

The Fabulous 4th

NEWSLETTER – September 2025

4th DISTRICT OFFICERS

Commander
Jon Haworth

Adjutant
Jennifer Havlick

Vice Commanders
Jess Kalinoski
Dan Bronk

Membership Director
Jamie Brooks
Asst – Mickey Ostrum

Chaplain
Richard Gardener
Asst - 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

THE ADJUTANT'S CORNER

We are officially rolling into the 2026 membership year! Our goal for this year is **1,568 members**. As of the latest Department report, **964 members have already renewed**—that's about **60% of our goal**. Fantastic work! We've successfully hit our first three target milestones, and that's all thanks to your dedication. Let's keep the momentum going. At the **106th National Convention**, the 4th District was represented by **Commander Jon Haworth, Adjutant Jennifer Havlick, Membership Director Jamie Brooks, and Vice Commander Jesse Kalinoski**. We witnessed the election of new National officers and braved Florida weather that gave us both sunshine and downpours in equal measure.

Looking ahead, our first **RCCC meeting** will take place on **Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at Post 39 in North St. Paul**. We'll hear reports from Department and National delegates and ratify District Committee Chairmen. If you'd like to volunteer for a district committee, please reach out to me or Commander Haworth.

Hope to see you there, thank you again for all the hard work you continue to do for our District and our Legion family.

For God and Country,
Jennifer Havlick, Adjutant
4th District American Legion of Minnesota

CHANGES TO DISTRICT MEETINGS

Please note on the page 4 of this newsletter that the October meeting is now scheduled to be held at Post 577, Arcade Phalen Post at 1129 Arcade St in St. Paul. The December meeting is still being determined and members will be notified when a location has been determined.



VA Veterans Resource Fair and Claims Clinic

Although you can get service from our outstanding Department Service Officer Janet Lorenzo – if you're in the area here's another resource:

Get 1-on-1 Assistance with Burial Benefits, Whole Health, Caregiver Support, Claims and more!

When: Thu. Sep 18, 2025, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. CT

Where: MN National Guard Armory
1025 Northeast Broadway St
Minneapolis, MN

Cost: Free

Registration: Required

[Register](#)

Registration is recommended the Claims Clinic. Walk-ins are welcome.

Veteran Resource Fair and Claims Clinic! Get 1-on-1 assistance with:

- Burial Benefits
- Whole Health
- Caregiver Support
- Claims Clinic
- Women's Health
- Disability Claim Questions

Upcoming Events

Sep 4-7

Camporee @ Legionville

Sep 10

Training & meeting 6:00pm
North St. Paul Post 39

Sep 21

VA Visitation 1:00pm @ VAMC

Sep 25

Deadline to turn in
any article for the Legionnaire



FROM THE 4TH DISTRICT AUXILIARY

Greetings, just back from the American Legion National Convention!

It was in "Sunny" Tampa Bay Florida. I use the word Sunny very minor as it rained every day except Wednesday when there!

All in all, it was a very good Convention. I was the only Auxiliary member from the 4th District there and I did see Commander John Howarth. It is really a shame that more members are not attending, it is a great experience. I am very Thankful for being able to attend. We have a whole new list of National and Department Officers as well as District Officers.

National President Pam Ray
Department President Robin Dorf
4th District Officers

President Sandy Gibson
1st Vice President Karla Joyce
2nd Vice President Gwen Holets
Executive Committee
Mary French
Jenny Nelson
Secretary Gwen Holets
Treasurer Karla Joyce
Chaplain Dianne Bultman
Sgt at Arms Shelly Putz
Parliamentarian Mary French
Unit Presidents

White Bear Lake - Katy Podwell
North Saint Paul - Mary Kvaal
Rosetown - Mari Irmiter
North End - Shelly Putz
Arcade Phalen, 2nd Vice Sandra Foss

The Executive Committee met in August and have done some planning for the coming year. Things are changing for the good. There will be NO POT LUCK in November but will be a different "Family Pot Luck" in February. Watch for details and save the Date "February 19, 2026"

This will also include a Silent Auction to support the Presidents project

Special Meals for the Minneapolis Veteran Home.

I am looking forward to working with the Executive Committee and all members of the 4th District Auxiliary.

Have a safe and restful rest of the Summer.

See you September 17, 2025 6:30 at White Bear Lake Post

Thank a Veteran

Sandy Gibson

4th District Auxiliary President

The Value of Veteran Camaraderie

One of the greatest strengths of The American Legion is the bond between veterans. No matter the era of service, veterans share an understanding that civilians often cannot. This camaraderie is more than friendship — it's support during life's challenges, whether navigating benefits, adjusting to civilian life, or simply needing someone to talk with. The Legion is not just an organization; it's a family where no veteran stands alone. If you know a veteran who could use connection, invite them to a local Post. Sometimes, the smallest gesture — a conversation over coffee — makes the biggest difference.

Volunteers STILL Needed for 2025-2026 District Committees!

It's time to sign up for **District Committee appointments** for the 2025–2026 term.

Please review the available committees at the following link: [District Committee Sign-Up Form \(2025–2026\)](#)

Post Leaders: Kindly share this information with your members. We encourage participation from across the entire district and aim to avoid placing multiple appointments on any one individual. **REMINDER:** We can have as many volunteers on any committee — if you have *any* thoughts you might like to try, please — PLEASE — ask to help.

Additionally, we need to fill a couple of officer positions filled. Sergeant-At-Arms and Finance Officer positions are open. Any training and help in assuming either position (or any of the chair positions) will be provided.

Veterans in our community need your support. The 4th District American Legion serves those who served our country, providing vital assistance with benefits, mental health resources, and community programs. When you volunteer, you directly impact the lives of heroes who sacrificed for our freedom. Volunteering doesn't require special skills or huge time commitments. Whether you can spare two hours a month or two hours a week, there's a role for you

Ready to give back? Contact the 4th District Adjutant Jennifer Havlick (jennifer.havlick@outlook.com) or visit our next meeting. Your community's veterans are counting on neighbors like you.

**I WAS A WARRIOR
I AM NO HERO
BUT I SERVED WITH A FEW
I WILL NEVER ACCEPT
DEFEAT**

Selecting American Legion Leaders: Passion Over Experience

Traditional American Legion posts often default to selecting officers and committee chairs based primarily on years of membership or previous leadership roles. This approach overlooks a crucial truth: Legion work can be taught.

A passionate member who truly believes in serving veterans will learn budgeting, meeting procedures, and program management. They'll help a struggling veteran navigate benefits, enthusiastically promote membership drives, and persist through bureaucratic challenges. Conversely, an experienced member who's just "taking their turn" or feels obligated may have the skills but lack the drive to innovate, inspire others, or go the extra mile when veterans need help.

Look for members who volunteer without being asked, who show genuine interest in veteran welfare, and who bring energy to discussions about post activities.

Watch for those who ask thoughtful questions about improving programs rather than just maintaining status quo.

Pair passionate newcomers with experienced mentors. Create apprenticeship opportunities where enthusiastic members can learn alongside current leaders. Establish clear training programs for essential skills while prioritizing selection of people who demonstrate authentic care for veterans and communities.

The most effective Legion leaders are those who see their roles as callings, not obligations. Skills can be developed quickly when the heart is in the right place.

WALK TO STAY IN THE FIGHT

One Step. One Story. One Life at a Time.

Every single day in America, an average of 23 veterans die by suicide. That's 23 families left grieving, 23 lives cut short, and 23 reasons why we must take action - today.

This year's ETS Walk to Stay in the Fight is more than just a walk - it's a call to stand together against veteran suicide.

We'll walk 2.3 miles to symbolize the 23 veterans lost each day, and to show our community that no one has to fight alone.

Date:

Saturday, September 27, 2025

Location:

Viking Lakes, Eagan, MN

Register today:

<https://www.everythirdsaturday.org/walk>

By participating, you'll help raise awareness, show support to veterans and their families, and ensure that those who served know they are not forgotten.

Together, we can carry the torch of hope, one step at a time.

Will you walk with us?

[Sign Up Today](#)

Thank you for helping us fight for those who once fought for us.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

The ETS Team

VA Benefits: Don't Leave Them Unused

Too many veterans miss out on earned benefits simply because they don't ask. From VA home loans to healthcare and disability compensation, resources are available to improve the quality of life for you and your family. Need help? Your local American Legion Service Officer can point you in the right direction.

4th District Committee Chairs and members, 2023-2024

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:

Ken Gibson - Post 542

NATIONAL CEMETERY:

Ken Gibson - Post 542

NATIONAL SECURITY:

Ron Eddings - Post 406

4th District Meeting Schedule

Below are the dates for the 2025-2026 RCCC District Meetings. The in-person meetings will be held at Post 39 - North St. Paul.

- September 10 – This meeting will include District Officer training, committee appointments, and reports from both the Department and National Conventions. Training begins at 6:00 p.m., immediately followed by the meeting. IN PERSON - Post 39 - N. St. Paul
- October 8 – I recommend starting with a membership revitalization session from 5:00–6:00 p.m., with the meeting to follow at 6:00 p.m. IN PERSON – Post 577 – Arcade Phalen
- December 10 – Traditionally our District Holiday Party. I suggest we begin at 5:00 p.m., with the meeting starting at 6:00 p.m. - IN PERSON - Post ??? (Weather permitting)
- February 18 – VIRTUAL (ZOOM) meeting, starting at 6:00 p.m.
- March 11 – VIRTUAL (ZOOM) meeting, starting at 6:00 p.m. This will also help with weather issues
- April 9 – This meeting will focus primarily on reports and fine-tuning matters related to the 4th and 5th District merger. Starting at 6:00 p.m. - IN PERSON - Post 39 - N. St. Paul

By holding two meetings virtually, we reduce the number of physical meeting locations needed to just four. This helps streamline logistics, saves on costs, and hopefully spares us all a few scheduling headaches.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out.

Jennifer Havlick, Adjutant
4th District American Legion
218-206-5796

Why Posts and Districts Must Work Together

The American Legion is built like a team—local posts are the boots on the ground, but districts help coordinate the bigger picture. Posts run local programs and support members directly. Districts connect those efforts, share resources, and speak up for veterans at higher levels. Without teamwork, posts risk working in silos, missing out on support and stronger advocacy.

Districts act as the bridge between posts and state/national leadership. They can:

- Train post officers
- Help struggling posts with membership and leadership
- Gather post concerns to push for change at higher levels

Regular meetings, shared programs, and district-wide advocacy keep everyone aligned. Districts help posts tap into national grants and initiatives, while posts keep the Legion rooted in local communities.

When the District Commander or Adjutant contacts Post Commanders and/or adjutants it is imperative those post leaders get back to them in a timely manner. In order to keep the district running smoothly, posts should keep the district informed.

Together, they make sure no post stands alone—and that veterans get the support they deserve, both locally and beyond.

4th District Committee Chairs and members, 2023-2024 (cont.)**ORATORICAL:**

Jamie Brooks – Post 406

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:

Ken Gibson – Post 542

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION:

Tim Diamond – Post 39

4TH DISTRICT AUXILIARY:

President — Sandy Gibson
Unit 542

SONS of the AMERICAN LEGION:

Commander – Stu Sonnee
Squadron 577



The American Legion Family