

The Fabulous 4th

NEWSLETTER – March 2026

4th DISTRICT OFFICERS

Commander
Jon Haworth

Adjutant
Jennifer Havlick

Vice Commanders
Jess Kalinoski
Dan Bronk

Membership Director
Jamie Brooks
Asst – Mickey Ostrum

Chaplain
Joe Jansen

Finance Officer
Temp – Mike Ash

Judge Advocate
Mike Ash

Historian
Ron Eddings

Sgt-at-Arms

Past Commander
Teresa Ash

District Webpage
<https://www.fourthdistrictamericanlegionmn.com/>

District Newsletter E-Mail:
mikeash202@gmail.com

4th District Facebook Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/MNFourthDistrict/>

4th District Legion Baseball
<http://tricitybaseball.org/dist4.htm>

Department Website:
www.mnlegion.org

National Website:
www.legion.org

VICE COMMANDER DAN'S CORNER

Greetings, 4th District of Minnesota!

Can you believe our district convention is just around the corner? It's happening in a few short months, and it's more important than ever. This convention will be a pivotal moment as we discuss the potential merger between the 4th and 5th Districts of Minnesota. It's an excellent opportunity for everyone to voice their opinions, ask questions, and stay informed about our future.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, March 29th — National Vietnam War Veterans Day. The Vietnam War was one of the most brutal conflicts in history, with over three million casualties during the years of battle. Today, we honor and thank all Vietnam Veterans for their courage, sacrifice, and service. Your dedication will never be forgotten.

Looking ahead — registration is now open for 2026 Legionville!

Whether you're a returning camper or new to the experience, you'll find all the information you need at the links below, including session dates, what to bring, and a sample daily schedule.

- New Registration: <https://legionville.org/registration>

- Returning

Camper https://legionville.campmanagement.com/p/campers/login_m.php

Sponsors of campers:

Please see the attached reservation form, which should accompany your payment and include an explanation letter. Once full payment is received, a coupon code will be emailed to you. Pass this code on to the parents of the sponsored campers—they will use it during checkout to deduct the \$500 registration fee.

Attention parents and guardians:

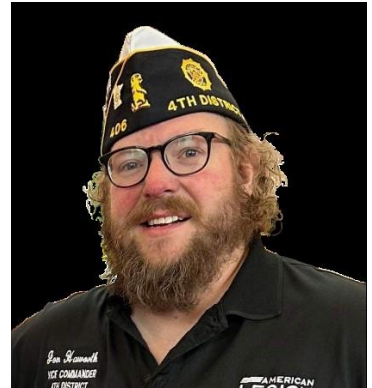
The Legacy Scholarship Application is now open! This scholarship provides college funding for children of post-9/11 veterans who died on active duty or have a VA disability rating of 50% or higher. The deadline to apply is April 10, 2026.

Apply here <https://www.legion.org/scholarships/legacy>

Finally, I encourage everyone to actively seek out Veterans, thank them for their service, and invite them to join our Post. Your gratitude and support mean the world.

Thank you, and may God bless you all. May God bless the United States of America.

Daniel Bronk - 4th District Vice Commander



Jon Haworth
4th District Commander

District Meeting Schedule

(Per the District Constitution & By-Laws, District meetings are to be held on the second Wednesday of each month.)

March 11th - 6:00 p.m.
Zoom Meeting (Meeting link will be sent out the Monday prior to the meeting)

April 8th - 6:00 p.m. -
Location: N. St. Paul Post 39 – Primary discussion on reports and fine-tuning matter relating to the 4th & 5th District Merger. Invite to be sent to the 5th district.

“Veterans in the 4th District don’t wait to be called — we show up. Every meeting is another chance to lead, to volunteer, and to make a difference.”

Upcoming Events

March 11

4th District meeting (RCCC) via
ZOOM 6:00pm – link to be sent out
Monday (Mar 9)

Mar 15

VA Visitation 1:00pm @ VAMC



FROM THE 4TH DISTRICT AUXILIARY

Weather tuned from 50 degrees to wicked Snow. The 4th District Americano Legion Family Pot Luck, still went on despite the inclement weather.

A handful of people still trudged thru the snow to attend and brought great food!

My heartfelt Thank you to Mary and Denise from Unit 39 for getting and working on the Silent Auction to support one of my projects, a special meal and Treats and Snacks for the Residents of the Minneapolis Veterans Home.

Because of the Budget they get nutritious meals, but that does not include any money for treats, snacks, pop and special food for meals.

Thanks to Mary and Denise and all who participated in the Silent Auction to support, the Residents will get treats and a special meal. Thank you so much to everyone. The full amount is not yet known, but the Silent Auction was a success. And there were several contributions handed to me, one from the SAL and from Unit 474. Thank you.

A special Thank you to North Saint Paul American Legion for Hosting this event.

Our District meeting in March will have Department Personal talking about the "dreaded Impact Reports and Annual Reports" I hope many Auxiliary members will attend the Meeting March 18 at 6:30 at White Bear Lake American Legion. They

will learn about why we do those reports and how to do them.

Looking ahead, there are many Auxiliary Fund-Raising Events coming up watch for the Information on 4th District Face Book Page .

Very well done and kept up by Shelly Putz. If you have an event , contact Shelly and she will post on the Face Book Page.

It is not too early to think about our District Convention. I have a speaker lined up to talk about why we pay dues, where do our dues go who determines how much our dues are and any other questions you may have about our Finances.

Please at your March Unit meetings please ask what members are planning on attending the District Convention. And then forward that information to me, a count is needed for the meal being served and that count is needed by April 10.

It is hard to believe that we are in the Lenten Season already. Was it just Christmas?

Take advantage of the many Posts that have Fish Fry's on Fridays. Help support those Posts.

Thank you again for your support of one of my Projects special meals, treats and or snacks at Minneapolis Veterans Home. My other project is Bingo Night at VAMC.

Bingo night at VAMC dates are February 24, March 24 April 28 . Any help is always welcome. AL, ALA, SAL or ALR. Just contact me. Thank you to all Service Men and Women who have served and those who are now serving.

Sandy Gibson

4th District American Legion
Auxiliary President

And speaking of Fish Frys...

North St. Paul Post 39
announces: Annual Friday Fish
Fry starts February 20, 2026.
4-piece fish basket only \$14.00
Shrimp Basket \$15.00
Build Your Own Burger Option
available...

Better Meetings? Debrief.

At every American Legion meeting, we talk about service, teamwork, and looking out for each other. But one thing we don't always do is debrief the way elite teams do.

Some groups, like the Blue Angels, run a *rankless, nameless* debrief after every flight. Anyone can speak up. The most junior member can challenge the most senior. No ego. No defensiveness. Just honesty and improvement.

Imagine if our meetings worked the same way.

No one stays quiet because they "aren't senior enough." No sugarcoating issues because no one wants to be the one to say it. No repeating the same mistakes because we never talked about them openly.

So picture this at the end of every Legion meeting, event, or fundraiser: Everyone gets a voice. Titles don't matter. We ask two simple questions: What went well? What can we do better next time?

At first, it might feel awkward. People aren't used to speaking freely in a room with officers, long-time members, and new faces all together.

But that's how you catch problems early. That's how the newest member spots something the commander didn't. That's how the team improves faster, serves better, and strengthens the post.

If a team flying inches apart at hundreds of miles an hour can create a culture where anyone can speak up...A Legion post or district or department can too.

Make it rankless. Make it safe. Make it expected. That's how you get truth instead of polite silence—and how the whole post gets stronger.

"Those who once served our nation now strengthen our neighborhoods. Veterans don't stop answering the call; they just find new ways to serve."

Adjutant's Corner

Hello 4th District Legionnaires, By now, you've likely heard the news—I'll be heading back to the Empire State and have submitted my resignation as your Adjutant and from the Department Training Committee, effective at the March 14th Department Executive Committee meeting.

For the first time in nearly ten years, I'll be wearing a blue cap again.

While 1,200 miles may sound like a lot, in today's world it really isn't. I'm still just a phone call or video chat away.

I want to sincerely thank each of you for welcoming me into the 4th District with open arms—and, of course, handing me the Adjutant suitcase.

It has been an honor to serve alongside you. I look forward to watching you successfully complete the merger with the 5th District and showing the rest of the Department exactly how it's done.

The Metro District has the potential to be the strongest district in the Department, with the largest membership base. The opportunity is there now; it's just a matter of reaching out and bringing them in.

I wish you all the very best in everything you do.

Jennifer Havlick

*Former 4th District Adjutant
Past Department Commander
(2022–2023)*

"Life is like a ten-speed bicycle. Most of us have gears we never use."

- Charles Schulz

(Speaking of gears you haven't used yet...check out this next story...)

Your 4th District Needs You

As many of you know, we're saying goodbye to one of our cornerstones, Adjutant Jennifer Havlick. We wish her nothing but the best on her next adventure — but let's be honest, her departure leaves a pretty big hole in our district leadership.

And that's not the only seat opening up. When Vice Commander Dan Bronk steps into the commander's role next year, so we'll need a new vice commander (or two), a finance officer, and a Sgt-at-Arms. Chaplain Joe Jansen is doing a fantastic job, but I'm fairly certain he'd welcome someone willing to take on the assistant chaplain role.

Now, before this starts sounding like a doomsday announcement, here's the twist: at our district convention, we'll be voting on whether to merge with the 5th District. If both districts give the thumbs-up, we'll be stepping into a whole new chapter — and those who step forward now will be part of shaping that future from the ground up.

Whether the merger happens or not, one thing is certain: **we need members willing to lead.** If you've ever even *considered* taking on an officer role, this is your moment. You won't be thrown into the deep end — you'll have mentors, support, and a team behind you. And yes, even at the district level, the duties are manageable. We believe family comes first, and missing a meeting now and then isn't the end of the world.

If you're ready to help guide the 4th District into the years ahead, we'd love to have you step forward.

4th District Committee Chairs and members, 2025-2026

AMERICANISM:

Teresa Ash - Post 406

ARMED FORCES SERVICE CENTER:

Dave Dahl – Post 8

BASEBALL:

Gail Kalata

BELL RINGING - RAY SAUNDERS MEMORIAL:

John Weiss – Post 577

BLOOD DONATIONS

Mike Ash TEMPORARILY!

BOYS STATE:

John Weiss – Post 577

BOY SCOUTS:

John Weiss – Post 577

ENDOWMENT FUND:

Jon Haworth – Post 406

Mike Ash – Post 406

Dave Dahl – Post 8

EDUCATION WEEK:

Joe Jansen – Post 406

EMPLOYMENT

Mike Ash – Post 406

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Dave Dahl – Post 8

Randy Bastyr – Post 39

Mike Ash – Post 406

LAW and ORDER:

Ron Eddings – Post 406

LEGIONVILLE:

Ron Eddings – Post 406

LEGISLATION:

Joe Jansen – Post 406

Mike Ash – Post 406

MEMORIAL DAY ASSOCIATION:

NATIONAL CEMETERY:

NATIONAL SECURITY:

Ron Eddings – Post 406

LEADERSHIP AND THE DISCIPLINE OF TRUTH

Leadership in the American Legion isn't defined by titles, years of membership, or the number of meetings attended. It's defined by character. And one of the clearest measures of character is how we handle information—especially when we don't have the facts.

Rumor-mongering is one of the quietest but most corrosive forces in any organization. It often starts with innocent phrases like "I heard..." or "I think what happened was..." but those small seeds can grow into division, mistrust, and unnecessary conflict. When we repeat unverified stories, we're not just passing along words—we're shaping perceptions, influencing decisions, and sometimes harming people who have done nothing wrong.

As Legionnaires, we hold ourselves to a higher standard. We are veterans, family members of veterans, and community leaders. Our oath and our mission call us to uphold integrity, respect, and service. That means resisting the temptation to fill in the blanks with speculation when we don't know the full story. A true leader doesn't rely on whispers. A true leader goes to the source.

Asking for facts isn't confrontational—it's responsible. It shows maturity, respect for the people involved, and commitment to the health of the post. It prevents misunderstandings from becoming grievances and keeps our focus where it belongs: serving veterans, supporting our communities, and strengthening the bonds that make

the American Legion a force for good. Leadership isn't just about what we do when everyone is watching. It's about the choices we make in the quiet moments, in the hallway conversations, and in the stories, we choose to repeat—or *refuse to repeat*. If we want a stronger Legion, it starts with stronger habits. And one of the strongest habits we can cultivate is simple: **If you don't know, don't assume. If you're unsure, ask. If it's unverified, don't repeat it.** That's leadership. That's integrity. That's the American Legion at its best.

REGISTRATION FOR LEGIONVILLE IS NOW OPEN!!

We are excited to announce that registration for the 2026 Legionville summer session is now OPEN! All information is available on our website at www.legionville.org.

Legionville Safety Camp is open to ANY child aged 9-13. They will have fun in the great Minnesota outdoors while also learning about safety, including first aid, intro to CPR, swimming, canoeing, online safety, intro to gun safety, and much more!

The registration fee is \$550 per camper. They can be sponsored by a Post, Squadron, Unit,

Parent/Grandparent, or another organization willing to sponsor. We also have scholarships available through the Legionville General Scholarship Fund. You can find all registration information on the "registration" tab of our website.

We are excited for another great summer at Legionville, and we hope to see your kids back this year! Please spread the word and let me know if you have any questions. Thank you!

4th District Committee Chairs and members, 2025-2026 (cont.)

ORATORICAL:

POW / MIA:

POST DEVELOPMENT:

Mickey Ostrum – Post 39

MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS:

Teresa Ash – Post 406

ROTC:

Ron Eddings – Post 406

SAL LIAISON:

Mickey Ostrum – Post 39

SERVICE OFFICER:

Gabe Keith – Post 8

UNITED VETERANS' COUNCIL:

Mickey Ostrum – Post 39

VA HOSPITAL VISITATION :

Joe Jansen – Post 406

Jim Hassing – Post 406

VETERANS CAMP:

Tim Diamond – Post 39

Ron Eddings – Post 406

VETERANS HOME:

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION:

Tim Diamond – Post 39

4TH DISTRICT AUXILIARY:

President — Sandy Gibson
Unit 168

SONS of the AMERICAN LEGION:

Commander – Carroll
Partridge
Squadron 39



The American Legion Family