



Three new vets homes get state funding

By Al Zdon

Bills to build new veterans homes in Minnesota have been around the Minnesota Legislature for over a decade.

This year was the jackpot.

The Minnesota Legislature in its omnibus bonding bill put aside \$32 million for creating three new veterans homes – in Bemidji, Montevideo and Preston.

(As this issue went to press, the governor signed the bonding bill.)

Each of the proposed homes, with a maximum of 72 beds, will need to clear a number of hurdles to open its doors, but the state funding is a major achievement in the process. It is expected that two-thirds of the funding will have to come from the federal government for the homes.

Each project has until next April to submit an application for the matching federal money. That's where it gets both complicated and dicey.

Applications for the veterans homes will compete with applications from across the United States. The government has a priority list.

Ben Johnson, the legislative director for the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs, said, "There are probably 60 or 70 projects on the federal list that would be ahead of any Minnesota project at this time."

Applications that get a Priority 1 designation, the

Continued on Page 5



IT SNAPPED -- Adjutant Randy Tesdahl shows what a metal cable looks like after it snaps. Volunteers were trying to pull a cable under the Legionville bog to cut it in half, but the bog won that battle.

Bog wins opening round, but volunteers fight back and grudging progress is made

A small group of volunteers gathered at 7 a.m. in the beach pavilion at Legionville Camp on a Wednesday in mid-May.

They were neighbors, tow truck operators, boat owners, and heavy equipment operators.

Their job was to move the massive floating bog that had nestled in at the camp's swimming beach on North Long Lake, north of Brainerd.

At eight o'clock that night, the handful of volunteers still remaining wearily climbed in their trucks and cars and went home.

It was bog 1, volunteers 0.

The project to move the bog was coordinated by the North Long Lake Property Owners Association, led by Bill Schmidt. The Department of Natural Resources was providing expertise, the sheriff's department provided security, and The American Legion was doing what it could.

The first plan of the day was basic: Have boats with high powered engines pull the bog while a crane and two smaller tractors pushed the bog with homemade "battering ram" devices.

Most of the boats were there as a volunteer effort from the Evinrude company. There were five high-powered boats and a barge.

They pushed and they pulled and they pulled and they

pushed, and in the end, the bog did not move an inch. It was possible, some of the experts said, that the bog had settled in over the winter and was now attached to the planet earth instead of floating on the lake. The lake level had gone down a foot from last fall.

While the first try at the bog was a no go, one thing that did work well was attracting the media. All the television stations were there, plus the Brainerd and Minneapolis newspapers.

Anytime you glanced up the hill, where the yellow tape was set up, six or seven or more video cameras stared back down at you. All day long, drones flew overhead and helicopters whooshed by again and again.

The bog had broken away from the Legionville Camp last fall and roamed around the lake for a time before settling back in at Legionville. The trouble was, the bog was now located about a quarter mile from where it started and was blocking the camp's swimming beach.

Before anything could be done last year, the lake froze over leaving the authorities with a whole winter to think about it.

Plenty of work was done in the off-season. Logs were chained together and were placed on the shoreward side of the bog, so that when the boats pulled, the bog would stay

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Legion police, fireman awardees chosen

The Minnesota American Legion has named its winners for top police and fire professionals in Minnesota.

Both the winners were from Lino Lakes.

Curt Boehme, a police officer in Lino Lakes, was named the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

Brian Finke, a fire lieutenant in Lino Lakes, was named the Firefighter of the Year.

Boehme has been an officer for 12 years. He is a graduate of the University of Minnesota, Duluth with a BA in criminology. He completed his training program with an AAS at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College.

Just two years into his career, he became a police training officer, training new officers.

He was a school resource officer at a middle school, and worked with at-risk students.

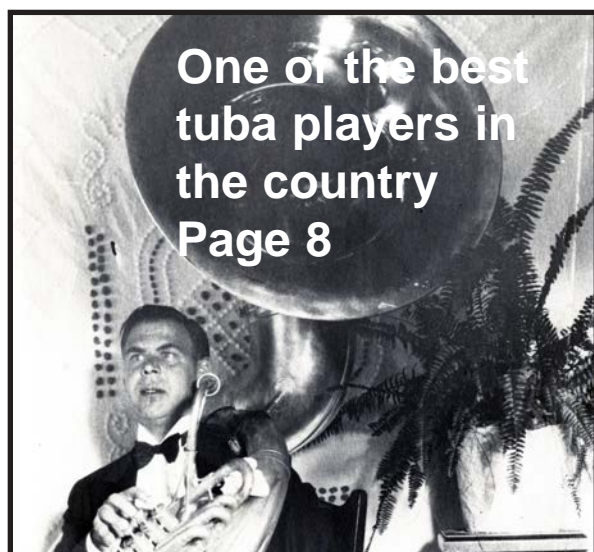
Boehme earned a position with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration as a task force officer and served for three years as an investigator.

After his return to Lino Lakes, he has mentored others in narcotics investigations.

He is a liaison officer to the city's police reserve unit and has developed a training program for reserve officers.

In 2015, he volunteered to be cross-trained as a firefighter.

Boehme has been recognized
Continued on Page 3



Fireworks expected at 100th annual state convention in July

The 100th annual convention of the Minnesota American Legion in Rochester will have a special Friday night.

The annual parade will be held at 7 p.m. from Silver Lake Park to the Mayo Civic Center.

Following the parade, there will be picnic and barbeque with a cash bar, and music from the Ninth District Band, the Turkey

River All Stars and Booker Mini.

At dusk, there will be fireworks over the Zumbro River.

All parade participants, military organizations, and friends and family are welcome for this celebration.

Participation in the parade is encouraged. For more information, contact aprilhomepmp@hotmail.com.

The 100th Convention

will be held Thursday through Saturday, July 19-21 in Rochester.

The convention is the annual business meeting of the Minnesota American Legion, and the delegates will consider resolutions and elect officers.

The 100th annual Department of Minnesota Convention will be hosted by Rochester Post 92.

Continued on Page 2



Please Join the Posts Below in Supporting the 100th National Convention

The National Convention Corporation of Minnesota would like to thank the Posts below for sponsoring our convention and invite those that aren't on the list to consider participating. Contributions to the convention will be directed towards the Minnesota Convention Corporation's hosting responsibilities and other ways to make this the best convention yet.

Posts of Distinction (\$5,000 and up)

Bayport Post 491
Merton-Dale Post 80
North St. Paul Post 39
Rudolph Priebe Post 172

Posts of Patriotism (\$1,000 to \$2,499)

Austin Post 91
East Grand Forks Post 157
Ecklund-Holmstrom Post 117
Everett H. Hale Post 68
Fairmont Post 36
Frank Lundberg Post 282
Ham Lake Post 2000
Hamline Post 418
Hinkley Post 388
John Bridges Post 15
Marshall Post 113
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Audubon Post 339
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Bagley Post 16
Beatty-Humphries Post 323
Becker Post 193

Bellingham Post 441
Bigelow Post 496
Billie Brown Post 627
Blooming Prairie Post 052
Boyd Post 198
Bruno Post 563
Buffalo Post 270
Caledonia Post 191
Cass Lake Post 2001
Ceylon Post 529
Clinton Post 258
Charles Borak Post 45
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Eugene Earley Post 121
Falldin Post 555
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Foster-Bernhardt Post 373
Franklin Post 308
Glenville Post 264
Gonvick Post 304
Gopher Post 440
Graceville Post 297
Grand Meadow Post 140
Gust F. Holden Post 253
Hackensack Post 202
Hardwick Post 478
Harris Post 139
Hastings Post 47

Hawley Post 382
Hills Post 399
Hopkins Post 320
Hugo Post 620
Ironton Post 443
Janesville Post 281
Jeffers 401
Joseph A. Gates Post 78
Kaleb E. Lindquist Post 24
Karlstad Post 445
Kellogg Post 546
Kerkhoven Post 223
Kramer Berg Post 507
Lake Crystal Post 294
Lamberton Post 41
Le Center Post 108
Lee Goldsmith Post 201
Lee-Osborn Post 59
Lewiston Post 90
Lismore Post 636
Lonsdale Post 586
Madison Lake Post 269
Mc Veigh-Dunn Post 60
Melvin Daskam Post 38
Middle River Post 444
Monticello Post 260
Mountain Lake Post 389
New Germany Post 601
New Ulm Post 132
Nicollet Post 510
Northrop Post 522
Northside Post 230
Norwood Young Post 343
Okabena Post 608
Ostrander Post 544
Peter Leuze Post 420
Porter Post 457

Prior Lake Post 447
Prudent Van Risseghem 395
Public Safety Post 449
Richard Howard Ferrell 46
Richmond Post 292
Rosetown Memorial Post 542
Rush City Post 93
Russell Post 460
Sherburn Post 356
Silver Star Post 428
Sleepy Eye Post 7
Spicer Post 545
St James Post 33
St. Paul Post 8
Stewartville Post 164
Taconite Post 301
Truman Blakesley Post 432
U of M Post 548
Underwood Post 489
Waldorf Post 587
West Duluth Post 71
White Bear Lake Post 168
Wm. T. Lewis Post 12
Wold-Chamberlain Post 99
Woodbury Post 501
Zimmerman Post 560

We ask posts that want to give to make a check out to the National Convention Corporation of Minnesota and send to MN American Legion State Headquarters : Third Floor, Veterans Service Building: 20 W. 12th Street, Room 300A : St. Paul, MN 55155-2000.

Do you know a company that may financially support the 100th National Convention through sponsorship or advertising?

There are sponsorship and advertising opportunities for businesses. We want to thank the companies below for supporting the convention through sponsorships. If you know of a company that may want to participate through a sponsorship or advertisement in the Legionnaire, please contact Michael Davy at (612) 247-9960 or mdavy@mnlegion.org.



Fireworks at state convention

Continued from Page 1
An official registration form is below.

The first Department convention was held in St. Paul in 1919. Much of the work at that convention was getting ready for the first national convention in Minneapolis a few months later.

The Auxiliary will hold its 99th convention on the same days. The Auxiliary functions will be held at the Kahler Grand Hotel.

The Legion sessions will be held at the Mayo Civic Center.

The official hotels for the convention are the

Kahler Grand, the Kahler Inn and Suites, and the Marriott. Those attending should make their own reservations.

Post 92 will provide

shuttles, bands at the posts Wednesday through Saturday. Registration will be at the post Wednesday night.

Legion scholarships listed

The 2018 Minnesota American Legion Foundation Scholarships have been awarded.

Tanner Garity, Rochester, will attend Iowa State University. He was sponsored by Eyota Post 551.

Kendra Djonne, Marietta, will attend Lake Area Technical Institute and was sponsored by Marietta Post 156.

Sarita Hook, Tracy, will attend Minnesota State University at Mankato and was sponsored by Tracy Post 173

**OFFICIAL REGISTRATION
AMERICAN LEGION & AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
2018 DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA CONVENTION**

I am registering as a representative of: (check only one and write in number)	I am registering as a: (check only one)
<input type="checkbox"/> American Legion Post #: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Delegate
<input type="checkbox"/> Auxiliary Unit #: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Alternate
<input type="checkbox"/> Guest	<input type="checkbox"/> Delegate at Large (Auxiliary Only)
District #: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Guest (No Vote Allowed)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone #: _____

A \$15 registration fee and separate registration form is required for every person registering to attend the convention. If you are registering as a **voting member** of both the American Legion & American Legion Auxiliary, a separate registration form and \$15 fee is required for each organization.

REGISTRATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN JULY 15, 2018.
Same day registration will be \$18.

Mail registration forms and payment to: The American Legion Wm. T. McCoy Post #92 403 East Center Street Rochester, MN 55904	Make checks payable to: POST 92 CONVENTION FUND (credit cards not accepted)
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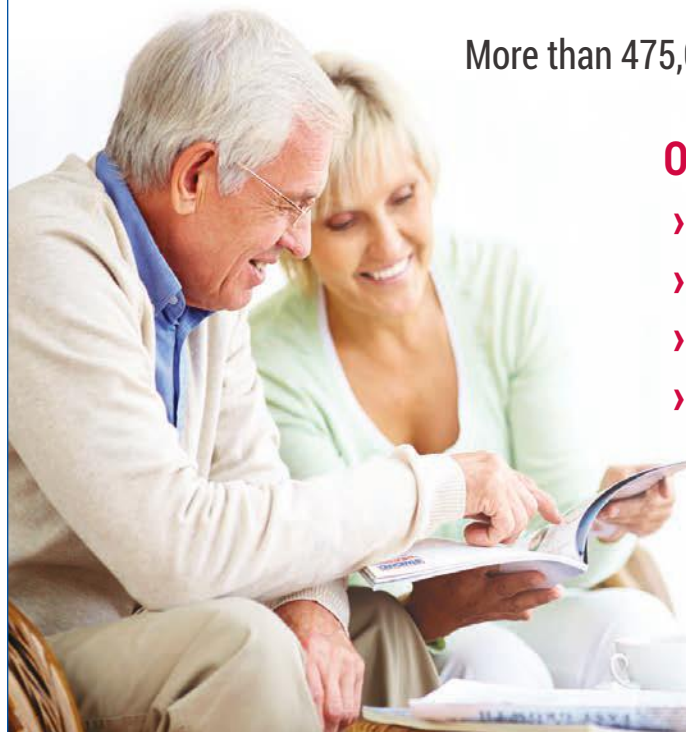
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Endorsements

Wog endorsed for state vice commander

Spicer Post 545 has endorsed Richard Wog for Department Vice Commander 2nd and 7th District for 2018-19.

Richard volunteered for the draft in 1959 and was honorably discharged in 1965. He enlisted in the Minnesota Army National Guard in May 1973 and served until October 2001 when he retired as a Command Sergeant Major.

He has been a member of the American Legion Spicer Post 545 for 42 years. He served as an officer of all the chairs and served as Commander for

three consecutive years (2008 through 2011) and is currently serving on the Executive Committee.

Wog also served as Seventh District Sergeant at Arms, Area C Vice Commander, Vice Commander at Large, Membership Director, District Commander in 2011 and 2012, Department Chaplain 2013 - 2014 and 2016 -2017. He is currently serving as National Security Foreign Relations and served four years on the Strategic Planning Committee. He was appointed to the National

Americanism Council and attended the National Chaplain Conference.

He is a member of Calvary Lutheran Church where he is a volunteer usher and lector, taught Sunday school for 5 years and has served on the pastoral search committee.

Wog is retired from Henry's Foods where he has been employed as a sales representative for the past 49 years. He has been married to his wife Cheryl for 59 years and they have four sons, 13 grandchildren and three great grandchildren.



RICHARD WOG



CURT BOEHME



BRIAN FINKE

Outstanding officers chosen by Legion

Continued from Page 1 nized for his effort in working with victims of crime

Finke joined the Lino Lakes Fire Department as a paid on-call member of the fire division in 2016.

He is a native of Elk River and previously owned Unique Carpentry in Fridley. He and his wife, Jess, have two girls, Hailie and Kayla. They are members of St. Joseph's Catholic Church.

He obtained his building official license and became a certified fire inspector and closed his business. He became a building and fire inspector in Lino Lakes in 2016.

He responds at fire station 1. He inspects busi-

nesses located within the city to promote life safety for workers, citizens and visitors.

He has developed pre-incident plans for the Public Safety Department to use in the event of an emergency at any of the businesses located in the city.

He also investigates and writes reports for fires that occur in Lino Lakes and assists other cities with investigations as needed.

Finke also goes into local schools to teach fire safety.

Both Boehme and Finke are invited to the 2018 Department Convention to receive their awards.

DeLong endorsed for Department historian

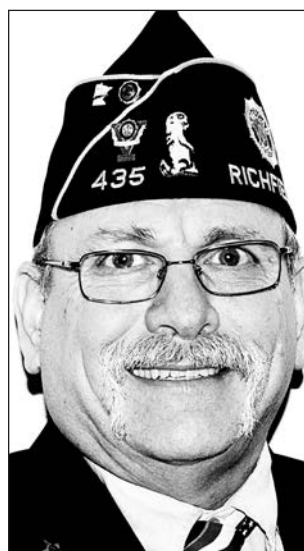
Minneapolis-Richfield Post 435 and 5th District American Legion have endorsed Dennis DeLong for the position of Minnesota Department Historian 2018-2019.

DeLong has served as 1st Vice Commander, 2nd Vice Commander, Executive Board Member, Finance Officer, Property and Finance Member and Holding Corporation

Member at Minneapolis-Richfield Post 435.

At the District level he has served as District Commander, 1st Vice Commander, 2nd Vice Commander, 3rd Vice Commander, Adjutant, Employment Committee Chair, Finance Committee, and Constitution & Bylaws Chairman.

At the Department level he has served as Department Vice Commander (4th & 5th District), Department Historian twice, Sergeant-At-Arms and Foundation Board Member.



DENNIS DeLONG

Memorial Scholarships out

Winners of the 2018 American Legion Memorial Scholarships include:

- Jerret Merschman, Bagley, University of N. Dakota.
- William Jon Butkovich III, Chisholm, Lake Superior College.
- Grace Hall, Cannon Falls, Luther College.
- Clare Kasten, Eitzen, Minnesota State University, Mankato.
- Brooklyn Mickelson, St. James, Iowa Lakes Community College.
- Jamie Schumacher, Eden Valley, Alexandria Technical Community College.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

5 FANTASTIC WAYS TO EXPERIENCE MNHHS

JOIN. MEMBERS GET THE BEST DEAL IN HISTORY.



1 CELEBRATE JULY 4
Attend special Independence Day programs at Historic Fort Snelling, Oliver Kelley Farm, and more historic sites around the state.

2 THANK YOU, MINNESOTA
Thank you to the people of Minnesota for advocating for the revitalization of Historic Fort Snelling. Look for exciting changes as we prepare for the fort's bicentennial in 2020. mnhs.org/HFS2020



3 HONOR NATIVE PATRIOTS
Explore the history of brave Native men and women through the exhibit *Patriot Nations: Native Americans in Our Nation's Armed Forces*, on view now-Sep 3 at Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Trading Post.

Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian

SAN MANUEL BAND OF MISSION INDIANS



4 VISIT THE FORT
See a free exhibit and attend talks, film screenings, and special events like **World War I Centennial Weekend** (Aug 18 & 19) at Historic Fort Snelling this summer.

5 USE YOUR DISCOUNT
Veterans and active military always get a **discount on general admission** at MNHS historic sites and museums. Visit soon!



COMMANDER'S COLUMN

By Mike Schaffer



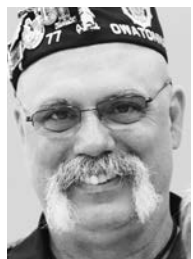
Okay as of a week ago on May 16th the infamous "Bog of Legionville" won the first round and remained unmoved. The gallant crew with big boats failed to evict the bog from the beach area where it took up residence last fall. It was cut into several smaller pieces, and the crew returned on May 24 and 25 to move the smaller chunks. They were at it when I returned from the disabled veterans fishing trip at the Veterans on the Lake Camp. There were a number of other ideas offered, but to say those ideas would have woke the neighborhood in the next county would be fairly accurate. But stay tuned Legionnaires, this isn't over til...

As of this edition Districts 1 & 3 have completed their Convention. My congratulations for a great year go to Les Shaunce of the First, and Gene Leifeld of the Third District. Well done to both for their year of service to the Department of Minnesota, but they and you have one remaining task. That being to reach goal for your Districts. How about it posts?

Congratulations to Gary Miller (1st) & to Carla Tappainer (3rd) on their elections to District Commander. You of these Districts elected them, now it's your duty to mentor them for a few months so they are better prepared to handle the office you've elected them to. Share your knowl-

American Legion Riders

By Chuck Stone
Department Director



Now that we have testimonial dinners and district conventions behind us, it's time to gear up for a fun-filled action-packed summer. There are many rides on the calendar raising money for just as many different causes from the Legacy fund to PTSD to suicide prevention just to name a few. On any given weekend all you have to do is to pick one that is of interest to you and head on over to it.

The Department of Minnesota Convention will be hosted by Rochester Post 92 in the First District. There is a change or two to the normal convention format we are used to in the past, which sounds exciting. There will be a parade on Friday evening and the Riders have been asked to lead once again. Get your scoot polished and shined up for the evening. If you will be carrying a passenger it would be nice if they could hold an American flag. I would also like to see as many Riders as possible present wearing red shirts in support of the "Red Shirt Friday" campaign. This campaign has been around a number of years and it would be awesome to see everyone in a red shirt.

If you look hard you may find a couple District rides. The Tour of the First District and the Second District are a couple that on the calendar. These rides are open to all.

I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable Memorial Day weekend. I saw through Facebook that a great many of you were taking part in events all over the state honoring those who have answered the call and gone before us. I only wish I could have attended more than the few I did. Each and every program, parade or ceremony is very special in its own way. Especially noted is the range in age of the participants. Some of the youngest being Cub Scout Packs up to WWII Veterans. Honors were rendered by all.

Keep the rubber side down and the chrome side up.

Mail Call

Come to Boys State

To the Editor:

Minnesota American Legion Boys' State meets June 10 - 16 at St. John's University. You are welcome to stop by during the week to observe the various activities that are ongoing. Friday night's concert and Honored Guests night is an outstanding wrap-up of the week. Follow the week in pictures, and check out the schedule for the week at www.mnboysstate.org. As always, thank you for your support.

Neil Kruse
Spring Lake Park

edge if you've held the office.

Time to step up Legionnaires and mentor those new post officers as well, they can with just a bit if your help move into their office easier and do a good job that much sooner.

By the time you are reading this, Memorial Day will be a fond memory of honoring the deceased veterans in your community. Did you take the time to be part of or at least attend the Memorial Day program held by your post?

As for me, Memorial Day started May 25th with a POW/MIA table ceremony held at and sponsored by the Mall of America. It will be up in their rotunda all Memorial weekend. Memorial Day will find me at Fort Snelling laying a wreath in ceremonies there. I am honored to do this, while remembering my own dad, a WWII Army veteran who served as a surgical technician on a hospital ship in New Guinea and Australia.

The Legion Riders continue to grow throughout Minnesota. Wishing them well as they grow across Minnesota, doing the great things they do. We, including myself have seen the Legion Riders evolve from young veterans, seeking to be heard to the point they are chartering Rider groups in many posts and at the district level and beyond as well. For some the only reason these young vets are joining The American legion is because of the Legion Riders. But I remember back just a very few years ago, to see them now holding offices in their local post, also holding District offices.

They like you and I, were none too knowledgeable of the American legion when we first joined either, but look where they are now. They're growing, we are not. They're out doing things like Community involvement & family related events. Believe it's what attracted us to The American legion in the first place, and dare I repeat they're growing. This is the next generation of The American legion leadership, Please help insure your post is around for the next 100 years by using my theme of Learn, Mentor & Prepare, so there is a next 100 years for the Minnesota American Legion.

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

By
Ron Quade



Fargo Claims Division

Your American Legion Claims Divisions has a wide variety of services available to all four corners of the state. In a previous segment you were introduced to the Fort Snelling Claims Division, this month you will learn more about Fargo Claims Office and what they can provide to our veterans and their families.

Like in St. Paul, the Fargo Claims Division develops claims and appeals while personally representing our Minnesota Claimants. Fargo is unique as it is located outside the State in North Dakota, co-located with the North Dakota Regional Office. The Division serves the northwest sector of Minnesota, and is staffed by two senior claims representatives, an administrative staffer and a supervisor.

We work closely with our veterans and their families, County Veteran Service Officers (CVSO), Fargo VA Medical Center (VAMC) and Regional Office (RO). Each year we facilitate Spring Training for CVSOs along with multiple training events throughout the year on a quarterly basis. Between those quarterly training events we also attend multiple veteran events (Stand Downs, Vet Expo's etc.). We have two Native American Reservations within Northwest Minnesota, White Earth and Red Lake, which are covered by our Tribal Veteran Service Officer whose office is in the White Earth Tribal Veterans Building in Mahanomen.

The Fargo VAMC covers 17 counties in NW Minnesota while the VA RO covers 15 counties for claims purposes. Along with claims development and representing veterans and their families for appeals, we also work with veterans using the Fargo VAMC to assist them with their enrollment and advocating for services from the hospital.

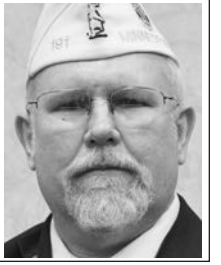
Special services now include a Women Veterans Program and Gold Star Families program. Both programs provide program oriented and interesting events throughout the state in a town near you. Please check out our events in 2018.

Fargo is an excellent AL Claims Division providing specialty service to the great State of Minnesota. Please contact your local County Veteran Service Office to discuss or contact us directly at 612 970 5662.

I look forward to bringing you more information about the Claims Divisions directly from the Supervisors and Staff who are on the ground working hard for you every day.

Chaplain's Corner

By
Ralph Schneekloth



Greetings, Minnesota American Legion family members and I hope and pray things are going well. This month I would like to start by addressing the ALR: Keep up the good works you all do and continue serving. Thank you. Also on those lines, keep your eyes open for motorcycles, they are everywhere, have a safe riding season, thank you.

A big part of my focus this past year has been on the value of the family and team, along with serving with humility. We are much stronger when egos aren't at play, and when the leaders conduct themselves as team members and not playing the "look at me" game. It is our responsibility, as in a video I recently shared, we have the ability, what's our response? Do we, as an organization, a group, a family, have the responsibility to be successful? I fervently believe that we do. We also have good people, each gifted and each with special talents serving in our various committees. Are we, the "leadership" utilizing and advocating for these different groups to be utilized to each fill their niche' so that our response is to move forward on multi levels and be successful. If we are, it needs tweaking.

The Eagles Healing Nest has been around for 5+ years. I see them as fulfilling vital roles in the unmet needs category of service. There are currently two "Nests," one in Sauk Centre, and one in Anoka, with more planned as I understand. Thank you to Seventh District Commander Richard Wog for your support and to the several American Legion Posts and Rider Chapters who are actively helping, your works and deeds are much appreciated and more importantly your hearts are in the right place. They are currently helping I believe 104 veterans with more on waiting lists. My understanding is that the Department itself is not able to offer support, but is encouraging individual posts to help with the needs. I remind you, the First Pillar is Veterans Affairs and rehabilitation, so it dovetails nicely.

I recently attended a funeral for a friend, Gene. He was eulogized very well, highly spoken of. A common theme was "He brought such passion to everything" and you will find that passion such as that is contagious, which is good. A dynamic leader is an amazing thing, and he was very successful. As veterans, as those still serving, we are a mutual support network.

I believe that we can no longer afford the "business as usual" concept of conducting our years, the same plan, executed the same way annually, only changes being a kitschy new name and different names doesn't work, and has not worked for many years. I read once a statement saying: "Don't cling to a mistake, even if you spent a lot of time making it." We together will be successful, but only if our hearts and spirits are united. Not everyone is called to the same position or job, each has unique talents, but we have a unity of spirit for our common goals in service to as the preamble opens "For God and Country." And finally this month I will say that we need at all levels unity of purpose, unity as in a family. We talk the talk, we need more unity on walking the walk. Until such time as the paradigm changes, and we utilize the entire team on the field, nothing will change except our ranks will continue to thin out. We are such an amazing organization, in the past century have done great things, not as individuals, but as a part of the team, the family called "The American Legion Family." I'm praying that we are successful and continue to serve.

The Minnesota Legionnaire

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Al Zdon, Editor

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POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to The Minnesota Legionnaire, 20 W. 12th Street, St. Paul, MN, 55155-2000. (USPS No. 013-679.) (ISSN No. 1644270)

What's Happening

Coast Guard Reunion

The 6th annual All Coast Guard Reunion will be held Sept. 15 at the Hopkins VFW. It will start at 11 a.m. with lunch at noon. The program following will be Coast Guard members talking about their service. For more information contact Chris Kalogerson, 952-935-9065.

MACV Clinics

The Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans will put on several free drop-in legal clinics for veterans. The clinics will include housing, employment, benefits, expungement, wills, debt collection, and family law. For more information call 651-200-4750. The clinics will be:

- VA Medical Center, Minneapolis, Flag Atrium Balcony Room, Tuesday, June 12, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- St. Cloud VA Medical Center, Auditorium, Building 8, Tuesday, July 17, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Rushford, American Legion Post, Thursday, July 26, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

AFROTC Fund Raiser

The Duluth Wisted-Zenith City Post 28, will host an Air Force ROTC scholarship fundraiser on Saturday, July 14 from 5-10 p.m. at the All-American Club. A donation of \$10 is suggested, tickets available at the club. Food provided by the Elks Club and entertainment by Gina Lee and Charlie and Wagoneers.

Stillwater Cruise

The 17th annual benefit cruise on the St. Croix will be held Monday, Aug. 13, with transportation by the St. Croix Boat and Packet Co. Boarding will begin at 4 p.m. The

cruise will benefit the Stillwater Veterans Memorial. Tickets are \$30, and space is limited. Reservations can be made at www.stillvetmem.org or calling 651-344-6245.

Fagen Memorial Airshow

The annual Ray Fagen Memorial Airshow will be held June 16, gates open at 11 a.m. with the airshow at 3. There will be performances by the Aeroshell Aerobatic Team, Greg Shelton Airshows, Younkin Airshows, and an evening concert by Jamey Johnson. Over 40 warbirds will be on display. Admissions for adults, \$20, 10-17, \$10 and under 10, free. For more information go to fagenfighterswwiimuseum.org.

Ash Retirement

A retirement event will be held for Past Department Commander Mike Ash on Saturday, June 30, from noon to 4 p.m. at the Rosetown Post, 700 County Rd. C West, Roseville. For more information contact mikeash202@gmail.com.

Veterans Career Fair

A Veterans Career Fair will be held Wednesday, July 18, from 2-6 p.m. at the Earle Brown Heritage Center in Brooklyn Center. Over 150 employers will be on site. There will also be providers of services to veterans. For more information contact mn.gov/deed/events/veterans.jsp.

Family Day at Twins

The 18th annual Legion Family Day at the Twins will be held Friday, July 13 at 7:10 p.m. at Target Field. The Twins will be playing the Tampa Bay Rays.

Diamond View Seats are available for \$21. Call 1-800-33-Twins and hit 0 to speak to an operator. Reference this special American Legion promotion. A \$5 service fee will apply to each order. Tickets will be mailed.

Commander Mike Schaffer will throw on the first pitch.

Operation Zero

Operation Zero's second Run and Celebration will be held Saturday, July 21, from Doc's in Sturgeon Lake. Registration of \$15 per person begins at 1 p.m., with kickstands up at 2, party at Doc's about 6, music at 8.

The music includes Jared Blake, Big Vinny and Jared Weeks. Tickets for the show are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Call 651-399-3011 for more information. The event is sponsored by Vietnam Vets Legacy Vets MC.

Spring Swing Hangar Dance

The Spring Swing Big Band Hangar Dance will be held Saturday, June 9, at Fleming Field in South St. Paul. Doors will open at 6 p.m. with dance lessons at 7, dancing at 8, and costume contest. Tickets are \$14.50 each online or \$17 at the door. Roseville Big Band will provide the music. For more info, go to cafmmn.org.

Minnesota Remembers

A replica of the Vietnam War Memorial will be on display at the Minnesota Capitol grounds on June 21-24 sponsored by Twin Cities Public Television.

The event will wrap up the Minnesota Remembers Vietnam initiative.

The wall will be open to the public 24 hours a day. Volunteers are needed. Contact sgrangaard@tpt.org.

Taps

Murtaugh, Richard, 71, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died April 18. He served as Third District Commander in 2007-08. He was a member of Hastings Post 47.

Matejka, Thomas Frank, 65, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died March 30, 2018. He served with the military police in Germany. He served as Ninth District Commander from 1995-96. He served as commander of Breckenridge Post 53. He was a strong supporter of Legion Baseball.

Jadron, George Edward, 87, Army and National Guard veteran of the Korean War, died April 28, 2018. He was a member of Chisholm Post 247.

Augustin, Dalvin F., 92, Army veteran of World War II, died May 2, 2018. He served in Europe. He was a member of Austin Post 91.

Brummond, Bruce, 100, Army veteran of World War II, died April 13, 2018. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge and was captured and was a prisoner of war until May, 1945. He was a member of Hutchinson Post 96.

Robb, Donald, 90, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 4, 2018. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

Thureen, Orris D., 86, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 6, 2018. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

DeVold, Glenn A., 71, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died April 27, 2018. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

Krosschell, Evert J., 91, Army veteran of World War II, died May 3, 2018. He served as a mechanic at Okinawa. He was a member of Edgerton Post 42.

Birkeland, Lowell, 89, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 3, 2018. He was a member of Caledonia Post 191.

Kojha, Anthony, 90, Army veteran of World War II, died May 2, 2018. He was a member of St. Leo Post 524.

Zimmerman, Steven H., 71, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died April 29, 2018. He was awarded the Bronze Star. He was a member of Ashby Post 357.

Nibbe, Calvin John, 82, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 9, 2018. He was a member of Red Wing Post 54.

McCue, Larrie Bruce, 61, Marine Corps member of the Vietnam War, died April 16, 2018. He was a member of Elk River Post 112.

Larsen, Irl, 84, veteran of the Korean War, died April 14, 2018. He was a member of Elk River Post 112.

Edwards, Donald, 85, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died April 13, 2018. He was a member of Elk River Post 112.

DeChambeau, Michael, 83, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died April 24, 2018. He was a member of Elk River Post 112.

Benson, Carl E., 75, National Guard veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 2, 2018. He was a member of Janesville Post 281.

Louwagie, Clarence, 71, Army veteran of the Vietnam

War, died April 18, 2018. He served in the National Guard. He was a member of the honor guard of Marshall Post 113.

Whitcomb, Dr. Robert, 96, Army Air Corp veteran of World War II, died April 18, 2018. He served as navigator on a B-17 bomber crew stationed in England. His plane was shot down on his 20th mission and he was one of two survivors of a crew of 11. He was a prisoner of war at Stalag 3A. He was a member of Marshall Post 113.

Van Overbeke, John, 53, Army veteran of the War on Terror, died April 27, 2018. He served in Germany and was a sergeant. He was a member of Marshall Post 113.

Otterson, Donald, 82, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died April 26, 2018. He served in a military intelligence unit in Germany. He was a member of Marshall Post 113.

Almich, Robert, 80, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died May 3, 2018. He was a member of Marshall Post 113.

Fandel, Marion "Mickey," 96, Army veteran of World War II, died May 21, 2018. She was in the Nurse Corps. She was a member of Cold Spring Post 455.

Edward, Ronald, 86, Coast Guard veteran of the Korean War, died May 9, 2018. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 212.

Stendahl, Paul A., 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 11, 2018. He served in the Signal Corps. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 212.

Blake, Harry Herbert, 90, Army veteran of World War II, died May 6, 2018. He was a member of Hutchinson Post 96.

Christensen, Bruce D., 72, Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, died April 29, 2018. He was a supply specialist for an Air Reserve Recovery Squadron in Goose Bay, Labrador. He was the 20-year commander of Twin Valley Post 431.

Brunner, Jerome, 72, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 6, 2018. He served in the field artillery with A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 19th Artillery, First Air Cavalry Division in Vietnam. He was awarded the Air Medal. He was a member of New Ulm Post 132.

Savage, Raymond A., 71, Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 14, 2018. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

Aker, Knute D., 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 18, 2018. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

Vos, Ralph R., 94, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died May 12, 2018. He served in the Pacific. He was a member of the firing squad at Holdingford Post 211.

Peterson, Gene N., 67, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died April 28, 2018. He was wounded and spent three and one half years in military hospitals. He was a member of Long Prairie Post 12.

Rademacher, Dwayne, 74, Army Reserve veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 13, 2018. He was a member of Waconia Post 150.

Berglund, Earl V., 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died April 11, 2018. He served in Alabama. He was a member of Alexandria Post 87.

Van Kempen, Jerome A., 93, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died April 12, 2018. He was a member of Alexandria Post 87.

Ohlsen, Richard Millard, 92, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died April 13, 2018. He was a flight engineer on B24 bombers in El Paso, Texas. He was a member of Alexandria Post 87.

Meixell, Gary L., 77, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died April 22, 2018. He was an aviation ordnanceman second class and served on the USS Bon Homme Richard. He was a member of Milaca Post 178.

Hoffman, Donovan, 82, Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War, died April 28, 2018. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 212.

Peterson, Frederick, 85, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died May 7, 2018. He served in the USS Midway as a helmsman. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

Harty, Charles F., Navy veteran of the Korean War, died May 1, 2018. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Stadheim, Arnold M., 90, Navy veteran of World War II, died May 2, 2018. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Russell, Robert, 78, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 13, 2018. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

Gibbons, Eugene "Red," 92, Army veteran of World War II, died May 8, 2018. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

Schauer, Wilfred A., 79, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died April 27, 2018. He was a member of Sauk Rapids Post 254.

Pesta, John Jason, 39, Army National Guard veteran of the War on Terror, died April 21, 2018. He was a chief warrant officer serving at Camp Ripley as an armament inspector. He was a member of Long Prairie Post 12.

Johnson, Elmer V., 100, veteran of World War II, died April 14, 2018. He was a member of Richfield Post 435.

Grimsley, Gerald N., 88, National Guard veteran of the Korean War, died May 19, 2018. He served in Company H in Korea. He was a member of Austin Post 91.

Erickson, Kevin, 62, Army veteran of the War on Terrorism, died May 19, 2018. He served in Germany. He was a past commander of Hutchinson Post 96.

Wilson, Gerald, 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 24, 2018. He was a member of Le Sueur Post 55.

Kaiser, Gregory, 59, North Dakota National Guard veteran of the Iraq War, died May 28, 2018. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

Wilson, Reginald, 66, Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, died April 23, 2018. He served in England. He was a member of Hackensack Post 202.

Murphy, Frank T., 92, Army veteran of World War II, died April 24, 2018. He served in the 749th Military Police. He was a member at Cold Spring Post 455 and Rosemount Post 65.

Wells, Kaleb Christopher, 31, Army veteran of the Iraq War, died April 1, 2018. He was gambling manager and member of the honor guard at Kimball Post 416.

Legislature approves funding for three new veterans homes

Continued from Page 1

most likely to be funded, are those that have secured the state matching funds. The three new state homes would go on the list as a Priority 1.7, which is the creation of new beds.

About \$95 million is put in the federal pot each year, and Johnson said in 2019, that figure is expected to increase to \$110 million.

The big wild card, though, he said is an extra \$2 billion that President Trump had put into the federal Veterans Administration for fixing up infrastructure at veterans facilities. Of that, as much as \$575 million could go toward state veterans homes.

"It's the most money the federal government has ever put aside for veterans homes construction," Johnson said.

If all goes to plan, the \$575 million could potentially fund every project ahead of the three Minnesota homes on the federal priority list. "The time for these requests couldn't be better."

However, there are still some problems. The bonding bill only allocates \$32 million for the three homes (\$9.4 million

to Montevideo, \$12.4 million to Bemidji and \$10.2 million to Preston). That may not be enough to cover the local one-third match for the construction of the new facilities.

The good news, though, Johnson said, is that the bonding bill money allows the three sites to do pre-design work, meaning that the cities can hire professionals to do the preliminary work of creating a solid application.

Each project is different. The Montevideo proposal has been 11 years in the making. It has been said that the city has over \$5 million in local funds, but it's not certain if those are actual funds or only pledges.

The Bemidji project, in the mill for about 10 years, would be built on the city's north side on land donated by Sanford Health.

The Preston project had to go through a Fillmore County Board vote that compared bids from Preston and nearby Spring Valley. Preston won out by a 3-2 vote. The new home would be built on a bluff top donated by the city.

The Preston bid is backed by over \$300,000 in local promises of funding.

Minnesota is allowed 1,058 beds for veterans homes by the federal government. There are 824 in use at the five

existing veterans homes, meaning there are 234 left.

There was a strong lobbying effort during the session to not use those all of those 234 beds for the three outstate homes, but to create more beds in existing buildings at the Minnesota Veterans Home at Minneapolis. The Minneapolis home has 300 beds in new facilities, but also has the longest waiting list in the state.

During the legislative session, some lawmakers were pushing a proposal to use gambling money associated with the building of the U.S. Bank Stadium for the three projects, but in the end that use of the money was deemed inappropriate. The \$32 million will all come from normal bonding.

More good news for three Minnesota projects, Johnson said, was that the legislation requires the state to pay for operating the homes. A state commitment to operate the homes is a requirement for federal funding.

The existing veterans homes also did well in the bonding bill, securing \$9 million in asset preservation. The MDVA had asked for \$13 million, but the money will be prioritized by need.

Probably the top priority at this time will be putting in a

Continued on Page 16

Call for the 100th annual Minnesota American Legion Convention

The 100th Annual Convention of The American Legion, Department of Minnesota, is hereby called in conformity with provisions of the Department Constitution and By-Laws, and by action of the Department Executive Committee, sponsored by Rochester American Legion Post 92 and held at Mayo Civic Center, Rochester, Minnesota, July 19, 20, 21, 2018.

PURPOSE OF CONVENTION

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

REPRESENTATION AT CONVENTION

The Department Convention shall be composed of delegates from each Post, members of the Department Executive Committee, the Department Chaplain, Treasurer, Historian, and the District Adjutants, but only delegates from Posts shall be entitled to vote at such Convention, (Sec.2, Article Five, Department Constitution). Each Post shall be entitled to two delegates and to one additional delegate for each hundred members or major fraction thereof, whose Department dues have been received by the Department Treasurer and whose District dues have been paid to their respective District officers, 30 days prior to the Convention for which they are chosen. The final voting strength of each Post shall be determined 30 days prior to the Convention. Each Post shall choose its own delegates,

who shall be members in good standing of such Post. In addition, each Post may choose alternate delegates to serve in the absence of the principal delegate, (Sec. 3, Article Five, Department Constitution). Delegates or alternates must register in order to vote.

GAMBLING SEMINAR MEETING

The Gambling Seminar will be at 2:00 PM on Thursday, July 19, 2018 at Mayo Civic Center, Presentation Hall, Rochester, MN.

DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

A meeting of the Department Executive Committee has been called and will be held at 7:00 P.M. on Wednesday, July 18, 2018, in Rochester, MN at Marriott, Ballroom 1 as specified in the upcoming Call to Meeting.

STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Standing Department Committee Meetings will be held at the Kahler Grand or Marriott in Rochester, Minnesota, in the meeting rooms to be determined. These rooms will be confirmed in each committee's Call to Meeting.

AMERICANISM	4:00 P.M., Wednesday, July 18, 2018
CHILDREN AND YOUTH	4:00 P.M., Wednesday, July 18, 2018
NATIONAL SECURITY	4:00 P.M., Wednesday, July 18, 2018
REHABILITATION	4:00 P.M., Wednesday, July 18, 2018
GENERAL SESSIONS	Presentation Hall Thursday, Friday, Saturday

HOUSING AND REGISTRATION

For the 2018 Department Convention, hotel reservations will be done "on your own" directly with the hotel. Please call the hotel directly. Kahler Grand Hotel and Kahler Inn & Suites - 1-800-533-1655, Rochester Marriott - 1-507-280-6000. A registration fee of \$15.00 for each Delegate/Alternate and/or Guest must be sent to: The American Legion, Wm. T. McCoy Post #92, 403 East Center Street, Rochester, MN 55904. This check should be made payable to "Post 92 Convention Fund". Registration will be \$18.00 at the door.

DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS OFFICE

A temporary Legion Department Headquarters office will be at the Mayo Civic Center in a room still to be determined starting Thursday, July 19, 2018 for convention service and business during convention business hours only. Meetings will start ON TIME as scheduled unless otherwise announced.

Mike Schaffer

Department Commander

ATTEST: RANDY TESDAHL

Department Adjutant

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this 1st day of May, 2018

Rules approved for the Minnesota American Legion Convention

The Rules Committee submits the following proposed Rules for the Convention to be held at Rochester, Minnesota, July 19, 20, 21, 2018.

1) With the following modifications, Robert's Rules of Order, revised, be adopted for this Convention.

2) (a) That the speech of any Delegate, recognized by the Commander, shall be limited to three (3) minutes and no more.

(b) Where a motion is made to table a resolution, the sponsor shall be entitled to speak to the Convention for three (3) minutes on the subject, and three (3) minutes rebuttal be granted to the maker of the motion to table before the motion is put.

3) That the Floor be permitted but once to any individual on any subject, except with the unanimous consent of the Convention.

4) (a) That all resolutions, with the exception of those prepared by Convention Committees, must be presented in writing signed by the author thereof, not later than 9:00 A.M. the first day of the Convention, to the Department Adjutant who shall refer them to the Resolutions Assignment Committee without debate. Each District Delegation Chairman or Secretary will meet with the Department Resolutions Assignment Committee at 9:00 A.M. of the first day of the Convention to be informed as to the resolutions assigned to each Convention Committee, then provide copies of those resolutions to the representatives they have appointed to said Convention Committee. The Resolutions Assignment Committee is responsible for receiving, registering and accounting for all resolutions forwarded to it by the Department Adjutant and all committee originated resolutions.

(b) Resolutions containing matters of legislation shall be cleared by the Convention Legislative Committee.

5) On matters where voting has been by roll call vote, when the poll of any Post Delegation is demanded by the Delegate of any Post, the Secretary of the Convention shall poll the vote of that Delegation by Delegates, without debate or discussion.

6) That on Roll Call, the Chair or Acting Chair of each Delegation on the Floor shall announce the vote of this Delegation.

7) No person, not duly accredited, shall participate directly or indirectly in debate on any subject before the Convention, but Past Department Commanders and members of the Department Executive Committee shall have the privilege of speaking from the Floor, but not of voting, except as Delegates.

8) That no Delegate be permitted on the Convention Floor unless certified by the Delegate's Post as Delegate or Alternate and that every Delegate or Alternate, to be duly accredited, must be registered.

9) That the published program be approved by this Convention.

10) No person or Delegate shall act by proxy for any Post. No Post shall vote unless at least one registered and accredited Delegate or Alternate be present on the Convention Floor.

11) The voting shall be by acclamation, except when a Roll Call is demanded by the Chair or Acting Chair of at least three Delegations; and except for elections which shall be as follows:

(a) The election of Department Officers, NEC positions, and the Member of the Board of Publications shall be by written ballot unless there is but one candidate or, in the case of election of Vice Commanders, there are but five candidates.

(b) The election of candidates for other positions shall be by District as set forth in Rule 14 below. Candidates receiving the highest number of votes in one round of voting shall be elected to the positions. If there are more than five candidates for Vice Commander, those five receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected. Cumulative voting shall not be allowed.

The printed ballot shall include the names of all candidates who have notified the Department Office of their candidacy at least 30 days prior to the first day of the Convention.

For the election of Department Officers and NEC positions, the Tellers shall issue to the Delegation Chair of each registered Post the number of written ballots equal to the delegate strength of that Post. Said Chair shall sign for the ballots.

Ballots shall be issued and the polls shall be open during the following times:

- (a) Friday, for one half hour after recess of the Convention.
- (b) Saturday, from 8:00 A.M. until 9:00 A.M.

No ballots shall be counted before Saturday morning. No ballots shall leave the polling place.

The District Commander of each District shall appoint a Teller. Tellers shall elect among themselves two Tellers from the Districts which have no candidate for Commander. These two Tellers, and the Judge Advocate, shall tabulate and total the election results. The result of each contest shall be confidential and shall be placed in a separate envelope and delivered to the Commander.

If there is a written ballot contest which has not resulted in a majority vote (except for Vice Commanders), the Commander will be informed immediately. Then, written ballots for that contest shall be distributed immediately in accordance with these Rules and be cast within one-half hour of completion of the distribution. Tabulation and reporting shall be in accordance with these Rules.

Results of the vote count shall be reported to the Convention. All ballots and results shall be destroyed immediately following the close of the Convention, unless there is a motion to preserve.

12) Nominations for Department Officers and NEC positions shall be held on the afternoon of Friday of the Convention. Nominations shall be made from the Floor on Roll Call by Districts, in ascending order starting with the District whose number matches the last digit of the year of the Convention; each District may present as many candidates as it chooses. Thereafter, nominations may be made from the Floor.

13) Nominating speeches for Department Officers shall be limited to five (5) minutes. There will be no seconding speeches allowed for any candidates.

14) When the convention has adopted a Motion to suspend the rules and vote on a matter by District, each District may vote its entire voting strength. If the matter is the election of individuals for any open positions (such as Department Delegate at-Large), each District may vote its voting strength times the number of open positions, but shall not vote more than its voting strength for any one individual. The call for District votes shall be in ascending order starting with the District whose number matches the last digit of the year of the Convention.

15) In the event more than two candidates are nominated for any office, the balloting shall continue until one candidate shall have received a majority of the votes cast. In elections where there are more than two candidates, the candidate receiving the fewest votes in each round of voting shall be eliminated.

16) No personalities or partisan politics shall be discussed or indulged in on the Convention Floor, and the Department Commander shall prohibit such indulgences.

17) (a) Rules Committee approves the following list of Convention Committees to be chosen at this Convention, each District to choose one representative on each Committee:

Americanism	National Security/Foreign Relations
Children and Youth	Public Relations
Constitution-By-Laws	Recreation-Sports
Employment	Rehabilitation
Energy and Conservation	Resolutions
Legislative	Safety-School Patrol
Membership	

(b) The following Department Standing Committees are approved as Convention Committees:

- Finance
- Next Meeting Place (Convention Corporation Committee)
- Resolutions Assignment
- Credentials

18) The order of business of the Convention shall be in accordance with the printed program, except that the election of officers shall be a spe-

cial order of business, to be held in accordance with Rules 11 and 12. The order of election of Department Officers shall be as follows:

- Commander
- Five Vice Commanders - without numerical designation
- Chaplain
- Historian
- Sergeant at Arms
- Member of Publication Board - for three-year term
- Delegates-at-Large to the National Convention
- Five Alternates-at-Large to the National Convention
- National Executive Committeeman and Alternate National Executive Committeeman (when appropriate)

19) The Committee Chairman shall inform the Department Commander when the report is ready to be presented, and the Department Commander shall recognize it as an order of business. The committees reporting action on Resolutions must read all approved Resolutions. It is sufficient to report all rejected Resolutions by number, unless requested by a Delegate to set a Resolution aside for separate consideration.

20) All printed reports, which shall have been handed to the Convention Committees, shall be referred to the proper Convention Committee for action.

21) No Band, Drum Corps or other musical organization shall be permitted in the Convention Hall without the invitation of the Department Commander.

22) (a) Any Guests who are not on the official program as speakers shall be introduced by the Department Commander only, and shall be limited to an address of not more than three (3) minutes.

(b) The Commander is to adhere as nearly as possible to the printed program so that guests, and others to be honored, are presented without undue delay.

23) No elective political office holder shall be permitted to speak during the Convention except the Chief Executive of the State of Minnesota, and the Chief Executive of the Convention City, or such persons as are on the official printed and published program.

24) All major speeches shall be limited to fifteen (15) minutes and all others not to exceed five (5) minutes.

25) No intoxicating liquors shall be sold or dispensed in the building of the Convention meeting, except as authorized by the Convention Corporation.

26) The Roll Call of Posts shall be called in numerical sequence in accordance with Post numbers assigned, including the city or town, beginning with Post No. 1, except in odd numbered years the order of call will be reversed, but only those Posts having one or more duly registered and accredited Delegates or alternates accredited prior to 9:00 a.m. as confirmed by the Credentials Committee, shall be included in the Roll Call at any time.

27) Posts challenging exclusion from the Roll Call shall consult with the Credentials Committee for resolution of the problem.

THE COMMITTEE: (Members Present)	MEMBER	HOME TOWN
DISTRICT		
First	Lester Shaunce	Albert Lea
Second	Not Present	
Third	Eugene Leifeld	Zumbrota
Fourth	Lane Stunkel	St. Paul
Fifth	Not Present	
Sixth	Kenneth Johnston	Saint Cloud
Seventh	Richard Wog	Willmar
Eighth	Jennifer Havlick	Two Harbors
Ninth	Not Present	
Tenth	Paul Orson	Circle Pines

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Two boats push and two pull a pie-piece shaped hunk of bog, but it got hung up on the right side. More smaller sections will be cut and moved. (WCCO TV photograph)

Cutting it down to size



Department of Natural Resources official Kevin Martini slides into the water.



Lake Owners Property Association head Bill Schmidt and Adjutant Randy Tesdahl talk over strategy while perched in a deer stand overlooking the action.



Volunteers try to push a 200 foot section of PVC pipe under the bog. A rope in the pipe then could be used to pull a cable under the bog and then dragged back through, cutting the bog in half.



Mark Seavey, a journalist from the National American Legion, was sent to cover the story of the bog, but soon became immersed in the subject.

together.

It's not a small bog. It's about as big as three football fields. It has its own tamarack forest growing along the far side. Someone estimated that it weighed 4,000 tons and contained enough material to require 1,700 dump truck loads to haul it away.

The problem for the Legion is that the beach is one of the most popular activity sites at the School Safety Patrol camp.

Plan B for the day was to try and run a cable under the left side of the bog and pull it with a powerful winch, hoping the cable would slide under the bog to a midway point, and then be pulled through the bog cutting it in half.

The winch pulled and pulled and pulled, and then the cable snapped. It was perhaps the most dramatic moment of the day with the tow truck abruptly falling off its supporting stilts and slamming to the ground.

It was time for lunch, and Department Commander Mike Schaffer and wife, Nina, cooked up the chow. But by the time the boat guys came in to partake, the burgers and brats were all gone. Apparently too many "observers" in the pavilion area had been helping themselves. More food was sent for.

Plan C was a particularly interesting piece of ingenuity. It was decided to try and push PVC pipe under the bog. Inside the pipe was a rope, and if the pipe reached the other side, the rope could be used to haul a cable under the bog. That cable could be used to haul a larger cable, and the larger cable could be pulled through the bog.

Department Adjutant Randy Tesdahl, who had been busy all morning running a small Cat and doing other chores, was dispatched to Brainerd to buy several hundred feet of white pipe.

The plan was almost derailed when the PVC pipe got hung up underneath the bog. It was freed when Mark Seavey, who supposedly was at the event to cover it as a journalist, jumped in a muskrat hole on the far side of the bog and located the wayward pipe and helped guide it to the end of the bog.

Seavey, who writes the "Burn Pit" blog on the National American Legion website, had been sent from Indianapolis to cover the bog story for National. He held back for a while, but then, as is his nature, he literally waded into the project. He spent most of the afternoon up to his armpits, and sometimes over his head, in lake water.

Plan C was the sole triumph of the day. When the heavy 7/8ths inch cable was in place, it was drawn through the bog, making two bogs instead of one.

On to Plan D, which was similar to Plan A except in scope. The boats pulled and the tractors pushed, but this time only on the right side of the bog. And they pulled and they pushed, and they pushed and they pulled. And the bog didn't move an inch.

It looked like it might be time to call it a day, but the intrepid crew still had one more major effort left in them. Plan E was to push another PVC pipe under the bog, about midway down the right side, and to cut the half in half.

This time when the white pipe jammed under the bog, there was no fixing it. The pipe broke and the day's effort was called off. The volunteers had been at it for 13 hours. As one of them treaded wearily up the hill he said, "All we can do is all we can do."

A special laudatory note about the tow truck volunteers from Peterson Towing. Nobody worked harder, with the possible exception of Mark Seavey, in trying to muscle the ropes, chains, and cables in and around the bog.

The next morning, the volunteer crew was considerably smaller, and only one boat was available for pulling. But the spirit of this band of brothers was still high.

As the volunteers walked into the pavilion at 8 a.m., someone noted that one of them was smiling. He responded, "Yeah, because I took three Ibuprofen on the way over."

Schmidt, the indefatigable project boss, rallied the troops with a baseball metaphor. "We're in the bottom of the fifth, and the bog is winning one to nothing. But there's a lot of game left."

Plan F was quickly devised by the workers. It was decided to haul four short sections of I-beams to the far side of the bog and then connect them to the heavy cable and drag them through the bog, again trying to cut the right half in half.

By this time, a full film crew from the National American Legion had arrived and were capturing this latest endeavor for posterity.

With the heavy I-beams in place, the huge winch started pulling across the bog. The plan was for the I-beams to drag on the bottom, keeping the cable down and in a position to cut the bog.

What happened, though, was that the I-beams were pulling a fairly large mass of bog with them, and about halfway through the bog the mass proved to be too much for the winch, and that was that.

Later in the afternoon, the guys were able to pull the cable through, and the mighty bog was now in three pieces, none of which looked very movable, but still progress was being made.

The next week, Legionville purchased a 24-inch chain saw, and a process was begun of cutting the bog into smaller pie-shaped pieces.

An effort by the few boats available was able to move one of the pieces about 60 feet out, but before it could be dragged into the open water, it snagged on another section of bog.

As this issue of the Legionnaire went to press, it was expected that a larger group of boats would be assembled and they would try to move the smaller pieces away from the beach.



Boats from Evinrude tried mightily to move the bog, but in vain.

One of the best tuba players ever

By Al Zdon

Ozzie Osmundson was one of the best tuba players in America.

He grew up in Norway, went to France as an American soldier in World War I, helped organize the Eveleth American Legion Post, played in the band for the Greatest Show on Earth, had a family, survived the Depression, tried to re-enlist in World War II, and helped form another Legion post in the state of Virginia.

He was born Borge Martin Osmundson in 1892 in Bergan, Norway, and his father was a fisherman. The youngest of three sons, Ozzie only spent a short time with his real family.

Right after he was born, the family moved south to Stavanger, another fishing town, where his father, Bjorn, was captain of a boat. And just a few months after that, the family had to make an emergency move to the south of France because of a health problem.

Osmundson's mother, Maron, had a brother who was a doctor living in France. The family made the difficult decision to leave young Borge behind with a mid-wife, probably thinking the stay in France would be a short one.

The medical sojourn, however, dragged out to two years, and when the family came home, the mid-wife told them that the baby had died. She even took them to the cemetery and showed them the grave stone she had placed there.

Young Borge grew up thinking the midwife was his real mother.

Osmundson joined the Norwegian merchant marines in 1907 at the age of 15, exhibiting a sense of wanderlust and adventure that stayed with him throughout his life. One of the requirements for signing up was to present a birth certificate.

It was only when he saw the birth certificate that he learned who his real parents were. He quickly made contact and spent a few days getting to know his real family before he shipped out.

Osmundson spent five years at sea, working mainly as a mess boy and cook, and finally made it to America, his goal in life, at the age of 20 in 1912. He bounced around doing odd jobs and traveling for the next five years.

His first job was that of a baker in New York City and he stayed there for two years. Next he got a job in a bakery in Chicago where he made friends with a family from North Dakota.

He moved to Fillmore, N.D. in 1914 and he got a job as a farmer's helper and then later worked for the railroads. He moved to the Twin Cities as a railroad hand, and then ran a car repair shop in Sault St. Marie in Michigan.

Then it was back to the railroad as a steward and cook.

In 1916, he went back to North Dakota as a freight handler at Drake.

During his time in Drake, he acquired a taste for music – a pursuit that lasted his entire life. He learned how to play the accordion, the piano, and the harmonica, but the tuba was his favorite. Soon he was playing in the Drake municipal band.

His next stop in 1917 was to Minnesota's Iron Range and the city of Eveleth. When America waded into the Great War, Osmundson joined the National Guard and was sent to Duluth to serve in the Third Minnesota Infantry.

His National Guard papers list him at 5 foot 8 inches, 160 pounds with blue eyes and light brown hair.

His musical prowess got him assigned to headquarters company and the unit's band.

Eventually, the Third Infantry was federalized, and Osmundson became part of the 34th Division, the 125th Field Artillery. He was sent to Oklahoma and later to Camp Cody, New Mexico, for training, and again was part of the band.

The 34th, comprised of National Guard members from the Dakotas, Minnesota and Iowa, became known as the Sandstorm Division because of its desert training facility at Camp Cody. Its logo was a red steer in front of a black Spanish water jug.

In World War II, the 34th became the Red Bull Division with the same logo.

One of the benefits for immigrants joining the Army was that they automatically earned their citizenship. He was granted his naturalization papers on June 24, 1917, while the field artillery was training at Luna County, New Mexico. He was 25 years old.

The 700-man strong 125th FA sailed for France in September, 1918, and had just disembarked and begun training in Claremont when the war ended. "Somehow the Kaiser must have heard of it (the 34th Division). We had not been in France very long... and we were almost sure we were going up shortly when Wilhelm spread the news that Minnesota had arrived and Germany went under," Osmundson told the Eveleth newspaper.

Despite its short tenure in France, the 125th FA was the only unit in the 34th Division to earn a battle streamer.

The division came home in January of 1919 and was demobilized at Fort Dodge, Iowa. His records indicate he had damage to his teeth and it was service-connected. He got out as a musician, second class.

Osmundson had met a buddy in the service, and he returned with him to Cloquet, possibly because it was a major railroad center. A short time later, though, the residence he and his friend lived in burned to the ground, destroying all of their possessions.

Osmundson moved back to Eveleth and became an active member of the community working as a scout master, and an instructor for the local drum and bugle corps. He organized the municipal band, and it soon became one of most highly regarded in the area.

He also became the adjutant of the fledgling American Legion post, and was known as the "head pusher" of the organization in Eveleth. He was also commander of the local VFW post.

By 1920, the Eveleth band was competing in contests across Minnesota, and a performance at the Minnesota State Fair that year elevated its reputation to the point where it was selected to play for Warren G. Harding, who had just been elected president.

Osmundson left railroad work and went back to being a baker. At the Range Maid Bakery in Eveleth, he met his future wife, Frances Postudensek, a relationship that would take several years to come to a happy conclusion.

His cooking skills improved so much around this time that he was considered a master chef, and often was the chief cook for major events in the community.

He and Frances had to meet secretly for he was a Lutheran and she was a Catholic, and Frances' parents would not approve of the relationship.

Osmundson decided in 1924 that he would pursue his musical career on a bigger stage, but before leaving he asked Frances to marry him. She said yes but her parents said no, and that was that.

He joined the Mackenzie Highlander Vaudeville Band and stayed with them for a year, mainly touring the central states.

The American Legion was founded by soldiers and sailors coming home from the Great War. Who were these people? Ozzie Osmundson was a Norwegian immigrant who settled in Eveleth, helped start the Legion post, and later played in the Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus Band, and made their Hall of Fame.



And then he joined the Ringling Brothers, Barnum and Bailey Circus Band, comprised of some of the best musicians in the country. About this time, he purchased an \$800 tuba, one of the largest and most expensive you could buy.

It was strenuous work, and the living conditions were strict. Osmundson told friends that besides being the "Greatest Show on Earth," it was also the "Most Moral Show on Earth." The employees of the band had to sign a contract that forbid drinking, gambling, women and other



Ozzie Osmundson during training in New Mexico.

indications of moral laxness.

The work was hard and often the band played eight straight hours a day. But the pay was good, and circus employees got to see much of America.

The circus traveled for eight months a year, from coast to coast, entertaining millions of Americans. The circus' winter quarters were in Sarasota, Florida.

Ozzie and his huge tuba became a fan favorite, and he stuck with the band for six years before settling down in Lexington, Virginia, to work for the Virginia Military Institute.

All this time, he kept in contact with Frances, and when he got off the road, he again asked her to marry him. This time, her parents gave their consent, and on Aug. 30, 1931, they were married in the Catholic Church.

He was a quartermaster for the military school, and the couple survived on \$90 a month during the Depression. Ozzie also played tuba in the institute's band and he occasionally gave lessons.

While in Lexington, he helped organize the Shenandoah Valley Post of The American Legion and served as the post's commander.

During his whole life, Osmundson was politically active, and a strong supporter of the Democratic Party. While at VMI, he invited his friend John T. Bernard to speak at the school to the students.

Osmundson and Bernard knew each other from serving in the 125th Field Artillery, and after the war they both came home to Eveleth. Bernard was elected to Congress from the Eighth District and began serving his one term in 1937.

Bernard had achieved some notoriety as the only Congressman to vote against the arms embargo against Spain in the Spanish Civil War. He also was singled out for his close ties to the Communist Party.

Osmundson's invitation must have raised some eyebrows, but not long afterward, the U.S. entered the war and the Soviet Union was our ally.

Between 1931 and 1940, Ozzie and Florence had two boys, Martin and Robert, and two girls, Betty and Margaret.

When the U.S. entered World War II, Osmundson contemplated his future. He was angry that Germany had occupied his home country of Norway. On June 27, 1942, about six months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, he went down to the Navy Yard at Washington D.C. and tried to enlist.

He told the Navy he'd like to work in a military store, and that he was a musician. He also noted that he spoke Norwegian, Swedish and Danish and had many contacts in Norway. Though he had Gen. Kilbourne, the superintendent of VMI, as a reference, the Navy turned him down. Osmundson was 49 years old at the time.

Kilbourne wrote in his recommendation, "I have always found him attentive and courteous, and while his work has not been closely observed by me, I have never heard an adverse comment. I consider him a man of excellent character and reliable."

During the war, Osmundson served as air raid warden at the institute.

He decided to leave VMI in 1947 and return to Eveleth with his family. Again, he stepped right in and became involved in the community, again playing with the municipal band.

He was employed by the Oliver Mining Company in the drill shop.

When the city was about to get a new radio station, a contest was held to choose the call letters and Osmundson won with the suggestion of WEVE, the same call letters the station uses today.

On December 22, 1956, he went to work but suffered a mild heart attack. He was taken to the doctor, but the doctor misdiagnosed what was happening and sent Osmundson back to work. He had a second heart attack and died at the Eveleth Hospital. He was 64.

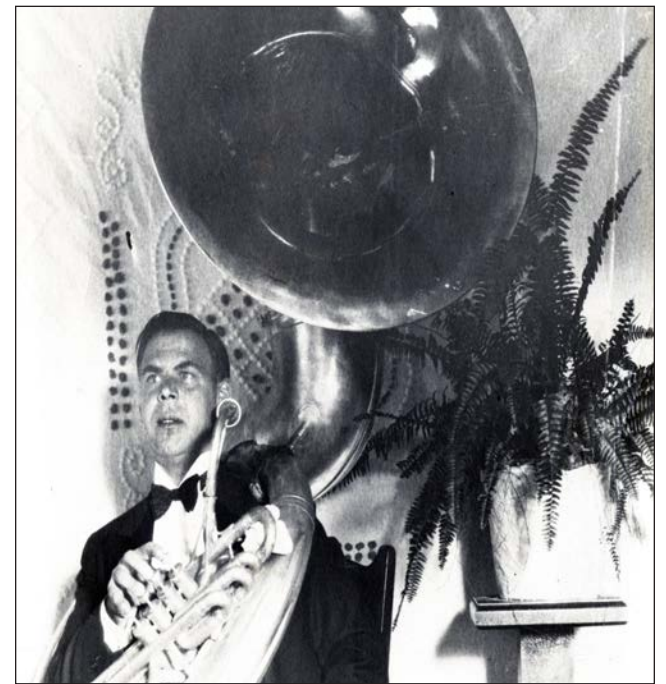
Before his death, the Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus enshrined Osmundson in their Hall of Fame in Sarasota, and lauded him as one of the finest tuba players in the world.



The 125th Field Artillery Band, part of the 34th Division, had their picture taken in France. Osmundson is in the back row at the right with the big horn.



Osmundson came home as sergeant in the 125th Field Artillery.



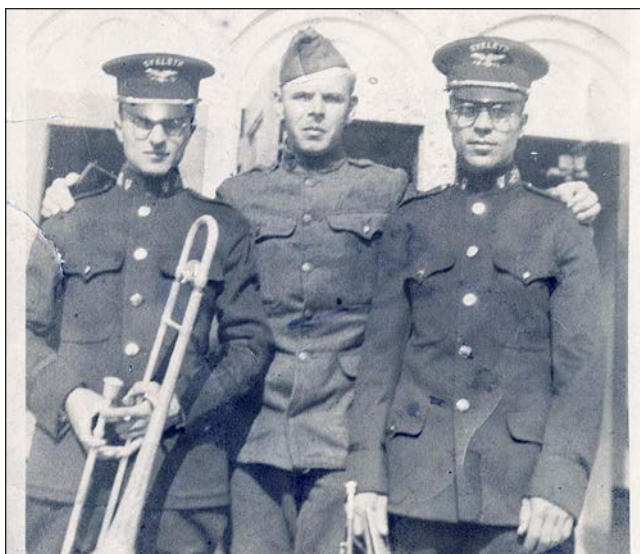
With his giant \$800 tuba, Osmundson was a sensation in the Ringling Brothers show band.



A local dance band, the Ragadaur Band played across the Iron Range. Osmundson is in back.



The 125th FA band trained in New Mexico along with the rest of the 34th Division in 1918. Osmundson is in the back row, on the left.



Possibly home on leave, Osmundson at center posed with two members of the Eveleth Band.



Volunteers assembled 300 "CARE" packages in record time to send to a Minnesota National Guard unit sent overseas where there was no commissary access.

Richfield Post site of Legion film project



An actress goes over the script as the cameras are adjusted at Richfield Post 435 in May. The production will be shown at the 100th National Convention in Minneapolis in August. Richfield's giant Legion logo was used as a backdrop.

4th District answers call for 'all hands on deck' for troops

(From the National American Legion website)

Since 2008, The American Legion Department of Minnesota's has provided care packages to U.S. servicemembers deployed overseas. That kind of experience is what enabled Minnesota Legionnaires to quickly put together more than 300 care packages for more than 300 members of the Minnesota Air National Guard who in April were being deployed to an undisclosed location with no access to a commissary.

"We have been doing this for so many years that the program has become a well-oiled machine," said District 4 Public Relations Chairman Teresa Ash, a member of Christie-Deparcq Post 406 in St. Paul, a past District 4 commander and the wife of Past Department Commander Mike Ash. "When I said 'all hands on deck,' everybody stepped up to the plate. This was a quick turnaround deployment, and it needed to be a quick turnaround Shop, Ship and Share and get those packages overseas."

Ash said she received a text from one of the officers being deployed from the 148th Fighter Wing in Duluth, Minn. - "He couldn't tell me when, he couldn't tell me where," she said. The officer asked if the Legion had any extra items left over that it could provide to the airmen.

"My husband and my son have both been deployed multiple times," Ash said. "When you say 'leftovers,' that's not good enough for me for them. They deserve nothing but the best."

The Department of Minnesota does one big Shop, Ship and Share event a year, and Ash said she didn't want to burden those donors who have helped the annual program.

"You can burn people out by asking them for too much too often," Ash said.

"When we do the big Shop, Ship and Share we go through the schools. We didn't go through the schools on this one. This one ... it popped up, and it was an all hands on deck. Everybody went out to new people, new agencies, new vendors, new businesses and new volunteers."

The Legion reached out to other organizations, businesses and agencies in the community, including the Minnesota Timberwolves and the St. Paul Police Department. The latter said helping out was an easy decision.

"They approached us with an offer to support the effort and we jumped at the chance," said Claire Bjerke, Public Information Specialist with the department. "Any time we can support our troops, their families and local organizations, we are happy to do so. They do so much for our country, and this donation is the least we can do."

Britney Broch, second vice commander of Arcade-Phalen Post 577 in St. Paul and a dispatcher with the Minneapolis Police Department, praised the St. Paul Police Department for stepping up when asked. "The St. Paul Police Department, they really like to get involved, especially with everything including veterans or military," she said. "A lot of them are veterans."

After gathering all the donated items, the care packages were assembled and mailed out and were expected to reach the airmen within a few weeks.

Ash said providing the care packages, both on an annual basis on a larger scale and in instances such as the recent effort, are part of the department's mission. "These guys that are on deployment, they don't get to take a year off. They get to come home but they're still working their military career. Our sole purpose is to support that all the time."

Minnesota Sons of the American Legion News

Sons of The American Legion

By Shawn Davis



Have we failed?

I met with members of Ashby Squadron 357 a few weeks ago. As I was driving home, the question came to mind, are we failing? We, as an organization, keep doing things to benefit veterans, their families and our community. We talk about improving, and growing, and doing better. Are we? So I thought I would look at my themes.

Membership. The Detachment Executive Committee approved the goal of 12,000 new members this year. And audacious plan, but one appropriate for the fact that the national convention will be here in Minnesota this year. Last year (2017) we reached 11,450. We currently (as of May 15th) stand at 10,953. That's 497 shy of where we ended last year and 1,047 behind our goal. Can we reach or surpass last years result, or even make our target? That is up to you in the Squadrons (with the support of your Post). Membership and renewals are local. That is what drives membership. It is what you do, how you act, and how you communicate that brings in and keeps members. And when I look at where we were last year around this time we only had 10,662. So we are ahead of where we were but behind on where we want to be.

Education. This is harder to quantify. We had an excellent Fall Conference, and I think those that attended, learned. Spring Conference was also educational and we got some work done as well. I have received phone calls from members and squadron officers and tried to help and educate them throughout the year. It is like the old adage, "Give a man a fish, and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish, and he will eat for a lifetime." The more we educate our members, the longer they will be members and able to share the knowledge of our great organization. But we have so many that do not know, that they do not know. We need to keep up the education of the membership, to assist in the recruitment of new members, to develop the leaders of

tomorrow, and help sustain our organization into the future.

Communication. If you are reading this in the *Legionnaire*, then you are seeing the fruits of our work in improving communication. We have a larger presence in the newspaper, to share more of what we have done, and will be doing. We have communication tools available through Facebook and the website (mnsal.org). Districts - did you know there is a page for each of you on our website to list your officers and contact information? A calendar for your events as well. If you are interested in learning more, contact myself for more information. Forms are available online. Yet we still struggle with communication. Not passing along information, or not sharing it timely. Sometimes it does not get to the right people, especially those at the squadron level. We need to try and embrace new (and sometimes old) technologies that provide the flow of communication to our membership.

Jim Collins opens his book *Good to Great*, with the statement, "Good is the enemy of great." As he goes on, the premise is that people find it easy to accept good enough, settle for the good life, not the greatest. Have we as an organization become too comfortable? Complacent even? Year after year, we do just a bit better (good enough) and do not strive to be the best? Is that what we want as our reputation, our legacy? We were good enough?

No, we must strive for greatness. It is through the journey to greatness that we succeed. Even if we never reach the unobtainable target of greatness, we continue the journey. Continue striving and working on making our organization better. Treat everyone with respect. Adopt greater flexibility and speed. Follow through on our promises and commitments. Appreciate and recognize good work. Value education and knowledge sharing (especially the history and wisdom of our great organization). Embrace the diversity of our membership. Ensure we have leaders at every level. And while competition is fun, encourage cooperation to get the job done.

You see, to strive for greatness, means we accept that we reach good as part of the journey. But the journey towards greatness never ends. We must not only accept that we did good, but accept that what was good last year, is not good enough this year. And so we need to journey on, pushing on towards greatness.

So no, we have not failed. But the journey continues, and we have a ways to go before we can claim success.

Detachment of Minnesota Convention (Campout) Call

The 46th Annual Detachment Convention call has been sent out to all officers and Squadrons. The convention is scheduled for June 22 - 24 at Legionville School Patrol Camp. The agenda items include the election of the 2018 - 2019 officers. Election of alternate delegates to the National Convention in Minneapolis, MN. Candidates must be in attendance at the campout, or have a letter sent from their squadron sent to Doug Bible postmarked no later than May 22.

Pre-registration is \$20 per person for the weekend. \$100 family maximum. Saturday only \$20. Deadline is June 10th by mail, by email (saladj@gmail.com), or by leaving a message at 320-252-3864. There will be no return phone calls confirming the reservation. Cost at the door if not pre-registered is \$25 per person.

Arrival is allowed after 4:00 pm on Friday. Registration is 5:00 to 8:00 pm Friday, and Saturday morning at during breakfast.

Friday June 22nd
7:00 pm Finance Committee meeting
8:00 pm Executive Committee meeting.
Saturday Jun 23rd the convention convenes at 9:00 am.
Checkout no later than 12 noon Sunday. There will be no breakfast provided Sunday.

Reports due

Consolidated Squadron Reports (CSR) are due to the Detachment Adjutant, Doug Bible, by Noon Saturday June 23rd. The Consolidated Squadron Report shows the many ways the Sons of The American Legion are making differences in their communities and beyond. Even if you have nothing to report, send that CSR in.

SAL membership as of May 15, 2018				
Rank	District	2018 Goal	Grand Total	% of Goal
1	4	398	392	98.00%
2	6	1495	1425	95.45%
3	3	2014	1915	94.94%
4	2	1373	1301	94.69%
5	7	1057	949	90.04%
6	9	852	765	89.79%
7	1	1976	1742	88.11%
8	10	1810	1581	87.30%
9	8	591	514	87.12%
10	5	435	364	83.87%
Detachment		12001	10953	91.27%

District Commanders

FIRST DISTRICT

Les Shaunce
Commander



Greetings from the First District:

The 2017-2018 Legion year is almost at an end. Membership continues to trickle in. We need to buckle down and get serious so we can make goal.

We have to make that personal contact. It's the only way those unpaid members respond.

Most District Conventions will be history or in the final planning stages within the next couple of weeks. Make sure to attend your respective convention. Your input is a very valuable asset. You can make a difference.

The First District Convention was held in Winona May 18th and 19th.

Attendance was quite low. We had a lot of rain in the area and the farmers were finally able to get back in the fields. Our new leadership team was installed and is ready for the new year.

We had a good year going until last month. We were in second place most of the year but seemed to run out of gas. Hopefully with a little morale boost we can get back on track.

June 23 is scheduled for the Department Membership Card pick-up.. Be sure to show up.

The First District changeover is scheduled for June 25th at Stewartville Post 164. Please plan to attend.

SECOND DISTRICT

Randy Olson
Commander



Hello American Legion Family! My wishes for you are to have a great finish to the year coming to a close! Thank You each & everyone of you for everything you have done or are currently doing for our Veterans & their families, our Community's, State, & Nation! I'm Proud to be a part of this great Veteran Organization. Congratulations to all the newly elected Post's Officers! I know that you all will put forth every effort to make it another very successful year! I have had the Honor of installing new Officers for different Post's that have asked me to if available!

In meeting with & presenting awards to posts & their members it makes me so proud of all of you. Continued service awards, awards that support Children & Youth, post's involvement with blood drives & their personal donations, one which from the 2nd District just received a 20 Gallon Pin in January, is remarkable. Community Service Awards, Handing out Scholarships, Plaques & Medallions to Legacy Fund Contributors from the ALR, recognition to all our our Outstanding District Officers, really show how we, The American Legion, is achieving our Goal. All Glory to the "Legion Family." Without you it wouldn't be possible! Ask those who are not members already to join us & be a part of this awesome Family! Remember, I've never been asked or I didn't know I could, might be your answer!

District Conventions are right around the corner. Are you prepared for them? Let's see how many first time attendee's we can get from all of our posts.

Have a great beginning of Summer everyone.

THIRD DISTRICT

Eugene Leifeld
Commander



It's that time of the year to remember those that have served our great country. Let us remember those Military men and women who are deploying and receiving orders to report to their duty stations. The American Legion is there for the soldiers and their families.

Traveling across the 3rd District has gone fast this year. I appreciated the support from all posts. The fiscal year is will soon come to an end. Please get involved with your District conventions. 3rd District, as of May 15, 2018 Membership is 94.68% thanks to all for your work and dedication. We need to contact our posts and continue with the membership.

Remember it all starts at the post level with Commanders and post officers. The blue cap legionnaires' are the back bone of The American Legion. The blue caps keep the membership programs and other programs alive on the post level. Membership has been a challenge this year but we need to continue to strive to be successful with the many programs of The American Legion.

Remember our veterans, ask a veteran to join.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

FOURTH DISTRICT

Lane Stunkel
Commander



Greetings Fabulous 4th District.

As of Bulletin 46, the 4th District membership is at 93.06%, we are only 1.63 percentage points out of 1st Place, let's keep the pressure on. Next month make it less than a point. Please reach out to your Vice Commanders and Membership Director Mickey or myself; we are all here to help out, let's work hard to find new members, most importantly retain our existing members.

Post Commanders, Adjutants and Officers – please complete the CPR report for your Post and send them in, right now five posts have submitted CPR reports – 27.8% - outstanding, if you need help, please reach out to your District Vice Commander or myself – we are here to help out.

Our Mini-Event of Shop Ship & Share was a great success – we were able to send out 250 packages to members of the 148th Fighter Squadron from Duluth – a service member who received one of the packages called it "Christmas in the Desert." Thank you to all of the volunteers who got up early on a Saturday morning and showed up at North St Paul Post 39. Our mission was completed in three hours; this event would not have been a success without your help. I am looking forward to our Annual Shop Ship & Share event which will be on November 30th and December 1st at Maplewood Mall – more to follow later. Every District has a Reserve and/or Guard Unit's; we are in need of product and monies, please help out in any way possible. I will send out a list of products in need to each District Commander to pass on in the near future.

God bless each and every one of you of the 4th District American Legion Family and please think of our ailing members in your prayers.

FIFTH DISTRICT

Walt Lyndsley
Commander



Greetings from the fighting 5th

As I reflect on this Legion year, I wish to express my most humble gratitude to the members of the 5th district family. As we plan for our convention, I am thankful for the fun and support my district has shown me. The American Legion is such an honorable organization and it has been a privilege serving as its commander. Throughout the year I learned so much by attending Camp Ripley, Fall Conference and Department rallies. It is a great opportunity to brainstorm and learn more about the programs and their purposes and meet so many people from other Districts.

The first Sunday of the month, our district meets at the Mpls Veterans Hospital to visit the veterans who are hospitalized. So many of the veterans are a long way from home and are so appreciative of the visit. However, we feel it is our pleasure to let these veterans know how important their lives are and the sacrifices they made for our freedom. Ray Eiden is great about serving up coffee and cookies. The visitation usually gathers 20-25 volunteers and we can always use more. It is such a rewarding experience and we always leave with a feel-good attitude.

Thank you to all who give their time and talent to such a worthy organization. Semper fi

SEVENTH DISTRICT

Richard Wog
Commander



Mighty 7th, when the year started I thought 12 letters was a lot; but now it is down to one more I am thinking I have not said everything thing yet. A reminder, the 7th District convention is June 9th at the Ashby post. Please make a Legion effort to attend. This is your convention, a time to make yourselves heard and to vote on matters that affect you, your post, our district and the American legion. Please attend. Ashby post has put a lot of work into hosting our convention. Let's show our support and appreciation for their hard work.

The race is still going on and I know we have members waiting to sign up. Let's help them and do it. We need new members to grow as a District. Take the time to get the list cleaned up and send them in. Consolidated post reports need to be done and sent in as soon as possible, every post has done something to report.

I want to talk about my project for this year. It is the Eagles Healing Nest. They do a lot for veterans who are in need of care. This year they had to replace the heating in their housing units at a cost of \$50,000 which is their bill to pay. I delivered the donations I have received so far to go towards the cost.

EIGHTH DISTRICT

Donovan Goblirsch
Commander



Greetings to All from the 8th District.

The year is going fast and our programs are ongoing. We will have a new Commander elected at our District Convention to be held in Virginia, Minnesota on June 2nd. Call or send a note if you are coming.

As your 8th District Commander, I haven't been able to travel due to health problems that set in on my right foot and leg. My inability to drive other than short distances has slowed me down. It started at the School Patrol Rally last October. The circulation in my leg and foot has been a problem. I had leg surgery to improve the circulation and it is getting better. The doctor said it will take time. I certainly wish that I could have visited the District Posts as I had intended, but that was not to be. I anticipate problems in attending coming state meetings in the next several months because of this health issue. My Adjutant and I will have Legion members to help to cover the meetings.

Our programs are going very well. There are no words to express my gratitude to the Legion members of District 8 who work tirelessly to promote and implement these programs. Thank you.

NINTH DISTRICT

Tim Haugen
Commander



Greetings from the Roaring Ninth,

I'm working on this article five days early as I will have the distinct honor as well as my Wife (Karen) to be volunteers/escorts on the next Honor Flight (May 20 & 21) to Washington DC for our heroes from WWII, Korea & Vietnam. The Honor Flight has been my District project this year and I'm looking forward to escorting these fine Veterans and thank them for their service, while they get the royal treatment.

I hope that everyone had a wonderful Memorial Day with family & friends and hopefully everyone was able to attend a Memorial Day service. I was able to attend the Memorial Day Service in the morning in Hawley and then in Moorhead in the afternoon.

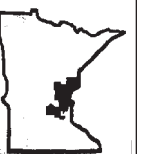
Thanks to everyone for all your hard work on membership this year. As we all know too well this is always an ongoing process. But I'm happy to say that we finally landed in 1st place and the Dept membership report just came out and we are holding on (for a 2nd straight week) to an ever very slightly lead (.03% separate the top 3 Districts). Also 30 out of 64 Posts have reached their goal.

We will hold our District Convention on June 8th & 9th in East Grand Forks and prepare for the upcoming year. All Posts should have completed their Year-end reports or are close to doing so. Please and I say Please get your Consolidated Post Report and Post Officer Report in.

Until next month, God bless our Troops, their Families and our Veterans.

TENTH DISTRICT

Paul Hassing
Commander



Greetings Mighty Tenth District.

First off, I would like to thank everyone that came out and celebrated with us at our testimonial. It was a great night. Thank you Dennis Henkemeyer and Denise Milton for emceeing the event. We had a great turnout.

With that being said, our work is not done. We have so many posts that are so close to goal. There is still time. I know we don't like to ask this time of year, because we don't want them to pay for membership just to ask them again in a few months. Believe me, I know the struggle. We tell ourselves we will ask them in a few months, or we hold their membership until the new membership year. This doesn't help us. We forget, or we don't see them again. This deprives a potential member from the benefits of joining The American Legion, and it hurts our numbers. If a member pays in June, they can renew next June if that is what they wish.

Summertime means parades, and town festivals. Veterans are out with their families. Ask the family. Tell them our story. Tell them how we can help them, and ask how we can make it better.

Thank you Tenth for everything you do.

World War II History Round Table

Marshall Plan brought stability, Cold War

By Al Zdon

One historical theory is that the primary cause of World War II was World War I.

The policies imposed on the losers by the winners after the Great War led directly to the rise of Hitler and the eventuality of war.

When World War II ended, the Allies were faced again with creating a policy that would lead to world stability, and this time they did better. It was called the Marshall Plan.

Economist and writer Benn Steil, the author of *The Marshall Plan: Dawn of the Cold War*, was the featured speaker at the May World War II History Round Table at Fort Snelling. He was later joined on the panel by four people who had grown up in Europe during and after the war.

Steil noted that this year is the 70th anniversary of the Marshall Plan. "We've had endless efforts to repeat it, but it has never been replicated or even badly imitated."

He pointed at the costly efforts to rebuild Iraq and Afghanistan that have not succeeded.

Steil said the memory of what the U.S. did after World War I led to the changes after World War II. "Basically what we did was to go home and disengage from the world. It was what led to World War II."

Instead, after World War II, the U.S. led the world in establishing NATO, the United Nations, the International Monetary Foundation, the World Bank and other institutions – all between 1945 and 1949.

He pointed out that the Soviet Union was our ally during the war, and he quoted Stalin as saying, "The best friendships are based on misunderstandings." Steil said Stalin believed the United States would simply go home after the war, just like after the first world war.

George Marshall, who was America's top general during the war, and credited with the organization that led the Allies to victory, became Secretary of State under President Truman.

He met with his Soviet counterpart, Molotov, to work things out after the war, but in the end no agreement could be reached. Part of the problem was that the Soviets wanted \$10 billion in war reparations from West Germany, an impossible sum for the war ravaged nation.

The problem of what to do with Germany guided the post-war debate.

"Neither side could have a unified Germany as an ally of the other side," Steil said.

The U.S. had three million troops in Europe at the end of the war, and the Soviets were contented to wait until we brought them all home, leaving the door open for the Soviets to add to their new empire.

Instead, the U.S. in 1948 implemented the Marshall Plan. "It was better than standing alone in a hostile world."

The underlying philosophy of the huge investment in the western European nations was to build strong, independent, capitalistic allies "that will stick with us over a generation."

It was foreseen as a 25 to 50-year project.

Some suggested that the plan be known as the Truman Plan. "The president, knowing his relationship with Congress, said the plan would twitch a few times and then go belly up and die if it had his name on it."

"The Marshall Plan radically reconfigured the political map of Europe."

As the Soviet Union became more aggressive and totalitarian with countries like Poland and Czechoslovakia, "it had a galvanizing effect on the Republican-controlled Congress." In April, 1948, the Marshall Plan was passed.

Both sides settled into what later became the Cold War. "The geo-political boundaries that were formed lasted for 40 years."

The \$13 billion that was invested in Western Europe under the plan, Steil said, would have an equivalent of an \$800 billion impact today. "It was a significant commitment of resources."

The plan worked. "It was a social stabilizer that allowed all of Europe to recover. Plus America had a long-term commitment. We weren't just going to write a check and go home."

A major part of the plan was that American would provide the security for the European nations to rebuild. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization was created in 1949. "The Marshall Plan would never have succeeded without the security aspect."

The eventual outcome of the clear thinking in the late 40s was the fall of the Iron Curtain and the Soviet alliances in 1989.

Steil said the current state of that part of the world is not based so much on ideology as on geography. "Putin wants to restore the space around Russia that the Soviet Union had. He is a ruthless pragmatist. Russia will always be Russia and will always threaten its neighbors."

Steil concluded, "We remember the Marshall Plan as being visionary, but actually it was hard headed, and that's why it succeeded. It allowed us to defend our interests in Europe without having to go to war again. It's a lesson we

need to relearn."

Three German natives and one Polish native gave the Round Table a sense of what Europe, and Germany in particular, was like after the War.

Dorothea Johns was one of seven children in a family living in Germany as the war ended. Her father was serving in the Luftwaffe, and the burden fell on her mother to keep the family together and alive.

They lived near Breslau, a German city near the Polish border, and the family decided to flee to escape the advancing Russian Army.

"We threw two suitcases on a train and left for the west," Johns said. They stayed with an aunt for a time and then headed west again with their belongings in a wagon pulled by two oxen. "My mother walked most of the way across Germany pushing a baby carriage."

As they approached Dresden, she said all the children were excited by the red sky. The brilliant sunset, however, was caused by the fire bombing attack on Dresden by the British and U.S. air forces. Two days later, the family moved through the city.

"Everything was bombed out. There were dead bodies everywhere. There were skeletons in trees, burnt horribly. The stench was unimaginable. To this day I can still smell it."

As they pushed west, the family slept wherever it could, in barns and fields and abandoned houses. One night, they slept in a castle, with a moat running around it.

"That's where my mom had a breakdown," Johns said. "My mother was a deeply religious person, but she had been pushed to her limits."

She was unable to feed her children or keep them clean or keep them safe. "She prayed to God to show her the way. She was at the point of ending it all. She considered pitching us all into the moat. But God stepped in and said 'no.' He told her that when her husband came home, she must still have the children. If not for Almighty God, she might have drowned all of us."

Eventually, the family made it to Bavaria. She recalls the major effort of the family, the only effort of the family, was to find food. "We ate flour soup. We put just enough flour in the water to thicken it up, and a little salt, and that's what we had every night."

"Our activity everyday was to head off into the woods and scrounge for food. We'd find berries or mushrooms. We'd raid the neighbors' apple trees, and glean in the fields."

One of Johns' chores was to take the stolen apples up on the roof to dry them out to preserve them for the coming winter. "I fell off the roof and right into a picket fence. I still have a nice scar to remind me of those days."

Firewood was also a daily search. "The German forests were the cleanest anywhere. There was not a leaf or a branch on the floor of the forest because we took everything home for our stove."

"Mom would also send us out on the streets to pick up cigarette butts. She would get the tobacco out of them, and when she had enough to fill a tin, she would trade it for food."

After a time, the family began to get Care packages from America. One of them from Hamburg, Minnesota, contained a dress and a note was attached to the dress. It said they should contact the donors of the package in Minnesota.

Eventually it was arranged that the family would move to Hamburg. But when they got there, they found that the family they had been communicating with wanted to use Johns and her family for economic gain. "But people in the community rallied around us and got us away from those people. They helped us become independent."

Paul Wittig grew up in Germany, served in the Hitler youth, and was 16 years old when the war ended.

"Our family owned a lemonade factory, and so we had horses. But the Russians came really fast. My father was stationed in Poland at this time."

Wittig said the fear of the Russians and what they might do to civilians was intense and that his family had poison to take. "But when the Russians came, we couldn't find it."

The family was close to the front and was often visited by Soviet troops. "We knew the Russians liked two things, music and children. So we trained the three-year old to go to the Russians as soon as they came in the door. That way we had time to hide the young women. And then mother would play the piano for them."

Wittig said he had a job with the Soviet Army to take care of the horses.

A typical meal was one potato in a pot of water with some spice.

"One day we went into the village and it was empty. We found out that they'd given everyone 10 minutes to grab their belongings and leave."

Later they moved to Frankfurt. "Food was always our number one goal. All the kids worked on farms. But nobody

wanted to take in a family with seven children."

He got a job as a lumberjack. "It was hard work, but with the job came the highest ration card, so that helped the family."

Wittig eventually got a visa to Finland. He stayed there three years and in 1955, moved to Sioux Falls, S.D.

Eberhard Bulach was also in the Hitler Youth and grew up just outside of Stuttgart. "They bombed us every day for a year and a half. The only time there were no air raids was when it rained or snowed."

Their house was away from the main targets of the bombing. "But one night the wind blew the flares over the suburbs, and they really let us have it. My mother said we should go to the house next door because they had a deeper cellar. The bombs were dropping left and right and the ground was shaking."

"Finally there was an all clear and we came out of the neighbor's house and looked at our house. It was all in flames and it was totally destroyed. It was my mother's intuition that saved us."

The bombing, by the U.S. and British air forces, stopped on April 11, 1945. "All of a sudden there were no more bombs. I thought that maybe I'd become an old man after all."

As others on the panel said, food was the main occupation of almost everyone. "Sometimes you wait in line all day at a store and then find out there was nothing on the shelves."

The Russian occupation was not pleasant. "They were the victors and they felt entitled to anything that they wanted. We had to hide the women. But at least there were no bombs."

After the war, Bulach said because of the casualties there was a serious shortage of craftsmen in German and throughout Europe. He said there were government programs to train young people, and he became a tool and die maker. He later emigrated to St. Paul.

Leonard Jankowski had a little different perspective. He was from a Polish family in a section of Poland that was first occupied by the Russians then by the Germans.

He said that there was a major religious revival in Poland in the 1920s and 1930s. He said his dad and mother were Christians and much of the help the family got during the war was from other Christians.

They moved to Germany after the war.

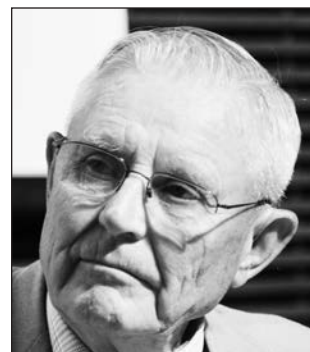
The family was liberated by the American Army on April 1, 1945, which was also Easter. They were hiding some bread, but American soldiers found it and took it.

But the foraging was reported to the U.S. Army. "They just loaded us up with American food and rations. It was the best Easter ever."

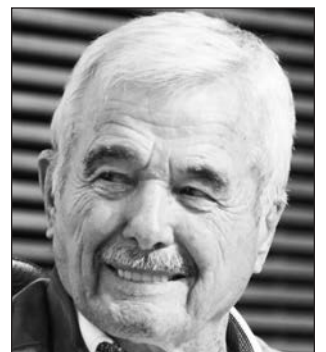
After the war's end, the family would receive CARE packages. "We used most of what they sent, but some of the other stuff, like coffee, cigarettes and Hershey bars, we'd sell on the black market. He said some of the money they received went toward a suit for him for special occasions."

Jankowski talked about the hyper-inflation that hit Germany where it literally took a wheelbarrow full of paper money to buy a loaf of bread. He said the Marshall Plan helped create trust in the currency and it eventually stabilized.

Jankowski came to America in 1949. People around Hinckley and Sandstone had pledged to bring 25 families to America. "They said they would be responsible for our total welfare. But we all wanted to work."



LEONARD JANKOWSKI



EBERHARD BULACH



PAUL WITTIG



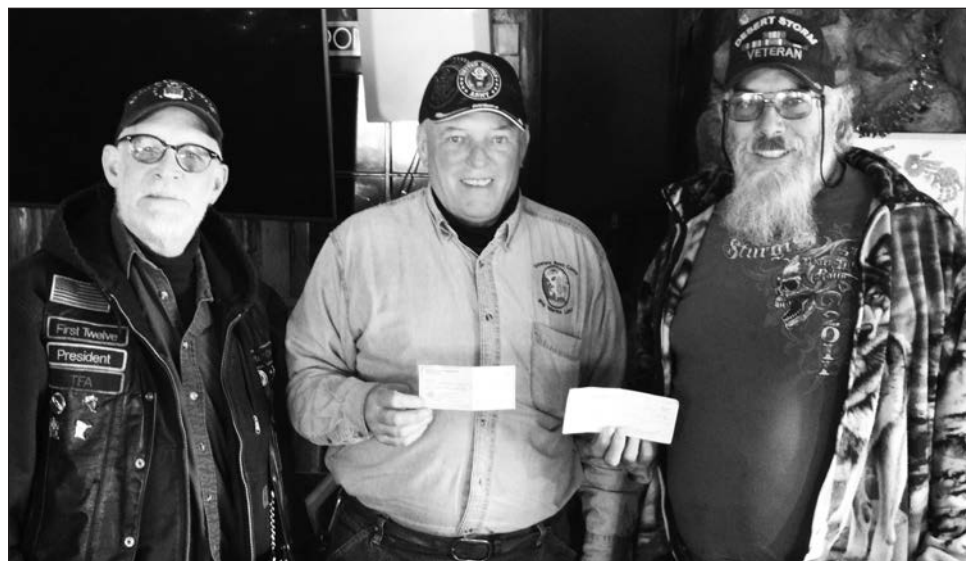
DOROTHEA JOHNS

Listening Post

News from around the State



FIRST DISTRICT PRESIDENT'S PROJECT -- A pancake breakfast fundraiser was held at Plainview Post 179 to raise money for First District President Cheryl Newman's project, the greenhouse at the Hastings Veterans Home. From left: Dan Smith, Scott Ihrke, Newman and Andru Peters.



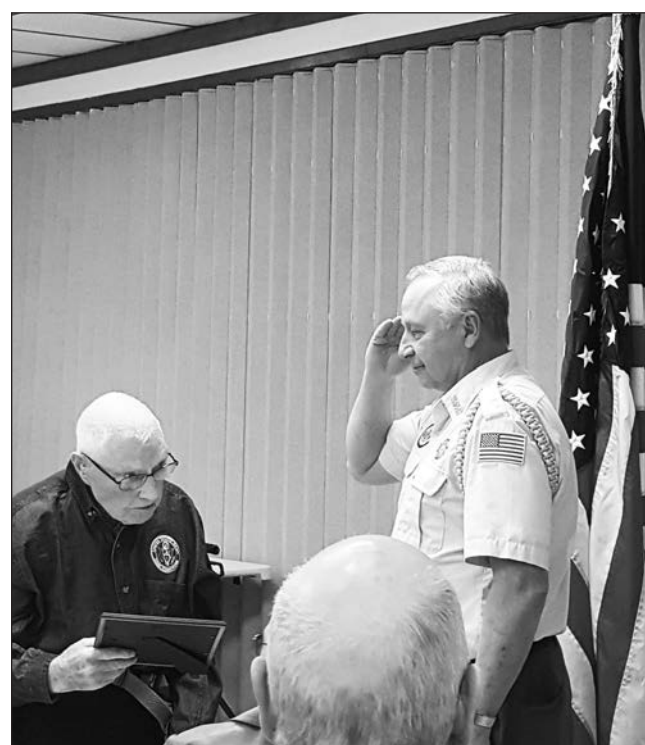
ARCADE-PHALEN DONATIONS -- Arcade-Phalen Riders Chapter 577 donated to the Veterans Campground at Big Marine Lake. From left: John Weiss of the Riders, Camp Manager Ken Larson and Bob Leslie of the Riders. The money was the proceeds from the All Veterans Fishing Tournament and Silent Auction.



HINCKLEY FLAG DROP BOX -- Hinckley Post 388 recently installed a flag dropbox in front of the post quarters. All materials and labor were donated locally. Citizens can drop old flags in the box for proper disposal. From left: Commander John Rostberg, Ernie Vathne of Nils Mfg. and Al Wolter, project coordinator.



FLENSBURG HONOR -- Roderick "Butch" Fietek receives his 50-year award from Flensburg Post 136 Commander David Stavish. Fietek joined the post after his tour in Vietnam, 1966-67 with the 4th Infantry Division.



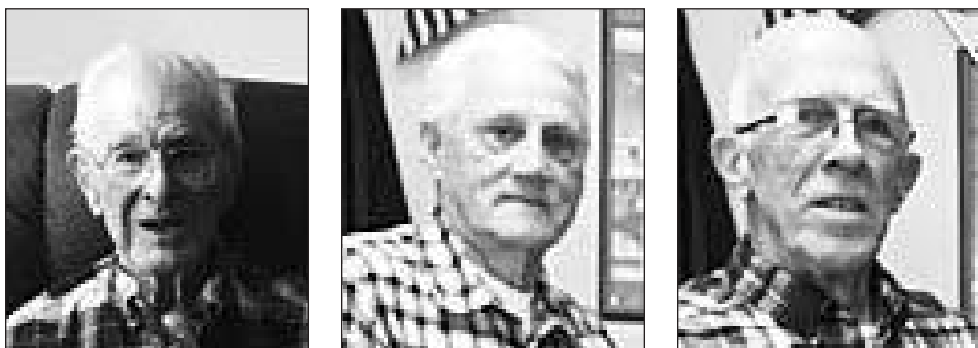
CORRECTION -- BAUDETTE CENTENARIAN -- Lloyd Dawley, 100 years old, receives his membership award from Baudette Post 217. The person in the photo incorrectly identified in the April issue was Gerald Anderson.



NORTH ST. PAUL HONOREE -- Bob Holmstrom recently received an OSS Congressional Gold Medal for his work in the Office of Strategic Services during World War II. His daughter, Jenny Nelson, president of North St. Paul Unit 39, accompanied her father to Washington for the presentation.



PAYNESVILLE MEMORIAL -- Paynesville Post 271 has been working on a memorial plan since 2010, and it was dedicated last year. Boy Scout Brockton Vavra did an Eagle Scout project to sell pavers, and the project has provided most of the donations. The memorial is just off Highway 23.



GRAND RAPIDS OLD TIMERS -- Grand Rapids Post 60 recently presented membership certificates to, from left: James German, John Anthony and D. Edward Ames for longtime membership.



WABASHA COUNTY PROJECT -- The Wabasha County Council helped convince the Wabasha County Board to have a reserved space for Purple Heart recipients. From left: County Commissioner Brian Goihl, Purple Heart Commander Jim Noll, Wabasha Council Commander Andru Peters, and CVSO Nathan Pelz.



The Auxiliary Bulletin

No. 18-11

President Donna Arends

June 2018

Secretary Sandie Deutsch

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

The President's Column

By Donna Arends



Greetings all American Legion Auxiliary sisters and all. This month's letter first and foremost has to start with my sincere appreciations for all those that attended my testimonial. Your attendance, gifts and most of all, your never ending support and smiling faces for me this year have been so very much appreciated. I love you all as family. Those sending cards and unable to attend, I felt your support also and appreciate just as much your contributions and thoughts.

Since my testimonial it has been a busy time. Other Testimonials, Memorial Services, and of course, the latest Memorial Day Service at Fort Snelling and the Minneapolis Veterans Home. All remarkable services for remarkable individuals that have given so much for us. Thank you.

My personal life is busy right now as my very first grandchild graduates. Wow unbelievable but, as we all have said they are our future, so this is the progression of life. Thank you and congratulations to all the 2018 graduates of whichever path of education you have completed. I am confident most of you reading this are AL Family members. Please keep up that membership as your eligibility made your life style and the freedoms you live each and every day possible. Always remember to thank your Veteran.

Until next month, be safe, be kind, and pray for our Veterans, Troops Deployed, Their Families and Yourself. God's blessings to all.

Rep needed for St. Cloud VACHS

The Department of Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary is in need of a Hospital Home Rep to work at the St. Cloud VAHCS. Our organization is a very important part of the St. Cloud VA Hospital and our current representative Jan Benson is retiring from the position after many years of service. If you are interested in this volunteer position, please contact Sandie Deutsch at the Department Office, 651-224-7634 for more information.

72nd Girls State session to be held at Bethel University

The 72nd session of American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State will convene on Sunday, June 11th, at the Bethel University St. Paul. Some 370 young women will participate by learning about Minnesota government by actually running a government.

The Counselors and Staff are looking forward to returning to Bethel this year.

Thank you to all the Units for making this program possible for those young women who will be attending. We are all looking forward to an exciting week. The Committee has worked very hard making very positive changes to the program. Make sure and stay in touch with the citizens you have sponsored so you can report next year in your Annual Reports!

strong, positive organization and must stay true to our mission.

NATIONAL CONVENTION

Minneapolis, Minnesota is the site for our annual American Legion Auxiliary National Convention, August 24 - 30. Delegates and alternates to the Convention are elected at each District Convention. Your District's representation is based on your District's total membership. If you are elected a delegate or alternate, you will receive a convention mailing from the Department the latter part of June, giving you all the particulars.

If you are elected a delegate or alternate and find you are not able to attend, please notify the department office immediately.

2018-2019 OFFICERS' LIST

We are in need of the Unit officers' list for 2018-2019 from every Unit. Each Unit was sent two (2) copies of the list in the May mailing. Please return one copy to the department office; the duplicate copy is for your District President-Elect. All lists should be in no later than June 15th. We are still waiting on many lists - if your officers are changing, please at least give us a call and we will just copy last year's form for you. Right now Julie is waiting on 203 Officers Lists and still waiting on 54 Dues for 2019. Please help her out and get those in.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Through the Department's Past Presidents Parley program up to ten (10) \$1,000.00 scholarships can be awarded each year to members of the Auxiliary here in Minnesota. Linda Kropuenske, Department Past Presidents Parley Chairman is pleased to announce that five scholarships were awarded this year:

- Alexandra Rud - Clara City, MN
- Emily Scheitel - Springfield, MN
- Brianna Rutt - Montgomery, MN
- Beth Ann Nikolas - St. Cloud, MN
- Kendra Hartmann - Fairmont, MN

Congratulations to each of you as you pursue a career in a health care field.

MORE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Mary French, Education Chairman has awarded eight scholarships for the Department of Minnesota Scholarship program. Each scholarship is in the amount of \$1,000.00. The following is a list of the recipients:

- Jocelyn Dubbels - Dilworth, MN
- Alexandra Benning - Browerville, MN
- Brianna Blanchard - Pine River, MN
- Ella Henderson - Detroit Lakes, MN
- Alexandra Rud - Clara City, MN
- Olivia Hanninen - Frazee, MN
- MacKenzie Weis - Westbrook, MN
- Becca Nikolas - St. Cloud, MN

Congratulations to all winners and to all of those you applied. We wish you the best in your educational futures.

All entrants who did not receive a scholarship will be notified in the very near future. Minnesota didn't have any winners with National Scholarships this year.

SECRETARY SANDIE'S CORNER

I have taken a little flack in the past for making this a "personal" column but I do have thick skin so I have to brag just a bit. I am attaching a picture of my 10-year-old granddaughter Claire Kubes who was the Montgomery Unit 79 Little Miss Poppy this year. She helps at many functions the Unit puts on, she distributed poppies and rode in our Memorial Day parade. By the time you read this Shorty and I will be back at work after spending a short weekend with our families in Texas. Baby Elizabeth is now one and we just couldn't miss the birthday celebration.

Also, the staff Shorty has at the Montgomery American Legion Post 79 are to be applauded - they planned and pulled off a birthday party for Shorty after the annual Memorial Day Service held at the Post. I had absolutely nothing to do with it (for the record). Thanks to all Legion

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

Has your Unit elected its delegates and alternates to the 2018 Department Convention? The Convention is coming up very fast and will be held July 12 - 14 at the Kahler Grand Hotel in Rochester. Information on housing and registration is found in this issue of the Minnesota Legionnaire.

Our National Northwestern Division Vice President Peggy Miller will be attending our Convention this year. Peggy hails from Gillette Wyoming. More information on the dates she will be attending will be in next month's Legionnaire.

Only 2 delegate and 2 alternate cards were sent to each Unit in the May Unit mailing. If your Unit needs additional delegate and alternate cards for the Department Convention, please contact the department office. Please note: The Department does not have the delegate/alternate cards for district conventions. These must be obtained from your district.

District caucuses will start at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 12, with the Convention being called to order at 9:00 a.m. All Auxiliary functions will be held in Heritage Hall Following is an abbreviated schedule of events for this year's Convention. A more complete schedule will be in the next issue of the Legionnaire.

Wednesday July 11 - Executive Committee Meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 12- Registration opens at 7:00 a.m. - District Caucuses Meet at 8:00 a.m. - Convention begins at 9:00 a.m. - Memorial Service at 11:15 a.m. Entertainment in the evening by Wayne and the Boys. All American Legion Family members are welcome to attend. There will be a cash bar and snacks will be provided.

Friday, July 13 - Registration opens at 7:00 a.m. - Convention Call to Order at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, July 14 - Registration opens at 7:00 a.m. - Convention Call to Order at 9:00 a.m. - Announcement of Election Results at 10:00 a.m. along with installation of new Officers.

POPPY CONTESTS

Don't forget to get going on creating your entries for our Poppy contests. Department Poppy Chairman Sharon Thiemecke, is holding two Poppy contests at the Department Convention. They are: 1) Table Centerpiece 2) Poppy Wreath. Please read the Trophy and Awards booklet for rules. There will be a People's Choice Award, votes by donation with all proceeds going to the President's Project Fund. We all look forward to the beautiful entries and we can never have too many - get your ideas put to reality and bring your creations.

2018 POPPY NEWS

The totals to date for 2018 are as follows: the Department office has shipped out 298,100 small poppies and 6816 large poppies. Thanks to all Units for supporting this project. The wonderful news is that out of 437 active units 371 ordered poppies this year.

To all of our members, please remember who puts our poppies together - our very own Veterans, many of whom are disabled. When you order poppies and get them delivered to your Unit, please check them over before your distribution day and if you are dissatisfied with them, call the Department Office - we will take care of your issues. Don't go through Social Media and post negative posts. We are a

May 23, 2018, Auxiliary Membership

District	Goal	Membership To Date	Percent of Goal	Membership Last Year 5/24/17
One	5,000	4,396	87.92%	4,646
Two	4,924	4,311	87.55%	4,530
Three	4,422	3,960	89.55%	4,058
Four	720	688	95.56%	689
Five	818	652	79.71%	711
Six	6,042	5,466	90.47%	5,666
Seven	3,934	3,472	88.26%	3,579
Eight	1,628	1,425	87.53%	1,486
Nine	4,344	3,756	86.46%	3,998
Ten	5,159	4,354	84.40%	4,763
1982	160	156	97.50%	159
Totals	37,151	32,636	87.85%	34,285

Auxiliary Bulletin

Continued from Preceding Page

Family members and friends who stopped in with birthday wishes. Again, for the record, if you need funeral home hot-dish for anything, call Julie here at the office and get her recipe, it was delicious.

We are diligently working on Girls State, Annual Impact Numbers, Department Convention, National Convention and already working on our next Auxiliary year. Gosh darn, time goes by so fast – it's hard to keep up. With summer finally here, please be safe and enjoy the great weather. Remember to always thank our veterans.



Poppy Princess Claire Kubes

Boot experiment taught of sacrifice

By Karla Minnick

Final Greetings from 7th District

To the great State of Minnesota Legion Family I want to thank you for letting me get the chance to be a part of your lives. I have not only grown in my Auxiliary Family, but with personal growth. When I began it scared the bejesus out of me to speak in front of a crowd, it still does, but not as bad.

Spike and I have had a wonderful time traveling and getting to know this beautiful state and gratitude for our loved ones, that gives us the opportunity to roam freely.

A happening that I hold dearly this past year is:

There was one question that had always pulled at my curiosity, and it was one that involved our beloved heroes that we call a Soldier. I had heard stories that these men and women while in battle wore their boots for months. How could they do this? So to honor Veterans Day, I put on my workbooks and challenged myself to 72 hours in those boots. I made it 32 hours and it was 2 more days till the pain and feeling came back to my legs and feet. I have not worn those boots since, and after discussing this with veterans how they survived the boot ordeal, it was said, "there were more important things to worry about, for instance "staying alive." And with that thanking God, Our Country, and these brave Men and Women for the greatest gift given, Our Freedoms, strengthen me to do all I can.

God Bless You All



KARLA MINNICK

Sixth District has had a good year

By Vicki Bibeau

It has been one incredible year for our Veterans and our communities throughout the 6th District and Department. Our Unit Annual Reports are outstanding, Thank you to all the 6th District Units who are accountable to our programs and our organization. We worked on all our programs!

Thank you for your generous donations towards our project of 'Covering our Veterans' with "Goodwill ON Earth". We have reached our goal of \$10,000. New Winter coats were delivered to the St. Cloud VA with a special 'Thank You Card' inside each pocket from our Auxiliary members. The Colored Pocket T-shirts to our Veterans all 5 MN Veteran Homes will be delivered this summer. This project was made possible by the 6th District Units, Posts and personal donations and will cover 1,000 veterans this year.

Membership goals stayed in 1st and 2nd place all year, everyone worked hard with the team leaders and Chairman Sharon. We had two District Leadership Trainings and hosted a Department Training, turn out was great, information abundant and new friends were made. We had many new Chairman this year and they did an outstanding job in their programs.

Legionville is in the 6th District and Commander Ken's project is to provide dehumidifiers for the dorms at the resort. Be sure to put the second weekend of September on your calendar for the Legionville Camporee, open to everyone! Bingo, dancing, singing, games, campfires, plenty of food, membership rally on Saturday and a fantastic time with the American Legion Family.



VICKI BIBEAU

MACULAR DEGENERATION?
 Consider a
Low Vision Evaluation

- Diabetic Retinopathy
- Glaucoma
- Stargardt's Disease
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October 22-29, 2018

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- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- 7 nights accommodations & 11 meals
- Dollywood Theme Park
- Flood Walls of Paducah
- All day guided tour of Smoky Mountains National Park
- Shows: Grand Ole Opry, Country Tonite, Smoky Mountain Opry
- Luggage handling for 1 suitcase per person

\$1,499.00 per person double occupancy

New York City

November 7-11, 2018

Tour Includes:

- 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Larry Alvey
- Delta Airlines flights, Minneapolis to NYC
- 4 night stay at the Millennium Hotel on Times Square in New York City
- Broadway performance
- Radio City Music Hall: "The Rockettes Christmas Spectacular"
- Lunch at Carmine's
- Manhattan Island City tour
- 9/11 Memorial and Museum
- Harbor cruise with lunch

\$2,599.00 Per Person Double Occupancy

Mackinac Island, Door County & Apostle Islands

July 8-15, 2018

Tour Includes:

- 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Cindy Meany
- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- 7 nights accommodations
- 13 Meals: 7 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 4 dinners
- Guided tours of Door County & Mackinaw City
- Door County Fish Boil, Mackinac Island, Shipwreck Museum
- Tahquamenon State Park & Waterfalls
- Pictured Rock Cruise, Northern Sky Theater
- Apostle Islands Cruise
- Luggage handling for one suitcase per person

\$1,369.00 Per Person Double Occupancy

Montreal, Quebec & Ottawa, Canada

September 29-October 10, 2018

Tour Includes:

- 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Cindy Meany
- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- 11 nights accommodations & 15 meals
- Rock N Roll Hall of Fame
- Niagara Falls with Discovery Pass
- Guided tours of historic Montreal, Quebec and Ottawa, Canada
- Chicago Museum of Science & Industry
- Luggage handling for 1 suitcase per person

\$1,989.00 per person double occupancy

Holiday Branson

November 15-19, 2018

Tour Includes:

- 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Cindy Meany
- 4 nights accommodations
- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- 7 meals: 4 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 2 dinners
- Titanic Museum
- 6 Shows: Dutton Family, Dixie Stampede, Presley's Country Jubilee, Daniel O'Donnell, "Samson" at the Sight & Sound Theater & Hits of the 50's & 60's
- Luggage handling for 1 suitcase per person

\$799.00 per person double occupancy

Heart of Alaska

July 12-19, 2018

Tour Includes:

- 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Larry Alvey
- Roundtrip Delta flights between Minneapolis and Anchorage
- 13 Meals (including an Alaska Salmon Bake)
- Iditarod Trail Headquarters
- Denali National Park Natural History Tour
- Riverboat Discovery Cruise
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- Prince William Sound Cruise

\$3,379.00 Per Person Double Occupancy

Northern Rocky Mountains

September 5-17, 2018

Tour Includes:

- 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Cindy Meany
- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- 12 nights accommodations including 7 nights in Mountain Lodges
- 20 Meals: 12 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 4 dinners
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- Luggage handling for one suitcase per person

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A Tennessee Christmas

December 1-10, 2018

Tour Includes:

- 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Cindy Meany
- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- 9 nights accommodations
- 14 meals: 9 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 4 dinners
- Luggage handling for one suitcase per person
- Las Posadas (re-enactment of the journey to Bethlehem)
- Christmas Parades
- Beale Street in Memphis
- Rock n Roll Hall of Fame
- Christmas in Graceland
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Legislature

Continued from Page 6
 new \$3 million heating system at the Silver Bay home.

One more major project for veterans got through in the Legislature's infrastructure bill. The lawmakers directed the Minnesota Housing Finance Authority to use its bonding authority for a major renovation at Upper Fort Snelling.

The project is expected to total about \$100 million to renovate 26 old buildings at the Upper Post into 176 units of housing for veterans. The drawback to the plan is that it would cost about \$600,000 to create each unit, about twice what it would cost to build a new house in the Twin Cities.

But proponents said the high cost was partially due to the fact that the plan would restore historical buildings, but that federal tax credits could be used.

The Fort Snelling apartments that would be created would rent out to veterans at about \$1,000 per month.

Other measures that were approved in this session – not attached to the bonding bill – include:

A provision to allow veterans to indicate their veteran's status on applications for state agency appointments. The information could then be used in choosing the appointments.

-- Designated June 29 as General John Vessey Day in Minnesota.

-- Designated July 16 as Atomic Veterans Day in Minnesota

-- A bill that would protect veterans by not allowing military pay or benefits to be assigned to another, say for a loan.

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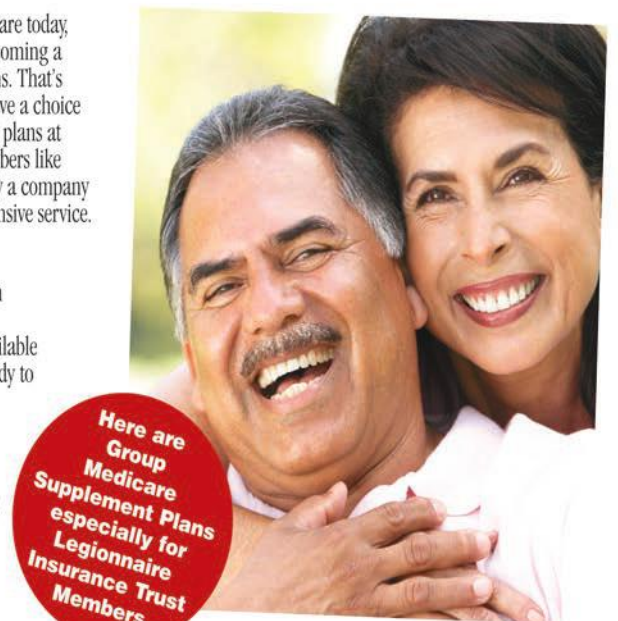
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