

The Fabulous 4th

NEWSLETTER – February 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

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

Why We Meet (And Why Your Voice Matters)

Let's be honest: nobody joined the American Legion to sit through meetings. We joined to serve veterans, support our communities, and stand together with those who've worn the uniform. Meetings? Those weren't exactly in the recruiting brochure.

But here's the thing - meetings are simply the vehicle. What really matters is what we're carrying: your ideas, your concerns, and your vision for making our Posts and District stronger. Think of it this way: you didn't join the military because you loved morning formations, but those formations got everyone moving in the same direction. Our meetings work the same way - they're how we align, adjust, and advance our mission together.

We Need Your Feedback

Whether it's at Post meetings, District gatherings, or Department conventions, your input isn't just welcome - it's essential. You see things others don't. You spot problems before they grow. You have ideas that could transform how we serve veterans in our community. Your feedback doesn't have to be earth-shattering. Maybe it's a suggestion about meeting times that would help more people attend. Maybe it's an idea for a fundraiser that worked at your workplace. Maybe it's pointing out that our membership materials need updating, or that we're missing an opportunity to connect with younger veterans.

Speak Up

If meetings aren't your thing, that's fine - talk to your Post Commander afterward. Send an email. Grab a District officer at an event. What matters is that you share what you're thinking. Because somewhere in your experience, your frustrations, and your ideas is the key to making us better. We didn't build the American Legion by staying silent. We won't improve it that way either.



District Meeting Schedule

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

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.

Leadership is not about being the smartest person in the room. It's about building a room where others can be smart

Upcoming Events

Feb 11

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

Feb 15

VA Visitation 1:00pm @ VAMC



FROM THE 4TH DISTRICT AUXILIARY

Hope you are all staying warm during this cold spell! "We shall overcome"

This has not been a very good month, with all that is going on! I pray for peace and safety for everyone.

Thank you to those Auxiliary members who attended the Mid-Winter.

Thank you to all that showed up for the Parade, even if it was cancelled, there was a gathering at Arcade Phalen Legion with a Hot Meal and good family company. Thru all that has happened and is happening, we still honor and help our Veterans.

Five of us Auxiliary members and a Legionnaire gathered at VAMC on the last Tuesday of the month and hosted Bingo.

We have March, April and May left, so any volunteers willing to help, please contact me. We are there for 1-1/2 hours and give away money. We normally have about 20 people come down. Some need help with cards some need help just watching for the numbers.

The 4th District Auxiliary is having a "Family" Potluck on February 18th at North Saint Paul American Legion. Social Hour is 5:00, small welcome of Department guests at 5:45 and Potluck at 6:00. There is a Silent Auction to help raise money for my project, special meals and Treats for the Residents at Minneapolis

Veterans Home. Special treats and some special food (Herring) is not in the food budget. Please come and enjoy good food provided by Auxiliary members of the 4th District and good company from Legion Family. We will have activities for children, so yes this is a Legion Family Event. All are welcome. Bring a friend who is not a Legion or Auxiliary member to show we are not "just a bar".

I am taking advantage of this article to ask a favor. For years Ken and I would take the unusable Flags dropped off at Rosetown American Legion and the Minneapolis Veterans Home and take out to the Disabled Vets Camp and be disposed of at the Flag Disposal Ceremony in June.

I cannot do this anymore, so I am reaching out for someone to take over this. I think I have someone for Rosetown, but need someone for the Vets Home. I am there a lot so can keep an eye on the Flag Disposal Bin and notify the good person taking over the need to come and get them. If you or someone you know is willing to do this, please have them contact me.

It is hard to believe that Lent is February 18, which means Easter is right around the corner! It seems that Christmas was just here! Thank you, Veterans, and their families.

Stay Safe and "Warm"

Sandy Gibson

4th District Auxiliary President

WINTER CARNIVAL UPDATE

The Winter Carnival was cancelled. We had a lower-than-expected turnout and buses were nowhere to be found. We were preparing to transport 'marchers' down in our personal vehicles but then at the very last minute they cancelled the parade. Supposedly because of weather.

Keeping Our Posts Welcoming

Our National Constitution defines us as a non-partisan organization. This doesn't mean we're silent on issues affecting veterans—quite the opposite. When veteran-specific legislation is on the docket—property tax relief for disabled veterans, VA funding, military benefits—we absolutely want you engaged and showing up at the Capitol. That's advocacy for our brothers and sisters in arms, and it's exactly what we're here for.

What "non-partisan" means is that our Posts are not the place to debate the broader political issues of the day. We're a diverse group who've worn the same uniform regardless of our individual beliefs. A little restraint on divisive topics goes a long way toward keeping our atmosphere friendly and welcoming for everyone.

This isn't about limiting your First Amendment rights—what you discuss outside Post walls is your business. But inside our Posts, let's focus on what unites us: shared service, supporting each other, and advocating for all veterans.

With everything happening in Minnesota right now, keeping conversations neutral on non-veteran issues helps maintain the spirit that makes our Posts a second home for all members.

A hamburger walks into a bar and orders a beer. The bartender says, "Sorry, we don't serve food here."

Adjutant's Corner

February in Minnesota continues to test our patience with lingering cold and snow, but perseverance has always defined Legionnaires. We don't wait for perfect conditions to serve, we move forward no matter the season.

I want to thank our Posts and volunteers who continue showing up, holding meetings, running programs, and serving their communities. That dedication is what keeps the American Legion strong year-round.

This is also an important time of discussion and planning for our District. Conversations regarding the potential merger of the 4th and 5th Districts are ongoing, and it has been encouraging to see members engaged and seeking clarity. All Post Adjutants and Commanders should have received the "Draft Working" Constitution and By-Laws presented at Mid-Winter. A PDF is also available at www.fourthdistrictamericanlegionmn.com.

Please feel free to contact me or any Merger Committee member with questions.

Leadership development remains a priority, with opportunities such as Department Legion College helping prepare members to lead effectively. Strong Posts are built by informed and engaged leaders. Our next RCCC District meeting will be held February 11, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. An invite will be sent to Post Adjutants and District Officers the weekend prior. If you would like to add an item to the agenda, please let me know. Thank you for all you do for the 4th District and The American Legion.

Together, we move forward.

Respectfully,
Jennifer Havlick, Adjutant

The "Empty Page" Battle

Filling just four pages with meaningful, decent-quality content for our 4th District newsletter is a lot harder than it looks. It takes more than just a list of meeting dates; it takes the pulse of our community.

We Don't Want "Fluff"—We Want You

"Empty stuff" is easy to find, but it doesn't serve our members. To keep this newsletter worth the paper it's printed on (or the data it takes to download), we need the stories that only you can provide.

Think you don't have anything to say? Think again:

-Post Successes: Did your Post just host a killer pancake breakfast? Did you raise funds for a local veteran in need? Don't let those wins go unnoticed—brag a little!

-Upcoming Intel: If you have an event on the horizon, give us the "who, what, where, and why" early so we can help fill the seats.

-The "Write-Groove": You don't need to be Hemingway. If you have a reflection on your service, a tribute to a fellow Vet, or an opinion on a Veteran-centric issue, put pen to paper.

-Spotlight Moments: Know a member who deserves a shout-out for their service to the District? Let's get their name in lights.

Keep it Veteran-Centric

The only rule? Keep the focus on our mission. Whether it's legislative advocacy, community service, or the camaraderie that keeps us strong, if it matters to a 4th District Vet, it belongs in these pages.

Don't let the "Empty Page" win.

Our newsletter should be a reflection of the active, vibrant District we are.

Got a story or an update?

Send your drafts or bullet points to mikeash202@gmail.com by sometime before the last day of the month.

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

THE AMERICAN LEGION DOES WHAT??!

I've been hearing from several members who weren't aware of the many programs The American Legion offers beyond our local post activities. We always need a hand. Whether you're a newer member or have been with us for years, here are a few highlights:

Veterans Benefits & Assistance –

The Legion's trained service officers help veterans and their families navigate VA benefits claims at no cost. From disability compensation to pension claims, assistance is available to all veterans, not just members. They can be found at www.mnlegion.org

Education Programs – Beyond our well-known scholarships, the Legion sponsors Boys State and Girls State programs, Junior Shooting Sports, and the National Oratorical Contest, helping develop tomorrow's leaders.

Community Service – Our organization coordinates programs like American Legion Baseball, supports youth through Junior Law Cadet programs, and promotes flag education and patriotic observance in local schools.

Support for Military Families – The Legion Family supports active-duty families through temporary financial assistance, provides care packages to deployed troops, and helps veterans transition back to civilian life.

These represent just a fraction of what's available. For a complete overview of national programs, visit www.legion.org/programs or check the resources section at www.legion.org.



Congratulations to North St. Paul Post 39 Junior Shooters!

North Saint Paul Post 39 proudly congratulates the Saint Thomas Academy Rifle Team on winning the 2026 American Legion State Championship!

Outstanding individual performances:

Nick Steiner – Gold in team and age category

Grace Carey – Gold in team, bronze in age category

Andrew Qarmout – Gold in team, silver in age category

Molly Michaud – Gold in team, gold in new shooter, bronze in age category

Special recognition goes to Coach Paul Preblich, a Post 39 member and retired Army Chief Warrant Officer, whose dedication and leadership made this success possible.

This is what Legion junior shooting sports programs are all about – developing skilled, disciplined young athletes while passing on important traditions. Programs like these depend on continued Legion support and dedicated volunteers like Coach Preblich. Well done to all!

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 542

SONS of the AMERICAN LEGION:

Commander – Carroll
Partridge
Squadron 39



The American Legion Family