

The Fabulous 4th

NEWSLETTER – July 2026

4th DISTRICT OFFICERS

Commander
Jon Haworth

Adjutant
Mike Ash

Vice Commanders
Jess Kalinoski
Dan Bronk

Membership Director
Jamie Brooks
Mickey Ostrum

Chaplain
Joe Jansen

Finance Officer
Mike Ash

Judge Advocate
Mike Ash

Historian
OPEN

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:

COMMANDER'S COLUMN

Hello Legionnaires!

The past two years as District Commander have been a whirlwind. I've only been a member of the American Legion for 3 years so becoming Commander was like drinking from a fire cannon. I don't think I was the best at it but I definitely had fun getting to know everyone along with the hows, the why's, the ways, the etiquette and the Roberts Rules of Order! Haha!

Thanks to Teresa Ash for getting me involved at the district level of the American Legion right out of the gate. She had a vision about younger veterans becoming district level leaders. This is an ever-present change that will have to take place. Younger veterans are always going to have to take the place of the older veterans to keep this organization alive. New ideas and new boots on ground have the potential to really bring veterans and their families together.

The issue that we ran into is that us younger veterans still work 40 plus hours a week and have young children and schedules that just don't line up.

Being in this position helped me see all of the ways that this organization is great. The camaraderie is like no other. At the American Legion, any veteran can create a group to bring veterans together like I have with the Legion Cruisers and the Food Shelf Ruck March and like Gabe Keith did with the Writers Club. Going to the conventions and meeting veterans from all over the state and world has been something I truly look forward to.

I won't be transitioning to a leadership position after being district commander, I want to be more active at the post level. We are in a constant fight to keep Post 577 Arcade Phalen afloat and this year we are going to be putting ideas into motion. We hope to make that post the place to be on the east side. Congratulations to incoming Commander Dan Bronk on being elected Commander! Dan has been a vital member of the American Legion both post level and

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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 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

Jul 7

Resolution review and Meet and Greet @ North St. Paul Post 39
6:00pm

Jul 9-11

Department Convention
Wilmar MN

Jul 19

VA Visitation 1:00pm @ VAMC

Welcoming Message from the in-Coming Commander

Dear Valued Members of the 4th District,

I am writing to express my gratitude and excitement upon being selected as the 2026-2027 District Commander for the 4th District. With 24 years of full-time service in the Army, I have had the privilege of holding various positions, including Logistic, Readiness, Operations, Casualty Notification Officer, and leading troops in combat. My primary focus has always been on taking care of our soldiers, and I am committed to continuing this mission, even out of uniform.

Currently, I hold multiple positions within Post 39, including 1st Vice Commander, Service Officer, Honor Guard member, Honor Guard Secretary, Honor Guard Treasurer, Baseball Manager, Gambling Manager, and Past Commander. These roles have not only deepened my understanding of our organization but also instilled in me a sense of responsibility to our members and the community.

As your District Commander, my goal is to attend general membership meetings, listen to your stories, and learn about your operations. I aim to foster open dialogue, provide meaningful feedback, and offer recommendations where appropriate. I understand that

some posts may have been hesitant to participate in district events, and I hope to change this attitude by working together and building stronger relationships.

I firmly believe that our posts' success depends on strong communication and genuine connections with our members and the community. To achieve this, I encourage each post to consider sending out a weekly email to all members, including updates on:

- * Menu items for the week
- * Fundraisers and events, such as bingo nights, virtual racing, and pancake breakfasts
- * Raffles and other activities
- * Donations made to local organizations and charities

By keeping our community informed about our activities, we can increase their investment of time and money in our great organization. I also propose that we host picnics and other events for all veterans, regardless of their affiliation with our post. This will provide us with opportunities to connect with them, share our mission, and invite them to join our ranks.

Some of the benefits we can offer to our members and their families include:

- * Scholarships for their children
- * Summer camps for youth
- * A sense of community and camaraderie

I look forward to working with all of you to strengthen our Legion community. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns you may have.

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

Sincerely,
Daniel M Bronk
2026-2027 District Commander, 4th District

"If we ever forget that we are one nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under."

Ronald Reagan

COMMANDER'S COLUMN

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district level. He has brought forth great ideas to improve Post 39 North St Paul to generate more revenue and members. He has also done a fantastic job at being area 1 District Vice Commander. Many times, when I couldn't make it or just plain forgot about a meeting or RCCC, Dan would be there and ran the meetings. He's always been kind even when I don't understand things or forget things. I look forward to the great things that he will accomplish in his time as Commander.

Thanks to my best friend Jesse Kalinoski for stepping up when we were a man down and becoming the area 2 District Vice Commander. Jesse and I met one day at the firing line when we were a part of the 309 going to Kuwait in 2011. We started chatting because we both shot a 37 and were both old PFCs. I was 28 and he was 31. He was from bravo company 1-194 and I was bravo company 2-135. We became Facebook friends and eventually became good friends. He's always got my back and I always have his. I know all of this American Legion stuff is a lot to learn and we don't always know what we're doing, but I'm happy that you got involved. You're doing great things!

Thanks to all of the commanders and leadership that came before me. Thanks be to the veterans that have since passed on during my time as Commander.

Since I won't be Commander anymore, I won't be able to write these columns or newsletters anymore. Add me on Facebook to see firsthand what we're doing to help veterans going forward. Thank you!

Jonathan Haworth

"Leadership is action, not position."

Donald H. McGannon

Pre-Convention Meeting

Please join us for a crucial 4th District meeting on **Tuesday, July 7th at 6:00 PM** at the **North St. Paul Post 39** (2678 7th Ave E, North St Paul, MN).

We have a packed and important agenda for the evening:

- **Department Convention Resolutions:** We will be reviewing and discussing the upcoming resolutions that will be voted on at the Department Convention in Willmar, MN. Your input is vital to ensure our District's voice is clearly represented.
- **Officer Meet-and-Greet:** Come out to welcome, meet, and talk with our newly elected district officers as we kick off the new Legion year.

Please make every effort to ensure your Post is represented. Light refreshments will be available. See you there!

DON'T WAIT TO BE A LEADER - JUST LEAD!

A young student once said, "I think I could be a great leader one day." His mentor replied, "And I think I could be a bullfrog one day." The mentor smiled and said, "You either are or you aren't. Leaders lead - no matter their age or circumstances." Leadership isn't about waiting for permission or titles. It's about inspiring others, solving problems, and taking action now.

DON'T WAIT TO BE CHOSEN. WHATEVER YOU WANT TO BE - JUST BE.

Celebrating 250 Years of American Freedom

This July 4th, our nation marks a truly monumental milestone: the **250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence**. For two and a half centuries, the American experiment has stood as a resilient beacon of liberty, self-governance, and hope across the globe.

As veterans, this historic Semiquincentennial carries a profound significance. The enduring freedom we celebrate today was never guaranteed by words on parchment alone; it was secured, defended, and sustained by generations of brave men and women who answered the call to arms. From the early battlefields of the Revolutionary War to the global missions of the modern era, American veterans have written the history of our democracy in courage, blood, and sacrifice.

Here in the 4th District, as we gather for community parades, family picnics, and civic ceremonies, let us reflect on our shared legacy. Our mission as Legionnaires remains as vital today as it was at our inception: to care for our comrades, mentor the next generation, and foster an unwavering love of country.

Two hundred and fifty years is a remarkable journey, but our work is far from finished. Let us look to the future with a renewed dedication to the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy.

Happy 250th Birthday, America!

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:

OPEN

NATIONAL CEMETERY:

OPEN

NATIONAL SECURITY:

Ron Eddings - Post 406

NEWS FROM THE ALR

Greetings 4th District Legion Family! Summer has kicked into high gear. The Legion Riders are out and about, riding for all of the causes that we in the Legion Family support, such as the Believet Ride to raise money for certified Service Dogs for Veterans. The Minnesota Legion Riders big Fundraiser Ride, the Fund 85 Ride will be kicking off on July 22nd at New Ulm. The Ride will be covering southern Minnesota and will end in Waseca on July 25th. If your Post, Unit or Squadron would like to donate to this worthy cause you can contact me, John Weiss at 651-231-9053, you can write a check out to the Minnesota American Legion Foundation and in the memo line write "Fund 85" and I can either pick it up and present it in your name or you can mail it to the Department office. For those who might be unaware, Fund 85 is also known as the Minnesota Veterans Assistance Fund, those funds stay in the state and help our veterans and their families when they really need help. Thank you for taking the time to read this. Please look out for motorcycles!

New Leadership, Continued Mission

With the changing of the seasons comes the formal transition of leadership across our District and Department. As we swear in new officers and look toward the upcoming Legion year, our core mission remains steadfast: advocating for veterans' rights, fostering strong youth programs, and strengthening our local communities. Achieving these goals requires active participation from every single Post. We encourage all members to attend their local monthly meetings, bring fresh ideas to the table, and help us kick off our upcoming membership drive on a strong note. Let's make this year our most impactful one yet.



THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS AN "EX-MILITARY" MEMBER

Discipline cannot be returned, honor cannot be hung up, and duty does not retire. You may leave the uniform behind, but the character remains for a lifetime.

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

ORATORICAL:
OPENN

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