

The Fabulous 4th

NEWSLETTER – May 2026

COMMANDER'S COLUMN

Spring has sprung in the 4th District! The GSTA hot rod show with the Legion Cruisers was a great time. In the coming months we will be doing cruises and car shows from one post to another. If anybody would like the club to cruise to their post and have a car show, please let me know. If you have car shows at your post, make an American Legion Cruisers chapter at your post. My contact info is below.

The veterans walk on the hill took place on April 23rd at 600 Cedar Street in St Paul. From across the state people came and gathered in support of veterans. One of the main topics that we talked about was increasing the property tax exemption. For the last 18 years, the property tax exemption for disabled veterans has not changed, not even with inflation. As of right now if you have a service connection of 70%, you receive a \$150,000 property tax exemption if you own a home. 100% gets \$300,000. We are trying to have it increased to 70% receiving \$225,000 and 100% receiving \$450,000. By having this happen, we would greatly reduce monetary stress for our veterans and help them to be able to keep more cash in their pocket every month. We got to hear from a couple of legislators and keynote speakers including our very own Anthony Koop.

The second food shelf ruck march took place this past Sunday April 26th. We had a great group of 10 come and meet at Post 99 in South Minneapolis. The ruck itself was a nice pace with some funny military humor inside jokes. DSO Jason Storm and American Legion Auxiliary President Robin Dorf helped me put the word out on Facebook for the April and May 24th ruck and it sounds like we have a lot of people that are either interested in joining us or donating to the VA.

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4th DISTRICT OFFICERS

Commander
Jon Haworth

Adjutant
Mike Ash - TEMP

Vice Commanders
Jess Kalinoski
Dan Bronk

Membership Director
Jamie Brooks
Asst – Mickey Ostrum

Chaplain
Joe Jansen

Finance Officer
Mike Ash – TEMP

Judge Advocate
Mike Ash

Historian
Ron Eddings

Sgt-at-Arms
OPEN

Past Commander
Teresa Ash

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

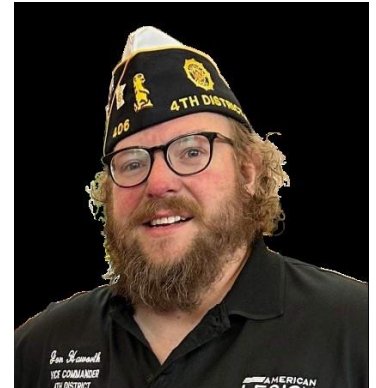
District Newsletter E-Mail:
mikeash202@gmail.com

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



Jon Haworth
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 opens May 1, 2026 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

May 9

4th District Convention
North St. Paul Post 39 – 8:00AM

May 17

VA Visitation 1:00pm @ VAMC

Memorial Day 2026: A Day of Remembrance and Reflection

As May 25, 2026, approaches, communities across the nation are preparing for **Memorial Day**, a federal holiday dedicated to honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. This year's observance carries a unique weight as it falls during the nation's 250th anniversary year, adding a layer of historical significance to the traditional ceremonies.

The True Meaning of the Day

Originally known as **Decoration Day**, the holiday was established following the Civil War to commemorate the massive loss of life by decorating the graves of the fallen with flowers and flags. Today, it remains a solemn occasion for families to visit national cemeteries and memorials.

Ways to Observe the Holiday

For those looking to honor the day with intention, several traditions remain central to the American experience:

- **Flag Protocol:**
According to tradition, the American flag should be flown at **half-staff until noon**, then raised to full-staff for the

remainder of the day. This represents both mourning the fallen and honoring their sacrifice by continuing to uphold the nation's values.

- **National Moment of Remembrance:** At **3:00 PM local time**, Americans are encouraged to pause for one minute of silence. This simple act serves as a unified tribute from coast to coast.
- **The Red Poppy:** Inspired by the World War I poem "*In Flanders Fields*," many people wear red poppies on this day as a symbol of remembrance and support for the families of the fallen.

Community Events

From local parades in small towns to the **National Memorial Day Parade** in Washington, D.C., public gatherings provide a space for collective gratitude. For those in the military community, events like the **Rolling Thunder** motorcycle demonstration continue to advocate for accountability regarding POWs and those missing in action. While the long weekend often signals the "unofficial start of summer" with barbecues and travel, the core of May 25 remains a quiet promise: that the service members who gave their lives for the country will not be forgotten.

"For love of country they accepted death, and thus resolved all doubts, and made immortal their patriotism and their virtue."

— James A. Garfield

COMMANDER'S COLUMN

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I had a conversation with Goldie from the VA at the Veterans Walk and she was telling me about how we can help even further by helping put the food in the boxes and run them out to veterans' vehicles when they come to pick up the food. The next food shelf ruck is May 24th, meeting at 8:30ish at the Minnehaha Depot and stepping off at 9ish. I will be sure to share that information once I get it. Hopefully we can build a strong team of volunteers to help get this food out to the veterans that need it. If you're interested in joining us on the walk or donating, please reach out to me at 612-532-1210 and jhaworth@kw.com.

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

— John F. Kennedy



CONTACT US

**Veterans Campground on
Big Marine Lake
11300 180th Street North
Marine on St. Croix,
MN 55047
website www.vetscampmn.org**

Big Impact Small Time Commitment

With Vice Commander Dan Bronk set to step into the Commander's role next year, we are looking for a few members to fill key roles: Vice Commander, Finance Officer, Sgt-at-Arms, and Assistant Chaplain.

Here is the truth: We don't need your life story; we just need a little of your time.

Why Your "Yes" Matters Now

At our upcoming district convention, we will vote on a potential merger with the 5th District. Whether we remain as we are or embark on this brand-new chapter, we need a foundational team to guide the transition. This is a unique opportunity to help shape our future from day one—without it becoming a second job.

The "Low Pressure" Reality of District Leadership

Many members hesitate because they worry about the workload. We want to clear the air on what leadership actually looks like:

- **Manageable Hours:** Even at the district level, the roles are designed to be streamlined and efficient.
- **Flexibility is Standard:** We know family and personal lives come first. If you have to miss a meeting or a project now and then, the world won't stop turning.
- **You're Never Alone:** You aren't being thrown into the deep end. You'll have a full support system, experienced mentors, and a team ready to back you up.

Step Up Without Stepping Overboard

If you've ever considered an officer role but were worried about the "heavy lifting," this is your moment. We are looking for members to contribute just a few hours a month to keep our mission moving forward.

Are you ready to help guide the 4th District into the future?

We'd be proud to have you on the team. Reach out today to see how your small contribution can make a massive difference.

4th District Convention info,,,

The 4th District Convention is scheduled to take place on Saturday, May 9, 2026, at the North Saint Paul American Legion Post 39. The opening ceremonies will commence at 8:00 a.m., and we encourage all members to join us for a day of discussion, feedback, and camaraderie.

As we continue to strive for excellence in caring for our Veterans and improving our organization, your input and participation are invaluable. We rely on your feedback to make informed decisions and drive positive change. Therefore, we look forward to seeing you at the Convention, where we can work together to address challenges, share ideas, and celebrate our achievements.

Date: May 9, 2026

Time: 8:00 a.m. (opening ceremonies)

Location: North Saint Paul American Legion Post 39.

Registration: \$15.00

What's included in this price:

Breakfast: pastries, bagels, coffee, juice and milk. (Donated by HyVee)

Lunch: Spaghetti with meatballs, house salad, garlic bread, milk and juice.

We appreciate your dedication to our organization and the important work that we do.

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 - TEMP

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:

OPEN

NATIONAL CEMETERY: **OPEN**

NATIONAL SECURITY:

Ron Eddings – Post 406

CHECK OUT THE UPCOMING ZOOM MEETING – ALL WELCOME!

A Zoom meeting for Post Service Officers is coming up, and all members are welcome to attend. If you want to understand how we serve veterans or support the work of your post, this is your chance to join the conversation. Details are below.

Topic: Service officer zoom call
**Time: May 4, 2026 01:00 PM
Central Time (US and Canada)**
Join Zoom Meeting Url:

<https://smumn.zoom.us/j/82600358455?pwd=P89mYVz2uz3luGzOYcAyjwrtgqXk5N.1>

(share this link with participants)

Meeting ID: 826 0035 8455

Password: 694844

Additional ways to get into the meeting:

One tap mobile device number:
+13126266799,,82600358455#
US (Chicago)

To join via phone, dial
+1 312 626 6799 US
(Chicago)

Meeting ID: 826 0035 8455
Password: 694844

Find your local
number: <https://smumn.zoom.us/j/ki7BR0kTb>

"Behind every veteran's benefit is a Service Officer who knew the way. Come learn the path."

Legislative Update: The HF 3727 / SF 615 Final Push

We are entering the critical "final stretch" for two bills that directly impact the financial stability of our veteran community. **House File 3727** and **Senate File 615** are currently being weighed by the Tax Committees, and their success depends on the volume of our collective voice.

These bills seek to increase the homestead market value exclusion for the first time since 2008. If passed, the exclusion for veterans with a 70% or higher disability rating would rise from **\$150,000 to \$225,000**, and for those with a total (100%) and permanent disability, it would increase from **\$300,000 to \$450,000**.

The "Two-Minute Task"

We need every member of the 4th District to reach out to their state representative and senator this week. Use the template below:

Subject: Support MN Veterans – Vote YES on HF 3727 / SF 615

Dear [Representative/Senator Name],
As a constituent and a member of the American Legion 4th District, I am writing to urge your full support for **HF 3727 / SF 615**.

The veteran property tax exclusion has not been adjusted in 18 years, while Minnesota home values have skyrocketed. Increasing these exclusion levels to \$225,000 and \$450,000 is a necessary step to help our most vulnerable disabled veterans remain in their homes.

Please honor the service of Minnesota veterans by ensuring these bills are included in the final tax package.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Post Number]

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

ORATORICAL:
OPEN

POW / MIA:
OPEN

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

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