

The Fabulous 4th

NEWSLETTER – June 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

At recent 4th district convention, we voted down the merger with the 5th District. What really needs to happen is that the 5th District needs to get out in their community and find those veterans that are not members and get them into leadership positions. With that, they need to be able to accept change as all our posts will when it comes to carrying the torch forward.

I think getting out into our community and doing some door knocking for our local posts could be a really great way for us to connect with the local community, find new members and bring business back to our posts.

June 13th is the flag retirement ceremony at the Disabled Veterans Camp in Big Marine, MN. Us 4th District leadership will need to be there from about 10:30 till 1:00 p.m. We need to do a practice run of the ceremony and then the ceremony itself. There is a smorgasbord of food for everyone afterwards. If you've never been to this event, I highly recommend checking it out! Back to the '50s is June 19th-21st and I think it would be a great opportunity for us car people in the Legion Cruisers to get together at the show. I've been thinking about contacting other posts such as Red Wing or New Prague to see if we can organize a long cruise with a car show and BBQ at the destination post. If you've ever driven down Wisconsin State highway 35 between here and Red Wing, you know how amazing of a drive it is. That would be an amazing cruise with a bunch of cool cars and vets behind the wheels. The food shelf ruck marches have been going very well! Last month we had 10 people show up and walk. This month we had nine people show up and walk. We received \$400 in donations on the walk and I heard that North St Paul Auxiliary donated \$500 total. This is becoming my favorite event that I've created.

(COMMANDER'S COLUMN CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)



Jon Haworth
4th District Commander

4th District Veteran Receives Elite Honor

Xavier Gagnon of Dayton's Bluff Post 515 recently received the prestigious *Order of the Gray Dragon Award* at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center. This exclusive honor is presented by the Navy Nuclear Weapons Association to the veteran with the earliest entry into the Navy Nuclear Weapons Program, recognizing those who served under high-level secrecy agreements during classified Cold War missions. Reportedly the Association's oldest living member, Gagnon will celebrate his 94th birthday this July 16th, coincidentally sharing the date with National Atomic Veterans Day.

Upcoming Events

Jun 13

Flag Retirement Ceremony

Jun 21

VA Visitation 1:00pm @ VAMC

2026 – 4th District Convention Highlights

Opening & Admin: Hosted by North St. Paul Post 39 on May 9, 2026, Commander Jon Haworth called the meeting to order. A quorum was established with nine posts present. A Joint Memorial service honored members transferred to the Post Everlasting.

Distinguished Guests & Greetings:

Shawn Davis (ALR): Brought greetings and clarified the 250 Challenge and Funds 84/85.

Sandy Gibson (Auxiliary District President) & John Weiss (SAL Commander): Extended organization greetings.

Teresa Ash (Past District Commander): Recognized and presented a gift to Commander Haworth, highlighting his achievements over his two-year tenure.

Dennis DeLong (Department Vice Commander): Shared statewide updates.

Department Commander Linda Dvorak's Briefing:

Commander Dvorak reported exceeding her fundraising goal for the new Military Museum at Camp Ripley and Fund 85. Key reminders included:

Consolidated Post Reports

(CPRs) are due immediately.

National Commander's

initiative: Conduct Buddy

Checks on or near a member's birthday.

Upcoming Events: Legion Night at the MN Saints game (May 22); strong turnout for Memorial Day and July 4th (U.S. 250th Anniversary); and the Joint Testimonial on June 27 at New Prague Post 45 (5:00 PM).

Committee & Program Reports:

Membership (Mickey Ostrum): The District is at 91% (down from 95% last year). Two struggling posts face potential charter surrender. Members are urged to actively recruit and demonstrate the value of the Legion to younger veterans.

Veterans Job Fair: A presentation highlighted the state's largest veteran job fair on May 20 (2:00–6:00 PM) at the Earle Brown Heritage Center, featuring over 100 employers.

District Programs (Commander Haworth): Highlighted community impacts, the new "American Legion Cruisers," and the May 24 Food Ruck March from Minnehaha Depot to the Minneapolis VAMC

VA & Airport Service (Joe Jansen): The Armed Forces Service Center needs volunteers and donations. VA Hospital Visitations occur the 3rd Sunday of every month (12:30 PM, Minneapolis VA Atrium).

Key Motions & Votes:

District Merger: A motion to merge the 4th and 5th Districts **failed** following discussion regarding a lack of clear information.

Endorsement: Pam Krill was unanimously endorsed for Department Commander.

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2026–2027 Election Results:

- **Commander:** Dan Bronk
- **Vice Commanders:** Brenda Hamlin-Lehmann and Dan Norton
- **National Convention Delegate:** Jon Haworth (Alternate: Dan Bronk)
- **Department Vice Commander Nominee:** Carroll Partridge

COMMANDER'S COLUMN

(continued)

If you know nothing about this event, we meet once a month and fill our backpacks with food items for the VA food pantry. We walk 1.7 mi to the food pantry, drop our food donations off and walk 1.7 mi back. This month we cooked up some hot dogs and had a little potluck. We are going to continue to do a BBQ potluck at each ruck. If you want to join us on the ruck or donate money or food, please reach out to me (612-532-1210/ jhaworth@kw.com). I believe we are going to change some times and meeting places so stay tuned!

Editor's note: I want to express my deepest gratitude to all our 4th District members for your unwavering commitment to our veterans and programs. This season offers a wonderful opportunity to reflect on our achievements so far this year and to refocus our efforts on the work still ahead. Thank you for everything you do to make our communities stronger and to honor those who have served.



FROM THE 4TH DISTRICT AUXILIARY

Happy Summer 4th District Auxiliary and AL and SAL and Riders. We went from a strange Spring into a hot Summer, so I hear at least this week! 80's and 90's!

The District Convention is now in the Past and the Department convention coming up soon. The Auxiliary had a good turnout of members attend. Several members who had never attended before.

We had Cavaleone from the ALA Department Executive Committee as our Speaker. She spoke about Dues, why the amount is going up, where our dues go, why we pay dues.

We also had Election and Installation of Officers and Introduction of Unit Presidents. 4th District Officers, President, Sandy Gibson, 1st Vice President, Open, 2nd Vice President, Noreen Ostrum, Treasurer, Karla Joyce, Chaplain, Diane Bultman, Parliamentarian, Mary French, Secretary, Jenny Nelson, Sgt At Arms, Shelly Putz, North St. Paul Unit 39, Mary Kvaal, White Bear Lake, Unit 168, Katie Podewils, Rosetown 542, Open, Arcade Phalen, 577, Frye Okumwura, North End, 474, Shelly Putz.

Many are doing a second term. Thank you to all of you who had stepped up and accepted an office.

I want to thank the 4th District Auxiliary for entrusting me to serve as President again. I am honored to represent the 4th District Auxiliary and I am looking forward to working with Commander Dan Bronk.

My President Project for this coming year will be raising money for the Veterans Pantry at VAMC, and Bingo at VAMC. Veterans Pantry is, where any Veteran or Service person can come and get food for no cost, (this is pending approval of Dept. Executive Committee at the Dept. Convention).

I was honored to have been asked to Install Frye Okumura as President of Arcade/Phalen, Unit 577 as Auxiliary President as well as the other elected Officers. This past weekend, Memorial Weekend was busy. I placed Flags at Fort Snelling Cemetery, was an invited guest for the Services at Fort Snelling Cemetery and the Program at Minneapolis Veterans Home.

Thank you to the 5th District who have planned and hosted this Event for several years. It recognizes all those residents who have passed away the past year. Many Minnesota Government Officials were invited and spoke. The next Event is the Department Convention in Willmar. Looking forward to seeing many of our members attend, many for the first time.

Then unto Louisville, Kentucky for the National Convention.

The Auxiliary will not have an article for this Newsletter in July. Please have a safe 4th Of July celebrating our 250th Birthday of our wonderful Country, I hope many Units and Posts are planning many Celebrations.

Thank you to a service Men and Women past, present and Future. With out your Service, we would not exist.

Sandy Gibson
4th District Auxiliary President

"Alone we can do so little;
together we can do so much."

— *Helen Keller*

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

Honoring the Colors:

Join Us for the 2026 Flag Retirement & Camp Centennial

Mark your calendars for a special afternoon of reverence, tradition, and fellowship. On **Saturday, June 13, 2026, starting at 12:00 Noon SHARP**, the 4th District will host our annual Honorable Flag Retirement Ceremony at the Veterans Campground on Big Marine Lake.

This year's ceremony holds historic significance as we celebrate the **100th Anniversary** of our beloved Veterans Campground. For a century, these grounds have served as a sanctuary for those who served. We are honored to announce that **American Legion Post 39** will serve as the official Color Guard, ensuring the proceedings are conducted with the utmost dignity.

We Need Your Help! An event of this magnitude requires a team effort. We need volunteers to help stack and prepare unserviceable flags. Stacking has already begun—we will have three racks this year! You can bring your flags up to the camp anytime. Special thanks to campground manager Ken Larson for his hard work throughout the year to get us ready for game day.

Stay for the Centennial Potluck Following the ceremony, we will transition to a community potluck to celebrate 100 years of the camp. A free-will donation will be collected, and everyone is encouraged to bring a favorite dish or side to share with

the Legion family.

Let's turn out in numbers to show our respect for the flag and celebrate a century of camaraderie at Big Marine Lake!

4th District Legion Baseball Gets Underway!

As always, this season's Senior Division I league schedule, as well as game scores and standings, will be available on the 4th District Legion Baseball web

page: <http://tricitybaseball.org/dist4.htm> (click on the link in the center of the page

for "Division I League Schedule and Scores.") League games begin on Monday, June 8th. Upcoming dates at beautiful CHS Field include ...

Wednesday, June 24th

6:00 pm - Hamline Red vs Hamline Purple, Post 418

8:00 pm - Tri-City Red Post 513 vs Rosetown Post 542

Thursday, June 25th

6:00 pm - North St. Paul Post 39 vs White Bear Post 168

8:00 pm - St. Paul Aggues Post 599 vs Tri-City Maroon Post 513

Playoffs will begin on Tuesday, July 21st.

Information will be posted on the District 4 Baseball web page as well, as more specific details become available. This year's Division I State Tournament will be held in New Ulm, hosted by Post 132.

Regional competition then follows in Mandan, ND.

Any Posts that wish to make a contribution to help reduce the Division I league fee paid by each team are certainly welcome to do so! Contact 4th District Baseball Chair, Gail Kalata at SCGJ@aol.com.

We hope to see you out at the ball fields!

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