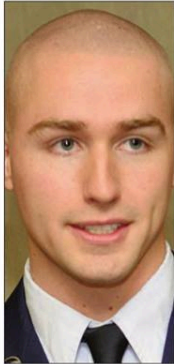
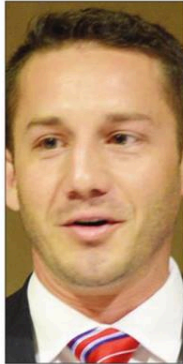


### 2015 Outstanding Enlisted Person Awards



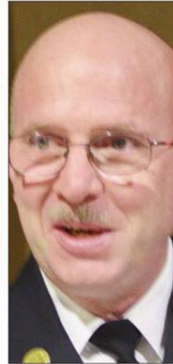
**SR AMN MAX JELLE**  
Air Force Reserve  
Farmington



**SPC LUKE WEINANDT**  
Army National Guard  
Mankato



**MSGT RICHARD KRIVANEK**  
Air Force Guard  
Hugo



**SSG JAMES LEHMANN**  
Army National Guard  
Hastings



Girls Nation Senator Louise Lungstrom told about her experiences in Washington DC.



SSG Paul Hassing, Army Reserve, Montgomery, received his award. Hassing and the others also posed with members of the Legion Family leadership. From left: NS/FR Chair Curt Norenberg; Junior Honorary President Bryce Soltis; Commander Jim Kellogg, SAL Commander Eugene Olsword; Riders Secretary and Paul's wife Jodi Hassing, President Sandy Fredrickson, Auxiliary National Security Chair Chris Ronning, DC2 Sean Knight, Navy Reserve, Eagan, was the sixth person to win the award but could not be present at Breezy Point.



Katarina Christianson was named the outstanding senator at Girls Nation this year.



Gene Meuwissen of Chaska Post 56 was named the Outstanding Legionnaire of the Year by the Sons of the American Legion. Gene Olsword presented.



John Torma, right, presented a check for \$10,000 for Legionville from Osseo-Maple Grove Post 172. Accepting was Vice President Gene Leifeld. In the back were Jay Beebe and Commander Jim Kellogg.



National Historian Jim Copher spoke on Friday.



Auxiliary President Sandy Fredrickson introduced Honorary Junior President Bryce Soltis.



Creative Arts Festival awardee Bill Underwood played a few tunes for the conferees.

# Trying to keep them alive on the Death Railway

By Al Zdon

When Bob Hanley was a prisoner of war along the Burma Railway — often called the Death Railway — during World War II, one of his main jobs as a medic was to scrape out the tropical ulcers on other prisoners with a surgical spoon.

"Sometimes the ulcers would be a couple or three inches wide, and would go down to the bone. We had no anesthetic or medication. It was very painful to scrape them out, but it had to be done."

Over the course of his time on the Death Railway, he probably performed the procedure hundreds of times.

"But we never lost a leg. The Australians lost legs, but we never did."

□□□□□□

Robert Leon Hanley grew up on Delos Street in St. Paul, on the bluff overlooking the Mississippi River.

His father was a boilermaker for Great Northern Railroad when there was work, but the elder Hanley also did other jobs and worked on WPA projects to put food on the table.

The young Hanley went to St. Matthew's Grade School, Roosevelt Junior High, Humboldt High School, and, after the family moved, he graduated from Monroe High School.

Much of his youth was spent down at the neighborhood house in a Jewish community on the river flats. "I met a lot of different people down there. I loved to play basketball and football. I played center on offense in football, and middle linebacker on defense. I was small, but I was fast and I could tackle like mad."

He got to Monroe too late to get into the football program, so he and his sister became cheerleaders.

He graduated in 1940 and tried his hand at the Swift and Company barrel factory, and then as an apprentice machinist at Great Northern, a job his father helped him get. "But I'm not very mechanical, and I just wasn't interested."

Though war was raging in Europe, Hanley admits it was the farthest thing from his mind. "I was a young guy. I never had any idea that the United States would go to war."

When he joined the Navy on Jan. 5, 1941, it was adventure and not patriotism that helped him make the choice. "I signed a six-year enlistment, and they sent me to Great Lakes for boot camp."

He was sent to the West Coast for a time, and then to Hawaii where he joined the crew of the USS Benham. After three months, the Navy sent him father east to Manila in the Philippines where he went on board the USS Houston, a heavy cruiser, and one of the largest U.S. ships in that part of the world. It was the flagship of the fleet.

USS Houston (CA-30) had enjoyed some pre-war fame as President Roosevelt's ship. The president did a 24-day cruise on Houston in 1934. "They had a special elevator installed on the ship to get him up and down because he couldn't walk. It was still there when I went on board."

"I joined the Navy to see the world, but mostly all I saw was the sea. The only place we visited was Darwin, Australia, and that was nothing but a bunch of warehouses and a lot of aborigines running around."

He was a lowly seaman second class, and he was assigned to the ship's sickbay as a medical corpsman apprentice. He was on board the ship when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor and the Philippines.

"The admiral (Thomas Hart) got the ships out of the Naval base at Cavite (Philippines) and had us spread all over the ocean. That was pretty smart to get us all out there. How come he knew the Japanese were going to attack and nobody else did?"

Houston became part of the American-British-Dutch-

Australian (ABDA) naval force whose mission was to keep the Japanese from attacking Australia.

As the war gathered steam, there were several bombing attacks on the ship, and on Feb. 4, 1942, a bomb slammed through the aft part of the ship, destroying a massive gun turret and the magazines below it.

"My battle station as a corpsman was on the main deck in the middle of the ship. A lot of guys got hit. Anybody who says he isn't scared at those times is a liar. You just keep going and do your job."

After the attack, it was Hanley's job to go into the bomb-damaged part of the ship. "We were finding pieces of bodies and trying to figure out who they were. It's hard to determine an identity from a little piece of leg."

The rear turret was severely damaged. "Normally, we would have gone into dry dock to fix it, but this was war and we couldn't leave our station. The people that got killed in the attack were buried at sea."

The ship continued to escort convoys bringing troops to strengthen Allied positions in the large islands of Indonesia, north of Australia. Darwin became the ship's main port.

At the Battle of the Java Sea at the end of February, two cruisers and three destroyers of the ABDA force were sunk. The Houston escaped without damage. It was the largest naval fight in the world since World War I.

The next day, Feb. 28, Houston and the Australian cruiser Perth, sailed into Banten Bay on the western end of Java, probably to try and damage a Japanese invasion force. The attack was successful, and the cruisers sank one transport and forced three others to run aground.

But the cruisers were blocked from returning to safe waters through the Sunda Strait, though, by a Japanese destroyer squadron and two Japanese heavy cruisers. The Allied ships were trapped.

"Our admiral wanted us out, but we were under Dutch

*St. Paul native Bob Hanley joined the Navy to see the world. He was captured by the Japanese in early 1942 and not liberated until August of 1945. As a Navy corpsman, he worked to keep Allied soldiers alive on the Berma-Siam Death Railway.*

command at the time," Hanley said. "Although I read later that Roosevelt wanted us there too."

HMS Perth was attacked around midnight, and was sunk in an hour by bomb and torpedo attacks.

"We had run out of ammunition, and we were firing star shells. That's all we had." Star shells are used to illuminate the sky at night and have little battle use.

Just after midnight, the first torpedo hit Houston. "You can feel them when they hit. But we continued to do our jobs. We had no idea that we would be sunk. The guys that were really hurt we sent to sick bay. We gave people shots to help the pain. Some guys just needed bandaging up, and they went back to their stations."

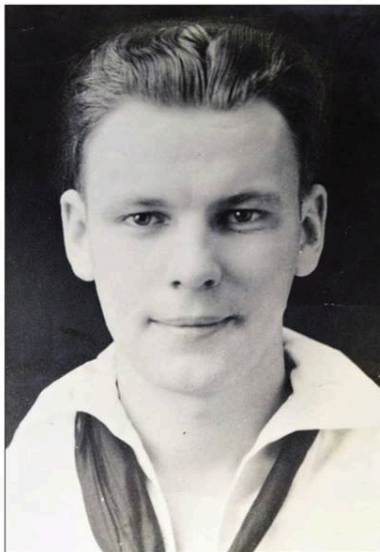
In quick succession, three more torpedoes hit Houston, and the Japanese destroyers moved in for the kill. "They were machine gunning our decks. Some of our guys were fighting back. And then they ordered 'abandon ship.' That was a big surprise."

Houston was dead in the water and listing noticeably. The captain had been killed by a bomb burst on the bridge.

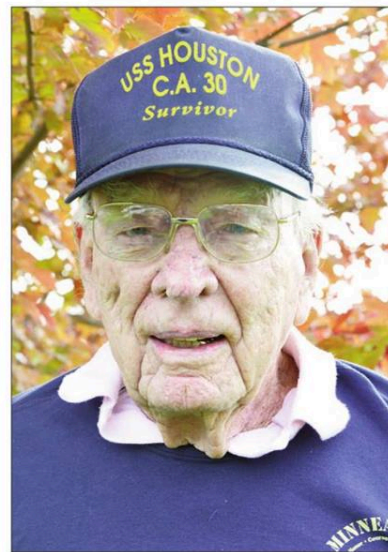
"I went to the fantail and took off all my clothes except for my skivvies. I dove in the water, and I started swimming like mad. I was afraid that the suction of the ship going down would take me down too. Thank God I grew up in Minnesota where I learned to swim as a kid. Now and then I would turn around, and I could see Houston slipping under the water."

The ship was gone, and Hanley was all by himself in the Sunda Strait. The only thing he had been able to keep of his personal effects was his underwear.

"I swam for a long time. It's easier in the salt water to float, and the water was warm. Then I heard some noise and I swam toward it. It was a bunch of guys in a life raft. In the middle of the raft was one guy who was terribly burned. The salt water was getting in the burns in he was in terrible



**BOB HANLEY**  
As a sailor during World War II



**BOB HANLEY**  
At home in Wyoming, Minnesota

pain. It's amazing, but he survived the war, and I think he's still alive."

Hanley and the others had spent about 12 hours in the life raft when they were approached by a Japanese gunboat. "We thought they were going to machine gun us, but they didn't. They picked us up."

The men were put in the hold of a transport and taken to Batavia. "We were put in an old movie theater. We were so close together, that we couldn't move. I was suffering from dysentery so bad that I had to crawl to the toilet. I was bleeding from my rear end."

"Finally they put us on trucks. I was too weak to climb onto the truck and Al Kopp (another Minnesota corpsman who served on Houston) threw me on the truck. He saved my life. That Japs weren't fooling around. They probably would have killed me."

The camp in Batavia was called the "Bicycle Camp" and it was populated by Australian and American prisoners. The Americans were mainly survivors of USS Houston and of the 131st Field Artillery which became known as "the Lost Battalion."

Hanley, who had regained his health by this time, was immediately assigned to the surgical ward in the camp, and worked with Dr. Epstein, the ship's surgeon from Houston. "We worked a lot of hours. The lieutenant taught me how to help him in the ward. I learned about the autoclave to sterilize the tools, and how to prepare the trays for surgery."

Six months later, the Japanese told Hanley he would be taken to Singapore. "As I went out the door, Dr. Epstein threw me a medical kit and said, 'Take this. You're a doctor now.'"

He was in Singapore for three months and then in October 1942 sent on a transport to Burma. He would spend the rest of the war caring for the Allied soldiers who worked on the Death Railway. Over 60,000 Allied prisoners worked on the railroad, and over 12,000 died.

The Japanese needed the railroad to complete a supply line link between what was then called Siam to its captured territory in Burma. The route was through some of the densest jungle in the world.

For much of that time, Hanley worked with Dr. Henri Hekking, who became almost legendary among the American and Allied prisoners as a brilliant doctor and source of boundless hope. Hanley was his only assistant at first. "He was an incredible man. He would talk to the prisoners and tell them they were healthier than they were. He taught me how to work with the diseases we faced every day."

Dr. Hekking would take Hanley on forays into the jungle, along with Japanese guards, to gather herbs and other natural medications to supplement their meager medical cabinet. "We would also get what we called monkey bananas. They were like regular bananas except they had seeds in them. We'd bring them back for the prisoners to eat. The monkeys would howl at us because we were stealing their bananas."

"He was very good to work with, although one time he really bawled me out. They brought a guy in who had had a heart seizure, and so I gave him some heart medicine. I didn't know what I was doing, but I had to do something. Dr. Hekking told me I was lucky because I happened to give him the right drug. It was just a case of where I had to do my best, and I probably saved the guy's life."

"Tropical ulcers were epidemic. And all you could do was scoop them out, get the puss out, with a surgical spoon. It was very painful. I would do it as fast as I could, and then fill up the wound with iodoform powder, kind of a disinfectant, if we had any."

"I had a guy come up to me years later at a reunion. He pulled up his pants leg and he had a huge scar. He said, 'You did this to me. And you saved my life.'"

The doctor and his assistant moved from camp to camp as sections of the railway were completed. At some point they were joined by Slug Wright, an American prisoner who was too weak to go back to work. "I helped train him. If they had sent him back to the railroad, he would have died. Later, when I left, he became Dr. Hekking's assistant."

Hanley was sent to another camp by himself as the "doctor." He tried to use all he had learned from the Navy, Dr. Epstein and Dr. Hekking to treat the prisoners.

Working in the hospital tents had some advantages. "The Japanese pretty much stayed away from the hospital. They didn't want to be near sickness, so they left us alone. But I still got smacked a few times. I remember that one Japanese soldier was so short that he had to stand on a box to slap the American prisoners."

Hanley still bears a scar on his head where he was hit by a rifle butt as he tried to help a patient in the hospital.

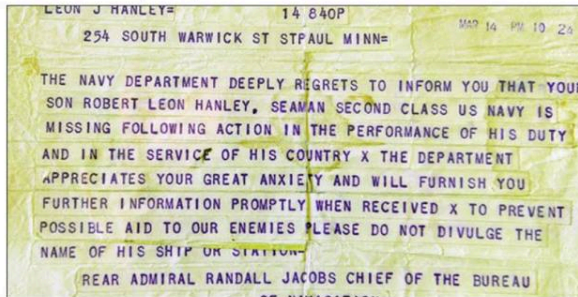
"But it was just part of their training. They slapped and hit their own soldiers all the time. They'd knock somebody down, and if they didn't get up fast enough, they would knock them down again."

"Later on when they were transporting their soldiers back from the fighting, we'd see them come through. They had no medical attention. They'd just lay in the boxcars in pools of blood."

Food at the camps was "not good. You'd get kind of a watery soup that sometimes had little pieces of meat in it. It was not very nourishing. Some of the guys would eat bugs. They told me they had protein, but I could never eat a bug."



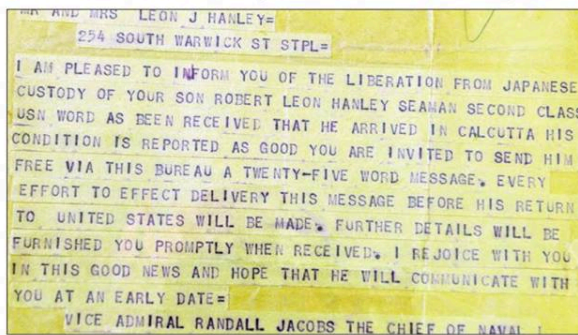
The USS Houston (CA-30) before she was sunk in the Battle of the Sunda Strait in early 1942.



The first telegram Bob Hanley's mother received told her that her son was missing in action. She didn't find out until a year and a half later that he was a prisoner.



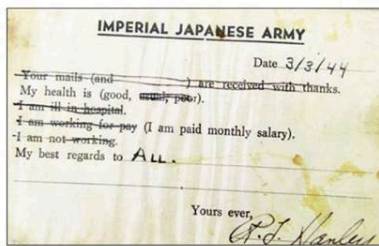
Dr. Henri Hekking was a hero to Allied prisoners.



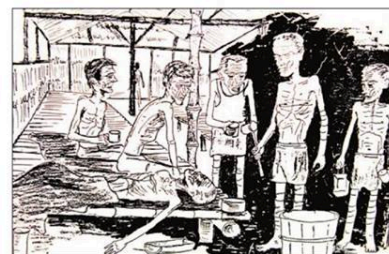
The last telegram his mother received was that her son had been liberated.



Bob Hanley at boot camp at Great Lakes.



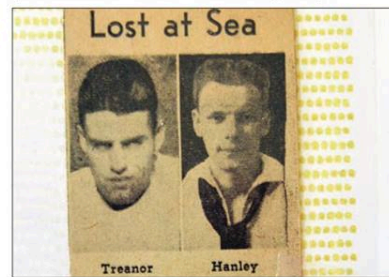
His mother finally found out in late 1943 that her son was okay when a postcard arrived. The Japanese periodically allowed postcards, but if the prisoner indicated anything but good health, the card was destroyed.



A fellow prisoner, John Wisecup, made this drawing of prisoners in one of the Death Railway camps.



Eileen, Bob and family early in his Army career.



The St. Paul Dispatch ran these pictures of Hanley and a Houston crewmate. The other sailor died.

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Sometimes they'd give us a little piece of liver, but I'd save it and give it to the prisoners. They needed it more than me."

Hanley also opted to sleep on the ground during his time as a prisoner. "I couldn't sleep on those bamboo poles like everybody else did. They were full of bedbugs. I'd boil my clothes all the time to keep the lice out."

The American prisoners were supposed to be getting Red Cross packages. "I only got one, and that was six months before the war ended. I don't know what the Japanese did with the rest of them."

At one point, Hanley ended up at a camp where the bridge over the River Kwai was built. It later was the subject of a book and a movie.

"The movie was all fiction. First of all, the prisoners didn't blow up the bridge, it was destroyed by American B-17 bombers. In fact, some of the bombs hit our camp and some Australians were killed.

"Secondly, the Japanese built their own bridges; they didn't need any engineering help from us. They wouldn't listen to prisoners. It was all nonsense."

As the war drew to a close, Hanley was assigned to camp about 50 miles south of Bangkok in Siam, later known as Thailand.

On Aug. 16, a plane came over the camp and dropped leaflets telling the prisoners the war was over. The next day,

paratroopers from the U.S. Americal Division dropped into the camp to free the prisoners. "They took the sickest out first. Then the rest of us. First we went to Rangoon in a C-46 transport plane, and then on to Karachi to the 142nd General Hospital. I spent a month or so there."

On a plane to New York City, a nurse looked at Hanley and told him he had yellow jaundice. "She told me to get on a bunk and don't move. I spent a couple of months in a hospital and they gave me shots of liver extract every day. My butt was so sore that I had to lay on my stomach. Imagine making it all the way through the war, and then getting jaundice on the way home."

Not that Hanley was the picture of health during his time in Burma and Siam. "I never got the tropical ulcers because I knew how to prevent it. But I had malaria a number of times, dengue fever, dysentery, and beriberi."

Hanley had weighed 165 pounds on the ship, and was 85 pounds when he was freed from the camp.

His mother, back in St. Paul, had only been informed that her son was lost at sea in 1942. It wasn't until late 1943 that a postcard the Japanese allowed Hanley to send let her know that her son was alive and a prisoner of war.

Out of the hospital, he was given 120 days convalescent leave. He had been bumped up from E-2 to E-4 while he was a prisoner. When he returned, with his new uniform and third class petty officer stripes, he was accosted by an officer. "He said, 'You're out of uniform, sailor. You're a chief petty officer.'"

petty officer."

The Navy had jumped him from E-4 to E-7. "I still don't know how the heck they did that."

One thing he didn't get was his back pay – not until about 10 years ago when a check upwards of \$25,000 arrived in the mail. "I hadn't complained about it, but some of the guys had kept after the government, and they finally gave us our back pay. What was nice was they gave us the money based on current Navy salaries."

He finally got out of the Navy in 1947, and tried a few civilian jobs. "But I kind of liked the military and so I went back to the Navy recruiter and asked if I could get back in. He told me I had gone beyond the 90 days, and so I'd lost all my seniority. I'd have to go back in as an E-3. So I went down to the Army, and they said I could come back as an E-6."

He stayed in the Army for the next 16 years, serving mainly as food inspector, and retired as a master sergeant. "I served for 21 years, two months and 23 days. I didn't keep track of the seconds."

After the Army, he went to work for 3-M in St. Paul for 15 years. He finally retired for good at age 56. He is now 93.

He and his wife of almost 70 years, Eileen, have six children, 18 grandchildren, and 18 great grandchildren. They live in Wyoming, Minnesota.

# Listening Post

# News from around the State



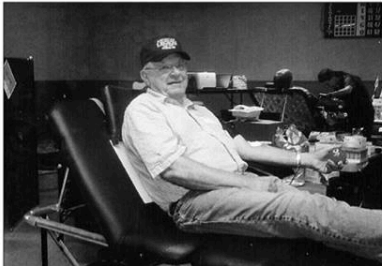
**CAMP RIPLEY** -- Disabled vets and guides gather around a deer at the annual deer hunt at Camp Ripley,



**SAL HUNT** -- The annual John Zgoda Disabled Veterans Deer Hunt was held at Legionville. Those involved gathered for a group photo.



**BACKUS PARTY** -- There was no shortage of variety at the Backus Auxiliary's annual Kids Halloween Party. This was the 0-4 year-old group.



**WILLMAR BLOODMOBILE** -- Willmar Post 167 has begun hosting a Red Cross Bloodmobile. Post Commander DuWayne Underthun donates.



**CVSO CONFERENCE** -- Department Service Officer Tom Newman and his assistant Jeremy Wolfsteler presented to the County Veteran Service Officers recently. They spoke on discharge upgrades.



**OLIVIA UPDATES** -- Olivia Post 186 recently purchased a new sign indicating the Legion Family.



**LUDWIG REUNION** -- The Ludwigs got together at the recent state convention in Redwood Falls. Dan Ludwig, left, is a Past National Commander and is also Jerry Ludwig's dad's first cousin. Jerry is Redwood Falls Post 38 commander.



**TUTS MEET** -- The King Tuts, made up of Past Department Commanders, met recently in Hutchinson. From left, front: Marland Ronning, Ray DeZurik, Peggy Moon, Frank Fay, Harlan Buck, Dan Ludwig, Roger Olson. In back: Don Hayden, Mike Ash, Tom Conway, Don Pankake, Tom Lannon, Chuck Kruger.

# District Commanders

**FIRST DISTRICT**  
**Roland Hanson**  
 Commander




Hello fellow veterans. Fall is here and winter is right behind. The January dues increase will be here before you know it. Sign those members up now.

A training day was held in New Ulm on the 10th of October. The attendance was good but sadly it was most of the same people. I encourage everyone to at least try attending a training day, conference, or a convention. You will meet new people and maybe learn something and you never know, you might like it.

Revitalization of area four will take place on November 3rd, 4th, & 5th. A representative from the National Department will be on hand. I encourage other Districts to come and obtain information. If you would like to be a part of this please let me know. Command center will be the Albert Lea Post 56. Our motto should be all for one, not one for all.

Please send your memberships in weekly so Misty has the information to figure a correct percentage and advance the First District to first place.

Always remember to thank a veteran, especially on Veterans Day (November 11). Freedom is not free. Support those who defended your right to live free.

**THIRD DISTRICT**  
**Don Skow**  
 Commander




The 3rd District is still leading the Department in membership but not by much. We need to be at goal by January before the dues increase goes into effect. Thank you all for your efforts in making this happen. Congrats to Post 311 Elysian and Post 380 Kilkenny for making goal!

Our next membership rally will be on November 5th at Montgomery Post 79. The guest speaker will be Sue Register from the Hastings Vets Home. We still need to cover the dues for some of the members who live at the Hastings Vest Home so if your Post has some extra funds that can be used for this please contact me or Mike Maxa. Our Vice Commanders have all been working hard to get us to goal on time so if your Post needs some help with this please let them know or call me - Don Skow.

Veterans Day is a day to be thankful for the veterans who came before us and also the veterans who are still serving and continue to preserve our freedoms. Everyone who served honorably deserves our recognition and respect.

Happy Thanksgiving and a great Holiday Season to Everyone.

**FOURTH DISTRICT**  
**Dan Williams**  
 Commander




The Fabulous Fourth held a successful Revitalization Event. Special thanks to District Membership Director, Mickey Ostrum and team members for Revitalization Education and making the calls! The team members who worked with Mickey include: District Auxiliary President Connie Anderson, Jim Anderson - Post 542, Tom Teresi - 542, Randy Bastyr - 39, Cliff Gustafson - 542, Joe Jansen - Post 406, Teresa Ash - Post 406, Mike Ash - Post 406, Lane Stunkel - Post 577, 5th District Commander Gary Martin, Department Membership Director, Jim Lucas and National Associate Membership Director Rolanda Herron. We were able to transfer more than eighty members into Fourth District Posts. We updated records of members now in Post Everlasting and transferred members into other districts. We had a successful three days! In the event I missed including your name and you helped with the Revitalization Education or making calls, please accept my apology for the unintended omission.

Steve Campos, 3M Post 599 is a 2015 Veterans' Voices Award Recipient. Congratulations Steve well deserved! Here are excerpts from why he was nominated and received the Legacy Award: "...Chief Master Sergeant with 35 combined years of service in the Air Force and the Minnesota Air National Guard. ...continues to serve Minnesota Veterans and is described as the ultimate community "Help Button" given his numerous connections and knowledge to help Veterans and their families." He presents WWII heroes at speaking engagements. Steve is active with The American Legion. Outstanding, Steve.

Calendar: November 10th District RCCC Meeting 7:00 PM Arcade Phalen Post 577; November 11th Veterans Day; November 15th VA Hospital Visitation 1:00 PM. November 18th Shop, Ship and Share Meeting 6:30 PM - Post 39.

**SIXTH DISTRICT**  
**Dewayne Collins**  
 Commander




Fall has arrived and winter is fast approaching with the holiday season just around the corner.

The 6th and the 9th district membership rally was held on October 10th. Thank you from the great 6th district membership turn in. We beat the 9th district by 2/10th of a percent for total turn in. So they got to keep the leg, it is a joke thing for the ones who do not know. By the time you will be reading this article, Department Fall Conference will be over with. I will report on next month.

Just a little reminder that national is raising Legion dues as of January 2016, a \$5.00 increase. Also district is raising their dues .50 that will be a total of \$5.50 increase. Therefore if you do not pay your dues by 12-31-15 you will have to pay the extra \$5.50 increase.

Thank you to the posts that I have attended their meetings and the membership meals. I have never seen such great hospitality.

The training session that Department of Minnesota put on in Clearwater, New Ulm, and Grand Rapids was a great turn out.

I would like to thank Little Falls Post 46 and Brainerd Post 255 for hosting 6th district round table discussion that was held on October 17th and all of those who helped to put the event together and attended.

Please remember that November 11th is Veterans Day. Let's all try to thank a Veteran or do something for a veteran that day, past or present. I will be attending St Joes Legion Post 328 on November 14th for their Veteran program.

This is a busy time of year for everyone, just before the holidays so get you unpaid dues paid before the increase in dues. Thanks to those who have already paid.

For those who are heading to the woods for deer hunting, I wish you good luck and to practice good fire arm safety while hunting.

I and family would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a safe holiday weekend.

As it looks like November is going to be another busy month, if any of your posts have a special event you would like me to attend contact me at dcollinsr@yahoo.com or 218-821-7314

**SEVENTH DISTRICT**  
**Karen Welander**  
 Commander




With Veterans Day just around the corner we all need to take a few minutes out of our busy day to reflect on all that we have and why. Why? Is because of the many veterans past and present that have made all of our taken for granted freedoms possible.

Time goes by so fast but save the November 21st date for a membership rally at the Marshall post at 10 AM. Hope to see many of you there including all post commanders and membership directors. Membership is coming in, but we to push extra hard to get all renewals in before the dues increase. If you need help to make phone calls or visits please call your area vice commander for assistance. Thanks to all who are working so hard.

Don't forget to keep track of you time and money you donate for the Post Consolidate Report. A little time spent as the last item of your monthly agenda will speed up the input next spring. You can always input electronically each month and save it but not submit it. A little time now will save time in the future.

If your post wants me to come and visit them, just give me a call at 320-366-3807 or email khwelande@gmail.com. I enjoy sharing ideas of what other posts are doing to assist veterans and their families and their communities.

I want to wish each of you and your families a very blessed and happy Thanksgiving. Let us never forget those who have served and those who are still serving. They have given and are still giving each of us so much freedom.

**EIGHTH DISTRICT**  
**Jennifer Havlick**  
 Commander




Dear 8th District Legion Family,  
 This weekend I attended The American Legion of Minnesota Legion Family Fall Conference. Everyone did a great job for our first joint Fall Conference. We heard from many of our Legion programs and gave some really special people awards for their service. We also had some great social time with our Legion Family members. Now let's

talk membership, I am sorry to say that the 8th District, both Legion and Sons of the American Legion, are last in the membership race. That being said I need all our posts and Squadron Commanders and Adjutants to call their members and urge them to not just renew their membership but to sign up at last one new member before January 2016, this will allow your post and squadrons to avoid having to pay the \$5.00 increase until 2017. Lastly if your post dues are not at least \$31.50 your post will lose money. Yes you read it right lose money on every renewal or new member signed up after the National dues increase, so at your next meeting consider raising your due to at least \$31.50 a year and notify department. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me. I can be reached at Jennifer.havlick@outlook.com or 218-834-4975. Let's work together to get all our renewals in asap. Remember our members are the power of The American Legion.

**NINTH DISTRICT**  
**Denise Milton**  
 Commander




Let us reflect on all that we have to be thankful for our freedom to speak freely, live and work where we wish, worship as we choose... We have our veterans to thank for all the sacrifices they have made, by choice. Stop and thank a veteran. Attend one of the many excellent programs that our home posts, schools and communities provide.

Our next target date set by National is Nov. 13 at 65%. We have already surpassed this and it is due to all the hard work everyone has done. The next renewal card goes out Jan. 8, just in time to remind everyone there is still time to pay your dues before the National dues increase goes into effect Jan. 20. Save yourself \$5.00 -- treat yourself to a Starbucks or Dairy Queen.

MyLegion.org is your greatest resource for revitalizing your post-utilize it! My home post still uses the "Just Ask" method with great success, but we were still missing several who have been paying into Post 1982, some for over 10-15 years!! Now is the time ask them to join their local post.

With assistance and guidance from National Headquarters we will be having our first Revitalizations this month. We have had several Districts who in the past have benefited from them and have provided us with invaluable advice in our venture. I am looking forward to a productive and successful time when an increase to our membership base in both Posts is realized.

Revitalization calendar: Nov. 17, 12-6pm. Crookston 20, Nov. 18, 12-6pm. Moorhead 21

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns: 218-694-2017 or kuuky@hotmail.com.

**TENTH DISTRICT**  
**Bill Johnson**  
 Commander




Greetings from the Mighty 10th,  
 October has been a busy month, starting with the Departmental training session at the Clearwater Post. I was pleased to see many of our Posts from the 10th attending. Right after that we held our District Revitalization for Wright and K.I.M. counties the following week. Because of the success of the revitalization my Membership Director, Bonnie Hanson, has decided to hold a second revitalization, for Pine and Chisago Counties. This will take place the third week in January.

I want to thank the Fridley Post for inviting me to their membership dinner on October 17th. It was good to see so many members of the Post attending the event. On the 18th we held our District Halloween Rally. We had a good amount of people attending in Costume. As part of the Rally we had a best costume contest, with the youngest member of our Junior Auxiliary, winning the \$25 prize.

Going forward I am looking forward to another busy month, starting with Fall Conference, followed by a number of invites to various events during the month. I am looking forward to Veterans Day. What a great time to get information out on The American Legion.

To conclude, I want to thank Commander Kellogg for taking the initiative to try something new, with the regional training sessions, and having a strong emphasis on training at the Fall Conference.



# The Auxiliary Bulletin

No. 16-4

President Sandy Fredrickson

November 2015

Secretary Sandie Deutsch

Department Headquarters, Veterans Service Building, St. Paul, MN 55155 651-224-7634

## The President's Column

By Sandy Fredrickson



Now that Fall Conference is behind us and the year is set to move forward, as your president, I have some thoughts for you, the member—words to think about.

There is Danger in the comfort zone: what you lose if you play it too safe.

Almost everything you want in life requires some risk. If you don't reach out to that difficult colleague, you may be stuck with a poor relationship. If you don't try to improve your product, it may become obsolete. If you don't find some new ways to romance your spouse, he/she may think you don't care -- The American Legion family is no different -- have we become stale? Have we become complacent and forgot how to ask/invite others to our organization? Have we forgot how to volunteer in our post homes? Are we going to continue being naughty and not nice? Are we not treating each other with civility?

Membership is the lifeblood of our organization. Membership sometimes gets in the way of the important things we need to do, to take care of, our programs. Yet, if we don't grow in membership, we have to look at cutting our programs. We speak about membership so much we forget what our mission is.

Are we going to allow the declining membership to continue or are we going to take pride in our organization and invite others to be members? It doesn't matter -- sons, daughters, spouses, etc. -- we need you. We need you to support what we do and why we do it. After all, who gives or gave us the right to be in this free America? Isn't it time we get back on track to do what is good and right for our veterans, their families, and our communities?

To you veterans: how do you describe The American Legion Post you belong to? Is it family oriented or is it one sided (male only, veteran only—women to be seen & not heard attitude)? Is there a lot of closing the door to some members (SAL and Riders)? Is there still male chauvinism?

The American Legion is not a men's club. Remember we have many female veterans. This part of the military is growing more and more every day.

The American Legion was organized, built on and has stood firm on the 4 Pillars. By working together with "a family attitude" we will continue to be the strong organization we are. We all must realize how important the American Legion Family is to each of us, our communities, and our nation.

What will happen if no one promotes Americanism, Patriotism, Flag etiquette, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, etc., etc?

Babe Ruth once said, "Never let fear of striking out get in your way." As your president this year and a representative of the largest women's patriotic organization, I will bring and speak to this message whenever I can. If I strike out, then I have not brought our message across. Who we are, what we do, and why we do it.

Off my soap box, I need to say "thank you" to every member that attended Fall Conference. I mean not just those who participated; I mean the members that came to hear, see, and learn what our American Legion Family is all about. Wasn't it fantastic to see and hear our Veterans who performed in our own Creative Arts program? This is what we do and why it matters. This is just a piece of why our organization is so important to our veterans.

Let's not be afraid to take a risk and ask at least one person to join us. Let's see what a difference we can make for the good of our organization.

Wishing you all a wonderful "Thanksgiving!" Take a moment to thank our heavenly father for the so many things we have.

## President's Testimonial coming up on Nov. 21 at Glenville Post

This year, President Sandy will be having her Testimonial on November 21, 2015 at the Glenville Post #264. It will be from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. with many fun-filled events to take place. There will be music, prizes and a few surprises thrown in as well. The evening will conclude with a dinner at 6:00 p.m. at the Glenville First Lutheran Church which is directly across the street from the Post. Please see the flyer that is printed for all the information and hotel reservations.

### FALL CONFERENCE

The 83rd annual Fall Conference was held at the Breezy Point Resort and sponsored by the Pequot Lakes American Legion Family #49. This was a historic Fall Conference as our leaders put together a joint conference for the entire American Legion Family. It was quite informative hearing how the other organizations run their programs. Everything went very well and it was well worth attending. There were many new items, such as 3 of the Minnesota Creative Arts competitors performed and how wonderful was that! We also had two doctors from the Brain Science Program at the Minneapolis VA, our Junior leaders and Girls State Senators. It is very refreshing to know we have such bright, young people ready to lead us in the future.

### HAPPY 96th BIRTHDAY

Does your Unit know November is "birthday month" for the American Legion Auxiliary? Will your Unit be celebrating? It was November 10, 1919, when the American Legion Auxiliary was established by a resolution adopted at the first National Convention of The American Legion here in Minneapolis. Since then the Auxiliary has grown to about 10,000 Units and over 800,000 members. This November is the American Legion Auxiliary's 96th birthday. We hope you are planning a celebration in your Unit. Do something fun and memorable as a Unit. find out what types of gifts are appreciated and needed. Those items are purchased and delivered to the facilities.

### 2016 POPPY ORDERS

Orders for our 2016 Poppies are being accepted. Prices for small poppies are remaining the same as last year. An order form was included in the first Unit mailing. Poppy

prices: Small Poppies - \$180.00 a thousand (\$18.00 a hundred) for orders of 500 or less; large Poppies - \$18.00 a dozen and the Poppy Window Display cards are \$.50 each while supplies last. Remember that the Department Office no longer has any of the Poppy Display cards. You must either order what Emblem Sales offers or come up with your own creative way to make the displays. The 2016 Poppy orders will be shipped on the dates requested on the orders. When you receive your Poppies, please store them in a safe place so they aren't inadvertently thrown away or wrapped up as a holiday gift. Please check your order upon receipt and report any discrepancies to the Department office.

The Department Office wants to assure you that the Poppies this year are very well made. Our Veterans at the Hastings Veterans Home have been working very hard. As of right now 47 Units have already placed their Poppy order - we would love to have a 100% participation of Units this year.

### PEARL HARBOR RALLY

The Pearl Harbor Membership Rally will be held at the Faribault American Legion Post 43 on Saturday, December 5th. Turn in 3-4:30pm, plated dinner at 5 and program to follow. Your District President and Membership Chairman asks every Unit to have membership ready to be picked up when they or a Legion representative comes to your area. Check with your Post Commander for your pick-up day and time.

Please do not hold membership in your Unit. Mail your transmittals on a regular basis. Just be prepared to give those last minute membership to the representative who comes to pick them up for the rally.

Let's make this a special Holiday Season for our Department President Sandy and Membership Chairman Jean as we continue to improve our membership counts. We had a great turn in at Fall Conference and need to keep up with all of the Department goals that have been set. Your Unit can win some cash for just working that membership and meeting goals. If you need any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Chairman Jean Walker or the Department Office.

## Frederick endorsed for NEC Woman

Hackensack Unit 202 has endorsed Shirley Frederick for National Executive Committee woman for the 2016-18 term.

She received her eligibility through the service of her late husband Roy (Korea) and father, Fay, in WWII. She is a 53-year member.

She has served as Unit President in Becker Unit 193 and Hackensack Unit

202. On the District level she served as President in 1993-94 and 2008-09.

On the Department level she has served as Chairman for Leadership, Legislation, Historian, Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Chaplain/Memorial, Community Service, National Security, VA&R, Advisor and currently serving as Past Presidents Parley Chairman.

She has served as Minnesota NEC and Northwestern Division National Security Chairman. Currently Shirley is serving as Alternate NEC and a National Community Service Committee Member.

Shirley lives in Hackensack, has five adult children and 19 grand and great grandchildren. She is active in her church.



SHIRLEY FREDERICK

## Strasser endorsed for Second V. President

North Saint Paul Auxiliary Unit 39 has endorsed Sally Strasser as a candidate for Department 2nd Vice President for the 2016-2017 Legion year.

A 16-year member of the Auxiliary, she has been President for 10 years.

At the District Level, she has been the chairperson for Girls State, Americanism, Nominating Committee, Treasurer, 1st and 2nd Vice president, and President for

2006-2007.

At the Department Level Sally has served as Chair for Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Education, Junior Activities, Field Service/Service for Veterans; and she has also served on the VA&R committee for 2 years, and has been the On Site nurse for Girls State for the past 6 years.

Sally was appointed as the co-chair of the

Ambassador committee for the 2011 National Convention in Minneapolis.

She also volunteers at the Minneapolis VAMC on game nights.

In her local community, Strasser teaches Faith Formation classes for Pre-School children at Blessed Sacrament Church. A resident of Oakdale, Sally has two adult daughters and four grandchildren.



SALLY STRASSER

# Auxiliary Bulletin

Continued from Preceding Page

## CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOP

The Department Office and the Hospital and Home Representatives want to give a big thank you to the Units and Posts that have contributed funds to our Gift Shop program. Again this year, the veterans at the four (4) VA Medical Centers and the five (5) Minnesota Veterans Homes will be selecting gifts for their loved ones through our Gift Shop program. About 2,000 veterans participate in this program. A huge change this year for the Gift Shop is the amount that was approved by the Department Executive Committee to spend on our Veterans at the Gift Shop.

The Gift Shop committee has been busy shopping for the gifts and would appreciate your Unit's financial support of this program. Those who attended Fall Conference saw the nice quality and selection of items the veterans may choose from. Please include a generous cash donation in your Unit's annual budget and send it to the department office earmarked Gift Shop. Let's support our own Auxiliary programs first.

Donations to the Gift Shop are accepted all year. You may use Poppy funds and Gambling funds for this program. The Gift Shop is available to all veterans who are in the various facilities at the time of the Gift Shop including regular day care patients. The Gift Shop is Chaired by Sally Strasser and her Committee Member is Raleen Tolzmann. They are both giving much of their time to make this a very successful event.

## GIFT SHOP DATES

Our representatives have announced the date(s) of their Gift Shop at their respective facility.

Fargo VAMC	December 7
Minneapolis VAMC	December 8 & 9
Sioux Falls VAMC	December 17
St. Cloud VAMC	November 30, December 1-2
Fergus Falls VA Home	December 14
Hastings VA Home	December 11
Luverne VA Home	December 10
Minneapolis VA Home	December 2 & 3
Silver Bay VA Home	December 10

## MEMBERSHIP SUPPLIES

If your Unit is in need of additional membership supplies, i.e., application forms, transmittal sheets, membership cards, etc., please send your order to the department office. All supplies are sent from the office upon request.

## SEWING NEEDS

Included in the October Unit mailing were the sewing patterns of items needed at the various hospitals/homes. Home Service Chairmen please ask your Unit President for these items.

Remember: Times are changing; needs are changing. Please make only those items that are requested by our Representatives to meet the needs of our veterans. Send all completed items to the facility that has requested them in care of our Representative there. Make sure and contact the Representative before bringing items to the facility to make sure they are in need of the items at that time. They don't have a lot of space for storage so it is very important to contact them.

If your Unit has an active sewing group, may we suggest you contact your local nursing home, shut-ins, etc. within your own community and "sew for them". Many of these local facilities and their needs are overlooked by our Units and could certainly use your sewing talents.

## SECRETARY SANDIE'S NOTES

By the time you are reading this we will have another Fall Conference under our belts. I hope many of you attended. It was the best Fall Conference I have attended as everyone was together and the camaraderie was great. The performance by our Veterans from St. Cloud was phenomenal. There were many tears flowing in the crowd. We have been busy here in the Department Office as membership has finally started to come in. Very sincerely I would



**TAKING THE FAMILY THING TOO FAR?** -- The Third District Auxiliary donned mustaches for a group portrait at the Fall Conference at Breezy Point.

## Rooms have been blocked for testimonial

You are cordially invited to  
**Toast & Roast our Department President**  
**Sandy Fredrickson**  
**November 21, 2015**

Come for an afternoon of fun, food, & prizes!

3PM to 5:30 at the American Legion,  
 Post #264, Glenville, MN

Dinner @ 6PM

First Lutheran Church, Glenville

(across the road from post)

Swiss Steak Dinner \$22.00 per plate

Send RSVP to:

Arlene Hajek, 88915 145th St, Glenville,  
 MN 56036

(Tickets will be at the door)

Rooms have been blocked for those that may want to stay overnight 11/21/15.

Albert Lea is about 8 miles north of Glenville. The casino is about 10-12 miles south (on the freeway)

Country Inn & Suites 2214 E. Main St., Albert Lea, MN, ---next to Green Mill 4 queen Suites and 4 King Suites available for \$112.00 plus tax. (hockey tournament

like to thank all of you who work so hard to recruit, renew and rejoin but I would also ask that everyone work just a little bit harder so we could make our goals set by National. They are high and some think very impossible to attain but it can be done. The area we lack in is retaining existing members - we need to make those calls and explain why it is important to continue to be a member of our organization. After a bit of research it has been found that we get new members and they pay one, maybe two years of dues but never hear from the Unit so they ask why are they sending in dues? Every Unit needs to make an effort to reach out to all of their members at least a couple times a year to let them know what is going on and try to involve them in our programs.

I am hoping to get to President Sandy's Testimonial and hope to see you there. What a wonderful President we have this year - she is just not afraid to try new things. So far everything has worked beautifully.

From Shorty and myself, we want to wish each and every one of you a very Happy Thanksgiving, enjoy your families. We are trying something new in Montgomery - opening our own Legion for Thanksgiving Dinner for those

that just plain don't want to cook, that would be me. We are excited as we will be having our family Christmas on Black Friday - you won't be seeing the Deutsch's out shopping, that will all be done. I guess I better get started. Until next month, I wish every one of you nothing but the best and extra special prayers to Lori and Kris - I think of you every day.

in Albert Lea on this weekend) Continental Breakfast. Phone: 507-373-5513 will hold until November 7, 2015. Country Inn & Suites, (Diamond Jo Casino) 711 Diamond Jo Lane, Northwood, IA 641-323-7000 10 double queen non-smoking rooms held until November 7, 2015.. \$85.00 plus tax.

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 City/State: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_

Oct. 28, 2015, Auxiliary Membership				
District	Goal	Membership To Date	Percent of Goal	Membership Last Year
One	6,146	2,458	39.99%	2,615
Two	5,979	2,473	41.36%	2,665
Three	5,323	2,665	50.07%	2,583
Four	920	429	46.63%	416
Five	1,047	512	48.90%	517
Six	7,318	3,844	52.53%	3,947
Seven	4,859	2,050	42.19%	2,257
Eight	2,005	774	38.60%	883
Nine	5,232	2,865	54.76%	2,889
Ten	6,382	2,975	46.62%	3,160
1982	198	106	53.54%	91
<b>Totals</b>	<b>45,409</b>	<b>21,151</b>	<b>46.58%</b>	<b>22,023</b>

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**Alaska Tour & Cruise**  
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**Tour Includes:**

- 4-Seasons Tour Director Sue Barber
- Roundtrip Delta flights from Minneapolis to Fairbanks and return from Vancouver to Minneapolis
- All sightseeing and entrance fees as outlined in the itinerary
- A 7-night southbound cruise on the ISLAND PRINCESS
- Cruise Gratuities
- All meals and entertainment while onboard the ISLAND PRINCESS

**PASSPORTS REQUIRED**

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