Chronic pain clinic at VA tries to give veterans their lives back

Many veterans face constant and debilitating pain, so much so that it makes their lives unproductive and miserable. Two doctors from the Minneapolis VA Medical Center told the Fall Conference that while pain is a difficult issue to tackle, there is increasing hope for people to deal with and regain a more normal life.

Cynthia Townsend, PhD, and Laura Krause, PsyD, explained the Chronic Pain Rehabilitation Clinic at the VA hospital, and what it does for veterans. Before they spoke, though, Dan Williams, Fourth District Commander, gave a testimonial for the center on a short film. “They were able to get me functional again,” said Williams, who experienced a traumatic brain injury after a fall.

Williams urged all veterans experiencing chronic pain to try the CPRC. Townsend said there has been more advancement in the field of chronic pain in the last five years than in the 100 years prior.

In the United States, she said, pain is often treated with narcotics. “We have five percent of the world’s population and we use 80 percent of the world’s opioids.” She said there are over 15,000 overdose deaths in the U.S. each year from prescription pain killers.

Townsend said the best thing is to cure the pain, but that’s often impossible. What CPRC does is to not try and cure the patient, but to help them deal with the pain and regain their lives.

Krause said, “Pain is something like diabetes. Once you get it, you got it. All you can do is work through lifestyle changes, exercise, diet and other ways to live with it.”

It’s not all education

The first joint Auxiliary, SAL and Legion Fall Conference featured the gentlemen modeling poppy hats for the annual creative poppy contest.

How do you get your newspaper?

The Board of Publications at its annual meeting voted to urge subscribers to consider getting their newspaper electronically.

The newspaper has had several years in a row of making money, but this year faces a probable deficit. In a row of making money, but this year faces a probable deficit.

The newspaper has had several years in a row of making money, but this year faces a probable deficit. The Board of Publications at its annual meeting voted to urge subscribers to consider getting their newspaper electronically.

“We work on controlling our costs in every way,” Editor Al Zdon told the Fall Conference. “But the one cost we cannot control is postage.”

By receiving the Legionnaire as a PDF in an email, subscribers can still get their newspaper, but not incur the cost of postage or printing.

To subscribe electronically, go to the Legion website, mnlegion.org, and click on “Legionnaire Publications,” then click on “Sign up to Receive...”

DEC hears about outside money options

The Department of Minnesota each year depends greatly on money from what are called “revenue enhancement programs,” and last year one of those programs failed miserably.

Department Adjutant Randy Tesdahl told the Department Executive Committee, meeting at Pequot Lakes Post 49 as part of the Fall Conference, that the Department is looking at new ways to enhance revenue.

Partially responsible for that conversation was the poor showing of the annual calendar program. In 2013, the calendar earned about $26,000 for the Department. Last year, it earned $1,300.

The problem, Tesdahl said, is that the Department plans on that revenue, and when it doesn’t happen, there can be budget problems.

Tesdahl and Finance Committee Chair Bill Goede traveled to Baltimore this year to meet...
The colors and the colors
Fall colors at the lake make a good setting for the American flag. (Photo by Bird Partridge)

Veterans with chronic pain can get life back

Continued from Page 1

Krause explained the program at the Minneapolis VA. It consists of 100 hours and intensive treatment over a 15-day period. She said there’s a wide variety of providers, everything from counselors to acupuncturists, who work with the veterans.

Part of the program for many veterans is to wean them from the epidurals through a slow tapering process. Patients in the program need to be motivated to change, to be able to work in a group setting, and they must be medically stable. The results are improving, but are not guaranteed by any means. Many, like Dan Williams, regain functionality in their lives. Forty percent of those who go through the 15 days experience greater endurance, and 70 percent said the severity of their pain decreased.

She said there was a 30 percent decrease in PTSD symptoms in veterans who went through the program.

Townsend said a common statement of veterans who enter the program is, “I want to have my life back.” For more information on the clinic, contact the Minneapolis VA.

DEC hears about revenue enhancement

Continued from Page 1

with the company that does the calendar and other enhancement programs for Minnesota.

Tesdahl said the company is undergoing extensive reorganization. He said the failure of the calendar program may in part be due to the fact that the National organization also sent out a calendar last year.

One of the solutions to budgeting for enhancement programs that don’t deliver, Tesdahl said, might be to hook up with the National American Legion for calendars, Christmas cards, etc.

“They are going to look at our numbers. If we go with them, they will guarantee an amount that we will raise each year. If we earn more, we will also get that.”

Discussions will continue with National, but Tesdahl said the Department is looking at other options too.

One of those might be a raffle or sweepstakes similar to what other states do. But, he said, Minnesota has stricter rules, and a meeting is planned between the Minnesota Board of Gambling Control and the National American Legion to see if that kind of fundraiser is possible for Minnesota.

Tesdahl noted that partnerships with the insurance companies USAA and LIT are the major source of outside income for the Department. He said other corporate affiliations, whether they be for money or to enhance the visibility for the Department. He said other corporate affiliations, whether they be for money or to enhance the visibility for the Department.

For more information on the clinic, contact the Minneapolis VA.
Endorsements

Oliver endorsed in District Eight

West Duluth Post 71 has endorsed Kenneth J. Oliver, Jr. for the position of 8th District Commander for the year 2016-2017. An Army Veteran of the Vietnam Era, he has been a member of The American Legion for over 25 years.

Brocktberg endorsed for Dept. Chaplain

Charles-Flentje Post 461 in Round Lake has endorsed Bill B. Brocktberg for Department Chaplain, American Legion. Brocktberg is a past Commander and membership director of Post 6 of Pipestone and past Commander and vice-Commander of the Second District. Brocktberg entered the US Army in April of 1982 and served 24 years. At the District Level, Brocktberg has served as Chairman of the Rehabilitation and Public Relations committees. Currently he is the Second District Historian. Brocktberg is the County Veterans Service Officer for Nobles County. He is a Paid-Up-For-Life member in The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Disabled American Veterans. He is a member of the Souths of the American Legion. At the Department, Brocktberg has served on the Post Revitalization and Legislative committees and now serves on the Rehabilitation Committee. He is a graduate of the American Legion National College.

Fall Conference hears from top leadership

Children’s Fund began in 1946

The first chair, established in 1948, is currently held by Dr. Mark Schleiss. He leads a research team that is trying to develop a vaccine for the CMV virus that is the leading cause of deafness in newborns.

The second chair is held by Dr. Joseph Neglia, and was established in 2010. The purpose of the chair is to recruit and retain outstanding faculty members in pediatrics. Neglia is the head of pediatrics at the hospital and is also the physician-in-chief. Neglia has focused on long-term health outcomes for children with cancer. Walser said the fund was turned over to the university in 2010. Over the years, over $5 million has gone into children’s research at the University of Minnesota Children’s Hospital through the foundation. "We have saved children's lives with that money," Walser said. He has served as Post Chaplain for 10 years, Post Commander for 2 years and is currently serving as Post 71 Adjutant. In addition, Oliver has been the 8th District SAL Commander for the past 3 years and 8th District Vice Commander for the Lumberjack Area for the last 2 years. Oliver is a strong supporter of American Legion Programs and hopes, if elected, to continue that effort.

Continued from Page 1

Schmidt was a career Air Force veteran. “Everyone in this room has invested in America,” he said. “We didn’t get here just taking care of ourselves.”

He noted that the Auxiliary has “been on this journey with us from the beginning, not behind us, but standing right next to us.”

He urged Legionnaires to let their communities know what they do. “We have to hustle our horns a little bit. If we don’t, who will? We have to let them know that we’re here and everything we do.”

He asked that the Legion members rededicate themselves to the Legion principles. “It’s our time to carry the legacy forward.”

Twete told of a plane ride from Indianapolis to Minneapolis she took that changed her outlook on young veterans. She sat next to a young man who had just signed up for the military. “I want to be there to help him when he comes out of the military.” She encourage the Auxiliary members to work hard on membership. “There’s no other group that does what our organization consistently does: support veterans. There would be a huge negative impact in this country if the American Legion Auxiliary went away.” She also urged members to be kind. “Sometimes we’re not very nice to each other. We need to create a culture of civility.”

Children’s Fund began in 1946

The idea was to fund research into rheumatic fever, which was a terrible problem in the nation at that time.

By 1948, the Legion and Auxiliary were able to transfer funds of $500,000 to be used by the University Children’s Hospital.

That fund eventually grew to $2 million and funded two chairs at the University.

USAA’s values mirror those of The American Legion.

We believe the military community, veterans who have honorably served and their eligible family members deserve a higher level of service. Like The American Legion, our commitment to service is a core part of everything we do.

We know what it means to serve.

Let us serve you.

1-877-699-2654 | usaa.com/legion

Insurance Banking Investments Retirement Advice

USAA means United Services Automobile Association and its insurers, banking, investment and other companies. USAA products are available only in those jurisdictions where USAA is authorized to sell them. Partnership for products under the USAA Auto and Homeowners Insurance program is offered through the USAA Federal Savings Bank. The primary guarantor: USAA and its affiliates. USAA is a registered mark owned by USAA. The red, white and blue variation of the USAA logo is owned by the government of the United States and is used with permission. Eicher Marketing & Design. © 2015 USAA. All Rights Reserved. Models shown are not available in all states. Ownership rights are limited to eligible policyholders of United Services Automobile Association. “Membership means a different type of American.” Membership also includes eligibility and leading by example, loyalty, patriotism, service and sacrifice. Eligible family members of USAA members may purchase auto or property insurance. Non-member access to USAA auto or property insurance. The American Legion receives financial support from USAA for its sponsorship. © 2014 SAA, JES989-0-10
Greetings from your Commander.

What an October I have had. It all started with the Minnesota Legion and their Disabled Veterans deer hunt at Legionville. I can truly say that I have hunted deer for the past 50 years and never had such an exciting experience. To see fellow veterans who have overcome their individual challenges go out in the field and hunt with the help of our SAF is truly overwhelming. To see the gleam in their eye and smile on their face was what made this an event I will never forget.

Then just a few days later I had the privilege to do it all over again at the Camp Ripley hunt which is sponsored by our fellow veterans organizations – this time on a much larger scale. Thanks to all who donated of their time and money to make these events happen. It is an investment that the returns on can’t be measured in dollars and cents because the memories are priceless.

Next came our National Fall meetings at our National Headquarters. It was a time to learn more about our programs and spend time exchanging ideas with fellow American Legion leaders. Our national staff put on some very informative and interesting meetings. They are a very dedicated and focused group of fellow veterans. Our meeting with the National Commander found him not to be a happy person. He asked that we gather by our regions to define ways to renew and reinitiate more of our current and past members. To make this effort successful I will need all of your help. We are a member-based veterans organization and our very existence depends on our membership. The more members our voice becomes, the more effective our legislation to protect our veterans rights. As we are veterans are less than 2% of the population of this nation and we need the support of all veterans to help make our voice heard. Please help me make this happen in Minnesota. You can make a difference and only with your help will it happen.

I had another new experience and found myself on a radio program. Tom Lyons, a fellow veteran volunteer, produces Minnesota Military Radio. Each week he covers a new event with guests from the veteran community. The time on the air is donated by the host station. The programs are broadcast statewide. To find your local station, contact your District Commander for a list of stations in your area. I think you will find it informative.

This year we have been trying a few new events geared for the entire American Legion Family. Three membership enrollment meetings were held in three states of the nation. I want to thank all who made these events the huge success they were. Your attendance showed your dedication to our organization. I can not thank enough those who gave of their time to attend. I hope we are able to continue these in every District. Your message was heard when you asked for more. A special thanks to all who presented, conducted, and hosted these events.

We just finished our first joint Department American Legion Family Fall Conference. Thanks to all who attended.

In review of your comments I feel that it was successful. Working as a team we benefited from each other. I hope you take the message home and share it with your home Post, Unit and Squadron.

In between events, thanks to family and friends, my fall harvest become complete. With their help and the good Lord it was a safe and bountiful one. I hope you can say the same. Veterans Day will soon be here. Please take time spend with your fellow veterans on this day whether it be at your local post home school or Veterans Home or hospital. I hope you take the message home and share it with others.

You can make a difference and only with your help will it happen.

I was sitting in the airport in Indianapolis and there were eight young men on their way to basic training for the Marine Corps. I asked one of the young men where they were going and I thought, “Is it not they who deploy their own combatants?”

I was sorry I did not make the rally at Legionville, but as a lot of you know we were attending our granddaughter’s wedding in Oklahoma. Before that I had the honor to attend the Minnesota American Legion Women’s Auxiliary banquet at the Capitol. The American Legion Women’s Auxiliary is a wonderful. The Texas Tenors were part of it and the National Chaplain delivered a wonderful message. It was wonderful to be able to attend our granddaughter’s wedding. You know what I’m saying, when you watch that young woman march in with her father. Yes, a tear falls, and you think to yourself she was just a little girl yesterday and today a new page of her life starts. I wish you well, as I do all newweds. I pray that their love stays strong.

I have been to Baltimore and Oklahoma and have just returned from Indiana. While traveling, I have seen some beautiful sights. I have also seen poverty and homelessness. Some say these people are lazy. I hear a saying, “Never look down on anyone unless you are going to help him up.” In the Bible, James 1:19 says, “My brothers and sisters, do you really fulfill the royal law found in Deuteronomy and Joshua? You shall love your neighbors as yourself.”

This country has a lot of homelessness and we as the legion are to help in whatever way we can. Some of the homeless are veterans who need our help. The holidays are approaching and they are a time that many people help in any way you can: food, clothing, gifts, etc. It is a time to reflect on the blessings you have been given and to share with others.

This past Wednesday and Thursday I helped with the disabled veterans deer hunt at Camp Ripley. I have attached a photo of Robert Donaldson — a guy on the right—who is the disabled veteran who shot a nice adult doe. I partnered with Bob to help this deer. I thought it was a deer is important but Robert and myself—and I think most of the others in the hunt— would agree that making new friendships and just enjoying the outdoors was more important. A great time was had by all. There should be a big thank you to all the volunteers and sponsors who made this event happen.

Robert is a member of the Little Falls Post 46 and I am a member of St. Stephen Post 221.

---

By Jim Kellogg

COMMANDER’S COLUMN


Chaplain’s Corner

By Richard Wog

I hope you took the time to read the story in the last Legionnaire. I was not trying to make my job easier; I wanted you to share that story of what or how some people think it is not about God, but about themselves. Our military has fought and sacrificed so much freedom that they have been given. The constitution of our country gave us freedom; but it cost a lot of lives to keep that freedom.

I did not make the rally at Legionville, but as a lot of you know we were attending our granddaughter’s wedding in Oklahoma. Before that I had the honor to attend the Minnesota American Legion Women’s Auxiliary banquet at the Capitol. The American Legion Women’s Auxiliary is wonderful. The Texas Tenors were part of it and the National Chaplain delivered a wonderful message. It was wonderful to be able to attend our granddaughter’s wedding.

You know what I’m saying, when you watch that young woman march in with her father. Yes, a tear falls, and you think to yourself she was just a little girl yesterday and today a new page of her life starts. I wish you well, as I do all newweds. I pray that their love stays strong.

I have been to Baltimore and Oklahoma and have just returned from Indiana. While traveling, I have seen some beautiful sights. I have also seen poverty and homelessness. Some say these people are lazy. I hear a saying, “Never look down on anyone unless you are going to help him up.” In the Bible, James 1:19 says, “My brothers and sisters, do you really fulfill the royal law found in Deuteronomy and Joshua? You shall love your neighbors as yourself.”

This country has a lot of homelessness and we as the legion are to help in whatever way we can. Some of the homeless are veterans who need our help. The holidays are approaching and they are a time that many people help in any way you can: food, clothing, gifts, etc. It is a time to reflect on the blessings you have been given and to share with others.

I was sitting in the airport in Indianapolis and there were eight young men on their way to basic training for the Marine Corps. I asked one of the young men where they were going and I thought, “Is it not they who deploy their own combatants?”

I was sorry I did not make the rally at Legionville, but as a lot of you know we were attending our granddaughter’s wedding in Oklahoma. Before that I had the honor to attend the Minnesota American Legion Women’s Auxiliary banquet at the Capitol. The American Legion Women’s Auxiliary is wonderful. The Texas Tenors were part of it and the National Chaplain delivered a wonderful message. It was wonderful to be able to attend our granddaughter’s wedding.

You know what I’m saying, when you watch that young woman march in with her father. Yes, a tear falls, and you think to yourself she was just a little girl yesterday and today a new page of her life starts. I wish you well, as I do all newweds. I pray that their love stays strong.

I have been to Baltimore and Oklahoma and have just returned from Indiana. While traveling, I have seen some beautiful sights. I have also seen poverty and homelessness. Some say these people are lazy. I hear a saying, “Never look down on anyone unless you are going to help him up.” In the Bible, James 1:19 says, “My brothers and sisters, do you really fulfill the royal law found in Deuteronomy and Joshua? You shall love your neighbors as yourself.”

This country has a lot of homelessness and we as the legion are to help in whatever way we can. Some of the homeless are veterans who need our help. The holidays are approaching and they are a time that many people help in any way you can: food, clothing, gifts, etc. It is a time to reflect on the blessings you have been given and to share with others.

I was sitting in the airport in Indianapolis and there were eight young men on their way to basic training for the Marine Corps. I asked one of the young men where they were going and I thought, “Is it not they who deploy their own combatants?”

I was sorry I did not make the rally at Legionville, but as a lot of you know we were attending our granddaughter’s wedding in Oklahoma. Before that I had the honor to attend the Minnesota American Legion Women’s Auxiliary banquet at the Capitol. The American Legion Women’s Auxiliary is wonderful. The Texas Tenors were part of it and the National Chaplain delivered a wonderful message. It was wonderful to be able to attend our granddaughter’s wedding.

You know what I’m saying, when you watch that young woman march in with her father. Yes, a tear falls, and you think to yourself she was just a little girl yesterday and today a new page of her life starts. I wish you well, as I do all newweds. I pray that their love stays strong.
What’s Happening

Great Clips Buzz Cut
Richardfeld Post 435 and Great Clips will be sponsoring a Buzz Off event on Wednesday, Nov. 11 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 2. For a suggested donation of $10, Great Clips stylists will be on hand to provide buzz cuts.

Money raised from the event will be used on veterans and their families.

On Veterans Day, Great Clips will give cards to non-veterans customers that can be given to a veteran or a service-member for a free hair cut.

Two Events at Post 39
North Star Post 39 will sponsor two events. On Veterans Day, the post will serve a free SOS lunch to veterans from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The meal will consist of creamed chowder over a baked potato, beverage is not included. On Sunday, November 15, from 2-6 p.m., Festa Italiana will present a salute to veterans at the event. The event will include an Italian buffet, live and silent auctions, raffles and a cash bar. The keynote speaker will be Capt. Troy Hyland, the Minnesota National Guard Provost Marshal and a veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan. There will be a history of Minnesota Italians in the military.

World War II veterans are free. Cost for adults is $25 in advance and $30 at the door. For more information, call 651-765-1813. Proceeds go to Festa Italiana.

VA Clinic Moves
The VA’s Compensation and Pension Clinic has moved to the VA Medical Center to the first floor of Whipple Building in Fort Snelling.

The space previously used by the clinic at the hospital will be used to expand the Chronic Pain Rehabilitation Program.

In addition, three audiology booths and an imaging center have been located in the basement of the building. The Center provides primary care, mental health, and other health care for medical conditions related to military service. The Regional Benefit Office, which offers a free drop-in legal clinic for veterans featuring housing, employment, benefits, expungement, wills, debt collection, and family law. It will be held at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center on Tuesday, Nov. 7, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information, go to www.usncg.org.

Apple Valley Vets Day
Apple Valley High School will present its sixth Veterans Day celebration on Wednesday, Nov. 11. The event will run from 9 to 9:30 a.m. at the high school gymnasium. The public is invited, but should arrive 15 minutes early. There will also be a community breakfast at 8:15 a.m. with coffee, donuts and bagels in the cafeteria sponsored by the student government. For more information, call 952-431-8204.

BBQ Fundraiser
Thrivent Financial will hold a Minnesota Veterans Home at Minneapolis BBQ event on Thursday, Nov. 12. The event will serve for a free money for a new kettlebell hop at the veterans home. The event will be held at the Richfield Post 435 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 7.

Round Tables
St. Croix Valley Civil War Roundtable will present “Sherman, Johnston and Davis and the End of the Civil War” on Monday, Nov. 23. This is a dinner meeting. The featured speaker will be Ken Frederickson. For more information and to make reservations call 715-386-1268.

The World War II History Round Table at the Fort Snelling History Center will be held on Thursday, Nov. 12, with the Harold C. Deutsch annual lecture. The subject will be “Forgotten Trials of the Holocaust” with author Michael Bazyler. Donation is $5. The program begins at 7 p.m.

The Rochester Veteran’s Round Table will be held on Monday, Nov. 9, at 7 p.m. at Autumn Ridge Church. The program will feature on the homestead during World War II. Donation is $5.

Military Funeral Stipends
The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs has asked veterans service organizations to be careful to use updated forms when applying for the $50 stipend from the state for performing funeral honors. Many posts are still using old forms and submitting them to the National Guard. They should be submitted directly to the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans.

To get the printable form, go to the MDVA’s website: mngov.state.mn.us/military/veteransfuneral.htm.

Military

Savage, Mary Lou, 79, former staff member at the Minnesota American Legion Headquarters office, died Oct. 11, 2015. She was the office leader for many years, and widely respected for her leadership.


Windom, Gabriel “Gabby,” 84, Army veteran of World War II, died Sept. 16, 2015. He flew 28 missions on the B-17 in Europe as a gunner and flight engineer. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Niemeyer, John, 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Oct. 15, 2015. He served 13 months in Korea. He was a member of Elysian Post 311.

Schilling, Robert Joseph, 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Oct. 19, 2015. He was a member of Mendota Post 42.

Mueller, Sylvester “Cy,” 81, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Oct. 18, 2015. He was a member of Cold Spring Post 455.

Bjorin, Paul Merlin, 88, Air Force veteran of World War II, died Sept. 19, 2015. He was a member of Woodbury Post 501.

Arthur Liiga, 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Oct. 3, 2015. He served in Germany. He was a member of Little Falls Post 46.

Cable, Thomas S., 66, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Oct. 15, 2015. He was a member of Fairfax Post 205.

Heiser, Frederick George, 88, Army veteran of World War II, died Oct. 15, 2015. He served in the Philippines. He was a member of Staples Post 70.

Brusten, Robert N., 90, Army veteran of World War II, died Oct. 17, 2015. He was a paratrooper. He was a member of Thief River Falls Post 117.

Mamthlay, Robert Clark, 94, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died Sept. 24, 2015. He flew 30 missions in a B-24 in Europe. He was a member of New Ulm Post 132.

Portner, Allen E., 82, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 9, 2015. He was a member of New Ulm Post 132.


Bachman, Charles Matthew, 65, Army veteran of World War II, died Sept. 28, 2015. He was a member of Chaska Post 57.
**Sons of The American Legion**

By Gene Osowski

What a great year this has been so far with good weather, rain or shine. I believe the fall harvest is in full swing with good reports, as I have heard, for yields being very good. Being a rural state and much of our membership is the farmer, we need to sit down and think where we would be without the farmer. He is the life blood of not only of our state but of our nation always having to deal with favorable weather conditions and the many long hours spent at his occupation putting food on our tables and strengthening our nation’s economy. Remember that farmer and thank him for what he does.

Membership has been good so far this membership year and it is nice to be happy to report the Detachment of Minnesota American Legion and Auxiliary is continuing to meet and exceed National’s goal by their deadlines. It takes the work of many for this to happen for which I am truly grateful for. This year’s theme is “Filling our nets with membership” and I would love to see our nets full to overflowing at times. What a wonderful way to strengthen all our American Legion Posts and help support and contribute to all their programs. We are a strong part of the American Legion Family.

I have set up conference calling within the Detachment of all Vice Commanders and the 10 District Commanders. The purpose for this is communication and helping each other with ideas and sharing what is working for them in their districts and making us a stronger Detachment. These calls will be held each month. I can see nothing but good results coming from these as experienced already by me. I did a test run which ended up to be more than a test run. I recently attended the Fall NEC Conference in Indianapolis and what an experience this was which included a day of training for us new Detachment Commanders.

This was also an opportunity to meet and shake hands with our national leaders of The Sons of the American Legion and listen to what they had to share. I guess I would have to say what an “eye opener.” It was to see the “great wheels in motion” for this great organization we belong to.

November 11th is Veterans Day and many programs are planned throughout the state. Thank a veteran for what he/she did in preserving our freedoms in these great United States of America. I have been treated at the Minnesota Military Radio show recently. The show is aired on a network of stations across the state.

**Legion Commander: No joy in VA’s Hickey resignation**

American Legion National Commander Dale Barnett issued the following statement regarding today’s resignation of Department of Veterans Affairs Under Secretary for Benefits Allison Hickey: “Under Secretary Hickey is recommended for her dedicated career as a member of the Air Force and her commitment to veterans. Although we called for her resignation, we are disappointed about how it is unfolding. The widespread problems at the VA are not the fault of one person. She is one of three leaders that we asked to step down, as the problems were first exposed last year. Now that the three senior officials that were in place at VA have left office, The American Legion is optimistic that Secretary McDonald can finally make the cultural changes that our veterans need so VA can be worthy of the veterans that it serves.”

**Random notes from the Fall Conference**

Notes from the 2015 Fall Conference:

— National Historian Jim Copcher urged posts to submit a history scrapbook to National for its annual contest.
— Osseo Post 172 donated $10,000 to Legionville.
— American Legion Riders Liaison Paul Hassing noted that the Riders have visited 178 posts and seven veterans homes on their annual Legacy Rides.
— Strategic Planning Committee Member Roger Olson said a Legion College for Minnesota is being considered.
— The Sons of the American Legion presented Gene Meuwissen of Chaska with its Legionnaire of the Year Award.
— Phil Bellefleur of Calloway announced that the Convention Executive Committee has announced a list of future conventions. The 2016 and 2018 Department Conventions will be in Rochester and the 2017 convention will be in Mankato.
— The 2016 Legionnaires of the Year will be in Mankato, and the 2017 Fall Conference will be in Willmar.

**Hospital Association elects two members**

The association provides financial help to those Legion, Auxiliary and SAL members who are having trouble paying their medical bills. Applicants can receive up to $3,000 toward their bills.

Myren said donations for the association have been consistent, and the association has just over $259,000, an increase of $17,000 over the previous year. Assets are growing because of the dearth of people asking for financial assistance.

Department Commander Jim Kellogg, whose term on the association board expired this year, made a motion to increase the financial limit per application to $5,000, but the motion failed on a voice vote.

There were about 35 people in attendance for the annual meeting. It was suggested that next year, the meeting be held as an agenda item during the fall conference.

**American Legion Riders**

By Lee Davis

Fifth District ALR

Greetings from the 5th District ALR.

As you read this, the riding season is about finished for some of us.

Time to do all the maintenance you have been putting off, or add some bling. Don’t forget to do your maintenance on your leathers. Time for a good leather conditioner or to add some bling. Don’t forget to do your maintenance on your leathers. Time for a good leather conditioner.

We had a very nice riding season, thanks to our Ride Captain Russ Jobe.

The only cancellation was for extreme heat. No rides in the riding year.

Post 435 A/LR had their first hot dish feed fundraiser on Wednesday, October 7th. The hot dish feed will be held the first Wednesday of each month, wrapping them up in May.

Two posts in the 5th have authorized the formation of chapters. Minneapolis Post 1 and Wold-Chamberlain Post 99. We look forward to working with them to form a district organization.

Keep the shiny side up and see you in February at Legionville.

---

**Membership Chart**

As of Oct. 14, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>2016 Total</th>
<th>2015 Total</th>
<th>Percent of Goal</th>
<th>Same Date '14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>9,627</td>
<td>9,569</td>
<td>6,684</td>
<td>69.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>7,779</td>
<td>7,695</td>
<td>5,434</td>
<td>69.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>12,165</td>
<td>12,100</td>
<td>8,986</td>
<td>71.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2,561</td>
<td>2,537</td>
<td>1,798</td>
<td>70.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2,829</td>
<td>2,806</td>
<td>1,932</td>
<td>68.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>12,485</td>
<td>12,414</td>
<td>8,712</td>
<td>69.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>6,997</td>
<td>6,919</td>
<td>4,791</td>
<td>69.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>4,630</td>
<td>4,589</td>
<td>2,990</td>
<td>64.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>7,332</td>
<td>7,167</td>
<td>4,826</td>
<td>66.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>10,964</td>
<td>10,910</td>
<td>7,353</td>
<td>67.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At-large</td>
<td>3,734</td>
<td>2,661</td>
<td>1,758</td>
<td>47.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>81,000</td>
<td>79,367</td>
<td>54,976</td>
<td>67.87</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
World War II History Round Table

Who was making the important decisions during World War II?


During the course of World War II, somebody had to make those decisions about how and where and when America would fight – somebody at the very top.

The October World War II History Round Table at Fort Snelling featured Jonathan Jordan, the author of the book American Warlords. How Roosevelt’s High Command Led America to Victory in World War II.

"A half dozen men made most of the truly major decision in the war," Jordan said.

He noted that America was basically an isolationist country in the 1930s, and the government spent all its energy on getting the nation through the Depression years. Even as the rest of the world went to war during and after 1939, the United States stayed home.

"But FDR (President Roosevelt) knew that America had to get into the fight, it was only a matter of time."

With this in mind, Roosevelt – who had very little military experience himself – had to pick cabinet members that could do the job. Strangely enough, he reached across the party aisle and picked two Republicans for top spots. "It was a huge gamble but it worked."

Frank Knox was chosen as Secretary of the Navy. Knox had been a vice presidential candidate running against the Roosevelt ticket in 1936. Henry Stimson, a former Republican Secretary of State, was picked by Roosevelt to run the War Department.

Both men were charged with getting the nation ready for war, and to do it in a hurry.

Joining those two at the top of the military leadership were Adm. Ernest King, Chief of Naval Operations, and Gen. George Marshall, Army Chief of Staff.

"King was a model of the crusty, fighting sailor. He had tattoos on both arms, and he would drink and fight all night and then show up ready for work the next day. He was credited with saying, 'When the going gets tough, they send for the sons of bitches.'"

King’s daughter said her father "was an even tempered man – he was always in a rage."

King had little patience for long reports. "If the signature was not at the bottom of the piece of paper – in other words if it was longer than one sheet – he would throw it away without looking at it."

Marshall was a polar opposite. "He was dignified, aloof. He wasn’t a strategy guy, but a great organizer and logistics person. Winston Churchill called him the ‘organizer of victory.’"

And it was a good thing that Marshall had a different, more organized, temperament, Jordan said. "The Army was eight times larger than the Navy."

One of Marshall’s greatest achievements, Jordan said, was in picking the very best generals to run the war. The one notable exception was Gen. Douglas MacArthur who had enough political clout and savvy to make his own way to the top.

As war neared, Roosevelt gave King orders to protect the convoys leaving the U.S. East Coast for England and Russia. King was given permission to fire on the German submarines if needed. "We were in an undeclared shooting war with Germany three months before Pearl Harbor was attacked," Jordan said.

As the war began, the leadership had to determine how to fight a war on two fronts, and where the priorities would be. Roosevelt and the rest determined that Germany had to be the number one priority, and supplies and manpower would be slanted that way.

How to defeat Germany was a major question though, with some advocating an immediate attack on the European continent. Churchill persuaded Roosevelt to go slow and prepare for such an attack. In the meantime, the U.S. and its Allies would fight in North Africa and then in Italy.

It took time to train and equip an army, though, and during the first year of the war, all the fighting was in the Pacific.

Roosevelt had to referee an ongoing debate between MacArthur and King on the best strategy to reach Japan. MacArthur wanted to use his army to attack Japan in New Guinea, Malaysia and finally the Philippines. King and his top subordinate, Adm. Chester Nimitz, wanted to use the Marines and the Navy to island hop through the empire, choking off Japan’s supply lines.

The president solved the difference by employing both strategies, and with America’s ability to produce war materials and train its military, both worked.

At the end of the war, there was one more great decision to be made. Should the U.S. use the atomic bomb?

As the bomb became operational, though, the center of American leadership, Roosevelt, died. Instead, the decision fell to his successor.

"Harry Truman knew little of what was going on. It wasn’t Roosevelt’s style to keep Truman in the loop."

For instance, he didn’t know about the bomb. But faced with the decision of trying to end the war with the bomb or invading Japan and facing a potential of millions of casualties, Truman opted for Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

"It was Stimson who argued that the bomb would have a deterrent effect on future wars."

Jordan also added the insight that the second bomb was slated to be dropped on the Japanese manufacturing center at Kyoto, but Stimson rejected the plan because he knew Kyoto was home to many historic Japanese landmarks. Instead, Nagasaki was chosen.

Jordan was asked if he thought Roosevelt knew the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor was coming, but let it happen to convince the nation it needed to go to war.

Jordan said he didn’t think so. "Everybody knew something was going to happen, but we were looking in the wrong direction. Pearl Harbor didn’t hit our radar screen. Our military experts said that Pearl Harbor could be attacked, but not occupied."

Instead, he said, attention was focused on Singapore, the Philippines and other targets Japan needed to conquer and use for oil, rubber and other resources.

Jordan was asked what the weakest link in the American power elite was. He said there really wasn’t one, but if he had to pick one person it would be Roosevelt. "I would say Roosevelt administratively. Some thought he was haphazard."

"World War II veterans Bud Nakazono and Bob Maynard told the Round Table audience of their experiences during the war. Moderator Don Patton asked a World War II veteran in the audience what he thought of the leadership in the war. The veteran, who was a tail gunner based in Italy, replied, ‘We weren’t that concerned about what went on above. We were more interested in the Italian girls near the base.’"

Training Enrichment meetings draw over 300 to three sites

Over 100 trainers and trainees gathered at a church in New Ulm to do Legion training. Sessions were held at Clear Lake, New Ulm and Grand Rapids, with over 300 in attendance.

Bill Stein of Wayzata was one of the trainers at the New Ulm session of the Enrichment Training. (All photos by Ralph Schneekloth)

Jody and Paul Hassing briefed the New Ulm participants on the American Legion Riders. Jody is secretary of the state group, and Paul is the Department’s liaison to the Riders.

Membership Director Jim Lucas was in charge of planning the seminars in the state. Those who attended got a free lunch and mileage.

November 2015 Minnesota Legionnaire Page 7

JONATHAN JORDAN
Singers Rick Stang, left, and John Jordan entertained the 500 attendees at the Fall Conference. They represented the Creative Arts Festival at the VA medical centers.

Legion and Auxiliary bargain hunters examined the goods at the annual Silent Auction. The event raised over $4,700 for the Auxiliary Emergency Fund.

The paparazzi were out in full force as the elegant officers of the Legion, Auxiliary and SAL made their way to the front of the meeting room.

This year’s poppy contest featured a wreath display.

After marching down the aisle at the Grand Promenade on Friday night at Breezy Point, Department Commander Jim Kellogg and Department President Sandy Fredrickson turned and smiled for the crowd.

Auctioneer Randy Tesdahl and his helper Commander Jim Kellogg auction off an American Legion Family hat at the Fall Conference at Breezy Point. Sale of the hats will go toward the National Emergency Fund.

2015 Fall Conference at Breezy Point
Girls Nation Senator Louise Lungstrom told about her experiences in Washington DC.

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

Creative Arts Festival awardee Bill Underwood played a few tunes for the conferees.
The admiral (Thomas Hart) got the ships out of the range of the aircraft. "I swam for a long time. It's easier in the salt water to
swim. I swam and then got to the life raft."

"My battle station as a corpsman was on the main deck near the stern turret. The heavy cruiser's gunports were open, and I
could feel them when they hit. But we continued to do our job."

"We had run out of ammunition, and we were firing star shells. That's all we had."

"Our admiral wanted us out, but we were under Dutch command at the time," Hanley said. "Although I read later that Roosevelt wanted us there too."

"I swam toward it. It was a bunch of guys in a life raft. In the water, and the water was warm. Then I heard some noise and
swam toward it. It was a bunch of guys in a life raft."

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

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

He was sent to the West Coast for a time, and then to
Australia, and that was nothing but a bunch of warehouses.

"I joined the Navy to see the world, but mostly all I saw was
attacks on the ship, and on Feb. 4, 1942, a bomb slammed
through the aft part of the ship, destroying a massive gun
turret and the magazines below it."

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

"The admiral (Thomas Hart) got the ships out of the range of the aircraft. "I swam for a long time. It's easier in the salt water to
swim. I swam and then got to the life raft."

"My battle station as a corpsman was on the main deck near the stern turret. The heavy cruiser's gunports were open, and I
could feel them when they hit. But we continued to do our job."

"We had run out of ammunition, and we were firing star shells. That's all we had."

"Our admiral wanted us out, but we were under Dutch command at the time," Hanley said. "Although I read later that Roosevelt wanted us there too."

"I swam toward it. It was a bunch of guys in a life raft. In the water, and the water was warm. Then I heard some noise and
swam toward it. It was a bunch of guys in a life raft."

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

"Our admiral wanted us out, but we were under Dutch command at the time," Hanley said. "Although I read later that Roosevelt wanted us there too."

"I swam toward it. It was a bunch of guys in a life raft. In the water, and the water was warm. Then I heard some noise and
swam toward it. It was a bunch of guys in a life raft."

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

"Our admiral wanted us out, but we were under Dutch command at the time," Hanley said. "Although I read later that Roosevelt wanted us there too."

"I swam toward it. It was a bunch of guys in a life raft. In the water, and the water was warm. Then I heard some noise and
swam toward it. It was a bunch of guys in a life raft."

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

"Our admiral wanted us out, but we were under Dutch command at the time," Hanley said. "Although I read later that Roosevelt wanted us there too."
still got smacked a few times. I remember that one Japanese pretty much stayed away from the hospital. They sent them back to the railroad. "But it was just part of their training. They slapped and hit their own soldiers all the time. They'd knock somebody down, and if they didn't get up fast enough, they would knock them down again. Koreans did the same thing. Hanley still bears a scar on his head where he was hit by a rifle butt as he tried to help a patient in the hospital. "But it was just part of their training. They slapped and hit their own soldiers all the time. They'd knock somebody down, and if they didn't get up fast enough, they would knock them down again."

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

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

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

Dr. Henri Hekking was a hero to Allied prisoners.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**(News from around the State)**

**Camp Ripley** – Disabled vets and guides gather around a deer at the annual deer hunt at Camp Ripley.

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

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

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

**Olivia Updates** – Olivia Post 186 recently purchased a new sign indicating the Legion Family.

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

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

---

**Listening Post**

Redwood Falls Post 38 commander. Also Jerry Ludwig’s dad’s first cousin. Jerry is the recent state convention in Redwood Falls. Dan LUDWIG REUNION Commander DuWayne Underthun donates. Begun hosting a Red Cross Bloodmobile. Post -- Willmar Post 167 has around a deer at the annual deer hunt at Camp Ripley, CAMP RIPLEY

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

At one point, Hanley ended up at a camp where the bridge over the River Kwai was built. It later was the subject of a book and a movie. “The movie was all fiction. First of all, the prisoners didn’t blow up the bridge, it was destroyed by American B-17 bombers. In fact, some of the bombs hit our camp and some Australians were killed.”

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

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

On Aug. 16, a plane came over the camp and dropped leaflets telling the prisoners the war was over. The next day, paratroopers from the U.S. Americal Division dropped into the camp to free the prisoners. “They took the sickest out first. Then the rest of us. First we went to Rangoon in a C-46 transport plane, and then on to Karachi to the 142nd General Hospital. I spent a month or so there.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

He and his wife of almost 70 years, Eileen, have six children, 18 grandchildren, and 18 great grandchildren. They live in Wyoming, Minnesota.
November 2015 Minnesota Legionnaire Page 13

**District Commanders**

**FIRST DISTRICT**

Roland Hanson Commander

**SECOND DISTRICT**

Dewayne Collins Commander

**THIRD DISTRICT**

Don Skow Commander

**FOURTH DISTRICT**

Dan Williams Commander

**FIFTH DISTRICT**

Jim Anderson Commander

**SIXTH DISTRICT**

Teresa Ash Commander

**SEVENTH DISTRICT**

Karen Welander Commander

**EIGHTH DISTRICT**

Jennifer Havlicek Commander

**NINTH DISTRICT**

Denise Milton Commander

**TENTH DISTRICT**

Bill Johnson Commander

---

Hello fellow veterans. Fall is here and winter is right behind. The January dues increase will be here before you know it. Sign those members up now. At this writing, it was held in New Ulm on the 10th of October. The attendance was good but sadly it was most of the same people. I encourage everyone to at least try attending a district meeting, a local post, conference, or a convention. You will meet new people and maybe learn something and you never know, you might like it.

Our next membership rally will be on November 5th at Montgomery Post 79. The guest speaker will be Sue Register from the Hastings Vets Home. We still need to cover for the November monthly meeting. The topic is “Living at the Hastings Vet Home so if your Post has some extra funds to be used for this please contact me or Mike Maxa. Our Vice Commanders have all been working hard to get us to goal on time so if your Post needs some help with this please let them know or call me – Don Skow.

Veterans Day is a day to be thankful for the veterans who came before us and also the veterans who are still serving at home and abroad. The training session that Department of Minnesota put on in Clearwater, New Ulm, and Grand Rapids was a great turnout. I would like to thank Little Falls Post 46 and Brainerd Post 255 for hosting 6 district round table discussion that was held on October 17th and all of those who helped to put the event together and attended.

As it looks like November is going to be another busy month, if any of your posts have a special event you would like me to attend contact me at dcskow@msn.com or 218-821-7114.

The Fabulous Fourth held a successful Revitalization Event. Special thanks to District Membership Director, Michelle Collins, for her efforts and time spent recruiting for revitalization. She called the meeting in the fall, making the calls! The team members who worked with Mickey include: District Auxiliary President Connie Anderson, Jim Anderson – Post 542, Tom Teresi – Post 311, Randy Basty – 39, Cliff Gustafson – 42, Joe Hansen – Post 406, Teresa Ash – Post 406, Mike Ash – Post 406, Lane Stunkel – Post 577, 5th District Commander Gary Martin, Department Membership Director, Jim Lucas and National Associate Membership Director Rolandia Herron. We would like to extend a special thank you to eight members from the Fourth District Posts. We updated records of members now in Post Everlasting and transferred members into other districts. We have a successful three days! In the event I missed including your name and you helped with the Revitalization Event or making calls, please accept my apology for the unintended omission.

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

Calendar: November 10th District CCC Meeting 7:00 PM – Post 37. November 11th Veteran’s Day Parade. November 15th VA Hospital Visit 1:00 PM. November 18th Shop, Ship and Share Meeting 6:30 PM – Post 39.

---

Dear 8th District Legion Family,

This weekend I attended The American Legion of Minnesota Legion Family Fall Conference. Everyone did a great job for our first post Fall Conference. We heard from many of our Legion programs and gave some really special people awards for their service. We also had some great social evening with our Legion Family members. Now let’s talk membership, I am sorry to say that the 8th District, Legion and Sons of the American Legion, are last in the membership race. That being said I need all our posts and Squadrons Commanders and Adjutants to call their members and urge them to not just renew their membership but to sign up at last one new member before January 2016, this will allow your post and squadrons to avoid having to pay the $5.00 increase until 2017. Lastly if your post dues are not at least $31.50 your post will lose money. Yes you read it right lose money on every renewal or new member signed up after the National dues increase, so if your next meeting consider raising your due at least $15.00 a year and notify the district. Please contact me if you have any questions or concern. Jennifer.havlicek@outlook.com or 218-834-4975. Let’s work together to get all our renewals in asap. Remember our members are the power of The American Legion.
President's Testimonial coming up on Nov. 21 at Glenville Post

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

FALL CONFERENCE

The 83rd annual Fall Conference was held at the Breezy Point Resort on October 28-31, 2015. President Sandy Fredrickson and Membership Chairman Jean Savard were on hand to let our leaders put together a joint conference for the entire American Legion Family. It was quite informative hearing how the other organizations run their programs. Everything went very well and it was well worth attending. There were many new items, such as 3 of the Minnesota Creative Arts competitors performed and how wonderful that was! We also had two doctors from the Brain Science Program at the Minneapolis VA, our Junior leaders and Girls State Senators. It is very refreshing to know we have such bright, young people ready to lead us in the future.

HAPPY 96TH BIRTHDAY

Does your Unit have a “birthday month” for the American Legion Auxiliary? Will your Unit be celebrating? It was November 10, 1919, when the American Legion Auxiliary was established by a resolution adopted at the first National Convention of The American Legion here in Minneapolis. Since then the Auxiliary has grown to about 100,000 Units and 300,000 members. This November is the American Legion Auxiliary’s 96th birthday. We hope you are planning a celebration in your Unit. Do something fun and memorable as a Unit, find out what types of gifts are appreciated and needed. Those items are purchased and delivered to the facilities.

2016 POPPY ORDERS

Orders for your 2016 Poppy are being accepted. Prices for small poppies are the same as last year. As of this writing the order form was included in the first Unit mailing. Poppy prices:

- Small Poppies - $180.00 a thousand ($18.00 a hundred) for orders of 500 or less; large Poppies - $18.00 a dozen and the Poppy Window Display cards are $5.00 each while supplies last. Remember that the Department Office no longer has any of the Poppy Display cards. You must either order what Emblem Sales offers or come up with your own creative way to make the displays. The 2016 Poppy orders will be shipped on the dates requested on the orders. When you receive your Poppies, please store them in a cool place so they don’t inadvertently thrown away or wrapped up as a holiday gift. Please check your order upon receipt and report any discrepancies to the Department Office.

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

PEARL HARBOR RALLY

The Pearl Harbor Membership Rally will be held at the Faribaunt American Legion Post 43 on Saturday, December 5th, 2015. It is a 3-4:30 pm, placed dinner at 5 and program to follow. Your District President and Membership Chairman asks every Unit to have membership ready to be picked up by a Legion representative comes to your area. Check with your Post Commander for your pick-up day and time. Please do not hold membership in your Unit. Mail your transmittals on a regular basis. Just be prepared to give those last minute membership to the representative who comes to pick them up for the rally.

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

Frederick endorsed for NEC Woman

She has served as National NEC and Northwestern Division National Security Chairman. Currently she is serving as Alternate NEC and a National Community Service Committee Member. Shirley lives in Hackensack, has five adult children and 19 grand and great grandchildren. She is active in her church.

Strasser endorsed for Second V. President

She has been the chairperson for the 2011 National Convention in Minneapolis. She also volunteers at the Minneapolis VAMC on game nights.

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

Fredrickson endorsed for Woman

The Auxiliary Bulletin

No. 16-4
November 2015

President Sandy Fredrickson
Secretary Sandie Deutsch

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

The Department Office and the Hospital and Home Representatives want to give a big thank you to the Units and Posts that have contributed funds to our Gift Shop program. Again this year, the veterans at the four (4) VA Medical Centers and the five (5) Minnesota Veterans Homes will be selecting gifts for their loved ones through our Gift Shop program. About 2,000 veterans participate in this program. A huge change this year for the Gift Shop is the amount that was approved by the Department Executive Committee to spend on our Veterans at the Gift Shop. The Gift Shop committee has been busy shopping for the gift that could appreciate your Unit’s financial support of this program. Those who attended Fall Conference saw the nice quality and selection of items the veterans may choose from. We also included a generous cash donation in your Unit’s annual budget and send it to the department office earmarked Gift Shop. Let’s support our own Auxiliary programs first.

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

GIFT SHOP DATES

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

- Fargo VAMC: December 7
- Minneapolis VAMC: December 8 & 9
- Sioux Falls VAMC: December 17
- St. Cloud VAMC: December 10, December 1-2
- Fergus Falls VA Home: December 14
- Hastings VA Home: December 13
- Laverne VA Home: December 10
- Minneapolis VA Home: December 2 & 3
- Silver Bay VA Home: December 10

MEMBERSHIP SUPPLIES

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

SEWING NEEDS

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

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

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

SECRETARY SANDIE’S NOTES

By the time you are reading this we will have another Fall Conference under our belts. I hope many of you attended. It was the best Fall Conference I have attended as everyone was together and the comradery was great. The performance by our Veterans from St. Cloud was phenomenal. There were many tears flowing in the crowd. We have been busy here in the Department Office as membership has finally started to come in. Very sincerely I would like to thank all of you who work so hard to recruit, renew and rejoin but I would also ask that everyone work just a little bit harder so we could make our goals set just a little higher.

They are both giving much of their time to make this a very successful event.

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

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

Please include a generous cash donation in your nursery fund and may use Poppy funds and Gambling funds for this program. Those who attended Fall Conference saw the nice quality and selection of items the veterans may choose from. We also included a generous cash donation in your Unit’s annual budget and send it to the department office earmarked Gift Shop. Let’s support our own Auxiliary programs first.

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

You are cordially invited to

Toast & Roast our Department President
Sandy Fredrickson
November 21, 2015

Come for an afternoon of fun, food, & prizes!
3PM to 5:30 at the American Legion,
Post #264, Glenville, MN
Dinner @ 6PM
First Lutheran Church, Glenville
(across the road from post)
Swiss Steak Dinner $22.00 per plate
Send RSVP to:
Arlene Hajek, 88915 145th St, Glenville, MN 56036
(Tickets will be at the door)

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

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

Please include a generous cash donation in your nursery fund and may use Poppy funds and Gambling funds for this program. Those who attended Fall Conference saw the nice quality and selection of items the veterans may choose from. We also included a generous cash donation in your Unit’s annual budget and send it to the department office earmarked Gift Shop. Let’s support our own Auxiliary programs first.

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

ROOMS HAVE BEEN BLOCKED FOR TESTIMONIAL

You are cordially invited to

Toasting & Roasting Our Department President
Sandy Fredrickson
November 21, 2015

Come for an afternoon of fun, food, & prizes!
3PM to 5:30 at the American Legion, Post #264, Glenville, MN
Dinner @ 6PM
First Lutheran Church, Glenville (across the road from post)
Swiss Steak Dinner $22.00 per plate
Send RSVP to:
Arlene Hajek, 88915 145th St, Glenville, MN 56036
(Tickets will be at the door)

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

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

Please include a generous cash donation in your nursery fund and may use Poppy funds and Gambling funds for this program. Those who attended Fall Conference saw the nice quality and selection of items the veterans may choose from. We also included a generous cash donation in your Unit’s annual budget and send it to the department office earmarked Gift Shop. Let’s support our own Auxiliary programs first.
Attention Veterans!  
This is your home run. Minnesota resort: Barren-free and open 12 months a year. Gateway to the BWCA. 200-777-7538 email: vetlake@frontiernet.net www.veteransonthelakeresort.com

All cabins have a lake view.

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

[Image 51x696 to 795x1129]

[Image 557x473 to 795x690]

[Image 51x473 to 289x618]

[Image 56x129 to 285x167]

[Image 56x221 to 142x362]

[Image 57x187 to 142x218]

[Image 317x145 to 781x455]

[Image 303x471 to 526x690]

[Image 57x1135]