



## Vaccine mandate could affect care of veterans

St. Cloud VA could lose about fifth of staff

By Tim Engstrom

ST. CLOUD — As of July 11, there were 390 union employees in the St. Cloud VA Health Care System who have requested religious or medical exemptions from the COVID-19

federal mandate.

That's about 23 percent of the 1,681 bargaining-unit employees. The numbers come from American Federation of Government Employees Local 390, the union that represents St. Cloud VA medical staff.

If the mandates of "get a shot or be fired" went down right now, it would wipe out about one-fifth of the St. Cloud VA workers, severely curtailing the ability of the system to provide for the health care of veterans.

Local 390 President Andrea Matthews pointed out St. Cloud has the highest unvaccinated population of all

VA systems in the country.

"I am trying really hard to keep this from being politicized because I don't want to go there with it," she said. "These are frontline workers that, a year or two ago, were our heroes. They stayed at work when even their families couldn't come see the patients."

She said her concerns are care for

veterans and fair treatment for the employees.

VISN-23, the Veterans Health Administration's care network for the Upper Midwest, oversees the VA hospitals including St. Cloud.

"The ongoing safety of our operations is our focal point each day," said

Continued on Page 7

## For the girls!

Hayfield captures first championship of Minnesota Legion Softball

By Rocky Hulne and Tim Engstrom

Austin Daily Herald and The Minnesota Legionnaire

MANKATO — It wasn't exactly how she thought it would happen, but Anna Bamlet ended her Hayfield softball career by winning a state title for her hometown.

Bamlet and Hayfield Post 330 sealed the deal when they topped Browerville 9-5 in the Minnesota State Legion Softball championship game in Mankato this past weekend. It was the first ever state Legion softball tournament in Minnesota history and players didn't even know that they would have a summer season until this past March when they found out there would be a league.

"This was my last chance to win that childhood dream of a state title," Bamlet said. "It may not have happened the way I thought it would, but it's crazy and surreal. I was so proud and so happy for the community and the opportunity. It was a sense of closure for my last game in that blue uniform."

Besides elation, Bamlet also felt a little exhausted after her final game. Besides playing for Hayfield, she was also logging in games for her summer team, the Minnesota Stix, which lost in the national semifinals in Mankato. Bamlet played nine games in a span of



Players with the Hayfield Post 330 softball team hoist the championship trophy after the championship game at Jaycee Park in Mankato on July 31.

Softball photos by Casey Ek/caseyek.com

four days as she pitched, played first base and outfield for the Stix.

In all, she pitched a total of 40 innings over the weekend. Bamlet struck out 40 hitters in her three games with Post 330.

"It was a lot in a short amount of time, Bamlet said. "It was a lot of ball, but it was an opportunity I was going to have once in a lifetime."

Hayfield Post 330 played its entire roster in the state title game as every player was able to join in the fun. Bamlet was named Outstanding Pitcher of the Tournament and Josanne Tempel, Hayfield's shortstop, was named Outstanding Player of the Tournament.

Bamlet will continue her softball career at Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, next season.

"It's a big step, but I'm excited for the opportunity," Bamlet said. "I hope that a few of my Legion teammates get the opportunity to play in college in the future as well."

Minnesota American Legion Fastpitch Softball was made possible thanks to those who put in the time and effort. Bamlet specifically thanked Luann

Continued on Page 8

## A nat'l chaplain in the making

Minnesota gives endorsement to Kelley Adelsman

WILLMAR — Past National Commander Dan Ludwig of Red Wing Post 54 stood at the podium on Friday, July 15, and addressed the floor at the American Legion Department of Minnesota Convention in Willmar.

"I move this convention endorse

Kelley Adelsman for the high office of national chaplain," he said.

A second came from National Executive Committeeman Bill Barbknecht of Underwood Post 489.

Tom Fernlund, the commander of the department at the time, asked for discussion. Hearing none, he called for a vote. The convention delegates loudly exclaimed, "Aye!"

Adelsman, of Pine Island Post 184, is an ordained minister, through the

Continued on Page 10



Kelley Adelsman

## Amundson battles injuries, fatigue to win MVP honor

By John Sherman

BURNSVILLE — Kaden Amundson played the game of his life in the Minnesota American Legion Baseball Div. I title game July 31 at Rich Vanderlaan Field in Burnsville.

Despite limping on an injured ankle, the St. Michael Post 567 catcher dominated in a 13-2 victory over Mankato Post 11's National team. By the end of the day, he was covered in dirt, but when the dust settled he had hit a home run and picked four Nationals off base.

The home run reminded the field

announcer of Kirk Gibson's historic walk-off homer as the Dodgers beat the Oakland A's in the first game of the 1988 World Series. And, of course, the announcer said so, with the fervor of "The Giants win the pennant! The Giants win the pennant!" True, Amundson's trip around the bases was about the same speed as Gibson's, but there was no worldwide TV audience watching — only about 400 Minnesota baseball fans.

After the celebration with teammates, his fans and his mom, Amundson talked about his memorable day

Continued on Page 9



St. Michael Post 567 teammates welcome catcher Kaden Amundson after he crosses the plate following a home run. Their jerseys say the team's nickname, "Mikes."



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# AMERICAN LEGION

## Endorsements

### Edwards endorsed for Dept. Vice Commander

Paul Edwards has been endorsed by Billie Brown Post 627 of Nisswa and by the 6th District American Legion for the position of Department Vice Commander for the 2023-24 year.

Edwards served in the Air Force from 1969 to 1980, maintaining the electronic systems on B-52 aircraft. After a three-year break, he enlisted in the Army Reserves and served in several positions, including drill sergeant, weapons instructor and as an instructor certification instructor, where he taught other soldiers how to teach. He retired in 1997 and is proud to be a retired soldier, the son of a soldier and dad to a soldier.

Overlapping his time in the Army Reserves, he worked for 27 years for The Boeing Company as an electronics

technician, working on military and civilian aircraft in the Seattle area and overseas.

Since coming to Minnesota in 2013, Edwards has been active in the Legion at the post, district, department and national levels. He has served as Gambling Manager, Adjutant and Judge Advocate at the Post 627 level. For the 6th District, he served for five years as the Legion Rider Liaison Officer and one year as Sergeant-at-Arms. He served two years as District Commander during the difficult COVID

years. For the Department of Minnesota, Edwards was instrumental in getting the Minnesota Legion College started and has served



**Paul Edwards**

as an instructor for four years. He also was elected and continues to serve as a member of the Department Board of Publications. He has served as a subject matter expert and was asked to teach at the 2021 Department Convention. Edwards is a 2017 graduate of the National American Legion College and has taught as a subject matter expert on resolutions at both the Phoenix and Milwaukee national conventions.

Paul is married to a native Minnesotan, Susan, who is also an active Legionnaire. They make their home in Brainerd. Paul's stepson is an Army master sergeant currently serving in Texas at the Dallas Recruiting Station. Paul and Susan have three grandchildren.

### Pagel is candidate for Department Sergeant-at-Arms

The Erwin March American Legion Post 64 in Slayton is honored and proud to endorse Brad Pagel for the high office of Sergeant-at-Arms for the Department of Minnesota for 2023-24.

Pagel is an eight-year member of The American Legion. He has been the Post 64 Commander for most of those years; he is passionate about the post being more visible in our community with different events, helping our fellow veterans, and he cares about the mission of The

American Legion.

Besides Post Commander, other offices he has held include 2nd District Vice Commander 2017-2018, 2nd District 1st Vice Commander 2018-2019, 2nd District Commander 2019-21 (COVID years), District Oratorical Contest Chair 2018-2022. He currently serves on the Department of Minnesota National Security/Foreign Relations Committee.

Pagel is eligible for The American Legion through his service in

the U.S. Army from 1987 to 1991. He was stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, during the time of his service to this country. During his time stationed at Fort Hood, his Chinook helicopter unit, Bravo Company, 2/158th Aviation Regiment, 6th Cavalry Brigade Air Combat, which they were attached to, was called upon to serve during Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm in 1990 and 1991, spending five months in the deserts of Saudi Arabia supporting the front lines.



**Brad Pagel**

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District 11 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of Wisconsin has joined forces with Warfighter Advance to raise money to **HELP STOP** our warfighters suffering with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) from ending their lives. Each day 20 of those we trained to be warfighters suffering from PTSD commit suicide. You can **STOP** this from happening.



# Endorsements

## Kellogg endorsed for National Vice Commander

Adams American Legion Post 146 and the 1st District proudly endorse Past Department Commander Jim Kellogg for the high office of National Vice Commander. He is a 45-year member of Post 146 where he has served several offices and currently serves as Gambling Manager and on the Executive Board.

Kellogg has served district offices including Commander, Adjutant,

Membership Director and County Commander.

At the Department of Minnesota level, he has served as Sergeant-at-Arms, Historian, Department Vice Commander and Department Commander. Kellogg currently serves as Department Chairman of the National Security and Foreign Relations Committee.

Nationally, he serves on National Security Council. Kellogg is a life

member of The American Legion, VFW and DAV. He is also a member of the 40&8 and ANIVICUS.

He belongs to Sacred Heart Church and the Knights of Columbus. Jim and Brenda, his wife of 52 years have four children and 12 grandchildren — all Legion Family members. Jim served in the U.S. Air Force from 1969 to 1973. He has been a proud American farmer his entire career.



**Jim Kellogg**

## 9th District endorses Bill Barbknecht for NECman



**Bill Barbknecht**

Bill Barbknecht is a member of Post 489 in Underwood. He was endorsed for National Executive Committeeman for 2023-25 by Post 489 at a regular meeting and also by the 9th District at its meeting in East Grand Forks.

Barbknecht served two years in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam era and 24 years Air National Guard with the Happy Hooligans in Fargo. He is a 53-year member of The American Legion.

He has served as District 9 Commander, two terms as Department Membership Director, in which the Department reached all-time high in membership. He served as Department Commander 1994-1995. He served as chairman of the Rehabilitation Committee, Finance Committee, National Security and Community Service.

Bill currently serves as Chairman of National Executive Committee Liaison to the National Security

Committee and also on the Subcommittee of Resolutions on the National Level.

Barbknecht retired from the U.S. Postal Service with 38 years of service. He is also serving as the state director of Selective Service for Minnesota. Bill is married to Past Department President Donna (Arends) Barbknecht. Together they have five children, many grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

## Peggy Moon is endorsed for Alternate NECman

Peggy Moon has been endorsed for Alternate NEC by Kriesel-Jacobsen Post 560, in Zimmerman, for the years 2023-2025.

Moon has been a member of Kriesel-Jacobsen Post 560 for 45 years and was awarded a life membership by her post in 1997. She has served as Commander, Adjutant, Chaplain and was on the Post Honor Guard. She served in the Air Force from 1971 to 1974.

On the District 6 level, Moon

served as Commander, Vice Commander, Public Relations Chairman, Children and Youth Chairman and currently serves as the Commander's Advisor.

On the Department of Minnesota level, Moon has served as Employment Chairman, Public Relations Chairman, Children and Youth Chairman and Department Vice Commander. She served as Membership Chairman 2009-2010 and as Department of Minnesota

Commander 2014-2015.

On the national level, she currently serves as Minnesota's Alternate NECman, vice president for the Board of Directors, American Legion Child Welfare Foundation and as vice chairman of the Children and Youth Council.

She and her husband, Carl, have been married for 48 years, have two daughters and six grandchildren, all members of the American Legion Family.



**Peggy Moon**

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# What's happening?

## Fall Conference is coming to St. Cloud

ST. CLOUD — The Fall Conference is in St. Cloud for the first of a five-year agreement.

The Minnesota American Legion Convention Corp. signed an agreement last winter with the St. Cloud Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, also called Visit Greater St. Cloud.

The Fall Conference will take place at the River's Edge Convention Center Oct. 27-29.

It is the annual school of instruction, and the kind of event people talk about when they return home.

"The Fall Conference is a time to renew our fellowship with Legion Family members from around the state," said Department Commander Jennifer Havlick. "I look forward to seeing you there."

The registration form is on Page 5. The registration fee is \$15 per person. Registration after Oct. 14 goes up to \$18 a person. Registration at the door

is \$25.

Only people registering in advance will receive a conference booklet.

Past National Vice Commander Al Davis, treasurer of the Convention Corp., is meeting in early September with the Legion and Auxiliary leadership to plan the conference. More details will be in the next issue.

The Convention Corp. itself is the host. There will not be a local post hosting during the five-year deal.

The best part of the five-year deal, Davis said, was locking in the lodging rates, which won't go up more than 5 percent in any year.

## It's Camporee time again

BRAINERD — The 53rd annual Legionville Camporee is scheduled for Sept. 8-11, though folks actually can start camping on Sept. 7.

The Camporee offers music, food, camping and activities, all to benefit the Legionville



campground and its programs.

People can camp in tents, RVs and dormitories. RV hook-ups are available. Bring your own linens and blankets. It's often a good idea to bring a folding chair to the Camporee, too.

The cost is \$10 per day per person to stay overnight Wednesday and Thursday, and it is \$15 per day per person Friday and Saturday, and \$5 per day for visitors, with a maximum of \$100 for a family. People ages 3 and younger are free. All active military are free on Saturday.

There will be food, bingo, pull-tabs, raffles and children's games. The menu is listed on the ticket. The event is organized by the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Minnesota.

The Harvest Rally is taking place at Legionville on Saturday, Sept. 10. The membership turn-in time is 2 p.m., with the program at 3 p.m. Meal to follow.

## Rally times are scheduled

NEW PRAGUE — Mark your calendars. Department Membership Director Linda Dvorak has announced the schedule for membership rallies.

The Harvest Rally is at the Camporee annually and is mentioned in the previous news brief.

The Pearl Harbor Rally is Dec. 3 at Royalton Post 137.

The Sweetheart Rally is Feb. 4 at Osseo-Maple Grove Post 172.

For Pearl Harbor and Sweetheart, the times are the same. Membership turn-in and social hour begin at 10:30 a.m. Lunch is at 11:30 a.m. Program is at 12:30 p.m.

For Appreciation, the turn-in and social are at 4 p.m., dinner at 5 p.m., program 6 p.m.

The meal cost at each of those three events is \$15.

## New Ulm to honor 6 killed in Vietnam

NEW ULM — New Ulm Post



The "Promise of Youth" sculpture at the Veterans Service Building is now part of the Minnesota Medal of Honor Memorial. The memorial is to be dedicated Sept. 22.

132 and the New Ulm community plan to honor six men who were killed in Vietnam at 3 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 13, at the German Park Amphitheater.

There will be food, fellowship and music, and the dedication of a Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

The six men are Dennis Wellmann, Daniel Lloyd, Henry Polzin, Steven Seemann, Timothy Sullivan and Rickey Slander.

## DAV welcomes veterans to farm

JORDAN — The Disabled American Veterans of Minnesota has announced the third annual Military Appreciation Family Day at the Farm.

"This is a day set aside to acknowledge and thank our disabled American Veterans who continue to sacrifice past their days of active service," states the flier.

This outdoor event happens 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 10 at Sutton Ridge Farm, 1500 W. 200th St., Jordan. Gates open at 9:30 a.m. The event is open to all veterans, military members, their friends and the general public. You do not have to be a DAV member to attend. Service dogs are welcomed, too.

Cost to military members is free. Military member families pay \$8 each. Members of the general public pay \$20. Children 5 and younger are free. Proceeds benefit DAV of Minnesota.

There will be speakers from various war eras, live music, silent auction, catered lunch, local vendors, hay wagon rides, boot camp for kids, interaction with farm animals and

a flag-raising ceremony. Register by Sept. 6 at [davmn.org](http://davmn.org). Go to "Events," then "All Events."

## POW/MIA event planned in Greenfield

GREENFIELD — Hamel American Legion Post 394 and Hamel VFW Post 5903, along with the city of Greenfield, are once again hosting National POW/MIA Recognition Day at Central Park, 7200 Greenfield Road, Greenfield.

The event begins at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 16.

All honor guards and color guards are welcome to participate. The staging begins at 5 p.m.

National POW/MIA Recognition Day is not a federal public holiday in the United States but it is a national observance. At present, there are more than 83,000 Americans who remain missing from World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, Gulf War and post-9/11 wars.

## State to have its own Medal of Honor Memorial

ST. PAUL — The state of Minnesota dedicates the new Minnesota Medal of Honor Memorial at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 22. The program will be about 45 minutes long.

The Medal of Honor Memorial is at the Veterans Service Building, on the side that faces the Capitol Mall. There will be a flyover, cannons, a cadet formation and a choir. Most of all, five Medal of Honor recipients will be present.

The groundbreaking on the memorial took place in October 2016.

The new memorial brings in the existing "Promise of Youth" sculpture that had been in the center of a rectangular pool. The sculpture represents the youth of Minnesota, and it is part of the veterans memorials to show how veterans have secured the future for the youth. By joining it with the Medal of Honor Memorial, that metaphor

is strengthened.

There have been 72 Medals of Honor credited to Minnesotans.

Visit [mnmohmem.org](http://mnmohmem.org) for more information.

## Bagley is ready to ride for vets

BAGLEY — The ninth annual Clearwater County Veterans Memorial Ride is Saturday, Sept. 3.

The motorcycle ride raises funds to purchase paver stones to honor deceased veterans. Participants register at 11 a.m. at Bagley American Legion Post 16, and bikes depart at noon.

Registered riders and passengers receive a "Ride for the Stones" T-shirt.

After two stops, the riders return to Post 16 around 4 p.m. to enjoy a meal and, starting at 5 p.m., live music by Butch Boe and the James Gang.

Cost is \$25 per bike and \$10 per passenger. People not going on the route can pay \$10 to attend the meal and dance.

## Ruck march to help veterans with trauma

ANOKA — The Nearly Naked Ruck March Twin Cities is not as nearly naked as the name sounds.

Billed as "something different," this is a family-friendly event where participants are invited to dress in fun costumes, shorts and patriotic attire to celebrate our military and their service. Proceeds fund 23rd Veteran, a nonprofit serving veterans with trauma or who never properly transitioned. The organization has a 14-week veteran-centric mental health program.

Check-in begins at 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 10, in downtown Anoka near the Rum River. People can park at the municipal ramp. The Ruck Village will be at City Hall.

Participants will ruck up to 10 miles to celebrate the nation's heroes, and carried weight in the form of food, clothing and supplies will be donated to Haven for Heroes to support Anoka's veterans in need.

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# Taps



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Name of Deceased	Age	Date of Death	Branch	Era	Cont. Years	Post
<b>Adams, Harold D.</b>	97	7/12/22	Army	WWII	75	Elk River Post 112
<b>Aguillo, Juan R.</b>	70	8/5/22	Air Force	Vietnam	5	Bemidji Post 14
<b>Allord, Richard L.</b>	77	7/9/22	Navy	Vietnam	37	Swanville Post 313
<b>Anderson, Robert P.</b>	86	8/9/22	Army	Korea	33	Waite Park Post 428
<b>Bartol, David H.</b>	72	7/14/22	Navy	Vietnam	39	New Ulm Post 132
<b>Bartz, Aloys H.</b>	91	7/21/22	Navy	Korea	37	Waite Park Post 428
<b>Baxter, William L.</b>	92	6/20/22	Air Force	Korea	72	Walnut Grove Post 267
Note: He received his pilot's license at 16 and flew many corporate owners over the years. While working out of Los Angeles, he flew President Richard Nixon around the world in 1985. He is a past post commander.						
<b>Berklich, Joseph M.</b>	101	5/31/22	Army	WWII	33	Hibbing Post 222
<b>Bolen, James R.</b>	89	12/17/21	Army	Korea	69	Aurora Post 241
<b>Bratsch, Dennis C.</b>	96	5/24/22	Army	WWII	24	New London Post 537
Note: He is a recipient of the Purple Heart and was wounded in action in Europe.						
<b>Braun, Allan E.</b>	77	7/26/22	Army	Vietnam	35	Le Center Post 108
<b>Braun, Milton E.</b>	90	7/31/22	Army	Korea	9	Le Center Post 108
<b>Braun, Wayne F.</b>	84	8/6/22	Army	Vietnam	39	Le Center Post 108
<b>Brown, Richard A.</b>	81	2/8/22	Army NG	Vietnam	12	Hackensack Post 202
<b>Corrigan, Donald R.</b>	86	6/26/22	Army	Vietnam	20	Foley Post 298
<b>Cotten, Gerald M. Sr.</b>	97	7/28/22	Navy	WWII/Korea	72	Anoka Post 102
Note: He served in naval aviation in the Pacific Theater in World War II. During the Korean War, he served on naval air patrol in Washington state, then Alaska. He was a member of the Order of the Blue Nose for flying above the Arctic Circle.						
<b>Cwikla, James P.</b>	75	7/19/22	Army	Vietnam	46	Middle River Post 444
<b>Dahl, Orlan R.</b>	74	6/28/22	Army	Vietnam	29	Maple Lake Post 131
Note: He was a state trooper for 27 years.						
<b>DeLap, Roger I.</b>	71	7/8/22	Navy	Vietnam	48	Thief River Falls Post 117
Note: He served a tour in Vietnam and another in the Mediterranean Sea.						
<b>Diedrich, Kenneth J.</b>	77	7/27/22	Air Force	Vietnam	17	Rochester Post 92
<b>Doll, Melvin M.</b>	90	6/22/22	Army	Korea	25	Aitkin Post 86
<b>Domagala, Joseph J.</b>	91	8/19/21	Army	Korea	45	St. Michael Post 567
<b>Eckhoff, Dean H.</b>	74	7/9/22	Navy	Vietnam	34	Deer Creek Post 283
<b>Engelke, Wallace E.</b>	79	7/30/22	Army	Vietnam	47	Hackensack Post 202
<b>Evans, Stephen R.</b>	72	7/23/22	Army	Vietnam	51	Greenbush Post 88
<b>Forstner, Myron H.</b>	90	8/14/22	Air Force	Korea	29	New Ulm Post 132
<b>Fort, Kenneth W.</b>	73	6/11/22	Army	Vietnam	44	Thief River Falls Post 117
Note: In addition to being a flight instructor at Fort Rucker, Ala., he served three tours in Vietnam as a helicopter pilot.						
<b>Frith, Edwin L.</b>	85	7/14/22	Army	Korea	11	Park Rapids Post 212
<b>Fritz, Victor E.</b>	91	7/24/22	Army	Korea	21	Stewartville Post 164
<b>Galvin, Michael T.</b>	78	8/2/22	Army	Vietnam	55	Red Wing Post 54
<b>Glesne, Paul D.</b>	84	7/24/22	Army	Vietnam	32	New London Post 537
<b>Goulet, Eugene L.</b>	83	5/28/22	Army	Cold	4	Thief River Falls Post 117
<b>Helmerick, Daryl L.</b>	77	6/26/22	Air Force	Vietnam	55	Little Falls Post 46
<b>Hemmellgarn, Kenneth W.</b>	76	1/19/22	Air Force	Vietnam	34	Clear Lake Post 354
<b>Hinnenkamp, Arthur</b>	94	6/1/22	Army	WWII	57	Brooklyn Center Post 630
<b>Hoese, Daniel J.</b>	73	8/14/22	Army	Vietnam	19	Waconia Post 150
<b>Hogan, John C.</b>	93	8/3/22	Air Force	Korea	17	Aitkin Post 86
<b>Holt, James A.</b>	85	7/23/22	Air Force	Vietnam	28	Elk River Post 112
<b>Johnson, Harley C.</b>	97	8/5/22	Army	WWII	12	New London Post 537
<b>Johnson, Thomas L.</b>	87	5/5/22	Navy	Korea	38	Osseo-Maple Grove Post 172
<b>Jylha, John E.</b>	65	4/19/22	Marines	Vietnam	3	Hibbing Post 222
<b>Kemmer, Kelvin E.</b>	90	7/30/22	Army	Korea	16	Bloomington Post 550
<b>Kietzer, Hartwin H.</b>	91	7/13/22	Army	Korea	68	Lewisville Post 561
<b>Kingsley, Frank E.</b>	90	7/18/22	Air Force	Korea	41	Aitkin Post 86
<b>Kleven, Marvin J.</b>	6/23/22	Air NG	Vietnam	41	Minnesota Post 1982	
Note: He is a past adjutant for the now-disbanded (but still chartered) Revere Post 582 and was a member there for 30 years prior to joining Post 1982 the past 11 years.						
<b>Kowalski, Clarion L.</b>	89	7/6/22	Army	Korea	56	Delano Post 377
<b>Malone, Earl R.</b>	77	8/9/22	Army	Vietnam	10	Little Falls Post 46
<b>Maloney, Dennis P.</b>	75	7/22/22	Army	Vietnam	18	Winona Post 9
<b>Mayer, James E.</b>	90	7/31/22	Army	Korea	32	Glencoe Post 95
<b>Mundfrom, Frederick J.</b>	93	7/13/22	Army	Korea	21	Spring Valley Post 68
<b>Neitzke, Harry D.</b>	89	7/28/22	Army	Korea	3	Winona Post 9
<b>Ness, Richard E.</b>	85	7/26/22	Navy	Korea	40	Bagley Post 16
Note: He was past post commander.						
<b>Obermoller, Alvin L.</b>	98	7/25/22	Army	WWII	76	Brewster Post 464
<b>Osborne, Terrace L.</b>	78	8/4/22	Army	Vietnam	20	St. Paul Arcade-Phalen Post 577
<b>Paquin, Gerald C.</b>	97	7/12/22	Army AF	WWII	38	Park Rapids Post 212
<b>Peil, Kenneth E.</b>	93	3/23/22	Army	Korea	41	St. Paul Arcade-Phalen Post 577
<b>Peters, Dennis F.</b>	75	4/23/22	Army	Vietnam	14	Kasson Post 333
<b>Rabe, Harold L.</b>	82	7/20/22	Army	Vietnam	26	Finlayson/Sandstone Post 151
<b>Revermann, Patrick D.</b>	76	8/19/22	Army	Vietnam	43	Melrose Post 101
<b>Roed, Harold J.</b>	96	7/21/22	Army	WWII	46	Richfield-Minneapolis Post 435
<b>Ruiz, Manuel</b>	101	7/13/22	Army	WWII	44	Forest Lake Post 225
<b>Samsa, William J.</b>	90	7/16/22	Army	Korea	30	Foley Post 298
<b>Sanvik, James N.</b>	74	7/20/22	Army NG	Vietnam	31	Albert Lea Post 56
<b>Schindler, John F.</b>	97	7/28/22	Army	WWII	32	St. Joseph Post 328
<b>Schumacher, Myron M.</b>	90	7/16/22	Army	Korea	68	New Richland Post 75
Note: He served as a security agent near Boston.						
<b>Selby, Walter A.</b>	97	7/10/22	Navy	WWII/Korea	4	Hugo Post 620
<b>Shaw, Christopher M.</b>	59	6/24/22	Navy	Leb/Gren	2	Anoka Post 102
Note: He was a well-known Twin Cities comedian and musician who led an Anoka-based training nonprofit and raised funds for veterans, such as Humor for Heroes, which toured Legion and VFW posts in 2017 to benefit the Lone Survivor Foundation.						
<b>Sirek, Donald A.</b>	90	7/22/22	Army	Korea	11	New Prague Post 45
Note: He served with Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe.						
<b>Sorteberg, Richard P.</b>	92	7/24/22	Air Force	Korea	68	Anoka Post 102
<b>Stene, Eugene A.</b>	91	7/20/22	Army	Korea	45	Windom Post 206
<b>Stueber, Ervin H.</b>	92	7/31/22	Army	Korea	40	Nicollet Post 510
<b>Stutelberg, Gordon R.</b>	92	8/16/22	Navy	Korea	35	New London Post 537
<b>Sutherland, LeRoy A.</b>	72	6/15/22	Air Force	Vietnam	23	Bagley Post 16
<b>Tholl, Harold M.</b>	75	7/20/22	Army	Vietnam	52	Motley Post 124
Note: He served in the war as a combat medic.						
<b>Truebenbach, Charles H.</b>	79	8/4/22	Navy	Vietnam	31	Park Rapids Post 212
<b>Underberg, Mark A.</b>	85	7/26/22	Army	Vietnam	32	Breckenridge Post 53

## All-Family Events Calendar

**Sept. 8-11:** Legionville Camporee, Legionville  
**Sept. 10:** Harvest Rally, Legionville  
**Sept. 10:** Nearly Naked Ruck March Twin Cities, Anoka  
**Sept. 11-14:** MACVSO Fall Conference, Grand View Lodge, Nisswa  
**Sept. 16-19:** National Security Weekend, Camp Ripley  
**Sept. 17:** ALA Hospital & Home Representative Meeting, Melrose Post 101  
**Sept. 22:** Dedication of the Minnesota Medal of Honor Memorial, Veterans Service Building, St. Paul  
**Oct. 7-8:** Districts 4&5 Revitalization, N. St. Paul Post 39  
**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  
**Nov. 11:** Minnesota Veterans Day Program, Veterans Memorial Community Center, Inver Grove Heights  
**Dec. 3:** Pearl Harbor Rally, Royalton Post 137  
**Dec. 11-16:** National American Legion College, Indy  
**Feb. 4:** Sweetheart Rally, Osseo-Maple Grove Post 172  
**April 15:** Appreciation Rally, New Prague Post 45  
**April 16-21:** National Commander's Tour of Minnesota  
**May 13:** Department Commander's Testimonial, New Prague Post 45



### 2022 Fall Conference Official Registration

**Mail to:**  
 Al Davis  
 PO Box 166  
 Princeton, MN 55371

**Registration sliding fee:**  
 Registration received by Oct. 14: \$15  
 Registration received after Oct. 14: \$18  
 Registration at the door: \$25

Only the pre-registered will receive a booklet.

Registration fees are for each person attending, except for Junior SAL and Junior Auxiliary members. Please copy and send a separate form for each person attending. Everyone must pay the registration fee.

Checks only; credit cards not accepted.  
 Please indicate "Fall Conference" on the memo line.  
 Please make checks payable to:  
**Minnesota American Legion Convention Corp.**

**Conference dates:**  
 Oct. 27-29, 2022

**Contact the hotel directly for your reservations:**

Headquarters hotel:  
 Best Western Plus Kelly Inn, St. Cloud  
 320-253-0606

Nearby hotel:  
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# The Legion leads the way on legislation

In August we had a major victory in the passing of the Pact Act, legislation that will provide care for those veterans effected by toxic burn pits during their service.

That legislative strength comes from our membership and their dedication to each other as veterans. The Commanders' Task Force recently had its first meeting of the new leadership year to outline our legislative priorities for the coming legislative session here in Minnesota.

If you have input on what you would like to see in those priorities, each district has a legislative chairman. Please reach out to them, so we can include them in our discussions. If you're not sure who your district representative is, contact your district commander.

Communications Director Tim Engstrom also maintains a list of legislative suggestions, and any member can email him at [tengstrom@mnlegion.org](mailto:tengstrom@mnlegion.org).

Legionville Educational Center hosted another successful season of Safety Camp with

## Commander's Column

Jennifer Havlick



343 students attending during our seven weeks this summer camp program. Students learn, flag etiquette, first aid, CPR, teamwork, swimming, canoeing and teamwork, with lots of fun sprinkled into the mix.

In early August, I attended the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota Junior Fun Weekend. This was another amazing group of people having fun, leading teamwork and flag etiquette. All these things honor our Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism and Children and Youth pillars.

Posts across Minnesota are working hard getting out in their communities to provide much-needed help for homeless veterans and those struggling with PTSD, providing support and encouragement for our first responders and the communities

they serve. Please remember to submit applications for the awards of Law Enforcement Officer of the Year and Firefighter of the Year to your district chairman.

American Legion Riders are riding to raise funds for Fund 85, our Veterans Assistance Fund, and the Legacy Scholarship, Fund 84, which both aid veterans and their descendants.

Remember we are the shining star of veterans service organizations. We lead the way in securing a strong and a prosperous America.

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

# USA does best when God is included

## Chaplain's Corner

Larry Otto



Two of my favorite quotes from Ronald Reagan are: "If we ever forget that we are 'One Nation Under God,' then we will be a nation gone under," and, "I believe with all my heart that standing up for America means standing up for God who has so blessed our land. We need God's help to guide our nation through stormy seas."

I believe it's also true for today as it was when Reagan made those two statements. I also believe we, as a nation, have forgotten why we are so blessed among the nations. It was because this nation was founded on the Word of God. The Founding Fathers and others throughout our history have asked the Almighty to intercede on our behalf.

Abraham Lincoln said, "The philosophy in the classroom

in one generation will be the philosophy in government in the next." Because God was taken out of the classroom, it's no wonder this nation is in the fix it is in.

I'm not saying we should teach religion in public school, but we shouldn't ban God from every aspect of life. I don't care if you are Christian, Jewish, Muslim or whatever — why is it the minority has such a loud voice in what happens in our world and the majority seems to do nothing about it?

I believe it's time to take a stand for what we believe. It's time for us, as Americans,

to be on our knees asking God to forgive us for forgetting Him. While you're on your knees, pray for our service personnel, our fellow veterans, for those who are sick or in need. Lend a hand to someone even if they didn't ask for it.

Until next month, may God bless and keep you in His care.

*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](mailto:tengstrom@mnlegion.org).

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



**The Apple Valley Post 1776 Color Guard presents the colors at the opening game of the Minnesota American Legion Baseball Div. I Tournament in Burnsville. Burnsville's local baseball association hosted the event. Many Legion members in attendance commented they were impressed with the emphasis on Americanism.**

## Burnsville big on patriotism

As you write about the Minnesota American Legion Baseball Div. I State Tournament, I'm sure you will highlight the championship game, note the box scores, interview the coaches and rightfully give the Burnsville folks the kudos they deserve for a great tournament.

I hope you might have column space to mention the pride and the smiles brought to the sometimes crotchety, old Vietnam vets, who played such a small part in the event by presenting the colors for the banquet, the opening and closing games.

These guys watched the young ball players stand tall with shoulders back, hands on their heart and with youthful enthusiasm say the Pledge of Allegiance as their banquet got started. We were all proud of these kids, "one nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all."

As we drove up to Alimagnet Field in Burnsville to present the colors for the opening game, the



**Players and parents alike were moved by the words of Iraq War veteran John Kriesel of Cottage Grove. His message was: "Life is good. Attitude is a choice." Introducing him and serving as the emcee was WCCO Sports Anchor Mike Max, standing on the right.**

roadway into the park was lined on both sides with Old Glory blowing in the breeze. You should have seen the smiles on the faces of our guys who too often recall an America who frowned upon such a display.

And then to be thanked for our military service by these young ballplayers, the coaches and their fans — we truly tried to march in step, hold those flags a little higher and present the colors just a bit more patriotically.

Maybe this generation of Legion ballplayers will result in truly good leaders for our tomorrow, during our short time with them today, we were encouraged by their reception to Americansim on display at a ball tournament they will no doubt, never forget.

**Bernie Baumann  
Apple Valley Post 1776  
Color Guard/Honor Guard**

# Come to a Legion event near you

Congratulations to all the American Legion softball and baseball teams on a summer of fun and making new friends. Thank you to the veterans and American Legion Family who assisted with these teams and events.

The American Legion will elect new national officers Sept. 1, at the National Convention which begins Aug 26 through Sept. 1, in Milwaukee.

Minnesota has 70 American Legion delegates. After that, people return to Minnesota to work on getting new members with all the new ideas generated at National Convention.

On Sept. 2, 1945, Japan signed its surrender to the Allies. Honor all your veterans, but especially all those World War II veterans.

Oct. 28 is coming up, National Emergency Responders Day. Is your post or unit doing

## National Report

Bill Barbknecht



something to honor our emergency responders?

The Harvest Rally will be held at Legionville near Brainerd on Saturday, Sept. 10. Everyone is welcome. New teams and new ideas. See Page 4 for details on the department rallies.

On Sept. 19-23 is when the Americanism and Children & Youth committees gather in Indianapolis.

Fall meetings will be held Oct. 8-13 in Indianapolis. It includes training for new state commanders, adjutants and committee members. NEC meets Oct. 12 and 13.

Make plans to attend the Fall Conference at the Kelly Inn in St. Cloud Oct. 27-29. Daniel J. Seehafer of Wisconsin, the

leading candidate for national commander for 2023-2024, will be the guest speaker. He serves as an administrative pastor at St. Stephen in Horicon, Wis.

Donna and I will be looking forward to seeing many of you at these events. Safe travels to all, and as always if I can be of any assistance, please contact me at my info below.

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



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# The Minnesota Legionnaire

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

**Official publication of The American Legion Department of Minnesota**

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# Taps



Continued from Page 5

<b>VanNurden, Dale N.</b>	76	7/13/22	Army	Vietnam	54	Watkins Post 453
<b>Van de Streek, Edward</b>	92	7/2/22	Air Force	Korea	38	Thief River Falls Post 117
Note: He served in Japan, and he was in the Air Force Reserve after the Air Force.						
<b>Vaughan, Joseph M.</b>	85	7/12/22	Army	Korea	29	New Prague Post 45
Note: He served in the New Prague Veterans Honor Guard for many years.						
<b>Williams, Howard L.</b>	91	7/15/22	Army	Korea	45	Anoka Post 102
<b>Wolf, Michael J.</b>	68	4/28/22	Navy	Vietnam	41	Melrose Post 101

**Please help:**  
 Editor's note: I have not found an online obituary or any further information Richard W. Roen. His branch and era are also unavailable. He lived in Box Elder, S.D., and was a 38-year member of Fergus Falls Post 30. If you find an online obit, please send it to [tengstrom@mnlegion.org](mailto:tengstrom@mnlegion.org).

**Updates:**  
 A member did further research on two "Taps" entries that had missing information in last month's issue. In the first case, his obituary was not published until after the Legionnaire came out, and both age and death date were missing. In the second, the age was missing. The second one is a noteworthy instance of how combat and "war eras" do not align, and it is why the LEGION Act was so valuable. The year 1981 does not fall into any war era, but the family says that is when he was wounded in combat fighting on behalf of his government.

Here they are as completed entries:  
**Lind, Wayne J.** 75 6/30/22 Navy Vietnam 2 Grand Portage Post 2009  
**Maxwell, Brent A.** 62 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.

**Correction:**  
 Kenneth Peil's age was misprinted in the August issue. He was 93. Here is corrected "Taps" entry:  
**Peil, Kenneth E.** 93 3/23/22 Army Korea 41 St. Paul Arcade-Phalen Post 577



The St. Cloud VA Medical Center is at 4801 Veterans Drive, but the St. Cloud VA Health Care System includes more locations, such as its rural clinics.

## St. Cloud VA could have problem on its hands

Continued from Page 1

VISN-23 Public Affairs Officer Ron Woolery. "We continuously assess staffing and adjust our operations as required to ensure patient and employee safety and timely access to care for veterans."

He noted St. Cloud and other VA facilities are acting under a VHA directive dated Jan. 27, 2022, and it requires all VHA health care personnel to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or obtain an approved accommodation for medical, pregnancy or religious reasons.

"Compliance with this directive is a requirement," he said.

He provided The Minnesota Legionnaire with slightly different numbers. He said about 82 percent of St. Cloud VA Health Care System staff are compliant, meaning 18 percent aren't. His figures would include non-union staff, such as administrators, while Matthews only illustrated union workers.

Either way, it still is about one in five. U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Denis McDonough, in late July 2021, announced vaccines would be mandatory for Title 38 employees, which covers physicians, nurses, dentists, chiropractors, optometrists and many other medical workers.

"We're mandating vaccines for Title 38 employees because it's the best way to keep veterans safe, especially as the Delta variant spreads across the country," McDonough said at the time. "Whenever a veteran or VA employee sets foot in a VA facility, they deserve to know that we have done everything in our power to protect them from COVID-19. With this mandate, we can once again make — and keep — that fundamental promise."

Matthews said the VA in St. Cloud already is short-staffed, and losing even more workers will only make things harder on the veterans who need care and on the remaining staff and administration.

An unvaccinated worker, she said, is given two options — get the vaccine or apply for accommodation, where human resources staff attempts to find the person a position outside of the current job. If there isn't something available, the employee faces removal.

If worker chooses nothing, the person would get a written counseling by a supervisor, a 14-day suspension, then let go. She noted that nobody at St. Cloud has been suspended or let go. The problem, she said, is with Washington.

"This doesn't make sense to me. It doesn't make sense because they are saying I'm not safe enough to work here anymore but you are going to keep me here long enough to do the job in the meantime," she said.

Vaccine mandates for many American workers have been overruled by federal judges, but those rulings haven't applied to VHA health care personnel.

Matthews, who is vaccinated, said many have quit to work for other medical providers in the St. Cloud area, where there is a strong demand.

The vaccine deadline at first was November of last year. Then it was February, and by then many had left before it was pushed back again.

Another aspect she finds troublesome is having to share medical information — a vaccine status — with an employer. It rubs up against many medical privacy regulations, she said.

The virus has changed since last year, and the landscape is different than when the mandate came out, she said.

"The science they are using to push this mandate is now outdated and now it just looks discriminatory."

Woolery said all staff adhere to protective guidance and conduct their tasks safely and effectively. Those who are unvaccinated are required to wear N95 masks and are tested weekly.

"We remain focused on delivering safe, quality care to veterans, retaining staff as able, and continuing recruitment actions," he said.



Are you the son of a veteran? Maybe you are a veteran *and* the son or grandson of one? Either way, join your local Sons of the American Legion.

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- On the MDVA website at [MinnesotaVeteran.org/FutureHomes](http://MinnesotaVeteran.org/FutureHomes)

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- Contact your County Veterans Service Officer or
- Email [NewHomesAdmissions@state.mn.us](mailto:NewHomesAdmissions@state.mn.us)

*Note: Early or incomplete Application packages will not be accepted and applicant will not be placed on the list. Veterans have first preference. Admissions to this new Veterans Home are expected to occur upon completion of construction (Fall 2023)*



To learn more about Minnesota Veterans Homes, visit [MinnesotaVeteran.org/Homes](http://MinnesotaVeteran.org/Homes).





Hayfield is in the 1st District, and the champions of the Hayfield Post 330 softball team smile for a picture with American Legion 1st District Commander Mary Hanson. Browerville came in second. Fairmont took third, Howard Lake fourth, Adams fifth, Parkers Prairie sixth, Bemidji seventh and Wadena eighth.



Josanne Tempel of Hayfield was named the Outstanding Player of the Minnesota American Legion's first girls' fastpitch softball state tournament.



A pitcher with Adams Post 146 delivers a softball across home plate. Adams captured fifth.



A Bemidji player concentrates as the ball nears her glove. Bemidji captured seventh place in the eight-team tourney.



A Browerville player slides safely as the ball approaches. Browerville took second place.



Hayfield Post 330 pitcher Anna Bamlet hugs Minnesota American Legion Fastpitch Softball Director Mike Arvidson. Holding the championship trophy is Immediate Past Department Commander Tom Fernlund. Holding medals is Softball Committee Vice Director Luann McMahan, and holding the runner-up trophy is Mankato Post 11's James Olson.



Two batters from Howard Lake Post 145 display sportsmanship as they switch out. Howard Lake took fourth place.

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## Softball tournament had a small-town feel

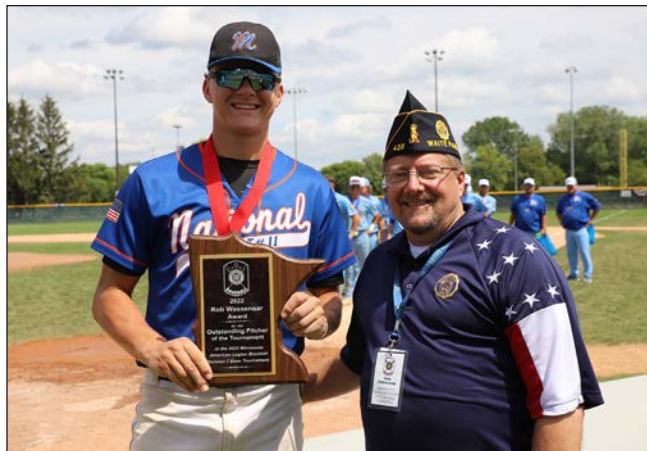
Continued from Page 1  
 McMahan, who is a member of the Legion's statewide softball committee and a member of Adams Post 146, Mike Arvidson, the chairman of the committee, and his daughter Taya Arvidson, who pushed to make Legion softball happen.  
 The theme of the tournament was "This One's For the Girls!" McMahan said there is a lot of excitement and momentum going into next year.  
 "It was pretty amazing to see the excitement and all the athletes who came. They were all very excited to be part of the first year," she said.  
 There was a flyover. Minnesota Alternate NECman Peggy Moon, the first female Department of Minnesota softball, threw out the first pitch of the tournament. Her husband, Past Department Vice Commander Carl Moon, traveled with her.  
 Other women got to toss first pitches, too, such as 1st District Commander Mary Hanson.  
 Immediate Past Department Commander Tom Fernlund, who played softball for the Air Force

while stationed in Europe, was on hand, too, with his wife, Past 6th District Commander Veronica Fernlund. Mankato Post 11 hosted the action.  
 The players stayed in Minnesota State University-Mankato dormitories.  
 "Everybody commented on the atmosphere. We heard a lot about teams becoming friends because they stayed in the dorms," McMahan said.  
 On the final day of the tournaments, instead of playing the national anthem before games, the players sang it.  
 "It was like a big tournament, but you felt like you were in a small-town environment."  
 Adams Post 146 and Mankato Post 11 provided color guards.  
 The Minnesota American Legion Fastpitch Softball Committee meets Oct. 8 at Howard Lake Post 145 to plan.  
 District softball directors are welcome to attend that meeting, and the districts without softball directors are encouraged to appoint one. It is an opportunity for a talented member to participate in something new and fun.





Kaden Amundson, here with 3rd District Commander Gary Richardson and Immediate Past Department Commander Tom Fernlund, won the Fred Wannamaker Award.



Lou Magers of Mankato Post 11's National team won the Rob Wassenaar Award for his pitching.



Minnesota American Legion Immediate Past Commander Tom Fernlund stands with Minnesota American Legion Baseball Hall of Fame inductee Vern Kitzberger of New Ulm SAL Squadron 132 and Minnesota American Legion Baseball Director Randy Schaub. Kitzberger is the 2nd District baseball director.



Scheels of St. Cloud staff members were on hand at all four Minnesota American Legion Baseball Tournaments to award champion and runner-up medals. Here, Jeremy Springer of Holdingford places a runner-up medal on a Mankato player. Scheels is the official sponsor of Minnesota American Legion Baseball.



Farmington Post 189 was announced as the recipient of the Father Moran Sportsmanship Trophy at the conclusion of the Div. I State Baseball Tournament. Fans from Farmington had gone home after the field was narrowed from 16 to 8, and a ceremony with the players was held at Farmington VFW Post 7662 to award the trophy. It turns out, Father David Moran was from Post 189. He was the first baseball director for the 3rd District. He was a Catholic priest who was active in Legion activities in the 1920s and 30s.



Minnesota American Legion Immediate Past Commander Tom Fernlund stands with Coaches of the Year Cory Schmitz of Lewiston and Scott McCready of St. Charles and with Minnesota American Legion Baseball Director Randy Schaub. McCready also is the 1st District baseball director.

2022 MINNESOTA DIVISION ONE AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL STATE TOURNAMENT			
BURNSVILLE, MINNESOTA			
<b>ALIMAGNET FIELDS</b> #1 Rich Vanderlaan Field * #2 Bob Bunnell Field #3 Prior Lake (Memorial) * #4 Shakopee (Tahpah) July 28, 2022 - July 31, 2022			
<b>SCHEELS</b> OFFICIAL SPONSOR OF MINNESOTA AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL			
Note field and game time changes			
<b>MAPLE GROVE (H) 1</b> Sat 10:30 Fid 2, G25	<b>EDINA (H) 1</b> Sat 4:30 Fid 1, G29 Loser to 3rd Place	<b>ST. MICHAEL</b> Sun 11:00 AM Fid 1, G32	<b>MANKATO NATIONAL (H) 10</b> 5 Innings Sat 1:30 Fid 1, G28
<b>EDINA 4</b>	<b>ST. MICHAEL (H) 7</b> Sat 11:00 Fid 1, G26	<b>MANKATO NATIONAL 8</b> Sat 7:00 Fid 1, G30 Loser to 3rd Place	<b>ROSEMOUNT 0</b>
<b>MOORHEAD 3</b>	<b>ST. MICHAEL 6</b>	<b>WILLMAR (H) 1</b>	<b>PRINCETON (H) 2</b> Sat 1:00 Fid 2, G27
<b>WILLMAR</b> Sun 10:30 Fid 2, G31			
<b>EDINA (H) 3</b>	<b>3rd Place</b>	<b>WILLMAR 6</b>	<b>WILLMAR 5</b>
<b>CHAMPIONSHIP BRACKET IS SINGLE ELIMINATION</b>			

In the Div. I State Baseball Tournament, the field of 16 teams compete three games each in pool play. There were games going on in Burnsville, Prior Lake and Shakopee on the first day, then in Burnsville alone the final three days. The pool play ends after two days, and the top eight teams advance to a single-elimination bracket, shown above.

## St. Michael, Mankato advanced to regional

Continued from Page 1

on the diamond. "It was a good day at the ballpark," he began. "The best thing about our team is just the relationships we have. It's like a brotherhood."

Asked about the home run, Amundson paused, and then said, "I have to give that one to the big man upstairs."

St. Michael is a first-time Div. I Legion Baseball state champion, and that made the regional trip to Rapid City, S.D., all the more exciting.

"The Mikes" as their fans call them have a fast outfield led by Hunter Palmer and a deep pitching staff built around Max Sutter and Owen Naros.

**Line Score**  
 St. Michael 400 043 2 13 13 4  
 Mankato Nat. 001 010 0 2 5 1

**Awards**  
 Ken Skoug Championship Trophy: St. Michael Post 567

Mark Haywood Runner-up Trophy: Mankato Post 11

Father Moran Sportsmanship Trophy: Farmington Post 189

Red Haddock Third Place Award: Willmar Post 167 (Willmar defeated Edina 6-3 in the third-place game.)

Fred Wannamaker Award for the Outstanding Player in the Tournament: Kaden Amundson of St. Michael Post 567

Rob Wassenaar Award for the Outstanding Pitching of the Tournament: Louis Magers of Mankato Post 11

### Losses at Regionals

The top-two teams from the Minnesota Div. I State Tournament advance to The American Legion's field of 64 teams from all across the country. Minnesota competes in the Central Plains Region against teams from the Dakotas, Nebraska and Iowa. Nebraska also sends two teams. Most states only send one. Minnesota has the largest Legion Baseball program, and Nebraska has the second-largest.

So how did St. Michael and Mankato National do at the double-elimination Central Plains Regional Tournament in Rapid City? Nebraska was not kind to Minnesota.

St. Michael defeated host Rapid City 11-1, and Mankato lost to Omaha Post 1 (Creighton Prep) 6-5. Then St. Michael had its turn to lose to Omaha 12-2, and Mankato beat Rapid City 7-2.

Mankato advanced to play West Fargo (N.D.) Post 308, winning 8-5, then lost to the other Nebraska team, Millard South Post 375 by a score of 7-6. Mankato was out.

St. Michael defeated Sioux Falls Post 15 by a score of 5-3 and advanced to play Omaha again, losing 1-0. The title game ended up being the two Nebraska teams, with Omaha advancing to the American Legion World Series.

Omaha won one game and lost two at the World Series. The title game was between Idaho Falls Post 56 and Troy, Ala., Post 70 with Troy winning a thriller 6-5. The last time a Minnesota team won it all was Eden Prairie in 2011.

## Kitzberger, McCready, Schmitz receive honors

LAKEVILLE — Minnesota American Legion Baseball Committee member Vern Kitzberger was inducted into the Minnesota American Legion Baseball Hall of Fame on Wednesday, July 27, at the annual Div. I State Tournament banquet.

"American Legion Baseball is community-oriented, and that is one of the great things about the program," he said.

Kitzberger is a member of the Sons of The American Legion Squadron 132 in New Ulm. He became a member of New Ulm's baseball committee in 2002 and remains in that role, serving as president for the last 11 years.

He co-chaired the 2009 Minnesota Div. I Baseball Tournament hosted by New Ulm, and he became the baseball director for the Minnesota American Legion's 2nd District in 2013. The role places him on the Minnesota American Legion Baseball Committee.

The banquet, held at Brackett's Crossing Country Club in Lakeville, also featured presentations for two coaches of the year.

One went to Scott McCready, the Legion's 1st District director and, as such, a part of the Minnesota American Legion Baseball Committee. He is an activities director for St. Charles High School, 33-year head baseball coach and a math teacher. He was the recipient of the Minnesota Baseball Coaches Association's Craig Anderson Ethics in Coaching Award in 2015.

St. Charles Post 190 and the local community hosted Junior Legion Baseball tournaments in 2019 and will again in 2024.

The other Coach of the Year is Cory Schmitz, who has coached and managed Lewiston Post 90's baseball team for 24 years. From 1998 to 2014, he was B-squad coach for Lewiston-Altura High School under Head Coach Jerry Stensgard. Schmitz became head coach in 2015 and led teams to state in 2015 and 2016.

He played college baseball at Winona State and was a member of the 1988 NAIA World Series team under Coach Gary Grob and Pitching Coach Todd Oakes.

Schmitz began a coaching career in Ontario, Wis.

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# The SAL Update:

## SAL, how does your garden grow?

There is an old English nursery rhyme that keeps coming to mind over the last several weeks, “Mary, Mary, quite contrary, how does your garden grow?”

While the thought of this may bring back memories of our youth, it’s fascinating how if changed a little, can be applied to our organizations.

“SAL (or Legion or Auxiliary), How does your garden grow?”

How often do we look for ways to grow our organization, to grow involvement, to even grow in our community. Sometimes, the reality is ... we are simply thinking too hard about this.

By the time you read this, the 2022 Legacy Run sponsored by the Legion Riders, will have been completed. This event which covered hundreds of miles around the state of Minnesota before finding its way to National Convention, also raised a substantial amount of money for the Legacy Scholarship of The American Legion.

The American Legion’s Legacy Scholarship provides

### Membership Director

Matthew Verkuilen



college funding to children of post-9/11 veterans who died on active duty, or those who have a combined VA disability rating of 50 percent or greater. They can apply Jan. 1 to April 1.

I won’t give away the figures in this article — the grand total will be in the next Legionnaire — but let’s just say it is a lot of money so far.

And as important as those contributions are, there was something that struck me even more when watching the live feeds of the various stops.

Within this one event, our active Legion members, Auxiliary members, Auxiliary Juniors and SAL members are each contributing in their own way to making the Legacy Run a success. There are no barriers or ranking organizations or tall podiums of status, but rather everyone working together as a Legion Family.

So with this, I come back to

my initial question, “SAL (or Legion Family), how does your garden grow?” or to put it another way, “SAL (or Legion Family), How does your family grow?”

The opportunities are out there, and even sometimes right in front of us. Perhaps we just have to open our eyes a little wider to see them.

And if you’re still stuck... ask!

There are many of us who are more than happy to share what has worked or even what has been a challenge. That is why we are not only #salstrong but #legionfamilystrong as well.

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

# SEND IN YOUR VETERAN MEMORIALS!



Veterans Memorial Park of Blaine

## SPECIAL MEMORIAL EDITION IS COMING UP

The November issue of The Minnesota Legionnaire will feature veteran memorials from all over Minnesota, but to pull it off, we need you to send them in! Please select one JPG file that best represents your community’s veterans memorial, and then write a good two- or three-sentence caption about it. Please send the photo, the caption and, most importantly, the exact name of the memorial to [tengstrom@mnlegion.org](mailto:tengstrom@mnlegion.org) by Oct. 17.

Won’t it be great to see so many memorials next to each other in one issue? It will be a poignant and patriotic tribute to our heroes.

The Minnesota  
**Legionnaire**



The Rev. Kelley Adelsman, the immediate past department chaplain, pauses during the memorial service at the Department of Minnesota Convention in Willmar in July.

## Yes, Legion recognizes spirituality

Continued from Page 1

Converge Worldwide Denomination (Swedish Baptist), with a Master of Divinity through Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary and Graduate School. She served in the Army 1984 to 1989 and the Minnesota National Guard 2006 to 2012. She served as a chaplain, with the rank of captain.

She was department chaplain in the 2021-22 Legion year, which begins anew at the end of each convention. She was the 3rd District vice commander 2019-21. She has served as the Post 184 chaplain and service officer, and she presently is the 3rd District historian.

Ludwig said he was pleased to make the motion.

“She is qualified, and she did a fine job as department chaplain,” he said.

Adelsman’s DEC endorsement will be added to other endorsements for national office from around the country. The national chaplain position is appointed, not elected. That means Adelsman’s possible term as the national chaplain probably would be five or six years from now — because there are endorsements already in the hopper from prior years.

### Endorsement letter

Department of Minnesota Adjutant Mike Maxa’s letter to National Adjutant Daniel Wheeler reads: “At the 103rd Department of Minnesota’s annual convention in session 14-16 July 2022, Kelley Adelsman was unanimously, by delegation of the convention, endorsed for the high office of National Chaplain. Please accept this endorsement from The American Legion Department of Minnesota for Kelley’s nomination for National Chaplain. Thank you.”

“It’s been quite a humbling experience even to be considered for the national chaplain,” she said. “It’s like preparing for the privilege, if you will, of representing The American Legion’s spiritual program.”

Many companies and organizations don’t recognize the spirituality in people’s daily lives, but The American Legion does.

“That doubles down the honor for me,” she said.

Adelsman has been married to her husband, Mike, for 27 years. He is the golf pro at the course in Pine Island. They have three children ages 20 to 33.

She has been a hospice chaplain and bereavement coordinator in southeast Minnesota and in the Minnesota Army National Guard. She has served as the Mayo Clinic

Veteran Mayo Employee Resource Group co-vice chair, where she was actively involved in presenting, writing and developing programs on who serves and what is U.S. Armed Forces.

In 2014, she participated in the Minnesota Suicide Prevention Task Force. She has served as the board chair for the American Foundation Suicide Prevention, Southeast Minnesota Chapter.

She has been an active member of the Department of Minnesota Training Committee since 2020. She also is part of the newly formed Minnesota American Legion Suicide Prevention Coalition. In 2019, Kelley was selected and attended National American Legion College.



The northern wall of North St. Paul Post 39 is sporting a new vinyl mural with a bald eagle, a giant U.S. flag, the Legion and POW/MIA emblems, military seals and the words “Support Our Troops.” The recently installed wrap is the last major expenditure from a \$296,000 federal grant the post received last year.

### Department of Corrections



Austin American Legion Riders Chapter 91 presents a \$22,000 check for Eagle’s Healing Nest to Melony Butler.

The submitted photo above had an incorrect chapter in the August issue. The correct American Legion Riders chapter is Austin Chapter 91. The Legionnaire is only as good as the information provided to it. Mistakes happen, but please be careful.

In the August issue in “Chaplain’s Corner” by Department Chaplain Larry Otto, the chaplain typed “WWI” but the editor went to spell it out and inadvertently typed “World War II” in his reference to The American Legion’s beginning. The sentence should have read, “The World War I G.I. founders knew that we, as Americans, receive all rights and privileges from our Heavenly Father.”





If you win a state baseball title, you get your picture in The Minnesota Legionnaire, and the St. Michael Mikes of Post 567 did just that as Div. I champs on Sunday, July 31, at Alimagnet Park in Burnsville. They are coached by Jesse Hackenmueller.



The Div. I runner-up team, the Mankato Nationals of Post 11, also get their picture in the paper, because both teams go to the regional tournament. Mankato Post 11 is coached by Jamie Mulvihill.

The 16-team Div. I State Tournament was hosted by what's called Burnsville Association 191. (The local school is ISD 191.) This cast of baseball characters was led by Robert Weber, third from left. Read more about the tournament in The Gazette, downloadable at [mnlegion.org](http://mnlegion.org).



## Boys Nation was 'life-changing'

I had the pleasure of presenting recognition plaques in Marshall for one of the Boys Nation senators from Minnesota.

He explained what he did while in D.C. for 10 days in July with young men from 48 other states. This included discussion of bills that each senator brought with them, visiting historic sites, running for or helping campaign for an executive office, and visiting with Minnesota senators and representatives.

At the same meeting with the local Legionnaires, both Minnesota Boys State reps from Marshall detailed their week at St. John's in June. Both felt their time was "life-changing," with the relationships developed as being key to that

### Minn. Boys State Neil Kruse



description.

I believe if more young folks and their parents heard that message, we'd have a larger group of participants each year. Homecoming Week at high school will be another opportunity to share about Boys State experiences. The sooner returning seniors recruit upcoming Boys State candidates, the longer those potential attendees have to ask questions about what's in store for them.

Many of our attendees tell us they didn't know what to

expect.

Referencing the website [www.mnboysstate.org](http://www.mnboysstate.org) to those interested will provide further information about the program.

Thanks again for all you do to support the Minnesota American Legion Boys State program!

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

## Fund 85 Ride bigger than expected

Greetings, Legion Family. Again, we had a very busy month with a lot of rides.

Thank you, St. Peter Riders, for putting on the inaugural Fund 85 Run, I was expecting 10 to 15 bikes, and we started with over 45 bikes and a great turnout at the Hutchinson stop, and we got to see their new and beautiful memorial park.

Along with the other rides in the 10th District and the 1st District, and I know there were others, thank you to all involved in making them happen

On Aug. 14, I was asked to participate in the ground-breaking ceremony for the Forgotten

### Legion Riders Ted Berg



Heroes Range & Retreat in McGregor. This range is being built to accommodate veterans with physical disabilities such as amputation or being confined to a wheelchair. Anywhere on the range will be accessible to all veterans.

If you have questions about the range or would like to donate to help us get it built, you can contact me via phone or text.

As I close out this letter we

are preparing to kick off the 2022 Legacy Run, then ride on to Milwaukee for National Convention.

Till next time, ride safe and have fun.

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

## How to transfer a member to new post

As the department membership director, I will be doing a series of articles in the Legionnaire pertaining to frequently asked questions about membership.

Q: What is the proper way to transfer a member from one post to another post?

A: No transfer shall be made unless the member requesting the transfer has a membership card showing they are a member in good standing. No member may transfer to another post if the member has disciplinary actions within their post and the post has notified National Headquarters of the situation.

If a member has paid their current year's dues, the post adjutant will complete the Member

### Membership Moment

Linda Dvorak



Data Form. The adjutant of the new post must sign the Member Data Form. Mail the form to the Department HQ. While over this past year, Jennifer Havlick and Linda Dvorak have transferred people with just an email or phone call, the Department HQ needs a copy of the Member Data Form for their files.

If a member has not paid their current year's dues, you will need to collect the dues for the current year, complete a Member Data Form and you can either do the transfer in MyLegion or you can mail a copy of the Member Data Form along with

a transmittal, the membership card (parts 1 and 2) and a check for the dues.

When completing the Member Data Form, mail copies 1 and 2 to the Department Office, send copy 3 to the losing post and keep copy 4 for your records.

*Linda Dvorak of New Prague Post 45 is the membership director for the Department of Minnesota.*

## War wasn't all blood and guts; it involved toxic chemicals, fumes, too

When I joined the U.S. military, it was clear I was going to war. What wasn't clear is that during my deployments, I'd be exposed to environmental hazards, like JP-8 jet fuel, diesel fuel and burn pits, daily. Honestly, it wasn't even on my list of concerns compared to improvised explosive devices, small arms fire, 130-degree temps, sleeping in my Bradley (armored personnel carrier) or on a military-issued cot for a year, dust storms, limited water and only eating MREs.

Well in March 2003, it happened. I went to war and shortly after arriving to Iraq as a PFC, I found myself on trash detail once a week. Not what I pictured war would be like. My fellow soldiers and I went picking up trash bags around the compound from living quarters, loading up a heavy expanded mobility tactical truck we call HEMTTs.

Once full, we then exited the compound and drove a couple hundred yards to a burn pit, which was exactly that, a pit dug by engineers that was maybe the size of a basketball court full of waste smoldering in fumes doused with JP-8 fuel.

Now, almost 20 years later, many of my fellow brothers and sisters who made it out alive find themselves fighting another war, suffering from health complications due to those toxic environmental exposures. Health complications like respiratory conditions and cancers which were not recognized by the Department of Veterans Affairs for access to healthcare or disability benefits.

After too many have suffered long enough without action from Congress, on Aug. 10, the president signed into law

### VA & Rehabilitation

Jeremy Wolfsteller



the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022. The new law comes as no surprise after decades of veterans and lobbyists fighting for benefits addressing military environmental exposures.

The VA Secretary writes, "The PACT Act is one of the largest health and benefit expansions in American history. It recognizes toxic exposure as a 'cost of war' by addressing the full range of issues impacting toxic-exposed veterans, ensuring generations of veterans who suffer from toxic exposure-related conditions get the benefits and care they've earned. This new law also expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for veterans with toxic exposures and veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era and Post-9/11 era."

A list of cancers related to Gulf War era and post-9/11 veterans exposed to burn pits includes brain cancer, gastrointestinal cancer, glioblastoma, head cancer of any type, kidney cancer, lymphatic cancer of any type, lymphoma of any type, melanoma, neck cancer, pancreatic cancer, reproductive cancer of any type and respiratory cancer of any type.

Illnesses related to burn pits include asthma, chronic bronchitis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), chronic rhinitis, chronic sinusitis, constrictive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis, emphysema, granulomatous disease, Interstitial lung disease (ILD), pleuritis,

pulmonary fibrosis and sarcoidosis.

As the secretary mentioned this law also expands new benefits to Vietnam veterans suffering from Agent Orange. High blood pressure (also called hypertension) and monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS) was added to the AO presumptive list.

It also updates locations related to Agent Orange presumptive eligibility including any U.S. or Royal Thai military base in Thailand from Jan. 9, 1962, through June 30, 1976, Laos from Dec. 1, 1965, through Sept. 30, 1969, Cambodia at Mimot or Krek, Kampong Cham Province from April 16, 1969, through April 30, 1969, Guam or American Samoa or in the territorial waters off of Guam or American Samoa from Jan. 9, 1962, through July 30, 1980, Johnston Atoll or on a ship that called at Johnston Atoll from Jan. 1, 1972, through Sept. 30, 1977.

If you think you could be affected by this new law, please reach out to your local County Veteran Service Office, American Legion Department Service Officer or American Legion/MDVA Claims Office.

*Jeremy Wolfsteller of Hopkins Post 320 offices at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center and is the service officer for the Department of Minnesota.*

### Want more baseball?

Have you ever read The Gazette? Did you even know about it? It is 27 years old. It's the Minnesota American Legion Baseball publication handed out to fans at the Div. I State Tournament. Now you can read it by downloading it from [mnlegion.org](http://mnlegion.org).





# AMERICAN LEGION

## DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA

### Committees for 2022-23

Cut these pages out and save them at home or the post for quick reference. This information also is found at [mnlegion.org](http://mnlegion.org).

These are mainly the completed or nearly completed committees. Some appoint officers and make changes this fall. They will be printed in coming months.

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Chair	Bill Barbknecht	billb3350@gmail.com
	James Olson	olson457@gmail.com
	Robert Hart	cohart@aol.com



Past Department Commander Mark Dvorak, right, of New Prague Post 45 passes the department colors to departing Department Commander Tom Fernlund of Waite Park Post 428 near the end of the Department of Minnesota Convention in July in Willmar. Both are Air Force veterans.





Department Judge Advocate Greg Colby of Northfield Post 84 addresses the Department Convention in Willmar in July. He also oversees the election of officers. Behind him, in a red cap, is NECman Bill Barbknecht, and in a white cap, then-Department Commander Tom Fernlund.

### Legislative

Chair	Eric Ahlness Kristy Janigo Lori Ahlness Allen Lund	eric.ahlness@comcast.net kristy.janigo@gmail.com lahlness@comcast.net gopherlund@gmail.com
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### Media & Communications

Chair	Teresa Ash Raymond Kane Mike Parry Chris Anderson James Hultgren Jennifer Havlick Mike Maxa Tim Engstrom	mrsash1@yahoo.com raykane@gmail.com mparry57@gmail.com marinecorps5811@gmail.com james.hultgren81@gmail.com jennifer.havlick@outlook.com mmaxa@mnlegion.org tengstrom@mnlegion.org
Dept. Commander		
Dept. Adjutant		
Dept. Comm. Director		

### Membership

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Vice Cmdr. 1&3	Duane Anderson	duanea4@gmail.com
Vice Cmdr. 2&7	Ryan Hill	nryhill5048@yahoo.com
Vice Cmdr. 4&5	Randy Bastyr	r-bastyr@comcast.net
Vice Cmdr. 6&9	Gary H. Olson	garyholson@702com.net
Vice Cmdr. 8&10	Paul Orson	paulorson@comcast.net

### National Security & Foreign Relations

Chair	James Kellogg Eugene Leifeld Gary H. Olson Ted Berg Brad Pagel Curt Norenberg	jamesckg@gmail.com eleifeld@outlook.com garyholson@702com.net tattootheo.tb@gmail.com bppagel@gmail.com cdn@umn.edu
Emeritus		

### Pheasant Feed

Chair	Glenn Mueller	glm01311962@gmail.com
Vice Chair	Jon Olson	olsonvetvet@yahoo.com

### Rehabilitation (Also called Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, or VA&R)

Chair*	Wilson Spence III	wwsiii@msn.com
Dept. Service Officer	Jeremy Wolfsteller Lynn Lyons Dan Tengwall Marissa LaCourt Jim Finley	jwolfsteller@mnlegion.org lln3g@yahoo.com dtengwall@co.carver.mn.us mlacourt@co.scott.mn.us jfinley55@gmail.com

### Resolutions Assignment

Chair	Al Davis James Munson Cliff Newman	thealdavis@hotmail.com jamesmunson@msn.com cancnewman226@gmail.com
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### Sons of The American Legion

#### Detachment Officers

Commander	Tim Weaver	commander@mnsal.org
Adjutant	Douglas Bible	adjutant@mnsal.org
Mem. Dir.	Matthew Verkuilen	membership@mnsal.org
Vice Cmdr. 1&3	Jack Thomas	1st3rd_vicecommander@mnsal.org
Vice Cmdr. 2&7	Shawn Kosbab	2nd7th_vicecommander@mnsal.org
Vice Cmdr. 4&5	John Weiss	4th5th_vicecommander@mnsal.org
Vice Cmdr. 6&9	Jasen Hruza	6th9th_vicecommander@mnsal.org
Vice Cmdr. 8&10	Dennis Blue	8th10th_vicecommander@mnsal.org
Chaplain	Stu Sonnee	chaplain@mnsal.org
Finance Officer	Steve Bilderback	finance@mnsal.org
Historian	Lou Michaels	historial@mnsal.org
Sergeant-at-Arms	Casey Lenort	saa@mnsal.org
NEC	Shawn Davis	nec@mnsal.org
Alt. NEC	William Goede	nec@mnsal.org
Advisor	Gary Weaver	gweaver@acegroup.cc
Asst. South	Joe Niesen	rjniesen3440@gmail.com
Asst. North	Walt Folendorf	walter.folendorf@gmail.com

#### District Commanders

1st District	Chuck Stone	1stdistrict@mnsal.org
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4th District	Mickey Ostrum	4thdistrict@mnsal.org
5th District	Shawn Davis	5thdistrict@mnsal.org
6th District	Robert Foss	6thdistrict@mnsal.org
7th District	Jim Stock	7thdistrict@mnsal.org
8th District	Paul Malzac	8thdistrict@mnsal.org
9th District	Terry Buraas	9thdistrict@mnsal.org
10th District	Chance Harmon	10thdistrict@mnsal.org



Marty Howes, president of the Minnesota Association of County Veteran Service Officers, speaks at the American Legion Department of Minnesota Convention in Willmar in July. He is a CVSO in Roseau County and a member of Warroad Post 25. He is an Army veteran.

### Strategic Planning

Chair	Roxanne Zoet	roxzoet@yahoo.com
Secretary	Sylvan Fix Carla Tappainer Mike Costello Pam Krill	papafixone@gmail.com ctappainer@frontier.net costellomichael68@gmail.com pjkrill74@gmail.com
Dept. Commander	Jennifer Havlick	deptcommander@mnlegion.org
Jr. Past Commander	Tom Fernlund	tavfern@gmail.com
Advisor	Dan Ludwig	damludwig@gmail.com

### Training Committee

Chair	Mike Ash Gary Richardson Joe Bayer Paul Edwards Kelley Adelman Joe Tappainer vacancy	mikeash202@gmail.com bnrider3@gmail.com bayerj832@gmail.com greyscouter@charter.net kladelsman@gmail.com jtappainer@frontier.net
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### Veterans 4 Veterans Trust Fund

	Don Pankake Darrel Redepenning	pankake@hutchtel.net orthodudehcmc@yahoo.com
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(The remaining members of the V4V Trust Fund Board of Directors are from other veterans service organizations. Find its website at [mnv4v.org](http://mnv4v.org).)

\*Position to be elected by the committee but unlikely to change.

## Thank you!

Department Commander Jennifer Havlick gives her sincere gratitude to all volunteers in this volunteer organization who give their time and efforts to make The American Legion Department of Minnesota so great. It truly is rewarding to see some of the differences made in the lives of veterans and youth across Minnesota.



Jennifer Havlick of Duluth Post 28 addresses the Department Convention in July after she was elected commander. She is the second department commander from Post 28. The other was A.B. Kapplan in 1929-30. Interestingly enough, according to the book "Legion 50" by Ben Gimmestad, Kapplan was a Jew who was nominated for the role as commander by Catholic priest David Moran of Farmington Post 189, for whom the Minnesota American Legion Baseball Div. I sportsmanship trophy is named.



Then-Sgt.-at-Arms Ken Gibson for the Department of Minnesota escorts then-Auxiliary Department of Minnesota President Patti Coleman into the American Legion side of the convention in Willmar.





Photo by Lou Michaels

New Prague's Ashton Farrell slides as his dugout watches the action at the Div. I Jr. State Tournament at Red Haddox Field in Bloomington.

# Wadena, New Prague and Montevideo take home baseball titles

LUVERNE — It was another record year for Minnesota American Legion Baseball. There were 383 teams in all four divisions.

That breaks the record of 371 set last year and 366 in 2019.

Wadena Post 171 won the Minnesota American Legion Baseball Div. II State Tournament at Redbird Field in Luverne 14-3, defeating Morris Post 29.

In the third-place game, the Sibley East team, tied to Gaylord Post 433, won 13-2 over Tri-Town, which is from the Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City area and is with Atwater Post 375.

It was a double-elimination tournament, and that means there is bracket in the other direction. The consolation champ was Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton of Dilworth Post 397, defeating Jackson Post 130 by a score of 7-6.

The baseball program tied to

Bloomington Post 550 hosted the Div. I Jr. State Tournament for the third time in a row. It was at the city's popular Red Haddox Field.

The Junior Baseball program is for ages 17 and under. Regular Legion Baseball is 19 and under. Think of it as a summertime version of junior varsity and varsity. Also, if you don't know, Div. I is based on big schools, and Div. II is from small schools.

New Prague Post 45 won it. The tournament was double-elimination, and no-loss New Prague faced one-loss Delano Post 377 in the title game but lost 16-8. That meant a second game was in order, and so New Prague up and decided they had better not lose twice, and they won 6-1 to take the title.

Hutchinson Post 96 claimed third, having lost to Hutchinson and to Delano before each of those teams advanced to the title game. Bemidji Post 14 also

excelled that weekend.

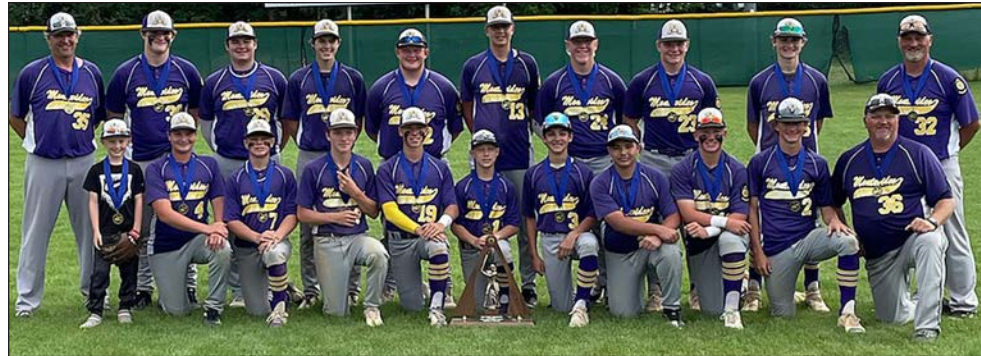
Finally, up north in Ely, Minnesota American Legion Baseball held the Div. II Jr. State Tournament.

There, Montevideo VFW Post 380 took home the hardware, beating Le Sueur-Henderson Posts 74/55 2-1 in the final.

(It is common for VFW posts to play Legion Baseball in Minnesota. For example, in Montevideo, the Legion sponsors the main Legion Baseball team and VFW the Junior Legion Baseball team. Baseball associations sometimes are the sponsor, too.)

That championship victory meant Post 380 went 18-0 on the season.

Esko, of the Esko Baseball Association, claimed third place, beating always-strong program from the Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton area, which was awarded the sportsmanship award. Sleepy Eye Post 7 captured the consolation title.



Players with Montevideo VFW Post 380 line up beside the Div. II Juniors State Championship Trophy. The team went undefeated in regular season and postseason play.



Players with Le Sueur-Henderson Posts 74/55 line up for a photo beside their trophy as the Div. II Jr. state runner-ups. (Now, does Post 74 or Post 55 display it?)



Payton Rondstvedt of Wadena, center, was named the outstanding player at the Div. II State Tournament in Luverne. With him are Scheels representatives David Young and Haley Kiffmeyer. Scheels is the official sponsor of Minnesota American Legion Baseball.



Veterans from the Luverne Veterans Home arrived at the Div. II State Tournament via a three-bench golf cart. Redbird Field is on the other side of the city from the home, but the staff was able and willing to bring these five veterans to the game. The one in the middle sports a Chicago Cubs Champions 2016 cap.



Scouts frequent the American Legion Baseball Tournaments. Here are some on the first day of the Div. I State Tournament. The main two fields were in Burnsville, but the other two were in Prior Lake and Shakopee. These scouts were at Tahpah Park in Shakopee on Thursday, July 28, watching the youngsters play. Next year, Div. I is in Rochester. Div. I Jr. is undetermined and will be decided in mid-October. Div. II is in Roseau. Div. II Jr. is in Granite Falls.



Photo by Lou Michaels

Past District 10 Commander Tom Allen, left, and present District 10 Commander Bill Gordon, right, stand with Kathryn Sands and Jamie Mortland of the Scheels store in St. Cloud in front of trophies for the Div. I Jr. State Tournament in Bloomington.



Slick Miller of Detroit Lakes Post 15, Al Davis of Beroun Post 347, Bob Nistler of Albert Lea Post 56 and Joe Bares of Jordan Post 3 comprise the "DII Crew" who oversee the Div. II State Tournament.



# Listening Post



Hillman Post 602 provided a dignified disposal of unserviceable flags on June 14. From left are Sgt.-at-Arms Ron Piechowski, Loren Tomala on the U.S. flag, Chaplain Bill Stave, Commander Jim Blaisdell, 1st Vice Commander Keith Carter, 2nd Vice Commander Roger Rudnitski and Jim Brown on the Post 602 flag.



Woodbury Post 501 Commander Bob Dolan and Vice Commander Joanne Kramer present a check to Chris Drossel for the Woodbury Legion Baseball teams. Also, it should be noted, Post 501 recently commissioned a quality membership video. Find it on their Facebook timeline for Aug. 9.



Minnesota Boys Nation Senators Evan Schotzko of Marshall and Nathaniel Janssen of New Ulm stand beside the Minnesota pillar at the National World War II Memorial in Washington.



Heaven's Table Martin County Food Shelf representative Lynn Reeve accepts a donation of \$5,000 from Fairmont Post 36 Commander Steve Fosness.



Many apples and thanks were delivered to surprised and grateful teachers at St. Rose of Lima Catholic School in Roseville. From left are University of Minnesota Post 548 2nd Vice Commander Mike Wybierala and middle school and science teacher Sarah Puga. Yes, it was from a post in the 5th District to a school in the 4th District!



Rochester Post 92 Commander Chris Gilmore (right) presents Army veteran Richard J. Dahl his American Legion 50-year certificate and pin.



Albany Post 482 and Avon Post 538 sponsor a sign at the Avon Lakers Baseball Park, where the Albany American Legion team plays. From left are Post 482 Commander Ray Fuchs, baseball coach Sam Jerome and Post 538 Commander Herman Gangl.



Two Eagan Post 594 members, Wayne Beierman, left, and Wayne Olsen, escort the Wall That Halls from St. Thomas Academy in Mendota Heights to Eagan when it arrived on July 19. Olsen is a Gold Star parent whose son was killed in Iraq. Beierman is a Vietnam veteran and Post 594 commander. The Wall That Heals is a scale model of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington.



Legionnaires from Barnum Post 415 participated in National Night Out in the Barnum City Park on Aug. 2.



On July 30, North St. Paul Post 39 teamed up with Gray Duck Vodka and the Minnesota Twins to help former Twins Manager Ron Gardenhire celebrate his induction into the Twins Hall of Fame. He was inducted with player Dan Gladden during the Aug. 20 game against the Texas Rangers. Gardenhire's father served in the military for over 20 years, and Ron is a member of Squadron 39. Gray Duck created a special bottle honoring Gardenhire and The American Legion. Gardenhire autographed collector bottles and posed for pictures. About 175 fans came.



Minneapolis North Side Post 230's Steve Kozicky, his son Aron, a teacher at Patrick Henry High School, and grandson Noah, a student there, spent a few hours on a recent Saturday morning giving a facelift to a marker for 12 Henry students who lost their lives in World War II.



St. Leo Post/Unit 254 held a groundbreaking ceremony for the St. Leo Veterans Memorial on July 25. The project, however, began in 2021. It will be done in 2023. From left are Vice Commander Jim Hoffman, Adjutant Brian Zitzmann, Finance Officer Ralph Jelen, Commander David Antony, Auxiliary Treasurer Shirley Jelen and Auxiliary President Paulette Jelen.



# District commanders



## 1st District

Mary Hanson



**"This One Was for the Girls"**  
I am extremely proud of the Minnesota American Legion Fastpitch Softball Program and Director Michael Arvidson and Vice Director Luann McMahan. A lot of blood, sweat and tears went into making this inaugural season a reality.

There were eight teams statewide that qualified for the state tournament in Mankato. Two were from the 1st District — Adams and Hayfield. I was honored to throw out the first pitch for the first game in the district between these two teams.

I was allowed to throw out first pitches at the tournament on July 30 for these two teams as well, with Hayfield the next day winning the state title over

Browerville.

Congratulations to all the girls who played this season. It is my hope that they use life lessons learned from playing the game, such as working as a team, a strong work ethic and dealing with success and failure to help them in the future.

Who knows, maybe one of our players will be in the National Softball Hall of Fame someday?

I am looking forward to the future of the Minnesota program — to seeing it grow and to be as dynamic as the boys' baseball program.



## 4th District

David Dahl



We've just had a primary election and the general election is coming soon. One of the most important responsibilities we have as citizens is to make our voices heard via the polls. Voting is the way to make our government of the people, by the people and for the people.

My other topic this month has to do with your involvement in the programs of The American Legion. My Commander's Project is not to extract more money from you, but to get you more involved.

Please reflect on the words of the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion. This should elicit in your heart a desire to serve veterans and your community. Focus on these desires and find an American Legion program where you can serve.

At every level of The American Legion, there are ways to serve. Volunteer to serve on a committee!

These are the committees

of the 4th District: Americanism, Armed Forces Service Center, Baseball, Bell Ringing, Blood Donations, Scouts, Boys State, Children & Youth, Constitution & Bylaws, Endowment Fund, Education Week, Employment, Finance, Law & Order, Legionville/School Safety Patrol, Legislative, Memorial Day Association, National Cemetery, National Security/Foreign Relations, Oratorical, POW/MIA, Post Development, Public Relations/Media & Communications, ROTC/JROTC, Fastpitch Softball, Sons of the American Legion Liaison, Service Officer, United Veterans Council, VA Hospital Visitation, VA Volunteer Services, Veterans Camp, Veterans Home, Vocational Rehabilitation and The American Legion Riders.

Join us at a meeting to start serving.



## 2nd District

Pam Krill



Greetings from the 2nd District, "Second to None!"

As we start to watch the warm days of summer coming to an end, we were blessed in the 2nd District to be fortunate to host two wonderful events.

First, we hosted the Minnesota American Legion Baseball Division II State Tournament in Luverne. There were some great games, camaraderie and sportsmanship.

Second, we were also fortunate enough to host the inaugural Minnesota American Legion Fastpitch Softball State Tournament in Mankato. Again, another great group of teams were helping build a foundation for future tournaments to come.

Being able to watch the motivated and dedicated players, coaches, parents and the overall baseball and softball families, it reminded me of our American Legion Family. We are here to support each other, provide guidance, and as a family we are even coaching one another on how to be a better Legionnaire.

With the coordinated efforts of everyone, it truly shows our

commitment to the community and our youth. As a family, we can accomplish anything, and we will continue to be successful in the 2nd District.

We have several new district officers this year, with a wide variety of experience, and we are here to serve you as the 2nd District. We will work hard to keep the lines of communication open between the posts, the district and the department. As many of us prepare to head to Milwaukee for the National Convention, I am looking forward to the opportunity to take advantage of training and learn what other departments are doing to help build their districts.

Again, I am proud to be the commander this year, I have been out and done several visits and I will be out there once I get back from convention visiting more posts. Let's have a great year!



## 6th District

Karen O'Bar



Hello, my Legion Family.

First off, let me share the passing of a fellow Legion Family member. Dolly Zitur, our newly elected 6th District president, passed away Aug. 3. I had the privilege to attend her funeral on Aug. 12. Dolly was active in Brainerd American Legion Auxiliary Unit 255 as well as the entire Legion Family. Take the time to remember our passing legacies.

I am looking forward to the National Convention in Milwaukee and making new connections throughout this great country.

We have the Camporee at Legionville Sept. 8-11. Make sure you come out for our 6th District fish fry. I will attend a National Security Conference on Sept. 16-18 at Camp Ripley.

I had the pleasure of attending my first Guitars for Heroes at the St. Cloud Stand Down building.

Warehouse Supervisor Andres Rodriguez gave Mike and me a tour of the facility. I'm learning so much about the opportunities out there for veterans. I had my first guitar lesson.

A couple of the veterans were out this day but the few who were made for an interesting class, taught by Don Burge.

Once you attend four classes, you are given a guitar to take home and practice on. I told Bob Behrens, director of Stand Down, that I had decided to learn guitar and learn at least two songs before May 2023. One veteran stated he read about this program through the Legionnaire paper, which is great. At the end of the two-hour class, I am training my left hand for the G chord. Time and patience.



## 3rd District

Gary Richardson



At the time of this writing, I am preparing to depart for the National Convention in Milwaukee. I ask for safe travels for everyone from across this country.

Ask yourself: What can I do to interest a new veteran to join our great organization or get a past member to rejoin?

1. Get their families involved (SAL, Auxiliary, Legion Riders).

2. Help them to better understand how the Legion works to get resolutions passed in Congress for their benefit. Think of the recently signed PACT Act. Think of the G.I. Bill, Agent Orange, the VA itself and other legislative efforts the Legion has been involved in, including veterans courts right here in Minnesota. Remember, without the

voice of our membership it's hard to get legislators to listen.

There is strength in numbers!

I will be setting up the rest of my post visits for the coming year and hope to visit with as many posts in my district as possible.

For everyone, think of some things that you would like passed on to the department for the betterment of The American Legion and get that information to your commanders and vice commanders.

More minds thinking toward the same goals can do some pretty amazing things.

"Membership. The backbone of our American Legion!"



## 7th District

Karen Welander



Greetings, Mighty Seventh.

Our communities always expect we will honor and celebrate Memorial Day and Veterans Day, but are we showing our communities that they are important to us on Patriot Day by recognizing and telling them we are there for them.

Volunteering and service opportunities on this day are often held including speaking at school and other community programs to instill a sense of patriotism in communities.

The last Sunday of September is recognized as Gold Star

Families Day and should be a time to honor the tragedy and sacrifice that occurred.

We quickly forget the family left behind are a vital part of our country's military community and history. Take some time to say thank you to the family.

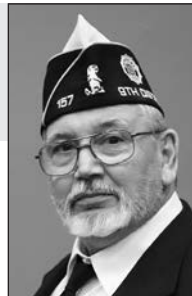
The 7th District Family would like to say thank you for all you do and let you know that you do make a difference.

God bless.



## 9th District

Terry Buraas



The VA medical system is the greatest safety device for the veteran. I wish to thank them for saving my life. I had heart surgery in April 2018, which saved my life and has given me a quality of life that I did not have before.

Before the surgery if I was walking somewhere, it was "stop every block and rest," which I thought was COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease). Finally, a cardiologist said I had a leaking aortic valve. I went to the VA Medical Center in Minneapolis, where they decided I needed two valves unclogged.

Surgery was done with a pig valve replacing the aortic valve. Wow! What a difference!

The next day I was up and

walking better than I have done in years. By the time of full recovery, I was able to walk three miles without resting. Now, the rest of the story:

No bill. That's because I was in Vietnam and presumed to be in contact with Agent Orange.

If you served your country and have not filled out the paperwork for service at the local VA, check with your county veterans service officer. Do not assume you do not qualify. You may be missing out on much-needed medical assistance and possibly a veteran's pension.



## 10th District

William Gordon



When was the last time you were totally awesome?

Come on now be honest. Was it yesterday, last week?

I only ask this because: When you are the best, you are the best!

You can leap tall buildings with a single bound, run faster than a speeding bullet. Was that Superman, or was that you?

Now let's get out our calendars and take good hard look at what we are going to do this year. First, let's make sure we have all the dates we want to set aside for our deity. Next, wife, husband, significant other and family. Make sure we have filled in all the dates and times we will be making memories with those who we hold closest to our hearts. Date nights, recitals, games, birthdays and other family events.

Third, let's make sure our workdays are mapped out. This gives us an amazing view of how our time is used up so far. Now write in all the events, meetings, conferences, conventions and even rallies you will be attending.

How many of these will you attend accompanied by a family member? Yes, unless your significant other is also a veteran, it will be hard for them to attend the post meeting.

However, they can attend the Auxiliary meeting, SAL meeting, Juniors meeting, Riders meeting or even the 40&8 La Société meetings.

Did you know that at our conferences, conventions, rallies and other events, you can bring family members? It's not all business. There is lots of time for fun and to enjoy family

time. In fact, your family can enjoy time with your Legion Family.

Think now how many times you have heard someone saying: "My mom, dad, grandma, grandpa, encouraged me to join, and I am proud I did."

I genuinely want to visit every post in our district this year and I want each of the Subdistrict vice commanders, post adjutants and or commanders to please email me at wgordon2494@hotmail.com or text me at 320-491-5665. You can even call and leave a voice mail for me at 1-763-515-3686. Let me know the date, time and location of your meeting so I can schedule it.

Vice commanders, if you can visit these posts with me that would be awesome. I will be looking forward to meeting and visiting our members to hear all about what you and your post are doing in your communities.

We also want to hear your suggestions and recommendations on how we can make our organization stronger. PLEASE send in your newly elected, re-elected and or appointed officers' names and contact information to your subdistrict vice commanders and District Adjutant Paul Orson at paulorson@comcast.net or me.

My address is 10107 Karston Curve NE, Albertville, MN 55301. You know what? Looking at the calendar we just did together, you truly are an awesome superhuman. It's my honor to know you. I hope to see you in person very soon.





# Scenes from the Fund 85 Ride

Photos by Shawn Davis



American Legion Riders gather at the St. Peter Veterans Memorial. The Fund 85 Ride raises funds for the Minnesota American Legion Veterans Assistance Fund.



Minnesota American Legion Riders Director Ted Berg speaks to the group. The ride raised \$7,900.



St. Peter ALR Chapter 37 hands over a check for \$5,000. The ride was based out of St. Peter on July 30.



With a patriotic headcover, John Weiss of St. Paul Arcade-Phalen Chapter 577 pulls up to the ride.



The morning began at St. Peter's William R. Witty Post 37.



The riders visit the Hutchinson Veterans Memorial.



On her purple Harley-Davidson, Jody Hassing gets set to head out on the highway.



St. Peter Chapter 37 Director Tom Christensen addresses the group during the lunch stop.



Hutchinson Post 96 Commander Diane Jankowski addresses the crowd during the lunch stop.



Hutchinson Auxiliary Unit 96 serves lunch to the participants of the first Fund 85 Ride.



Riders roll out from St. Peter Post 37. About 45 bikes participated.

## SIGN UP FOR THE 2023 DEPARTMENT CALENDAR!



You get all the important dates for the Minnesota American Legion, Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion and American Legion Riders — in one place.

And you get really cool photos. **Just \$20!**

We are taking orders in advance to determine how many to print. We plan to have them for you at the Fall Conference to hand out or to mail out.

We will not be selling any after the press prints them, most likely close to Oct. 1.

Simply provide a check made out to "Minnesota American Legion Foundation Fund 85." Proceeds benefit the Department's **Veteran Assistance Fund**.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

**And mail to:**  
Minnesota American Legion Foundation  
Attn: Fund 85  
20 W. 12th St. Room 300A  
St. Paul, MN 55437



### Handy guide for new people

#### Local-level organizations

Post = The American Legion  
Unit = American Legion Auxiliary  
Squadron = Sons of The American Legion  
Chapter = American Legion Riders  
The number stays the same, so Post 37, Unit 37, Squadron 37 and Chapter 37 are all tied to St. Peter.

#### Leadership

Commander = The American Legion and SAL  
President = American Legion Auxiliary  
Director = American Legion Riders





# The Auxiliary Bulletin

No. 23 Vol. 2

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

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

651-224-7634

September 2022

## Summer is the busiest time for the Legion Auxiliary

### President's Column

Mary Kuperus



As I write this column, I am recovering from the New London-to-New Brighton Antique Car Run and our American Legion Auxiliary Department Chairman Workshop and Department Executive Committee meeting.

I am so proud of the 10 district presidents, Vice Presidents Sharon Thiemecke and Judy Ackerman, Past President Patti Coleman, NEC Jean Walker, and all other members of the DEC. They heard from department chairman on how they have planned the 2022-2023 American Legion Auxiliary.

Thank you to all who attended!

Junior Fun Weekend was held on Aug. 5-7 at Legionville. What a wonderful place for our Junior members to meet new friends, re-unite with others, learn and have so much fun. American Legion Department of Minnesota Commander Jennifer Havlick was able to spend some time with the Junior members and to tell them about her plans for the year. Yes, we did get the commander to join in some games. We have pictures!

My husband, Bill, and I agreed to drive the chase vehicle for the Minnesota American Legion Riders Legacy Scholarship Run. Congratulations to all ALR members on a great year. I am looking forward to the donation turn-in at the National Convention.

The 2023 membership year has started. The first membership rally will be on Sept. 10 at Legionville during Camporee. Bring memberships with you or send them to the Department Office before then.

Please ask eligible members to join our patriotic organization. We can do so much for our military, veterans, their families and our communities. New members bring new ideas. Don't forget that the American Legion Auxiliary now has male members. A spouse of a female veteran can now join us! Many units already have male members and would encourage more to join. The Department of Minnesota has a goal of 28,957

members for the 2023 year. Will this be the year we make 100 percent? That would be awesome if we did!

Many Minnesota American Legion Family members will have attended the National Convention in Milwaukee. Our two granddaughters were excited to attend their first National Convention out of the state of Minnesota.

Fall Conference will be held at the River's Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud on Oct. 27-29. The American Legion Auxiliary will offer two different classes on Thursday evening. One session will be about membership. We will explain the process on how a unit can set up an account on ALAMIS, our membership database.

The other class will include information on the use of the National Year End Impact Reports and Annual Reports. What information goes where, how to fill out the form, and the use of a new fillable report form. More information will be in the October unit mailing.

The Department of Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary webpage is in the process of being updated. It is a work in progress.

Unit mailings will now be a monthly mailing. Please consider receiving the unit mailing by email. This will save money on printing and postage. Once the website is up and running, the unit mailings will be posted each month. The Department of Minnesota ALA website is: mnala.org.

May you all have a wonderful September! Please take care of yourselves, our military, their families, and veterans. Let's "Serve and Honor Every Day."

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



American Legion Department of Minnesota Commander Jennifer Havlick, in the white cap, sits with American Legion Auxiliary Juniors and, fifth from the left, American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota President Mary Kuperus. Between the two, in red, is Juniors President Sydney Borntreger. The girls and women were at Legionville near Brainerd for Junior Fun Weekend, which, according to reports, was fun.

## Junior Activities strengthens member efforts

By Renee Suess  
Junior Activities Chairman

We are extremely blessed to have an outstanding group of Juniors working in the various programs of the American Legion Auxiliary in the state of Minnesota. It is very important to keep revitalizing, recruiting and promoting our Junior program at the unit, district and department levels. Including our Junior members at each level will prompt great potential for our organization as a whole.

We have many senior members, who have previously been Junior members, taking on various leadership roles at all levels and giving strong mentorship throughout Minnesota. The Junior Activities program strengthens our membership program as we get to take our junior members' membership and continue it on into senior membership. The Junior Activities program ensures that we give Juniors enough information about the American Legion Family so hopefully they develop an interest to further progress in the American Legion Auxiliary.

Not many organizations have members who've enrolled since birth nor members who've grown up in that organization. That is how we stand out and make a difference.

It is vital to continuously include our Junior members in the various events occurring throughout our Legion Family. Our Juniors are always willing to help out and learn new things.

Honorary Department Junior President Sydney Borntreger is a leader who is raising funds to help the adaptive sports program for physically limited or disabled veterans at the VA Healthcare System in Sioux Falls. She is an example of one of the ways Juniors are serving our veterans.

Other things Juniors may do throughout their communities is poppy distribution, participating in events in their unit or post, leading in various ceremonies (Veterans Day, Memorial Day, etc.), and so much more. As mentioned previously, if we include our Juniors in as much as we can throughout all levels in the Legion Family, they are guaranteed to learn so many



Juniors put their hands on their hearts as the flag at Legionville is raised during Junior Fun Weekend.

new things about the program.

One Junior mentioned that she learned how to properly fold the flag by attending Junior Fun Weekend at Legionville. Even asking them to attend a meeting will let them gain

insight into the fine works and incredible things we do as an organization.

This year, the Junior Activities program is aimed to increase knowledge of how our juniors are working the programs of the ALA.

We will be spotlighting each District Junior group in the Department of Minnesota in our monthly unit mailings. This is a great way to showcase ideas with other districts and promote the amazing work of our Minnesota Juniors. We will also be sharing information about the various Honorary Department Junior Officers.

Knowing more about the various offices a Junior can hold at the state level will be a focus and will help our junior members become informed on decisions about their leadership interests. Sharing ideas and empowering one another is the focus this year. Our Junior program holds a part of our American Legion Auxiliary future, so we as senior members need to do our part of mentoring, including, and providing as many opportunities for our Juniors this year and beyond.

## Endorsements

### Dorf endorsed for Dept. 2nd Vice President

Monticello Unit 260, 10th District Past Presidents Parley, and the 10th District Auxiliary has endorsed Robin Dorf for Department of Minnesota 2nd Vice President for 2023-2024.

Dorf has been an active member of Unit 260 for 47 years and is a PUFL member. Her eligibility is through her father, Emil W. Dorf Jr., who served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War.

At the unit level she has held many positions, including President two terms. On the district level, she

has served as St. Cloud VA Social Activities, Junior Activities, Education, Girls State, Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, Children & Youth, Poppy, Leadership, Membership, Past Presidents Parley, Secretary, Treasurer, Executive Committee member, 2nd Vice President, 1st Vice President and served as 10th District President 2014-2015.

On the department level, she has served on the Strategic Planning Committee, past Girls State Counselor, Junior Activities, Leadership,

Public Relations, Membership, Children & Youth, Chaplain and is currently serving as Community Service Chairman.

On the national level, she served as the 2018 ALA National Convention Vice Chairman, Northwestern Division Membership Chairman, and will be the 2022-2023 Children & Youth Committee Vice Chairman.

Dorf is the Wright County Health and Human Services Kinship/Child Foster Care Recruiter Case Aide for Wright County.



Robin Dorf

## See you in Milwaukee

The American Legion Auxiliary National Convention is our largest gathering of members, guests and distinguished speakers. The weeklong event is held annually in cities across America at the same time and place as the convention of The American Legion for the purpose of electing officers, receiving reports, conducting other ALA business — and most of all — having fun while celebrating our accomplishments from the administrative year.

The 101st National American Legion Auxiliary Convention is Aug. 27-31 in Milwaukee

See Page 5 for the All-Legion Family Calendar.





# This is going to be a Paul Bunyan year: BIG!

By Sandy Wersal  
Membership Chairman

The American Legion Auxiliary will be using Paul Bunyan as our theme, so get out your flannel shirts Legion Family!

We will promote the traits Paul was well known for: strength, speed and skill. Paul's larger-than-life folklore story is depicting a

person that did not quit. He used his strength; we will have plenty of strength if we work together.

We have speed to get the membership in on time, and the skill to mentor new members. Sept. 10 Harvest Rally at beautiful Legionville.

So, pack that flannel shirt, wear it on Saturday and to all rallies this year. Let's kick off a great 2022-2023 membership year.

## Auxiliary provides leadership paths

By Pam Gades  
Leadership Chairman

"If your actions create a legacy that inspires others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, then you are an excellent leader."

— Dolly Parton

This year, the American Legion Auxiliary's National President Vickie Koutz's and Minnesota President Mary Kuperus's themes both include the focus of honoring our veterans every day. The American Legion Auxiliary programs honor veterans and have been successful due to many strong and dedicated leaders with our organization.

Familiarize yourself with the American Legion Auxiliary by utilizing the many resources

available on the national website: [alaforveterans.org](http://alaforveterans.org).

You will learn who we are, our mission and vision, our impact, history, membership eligibility, organizational structure, legion family information, the Unit Guide, and much, much more. The Department of Minnesota ALA website is in the process of being rebuilt, but it will soon be available/updated at [mnala.org](http://mnala.org). Here you will be able to find current events, announcements, program information, forms, and the now-monthly unit mailings.

### Facebook Leadership Group

ALA Committee Facebook Groups are spaces on the social media network for ALA members to discuss or

share about topics related to each committee.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALALeadership>

### ALA Academy

The American Legion Auxiliary is providing all members with the tools they need to help grow the organization as a team. The Academy courses are designed to help members learn online at no cost to them. Two options are offered:

1. Self-paced courses that you can take from any device. These are designed for you to take whenever you have time with no need to pre-register.

2. Live virtual webinars. These are free but are offered live and you will need to register in advance. <https://member.legion-aux.org/member/online-training>

## What is Auxiliary Emergency Fund?

By Kollett A. Kaehlert  
Emergency Food Chairman

The Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) is a national grant assistance program that provides temporary emergency assistance to eligible members of the American Legion Auxiliary who have endured a significant financial setback as the result of an act of nature or other personal crisis. Members helping members – that's the American Legion Auxiliary's mission of Service Not Self in action. Hard times can fall upon us at any moment. That's when the American Legion Auxiliary is committed to help.

Established in 1969, the AEF was created with a bequest from the estate of Auxiliary member Helen Colby Small of Burlington, Wis. Five decades later, the AEF is still helping fellow Auxiliary members get back on their feet. Since the Auxiliary Emergency fund was established, more than \$6 million has been awarded to more than 6,500 members.

Learn more at [AEF@ALAforVeterans.org](mailto:AEF@ALAforVeterans.org)

An Auxiliary Emergency Fund grant may provide immediate emergency assistance to American Legion Auxiliary members in areas devastated by a natural disaster such as fire, flood, hurricane, tornado, earthquake, or other severe weather. The applicant must have received damage to the primary residence and/or been displaced or evacuated from the residence and had out-of-pocket expenses for food, clothing, and shelter.

An Auxiliary Emergency Fund grants may provide temporary assistance to eligible members during a time of financial crisis when no other source of aid is readily available to pay for shelter, food, and utilities. Grants may be awarded up to \$2,400 with the intent to help members who have suffered a financial setback and offer a helping hand until financial stability is reestablished. Assistance will not be granted to pay medical expenses or credit card debt.

The applicant must be an American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) member. Applicant

must have maintained ALA membership for three consecutive years (the current year and immediate past two years). One grant per grantee in a 12-month period will be awarded.

Applications are now only processed online at [www.mnala.org](http://www.mnala.org). Go to forms for the ALA Emergency Fund Application.

To carry on the Auxiliary Emergency Fund, we need your generous support. During Fall Conference in St. Cloud, Thursday, Oct. 27 through Saturday, Oct. 29, we will be holding the annual silent auction to benefit the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. Please bring items to donate for the silent auction such as: theme baskets, patriotic items, pictures, clothing, jewelry items, jams, jellies and bake goods, or anything else that a member may need or want.

We will have the \$2 grab bags as well; I will have paper bags to place the items in, so don't forget those small items. All proceeds will go the American Legion Auxiliary Emergency Fund.



The Elk River American Legion Auxiliary Unit 112 presented a check for \$1,200 to Magnus Veterans Foundation on July 27. This donation will sponsor two veterans for a year to the services provided by Magnus. Executive Director Jay Calhoun accepted the donation from Unit 112 Secretary Sharon Mendenhall and President Cathy Artman. These funds were made possible from the many generous Poppy donations received from Legion members and the Elk River community.



On Aug. 1, Lesley Heimer was installed as Adams Unit 146 president. She was installed by her mom, Past Department President Darlene Wondra of Montgomery Unit 79. It was a proud mama moment. Darlene stated: "I've been waiting a long time to do this."



Edna Thayer of Elysian Unit 311, left, smiles as she is recognized in July at the Department of Minnesota Convention in Willmar as the Unit Member of the Year. Standing with her is Past Department President Darlene Wondra of the 3rd District.

## POW/MIA Day is coming

Sept. 16 is set aside to commemorate and honor the commitment and sacrifices made by this nation's prisoners of war and those still missing in action, as well as their families.

We must continue to urge and demand the fullest accounting of all POW'S and MIA'S from all wars and conflicts. Units should work with Post members to hold a program for this year's POW/MIA Recognition Day.



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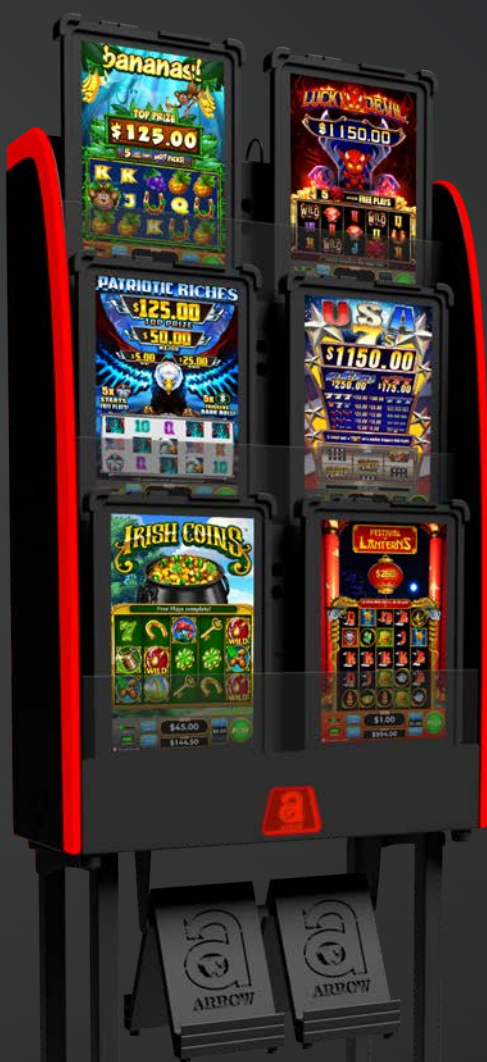
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