

All in the Family

No, this is not about Archie Bunker, although it might be fun to do a review on that show. While at a wedding in Beverly Hills, I talked to a clergy who was part of Carroll O'Connor's funeral. Carroll O'Connor was rejected by the Navy, so joined the US Merchant Marine and served during WWII. This All in the Family is about the American Legion. This is a slogan used by the Legion to describe all of its membership types. The most known is, of course, membership based in active duty service during a time of conflict; WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Lebanon/Grenada, Operation Just Cause (Panama) and Persian Gulf and War on Terrorism. The eligibility dates are on the Legion website. You must have served at least one day during those dates, and have been honorably discharged or are still serving.

A second membership is the American Legion Auxiliary which is limited to the grandmothers, mothers, sisters, wives, and direct and adopted female descendants of members of The American Legion, and to the grandmothers, mothers, sisters, wives, and direct and adopted female descendants of all men and women who were in the Armed Forces of the United States during any of the qualifying dates and died in the line of duty during such service, or who, having received an Honorable Discharge, died after service: In order to be eligible the Veteran must have been a Legion member. Women Veterans are also eligible to join the Auxiliary.

A third membership category is the Sons of the American Legion. Sons of the Legion is open to all male descendants, adopted sons and stepsons of members of the American Legion, and such male descendants of veterans who died in Service during the dates defined for Legion members.

If you are a member in one of the above types, you are also eligible to join the American Legion Riders. Other requirements are that each Legion Rider shall establish and maintain their membership by owning, individually or through marriage, a motorcycle licensed and insured as required by state law. For some of us older riders, membership may be continued for members who have given up motorcycle ownership because of age, illness, injury or other reasons outside of the member's control.

All of these type are active at the American Legion Post 21 in Moorhead.

On Sunday, 21 May, our local American Legion, VFW and Beyond the Yellow Ribbon hosted a fund raiser for the next Honor Flight. We had almost 100 items in the silent auction, served BBQ for lunch and had raffle tickets for sale. During the event, many Veterans organizations presented checks to the local Honor Flight committee to help support the program. We even had one WWII Veteran sign up for the next Honor Flight. It was a great event.

Don't forget the Veteran's Memorial Picnic at Bonanzaville on Thursday 25 May. Gates open at 3:00 pm and the picnic starts at 5:00 pm. All are welcome and it is free.