

5th District E Flash

August 2016

Congratulations to newly elected officers of the Department of Minnesota! Denise Milton was elected Department Commander for the coming year at the Convention in Rochester. Denise becomes the second female commander of the 80,000 member organization in the past three years. Dennis DeLong from our 5th District was elected Department Sgt-at-Arms.

A resolution for a \$3.00 dues increase was presented to the Department Convention and was expected to run into major opposition at the convention but instead passed with hardly a vote against it.

Our membership drive for the 2017 year started with the distribution of Legion membership cards to all the Posts. Our district membership goal for this year is 2,679. As of the July 27th Membership Report we are at 17.77% of goal. The membership team at the Department has a "Goose Egg" contest asking all posts to transmit at least one member to Department before August 3rd. A Commander's salute to the following posts that have transmitted membership to Department for 2017 as of July 28: Minneapolis Post 1, Wold-Chamberlain, Northside, Johnnie Baker, Courthouse, Fire and Police, Mpls-Richfield, Gopher, Viking, Aviation, Fallain, and Minnesota Veterans Home. If your Post is not listed among this group, ask your Adjutant why and turn at least one in as soon as possible. Let's get the 5th District off the goose egg.

There will be a Department Membership meeting on Aug. 13th at 9:00 a.m. in Anoka. Our new Membership Director, Mark Dvorak will be discussing his ideas on Membership for this year and willing to listen for new ideas as well. He will talk about using the tools on MyLegion.org and Revitalization efforts.

Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV) will be holding the 24th annual Metro Area Veterans' Stand Down August 2 – 3, at the Boy Scout Base Camp at Fort Snelling. Free, on-site assistance for homeless and underserved Veterans will include VA medical clinic, hot meals, clothing, VA benefit information, hygiene kits, legal assistance (including court, federal and state tax assistance), housing and employment assistance, mental health resources, DMV, haircuts, chaplaincy, public benefits information, and more. There will be a free shuttle to and from the Fort Snelling Light Rail Station. Shuttles will also be picking up Veterans from local shelters. Efforts to end Veteran homelessness in Minnesota remain a priority; the Federal government, Governor Dayton's Administration, Mayor Hodges, and Mayor Coleman, along with more than eight Mayors from around the state, have committed to end Veteran homelessness.

Congratulations to all the teams who participated in the 5th District American Legion baseball program. The 5th District has a long and proud history of quality play and sportsmanship on the field and also in promoting citizenship in our communities.

The Minnesota American Legion and other state veterans' service organizations and the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs will have a different type of state fair booth this year. The booth will be under the grandstand in a high fairgoer traffic area, and the various service groups will take turns manning it. The legion will be in charge of the booth on September 1 and 2 and must man it for the 12 hour of each day. As opposed to previous years, the Legion will be allowed to sell memberships at the booth. Please contact Vice Commander John Austin to learn more about the involvement the 5th District has and signing up for the fair.

Around the District:

1st Sunday - Hospital Visitation Minneapolis Veterans Medical Center 2:00 PM

2nd Sunday - Minneapolis Post #1 Omelet Breakfast, 8:30 to 12:30.

4th Sunday - Wold-Chamberlain Post #99 Pancake Breakfast (August)

Ray Eiden

Jim Munson

Commander

Adjutant