

American Legion Auxiliary Department Of Minnesota Annual Reports



Sharon Cross

Department President

**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Minnesota
State Veterans Service Building
20 West 12th Street - Room #314
St. Paul, MN 55155**



Sharon Cross
Department President
2023-2024

Dedication

This Book of Annual Reports is dedicated to the more than 25,000 American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota members. Thank you for holding S.A.V.E. training's and learning how you and members of your community may Be The One to save one! Thank you for all your hard work and enthusiasm throughout the year to Dance Into the Hearts of Veterans. You made this book possible. It is a record of what you all did cumulatively through your dedicated reporting efforts. Please take the time to read this book and share the information with your chairmen. Learning what the Department of Minnesota Auxiliary has accomplished in 2023-2024.

Thank you for all you do,

Sharon Cross
Department President

**Annual Reports
American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Minnesota
2023-2024**



EDITOR'S NOTE

Under the leadership of Department President, Sharon Cross, the 2023-2024 Auxiliary year of "Dancing into the Hearts of Veterans" draws to a close. The Book of Annual Reports is the record of the outstanding service and accomplishments rendered by the members of the Department of Minnesota, American Legion Auxiliary during the year. This book is the property of the Unit and the officer who receives it should give it to her successor for reference and as part of the Unit's permanent record.

Christie Avant
Department Executive Secretary

2023– 2024 Department Officers and District Presidents



Sitting: Department 1st VP Judy Ackerman, Department President Sharon Cross,
Department 2nd VP Robin Dorf

District Presidents

Standing: Row 1 – District 1 – Michelle Weaver, District 2 – Kollett Kaehlert, District 3 – Deanna Meyer
, District 4 – Tamara Michaels, District 5 – Cari Lamb, District 6 – Patti Gunderson,
District 7 – Hope Wilson, District 8 – Sharon Voltz, District 9 – Becky Olson, District 10 – Anne Steffen

National Committeewoman & Alternate National Committeewoman



Jean Walker



Raleen Tolzmann

PREAMBLE

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;
to maintain law and order;

to foster and perpetuate a one hundred per cent Americanism;

to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars;

to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, State and Nation;

to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;

to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good-will on earth;

to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy;

to participate in and contribute to the accomplishment of the aims and purposes of The American Legion;

to consecrate and sanctify our association by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

OFFICERS 2023-2024

President
First Vice President
Second Vice President
National Committeewoman
Alternate NEC
Department Secretary
Department Treasurer
Department Chaplain
Department Historian
Honorary Jr President

Sharon Cross
Judy Ackerman
Robin Dorf
Jean Walker
Raleen Tolzmann
Christie Avant
Shannon Brown
Robin Olson
Renee Suess
Taylor McElroy

DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

First District
Second District
Third District
Fourth District
Fifth District
Sixth District
Seventh District
Eighth District
Ninth District
Tenth District

Michelle Weaver
Kollett Kaehlert
Deanna Meyer
Tamara Michaels
Cari Lamb
Patti Gunderson
Hope Wilson
Sharon Voltz
Becky Olson
Anne Steffen

DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN - COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Americanism
Children and Youth
Community Service
Constitution/Standing Rules
Education
Finance Chairman
Finance Committee
Finance Committee
Finance Committee
Finance Committee
Girls State Chairman
Girls State Committee
Girls State Committee
Director
Education Director
Americanism
History
Junior Activities
Leadership
Legislation
Membership
Memorial
National Security
Parliamentarian
Past Presidents Parley
Poppy
Public Relations
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

Mary Kuperus
Brandi Christensen
Wanda Seidler
Becky Nelson
Lorinda Kies
Jody Hassing
Norma Tramm
Mary Hendrickson
Cavalene Regan
Tonia Bettermann
Linda Kelly
Jesse Hoppe
Lynn Carr
Patti Coleman
Bethany Dickert
Mary Kuperus
Renee Suess
Sally Strasser
Karla Otterness
Robin Dorf
Jenny Nelson
Robin Olson
Carol Kottom
Peggy Tesdahl
Donna Barbknecht
Marsha Bible
Sharon Hammon
Judy Ackerman

DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN - COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Gift Shop Chairman	Beverly Grose
Gift Shop Committee	Sandy Wersal
Risk & Compliance	Roberta Elvecrog
Risk & Compliance	Linda Deschene
Risk & Compliance	Cheryl Schauman

SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS

Auxiliary Emergency Fund	Margee Keller
Servicemen's Center	Chris Ronning
Advisory Board Committee 1	Jean Walker
Advisory Board Committee 2	Linda Kropuenske
Advisory Board Committee 3	Shirley Frederick
Advisory Board Committee 4	Mary Kuperus

SPECIAL CORPORATIONS

Brain Science Foundation
Kat Benjamin, Anna Eells, Barbara Hopewell

VA HEALTHCARE SYSTEM & MN VETERANS HOME REPRESENTATIVES

Bemidji Veterans Home	Denise Milton
Fargo VA Medical Center	Becky Olson
Fergus Falls Veterans Home-	Doris LaFayette
Hastings Veterans Home -	Darlene Wondra
Luverne Veterans Home -	Jeannette Mertens
Minneapolis Veterans Home -	Sandra J Gibson
Minneapolis VA Medical Center	Mary Ann Davis
Montevideo Veterans Home	Jennifer Hurst
Preston Veterans Home	Wanda Prescher
Silver Bay Veterans Home -	Nancy Hopper
Sioux Falls VA Medical Center	Diane Strassburg
St. Cloud VA Medical Center	Janet Benson

Department Office Staff

Department Secretary	Christie Avant
Department Treasurer	Shannon Brown
Administrative Assistant	Jocelyn Yasis

PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENTS

*Helen Hughes Hielscher, Mankato	1920-21
*Mrs. Sandy Hamilton, Minneapolis	1921-22
*Myrtle Goetz, Fairmont	1922-23
*Mrs. George Osborne, Minneapolis	1923-24
*Rose Spencer, Winona	1924-25
*Rose Spencer, Winona	1925-26
*Maud Bishop, Thief River Falls	1926-27
*Maud Bishop, Thief River Falls	1927-28
*Tess Carlson, Willmar	1928-29
*Karjolaine Amundson, Little Falls	1929-30
*Myrtle Barnes, Fergus Falls	1930-31
*Irene Cory, Winona	1931-32
*Margaret Fraser, St Paul	1932-33
*Edna Dressel, LeSueur	1933-34
*Agatha Withrow, International Falls	1934-35
*Myrtle B. Vigen, Fairmont	1935-36
*Esther Moore, Minneapolis	1936-37
*Eleanor Robertson, Litchfield	1937-38
*Florence O'Neill, St. Paul	1938-39
*Elsie Schaefer, Duluth	1939-40
*Ruth Hutton, Excelsior	1940-41
*Mary Morse, Mankato	1941-42
*Alice Arntzen, Appleton	1942-43
*Lola Christenson, Wadena	1943-44
*Linda Stoops, St. Louis Park	1944-45
*Justine Knoblauch, St. Paul	1945-46
*Maureen Patterson, Austin	1946-47
*Margaret Arvidson, Kenyon	1947-48
*Hermana Alme, Moorhead	1948-49
*Alice Chelstrom, Columbia Heights	1949-50
*Nina Stein, Two Harbor	1950-51
*Betty Count, Minneapolis	1951-52
*Genevieve Lauben Peterson, Kerkhoven	1952-53
*Violet Dingmann, St. Cloud	1953-54
*Bernice S Flottarud, Zumbrota	1954-55
*Olga Paulson, Bagley	1955-56
*Glenda Osmundson, Adams	1956-57
*Ann Binger, St. Paul	1957-58
*Dagny Hanson, Alexandria	1958-59
*Ella Lindquist, Clarissa	1959-60
*Dorothy Christensen, Minneapolis	1960-61
*Helen Marie Smith, Elmore	1961-62
*Edna Adam, White Bear Lake	1962-63
*Mildred Mitchell, Tracy	1963-64
*Virginia Leivermann, Chaska	1964-65
*Margaret Walker, Robbinsdale	1965-66
*Mae Johnson, Thief River Falls	1966-67
*Doris Clarke, White Bear Lake	1967-68
*Inez Kienholz, Bird Island	1968-69
*Grace Kraft, Cannon Falls	1969-70
*Evelyn Starr, Cambridge	1970-71
*Mary Lou Beckman, Lake City	1971-72

*Peg McCarty, Minneapolis	1972-73
*Marge Goepferd, Bertha	1973-74
*Jean Nephew-Moder, Duluth	1974-75
*Ella Dokken, Maple Plain	1975-76
*Laverne Cruzen, St. Cloud	1976-77
*Joyce Jorgens, Beardsley	1977-78
*Margaret Lonergan, Bayport	1978-79
*Betty Radeke Carter, Red Lake Falls	1979-80
Joyce Erickson Olson, Albert Lea	1980-81
*Gail Vanlandingham, Mankato	1981-82
*LaVonne Draper, Lanesboro	1982-83
*Blanche Coppa, Bayport	1983-84
*Mary Niles, Cambridge	1984-85
*Charlene Starin, Little Falls	1985-86
*Marion Headley, Sherburn	1986-87
*Leona Rapacz, Argyle	1987-88
*Opal Stokes, Monticello	1988-89
*Lois Koll, Sebeka	1989-90
*Dolores Goettl, Apple Valley	1990-91
*Sharon Jeffers, Minneapolis	1991-92
*Lois Deyo, Austin	1992-93
Betty Manginen, Grand Rapids	1993-94
Beverly Otterness, North Branch	1994-95
Ardis Stone, Glenwood	1995-96
*Janice Dykema, St. Paul	1996-97
*Gwen Hamilton, Blaine	1997-98
*Jeanette Kava, Barnesville	1998-99
*H. Joyce Norell, Elk River	1999-00
*Annette Bray, Minneapolis	2000-01
*Kris Nelson, Brainerd	2001-02
*Karen Thygeson, Thief River Falls	2002-03
Norma Tramm, Cold Spring	2003-04
*Carol Holmgren, Cambridge	2004-05
Lori Skallerud, Madison	2005-06
Dee Dee Buckley, Pequot Lakes	2006-07
Marie Goede, Plainview	2007-08
*Carol Barbkecht, Underwood	2008-09
Marsha Bible, Waite Park	2009-10
Darlene Wondra, Montgomery	2010-11
Linda Thompson, Coon Rapids	2011-12
Raleen Tolzmann, Minnesota Lake	2012-13
Shirley Frederick, Hackensack	2013-14
Chris Ronning, Osseo-Maple Grove	2014-15
Sandra Fredrickson, Glenville	2015-16
Carol Kottom, Buffalo	2016-17
Donna Barbkecht, Willmar	2017-18
Jean Walker, Warren	2018-19
Mary Hendrickson, West Duluth	2019-20
Patti Coleman	2021-2022
Mary Kuperus	2022-2023

*Deceased

District Presidents – 2023-2024



1st District President – Michelle Weaver

Theme:

Symbol: Butterfly

Project: Believet Canine Service Partners & Armed Forces Center



2nd District President – Kollett Kaehlert

Theme: Serving those who served our country

Symbol: Helping Hands

Project: Raising funds for the 13 County Veterans Service Officers of District 2 and MN American Legion Foundation Fund 85



3rd District President – Deanna Meyer

Theme: With God's Guidance We Serve Veterans

Symbol: Soldier kneeling by a Cross

Project: Religious supplies for the Hastings Veterans home and the St. Peter Treatment Center.



4th District President – Tamara Michaels

Theme: Honoring Veterans Past, Present & Future

Symbol: Serviceman's dog tag with a flag & paw print

Project: Believet Canine Service Partners & Eagles Healing Nest



5th District President – Cari Lamb

Theme: Veterans are our precious diamonds

Symbol: Diamond

Project: Every Third Saturday, a program assisting homeless veterans



6th District President – Patty Gilbertson

Theme: Brightening the days of our Veterans & Communities

Symbol: Sunflower

Project: The activity/recreation program at the new Bemidji Veteran's home.



7th District President – Hope Wilson

Theme: Rekindle, Renew & Remember

Symbol: Phoenix

Project: Montevideo Veteran's Home Art's program



8th District President – Sharon Voltz

Theme: Soaring to great heights for our Veterans

Symbol: Eagle

Project: Clothing items for the veterans at the Silver Bay Veterans Home



9th District President – Becky Olson

Theme: Be a light for our veterans

Symbol: Flashlight

Project: Raising funds for the new National Veteran's Memorial Cemetery in Fargo, North Dakota and the Fergus Falls Veterans Home.



10th District President – Anne Steffen

Theme: Inspire to flourish thru Selfless Service

Symbol: Red, White & Blue Ribbon

Project: Operation Welcome Home at the Ironwood Spring Ranch in Stewartville, MN

Americanism

Mary Kuperus, Chairman

The Department of Minnesota is proud to have 400 units. Out of the 400 Units only 119 Units filled out the 2023-2024 Annual Report for the Americanism Program.

The Americanism Program is alive and well here in Minnesota. All 10 Districts reported that a total of 43 Units participated in the Americanism program in their local schools. The Units presented forty-three Flag Education programs while presenting 1,523 flags at a cost of \$730.65 with 163 volunteer hours. All Units open their meeting while saluting the flag and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ninety-one Units participated on Veterans Day. These Units hosted sit-down meals with a program, led programs at their local schools, distributed flags, rulers, and bookmarks, and celebrated at their local nursing home. Others had a free breakfast or dinner for veterans and their spouses. Gifts were given to veterans, cards were sent, and Units marched in a parade. Hutchinson Unit 96 honored 32 veterans at the Harmony River senior facility with a Veterans Day program and a bag of treats. Unit President Donna Telecky's granddaughter Evelyn Telecky, who is also an ALA junior member, helped to give the veterans their treat bag.

Units participated in Memorial Day with two hundred sixteen services. Units placed flags on 1000 gravesites for Memorial Day. Breakfast is served to Honor Guard members before they leave for the cemeteries.

Members wear American Legion Auxiliary branding when volunteering for other holiday or community events. These included Treats for Vets, bloodmobiles, fish fries and burger nights, town celebrations, Poppy Month, goody plates and potholders to veterans wives and single veterans, Bingo, food shelf drives, teacher appreciation, Wreaths Across America, craft shows, Flag Retirement, County Fairs, Sons of Union Veterans/ Civil War burial, raising funds for Honor Flight, small flags in a plant for National Education Week, Quilts of Honor, and participated in parades on decorated floats. Lake Crystal Unit 294 presented a Quilt of Honor on September 20, 2023 to Jack Rupert. In the photo is his wife, Jane, then Jack, and his guide dog Gazoo.

In each Department Unit Mailing, I reminded members to contact their local schools, home schools, and youth organizations to promote the National Americanism Essay contest. Information was posted on the Americanism Program tri-fold board at Fall Conference and was reported from the stage.

Many units participate in our youth programs which includes the National Americanism Essay contest. One hundred and two participants submitted National Americanism Essays from all over the department. A challenge was put out to have winners in all three places in each category. We almost met that goal with one category only having two winners. Girl Scouts and Junior Activities are the other youth programs that our Units participate in. Some Units sponsor their local Girl Scout Troops. Units promote Americanism with their Junior Activities program.

Some Units participate in American Legion programs also. They include the Oratorical Contest, American Legion Baseball, and Girls Softball. Junior Shooting Sports are becoming popular in Minnesota. Units participate within their local post home and with their Sons of the American Legion squadrons. Many Auxiliary members are also American Legion Riders. Units have presented the Blue Star Banner to those eligible.

Units promoted Americanism in other ways also. Units have Face book pages to promote events, give gift bags for veterans, school borrows POW/MIA table items to teach kids the meaning of the ceremony, individual members display a flag at their homes, send letters to businesses for tattered flags, volunteered at the "Vietnam Wall that Heals", and many more community activities.

The total number of hours volunteered throughout the Department of Minnesota is 14701.5 for the Americanism Program. The monies donated and or spent are \$29978.59.

The Star-Spangled Kids kit was used at our Department Junior Conference. Each Junior member received a packet with all the items. The winners of the National Americanism Essay contest of a local elementary school received a packet also.

Many Units report that flag history and flag etiquette are presented at their local schools. As a member, I present to the six Kindergarten classes at my local elementary school each year. Students are told about the flag, flag history, and how to retire a flag properly. One member taught the Pledge of Allegiance using sign language. Unit members participate in the Flag Retirement ceremony with their local posts. Information on flag etiquette was displayed on a tri-fold board at the Department Fall Conference. Handouts were available for those who wanted to have one.

Many Units, Districts, and our Department have a newsletter/Unit Mailing where information about Americanism is reported on. I submit an article each month, sharing ideas and information about our flag, and special events. Many Districts and our Department have Face book pages to promote Americanism in our communities. Newspapers also promote the American Legion Auxiliary and prints information.

The advancement of the American Legion's Americanism programs is contributed by members, units, and department in many ways. One local school has invited members of the American Legion Family to lead the Pledge of Allegiance every Monday morning at the high school. The American Legion, SAL, and the Auxiliary from two posts are involved with this program. The Oratorical Contest is supported by our members with volunteering to help at the contest. The Department of Minnesota American Legion Baseball is very active. Many members volunteer there also. Girls Softball and Junior Shooting Sports are gaining support with Auxiliary members helping in any way they can.

The Department of Minnesota Americanism Chairman is also a member of the American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State Committee. The chairman is there to ensure that our ALA MN Girls State citizens are aware of what Americanism is all about. An Americanism Essay contest is held each year. All citizens can submit an essay if they choose.

The Department of Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary is very proud of all that we do for Americanism.

Auxiliary Emergency Fund Margaret (Margee) Keller, Chairman

Mission is Service Not Self in Action

An AEF grant can provide temporary assistance to eligible members during a time of financial crisis when no other source of aid is readily available to pay for shelter, basic household utilities and/or for loss of income. Grants may be awarded up to \$3,000 with the intent to help members who have suffered a financial setback and offer a helping hand to assist in reestablishing financial stability. Funding will not be granted to pay for any expenses other than shelter, basic household utilities and/or loss of income. One AEF grant per grantee will be awarded in a 12-month period. The basic criterion for qualification is that the applicant must be a current ALA member, applicant must have maintained annual ALA membership for three consecutive years (the current year) and apply online to National. This will streamline the process. Educating our members is important so go to AEF@ALAforVeterans.org. Applications are now only processed online at www.mnala.org. Go to forms area for the ALA Emergency Fund Application. Hard times can fall upon us at any moment. That is why our American Legion Auxiliary is committed in challenging times.

- The AEF offers many avenues:
 - Promoting awareness of what we have to offer for those in dire need of assistance.
 - Fundraising throughout the year
 - Educating our members and others.
 - Education to our members is offered at many levels.
- And now onto our road for success to bringing our message to fruition:

On our Department level -Involvement of our members is crucial – this includes reaching out to our Auxiliary members, Legionnaire's, The Legacy Riders, and the Sons of Legion – We involve them in our Fall Conference Fundraiser, and they all are very instrumental in making it a success. We offer a Silent Auction, Bake Sale, Grab bags, and a District Challenge. Overall, the Silent Auction was a success. Funds raised were \$ 7,439.51 and we are off to a good start for our new year.

Our ten districts and unit members offer opportunities for the following:

Donating items to our Fall Conference Silent Auction and District Challenge.

- a) Do District Challenge at Fall Fundraiser – prizes given to two top District money raisers.
 - b) Ask each district to provide assistance at the Department Fundraiser – a certificate and a small gift are given to each volunteer as a thank you.
 - c) Other fundraising items shared by my ten District AEF Chairmen from their unit reports: Bingo Sales, Bake sales, “Change for a Change” (canister to collect change), Hot Apple and Cider Bar, District Silent Auctions, catering at a local school to raise monies, serving lunch at Craft Show, Sunflower board, “The Power of the Penny”, garage sale, 50/50 drawings, Lottery ticket arrangement, selling taco's, etc.
 - d) Monies were also given to individuals in their unit – i.e., a veteran in crisis, members dealing with cancer, flooded home, etc.
- As the Department Chair I was able to offer the following to our members:
 - Article in our Mn Legionnaire, article for our Department Unit Guide, and Yearend report
 - Fall Conference – Display board of the newly revised applications, presentation of a power point to conference attendees, and a general handout and the newly revised applications to take home.
 - On a monthly basis I submitted an article for our department monthly mailing: It included the articles such as the following:

- Materials shared by National on our quarterly zoom meeting. A terrific way to share what other states offer. I personally was able to offer a comment or two for these meetings on Our Fall Conference Fundraiser and an article on AEF Fundraising ideas.
- Articles from the newsletters shared by National Chairman Jeanne and Northwestern Chairman Mary.
- Some of the articles I shared were Winter Safety, Preparedness Bingo, and Fundraising ideas, etc.
- Also, the incentive for individuals to send in a donation of \$100 or more directly to National for AEF pin. I also provided a certificate and small gift to individuals who personally donated \$50.00+ to Minnesota AEF.
- Promoted the awards that are being offered by National.
- Shared the updated Leaderboards with our members.
- When receiving the year end reports, many of the members in their individual units shared these articles with their district and unit members.
- Reaching out to our District AEF chair and District Presidents to keep them in the loop and get out the information in a timely manner. Also, sent two power points that they could utilize.
- Sharing some unique projects:
 - Waite Park Unit 428 The Power of a Penny. Making everyone aware that many pennies lead to many dollars that could help someone in need. See picture in separate email.
 - Park Rapids Unit 212 – They encouraged members to donate lottery tickets. They made a large display for our Fall Conference Silent Auction. Prior year we had one with a large bamboo rake. Would be a great raffle item on its own. Always gets Top dollar bids. See picture in separate email.
 - Little Sauk Unit 417 Sell taco's in a bag – quick and easy.
 - Hackensack Unit 202 Unit held a monthly breakfast and gave 50% of tips to AEF.
 - Also, do a monthly 50/50 drawing and 50% goes to AEF.

As of this date, our overall donations total \$ 20,605.51. All of our members should pat themselves on the back for a fantastic job done. But more importantly, without their continued support we would not have a fund like this in our organization to offer support.

This truly has been a rewarding year working with our Department President, Districts, Units, Individual members, the National AEF Officers and our very Northwestern AEF Chairman Mary.

Children & Youth
Brandi Christensen, Chairman

The American Legion Auxiliary members in Minnesota are extremely active in the Children and Youth Program.

This year there was a special project for the Children and Youth programs. As Department chairman I asked units to collect items and bags for activity bags for VA Hospitals in the state. These bags were filled with coloring/ activity books, crayons, markers, pencils, and other activities for kids to do while with their parents/grandparents during appointments. There was almost 500 bags filled plus extra supplies and bags that were given to St. Cloud, Minneapolis, and Fargo VAHCS. There were also activity bags given for children that go through the Armed Forces Servicemen's Center at MSP Airport. Units in Minnesota have hosted and/or helped with community events for families and kids. There have been Halloween events such as parties, Trunk or Treat, Haunted Houses, and also giving out the American Legion Auxiliary Halloween Coloring Book. In the winter they host Christmas parties for children, and breakfasts with Santa. And hand out gifts. During the Easter season they have visits with the Easter bunny and Easter Egg Hunts. They host family friendly bingo games and holiday luncheons for families. They donate monies to other youth oriented organizations in their communities such as Boys Scouts, Girl Scouts, churches, and 4-H.

Auxiliary units in Minnesota are amazing with helping out schools in their communities. Some units donate money for supplies and crafts for classrooms. One unit even donated monies to their local school's music department. Some units donate to booster clubs, scholarships, and prom/graduation activities. Within schools some units work with teachers to put on patriotic coloring contests.

There are units in Minnesota that collect pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. There is a unit in Minnesota that also donates money to St. Jude Hospital and Gillette Children's Hospital.

Minnesota Auxiliary units put on parades. They help with National Family week and National Night Out. There is one unit that holds a "Kids In The Park Games" (which is just games for kids during the town's yearly celebration.) And they help with kids fishing contests.

Some Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary units help local law enforcement and fire departments with child safety. One unit has members that volunteer and help local police show kids about finger printing and help the children with getting their fingerprints done. There are a couple of units that donate to their local fire departments for education materials for children in their communities. A couple units in Minnesota hand out "Who I Am" kits to children. These kits are complete with medical, personal identification, and contact information in case a child gets lost or injured. This was a special project for 2022-2023 Children and Youth Department of Minnesota Chairman.

Minnesota units are very generous with monetary donations when it involves children. There are several units in Minnesota that donate time and money to their local public libraries. A couple of Auxiliary units donate funds to Feed My Starving Children. One Auxiliary unit volunteers and donates money to a program in their community called Hearts And Hands for less fortunate children. During Christmas time there are several units that donate toys or money to "Toys 4 Tots". There even members that volunteer at the maternity ward at their local hospital.

One Auxiliary unit donates money to an after school program that is called “Thumbs Up”. This a program that has mentors for kids that are adult and other peers. The main focus of this program is youth suicide prevention.

Several Good Deed Awards have been handed out to kids and youth groups in Minnesota. One Eagle Scout collected monies for Christmas toys for less fortunate children.

Minnesota also has a unit that has a member that is very active with active military families as she is a military wife herself. She helps with parties for military children and baby showers for moms to be.

A couple of Youth Hero Awards have been handed out as well. One in particular stands out to me. There was teenager that was driving in the car with his family on a major freeway in Minnesota when they witness a horrific accident. A semi truck lost some tires and the tires crashed into another car with 4 young women inside. The car started on fire. The young man and his father helped these young women to safety. Such a heroic act! Another teen helped give CPR to runner that collapsed in a park.

In total as I am writing this in Minnesota the Auxiliary Units alone have donated over \$8000 to the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation.

In Minnesota we have a special camp for children ages 9-13. It is called Legionville. It is a safety patrol camp. This camp concentrates on crosswalk safety, swimming safety, bus safety, first aid and CPR. Each session is a week long course put on by state patrol, DNR, and fire departments. As an American Legion Family we help sponsors children to attend this camp by paying registration fee for each camper. We also donate for upgrades and supplies that the camp might need. As an American Legion Family we have donated over this past year thousands of dollars as well as volunteer time. What was recorded the Auxiliary has donated \$5,772 and 124 hours of time for Legionville.

	Amount Spent or Donations	Volunteer Hours
Youth Hero Awards	100	7
Good Deed Awards	377	106
Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2	25	4
Children & Youth Month	2,732	778
Purple Up for Military Kids	637.90	25
Supported Homeless Veterans Children	0	6
Temporary Financial Assistance	1,550	0
Halloween Safety	7,570	684 1/2
Other Child Safety Events	27,776	463
Missing Children	0	0
D.A.R.E. Drug and Alcohol Prevention	100	0
Youth Suicide Prevention	0	5
American Legion Child Welfare Foundation	1,270.50	5
Legionville	5,772	124
National Family Week	2,370	19
Children Activity Bags for St. Cloud VAMC	3,634.78	2,218
Military Children's Table	100	27 1/2
Boys and Girls Clubs of America	587	420
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors	0	0

Community Service

Wanda Seidler, Chairman

ALA Unit members in the Dept of MN have been busy volunteering their time, talents, and money in their communities. ALA branded clothing was worn. Unit community service reporting was 36%.

Units participated in volunteer and fund-raising activities/events that involved tasty meals.

They purchased, prepped, served, & delivered treats and meals to their Legion Family, to the needy and shut-ins, and for community gatherings. Units participated in numerous fundraising events such as a chili cook off, fish fry, burger night, Hog & Western fests, steak & shrimp dinner, pancake and omelet breakfasts, students in need breakfast, school speech team luncheon with silent auction. Units served BBQs at Legion bingo, community rummage sale meal, lunch bags for police, annual bird watcher's breakfast and lunch, and baked tasty treats for bake sales. Benefit dinners were held; a spaghetti dinner for a member whose home was lost to fire, and for cancer patients. Units provided meals for their Veterans, their Legion Family and communities on patriotic holidays and numerous other events throughout the year such as birthday parties, a going away party, membership dinners, Legion patronage free thank you lunch, and a Kentucky Derby event. They spearheaded food drives with one Unit collecting 800 pounds of food, & delivered meals on wheels.

Unit members volunteered their time, talents and skills in many ways.

Local Veterans were honored with beautifully designed and sewn quilts. Pillowcases, baby hats, baby blankets, and children's pajamas were sewn and donated. Exercise classes for seniors were lead, musical services provided, homemade greeting cards made, and community flowers tended. Members assisted the elderly in writing correspondence, they read to the blind, and played cards with Veterans. Members volunteered to drive the elderly to doctor's appointments, assist them in shopping, running errands, and did housecleaning. One member volunteered to prepare tax returns for the low income and elderly.

Another member created an informational website for their Unit.

Members volunteered and donated to their communities and worked with other organizations.

Unit members donated money and volunteered time at local nursing homes, care center, senior center, pregnancy center, recovery center, women's shelter, humane society, historical society, cemetery board, affordable housing board, local churches, local library, local schools, local hospitals, food shelf, Habitat for Humanity, Salvation Army, Lions club, Red Cross blood drives, cancer walk, fishing derby, supported Wreaths Across America, Honor Flights, Options for Women, Relay for Life, Haven for Heroes, Beyond the Yellow Ribbon, antique car run, MACV golf tournament, local fire departments, and helped with road ditch clean-up. Units were a part of community events like the Spring Bike Fling, Thumbs Up walk/run, and Polar Plunge. A Unit helped package 96 boxes of meal packs which will feed 57 children 1 meal a day for a year for Feed My Starving Children. Units hosted bingo for their local assisted living facilities and Veterans Homes. They made home visits, nursing home visits, Veterans home visits, phone calls, and sent cards to brighten someone's day.

Other community service activities, events, and fundraisers that Units participated in.

A Unit coordinated a tea party with 4 other Units in the surrounding area for a brainstorming session. Units had booths or tables at a vendor's show, craft show, business expo, local county fair, and National Night Out. Garage sales were held with proceeds going to Hospice, youth at the local church, and other charities. Units sponsor pillow cleaning and ham, turkey, purse, and progressive bingo, meat raffle, and wine tasting fundraisers. Members rode in Homecoming, St. Patrick's Day, Moose fest, and Spring Fever

Days parades. Auxiliary members decorated floats, gave out flags and membership applications. A Unit assisted their community in displaying over 700 flags for their Flags of Valor patriotic display during Water Ski Days. A family friendly Extravaganza fundraiser included a bake sale, silent auction, raffle, lunch, and games for adults and children.

Units and individual members collected items and made donations.

Units collected pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House, Hy-Vee receipts, Teals receipts, used books for the local senior center and the Preston Veterans Home, clothes including but not limited to boots, socks, gloves, and hats for donation to the needy. They saved cancelled postage stamps, and personal care items for Veterans. A Unit donated a gas card to help with medical expenses. Units participated in recycling programs. Poppies were distributed to businesses and residents.

Holidays and special community activities and events that Units participated in.

*National Vietnam War Veterans Day was observed by a Unit by serving a meal to all Veterans.

*During the Easter season a Unit helped with a church's Lenten meal to aid homeless Veterans. Units assisted with community meals, Easter raffles, Easter egg hunts, and parties for children.

*Memorial Day was observed with Units serving on the Honor Guard, assisting in Memorial Day programs and services, helping decorate cemeteries, and serving community meals. Two members of a Unit decorated over 100 forgotten graves with flower bouquets in 5 cemeteries.

*Communities celebrated the 4th of July with festivities including parade participation with floats, distributing flags to the public, marching as Honor Guard members, and community dinners. *National Night Out involved games, treats, and free patriotic items available to the children.

*9/11 National Day of Service was observed at Unit meetings and in the community. Specifically, one Unit supervised packing welcome home bins for the MN Assistance Council for Veterans. *Halloween was celebrated with community parties and treat bags handed out. A Unit made 200 popcorn balls with local nursing home residents that they could hand out to trick or treaters at the home. Another Unit served a free meal to kids trick or treating with adults paying a small charge.

*National Make a Difference Day was observed by a Unit donating hats, mittens, and toothbrushes. *On Veterans Day Units served meals to their Veterans and communities. Units also participated in Veterans Day programs at schools, nursing homes, and Veterans Homes. Units made Veterans Day displays for businesses in their communities. A Unit gave all their Veterans a Challenge Coin and awarded a plaque to a Veteran who was retiring from over 35 years of service on the Honor Guard.

*Christmas season was celebrated with American Legion Family potluck dinners, Christmas bingo lunch, and parties to include Santa, candy, and apples for the kids. Lights in the Pines was celebrated with members collecting tickets, welcoming military families, working the food booth, and assisting with photos with Mr. & Mrs. Claus. For Share the Spirit gifts and food were distributed to nursing homes and group home residents. Hometown Holiday fundraiser included a bake sale, silent auction, lunch, and live music to support Veterans, active-duty military and their families. Veterans received baskets of fruit and candy, a holiday meal was delivered to a family, 40 Christmas jingle bags were made, 10 care packages for troops were packaged, 70 holiday treat bags were prepared and delivered to the elderly and needy, monetary donations were made to a thrift store for needy families and for toys, trees were decorated, and members volunteered as bell ringers.

Constitution, By-Laws, & Standing Rules
Becky Nelson, Chairman

It's important to remember the Nature of Our Organization. The American Legion Auxiliary is a Civilian Organization of Women & Men. Each Member Shall perform their full Duty as a Citizen according to their Consciences, Understanding and According to the Constitution of the United States of America.

As it's been Said before by Many officers, Chairperson, and Members. Remember to Update your Constitution, By-Laws, and Standing Rules yearly. Unit Guides and a Copy of their District, Department, and National Constitution, By-Laws and Standing Rules are Available when Updating your Own Documents. The National Website is also a good source of information when doing these.

I'm Sorry to Say, the Annual Reports were Very Poor this Year. One unit said they Read Roberts Rules of Order to better Understand and be Knowledgeable about issues. Members Understand Gavel Meaning and Proper Protocol is Held at Each Meeting.

Another Unit did Many Changes to their wording, taking she out and Replacing with the Proper Wording.

As Someone Said,

Members are asked to Familiarize themselves with Governing Documents which Promote the Foundation and Structure necessary to Govern our Organization, getting out Procedures, Rules, Policies and Protocol.

A Quote from one Member; Without a Strong Foundation, A House could Develop Cracks .

Education
Lorinda Kies, Chairman

The Department of Minnesota Units are very dedicated to the Education Program and making sure our students have what they need to thrive. The Department of Minnesota has 400 units in our 10 Districts, with 99 units reporting. The Department Presidents theme "Dancing into the Hearts of Veterans" was honored in many ways by our Units and members.

The Give 10 to Education units worked very hard this year 140 schools benefited from this program with donations of \$10,559 total includes supplies and money donations.

American Education Week is held in November the units show their appreciation to all the individuals that support our children. Units reported volunteering 531 hours to 197 schools with donations totaling \$9,520. All the units include not only the teachers but also bus drivers, staff, custodians, and cooks. The units did many different things from donating apples, candy, chips, hot chocolate, coffee and one unit did a luncheon so all the personnel could relax together. One unit donated 1,400 granola bars along with notes of thanks.

Veterans in the classroom units provided 63 volunteer hours to 12 schools with \$100.00 being donated. Along with Veterans in the Classroom many units supported Veterans pursuing higher education. One unit had 2 members attend a Veterans Resources fair, another unit sent gift cards to 3 local colleges for veterans needs, one unit made a \$500 donation to one of our community colleges to be put in the veterans fund. One unit held a panel discussion with their local veterans so students could ask them questions about why they joined, how they picked their branch of service and benefits and difficulties they had while in the service.

One program that we encouraged Units to participate in was BoxTops, they have made this an easier option. Instead of collecting and storing items the Units download the app to their phones and just scan in their receipt and the school of their choice receives the money right away. Forty (40) schools benefited and \$3,320 was netted for the schools.

Here are some of the things units are doing for the educations program:

- Eighteen veterans from one post when to three schools and 3 nursing homes on Veterans Day. One unit observed veterans day with a school wide assembly where the veterans were pinned with a flower, the band played, the kindergarten led the Pledge of Allegiance, along with two quilts of valor were presented.
- The units used very different ways of collecting school supplies. One group donated 63 3-ring binders, 12 packages of notebook paper, 40 pens. We had a unit send a letter to all members in August to bring school supplies to their September meeting.
- One unit held a coloring contest for grades 1-4, first graders colored and American Bald Eagle and learned that it is an American symbol, 2nd graders colored the American Flag and learned Flag Etiquette, 3rd graders colored the Statue of Liberty, 4th graders colored Mount Rushmore and learned all about their history.
- We have one Unit that decided this year to focus the "Food Pantry" at two or the local high schools. Their members feel that without a full stomach and warm clothes, children have a hard time learning. They provide grab and go nutritious food items that are easily stored in school pantries, in the winter months they add warm clothes like caps, mitten, and socks.

The Department of Minnesota units sent in 11 applications for the Department Scholarship. Minnesota awards eight (8) \$1,000 scholarships. Units donated \$ 5,825 to the Department Scholarship fund.

With such qualified applicants, it was a challenge to determine who the recipients were, out of the eleven we had 3 that were disqualified.

Here are the winners of the Department of Minnesota winners:

- ❖ Sydney Aberle of Moorhead
- ❖ Charity Kunselman of Slayton
- ❖ Samantha Bogen of Owatonna
- ❖ Rylie Fredrickson of Middle River
- ❖ Dylan Brenny of Monticello
- ❖ Patrick Douglas of Aurora
- ❖ Sydney Mertens of Redwood Falls
- ❖ Madisyn Mertens of Redwood Falls

We received 20 Children of Warriors applications, four (4) Spirit of Youth applications and five (5) Non-Traditional Student. They all are very qualified, and each wrote a wonderful essay and even brought me to tears a couple of times, which made the decision on who to forward very difficult. Of the three I sent in we had two scholarships awarded.

Spirit of Youth Scholarship gave out \$ 5,000 winner per Division and a \$ 1,000 winner per state. Minnesota winner of \$ 1,000

- ❖ Brooklyn Hofer of Cold Spring her Veteran was her Great Grandfather

Children of Warriors National Presidents Scholarship of \$ 5,000. Minnesota winner of \$ 5,000

- ❖ Jerome Barbour IV of Lakeville his Veteran is his father who is still serving in the US Army

Unfortunately, our submission for the Non-Traditional Scholarship was not chosen. Part of the Education Chairman's responsibility was to read all the applications each one of the applicants was deserving of winning each essay was moving.

In addition to our Department Scholarships, the units in Minnesota provide local scholarships to the tune of \$ 25,764.

American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota units provide many things for our schools. The many volunteer hours are gladly shared with our children to improve their education. We are "Dancing into the Hearts of Veterans" by our involvement with our schools.

It has been a wonderful experience to serve this year as department education chairman. It has been a pleasure to read all the annual reports to learn what the units are doing for our children.

Minnesota Girls State
Linda Kelly, Chairman

The American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State was held in June, and it was great. We had 177 young juniors as our Citizens. They were kept very busy all week. They learned about our governmental elections, participating in city, county, and state elections. They wrote state and Federal bills for issues that were important to them. They learned about folding the flag and witnessed a Flag Retirement Ceremony. Representatives from all three branches of our government spoke to citizens, including Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flannagan.

Toluca Tellaeche Ramirez was elected as the Governor of Girls State, and Molly Petrowitz, her running mate, was elected Lt. Governor.

The following citizens were elected to Constitutional Offices:

Secretary of State: Harriet Johnson

State Auditor: Gabriella Symens-Otero

Attorney General: Alexandra Fiest

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court: Emma O'Donnell

Supreme Court Justices: Ella Hunkins and Anna Rains

The inauguration was held on Thursday night, with many family members enjoying the night.

The week-long election process peaked with their trip to our State Capitol. They started out the day by singing several songs including the Girls State Song in the Rotunda of the Capitol. Part of the group moved on to debate their bills on the floor of the Senate and House of Representative. Keeley Runge served as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and Lillie Violet served as the President of the Senate.

Others moved to the courtrooms in the Judicial Building to conduct their defense or offense for their mock trial. They also had the opportunity to tour the Capitol. These experiences will stay with them as they step forward into their adult life.

Although Governor Walz was not at the Capitol on Friday, he invited the Girls State Governor and Lt. Governor to visit his office and sit behind the Governor's desk. It was quite an honor.

Many participated in our Girls State Choir and talent show on Friday night. Saturday morning found the citizens packing up and saying good-bye to their new friends. Their governor gave her farewell speech at the final assembly. They sang the Girls State Song for the last time and even requested to sing "America, America" one more time.

It was announced that Taylor Bierwerth and Makena Ries will represent Minnesota at Girls Nation. They will travel to Washington D.C. for a week in July.

Our committee and staff's hope is that this will always be a memorable week for these young people. We hope they have met long-life friends and take away the workings of our State and Federal elections.

Thank you to all units and posts that have participated in sponsoring these young people. Thank you to the Gambling Committees of three posts that donated to our program.

These Girls State Citizens are our future parents, politicians, leaders, doctors, nurses, lawyers, judges, and most important they are our future voters. We wish them all well in their future endeavors.

History ***Renee Suess, Historian***

The Department of Minnesota has had a busy administrative year under the leadership of Sharon Cross, our Department President. We began our administrative year with a Workshop in August to brainstorm ideas for the year. President Sharon's theme is "*Be the One to Dance into the Hearts of Veterans!*"

We also had a kick off event for our Department Junior group. This is an annual event held on the first weekend in August and Legionville in Brainerd Minnesota.

During this weekend, there were 26 juniors that participated in various activities that included planting poppies, games and also learning about the Junior project for the year. The Department Junior Auxiliary Project this year is to raise money to sponsor a service dog through the Believet, Canine Service Partners.

The Department of Minnesota held our first Department Membership Rally of the 2023-2024 administrative year, known as the Harvest Rally on September 9th at Legionville in Brainerd, MN. Our membership chairman, Jenny Nelson shared the theme for membership which is "*Cruising the Seas for Members*". Each district has an island and they are cruising the various islands to get more members. Our Department Vice Presidents, Judy Ackerman and Robin Dorf are in charge of two different teams, odd and even districts. The various attendees were asked to wear vacation attire or "tropical" outfits.

On October 26-28, our Department hosted our annual Fall Conference at the St. Cloud River's Edge Convention Center. Chairman were asked to share a five minute presentation for their programs and also share a Tri Fold board about their program with ideas. We had a wonderful few days together learning about new ideas to add to our programs. We also were lucky to have the Northwestern Division Vice President, Karen Susag, from the Department of Montana visiting. She was in attendance for the three day conferences. And she participated in the various events of the weekend including the Friday evening, Grand March and speaking to conference attendees on Saturday. She shared information on our National President's project, Be The One. Our Children and Youth Chairman, Brandi Christensen asked units to bring various activities and toys to be added to bags for the various Veterans Homes and 2 VA Hospitals. Members answered this donation request and as a department we donated over 400 activity bags.

In November, we had a few members attend two separate divisional training meetings in the Central and Eastern Divisions. They were able to help lead events at both the Mission Trainings and Junior Meetings that were held on November 4, 2023. Our Leadership chairman, Karla Otterness held the first Leadership Workshop in Kimball, MN on November 18, 2023. They had over 30 members in attendance.

On December 9, 2023, the Pearl Harbor Rally was hosted by Painesville Post 271. The Riders organized this event and Jody Hassing was the emcee. The odds and even districts competed to see who brought in more membership. At the rally, we had a Junior member from the 4th district, Bree England share about raising money and donating toys to Toys for Tots.

All districts held a Mid Winter gathering in their districts in the months of January and February. Department President Sharon was able to attend all the district Mid Winters. This was also an opportunity for candidates for Department office to visit with members at these events as well. On February 3, 2024, the Sweetheart Membership Rally was organized by the American Legion Auxiliary. This rally was hosted by the Forest Lake Post 225. Those in attendance at this rally got to also hear from American Legion Legislative Chairman, Kristy Janigo. She shared about the legislative issues that would be presented this year at the state capital and talked about veterans issues that are of importance in our state.

The Northwestern Divisional meeting was held in Lincoln, NE on February 3, 2024. This event had several members from MN representing our Department. We had a few members help with the successful running of the Mission Training and Junior meeting that day. We had 16 senior members represented at the Mission Training. And at the Junior Meeting we had 9 junior members participate. We also had Annastatia Donnelly lead the Junior Meeting for the Northwestern Division as she served this year as the Honorary Northwestern Divisional Vice President.

The Oratorical Contest was held on February 24, 2024 at Anoka Post 102. Elijah Cox won the Minnesota American Legion Oratorical Contest for the Department of Minnesota. He was sponsored by the Walker Post 134 and won the 6th District competition to advance to state. The second-place winner was Abigail Erpelding. She was representing Kasson Post 333 and the 1st District.

And the 3rd place winner was Caleb Robrahn. He was representing Le Center Post 108 and the 3rd District.

The Appreciation Membership Rally was organized by the American Legion and held at Montgomery Post 79 on March 2, 2024. Those in attendance also got to meet and hear a motivating message from National Vice Commander, Raymond Vail. He spoke about the importance of our membership.

In April, our Department Juniors gathered in the 9th District at Detroit Lake American Legion Post for the Department Junior Conference. Honorary Department Junior President, Taylor McElroy led the juniors in this business meeting. There were 45 juniors representing the districts at this conference. They elected Tyrianna Richards as their incoming Honorary Department Junior President.

On April 17th, 2024, the American Legion Family joined in supporting Veterans Issues at the Annual Veteran's Day on the Hill event. Members met at the Armory for lunch and heard from many speakers about current veterans' issues. They were honored to have National Commander Daniel Seehafer speak about the Be The One Campaign. Members also walked to the capital to raise awareness for veterans' issues. They also were honored to have Governor Tim Walz speak inside the Rotunda area of the State Capital.

Districts hosted their Conventions in the months of May and June. This was a time to celebrate all the accomplishments of the 2023-2024 administrative year. They also elected new leadership for 2024-2025.

Thank you to the 98 units that shared their unit histories. This information created a strong representation of all the wonderful work in the various programs of the auxiliary that are happening in our state. We have so much to be proud of as an auxiliary group. Fulfilling the mission of service not self.

Junior Activities **Sally Strasser, Chairman**

This has been a very busy year in Minnesota this year. So many great things have been done by our Junior members of all ages. The Juniors were led this year by our Department Honorary Junior President Taylor McElroy.

Taylor's project was BelieveIt and her theme this year was "A comrade for Our Veterans." Her symbol was a camouflaged paw print. She had sponsored a dog who is receiving training to assist veterans. She received donations from the Junior members throughout the state and also from others in the American Legion Family.

The year started in August with our Annual Junior Fun Weekend which was held at Legionville. This is where Juniors from all over Minnesota come to meet new friends and rekindle old friendships. The community service project was all of the juniors and chaperones assisting by weeding the gardens, planting poppy seeds and planting other plants to spruce up the main entrance. There was also flag folding taught, flag raised every morning and lowered and folded at night. The Junior members led the ceremonies. There were 25 girls plus chaperones.

There are Juniors all over Minnesota. From as far up as Argyle all the way south to Okabena many in small towns and also the larger cities. Over this last year the Juniors have had total volunteer hours of 2066 and within that number 941 hours were in direct service to Veterans.

They did many things to assist Auxiliary members this year. Auxiliary members encouraged the Juniors in 6 out of the 10 Districts to participate in the Unit meetings, some of the girls were able to attend the meetings. At the Unit level the Juniors helped with serving monthly dinners and breakfasts and other fundraisers that the units were having. They helped with distributing poppies for poppy day and at the Memorial Day programs in their communities. Juniors helped place flags at the cemeterys and helped with handing out poppies at the Memorial Day programs. They also assisted with annual flag retirement ceremonies, helped make comfort boxes and made treats for Veterans at Fargo VA. Some Juniors cleaned ditches.

Boxed items for soldiers and gave gifts and food items to military families. For Veterans they also helped serve a banquet for Veterans in the Veterans Home. They also participated in "Wreaths Across America" program by singing and we all know that singing came bring change.

The units that do not have an organized Junior group are continuing to attempt to recruit new members and to become organized. The Juniors if they had an organized group met monthly and held fund raisers for the Honorary District presidents respectively and Department Junior Presidents project BelieveIt. Also, there were donations made to Ark Animal organization, St Jude's Children Hospital, for fire victims, toys for Eagles Healing Nest, Hastings. The 6th district presidents project was the Auxiliary Emergency Fund, and they also raised \$1835.00 dollars for a stand down and they volunteered at the stand down in St Cloud where they donated winter coats, hats and gloves. Donations were made to the Creative Arts. There were also donations made to Education and Children of Warriors. 1 Junior is a Girl Scout, and she donated cookies to a local food shelf and also sent them to those that are deployed. Donations were also made to the Honor flight programs and to Veterans Homes.

The Juniors all around the state participated in Veterans and Memorial Day programs, cards were made and delivered to veterans in the Veterans Home throughout the whole state. While other Juniors

visited Veterans in the Homes, colored pictures and prayed with them when asked. They marched in community parades and the Winter Carnival Parade. In the parades they passed out candy and flags. There was participation by juniors in the American Essay contest. Some juniors also helped senior members to make poppies and part of which is putting on the tags also. Carrying flags during the National Anthem. Made and delivered meals to veterans in their homes. Activity bags were made for children attending appointments with Veterans at the St. Cloud VA. Meals were packed at Feed My Starving Children, filling dirty socks for Veterans at the VA Hospital. Flower gardens were maintained in many communities. E-cards were sent to deployed service members on Christmas and Valentines Day. Did cancer walks, jump rope for heart and adopt a highway. For American Education Week the juniors made treat bags and cookies and took them to area schools for the teachers and support staff.

For Americanism month the Juniors participated in the Midwinter program. They reminded those present at the meeting of the many flag etiquette rules. Explained why the colors of the flag are red, white and blue, and the meaning of the colors. They also explained the meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance.

We had Junior members and their chaperones participate in the Northwestern Division Meeting.

There were District conferences held throughout the state and during these conferences they also held poppy contests. They also did nominations for new officers and they had guest speakers.

A new Veterans Home was opened in Montevideo where the Juniors participated in gathering craft supplies and did crafts with the veterans at that home.

The patch program is worked throughout the state. The patches are available at different stages for the different ages of the Junior member. It was reported that 22 patches were earned throughout the State. There are some units that have just started working on patches this year.

At Department Junior conference we had 8 Juniors graduate to Senior members along with other units who also held graduations.

1 unit reported that they started a scholarship program for their graduating Junior members but they had specific requirements to apply and one girl did receive the award.

Junior fun days were held in respective Districts throughout the state many juniors attended them where they get to meet others in their district. Play games, do crafts, make poppies and just get to know one another.

Some Juniors went to National Convention in North Carolina and had the honor to be given certificates on the National SAL stage for the 5 Star Program.

April 12th and 13th was the Department Junior Conference which was held in the 9th District in Detroit Lakes. There were 43 Juniors in attendance along with Senior members. On Friday evening they had some crafts planned and a time to visit and on Saturday morning the meeting started. Our Honorary Junior President Taylor lead the conference and talked about her project for the year. Nominations were made for officers for the 2024-2025 year and there was no one that sent in an endorsement for Honorary 2nd Vice. We had 2 nominations off the floor, and they all got the experience of voting.

The Juniors are the future of the Auxiliary and of our local communities and maybe even of our state and nation one day. Let the Senior members continue to be there for them to mentor and assist with teaching them our programs. Respect for others, our flag and how important these are in our lives and the lives of our military families.

Leadership **Karla Otterness, Chairman**

Leadership is.... an amazing program of the American Legion Auxiliary. Where else do you see members overcoming all educational levels, diversity issues and motivational skills to work our programs for the better good of our military, veterans, and communities. Leadership is... Was the tag line used by the Department of Minnesota, leadership chairman.

Minnesota has 400 units and about 106 units sent in their reports to our district chairman. Minnesota is divided up into 10 districts and I had 8 districts that reported the outcome of their units.

Leadership is Communication of The Department of Minnesota leadership program had 8 articles in the unit mailings. In these mailings, there was a monthly Golden Rule of Leadership shared with our members. It was reported that several units read these articles at unit meetings. A few examples of these titles were: Collaboration, Vision and Plan, Keep Learning, Give Credit, and Prepare Future Leaders. Other devices used by Department, District and Unit leaders to get the messages out were. Power points, trifold boards, newsletters, phone calls, emails, photos, newspaper articles, Facebook, Twitter known as X now, and snapchat. I would like to give a shout out to Carol Kottom our Northwestern Division Chair and our National Chair Linda Tome, they did an outstanding job at making everyone feel part of a team. They kept the Department Chairmen informed and up to date on events at their quarterly zoom meetings, and their email newsletters.

Leadership Is... There are no short cuts to success. Our Minnesota leadership chairmen are awesome, they gave 110% of them selves to create a program that everyone can participate in. We had Poppy workshops, new member groups that met outside their meeting time to explain procedures. Motivational speaker taught one group about laughter at our Auxiliary District Birthday Party.

Leadership is... Continuing our personal education. Two department leadership classes were held. First was titled: Developing Tomorrows Leaders... Today. We had 38 members attend, 4 guest speakers, prizes were given out randomly, in a Letis Make a Deal game. We provided hands on learning, role play, humor. The second class was called "POPPYPALOOSA" we learned the art of making poppies, their history, we read the "Poppy Lady" book and had wonderful snacks provided by our members. Other ways we brought education to our members are, the Department Convention, workshop day, Fall Convention, where chairmen are asked to do a power point about their chairmanship, membership rallies and their guest speakers. All ten districts held their own midwinter education program. One district had a special presentation about the Yellow Balloon campaign of kindness. (**Animated Short: Kindness "Sparks Joy" By HollyHatam**) it talked about kindness and how one act can change a person's day. Yellow balloons were given out. At least 14 membership rallies or special gatherings were held though out the 8 districts that reported. The National American Legion Auxiliary hosted Mission Training across the United States. Minnesota had 16 members that traveled to Nebraska for Mission Training. We also had 9 juniors that attended. There was 1 person that attended the Las Vegas Mission training from Minnesota. 7 units reporting had members take the academy classes from national.

Leadership is... Giving Credit. For Unit Member of the Year, we had 8 applications. From there it was a very hard decision to pick one individual to represent the Department of Minnesota. Units recognized their members hard work by giving out certificates/ plaques at special meetings. Small gifts to members who go above and beyond. Verbal praise in front of large groups. Newspaper recognition. Even paying membership for an award for outstanding service. These little tokens of appreciation go a long way in getting volunteers for the next year.

Leadership is... Preparing Future leaders is probably the most difficult for current leaders, to know that sometime soon we will be replaced, and their legacy forgotten or changed. This prevents some from letting another leader come forward. Our Units have created a mentoring program. Having a contact person for a new member. Having greeters at the door for anyone who might be new and have a question. Using Past Presidents as mentors gives knowledge to new members and provided a purpose for past presidents to feel needed.

Leadership is a wonderful program that allows members the challenges of creating a program that is informative, humorous, and motivates our members to do more, and grow more.

John Quincy Adams once said "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."

Legislation

Robin Dorf, Chairman

The members of the Department of Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) have been hard at work advocating for our veterans and the American Legion Legislative agenda this year.

Members were kept informed through monthly unit mailings, social media posts, and an article in the Minnesota Legionnaire. Resource information shared with members included the ALA Legislative Advocacy Guide, American Legion Legislative website, American Legion Legislative Action Center, Minnesota Commanders Task Force (CTF) and Minnesota Legion priorities, and information available on the ALA website.

At our Fall conference members were provided a legislative trifold and copies of the ALA Legislative Advocacy Guide to take back to their units. A report was given on the American Legion legislative priorities for the year and what we as the auxiliary can do to support these.

The American Legion Auxiliary Department Legislation Chairman attends and participates in monthly meetings with the Minnesota CTF. Members include the commanders of the nine chartered veteran service organizations in Minnesota. They collaborate on the needs of our veterans throughout Minnesota and bring concerns to our state leaders. The CTF also meets quarterly with the governor of Minnesota. By attending these meetings, we bring awareness to the CTF about the American Legion Auxiliary and allows the chairman up to date information on the legislative priorities to share with members. The CTF and Minnesota Legion priorities were shared with members through monthly unit mailings.

The Department of Minnesota had three auxiliary members attend the 64th American Legion Annual Washington Conference held in February. They shared their experience through one of our unit mailings to members.

Minnesota veterans and their supporters, from every corner of the state, came together to march to the State Capitol in April for the Veterans Day on the Hill. The event at the Armory, sponsored by Disabled American Veterans (DAV), started with lunch and speakers. The event quickly became a standing room only as there was an estimated 900-1000 people in attendance. After the speakers at the Armory, we gathered by the Veterans Service building and marched together to the State Capitol. The rotunda, and all three levels, were filled. You could feel the electricity in the room of everyone gathering for the same purpose and mission of our veterans.

Members reported supporting the primary elections this year by being judges and providing support through snacks and meals to those working. They reminder members to vote through postings at their posts and in their unit newsletters.

Members contacted their local and state representatives this year through phone, emails, letters, texts, and in person. Units hosted get to know your representative open houses for community members. Information was shared to fill out congressional contact report forms for any meetings held.

Many units highlighted the legislation program in January by sharing information with members and inviting local representatives to their monthly meeting.

The members of the Department of MN ALA continue to advocate for our veterans to enhance their lives and our communities.

Membership
Jenny Nelson, Chairman

It has been a year of Cruising the Sea for Members. I tried to take a different approach to finding those members. Sometimes we need to step out of our comfort zone, be brave and talk to strangers! That is what we do when we travel. No matter where we are, there are qualified potential members.

First, I want to thank the 10 District Membership Chairmen. They have worked hard to encourage the Units to get out there and find those members. I also want to thank all the Unit Membership Chairmen for encouraging their members to continue to reach out. And finally, to all of you awesome members who continue to find those members. It sure takes a village to work together to grow our organization.

Most of the Membership Chairmen that I have talked to have the same challenges. Older members are ageing out, some do not like meetings, and the young people are not interested. We need to make ourselves the new game in town on a regular basis. That means, listen and try new ideas and don't be stuck in "the way we have always done it" The key is to keep trying and do not let our ship sink!

Currently, we are not close to our National Goal. Our Northwestern Division is in 5th place with 81.72%. Minnesota's total membership is 24,012. Our goal is 29,370. We are at 81.76%. Minnesota's last year in 2023 membership was 25,310. Currently in 2024, we have 24,012 members. That is a difference of 1,298 members from last year. I am hopeful that we can rise above this trend. We can do this!

To date, 18 Units are at 100%. 72 Units are at 90-99.99%. 8 Units achieved 100% before 1/31/2024. We have 14 units in Minnesota that are above 100%. That helps all of us! 6 Units recruited 3+ New Juniors! 3 members recruited at least 10 new members!

Sadly, 449 members passed away this year. Great job to you all for your hard work and determination!!!

It is always fun to have the Odd and Even Teams competition with the First and Second Vice Presidents! The competition was very close with the Evens Team gaining the most members for the year. Congratulations!

Thank you for the opportunity to be Department Membership Chairman for 2023-2024. I have enjoyed meeting people from all over Minnesota at the Membership Rallies and loved the opportunity to go on the National President Tour. I really learned a lot!

Please encourage and mentor to your next Department Membership Chairman. This is a continuous learning experience and there is more to this chairmanship than to motivate others. Please support and help her have a clear expectation of each of her duties as Membership Chairman. Teach, help and guide her as she prepares and heads up Membership events. I wish her success and encourage her to have fun while she is doing it!

National Security
Carol Kottom, Chairman

Minnesota Units have excelled working with National Security in 2023-2024. We had two Districts (24 Units) that did not submit a yearend report. There is a total of 400 Units in Minnesota within ten Districts. The overall Unit reporting was low this year and there is still some confusion over what falls under National Security and what falls under Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation.

Although there are not as many military bases as a lot of other Departments have, we have had 3 districts involved with Family Readiness Groups.

Multiple Units have donated to or volunteered at YWCA Food Groups and USOs. Our members have both sewn quilts and deliver them to our veterans through Quilts of Valor. There are volunteers helping to take care of people as called upon. Although we had several leads, to the best of my knowledge, none of our Units submitted a Salute to Servicemembers Award application. There are 1,566 POW/MIAs in Minnesota according to Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency. Our members rely on DPAA to find out who is missing and where their home town was. The majority of the Units who are within a Post Home have a Missing Man Table in their facility, at the very least, for special dinners. A lot of them have stated the tables are always there. One of our units has a "Traveling POW/MIA setting" for the County Fair Veterans Program which is set up at the County Fair.

Seven of the eight Districts have reported Units who participate in the "Be The One" activities. Legion.Org, the National Legion website, has offered a lot of information about how to help a veteran or service member in crisis and our members have carried that learning forward. Plus, the Academy class they offered was very informative and watched by members.

Minnesota is a RED state on Fridays to remember our military who are currently deployed. Many asked what RED stands for and we are more than prepared to explain it to them.

Emergency Readiness is still a concern of the American Legion Auxiliary. They are prepared with a "ready to go" bag in case of an emergency. Units are supporting Red Cross in multiple ways including financial and blood donations.

Units are always ready to gift our local first responders who do so much for our communities. They keep us safe and take good care of us medically. Several units take them snacks.

Holiday Gift Cards, Care Packages (including one with pocket flags), and Guide Post Magazine Subscriptions are all gifted to our military and their families. One Unit helps with a family event for soldiers at Camp Ripley near Brainard, MN.

Minneapolis Airport houses the "Armed Forces Service Center". The [Armed Forces Service Center](#) is an "all free" stop for traveling members of the U.S. Armed Forces, Reservists, National Guard, Medal of Honor recipients, Purple Heart recipients, and their dependents. The center also serves active-duty Department of Defense employees, U.S. Public Health Service personnel, and currently, members of allied nations in a travel status. A dedicated volunteer staff operates the Armed Forces Service Center around the clock, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

The Armed Forces Service Center is unique to Minnesota. It is not affiliated with the USO or with the Metropolitan Airports Commission. Rather, the one-of-a-kind, non-profit facility relies on various veterans organizations and their auxiliaries, private businesses and individuals for funding. The Minnesota Legion Family readily supports the needs of the Armed Forces Service Center.

Your local VSO (Veterans Service Officer) will give you ideas on what help is needed in your area and where.

PTSD Coach and Family coach information was shared by several units at their meetings. It was discussed and posted at their Post Home.

Some of our units reported they belong to the "Beyond the Yellow Ribbon" group. Minnesota's Beyond the Yellow Ribbon program began with a vision to synchronize community resources in support of service members and military families. The mission of Beyond the Yellow Ribbon is to establish and sustain a comprehensive community and corporate support network that connects and coordinates agencies, organizations, and resources to meet the needs of Minnesota's military veterans, service members, and families in all military branches. This group is part of the Veterans Council in various communities. They team together with The American Legion Family, DAV and VFW for military & veterans' holidays to provide a successful event for all.

Have you ever seen a red, white and blue graduation cord? Do you know why a student would wear one? Simple. That student is enlisted in the military and will be leaving shortly after graduation. You can find the cords online at a few businesses. Check with your school, as some of our Units did, and see if you can present the cords to those students.

One of our units presented gifts to their "Blue Star" families with Christmas stockings. Some furnished them with banners for their windows.

Carol Kottom
Department of MN, American Legion Auxiliary
National Security Chairman

Awards:

Lonergan – no entries

Dorothy Pearl civil Defense – no entries

Military Support – Detroit Lakes #15 Diane Hayes, Chairman

National Security Program Award – Faribault #43 Chairman Karen Rasmussen. This report was forwarded to National.

President Award of Excellence - Will go to Faribault #43 Karen Rasmussen

Past Presidents Parley
Donna Barbknecht, Chairman

This year your Past Presidents Parleys, have all been very productive. Unfortunately, there were no new Parleys created, that I have been made aware of. Thus, eliminating my challenge to District Presidents to establish them in their Districts. However, as I stated those that ARE organized did a very good job.

There were 8 units that have applied for the Kienholz Walker Plaque. To apply for this plaque / Dept Award a Unit must supply a narrative with pictures. As I stated 8 units did just that. It was a very difficult call to make only one deserving of this plaque. All other units that reported did a fantastic job, such as holding meetings, going over their standing rules, collecting dues, as well as some inflicted a fine if the traditional signage was not worn. Some of the Parleys are to the point!!!!

Along with all of that they have recognized female veterans, with holiday cards, written articles for Women's History month that was published in their local newspaper. Maintain white crosses for the Memorial Day program, works a Bloodmobile site, attends Veterans funerals and plays taps, one unit offers a \$750.00 scholarship to a recipient that has a Veteran or a family member of a Veteran within their local community.

First responders have been recognized with muffins, Honor female veterans with an honor program which consists of 5' banner with that female's photo on it name and rank displayed for six months Veterans Day to Memorial Day on a highway thru their town. This year's honoree will be their fourth female Veteran.

One unit helps with their town celebration and National Night Out with games and coloring pages for the children in attendance. One other Unit sponsors a Past Presidents Scholarship of \$500.00 to a son, daughter, grandchild of a member of their Unit. Winter clothing has been bought for children for two elementary schools in their area. Plus, many donations to local food shelves. Fire Depts, Police Depts, Sherriff Depts, and EMT's, have also been honored by these fantastic Past Pres Parleys.

I would certainly be remiss if I did not mention the countless donations to the Past President Parleys Health Care Scholarship. Thank you all for those. I had a team of three dedicated Past Presidents go over the two applications for that scholarship.

Poppy
Marsha Bible, Chairman

This year the Department of Minnesota members stepped out of their comfort zone to make sure that our poppy program survived and will continue to prosper in future years. Our department realized that the death of one of our key poppy makers the previous year left a large gap in our poppy inventory and the immediate need to put out an SOS for poppy makers department wide.

Our department of 400 units with over 24,000 members considered the poppy program a high priority. Reports were received from 7 of our 10 districts so the numbers reported do not show the full accounting of the impact this program has made. Approximately 10% of our units reported. I can only imagine what our report would look like if every unit reported. Of the units reporting, 364 large poppies and 83,475 small poppies were purchased by units to use for their poppy program. The majority of those reporting did not show an increase in revenue. 480 poppy cards were displayed in businesses and their American Legion posts. Three units reported having Little Miss Poppy but did not indicate if they were going to have them enter into national competition. Only 24 poppy posters were reported. Total donations to the poppy program were \$225,239.15! The amount raised definitely shows what we can do when members of the entire American Legion family in our department help in poppy distribution throughout our state.

Minnesota units promoted the poppy program in so many ways. Units continue to use the poppy throughout the year by making corsages, centerpieces, wreaths and lots of other creative displays. It is amazing how our members found so many ways to promote the poppy. One unit put a poppy display in their Legion window incorporating the "I Be The One" theme. Units wrote articles and letters to the editor about the history of the poppy and how their unit promoted it in their community. Many units send letters with a poppy enclosed to their entire American Legion family. One unit set up a display of the history of WWI and included the story of the poppy so guests of their posts could see it.

Units distributed poppy coloring books to children in their schools and one unit provided some to their public library for the children's corner. Units included youth groups including scouts, DECA students, Junior Rotary members and their Girls State citizens in poppy distribution and poppy making. They also invited their local schools to participate in our poppy poster contest and poppy coloring contests for the younger members.

The DECA group that one unit supports offered to make the poppy program their program of choice and asked for poppy donations at 2 high school sporting events. 29 DECA students raised \$1,877.00. Another unit asked their local churches to consider a special church collection for the poppy program on the Sunday before Memorial Day. Poppy displays were also set up at a unit's Blood Drive. And another unit was invited to offer poppies and poppy coloring sheets to the community at a craft sale on Veteran's Day. The public's response to this was amazing. The unit was set up at the entrance to the craft sale and every person that entered left some type of donation and told many stories of either theirs or a loved one's service. Creativity in promoting our poppy was outstanding!

Units throughout our department make sure that the citizens of their community are aware of the poppy program. Several units that distribute the poppy cards to community businesses tell them about their poppy program and specifically how they use their poppy funds. Businesses want to know that their donations are going to a good place. Most are very generous.

Many units now hold their poppy distribution on national Poppy Day. They decorate their displays and ask their Legion volunteers to wear their uniforms and they wear Auxiliary logo items.

Minnesota members and this Department Chairman have worked very hard to increase awareness and involve more people in making poppies. In October, an article was placed into the Minnesota Legionnaire soliciting volunteers to make poppies. We now have several poppy makers as a result of this article. As department Poppy Chairman, a poppy making class was hosted by the Forest Lake Auxiliary in February to solicit interest in acquiring more poppy makers and to make sure that the poppies were being made to the standards our members prefer. There were 18 potential makers in attendance, representing 8 units from 5 districts and 2 American Legion posts. This blossomed to several other poppy classes being held such as a Poppy Palooza in Winsted, impromptu classes held again at an SAL event in Forest Lake and at a Unit meeting in Kimball and a poppy contest. Another poppy class was held in Melrose with 28 in attendance including 2 veterans and 1 junior member representing 9 units from 3 districts. Several members went home from these classes with a poppy kit.

The joint efforts of all our dedicated members and several departments who sold us poppies this year is what kept our program afloat and able to handle our large poppy need this year. We are happy to report that we now have people committed to making poppies year-round so that we are not in this situation again.

Public Relations

Sharon Hammon, Chairman

"NO PUBLIC RELATIONS"

OH NO !!!!!!!!!!!

You, me, and us can't let this happen, if we did the Auxiliary, maybe the Legion, Sons of the Legion and the Legion Riders could possibly die out. I would not like to think about that happening.

Also, the veterans, children and our communities would suffer. We cannot let that happen.

Remember to communicate through face-book, websites, you-tube, and all other means of social media. Keep a good relationship with your local newspapers, radio stations and TV/ cable providers. All these ways get the word out about the auxiliary and what we are doing. Remember that you need to contact them before you hold an event so they can send someone to cover it. Do not forget the good old way called word of mouth, that works great also.

Always wear your auxiliary branded clothing at your events and out in public too. It is a good conversation piece. You never know, you might pick up members for the entire Legion Family.

If we do all these things we will not have to worry about "NO PUBLIC RELATIONS" happening.

Treasurer's Report Shannon Brown

The following are financial points for a year-to-date comparison as of June 30th.				
<u>Auxiliary Programs</u>	<u>2020-2021</u>	<u>2021-2022</u>	<u>2022-2023</u>	<u>2023-2024</u>
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation	\$16,890.58			\$2,921.30
\$5.00 Bill Shower	\$23,596.35	\$31,919.61	\$32,348.40	\$36,003.92
ALA Hospital Program	\$13,315.00	\$35,933.65	\$32,667.20	\$32,248.94
Gift Shop	\$28,494.35	\$37,358.97	\$39,792.39	\$41,393.42
Girls State Support	\$13,086.50	\$15,595.57	\$9,846.05	\$8,744.00
Girls State Registrations	\$12,250.00	\$68,100.00	\$69,000.00	\$65,100.00
Girls State Shirt Shack	\$5,156.00	\$10,682.98	\$14,037.12	\$11,252.29
Department Junior President Project	\$4,402.00	\$10,838.50	\$19,156.00	\$20,588.09
Department President's Project	\$15,527.50	\$35,888.96	\$31,878.50	\$25,646.55
Past President's Scholarship	\$3,605.00	\$4,385.50	\$5,115.00	\$48,937.24
Department Scholarship	\$4,823.90	\$7,119.50	\$6,650.00	\$7,013.00
Total	\$141,147.18	\$257,823.24	\$260,490.66	\$296,927.45
<u>Pass Thru Donations</u>				
ALA Foundation	\$970.00	\$1,590.00	\$3,144.45	\$2,950.00
Auxiliary Emergency Fund	\$11,147.00	\$25,226.16	\$21,693.24	\$23,880.39
Armed Forces Center	\$13,783.52	\$19,030.60	\$22,769.18	\$23,674.28
TAL Family Hospital Assn	\$3,010.00	\$5,475.00	\$5,279.45	\$4,940.00
Child Welfare Foundation	\$4,310.00	\$5,310.00	\$5,567.50	\$3,706.65
Brain Science	\$6,077.00	\$5,403.24	\$6,245.00	\$7,930.00
Legionville	\$2,760.00	\$6,070.00	\$5,020.00	\$6,320.00
Fisher House	\$14,768.85	\$18,916.42	\$22,847.89	\$20,872.54
Legacy Scholarship	\$2,270.00	\$5,317.50	\$4,162.00	\$4,653.00
TFA (Temporary Financial Assistance)	\$3,507.50	\$7,532.50	\$5,957.00	\$5,786.00
Total	\$62,603.87	\$99,871.42	\$102,685.71	\$104,712.86
Total Contributions	\$209,351.05	\$365,235.16	\$372,369.77	\$401,640.31

Thank you all for continuing your support of our Minnesota Department Auxiliary Programs and the Affiliated Programs and Organizations. Auxiliary members go above and beyond to support our veterans every day!

Thank you all!

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

Judy Ackerman, Chairman

The Department of Minnesota is home to two (2) Veterans Affairs Medical Centers, eight (8) Veterans' Affairs Veterans' homes, and supports the Sioux Falls, SD and Fargo, ND Veterans Affairs Medical Centers. Activities have changed in the VAMCs and the eight veterans' homes that we support, thanks to the COVID virus. Just when the facilities were opening back up, a COVID outbreak would happen. Even with this hurdle, the units of Minnesota found ways to support these VA facilities. Minnesota has ten (10) Districts and eight of these districts have a VA facility. The units across the department support these facilities in various ways.

Here's an example of what just one unit has done. The Edward Cutter Unit 102 of Anoka made and delivered 132 neck pillows for the VA hospitals. They also mailed out 800 Poppy letters to their members. This unit donated \$14,829.75 to various programs for our veterans, including the \$5 bill shower, Veterans Job training program, Christmas Gift Shop, Veterans Rest Camp at Forest Lake, National Creative Arts Festival, Minnesota Stand Down, Care boxes to support our veterans, and to the recreation funds at the Minneapolis and St. Cloud VAMCs. They also donated \$11,249.75 in in-kind donations to the Minneapolis VA Hospital and the Minnesota Veterans homes. The in-kind donations included heart and neck pillows, gloves, jeans, tote bags, ball caps, hygiene products, word find books, water bottles, and so much more.

Our units love to help our VA facilities. Units provide entertainment for the residents of the Veterans' homes by playing bingo with them, BBQ rib dinners, steak dinners, furnished ice cream, and song fests or other types of entertainment. One district also makes fresh doughnuts for the residents. Unit members also put their talents to work by making tray favors and greeting cards for the different holidays. Units promote arts and craft at the local VA facilities.

Our Gift Shop chairman reported that MN was able to supply gifts to 1,425 veterans, 499 spouses/caregivers and 110 children throughout the four VAMC's and the five established Veterans' homes. (The three new homes started receiving residents after January 1, 2024.) A total of \$44,686.85 was donated for the gifts for the gift shop. One of the home reps dresses as Mrs. Clause for the gift shop at her facility.

Units were busy sewing quilts, heart and neck pillows, wheelchair bags, chemo bags. The VA Home Representatives will send out wanted or needs lists for their respective facilities. The reps reported receiving a multitude of items for our veterans. The items received from units include: Treats, bingo prizes, wheel chair bags, clothing, personal hygiene products, magazines, activity bags, canteen books, calendars, blankets, cards, and of course monetary donations.

The VA Home and Hospital representatives gave out holiday cards with a \$10 gift card to the residents of the homes and the patients at the hospitals for Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentine's, and Easter. Monthly birthday parties were held at homes with different types of treats given. Pizza parties were also held at several of the homes. One of the reps takes residents out to a local café for the Veteran's birthday. One of the home reps helped residents at one of the new homes with art projects. The artwork is then displayed for all to see.

This year, the Children & Youth chairman planned to collect Kids Activity Bags for the VAMC's and CBOC's at our Fall Conference. This VA&R chairman also asked our members to bring items to put into the activity bags, such as word search, color books, crayons, colored pencils, games, puzzles, etc. This

event was well received by the members of MN. More than 400 bags were packed and distributed to several of the VAMCs. This project was a joint effort with the Children & Youth chairman, the VA&R chairman, the members of the department and a couple Junior members helped to fill the bags.

National President Lisa's trip to Minnesota found her at several VA facilities. She was given a tour of the Minneapolis VAMC and met with Brain Science Chair Apostolos P. Georgopoulos M.D. This chair at the University of MN was funded by the American Legion Family Department of Minnesota. The Brain Science chair works with research for brain injuries, PTSD, and other conditions. She was also able to stop in at the Armed Forces Service center that we help with. She was also able to visit the new veterans' home in Montevideo and the Luverne Veterans home. She was met with a long line of veterans holding flags at the Luverne Veterans home. She was able to play bingo and have ice cream with the veterans at the Luverne home.

Units have reported that 583 members have donated 57,720 ³/₄ hours of Service to Veterans. These hours represent time spent sewing, baking, grocery shopping, taking veterans out to eat, prepping meals for veterans and home visits. These are just a few of the services that our members do for our veterans.

The members of Minnesota step up and help by their volunteer hours, wrapping gifts, donating time and money for our veterans. The Hospital and Home representatives go all out for our veterans every year. Thank you so much to them for all the volunteer time that they do.

This chairman is proud to have worked with these volunteers this year. They do a great job for the veterans of Minnesota. Thank you so much for all you do for our Veterans.

Armed Force Service Center
Chris Ronning, Armed Forces Service Center Representative

Located at the Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport the Armed Forces Service Center is a place where active-duty Military and retired Military and their dependents can go while waiting for connecting flights, long lay overs and canceled flights due to weather or other unforeseen reasons. Our Mission is to provide Armed Service personal and their Dependents with a place for food (Hot Dogs, water, soda and snacks) and rest while traveling through our airport.

Many are traveling with their family and the Center provides a comfort zone for those who have children traveling with them, especially around the Holidays and during the year, each child will receive an activity set to take with them whenever or wherever their travel takes them.

The Center operates from 8am until 10:45pm 7 days a week and 365 days a year, we hope to return to 24 hours operations soon as we build up our volunteer workforce because it takes 84 volunteers a week to keep the Center open 24/7. Right now we are short on volunteers due to some getting up in age or some are still working or have a young family.

The Center is run by a fulltime Director and has a Board of trustees, representing various organizations including the American Legion Auxiliary, the Center is always in need for more volunteers. To become a volunteer, you can go on their website and sign up. You will have to go through a screening process and attend a few training sessions.

Donations totaling \$16,430.00 were received by the Armed Forces Service Center President Rick Dale and a check was given to the Center by our Department President Sharon Cross, when she visited the Center with our Department Membership Chairman Jenny Nelson, our NEC Jean Walker and our National President Lisa Williamson from Alaska.

As always, our Auxiliary members of the Units came through and I want to thank them from the bottom of my heart, it was so overwhelming. We need to hold off until Fall Conference due to running out of Storage places. Thank you, thank you, thank you. Please include the AFSC in your yearly budget as monetary donations are always needed for items the Center must purchase

I would encourage everyone to stop by when you are at the Airport and just say Hi and thank those volunteering their time. Let's keep giving to those that have given so much and are still given.

The Center is now beyond the Security check-in but families and retirees, as they do not have to go through security to enter the Center. The center will be much larger than the current one of 1,900 sq. ft. going to 4,900 sq. ft. with many new amenities added. Additional furniture, equipment and appliances are still needed for the new space. The Center relies on donations and grants. There is also maintenance such as Carpet cleaning and janitorial company, Drapes for the Women's Bunks, Blankets, Commercial toasters, Microwaves, on Thanksgivings a meal was served from noon until 6pm day grants for food support

The Center is fully operated by donations and as I said before our Auxiliary has stepped up to the plate again and again over the years. Some Units also donated items such as comfort bags for children, activity sets that can be taken on the plane. Anything helps to keep a child's mind occupied. Personal items are not accepted yet but little snack bags, chips, cookies are. The Center also received 400 cases from the girl scout headquarters.

Due to not serving food they will give vouchers to the travelers that are accepted at most food outlets, coffee shops, grills and Restaurants.

It has been an honor to represent the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota at the AFSC bimonthly meetings. Marland and I had the honor to attend the Center's Banquet when all the Volunteers are recognized and for their years of service.

Gift Shop
Beverly Grose, Chairman
Sandy Wersal, Committee Member

We had 102 units send in reports for gift shop. Reporting \$11,067.79 donated and spent for the gift shop. Hours volunteered reported were 350 and veterans serviced was 1442.

Units helped replenish the tables, select, wrap, wrote out gift tags and distribute gifts. They had a good time talking with our veterans and listening to their stories. Many of the units commented on how appreciative the veterans were to get a gift for themselves and their families.

Comments were it was so fulfilling and heartwarming, it is worth every penny and minute spent to help our veterans, we had a ball, it was a fun day, always great to make it possible for our veterans to have the opportunity to obtain gifts for their families, some of our favorite time is seeing their smiles and being able to thank them for their service, it was a wonderful experience and last but not least we love to serve our veterans.

Keep up the great work and remember we have three new homes to help this next year.

Risk & Compliance
Roberta Elvecrog, Chairman
Committee: Cheryl Schauman and Kathy Kessler

We have asked the Units of the Department of Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary to review their audit and financial procedures this past year. Many of the Units sent in their Risk and Compliance annual reports and the majority of them are trying to be compliant with audits and multiple signatures. I personally want to thank you for doing this.

The role of the Audit/Risk and Compliance committee is to meet the governance expectations of the IRS Form 990. The committee has taken an active role in reviewing the Department's 990 before it is filed. It is equally important that the District and Unit audit/finance committees develop procedures to make sure that their 990 form is filed each year in a timely manner and to verify to their group that it has been accepted. Filing of the 990 is essential to maintain a tax-exempt status for the Department, Districts, and Units because failure to do so could impact the status of the National organization also. We understand that things happen, and Units fall out of compliance. We ask that you come back into compliance when able.

This committee is constantly evolving as it is increasingly apparent that this role in our Auxiliary needs to continue to be developed and streamlined in our Districts and Units.

Again, I thank you to all units who reported this year.

Deceased Members 2023-2024

1st District

MN UNIT 0009	Esther Bescup
	Grace Mueller
	Jacqueline A Kimber
	Nadine M Kanz
	Phyllis Scattum
	Shirley A Gierok
MN UNIT 0040	Opal Gossman
MN UNIT 0050	Anna M Wodele
MN UNIT 0052	Barbara C Molland
	Doraline Bakke
	Emily Otto
MN UNIT 0056	Almyra Seath
	Beulah Wiegand
	Jayne Vairma
	Lisa Dulas
	Marion Bergeson
	Marjory J Entorf
	Velma Bonnerup
	Wilma M Turnbull
MN UNIT 0068	Mary Ellen McNamara
	Sandra Hulbert
MN UNIT 0075	Marilyn Quiram
MN UNIT 0077	Joyce Pribyl
	Shirley Wierzbinski
MN UNIT 0092	Barb Vinz
MN UNIT 0094	Ada Kjos
	Beverly A Benson
MN UNIT 0105	Diane A Trytten
	Norma Price
MN UNIT 0110	Shirley Breuer
MN UNIT 0146	Agnes Domino
	Cleo Osmundson
	Connie Sue Irvin
	Gloria Gilles
	Joyce E Halver
	Sharon K Osmundson

MN UNIT 0161	Marlys Falck
MN UNIT 0164	Carol A Yeadon
	Geraldine Gray
	Katherine Russell
	Mick Johnson
	Sharon M Town
MN UNIT 0179	Barbara Ranta
	Carmena Melvin
	Ione Spring Jacobs
	Jean Bodurtha
	Judith Kettner
	Mary Wehrs
	Peggy J O'Neil
	Rita T Jacobs
MN UNIT 0191	Lorraine Peter
MN UNIT 0228	Edith Barber
	Katie Pfeifer
	Winifred Swenson
MN UNIT 0249	Ellen Murphy
	Kathleen Myrah
	Valerie Wagner
MN UNIT 0264	Norene V. Nicholson
MN UNIT 0295	Lois S Boe
	Mary J Bishop
	Signora Boe
MN UNIT 0330	Elizabeth Fredrickson
	Marilyn Kroll
MN UNIT 0333	Barbara Meyer
	Donna Dutton
	Ella A Mitchell
MN UNIT 0423	Georgia Sand
	Glenis Loken
	Shirley Van Gundy
MN UNIT 0526	Adelle Stern
	Ardis E Willcox
MN UNIT 0551	Joyce M Enright

MN UNIT 0552	Elaine J Staloch
MN UNIT 0573	Marlys Bartz
MN UNIT 0595	Jean Pollack
	Kathy Hamilton
MN UNIT 0637	Charlotte Johnson
	Cindy Bothun
2nd District	
MN UNIT 0004	Gail Dick - 2
	Maureen Hendrickson
MN UNIT 0006	Bernadine Van Hoecke
	Dorothy Boese
	Marie Nelson
MN UNIT 0007	Agnes Kortte
MN UNIT 0010	Audrey Johannsen
MN UNIT 0011	Anita J Riese
	Barb Brielmaier
MN UNIT 0019	Brenda C. Kelly
	Elsie Osborne
	Rachel Boyum
MN UNIT 0033	Dorothy M Christianson
MN UNIT 0036	Irene H. Buchmeier
	Viola M Range
MN UNIT 0038	Ellen B Frederiksen
	Patricia M Pendleton
MN UNIT 0041	JoAnn M Jaeger
MN UNIT 0042	Carol J Dekam
	Gale Achterhoff
	Jeanette Schelhaas
MN UNIT 0064	Eleanor Glawe
	Lois J Ferguson
	Sylvia G Onken

MN UNIT 0089	Esther Voges
	Marian Kark
	Nancy Espeland
MN UNIT 0123	Doris Fried
MN UNIT 0130	Geraldine Glenn
	Josephine Strube
MN UNIT 0132	Denise C. Barnes
	Irene Kormann
	Joyce Jobe
	Kathy Weyer
	Sharon Portner
MN UNIT 0133	Lois R Shella
	Patricia J Callsen
MN UNIT 0165	Dona Sens
MN UNIT 0195	Norma Siverson
MN UNIT 0206	Marlene Mattson
	Roberta Flatgard
MN UNIT 0210	Bernice Kloos
	Marge Ulferts
MN UNIT 0257	Fran L Bast
	Liola Cornelius
	Margaret Moe
	Shirley Weber
	Vera Kasa
	Vonnie Pautzke
MN UNIT 0263	Blanche Maurer
	Myra Dallmann
MN UNIT 0267	Helen Anderson
MN UNIT 0274	Barbara Wixon
MN UNIT 0276	Bonnie Shouts
	Sharon Phillips
MN UNIT 0285	Alvina Beek
	Ann Helmke
	Elinor Bentson

MN UNIT 0294	Ann Blasing
	Marilyn Drysdale
	Rhonda Teigen
MN UNIT 0318	Linda Winter
MN UNIT 0322	Ingrid L Doom
	Mary L Leonard
MN UNIT 0356	Ann M Seifert
MN UNIT 0365	Alicia Helling
MN UNIT 0373	Lorraine M Rohman
MN UNIT 0386	Mary Schipper
MN UNIT 0391	Deanne J Thompson
MN UNIT 0461	Eunice Baumgard
MN UNIT 0475	Pamela Shaw
MN UNIT 0506	Rosmary E Hartson
MN UNIT 0522	Bernice Niss
	Betty Beenken
MN UNIT 0534	Greta McDaniel
	Laura F Nelson
MN UNIT 0553	Geraldine Hendricks
MN UNIT 0561	Norma Smith
MN UNIT 0569	Mary M. Stevermer
MN UNIT 0576	Charletta Bennett
MN UNIT 0608	Beverly Damm
	Karen Abbott
MN UNIT 0614	Donna Voss
	Rosalind E Christ
MN UNIT 0617	Donna Borneke

MN UNIT 0636	Brenda S. Loosbrock
	Henrietta Lais
	Patricia Henning
3rd District	
MN UNIT 0037	Harriet Derner
MN UNIT 0043	Betty L Hoffman
	Dorothy Butterfield
	Gayle Mae Aldrich
	Geraldine A Abelman
	Helen Reveland
	Janice Marie Hansen
	Judy Johnson
	Kathy Demars
	Kay A Goracke
MN UNIT 0045	Mary L Jirak
MN UNIT 0054	Eileen Broze
	Laurel A. Hinck
	Marian Fitschen
MN UNIT 0057	Aldoris Engelhardt
	Carolyn C Stark
	Connie Lonto
	Frances Vetscher
	Georgiana Arlt
	Joyce Vaneyll
	Kathryn Meuwissen
	Lois Kemnitz
	Marcella Schmidt
	Pauline Lonto
	Shirley Lebo
MN UNIT 0079	Barbara Jean Weiers
	Caroline B Trcka
	Lillian M Novotny
	Mildred M Schoenbauer
	Myrtle M Kucera
	Nancy A Hix
	Patricia L Filipek
	Yvonne Embretson
MN UNIT 0096	Andrea K Koenig
	Lorraine Nemitz
	Tracy M Kleiman
	Wilma Thunstrom

MN UNIT 0098	Donna Sylvester
	Joanne Dingle
	Mary Lou Martin
	Roberta J Chapman
MN UNIT 0108	Helen Thelemann
	Mary A Budin
	Mary L Hayden
	Phyllis Mangan
MN UNIT 0125	Shirley Kirchoff
MN UNIT 0141	Adeline E Hlavka
	Bernadette M Pokornowski
	Bonnie M Dahl
	Carol Navratil
	Cynthia I Tews
MN UNIT 0150	Denise M. Bailey
	Josephine A Mihelich
MN UNIT 0189	Ali Boyer-Meyerhofer
MN UNIT 0225	Kathie M. Fink
	Lorry Houle
	Nancy K Immel
	Phyllis J Westberg
	Shirley Hallberg
MN UNIT 0314	Marlene Satre
MN UNIT 0407	Lorraine V Kohler
	Viola S Kieser
MN UNIT 0408	Sandra Dressen
MN UNIT 0491	Charlotte L Robledo
MN UNIT 0580	Janet Schindler
	Shirley Kreger
MN UNIT 0586	Clara Nohava
	Gladys C Douda
	Harriet Budin
	Mary Nohava
	Rita Jasan
MN UNIT 0601	Marie Latzig

MN UNIT 0620	Pamela L. Wilson
MN UNIT 0643	Carol A. Olson
	Elaine Kadrlík
MN UNIT 1776	Barbara Schauer
	Leila Jerpseth
	Sandra C Mortenson
4th District	
MN UNIT 0168	Katherine Johnson
	Patricia Gorr
MN UNIT 0542	Betty L Bratley
	Denise L Stasny
	Doris Soutter
	Julie A. McFarlin
	Marjorie L Tschida
	Mary E. Larson
	Rita Haston
MN UNIT 0577	Sherrienne M Langer
5th District	
MN UNIT 0001	Jean Tuttle 5
	Karen A. McNamara
MN UNIT 0129	Stella Lake
MN UNIT 0234	Debra Miller
MN UNIT 0435	Dorothy R Shouts
	Dovie Stone
	Harriet Schepers
	Jeanette M O'Callaghan
	Lila P Thompson
	Sherry L Morris
MN UNIT 0440	Virginia Wickman
MN UNIT 0511	Penny Wood
6th District	
MN UNIT 0012	Erma J Cooper
	Orianna Barthel
MN UNIT 0014	Diane D Halverson
	Lois E Dale
	Margaret Charles
	Yvonne M Splady

MN UNIT 0023	Irene R Johnson
	Mary P. Schabert
MN UNIT 0046	Dona M Boschee
	Helen St Onge
	Kristy A. Yorek
MN UNIT 0049	Carol Rudbeck
	Delores Bruggeman
	Dixie Dabrowski
MN UNIT 0067	Bernadette T. Fairchild
	Betty L Weidendorf
	Beverly M Huot
	Elizabeth Froh
	Mary A Polipnick
	Sharon E. Quistorff
MN UNIT 0086	Dorothy Glidden
	Fern Ince
	Helen J. Workman
	Linda A Ritter
	Mary S Finn
	Rosella Bronczyk
	Wanda L Blakesley
MN UNIT 0101	Betty Hennen
	Mary Ann Engelmeyer
MN UNIT 0112	Donna H Nichols
	Pat Schwappach
	Wendy Nogle
MN UNIT 0134	Alice Kennedy
	Judy Kennedy
	Lillian M Werder
MN UNIT 0147	Angeline A Woolhouse
	Darlene M Lanz
MN UNIT 0171	Mary G Brown
MN UNIT 0202	Janett Bundy
	Patricia A Eisbrenner
	Renelda J Sather
	Sherrie L Kennedy
MN UNIT 0211	Rita Solarz

MN UNIT 0212	Geraldine Hepola
	Luella Bliss-Lohse
	Maxine McFarren
MN UNIT 0217	Leilani Rickert
	Lillian Brown
	Ruth Palm
MN UNIT 0221	Donna M Peternell
	Jan Stang
MN UNIT 0254	Louise Erickson
MN UNIT 0255	Betty L Johnson
	Dona Mae M Weaver
	Judith Lively
	Karen L Cheney
	Mary Stoffel
	Patricia L Fornshell
MN UNIT 0261	Darlene Green
	Laurie A Wells
	Lucy Schmidt
	Sharon L Smith
	Sherry G Loch
	Vera Donnay
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	Irene Hanson
MN UNIT 0284	Ann L Loeffler
MN UNIT 0288	Gail Otteson
MN UNIT 0292	Joan Lemke
	Maxine Weismann
MN UNIT 0313	Betty A Poegel
	Eunice Lentz
MN UNIT 0328	Rose Spanier
	Ruth N Neron-Heipley
MN UNIT 0341	Bernadine Loidolt
	Edna Stuckmayer
	Evelyn Boser
	Frances Stangl
	Judy M. Fyten

MN UNIT 0350	Beverly B. Tepley
	Marjorie Lehner
	Rita Schiller
MN UNIT 0354	Doris E Arnold
	Elizabeth M. Johnson
MN UNIT 0366	Jean Lee-Rogers
MN UNIT 0368	Carol V Dickey
	Celeste Z. Wilson
	Dani L. Hackel
	Lura Lauer
	Verdienne L Torgerson
MN UNIT 0372	Joyce M Baird
	Mary E Noon
MN UNIT 0417	Virginia M. Hansmann
MN UNIT 0443	Darlene B Christopherson
	Geraldine M Miller
	Lorraine Deblock
	Philena Lea Wynn
	Roberta Ferrari
	Vilma Gorfin
MN UNIT 0455	Elaine Lindell
	Marie C Hansen
	Mary Harren
	Theresa Larson
MN UNIT 0456	Edith Siegel
MN UNIT 0462	Phyllis D Bunker
	Ruth Albrecht
MN UNIT 0470	Thelma F. Daken
MN UNIT 0473	Elizabeth Levinski
	Joan M Donovan
MN UNIT 0482	Aurelia Kohorst
	Frances Blommel
MN UNIT 0500	Marilyn Dahl
MN UNIT 0612	Charlene Ohmann

MN UNIT 0613	Caroline J Gardner
MN UNIT 0627	Jacquelyn Extrand
	Lois Fyle
7th District	
MN UNIT 0029	Irene Cooper
	Janet Mesenbrink
	Kathy Carlson
	Nancy Neal
MN UNIT 0058	Arlene Dobbs
	Carol A Wolney
	Debra L Pierce
MN UNIT 0059	Arlene A Nogaj
	Lorine Hanson
	Ruby M Olson
MN UNIT 0069	Penny K. Johnson
MN UNIT 0080	Betty Lampe
	Helen A Fridgen
	Joanne Kremer
	Marvel Buchholz
MN UNIT 0104	Hazel M Wittenberg
MN UNIT 0113	Donna Weidauer
	Evelyn C Hively
	Janet M. Hagen
	Marilyn Tegels
	Merna Thomsen
	Theresa Grupe
MN UNIT 0126	Julie Seifert
MN UNIT 0135	Christine Johnson
	Eileen Janke
MN UNIT 0156	Deone Pippert
	Jo Ann Zahnnow
	June Baxter
MN UNIT 0158	Margaret M Lund
MN UNIT 0167	Carolyn Davis
	Donna Jones
	Eleanor Bates
	Lorelee Olson

MN UNIT 0173	Helen Hollingsworth
MN UNIT 0186	Luann M Lothert
	Ursula G Amberg
MN UNIT 0204	Corlys E Chase
	Ruth O Gjermundson
MN UNIT 0205	Dorothy Prax
MN UNIT 0223	Charlotte Johnson
MN UNIT 0252	Mary A Jaenisch
	Rose Maus
MN UNIT 0268	Donna M. Gunderson
MN UNIT 0278	Rita T Plaster
MN UNIT 0302	Deloris Athey
MN UNIT 0321	Elizabeth Schroeder
	Evelyn Grove
MN UNIT 0351	Ardis Soberg
	Betty L Friese
MN UNIT 0357	Arlene Weisser
MN UNIT 0357	Carolyn Johansen
MN UNIT 0378	LaVaun Groth
MN UNIT 0381	Carol Dummer
	Joann P. Topp
	Leonella Plantenberg
MN UNIT 0420	Carolyn Dykema
MN UNIT 0426	Jann L Kruize
MN UNIT 0430	Gloria Stevens
	Penny Herning
MN UNIT 0441	Arlene Karels
MN UNIT 0483	Cindy Arens
	Jackie Tipka

MN UNIT 0485	Rita Louise Gable Broers
	Shirley Peters
MN UNIT 0524	Pauline Hoffman
MN UNIT 0537	Bonnie J Haug
	Maxine S. Monson
	Vernese Barber
MN UNIT 0545	Betty Midby
	Denise Gjerde
MN UNIT 0629	Rita Schuster
8th District	
MN UNIT 0071	Annette Foucault
	Barbara Tourville
	Bonnie J McMillan
	Diane A Sullivan
	Dolores Mitchell
	Joanne Spragg
	Judy Ann Penttinen
	Rose M Perrault
MN UNIT 0109	Elizabeth Duerr
	Jean Oday
	Zandra C Davenport
MN UNIT 0122	Wanda Vickerman
MN UNIT 0241	Anne Sandvig
	Kathleen A Corbett
	Marlynn Koski
	Viola I Hollenbeck
MN UNIT 0248	Helen M Huovinen
MN UNIT 0262	Kathleen Dillan
	Shirley L Smith
MN UNIT 0379	Faye Griffin
MN UNIT 0415	Cornelia M Ballou
MN UNIT 0452	Mary A Damjanovich
9th District	
MN UNIT 0015	Alice M Hammer
	Kathy Johnson

MN UNIT 0016	Alice Ramsrud
	Bertina Hanson
	Doreen D. Norgaard
	Florence Martine
	Kari J. Abel
	Kimberly K Netland
	Lorrayne Jelle
	Loretta K. Hromidko
MN UNIT 0020	Mary Lessard
	Virginia Spear
MN UNIT 0021	Doris E Huber
	Joyce F. Miller
	Marian Greenwood
	Norma Craigmile
MN UNIT 0022	Barbara De Haan
	Irene Etterman
	Sandra Fontaine
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MN UNIT 0027	Elizbeth Porter
	Jenny Haugtvedt
	Joan Engelstad
	Marilyn Bennett
MN UNIT 0030	Gail A. Meyer
	Janice M. Neigel
	Joyce Biegler
MN UNIT 0035	Sande Sands
MN UNIT 0088	Beatrice Dvergsten
	Charmaine Lorenson
	Helen M Anderson
MN UNIT 0117	Betty L Kezar
	Eunice Wiskow
	Gladys Narverud
	Ione Poole
	Judith Bruggeman
	Marjorie Hanson
	Mildred Horien
MN UNIT 0148	Ardell M Jorgenson
	Georgene Fresonke

MN UNIT 0153	Delores Lanning
	Jeanne A Struble
	Lois Thomson
	Marlys Holt
	Mary Barry
	Nevis Shulstad
MN UNIT 0157	Diane Durand
	Doris C Keller
	Effie Vick
	Lavina L Vetter
	Lila J Nelson
MN UNIT 0214	Mary Lou Johnson
	Muriel J Keil
	Paulette I. Rustad
MN UNIT 0238	Janis A Cheeseman
MN UNIT 0242	Sylvia J Mosher
MN UNIT 0256	Eileen Rhen
MN UNIT 0371	Elsie Tveit
MN UNIT 0382	Dolores Johnson
MN UNIT 0390	Mavis Petersen
	Rita J Nelson
MN UNIT 0431	Elenore Spielman
MN UNIT 0444	Betty Hjelle
	Elvina Kolden
	Gloria Rokke
	Judith A Chaplinski
MN UNIT 0445	Deanna L. Krantz
MN UNIT 0505	Mary A Wastweet
MN UNIT 0603	Alice Forsberg
	Patty Carlson
10th District	
MN UNIT 0051	Donna Heath 10
MN UNIT 0085	Helen Lindhart
	Mary Lewis
	Priscilla S. Peterson

MN UNIT 0102	Goldie Taber
	Jeannine P Chamberlain
	Joan McArdle
	Sandra Arellano
MN UNIT 0172	Gladys Goerke
	Jerri Korfiatis
	Zola J. Smith
MN UNIT 0178	Janice Stromwall
MN UNIT 0201	Lucille Schultz
	Marlys I Renstrom
MN UNIT 0259	Nancy George
	Susan Latterner
MN UNIT 0260	Janet Wilkerson
MN UNIT 0270	Ruth Schmidt
MN UNIT 0282	Lois Nalezny
MN UNIT 0290	Carol J Johnson
MN UNIT 0303	Ann M. Bangen
	Lois Mc Carron
	Mary L Elliott
MN UNIT 0305	Anna Hohag
	Ardis Graham
MN UNIT 0320	Vicki K Beadling
MN UNIT 0334	Marie Snyder
	Mary Lou Hale
MN UNIT 0347	Sandra Leiding
MN UNIT 0377	Betty Huncha
MN UNIT 0398	Dawn M. Hannigan
	Dawne M Juhl
	Ila Basel
	Kathleen Rockvam

MN UNIT 0514	Marilyn Hamilton
	Marlene Schultz
	Muriel S Roos
MN UNIT 0523	Doris Rindahl
	Mary Lou Ramirez
MN UNIT 0550	Jane Meland
MN UNIT 0563	Jean A. Olsen
MN UNIT 0566	Beverly Quast
	Carol J. Pelzl
	Katherine M Juutilainen
	Patricia K Bren
MN UNIT 0567	Elaine Bechtold
MN UNIT 0630	Diane R Peterson
	Rita Ascher
MN UNIT 1982	Judy Richardson
	Marga Moen
	Marie B Orvik

