

The Fabulous 4th

NEWSLETTER – November 2025

4th DISTRICT OFFICERS

Commander
Jon Haworth

Adjutant
Jennifer Havlick

Vice Commanders
Jess Kalinosk
Dan Bronk

Membership Director
Jamie Brooks
Asst – Mickey Ostrum

Chaplain
Richard Gardener
Asst - Joe Jansen

Finance Officer

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

THE ADJUTANT'S CORNER

This past weekend, the 4th District Adjutant, Commander, and Vice Commanders attended the Department of Minnesota Fall Conference, an annual event that brings together Legion Family members from across the state for a weekend filled with learning, leadership, and connection. Training sessions covered Post and District Officer responsibilities, resolution writing, and legislative updates from the Department Chairman ALT NEC Paul Hassing. Attendees also participated in a powerful suicide prevention presentation led by Dr. Adam Walsh, Ph.D., Adjunct Professor of Psychiatry at the Uniformed Services University a session that reinforced The American Legion's ongoing commitment to the "Be the One" initiative and its mission to prevent veteran suicide.

The conference also featured an inspiring keynote address from Iraq War Veteran John Kriesel, who shared his remarkable story of resilience, service, and personal transformation following the devastating injuries he sustained in Iraq. His message of hope and determination reminded everyone in attendance of the strength found in service and community.

Department Commander Linda Dvorak provided an update on her activities since being elected in July, while the National Security Committee recognized this year's Outstanding Service Members of the Year. The Department Executive Committee received updates on committee officer elections and the Department's financial status. In addition, Commander Dvorak appointed an ad hoc committee to explore the potential redrawing of district boundaries across Minnesota — an initiative aimed at ensuring balanced representation and continued organizational growth statewide.

As always, the Fall Conference served as more than just a training weekend — it was an opportunity to reconnect with Legion Family members, share ideas, celebrate accomplishments, and strengthen the mission of service that unites us all.

Looking ahead, the next RCCC (4th District Meeting) will be held on November 12, 2025, via Zoom. The meeting link and details will be sent out one week prior.

Members with agenda items or questions are encouraged to contact either the Adjutant or the District Commander directly. ((Continued on page 4))



District Meeting Schedule

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

November 12th – 6:00 p.m.
Zoom Meeting (Meeting link will be sent out the Monday prior to the meeting)

December 10th – District Holiday and RCCC Meeting –
Location: Arcade Phalen Post 577

5:00 p.m. Social Hour
6:00 p.m. RCCC Meeting
January 10th 4th and 5th District Mid-Year 9:00am @ Crystal VFW Post 494, 5222 Bass Lake Rd, Crystal, MN 55429

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

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

Upcoming Events

Nov 11
Veterans Day

Nov 13
Monthly meeting 6:00pm via ZOOM

Nov 16
VA Visitation 1:00pm @ VAMC

Nov 27
~~Turkey Day~~ Thanksgiving



FROM THE 4TH DISTRICT AUXILIARY

Happy Fall !

I have just returned from the Fall Conference in St. Cloud. It was a wonderful Conference full of Facts and Learning information.

The Auxiliary had two New Auxiliary Members who had never attended before - Mary and Brenda. Total of 7 4th District Auxiliary members. 4th is small but "mighty".

On Friday evening, a Poppy Making event was held. The 4th District was with the 5th District. 4th District "Rocked" we had 7 Auxiliary Members, 3 Legion Members, (one a past District Commander) a SAL member and a Rider! This was a Legion Family Event. And for being a small District we made 326 Poppies in 1 and 1/2 hour! It was a first-time making Poppies for a lot of us! We did receive a Trophy. My thank you to those Legion, SAL and Rider for "showing up". I must admit I did a little arm pulling and maybe a little bribery was involved, but they did great

On Friday afternoon we had a joint meeting with SAL and Legion there was a wonderful speaker talk about his service in Bosnia. Lots of Tears from all.

The Mid-Winter has now been set, Saturday January 10, 2026 at

9:00am. It will be held at the Crystal VFW, 5222 Bass Lake Rd, Crystal, MN Lower level

For our November District Meeting, I have invited a speaker from the Department Finance Committee to come and explain, Why Dues, where does it go, why is it going up, etc.! I hope many Auxiliary members will attend. Your questions will be answered. I hope many Units and Posts are planning Veteran Day Events, I know that North Saint Paul is hosting a free SOL on November 11.

Rosetown is hosting a Free Dinner to any Veteran on November 11. If your Unit or Post is hosting something please let Shelly Putz know and she will post on Facebook.

I want to extend my appreciation and Thank you to ALL Veterans for their Service. THANK YOU Is not enough.

Some upcoming Events for the Auxiliary :
Holiday Boutique Sunday November 2, 11:00 to 3:00 at North Saint Paul.
A number of Booya's, Watch for the Dates on 4th District Web Site.
White Bear Lake, Breakfast with Santa is December 11 9:00-12:00
Then you can stay for the "Game".
Again, Thank you to all Veterans who served our Country and especially for those who never received a "Welcome Home".
We are truly Blessed to live in a country whose citizens step up to defend us.

Have a very Blessed Thanksgiving, enjoy your time with Family and Friends.

Sandy Gibson
4th District Auxiliary President

4th / 5th District Midwinter

Mid-Winter will be 9:00am on
Jan 10, 2026 at
VFW POST 494
5222 Bass Lake Rd,
Crystal, MN 55429

The following was sent out by Dan Bronk as the 1st Vice Commander at North St. Paul Post 39...It applies to EVERY post.

Good morning, Post 39 Family!

Embracing change and sharing your valuable knowledge with the next generation is essential for the continued success of our American Legion.

Encouraging younger members to take on leadership roles ensures fresh perspectives and keeps our Post vibrant and relevant.

Leveraging modern technology, like transitioning from Word documents to Excel spreadsheets for managing finances, can enhance accuracy and efficiency.

Let's work together to pass the torch confidently, fostering growth and innovation within our Post and inspiring the next generation of veterans, spouses, and children to stay engaged and active in our mission.

That being said, I hope you consider joining the on-line training listed below.

Respectfully,
Daniel Bronk

American Legion Post 39
1st Vice Commander
Gambling Manager
4th District Vice Commander

VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION AT MINNEAPOLIS VA MEDICAL CENTER

On Monday, November 10, 2026 at 1:00PM, there will be a celebration to "honor those who served with courage and sacrifice" at the Flag Atrium (1 Veterans Drive). Everyone is encouraged to attend.

What's Happening at YOUR Post...

From Post 39

Our Thanksgiving Day raffle is November 22, 2025, and we'll be raffling off 50 Turkeys and 50 hams, along with some gift cards and Shake-a-days. Doors open at 10:00 a.m., and the raffle starts at Noon and goes until gone, so please come early as seating goes fast! We will try our best to ensure everyone is seated for this event.

Our winter indoor cornhole leagues will be starting up in December. We host leagues on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights. Visit our website and look for the registration link under the cornhole tab.

On Veterans Day, Veterans will receive a free S.O.S meal from 11:00 am until gone. Family members can order off the menu.

There will be no Bingo on Saturday, November 22, 2025, due to the Thanksgiving Meat Raffle.

We have 4 \$1 boxes, 3 \$2 boxes, a \$5 box, and 12 Etabs with Booty Bingo. Don't forget we have two bingo sessions each week. Tuesday's session starts at 6 p.m., and on Saturdays, we start at 4 p.m. We have 10 games 3 each session, with the last one being a \$1,000 coverall, with a \$200 consolation prize if bingo is not reached in the pre-determined number of balls.

If you haven't been to the Post lately, I would encourage you to stop down and

try food, our seasonal tap beer, play some pull tabs games, and electronic games.

Since we're an amazing legion family who love to come together and socialize with each other, a few of our auxiliary members host a potluck during certain Minnesota Vikings games. This is a free event, and we just ask everyone to bring a dish to share if you are able. Follow our Facebook pages for the dates of the potlucks.

From Post 8

George Hunkins Memorial Veterans Day Walk

Tuesday, November 11, 2025
1:00 PM

Saint Paul Post 8, American Legion, invites ALL VETERANS and their friends & family to join us for a Veterans Day walk.

We depart at 1:00 pm from under the Veteran's Service Building, 20 West 12th Street. This is at the south end of the "Mall" at the Minnesota State Capitol.

The walk is on the sidewalks of downtown Saint Paul - down St Peter Street to

Kellogg Boulevard and then up Wabasha Street to return to the Veterans Service

Building. Participants are encouraged to bring a flag of any size to carry while walking. Call friends and invite them to walk with you! Honor all veterans – living and dead!

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

– John Fitzgerald Kennedy

4th District Committee Chairs and members, 2023-2024

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:

Ken Gibson – Post 542

NATIONAL CEMETERY:

Ken Gibson – Post 542

NATIONAL SECURITY:

Ron Eddings – Post 406

THE ADJUTANT'S CORNER (cont.)

The 4th & 5th District Merger Committee has also begun its important work, forming two subcommittees one to draft a Merger Constitution and By-Laws, and another to align financial operations between the districts. The SAL and Riders have been invited to begin developing or reviewing their own constitutions, by-laws, or standing rules to support this merger process. Questions can be directed to

4and5districtmergercommittee@gmail.com.

Finally, the 4th District continues to focus on membership and leadership opportunities. Please reach out to your unrenewed members and encourage them to renew our goal remains to reach 100% of membership this year! The District also has several committee chair vacancies, including Oratorical, Americanism, and others. Members interested in serving are invited to contact the District Commander or Adjutant for more information. Together, through teamwork, service, and shared purpose, the 4th District continues to build momentum and strengthen The American Legion's presence across Minnesota.

Respectfully,

*Jennifer Havlick, Adjutant
4th District American Legion of
Minnesota*

Editor's note: The following article reflects frustration with our entire political system, not any single party or individual. Like The American Legion's nonpartisan commitment to serving all veterans regardless of politics, this piece directs its anger at a collective failure of governance that harms everyday Americans. When our elected officials—across the

aisle—cannot fulfill their most basic responsibility to keep the government functioning, we all have a right to demand better.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE SO MUCH MORE!!

The federal government has been shut down since October 1, 2025, affecting roughly 900,000 furloughed federal employees and leaving another 2 million working without pay. As we approach the end of October, this shutdown has become the second-longest in American history, and there is still no resolution in sight. The human cost is staggering.

Veterans are facing delays in services they've earned through their sacrifice.

Meanwhile, Congress remains deadlocked, with both chambers unable to bridge their differences and pass the funding necessary to reopen the government.

We deserve leaders who can set aside partisan positions long enough to ensure that children have access to early education, that families can feed themselves, and that dedicated public servants receive the paychecks they've earned. Whatever policy disagreements exist in Washington, holding the entire government—and the livelihoods of millions of Americans—hostage is unacceptable.

This is a failure of governance, plain and simple. Our elected officials must remember that they work for us, and right now, they're failing at their most basic job: keeping the government functioning for the people who depend on it.

4th District Committee Chairs and members, 2023-2024 (cont.)

ORATORICAL:

Jamie Brooks – Post 406

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:

Ken Gibson – Post 542

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION:

Tim Diamond – Post 39

4TH DISTRICT AUXILIARY:

President — Sandy Gibson
Unit 542

SONS of the AMERICAN LEGION:

Commander – Stu Sonnee
Squadron 577