

The Fabulous 4th

NEWSLETTER – October 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:
www.mnlegion.org

National Website:
www.legion.org

COMMANDER'S COLUMN

Dear Valued Members of the 4th District, I hope this email finds you well and ready for the fall season. I'd like to take a moment to reflect on the past few months and look ahead to upcoming events. Thank you to Post 8 for inviting 4th District Auxiliary President Sandy Gibson and me to its Family Day. Although the weather wasn't the best, everyone still had a wonderful time socializing and enjoying the homemade dishes. There's nothing better than homemade food made with love!

I'd also like to thank Post 168 for hosting the District 4 Auxiliary meeting and Auxiliary President Sandy Gibson for inviting me. The Auxiliary has a busy calendar of events planned, and I hope members of the 4th District will come out and support them. At the meeting, the Auxiliary collected can openers for veterans who rely on the VA Food Pantry. I also had the honor of swearing in the newly elected members of Post 450. The post has about eight members, all of whom served together in the Army's psychological operations (PSYOP) field. I thought it was wonderful that they've stayed together.

Past Commander Jon Haworth continues to encourage all Legion family members to participate in the Food Ruck March to the Minneapolis VA on the third Sunday of each month. The Topsy Steer, located at 5000 Hiawatha Avenue, has generously allowed us to use its parking lot as a staging area. From there, we walk to the VA.

I had a meaningful conversation with a fellow veteran /Legionnaire about the importance of teamwork in ensuring our organization's future for another 107 years. She said, "If one fails, then we all fail," and I couldn't agree more. We have a responsibility to support one another—whether through mentoring or simply having each other's backs—regardless of personal differences or disagreements. A true leader understands how to set aside personal feelings for the good of the mission. Those who cannot do so risk the failure of everything we stand for.

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Dan Bronk
4th District Commander

What's Happening at Your Post? We Want to Know!

Every post across the 4th District is doing incredible work for our local veterans and community, but if you don't share it, your fellow Legionnaires will miss out! Whether it's a Veterans Day dinner, a community fundraiser, a color guard ceremony, or a joint service project right here in our own backyard, we want to feature it in the newsletter. Watch the clock: If your post has an event scheduled for November, get the details to us no later than October 31. Send your event dates, photos, and post updates to the newsletter editor (mikeash202@gmail.com) today. Let's make sure every member in the 4th District knows what's going on and where to show up!

Upcoming Events

Oct 14

RCCC @ Rosetown Post 542
7:00PM

Oct 18

VA Visitation 1:00pm @ VAMC

COMMANDER'S COLUMN

(Continued from Page 1)

I firmly believe that leadership positions within the American Legion should be contested. This approach allows our peers to hear from each candidate directly, fostering transparency and enabling us to select the best future leaders for our organization.

Leadership isn't just about holding a title; it's about serving with integrity, supporting your team, and ensuring the collective success of our mission.

The Ramsey County Central Committee (RCCC) Meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on October 14, 2026, at American Legion Post 542, 700 County Road C West, Roseville, MN 55113. For those who can't attend. Here is the zoom link - <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85102320461?pwd=bdUJBja9kYPuQrF7CCzBhovGov5VgN.1>

Meeting ID: 851 0232 0461
Passcode: 071776

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.

Before I close, I would like to remind everyone to check in with our snowbirds as they prepare to leave for warmer climates. Let's make sure to provide them with updates on Post activities and show our appreciation for their service. Thank you for your service, and I am honored to serve alongside you.

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

Congratulations to Post 39's Kyle Rutherford!

A huge shoutout to Kyle Rutherford from Post 39 (North St. Paul) for making the 2026 American Legion Baseball All-Academic Team! Announced during the American Legion World Series in Shelby, N.C., this prestigious award—sponsored by Diamond Sports—honors top student-athletes nationwide. After earning the state-level nomination and scholarship, Kyle advanced to represent our region on the nine-player national All-Academic Team, earning a \$2,500 scholarship. Congratulations to Kyle and Post 39 for representing the 4th District with such distinction!

"Every day is a new opportunity. You can build on yesterday's success or put its failures behind and start over again. That's the way life is, with a new game every day." — *Bob Feller*

FROM YOUR VICE COMMANDER

Brenda Hamlin-Lehmann

I am Brenda Hamlin-Lehmann, Area 2 Vice Commander and National Security/Foreign Relations Chairperson. As a Navy veteran, I am committed to supporting veterans, active-duty service members, National Guard members, and Area 2 posts. I look forward to visiting posts and district events, helping posts grow, and serving wherever needed. I can be reached at brendahamlinlehmann@gmail.com or by text at 612-286-5864. In September, I attended National Security/Foreign Relations training at Camp Ripley. The training included briefings, ESRG instruction, tours of Valhalla, the State Cemetery, Down Range, new facilities, and the new museum, along with time spent with American Legion leaders. I returned home with valuable information to review and share at upcoming meetings. I am also asking each Post to help submit nominations for Police Officer of the Year, Firefighter of the Year, and Enlisted Service Member of the Year, since no nominations were submitted last year.

THE 4TH DISTRICT GROUP AT NATIONAL Thanks Jon, Dan, Sandy, Stu and Jesse!!





FROM THE 4TH DISTRICT AUXILIARY

WELCOME TO FALL! Where did the Summer go?

I was lucky enough to attend the National Convention in Kentucky. It was a wonderful learning experience and how proud of showing Minnesota on the big screens.

There were many familiar faces from across Minnesota, recognizing the wonderful work done by members in the various committees. President Robin again received the Medallion Award. President Linda Kelly was installed as Department President of Minnesota.

The new National President is Coral May Grout from Massachusetts. She will be on tour in Minnesota in April, so you will have a chance to meet her. More details to come. Next year's National is in Kansas City, MO.

There were five of us from the 4th District that attended National this year. Commander Dan Bronk and one other Legion member, 2 SAL's and 1 Rider and myself. We were small in people but "Mighty" in spirit. Next year let's have more members attend. It is a great learning experience and a chance to meet people from all over the US and make friends.

As you maybe know by now, the Eligibility for membership in the Auxiliary has changed. You will be hearing all about it via email, newsletter, your Units.

The Fall Conference is coming up fast. October 22-24 in St. Cloud. I am expecting to see many Auxiliary members in attendance. There are many exciting things to do, see and learn.

There will be a joint opening from Auxiliary, Legion and SAL on Thursday. On Friday you will hear all about the work done in the

Committees. Learn about how to sign up your loved one for living at the Veterans Homes, and much more. On Friday afternoon hear about Jessica Lynch, a veteran and former Prisoner from the Iraqi war.

How she was rescued, (the first woman). She is a Medal of Honor and several other Medal winners.

Friday evening, we are making Poppies! Commander Dan is an expert at this! We will also be making Cards to send to Service men and women who are deployed. I am sure that in every Unit, there is someone who knows of a friend or relative who is deployed. Please get their name and mailing address and they will receive a card. This is one of President Linda's Project. If you wish, you can give me the information and I will see that they receive a card. Let's see how many Poppies and Cards the 4th District can make!

On October 20th 4th District Auxiliary is hosting Bingo at VAMC. Help is always needed. If you can help, please let me know. We meet at 6:30 in the Atrium. It takes about 1 hour. It gives the Veterans there a peaceful and fun time, to get away for one hour and forget why they are there.

Because of the Conference October 22-24, we are not having a District meeting. We will meet on November 18th at WBL Post 168 at 6:30.

There are a lot of Events coming up from each Unit. Please volunteer to help where and when you can. Ask your Unit President about Events and where help is needed.

PLEASE renew or pay your Membership dues NOW! The theme this year is Survivor! Please don't let Shelly and I be voted off the Island! Let's be a winner this year!

Please say a Prayer for all our members who are going thru medical, personal or family issues. Always remember and Pray and Thank our Veterans, Past, Present (and future).

Enjoy the Fall Weather and each other!

Sandy Gibson
4th District Auxiliary President

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 Kloos - Post 39

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

Explore Minnesota's Military Heritage at the State Museum

Looking for a meaningful weekend trip or group outing? The Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum in Little Falls offers a powerful tribute to the courage and sacrifices of our state's service members across every branch and era. Located near Camp Ripley and adjacent to the State Veterans Cemetery, the museum showcases expansive exhibits spanning from the Civil War and World Wars to the Global War on Terror. Visitors can explore authentic artifacts, military equipment, personal oral histories, and rotating special exhibits honoring Minnesota veterans.

Plan Your Visit:

- Hours: Open Thursday through Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (September–April) and daily during the summer.
- Admission: \$5 for adults, \$2 for youth (ages 6–17), and free for museum members.
- Location: 21702 Haven Road, Little Falls, MN (approx. 2 hours north of the Twin Cities).

Whether you're a history buff or looking to honor those who served, plan your trip today at mnvetmuseum.org/planyourvisit!

Safeguard your benefits from Cyber-Attacks

October is globally recognized as **Cybersecurity Awareness Month**.

VA is committed to protecting Veterans' benefits against fraudulent activity and raising awareness of the various cyber scams impacting Veterans and their beneficiaries. As technology advances, scammers are becoming more sophisticated with their attacks. Staying informed of evolving fraud tactics is important to protect yourself and your benefits. Fraudsters deploy cyber-attacks aimed at VA benefits, including phishing, identity theft, spoofing, and payment redirection.

As VA focuses on keeping Veterans and beneficiaries safe from online threats, take a moment to learn how to safeguard personal payment data from fraudsters by watching VA's Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Jeanine Gilson's warning video on [direct deposit payment redirection fraud](#). You are your strongest defense; keep personal information secure.

If a Veteran is missing a VA benefit payment, notices a discrepancy in payments, or finds suspicious activity with their direct deposit account, contact the VA right away at [1-800-827-1000](tel:1-800-827-1000).

If you know that it was never an option to quit, than you won't

Ret Navy SEAL Rep. Dan Crenshaw

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

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