



Detachment of Minnesota

2011 Officers & Chairmen Reports

**Fall Conference
Mankato, MN
October 29, 2011**

GARY SEMMEL
Detachment Commander

We are 4 months into the 2011-2012 year and things are moving fast. I began the year by attending the dedication of the new St Michael Post with Commander Lannon on July 9th. The next visit was with Military Kids on July 16th where each one there gave a presentation on their parents that were deployed. They all did a wonderful job and we can be proud of them. Next was the Department Convention in Mahanomen on July 14-16 where Past Commander Bill Peters gave a great report on our accomplishments for the 2010-2011 year.

On August 6th, I was in St. Augusta to bring greetings to the Department Executive Committee. On August 16th, I went to St. Cloud to bring greetings to the Auxiliary Executive Committee. Next up was the National Convention in Minneapolis August 26-28. Both the Comedy Show and Golf Tournament were a success. Many thanks to all the volunteers that made it happen.

On September 9-11, I attended the Legionville Camporee on North Long Lake. The SAL again prepared meals. I want to thank everyone that helped and worked hard for the weekend. The weather was great for the entire weekend and a lot of fun was had by all.

On September 16, I attend the membership dinner at Morris. The Squadron also had a flag retirement and a raffle where the proceeds went to many Legion programs. It was a great time. Thanks to the Morris Squadron for the invitation. On September 17, I attended the membership in Clearwater and had a great time.

On October 1st, the Legion family had a Membership Rally and Veterans Fair in Melrose where tables were set up to show many of our Legion programs. From there, I went up to Legionville to meet and greet the 4 disabled veterans taking part in the deer hunt. A great time was had by all although only 1 deer was taken. Thanks to Lloyd Schaeffer and his volunteers for all their hard work.

I attended the Detachment Commanders School at the Fall NEC in Indianapolis, held on October 7-9. There was a lot of good information given out. On October 19th, I attended the Brain Science lecture at the University of Minnesota with Detachment Brain Science Chairman Lloyd Schaeffer. Prior to the lecture, The Department Brain Science Chairman Jim Kellogg presented the 2 annual scholarships with one going to a veteran. The lecture was interesting and looked at the different pathways and memory of the subject monkeys.

Regarding membership, thanks to all who helped us reach and stay ahead of the National goal. Membership Director, Shawn Davis will have a lot to say about this and the membership contest for the year.

Finally, it will be our pleasure to welcome our 2011-2012 National Vice Commander John Sansaucie from the Detachment of Missouri. We are looking forward to hearing from him at our meeting.

DAVID VULCAN
1st & 3rd District Vice Commander

Aug.'s 3rd district membership rally in Bayport

Attend the National Golf Tournament Golf with Commander Bill, Dennis Henkemeyer, and Dennis son

Attend the National Convention in Minneapolis

Helped sell National Convention pins for the Detachment

Carried the National colors in the National Convention parade

Attend Camp-O-Ree at Legionville

Attend the 3rd district Member rally in Silver Lake

Attend the Disabled Veterans Deer Hunt at Legionville. This program is one of the best program that we have for our disable veterans. We as the Son of the American Legion need to get more involved as members. We need more volunteers from the S.A.L. Member for this event. There is an organization by the name of Outdoor Unlimited that promotes outdoor event of the disabled veterans which is taking the veterans out hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities. This organization does a fundraiser of selling calenders to raise money to promote their programs. I thank Ron Wellie and his members for coming and helping with the Deer Hunt. I hunted with a gentlemen from Waite Park that Doug Bible referred.

On Oct. 8th attend the 1st district Fall harvest rally in Stewartville

JOHN AFFOLTER
2nd & 7th District Vice Commander

No report

ROBERT BRISTO
4th & 5th District Vice Commander

Rosetown Squadron 542 under Squadron Commander Jerry Cowboy Oxborough are having a great year. They have two events a year that are fund raisers for their Squadron. One of the those is their Bone n Ham breakfast. Their member ship is doing well. They have a close working relationship with their Legion Family. Their legion family has their meetings on the second Tuesday of the month.

White Bear Lake Squadron 168 under Mike Marten Squadron Commander are also doing well. Membership is picking up and it looks like their off to a great start.

North St Paul Squadron 39 is doing well

Attucks- Brooks Squadron 606 is having a few issues hopefully those will come to past. They do not have a post home as of yet. This makes it a little difficult for their members.

Arcade Phalen squadron 577 also along with Northend Squadron 474 are doing great. Gopher Squadron 440 under Squadron Commander Craig Carlson is still working on contacting it's members for renewals. This has been issue but things will get better in time.

Richfield Squadron 435 still continues to one of the strongest squadrons in fifth district. Their contribution along with their determination to raise the funds for our programs have been very appreciated.

Wold Chamberlain Squadron 99 membership is small in number, but they still continue to come through with its membership. This Squadron's SAL members being few in number still continues to build its membership up.

Giant Valley Squadron 234 is another Squadron that also keeps on pumping up its membership. We may not see many of its members at convention, but they are great at helping out their post with their events, Their membership is coming along very well.

Squadron 1 is another squadron that continues to keep working on its membership. Their SAL works hard along with their legionnaires and auxiliary. They have continued to be an influence on all of the squadrons in the fifth district.

Faldeen Squadron was the last squadron installed in the fifth district. This Squadron is small in membership, but they continue to make their goal.

ROBERT FOSS
6th & 9th District Vice Commander

Greetings from the 6th & 9th District Vice Commander

Since camp out its been slow but I did attend the National Convention in Minneapolis, the 6th District membership rally at legionville. Then on the 15th of September I had surgery on my veins in both legs and now their heeled and now I'm ready to go. On the 1st of October I attended the Veterans Fair / Rally in Melrose. And on the 22nd of October I attended the 6th & 9th membership rally in Detroit Lakes. and as writing this the 6th District is at 40.19% and the 9th is at 18.42%.

WILLIAM STEIN
8th & 10th District Vice Commander

We had a 8th and 10th Joint District Rally Sunday, October 16 at Mora. At that time, the 8th District was a few percentage points ahead of the 10th District Sal squadrons. With both districts in a race to lead the other District by Fall Conference, I wanted to get the final figures because I knew they would be close. I was right; the 10th has 40.14% and the 8th District has 40.36% and they are in 3rd and 4th place in attaining their 2012 goal.

The 8th District Commander, Mike Slaverio is still working on getting his squadrons to send in membership when they receive them and don't hold them until they get a bunch. More good news; the 8th District is going to charter two new squadrons!

The 10th District SAL Commander Charlie Hemmer called his Vice Commanders and had membership mailed to Department to get ahead of the 8th District. I know membership has been slow coming in but will get back on track.

In talking to both the 8th and 10th district SAL Commanders, they say participation will grow with working towards better communication.

WILLIAM B. GOEDE
Judge Advocate

No report

LLOYD SCHAEFFER
National Executive Committeeman (NEC)

I have been appointed to the committee for Membership Training and Development again this year. While we have managed to condense and clean up the material for the Commanders/Adjutants class and the three classes for NMI, we are not done yet. We have been asked to expand on and develop material that would be taught at the National Convention each year. This material would be on the ground level positions of the Sons of The American Legion, the Squadron officers. The term was used 'pre flight' signifying the work done to get off the ground and fly. Look for more information in the future.

The Fall Executive Committee meeting held down in Indianapolis the 7 – 9 of October was well attended by the Minnesota delegation. We have five appointments to committees this year. There should be plenty of avenues for you to get information this year on anything the Sons of The American Legion are doing Nationally just ask.

I will have information with me on what went on at the meeting come and ask me to show you.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent the Detachment in this way.

WILLIAM
Alternate National Executive Committeeman (NEC)

I attended all general sessions of the Fall NEC held in Indianapolis, October 7 – 9, 2011. Besides these general sessions, I attended separate Committee Meetings for both Homeland Security and Finance. The Homeland Security Committee is insisting that all Detachment Homeland Security Chairman provide the National Committee with the name, address, phone and e-mail for each. If a Detachment doesn't have a Homeland Security Chairman per se, the Legislative Chairman should serve in the role since this falls under the Legislative Commission.

They made a point that the Committee should be called Homeland Security and Civil Preparedness. The main objective is to educate our members and communities on preparing for natural disasters. This would also include defining what is essential for a Basic Emergency Supply Kit.

At the Finance Committee meeting, the 2012 budget was approved, using the 2011 budget numbers. At the same time, we were all told the 2011 actual numbers are inaccurate and also not up to date. This is because of a problem with National's newest finance system hardware.

I don't know if I made a mistake or not by asking when this software was expected to be corrected, but the answer I received was that it will be ready when it's ready.

PAUL SPYHALSKI
1st District Commander

The First is at 33.62% of goal as of October 12th. We had a great turn-in at Melrose. We've still got some goose eggs but hopefully will have a few more squadrons in the hunt by Fall Conference.

Along the way, we've had a number of meetings with the American Legion and potential SAL members at Blooming Prairie. They are out recruiting and we will meet with them again on November 3rd to hopefully sign a charter petition.

In November, the Sons will be hosting one of our District Rallies in LeRoy. Beyond the Yellow Ribbon will be part of our program.

JAMES ELLIS
2nd District Commander

No report

CASEY LENORT
3rd District Commander

Greetings from the Thundering Third...It's hard to believe Halloween is just around the corner. Weren't we just at Legionville just the other day? My second year as commander has gotten off to a good start. I was a delegate to our National Convention and participated in the parade right down Nicolett Mall. I attended district membership rallies in Bayport, Silver Lake and Chaska. A few of our squads are off to a fantastic start but there are too many of them still on 0 or only have 1 turned in. I also attended an officers installation at Belle Plaine and a few weeks ago, went to their omelete breakfast. I also had the honor of attending the Fall N.E.C. meetings in Indianapolis, IN where I met some outstanding individuals and reacquainted myself with old friends. I went to the Homeland Security/Civil Preparedness commission meeting where they had several discussions. We had lunch at Post #500 which is right next to the race track. It sure is a sight to see. I was unable however to attend our 1st convention planning meeting held in Forest Lake. By the time you are reading this, our Fall Conference will be going on in Mankato. I would like to welcome our National Vice Commander from Missouri, John S. to Minnesota. My commanders project this year is to continue and build off of the one I had last year which is to solicit donations for next years Legacy Scholarship Fund. I am a firm believer in a higher education. You can't get a decent job nowadays without some kind of higher education so I'm going to continue and build off of my \$700 donation last year and see if I can get an even \$1,000. Until next time, for God and country.

STEVE PUTZ
4th District Commander

No report

BRUCE KUIPER
5th District Commander

Greetings from the Fighting Fifth!!!

We have had 2 district meetings and my officers are working hard on membership. I will be attending the squadron meetings beginning next month. We are looking at different fund raising ideas. Hopefully I'll be seeing everyone on Friday as I am having a cornea transplant tomorrow morning.

Best wishes and keep the membership coming!!

CLIFFORD TEIGLAND
6th District Commander

Greetings from the 6th,
Since the Detachment Convention I have been busy traveling the district. It started immediately following the convention going through the district with 9th District Commander Ripplinger dropping off membership packets to several squadrons then continuing to the 6th District Executive Board in Sebeka. Where Commander Ripplinger gave a very good report on the Legacy Ride that would be traveling through the district. I have been to several Legion meetings explaining what the Son's of the American Legion is and how it could help their legion. There is now the possibility of two new squadrons in the 6th district.

JAMES STOCK
7th District Commander

All seems to be going well in the 7th. All packets have been delivered and are being used. I got a lot of help from my Adjutant and past Commanders. Thanks everyone! Been an extremely busy Summer and now Fall for me personally as we are trying to do some remodeling at home. I assume it is the same for everyone else as well. Missed the National Convention due to an eye injury to my daughter. Thankfully all turned out well, although she had several weeks of blurred vision.

7th District Commander Jim Stock

MICHAEL SLAVIERO
8th District Commander

No report

LARRY RIPPLINGER
9th District Commander

Greetings from the 9th District,

Fall is here and here are some of the things that I was involved with after summer campout.

My home Post held the POW-MIA Ride with proceeds from this ride going to the Fergus Falls Veterans home. The ride was good and it raised around 5 thousand dollars that was donated to the Vets Home in Fergus Falls.

The event that wrapped up a lot of my time this past summer was the ALR North Legacy Scholarship Ride. I had many hours into the planning and coordinating of this ride. It was August 13, 14, 15 and Started at the Clearwater American Legion and Ended at the St. Francis American Legion. The ride was a little over 850 miles and we stopped at 16 Posts and raised around 18,000 dollars. By the time I got home I had put on over 1000 miles.

The following weekend I joined the "Not So North Ride" south of Owatonna and we finished up that ride at the Chanhassen Post. There was around 10,000 dollars raised on that ride. All the money raised was turned in at the National Convention and it was 30,000 Dollars. There was a lot of help from a lot of The AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY to make these events a success.

Another event I was involved with was "Ride 2 Recovery" when they did the Great Lakes Challenge. I Road Guarded and Escorted the "R2R" for the week that they did their Bicycle Challenge Ride throughout south east MN. That was definitely something I will never forget watching a lot in my mirrors as the "Wounded Warriors" rode up and down the hills and as they would go past me when I would have roads blocked for them. One of the big highlights was bringing them into the Convention Center for their Reception and seeing all the cheering Legion Family giving them a warm welcome. After their Reception I was asked by their Staff earlier in the week if I would like to join them in going to the Vikings Preseason game. I rode with them on the bus over to the game and had a good time visiting with them.

The National Convention was interesting but I got to be honest with you the "R2R" was really the real deal and I would escort them any time any where rain or shine.

I did make it to Fall Camporee and it was a lot of fun. I wish I could get more people from the 9th to go. They don't know what they are missing out on. Cliff, Commander from the 6th even gave me some time to talk during their Rally.

This past Saturday Oct 15th the Quilting Ladies for "Quilts of Valor" left Underwood at 7:30 AM with 1012 Quilts they made to bring to the Military Hospitals in Oklahoma and Texas. It was a cool 37 degrees and I and one Patriot Guard escorted their bus on motorcycle and were met by several Legion Riders from North Dakota just west of Fergus Falls. We escorted them to the South Dakota border where they peeled off and a group of Legion Riders from South Dakota rode with me to Watertown where they peeled off and another group joined me in escorting the bus. We escorted the "QOV" bus to the Sioux Falls American Legion where the Legion Riders there had a lunch for us. After lunch I rode with the Sioux Falls ALR until they headed south on I29 with the "QOV" bus and I headed back north. At least it was warmer there than when we started. I was the only one that escorted them for 250 miles. Gotta love that Beemer.

By the time this goes out we will have had a joint 6th and 9th Rally in Detroit Lakes and Cliff will be kicking my butt in membership but there's a lot of time left and the guys in the 9th are out in the fields getting their fall chores done. Don't close your eyes on the 9th to long.

CHARLES HEEMER
10th District Commander

In May I attended the 10th District Convention in Fridley and was installed as 10th District Commander.

In June I attended and ran in the midsummer parade in North Branch. I also went to Headquarters in St. Paul and helped to assemble Membership Packets for Legionville. I attended the SAL Convention at Legionville.

July was a busy month for parades; Delano, Robbinsdale and Hopkins were a few that I rode in. St. Michael had their Post dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony. I attended a SAL meeting at Lino Lakes to promote membership and the PUFL program. My home post of Anoka had a Welcome Home party for Tim Hathaway who returned from Afghanistan. He is a Dual Member.

The month of August kept me close at home with a picnic for member at Coon Rapids on the 6th and Membership Rally on the 7th. The rest of the month I was at the University of Minnesota Fairview Hospital having surgery and recuperating. While recuperating, I phoned several Squadrons to make sure they stayed on top of membership and sent in the Officer's Report to Headquarters.

I returned home from the hospital in September. The 11th found me at the Coon Rapids High School football field for "A Day to Remember" ceremony. I was deeply touched by the turnout of the community and participation of many people. This was not an SAL event, but being an American I had to be there to remember the people that lost their lives to terrorism. I also went to Clearwater for their Membership party.

SHAWN DAVIS
Detachment Membership Director

Greetings fellow hunters!

Well, well, well. I go off line due to work and some home repairs and look what happens.

We not only meet goal for the month, but we surpass it by 4.022 percentage points!
CONGRATULATIONS all you hunters out there.

In the Central Region, there is a tight race for third. Unfortunately we are in 4th place, but only by 0.553 percentage pints. I think we should set a goal for Fall Conference to beat and surpass IL. Now the Detachment membership report has us at 33.82% as of October 20th. Can we make Novembers goal of 35% by the end of Fall Conference? Now that is a target I like.

8 of our Districts have passed the October goal. Congratulations! Good shooting! For the districts that have fallen behind, what can you do to help the squadrons catch up to target? What can the Detachment leadership do to help? Some target practice could be arranged. :)

Also a reminder to get all squadron officer reports in!

I look forward to seeing you all on Saturday at the Fall Conference in Mankato! Stay on target and keep hunting membership!

Remember our upcoming targets:

Nov 16 - 35%

Dec 14 - 45%

Jan 19 - 60%

Feb 8 - 75%

Mar 14 - 80%

Apr 11 - 90%

AMERICANISM

Robert Bristo, Chairman

National Americanism Chairman Gerald Hammerschmidt will again be our Chairperson for the 2011-2012 calendar years.

Gerald will continue his focus on all of the Americanism projects. Those projects consisting of the "Adopt a Highway and The Five Star /10 Ideals program. Gerald would like our Detachments to get our squadrons involved. Progress is being made but there is still much more to be done.

1. We will be working on Flag Education:
 - Promote For Which It Stands (DVD)
 - Promote The American Legion (Flag Etiquette Pamphlet)
 - Promote I Pledge Allegiance book for the youth
 - Promote the I Pledge Allegiance bookmark
2. We will be promoting Volunteer Blood Drives that Squadrons can hold or help with.
3. We will promote all of The Americanism Programs:
 - National High School Oratorical Contest, Boys State and Nation Programs, Scouting, Legion
 - Shooting Sports; Legion Baseball
 - Promote the Get Out The Vote program.
 - Promote the 5 Star / 10 Ideals programs

I am asking all District Commanders for their help in getting our Detachment more involved in these programs. This would be as a result of Squadrons competing with each other, by coming up with ideas that separate them from other Squadrons, doing things that bring attention not only to the community abut as well as to the Posts. Recognition is the key to our success, and that is very important to the success of our American Legion Family. This is why I'm asking everyone to get involved in some way. You can make a difference and together we can make it happen.

**ARMED FORCES SERVICE CENTER
, Chairman**

No report

**BRAIN SCIENCE FOUNDATION
Lloyd Schaeffer, Chairman**

Last year I reported to you that the Brain Science Foundation was pursuing a grant from the V4V to cover the expense of two interns. I am glad to now report that through the efforts of Jim Kellogg, the committee chairman they were successful in receiving the grant.

They discussed the request for funds by Dr. Georgopoulos earlier this year. Dr. Georgopoulos had requested the donation of \$13,557.67 from the committee to cover the expenses of two interns that worked on special projects.

I attended the Brain Science annual lecture October 19, 2011 at the University of Minnesota. Jim Kellogg awarded the two scholarships of \$1000 each to two students that are continuing their studies in the field of Brain Science. The lecture covered parts of the brain that might be considered the central processor and has opened new realms of brain studies.

Here's to hoping you will no longer have to have someone say to you 'What would you do if you had a brain.'

**CHILDREN & YOUTH
William Peters, Chairman**

I have spoke with Americanism Chairman Robert Bristo, Legislative Chairman Bob Benjamin, and VA&R Chairman about preparing an informational presentation regarding the four pillars of the American Legion. We are going to discuss this at Fall Conference. The goal would be to have this for the next "Educational" Membership Rally which would be the Sweetheart Rally in February. I am in communication with Legionville Camp Manger Mike Neubarth and Operation Military Kids Coordinator Amber Runke about the possibility of hosting a weekend event for OMK next summer if the Detachment approves. They are reviewing for available dates.

**CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION (CWF)
Doug Bible, Chairman**

**LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP
Steve Sullivan, Chairman**

This year we did 2 weekend, 6 days, over 1600 miles. We made to 36 Post Home stops, 2 Veteran Homes stops and a ride around the ST. Clouds VA Medical Center. I would like to thank our road

captains for a great job this year, Larry Ripplinger for the north run and Kim Kim Tolzmann for the not so south run and to all of the donators this year. We raised well over \$30,000.00 Dollars this year. The 2011 Legacy Run Nationally raised \$668,738.39 for the Legacy Fund.

BOWLING REPORT
Steve Sullivan, Chairman

No report at this time. Bowling Committee well meet on Oct. 28, 2011 @ 10:30 in Mankato, MN

LEGIONVILLE
Gary SEMmel, Chairman

The Legionville Board met on October 22, 2011 at 11:00AM at Legionville. The meeting was opened by Joe Bayer and roll call was taken. Most board members were present. Motion was made to approve minutes from the last meeting. Motion carried. Motion was made to approve mileage at \$.30. Motion carried.

Comments were made by Robert Millers wife thanking all and reading a statement written by Bob which included a history of the camp. Opening comments were made by Commander Chuck Krueger, President Linda Thompson, and SAL Commander Gary Semmel.

President Joe Bayer gave his report in which he thanked the SAL for the donation of the Snapper. He mentioned that more board members should be there for the work and play to get the camp opened in the spring and closed in the fall. He also helped man the "Minnesota Nice" booth at the National Convention. When he attended Camporee, there were comments to hold a Department Rally at the camp.

The Finance Committee Report was focused on the amount of campers that attended and the overall cost. A motion was made to increase the cost to \$225.00 per camper for the upcoming year. Motion carried. It was also reported that we are spending more than is donated and need to find a way to change that. A brainstorming session was held to discuss various ways to do this and members volunteered to address the following items: 1.sale of some land, 2.work with the Legislature to get some grants, and 3. contact other groups to ask for support. Also mentioned was some cost over runs regarding the Canteen, Bathhouse, and Handicapped cabin.

The Operations Committee gave their report and wanted to have priorities set to determine which projects to focus on.

John Torma gave the Building Committee report and said that the plan is to go with a Morton building at a total cost of \$575,000 and that Morton will work with us and do the building in stages as we have the funds. Information will be available at Fall Conference along with renditions of the building.

Mike Neubarth gave the General Manager Report where he said that many issues needed to be addressed as a large number of repairs were not made as they should have been. The building inspector has been there and indicated that the roofs and windows need to be upgraded at a cost of over \$110,000. We need to have a 5 and 10 year plan to do maintenance to get these issues taken care of.

Mark Baker gave the State Patrol Report and said that as of now, the funding for the camp would continue.

There was no old business. New Business was the election of Officers: President is Wayne Gilbertson, Vice President is Eugene Leifeld, Treasurer is Dick Horn, and Secretary is Randy Tesdahl.

LEGISLATIVE
Robert Benjamin, Chairman

I attended the legislative meeting at N.E.C. in Indianapolis. I have a report that everyone can view. I also found web sites to look up info. on our veterans. As you have heard, the President is sending all of our troops home from Iraq by the end of the year. I will have more info later on this. I also have homeland security papers and info coming for future viewing.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND (NEF)
Dennis Blue, Chairman

The American Legion National Emergency Fund was created to compassionately heal the wounds of catastrophe. It has provided over \$6 million in direct financial assistance to Legion family members and posts. The National Emergency Fund has kept posts from closing and enabled Legion family members to begin to rebuild their homes and their lives.

Grants from this fund provide emergency assistance to The American Legion or Sons of The American Legion *current* members in areas devastated by a declared natural disaster, to include floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes and related adverse weather events. You must have been displaced or evacuated from primary residence and had out-of-pocket expenses to provide for food, clothing and shelter. *These funds are not designed for insurance compensation or to cover monetary losses from a business, structures on your property (barns, tool sheds), equipment or vehicles.* Individual members may apply for assistance. Only one grant per household (up to \$1,500.00)

For more information check out http://www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/nefapplication_1007.pdf

PAID UP FOR LIFE (PUFL)
Gary Semmel, Chairman

We currently have 58 paid-up members from 37 Squadrons in the program. There have been 2 new PUFL's since the last report. Due to the economy, the growth has been slow. PUFL applications have been included in the membership packets that were sent to each Squadron.

With the Detachment Web Site up and running, a downloadable PUFL application has been added so that any member viewing the site has access to the form.

As the Christmas holiday season is approaching, we need to remind parents and grandparents that the gift of PUFL is a very appropriate gift.

POST-IT REPORT
William Peters, Chairman

To date, I have not received inputs from Squadrons. The address information for the forms have been changed to reflect my address information. The form in the website has also been changed. I will have an ample amount of the newest forms at Fall Conference to take back with them to distribute. It would be great if the District Commanders could encourage their Squadrons to turn in at least one Post It by Spring Conference.

PUBLIC RELATIONS
Dennis Henkemeyer , Chairman

A couple of weeks ago, I traveled to Indianapolis for the annual American Legion fall conference of the national executive committee. Like I have done over the past three years, I decided to travel early and participate in the Sons of The American Legion fall conference, particularly the public relations commission meetings. Unfortunately, it was really a waste of time. Rather than coming away with some new and fresh ideas about public relations, I learned absolutely nothing. The American Legion came out with a new public relations toolkit and I found that to be quite interesting. Please allow me to share with you some of the information provided in the excellent publication.

What is Public Relations?

As the term implies, public relations (PR) requires that you relate to the public in some manner. The question is, what is a 'public' and how do we relate to it? Several 'publics' require our attention as Sons of The American Legion public relations practitioners. These include but are not limited to: our members, the media, local and national elected officials and decision makers and the public. You can narrow it further to specific target audiences, such as participants in the Sons of The American Legion programs and recipients of our support and charitable contributions.

HOW you relate to the public depends on which public it is and what your message is.

In a nutshell, public relations is primarily about **IMAGE**. And every member of the Sons of The American Legion plays a role in communicating our image to the various publics to which we relate. The positive and the negative things seen and heard at every level of the organization affect peoples' perceptions of the Sons of The American Legion is and what we stand for. Perception is reality for most people.

In many ways, the public relations function is the most important function at any level of the Sons of The American Legion. It is our job to inform, enlighten, persuade and convince our many publics of our beliefs, events and goals.

S.A.L. VETERANS DEER HUNT
Lloyd Schaefer, Chairman

I was pleased to help this year with the Legionville Disabled Veterans Deer Hunt, October 1 and 2. If you measure success by how many deer were harvested then you wouldn't think it was that great. We

only got one deer. If your measure of success was based on the smiles, laughter, the happiness that comes from forgetting your pains and problems for a few days, then we were most successful.

The development from acquaintance to friendship, the smiles from being able to shoot a rifle when you had thought that you would never be able to again, the opportunity to be a part of the hunt again. These are priceless and worth more than imaginable. It is hard to put the words to explain the transition, but once you see it you never forget it.

I want to thank Dave Vulcan and Doug Handley for coming up and helping with the guiding. Also Thank You to Bill Stein for bringing up the chili for lunch and feeding us. It is great to have people committed to helping and doing more than just talking about it.

We will be holding a muzzle loader deer hunt at Legionville December 6th and 7th if anyone is interested in helping please see me. Hopefully the camp can be finished to accommodate us there.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent the Detachment in this way.

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION (VA&R)
Marv Jonas, Chairman

It has been another busy year for our veterans so far this year. I participated in the Veterans Turkey hunt in April and also did a couple fishing trips on Clearwater Lake for the Adult Day Healthcare patients. We also did a fish fry at my home post for the veterans fish that they caught on their Clearwater Lake fishing trips. October 4, 5, and 6th I helped with the disabled Veterans Deer Hunt at Camp Ripley. 10 deer were harvested and 60 hunters participated in the hunt. I also went to Legionville for the Disabled Hunt this year. Only 1 deer was taken and we had 4 hunters. I will be holding a Christmas party for the Veterans in December with bingo, cookies and eggnog. Anyone who would like to help or donate to these programs feel free to call me at 320-469-0803.

CAR SHOW
Dave Krueger, Chairman

Greetings, Since Legionville I don't have much to report on. Our committee has been in touch with the St Francis legion we attended one of their legion meetings. The excitement is building at their post they have our flyers and our t-shirts on display. We are having a meeting to coincide with fall conference at the end our session on Saturday October 29th. At that meeting we will figure out what needs to be done throughout the winter months. That's all for now. Thank you

Dave Krueger
National Children and Youth Commission

Greetings, I have the honor of sitting on the S.A.L. National Children and Youth Commission. My job this year is to report on child safety programs for the following detachments, California, Alabama, Oregon, Vermont, Ohio, Michigan, Missouri and Minnesota. I have been in contact with these detachments as of the time of this report. I have not received any responses but I expect them to start coming in soon. The main focus of the Children and Youth Commission is communication within your detachments and squadrons. Promotion of the various Children and Youth Programs. Reporting all your activities with the consolidated report forms. Become actively involved with your activities. I attended Fall NEC in Indianapolis where we received our duties for the upcoming year. I would like to thank the detachment of MN for the opportunity to sit on this commission. And believing in me. I will do a good job. Thank you