



American Legion Auxiliary

Department of Minnesota
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History

September 2019

On Tuesday December 2, 1919, a preliminary meeting was held at the Town and Country Club, St. Paul, to consider the organization of Women's Auxiliary to the American Legion in the state of Minnesota. This meeting was called by Mrs. George C. Squires of St. Paul and Mrs. Edmund Pennington of Minneapolis and was authorized by the State Commander Harrison Fuller. This group installed a chairman, First Vice Chairman, Second Vice Chairman and Third Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. They also opened a Department office that only lasted a short time. This information is worthy of notice historically, as the women connected with it were the first in this or any other state to make a move towards a department organization.

Events that happen in our Units, Districts and Department need to be recorded or the history of our organization will be lost. The Minnesota history is precious, because it showed we played an instrumental role in developing our national programs, department procedures and we set a president for other departments to follow. As we continue to be one of the many leaders in this organization. We need to continue to tell our story. Minnesota has 432 Units and only 120 Units sent in their history reports. As units and districts have become non-compliant with their work. We tend to think what we do does not matter or our Unit is too small, our members are too old, or we don't care anymore. It's time to change our attitude and remember why you became a member. It's time to pick up that pen and start to document what your Unit and or District does. This year's History is more important than ever. So that our future members can read not only information from 1919 but also information from 2019.

As Department Historian, this year I hope to bring a little of our Department history to life in each unit mailing and give helpful hints to writing your history.

Tip 1- Start writing your history now, your 2019/20 officers are elected, and you have had your officer's installment, plus summer activities. These events need to be recorded in your history.

“Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today” Benjamin Franklin

Karla Otterness
MN Department Historian