

The Fabulous 4th

NEWSLETTER – August 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:

COMMANDER'S COLUMN

Dear Valued Members of the 4th District, Well, the summer is moving fast which means we need to get a jump on our 2027 Membership. The American Legion loses roughly 11% of its members each year, so let's make 2027 a year of recruitment with a focus on getting the younger generation to join! See your post membership officer, or our district membership director Mickey Ostrum for membership enrollment cards.

To meet our Post membership goals, the membership director and I have established the 4th District Revitalization Program which will be held at North Saint Paul Legion on Friday, October 16, 2026, from 3-7pm, and Saturday, October 17, 2026, from 10am to 4pm. All Post are requested to send at least two members.

The Ramsey County Central Committee (RCCC) Meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. on September 9, 2026, at Post 577. I encourage all Post and family entities to attend this meeting. If you're unable 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 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



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

Aug 12

RCCC @ North St Paul Post 39
7:00PM

Aug 16

VA Visitation 1:00pm @ VAMC

A Wake-Up Call for Our Department: Why Resolutions Matter

As members of the largest veteran's organization in the nation, we pride ourselves on our legacy of service, advocacy, and leadership. However, the strength of The American Legion doesn't just come from our history—it comes from our active participation in shaping our future.

That is why the Department of Minnesota Convention in Willmar brought a disappointing realization: only two resolutions were presented for consideration.

Two.

Resolutions are the lifeblood of our organization. They are not just bureaucratic paperwork; they are the formal mechanism by which we update our policies, adapt to changing times, and improve how we serve veterans at the post, district, department, and national levels. When a member notices something that can be done better, a resolution is the tool that turns that idea into organizational reality. It is how we vote to change, modernize, and ensure we remain the premier voice for veterans. When we bring forward so few ideas, we risk stagnation. We cannot look to the future or stay at our best if we aren't actively using the tools given to us to steer the ship.

Every single member and post has a voice. If you see a program that

needs updating, a policy that needs changing, or a new way we can support our community, don't just talk about it at the social hour—put it on paper. Let's make sure that when the next convention rolls around, the Department of Minnesota is flooded with ideas, debates, and a shared drive to keep this organization the best it can absolutely be.

Our veterans deserve nothing less. Need help?

<https://www.legion.org/information-center/news/library/2011/october/how-to-write-a-resolution>

Win Tickets to America's Game: 2026 Membership Incentive Challenge

The American Legion is giving members a chance to experience one of the greatest rivalries in sports live and in person—the historic Army-Navy Game! To help grow and sustain our organization, national has launched a **Membership Incentive Challenge** running from **July 1 through November 11, 2026**. A total of **16 tickets** will be awarded to **8 winners** (2 tickets each):

- **Recruiter & Post Challenge:** The top 3 recruiters or top posts during the drive period will win 2 tickets each. *Note: Members must recruit a minimum of 10 new members to qualify.*
- **Regional Challenge:** The top department in each of the 5 regions based on November target dates will also earn 2 tickets.

Winners will be officially announced on **Monday, November 16, 2026**. Get out there, recruit, and help us strengthen our Legion while earning a shot to see Army vs. Navy!

FROM YOUR VICE COMMANDER

Brenda Hamlin-Lehmann

As your newly elected Vice Commander, Area 2, and your National Security/Foreign Relations chair, I thought it would be helpful to cover some of our National Guard here in Minnesota. As of 7/10/26: An unknown number of Minnesota National Guard members are deployed to battle wildfires in the northern part of the state. On May 17, 2026, Governor Tim Walz authorized the deployment by issuing an executive order declaring a peacetime emergency. Approximately 250 Minnesota National Guard members assigned to the 148th Fighter Wing, the 1-151 Field Artillery Regiment (Deployed May 2025), and the 34th Military Police Company are deployed to the Middle East under Title 10. More than 100 Minnesota National Guard airmen of the 133rd Airlift Wing returned home from their deployment to Africa in support of Operation New Normal and other counterterrorism efforts.

- Title 10 Status: Federally controlled and federally funded.
- Title 32 Status: State or Territory-Governor controlled, federally funded and regulated.
- State Active Duty: Activated by State or Territory Governor, and pay and benefits are determined by state law. Guard members are not eligible for federal pay or benefits.

On the battlefield, the military pledges to leave no soldier behind. As a nation, let it be our pledge that when they return home, we leave no veteran behind.

Dan Lipinski



FROM THE 4TH DISTRICT AUXILIARY

Greetings 4th District Auxiliary! I hope your summer has been a great one, despite the hot weather! It is hard to believe that it is almost over!

The Department Convention is now behind us and new Department Officers were installed.

Auxiliary President is Linda Kelly, 1st Vice President is Jody Hassing, 2nd Vice President is Hope Wilson. Congratulations to them.

Installation was done at the Department Convention. Thus, a new year begins.

4th District Auxiliary had 9 members present at the Convention.

The Auxiliary Congratulates Dan Bronk on being elected 4th District Commander. We look forward to working closely with him for the betterment of the 4th District.

I was honored to be elected 4th District President and to serve another year.

The following are the Unit Presidents: Arcade/Phalen 577, Frye Okumura, North End 474, Shelly Putz, North Saint Paul, 39, Mary Kvaal, Rosetown Memorial 542, Rotates month to month, but Gwen Holets is contact person, White Bear Lake, 168, Katie Podewils. Congratulations to them. The 4th District Auxiliary Meeting is the 3rd Wednesday of the month starting at 6:30 at White Bear Lake American Legion. All are welcome to attend. If you are not a Delegate from your Unit you just cannot vote but are most welcome to attend the meetings.

Here are the officers of the 4th District. Sandy Gibson, President, 1st Vice President, open, 2nd Vice President, Noreen Ostrum, Secretary, and Executive Committee, Jenny Nelson, Chaplain and Executive Committee, Dianne Bultman, Treasurer, Karla Joyce,

Sergeant at Arms, Shelly Putz, Parliamentarian, Mary French.

Thank you to all of them for stepping up and representing the 4th District. We are small but "Mighty". We do whatever we can for our Veterans! And are proud to do it!

A replica of the Viet Nam Wall is coming to White Bear Lake. Please see the Flyer with the dates and times, that is in this Newsletter.

Next up is the National Convention in August in Louisville, Kentucky I hope you have a safe and pleasant rest of the summer.

Please visit the Viet Nam Wall in White Bear Lake.

Always Thank a Veteran

Sandy Gibson

4th District Auxiliary President

August food shelf ruck

The next food shelf ruck march will be August 16th, 2026, 09:30AM-ish meeting time, 10:00AM-ish step off time. Meeting at Minnehaha Depot. BBQ to follow. Hopefully we can raise another 200 pounds!

For those of you that are from the 4th District, you can join us after the BBQ for our monthly VA visitation at 1 pm. This is where we visit veterans that are in the hospital. It's a great thing to be a part of if you've never done it before.

Put Your Knowledge to the Test!

FREE LIVE TRIVIA NIGHT

Are You Up for the Challenge?

2nd & 4th Thursdays 7-9pm

NO LIMIT ON TEAM SIZE

PRIZES FOR THE TOP 3 TEAMS & LAST PLACE TEAM

RAFFLE FOR A FREE DRINK AT HALFTIME

www.getaclutrivia.com

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 Ash TEMPORARILY!

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 Wall That Heals at Polar Lakes Park: August 6–9, 2026

The Wall That Heals—a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial accompanied by a mobile Education Center—is coming to **Polar Lakes Park in White Bear Township, MN from August 6 through August 9, 2026.** Brought to the community by Legion Post 168, VFW Post 1782, the White Bear Historical Society, and White Bear Township, the exhibit honors the more than 3 million Americans who served in the Vietnam War and bears the 58,281 names of those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Key Schedule & Highlights

- **Escort Procession:**
Tuesday, August 4 (11:00 AM – 12:00 PM) from Mariner Middle School to Polar Lakes Park.
- **Volunteer Training:**
Wednesday, August 5 at 6:00 PM.
- **Opening Ceremony:**
Thursday, August 6 at 9:00 AM, featuring retired General Paul Nakasone. (*Taps played at sunset daily.*)
- **Agent Orange Candlelight Event:** Friday, August 7 at 9:00 PM.
- **Closing Ceremony:**
Sunday, August 9 at 1:45 PM (Exhibit closes at 2:00 PM).

The memorial will be **open 24 hours a day** free to the public throughout its stay.

How to Get Involved

- **Group Tours:** Available Aug 6–8 and must be scheduled in advance by contacting Allison Lincoln at 651-407-5327 or office@whitebearhistory.org.
- **Volunteers & Sponsorships:** Volunteers are needed for setup, direct assistance, parking, and visitor tents. Sponsorship options and volunteer sign-ups are available online.

For full schedule details, volunteer registration, or general donations, visit whitebearhistory.org/the-wall-that-heals-wbt-2026.

4th District Legion Ball Tri-City Maroon Wins SS7 Title, Advances to State

Tri-City Maroon Post 513 defeated Rosetown Post 542 with a 4–3 victory in Game #14 to capture the Sub-State 7 championship. With the win, Tri-City Maroon advances to represent SS7 and District 4 in the 2026 Minnesota State Legion Baseball Tournament.

Rosetown Post 542 finished as the tournament runner-up after a strong season. Additional tournament schedules, bracket details, and standings are available on the District 4 Legion Baseball website.

"Baseball is ninety percent mental and the other half is physical."

Yogi Berra

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