

## **DETACHMENT COMMANDER**

### **Gary Semmel**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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