



# The American Legion, Department of Minnesota, 5th District Family FLASH

December 2024

## AMERICAN LEGION

### Fifth District Officers

**Commander**  
Lynne Nottage

**Adjutant**  
Ray Eiden

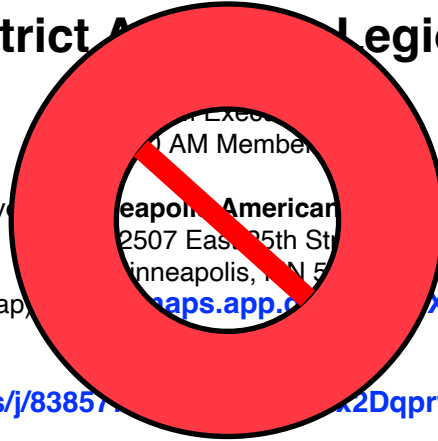
**Finance**  
Dennis Delong

**Chaplain**  
Andrew Rose Sr.

**Sergeant-At-Arms**  
Joe Bayer

There will be no District Meeting for December and January.

Please plan on attending the 4th and 5th District Midwinter Learning Conference on Saturday January 11 instead.



<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83857...2DqprwbfHHI8qdABw9Mvcl0a9VI.1>

## Pearl Harbor Membership Rally

Pearl Harbor Membership Rally will be held at Spicer American Post 545. Social begins at 11 AM, Lunch at Noon, and program to follow. Tickets can be purchased at the Department Website or contacts Shawn Davis at [salshawndavis@gmail.com](mailto:salshawndavis@gmail.com) or 763-560-5941.

## Passing of Past District Commander Wade Larson

Past Fifth District Commander Wade Larson's service will be held on Wednesday, December 4th at Fort Snelling National Cemetery at 9 AM. If you wish to attend, enter Gate 2, and arrive by 8:45 AM.

Larson, Wade Aaron Age 55, passed away Oct. 18, 2024. Preceded in death by mother, Simone. Survived by father, Dallas (Bernadette); brother, Philip (Connie); uncles, aunts and cousins. Graveside service at Ft. Snelling National Cemetery, Wednesday, December 4, 2024. Meet at assembly area 2 **before** 9AM. Henry W. Anderson 952-432-2331

<https://obituaries.startribune.com/obituary/wade-larson-1092378038>



### IN THIS ISSUE:

5th District TAL	Page 1
Pearl Harbor Rally	
Wade Larson Obituary	
5th District ALA	Page 2
5th District SAL	
5th District ALR	
Pearl Harbor Rally	
Why I left The American Legion	Page 3
American Legion Baseball	Page 4
Why Join The American Legion	
American Legion Baseball	Page 5
Wreaths Across America	Page 6
5th Dist TAL Membership by Gary Martin	Page 7
5th Dist ALA Membership by Jill Davis	Page 8
5th Dist SAL Membership by Robert Bristo	Page 9
Unit 435 Omelet Breakfast	Page 10
Joint Midwinter Learning Event	Page 11
Post 99 AYCE Pancake Breakfast	Page 12
Events	Page 13

# Fifth District American Legion Auxiliary Meeting

No Meeting in December or January.

Hope to see you at the Pearl Harbor Membership Rally Saturday, December 7th or the Joint 4th and 5th District Midwinter on January 11th.

## **Fifth District Officers**

### **President**

Cari Lamb

### **1st Vice President**

Jill Davis

### **2nd Vice President**

Deb Bayer

### **Secretary**

Julie Martin

### **Treasurer**

Becky Nelson

### **Chaplain**

Mary Younkin

SAVE PAPER.  
SAVE POSTAGE.  
SAVE TIME.



QUICKLY AND EASILY RENEW ONLINE  
**MEMBERSHIP MATTERS**

It's that time of year! There is less than 30 days before your 2024 Membership Card EXPIRES on December 31st. Renew for 2025 before time runs out and you're left out in the cold! Continue to honor the loved one who made you eligible!

[Legion.org/sal-renew](https://www.legion.org/sal-renew)



Squadrons please reach out to your members and remind them of this deadline. Please continue to reach out to those members who slipped through the cracks and have not renewed for 2024. Every member matters!



## **Fifth District Officers**

### **Commander**

Matt Verkuilen

### **1st Vice Commander**

Robert Bristo

### **2nd Vice Commander**

Bill Hawkins

### **Adjutant**

Shawn Davis

### **Finance**

Leroy Gonzales

### **Chaplain**

Pat Kiehl

### **SAA**

Lee Davis

Our next meeting will be Saturday January 4th.

The **Pearl Harbor Membership Rally** is hosted by the American Legion Riders, Department of Minnesota.

This will be held in Spicer American Legion Post 545 (155 Lake Ave S. Spicer, MN 56288). Social begins at 11 AM, Lunch at Noon, and program to follow.

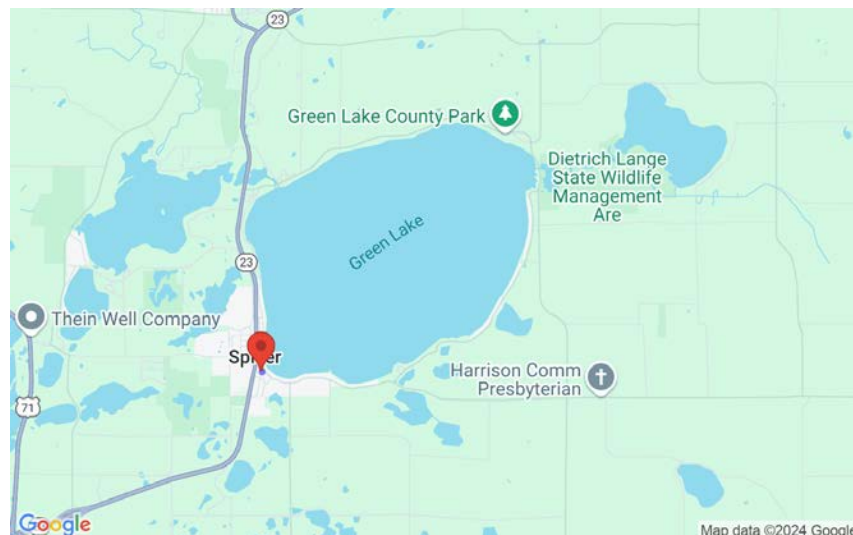
Lunch cost is \$20 per person and can be done at the Department website ( <https://mnlegion.org/pearl-harbor-rally/> ) or RSVP by contacting Shawn Davis at 763-560-5941 or [salshawndavis@gmail.com](mailto:salshawndavis@gmail.com)

Look forward to seeing you there.



## **District Representative**

Jill Davis



# Why I Left the American Legion: A Former Member's Perspective

The following is a letter published in the MN Fourth District Newsletter.

It is reprinted here with permission. It is un-edited from the original submission. - The Editor

After 12 years as a dedicated member of The American Legion, I turned in my membership card last month. It wasn't an easy decision – the Legion has been a cornerstone of veteran support since 1919. But sometimes the hardest choices are the right ones.

I joined the Legion hoping to serve my fellow veterans and community. Instead, I found an organization increasingly paralyzed by toxic personalities and outdated thinking. The same handful of members who've controlled our post for decades shut down every new idea with their favorite phrase: "That's the way we've always done it."

When younger veterans suggested hosting job fairs or creating a mental health support network, they were dismissed. When female veterans raised concerns about harassment at post events, they were told to "lighten up." The final straw came when several members made racist comments about a Korean War veteran's family at our Christmas party, and post leadership did nothing. Our post hemorrhages younger members while the old guard clutches their power, seemingly content to let the organization die with them. They'd rather reminisce about the good old days than address pressing issues like veteran suicide, homelessness, and PTSD. The monthly meetings have devolved into gripe sessions about declining membership, yet any solution that involves change is immediately shot down.

The American Legion could be a powerful force for veteran advocacy and support. Instead, too many posts have become little more than cheap bars where the same dozen retirees gather to complain about "kids these days" who don't want to join.

I still believe in the Legion's core mission. But until the organization seriously confronts its toxic culture and adapts to serve today's veterans, it will continue to decline. Sometimes the best way to honor an institution's values is to walk away when it abandons them.

For those still fighting the good fight within the Legion, I salute you. But after years of beating my head against the wall, I've found better ways to serve my fellow veterans. The Legion taught me an important lesson: tradition without progress is just stagnation.





## American Legion Baseball

From the Desk of Tim Engstrom, Baseball Secretary

Attached is an important message from State Baseball Director Randy Schaub. We ask all posts to **NOT donate your hard-earned funds to a separate 501c3 organization called MN Legion Prospect Series**. [Its website](#) has been scrubbed of the American Legion name and emblem, and it calls itself Minnesota All Star Prospect Series now; however, it's official state business filing still says [MN Legion Prospect Series](#). This outside organization attempted and may still be attempting to start another youth baseball league using the Legion name and emblem without national or department permissions.

Most of the funding for this organization in the past was from Minnesota American Legion Baseball and metro posts, and that was OK because it ran a great once-a-year, three-day event with our blessing. Now, it has gone rogue and is trying to launch its own full-fledged youth baseball league with our name and branding. We wanted all posts across the state to be aware of this phony competitor who wants to steal teams, your coaches and your players.

Please continue to support the one and the best [Minnesota American Legion Baseball](#). Please inform your officers and gambling managers.



## Why Join The American Legion?

**This article was also printed in the MN Fourth District Newsletter. The same issue that held the letter of the member who left the organization. The two articles show a good counterpoint of what our mission is, and how our actions impact how others see how we follow through working that mission. It is a good opportunity for self reflection both individually, and as a family. - The Editor.**

The American Legion offers veterans far more than just a place to gather. As the nation's largest wartime veterans service organization, it provides crucial advocacy for veterans' benefits and healthcare while creating meaningful opportunities to continue serving your community.

Members gain access to exclusive discounts on insurance, travel, and healthcare services. More importantly, they join a nationwide network of veterans who understand their experiences and can provide valuable support during the transition to civilian life. The Legion also offers emergency financial assistance to veterans in need through various programs.

Whether you're interested in youth mentorship through programs like American Legion Baseball, want to advocate for veterans' rights on Capitol Hill, or simply seek camaraderie with fellow veterans, the Legion provides countless ways to make a difference while being part of a historic organization that has served veterans for over a century.

For the modest annual dues, joining The American Legion is an investment in both your future and the welfare of veterans across America.

## **Dear Minnesota Legion Baseball Supporter,**

Minnesota American Legion Baseball has been a cornerstone of our communities for over 100 years. Each summer, more than 5,000 players and 1,000 coaches participate in this time-honored program, which serves as a vital part of local communities across the state. At its core, Minnesota American Legion Baseball is about community-based competition, where young athletes from local schools and neighborhoods have the opportunity to compete in what is often referred to as the "greatest game on earth."

In recent weeks, the leadership of Minnesota American Legion Baseball made the difficult decision to discontinue its support for the All Star Series, which has been held at the end of the season for the past four years. This event was organized by the MN Legion Prospect Series, a dedicated group of volunteers who have worked tirelessly to showcase talented players and celebrate the summer season of American Legion Baseball.

When the All Star Series was first introduced, its mission and vision were aligned with those of Minnesota American Legion Baseball. The series successfully highlighted the skills of the players while celebrating the season as a whole. Over time, the event expanded to include multiple teams and players from both the metro and outstate areas, with Minnesota American Legion Baseball providing financial support through the 2024 season.

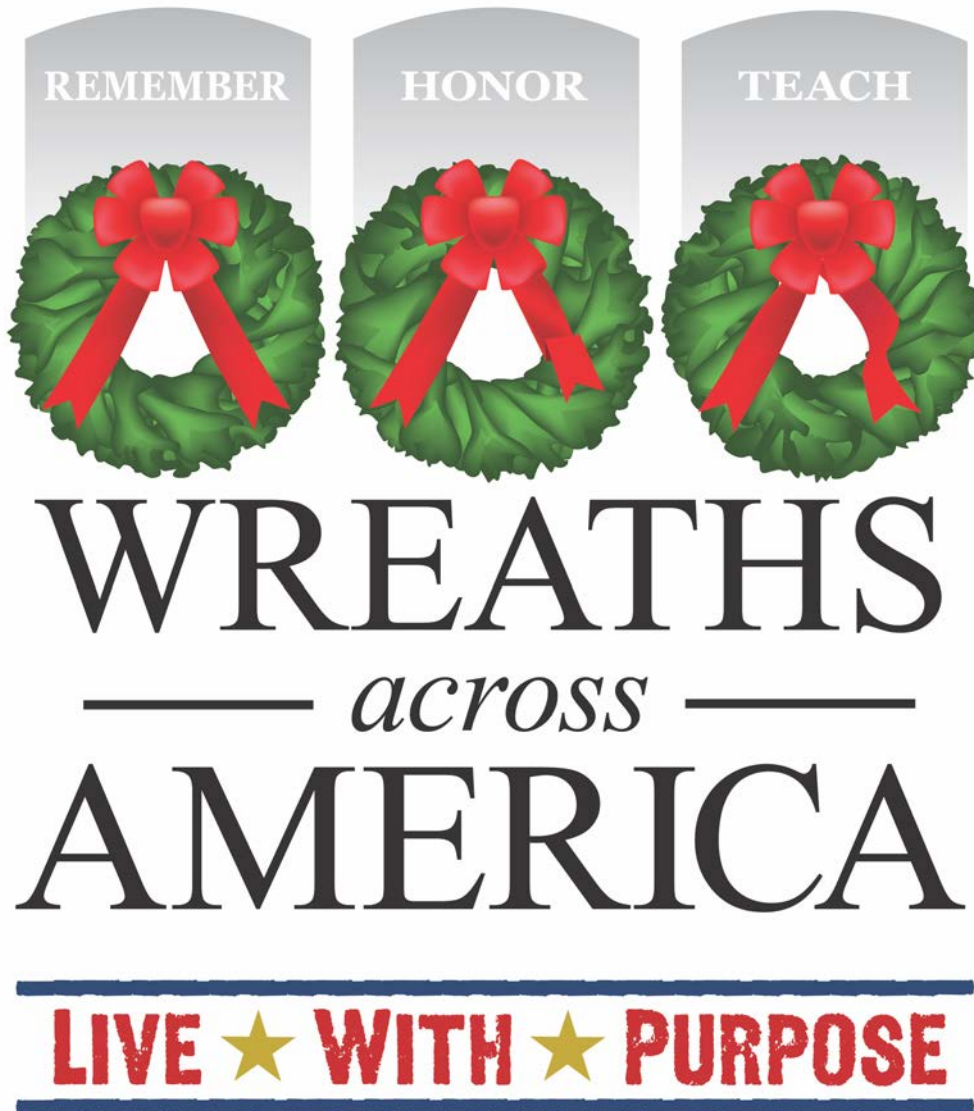
However, during a recent Minnesota American Legion Board of Directors meeting, a founding member of the MN Legion Prospect Series presented ideas for expanding the All Star Series into the regular season by creating "Zip Code" teams. After careful consideration, the Board rejected this proposal for several reasons. First, the concept of "Zip Code" teams would violate several established Minnesota American Legion Baseball rules. Second, the idea would place undue strain on our regular season teams for the benefit of a select few players, undermining the integrity of the program as a whole.

Despite the rejection of this idea at the Board meeting, it has come to our attention that the concept of "Legion Gold" and "Legion Zone" teams is still being promoted across the state as a potential addition to the 2025 season. These terms are being presented as a supplemental option to the current American Legion Baseball offerings.

We want to be clear: Minnesota American Legion Baseball does not support or endorse the creation of "Zip Code" teams, nor any other variation of the proposal. As the idea continues to be pushed under the banner of American Legion Baseball, the Minnesota American Legion Board of Directors felt compelled to take decisive action. As such, Minnesota American Legion Baseball will no longer offer financial or institutional support to the MN Legion Prospect Series, nor will we continue to associate with it in any official capacity. As a result, the Minnesota American Legion has issued a cease and desist letter to the organization.

Thank you for your continued support of Minnesota American Legion Baseball. We remain committed to the values and vision that have guided this program for over a century, and we look forward to continuing to serve our communities and players in the years to come.

Minnesota American Legion Baseball Board of Directors



Wreaths across America is looking for volunteers to help place wreaths at Fort Snelling.  
Everyone is welcome.

**When:** Saturday, December 14th at 11 AM  
**Where:** Fort Snelling National Cemetery at the main flagpole

If you wish to sponsor a wreath, you can go to:  
<https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/GetInvolved/PlaceWreaths>

or help support the Minnesota CAP by sponsoring a wreath through them.

<https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/41700/Overview/?relatedId=0>

<https://130th.cap.gov>

# The American Legion Fifth District Membership By Gary Martin

## Membership Target Dates

October 16, 2024 - 55%	November 14th, 2024 - 65%
December 11, 2024 - 75%	January 15th, 2025 - 80%
February 12th, 2025 - 85%	March 12th, 2025 - 90%
April 9th, 2025 - 95%	May 14th, 2025 - 100%

### MN Dist 0005 LGN

Post	Name	Location	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Tran	Totals	Goal	% of Goal
MN-0001	Minneapolis	Minneapolis	1	17	118	2	138	204	67.65
MN-0099	Wold-Chamberlain	Minneapolis	3	16	32	0	51	80	63.75
MN-0129	The Hellenic Inc	Minneapolis	0	10	34	0	44	53	83.02
MN-0230	North Side	Minneapolis	1	4	20	0	25	41	60.98
MN-0234	Vincent L Giantvalley	Minneapolis	0	6	1	0	7	38	18.42
MN-0291	Johnnie Baker	Minneapolis	0	3	11	0	14	25	56.00
MN-0355	Bainbridge	Minneapolis	0	3	0	0	3	3	100.00
MN-0435	Minneapolis-Richfield	Richfield	4	96	349	2	451	724	62.29
MN-0440	Gopher	Minneapolis	0	9	22	0	31	29	106.90
MN-0493	Viking Inc	Minneapolis	0	1	42	0	43	55	78.18
MN-0504	Bearcat Incorporated	Minneapolis	0	8	0	0	8		
MN-0511	Aviation	Crystal	0	12	19	0	31	50	62.00
MN-0548	University Of Minnesota	Minneapolis	0	13	6	0	19	38	50.00
MN-0555	Arthur And Leonard Falk	Minneapolis	0	26	39	0	65	90	72.22
MN-0581	Herb Gager	Minneapolis	1	2	7	0	10	29	34.48
MN-0618	Longton	Minneapolis	0	22	0	0	22	22	100.00
		SUM:	10	248	700	4	962	1,481	64.96

## Fifth District Minneapolis VA Hospital Visitation

All are welcome to join in visiting our veterans who could use a visit at the VA.

On the first Sunday of the month (January 5th) assemble at 1:45 PM at the Minneapolis VA Auditorium. Please bring your cover, or where something Legion Family related.



# The American Legion Auxiliary Fifth District Membership

## By Jill Davis

This membership report is as of 11/05/2024.

Dist	Unit	Unit Location	2025 DNO	Goal Dates Set By National				Junior	Senior	Total	Percent to Date	100%+ Date
				85% by 3/15/25	95% by 5/23/25	100% by 7/4/25	102% by 7/26/25					
05	0001	Minneapolis	65	55	62	65	66	5	31	36	55.38%	
05	0099	Minneapolis	44	37	42	44	45	0	22	22	50.00%	
05	0129	Minneapolis	69	59	66	69	70	0	31	31	44.93%	
05	0234	Minneapolis	54	46	51	54	55	0	18	18	33.33%	
05	0435	Richfield	181	154	172	181	185	0	74	74	40.88%	
05	0440	Minneapolis	32	27	30	32	33	0	2	2	6.25%	
05	0511	Minneapolis	18	15	17	18	18	0	3	3	16.67%	
<b>05 Total</b>			<b>463</b>					<b>5</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>40.17%</b>	

December 7, 2024 Pearl Harbor Rally at Spicer Post 545 Dept. goal of 75%

February 8, 2025 Sweetheart Rally at Royalton Post 137 Dept. goal of 80%

March 8, 2025 Appreciation Rally at TBA Dept goal of 85%



Can you cut paper? Can you twist wire? Can you separate crepe paper? If so, you have the basic skills for the assembling of American Legion poppies. The Department of Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary is working extremely hard with American Legion family to make poppies to fulfill the statewide demand. Veterans have traditionally made poppies in the state and been paid ten cents per poppy. However, the number of veterans doing this task has decreased and with it the number of poppies being produced each year. The Auxiliary both in Minnesota and nation wide are struggling to keep up with the demand. What is the solution? We need to recruit more poppy makers. Anyone can make poppies as a volunteer. Only veterans are eligible to receive compensation for making poppies.

At the Fall Conference for two hours there was a mass effort from the American Legion Family to make as many poppies as possible. Districts were paired up with there traditional sister districts as teams. Several district teams had multiple tables of people working on poppies. The 4th and 5th districts combined into one table to make poppies. For the number of people who were working on the project, we were very productive – we made over 300 poppies in two hours. In total the Minnesota American Legion Family made 3729 poppies in two hours.

If you are interested in learning more about making poppies, please let me know. I have poppy making supplies and would be willing to show anyone how to make poppies. Once I got the hang of the process, I found that I can watch tv and make poppies at the same time. Both are relaxing tasks to do during the cold winter months that will eventually come our way. I can be reached at alajilldavis@gmail.com or phone/text at 612-968-1172.

# The Sons of The American Legion Fifth District Membership

## By Robert Bristo

This membership report is as of 12/02/2024.

5th District								
Sqdrn.	Location	2024 Results (7/31/2024)	2025 Goal	Total at Dept		Grand Total	% of Goal	Date Goal Reached
1	Minneapolis	41	43	28	0	28	65.12%	
99	Wold-Chamberlain	22	24	6	0	6	25.00%	
129	Hellenic	23	25	16	0	16	64.00%	
234	GiantValley	30	32	1	0	1	3.13%	
355	Bainbridge	0	1A	0	0	0	#VALUE!	
435	Richfield	174	176	77	0	77	43.75%	
440	Gopher	43	45	35	0	35	77.78%	
511	Aviation	5	7	1	0	1	14.29%	
555	Falldin	11	13	9	0	9	69.23%	
<b>5th District Totals</b>		<b>349</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>47.40%</b>	



### DETACHMENT OF MINNESOTA

2025 MEMBERSHIP GOALS

Report Date: 12/2/24

2024 Results as of 7/31/2024	11448		
<b>Current Received as of 12/2/2024</b>	<b>5776</b>	<b>48.50%</b>	<b>*Includes traditional and online renewals</b>
2025 Detachment Goal	11910	0	#DIV/0! set from national

Vice Commanders	2024 Results	2025 Goal	Current at Dept.	Percentage	Placing
1st and 3rd	3847	3992	1993	49.92%	2
2nd and 7th	2215	2323	1091	46.97%	4
4th and 5th	759	787	371	47.14%	3
6th and 9th	2510	2608	1353	51.88%	1
8th and 10th	2126	2208	968	43.84%	5
<b>Totals</b>	<b>11457</b>	<b>11918</b>	<b>5776</b>	<b>48.46%</b>	

*\*The above goals are set by the District Leadership*

Districts	2024 Results	2025 Goal	Current at Dept.	Percentage	Placing
1st District	1670	1743	788	45.21%	8
2nd District	1313	1385	682	49.24%	3
3rd District	2177	2249	1205	53.58%	2
4th District	410	422	198	46.92%	6
5th District	349	365	173	47.40%	5
6th District	1631	1693	811	47.90%	4
7th District	902	938	409	43.60%	9
8th District	489	509	181	35.56%	10
9th District	879	915	542	59.23%	1
10th District	1637	1699	787	46.32%	7
<b>Totals</b>	<b>11457</b>	<b>11918</b>	<b>5776</b>	<b>48.46%</b>	

*\*The above goals are set by the District Leadership*

**1982 MN SAL AT-LARGE** **2**

2025 Original Goal	Percentage	Ranking
3992	49.92%	2
2315	47.13%	4
787	47.14%	3
2608	51.88%	1
2208	43.85%	5

*\*The above goal set by the Detachment Membership Director*

2025 Original Goal	Percentage	Ranking
1743	45.21%	8
1377	49.53%	3
2249	53.58%	2
422	46.92%	6
365	47.40%	5
1693	47.90%	4
938	43.60%	9
509	35.58%	10
915	59.23%	1
1699	46.32%	7

*\*The above goal set by the Detachment Membership Director*



## **Unit 435 Omelet Breakfast Fundraiser**

Sunday December 8th  
8 AM until Noon

**\$13.00** donation for a custom made  
omelet, hash-browns, fruit cocktail,  
toast, and drink  
(coffee, juice, or milk)

Wold Chamberlain  
American Legion Post 99  
5600 S 34th Ave  
Minneapolis, MN 55417



Time for  
4th & 5th District Legion Family

# **MID-YEAR** *Conference*

**This years conference will be training oriented for all members of the 4th & 5th District Legion Family.**

**January 11, 2025  
8:00 a.m - 4:00 p.m.  
Arcade Phalen Post 577  
1129 Arcade St., St. Paul, MN**

**Registration - \$20.00 before  
January 5th**

**Registration - \$25.00 after  
January 6th**

**Information about the conference can be found on the 4th District Website  
[www.fourthdistrictamericanlegionmn.com/](http://www.fourthdistrictamericanlegionmn.com/)  
under the "Events' tab**

# *Wold Chamberlain American Legion Post 99 Family Fundraiser*



## **Pancake & Sausage Breakfast Fundraiser**

**NO PANCAKE FUNDRAISER IN  
DECEMBER!**

**Sunday, January 26, 2025**

8:00 am to Noon

Wold Chamberlain

American Legion Post #99

5600 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue South

Minneapolis, MN 55417

\$10.00 donation for adults

\$5.00 for children under 10 years of age

Eggs & Extra Sausage \$1.00 each



Date	What	Location
Saturday, December 7th 9:30 Exec, 10 AM Membership	Fifth District Meeting TAL	Minneapolis Post 1 2507 E 25th St. Mpls, MN 55406
Saturday, December 7th 11 AM Social and turn in, Meal at 12	Pearl Harbor Rally	Spicer American Legion Post 545
Sunday, November 8, 2024 8 AM until Noon	Unit 435 Omelet Breakfast Fundraiser	Wold Chamberlain Post 99 5600 S 34th Ave. Mpls
Sunday, December 22	NO AYCE Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser	
Sunday, December 15, 2024	Fifth District Holiday Social <b>Postponed until January</b>	
Sunday, December 15, 2024	Bill of Rights Day	
Wednesday, December 25, 2024	Christmas Day	
Thursday, December 26, 2024	Chanukah/Hanukkah (First Day)	
Thursday, December 26, 2024	Kwanzaa (First Day)	
Tuesday, December 31, 2024	New Years Eve	
Weednesday, January 1, 2025	New Years Day	
Saturday, January 4, 2025	Fifth District Meeting SAL	
Sunday, January 5, 1:45 PM	5th District Minneapolis VA Hospital Visitation	Minneapolis VA Auditorium
Saturday, January 11	Fourth & Fifth District Midwinter Learning Event	Arcade-Phalen American Legion Post 577, 1129 Arcade St. St. Paul

Send in content that should be shared to  
[news@mnfightingfifth.org](mailto:news@mnfightingfifth.org)



Please have content sent to us by the 15th of each month. The plan will be to get the Fifth District Flash out 1 week prior to the next District Meeting.

Visit our website at [www.mnfightingfifth.org](http://www.mnfightingfifth.org)

Find us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/MNFifthDistrict](http://www.facebook.com/MNFifthDistrict)

Please print and share this newsletter with members and anyone interested who is not online.