The remaining \$18,000 has yet to be determined.

"Our mission as an American Legion Family is never over," he said.

He thanked his wife, Veronica, for a successful year, and she was on hand to replace his cap. Their son, Chris, was there, too, and replaced his commander nameplate.

AMERICAN LEGION



Tom Fernlund and his wife, Veronica, kiss on stage on the final day of the convention, after she removed his white cap and replaced it with a blue one.



Commissioner Larry Herke holds up a copy of The Minnesota Legionnaire during his address to the Minnesota American Legion Convention.



National Vice Commander Angel Narvaez of Puerto Rico was on hand during the convention and spoke about the need to grow.



New Commander Jennifer Havlick named New Prague Post 45's Linda Dvorak as the membership director.



Employment Chairman Luis Campero, left, awards MACV Medium Employer of the Year. He is with Kevin Beichler, center, and James McCloden. Bloomington Post 550 nominated MACV.



Employment Chairman Luis Campero awards Rock On Trucks of Waite Park the Small Employer of the Year. With him are Kevin and Krystal Vierkant, and a member of the nominating post, Waite Park Post 428.



State Sen. Andrew Lang of Olivia spoke about legislative matters. He is the chairman of the Senate Veterans and Military Affairs Committee. He came after a short amount of rest from his night job of being a helicopter pilot.



Media & Communications Chairwoman Teresa Ash raises the arm of Commander Jennifer Havlick after placing a white Legion cap on her head.



From left are Bert Marth of New Ulm Post 132, Boys State Gov. Nathaniel Janssen of New Ulm and Boys State operating staff member Lee Tollakson.



From left are Commander Tom Fernlund, 7th District Commander Chip Manson, Minnesota Oratorical Contest Champion Megan Blonigen of Eden Valley-Watkins High School and Rueben Nathe of Litchfield Post 104.



Former Camp Director Tom Sanford, center, receives the George J. Kaisersatt School Safety Patrol Distinguished Service Award from Safety Chairman Jim Blakesley.



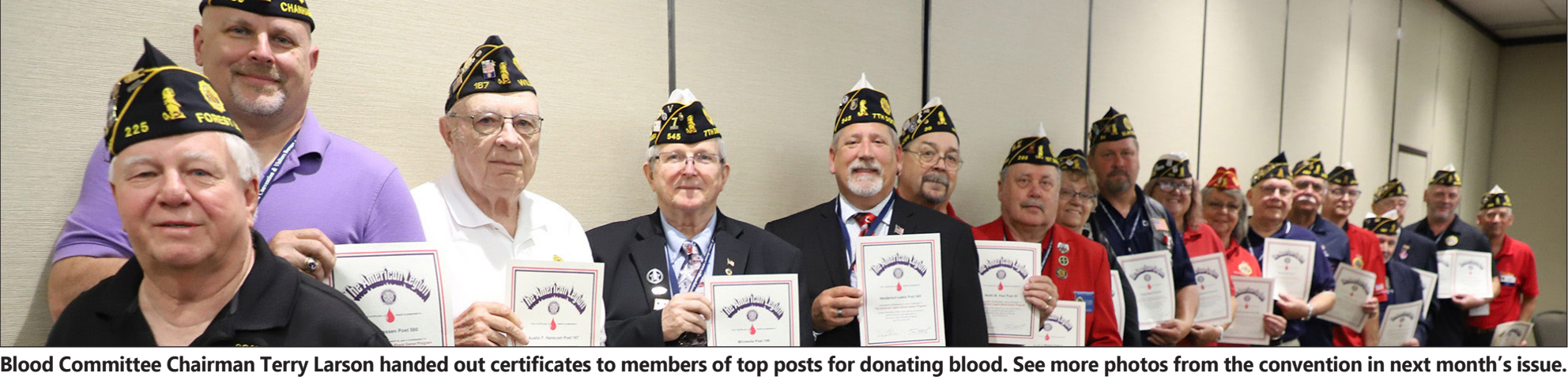
Waite Park Post 428 claimed the traveling bowling trophy for the 2022 American Legion Bowling Tournament.



People were dancing at Willmar Post 167. The post had live music on both Thursday and Friday. The 2023 convention is more than likely going to be hosted by Redwood Falls Post 38.



Front from left are Commander Jennifer Havlick, Adjutant Mike Maxa, Membership Director Linda Dvorak, Vice Commander 1&3 Duane Anderson, Vice Commander 4&5 Randy Bastyr, Vice Commander 2&7 Ryan Hill, Vice Commander 6&9 Gary H. Olson, Vice Commander 8&10, Chaplain Larry Otto, Historian Teresa Ash, Sergeant-at-Arms Carla Tappainer, Judge Advocate Greg Colby and Treasurer Bill Goede. Back from left are NECman Bill Barbknecht, Alternate NECman Peggy Moon, 1st District Commander Mary Hanson, 2nd District Commander Pam Krill, 3rd District Commander Gary Richardson, 4th District Commander Dave Dahl, 5th District Commander Lynne Nottage, 6th District Commander Karen O'Bar, 7th District Commander Karen Welander, 8th District Commander Larry Pocrnich, 9th District Commander Terry Buraas and 10th District Commander William Gordon.



Blood Committee Chairman Terry Larson handed out certificates to members of top posts for donating blood. See more photos from the convention in next month's issue.

District commanders



1st District

Mary Hanson



Greetings to all, Did you know that the Women's Armed Services Integration Act was passed in 1948? This granted women permanent status in the Armed Forces of the United States and gave us veteran status and veteran benefits. Over 3 million women have served and approximately 30,000 leave the military every year. Women were on the battlefield long before it was allowed. Attached to combat units, they were exposed to the ugliness of war. Women were not supposed to be there. It is only within the past few years that females were integrated into combat roles. We all signed the same dotted line, willing to give all for the best country in the world.

Here is my point: We served. We are allowed to be members of The American Legion. We are allowed to hold offices at

all levels. From national commander on down to post level. Why are there posts still denying female members these roles and trying to get them to join our wonderful and supportive Auxiliary instead? We can join both.

It is time to wake up. Our membership is declining. We need to reach out to all eligible members and treat them like family. Posts need leadership that is willing to listen to the members. There are great ideas out there, but sometimes people are afraid to speak up. We need to turn this ship around.

I hope I did not offend anyone. That was not my intent. This is still an issue at some posts, and it needs to be addressed.



2nd District

Pam Krill



Greetings American Legion Family,

As I start my year as the 2nd District commander, I have to say, "Thank you," to everyone for the opportunity to serve as the commander to the Solid Second. We have an amazing team this year, and I know we are going to do great things.

The other new district officers for this year are Adjutant Ben Lehman of Madelia, 1st Vice James Olson out of Mankato, with vice commanders: Roxanne Zoet of Madelia, Larry Helland of Briceyn, Tom Behrends of Brewster and Brad Carson of Pipestone. Our membership director is Tom Schilling of Wanda and judge advocate is Deb Grote of Madelia. We are excited to work together to build out district.

This year, we would like to challenge each post in the district to really evaluate themselves and let us know where they need our assistance and start sharing events with the 2nd District and getting them in the newsletter.

Event notifications and can be sent to email: District2mnLe-

gionFamlynews@gmail.com Submissions are due by the 15th of each month. Just a quick note: Anyone can write an article; all we ask is it is kept to 200-250 words and is sent in a Word document, so we can edit it.

I know we have Posts doing great and amazing things. Let's start highlighting that and sharing it with all of the membership and department.

There is so much I want to share with all the excitement for this year, but there is plenty of time for that. I will be out this year visiting posts, and I am honored to serve as your commander for the 2nd District.

Continue to enjoy your summer, and we will all be out visiting your posts throughout the year. If there is an event you would like me to attend, please do not hesitate to email me: pjkrill74@gmail.com.

Hope to see many of you at the National Convention in Milwaukee this year!



3rd District

Gary Richardson



The 103rd Minnesota Department Convention is over, and as I begin my year as district commander, I have to look back on the past year.

The Department of Minnesota has lost a lot of members, and as we get older, attrition will continue to take a heavy toll. We all need to work hard to bring those numbers up by getting our current members more active and getting our younger veterans involved.

Some of the younger members have told me that we need to change the way we communicate with our younger members, most of which are firmly attached to modern social

media and electronic communications.

We have put together a very motivated team for the coming year, and I feel they will do amazing things, not only on the membership front, but also with an increase in media and electronic communications to keep our members in touch with one another.

Without the Legion, SAL, Legion Riders and Auxiliary membership, we will not be able to continue the mission of helping our veterans, so we need to do better at the post level to

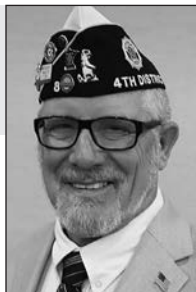
bring our organization into the 21st century.

My project for the coming year will be to help fund new wood shop equipment for the Hastings Veterans Home. More



4th District

David Dahl



The highlight since the last writing has been the Department Convention in Wilmar. As others will cover the convention in detail, I will write about the Armed Forces Service Center.

The AFSC's mission is to provide a comfortable environment for servicemembers and their families traveling through the Minneapolis St. Paul International Airport. From Nov. 22, 1970, until COVID forced changes, the doors never closed.

In its 50-plus year history, it has served over 1 million military personnel, dependents and retirees. In October 2006, the AFSC started its Troop Greeter program, which has welcomed over 330 flights benefiting nearly 90,000 troops and over 1,100 charter buses with about 46,000 troops.

The AFSC is unique to Minnesota. It is not affiliated with the USO and does not receive federal government funding. There are some private sponsoring

to come on that.

"Membership: The backbone of our American Legion!"

I am looking forward to the coming year!

organizations, such as Delta Airlines, the Metropolitan Airport Commission and the state of Minnesota through various grants. A significant portion of the funds allow the AFSC to perform its mission comes from Veteran Service Organizations throughout Minnesota. The AFSC is a 501c3 nonprofit, so post gambling funds may be donated.

Operation of the AFSC depends on volunteers who are asked to work two four-hour shifts per month. Current center hours are 8 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. When more volunteers have been trained the hours will be extended to 24-7.

To donate money or to sign up to be a volunteer, go to the AFSC's website at mnafsc.org.

Still serving: serving veterans and serving our communities!



5th District

Lynne Nottage



Congratulations to all of the incoming department, district and post officers, and especially our new department commander, Jennifer Havlick. I can tell already that this will be a great year.

Most of you already know that this is my second time as the 5th District commander. It's been 17 years since my first time around, and a lot has changed in that time. Our membership has shrunk, it's been more difficult to fill all the committees that the 5th District has been active in, and we've lost many of our comrades during this time. I'm counting on all of you to make this a great year for the 5th District.

I want to thank Past 5th District Commander Wade Larson for his hard work and running everything so smoothly, especially during the COVID pandemic. Now is the time for us

regroup and try to get everything back to its fullest capabilities.

The 4th and 5th districts are going to be holding a joint training session next month (keep an eye out for an announcement from your district adjutants). We are calling it "Back to the Basics."

All Legionnaires, Auxiliary members and Sons of the American Legion are welcomed to attend. We would especially like to see all district or post/unit/squadron officers attend.

Another thing I would like to see us work on is having more fun this year. It's been a tough couple of years, and I think a little more fun for everyone would be great!



6th District

Karen O'Bar



Hello, my fellow Legion Family members.

It's a new year, and 2022-2023 is looking to be an interesting year.

First off, let me tell you some about myself. I retired from the Army after 24 years in 2009.

I have been a Legion member since 2009 at the William Larson Post 366, Bertha. I have served as post membership and commander, and this year I am membership and adjutant. I know some of you guys understand what that's like. I have served as vice commander, west sub, from 2018-2021 for the 6th District and membership director

2021-2022 for 6th District.

I have two children, Krystal and Ryan. Krystal is 24 and married and lives in Wadena. Ryan is 21 and lives in Fargo. My other half is Mike VanHeel. He is the new commander at Post 366.

I work as a direct care specialist. I have been at this job for nine years and find it very fulfilling.

My theme for the year is "Helping Heroes Heal."

I have often seen veterans responding better to the

nontraditional ways to heal inside and out. My projects for this year reflect the healing process.

This year at district level, we are going to have a very aggressive membership program.

This means the district will



7th District

Karen Welander



Karen Welander

First, I would like to thank the 7th District for their confidence in giving me the opportunity to serve as the commander 2022-2023. I am looking forward to the coming year. Congratulations to David "Chip" Manson for your successful year as commander of the Mighty 7th. Thank you to the people of Wilmar for a great convention!

Now it is time to get down to the work of a new year. There are a lot of items on the agenda, and I am looking forward to working with all members of the district and department to enhance the lives of all veterans and their families. We need to step up and let every veteran and every veteran's family know

why it is so important for veterans to become a member of the American Legion Family.

The numbers are not about making a post larger. It's about having the strength to stand strong before Congress and letting them know what our fellow veterans need.

Remember, when asking veterans to join our family, tell them it is pride like when they wore the uniform and served this great country.

I look forward to serving you this year and making it a successful year for The American Legion.



8th District

Larry Pocrnich



Follow veterans,

This is the last report for the 21-22 membership year. I am very glad to say the 8th District is in 2nd place in the department. A big thank you to all who ask if a person belonged to the Legion and signed them up. We did get a few awards so this year let's try a little bit harder to get the other veterans to sign up. We have a lot in Post 1982 that each post can look up and send a call or letter to that veteran.

I will continue to be the district commander again for the 22 23 membership year. If any post has info, they would like me to put in here please call me.

The 2nd annual Renegade 5k/25k run is now open for registration at United Way in

Chisholm. There will be a new 25K run going around the mine pit for a beautiful view while running. This is a fundraiser for United for Veterans. It is Sept. 10.

The new executive committee has some new ideas coming out in the near future. The membership packets are now being delivered. Get your post officer reports in so we have an updated list with names, address and phone numbers. They have to be updated every year and we can get off the Goose Egg. More info to follow next month on my project for this year.



9th District

Terry Buraas



Congratulations to the Minnesota American Legion. We are extremely lucky to have such a balanced leadership group. The department commander, membership director, historian and half the districts have female commanders.

This shows the districts and posts that this is no longer a men's-only organization. Recruiting is how we survive and male, female, white, black does not mean anything but that they are veterans.

Posts need to ask everyone if they were a veteran and would they like to join. Ask and they will join.

Americanism is important to all veterans; we all served our country under this American flag. Teaching our children and grandchildren to honor the flag by placing their hand over their heart is showing proper respect to our flag and our country.

I have been at many parades where very little support is given to the colors of this nation. Teach your families and they will show other families the proper way to honor our flag.



10th District

William Gordon



Greetings, Mighty 10th District. I want to take this time to say thank you to everyone this past year. I am honored to be elected as your 10th District Commander for 2022-2023 year.

It sure beats getting tarried and feathered.

I have

Continued on Page 16



The Auxiliary Bulletin

No. 23 Vol. 1

President Mary Kuperus • Treasurer Cathy Radil, cathy@mnala.org

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August 2022

President's Project aims goes toward 3 new homes

President's Column

Mary Kuperus



Greetings to you all! I am so honored to have been elected the 2022-2023 president of the Department of Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary. Thank you to all who have the confidence in me to lead this great organization. I am very excited to meet members from across the state and beyond.

Thank you to the 2021-2022 leadership team of American Legion Auxiliary President Patti Coleman, American Legion Commander Tom Fernlund, Sons of the American Legion Detachment Commander Tim Weaver, Honorary Department Junior President Ashley Stai and American Legion Riders Director Ted Berg for your service and dedication to the American Legion Family of the Department of Minnesota.

My hope for the 2022-2023 year is to serve as a family with American Legion Department Commander Jennifer Havlick, Sons of the American Legion Detachment Commander Tim Weaver, Honorary Department Junior President Sydney Borntrager and American Legion Riders Director Ted Berg.

I am honored to serve with ten district presidents, vice presidents Sharon Thiemecke and Judy Ackerman and all program chairmen and appointees.

For my year as your president, I will be using the theme: "Serve and Honor Every Day."

We all have served in many ways whether it was in military service or in our communities. We serve because of our love for our families, communities, country and our organization. We can continue to serve throughout the year with gratitude and respect.

My symbol for the year is the shape of Minnesota with a poppy. The poppy is placed close to my home of the 7th District and in remembrance of my deceased father, a World War II veteran.

The Department President's Project will be raising funds for the three new veterans homes. These homes will have meditation rooms instead of actual chapels. These meditation rooms will be more intimate and private for veterans and their families to use for their spiritual needs.

I was very excited to hear those three new veteran homes were going to be built. I wanted to make sure the Department of Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary can and will support our veterans in the new homes.

We all have heard many times that membership in our organization is slipping. Let's stop the slide! Please, be sure to invite eligible mothers, spouses (male or female), sisters, daughters, and granddaughters of all veterans to join our organization.

It is all our "job" to work the membership program, not just the membership chairmen. Membership is a way to honor our loved ones for their service to our country. I am eligible for membership through my deceased father, Earl Manson, a World War II veteran, and my husband Bill, who served for 20 1/2 years in the United States Army, and my brothers.

It is my honor and privilege to serve the Department of Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary. This is an organization for us to be proud of and to respect. So many others have come before us to serve and honor. We all need to continue their legacy and vision. I will do my best to serve and honor this organization and along the way let's have some fun!

Mary Kuperus of New London Unit 537 is the president of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota.



Sending in content

When sending in photos and write-ups for the Auxiliary Bulletin part of the Legionnaire, please send JPGs and Word docs to Cathy Radil at cathy@mnala.org. Thank you.

See Page 5 for the All-Legion Family Calendar.



Front row from left are Department 1st Vice President Sharon Thiemecke, Department President Mary Kuperus, 2nd Vice President Judy Ackerman. Back row from left are 1st District President Tonia Betterman, 2nd District President Robin Olson, 3rd District President Kim Carlander, 4th District President Jennifer Nelson, 5th District President Jill Davis, 7th District President Wanda Seidler, 8th District President Zandra Davenport, 9th District President Cheryl Grover, 10th District President Lorinda Kies. Missing: 6th District President Dolly Zitir.

Serve and honor every day

Now Department of Minnesota gears up for National Convention

WILLMAR — Our Auxiliary year came to a close on July 16 as we closed the 2021-2022 administrative year under the inspiration and leadership of Patti Coleman. We want to send a grateful thank you to each of the officers and chairmen who gave of their time and talents to serve our organization.

The Department Convention was held at the Willmar Convention Center and was hosted by the American Legion Family of Willmar 167. There were 186 Auxiliary delegates, alternates and guests in attendance representing 98 units.

Our special guest for the convention was Northwestern Division Vice President Dee

Buckley of our very own Department of Minnesota. Congratulations to newly elected President Mary Kuperus, Department 1st Vice President Sharon Thiemecke and 2nd Vice President Judy Ackerman, who assumed their duties at the close of the convention.

Kuperus has chosen "Serve and Honor Every Day" as her theme for the 2022-2023 Auxiliary year. Her symbol is the shape of Minnesota with a poppy. The poppy is placed close to her home of the 7th District and in remembrance of her deceased father, a World War II veteran.

Twenty-three delegates and 17

alternates to the 2022 National Convention in Milwaukee were elected and ratified to represent Minnesota. Coleman will serve as the delegation chairman, Carol Kottom will serve as the delegation secretary and Raleen Tolzmann will represent us as our National Executive Committee member.

Our appreciation and congratulations are extended to Coleman for her dedicated service as our 2021-2022 department president. In addition to her many travels, she worked tirelessly to keep all of our members motivated throughout the year.

2022 Fall Conference to be in St. Cloud

ST. CLOUD —Fall Conference will be held at River's Edge Conference Center in St. Cloud, Oct. 27-22. The Department Executive Committee will meet at 1 p.m. Oct. 27.

The American Legion Department of Minnesota Convention Corp. has a five-year agreement to hold the event in St. Cloud.

More details will be in the next Legionnaire.

Membership cards are out

ST. PAUL —For those units that did not pick up their cards at Department Convention, your cards went in the mail July 18. They were sent to the membership chairmen. It is now time



New Minnesota ALA President Mary Kuperus holds a bouquet of poppies after she was elected president.

to start collecting those dues.

Reminder: Payment of all back dues is at the current rate of membership. Therefore, \$24 must be remitted for payment

of all back dues.

We are still collecting 2022 membership dues as well. The Auxiliary membership year ends on Dec. 31.

A resolution, 6 proposals passed

WILLMAR —The Auxiliary rewrote our governing rules in accordance with the national organization and with the assistance of the national parliamentarian. One resolution and six proposals all passed. All other changes were made in accordance with our convention rules.

Program meets its end

WILLMAR —The Service to Veteran: Stamp and Postcard chairmanship and program have both been discontinued as of the Department Convention.

Minn. American Legion Auxiliary Exec. Board

Elections were held and appointments were ratified. The following members will serve as Department Officers & Department Executive Committee:

Department President	Mary Kuperus, New London Unit 537
Department 1st Vice President	Sharon Thiemecke, Bemidji Unit 14
Department 2nd Vice President	Judy Ackerman, Northrop Unit 522
National Executive Committee	Jean Walker, Warren Unit 27
Alternate NEC	Raleen Tolzmann, Minnesota Lake Unit 287
Department Secretary	
Department Treasurer	Cathy Radil, Dodge Center Unit 384
Department Chaplain	Donna Barbknecht, Willmar Unit 167
Department Historian	Margee Keller, Crookston Unit #20
Department Parliamentarian	Norma Tramm, Cold Spring Unit 455
1st District President	Tonia Betterman, Owatonna Unit 77
2nd District President	Robin Olson, Winnebago Unit 82
3rd District President	Kim Carlander, Chanhassen Unit #580
4th District President	Jenny Nelson, North St. Paul Unit 39
5th District President	Jill Davis, Minneapolis-Richfield Unit 535
6th District President	Dolly Zitum, Brainerd Unit 255
7th District President	Wanda Seidler, Spicer Unit 545
8th District President	Zandra Davenport, Two Harbors Unit 109
9th District President	Cheryl Grover, Bagley Unit 15
10th District President	Lorinda Kies, Coon Rapids Unit 334

Committee appointments

Department President Mary Kuperus' appointments for the 2022-2023 Auxiliary year of "Serve and Honor Every Day" were approved by the Department Executive Committee:

Americanism	Bethany Dickert
Children & Youth	Karla Otterness
Community Service	Robin Dorf
Constitution & Standing Rules	Carol Kottom
Education	Tricia Pagel
Finance	Cheryl Schauman, Chairman
	Jody Hassing
	Jo Ellen Isenberg
	Mary Hendrickson
	Cavalene Regan
Girls State	Yolanda Dailey, Chairman
	Peggy Tesdahl, Director
	Patti Coleman, Education Director
	Wanda Prescher, Committee Member
	Kathy Kessler, Committee Member
	Bethany Dickert, Americanism Chairman
	Margee Keller
	Renee Seuss
	Pam Gades
	Judy Ackerman
	Sandy Wersal
	Donna Barbknecht
	LuAnn Marschel
	Norma Tramm
	Jean Walker
	Linda Kelly
	Cecelia Sundstrom
	Sharon Thiemecke
	Suzette Maluchnik, Chairman
	Beverly Grose, Committee Member
Special Appointments:	
Audit Committee	Cari Lamb, Chairman
	Roberta Elvecrog
	Linda Deschene
	Kollette Kaehlert
	Chris Ronning
	Barbara Hopewell
	Kat Benjamin
	Anna Eells
Auxiliary Emergency Fund	
Armed Forces Center	
Brain Science Foundation	
Hospital/Home Representatives:	
Fargo VAHCC	Becky Olson
Fergus Falls Veterans Home	Doris Lafayette
Hastings Veterans Home	Darlene Wondra
Luverne Veterans Home	Jeannette Mertens
Minneapolis Veterans Home	Sandy Gibson
Minneapolis VAHCC	Mary Ann Davis
Silver Bay Veterans Home	Phyllis Mealey
Sioux Falls VAHCC	Diane Strassburg
St. Cloud VAHCC	Janet Benson

Thank you to these appointees as they assume the responsibilities of leadership for each of these programs of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Special thank you

Special thanks to Auxiliary Convention General Chairman Kammy Herzog and Co-Chairman Betty Underthun and all members of the Willmar American Legion family for a very successful Department Convention. To these volunteers a job well done!

In the next issue, look for units receiving Patti Coleman's President's Award of Excellence. They are awarded for outstanding reports and activities.

Poppy Contest winners

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Poppy Contest at Department Convention. The winners were:

Poppy Wreath
People's Choice Winner: Diane Hayes, Detroit Lakes Unit 15, District 9

Poppy Basket or Can for Poppy Day
People's Choice Winner: Donna Redeppening, Anoka Unit 102, District 10



The 2022-23 President's Project project raised \$38,888.96 for the Eagle's Healing Nest in Sauk Centre. The Nest's Melony Butler, left, received the check from then-President Patti Coleman at the Department Convention in Willmar.



Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary members from all across the state gathered at the Willmar Conference Center in July for the 103 Department Convention.



The convention began with bringin in an American flag from each of the 10 districts.



Dressed as a hippie, then-President Patti Coleman holds a sign that says "Life is Groovy."

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Help for veterans and families

District Commanders

Continued from Page 13

learned so much from all of you. Our 10th District American Legion Family is strong, eager and capable of helping to build a strong vibrant active future for our organization.

Our Auxiliary, Juniors, Sons and Riders are so talented, and they hold many new visions for our American Legion just as many of you did when you paved the way.

I genuinely want to visit every post in our district this year, and I want each of the vice commanders to visit their posts when they can with me. I will be looking for each post to send me dates and meeting times when I can visit and meet with your members to hear all

about what you and your post are doing in your communities.

Just a note or reminder. *Please* send in your newly elected, re-elected and or appointed officers' names and contact information to your subdistrict vice commanders and our district adjutant, Past District Commander Paul Orson, at paulorson@comcast.net. This information will help us to communicate with each other and those in our state.

We use this information to update the district and department directories. To send out our membership packages, having current directory information provides everyone the means to locate and communicate effectively.

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