

“The camp was built right next to the water, and barracks were on stilts. It was one of the biggest camps in Germany.” By war’s end, about 9,000 Allied prisoners were in the camp.

Schlepppegrell had been traveling for 19 days, and he said that was the worst of his experience as a prisoner of war. After that, life settled into the routine of the camp.

There were 24 prisoners in his room, with bunks rising up three tiers. He was deloused to kill the bugs that had joined him along the way. The prisoners would be called outside to be counted several times a day, and they were also led in physical activity outside.

“We had straw on the bunks, but it got hard as time went on. Plus we were losing a lot of weight. You’d wake up in the morning black and blue all over just from sleeping.”

Food amounted to bread with margarine in the morning with some ersatz coffee, a bowl of broth at noon, and another slice of bread with marmalade at night. Schlepppegrell had been about 155 when he was shot down, and weighed 116 when he was liberated.

“We were supposed to each get one Red Cross parcel every week, but at first we weren’t getting any. Then we started getting more. I don’t think I ever got a whole box, though.

“The parcels always had cigarettes, and guys would trade them for chocolate or other food. The parcels also came with a can of Spam.”

Somewhere in the camp the prisoners had a clandestine radio that someone had built from odds and ends. “They even printed up a little paper, and every night someone would come and read to the group about what was happening in the war. The Germans would keep us informed, but we already knew what they were telling us. The radio was good for morale.”

The prisoners would call out rhymes and ditties while they did their calisthenics, and one of the phrases was “C’mon Joe.” “But the Germans finally figured out we were talking about Joe Stalin and the Russian Army, which was getting closer every day, so it was forbidden from our repertoire. We also used to call the guards ‘goons,’ but then they found out what a goon was, and we couldn’t do that anymore.”

The men played cards and had access to a small library. Schlepppegrell spent much of his time tending to his frozen feet. “They had turned black and were peeling. I would hold them up to the window and the sunshine, and that seemed to help forming new skin.”

No tunnels were ever dug at Stalag I because the camp was right at sea level.

“We ate mainly turnips and rutabagas, and most of the guys said they’d never eat another one the rest of their lives. We got horsemeat now and then. And we had powdered milk which was called ‘klim’ which is milk spelled backwards.”

On April 29, 1945, the men woke up to find the German guards were gone. “We knew the Russians were very close. “We were ordered by Colonel Zabrinski, the American officer in charge of the camp, to dig long trenches to get into in case the camp was bombed.”

On May 1, the Russians marched in and were generally friendly toward the Americans. “But they were provoked that we weren’t all wearing black arm bands in honor of the death of Roosevelt. We hurried up and found some black cloth and pretty soon we were all wearing black arm bands.”

The Russians had no love for the Germans. “The Russian soldiers were a rough crew. They pretty much ruined that beautiful little town.”

The prisoners were forbidden to leave camp, but many took off anyway, seeking the American or British lines. It wasn’t until May 12-13 that the Russians allowed the prisoners to be evacuated by aircraft. The war had been over for a week.

“We went to the local airstrip and got on board these Lancasters, huge British bombers. There were also American bombers. They flew us to Camp Lucky Strike in France. We could have whatever we wanted to eat, and most of the guys went for ice cream or candy. So everyone got really sick.”

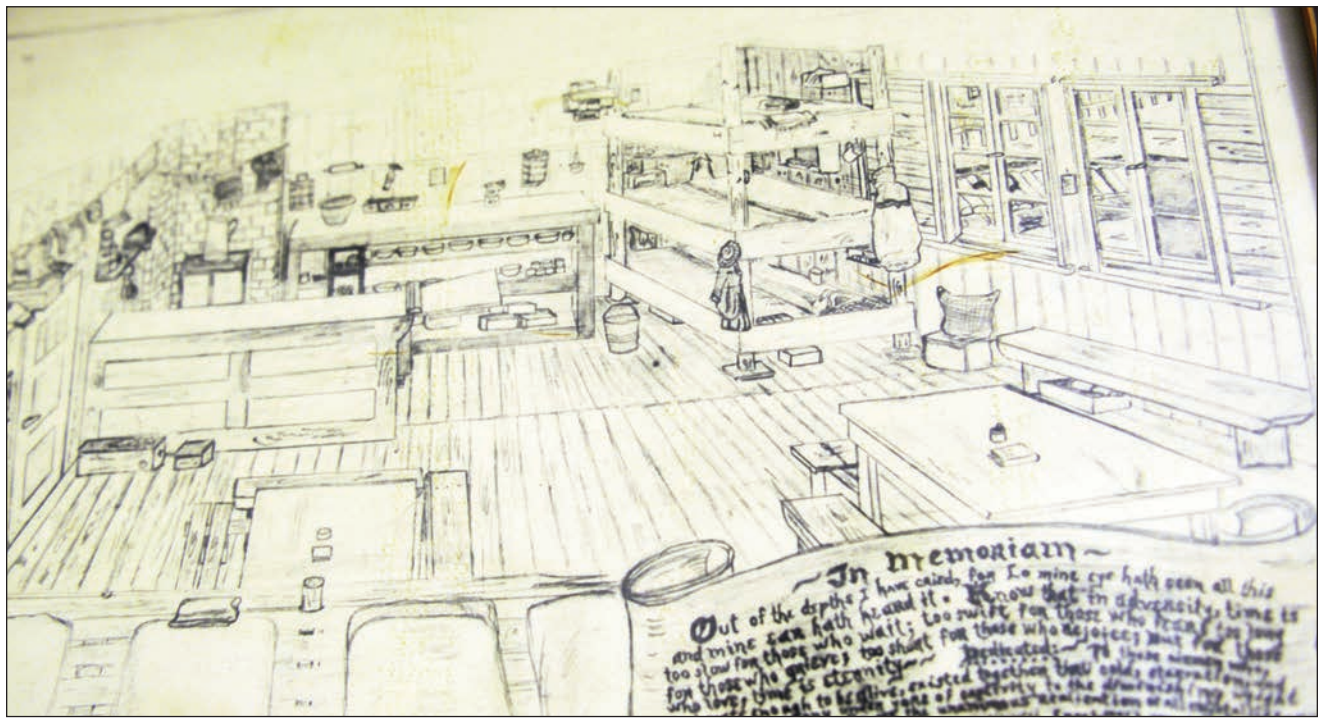
From there the men were sent home on ships. Schlepppegrell was discharged from the Army in Santa Monica, California. He had earned a Purple Heart, an Air Medal with two clusters, and a POW medal.

He was never debriefed about being a prisoner until 1984, when the government had him come to Fort Snelling and fill out a 16-page questionnaire.

He went back to the university, but this time focused on teaching German. He was married in 1948 to Norma. Over the years they had eight children, six of whom are alive, 16 grandchildren, and they are expecting their 25th great grandchild. Norma was a mental health professional in Minnesota, and won many awards and accolades.

Schlepppegrell taught German at University High School in Minneapolis for four years, and then was hired to be on the staff at Hibbing High School in 1952. At that time, the Hibbing school system was considered perhaps the finest in the state because the district had mining money to hire the best teachers.

In 1959, a German language village for high school students was planned for New Ulm and Schlepppegrell was asked to help out. He then became dean of students at the



A friend of Schlepppegrell’s drew this depiction of the room the prisoners stayed in. There were 24 men assigned to a room and the bunks were three deep.



The prisoners at Stalag Luft 1 were called outside frequently for roll call.



In 1977, Schlepppegrell received a certificate of merit from Goethe House of New York and the American Association of Teachers of German. It was given for outstanding achievement in teaching German



At Stalag Luft 1, Schlepppegrell’s mess kit was made from discarded powdered milk tins.

Concordia Language villages German immersion camp at a rented Bible camp near Alexandria.

Schlepppegrell had made the full circle from German prisoner of war camp to German language camp. In 1977, he was given an award from the German government commending his work at the language camp.

He taught at Hibbing High School until he retired in 1984, and has now been retired for 33 years.

He and Norma live in an apartment overlooking a pond in Hibbing.



At Stalag 1, this building, called the “cooler,” was used for prisoners who didn’t toe the line.

(This story is mainly based on a recent interview with Schlepppegrell in Hibbing, but it also uses material from an story done by Lt. Col. Terrance Popravak Jr. for the Air National Guard website and from a story that ran in 1982 in the Hibbing Daily Tribune.)



Boys Staters hold up a free book, "A Declaration of Independents" given them by speaker and author Greg Orman. Orman was a former Boys Nation president.

Boys State



Boys State Counselor Adam Logeman explains the ins and outs of parliamentary procedure at an early session.



When running for office, a Boys Stater can stand up and tell his peers why he's the best candidate.



Mike Bredeck, who has retired after 15 years as Boys State Director after this year's session, got to present his daughter, Kate Bredeck, with a plaque honoring her 10 years of work at Boys State. She will also be retiring.



State SAL Commander Gene Olswold and National Vice Commander Dennis Henkemeyer were on hand to charter a new squadron at Boys State. New squadron Commander Kevin Barth unfurls the charter.



Waiting for their city picture, one group tried out variations of the "wave."



Girls Staters and Minnesota Lt. Governor Tina Smith, center, reached for new heights following Smith's address to the assembly at Bethel University in Roseville.



Selected by the Girls State staff, the two girls who will represent Minnesota as senators at Girls Nation are Hannah Hendrickson of Moorhead and Michelle Onyekaba from Coon Rapids.

Girls State



Girls Staters honored longtime Americanism speaker Elizabeth Wall Strofus with a wreath placed in the World War II memorial at the Capitol. Strofus died this year. Placing the wreath were Girls State Supreme Court Justice Hadley Lange, Attorney General Savannah Romann, Chief Justice Flo Ayika, and Justice Katherine Twiss.



Bob Locker salutes during a flag retirement ceremony put on by a ritual team from the 40/8 organization.



Girls State Staff took a break from the official photos to have some fun.

Photography by Michelle Leonard

Annual Reports

To the Convention of the Department of Minnesota The American Legion

Adjutant

Our programs touched the lives of veterans, their families and youth from all across the state. We continue to grow in the things we do and how we impact our communities.

We provided direct assistance to many veterans at the VA Medical Centers that serve Minnesota's veterans through our on location Department Service Officer in the Minneapolis VA Medical Center and Veterans Hospital Representative in the St Cloud VA.

We provided honors to thousands of veterans as final respects were given at military funeral honors all across the state.

We continue to explore new ways to get our face and name out there through promotional opportunities that incorporate our American Legion logo. And we try to form relationships that bring the message of our organization to others in ways that we may have not explored in the past.

We helped provide an opportunity for many disabled, recently returned, and older veterans to get together in the great Minnesota outdoors at events such as the veterans deer and turkey hunts and the Trolling for the Troops and Ely fishing events.

Our VA&R committee managed by our Department Service Officer Jeremy Wolfsteller met with the senior leadership at each state and federal VA facility that serves Minnesota veterans as they do each year. They ask the difficult questions relating to care, facilities and budget. They are respected in the veterans' community and work closely with all key stakeholders at the local, state and national levels. They provided training to the County Veterans Service Officer (CVSOs) through our National offices and to state VSOs by taking them to Indianapolis and Washington DC to attend our in-house VSO training.

Minnesota's youth remain one of our focuses and many from all across the state participated in our American Legion Oratorical Contest where they prepared and gave oratory presentations on the Constitution of the United States of America. Several won scholarship money for their efforts.

We sent several hundred boys from all across the state to Boys State for one week where they learn firsthand from our state's leaders how our government operates. They will form city, county and state offices and draft and move legislation that will run those entities.

At Legionville the new training facility is outstanding thanks to the donations from dedicated Legion members all around the state. We along with The Minnesota State Highway Patrol and AAA trained hundreds of boys and girls on road cross and School Bus Safety at our Legionville training center in the Brainerd Lakes area on North Long Lake. In eight, one-week sessions through the summer they come together from all across Minnesota to learn safety and enjoy a week in the outdoors.

Also, the Department is proud of our baseball program, the largest in the nation. We have over 330 teams and 6,000 participants, and annually we put on the largest and best state tournament in the nation.

Training and education scholarships were presented at recognition ceremonies in posts, high schools, colleges, and training facilities all across the state as our posts, districts and Department recognize the talented efforts of our youth and their desire to expand their horizons in the form of financial scholarships.

We worked together with our state legislature and the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs to strengthen state veteran's benefits and entitlements in multiple ways.

We visited Washington DC as a delegation of Minnesota American Legion leaders and rallied Congress for the support for our veterans, and their families, sounding the call for a strong national defense, protection against the degradation of our American Flag, the promotion of Americanism in our communities and to end the bureaucratic bickering in Washington.

My thanks to Minnesota's 76,000-plus members of this great organization for all you do in your communities. And my heartfelt thanks to the staff of our Department Headquarters: Jennifer, Al, Misty, Laura, Jeremy, Heather, Lucas and Gerald -- your efforts to keep things rolling are so greatly appreciated.

Randy Tesdahl
Department Adjutant

Commander

My year began with several planning sessions. I met with our Legion Family leaders and we chose to have a joint pin for this year. We agreed that we needed to place more emphasis on the Family and that we are a



2016

Family organization with something to offer all Family Members. With that we were off and running working together as one.

Jim Lucas agreed to be Membership Director for this year. We planned the rallies and decided to have most of them at Legionville because of its central location and excellent facilities. Roy Kruger the caretaker was great to work with and helped us plan and execute each rally. The only difference in the rallies was that each time we went back it was more fun. Thank all of you who attended or helped in any way. Legionville proved to be a good choice as the attendance for the rallies overall was better than it had been in the past. The ice fishing Sweetheart rally was a real hit.

The five Department Vice Commanders were the best I could have had. They became known as the Fabulous Five and the title fit them well. We felt our members could use some more training and they accepted the challenge. We held three sessions across the State and the attendance was overwhelming. Each time these men we asked to help in any way throughout the year they responded in a positive manner. This made my job much easier knowing I had their full support. I can not thank them enough for all they did this past year.

The outdoor activities with the Disabled Veterans proved to be one of my favorite events along with the visits made to the Veterans Homes across the State. Each time you visit a nursing home or medical center please remember to thank the people who work those jobs. To many of those workers it is more than a job, it is a passion. A simple thank you goes a long way.

Our Public Relations Committee has proven to be another tremendous asset this year. They supported all of our rallies. Their knowledge of technology and support became one I depended on all year and they preformed excellent.

I was able to see parts of Minnesota this year I had not seen before thanks to the many invitations I received. I never had the same meal twice and they were all great. I set a goal at the beginning of the year to lose some weight and now I have only 20 pounds more to go to get started. Thanks to all of you for all the kind acts shown to my wife and I.

I have learned more about all of you and the many great things you do all over our great state of Minnesota. You really are examples of what Minnesota nice is all about. Please take the time to let the members of your communities know what you do. When you do your Consolidated Post Report take another few minutes and send a copy to your local newspaper and post one in your Post home. We need to let more people know all the great things we do.

In closing I want to thank the entire American Legion Family for making this a year I will never forget. To my Family at home for their total support and all of you who helped in any way. From your attendance all year from beginning to end the 40,000 plus miles I have travelled have been the adventure of a lifetime.

Thanks for the memory and may God Bless.

Jim Kellogg
Department Commander

Vice Commander 1st and 3rd Districts

I thank the American Legion Family members of the First & Third Districts for giving me the opportunity to serve you. To the 1st & 3rd District Commanders Don and Rollie, Membership Directors Mike and Les, thank you for your friendship and support this past year. Your District membership teams have worked hard this year to achieve all the membership goals.

It has been an honor to work with Department Commander Jim Kellogg. He set a high standard to establish and maintain a Legion Training Program statewide. In addition, he put the word Family, in front of all Department events and activities. Coming from the transportation industry, Department Membership Director Jim Lucas kept the Pedal to the Metal, and never lost sight of the membership goals. To the Department Vice Commanders Don Amundson, Darrel Redepinning, Art Tobkin, & Carroll Partridge I thank you for the warm handshakes, the humor, and the wise counsel.

Finally, a big thank you to the staff at Department Headquarters. Your assistance when needed and the hard work at Department functions may not always be noticed, but your efforts are greatly appreciated. It has been an honor to serve as a Department Vice Commander.

John Milbrath
Department Vice Commander

Vice Commander 2nd and 7th Districts

What an honor and privilege to have had the opportunity to serve The Department of Minnesota as one of the Vice Commanders under the guidance of Commander Jim Kellogg and his Membership Team. I will cherish the memory, beginning with the opportunity to represent the Department at the Legion Riders Kick Off in New Ulm on July 30th. Then on to American Legion Headquarters in Indianapolis for three days of Membership Training, with the opportunity to meet Legionnaires from all over the country and share experiences and ideas to recruit and retain membership in the American Legion. This training was especially helpful when attending District Executive meetings and Membership Dinners and Rallies, but perhaps most helpful with our own Department Membership Training held in Clearwater and New Ulm. This experience will be useful and helpful for the future and success of The American Legion.

Another highlight for me was the opportunity to attend and participate in the Dedication of Legionville held at the time of a Membership Rally. All of the Membership Rallies at both District and Department levels were opportunities for me to represent the Department of Minnesota American Legion Team.

Attending three Pheasant Dinners throughout the State is always a pleasure and treat, and this year especially as I was able to represent The American Legion.

Being Veterans Day Speaker on behalf of Commander Kellogg at the Luverne Veterans Home was an honor for me. I was pleased to represent the Department at the American Legion Birthday Dinner in Round Lake,



GEORGOPOULOS HONORED -- Dr. Apostolos Georgopoulos, The American Legion Chair in Brain Sciences at the University of Minnesota and the Minneapolis VA Medical Center, was honored recently for his 25 years of leading cutting edge research on the brain at the facilities. He will also be honored at the Department of Minnesota Convention this month. From left: Commander Jim Kellogg, who was a longtime president of the Brain Sciences Foundation, Foundation Vice President Rosemary Niesen, Georgopoulos, Past National Commander Dan Ludwig, Veterans Service Officer Jeremy Wolfsteller, Auxiliary Foundation Board Member Sue Nunnelee, Joe Niesen.

2016 Resolutions (CONTINUED)

ed to the Department Convention in Rochester, Minnesota, July 21 – 23 for concurring action,.

RESOLUTION A

The following Resolution originated from the Department Finance Committee and was adopted by the Executive Committee at their meeting on March 5, 2016 and is submitted for consideration by the 2016 Department Convention, to be held in Rochester, Minnesota, July 21-23, 2016.

Department Dues Increase

WHEREAS, The American Legion is an organization of War Veterans who have dedicated themselves to the service of the Community, State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, This service is performed through The American Legion Four Pillars; and

WHEREAS, Membership is the driving force of The American Legion, Department of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, Membership is declining and the income from membership dues is declining to perform The American Legion's basic programs; and

WHEREAS, It is the recommendation of the Department Finance Committee, in meeting held at the Quality Inn, St Cloud, Minnesota, on September 23, 2015, and approved by the Executive Committee on March 5, 2016, that a dues increase is necessary in 2018 in order to ensure long term solvency for the Department of Minnesota; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That The American Legion, Department of Minnesota, recommends a \$3.00 increase in Department dues with an effective date for the 2018 membership year and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent to The American Legion, Department of Minnesota, in convention assembled in Rochester, Minnesota, July 21-23, 2016, for concurring action.

American Legion Riders

By Scuffy Paulson
MNALR President



Hello brothers and sisters.

I hope everyone has been enjoying our beautiful summer weather and getting plenty of wind therapy. I've been thinking a lot about writing this article because this will be my last.

This MNALR has been one hell of a ride and I have been truly blessed to be a part of it. During our infancy and to this point I have been amazed at the progress and the amount of dedication shown by our members as well as all the support we have received from the Legion Family.

It is an honor to represent and be a part of the Legion Family. The memories and the people I have had the pleas-

Thank you

I would like to thank the members of the American Legion Family for all the cards, phone calls, flowers, prayers and support in the loss of our son Craig. He was a son, brother, father, grandfather, a decorated veteran, having served his country in the Desert Storm Conflict and a proud Legionnaire. It was overwhelming to see so many Legionnaires, Auxiliary, SAL and Legion Riders, family and friends pay their final respects. He has touched many lives and will be missed by everyone that knew him. Rest in peace.

Marland and Chris Ronning and family of Jon "Craig" Price Jr.

ure to work with over the years has made myself and our organization better because of our differences.

I believe with all my heart that the MNALR is going to continue to get bigger, better, stronger and continue to set the pace for the rest of the country.

Keep up the great work Riders. Be very proud of your patch because people are noticing and paying attention... And maybe even changing their perception of dirty bikers...(talking about Junkyard) LOL! Peace out and see ya down the road.



OFFICIAL BALLOT

The American Legion, Dept of Minnesota
Election of Officers 2016-2017

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

Like This:

Department Commander (vote for one)	
Denise Milton	<input type="checkbox"/>
Richard Wog	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write In	<input type="checkbox"/>

Department Vice Commander (Vote for 5)	
Richard Skillestad	<input type="checkbox"/>
Harley Wahl	<input type="checkbox"/>
Curt Norenberg	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jim Lucas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wilson Spence	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write In	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write In	<input type="checkbox"/>

sample ballot

Chaplain (vote for one)	
Bill Brockberg	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write In	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historian (vote for one)	
Ralph Schneekloth	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write In	<input type="checkbox"/>

Sergeant-at-Arms (vote for one)	
Dennis Delong	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write In	<input type="checkbox"/>

Board of Publication (vote for one)	
Pat Logan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write In	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strategic Planning

Continued from previous page

ent areas of the Department with many comments, both pro and con on how we must look to the future and yet maintain a positive attitude of our current programs. We also must realize we are working with our 500 plus Legion Posts and we all do things differently and yet they succeed. Your committee will be submitting a resolution in reference to the number of community colleges and universities that provide training and education opportunities to our many returning Veterans and how the American Legion can be involved. Each district working with the Department of Minnesota on how they can be involved and attract those prospective new members to the American Legion. Three other programs are being looked at as possible elimination or being combined with other programs such as the blood program, energy and conservation and Post development. Also we have other programs that need to be looked at, perhaps a one day versus 2 day affair thus reducing cost and becoming more effective.

Mission: Our Scope includes but is not limited to: Working as a complement to Department Membership Director on sustainable membership over a rolling 5-year period, working with Districts on Education, Succession Planning, Communication, Department Call-In Structure and Committee/Program consistency with National where possible. This committee will continue to grow to be a valuable resource for our Department and our leaders of the future. Your Strategic Committee has a great team of leadership and vision. I want to thank all who are involved: The 2015-2016 Strategic Planning Committee members are: Roger K. Olson, Chairman, Richard Wog, Secretary and team members Tom Fernlund, Bishop Dan Williams, and Merlyn Ellefson, Department Commander Jim Kellogg, Past Junior Commander, Peggy Moon, Special Advisor Dan Ludwig and Randy Tesdahl, Department Adjutant.

Roger K. Olson
Chairman, Strategic Planning Committee

District Commanders

THIRD DISTRICT

**Don Skow
Commander**



Greetings Thundering Third,

We are still about 270 renewals away from our goal and running out of time. If every post made a few phone calls we would be there. Please help us out if you can.

If you would like to have Third District Officers do your post installation please contact Linda, our District Adjutant, Mike Maxa, incoming District Commander or Don Skow our outgoing Commander and we will do our best to help you out.

The Consolidated Post Reports and new Officer Reporting forms need to be into Department ASAP, We need 100% participation from our posts on both of these.

There will be a letter sent to all posts shortly about the Commanders Project at Big Marine Vets Camp. We will make updates on the progress into next year. This will be a fun and rewarding project to work on and I look forward to seeing everyone support it.

I'm hoping to see a large delegation from the Third District to the Department Convention in July. This is a great time to make plans for our next year's activities and talk to old friends. See you in Rochester July 21st through the 23rd.

Thank you all for what you do for the American Legion and remember "Attitude is everything." For God and Country.

FOURTH DISTRICT

**Dan Williams
Commander**



Happy Independence Day. The independence we enjoy but far too many take for granted came at a great price. This great country was not always as it is today. The government that we know, sometimes applauded and sometimes criticized but often wonder what they are thinking... did not always exist. "When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation." Of course this is the first paragraph within the Declaration of Independence. The 4th of July is not just another holiday. The United States Armed Forces continue to serve but now in regions across the earth. These brave men and women understand and appreciate independence and freedom. We owe it to them and to our posterity to keep this country free in every aspect and dimension. Yes, we are veterans now but the battle for freedom is far from over. Congratulations District Commander-elect Randy Bastyr, District Vice Commanders: Jim Anderson, Lane Stunkel and Tom Burns, we know each of you along with the entire 4th District Team will serve very well and keep us free!

Calendar: July 4th Celebrate our country; July 17th District Hospital Visitation 1:00 p.m.; July 21st -23rd Department Convention Rochester, MN.

FIFTH DISTRICT

**Gary Martin
Commander**



Greetings from the Fifth District

Congratulations to incoming 5th District Commander Ray Eiden, 1st Vice Commander Water Lynsey, 2nd Vice Commander John Austin and 3rd Vice Commander John Nelson and all the other newly elected and appointed officers and executive members. With a new slate of officers on board, committees and committee chairs being realigned we should have a very successful year under Ray's guidance.

It's time for a new membership program to begin. First is establishing attainable goals and getting off the "Goose Egg" and setting the Districts membership revitalization date. Make it a team effort, no one person can do it alone.

It's been a great year for the 5th District. We accomplished a number of goals, especially our 5th District Family Project enhancing the lives of the Veterans at the Minneapolis Veterans Home. Thank you to all the Posts and individuals who donated monies and volunteered their time to make it a success and to Wold-Chamberlain Post #99 for allowing us to use their Post for our family fundraiser. A special thank you to our 5th District Auxiliary for spearheading our fundraising efforts.

To my wife Julie, it was great having you as our District

President. Thank you for all you did to make the year fun and enjoyable.

Best of luck to all newly elected Post, District, County and Department officers.

As Always "Keep Moving Forward and Keep It Positive."

SEVENTH DISTRICT

**Karen Welander
Commander**



Greeting to the "Mighty" 7th District family.

This past year has been a great learning and rewarding experience. It has been an honor to serve the Seventh District as Commander and I will never forget it. Thank you to everyone who has helped or given advice during the year. I am so proud and honored to be a part of such a great district with such a big heart.

The new membership year has begun with the pickup of the 2017 cards at Department. All the Posts should have one paid membership and the 2016-2017 officer report submitted to department by the end of July. Meeting this first goal will help ensure we get off to a good start this membership year.

I have enjoyed working with President Cheryl and the Auxiliary as well as the SAL and Riders. I will never forget all the volunteers at the posts who make everything happen.

Thanks again to everyone and don't forget our veterans and our Armed Forces.

I'm proud to be an American, a veteran and a member of the American Legion.

For Duty, Honor and Country. God Bless America

NINTH DISTRICT

**Denise Milton
Commander**



Greetings Roaring Ninth District.

I was mistaken, this is my last column (July). I had confused it with our district newsletter. Thanks again to everyone for making it a great year serving you. I appreciate the support of my district project, National Emergency Fund.

I attended a celebration of life for a good friend and loyal Legionnaire, Lou Efta, last weekend. He was honored by his family, friends, Vietnam buddies and fellow veterans. He made an impact on everyone. He served his country, community and family without reserve and great passion. He truly lived by the Four Pillars of The American Legion. He will be greatly missed.

During my first tour of duty as the Ninth District Commander, I was deployed seven months into my year. Needless to say, I was strongly encouraged by many members of my district to complete an entire year. Now, I have done so and I can say I did and with great pride.

Continue to support and keep our military and their families in your prayers.

For God and Country

Woman vet of year named

Penny Dieryck, a Duluth Air National Guard veteran, has been named the 2016 Minnesota Woman Veteran of the Year at the "Salute to Women Veterans" event held in June.

Dieryck enlisted in 1980 and became a second lieutenant in 1984. She got her MBA from the University of Minnesota Duluth and she is a graduate of the Air Command and Staff College and the Air War College.

She had many deployments and worked on projects in Homeland Security and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

She has devoted much of her time and skills to local charities and was the Combine Federal Campaign organizer and also set up an "Adopt a Highway" group.

She has been the board chair of the Northland Red

Cross and has worked in her area's neighborhood school.

TENTH DISTRICT

**Bill Johnson
Commander**



Greetings from the Mighty Tenth,

Well here we are, my year has almost come to an end. I have so many people to thank, I almost don't know where to begin. I wish to thank all my Districts Officers, and Chairs for helping to make this a successful year. I especially want to thank my Adjutant Gloria Burt, and Membership Director Bonnie Hanson. If many of you have not heard, Bonnie has been elected to be our District Commander for next year.

I also want to thank Commander Jim Kellogg for all his support. I admire you Commander, because you are willing to take risks, and to try something different. In my opinion we need more people like you as our leaders. If we keep to the status quo, we can only keep getting the same results, which is an organization decreasing in size and capability.

For those who are considering District Leadership, go for it. Believe me when I tell you how satisfying an experience it is. You should consider running for Vice-Commander, which I consider as being the most important job in any District. You will make friendships that will last you a lifetime.

For my fellow District Commanders, we had a fun year, didn't we. I hope to see more of you in the future.

For all of you, God bless you all. Legionnaires are the best.

Minneapolis, St. Cloud VAs honored by award

The St. Cloud and the Minneapolis VA Health Care Systems have been awarded the most prestigious environmental achievement award offered by Practice Greenhealth, the nation's leading health care community dedicated to transforming health care worldwide so that it reduces its environmental footprint, becomes a community anchor for sustainability and a leader in the global movement for environmental health and justice.

The Top 25 Environmental Excellence Awards recognize health care facilities that exemplify environmental excellence and are setting the highest standards for environmental practices in health care. Award winners are chosen from hospitals that have the highest scores for the Greenhealth Emerald Award using Practice Greenhealth's thorough scoring and evaluation system.

The 25 hospitals presented with Practice Greenhealth's highest honors vary greatly in size, but are all leading the country in health care sustainability and have the data and documentation to prove their success. These facilities have innovative programs and also show leadership in their local communities and in the health care sector.

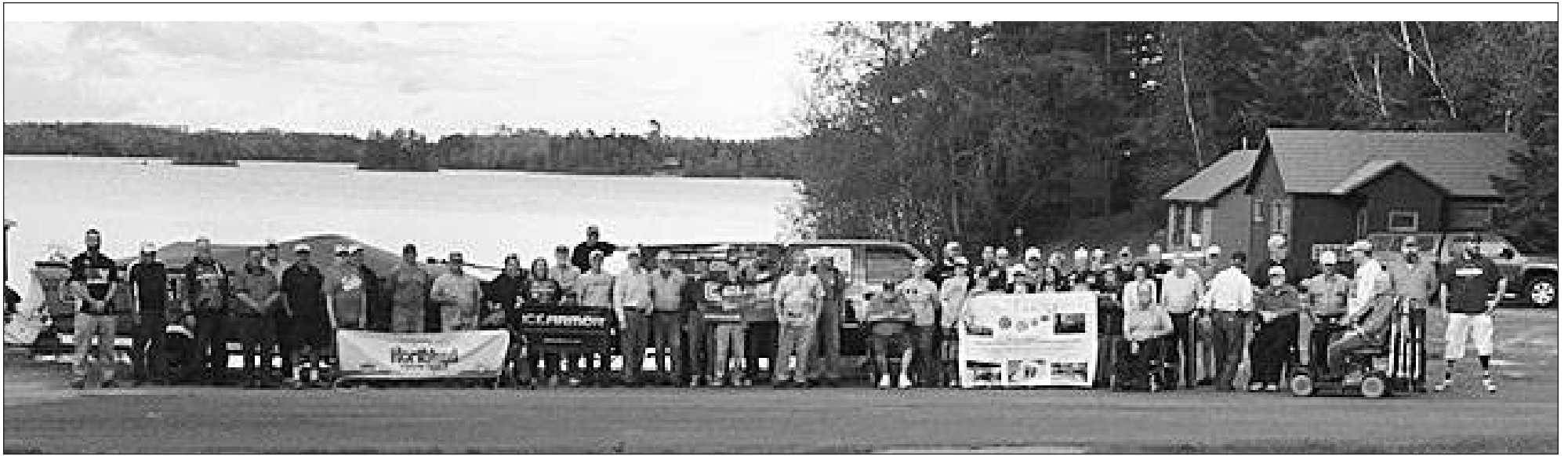
"St. Cloud VA prioritizes green practices in our day-to-day operations as an organizational imperative," said Green Environmental Management Services Coordinator Mary Wenck. "It's an honor to be recognized for our commitment to the health and safety of our Veterans, staff, environment, and the community at large."

"Our goal is to develop and implement a culture where sustainability is ingrained into daily operations to the point where it is habitual," said Minneapolis Associate Director of Operations Kurt Thielen.

Membership Chart

As of June 22, 2016

District	2016 Goal	Total 2015	Total 2016	Percent of Goal	Same Date '15
1	9,627	9,586	9,315	96.76	9,532
2	7,779	7,707	7,487	96.25	7,689
3	12,165	12,128	11,898	97.81	12,083
4	2,561	2,559	2,551	99.61	2,524
5	2,829	2,789	2,651	93.74	2,809
6	12,485	12,421	12,020	96.28	12,403
7	6,997	6,930	6,612	94.52	6,909
8	4,630	4,593	4,372	94.43	4,575
9	7,332	7,177	6,945	96.03	7,155
10	10,964	10,916	10,553	96.26	10,867
At-large	3,734	2,662	2,707	72.50	2,657
Totals	81,000	79,468	77,111	95.20	79,203



The participants in the Ely veterans fishing event lined up for a photo at Veterans on the Lake Resort near Ely.

Ely Fishing Outing



Department Service Office Jeremy Wolfsteller and two veterans try their luck at the veterans fishing outing at Ely's Veterans on the Lake. The boat was provided by Jamie Dietman, a professional guide out of Nissway.



Alie Witthans, co-owner and operator of Memories Made Guide Service and two veterans show off their stringer after a hard day's fishing at the Ely veterans fishing event at Veterans on the Lake.

Trolling for the Troops



Department Service Office Jeremy Wolfsteler and Soldier's Wish pro Kyle Sarratt landed this luncker at the Trolling for the Troops event held at Camp Ripley and Lake Mille Lacs.



This group of veterans, including one with a strange mask, caught the wildest catch prize of the day, a clam and a sucker.



The fishing was good as veterans and guides fanned out at two different fishing areas to enjoy the day at Trolling for the Troops.



The Auxiliary Bulletin

No. 16-11

President Sandy Fredrickson

July 2016

Secretary Sandie Deutsch

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

The President's Column

By
Sandy
Fredrickson



I was totin' my pack down Center Avenue—
When an Eagle soared high and gracefully; with a question:
"If you're going to Cincinnati, Sam, you can fly with me."
So I climbed onto its wings and we glided side by side.
She asked me if I'd seen a road with so much glory and honor,
and I said, "Listen, Birdie, I've traveled every road in this here land."

I've been everywhere, man
I've been everywhere, man
Across the Minnesota highways,
I've breathed the "up North" air, man
Of travel I've had my share, man
I've been everywhere.

Been to Redwood Falls, Hopkins, Brainerd, Brooklyn Park, Stewartville, Rose Town, Baltimore Barnesville, Leicester, Austin, Pequot Lakes, New Ulm, Emmons, St Paul, Glenville, Legion Ville, Baltimore, Ogilvie, Brownstown, Stewart, Cosmos, Silver Lake, Adams, and Bloomington,

I'm a believer
I've been everywhere, man
I've been everywhere, man
Through the Auxiliary C&B's, man
I've breathed the fresh northern air, man
Of travel I've had my share, man
I've been everywhere.

Rochester, Hayfield, Osseo, Faribault, Washington Eagan, Fridley, Cokato, Minneapolis, Bruno Minnesota Lake,

North St. Paul, Freeborn, Springfield, Anoka Detroit Lakes, St Cloud, Albert Lea Bowling Tournament, Waite Park

Anoka, Montgomery, Legionville, Arcade Phalen, St Paul, World Chamberlain, Grand Rapids, Nisswa, then toured Silver Bay Veterans Home for pete's sake.

Been to Wells, Anoka, dept. office, Elk River, Winona, Commanders testimonial in Adams, Sioux Falls with National President Sharon @ the Luverne Veterans Home, Sioux Falls Veterans Service Bldg., Rose town (Connie's testimonial), Fairfax, Wayzata, Rochester, Hayfield spelling bee, Braelyn (Darlene's testimonial), Legionville for Spring Board meeting, Hanks', North Branch, Finance meeting in Waite Park, Veterans home in Fargo, with a drive by Fergus Falls, Forrest Lake, Osseo, Mabel, Preston National Veterans Cemetery, Fort Snelling and MN Veterans Home Memorial ceremony; back to Faribault to install new officers, Fairmont (Dept. Jr Conference) Brewster, New London, Bethel College for a full week of nursing and learning government.

I've been everywhere, man
I've been everywhere, man
I've been everywhere, man
Across the 10,000 Lakes, man
I've seen the season's change, man
Of travel I've had my share, man
I know some place you haven't been.
I've been everywhere

"Thank you," for being a part of my "awesome journey" for the American Legion Auxiliary.

Our mission was accomplished. Thank you for the hospitalities, personal gifts, ever lasting friendships, but most importantly all you do for the American Legion Auxiliary. You all "ROCK!"

Special "thanks" to the Department staff, Commander Jim, SAL Commander Gene, the ALA Riders Paul, and the American Legion staff. The year wouldn't have been as

Amanda Teersteeeg elected 2016 Girls State Governor

The 70th session of the American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State ended on Saturday, June 18. Singing together the American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State song one last time, the 381 citizens, once strangers now friendships to last over the years have formed. A week of intense study and learning all about our government, at all levels, city, county and state, and the history of our great State of Minnesota. We hope that the girls left with an appreciation and understanding of Minnesota government.

The 2016 American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State Constitutional officers are:

Governor – Amanda Teersteeeg, sponsored by Redwood Falls Unit #38

Lt. Governor – Gabrielle Bittner, sponsored by Twin Valley Unit #431

Secretary of State - Madison Beaty, sponsored by Monticello #260

State Auditor – Sophie Schmitz, sponsored by Kerkhoven Unit #223

Attorney General – Savannah Romann, sponsored by New Prague Unit #45

Chief Justice – Lfeoma (Flo) Ayika, sponsored by Wayzata Unit #118

Supreme Court Justices –
Hadley Lange, sponsored by Rochester Unit #92

Katherine Twiss, sponsored by Brownton Unit #143

Minnesota's entry into National competition for the Samsung Scholarship – Sophia Lynae Peterson, sponsored by Wayzata Unit #118

The Spirit Award was won by Cristin Curwick sponsored by Osseo Unit #172

The Ed Viehman Award was won by Kaysie Allen sponsored by Adams Unit #146. Daniel Viehman was on hand to present the award at the Thursday Inauguration Ceremony.

Girls Nation Senators were chosen:
Senior Senator – Hannah Hendrickson, sponsored by Moorhead Unit #21

Junior Senator – Michelle Onyekaba, sponsored by Coon Rapids Unit #334

The President of the Senate – Grace Kubista, sponsored by New Prague Unit #45

Speaker of the House – Berlynn Bitengo, sponsored by Anoka Unit #102

Senate Chaplain – Angie Bowen, sponsored by Barnesville Unit #153

House of Representatives Chaplain – Gabbi Gervais, sponsored by Currie Unit #322

There are many highlights to the week at American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State including the wonderful visiting speakers throughout the week, the Thursday night Inauguration ceremony with Chief Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court Lorie Gildea presiding over the Oath of Office, the flag disposal ceremony and many others.

Thanks to all of the Unit American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State Chairmen for the work that you have done to bring all of these girls to this wonderful program. And to all of the FANTASTIC volunteers that spent the week at Bethel University with the girls, this program cannot function without you. And finally to our 2016 American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State Director Peggy Tesdahl, Chairman Marsha Bible, Education Director Norma Tramm, Americanism Chairman Jessie Hoppe, and committee members Sandy Wersal and Amelia Tesdahl, who was also the Music Director. Thanks for another great year at American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State.

The project the Girls State Citizens worked on was mak-

smooth as it was without all of us working together! A "team effort and the family working together" proved we can make it a better and stronger American Legion family organization.

"Congrats" to the new officers for 2016-2017 -- keep the momentum going.

We "Served those who served -- and kept the Promise." God Bless Each and Every one of you.
See ya, President Sandy



GIRLS STATE GOVERNOR AMANDA TERSTEEG

ing pocket flags to send to our active military and assembling poppies to make a wreath to be presented at the State Capitol on Friday.

JUNIOR FUN WEEKEND

Junior members are invited to participate in the 8th Annual Department Junior Fun Weekend, held Friday August 5 through Sunday, August 7 at Legionville near Brainerd. All current 2016 Junior members and their Advisors/Chaperones are invited to attend. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Junior members must be between the ages of 3 – 18 and do not have to be from an active Junior group. The cost is \$20.00 per person and is non-refundable. This includes all meals and activities. Registration forms and fees must be received in the Department office no later than Monday, July 25, 2016. No refunds will be given. Registration information was mailed to ALL units in May. Call the Department office if you need registration forms. They are also posted on our website. Go to the home page, calendar, click on Junior Fun Weekend and it will take you right to the registration forms. Please make sure and have our Juniors attend. This is a fun-filled, very inexpensive week-end and teaches our future leaders what we are all about along with giving them a chance to make many new friends. Come and see all the changes and improvements that have been made at Legionville.

2016 -2017 DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

Our Congratulations to the ten District Presidents-Elect who will be serving their respective Districts for the 2016-2017 year:

- 1st District – Cindy Nelson, Glenville Unit #264
- 2nd District – Kathy Burket, Belview Unit #309
- 3rd District – Marcie Baysinger, Brownton Unit #143
- 4th District – Connie Anderson, St. Paul Unit #542
- 5th District – Bonnie Brenna, Minneapolis Unit #99
- 6th District – Theresa Rudnicki, Waite Park Unit #428
- 7th District – Betty Underthun, Willmar Unit #167
- 8th District – Anna Eells, Grand Rapids Unit #60
- 9th District – Joanie Krantz, Karlstad Unit #445
- 10th District – Linda Deschene, Brooklyn Center Unit #630

May each of you have a most successful year of service as you assume the leadership of your District for the 2016-2017 Auxiliary year.

Auxiliary Bulletin

Continued from Preceding Page

UNIT OFFICERS' LIST

All Units should have held their elections for the 2016-2017 Auxiliary year by now. Your incoming secretary and Membership Chairman should be appointed and ready to assume their duties.

Each Unit was asked to return their officers' list for the coming year to the Department office by June 12th. A second request was sent out this week and to date we are still missing 181 of those lists! We will be making calls to those Units who haven't responded.

These lists are very important as we develop our mailing lists for the year from them. NO 2017 membership cards/packets will be given to your Unit until we have received your 2016-2017 list. You can download the form on our website mnala.org to your own computer, fill it out and email it in to us. It is as simple as that.

2017 DUES NOTICES

The National office will send out the first dues notice for the 2017 membership year on September 15th. It will be sent to Senior members only. Ask your members as soon as possible after the Department Convention to pay their 2017 membership dues. They do not need a dues notice to be able to pay their dues. Please note that again this year if the National Headquarters has an email address on file for a member, their first dues notice will be emailed rather than snail mailed. Please check your email folders, both in box and junk mail.

2017 MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Very soon we will be kicking off the new membership year. The 2017 membership information will be available to all Units at the 2016 Department Convention, if we have your Unit Officer list on file. If your packet isn't picked up at Department Convention it will be given to your District Membership Chairman at the annual August Workshop.

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

The Annual Department Convention will be held in at the Kahler Grand Hotel in Rochester, July 21-23 with the Rochester American Legion Family #92 serving as hosts. Department President Sandy Fredrickson will call the Convention to order at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 21st. The delegates will conduct the business of the Auxiliary, hear reports from our chairmen and elect our 2016-17 Department Officers. We hope that your Unit plans to be represented. All Auxiliary sessions will be held in the Heritage Ballroom of the Kahler Grand Hotel.

The following members have declared their candidacy for Department office:

Department President – Carol Kottom, Buffalo Unit #270

Department 1st Vice President – Donna Arends, Willmar Unit #167

Department 2nd Vice President – Jean Walker, Warren Unit #27

Department 2nd Vice President – Sally Strasser, North St. Paul Unit #39

National Executive Committeewoman – Chris Ronning, Osseo-Maple Grove Unit #172

National Executive Committeewoman – Shirley Frederick, Hackensack Unit #202

Nominations for Department officers will be held Thursday morning. A secret ballot will be used for any office where there is more than one candidate. Balloting hours will be in the convention rules. Where there is but one candidate the vote will be by acclamation. There will be nominations for delegates-at-large to the National Convention, and election by secret ballot if there is more than one nomination. The same rules used for election of department officers will apply.

District caucuses will be held on Thursday at 8:00 a.m. prior to the opening of the Convention. The Convention will convene at 9:00 a.m.

There will be two Poppy contests at the Department Convention this year. The first is to Dress a Teddy Bear or Doll and the second is a Wearable Poppy Art. The criteria for both contests is in the Trophy and Awards booklet and also on our website; www.mnala.org.

Let's have some fun and use our imagination with poppies. Any and all members may enter either or both of the contests and there is no limit to the number of entries. All entries must be at the Department Convention by 9:00 a.m. on Thursday the 21st. Tables will be set up in the Display area for your entries. Winners will be announced during the Poppy report on Friday.

Please see the complete convention program printed elsewhere in this issue of the Minnesota Legionnaire.

CORRECTION FROM JUNE ISSUE

There was a misprint in the June Legionnaire under the Scholarship information. Sophie Engels was awarded the Department Spirit of Youth Scholarship. She was sponsored by the Minneota Unit #199.

My apologies for the error.

NATIONAL CONVENTION

Our 2016 National Convention will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio, August 26 - September 1, 2016. All Auxiliary Delegates and Alternates elected at the District Conventions will be receiving their information on housing, registration, States Dinner, Woman of the Year Luncheon, etc. shortly.

Registration on housing requests must be sent to: The American Legion, State Veterans Service Building, 20 W 12th St #300, St. Paul, MN 55155. If for any reason you are not planning to attend, yet were elected a Delegate or Alternate, please notify the Department Secretary immediately and prior to our Department Convention. There will be packets available at the Department Convention for those At Large Delegates and Alternates elected at the Convention.

All registrations, housing requests and reservations for the States Dinner, Women of the Year Luncheon must be received by July 25th. The credentials and housing lists as well as reservations for dinner and luncheon must be finalized and forwarded to our National organization.

SECRETARY SANDIE'S CORNER

Well, another year has swiftly gone by and it was a very successful year indeed. I truly enjoyed working with President Sandy and the entire Executive Committee and Chairmen – what a breath of fresh air they were. We accomplished many things and we experimented with “new” ways to do business. It is always fun to see new faces in the position of the Executive Committee, to watch them grow and flourish in our organization. By the time you get to reading this issue, hopefully I will be back at my desk working hard as I should have returned from a week long motorcycle trip to North Carolina. I look forward to seeing many of your happy faces at the upcoming Department Convention in Rochester. If you haven't attended one before, make this a first for you. You will be pleasantly surprised at how much fun it is meeting other members of The American Legion Family and see what the organization has accomplished throughout the year. This month's shout-out is to Ronnie K – thanks for the help with the water for Girls State this year.

THANK YOU LEGION FAMILY

Words cannot express my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you who have prayed and continue to pray for me with this life changing experience of my back! It is hard to believe that one minute you are as normal as can be and the next minute your whole life changes “in the blink of an eye!”

I would like to send a special thank you to the American Legion family and friends who helped in any way for the wonderful benefit held for me! It wouldn't have happened without your support—“THANK YOU!”

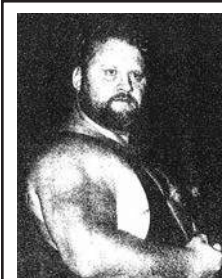
I know I still have a hill to climb! I will reach the top! One day, I will once again “walk on my own.”

God Bless each of you,
Scott Fredrickson, SAL, Squadron #264



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT... -- The 381 girls who attended the 2016 Girls State at Bethel University posed for a photo on the campus. Girls State had been at St. Thomas for several years, but this year returned to the Bethel Campus. The girls again were unable to have total access to the House and Senate chambers at the Capitol due to remodeling, but those areas should be ready for 2017 Girls State.

June 14, 2016, Auxiliary Membership				
District	Goal	Membership To Date	Percent of Goal	Membership Last Year
One	6,146	4,827	78.54%	5,065
Two	5,979	4,729	79.09%	4,916
Three	5,323	4,246	79.77%	4,394
Four	920	690	75.00%	759
Five	1,047	800	76.41%	862
Six	7,318	5,841	79.82%	6,026
Seven	4,859	3,810	78.41%	3,993
Eight	2,005	1,537	76.66%	1,652
Nine	5,232	4,208	80.43%	4,295
Ten	6,382	4,977	77.98%	5,245
1982	198	156	78.79%	131
Totals	45,409	35,821	78.89%	37,338



Larry "The Axe" Hennig
Wrestling Hall of Fame

Auctions WANTED

Buyer's Premium in Effect
30-Day Closing

We Buy Properties
Homes, Farms, Businesses,
Estates and Lands

Larry Hennig Realty and Auctions

320-656-5399
larrytheaxe@hotmail.com
Auctioneer # 71-05-001

MACULAR DEGENERATION?

Consider a
Low Vision Evaluation

- Diabetic Retinopathy
- Glaucoma
- Stargardt's Disease
- Stroke

Call Chris Palmer, O.D.
(888) 882-2040

www.LowVisionOfMN.com

VA DISABILITY APPEALS



TOM HAGEN
ATTORNEY & VETERAN

BRADLEY HAGEN & GULLIKSON, LLC

GREATER MINNESOTA: (507) 593-4098
TWIN CITIES METRO: (651) 379-0900

WWW.BRADLEYLAWMN.COM

Attention Veterans!

This is your northern Minnesota resort. Barrier-free and open 12 months a year. Gateway to the BWCA. 800-777-7538 email: vetlake@frontiernet.net www.veteransonthelakeresort.org All cabins have a lake view.

VETERANS
on the LAKE
RESORT

Ely, Minnesota

RESORT FOR DISABLED VETERANS,
ACTIVE DUTY AND ABLE BODIED
VETERANS, DISABLED GENERAL
PUBLIC AND FAMILIES.

Veterans
Linkage Line™

minnesotaveteran.org | 1-888-LinkVet
(546-5838)

Help for veterans
and families



1-800-328-4298 or 507-373-4705
www.4-seasonsvacations.com
 SINCE 1967
 130 West Clark Street
 Albert Lea, MN

Holiday Branson

Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director
- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- 4 nights accommodations
- 7 meals: 4 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 2 dinners
- Ozark Mountain Christmas Lights and Village
- Arabia Steamboat Museum
- 6 Shows: Dutton Family, Clay Cooper, Doug Gabriel, Daniel O'Donnell, Hughes Brothers, Christmas Wonderland

\$769.00
Per Person Double

Hawaiian Islands Cruise

Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Larry Alvey
- Roundtrip Delta flights from Minneapolis to Honolulu, Hawaii
- Quality accommodations for four nights at the beautiful Aston Waikiki Beach Hotel
- Breakfast daily at the hotel
- City Tour of Honolulu and Pearl Harbor
- Circle Island Tour of Oahu
- Lei Greeting upon arrival in Honolulu
- 8 Day Cruise aboard the PRIDE OF AMERICA

Starting at \$4,699.00
Per Person Double

Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta

September 28-October 5, 2016

Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director
- 7 nights accommodations
- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- 10 meals: 7 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 2 dinners
- Mass Ascension at the Balloon Fiesta
- Glowdeo at the Balloon Fiesta
- Tour of Old Town
- Route 66
- Indian Pueblo Cultural Center
- Tour of Santa Fe via the Turquoise Trail National Scenic Byway

\$1,799.00
Per Person Double

Cuba Land & Cruise

November 12-20, 2016

Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Larry Alvey
- Roundtrip Delta flights from Minneapolis to Ft. Lauderdale
- Overnight Miami Airport Hilton with breakfast
- A 7 night cruise on the *Adonia*
- All meals, entertainment and Cuban Cultural events onboard
- All transfers to and from airport, hotel and pier
- Cruise gratuities
- Cuban Visa
- Luggage handling on the ship (one suitcase per person)

\$3,899.00
Per Person Double
Occupancy

Panama Canal Cruise

March 14-30, 2017

Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Larry Alvey
- Roundtrip Delta Air flights Minneapolis to San Francisco and return Ft. Lauderdale to Minneapolis
- 1 pre-cruise hotel night at the Holiday Inn Express Fisherman's Wharf, San Francisco
- All meals and entertainment aboard the *ISLAND PRINCESS*
- Visiting 6 ports of call including Ft. Lauderdale and San Francisco
- Onboard ship gratuities
- All transfers to and from the airport, hotel

Starting at \$4,399.00
Per Person Double

Dominican Republic Impact

Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Manager Larry Alvey
- Roundtrip Delta flights from Minneapolis to Fort Lauderdale
- Roundtrip transfers from airport to hotel and pier
- Overnight Miami Airport Hilton with breakfast
- A 7-night cruise on the *Adonia*
- All meals, entertainment and Dominican Republic Cultural events onboard ship
- Cruise gratuities
- Luggage handling for one suitcase per

\$2,559.00
Per Person Double

New York City Tour

Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Manager Sue Barber
- Roundtrip Delta airlines flights from Minneapolis to New York City
- 4 night stay at the Hotel at Times Square
- Broadway musical
- Radio City Music Hall "The Rockettes Christmas Spectacular"
- Manhattan Island City Tour
- 9/11 Memorial and Museum
- Harbor Cruise with lunch

\$2,299.00
Per Person Double

4 Seasons is also a full service Travel Agency. We specialize in selling Mexico, Hawaii, Cruises, Europe, and the entire World!

Make 4 Seasons your first call for any vacation, trip or tour you're planning!

Trust our experience, Love your vacation!



U.S. MILITARY MEDALS & RIBBONS


DOG TAGS | PATCHES

FREE SHIPPING | FREE CATALOG
 LOCAL TEL: 763-425-0911
TOLL FREE TEL: 800-864-5062
VETS SUPPLY LINE
 10550 CO. RD 81, #218
 MAPLE GROVE, MN 55369
 FREE RIBBON BAR MOUNTING SERVICE


CUSTOM BALL CAPS-NAVY SHIP CAPS
WEB SITE: www.vetssupplyline.com

ANXIETY, PTSD, DEPRESSION RELATED TO MILITARY SERVICE

Former VA Decision Review Officer,
 VA Disability Appeals Agent,
 Accredited Appeals Agent since 2010
 Specializes in Mental Health Compensation



JON BROWN
 952-201-1799
 www.VetsTBI.com
 JonBrownAppeals@gmail.com



Independent Rural Living

Senior apartments for elderly and those with disabilities. Safe, convenient, comfortable, and affordable rural living in Southeast Minnesota.



Also available:
 Housing with Services,
 Nursing Home, Subsidized Rent,
 Homemaker services

Contact:
Samantha 507-864-7714
 or www.goodshep-rushford.org




USAA is proud to be the **Preferred Provider** of Insurance and Financial Services to The American Legion

Ensure the legacy of membership.

Your Honorable service means that you are eligible for USAA membership – and that your children and grandchildren can become eligible as well, no matter what age. Begin your USAA legacy with an auto or property insurance policy, and take advantage of USAA's commitment to serving you and your family for years to come.

Share your USAA legacy. Get a quote.
➤ 1-877-699-2654 | usaa.com/legion
 Insurance • Banking • Investments • Retirement • Advice

USAA means United Services Automobile Association and its affiliates. USAA products are available only in those jurisdictions where USAA is authorized to sell them. Purchase of a product other than USAA auto or property insurance, or purchase of an insurance policy offered through the USAA Insurance Agency, does not establish eligibility for or membership in USAA property and casualty insurance companies. Use of the term "member" or "membership" does not convey any eligibility rights for auto and property insurance products or legal or ownership rights in USAA. Ownership rights are limited to eligible policyholders of United Services Automobile Association. "Honorably served" means a discharge type of "honorable." Membership and product eligibility and underwriting restrictions apply and are subject to change. Eligible former dependents of USAA members may purchase auto or property insurance if the member obtained USAA auto or property insurance. The American Legion receives financial support from USAA for its sponsorship. © 2015 USAA. XXXXXX-0115



Do your part!

Subscribe to the *Minnesota Legionnaire* online.

Go to:
mnlegion.org

Click on Legionnaire Publications

Veterans Campground

on Big Marine Lake

11300 180th Street N
 Marine on St. Croix, MN
 (651) 433-2699
www.vetscampmn.org




For Veterans, families, & friends. 30 mins NE from DT St. Paul. 10 mins NW of Stillwater on Manning Avenue.

Open Year Round

Cabins, RV/Tent Sites, Boating, Trails, Beach at Low Rates
 Managed by Disabled Veterans Rest Camp Assn BOD 501(c)(3)

Reverse Mortgages




Call for a free consumer guide and personal quote.

- Must be 62 or older.
- Never make a monthly mortgage payment again.
- Receive a lump sum of cash, credit line or monthly payments.
- See how much you could qualify for today.

Let a retired active duty veteran you can trust show you how you may benefit from a Reverse Mortgage.

MIKE KRAUS
 Loan Officer
 NMLS ID #283509



Mike Kraus Serving MN and WI
 7365 Kirkwood Court North, Suite 300
 Maple Grove, MN 55369
763-355-8540 mkraus@muihomeloans.com