



**Detachment of Minnesota
2012 Officers &
Chairmen Reports**

**Spring Conference, MN
Bagley, MN
March 10, 2012**

GARY SEMMEL
Detachment Commander

November was a busy month as I was able to attend Pheasant dinners at the Minneapolis Veterans Home on the 3rd, the Minneapolis VA on the 7th, and the Silver Bay Veterans Home on the 16th. It was a wonderful experience and I was able to meet many of our Veterans.

Next was the Pearl Harbor Rally on December 3rd at North St. Paul. The hospitality was great and we were happy to announce that the Detachment membership was ahead of the National goal. On December 10th, I attended the memorial service Past Commander Bill Peters special friend Linda. Please keep Bill in your prayers to help him through his grief.

On January 16th and 17th, I attended the wake and funeral for Past Commander John Zgoda. Please continue to keep John's family in your prayers. John will be missed. January concluded with attending the 3rd District Mid Winter. Thank you 3rd District for your hospitality and friendship.

On February 3rd, the Coon Rapids hosted a memorial service commemorating the 4 chaplains that went down with the Dorchester after giving their life vests to others. It was a moving service. On February 11, I attended the Department Sweetheart Rally and Veterans Fair at Brainerd. Thanks to the Detachment Officers and Chairmen that were able to participate.

On March 1st, I was honored to be at Blooming Prairie I helped 1st District Commander Paul Spyhalski present the Charter for their new Squadron. On March 3rd, the Department Vice- Commander Appreciation Rally was held at Osseo. Thanks to all the Detachment Officers and Chairman that were there. It was also amazing to see a large number of dual members in attendance. On March 4th, I was honored to be in Bruno to install the Commander of their new Squadron.

DAVID VULCAN
1st & 3rd District Vice Commander

In January attended the first district Mid-Winter Conferences on the 14th of January, Attended the third district Mid-Winter Conferences on 28th of January, Attended John Zgoda wake, Attended the National Commander Dinner in Montgomery on the Feb. 8th. On Feb. 16th attended Jordan Legion Meeting and discuss starting a new SAL squadron. Jordan will get back to me after their meeting in March. Talked with the First District Commander Paul and the Third District Commander Casey about camp out in June at Legionville. Making our menu plans for the camp out.

JOHN AFFOLTER
2nd & 7th District Vice Commander

I was unable to attend either the 2nd or 7th mid winter due to illness but I have been at both state & district rally's. I was invited by Commander Casey Lenort to the 3rd district mid-winter which I

visited @ Saint Peter. My 2 districts are on the move for the 2nd half, Craig Boelter in the 2nd is over 70% and Jim Stock is over 85%. I visited with Madison Lake Post 269, at their request about starting a new squad. Looking forward to campout ! Good luck to all !

ROBERT BRISTO
4th & 5th District Vice Commander

White Bear Lake Squadron 168 is doing a fine job. Their membership is growing. I visited them a couple of times I attended one of their Squadron meetings. They had a great turnout for their meeting. They are very involved when it comes down to their community. They are excellent fund raisers. They are putting on a Sportsman Rally this month. This fund raiser is their biggest one of the year. Arcade Phalan Squadron 577 under Commander Tony Zahradka are doing a great job with their membership. They have been working very hard at and continue to make strides.

Rosetown Squadron 542 Commander Bill Oxford continues to excel in its membership and is very close to goal. They have been active in helping their post with breakfasts and dinners. They donated funds to help their post with equipment much needed.

Northend Squadron 18 Commander Steven Putts will need some help. Membership needs to pickup and they will need some assistance down the road.

Attucks Brooks Squadron 606 is still having problems. I hope that these will be resolved in the near future.

North St. Paul Squadron 39 Commander Ron Adams are doing great. They are 10 members from goal. They are having one of their biggest fund raisers coming up on April 22. This event includes a night of fun. The dinner will be preceded by Bingo which there will be over \$2,000 in cash and prizes.

FIFTH DISTRICT

Post 1 Squadron Commander Woody is hacking away at membership. They are falling a little behind on membership. The Squadron will pick their pace up, and close that gap to goal. They are close to twenty members from goal, but that could soon change.

Post 99 Squadron Commander John Baer is having a great year. Squadron 99 is at 200%. They still have a lot of time left to get even more members. Keep up the good work .

Giant Valley Squadron 234 Commander Loren Roberts is doing well on his membership. This Squadron when it comes to making things happen they come together. The Squadron's members put on Pig Roasts. March 17 the Squadron will be holding one its biggest fund raisers which is the corn beef and cabbage dinner.

Richfield Squadron 435 Commander James Handchett are working hard at getting their membership in. They need about 40 more for their goal. This Squadron has three fund raisers that helps out their squadron. They have a Valentine's Day dinner, St. Patricks Day dinner and their Fourth of July celebration, amongst their steak fries. They basically took over all of the dinners from the post. Their contributions have helped out with our legion programs.

Gopher Squadron 440 Commander Craig Carlson has been working very hard on membership. The Squadron still has work cut out for them. There have been several new members that have signed up. The squadron is close to goal and will soon make that goal.

Faldeen Squadron 555 continues to make their goal. They do not have a lot of members, but Virgil Persing makes sure he gets their membership in. There is a lot of family members in this squadron.

ROBERT FOSS
6th & 9th District Vice Commander

Welcome to 9th district Bagely MN I attended the 9th District Mid-Winter January 14th in Thief River Falls. The 9th district is at 74.87% and 2 squadron still on goose egg. On February 4th I attended the 6th District Mid-Winter in Waite Park and the 6th district is at 84.73%. February 11th I attended the Veterans Fair / membership Rally in Brainerd.

WILLIAM STEIN
8th & 10th District Vice Commander

It's been a good year in the 8th District as far as membership for The Sons of The American Legion. They are leading all the districts in the Detachment of Minnesota in membership with over 90%! The better news is they will be chartering a new Squadron in Grand Portage. On my visit to Grand Portage to help get the Squadron organized I met some of the members and at least 4 dual members that will be helping the Squadron get started.

Along with me and my wife, Judy were the District Commander Carl Hendrickson and his wife, 8th District President Mary, Department 8th and 10th Vice Commander Willy Strom. We broke into three groups. Judy and Mary met with the Auxiliary, Willy and Carl met with the Legion and answered their questions and I met with the SAL and the Legion met with us afterwards.

Last week I received a call that they had now picked officers for the new Squadron and were going to be sending names in to charter the Squadron shortly. It's a great feeling to see a new and exciting group to be active in the Sons of The American Legion Programs.

The Squadron in Hibbing is taking somewhat longer because they are having trouble meeting because they are working different shifts. But Larry Pochrich is working very hard on getting this Squadron organized. I think things are looking up for the 8th District.

The 10th District actually surprised me by chartering two more squadrons in the past year, Rush City is aboard and online. The latest squadron to get on board and has already sent their names in is Bruno. In fact, Sunday, March 4th a group of Legionnaires went up to install both the Legion and the SAL officers for the upcoming year. Once again, it's great to see new people enthused with great ideas for our Legion Family. It makes me very proud to be a Detachment officer when we can have three Squadrons activated in one year although it may have taken an extra year to get things organized.

I think both districts are headed in the right direction. This year in chartering three new squadrons, it's really been enjoyable to serve as 8th and 10th Vice Commander. Both districts can hold their heads high!

**LLOYD SCHAEFFER
NEC**

The National membership team sent out renewal postcards the end of January with the next mailing to go out in April. Please make sure you have corrected any address changes for your members. You can make changes on line also.

The Administration Manual has been finalized and is on the National web site at www.legion.org/sons there is everything you need to know in this manual. I have a copy with me if you would like to look through it.

The consolidated report forms should have been sent to the Detachments by now. The reporting that was turned in for 2011 exceeded that of 2010 but we can still improve on reporting what we do.

The latest report on our Detachment donation to Child Welfare is \$3465.00 and puts us at 31.8% of our goal of \$10,905.00. I am hoping that your Squadron and District has considered your donation to CWF in honor of the memory of John Zgoda. I have.

I am looking forward to the Spring NEC meeting the first weekend of May if there is anything you would like me to bring up or find an answer for you please let me know.

Remember the National Convention will be in Indianapolis this year with meetings starting Friday August 24.

Don't forget to look for and watch out for the American Legion Riders as they ride around the State raising money for the Legacy Scholarship Fund. I hope to ride again this year.

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

**WILLIAM PETERS
Alternate NEC**

As I reported at Fall Conference in Mankato, 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. There have been no NEC meetings between then and our Spring Conference.

The Spring NEC meeting is scheduled for May 5-6, 2012, in Indianapolis. I am attending and will report on the event at our Detachment Convention in Legionville.

PAUL SPYHALSKI
1st District Commander

On March 1st, it was my privilege to be present for the charter presentation to our newest squadron, Squadron 52 at Blooming Prairie. Thank you to Detachment Commander Gary for his presentation of the charter.

We had a good turn-in at the Appreciation Rally to get us to 86%. That should put our District at 272 members short of 2,000.

Some of our feedback from our squadrons at our District Mid-Winter was the need for more communication between all the levels of the SAL. This coming year, the First District will be creating a district directory so we can get more information directly to the squadrons.

JAMES ELLIS
2nd District Commander

No report

CASEY LENORT
3rd District Commander

Greetings from the Thundering Third. I hope all of you made it up here to the great white North (maybe not white) safe & sound. Time sure has flown by since Fall Conference. Since then I have been to Pine Island for their district rally and presided over our mid-winter conference which was in St. Peter and Commander Semmel, 2nd & 7th John Affolter, 1st District Paul S. and South Advisor Brian Medinus all attended. We still have two squads on the goose egg and they are as follows: Hugo and Rosemont. Shakopee only has four turned in and Stillwater only has six so we'll keep on them & hopefully they'll get the last few in. In the works is a very generous donation to the CWF fund on behalf of John Zgoda. When I first heard the news, I was just devastated. I took part in the memorial service which was extremely emotional for all those that attended. As I've said before, he will be dearly missed and it may take quite a while before we find another one like him if ever again. I also did attend the Sweetheart Rally/Vet's Fair up in Brainerd to promote the car show and several t-shirts were sold. The order form is up on the website. Not much else to report at this time so hope everyone has a safe trip home and we'll be in touch down the road.

STEVE PUTZ
4th District Commander

No report

BRUCE KUIPER
5th District Commander

Greetings from the fighting fifth

We have had 4 district meetings my officers are working very hard on membership . I attended the membership rally at Osseo on Saturday. We are still looking at different fundraising ideas. I am attending squadron meetings and seeing how we can assist them in growing membership.

Bruce Kuiper
Fifth District Commander

CLIFFORD TEIGLAND
6th District Commander

Since the Fall Conference held in October at Mankato, I have attended the Pearl Harbor Rally held at N. St. Paul in December, the 6th District Mid-winter held at Waite Park in February, the Sweet Heart Rally held at Brainerd held in February, the Legion Family Appreciation Rally held at Osseo held in March.

I have attended Legion meetings in Cass Lake, Cold Spring, and Sauk Rapids. At the meetings in Cass Lake and Cold Spring I gave a presentation on what the Son's of The American Legion is and how they could start their own Squadrons. I have been in phone contact with other Legions about the same subject. I am currently working on starting a new squadron in Cass Lake.

JAMES STOCK
7th District Commander

We had a well attended Mid-Winter Conference at New London, with all Officers present and 7 Squads represented. Membership is coming along well as we are just ahead of last years pace. Hopefully, this will continue. I have contacted a few that I thought might need a nudge and they have responded. Thanks to all the Squad Commanders for doing such a great job!
7th Dist. Commander, Jim Stock

MICHAEL SLAVIERO
8th District Commander

No report

LARRY RIPPLINGER
9th District Commander

Hello,

Greetings from the 9th. Winter went fast and so far the 9th is gaining on getting memberships in. In November on Veterans Day I was in attendance for the Dedication of The Veterans

Memorial at Detroit Lakes and later was a guest speaker at the Middle River Veterans Day Dinner.

In December I was at the Breckenridge Post as a guest for their Membership Dinner and Awards night. The Breckenridge Post is working on getting a Squadron going and I was also there for a meeting.

In January the 9th District held our Mid Winter Conference in Thief River Falls. In early February I thought the 6th Dist. was meeting in Waite Park I showed up only to find out I was a week early. After finding out I had my dates mixed up I contacted Cliff the 6th Dist. SAL Commander and met up with Cliff and his wife Alice and caught up on old times.

As I write this we have a potential blizzard bearing down on this area and we have been pretty lucky this winter. Now that spring is around the corner its time for Spring Conference and all the Districts to get together. So let's make this one a good one and have a great Convention.

Thanks for all you do for your Posts and Communities and remember, Membership is our Strength and Strength is our Membership.

CHARLES HEEMER
10th District Commander

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

In June, I attended and rode 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 S.A.L. Convention at Legionville.

July was a busy month for parades. Delano, Robbinsdale and Hopkins were a few that I rode in. St. Michaels had their Post dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony. I attended a S.A.L. 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 to home with a picnic for Members 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 their 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 of Remembrance" ceremony. I was deeply touched by the turnout of the community and participation of many people. This was not a S.A.L. 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.

In October, I attended the 8th & 10th District Rally in Mora, the Early Bird Dinner in Fridley, Pheasant Dinner at St. Cloud VA Medical Center and Fall Conference in Mankato.

November was the Auxiliary Veterans Day Rally at Monticello, the Veterans Day Dinner at Anoka and the Veterans Day Dinner at Buffalo.

December included the Department Pearl Harbor Rally in St. Paul, as well as our 10th District Christmas Rally in Fridley. I also attended the Veterans Wild Game Feed at Anoka and the Bingo Christmas Party held at St. Cloud VA Medical Center.

On February 11, I attended the Department Sweetheart Rally at Post 255 in Brainerd. I attended the 10th District Sweetheart Rally at Anoka Post 102 on February 18, which was well attended.

AMERICANISM

Robert Bristo

National Americanism Chairman Gerald Hammerschmidt would like to see all of our Squadrons become more involved with our Americanism programs. Americanism is an unflinching love of country and loyalty to its institutions, and ideals eagerness to defend it against all enemies. Individual allegiance to the flag and a desire to secure the blessing of liberty to ourselves, and posterity. There are many activities of the National Americanism Commission, all are designed to acknowledge and preserve that heritage. Recognition all of the rights of man and the humane qualities of mine and heart. There is one program that is very important, right now, that Gerald would like to see more squadrons involved in. There is CD that has been made and is available. The CD is called For Which It Stands. This CD was developed to educate our youth on the American Flag etiquette. This education will eventually help in the future the passage of the Flag Amendments. Squadrons if you are doing any activities in that fall under our Americanism Programs, such as Oratorical, Boys State and Nation, Legion Baseball, Adopt A Highway ,etc. There is one thing all Squadrons must do when they are working in these programs!!! FILL OUT YOUR TIME AND DONATIONS. This information should go on your Consolidated National Report. This report form will be sent to all squadrons shortly. My advice would be to find a program that works best for your Squadrons.

BRAIN SCIENCE

Lloyd Schaeffer

The study of the Brain and the advancements that are opening up the wonders and intricacies of how our brains work and how we are connected to the rest of our bodies are just a beginning. The more they learn the more they find out they have to learn and that they are still just beginning to see that we are fearfully and wonderfully made.

Donations to the Minnesota Brain Science Foundation will help us fund the study and advancements that were made possible by the efforts of Minnesota's American Legion Family.

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

DETACHMENT CAR SHOW FUNDRAISER
David Krueger

Things are going well with the planning for our Detachment Car Show. It will be here before we know it so please mark your calendars for July 1st 2012 in St. Francis. We will be meeting face to face with the American Legion to iron a few details out. We have had a offer from Comfort Suites in Ramsey to be our host motel. They are offering attendees a special rate of \$99.00 for Saturday night June 30th and \$ 89.00 for Sunday night July 1st. Please everyone take advantage of this after putting on a show like we are planning a person does get pretty wiped out and tired and it's nice to know that you have a place close by to crash. Our contact from St Francis, Brian Reichert had his email hacked and we had lost contact but we have his new email address and things are back on track. My next report will be at Legionville but be reminded that that is a week before our show. We also had some t-shirts made up and we are selling as a fund raiser for \$15.00 a piece. There are four colors to choose from. We also have the opportunity for hockey style hooded sweatshirts. We will have color choices at Bagley and will take orders. .And I would like to thank the committee for working hard on this car show.

BOWLING REPORT
Steve Sullivan

All the bowling info can be found at <http://www.mnlegion.org/html/events.html>. The 2012 American Legion Family Bowling Tournament will be held February 25 - April 22, 2012.

AMERICAN LEGION LEGACY RUN
Steve Sullivan

The plans are still in the making at this time but I can tell you that the Legacy Run will be the first two weekends in August 3,4,5 August 10,11,12. We split the State down the middle and well have a east and west Run, with the West side of the state first and the East side second. Our goal is to raise \$50,000.00 this year. Last year The American Legion Riders with the help of The American Legion Family raised over \$34,000.00. Outstanding Job by All, Thank You.

CHILDREN & YOUTH
Bill Peters

For a Detachment Project in Children and Youth, I was attempting to arrange for us to host a weekend event for Operation Military Kids next summer at Legionville. Unfortunately, with the current situation at Legionville, we were unable to solidify a date. I know that our Squadrons are continually working on many projects that are benefitting the children of their communities. I am always amazed by their efforts. But, for this report I would like to mention a few of the programs which are part of Children and Youth that many Squadrons might not be familiar with.

Since its establishment in 1925, The American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) program has awarded cash grants to minor children of veterans who are eligible for American Legion membership. These grants help families in need meet the cost of shelter, food, utilities and health expenses, thereby keeping the child or children in a more stable environment.

Eligibility is limited to minor children of veterans. Membership in the American Legion is not required! For the complete brochure on this program, access the website at http://www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/cybroch_tfa.pdf . Otherwise, see me and I will get you one.

There are also endless numbers of scholarships that are available as listed in the Legion's "Need a Lift" program CD. It contains information as follows: The American Legion's nationally respected college financial aid resource covers topics such as: The student financial aid process; Scholarship, grant, & loan opportunities; Profiles of 4-year colleges & universities; Web site listings; Federal & state sources of financial aid; Calculating your financial need; and Career information.

The CD is available for only \$1.95 at American Legion Emblem Sales at (888) 453-4466, or at this website: <http://emblem.legion.org/2012-Need-A-Lift-CD/productinfo/755.512/> . Otherwise, see me and I will make a copy available for you.

Feel free to contact me if you need any help or ideas on Children and Youth Programs.

DISABLED VETERANS DEER HUNT Lloyd Schaeffer

Once again we as Sons sponsored the Disabled Veteran's Deer Hunt at Legionville and assisted with the Muzzleloader Hunt in December. The number of deer harvested during the two hunts was down this year as were the sightings.

We had four hunters at the October hunt with our first female hunter. While all of the hunters saw deer we were only successful in the taking of one deer. At the Muzzleloader hunt in December we also had four hunters but the sighting of deer was limited to the one that didn't get away.

Your donation to this hunt will help us continue to provide disabled veterans with the experience to once again be 'in the field hunting'. We need more than just your money to support this effort, we also need you. It takes around eight people to help during the hunt to guide and assist to make this a successful opportunity for the hunters. I can't do it alone, don't wait for a call to volunteer do it now.

The Department of Minnesota is very supportive of our efforts to continue this hunt each year. We can only accomplish success with your help.

FINANCE Gary Weaver

See report attached to end of these reports.

LEGIONVILLE
Gary Semmel

The Legionville board met on January 12, 2012 at Zimmerman. Most members were present, as well as Department Judge Advocate Don Walser. There were many guests present. President Wayne called for a discussion on voting eligibility and Don Walser covered the rules set forth in the Articles of Incorporation and the process by which they can be changed. This had to do with the Board could add another voting member. A motion was made and carried to give a vote to the School Safety Patrol Representative and to go through the proper steps.

President Wayne made some changes on the Building Committee and the Operations Committee. Also discussed were bids covering the remaining work on the handicapped cabin. Finance Liaison Laura found a program to take care of camp registration. President Wayne gave a report on the applications that have been submitted for the new General Manager, the interview process, and the financial package. Also presented and approved was the budget for the upcoming year. A copy of the minutes was sent to Media Chair Al Amundson for posting on our web site.

LEGISLATIVE
Robert Benjamin

As we have heard in the news reports that the U.S. Army wanted to replace the WWI 1903 bolt action rifles used by the Fort Snelling National Rifle Squad with w.w.II semi automatic rifles which are heavier. The Army also wanted to cutback the number of rifles the Squad uses from 50 to 15 rifles. With Congressman John Kline's request, the Army has reversed their decision on both issues. The squad can keep their 1903 rifles and keep the number of rifles they have been using. It is nice to know that the Squad can keep doing the wonderful work bringing peace to the families of the fallen.

MEDIA/WEBSITE
Allen Amundson

First of all, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed suggestions and offered material for our Detachment website. It is very important that we continue to add relevant content for our members and viewers.

I am very happy to report that visitors to our website are increasing every month. From October 2011 through February 2012 the daily average visits increased from 18 to 41, while the total monthly visits increased from 572 to 1215. That's an increase of over 100% in a four month period. That doesn't mean we have added that many new viewers, but it does indicate the website is being utilized on an ever increasing basis. Nevertheless, we have work to do. Only half of our 10 Districts have provided a complete officers list. I find that disappointing. I can't emphasize enough the opportunity the website provides in maintaining communication with our membership, as well as contact information on our District and Detachment officers and chairmen. I know this is relatively new territory for many, but I would like to encourage everyone to take advantage of the capabilities. As time goes along, I would like to provide for filing reports and other information directly online. Hopefully, this will help to improve our reporting; but, details will need to be worked out with the Department office staff. In the meantime, most of the reports are available for download to fill out and mail. There are some additional proposals I

intend to make at Spring Conference, as well as Detachment Convention, but I will present those separately from this report.

Please keep the suggestions (and content material) coming and continue to visit the website frequently. Items are added or updated on at least a weekly basis. Thank you for your support and encouragement.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND **Dennis Blue**

The American Legion has been actively involved in meeting the needs of both the community and individual Legion family members in the wake of disaster. Hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, wildfires... The American Legion National Emergency Fund was born out of natural disasters to compassionately heal the wounds of catastrophe and help save their homes. A major disaster could happen to any Legionnaire in any town at anytime and make them homeless.

The National Emergency Fund has provided over \$6,000,000 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. With the recent tornados in the Midwest last week, there is an immediate need of donations for this fund. Any donations your squadrons can make are greatly appreciated. Please send the donations to Detachment Adjutant, Doug Bible so that we can keep track of our donations.

POST-IT PROGRAM **William Peters**

To date, I have only received 3 inputs from Squadrons. This program has been around now for many years, and it still amazes me that few Squadrons take the opportunity to submit a Post It to report their efforts. It would be great if the District Commanders could encourage their Squadrons to turn in at least one Post It by Camp Out in June.

Webmaster Alan Amundson and I are now working to make it possible to submit a Post It online, where you could simply fill out the form and transmit it directly to the Chairman.

PUFL REPORT **Gary Semmel**

We currently have 58 paid-up members from 37 Squadrons in the program. There has been 1 new PUFL application on the payment plan 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.