

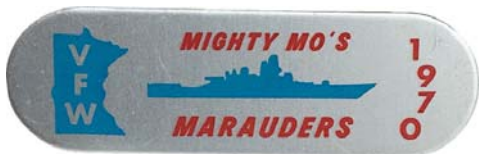
GOPHER OVERSEA'R

Volume 72, NO. 2 Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Official Publication to More Than 45,000 Members of the Department of Minnesota June 2018 - September 2018

Continuing a Legacy: Father and Son State Commanders



Moe Hanson and Son Tom Hanson taken in 1979 when Tom was named to the All-State Post Commander's Team.



Moe Hanson's State Commander Pin.

Tom Hanson has some very special shoes to fill as the newly elected Department Commander... Those would be the shoes of his father Moe Hanson. A 'Legendary' State Commander, Moe served the Department of Minnesota from 1969-1970.

The first Father & Son to have been elected as Minnesota State Commanders, Tom's success is bittersweet as his father has passed away. None-the-less, the experiences and support of his father and mother have fostered his love for the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Growing up in Willmar, Tom, his older brother Steve and younger Sister Nancy were brought up in the VFW. This and the encouragement of his father Moe... found Tom signing up to join the VFW in May of 1971 at age 19, while he was home on leave during his service in Vietnam.

Many people may know Tom

from his service as the Claims Director for the Department of Minnesota VFW... Now he is honored to continue the Legacy of his father as the 2018-19 Minnesota State Commander.

As his busy year is already underway, Tom took a few moments to share his thoughts about filling his father's shoes...

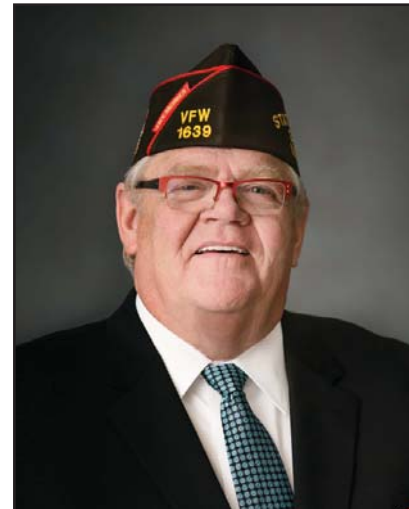
Tell us about your dad's military service.

He served in the US Navy in the South Pacific during WWII as a Pharmacist Mate aboard the USS Archambeau and in the Philippines.

What was he most proud of with his Commandership?

Minnesota's membership exceeded 70,000 for the first time which was the mark required for a State to achieve their own unshared seat on the National Council of Administra-

FATHER/SON - Cont. Page 14



2018-19 State Commander Tom Hanson

Member of
VFW Post 1639
Willmar, MN

It is with humility and pride that I begin the journey of serving you, our members, as your State Commander. I pray for the intestinal fortitude and strength of character to do the job expected of me. I thank you all for putting your trust and confidence in me and allowing me the opportunity to lead this Department.

There is a rather large contingent of individuals that I wish to thank for their efforts on my behalf and that of the Department of Minnesota, and rather than creating discomfiture for myself I won't single out any individuals but I offer my sincere gratitude to those folks. I also believe I have been blessed with a prodigious slate of officers to work with and as we all know, if you're surrounded with great people, great things happen. I am truly looking forward to rolling up my sleeves and getting to work!

Once again it's no secret that our goal is to retain every one of our current members and to recruit new ones to replace those that flee and those that have answered the final call. We require a strong member-

CMDR - Cont. Page 3

2018 Fall Conference: Accept the Challenge, Get Motivated

Fall Conference 2018 will be held in Willmar September 14-16 and hosted by Finstad-Week Post 1639. The Fall event is the perfect opportunity to delve deeper into the many programs of the VFW and Auxiliary. The Willmar Conference Center provides comfortable access to all meeting spaces along with two restaurants and two hotels on site... No need to go outside if the weather is a bit unexpected. A full weekend is planned, providing many seminars, displays and meetings to CHALLENGE and MOTIVATE members.

While planning a visit to the Fall Conference, be sure to check out

the schedule and various special opportunities available (found in this issue of the Oversea'r and on our website: www.mnvfw.org). The VFW contracted hotel rates expire soon, so call right away to get your reservations and the Best Western Plus or the Holiday Inn and Suites. Whether you arrive Thursday night or Friday, Registration will be available at the Willmar VFW and will move to the Conference Center for the weekend. At the VFW Conference Registration, you will receive a full Conference Program Book that will detail events of the weekend to help plan your weekend.

This year's event will strive to CHALLENGE and MOTIVATE attendees through business meetings and seminars. Everything kicks off Friday with the Gambling Control Board meeting which is open to everyone, but is especially helpful to those involved with Charitable Gaming at their Post. The Finance Committee will meet to round out the afternoon. If neither of these meetings pertain to you, early arrival will allow you to enjoy some local shopping, dining or a round a golf. Then return to the Conference Center for the VFW and Auxiliary Council of Ad-

CONV - Cont. Page 5

Department of Minnesota, VFW
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Saint Paul, MN 55155

Twin Cities, MN
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Save The Date!! Upcoming VFW Events

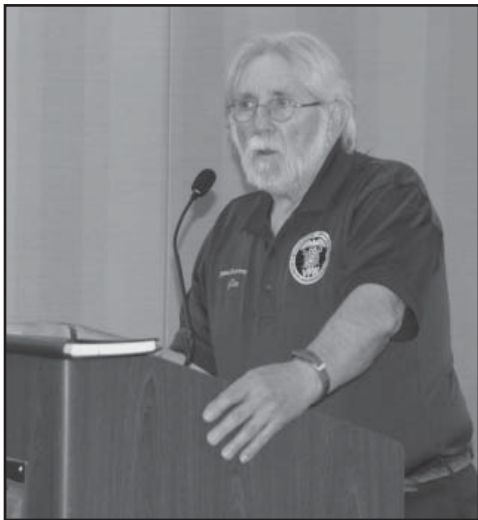
Fall Conference September 14-16, 2018 Willmar Conference Center	National Legislative Conference March 3-7, 2019	VFW State Hockey Tournament March 22-24, 2019 Thief River Falls
Midwinter Conference January 18-20, 2019 Minneapolis Marriott City Center	Minnesota Veterans Day on the Hill March 2019 (Day TBD)	State Convention & Training Schools June 12-16, 2019 Kelly Inn St Cloud

****Red Events are Department Events****

Top News

Department AQ Retires... *Again*

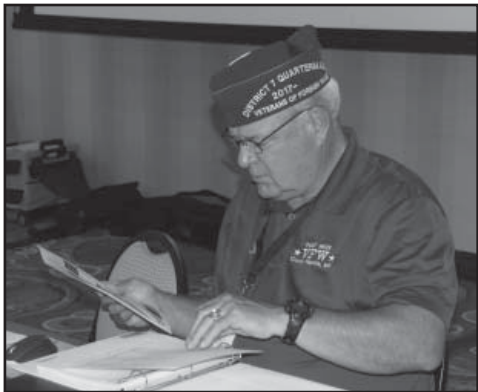
Long time Department Adjutant-Quartermaster Jim Hesselgrave retired. Yes- he retired *'Again'*. After nearly 40 years of service to the Department of Minnesota Veterans of Foreign Wars State Headquarters, Hesselgrave retired at the closing of the 2016 State Convention. At the 2018 Midwinter Conference a vacancy left his old position open. He was asked to come out of retirement to again serve the State Headquarters as the Interim Department Adjutant-Quartermaster until Officer Elections could take place at the June State Convention.



Jim Hesselgrave, Retired Minnesota Department Quartermaster, serving at his last Convention.

It was not a simple task to come back from the freedom of retirement and volunteer as the Interim AQ; many changes had taken place since he had retired. However, as a true testament to his character and commitment to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Jim dug in and kept the Department of Minnesota in action. Putting in endless hours at the office to *'right the ship'*, he is now enjoying his retirement... again... bringing his service to the Department Headquarters Office to well over 40 years. During his tenure, Jim's heart has always been in the right place and his decisions were by the book... for the good of the Organization. "It was almost harder leaving the Headquarters Office the second time..." Hesselgrave stated, as it has been his second home since he was 27 years old.

While Jim now enjoys hunting, riding his motorcycle, and making maple syrup, the Department Headquarters has been passed onto very capable Officers. At the 2018 State Convention, delegates elected Jerry Brletich as Department Quartermaster. Jerry's experience as a long time Quartermaster of Coon Rapids VFW Post #9625 and service as the District 7 Quartermaster will serve him well.



Jerry Brletich, newly elected State Quartermaster beginning his duties at the 2018 Convention.

The position of Department Adjutant is being held by Patrick Bohmer from James Ballentine VFW Post #246 in Uptown/ Minneapolis. Patrick has served the VFW on all levels... including State Commander in 1984-86 and has even worked at the National Headquarters helping Posts across the Country with Membership making him a great resource.

Patrick Bohmer, newly elected State Adjutant beginning his duties at the 2018 Convention.



17-18 Commander/President Project: \$45 K Delights MN Veterans Homes



Pictured left to right: 17-18 State Commander Rick Bugbee, Hasting Home Representative Sue Register, Fergus Falls Representative Deanna Mounts, 17-18 State President Gail Brekke, Luverne Home Representative Duane Mabon, Minneapolis Home Representative Sandy Larson and Silver Bay Home Representative Ward Wallin.

During the State Convention Joint Awards Ceremony, 2017-18 State Commander and State President Gail Brekke learned the results of their joint project for their year... \$44,950 was gathered to benefit Minnesota's five Veterans Homes. Delighted to receive their respective checks for \$8,990 were the Volunteers coordinators from each of the five homes.

Special Awards Honor Special People

Celia Piippo of Aux. 3289 New York Mills was honored by the Auxiliary as the Outstanding Hospital Volunteer for 2017-18. She is known for kind demeanor and gentle presence. Her continuous dedication and care for Minnesota Veterans is highly commendable.



Jerry Tews of Post 906 Hutchinson was honored for over twelve years of service as Representative on the Executive Board of Veterans-4-Veterans (V4V) and his years as a member of the original Big Island Board of Directors.

Minnesota VFW Office Locations

Department Headquarters:

Patrick Bohmer, Adjutant
Jerry Brletich, Quartermaster
B5 Veterans Service Building
20 West 12th Street
St. Paul, MN 55155
Phone: (651) 291-1757
Fax: (651)291-2753
Email: vfwmnoffice@gmail.com
Webpage: www.mn.gov/vfw

Department Claims Office:

Jon Gohn, Claims Director
Whipple Federal Building, G900
1 Federal Drive
St. Paul, MN 55111
Phone: (612) 970-5669
Fax: (612) 970-5404

Auxiliary Headquarters :

Veterans Service Building
20 West 12th Street
St. Paul, MN 55155
Phone: (651) 291-1759
Fax: (651) 291-7932

Minneapolis VA

Scott Sutherland
VFW Hospital Representative
Minneapolis VAMC
Phone: (612) 725-2000 ext. 4448

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Publications Committee:
Tom Hanson, Commander; Chad Solheid, Sr. Vice Commander;
Curt Hermanson, Jr. Vice Commander; Barry Henriksen, Judge Advocate.

The Gopher Overseas'r is the official publication of the Department of Minnesota, VFW.

It is published three times a year out of the State Headquarters building at: State Veterans Service Building, 20 W 12th St. Saint Paul, MN 55155.

Upcoming deadlines are November 15, 2018, March 20, 2019 and July 25, 2019

To: VFW National Headquarters
Data Entry Department
406 West 36th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111

Please Note the below address change: (Please Print)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State and Zip: _____

Post Number: _____

Department Headquarters News

Junior Vice Commander

By Curt Hermanson, State Junior Vice Commander

Greetings Comrades,

First and foremost, I would like to offer my sincere gratitude for all the support that the members provided to me this last year. Your trust and faith in me is so integral to my position; it means a great deal to me and I promise to carry on and do my best to uphold the duties of my position.

I recently attended our national convention in Kansas City, MO, it was wonderful to meet with and converse with all of our extended comrades. As we continue to strive for the betterment of both our orga-

nization and the enduring support of our nations veterans I am very proud to be a part of this process in a more hands on capacity. It is an honor to serve in my elected position and help represent our views at these farther reaching levels.

I also know that none of this would be possible without all of you and your support and I look forward to working with everyone as I continue at the department level and would like to offer my assistance to anyone with questions or seeking guidance, should they need it.

CMDR- Cont. from Page 1

ship base to continue to have a voice on Capitol Hill to which Congress is willing to listen. As always, numbers speak volumes to politicians.

We recently returned from our VFW National Convention and were reminded that those seeking office flock to organizations with a large contingency of voters. Moreover, as Vietnam veterans age, the need becomes all the more essential to bring younger combat veterans into the fold lest we become silent and forgotten. The Vietnam veterans (myself included) are ready and willing to pass the torch, I am indeed encouraged by the group of younger officers in line to take this Department into the next epoch.

Like many other organizations our numbers are trickling in the wrong direction. This is a troubling

trend that requires diligence from every member to see that outfits such as the VFW remain strong. Our original mission to take care of our brothers and sisters in arms when they are unable to care for themselves cannot be ignored nor forgotten. Also, when their families are down and out, they too need us and we need to be there for them. We have a lot of work to do in order to carry on these traditions. I know you'll pitch in and help, that's just one of the reasons you belong to the VFW.

Again, I look forward to the forthcoming year and the work we have in front of us. It really is a labor of love for me however; helping veterans has been my passion since my release from active duty. One of the older slogans of our organization remains befitting: "It's not the price you pay to belong; it's the price you paid to become eligible"!

Community Service

By Dewey Hermanson, State Community Service Chair

Our organization is not changing, no matter what your members think. We still do what we do; however, the way we are doing things is changing.

You must embrace this for the future of our Department to stay relevant, and continue to be the organization for our current and future veterans and their families who rely on us to take care of them. We must be the center of the community and be involved in all facets.

Let's look at our Community Service reporting, the end of the reporting year is not the time to figure it out and submit everything at the

last minute. Get ahead of the game and take credit for what you're doing. This is beneficial for your record keeping and IRS justification; in addition, a benefit we all as organization receive, is to showcase how much of a difference we make in people's lives and our community.

It is my goal to be at 100% in community service reporting by Fall Conference I have faith that you will assist me in my goal. You must love this organization and truly believe in it. I wake up every day and attempt to do something to be better this organization.

Buddy Poppy

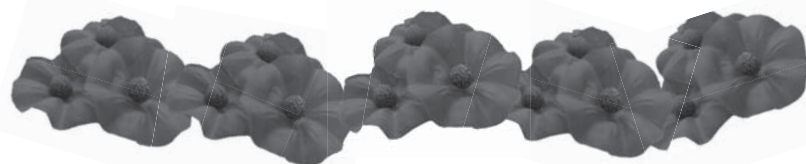
By Barry Henriksen, State Buddy Poppy Chair

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the end of World War 1. From the "War to end all wars" the Buddy Poppy was created. In 1922 it would become the Veterans of Foreign Wars official memorial flower. What better way to commemorate the end of "The Great War" than to purchase your Poppies early. That way you can have them on hand for Veterans Day when you recognize the 100th Anniversary of the Armistice that would become known as Veterans Day starting in 1953.

Remember that you don't have to pay for your Poppies until next year. Also, to get your commander max points for All State consideration you need to purchase 250 more than you bought last year.

At the Fall Conference I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. If you don't have the form with you I will have plenty available so that you can order Poppies on the spot.

Thanks for all you do.



ATTENDING FALL CONFERENCE:

VFW National
Representative

Edward S. Banas, Sr.
Past National Commander-in-Chief
2003 - 2004



Edward S. Banas Sr., was elected Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars on August 29, 2003 at the 104th national convention, held in San Antonio, Texas. He is only the second member from Connecticut to be elected to this position.

Ed served in the Army from 1965-68. In Vietnam, he was assigned to the 18th MP Bde. He was awarded the Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, National Defense Medal and the Army Good Conduct Medal.

In 1967, while still in the military, Ed joined VFW Post 10004 in Jewett City, Connecticut. He served in a variety of positions at the Post level including Post Commander. At the district level, Ed earned the honor of All American District Commander. He served as Department Commander of Connecticut in 1993-94.

On the national level, Ed has served on several committees including Safety, By-Laws, Budget & Finance, and as chairman for both the Americanism and Legislative Committees. He served a two-year term, 1994-1996, as a member of the National Council of Administration representing the Departments of Massachusetts and Connecticut. In 1998-1999 he served as the Eastern States Conference Chairman.

Ed put his military police experience to good use when he became a member of the Norwich Police Department in 1968. He served with the department for more than 10 years. During this time, he was a member of several law enforcement associations including Patrolman's Benevolent Association, New London County Detective Association, Connecticut Narcotic Officers Association, and the International Narcotic Officers Association.

He attended Northeastern University for the Study of Constitutional Law for Police, Police Organizations and Management. He also attended the Department of the Treasury - Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms School for Criminal Investigations.

Ed is a member of the American Legion, the Voluntown, Conn. Historical Society and a Life Member of VFW Post 10004. He has five children and resides with his wife Sandra in Niantic.

2018-2019 Department Officers

Minnesota V.F.W. Council of Administration

Officer	Home City	Home Post
Commander Thomas Hanson	Willmar	Post #1639
Sr. Vice Commander Chad Solheid	Forest Lake	Post #7
Jr. Vice Commander Curt Hermanson	Cannon Falls	Post #4452
Quartermaster Jerry Brletich	Coon Rapids	Post #9625
Adjutant Patrick Bohmer	Circle Pines	Post #246
Judge Advocate Barry Henriksen	White Bear Lake	Post #1782
Surgeon Dr. James Tuorila	Saint Cloud	Post #428
Chaplain Len Gudmunson	Hastings	Post #5555
Chief of Staff Patrick Bohmer	Circle Pines	Post # 246
Member at Large Jerry Brletich	Coon Rapids	Post #9625
Chief Inspector Lawrence Grindland	W. Saint Paul	Post #295
Past Commander Rick Bugbee	Fergus Falls	Post #1223
Past Commander-in-Chief John Staum	Blaine	Post #9625
Officer of the Day Donald Heuer	Litchfield	Post #9433
National Council MBR Gary Anderson	Circle Pines	Post #6587
MOC Grand CMDR Bruce Hagstrom	Minneapolis	Post #246
1st District Commander Nathan Pike	Spring Valley	Post #4114
2nd District Commander Roy Bressler	Lakeville	Post #210
3rd District CMDR Buck Underwood	Luverne	Post 2757
4th District Commander Paul Lindahl	Woodbury	Post # 9024
5th District Commander Ann Hanson	Appleton	Post #4955
6th District Aron Lambrecht	Monticello	Post #8731
7th District Robert Bernier	North Branch	Post #6424
8th District Commander Harley Droba	Int'l Falls	Post #2948
9th District Commander Norman Huth	Goodridge	Post # 2793

Auxiliary to the V.F.W. Council of Administration

Officer	Home City	Home AUX
President Patches Presfield	Saint Cloud	AUX #4847
Sr. Vice President Francesca Bill	White Bear Lake	AUX #3915
Jr. Vice President Paige Amundson	Wheaton	AUX #1656
Chaplain Jamie Cassavant	Red Lake Falls	AUX #1902
Conductress Sonia Tatge	Kenyon	AUX #141
Guard Dave Scofield	Litchfield	AUX #2818
Chief of Staff Joyce Abers	Osakis	AUX #1140
Secretary Marilyn Sheffield	Brooklyn Park	AUX #363
Treasurer Laurie Dale	Kenyon	AUX #141
1st District President Karen England	Lake City	AUX #8729
2nd District President Paty Thron	Emmons	AUX #1778
3rd District President Mary Ann O'Reilly	Canby	AUX #117
4th District President Cleo Bonham	Eagan	AUX #6690
5th District PRES Twyla Bauch-Scofield	Litchfield	AUX #2818
6th District President Deann Reynolds	Milaca	AUX #10794
7th District President Pat Bjur-Johnson	St. Paul	AUX #246
8th District President Cindy Slater	Cloquet	AUX #3979
9th District President Bill Cassavant	Red Lake Falls	AUX #1902

Building on the Foundation

Training meant to assist all Officers, Chairmen and members on every level to understand their duties according to the National Bylaws, the best practices discovered during the 100 plus year history of the organization and how to handle different positions and expectations.

The goal is to develop and maintain consistent practices across the organization; to train and equip leaders of today and tomorrow; and to strengthen the basic building blocks of the organization: the foundation.

Minnesota Auxiliary News



STATE PRESIDENT VFW Auxiliary

Patricia
"Patches"
Presfield



Member of
VFW Post 4847 Auxiliary
St Cloud, MN

The new year is fast underway. I just returned from the National Convention in Kansas City. We received awards and an overload of information to help out along this year. Please remember that VFS is now a stand alone program...as is the Buddy Poppy/National Home a stand alone program. Watch the General Orders for complete bulletins for all programs.

While I was at National Convention, I received word that Past Department President Kathy Fystrom's husband Denny and Past District 1 President Karen Warnke passed away...Past State Commander Staum is in the hospital...keep the families in your prayers.

Fall Conference is right around the corner. There will be an all day seminar to review the programs and answer any questions you might have. There will also be

booths set up with information handouts to take back to your Auxiliary. National President Sandi Kriebel will be making her visit to Minnesota on August 17th and 18th. There will be a reception at the Spring Lake Park Post on Friday and a Dinner gathering at the Sauk Rapids Post on Saturday evening. I would like to do an aisle of flags upon her arrival at both locations, so bring 2 color bearer flags with you when you represent your Auxiliary.

My President's Project for this year is "Project Healing Waters" (PTSD-Mental Health). I am selling tee-shirts and jewelry to help raise funds. The shirts are unisex so the VFW members are more than welcome to buy. There will be a booth at Fall Conference with precise information covering my Project...any and all donations are welcome.

Membership

By Sonia Tatge, State Membership Chair

One of the fundamental differences between the VFW Auxiliary and other veterans service organizations (VSOs) is our eligibility requirements. In order for an individual (as outlined on the VFW Auxiliary Eligibility Wheel) to be considered for membership, his/her eligible veteran:

- * Must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. national;
- * Must have honorable service in the U.S. Armed Forces (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard)
- * Must have served in any foreign war, insurrection, or expedition as reflected by one of the following:
 1. A VFW-authorized campaign or service medal of the United States.
 2. Receipt of Hostile Fire or Imminent Danger Pay, as verified by a copy of a Leave and Earning Statement (LES) issued by the U.S. Armed Forces.
 3. Service in Korea for 30 consecutive/60 non-consecutive days after June 30, 1949.

The eligible veteran and the prospective VFW Auxiliary member must have a familial relationship within two generations; step, half and

adopted family members meet the "two generations" standard set forth by the IRS. However, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews of the eligible veteran do not meet the "two generations" standard and are therefore not permitted to join the VFW Auxiliary. Proof of the veteran's service to establish eligibility for membership rests with the applicant. The local VFW Auxiliary's Investigating Committee is responsible for assuring the eligibility of every person accepted for membership. A careful check of eligibility (as outlined in Section 102 of the VFW Auxiliary Bylaws) at the time a person joins will help to avoid any future concerns.

Information on a veteran's service record can be obtained by contacting the National Archives and Records Administration at:
Phone: 1.866.272.6272
Online: www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/

If you have membership questions or need more information, please contact me at 507-789-6240 or statge@frontiernet.net or the VFW Auxiliary Department Headquarters at 651-291-1759 or treasurer@vfwamn.org

"Preserving and Extending Veterans Rights, Advocating a Strong National Defence, Promoting Patriotism and Serving Local Communities" - Veterans of Foreign Wars Founding Principles

Fall Conference - September 14-16, 2018

FALL CONF- from Page 1

ministration Meetings where the official business of both organizations takes place. Wrap up the evening by visiting the Post for dinner (it's just a short drive down the road) or relax in one of the VFW District Hospitality Rooms located around the pool of the Best Western.

Saturday is THE day to visit Fall Conference. A full schedule is planned including VFW and Auxiliary Program Displays from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. where an overview of the Programs can be garnered. Many of the Large VFW and Auxiliary programs have had some changes made for the 2018-19 year. The basics of these changes will be shared and the Council meetings and more detail will be provided in Saturday's seminars. Throughout the day, choose from sessions that delve further into how to run the programs of our great Organization. More details are located later in this article, within this Oversea'r and on the State VFW website.

Throughout the day, watch for various opportunities to support the MNVFW Charitable Association, Laurie Dale Auxiliary Candidate for National Office, and the President and Commanders Projects. The day culminates with the Fall Conference Banquet where guests will partake in a wonderful dinner and an opportunity to hear from the guest speaker, Past National VFW Commander-in-Chief Edward Banas, Sr. from Connecticut. End your evening with a visit to the Willmar VFW to meet up with friends.

Sunday brings the weekend to a close with the final Council of Administration Meetings of the VFW and Auxiliary. Here the business of the weekend will conclude with any final items needing action. Finally, enjoy lunch at one of the many local restaurants before heading home to share all that you have learned with your Post and Auxiliary membership.

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

New this year will be the LUNCH & LEARN session on Saturday. This special program will be run by our Minnesota VFW 'resident' Parliamentarian David Staehlin. The National VFW and Auxiliary have recently voted to change their standard of parliamentary procedure to Roberts Rules of Order. Mr. Staehlin will explain the nuances of Roberts Rules and how utilizing proper procedure can actually help your meetings become succinct. This presentation will take place during the Saturday lunch hour, so that is where the LUNCH part comes in... look for the order form in this Oversea'r to reserve your lunch by September 1st. Then plan to stay at the Conference Center Saturday, relax while having LUNCH & LEARNING. Copies of the preferred Roberts Rules are also available to pre-order to be available

for you at the session.

Are you passionate about Buddy Poppies? Appreciate an opportunity to be creative and socialize with others at a semi-structured event? Then the Saturday Poppy Tea is for you. Create a wreath of Poppies for display and contest. Enjoy conversation tea and pie with other Auxiliary and VFW members at the Willmar VFW Saturday at 3:00 p.m. Pre-registration is recommended using the form in this paper.

Stretch your legs and summon some energy through the RISE & SHINE Workouts Saturday morning. It has been two years now since we started offering these social workouts at our Conferences and Conventions. We have a good core group of folks that like to gather and explore the local communities we visit for the events. This Fall Conference we will again have the morning walk and will offer a run for those you like to step it up a bit. If you are more of an indoor person, visit the fitness center in your respective hotel at this time and maybe meet some other folks that have the same interest. Walkers and runners meet in the Atrium of the Conference Center by 6:00 a.m. on Saturday for an adventure.

SEMINARS

In depth learning opportunities will be available all day Saturday of the Fall Conference. In addition to the new LUNCH & LEARN: Parliamentary Procedure, members will be able to attend sessions detailing Legislative Priorities, National Security & POW/MIA concerns, Membership & Recruiting, Public Relations and more. Both VFW and Auxiliary are making a concerted effort to publicize all of the great work our Organization does, so the Public Relations/Historian session will provide tools to help share your accomplishments and events with your community. A key part of retaining members AND getting them involved is mentoring. To that end, Department Auxiliary Membership Chair Sonia Tatge and VFW Headquarters Office Manager Melody Shryock will share the tools of Membership ABCs at their session.

Veterans and Youth Activities will have two sessions Saturday- one in the morning to address planning and business topics related to hosting and running events for our membership and youth throughout the State. In the afternoon meeting, they will review bids from Minnesota Posts who wish to host events in their community. See the Veterans & Youth Activities Article for events that are open for bidding.

Our 'Big 3' programs: Buddy Poppies, Citizenship/Americanism and Youth Scholarships involve quite of bit of special planning, promotion and outreach. They are also very busy programs on ALL levels

FALL CONF - Cont. Page 14

FALL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

September 14-16, 2018

Willmar Conference Center- 2100 E. Hwy 12, Willmar, MN

FRIDAY, September 14, 2018:

3:00 P.M. -7:00 P.M. Registration Finstad-Week VFW Post #1639
1108 Highway 12 E, Willmar

2:00 P.M. Finance Committee
2:30 P.M. Gambling Meeting
3:30 P.M. MNVFW Charitable Association Meeting
7:00 P.M. VFW Council of Administration
Auxiliary Council of Administration

SATURDAY, September 15, 2018:

6:00-6:45 A.M. Rise & Shine Workouts
7:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M. Registration at Conference
8:00 A.M. Finance Committee
Inspectors Class
8:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. SEMINARS & PROGRAM EXHIBITS
9:15 A.M. - Noon Open Office: VFW Claims
3:00 P.M. Poppy Tea at Finstad-Week VFW Post
4:30 P.M. Church Service
5:30 P.M. General Reception
6:30 P.M. Conference Banquet

SUNDAY, September 16, 2018:

9:00 A.M. Auxiliary Meeting
9:00 A.M. VFW Council of Administration

	Gallery 7	Boardroom	Gallery 1	Gallery 2	Gallery 3	Gallery 4	Gallery 5/6
6:00-6:45	Rise & Shine Workouts Walk: Meet in Conference Center Atrium Run: Meet in Conference Center Atrium Workout Separately-Together: Visit Hotel Fitness Centers						
8:00-9:00	VFW Finance Committee					Being a Chaplain	AUX Building on the Foundation
9:15-10:15	DISPLAYS	Open Office: VFW Claims 9:15 am-Noon	Round Table Discussion: Community Service/Hospital	Inspections: A Critical Job	Veterans Activities & Youth Sports	National Security & POW/ MIA	Secretary: How To & MALTA/ Treasurer Live
10:30-11:30				TBA	Just the Facts: Buddy Poppy Program	Citizenship & Youth Programs	Overview AUX NEW Program Formats
11:45-12:45			Lunch & Learn: Parliamentary Procedure	Visit Program Displays & LUNCH			
1:00-1:45	AUX Hospital Chair Meeting	Round Table Discussion: Buddy Poppies	Panel Discussion: Get Noticed! Publicity & Publications	Just the Facts: Community Service/Hospital	Membership ABCs	Just the Facts: Scholarships	
2:00-2:45	Visit Program Displays & Chairmen Staffing their Booth						
3:00-4:30	AUX Poppy Tea @ Post	Vets & Youth Activities Bidding	Round Table: Student Essay & Art Scholarships	Legislative Advocacy	Veterans, Military & Family Support	Service Officer, Employment, Homeless Vets	VFW Membership/ Recruiting

BANQUET HOUSING
TEA
LUNCH & LEARN

Please call Hotels Directly **Deadline August 31st**

Best Western Plus (VFW Conference Hotel) \$108.99++ 320-235-6060
Holiday Inn Express (AUX Conference Hotel) \$108.99++ 320-231-2601
Days Inn (.5 Miles Away) \$88.99++ 320-231-1275
AmericInn (.2 Miles Away) \$99.99++ 320-231-1962
Super 8 (3.4 Miles Away) \$78-\$88++ 320-235-4444

Name: _____ Post/Aux # _____
Best Phone # _____ Email _____
Dietary Request? _____ **Deadline September 5th**
Please reserve _____ tickets at \$26 each - *Payment is Enclosed*
Make Chk to: _____ **Mail Order form to:** Brian Gislason, VFW #1639,
VFW Post 1639 309 Trott Ave SE, Willmar, MN 56201

Buddy Poppy Art Contest & Tea Party **Deadline September 10th**

Name _____ Aux # _____ Dist # _____
Reserve _____ Tickets @ \$3 each Enclosed is \$ _____ to VFW Aux-Dept.
Mail Order to: VFW AUX HQ, Veterans Serv Bldg- FL 3, 20 12th W, St Paul, MN 55155

Parliamentary Procedure - Saturday Sept. 15, 11:45 am

Relax and enjoy lunch while we discuss this important topic. **DEADLINE Sept. 5th**

Presented by David Staehlin, Post 8752, State Parliamentarian

Yes! I want to learn more... Name _____
Cell # _____ Email _____

***Reserve _____ lunches @ \$14 each**

Choose Meal (all include fruit, beverage, dessert): Chicken Ceasar Wrap Chef Salad

***OPTION: Reserve Book of Roberts Rules # _____ books @ \$8 each**

Send Pymt & Form to: VFW HQ, Rice Street Station, PO Box 17146, St Paul, MN 55117

State Convention Highlight: Annual Joint Awards

MEMBERSHIP

Frank Presfield, Chairman

Post Level Awards

HIGHEST PERCENTAGE GAIN

Prescher-Kumm Post 8980
1st District at 114.63%

HIGHEST NUMERICAL GAIN

James Ballentine Post 246- 7th District
With 11 members

MOST NEW/REINSTATED MEMBERS

James Ballentine Post 246- 7th District
With 40 members

MOST LIFE MEMBERS RECRUITED

Arthur O Haukland
Post 1350- 4th District
With 16 members

CONTINUOUS GROWTH

Johnson-Messner-Roche Post 1221
5 Years

Warroad VFW Post 4930
5 Years

Victor B. Langer VFW Post 2854
6 Years

Matthew W. Sanders VFW Post 1721
11 Years

Clarence La Belle VFW Post 217
20 Years

George H. Elliot VFW Post 7902
37 Years

District Membership

HIGHEST MEMBERSHIP PERCENTAGE

1st District at 97.0%

PUBLICATIONS

Doug Doerfler, Chairman

Post Publications

First Place Large Post (180 & Over)

Post 906 & Auxiliary Hutchinson
"VFW Post 906 News"
Betty Stras Editor

First Place Medium Posts (100-179)

Post 5039 and Auxiliary Morris
"Charles Leuthard
Post & Aux. 5039 Newsletter"
Helen Kill Editor

First Place Small Posts (99 or less)

Post 2747 & Auxiliary McGregor
"Larson-Deneen
VFW 2747 Newsletter"
Patricia Anderson Editor

District Publications

First Place Large District (2100 and Up)

"Fighting 6th District News"
Sixth District VFW & Auxiliary
Dave Scofield Editor

BEST ARTICLE

First Place

"McGregor VFW- Home of the Brave"
McGregor VFW Post 2747 & Aux.
Written from Post Interview
Published in the
Aitkin Independent Age

2017-18 All-State Team



All State Commanders

Michael Pierce, Captain	Post 3723
Charles Quigley	Post 217
William Kettle	Post 246
Jay Leamons	Post 494
Barry Henriksen	Post 1782
Sam Landon	Post 4452
Edward Keogh	Post 5340
Tom Wainright	Post 6992
Michael Kral	Post 7902
Joe Kehren	Post 8729
Daniel Swanson	Post 9073

All State Quartermasters

Thomas Boris	Post 217
Jim Richter	Post 494
Jonathan Brandtner	Post 2854
Jerry Jensen	Post 3869
John May	Post 4297
Duane Hermanson	Post 4452
Roger Ruhland	Post 5340
John Lawrence	Post 6992
Cassandra Walsh	Post 7902
Wally Banks	Post 8729

BANQUET AWARDS



Firefighter of the Year Chris Walker from Burnsville Fire. Nominated by Post 5833



Employer of the Year Knife River Materials HR Manager Trisha Newland. Nominated by Bemidji Post 1260.



EMT of the Year Victoria Neunsinger from North Memorial Ambulance. Nominated by Post 217.



MNVFW Charitable Association President Scott Bill & Treasurer Jim Hesselgrave present \$50,000 to Department of MN VFW for Program Support.



Peace Officer of the Year Erin Holzengel from Burnsville Police. Nominated by Post 5833.



Bus Driver of the Year Elmer Haag was from Eden Valley-Watkins. Award received by his wife Carol and brother Bernard Haag. Pictured with Safety Chair, State Commander and President and Past Chief John Moon and National Guard Jane Reape.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Dewey Hermanson, Chairman

RECORDBOOK CONTEST

First Place Category I –
Post 4452 & Auxiliary Cannon Falls

First Place Category II-
Post 3723 & Auxiliary Owatonna

MINNESOTA'S MOST OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE POSTS

Post 3723 & Auxiliary Owatonna
Post 4452 & Auxiliary Cannon Falls

PHEASANT DINNER

Mike Pierce, Chairman

\$500 Donors

Post 936 & Auxiliary Alexandria
Post 4452 & Auxiliary Cannon Falls
Post 1783 & Aux. Young America

\$700 Donor

Post 3979 & Auxiliary Cloquet

\$1,000 Donor

Post 8729 Lake City

Post 494 & Auxiliary Crystal

\$7,000 Donor

Post 3723 & Auxiliary Owatonna

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Rick Bugbee, Chairman
Ashley Panches, Auxiliary Chair

Outstanding Post Youth Activities Program

1st Place for Category II
Medium Posts (251-750)
Post 3723 & Auxiliary Owatonna

1st Place for Category I
Medium Posts (less than 250)
Post 4452 & Auxiliary Cannon Falls

SAFETY

Brian Gislason, Chairman

Outstanding Safety Program

1st Place for Medium Posts (251-750)
Post 3723 & Auxiliary Owatonna

1st Place for Small Posts (less than 250)
Post 3289 & Auxiliary New York Mills

Department of Minnesota Traveling Safety Award

Post 3723 & Auxiliary Owatonna



Scout of the Year Connor Smith, Nominated by Young America Post 1783.



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Office of Minnesota Secretary of State
Steve Simon

Visit mnvotes.org for all your voting information

2018 Voter Information for VFW Post Commanders and Members

Help keep MN #1 in voter turnout.

Please distribute this information to your members by email, at meetings, and at your post.

Consider ordering some FREE factsheets for distribution at your post.

Order mnvotes.org window clings.

Consider discussing Early Voting at your October regular meeting.

This fall's election is important. Minnesotans will elect a new governor, two United States Senators, eight United States House representatives, all state representatives and all state constitutional officers plus many local officials. There is plenty at stake. Yet, recent history suggests that possibly 1,000,000 fewer Minnesotans will vote this year compared to 2016 when there was a Presidential election.

Generations of veterans have sacrificed dearly to preserve our freedom and right to vote. Let's encourage all service members, their families, and friends to now exercise that right they so bravely fought to preserve.

Basic voting information – including how to vote early – is below. For additional questions, go to mnvotes.org or contact your local election office, city hall or county auditor.

Please consider ordering free mnvotes.org window clings for your entrance doors or windows and fact sheets for distribution at your post. Fact sheets cover 12 topics and many of them are available in multiple languages.

Voter Registration

- Confirm, update, or complete your voter registration.
 - o If you've moved since you last voted – even within MN – you need to update your registration.
 - o If you haven't voted in over 4 years or changed your name, you need to update your registration.
 - o Do this online before October 16, 2018 to make Election Day voting go more smoothly.

Vote Absentee by Mail

- If you want or need to vote from home before Election Day, apply for an absentee ballot.
 - o If you are active duty military or an overseas voter, use the special application.
 - o Follow instructions carefully and return promptly.
 - o Absentee ballots must be received by election officials by Election Day or they won't be counted.
 - o You don't need to be registered to apply for an absentee ballot.

Vote Early in Person

- You can vote in person starting 46 days before most elections up until 5pm the day before the election.
 - o All voters have at least one location to do this including your county election office.
 - o Check with city or county officials for other early voting locations.
 - o More early voting information is available at mnvotes.org.

Traditional Election Day Voting

- Any eligible voter (who hasn't voted early) can vote on Election Day.
 - o Find your voting location.
 - o Be prepared to register, if necessary.

If you need additional information, contact Steve Cerkenik, steve.cerkvenik@state.mn.us or 615-201-1356.

Capital Hill Press

By Tommy Johnson, Legislative Chairman

Summer is almost over, and many are getting ready for the fall season of raking leaves, buttoning up the cabin, getting the gear ready for hunting, and a myriad of other chores that comes with fall.

It's also election season, as candidates ramp up their campaigns for the day in November when we all get to exercise our constitutional right to vote. Your Department's Districts have assembled an outstanding team of District Legislative Officers – Dave Thule in District 1 out of Owatonna – Post #3723; Mike Mausolf in District 2 out of Vermillion – Post #295; Richard Krueger in District 3 out of Garvin – Post #871; Joe Mauricio in District 4 out of Arden Hills – Post #724; Mike Kral in District 5 out of Osakis – Post #7902; Dave Anderson in District 6 out of Sebeka – Post #3922; Jarrod McReynolds in District 7 out of Brooklyn Park – Post #3915; Bob Stoehr in District 8 out of Tower – Post #1757, and last and certainly not least, Dan Hunt in District 9 out of Moorhead – Post #1223.

The VFW is a non-partisan organization; the VFW neither endorses politicians nor political candidates. That said, our members – both Post and Auxiliary – can and often are partisan, supporting candidates and/or political parties. Your VFW not only supports our members exercising their rights to help shape who wins and sets policy: we encourage it. We only ask one small thing: leave your VFW Cross of Malta home when in parades and events with candidates and parties and at political rallies.

By all means, wear something that shows you're a veteran – say, a cap or shirt showing your branch of service, where you served, etc – but please do not wear VFW logo apparel, or the Cross of Malta. Wear-



ing the VFW logo and/or Cross of Malta implies VFW support of who you support – and I can tell you that our members come in all shapes and sizes and beliefs. Speak for yourself when supporting or opposing candidates and parties and please do your part in keeping the VFW out of partisan politics.

Your District Legislative Officers have to work in St. Paul with elected officials from all parties. It is important at the local, district, state, and federal levels politicians respect the VFW's impartiality in partisan politics. The VFW has a long reputation as being non-partisan. The VFW also has a reputation of having members that vote! We are very fortunate in Minnesota as our State Representatives and State Senators in both parties are generally supportive of VFW supported legislation, and both parties treat veteran issues as non-partisan. Our members keeping the VFW out of partisan politics helps make and keep this possible.

So, if you are so inclined, get involved and get active in a campaign – we are very fortunate to live in this great country with a Constitution that has stood the test of time and guarantees us the freedoms this great Nation has!

THANK YOU Dave Adams
For Your MANY Years of Service on the
Department Convention Committee!



Convention Director Patrick Bohmer with Dave Adams

Remember those
'lonely' days during your Military Service...

Many of our Veterans are having those 'lonely days' in our
VA Medical Centers and Nursing Homes...

Give them some of YOUR time.
Visit a VA Medical Center or Nursing Home

Claims and Service Office Report

By Jon Gohn, Claims Director

Eligible Veterans Can Seek Refund for Taxes on Disability Severance Payment

July 16. By Lisa Ferdinando, DoD News, Defense Media Activity online at: <https://www.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1576088/eligible-veterans-can-seek-refund-for-taxes-on-disability-severance-payment/>

WASHINGTON --

The Defense Department has identified more than 130,000 veterans who may be eligible for a refund for taxes paid on their disability severance payment, a DoD tax expert said.

Army Lt. Col. David Dulaney, the executive director for the Armed Forces Tax Council, said the department began mailing notices to veterans July 9.

The deadline to file for the refund is one year from the date of the Defense Department notice, or three years after the due date for filing the original return for the year the disability severance payment was made, or two years after the tax was paid for the year the disability severance payment was made, according to the IRS.

Affected veterans can submit a claim based on their actual disability severance payment by submitting to the IRS a completed Form 1040X, the Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, Dulaney said.

The IRS also has approved a simplified method for obtaining the refund, in which veterans can claim the standard refund amount on Form 1040X based on when they received the disability severance payment. Those standard refund amounts are \$1,750 for tax years 1991 to 2005, \$2,400 for tax years 2006 to 2010, and \$3,200 for tax years 2011 to 2016.

Dulaney pointed out the disability severance payment is not taxable or subject to federal income tax withholding for a veteran meeting either of these criteria:

- The veteran has a combat-related injury or illness as determined by his or her military service at separation that resulted directly from armed conflict; took place while the member was engaged in extra-hazardous service; took place under conditions simulating war, including training exercises such as maneuvers; or was caused by an instrumentality of war.
- The veteran is receiving disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs or has received notification from VA approving such compensation.

Combat-Injured Veterans Tax Fairness Act of 2016

However, many of the veterans had taxes withheld, Dulaney said. The Combat-Injured Veterans Tax Fairness Act of 2016 remedies that, he said. The act directed the secretary of defense to identify disability severance payments paid after Jan. 17, 1991, that were included as taxable income.

Even if a veteran did not receive a letter from the Defense Department, the individual may still be eligible for a refund. Dulaney recommends visiting the IRS website and searching "combat injured veterans" for further information. Estates or surviving spouses can file a claim on behalf of a veteran who is now deceased, the IRS explains on its website.

VFW Urges MIA Families to Provide DNA Samples; Return of American MIAs from North Korea Begins

WASHINGTON (July 27, 2018) —

Now that North Korea has unilaterally turned over 55 boxes of remains believed to contain missing American servicemen from the Korean War, the new national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is urging the families of Korean and Cold War missing to ensure the Defense Department has a DNA reference sample on file to help speed the identification process.

"Some 5,300 of 7,699 American unaccounted-for war dead are believed to be in North Korea, and 111 of our 126 Cold War missing are in the vicinity of the Korean peninsula, yet family reference samples on file only account for 91 percent of Korean War missing and 85 percent of Cold War losses," said new VFW National Commander Vincent "B.J." Lawrence.

VA, Labor Department Officials Speak at VFW National Convention

July 30, 2018

KANSAS CITY, Mo. —

Officials from the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Labor outlined their priorities to VFW members at the annual VFW National Convention last week.

Dr. Paul Lawrence, VA's under secretary for benefits, said the agency is focusing on the Forever GI Bill, the Rapid Appeals Modernization Program (RAMP), and the Transition and Economic Development office. He also said the VA processed nearly 160,000 claims that came from the VFW in fiscal year 2017 and reminded VFW members that the VA is hiring. Fifty-five percent of Veterans Business Administration employees are veterans.

Matt Miller, deputy assistant secretary for policy at the U.S. Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service, said he is focusing on veteran unemploy-

ment, which was at just 3.7 percent in 2017.

"We all know the great benefits of hiring veterans," he said. Miller also touted the Labor Department's HIRE Vets Medallion Program Demonstration — an effort that will recognize up to 300 employers for their investments in recruiting, employing, and retaining our nation's veterans.

Dr. Carolyn Clancy, VA's acting under secretary for health, said her top priorities are implementing the VA MISSION Act, building the Electronic Health Record system and modernizing the VA. She said the EHR system will take some time, stating "The tech is about a third of the solution, the rest is humans."

The event was hosted by Ryan Gallucci, director of VFW's Veterans National Service, and Carlos Fuentes, director of VFW's National Legislative Service.

VFW Incredibly Encouraged with Return of Remains from North Korea

July 27, 2018

WASHINGTON —

"The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is incredibly encouraged by the news that North Korea has returned 55 boxes of remains believed to be U.S. service members who have been missing in action since the Korean War,"

said new VFW National Commander Vincent "B.J." Lawrence. "This is a huge step in the right direction that we hope will finally bring peace to the peninsula and closure to American families who have been waiting more than six decades for their loved ones to return home from their war."

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency lists 7,699 missing Americans from the Korean War, with some 5,300 believed to be in North Korea. DPAA also lists 111 Cold War losses in the vicinity of the Korean peninsula.

"The return of our missing is a humanitarian mission that transcends politics," said Lawrence, whose organization sent a letter to President Trump in advance of the

June 12 Singapore summit to urge him to include the return of American remains as a discussion point with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. The United States government, specifically DPAA search and recovery teams, has not operated in North Korea since 2005 due to team safety and security concerns.

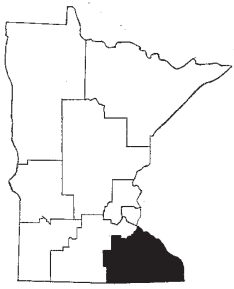
"The VFW is grateful to the president for acting on our recommendation and to the North Korean leader for following through on his part of the summit agreement," said the VFW national commander. "The VFW will continue working towards the fullest possible accounting of missing Americans on the Korean peninsula and elsewhere because

we leave no one behind. We owe it to their families and we owe to their battle buddies. This is a top priority to the VFW and we thank President Trump for making this issue his priority, too."

For further questions that may arise please feel free to contact this office at (612) 970-5669.

'This is a huge step in the right direction that we hope will finally bring peace to the peninsula and closure to American families'

News from YOUR District Commanders and Presidents!



**Nathan Pike, Commander
First District**

Greetings First District Comrades and Auxiliary Members!

Happy summer! I was able to travel to the Veterans of Foreign Wars national convention held in Kansas City, Missouri this July. I am truly amazed by the many First District members who also made the convention. Many Posts were represented, Spring Valley, Cannon Falls, Owatonna, Winona, Kenyon and Chatfield that I could see.

The newly elected Commander-in-Chief Vincent B.J. Lawrence is very interested in Post revitalization and creating new Posts. The First District may not be a fertile area for growing new Posts, however Post revitalization is easily recognized. Maintain what we have, be an active, relevant and vibrant veteran service organization within southeast Minnesota. I know we, because this is a collective effort, will Make It Happen.

Out-of-the-box on gaining new members for your Post, how and what is out-of-the-box on membership gain? We will steal a play from the playbook of a metro area Post that brought some success from their experience, more to follow on this revolution. Out-of-the-box is anything that has not been tried or previously thought of or a new idea on revitalization; maintaining and gaining membership are the key. I also realize that every Post and community, in which the Post exists, is unique to itself and their community, and what works in Mabel or Caledonia may not work in Cannon Falls or Albert Lea. That is why the Post membership holds the knowledge and key to success with revitalization and maintaining and growing their membership. Post members need to take this lead and complete the mission, this might simply be contacting former members and speaking with them to sign them back up, it might be talking with your morning coffee crew (who YOU know are veterans) and speaking about becoming a member in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, it might talking with a friend from another civic service organization or church and YOU know they have a family member who is in service and may qualify to join the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Carry a membership application in your wallet or for the tech savvy have the VFW app on your smart device, because you never know

when an opportunity may present itself to sign up a new member. Take a message to Garcia; our Marines should know well the mentioned phrase here.

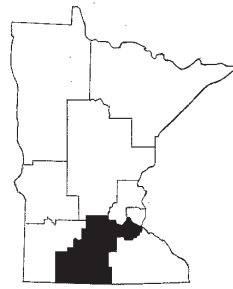
The Department fall conference is coming up soon, followed by annual Post inspections, surprise! No surprise here, seriously Post inspections have gone on generations before my involvement and will continue well past my involvement. Commanders, Quartermasters and Trustees, you are the key to a successful Post inspection; there should be no surprises when the district inspectors arrive. The commander's intent is one hundred percent in Post inspections by mid-winter convention; meet the commander's intent and mission complete, everything else is golden.

Buddy Poppies, everyone should know and remember their history, 2018 is the one hundredth anniversary of the ending of the First World War, Flanders Fields and November 11, 2018 the centennial of Armistice Day (Veterans Day). This year moreover any other year, the drive to educate and disrupt Buddy Poppies in YOUR communities should be paramount. You may have noticed the enamel poppy I wear on my VFW cap and/or jacket, this is a remembrance poppy to commemorate the First World War, why I do wear one, because I had two great-grandfathers who were veterans of the war to end all wars and it serves as a talking point that leads into a conversation about the Veterans of Foreign Wars and why our organization matters.

Ash and trash: President Karen and I are traveling through the district for Post related events or community events where the Post home is located. Do not be surprised if you see us in a parade. Our district meetings started 4 August 2018 with a chance to see their new Post home. Other meeting dates: 6 October 2018, Winona VFW Post 1287 (great river town!); 1 December 2018, Lake City VFW Post 8729 (another great river town & Post home of President Karen England); 2 February 2019, Austin VFW Post 1216 (our memorial service & home of great tasting SPAM!); and finally Loyalty Days 2019, 4 May 2019, Spring Valley VFW Post 4114. Seriously if you need a ride to a district meeting, reach to your surrounding Post's and car pool. The minimum standard is do not miss two consecutive meetings, exceed the minimum. The rules are in our national bylaws.

Many thanks to our District membership, commanders and quartermasters who brought Commander Mike Meyer to home plate leading with Department membership! It takes the

1ST DISTRICT - Cont. Page 14

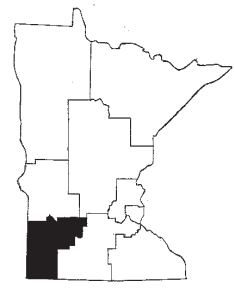


**Roy Bressler, Commander
Second District**

I am looking forward to the year ahead and thank everyone for the vote of confidence. We have chairman assigned for all the programs. And have Posts that will be hosts for our district meetings; the first meeting will be on Sept 29th at Post 4297 in Le Sueur, the mid-winter meeting on January 5, 2019 will be at Post 1778 in Wells. Our 3rd Meeting will be held at Mankato Post 950 (the old Morson -Ario post) on March 9th. Our District Convention will be at the in-coming District Commander Patrick Schipper's Post 1648 in New Ulm on April 27. All meetings will start at 1:00 PM, with the exception of the first District meeting where we will have a Joint meeting with the Auxiliary starting at 12:30 PM, and the District Convention will start at 8:00 AM.

Jim Murtaugh our Community Service Chairman and Chief of Staff is working on having all the posts in the district 100% reporting by Fall Conference. The annual assessments are due and don't forget to order your Poppies at the same time. For those of you, were the Auxiliary handles the poppies. remind them the poppy program is a VFW Program, and that ordering now and not having to pay until May is a good deal. As soon as Fall Conference is over, we will be starting the Inspections of the Posts. Larry Grindland the chief inspector, has several inspectors lined up. Please be ready when these individuals call to set up the inspection. Earlier this month, I had the opportunity along with Paty Thrond the Auxiliary President to attend Kaposia Days in South St Paul. Post 295 sponsors a Safety Camp for the children in the community. They had the Police Dept, the Fire Dept along with EMS and many others services putting on seminars. A lunch was served to the children. What a great community service project. I am sure there are other projects the posts within the District do. Please let us know.

**Be Part of the
Legislative Process to
Protect Veterans Rights
and Entitlements....
PAY YOUR ANNUAL
DUES or Better Yet,
Become a Life Member**



**Buck Underwood, Commander
Third District**

Greetings from the Third District;

This is going to be short because I am a person of few words.

First I want to thank all the Posts that are getting new members. This is an ongoing challenge for everyone, just do your best.

Second I am proud of you all for staying on top of your reports. Lets keep up the good work.... I am proud to be your Commander.



**Paty Thrond, Auxiliary
President Second District**

Well, one more time for me here. I am honored to fill this important role in 2nd District as our line officers prepare and learn for their next steps in their adventure. Mentoring, directing and guiding them to better serve and help our Veterans and their families along with our communities is the goal. Our priority being to maintain the current Auxiliaries with communication being a key.

All our Auxiliaries have completed elections and installations and held or attended Memorial Day services.

As most of you, there has been many parades, which has been challenging with this heat and humidity but carrying our Flag and handing out Flags to the children and parade watchers was well worth it. Also handed out was "Why Should I Join the Veterans of Foreign Wars" pamphlets.

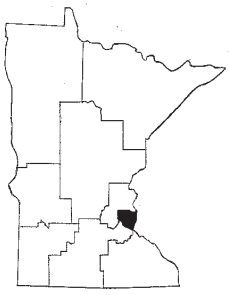
South St. Paul just completed the annual Safety Camp for Kids which was a huge success. I was honored to be there with the kids for awhile....they were so very polite~~

Our planning meeting was held August 19 in Albert Lea. We discussed our Standing Rules and Budget. Also, I gave a School of Instruction on Inspections along with assignments of their visits.

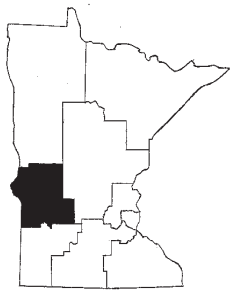
Our first District meeting will be September 29 in LeSueur. We don't know who the representative will be as yet, but we welcome whom ever it may be.

I will continue with the logo this year is "POW/MIA's, Gone from sight, never our hearts." My flower

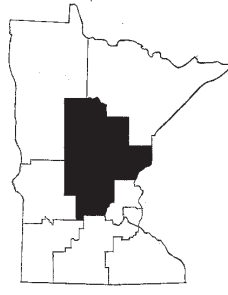
DIST 2 AUX - Cont. Page 14



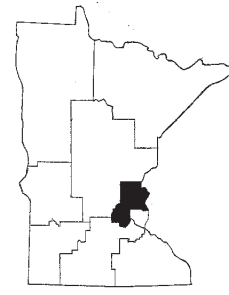
**Paul Lindahl, Commander
Fourth District**



**Ann Hanson, Commander
Fifth District**



**Aron Lambrecht Commander
Sixth District**



**Robert Bernier, Commander
Seventh District**

The 4th District has started on our path for a successful year. We have complete line officer and chairman rosters, with individuals ready to fulfill their responsibilities. All posts in the district also have rosters identifying line officers, meeting days, time, and locations. Our four (4) district meetings have been scheduled, the first meeting was at Mendota Post 6690 on 18 August. We had our District Budget Meeting on 18 July, preparing a balanced budget for presentation to the District. The Council of Administration (C of A) Meeting in Sauk Rapids on 14 July was very informative, educational and interesting. I continue to read and digest the voluminous number of documents, manuals, brochures, booklets, handouts and correspondence, etc., presented during the meeting. As discussed at the C of A Meeting, membership will be a focus for our district this year. David Staehlin, our District Senior Vice Commander will serve as Membership Chairman and has planned some initiatives to address membership. Our line officers will be visiting district posts during the next several months, ensuring that we are available to assist posts, as warranted. I want to thank Commander Vern Bolle, Jr, his line officers and chairmen, for their efforts in managing the district last year and look forward to their support as we transition to a new leadership team.



**Cleo Bonham, Auxiliary
President Fourth District**

Our first 4th District Auxiliary meeting was August 25th. We met at the VA Medical Center. The District VFW meeting was scheduled for August 18th, which was the same day as the National VFW Auxiliary President's visit to Minnesota. We rescheduled our meeting so all Auxiliary members were able to participate in the activities around the President's visit. The next meeting will coincide with the VFW meeting on Saturday, November 17th at 9AM Cottage Grove (Red Barn) Post home. We will be collecting warm gloves and hats at this meeting for homeless Vets.

Hello,

I'm Ann Hanson the 5th District Commander. I would like to introduce myself. I live in Appleton Minnesota with my husband Bill Hanson some of you might know him if you have John Deere Combines. We live here with our 3 dogs I work at the House of Spirits in Appleton. We also own and run a Snap-on tool franchise. Bill has lived here for his whole life I moved here in 1999 from South Dakota.

I'm a member and Commander of Post 4955. I would like to try get the 5th District membership up and try to help the VFW'S that are struggling and the VFW in all. Looking forward to meeting you all and if you need or want to speak to me don't hesitate to call.



**Twyla Bauch Scofield
Auxiliary President
Fifth District**

Greetings.

I'd like to introduce myself: I'm Twyla Bauch Scofield. I'll be the 5th District President for the 2018-19 year. To start off I want to send out love to all who have lost a love one... our own Kathy Fystrom lost her wonderful husband as of the day I'm writing this; Our thoughts and prayers to her and all. We started our year with a planning meeting in Bensen on July 31st.

The 5th District and Willmar will be hosting Fall Conference this year. A shout out to long time, life member Tom Hanson, on his being elected Minnesota's Department Commander. We will host his Testimonial in Willmar. The 5th District Commander and I will have a Testimonial together at the Willmar Post... Date to Come.

Let's have fun doing what we do best for our Veterans. Lots of support and hard work, but we'll make this year the best year ever.



Greetings Comrades:

It is a pleasure to serve as the commander for the fighting 6th. For those who I have not had the pleasure of meeting, I look forward to team building with you all throughout the various district and department events.

For those who I have met and talked with, you will attest, I am a straight shooter. I mean what I say and I act on it accordingly. That being said we have some items we need to take care of in the 6th District to help us better ourselves for the future. As the largest District in the state we struggle to every year to maintain membership numbers and especially attracted the new young vets everyone is always talking about. It is my goal to bring forward ideas that have worked in the past, and also some of those new ones everyone talks about, to get the District over 100% and further assist Department with getting to 100% after our approx 25 year dry spell.

For the 38 posts in the 6th District I look forward and expect every post to attend all District and Department functions. If the expected officers are not able to attend please have another member of the post fill in, in your absence. I look forward to the 2018-19 year, and know that we can and will make great strides towards the future of the VFW.

Yours in Command...

DISTRICT MEETINGS

(Subject to Change)

First District

Oct. 6 Winona #1287 @ 9:30 AM

Second District

Sept. 29 Le Sueur #4297 @ 1:00 PM

Third District

Oct. 6 Granite Falls #3871 @ 10 AM

Fourth District

Nov. 17 Cottage Grove #8752 @ 8 AM

Fifth District

Sept. 23 Willmar #1639 @ 2:00 PM

Sixth District

Oct. 6 Jenkins #3839 @ :00 PM

Seventh District

Sept. 22 Isanti #2735 @ 10:00 AM

Eighth District

Oct. 7 Pengilly #8831 @ 9:00 AM

Ninth District

Sept. 8 Kennedy #3828 @ 10 AM

A message from District 7.

Here we are in August already; hopefully your post is busy with summer activities and helping veterans and their families as well as our communities. Congratulations to the District 7 Baseball Champions from Maple Grove. They will be great representatives at the State Tournament in Brainerd. We have one of the best District baseball leagues in the State and if you can make it, I encourage you to attend the State Tournament in Brainerd this year.

District 7 was well represented at the National Convention in Kansas City in July, with National Council representative, Gary Anderson and other committee members helping at the national level. Thank you all for taking on those roles and representing the District so well.

Our Membership kickoff meeting was on August 1, 2018. For those that were not able to attend, please be sure to contact myself or the Sr. Vice Commander to get any information that was missed. We look forward to a great year.

As was pointed out at the July C of A meeting, the State Commander signed a certificate of recognition for Ballentine Post in Minneapolis for their efforts to engage the LGBTQ community during the Pride Parade. This cutting edge membership drive was well received and establishes the Ballentine Post as a trend setter when it comes to thinking outside the box when trying to secure new members. Great job.

Our first District Meeting will be September 22, 2018 at the Isanti VFW. Yours in Comradeship...



**Pat Bjur-Johnson, Auxiliary
President Seventh District**

Greetings to all members,

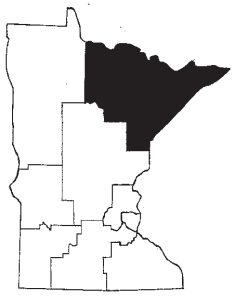
We are very busy getting inspections done for all our auxiliary's.

Our first District Meeting will be in Isanti on September 22 at 9:00 a.m.

We have already been busy with the Minneapolis Veterans Home Polka Mass n August 15 and the State Fair for the veterans..

See you at Fall Conference in September in Willmar.

Reach out and promote membership for this great organization.



**Harley Droba, Commander
Eighth District**

Comrades,

I send you greetings from the top of District 8, International Falls, refrigerator of the nation. That's right, even in the summer its nice and cool, much like all of VFW District 8. We are blessed with so many amazing gifts such as, comradeship, community and opportunity.

Recently, I had an opportunity to have a detailed conversation with our District 8 Auxiliary President, Cindy Slater regarding a joint mission of both the District VFW and Auxiliary. We discussed both of our goals and mutually decided the importance of two focuses in the upcoming year:

- Veteran Suicide Prevention
- Post level community service

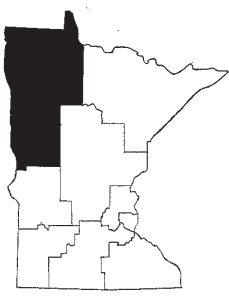
President Slater has invited Mary Jo Pine to speak with us regarding suicide prevention and provide us with gun locks at our August 26th meeting in Gilbert. Mary is from the St. Cloud Veteran's Home and will be an ally for us as we become advocates for the mental health of our comrades.

Also, I would like to challenge all VFW Posts in the upcoming year provide an additional event in your respective communities. We all hear year after year that Membership is so important, well it is. However, we need to make steps in our communities to break the misconceptions of what our organization is all about. Potential members don't want to be associated with a group that sits around a whiskey bottle and talk about old war stories. That is why we need to be in our communities helping at a benefit, mentoring our youth, and educating about our core values. The only way to do this is being seen in our communities, hence doing one more event a year.

We are all volunteers, lets all give just a little more and make our communities proud of our work!

With Great Power Comes Great Responsibility...

**Don't Go It
Alone...
THERES HELP!!!
JUST CALL!!!**



**Norman Huth, Commander
Ninth District**

My plans for the year: To be 100 percent in membership and all our programs. Our District meetings are September 8 at Kennedy Post 3828, December 8 at Bemidji Post 1260, March 2 at Crookston Post 1902 and District Convention April 27-28 at Thief River Falls Post 2793. Have a safe rest of summer...



**Bill Cassavant, Auxiliary
President Ninth District**

My name is Bill Cassavant and I am serving as the 9th District VFW Auxiliary President this year. My theme is: "Let Freedom Ring". My symbol is: the American Flag, Bald Eagle and Liberty Bell. The 9th District's special project this year is a joint project with the Post. We have chosen Free Urns for Veterans and the Fergus Falls Veterans Home Greenhouse.

Our Ninth District VFW Auxiliary Goals are:

1. To communicate with the Auxiliaries through regular phone calls, Facebook, newsletters and e-mail 2. To set a goal of 100% Membership for our Auxiliaries 3. To encourage a goal of 100% Programming Participation – not just reporting information at meetings but, planning and implementing a project, event or donation of funds or time in all programming areas. 4. To help Auxiliaries enjoy their volunteerism and share their successes within the 9th.

Our District Meetings are set for September 8th in Kennedy, December 8th in Bemidji, March 2nd in Crookston and Loyalty Days on April 27th and 28th in Thief River Falls.

Our Organizational Meeting was held August 4th in Ogema with VFW Auxiliary 9880 hosting the meeting and lunch for us. We are working with the new booklet "Building on VFW Auxiliary Foundation" to assist the District Officers and Chairmen with their duties this year. This booklet information will also be shared with our auxiliaries at the September 8th District Meeting.

We will be doing a Membership and Recruitment School of Instruction at the September District Meeting with Gail Brekke as the presenter.

I am looking forward to this
DIST 9 AUX - Cont. Page 14

NEW! LUNCH & LEARN

at Fall Conference

Parliamentary Procedure

Saturday Sept. 15, 11:45 am

*No driving to a restaurant or waiting for your meal!
Relax and enjoy lunch while we discuss...*

Why is parliamentary procedure valuable?

Where does parliamentary procedure fit into VFW meetings?

What are some of the key differences between Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised and Demeter's Manual of Parliamentary Law and Procedure?

Where can I learn more?

***Advanced Registration Needed*
Lunch \$14 per person**

**Option to pre-order
'Roberts Rules of Order'
\$8 per book**

(VERY limited on-site purchases will be available)

Presented by David Staehlin, Post 8752, State Parliamentarian
and Member of the National Association of Parliamentarians

~ See Form in this Paper or Visit www.mnvfw.org ~
For Questions Call Melody at VFW HQ 651-291-1757



Funeral Plans for Veterans

Purple Cross has been serving America's Veterans since 1948 and continues to offer the best funeral plans available. With **Funeral Preplanning** –you: • **protect your burial funds from nursing home expenses** • **Protect your family from financial burden in time of grief** • **gain peace of mind by knowing your funeral is taken care of.**

Yes, I would like to know more about:

- Traditional Funeral Cost Cremation Cost
 Payment Plan Options Discount Plans

For a free **Funeral Preplanning Cost Estimate**, please return this coupon to Purple Cross, 15116 Manitou Rd NE, Prior Lake, MN 55372 or call Jerry Albrecht at 952-226-6393. **Absolutely no obligation!**

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State: _____
Phone: _____ Birth Date: _____

BUDDY POPPY ART CONTEST & TEA PARTY

Saturday, September 15, 2018 3:00 pm

WILLMAR VFW #1639 POST HOME

Shuttles will be available

Poppy Tea Party

\$3 per person (Includes tea, coffee, punch, bars & cookies)

Pre-Attendee Reservation Form Included in this Oversea'r
(deadline Sept 10th)

Poppy Art Contest

Theme: "Buddy Poppy Wreath"

Contest Rules: Must use 12" Wreath Base & Must include 1 complete Poppy.
Judged on Creativity, Beauty, Colors, Attraction

Display Judging Sat. 2:00 pm – Drop Entry at VFW between 1-2 pm

POPPY CONTEST ENTRY FORM: (deadline Sept 10th)

Aux Town _____ Aux # _____ Dist # _____

Description for Announcer _____

Willing to allow Wreath to go to our VAHCS or Veterans Home? _____

Mail to: Chair Carol Kratz, 5504 Cottage Ave., White Bear Lake MN 55110
OR E-mail to: ckratz2003@comcast.net

Questions? 651-245-1024

Veterans / Youth Activities



Chaska VFW Youth Baseball Team Takes State Tournament

Article By Rick Bugbee, VFW State Baseball Chair

The 64th Annual Veterans of Foreign Wars Baseball State Tournament was kicked off on August 8 with a banquet at the High school with the food being catered by Pizza Ranch. Great food and a lot of it as even after feeding 392 people there was still food left over to be donated. The guest speaker was a former Minnesota Twin, Rich Reese. How many remember him?

Weather??? The last four years we have issues with rain but not this year as temperatures were into the nineties and very humid. Game one featured District three Post 2757 from Luverne against District six Post 2818 from Litchfield. The bats from both teams were swinging and the final score was Litchfield winning 5 to 2. Game two was the Host Brainerd Post 1647 against Fergus Falls Post 612. Brainerd scored 4 times in the first inning and Fergus Falls inability to score, although left ten people on base, the final being 4 to 0. Game three pitted District two Chaska sponsored by Post 1791 taking on the 7th District team Maple Grove sponsored by Post 11543. Both teams were tough, championship play? Score said so Chaska won in bottom of 7th inning by a score of

3 to 2. Game four put Winona Post 1287 from District one against the District 8 team Grand Rapids sponsored by Post 1720. A very close game with Grand Rapids winning 3 to 1. Game five was Litchfield taking on District four champ Lake Elmo/Woodbury sponsored by Post 9024. Game six put the Host Brainerd against Willmar Post 1639 the fifth District team. Brainerd bats were alive as they manhandled Willmar by a score of 11 to 4. Game seven was a loser out game as Fergus Falls and Maple Grove were to face off. It was a close game until Maple Grove decided to take control. They won 10 to 2, to send Fergus Falls packing. The other loser out game for the first day was Luverne and Winona playing. That also ended up in a 10 to 2 score with Winona advancing.

Day two, play started in the undefeated bracket. Chaska was facing off against Elmo/Woodbury. Lake Elmo starting pitcher was not on his game as he gave up 8 runs in the bottom of the first inning. They were not to be denied a chance as they scored 7 runs in the late innings but ended up losing 8 to 7. The other undefeated game was Brainerd against Grand Rapids. Liking suspense Brainerd finally won in 8 innings by a score

of 7 to 6. In loser out games, we had Maple Grove against Litchfield. Litchfield could not get their runs to cross home plate as they were defeated 3 to 0. Willmar now faced Winona in the other loser out bracket. Slugfest entailed as this one finally was decided with a score of 13 to 8 with Winona winning. With the afternoon sun beating everyone up we still had two more games to be played. Winona was going against Lake Elmo/Woodbury, another game between two good teams. Lake Elmo won 5 to 4 to advance to Saturday play. The last game of Friday play was Grand Rapids against Maple Grove, two very good coached teams. Maple Grove came out on top by a score of 5 to 2.

Saturday play was started with the humidity way up and temperatures rising. The first game was Chaska, a first timer to the VFW tournament, and Brainerd playing with the chance to be the last undefeated team. The final outcome was Chaska by a score of 7 to 5. The game between Maple Grove and Lake Elmo/Woodbury started in a way that the home team does not want to happen. Lake Elmo as visitors put 10 runs up in the top of the first inning. Not to outdone Maple Grove showed their fortitude

and put up 4 runs in the bottom of the first. They continued to fight back a little at a time and with the score tied in the bottom of the seventh scored the winning run. Maple Grove now has to play Brainerd, the loser will be third place and the winner gets to come back tomorrow to face Chaska for the championship. A great game ensued between Brainerd and Maple Grove in the nightcap. Brainerd prevailed by a score of 7 to 6.

Sunday morning dawned with another beautiful day, although humid. Brainerd fans were excited but Chaska was not to be outdone as they were hoping to take home the championship being they made the state tournament for the very first time. A typical championship game as it started out scoreless until the 2nd inning when Chaska plated four runs, they added two more in the 4th inning. In the bottom of the 5th Chaska plated 4 more runs to end the 64th Annual Tournament victorious.

The tournament highlight was having our State Commander Tom Hanson present medals to both the first and second place players. Thank You Tom. I also want to thank the Brainerd VFW members for working with me on this tournament.

VFW Golf Tournament Results

Article By Scott Wiechmann

Held August 3, 4 and 5th in Austin, MN- VFW Post 1216 Hosting Event.

We had 80 golfers compete in the tournament with \$2,900.00 in prize money paid out. We also had a Grand Prize Golf Package of \$1,400.00. Prize's totaling over \$1,000.00. Golf Raffle raised \$500.00 dollars for the State Commanders Project donated on behalf of Post 1216 and the 80 participants. Total Prizes and payouts of \$5,800.00. Golfers enjoyed comradery, good weather and food at the course with a dinner Saturday night at the Post Home and lunch at the awards ceremony Sunday.

Our Post would like to thank the many sponsors, volunteers and participates who made this event possible. Thanks also to the Department Commander, Quartermaster and Chaplain for their help with the event. Looking forward to next year the 50th year of the tournament. Watch for info and updates in the General Orders. Hope to see you all next year!

Tournament Event Team:
Shirley Morgan aka "Red Squirrel" and her two "Nuts" Dan Ruzek and Bob Otterson



All Flights 1-6 paid (1st. 125.00/ 2nd. 75.00/ 3rd. 50.00)

1st Flight	2nd flight	3rd Flight	4th Flight	5th Flight	6th Flight
1st. Chris George	1st. Gary Nelson	1st. Jack Pickler	1st. Bon Netko	1st. Ed Eibon	1st. Jerry Sypnieski
2nd Tom Geisler	2nd Gary Erickson	2nd Gary Anderson	2nd Chuck Conde	2nd John Udlinek	2nd. Michael Meyer
3rd Clyd Wyatt	3rd Jim Miller	3rd. Mike Kraushaar	3rd Jim Leack	3rd Mike King	3rd. Rick Lenton

Grand Prize Winner Jim Hoffman-
\$1,400.00 Golf Package

11 consolation prizes
Totaling \$ 450.00

2018 VFW State Golf Awards

Championship Flight

1st. Ryan Wiechmann	\$200.00 State Champion
2nd. Jerry Carlson	\$150.00
3rd. Mark Applen	\$100.00
4th. Dale Holton	\$50.00
5th. Joe Hugen	\$50.00



Womens Division

1st. Sue Geisler	\$125.00 State Champion
2nd. Patches Presfield	\$75.00
3rd. Pat Hoffman	\$50.00

Senior Division

1st. Bob Johnson	\$125.00 State Champion
2nd. Bob Otterson	\$75.00
3rd. James Hamann	\$50.00

Team Division

1st. Austin- State Champions
2nd. Coon Rapids



VFW & Auxiliary Contests & Scholarships

VETERANS UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Trap shooting
September 22
Hosted by Austin Post #1216
Register by Sept. 18
Contact Chair Nathan Lee
507.279.2425
facebook.com/AustinVFW

YOUTH UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

VFW STATE HOCKEY
2019 State Tournament
March 22-24, 2019
Hosted by Thief River Falls
Post #2793

*Watch the
General Orders &
Website for More
Events Coming Up!*
www.mnvfw.org



2018 - 2019 Voice of Democracy Theme

“Why My Vote Matters”

2018- 2019 Patriot’s Pen Theme



“Why I Honor the American Flag”



2018 - 2019: Categories K-5, 6-8 and 9-12 Grades

Teacher of the Year Nominations

Entries Due to Post by October 31st, 2018

FALL CONTESTS

YOUTH CONTESTS

COMMUNITY

SCHOLARSHIPS

SCHOLARSHIPS

Elementary School Contests (Grades K-5)

VFW Teacher of the Year (See Your VFW Post or VFW General Orders for Details)

Adult Scholarships

Marcella Arnold Nursing Scholarship

**K-1st Grade
Color American Flag Red,
White and Blue**
(See Your Auxiliary or Auxiliary
General Orders for Details)

This award contest recognizes three exceptional teachers for their outstanding commitment to teaching Americanism and patriotism to their students. Each year, a classroom elementary, junior high and high school teacher whose curriculum focuses on citizenship education topics. (See Nomination Form for Details- VFW General Orders or <http://www.vfw.org/TeacheroftheYear/>)

(See Your Auxiliary or Auxiliary
General Orders for Details)

The Ladies Auxiliary established this scholarship in 1981 to help a Nursing student in their final year of school, to honor Marcella Arnold, a dedicated volunteer and was a VAVS Representative for over 28 years.

ENTER: Students write & record a 3-5 minute essay addressing this year’s theme “Why My Vote Matters” (See Application for Details- VFW General Order or at <http://www.mnvfw.org/voice-of-democracy>)
AWARDS: \$30,000 National Winner & Free Trip to Washington D.C.; \$\$ and MPLS Hotel stay for District Winner; \$\$ for Local Winner
DEADLINE: Entries due to local V.F.W. Post by October 31 each year

ENTER: Students use the picture provided by the Auxiliary and creatively color the picture.

DEADLINE: Entries due to local V.F.W. Auxiliary by November 15

AWARDS: In addition to local, District & State Awards, National Winners receive:

- A \$1,000 award for professional development expenses.
- A \$1,000 award for his/her school.
- Two award plaques: one for the teacher, the other for his/her school.
- An all-expenses-paid trip to attend a VFW national conference to receive their award.

DEADLINE: Entries due to local V.F.W. Post by October 31 each year

(See Application for Details- Auxiliary General Orders or at <http://www.mnvfwauxiliary.org/program-forms.html> - Copies of this application are also sent in Sept. to all accredited Nursing Schools in MN)

ELIGIBILITY: To be eligible the applicant must be a Minnesota resident, or a non-resident member of the VFW or Auxiliary, attending nursing school in Minnesota, and must be eligible to join the VFW or Auxiliary, or be a child or grandchild of a VFW Auxiliary member.

DEADLINE: Entries due to Auxiliary V.F.W. State Headquarters by October 1 each year

Middle School Scholarship (Grades 6-8)

Patriot’s Pen Essay Competition

ENTER: Students write a 300-400 word typed essay addressing this year’s theme “Why I Honor the American Flag” (See Application for Details- VFW General Order or at <http://www.mnvfw.org/patriot-pen>)
DEADLINE: Entries due to local V.F.W. Post by October 31 each year

ENTER: Students draw and color an original picture using crayon, marker, colored pencil or paint.

DEADLINE: Entries due to local V.F.W. Auxiliary by November 15

4th-5th Grade Collage Contest (See Your Auxiliary or Auxiliary General Orders for Details)

ENTER: Students create a collage depicting 2-6 places they’ve seen the American Flag displayed by using pictures, magazine cut outs, stickers and more depicting this year’s theme
DEADLINE: Entries due to local V.F.W. Auxiliary by November 15

Contests for Winter 2018-19 Law Enforcement - EMT - Fire Fighter Middle School Art

FATHER/SON - from Page 1

tion.

How old were you and what do you remember most about his year?

I was a junior in high school. My brother had just enlisted in the Marine Corps and was at MCRD in San Diego and John O'Neill, then AQ of the Department and a former Marine himself, was able to convince the Commandant of the Marine Corps to have him sent home in the middle of boot camp to attend my dad's testimonial dinner, really unheard of! That plus with the extensive travel of a State Commander going through the chairs of he and my mother were out of town most weekends so we took the opportunity to have "house parties".

What is your fondest memory of growing up in the VFW?

I'd say the pride in patriotism from the Memorial Day ceremonies at the local cemeteries. That and the fact my dad was instrumental in establishing the "Flags of Honor" veterans memorial in Willmar, which is still in existence. Prior to my dad being State Commander and during the earlier years when he as Post Commander, my memories are of helping erect the VFW bingo stand at the Willmar Koffee Fest and Kandiyohi County Fair. Also, going down to the Post with him and having the bartender/ manager of the Post give us pop, peanuts, candy, etc.

Did your dad (or what did) have any influence toward your military career and your branch choice?

Obviously growing up in a family that had numerous veterans played a major role in my choice to join the military. At that time there was still a draft so the chance of being drafted was still a reality. But, I enlisted with a friend of mine and 6 days after graduating from high school I found myself at Ft. Bragg, NC. The fact I chose the Army was based on nothing more than the fact

that's the branch my friend wanted to join. So I served in the Army, my brother in the Marine Corps, and my dad in the Navy.

Was your whole family involved in the VFW and Auxiliary?

Yes. Obviously my dad. My mother is a Past President of the Willmar Auxiliary. Brother Steve is a Life Member of the VFW and sister Nancy is a member of the Auxiliary.

Do you remember when and why you first thought about becoming a State Commander like your father?

When I was employed by the Department of Minnesota VFW as the DSO the thought came to me but I never really gave it any serious thought. But when I retired in 2014 I thought I still had something to offer the organization so I decided to see if I could get elected to the office of Judge Advocate, and was successful.



What is your Commander logo and phrase? Why?

My logo is a bald eagle sharpening its talons. This was a political cartoon that my dad had saved from years ago that my mother gave to me. I thought it appropriate that I use it. My "phrase" in CHARGE!! as this was the call of the 196th Light Weapons Infantry, the unit I served with in Vietnam.

How did you feel when you first realized you were officially on your way to being State Commander?

I would say elated but humbled at the same time. My excitement

FALL CONF - from Page 5

from Post to District and Department to National. Since these programs entail many moving parts and fairly rigid timelines, we are offering two types of sessions- "Just the Facts" where members will learn the when, what, where and why of the program and the "Round Table Discussion" sessions where you will get a brief overview of the program, but will appreciate increased opportunities for discussion and idea exchanges related to promoting the program, time management, award ideas and more. Attend one or both... share ideas or receive ideas... these sessions are not to be missed.

See a complete, tentative list in this Oversea'r. The final schedule will be published in the Fall Conference Program book along with session descriptions to help plan your day.

DISPLAYS

The Saturday program display area is a favorite of the all con-

ferences. ALL VFW and Auxiliary programs, Veterans Homes and Department Offices will host displays to share information about their respective efforts. At the displays you can gather materials about any program of interest from Pheasant Dinners for Veterans at the Minnesota Homes to volunteer/donation needs at the facilities.

Find out about the various Veterans Activities and Youth Sporting events that VFW and Auxiliary members can partake in. Peruse the displays... you just may find a program you didn't know about. ALL displays will be manned by their respective Chairs from 2-2:45 p.m. on Saturday, so if you didn't get to a seminar or have a specific question for the Chair, this is a time that you should be able to reach out to them and get those questions answered. In addition to the displays, don't forget to visit the various tables supporting the MNVFW Charitable Association and annual Commander and President Projects.

came from the fact my VFW comrades had shown their faith in my ability to lead the Department. The humility was a result of the huge responsibility I had just assumed. Additionally, the thoughts I have wishing my dad were still with us so that he could share this experience with me and to be able to pick his brain and seek his advice on certain issues and circumstances.

What are your goals for your Commandership?

My ultimate goal is to be an effective leader and to be fair in my decision making process. One goal I have is for the VFW to blow its own horn to let everyone know what we really do and that we are not just the club room down the block where the old veterans hang out. I want to return the Department of Minnesota to the ranks of one of the elite Departments. Minnesota has always been envied by other States and set the mark for success in a number of VFW programs. At one point our Department had a 36 year history of continuous membership growth. At this point, however, it has been 26 years since Minnesota achieved 100% in membership. This is inexcusable! To coin a phrase, we need to "Make the Department of Minnesota great again".

Anything else you would like us to know?

Simply that I had a rewarding career as a Department Service Officer and am happy to be continuing to work for veterans. I'd like people to understand that the VFW provides representation in the VA disability claims process to any veteran that looks to us for assistance. Further that we provide representation that is professional and second to none. This in addition to all the other beneficial programs offered by the VFW.

Thank You Commander Hanson!

As you can tell, there is a busy Fall Conference coming up quickly. Both VFW and Auxiliary Chairs have begun planning for their sessions and look forward to CHALLENGING attendees to take their program farther, to try a new program and to get out of the 'same-old, same-old' rut we often find ourselves in. It is hoped that everyone leaves MOTIVATED to share all of the information received at the Conference with our local Posts and Auxiliaries. Your MOTIVATION is what will sustain the VFW and Auxiliary and to assure that "No One Does More for Veterans".

Event information will be regularly updated on the Department Website at www.mnvfw.org

1ST DISTRICT - from Page 9

whole team and everyone working toward the intent of the mission to be golden. A special thanks to Owatonna VFW Post 3723 for their hospitalities and courtesies extended to me during the 2018 Loyalty Days convention.

The bullet comments that count and take away:

Post revitalization, maintaining & gaining membership, carry a VFW membership application on your person or have the VFW app on your smart device- Make It Happen Post inspections- surprise, no surprise. Commander's intent: one-hundred percent by mid-winter convention.

Buddy Poppies- Distribute and educate YOUR community on the Veterans of Foreign Wars and why our organization is relevant in our communities.

District meeting dates/locations- there should be a Post representative at each district meeting, exceed the minimum standard.

I am looking forward to great year with the First District membership in the organization who- No One Does More For Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars.

First Minnesota- To The Last Man, Follow Me!

DIST 2 AUX - from Page 9

will still be the Sunflower with the my symbol being the POW/MIA Flag.

My special project this year is raising funds to refurbish the Meditation Area at the Hastings Veterans Home. The furniture has been selected for this area, now we need to do those fund raisers so the order can be filled. Resident Harvey is very excited about this project as he loves taking care of this area.

I look forward to a very successful year in 2nd District serving our Veterans. In closing...May no soldier go unloved, May no soldier walk alone, May no soldier be forgotten, Until they all come home.

DIST 9 AUX - from Page 11

year and thank all those who have stepped up in the 9th to work with our auxiliaries to help them reach their goals and to share ideas and accomplishments.

"Let Freedom Ring"!



Don't forget to change your address with VFW Minnesota HQ. If your mail becomes undeliverable, National may remove you from the Rosters.

Timely Tidbits

Letters to the Editor

Dear VFW Posts and Auxiliaries:

Collectively, the Minnesota Veterans Homes care for approximately 700 Veterans across the state who proudly served their country. Now it's our turn to proudly "serve those who have served". Staff at each of the Homes continually seek new and unique ways to enhance the lives of our Residents to assure a healthy balance of physical, mental and spiritual activities. We wish to recognize your invaluable contributions, both individually and as an organization as they allow us to achieve this goal.

We also want you to know that being good stewards of your donations is not only a commitment to you but consistent with state policy.

The Minnesota Veterans Homes, wish to thank you again for your constant support.

Respectfully,
Volunteer Service Coordinators
Minnesota Veterans Homes

WORD SEARCH #2

VFW & Auxiliary Programs

N K C J S I J Z Q E B T F F X P U H R A
C A Q Z U T U T L F N I Z J U Y E O Y S
A R T N E N E S Y E J X Z B Z M A S O N
U U M I E R S V M K N N L U O N E P U O
J U L U O J Y Y S P M I M H Y I S I T I
S C I E P N O P H S C T L W T M T T H T
P R H F G L A E P R E A N I E I R A A A
I G T A P I A L E O N L V C F V O L C C
H D N M P S S L S O P I E O A I P N T I
S C E I A L A L I E T Y T M S W P Q I L
R U T N W T A T A C C R D B O C U K V B
E C T R I E A I A T X U K D I H S P I U
B J K O K N S S N S I N R U U B Y K T P
M S N Q H N N W V W J V Z I X B L J I V
E S C M D A I M W O P M E M T J I I E K
M K B N R N F H C F E J B X J Y M H S E
C P M E S C H O L A R S H I P S A A M B
O Q T L V I H W U L V S Z A D U F P B A
M E C H C I R S T T L M N T V K S A M P
V O I C E O F D E M O C R A C Y N T K B
R A E Y F O R E H C A E T I Q B A R K Z
E R G R R Y K O G W A Z T J J G R I H T
O W X P B E Y E R V Z I G D M B E O H N
S C O U T I N G C Y Z M L Z R J T T S S
H K G N W Y G X S E M O L A C H E S U O
C T C Q C M S I N A C I R E M A V P P P
K A C K M V Y S M O X B E L I T S E M U
A X U G L K H J P S Z T M C Z P R N Q I
Z L V N H I G P Y D S I L S W I G G O K
X W D U P T L J J J A V W L E E R Z Z V

	Membership	Scholarships
Americanism	National Home	Scouting
Buddy Poppy	National Security	Sewing
Chaplain	Patriots Pen	Teacher of Year
Citizenship	Pheasant	Veterans Activities
Employment	POWMIA	Veterans Family Support
Homeless Vets	Publications	Voice of Democracy
Hospital	Public Relations	Youth Activities
Legislative	Safety	

Donor Beware: Contribute Wisely

We all receive those phone calls asking for donations or see someone outside of businesses fundraising from a small folding table. Do you ever feel compelled to contribute? How about pressured to contribute?

Before donating your hard earned money, be sure who and what you are donating to is legitimate AND if they are legitimate, that your money is going for what you intend to support.... If they are a professional fundraiser making calls or a paid person standing at that table outside of the local store, there are very good odds that much, if not most, of your donation would go to the professional fundraiser- NOT the Charity itself. Professional fundraising efforts can glean anywhere from 30-90% from a donation, with most taking 70-90%. Some professional fundraisers may even lie about the amount in order to meet their sales quota.

Not only should you be sure where the money is going, but is the person or organization legitimate? Recently, someone called the VFW National Headquarters in Kansas City stating they were with the Minnesota VFW Foundation located in Minneapolis. Due diligence by the National VFW staff member led them to call Minnesota VFW Headquarters to check the validity of this 'charity'. We were able to confirm that it was NOT a legitimate group... there is NOT a permitted VFW Foundation in Minnesota and we have NOTHING based in Minneapolis. We were able to clarify that we DO have the MNVFW Charitable Association, based in the Veterans Service Building in St Paul. Our National Headquarters will be following up with this 'charity' providing a cease and desist order.

Ultimately, DO NOT give ANY payment information over the phone if you do not know the caller. Any reputable charity would not pressure you on site or on the phone. They would give you the opportunity to think about it, research them and either call or mail your donation to

them. If you are interested in helping, ask them to send you information to read more about them and donate when you are ready. Better yet, you could also consider ending the call with the fundraiser and instead calling your local branch of the charity and contributing directly; then 100% of your donation goes right to the source... NOT to the professional fundraisers.

Be smart, take time to think and do not give payment information over the phone to someone who called you. If you are interested in giving to an organization or charity, call them directly; they will be more than happy to share how best to support their mission. If you have ANY doubts, it is probably best to not give.

According to the Federal Trade Commission, "The National Do Not Call Registry (www.donotcall.gov) gives you a way to reduce telemarketing calls, but it exempts charities and political groups. However, if a fundraiser is calling on behalf of a charity, you may ask not to get any more calls from, or on behalf of, that specific charity. If those calls continue, the fundraiser may be subject to a fine."

For more information, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) produces resources addressing charity fraud. To file a complaint or get free information on consumer issues, visit consumer.ftc.gov or call toll free, 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357); TTY: 1-866-653-4261

- Additional resources provided by the FTC:*
- www.ftc.gov/charityfraud "How to Donate Wisely and Avoid Charity Scams"
 - Check if a business is trustworthy by contacting:
 - o Better Business Bureau's (BBB) Wide Giving Alliance- www.bbb.org/us/charity
 - o Charity Navigator- www.charitynavigator.org
 - o Charity Watch- www.charitywatch.org
 - o GuideStar- www.guidestar.org
 - Internal Revenue Service (IRS) webpage to find out if an organizations is eligible to receive tax deductible contributions- <http://apps.irs.gov/app/eos/>
 - Minnesota Office of the Attorney General, Charities Division, 445 Minnesota Street, St Paul, MN 55101-2130, (651)757-1496 / (800)657-3787

~ Community Information & Focus Group Session Invitation~

Operation Deep Dive: Community-Based Research into Determining Factors for Veteran Suicide - Twin Cities

Tuesday, September 18, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
2916 Lyndale Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55408

Lunch Provided.

RSVP TO: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/operation-deep-dive-info-focus-group-session-on-veteran-suicide-study-twin-cities-tickets-47999238013>

Sponsored by: Twin Cities Veterans Initiative
in Partnership with America's Warrior Partnership
612-474-5482 www.twincitiesvet.org



Find us on
facebook

Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Minnesota

"Preserving and Extending Veterans Rights, Advocating a Strong National Defense, Promoting Patriotism and Serving Local Communities" - Veterans of Foreign Wars Founding Principles



MINNESOTA VFW CHARITABLE ASSOCIATION

Expanding and Preserving the Programs of the Department of Minnesota Veterans of Foreign Wars for the Present and the Future!



The Veterans of Foreign Wars has been 'fighting' for Veterans since 1899. We have worked endlessly to gain the Benefits and Entitlements that Our Veterans deserve. For over 116 years, the Veterans of Foreign Wars has spent millions of dollars and hours to Educate our Youth and build our Communities in the areas of Patriotism, Americanism and those things that are RIGHT for the United States of America. The members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars have placed their 'bodies and minds' between the enemies of this Great Nation to preserve the American way and the FREEDOM of not only the United States, but other nations as well.

With that said, the Department of Minnesota Veterans of Foreign Wars Charitable Association (MN VFW Charitable Association) is asking that you remember this Sacrifice through your Gift Giving and Donations.

There are a number of ways that you can Preserve the Memory of the Sacrifices of our Veterans for now and the future:

Using the form below, Donate to the VFW Charitable Association.
 * Establish a monthly or annual deduction to the MN VFW Charitable Association from your checking account or credit card.
 * Designate your Donation to a Charitable Trust in the name of the MN VFW Charitable Association.

- * Establish a Charitable Gift Annuity to the MN VFW Charitable Association.
- * Simply make a donation to the MN VFW Charitable Association.
- * Donate to the VFW Outdoor Fund.
- * Donate through the MN VFW Charitable Association Annual Raffle Calendar.

We certainly Appreciate the Consideration of the MN VFW Charitable Association in your Gift Giving Plans. Your Donation will ensure the future of the Programs of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

For more information, please contact the Secretary of the MN VFW Charitable Association at 651-291-1757 or email us at mnvfwcharitable@gmail.com or by writing to: VFW Charitable Association, 20 W. 12th St., Room B-5, St. Paul, MN 55155



The MN VFW Charitable Association is a 501-c-3 Charitable Organization under IRS Code.

Mail your Donation to: MN VFW Charitable Association, Rice Street Station, P.O. Box 17146, St. Paul, MN 55117

COMING SOON... to a Computer Near You



Visit www.mnvfw.org to see our progress

The VFW Charitable Association Raffle Calendar is Now Available



This Calendar features the Minnesota VFW & Auxiliary Minnesota VFW & Auxiliary Programs. Share the commitment and services we provide to our veterans, active duty, citizens and youth...

They sell for only \$20 each and your Post or Auxiliary will receive \$5 back for each Calendar sold... Order your Calendars now- Email- mnvfwcharitable@gmail.com or Call 651-291-1757

To purchase a copy for yourself, contact your nearest VFW Post

Please send more information about the MN VFW Charitable Association, its purpose and Programs.

____ Please accept my Tax Deductible Donation of: \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 Other: ____

Would you like to be an ANNUAL Donor? _____ (Yes or No)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Earmark for one of the following: _____ General Un-designated

____ VFW Outdoor Fund ____ Veterans Service ____ VFW Programs

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA**

Veterans Claims Service
 Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Bldg
 1 Federal Drive, Room G900, Saint Paul, MN 55111
 Phone: (612)970-5669 Fax: (612)970-5404

We'll Help with YOUR Veterans Benefits

Want To See Your Name In Lights?!?
 Well, not exactly, but if you choose to Sponsor a winner's award for the Dept. of MN Voice of Democracy & Patriot's Pen contest...

We WILL highlight your Post's name in the Midwinter Conference Book and Midwinter Banquet Book

Prize Sponsorship Opportunities:
 Available Levels of \$2,000, \$600, \$500, \$300, \$100 (3)

To Sponsor a Prize, please discuss this at your next meeting and then contact Department Headquarters to lock-in your Sponsorship level.
 Contact Melody at VFW State Headquarters 651-291-1757

DEADLINE: December 1st to Sponsor Awards for Midwinter 2019

Fine Print: -You may sponsor a full award or awards can be split between two entities (both names would be listed in the award title) -Sponsorship of specific award levels will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. If your desired level is taken, we would work to assign you to the level immediately below your first choice-Length of Sponsorship: We encourage sponsorship commitments for as long as your group feels comfortable- desiring 2-5 year commitments, however, 1 year commitments are also appreciated