

The Fabulous 4th

NEWSLETTER – September 2026

4th DISTRICT OFFICERS

Commander
Dan Bronk

Adjutant
Mike Ash

Vice Commanders
Brenda Hamlin-Lehmann
Dan Norton

Membership Director
Mickey Ostrum

Chaplain
Joe Jansen

Finance Officer
Mike Kloos
Mike Ash

Judge Advocate
Leo Bosard

Historian
Tim Diamond

Sgt-at-Arms
Tim Diamond

Past Commander
Jon Haworth

District Webpage
Under Construction

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

COMMANDER'S COLUMN

Dear Valued Members of the 4th District, I hope this email finds you well. As we approach the end of summer and the beginning of winter, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the past few months and look forward to the upcoming events. Firstly, I would like to extend my gratitude to all those who supported the Vietnam Wall That Heals event in Whitebear Lake, Minnesota. The Honor Guard Teams from Whitebear Lake Post 168 and North Saint Paul Post 39 did an outstanding job, and it was great to see representation from Posts 39, 168, 542, 577, and 599, along with their Auxiliaries, S.A.L., and Legion Riders. This event truly showcased the community's ability to come together and support our Veterans. On August 12, 2026, we had our 1st Ramsey County Central Committee at Post 39, which was well-attended by almost every post in the 4th District. The Commanders shared updates on their posts, and members had the opportunity to ask questions. Sandy Gibson, 4th District Auxiliary President, provided an update on the Auxiliary's mission for the year and reminded us that the 4th District will be building poppies at the Fall Conference. This is a competition between all districts to see who can build the most poppies within an hour. If you're attending the Fall Conference, I encourage you to help us build the most poppies this year.

As you read this, I will be attending the 107th National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. I anticipate that the convention will be focused on the Take Care of America's Veterans Act (TCAVA) under H.R. 9237 in the House and S.4744 in the Senate. The majority of criticism surrounding TCAVA centers on Section 108, which would change how the VA evaluates future disability claims involving tinnitus and obstructive sleep apnea. In my opinion, it is essential that we continue to fight to retain our earned VA benefits and never allow anyone to remove these benefits. The Ramsey County Central Committee (RCCC) Meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on September 9, 2026 at Post 577. I encourage all Post and family entities to attend this meeting.

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Dan Bronk
4th District Commander

Get This Information on Your Calendar NOW!

2026 Joint Retiree Appreciation Day (JRAD)

Save the Date: Saturday,
September 12, 2026

Treasure Island Resort & Casino
— Welch, MN

Doors open at 7:30 AM |
Program kicks off at 8:15 AM
Expect a full day of:

- The latest on VA benefits and legislative updates
 - TRICARE, Medicare Advantage, and DFAS briefings
 - Sessions on Space-A travel, elder law, and fraud protection
 - Exhibits and speakers from across the military and veteran support community
- Registration opened May 1 at www.raominneapolis.com/rad and is limited to the first 500 registrants. Registration is required — no walk-ins.
Deadline: August 28, 2026. The full agenda will also be available on our website as the event approaches.

Upcoming Events

Sep 9

RCCC @ Arcade Phalen Post 577
7:00PM

Sep 20

VA Visitation 1:00pm @ VAMC

COMMANDER'S COLUMN

(Continued from Page 1)

If you're able to attend, but would like to call in, I have established a zoom meeting

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/84819496276?pwd=heEXmPSzbs7CBgdqP9ICbkXldosVQY.1>

Meeting ID 8481949 6279

The 4th District Christmas Party Potluck will be held on December 9, 2026. We ask those attending the event to bring an un-wrapped Christmas gift which will be donated to those families in need.

The 4th District Son's of the American Legion Convention will be Friday, May 8, 2027, and the 4th District Members Convention will be Saturday, May 9, 2027.

The 2027 Winter Carnival King Boreas Grande Day Parade will be Saturday, January 20, 2027 at 2pm. I encourage all legion family members to attend.

Before I close, I would like to remind everyone to check in with our snowbirds as they prepare to leave for warmer climates. Let's make sure to provide them with updates on Post activities and show our appreciation for their service.

Thank you for your service, and I am honored to serve alongside you.

Sincerely,
Daniel M Bronk

4th District Commander

"Coming together is a beginning;
keeping together is progress;
working together is success."

— Henry Ford

POST HAPPENINGS

St. Paul Post 8 is inviting *all veteran* to its "Family Day/Weekend" (Weekend September 17-20, with Family Day being Saturday, September 19) to be held at the Veterans Campground on Big Marine Lake. There will be pontoon rides and fishing. Don't miss the Rib Fest on Saturday. See the flyer at the end of the newsletter for details (INCLUDING OUR REQUEST FOR AN RSVP). Veterans *and their guest* may attend as much or as little of the weekend as they'd like. This is a "no-charge" event... individual members of Post 8 are paying the bulk of the expenses, but Post 8 will pick up the cost of more food and additional cabins if needed.

Arcade Phalen Post 577

Golf Tournament

- **Date:** Saturday, September 12, 2026
- **Registration:** 11:00 AM at Post 577
- **Shotgun Start:** 12:00 PM at Phalen Park Golf Course (1615 Phalen Dr, St. Paul)
- **Dinner:** 5:30 PM back at Post 577
- **Cost:** \$100.00 per golfer (includes green fees, cart, and dinner)

See Mark Gallagher or Bernie to sign up or for more details!

Post 39 – Stuff happening every day ... see for yourself:

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
VISIT: INFOTECH@POST39.ORG
OR SCAN HERE**



FROM YOUR VICE COMMANDER

Dan Norton

My name is Dan Norton and I'm your Area 1 Vice Commander. I'm a Marine Corps veteran and enlisted in the Marines after graduating from St. Paul Harding in 1976. My MOS was infantry and I Left the Marines in 1979 as a corporal after completing my 3 year active duty obligation and then on inactive reserve for 3 years. After the Marines I went to work for 3M and attended Lakewood community College. I retired from 3M after 36 years of service. I have been with Arcade Phalen American Legion Post 577 for 8 years. During that time I have been Post Vice Commander for 4 years and Post 577 Commander for two years. I'm now Post 577 Finance Officer. Looking forward to attend at least one meeting of each Post in Area 1 while I'm your Vice Commander. Looking forward to meet Area 1 Post officers and discuss recruitment efforts for new members in the 4th District.

Regards,
Dan Norton,
4th District Vice Commander



4th District members taking a break during the convention (sign added to protect the guilty)

How Good Leaders Own Outcomes (And Bad Ones Point Fingers)

When a Post fundraiser flops, an event is understaffed, or the kitchen order gets messed up, our first instinct is to defend ourselves and explain who dropped the ball. Playing the blame game might protect your ego in the moment, but it destroys trust and credibility across the Post long-term.

Two Mindsets at the Post

*** The Blame Mindset:** Looks backward to assign fault. "Who dropped the ball on the Honor Guard schedule?"

*** The Ownership Mindset:** Looks forward to solve the problem. "What was in my control, and how do we fix it for the next event?"

Shift to ownership, and a ripple effect takes hold. When officers own outcomes, committee chairs and members follow suit.

The Three Blame Traps

1. **The Delegation Trap:** Blaming a volunteer when a task fails—without remembering you never showed them where the supplies were stored or how the routine works.
2. **The Process Trap:** Blaming "the way things have always been done." If the Post's process is broken, leadership is responsible for fixing it.
3. **The Resource Trap:** Blaming a lack of volunteers, money, or gear. Leaders must manage resources, adjust expectations, and raise flags early.

Four Steps to Owning Outcomes

- **Pause and own it:** Accept responsibility for the Post's shortfalls without throwing comrades under the bus.
- **Ask the ownership question:** *"What could I have done differently to set the team up for success?"*

- **Hold a no-blame debrief:** Gather the committee to focus on fixing process gaps, not attacking individuals.
- **Commit to the fix:** Implement the solution so the next Post event runs smoothly.

When members know leadership has their back, they stop hiding mistakes and start stepping up. Let's stop blaming and start leading.

VA Simplifies Records Request Process for Veterans

Requesting military service, medical, or benefits records from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) just got easier. The VA has redesigned its online Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and records request page, replacing confusing legal jargon and scattered links with an intuitive, user-friendly portal.

What's New:

No Guesswork Required: You no longer need to figure out which VA administration handles your file or know the technical difference between a FOIA and Privacy Act request.

Clear Selection Boxes: Simply click the labeled box matching your specific need—such as DD214s, Veterans Health Administration records, or CHAMPVA claims—to be directed straight to the correct form.

Fewer Delays: Since launching, misdirected request mailboxes dropped by 90%, ensuring your paperwork reaches the right department without getting lost in the queue.

Built with input from Veterans and routinely updated to address common challenges, the site streamlines access so you spend less time searching and more time getting the benefits you've earned.

Skip the guesswork by visiting the VA's online [Personal Records Request Portal](#) to access the right form immediately

4th District Committee Chairs and members, 2025-2026

AMERICANISM:

Teresa Ash - Post 406

ARMED FORCES SERVICE CENTER:

Joe Jansen – Post 406

BASEBALL:

Gail Kalata

BELL RINGING - RAY SAUNDERS MEMORIAL:

John Weiss – Post 577

BLOOD DONATIONS

Mike Kloos – Post 39

BOYS STATE:

John Weiss – Post 577

John Bowers – Post 450

BOY SCOUTS:

John Weiss – Post 577

CONSTITUTION/BYLAWS:

Mike Ash – Post 406

Tom Erickson – Post 39

Carroll Partridge – Post 599

Leo Bosard – Post 39

EDUCATION WEEK:

Joe Jansen – Post 406

EMPLOYMENT

Mike Ash – Post 406

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Mike Ash – Post 406

Mike Kloos – Post 39

Dan Norton – Post 577

LAW and ORDER:

Ron Eddings – Post 406

LEGIONVILLE:

Ron Eddings – Post 406

LEGISLATION:

Joe Jansen – Post 406

Mike Ash – Post 406

MEMORIAL DAY ASSOCIATION:

OPEN

NATIONAL CEMETERY:

Tom Trost – Post 39

NATIONAL SECURITY:

Brenda Hamlin-Lehmann – Post 39

The August 4th District Meeting (RCCC)

Why's it called RCCC? Straight from our constitution, stands for Ramsey County Central Committee – and yes, we are looking for review the Constitution and By-Laws...

Meeting opened by Commander Dan Bronk at 7:00pm on August 12, 2026 – after usual opening, special guests were introduced including: 2 new members from Post 168 (welcome!), Department Vice Commander Carroll "Bird" Partridge and 4th District Auxiliary President Sandy Gibson.

It was reported that 173 ALR motorcycles were present at the ceremonial "Wall the Heals" exhibit held in White Bear Lake.

Post Commanders present were asked to let us know what's happening at their posts: Arcade Phalen 577 reported they were working hard to increase business at the post – that's a hint to everyone to stop by when you're in the area (Reminder: Located at 1129 Arcade St in St. Paul, Opened from 2PM-9PM, Closed on Monday).

White Bear Lake Post 168 held a Women's Veterans Day Program (June 12).

A motion was made to adopt a Women Veterans Day Program; it was seconded and passed. North St. Paul Post 39 talked about upcoming Brat and Corn Feed and many hours of cornhole toss at the post.

President Sandy Gibson asked us all to remember and thank women veterans. She also mentioned the great work that the Auxiliary is doing at the Veterans Home supplying

meals and snacks, bingo at the home from 6:30-7:30, sending cards to deployed veterans and asked for anyone with a truck to please help transporting goods to the Vet's home in December.

Under new business, the group talked about charter turn-ins for Post 515 and 3H posts with 0 and 3 members respectively. Also new Women Veterans clinic opened at the VAMC, the new Minnesota Veterans Museum opening in Little Falls and the Department Service Officer will be coming to the North St Paul VFW on November 2.

Everyone was reminded: If you know a veteran who is not a member, please ask them to join.

Meeting adjourned.

Only in America

Only in America...

can a pizza get to your house faster than an ambulance....

Only in America...

do people order double cheese burgers, a large fry and A diet coke...

Only in America...

do banks leave both doors open and then chain the pens To the counters...

Only in America...

do we leave cars worth thousands of dollars in the driveway and leave useless things and junk in boxes in the garage...

Only in America...

do we buy hot dogs in packages of ten and buns in packages of eight...

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

ORATORICAL:

John Bowers – Post 450

POW / MIA:

OPEN

POST DEVELOPMENT:

Mickey Ostrum – Post 39

MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS:

Susan Vevaer-Riveland
Post 582

ROTC:

Ron Eddings – Post 406

SAL LIAISON:

Mickey Ostrum – Post 39

SERVICE OFFICER:

Sean Gustafson – Post 542

VA HOSPITAL VISITATION:

Joe Jansen – Post 406
Jim Hassing – Post 406

VETERANS CAMP:

Tim Diamond – Post 39
Ron Eddings – Post 406

VETERANS HOME:

OPEN

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

★★★ AMERICAN LEGION



POST 8 ★★★★★

POST 8 Family Day WEEKEND

SEPTEMBER
17-20
★ 2026 ★



VETERANS CAMPGROUND

11300 180th Street North
Marine on Saint Croix, MN 55047



FAMILY DAY
SATURDAY
★ THE 19TH ★

Come for the day or the whole weekend!



CABIN RENTALS

David Dahl and Jeff
Goplen will each
be renting a cabin
for those who
would like to attend.
**Each cabin
sleeps 4-7**



Cabins have
full kitchen,
bathroom and
one private
bedroom



WANT YOUR OWN CABIN?

If you prefer a cabin
for yourself or want
to bring your spouse
or significant other,
contact the campground
at **651-433-2699**



ON THE WATER

We will have
pontoon rides
and fishing
available

★ WEEKEND HIGHLIGHTS ★



CAR SHOW

On Saturday the campground
will be hosting a
Challenger car show



RIB FEST

On Saturday
Dave will have his
annual Rib Fest



BREAKFAST

Jeff will cook
breakfast for
those who like



GREAT COMPANY

Relax, enjoy good food,
great people and make
memories together!



WE NEED TO TELL EVERYONE WHO WANTS TO ATTEND TO
RSVP TO ANY ONE OF THE THREE NAMES AT THE BOTTOM OF THE FLYER. ★



BRIAN GRIFFIN
612-222-6464



DAVID DAHL
651-917-8487



JEFF GOPLEN
612-497-7348