

GOPHER OVERSEAS'R

Volume 74, NO. 1 Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Official Publication to More Than 45,000 Members of the Department of Minnesota June 2020 - September 2020

Department Convention Highlites

Well made plans for the June Department Convention had to be changed because of COVID-19 and the Governor's Executive Order regarding meetings and events. As a result, the normal Department Convention scheduled for June 6 was cancelled.

However, because distance requirements could be met at the Bloomington VFW Post 1296, the Council of Administration did meet and conduct business on June 6. As

announced beforehand, guests could participate by way of a Zoom Video Conference.

In brief, the Council voted to follow the guidelines provided in the National VFW Headquarters *Executive Order No. 2* regarding holding a "Pro Forma" convention.

This meant that there was an opening of the convention via Zoom, but it was immediately closed due to a lack of a physical quorum. It also provided for a change of command

whereby the Department Officers (Sr. Vice Commander, Jr. Vice Commander, and Judge Advocate) all advanced one position and were installed at the following Installation Ceremony.

The remaining elected Officers for the Department (Judge Advocate, Quartermaster, Chaplain, Surgeon and 5 year member of the Finance Committee) were elected by the Council at its July 11 meeting.



**2020-21
State Commander
Curt Hermanson**

Member of
VFW Post 4452
Cannon Falls, MN

Greetings Comrades!

As unfortunate as is it is with the uncertainties our country is facing many goals and opportunities have been put on hold. Despite this, we need to keep our purpose as an organization in mind. We are here to help veterans. Though right now it may be hard to get out there and do many of the things we have been able to in the past that does not mean that our hands are completely tied in regards to this goal. I would like to remind everyone that if your Post is having issues to please reach out to the Department, we are here to help and I am certain that we can help lead you in the right direction.

With that in mind I know that membership has been a struggle this year. Maintaining our numbers is a key part of our continuing support and the health of this organization. I encourage posts to reach out to your members. A simple call to check in and see how your members are doing in these troubling times can mean the world to those who are isolated and it allows you to offer any help that you are able to provide. Even simple gestures of kindness such as a phone call or an ear to listen helps to reinforce to your members that our purpose is to be there as a support for veterans.

Many things this year have not gone forward as anticipated. National **COMMANDER - Cont. on Page 12**

Father-Son Duo Guide Dept. of MN VFW

by Dewey Hermanson

Comrades, it gives me great pleasure to be the second Father and Son team serving as Department of Minnesota Veterans of Foreign Wars Commanders.

A bit of history about us, Curtis Hermanson received his eligibility serving in Korea in 1985 - 1986 stationed at Camp Casey. I received my eligibility serving in Kuwait in support of Iraqi Freedom 2004 - 2005.

I signed up Curtis after I joined the VFW. At that time, being a member of the VFW was not on Curtis' radar, nor was becoming the State Commander on my radar. One never knows what faces one and another until the time someone asks you to become an officer for the Department VFW.

Curtis is now serving as the 100th Department of Minnesota Veterans of Foreign Wars Commander and he has appointed me as his Department of Minnesota Veterans of Foreign Wars Adjutant.

It seems funny that I will be taking orders from my son this next year. I am very proud to serve as his Adjutant and to be here when he may need advice as Father, Past State Commander, and Adjutant.



Pictured above 2020-21 Commander Curt Hermanson being sworn in by 2015-2016 Past Commander Dewey Hermanson.

by Curt Hermanson

I knew from a young age that I wanted to join the military. When I was 17 years old I fulfilled that dream and joined the Army. I left on June 28, 1984 for basic training and by happenstance I graduated from basic training on my 18th Birthday. My dad was proud of my choice and he attended my basic training graduation. After completion of AIT, my first duty station was in Korea. At the time of my service in Korea I wasn't eligible for the VFW but that was changed in 1995. This meant that I was eligible for the VFW before

my father since his eligibility didn't come about until he was deployed to Kuwait in 2004.

Throughout our years in the VFW we have served alongside one another in many roles. I served as Post Commander while my father was District Commander and later I served as a District Commander while he was Department Commander. It seems like I've always followed in his footsteps. The difference now is that I am the Commander and he is the Adjutant. It is a different relationship because our roles are reversed and I am the one in charge while he is following my direction.

We are not the first father son duo to fill these roles but we are the first two who have been privileged to work alongside one another and I am very thankful to have this opportunity. Many people follow in their parent's footsteps but to be able to work together and support one another is an honor. The rewards and benefits are present not only on a personal level but because my father's previous knowledge is a great asset. I know that it will come in handy this year as I navigate my way through the duties and trials that

FATHER-SON - Cont. on Page 3

Department of Minnesota, VFW
20 W 12th St
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit NO. 1580
Twin Cities, MN

Please use the form on the reverse side to note any address changes

Save The Date!! Upcoming VFW Events

Fall Conference
September 25-27, 2020
Best Western Kelly Inn,
St. Cloud

Midwinter Conference
January 15-17, 2021
Minneapolis Marriott
City Center

National Legislative Conference
Washington D.C.
Feb. 28 - Mar. 4, 2021

Minnesota Veterans Day on the Hill
March 2021
(Day TBD)

VFW State Hockey Tournament
March 2021
Thief River Falls

State Convention & Training Schools
June 9-12, 2021
Marriott Northwest
Brooklyn Park

Red Events are Department Events

Top News

MN Officers Receive All-American Honors

CONGRATULATIONS!

2019-2020 All-American Post Commander honorees from Minnesota:

- Larry Klindworth, Wabasha County Post #1802
- Richard Daniels, Walter Hecklin Post #1791
- Paul Lindahl, Woodbury Post #9024

The Veterans of Foreign Wars All-American Program acknowledges exceptional leadership in helping their level achieve growth in membership and outstanding work in key V.F.W. scholarship programs.

District All-American Criteria	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership greater than 100% • Finish in the top 25 Districts in your division • Voice of Democracy- minimum of one entry advanced to Department Judging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patriot's Pen- minimum of one entry advanced to department Judging • National Citizenship Education Teachers Award- one entry advanced to Department Judging
District All-American Awards	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All-American District Flag Streamer • All-American District Citation • All-American Name Badge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All-American Cap • All-American Lapel Pin
Department All-American Criteria	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership must be greater than 100% • Must conduct two Membership Recruiting events prior to May 1, 2019 • Hold a Commander's Round-Up prior to January 1, 2019 • One new post or increase the membership of three posts of 50 members or less to over 50 members by July 1, 2019 • National Legislative Service • Monthly National Legislative Service committee member/chairman reports submitted • National Veterans Service • Must have a State/Department service officer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly National Veterans Services committee member/chairman reports submitted • Programs • Voice of Democracy- An entry advanced to national judging • Patriot's Pen- An entry advanced to national judging • National Citizenship Education Teacher Award- Submit an entry to national in all three categories (K-5, 6-8, 9-12) • Veterans & Military Support Programs- Must complete a State/ Department fundraiser and proceeds must be donated to: Veterans & Military Support Programs, Kansas City, MO
Department All-American Awards	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All-American Department Flag Streamer • All-American Department Citation • All-American Name Badge • All-American Cap 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All-American Lapel Pin • \$1,000 stipend to be used toward attending VFW National Convention • Reserved seating at the VFW National Convention joint opening session

District & Post Meetings

National VFW Headquarters has re-issued Executive Order No 1 signed by Commander Harold "Hal" Roesch, dated July 29, 2020.

It reads in part:

Districts:

"Pursuant to Section 418(a)(1) (d) of the Manual of Procedure, District Commanders shall "insist that District business and activities are conducted in such a manner that they do not violate any applicable governmental law, ordinance or regulation nor bring or tend to bring dishonor or embarrassment on the District, its members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States."

"Therefore, District Commanders at their respective judgement and discretion may make such accommodations to conduct the fraternal business of the organization within COVID-19 federal, state, and local governmental ordinances and guidelines where COVID restrictions apply to include conducting such required meetings and conventions electronically."

Posts:

"Pursuant to Section 218(a)(1) (c) of the Manual of Procedure, Post

Commanders shall "insist that Post business and activities are conducted in such a manner that they do not violate any applicable governmental law, ordinance or regulation nor bring or tend to bring dishonor or embarrassment on the Post, its members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States."

"Therefore, Post Commanders at their respective judgement and discretion may make such accommodations to conduct the fraternal business of the organization within COVID-19 federal, state, and local governmental ordinances and guidelines where COVID restrictions apply to include conducting such required meetings and conventions electronically."

In summary, District and Post Commanders may conduct District and Post meetings with: all members physically present (following COVID distance and/or masked guidelines); all members participating electronically (by way of video conferencing and phone); or some members physically present and some members participating electronically.

Electronic Meetings

District and Post Commanders should, at least 7 days prior to a scheduled meeting, send the video conference link, phone number and password to all members by way of email or postal mail.

If it is known that a member only has reliable phone access, a

simple text message containing the District/Post meeting date, time, phone access number and password should be sufficient.

Remember, multiple members can participate in an electronic meeting using one video access site.

Minnesota's 100th Anniversary

January 21, 1921

We are continuing to prepare for the 100th Anniversary for the Department of Minnesota- Veterans of Foreign Wars

Please join us for this planning session

Fall Conference

Saturday, September 26, 2020 @ 11:00 A.M.

Come to listen... come to participate

Minnesota VFW Office Locations

Department Headquarters:

Dewey Hermanson, 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.vfwmn.org

Auxiliary Headquarters :

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

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

Minneapolis VA

Scott Sutherland
VFW Hospital Representative
Minneapolis VAMC
1 Veterans Drive- Room 4G- 109E
Phone: (612) 725-4448

GOPHER OVERSEAS'R

Department of Minnesota, VFW, Editor
Rice Street Station, P.O. Box 17146, Saint Paul, MN 55117
Phone:(651)291-1757 - Fax:(651)291-2753
Email: vfwmnoffice@gmail.com - Webpage: www.vfwmn.org

Publications Committee:
Curt Hermanson, Commander; Barry Henriksen, Sr. Vice Commander;
Dale Hoogeveen, Jr. Vice Commander; Dan Meyer, 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 July 15, November 15, and March 15

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

Senior Vice Commander

By Barry Henriksen, State Senior Vice Commander

I hope that as you read this you and your family are well. It goes without saying that these are challenging times. It is as if in the last six months we have combined the 1919 Flu Pandemic with the 1930's Depression and topped it off with the 1960's riots. Truly historic times that we find ourselves in. But our work goes on! What we do for veterans, their families, and our community is critical and needs to occur even more because so many are suffering.

Please reach out to your members and make sure they are doing well. Many might be high risk and isolated from others. But you can still interact with them. If they have a deck, you can talk to them from outside while they are on their deck or porch. If you can't do face to face, a phone call is still welcome contact. Also, reach out to your former members and all veterans in your community. Show them that NO ONE DOES

MORE FOR VETERANS than the VFW. We are all in this together.

I hope that as many of our VFW and Auxiliary members as possible can attend the Fall Conference in St. Cloud September 25-27. We will start it off with a bang on Friday night with the coveted awarding of the All State team. Interesting and informative breakout sessions on Saturday will help you have a successful year under difficult circumstances. Saturday evening, we get to honor our State Commander Curt Hermanson and President Paige Amundson with their joint testimonial dinner. Please get your tickets. It will be a fun evening. Get your tickets early.

I look forward to travelling throughout the state to see as many posts as possible these next two years. Thank you for what you do for veterans, and please let me know how I can help you.

Junior Vice Commander

By Dale Hoogeveen, State Junior Vice Commander

Thank you to the comrades of this Department for your vote of confidence as I was elected at the July 11 Council of Administration meeting to the office of State Jr. Vice Commander. I'm excited for the opportunity to serve with Commander Hermanson, my fellow line officers, committee chairs and our headquarters staff as we continue the honorable work of advocating and caring for veterans and their families. I offer my thanks and congratulations to the newly elected officers at the district and post level.

Being responsible for Challenging Posts, I will also be reviewing the status of all posts in the Department with the goal of revitalizing any that may be having difficulty participating in our programs. I also congratulate

the officers, committee chairs, sisters and brothers of our auxiliary. We are a team and should feel obligated to support one another's efforts to serve veterans while upholding the ideals of this great organization.

Given the impact of the corona virus pandemic, this year will be a challenge for all of us as we strive to administer our programs and conduct business at all levels.

I ask you to continue to be diligent in fulfilling the responsibilities of your respective offices, to be creative in overcoming obstacles and to be willing to adapt to the inevitable changes that may come our way.

Let's make this a great year for Commander Hermanson and Commander-in-Chief Hal Roesch.

Judge Advocate

By Dan Meyer, State Judge Advocate

First of all, I would like to thank the VFW and the Council for supporting me in this opportunity to help Commander Curt have a great year. We have a long road to go but with the help of many we can achieve success. If there is anything that the department, down to the individual

member, needs we are here for you. Asking for help or assistance is not a sign of weakness but strength because you are trying to better yourself and the VFW.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to serve you as your Judge Advocate.

FATHER-SON - Cont. from Page 1

the year presents. I enjoy working with my father, we have a similar work ethic when it comes to something we believe or are involved in. Like most people we do not always agree on issues but even if we have different standpoints

or opinions on a matter we will find ourselves agreeing to disagree. I'm happy to say that we have a great relationship on both a personal level as well as a professional one. I really look forward to a great year working alongside my father; it should make for a good year.

2020-2021 Department Officers

Minnesota V.F.W. Council of Administration

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

Officer	Home City	Home Post
Commander Curt Hermanson	Cannon Falls	Post #4452
Sr. Vice Commander Barry Henriksen	White Bear Lake	Post #1782
Jr. Vice Commander Dale Hoogeveen	Carver	Post #1791
Quartermaster Jerry Brletich	Coon Rapids	Post #9625
Adjutant Dewey Hermanson	Cannon Falls	Post #4452
Judge Advocate Dan Meyer	Gibbon	Post #8459
Surgeon Dr. James Tuorila	Saint Cloud	Post #428
Chaplain William Murphy	Cannon Falls	Post #4452
Chief of Staff Michael Pierce	Owatonna	Post #3723
Member at Large Jerry Brletich	Coon Rapids	Post #9625
Chief Inspector Lawrence Grindland	W. Saint Paul	Post #295
Past Commander Chad Solheid	Forest Lake	Post #7
Officer of the Day Donald Heuer	Litchfield	Post #9433
National Council MBR Thomas Hanson	Willmar	Post #1639
MOC Grand CMDR James Dalziel	Princeton	Post #4847
1st District Commander David Thul	Owatonna	Post #3723
2nd District Cmdr. Terrance Pieper	Eagan	Post #295
3rd District CMDR Buck Underwood	Luverne	Post #2757
4th District Commander David Staehlin	Cottage Grove	Post #8752
5th District Cmdr. Michael Gearmann	Madison	Post #1656
6th District Commander Jonathon Durst	Big Lake	Post #8731
7th District Charles Hawkins	Coon rapids	Post #9625
8th District Commander Robert Stoehr	Tower	Post #1757
9th District Cmdr. Lynette Dornbusch	Fergus Falls	Post #1223

Officer	Home City	Home AUX
President Patches Paige Amundson	Wheaton	AUX #1656
Sr. Vice President Jamie Cassavant	Red lake Falls	AUX #1902
Jr. Vice President Sonia Tatge	Kenyon	AUX #141
Chaplain David Scofield	Litchfield	AUX #2818
Conductress Karen England	Lake City	AUX #8729
Guard Julie Stoehr	Tower	AUX #1757
Chief of Staff Jane Ziebarth	Princeton	AUX #806
Secretary/Treasurer Laurie Dale	Kenyon	AUX #141
1st District President Linda Henry	Rochester	AUX #1215
2nd District President Johanna Rowe	Arlington	AUX #6031
3rd District President Kathy Brockberg	Marshall	AUX #742
4th District President Cynthia Fritsche	Woodbury	AUX #9024
5th District President Nancy Kaneal	Willmar	AUX #1639
6th District President Michelle Keller	Alexandria	AUX #1140
7th District President Char Guse	Coon Rapids	AUX #9625
8th District President Julie Stoehr	Tower	AUX #1757
9th District President Tim Haugen	Moorhead	AUX #1223
Past Department Presidents on Council:		
PDP Kathy Fystrom	Sauk Centre	AUX #7902
PDP Gail Brekke	Moorhead	AUX #1223
PDP Patches Presfield	St. Cloud	AUX #4847
PDP Francesca Bill	Brooklyn Park	AUX #3915

Minnesota Auxiliary News

STATE PRESIDENT VFW Auxiliary



Paige
Amundson

Member of
VFW Post 1656 Auxiliary
Wheaton, MN



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

The 2020-2021 has proven to many of us, that we can overcome many situations that have been sent our way. COVID 19 has been trying to stop things from happening. But with outside of the box thinking we have gotten our Auxiliaries to continue to do business in creative ways. Zoom, Web-ex, social distancing are words we throw out daily. I want to say thank you to everyone who has taken the reins and have been keeping your members on track and are working on starting the new program year off right. Minnesota will overcome and have an amazing year!

Fall Conference is right around the corner. I am hoping there will be one person from every Auxiliary in attendance, either in person or by Zoom. We will have program chairman giving the outline of the programs this year, special workshops, breakout sessions with the VFW on programs for the 2020-2021 year. This conference is so educational, you won't want to miss it! Commander Curt and I will have our testimonial Saturday night at the Banquet. We look forward to seeing you all.

Celebrating America's Freedom Event will be held Friday, September 11, 2020 at the VFW National Home for Children in Eaton Rapids, Michigan. Come and join National President Sandi Onstwedder, National Line Officers and Ambassadors for a day of fun, education and beauty of the VFW National Home for Children. That evening there will be the National President's Celebration in Lansing, MI. This is a new date and location for this event due to the cancellation of National Convention.

Information for these events can be found on www.vfwauxiliary.org under the events tab.

Commander Curt and I have chosen TAPS as our joint project this year. TAPS program provides comfort, care and resources to all those grieving the death of a military loved one. Since 1994 TAPS has provided comfort and hope 24/7 through a national peer support network and connection to grief resources, all at no cost to surviving families and loved ones. We hope you will help us raise funds this year for this great cause.

We have had a delayed start this year due to COVID, but inspections will begin September 1, 2020 and will need to be completed by February 28, 2021. We will focus on strengthening our Auxiliaries, overcoming any issues we find and will show our communities and Veterans the pride we have for them.

The Auxiliary slogan this year is "Doing "OWL" We Can for Our Veterans". The symbol is an Owl. There will be pins available for sale and all proceeds will go the TAPS program.

Ways and Means will be selling tickets for a chance to win a trip to the National Convention in Baltimore, MD July 20-25, 2021. Drawing will be held during the Banquet at Midwinter Conference, January 16, 2021. Make sure to check out our baskets and goodies to buy chances on.

I am looking forward to a great year with Commander Curt and the VFW. Together Everyone Accomplishes More.

National District Council

By Gaile Brekke, Member Area E

Who would have ever thought when we said we had to start using the word "change" it would be like this?? With COVID-19 causing so much stress to everyone I would like to put in happy things. Even with this Pandemic we continue to show our veterans that we have not forgotten them.

Congratulations to our 2019-2020 Department President Frankie and all of our Line Officers for the awesome job they did keeping all of our members informed on all the changes and how they got the information out. Our office staff should be commended as well for keeping us moving forward as they had to work from home and once again when they were able to return to the office. I know it was a lot more

work for our staff to pull off these remote meetings and to make sure we all got the information we needed. We were able to hold our Council of Administration Meeting in June by Zoom for the ones not attending so that all of our business was able to move forward and officers could be installed.

A huge CONGRATULATIONS to the Department Chairman and others that received National Awards and to District 1 Hugo Matejcek Auxiliary #3723 – Owatonna for taking 1st Place in the Nation for Most Outstanding Promotion of the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest. Well done to all!

Congratulations to Jr. Past

COUNCIL- Cont. on Page 10

Secretary-Treasurer

By Laurie Dale

Greetings everyone.

The Department VFW Auxiliary Office Staff is working from our office in Saint Paul full time. We did work remotely for several weeks due to COVID19 and then for a week due to the rioting and protesting around the Capitol Complex. We are hoping that much of these issues are behind us and we can continue to serve you, our members, from the office.

For those of you that may not be aware we added a part-time Office Assistant near the end of last year. Please join me in officially welcoming Nanci Bohmer to our staff. Nanci is in the office every Tuesday and also comes in as needed for large projects and mailings, and she covers for me when I take time off. She has been a real asset so far and I look forward to having her in the office assisting me and our members!

Just a reminder that our Department Office is open Monday – Friday from 8 AM – 4 PM. You may call us at 651-291-1759 or email us at treasurer@vfwamn.org or secretary@vfwamn.org we ask that you not use our personal emails or personal phone numbers to reach us for auxiliary business. There are many times that I do not check personal email for days or perhaps longer and if I do not have your phone number saved in my phone I will not pick up. We also want to remind you that our personal time is just that, we may not respond to work calls/emails in the evenings or on days the office is closed.

Our Department Fall Conference will be held in St. Cloud at the Kelly

SECRETARY- Cont. on Page 10

Congratulations are in Order



Circle of
Excellence
Award



Congratulations to Past Department President Francesca "Frankie" Bill and the Department of MN VFW Auxiliary on being inducted into the Circle of Excellence for 2019-2020.

The Circle of Excellence is reached through achieving the goals set forth by Natinal VFW Auxiliary at the beginning of the years and through the proven leadership of the Department President. This award gives every Department the opportunity to achieve National recognition for their hard work.

Membership Chair

By Karen E. England

My name is Karen England and this year I am honored to serve as the Department of Minnesota Auxiliary Conductress and the Membership Chair this year. Membership is the lifeblood of our Organization. Without Members, our Programs would not be successful! Our National Ambassador has asked us to INVITE New Members, INCLUDE Current Members, and INVEST In Our Future!

For our Auxiliaries to be successful in Membership, we need to have a PLAN to be 101% in Membership, and I would like to see this happen by December 30th. There is NO TIME like the present to seek out those new members, and get our current members involved so that we are all investing in the future of our Organization.

Your PLAN must include:

* INVITING New Members by using the media (TV, radio, Newspaper Press Releases, Facebook, Fliers, etc.) to promote Membership in your community, and having Membership Training Sessions in your Auxiliary and in your District; and * INCLUDING current members by sending out dues notices to your annual members generated through MALTA, using phone calls, emails, letters, social media, etc. to collect those annual dues, and "adopting" those members who are having financial hardships to pay their dues for them.

Let's do OWL we can for our Veterans by being 101% in Membership this year!

Claims and Service Office Report

Jon Gohn, Claims Director

OPERATOR OF MINNESOTA VA OUTPATIENT CLINICS TO PAY \$1.85 MILLION PENALTY

March 12, 2020

WASHINGTON – The Justice Department announced today that Sterling Medical Associates Inc. (Sterling) will pay \$1.85 million to resolve allegations under the False Claims Act that it failed to schedule veterans' medical appointments timely at two outpatient clinics in Minnesota, resulting in the submission of false claims to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Sterling is a Cincinnati-based company that provides various services in the healthcare industry, including staffing, departmental operation, and outpatient clinic operation.

"We expect companies doing business with the government to comply with their contractual obligations, particularly when they relate to the health of our veterans," said Assistant Attorney General Jody Hunt of the Department of Justice's Civil Division. "The Department is committed to ensuring that our veterans receive the timely medical care that they need and deserve."

VA maintains community-based outpatient clinics across the country, including clinics in Minnesota. VA awarded Sterling a contract to operate its clinics in Hibbing and Ely, Minnesota, in March 2013. The contract incorporated VA requirements that routine appointments be scheduled within 14 calendar days of the veteran's

requested appointment date. Today's settlement resolves allegations that, between July 2013 and April 2014, Sterling did not schedule patient appointments at the Hibbing clinic in compliance with these requirements and changed veterans' requested appointment dates to make appointment wait times appear shorter.

"Today's settlement exhibits the importance we place on the health and welfare of our veterans," said United States Attorney Erica H. MacDonald. "The women and men who have bravely served our country deserve to receive timely care without exception."

"We are pleased with the settlement and the willingness of the company to recognize the importance of timely scheduling medical appointments when veterans seek the healthcare treatment they earned," said Gregg Hirstein, Special Agent in Charge, VA Office of Inspector General.

This matter was investigated by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Minnesota, the Civil Division's Commercial Litigation Branch, and the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The claims resolved by the settlement are allegations only, and there has been no determination of liability.

Claims Office Update During COVID-19

It is pertinent to give you all a SITREP regarding how our claims office has been operating since March when all the COVID Pandemic changed our procedural day to day routines. All of you know and have experienced how things have been upside down, operationally your claims office couldn't have worked more efficiently than what we did.

First and foremost, once everything started, I saw the writing on the wall regarding the potential need to work from home. When we did have to operate remotely before we had used an antiquated system to back door into the VA Federal Firewall. That system was slow, clunky and unreliable at best. I decided at that time to reach out to the VA IT Department. VA employees had the ability to use a VPN to directly log into the Federal network. I was able to successfully obtain VPN access for all St. Paul VFW employees within just a few days, with the outstanding spearheading of Lynette Bonin, Assistant Director. As you may know, getting anything accomplished by a Federal IT department in that short amount of time is nearly unheard of. National Veteran Services took note of our utilization of VPN and I will be assisting them and other VFW Offices in obtaining that same access for our VFW counterparts Nationwide.

After that I ensured to reach out to our leadership to develop a plan that worked for the office. This plan allowed us to best serve our County Veteran Service Officers and out clientele alike. I reached out to our county personnel and encouraged them to utilize a collective VFW email inbox that all employees have access to. Furthermore, we maintained at least two employees as essential to come in and make sure that we were able to effectively still take care of mail and faxes that continued to pour in.

During this pandemic the VA took away our Review access for claims, which was vital in ensuring that the VA quality of work be maintained. That was a major blow for us. During the first couple of weeks of this, we struggled to find out an effective way to filter the VA's system to our advantage and see what work had been accomplished. With the collaborative efforts of the DAV we were able to successfully figure out how to complete that portion of

our mission. Upon doing so, I put together a step-by-step PowerPoint that was given to all employees and to NVS. Now we can represent our clientele for advisement, whereas we were flying blind for a short period.

During this pandemic, we all worked closely with the Board of Veteran's Appeals Liaison for VSOs. Because federal buildings were not operating with business as usual, all Board of Veteran's Appeals Teleconference and in person hearings were cancelled and rescheduled for after the beginning of the fiscal year. This was taking appeals that were already years old and pushing them to the right even further. In working with the Board we were able to start initiating Virtual Hearings with BVA Law Judges and appellants alike. Because of this, we have been able to get many of our hearings moved from months out, to a week out. We have been very successful using this platform and will continue to utilize it in the future. Only three other VFW offices had been using this modality. More have jumped on board after the testament given by us and a couple of our counterparts.

I must give huge kudos to our VFW Claims Office Staff. We have daily virtual meetings, group text messages and phone calls to work through everything that was thrown our way. To be very honest, this has shown that not only can we adapt and overcome but can work very effectively and efficiently remotely. I am now reassessing my battle plan going forward. To allow employees the ability to work uninterrupted in the future, I will most likely be having a rotation for people to work from home a couple of days a month.

I am very proud of what we have accomplished throughout this. My employees have really stepped up and have gone above and beyond in their response and handling of everything. Our office has been fully operational with no major issues and have seamlessly worked through any barriers that stood in our way.

As always, we stand ready to assist the veteran's in the Great State of Minnesota.

I'm happy that we can say with confidence that the MN VFW Claims Office has stood steadfast and has been a clear example of the VFW Mission Statement where "No One Does More for Veterans".

REACH — a Call to Action to Prevent Suicide

July 7, 2020

WASHINGTON – The White House and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today launched the REACH national public health campaign aimed at empowering all Americans to play a critical role in preventing suicide.

The goal of REACH, which was established by the President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End a National Tragedy of Suicide (PREVENTS), is to change the conversation around suicide by urging people to recognize their own risk and protective factors — as well as the risk and protective factors of their loved ones. "REACH will empower our nation's Veterans to seek and receive help and it will encourage them to reach out to their brothers and sisters in need who may be vulnerable," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "The power of this

campaign will change how we talk about mental health and suicide in our nation. It will ensure that those in need, especially the men and women who have served our great nation, will receive the care and support they deserve." "The REACH campaign will inspire and educate all Americans — encouraging them to share their own struggles and to reach out to those who are hurting. It will engage our Veterans to help lead the way as we change how we think about, talk about and address suicide," said PREVENTS Executive Director Dr. Barbara Van Dahlen. "I urge everyone to go to wearewithinreach.net and take the PREVENTS Pledge to REACH and be part of the solution. Together, we will prevent suicide."

The website also includes infor-

SUICIDE - Cont. Page 14

V.F.W. Veterans Claim 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 Veteran Benefits

*Message
From Your*
**National
Council
Member**

By Tom Hanson,
National Council Member

I trust we haven't abandoned or lost sight of our commitment to our fellow veterans during these difficult times as a result of the viral epidemic and the uncertainty that seems to have encompassed everything as a result. As veterans we have endured hardship many times, yet never deserted our post or our comrades. We must continue this allegiance now more than ever. Most of our VFW Posts remain closed but this doesn't mean we stop our mission. Conversely, our fellow veterans, those still serving on active duty, and the members of our community need us more than ever. I ask all VFW and VFW Auxiliary members to remember our aim and reach out to those in need in spite of this troubled period.

The VFW National Council has had to alter how they do business too. There is ambivalence in when, or if, a meeting can be held, along with many other decisions that affect the organization. As you recall, we were unable to convene a Department or National Convention and required alternatives to carry out those mandates. This same dilemma has plagued Districts and Posts trying to schedule meetings and coordinate other aspects of what we do. Once more, we need to find ways to carry on. As the Council continues to bring forth changes or provides other information coming out of VFW National Headquarters, we will do our very best to disseminate this material as quickly as it becomes available.

As of this writing, the National Council of Administration is scheduled to meet in Kansas City the weekend of August 21st to discuss and make important decisions on a large number of issues. This meeting along with the Commander-in-Chief's Homecoming, and a number of other scheduled events are tentative and may need to be accomplished virtually or at a later date. Continue to reference the VFW websites, both National and Department for more up-to-date information and developments.

As America's largest combat organization, the health and well-being of our members, partners, associates and communities is our top priority. The VFW has a job to do and has made a solemn promise to those veterans, service members, and their families for whom we work. Now more than ever we must find solutions in the face of adversity and strive to meet the needs of those who rely on the vital services we provide.

Capital Hill Press

By Tommy Johnson, Legislative Chairman

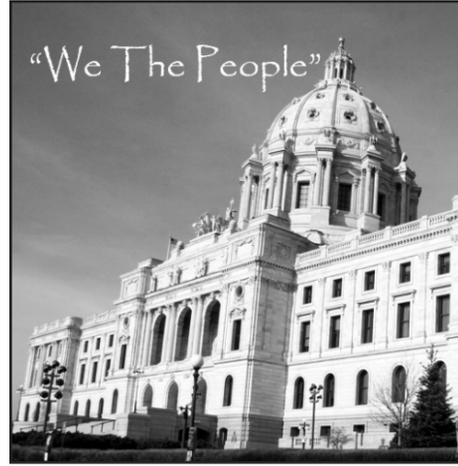
Monday afternoon, July 20th, in Washington D.C. H.R. 886, the Veteran Treatment Court Coordination Act of 2019 passed Congress and was sent to President Trump's desk for signature. This is an important win for Veterans in Rural America that have service-connected injuries that led them to become involved in the criminal justice system. The purpose of this bill is to help states expand veteran courts through technical assistance and financing from the US Department of Justice to help veteran advocates and local officials stand up new veteran courts.

Monday afternoon, July 20th, in St. Paul at the State Capitol was a different story. State Senator Steve Cwudzinski, a member of the Senate Veterans Committee, made a motion to take the Veterans Restorative Justice Act, SF 33, out of committee and bring it to the Senate Floor for debate and a vote. This Floor Debate and roll call vote was televised live by the Minnesota Senate Media Services. The following link should take you to the start of the VRJA debate. I highly encourage everyone to watch this debate in its entirety:

<https://youtu.be/NVkvSM9qJOI?t=8551> This link is also available on our Department www.vfwmn.org website on the Legislative page.

A concern for VFW and Auxiliary Members is Senator Roger Chamberlain's testimony, beginning at approximately 2:25.04. Senator Chamberlain testified the original fiscal note scored the VRJA as about a \$2 million cost. I was surprised to watch that, because I specifically remember waiting for the Fiscal Note to be released - and it's the one that shows no upfront costs and a \$1,307,000 savings to taxpayers in the first two years had it been enacted in the 2019 regular session. I have since searched and I cannot find a previous fiscal note.

Of particular concern to VFW and Auxiliary Members is Senator Chamberlain's testimony that "the veteran organizations spoke with today understand" that a no vote is ok. As of today, AmVets, American



Legion, DAV, JWV, MCL, MOPH, PVA and VFW have confirmed they were not called on Monday and did not say it's ok to vote no. Once VVA confirms, it will be unanimous that they did not contact a CTF member VSO.

What is more concerning is Senator Chamberlain has declined give the VFW the name(s) of the organization(s) that he testified gave him the thumbs up to vote no.

Senator Howe also gave testimony that is concerning. At +/- 2:33.15, Senator Howe testified that there are "multiple programs out there; this isn't the only one...I think there are multiple programs out there." Senator Howe also testified "We don't have the funding. Have we identified where the funding is coming for this? The first fiscal note was not a cheap ordeal to fund." A call to Senator Howe has not been returned to clarify what the "multiple programs" are, and to obtain a copy of the fiscal note he referenced.

Senator Rosen testified at the +/- 2:34.40 mark that "We need to get this right. We have a budget deficit..." Two points: 1) the Senate Majority controls the hearings schedule and they have had since February 2019 to hold a hearing, and 2) facing a budget deficit, it's more important than ever to pass VRJA because, as the Fiscal Note clearly shows, VRJA saves the state money.

On the roll call vote, the motion to pass the Veterans Restorative Justice Act was defeated. The following state senators voted against the VFW

and CTF supported VRJA:

Jim Ablor	Bruce Anderson
Paul Anderson	Michelle Benson
Roger Chamberlain	Gary Dahms
Rich Draheim	Justin Eichorn
Paul Gazelka	Michael Goggin
Dan Hall	Karin Housley
Jeff Howe	Bill Ingebritsen
John Jaskinski	Scott Jensen
Mark Johnson	Mary Kiffmeyer
Mark Koran	Andrew Lang
Warren Limmer	Andrew Mathews
Jeremy Miller	Carla Nelson
Scott Newman	David Osmek
Eric Pratt	Jason Rarick
Jerry Relph	Julie Rosen
Carrie Ruud	David Senjem
Paul Utke	Bill Weber
Torrey Westrom	

Please remember that had Senators Bruce Anderson, Mary Kiffmeyer, Mark Koran, and Andrew Mathews voted "yes" instead of "no" in May 2019 in the House - Senate Conference Committee, this bill would know be law. Senators Bruce Anderson, Kiffmeyer, Koran, and Mathews have now voted twice against a VFW and CTF legislative priority and this bill is not law.

In Congress, every one of Minnesota's delegation worked and voted to get a Veterans Court bill passed. Senator's Klobuchar and Smith and Representatives Hagedorn, Craig, Phillips, McCullum, Omar, Emmer, Peterson, and Stauber all worked together to help Veterans wounded during service.

Despite the calls and emails our VFW and Auxiliary Members have sent and made over the past two years, 35 State Senators voted against Veterans Court legislation - a VFW National Legislative Priority. They also voted against every taxpayer in Minnesota, as the bill saves our state millions of dollars over the years. It would be highly appropriate for VFW and Auxiliary Members to write letters to the editors of local papers pointing out the action of their state senator. If your state Senator voted with us, write a letter to the editor thanking them.

They did not listen to us, they voted against us, and we need to make the public know what they did. It is only through legislative advocacy, including letters to the editor, that we will get what we need passed in the legislative process.



MNVFW Charitable Association

By Barry Henriksen, Association President

All posts should order their calendars prior to the Fall Conference so that they can pick them up in St. Cloud. Remember that \$5 of every calendar sold goes to your post or auxiliary. It's a great fundraiser!

If the post wants the \$5 to go

to another organization for selling them the post may do so. But the Association will only send the check to the Post or Auxiliary.

Calendar sales are critical to the Charitable Associations ability to help veterans and their families.

As a Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, you should take an Interest in the Dealings of YOUR Organization on the Post, District, Department and National levels. Attending Post, District, State Functions, like your Post Meetings would be a GOOD start.

Fall Conference - September 25-27, 2020

FC Heads Into New World

By Melody Shryock, Convention Coordinator

The 2020 Annual Fall Conference will take place in St. Cloud, Minnesota, on September 25th to the 27th. It has been eight months since we convened for a regular VFW event and many are anxiously looking forward to fall and the opportunity to see their VFW friends from across the State. Since we last gathered at the January Midwinter Conference, a new world has developed in light of the COVID-19 Pandemic that has swept the world. No doubt many of you have added some new vocabulary to your repertoire such as ZOOMing and Social Distancing. Others may have developed some new skills including like participating in meetings on your cell phone and many of our computers have never seen so much use! This is truly an unusual time for all of us and it is not likely to change soon.

With that being said, our mission as VFW and Auxiliary members doesn't change either... we need to continue to serve our veterans, their families and our communities. To that end, we are planning to hold Fall Conference, but exactly how it looks is continually evolving. Since we were not able to gather for our June State Convention where we conduct year end awards and all of the formal business of the year, we certainly have plenty to accomplish this fall. We expect to conduct the Fall Conference, with some new twists and processes, within the government guidelines in place at that time. No matter what, we hope to provide a fulfilling experience for everyone.

Traditionally, Fall Conference is our 'Learning' event of the year; filled with Council Meetings, Program Displays, Information Sessions and Social Activities... This will be a Fall Conference you DON'T WANT TO MISS!

CONFERENCE MEETINGS

The VFW will host Council of Administration Meetings on Friday evening and Sunday morning in order to conduct Department responsibilities and wrap up anything remaining from the summer. In the Friday session, the Department Officers will be presenting the year end awards normally given out at the June Convention... including the 2019-20 ALL-STATE COMMANDERS and their Team Captain! All members are encouraged to attend and observe how the business of the organization is conducted. The Auxiliary will meet Friday evening and part of Saturday to complete their business,

present the 2019-20 year end awards and review new Auxiliary programs that have been established for the upcoming year.

SEMINARS & DISPLAYS

This Conference is perfect for seasoned and new chairmen alike. Seminars will be conducted throughout the Conference to present Program information, deadlines and share ideas on how to best perform your chairmanship... this is a must attend for All Members and Chairmen at any level! We hope to hold the usual continuing education Gambling Meeting on Friday and these rest of our Seminars on Saturday. Learn how to conduct youth programs, get involved in Veterans Legislation, membership recruiting and more. See the Tentative Fall Conference Schedule on this page.

A Program Display area will be open from 8 am- 3 pm on Saturday. We are attempting to conduct a 'no contact' display area this year... so bring your note pad, cell phone or camera to record valuable information and website addresses where you can find more program details and forms. All of the Minnesota Veterans Homes are invited to host displays as they typically do, so this is a great opportunity to find out what they are working on and where they could use help.

MEMORIAL EXPERIENCE

As our more seasoned members know, a joint Memorial Service is held in June every year. Unfortunately, we were not able to hold this emotional, contemplative event since the Convention was cancelled. Those attending the Fall Conference, will have the opportunity for what we are calling a Memorial Experience. Plan to visit this peaceful opportunity to reflect upon and honor members who have gone on before us. Currently we expect that this Experience will take approximately 5 minutes. It may not be as provoking as a regular Memorial Service, but we hope it will allow members a special time for this annual tradition.

VETERANS & YOUTH ACTIVITIES- Place Your Bids

The Veterans Activities Committee will be accepting bids for future events including Archery, Bean Bag, Bowling, Fishing, Horseshoes, and Pistol Competition; Golf is also open for a three year host in 2023-25.

Fall Conf. - Cont. on Page 12

FALL CONFERENCE HOUSING RESERVATIONS

September 25-27, 2020

Best Western Kelly Inn, 100 - 4th Ave. S., St. Cloud, MN 56301

\$95^{+tax} per Night -- Deadline Sept. 10

Call 1-320-253-0606

Mention "VFW Fall Conference Room BLOCK"



Veterans of Foreign Wars- Department of Minnesota

FALL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

September 25-27, 2020



Best Western Kelly Inn- 100- 4th Street South, St Cloud, MN

Revised 7/21/20

FRIDAY, September 25, 2020:

- 9:00 A.M. Convention Committee
- 10:30 A.M. Internal Affairs Meeting
- 1:00 P.M. -6:00 P.M. Registration *BANQUET Tickets Pick-Up Time TBA
- 1:00 P.M. Finance Committee
- 2:30 P.M. Gambling Meeting
- 3:00 P.M. MN VFW Charitable Association Meeting
- 6:00 P.M. Auxiliary Council of Administration
- 6:00 P.M. VFW Council of Administration & Convention Awards
- After Meetings Hospitality & Social Time

SATURDAY, September 26, 2020:

- 6:00-6:30+ A.M. Rise & Shine Workout
- 7:30 A.M.-2:00 P.M. Registration *BANQUET Tickets Pick-Up Time TBA
- 7:30 A.M. Finance Committee
- 4:30 P.M. Church Service(s)
- 6:00 P.M. General Reception
- 7:00 P.M. Testimonial Dinner for State Commander & State President
- After Banquet Hospitality & Social Time

SUNDAY, September 27, 2020:

- 9:00 A.M. VFW Council of Administration

	University A	University B	State Room	Sunwood	Congress	Opportunities	Senate	
8:00-9:15		Veterans & Youth Activities	Legislative	Social Media & Publicity	Auxiliary Malta	Buddy Poppy		
9:30-10:45	Program Displays	Service Officer, Employment & Homeless Vets	Scholarships	Community Service, Safety & Citizenship	So, They Elected You President... Now What?	Veterans, Military & Family Support	Memorial Experience	
11:00-12:00		100 th Anniversary Planning	Post Options: Revitalization vs Consolidation	National Security & POW/MIA	VFW Technology- ADJ Dashboard & Website Resources	Auxiliary Sessions		
12:00-1:15	Program Displays	LUNCH						Memorial Experience
1:15-3:30	Program Displays	Membership & Recruiting				Auxiliary Sessions	Memorial Experience	
3:15-4:15	Program Displays	Vets/Youth Bids Received						

FALL CONFERENCE Commander's & President's Testimonial Banquet

September 26, 2020

Best Western Kelly Inn- St. Cloud, MN

Tickets \$28 each

Social 6:00 / Banquet 7:00 pm
Meal:

Boneless, Bacon-Wrapped Chop, Grilled with Montreal Seasoning with a Mushroom White Wine Demi Sauce, Oven-Browned Potatoes, Salad, Fresh Baked Bread & Dessert

No tickets will be mailed out. - Please pick them up at the Registration Desk.

Please reserve _____ tickets at \$28 each.

Enclosed is Check # _____ to "VFW Post 4452" for \$ _____

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Post/Auxiliary # _____ District # _____

Special Dietary Requests _____

FINAL Deadline: September 4th, 2020

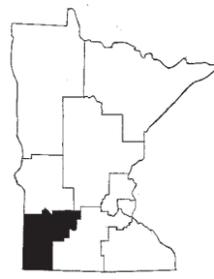
News from YOUR District Commanders and Presidents!



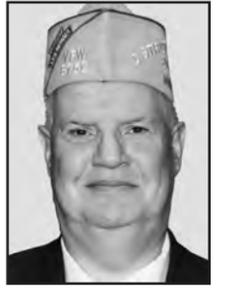
**David Thul Commander
First District**



**Terrance Pieper Commander
Second District**



**Buck Underwood, Commander
Third District**



**David Staehlin Commander
Fourth District**

My sincere thanks to the members of the 1st District VFW for allowing me to serve as your Commander. My thanks to past Commanders Tom French and Nate Pike for your mentoring over the last few years, and your continued willingness to help throughout the coming year. Our first district meeting will be in Owatonna on August 1st, which will also be available over Zoom. As the Covid-19 pandemic continues to change our daily lives, it is crucial that we utilize technology to keep our members involved in our programs and camaraderie. If you haven't used Zoom before, please feel to contact me directly at 507-363-2529 and I can walk you through the simple process.

Of course, as much potential as there is with technology, nothing can replace the simple act of calling our fellow members and Veterans on the phone or stopping in to see them and make sure they are doing okay in these difficult times. Social distancing is necessary to keep our bodies healthy, but conversation and interaction are also needed to keep our minds healthy. If you know of a Veteran who is struggling or in need of assistance, I encourage you to live the VFW motto- **No One Does More For Veterans.**

Greetings Comrades from the Solid 2nd District.

We in the 2nd district would like to extend our congratulations to each of the newly elected and appointed officers and chairpersons.

I would like to introduce myself. I joined VFW Post 295 in South St Paul in 2005 after returning from Iraq. I retired after serving 20 years I served 6 years on active duty in the Army and 14 years in the Minnesota National Guard. My wife Wendy and 2 of our children are members of the Auxiliary. They have been very supportive of my involvement in the VFW, so I thank them for their support.

I'm looking forward to working with Department Commander Curt Hermanson and the line officers. We have a lot of work ahead of us at all levels of the organization from the post level on up. Our first District meeting will be held at St James Post 1914 Aug 9th at 1 pm. This past year the 2nd District did a good job on getting reports turned in but fell short on membership. We had several Posts reach 100% membership or more. We had several posts that fell short by 1-3 members. We will continue to work hard to achieve that 100%

DISTRICT 2 - Cont. on Page 14

Just a short note from the 3rd. First we would like to give Dan Meyer a big HOORAH for being voted in as our Judge Advocate for the State VFW. Dan worked hard for this spot.

We have had some consolidations of two Posts in our District, and I see a few more in the near future.

I will try to get our District meetings started this October if we are allowed to by our State. In the mean time, everybody take care of yourselves.



**Kathy Brockberg, Auxiliary
President Third District**

Greetings from 3rd District.

Our year is starting slowly due to Covid-19. We were able to meet in May to elect officers and program chairman and again in July to discuss our budget.

Our first district meeting is in Westbrook on October 10th. We have been unable to visit our veterans home in Luverne since March.

We are doing what we can on our programs. Each auxiliary is doing what they can to help in their community.



**Linda Henry, Auxiliary
President First District**

I want to thank the First District for electing me as President, again. I am truly humbled by this opportunity.

My slogan is "Let's Soar Like an Eagle for Our Veterans" and my color is purple.

First District will have our first meeting on Saturday August 1 at 9:30 am with Department President Paige as our representative. We will hear about all the programs for the 2020-2021 year.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone in person again! We will do it as a Zoom meeting, also.

We will have an inspector training after the District meeting, then we will begin doing inspections. I am looking forward to seeing how all the auxiliaries are getting along especially after the last 4 or 5 months with COVID-19.

Hope to see everyone at the Fall Conference. Until then please stay healthy and safe.



**Johanna Rowe, Auxiliary
President Second District**

I would like to congratulate all the new officers and chairman of District 2. I also want to thank all the Auxiliaries who held elections and installations in this "new normal" era of COVID-19. We know it wasn't easy for some of you. We do still have a couple of Auxiliaries that have a couple of issues, but I am sure they will be resolved soon.

Our first District 2 meeting will be held August 9th, 2020 in St. James with Department President, Paige Amundson as our Department Representative. We look forward to giving her a hardy Second District welcome.

Second District officers and chairmen are looking forward to seeing everyone and getting much needed information at Fall

Conference in St. Cloud September 25th-26th. Fall Conference is always a valuable tool for our members. The Department Chairmen gives us vital information to take back to our own Auxiliaries. Second District Chairmen have started off their respective programs with a bang...up and running.

September we will be starting our official visits to the Auxiliaries. Our goal is to be done with them all by December 31, weather permitting of course.

I look forward to serving with Department President Paige and the new District Presidents. Congrats to Department Commander Curt Hermanson and his team of officers as well. It is going to be a super year in spite of the virus!

I hope you all stay healthy while you are "Doing Unique Deeds for Our Veterans So We Will Never Forget Them".

I offer my sincere thanks to the officers and members of the Posts in the Fourth District for a good solid year in 2019-2020. With COVID-19, social distancing, and the shutdown of our Post homes, it's been a unique time. Even with these challenges, we've continued to serve our members, service members, their families, and our communities.

Congratulations to the newly elected and appointed officers for 2020-2021. While the stay at home order has been lifted, a resurgence in the coronavirus keeps what will happen over the next year in question. What I don't doubt is that we'll continue to fulfill our mission: To foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts; To serve our veterans, the military, and our communities; and To advocate on behalf of all veterans.

Please join me in congratulating Woodbury Post 9024 Commander Paul Lindahl, Quartermaster Darrin Ewing, and the rest of the officers and members of the Woodbury Post for being awarded All American Post honors for 2019-2020. The Post is one of only 54 Posts worldwide receiving the honor for the year just ended.

Members are encouraged to take the opportunity to participate in the upcoming Officer Training Institute (OTI) which will be held via Zoom, likely in August. OTI attendance is not restricted to officers.

If I can be of any assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at david@staehlin.us or 651-261-5802.



**Cynthia Fritsche, Auxiliary
President Fourth District**

My name is Cynthia A Fritsche, second term for the President of the 4th District VFW Auxiliary. My Special Project for this year is: MMFF (Minnesota Military Family Foundation). A community-supported fund and distribute money through grants and loans to Minnesota military families that need a little help. We have a District meeting scheduled for Aug. 22 and hoping there will be bodies there or participating on Zoom. Fall Conference coming up in September. I have intentions on attending, don't know at this point how many will join me.

Not much of anything else going on, because we don't want to schedule something and then have it cancelled.



Michael Gearmann, Commander
Fifth District

I hope everyone is happy and healthy in our socially distanced wonderland. We in the 5th are working hard to navigate the new normal and keep working on making our Posts, District, and State VFW the best that they can be.

This year's meeting schedule is as follows:

- October 11 - Willmar Post 1639
- January 24 - Appleton Post 4955
- April 18 - Madison Post 1656

All meetings start at 2 pm

I hope that everyone has a great and healthy year.



Jonathon Durst, Commander
Sixth District

Greetings all! I never thought that the 20-21 year would start the way it has. I hope everyone in the District is doing well and staying healthy. This year will be a challenge, but I am sure the men and women of the "Fighting 6th" will be able to forge ahead and complete the year successfully. The only way out, is through.

For those that don't know my background, here's me in a nutshell: I joined the Marine Corps Reserves my senior year of high school, and served with the reserve unit in St Paul from 2006 to 2011, deploying to Iraq in 2009. I worked in law enforcement and security for 10 years with the Anoka Police Department, Allina Health, and the State Patrol. In 2017, I began work at the US Department of Veterans Affairs and currently make disability rating decisions. I joined the Coon Rapids VFW in 2010 when I returned from Iraq, and ultimately transferred to the Monticello Post after moving to Big Lake. I enjoy motorcycling and hanging out with my wife and dogs. I look forward to meeting and working with all of you over this year.

Our first District meeting will be held at the Jenkins VFW Post 3839 on Sunday, August 16, 2020 at 1 pm. We will start with a quick election to fill the vacant seats and jump into our budget meeting to set the course for the year. I hope to see you all there.



Char Guse, Auxiliary
President Seventh District

Greetings to one and all as we venture forth into another Program Year. Hopefully COVID-19 will get out of our way so we can get back to our programs and the work we need to get done for our veterans. 7th District Commander Charles Hawkins and I have high hopes for the year. Most of us really miss the person to person contact.

Congratulations to 2019-2020 Department President Frankie Bill for her outstanding year, culminating in her Circle of Excellence award. Great job Frankie, the 7th is so proud of you!

I hope to see everyone at Fall Conference in St. Cloud. Please take advantage of all that our Department Chairmen have prepared to promote their programs. No one should go home empty handed.



Charles Hawkins, Commander
Seventh District

Comrade's and Auxiliary members, welcome from the Mighty Seventh.

I was very glad to go to the C of A and to see and meet everyone!

During the shutdown of our state, some of our posts have taken that time to do some remodeling of the interior of their building, things such as updated their kitchen, lounge, and hall. Now days it's about social distances and the wearing of masking. Everything has to be moved around for the 6 foot distance spacing.

This coming year is going to be very challenging for all of us, and as a new District Commander, I have asked for help from our past Commanders.

Our Golf Tournament is canceled this year and I am not sure what else will happen.

We are having an upcoming ZOOM Meeting for Post Inspection training at which we will be able to ask questions. This will be very helpful to those participating.

Remember, ZOOM meetings can be for District and Post meetings.

We are having a few Posts combining in our District because of the economy, and in most instances that is a very important move for that post.

Membership in some cases is a one shot chance, so always carry a VFW Membership Application. You never know when you might be able to use it!



Julie Stoehr, Auxiliary
President Eighth District

Greetings and Salutation's from the 8th District! Hope all are safe and healthy in these crazy times!

I had a report from Silver Bay Veterans Home. Their safety precautions are currently still in place! The Commander and I had decided on a project for Silver Bay, which was a wheelchair accessible club car and before we had a plan in place someone bought them one. Thank you to whoever did this, wonderful gift for the residents! So now we will have to think of something else for a project. We have been in contact with Joyce from SBVH and she has put on her thinking cap and we will have a discussion and go from there and let you know!

District 8 VFW and Auxiliary will host a virtual meeting on August 22, 2020. These are strange new times we are in and we certainly miss seeing everyone. Oh, to be together for some hugs and smiles! We manage to get the business done, but there seems to be a chunk missing.

DISTRICT MEETINGS

- First District**
August 1 Owatonna #3723 @ 12:30 PM
 - Second District**
August 9 St. James #1914 @ 0:00 AM
 - Third District**
October 10 Westbrook #5098 @10 AM
 - Fourth District**
August.22 Mendota #6690 @ 9 AM
 - Fifth District**
October 11 Wilmar #1639 @ 2 PM
 - Sixth District**
August 16 Jenkins #3839 @ 9 AM
 - Seventh District**
August 1 Spring Lk Pk #6857 @ 10 AM
 - Eighth District**
August 22 Zoom Mtg #723 @ 9 AM
 - Ninth District**
August 22 Dilworth #1223 @ 1 PM
-
- MOC**
August 15 St. Cloud #4847 @ 10 AM

WANTED:

Event Hosts For Fall Conferences & State Conventions

The Department Convention Committee is looking for Posts & Communities that are interested in Hosting a Fall Conference or State Convention in YOUR area.

If we don't have Posts/Districts step-up to host these events, they may continue to be in parts of the State where you will need to drive farther or perhaps pay more... Why not get something planned within YOUR District.

Contact Department Headquarters for details. You will receive a Hosting Packet to share this your Post (or District) outlining all of the Host Requirements. We will be looking for interested Hosts by Midwinter so that we can send out Bid Requests for 2022 and beyond.

As always, we will prevail for our Veterans and Families!

The Fall district meeting is scheduled on October 24th at VFW Post and Auxiliary, Baudette, MN. We are really hoping we can have a meeting there instead of virtual. They are extremely excited to be hosting this meeting as we are. So, with fingers crossed, we remain hopeful that it happens!

February 5th, 2021 is our scheduled Voice of Democracy/Patriots Pen Banquet to be held at VFW Post and Auxiliary 1221, Hibbing, MN. Again, this is tentative due to the Covid.

Loyalty Days Convention is scheduled for April 23rd-25th at VFW Post and Auxiliary 1757 Cook, MN. This too may be virtual.

Hopefully, all Auxiliaries are working on the National Programs and keeping track of all you do for these programs and Veterans and Families. If you have any questions, please contact your District or Department chairs for the programs. We can do so much together! I believe Education is the key to each

DIST. 8 AUX. - Cont. on Page 12



Michelle Keller, Auxiliary
President Sixth District

Greetings from the 6th District.

I am a Life Member of Long Prairie Auxiliary 1140 and have been President for 12 years.

Congratulations to all the incoming Officers and Chairmen for 2020-2021. We will be working together for our Veterans and their families and the communities.

We have a new program this year-Auxiliary Community Outreach. As Auxiliary members we participate with other community organizations. Members and Auxiliaries can now report and be recognized for their community work!

Official visits are being set up by the Officers and you should be hearing from them soon. Due to these unprecedented times, our visits will not start until September 1st, 2020.

Our first District meeting will be held Sunday, August 16th at Post 3839 Jenkins. Lunch at 11:00 AM. Meeting will start at 1 PM. Due to Covid-19 and the Governor's Executive Order, Masks will be required and social distancing strongly recommended!!!

Our second meeting will be held Sunday, October 11th at Post 8731 in Monticello. Lunch at 11:00 AM. Our Annual Auxiliary Auction will start at noon. Meeting will be held at 1 PM.

My President's Project will be the "Recreation Fund" at Fergus Falls Veterans Home. My symbol is the "Flag" and my colors are Red, White and Blue.

I look forward to working with our District Commander Jon Durst.



Don't forget to change your address back to Minnesota upon returning from the south.



**Robert "Rick" Stoehr, Commander
Eighth District**

Greeting to all from the 8th. I hope that all our fellow Brothers and Sisters and their families in the Veteran community are feeling well and staying safe in this ever-changing world we're living in. About all we can do is keep informed and use our own best judgment as to how to proceed safely in this pandemic.

Many of us here in the 8th and I'm sure many of you have realized as well is that there is a unexpected positive development that has occurred in dealing with the situation we're in. The changes by the National VFW to the Bylaws has granted our Posts and Districts the ability to use technology that's already in use in the private sector and government. We can now "host" virtual meetings that allow the same privileges of making motions, discussion and voting we enjoyed at traditional face-to-face meetings. Diminishing attendance at meetings is something we all face. In the bigger geographical Districts, such as ours, having to travel so far to attend District meetings, especially in inclement weather has always been a factor. I believe it also has affected the ability to attract new members to our Posts. The younger Veterans simply are busy working and tending to their families' needs. I would think it could be difficult to find the additional time to devote to organizations such as ours. The fact with the changes they are able to be involved from their homes it could possibly encourage them to take a second look at signing up.

That same technology that many of us "old guys" tend to shy away from or simply refuse to take part in is the use of computers, smart phones and tablets. Without them, updates on events effecting Veterans in real time wouldn't be possible. The Veterans Restorative Justice Act currently "in play" in St Paul is a perfect example of what I'm talking about. In the past information on the VRJA would take days, weeks, or even longer to get to the people who need to see and understand in order to help our fellow Veterans who it could or would have an impact on. Department Legislative Chair Tommy Johnson has made an all out effort to help get this legislation passed, not only because it's number 1 on the VFW priorities list provided by National, it's also the right thing to do when it comes to helping our fellow Veterans. Please take the time to read Tommy's article in this Oversea'r and act on it.

As to the computer, get one of the grandkids to come over and show you how! It'll give them some pleasure in knowing they showed YOU how to do it and it gives you a bit of "quality time" with them.



**Lynette Dornbusch, Commander
Ninth District**

I believe most of you know me as this is my second time as District Commander, hopefully I will be able to be more involved this time. For those who don't know me, I am a retired Chief Master Sergeant, I served in the Air Force for 27 years. I am currently the Quartermaster for Post 612 in Fergus Falls and was the commander for 2 years. I have some great people to work with at the post level, the district level. Also it's an honor to work with Commander Curt and his council members.

The 9th District Posts are all working hard to come up with new ideas and get on their feet again. We have a few Post struggling after the long closure and we hope all will turn out well but need help. So, to all of you... I am asking YOU to PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE get involved at your post. We can no longer expect the same few to continue to cover it all. There is so much you can do, pick at least one thing and help. Like Poppy's, most Posts have creative people to make a display for your post. How about clean up days, take on the weeds. Help the State and your Post sell the calendars for your post. Volunteer in the kitchen for one or two times a month. Maybe take on one of the scholarships for your posts; It might make you busy for the fall but then you are done. PLEASE go to the meetings! Hey none of us like a meeting but that's the only way you really know what is going on and where we can help. If we are to survive we all have to pitch in. Save our VFW's, support our Veterans. Okay I am done begging.

I don't have much on the district with this Covid; most of our Posts just opened back up last month.

DISTRICT 9 - Cont. on Page 12



**Tim Haugen, Auxiliary
President Ninth District**

As we gear up for the year, a lot has changed, and with the change, we must adapt and overcome if we plan to have a successful year. I'm looking forward to this year and its many challenges.

We have our first District meeting on August 22nd; it will be held at the Dilworth VFW Post #1223. During lunch, we will be honoring our Past District Commander Rick Bugbee and President Karen Haugen since we didn't get to honor them during Loyalty Days event.

DIST 9 AUX.- Cont. on Page 12

Fall Conf. - Cont. from Page 7

The Youth Activities Committee will be accepting bids for the 2021 Baseball tournament (to be held the 2nd weekend in August) and a two year host for Bantam Hockey (2023-24).

- Contact the Veterans Activities Chairman in your District if you are interested in bidding on any of the above events or would like more information on any of the events.
- Each Post offering a bid, MUST have a Post representative present to speak on the Post's behalf.
- All event bids must be mailed AT LEAST one week before the Fall Conference. Bids should be mailed to: Scott Wiechmann, State Chairman- Veterans & Youth Activities, 909 2nd Avenue NW, Austin, MN 55912-2223.

Banquet & Testimonial Dinner

Join us Saturday as we celebrate the election of State Commander Curt Hermanson and State President Paige Amundson at this Joint Testimonial

Dinner. Testimonials always include a surprise or two and of course a little roasting of the Commander. Enjoy a hearty dinner and great company. Use the Banquet order form in this Oversea'r or from your General Orders... Order EARLY for best seating.

Again, we plan to hold Fall Conference- it just may not be quite the same as usual... but again, we are in a new world. All event plans will be conducted according to state safety and gathering guidelines. This may require some creative problem solving, but it is hoped that everyone will have the opportunity to learn what they need for a successful 2020-21 program year!

**For up-to-date
Fall Conference details visit:**
www.vfwmn.org

**If you have further questions about
Fall Conference, please contact:**

V.F.W. Department HQ:
651-291-1757
E-mail: melodymnvfw@vfwmn.us

Please Welcome:

NEW Editor of the Gopher Oversea'r
Ken Schroepfer From A.R. Patterson Post #7
~From 'Retiring' Editor M. Shryock

SECRETARY- Cont. from Page 4

Inn. The VFW Auxiliary will be using ZOOM to allow members to "attend" the Council of Administration Meeting on Friday, September 25 and again on Saturday, September 26 to allow you to see the Auxiliary Training Session. We hope to record these training sessions and share them in other forms as well. Please watch future communications for the information on joining us virtually!

Speaking of ZOOM - The Department purchased a subscription to ZOOM and we are offering the use of our account to any District or Auxiliary that would like to set up a ZOOM meeting. You must contact the Department Office to make arrangements and it is first come, first served as far as scheduling. Any District or Auxiliary may only have one (1) ZOOM meeting scheduled at any given time. This allows others

to get on the schedule during popular meeting nights/times. We are happy to offer this service to our Districts and Auxiliaries so that they may continue to do the important work they do. If you have questions about how to use ZOOM, feel free to contact the office at 651-291-1759.

As your Department Secretary/Treasurer I want to remind you of some important deadlines:

- BONDS** - Must be purchased by August 31
- 990N E-POSTCARDS** - Must be filed by November 15 - Dept. Treasurer will do this for you if requested
- OFFICERS DUES** - Must be paid by December 31

Everyone be well and be safe! I look forward to seeing you in St. Cloud or via ZOOM soon!

COUNCIL- Cont. from Page 4

Department President Frankie Bill and the entire Department of MN VFW Auxiliary on being inducted into the Circle of Excellence. I know much work was needed to reach this milestone and you should all be very proud.

With 2020-2021 our newly elected Department President Paige and VFW Commander Curt I wish you a very successful year. Under your leadership and guidance I am sure we will reach new heights.

This year the National VFW Auxiliary has added a new program. This program is "Auxiliary Community Outreach Program" and PDP Char Guse will be the chairman. We are all looking forward to this and to know that the auxiliaries will

be getting more credit for the work they do.

On July 24th we had the National Council of Administration Meeting. Again this was done by Zoom for those not attending.

Our new National VFW Auxiliary President Sandra Onstwedder was installed by Past Commander-In-Chief B.J. Lawrence. Our new National Guard is Lois Callahan from Arkansas. At the meeting our new Commander-In-Chief Hal Roesch spoke. He thanked all of the Auxiliary Members for all the time and effort we put in for our veterans.

In closing Be Safe and to the ones that disagree with the masks because they are uncomfortable, take a minute and remember what "Our Veterans" did to keep us safe!

State Contest Winners

NATIONAL AWARDS

National Community Service Post

CATEGORY I

Charles D. Center Post 3289
New York Mills

CATEGORY II

Hugo Matejcek Post 3723
Owatonna

National Publications Contest

Bronze Award
"Gopher Oversea'r"
Editor Melody Shryock

District/Post Publications

Large Frequency
(printed 5+ times per years)

Bronze Award
"Charles R. Knaeble VFW Post 494"
Editor Lesley Kurke
Department of Minnesota

VETERANS & MILITARY SUPPORT PROGRAMS

SILVER AWARD

Departments

For Donations between \$30,000 - \$59,999

VFW Department of Minnesota

Certificate of Recognition-Posts

(Donations of \$100-\$1499)

Post 246 James Ballentine
Post 425 George R. Wolff
Post 906 Charles Mc Laughlin
Post 1783 Young America
Post 1791 Walter Hecklin
Post 1802 Wabasha
Post 2818 Admiral Benson
Post 3915 Palmer Lake
Post 4452 Nelson-Scofield
Post 6208 Prior Lake
Post 6801 Leroy D. Holzwarth
Post 9024 Woodburry
Post 9625 Coon Rapids

MINNESOTA'S COMMUNITY SERVICE RECORDBOOK

CATEGORY I

First Place
Charles D. Center Post 3289
and Auxiliary Bemidji

Second Place
George H. Elliott Post 7902
and Auxiliary Osakis

Third Place
Nelson-Scofield Post 4452
and Auxiliary Cannon Falls

CATEGORY II

First Place
Hugo Matejcek Post 3723
and Auxiliary Owatonna

Second Place
Keep-Zimmer Post 1782
and Auxiliary White Bear Lake

Third Place
Sgt. John Rice Post 6316
and Auxiliary Blaine

CATEGORY III

First Place
Fred Babcock Post 5555
and Auxiliary Richfield

SCOUT OF THE YEAR

1st Place

Blake Madison - Eagle Scout
Sponsored by
Rock County Post 2757
Luverne

2nd Place

Andrew Tmka - Eagle Scout
Sponsored by
Montgomery Post 5340
Montgomery

3rd Place

Bethany Cotton - Ambassador Scout
Sponsored by
Bloom-Lahti Post 157
Cook

SAFETY GOLD AWARDS

J. Edgar Hoover (Police) Award

Sergeant Chris Woodhall
Robbinsdale Police Department
Sponsored by
Clarence La Belle Post 217
Brooklyn Park

Emergency Medical Technician Award

Tom Steinmetz, EMT & Assistant Director
Browerville Ambulance
Sponsored by
Browerville Post 8391
Browerville

Fire Fighter Award

Jesse Davey, Captain (Retired)
Chaska Fire Department
Sponsored by
Walter Hecklin Post 1791
Chaska

Bus Driver of the Year Award

Robert Mozena, Bus Driver
Kimball Area Public Area Schools
Sponsored by
Wat-Kim-Valley Post 5460
Watkins

CHAPLAIN OF THE YEAR

Leroy Diekmann

Sponsored by
Martin County Post 1222
Fairmont

BEST DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

First Place District
"Fighting 6th District News"
Sixth District VFW and Auxiliary
Dave Scofield Editor

BEST SOCIAL MEDIA SITE

Harold Baggenstoss Post 1260
Bemidji
www.brainerdvfw.org
Editor Mark Persons

POST PUBLICATIONS CONTEST

CATEGORY I

Posts with 250 Members or Less

First Place

Post 1260 and Auxiliary Bemidji
"Harold Baggenstoss Post 1260"
Editor John Naastad

Second Place

Post 7902 and Auxiliary Osakis
"Osakis VFW Post 7902"
Editor Vicki Hinrichs

Third Place

Post 10794 and Auxiliary Milaca
"Siemers-Hakes
Post & Auxiliary 10794"
Editor Deann Reynolds

CATEGORY II

Posts with 251 Members & Over

First Place

Post 494 and Auxiliary Crystal
"News & Views"
Editor Lesley Kurke

Second Place

Post 6316 and Auxiliary Blaine
"Sgt. John Rice VFW"
Editor Mary Lou Michels

Third Place

Post 906 and Auxiliary Hutchinson
"VFW News"
Editor Betty Stoltenow

BEST POST NEWS ARTICLE

First Place

Mahlum Hanson-Brainerd
Post 1647 and Auxiliary
"Brainerd VFW Finds Itself in
Battle with Time, Social Changes"
Author Mark Persons
Published in the
"Brainerd Dispatch" Newspaper

Second Place

Prior Lake
Post Post 6208 and Auxiliary
"Public Service Article"
Author Mike Martin

Third Place

Charles Leuthard-Morris
Post 5039 and Auxiliary
"Donate to Buddy Poppy Campaign"
Author Helen Kill



2019-20 SCOUT OF THE YEAR AWARD PRESENTATION

Getting Creative... Blake Madison, Eagle Scout, received his Department of Minnesota-VFW Scout of the Year Award on Saturday, August 1st in Luverne, MN. Presenting the Award are Terrie Gulden, Commander of the winner's sponsoring VFW Post #2757 and Dan Anderson (Blake's Uncle), VFW Member (Lt. US Navy Retired- Vietnam Veteran).

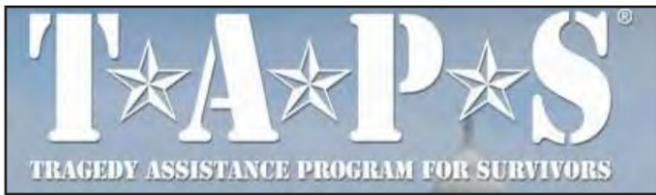
All-State Commanders

Captain of the All-State Commanders: *To be announced at Fall Conference*

Theresa Shumway	9625	Fred Duke	6037
Richard Daniels	1791	Jarrod McReynolds	3915
Scott Quamme	141	Richard Gabe	5252
Edward Keogh	5340	Glen Skrivseth	5919
Paul Lindahl	9024	Ryan Johnson	6992
Al Kelm	1639	Dennis Maddox	5518
Jay Lietzow	7051	Vern Bolle Jr.	5
Lee Chrostopherson	7902	Larry Klindworth	1802
Reagan Lattimore	6424		

All-State Quartermasters

Jerry Brletich	9625	Mike Johnson	7051
Edward Speiker	6208	Darrin Ewing	9024
Kevin Phelps	4393	James Richter	494
Kenneth Schroepfer	7	Daniel Jordan	1791
Colin Atkinson	1802	John Lawrence	6992
Donald Dufner	5460	Robert Bernier	6424



By Danial Jordan, Project Coordinator

2021 VFW Convention Committee

by David Adams

Greetings Comrades,

Minnesota VFW Commander Curt Hermanson and Minnesota VFW Auxiliary President Paige Amundson have picked the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, (TAPS) as their joint special project for the 2021-2021 calendar year.

What is the mission of TAPS? "To provide comfort, care and resources to all those grieving the death of a military loved one.

Since 1994, TAPS has provided comfort and hope 24/7 through a national peer support network and connection to grief resources, all at no cost to surviving families and loved ones."

In 2019, TAPS connected with nearly 7,000 newly bereaved loved ones, adding to a family of more than 90,000 individuals. That is an average of 19 new survivors every day – the highest intake rate they have seen since opening their doors 25 years ago. Each year, TAPS holds more than 200 programs, answers more than 19,000 calls to their National Military Survivor Helpline and spends over 225,000 minutes in

survivors outreach calls.

Their staff members are primarily survivors of military loss who have grown up in the TAPS family and who have now made it their profession to pay it forward.

The Commander has asked for my assistance in spreading awareness and soliciting funds for this great program.

Our goal is to raise \$50,000! While this does sound like a lot of money, the generosity of our members in the past has shown that this is very attainable! Your gift is tax exempt and will create a lasting impact for the families and love ones dealing with grief.

Please make your checks payable to MN VFW Charitable Association with a note on the memo line "Commander/President Project 2020/2021".

If you would like posters or pamphlets that give greater detail on TAPS for your Post home, please contact me and I will get them to you. To learn more about TAPS visit www.taps.org

DIST 8 AUX.- Cont. from Page 9

program!

Please, please keep your eye on Legislation. See my Legislative co-chair Tommy Johnson's article in this Gopher Oversea'r! Please help our Veterans and contact your legislators concerning the Veterans Restorative Justice Act, we need to take care of our Veterans!

ALSO: VOTE! Know who you are voting for and the stand they take on Veterans rights and request an answer on how they vote on Veterans rights! Educate others on Bills concerning the Veterans, this is so important, we need to take care of our own!

Membership! Keep working

towards 100%. We came so close this year; I know we can do this! Karen England our Membership chairmen is saying 101%, How about it Auxiliaries, lets give it a great 8th try!

Hope to see all at Fall Conference, September 25-27, 2020, St Cloud, MN and Our State President Paige and Commander Curt's Testimonial will be held on the 26th. I foresee a fun time! It will be a busy and informative conference.

Keep the strength, fight for Veterans, and never forget what they have done for us in our time of need! Doing "OWL" We Can For Our Veterans & Honoring Our Mission To Serve Veterans!

DISTRICT 9 - Cont. from Page 10

Our first meeting is Aug 22nd in Dilworth, hoping for a good turnout. Word on the street is "Bring your mask", our weather will be great for the travel. Stay well and have a great summer. Please Let me know if there is something going on at your Posts and I will try to attend.

DIST 9 AUX.- Cont. from Page 10

We are only 28 days into the Membership year, and we already have our first Auxiliary at 100% Spring Lake Aux #2759, Lengby.

We'll start our Inspections in September with hopes of being done before the snow flies.

I received news today that our Kelliher Auxiliary and Bemidji Auxiliary will be consolidating. I look forward to working with them for a smooth transition.

I hope to see many of you at the Fall Conference

The Convention Committees' duties are described in the Statement of Financial Policy. So I will not elaborate further.

What I do want to say is that the Convention Committee works very hard to see that both the VFW and Auxiliary enjoys the Conferences and Convention, both with content and financially.

There is much detail involved in setting location and dates. What the membership may not realize is the costs involved with these meetings. Every aspect of our meetings has a COST. Everything has a dollar sign with it, from housing, meeting rooms, IT, and banquets.

Twenty some years ago, I didn't realize this, but now after spending many years on the committee and being VFW Chief of Staff six times, I know very clearly the cost. I want to emphasize the importance of attending banquets. I have heard comments "I am not paying \$25.00 for chicken!" Why attend? The attendance of banquet has a direct correlation with

the cost of housing and meeting rooms. But most of all supporting our Commander and President and at Mid Winter the students.

If it were my choice, every person receiving Per Diem to attend would be required to attend banquet! This was a requirement on the National level for years, not sure if it still is.

I have seen many changes during my 50 years as a VFW member. We used to travel to both ends of the state. Housing costs, mileage, meeting room charges and volunteerism has changed this.

Please be aware that the Convention Committee works for the membership and everything we suggest or recommend is approved by the Council of Administration. We are not adverse to change when change is necessary and makes sense in ALL aspects. I hope to have a suggestion box at registration for any and all input, both from the VFW and Auxiliary.

"Always Forward"

CMDR- Cont. from Page 1

Convention has been cancelled as has Hal Roesh's Homecoming in Virginia at the end of August.

At this time Fall Conference is scheduled to move forward. The way it will look and operate within the limitations of social distancing and gathering restrictions for large groups is yet undetermined and we are looking into the possibility of hosting limited attendance via zoom. The banquet dinner for Fall Conference will also double as our testimonial dinner.

By the time of this reading we

will have attempted to hold OTI training via zoom. One thing that can be said about the current crisis is that we have certainly elevated our reach through technology. Whether it is by hosting meetings or to simply stay in touch and keep each other informed I am deeply impressed with everyone's ability to overcome and adapt to this ever changing technology in order to further our goals.

In closing I would like to thank everyone for their continued efforts in these trying times. Through unity and strength we will overcome this so that one day soon we can gather together safely once again.



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 _____



Veterans / Youth Activities

Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen

by Frank Presfield

Comrades and Auxiliary members, it is time again to start two of our most important Programs, VOD/PP. This year it is going to be a challenge for each participating Post to ascertain the "How" to make this program work with the limitations that will OR may be put on our Education System by the Pandemic. Will instruction be on-line or face to face in the classroom? We need to get the message out to Teachers and Students alike that the Program is alive and we want their thoughts to be captured for this year's themes on a recording and on paper.

The themes are, "Is This the Country the Founders Envisioned?" for Voice of Democracy and "What is Patriotism to Me?" for Patriot's Pen respectively. Two meaningful themes that could not be more relevant in these unprecedented times.

Please do not hesitate to contact parents of Home School students as well. They have shown to be more than worthy entrants in these two Premier Programs.

If you do not have applications, they are easily available on-line at VFW Voice of Democracy Application 2020-2021 and VFW Patriot's Pen Application 2020-2021. And remember as in the past, Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2020.

NEED AN AMERICANISM PROJECT???



The Special Minnesota V.F.W. 16 page Color Book is available for Posts to use for grade school students

**Cost is \$.50 plus postage
Make it a coloring contest!**

Call State VFW Headquarters at 651-291-1757 OR See the August General Orders

FALL CONTESTS

SCHOLARSHIPS



Senior High Scholarship
(Grades 9-12)

**Voice of Democracy
Audio Essay Competition**

ENTER: Students write & record a 3-5 minute essay addressing this year's theme. (See Application for Details- VFW General Order or at <http://www.mnvwf.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

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.

(See Application for Details- VFW General Order or at <http://www.mnvwf.org/patriot-pen>)

DEADLINE: Entries due to the local V.F.W. Post no later than October 31 each year

COMMUNITY



VFW Teacher of the Year
(See Your VFW Post or VFW 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/>)

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 are due to the local V.F.W. Post no later than October 31 of each year

VETERANS UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Bowling
2021 & 2022
(2 Yr. contract)
Open for Bids
at Fall Conference

Cribbage
2021
Open for Bids
at Fall Conference

Pistol
2021
Open for Bids
at Fall Conference

Golf
August 2021
Hosted by Cannon Falls
#4452

YOUTH UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

VFW STATE BASEBALL

August, 2021
State Tournament
Open for Bids
at Fall Conference

VFW STATE HOCKEY

2020 State Tournament
March 2021 & 2022
Hosted by Dilworth #1223
Open for Bids
at Fall Conference

Contact Your District
Veterans or Youth Activities Chairman
if your Post would like to Bid
to Host an Event

Contests for Winter 2020-21

VFW:

Law Enforcement - EMT - Fire Fighter - Bus Driver

Contests for Winter 2020-21

AUXILIARY:

Young American Creative Patriotic Art (Grades 9-12)
NEW! Illustrating America (Grades K-8)

Watch for Details in the Monthly General Orders,
Winter Edition of the Gopher Oversea'r and on the
Department Websites:

www.vfwmn.org & www.vfwauxmn.org

2020 - 2021 Voice of Democracy Theme

**"Is This the Country the
Founders Envisioned?"**

2020 - 2021 Patriot's Pen Theme

"What is Patriotism to Me?"

Entries are Due to Local V.F.W. Posts by October 31st, 2019



Veterans of Foreign Wars
Department of Minnesota

Veterans' Day is coming!!!

Is your Post prepared to honor all of those who have served their country in war or peace ~ dead or alive?

If you have not had a Poppy Day by this date you are just too late!!!

? WHY DONATE BLOOD? ?

MISSION:

The mission of the Red Cross is to sustain the supply of blood for use in hospitals throughout the United States.

Because of this mission, it is in a constant need of donations of whole blood, blood plasma or "power red".

Hosting a Blood Drive:

The Red Cross is in constant need of blood. Any Post can host a blood drive so long as they meet the following guidelines:

- The Post needs to provide one room large enough so that the Red Cross can create separate zones for conducting confidential eligibility assessments and collecting donations. If that is not possible, a large room for collecting donations and several smaller rooms for registration/sign-in, confidential eligibility assessments, and refreshment area after donating.
- The Post is asked to publicize the blood drive. The more people who know about your blood drive – both within your organization and in the community – the more donors you can sign up.
- The Post should organize a recruitment committee to help spread the word and recruit donors. Face-to-face requests are the most effective form.
- The Post needs to supply several volunteers to staff the registration and refreshment areas.

The simple donation of a pint of blood could help save millions of lives each year.

What Better Way to Honor a Veteran on Veteran's Day?

SUICIDE - from Page 5

Information on factors that may protect against suicide, such as belonging to a faith-based community, healthy family relationships, having a purpose in life and strong problem-solving skills. REACH encourages everyone to intentionally strengthen their protective factors — to care for their emotional health and well-being just as they do their physical well-being. Although suicide is preventable, the nation is facing an epidemic in deaths, with 132 Americans dying by suicide each day. In 2017 there were 47,173 suicide deaths and an estimated 1.4 million suicide attempts. For Veterans, the overall suicide rate is 1.5 times higher and the female Veteran suicide rate is 2.2 times higher than the general population after adjusting for age and/or gender.

To that end, the REACH campaign website, we are within reach, provides information to help people recognize risk factors for suicide, including financial stress, chronic illness or pain, isolation and mental illness, in themselves and in their loved ones. It also links to resources that can provide assistance in avoiding the hopelessness that can lead to suicide. Campaign messages and imagery using the hashtag #REACHNow will be evident on a wide range of digital platforms immediately after the launch. The website will include a video public service announcement supported by a partnership with the PenFed Foundation and Soldier-Strong and created by Tree Media. Media covering this issue can download VA's Safe Messaging Best Practices fact sheet for important guidance on how to communicate about suicide. If you or someone you know is experiencing thoughts of suicide or is in crisis, please contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline for confidential support 24 hours a day at 800-273-8255. Veterans and service members, including National Guard and Reserve, who need immediate help should call the 1-800 number and press 1 to reach the Veterans Crisis Line, chat online at www.veteranscrisisline.net/get-help/chat or text 838255.

Safety Program

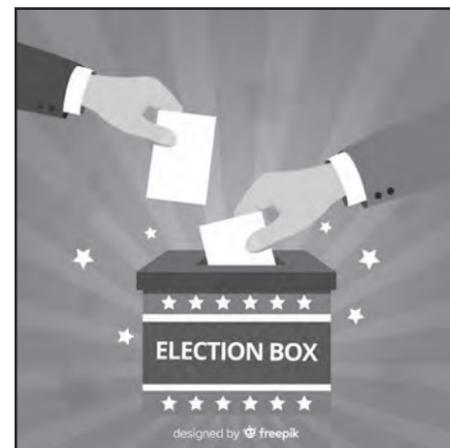
by Brian Gislason

Here are the important dates for Safety Program:

- 01/01/2021 Safety Awards Due to Department
- 01/15/2021 Safety Public Awards Judging Done at Department
- 03/21/2021 Bus Drivers Entries due to Department

I would like to see all the Posts in the State have at least one Safety entry. This includes EMT, Fire Department, and Police Officer.

I know the Fire Department is a close knit group so nominate the entire Fire Department.



Cootie

by Jim "Fatman"
Commander of the

Fellow Cooties

Here we are starting on another "Lousy" year.

I would like to start off by giving a **LOUD BOO** and Lousy Job to our Past Grand Commander Duane "Dewey" Hermanson.

The Grand is a lot better from all of your hard and "Lousy" work.

Now as we start our year, we must look to "Increase and Multiply". Find that fellow VFW Member who likes to volunteer at the VA or Veterans Homes and introduce them to our Order. We can no longer be the VFW's best kept secret. Brag about our Order and inform others of our mission and our commitment to Veterans.

We will be having our first C of

You **FOUGHT** for the **RIGHT** to belong to the
Veterans of Foreign Wars!!!

PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES TODAY!!!

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

DISTRICT 2 - Cont. from Page 8

mark. I will be working with post commanders that have issues with attending District meetings in the past and get them back into the fold. We will be looking at the possibilities of consolidating a few posts in the upcoming year if needed. We are in the process of consolidating Sleep Eye Post 800 with New Elm Post 1648. I want to extend my congratulations to Commander Rich Daniels and Quartermaster Dan Jordan of Chaska Post 1791 on receiving All American Post honors.

I would like to introduce my line officers, Our Sr Vice Edward Keogh Post 5340 Montgomery, Jr Vice Leon Grack Post 5102 Glencoe, Adjutant Shannon Frost Post 4397 Le Sueur, And Judge Advocate Jonathan Brandtner Post 2854 Jordan. Mike Mausolf is our Legislative Chairman and Wil Burdorf will be our VOD and PP Chairman and Wil will be tracking youth activities.

All District Meeting will be held at VFW Post 1914 St James Mn at 1 pm.

Timely Tidbits

Year-End Community Service Book Contest Simplified

A NEW 'Event Tracking Form' has been released by the Department this year. This option provides a SIMPLER WAY to track your Post/Auxiliary Community Service Activities!

Simply use the handy EVENT TRACKING FORM each time an event is run, to RECORD THE DETAILS of the event. Place the COMPLETED FORM IN A BINDER that can then become the BASIS FOR AN OUTSTANDING CS RECORD BOOK CONTEST ENTRY... It's just that easy!

Beyond that, the form could be used to track your event planning, volunteer needs and expenditures so that any New Chairman for the event knows what was done in the Past and can continue the task successfully into the future. If you have any schedules, planning lists, tournament brackets or other documentation that may be helpful to others in the future,

please attach them when completing this form.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- 1) This does *NOT* replace the monthly Community Service Report Forms that should be completed.
- 2) A year's collection of these forms can quantify and detail all of your Post & Auxiliary Activities and can be submitted in lieu of the elaborate "Scrapbook" type books previously completed for the Annual CS RECORD BOOK CONTEST for Department Awards.
- 3) **HOWEVER, To be Considered for the NATIONAL Community Service Post Award** (two awarded to Minnesota), **you MUST prepare the Traditional Record Book** (Scrapbook) as outlined in the Contest Guidelines.

For More Information, please visit our website, watch your General orders or call VFW Headquarters.



Letters FROM the Editor

The *Gopher Oversea'r* accepts and is willing to share the viewpoints of its readers who write Letters to the Editor. Publishing decisions are made on questions of good taste and veteran's interest.

The *Oversea'r* reserves the right to edit for accuracy, clarity, libel, and civility and reserves the right not to publish a letter. Personal attacks or complaints, plagiarized material or items submitted from organized letter-writing campaigns will not be published.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION

- Letters must be submitted at least 30 days prior to the deadline date of each issue (July 15, November 15, March 15) to vfwmnoffice@gmail.com or via mail to Gopher Oversea'r Editor, Rice Street Station, PO Box 17146, St. Paul, MN 55117.
- Letters to the Editor must be 400 words or less.
- Anonymous letters will not be published. Letter signatures must include the writer's first and last name, city and state of residence, VFW membership number, and phone number. The individual's VFW membership number, and phone number will not be published.
- An identification line may be added to the writer's letter identifying his or her occupation or title as it applies to the topic of the letter.
- Letters endorsing or advocating for or against a any political party, candidate or ballot measure will not be accepted.

The *Gopher Oversea'r* has the right to reject letters which do not meet the above stated guidelines.

For questions regarding these policies, contact the editor or newspaper staff at 651-291-1757 or vfwmnoffice@gmail.com

Corner

Dalziel,
Great Grand of MN

COOTIE - Cont. from Page 14

A in St Cloud at Post 4847 on Aug 15th @ 10 am. It will be great to see as many Cooties as possible.

Our 2nd C of A will be November 14th in White Bear Lake VFW Post 1782.

As I close out, Please remember our Veterans who are in Veterans Homes around our Great State, along with those who are home bound due to the Virus. We need to be creative on how we keep in touch with them and inventive ideas on ways to interact with them. Don't just think of how do we get our Hospital hours, but how do we connect and "Make them Smile in Beds of White". There are NO wrong answers, just unproven ideas.

THANK
YOU
FOR
YOUR
SERVICE

ANNUAL POPPY CONTEST!!!

Midwinter Winter Display Contest Kicking-Off MN VFW 100th Anniversary

Use those extra Poppies

Categories: Public Promotion of Poppies, Memorial/Inspirational Displays, Artistic/Decorative Use of Poppies, Center Pieces/Corsages/Novelties

Plan Your Display Today!

REMEMBER: To enter in the Midwinter Contest, entries MUST be entered at the District Level contests this Fall/Winter. Watch the General Orders for Rules or call 651-291-1757

#8 DO... GIVE... HELP... During COVID-19

WORD SEARCH

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

Blood
Books
Buy Local
Call
Cleaners
Clothes
Donate

Email
Food
Food Shelf
Fundraise
Go Fund Me
Groceries

Masks
Meals On Wheels
Money
Professional Work
Run Errands
Send Cards

Sewing
Supplies
Support
VFW
Volunteer
Walk Pets
Yard Work

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 \$1,000, \$600, \$500, \$300 (3), \$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

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

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

Looking for a Program that's Educational AND Entertaining?

Fundraising for THE BOYS OF '61!

Minnesota's Civil War
Veterans Memorial

If you are looking for program
opportunities for special events
at your post, consider having
Historical Experiences bring a
history program to your mem-
bership. These entertaining
programs are educational and
patriotic. You can chose from a
number of topics including:



- The Continental Soldier in the American Revolution
- The Soldier of the American Civil War
- The American Doughboy of WWI
- The GI of WWII
- The GI in the Korean Wars
- The Grunt in Vietnam
- Operation Overlord: The Normandy Invasion
- The First Minnesota Regiment at Gettysburg
and MORE!

The cost of each program is a \$600 donation to the BOY'S OF '61,
plus mileage to your post and back from the speaker's residence in
Mankato, MN. (Current IRS mileage rate is \$.545 per mile.) This fee
will be donated to the BOY'S of 61, which is Minnesota's memorial to
the men from this state who went off to war to save the Union. The
BOY'S OF '61 is a non-profit organization dedication to the building of a
memorial to all of Minnesota's Civil War veterans. For more information
on programming to go to the website at...

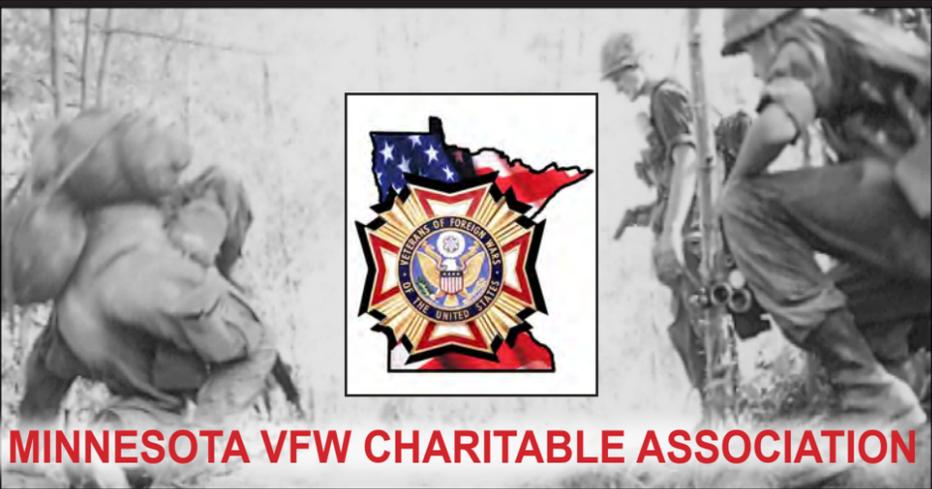
historicalexperiences.org

or contact the presenter at...

arnkind@historicalexperiences.org

For more information on THE BOYS of '61 see:
<https://www.minnesotaboysof61.org/>

**Schedule your program today and help build
Minnesota's BOYS of '61 Memorial!**



MINNESOTA VFW CHARITABLE ASSOCIATION

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: _____

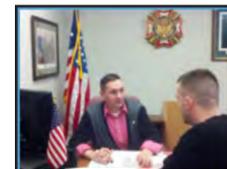
Phone: _____ Email: _____

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

___ VFW Outdoor Fund ___ Veterans Service ___ VFW Programs

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 Commu-
nities in the areas of Patriotism, American-
ism 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 ene-
mies 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 Charit-
able Association (MN VFW Charitable As-
sociation) is asking that you remember this
Sacrifice through your Gift Giving and Do-
nations.



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

- Using the form attached, 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 Charit-
able 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 Con-
sideration of the MN VFW Charitable Asso-
ciation in your Gift Giving Plans. Your Do-
nation will ensure the future of the Programs
of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

For more information, please con-
tact the Treasurer of the MN VFW Charit-
able Association at 651-291-1757 or email us
at mnvfwcharitable@gmail.com or by writ-
ing 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