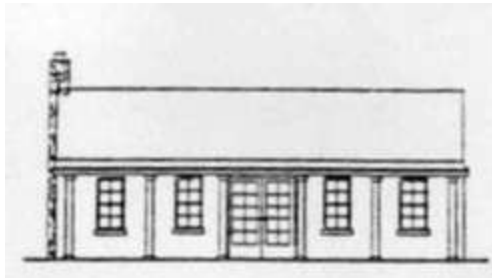


2016
ANNUAL REPORT
MILITARY HISTORICAL
SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA

July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016



*Preserving & Telling the “Story” of
Minnesota’s Veterans*

July 1, 2016

To the Reader:

Thank you for taking the time to review the annual report of the Military Historical Society of Minnesota (MHSM). The MHSM is a small non-profit with a dedicated board of directors who are passionate about the mission of the organization. Our mission is vital and pertinent not only to our organization, but to everyone who values the freedoms our country has to offer and the sacrifices made by military veterans to obtain those freedoms.

The primary purpose of the MHSM is to provide support and oversight for the Minnesota Military Museum located at Camp Ripley, the largest state owned military training facility in the U.S. It is at the museum where the story of Minnesota's military veterans is told and visitors learn about the sacrifices made to obtain the freedoms they enjoy every day.

The Minnesota Military Museum is one of the finest small military museums in the country. A dedicated staff and volunteers take pride in the mission of the organization and provide for the needs of currently serving military, veterans, and visitors from Minnesota and across the country.

We hope this annual report provides you a synopsis of what we do, who we serve, how we are financed, and what we have accomplished during this past year.

If you found this report on our website, thank you for visiting; if you are reading this report in another format and would like to learn more about our organization, please visit us at www.mnmilitarymuseum.org

Sincerely

Jeff Thielen
Executive Director

A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Background & 2015/16 Highlights

- The Military Historical Society of Minnesota (MHSM) is an independent, non-profit, 501(c)3 educational corporation organized in 1976 for the purpose of interpreting and preserving Minnesota's military history. The Minnesota Military Museum (MMM) is the Society's principal activity. In July 2015, the MHSM transitioned from a calendar year budget cycle to a fiscal year cycle to better match the state of Minnesota's financial cycle. This past year the MHSM completed a detailed goal orientated Strategic Plan to provide guidance for the next six years. The MMM continued efforts to be a resource for veterans and to increase Veteran awareness of the museum by developing a new website and implementing a Veterans Registry allowing veterans to record the story of their military history and by hiring a consultant to assist volunteers open our library to additional veterans and the public. The museum improved existing exhibits and opened "Minnesota Voices from Vietnam," an exhibit commemorating U.S. involvement in Vietnam.

Working Partnerships

- The museum is recognized by the U.S. Army as an official National Guard museum, which enables it to acquire and display historical federal property of a military nature. This past year the museum was also sanctioned by the U.S. Air Force as an official Air Force museum, allowing us to obtain Air Force equipment. The Society works closely with the Minnesota Department of Military Affairs and Camp Ripley. Camp Ripley provides buildings, utilities, and takes care of general maintenance and repair around the museum. They also help plan and assist with special capital improvements funded by the Legislature. The Minnesota Historical Society was instrumental in organizing the MHSM. They transferred "start-up" artifacts to the museum (mostly weapons), and gave early staff support. They continue to serve as our fiscal agent for biennial legislative funding, refer potential artifact donors to us, and provides curatorial advice.

HISTORY & BACKGROUND

The Military Historical Society of Minnesota (MHSM) operates the Minnesota Military Museum in order to provide education and training on the role played by Minnesotans who have served in the armed forces. The museum is also a major repository in Minnesota for military artifacts and records. We believe it is important to:

- *Strengthen public understanding of how armed conflicts and military institutions have shaped our state and national experience;
- * Identify, document, preserve, and depict the stories and contributions of Minnesotans who served in all branches of service or on the home front -in time of peace and war – from Minnesota’s early frontier years to the present;
- *Acquire artifacts and records from the public and other sources that help us to better tell those stories;
- * Function as an important resource center for the benefit of the general public as well as Minnesota veterans; and
- * Provide the opportunity for all people to utilize the museum, regardless of ability to pay.

BELIEFS AND PHILOSOPHY



The mission of the Military Historical Society of Minnesota is to be Minnesota's premier educational resource for military history through exhibits and outreach efforts of the Minnesota Military Museum.

MISSION STATEMENT



The museum currently utilizes 14 buildings for artifact display & storage and has options to utilize additional buildings as needed.

Outside exhibits include wheeled vehicles, tracked vehicles, fixed wing and rotary aircraft -- located around the central exhibit buildings which house approximately 100,000 artifacts, 14,000 books, and 15,000 photographs.

A BIRDS EYE VIEW OF OUR FACILITY



We serve veterans living and dead by honoring their memory and preserving their legacy. Their “stories” are told through exhibits at the Minnesota Military Museum.

We serve veterans’ organizations and organizations that support veterans.

WHO DO WE SERVE?



We serve the general public and visitors of all ages from across Minnesota and the country. We serve schools from across Minnesota and we serve researchers, historians, and vacationers.

Visitors in the photo are members of the State Patrol Youth Recruitment Camp conducted at Camp Ripley every year.

WHO DO WE SERVE?



**Who Do We Serve? Jr ROTC
Washington Technology Magnet
School, St Paul**



Attendance at the museum in FY 2016 was 10,221. For the second year in a row this number was down from the previous year; however, it was similar to what was seen by other local attractions.

Attendance numbers included 128 tours for schools, youth groups, Scouts, seniors, bus tours, fraternal organizations, and military and veterans organizations.

WHO DO WE SERVE?

175th RTI Officer Candidate Class # 60



During the Minnesota Voices of Vietnam exhibit opening in 2015 the museum hosted a traveling exhibit on Vietnam sponsored by the Mobile Riverine Force Association. The mobile museum and memorial is dedicated to the soldiers of the 9th Infantry Division and sailors of Navy Task Force 117 as well as all Navy & Coast Guard units in the Mekong Delta and other areas of Vietnam from 1966-70. The two days of the exhibit attracted over 600 visitors, many of them Vietnam veterans.

Who Do We Serve?



Every four years Camp Ripley hosts the Ripley Rendezvous for up to 10,000 Boy Scouts. During this past year's Rendezvous over 3000 of them visited the museum.

Who Do We Serve: Boy Scouts



Thanks to the generosity of donors we were able finish a long needed upgrade to our “Women in the Military Exhibit.”. A larger case was constructed and additional interpretative information and uniforms were added to the display.

Donors included:

Macy’s
Minnesota Power Foundation
Veterans 4 Veterans Trust
American Legion Post 46
Wal-Mart

Left - Minnesota Power staff present a gift to support exhibit renovation to the Museum Administrator .

HIGHLIGHTS FOR FY 2016, Upgrade to Women in the Military Exhibit



On July 18, 2015 the museum opened an exhibit commemorating U.S involvement in Vietnam. Speakers included retired General John William Vessey Jr. General Vessey joined the Minnesota National Guard in 1939 and was Chairman of the Joint Chiefs from June 18, 1982 to September 30, 1985 under President Ronald Reagan. Shown here is part of the crowd attending the opening ceremony.

HIGHLIGHTS FOR FY 2016

“Minnesota Voices from Vietnam” Exhibit Opening



Primarily using previously unrecorded stories and experiences, the exhibit tells stories from the lives and service of Minnesota men and women serving in the, Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War. The exhibit focuses primarily on the ten year period from the start of major United States military involvement in 1965, to the fall of Saigon in 1975. It also covers US Allies, early involvement from the end of WWII, and the war's aftermath.

HIGHLIGHTS FOR FY 2016

“Minnesota Voices from Vietnam” Exhibit Opening



In September of 2015 The Minnesota Military Museum received full museum certification by the National Museum of the United States Air Force, making it eligible to receive historic Air Force equipment and aircraft.

The goal of the certification is to obtain a C-130 aircraft for display due to frequent usage by these aircraft of the adjacent runway, as is seen by the photo of a C-130 on approach over the museum.

HIGHLIGHTS FOR FY 2016

Certification as an Air Force Museum



Minnesota veterans honored in FY 2016 in our Featured Veteran Exhibit included:

M.G. George Leach
M.G. Pat Halloran
John & Linda Taylor
Sgt. Harold, Ted Johnson
Corp. Joseph Vosika
Ensign Walter M. Willis
WAC Delores M. Vosika
Sgt. Albert H. Larson

Pictured here is the Featured Veteran display case for Walter Willis, a Minnesota Navy pilot and one of the first naval aviators killed in WW II, December 7, 1941.

HIGHLIGHTS FOR FY 2016 Featured Veteran Exhibit

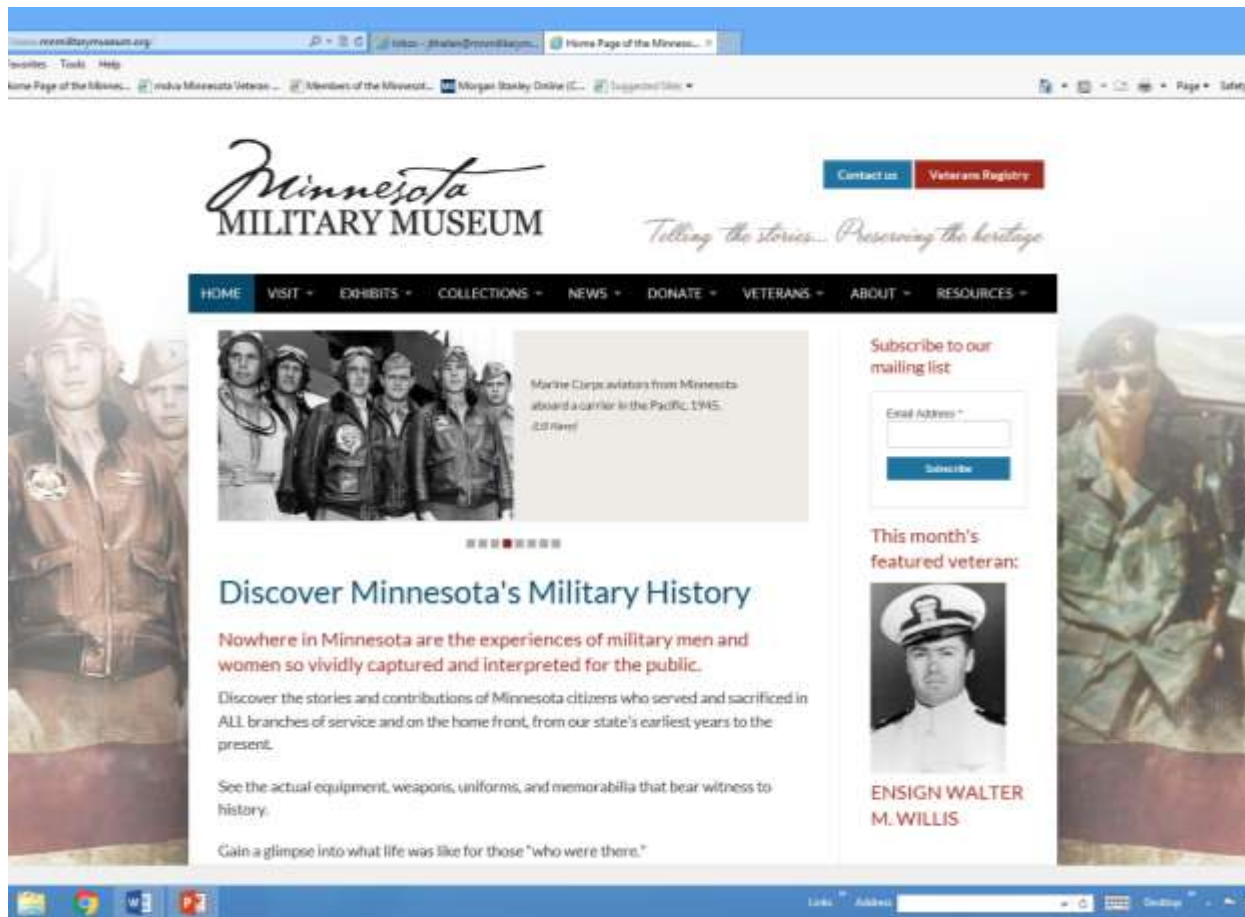
Highlight for FY 16 Library Development



With a grant from “Support Our Troops,” the museum library was able to hire a part time library consultant and also purchase software and materials to turn a book collection into a library.

We are in the process of implementing a library system which provides a searchable on-line data base of our library catalogue and manages records and patrons.

Dedicated volunteers have spent thousands of hours preparing the collection with labels and bar codes, and entering books & information into the new data base.



FY 2016 saw us launch a new improved website to better meet the needs of our users. The website features a searchable "Veterans Registry". The Registry is a statewide database containing information about the military service of individual Minnesota veterans. A qualified veteran is anyone who once served or is serving in the US military and was either born in Minnesota or has lived in Minnesota. Individuals are able to add veterans' stories and pictures to the Registry at no charge.

HIGHLIGHTS FOR FY 2016

New Website mnmilitarymuseum.org



We value our Staff & Volunteers!

Museum board members and volunteers at the 2015 Volunteer Appreciation Banquet. Volunteers provided over 5000 hours of service in FY 2016

HUMVEE



MRAP



HIGHLIGHTS FOR FY 2016
New Items for the Outside Displays

- Increase emphasis on library and archival resources, expanding public access to both.
- Opening of a 100th anniversary exhibit on WWI, upgrading the timeline exhibit with additions from Minnesota's Two Civil Wars exhibit, and continuation of the Featured Veteran exhibits.
- Enter the planning and feasibility stage for developing a satellite museum at the Veterans Service Building in St. Paul.
- Continue planning and research the feasibility of a mobile museum that provides outreach throughout Minnesota.

PLANS FOR FY 2017

President of the Board: **A. Paul Monteen:** Retired Law Enforcement administrator
 V.P. Personnel: **Robert L. Boone:** Retired School Administrator and retired C.S.M MNARNG
 V.P. Finance: **Tim Meininger:** Retired Bank V.P. & Past President & chair Duluth C of C
 V.P. Programs: **Jon Van der Hagen:** Urgent Care doctor and avid history follower
 Secretary: **Thomas Chial:** Retired MNARNG

Member: **Richard Nash:** Major General , Adjutant General , State of Minnesota
 Member: **Nicholas Ostapenko:** Attorney, & retired Brigadier General, MNARNG
 Member: **Lyle C. Doerr:** Retired Sr. Manager and Facilities Management & retired Major General (BVT) MNARNG

Member: **Mark Ritchie:** Former Secretary of State, Minnesota
 Member: **Betty Masoner:** Retired Educator
 Member: **Jack Johnson:** Retired U of M Administrator, and retired Lt. Colonel (BVT) MNARNG

Member: **Frank A. Messina:** Realtor & owner, Messina & Associates, Duluth MN
 Member : **Mark Vargas:** Library Dean, St. Cloud State University
 Member : **Dean Ascheman:** Retired IBM executive and veteran advocate
 Member: **Vern Smith:** Retired bank executive
 Member: **Stephen E. Osman**—Retired director Ft Snelling Historic Site, MHS

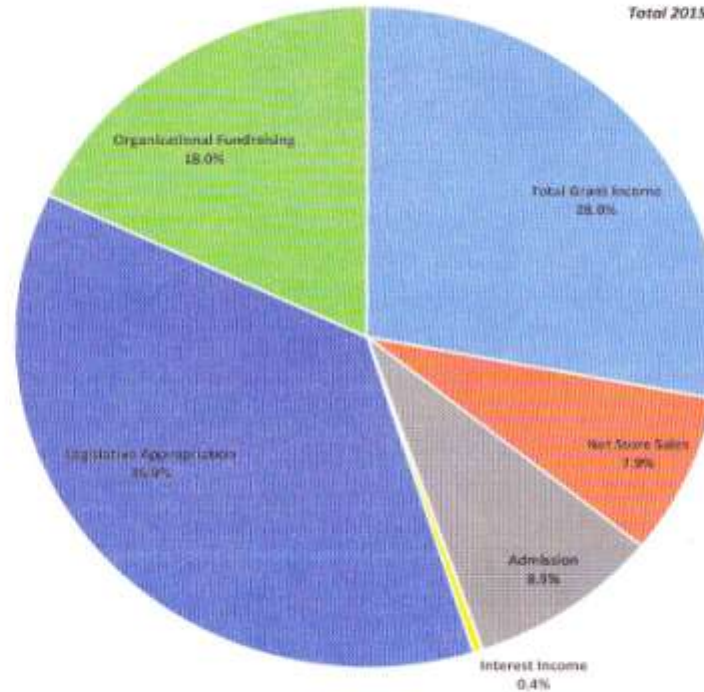
Ex Officio Member: **Doug Bekke, Curator**— Commercial Artist and retired Major, USAR
 Ex Officio Member: **Jeff Thielen, Executive Director**— Retired MN DNR Enforcement & retired Major, MNARNG

Our Board of Directors

2015 2016 Income

Organizational Fundraising includes funds raised by the museum from many sources including corporate and fraternal organization donations as well as membership dues and donation box income.

Further detail is available upon request. Our IRS Form 990 is also available for review at the National Charitable Statistics website: <http://nccs.urban.org>



Total 2015 2016 Income: \$270,924.00

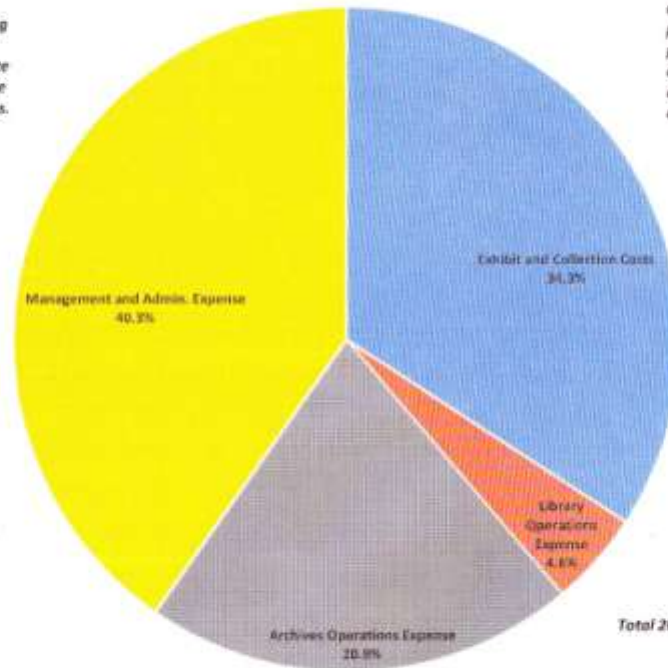
Net Store Sales consists of total sales less inventory cost and sales tax.

Where our money comes from

2015 2016 Expenses

Program Costs are the essential costs associated with fulfilling the mission of the organization: to educate the public on the service of Minnesota's veterans.

Exhibit & Collection Costs include all expenses associated with acquiring, processing, restoring, preserving and storing artifacts as well as exhibit development and construction.



*Further detail is available upon request. Our IRS Form 990 is also available at the national Center for Charitable Statistics website:
<http://nccs.urban.org>*

Total 2015 2016 Expenses: \$271,540.00

Where our money goes



**Military Historical Society of Minnesota -
Preserving & Telling Minnesota Veterans' Stories.**

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