



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

November 2024

AMERICAN LEGION

Fifth District Officers

Commander
Lynne Nottage

Adjutant
Ray Eiden

Finance
Dennis Delong

Chaplain
Andrew Rose Sr.

Sergeant-At-Arms
Joe Bayer

Fifth District American Legion Meeting

Saturday, November 2nd
9:30 AM Executive Board
10 AM Membership

Live at **Minneapolis American Legion Post 1**
2507 East 25th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55406

(Click to view map) <https://maps.app.goo.gl/sz4XhPQxSSJ9eCXF9>

- or -

Online at:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83857752480?pwd=x1x2DqprwbfHHI8qdABw9Mvcl0a9VI.1>

Volunteers Needed!

The Delta Air Lines - MSP Station Veterans Day Celebration is being held on October 29th from 4 PM until 11 PM, and October 30th from 9 AM until 2 PM. Volunteers are needed to man The American Legion Booth at this event. There will also be a Toys for Tots Campaign Kick-off, so bring an unwrapped toy with you. Please park in the Endeavor Tower event parking area, and bring ID with you. TSA screening is required to access the hanger.

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Fifth District American Legion Auxiliary Meeting

Saturday, November 2nd
9:30 AM Executive Board
10 AM Membership

Live at **Minneapolis American Legion Post 1**
2507 East 25th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55406

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



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



District Representative

Jill Davis

Greetings from your 5th District SAL Leadership! As we are now mid-way through Fall there are a couple of things to take note of:



It's that time of year! There are 2 months 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

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!

SAL District Meeting: Saturday, November 2, 2024, 10:00am - 12:00pm

Minneapolis Post 1: Still be determined and will be communicated in the upcoming weeks. Please plan on attending our November SAL District Meeting. We will be talking through a number of topics including how to support each of our squadrons during the coming year. We would like to see at least one representative from each squadron attend these meetings, the more the merrier! Please bring a list of events that you are planning and ideas on how we can work together to support each other!

Greetings American Legion family!! The calendar shows the end of October as I am writing this article, but the weather certainly feels like September and there is still time to ride the motorcycles. We will enjoy this bonus time of the nice weather.

Prior to the start of the Fall Conference the American Legion Department Executive Committee met and I am happy to report that they have ratified the Department American Legion Riders Constitution and By-laws. This governing document takes the place of the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) that was approved under Department Commander Peggy Moon. It was necessary to do this because the SOP referenced outdated information and the ALR has continued to evolve and grow within the state of Minnesota and the governing documents needed to reflect the evolution of the organization. The document will be available in the next couple of weeks at the website: <https://mnlr.org/Home2/>

The winter months will be a slow time for riding the motorcycles, but will be a busy time for planning the State wide events that are done by the American Legion Riders. This include the Fund 85 – Minnesota Veterans Assistance Fund held in July 2025, the National Mission Legacy Run held in August 2025, and the ALR Romp held at Legionville in September 2025. More details about each of these events will be shared in the coming months.

Thank you for your service to Minnesota National Commander James A. LaCoursiere Jr.



To my fellow Legionnaires in Minnesota,

The American Legion is America's voice for veterans. We are that voice not because of any statements that I make from national headquarters but because of the work performed daily in posts and communities throughout your department.

When hurricanes, floods and tornadoes devastated much of the southeast, Legion Family members from coast-to-coast collected supplies and relief items to support those in need.

Donations to our National Emergency Fund increased as generous Americans reached into their pockets to help people who, in some cases, lost everything. I'm asking that you continue to show compassion and remember that re-building and recovery doesn't take days or weeks, but months and years.

Stressful times require us to be even more vigilant in conducting frequent buddy checks. Not only can a buddy check potentially save a life, but the interaction can strengthen bonds and foster close friendships.

The American Legion has no greater priority than the prevention of veteran suicide. I urge you to visit www.BeTheOne.org for the latest about our mission to save lives. On our website, you can read about The American Legion's partnership with Columbia University. We have joined forces with their mental health experts in developing training to interact with and respond to veterans who may be in crisis. You can register on the website for a free online training session. Facilitators use role-play and open discussion to identify warning signs for high-risk individuals.

Whether your post excels in youth programs, or you focus on transitioning veterans, just know that you have a national commander who is constantly impressed by the fantastic contributions and tireless work put forth by American Legion Family members throughout your department.

I thank you for your service to America and The American Legion. Best wishes for a productive conference.

The Minnesota Legionnaire, October 23, 2024 (<https://legionnaire.org/national-commander-thank-you-for-your-service-to-minnesota/>)



**AMERICAN
LEGION**

BE THE ONE



National Regional Information Conference (NRIC)

Attendees will gain valuable insights into Constitution & Bylaws, Post Operations, Be The One, and more, with sessions designed to enhance member engagement and leadership.

Mission Statement: To enable the American Legion Family to promote the founding principles of our organization through focused regional training and education; ensuring collaboration and networking of our members. Challenging our Legion Family to fully understand our legacy and prepare them to lead The American Legion beyond the 21st Century.

Vision Statement: Through American Legion Family education, we enable and facilitate a culture to create an environment where the needs of our organizations, veterans, youth, and community are fulfilled.

Here's a glimpse of the agenda:

Room A Sessions:

- 9:00 AM: Constitution & Bylaws
- 10:00 AM: Legal
- 11:00 AM: Post Operations
- 1:00 PM: Running an Effective Meeting
- 2:00 PM: Parliamentary Procedures
- 3:00 PM: Be The One
- 4:00 PM: Resolutions

Room B Sessions:

- 9:00 AM: Mentorship
- 10:00 AM: Membership Retention
- 11:00 AM: History
- 1:00 PM: Programs
- 2:00 PM: Post Opportunities (Awards)
- 3:00 PM: Buddy Check
- 4:00 PM: MyLegion

SONS OF THE **AMERICAN LEGION**

Priceless Heritage- The Legion's Best Kept Secret

Did you know that there is a Program of The American Legion that works nearly all of their other programs? This "program" has been part of Legion Family since 1932 and every post can benefit from an SAL Squadron,

Buckle Up and prepare for a full day of Sons of The American Legion history and how your post can charter a Squadron. You'll see how Squadron members can bring families with younger children into the Post to benefit and participate and how the "Sons" are committed to the Four Pillars of The American Legion. You'll leave with resources to get and keep Squadrons active and involved. Our dynamic presenters will provide a high energy day and become your go-to contact for SAL support.

Denver, Colorado:

Saturday, November 16, 2024

The Westin Westminster

10600 Westminster Blvd, Westminster, CO 80020

Boston Massachusetts:

Saturday, February 1, 2025

Hyatt Regency Boston Harbor

101 Harborside Drive, Boston, MA 02128

[Denver Registration Click Here](#)

[Boston Registration Click Here](#)

Hennepin County declares ‘functional zero’ when it comes to veteran homelessness

By Tim Engstrom
Editor, The Minnesota Legionnaire



MINNEAPOLIS — On Oct. 15, Hennepin County declared “functional zero” when it comes to veteran homelessness.

The term “functional zero” doesn’t mean there won’t be homeless veterans. And, of course, it won’t mean an end to occasional panhandlers who hold cardboard signs claiming to be homeless vets. The “functional zero” means veteran homelessness is rare, brief and nonrecurring.

In practical terms, it means the county’s system responds within 90 days on average.

“We approach veteran homelessness from many angles,” said Neil Doyle, director of Hennepin County Veterans Services. “Today’s achievement celebrates the challenging and compassionate work our staff and partners do every day. We are committed to continuing this important work, because even one veteran without housing is one too many.”

As of Sept. 30, 69 veterans were experiencing homelessness in Hennepin County, five of whom were unsheltered. That number is down from 167 veterans experiencing homelessness in August 2023. The county is home to 48,410 veterans, one-sixth of the state’s veteran population.

“Hennepin County is proud of our work to reach this milestone of effectively ending veteran homelessness,” said Hennepin County Board Chair Irene Fernando. “By using a holistic approach and by identifying veterans as a priority population, we are succeeding in a housing-first methodology. I’m very grateful to the staff that worked to create and implement Hennepin’s plan, and I look forward to expanding our work to make homelessness rare, brief, and nonrecurring.”

The declaration comes via certification from the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, Department of Housing and Urban Development and Department of Veterans Affairs.

For homelessness-prevention efforts, the state of Minnesota is divided into 10 regions called “continuum of care” or commonly called COCs. Hennepin and Ramsey counties were the final remaining COCs, and now the state awaits Ramsey County’s progress on the effort.

If you hear about “the Governor’s Challenge,” it is in reference to having the entire state certified as functional zero when it comes to veteran homelessness. Minnesota is among a handful of states participating in governor’s challenges on this issue. The idea is that if states can prevent veteran homelessness, it sets up a model for preventing all homelessness.

Resources

Hennepin Shelter Hotline serves all Hennepin County residents seeking emergency shelter by helping them find a safe, temporary place to stay while they work on next steps toward stable housing.

Hennepin Shelter Hotline: 612-204-8200

Hennepin County Veterans Services helps service members and veterans access their federal, state and county benefits.

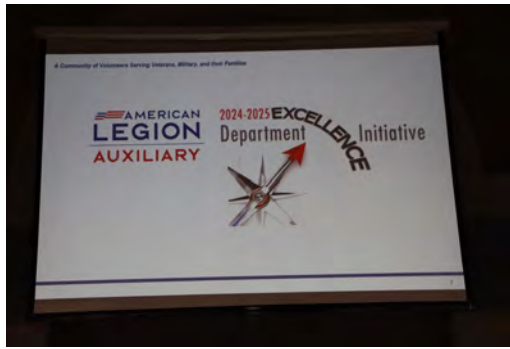
Veterans Services: 612-348-3300

The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs serves all Minnesota veterans and their families.

LinkVet is a call center open seven days a week to provide information and answer questions from veterans and their families.

LinkVet: 1-888-LinkVet

Happenings at 2024 Fall Conference



National President Trish Ward gave a presentation on her Department Excellence Initiative



National President Trish Ward



Sheri Rhodes and Donna Zochert from Unit 435 await the presentation.



Mary Younkin, Robert Bristo (of Unit and Squadron 440 respectively) Listen with District President Cari Lamb and Becky Nelson of Unit 1.



Department President Judy Ackerman and National President Trish Ward



SAL District Commander Matthew Verkuilen reviews material with PNC Joe Mayne.



2024 ALA Member of the Year went to Dee Dee Beckley (Posthumously), Detachment Cmdr John Weiss accepted it on her families behalf. National Vice Commander Mike Monsrud of IA with 2024 ALR Member of the Year Ted Berg, Detachment Commander John Weiss, 2024 TAL Member of Year to Kristi Janigo, and Detachment Adjutant Jason Voss. Detachment Commander John Weiss with 2024 SAL Member of the year PNC Doug Bible.



National Vice Commander Mike Monsrud of IA helping out with the CWF Auction.

Bottom Row: A poppy making party was held (over 3000 were made), along with a stuffing 300 care kits for women veterans.



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%

Post	Name	Location	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Tran	Totals	Goal	% of Goal
MN-0001	Minneapolis	Minneapolis	1	17	99	2	119	204	58.33
MN-0099	Wold-Chamberlain	Minneapolis	2	16	29	0	47	80	58.75
MN-0129	The Hellenic Inc	Minneapolis	0	10	24	0	34	53	64.15
MN-0230	North Side	Minneapolis	0	4	14	0	18	41	43.90
MN-0234	Vincent L Giantvalley	Minneapolis	0	6	1	0	7	38	18.42
MN-0291	Johnnie Baker	Minneapolis	0	3	10	0	13	25	52.00
MN-0355	Bainbridge	Minneapolis	0	3	0	0	3	3	100.00
MN-0435	Minneapolis-Richfield	Richfield	3	96	310	2	411	724	56.77
MN-0440	Gopher	Minneapolis	0	9	22	0	31	29	106.90
MN-0493	Viking Inc	Minneapolis	0	1	40	0	41	55	74.55
MN-0504	Bearcat Incorporated	Minneapolis	0	8	0	0	8		
MN-0511	Aviation	Crystal	0	12	8	0	20	50	40.00
MN-0548	University Of Minnesota	Minneapolis	0	13	6	0	19	38	50.00
MN-0555	Arthur And Leonard Fallc	Minneapolis	0	26	33	0	59	90	65.56
MN-0581	Herb Gager	Minneapolis	0	2	6	0	8	29	27.59
MN-0618	Longton	Minneapolis	0	22	0	0	22	22	100.00
SUM:			6	248	602	4	860	1,481	58.07

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 (November 3rd) 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

Greetings Legion Family from your Auxiliary Membership chair,

While the enclosed membership report shows 5th District in the middle of the pack, the reality is that we have fallen back to last place as of Fall Conference. We are currently the only district in the state below 40% membership goal. Membership renewals should still be coming in at a steady rate. Please process them and send them into department or transmit them electronically on the National website via ALAMIS. I know that getting members is hard work, but we need to keep trying. Especially retaining the members that we currently have. If you need any assistance, please let me know. Another very good resource is our Department membership chairman Hope Wilson. Her email address is: hزابroski@yahoo.com. She is extremely passionate about membership and has access to a lot of information.

This membership report is as of 10/15/2024.

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	24	29	44.62%	
05	0099	Minneapolis	44	37	42	44	45	0	10	10	22.73%	
05	0129	Minneapolis	69	59	66	69	70	0	25	25	36.23%	
05	0234	Minneapolis	54	46	51	54	55	0	7	7	12.96%	
05	0435	Richfield	181	154	172	181	185	0	71	71	39.23%	
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%	
05 Total			463					5	142	147	31.75%	

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 their 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 10/27/2024.

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	27	0	27	62.79%	
99	Wold-Chamberlain	22	24	6	0	6	25.00%	
129	Hellenic	23	25	8	0	8	32.00%	
234	GiantValley	30	32	1	0	1	3.13%	
355	Bainbridge	0	1A	0	0	0	#VALUE!	
435	Richfield	174	176	51	0	51	28.98%	
440	Gopher	43	45	26	0	26	57.78%	
511	Aviation	5	7	1	0	1	14.29%	
555	Falldin	11	13	0	0	0	0.00%	
5th District Totals		349	365	120	0	120	32.88%	

2024 Results as of 7/31/2024	11448		
Current Received as of 10/27/2024	2882	24.20%	*Includes traditional and online renewals
2025 Detachment Goal	11910	0	#DIV/0! set from national

Vice Commanders	2024 Results	2025 Goal	Current at Dept.	Percentage	Placing	2025 Original Goal	Percentage	Ranking
1st and 3rd	3847	3992	1028	25.75%	2	3992	25.75%	2
2nd and 7th	2215	2323	477	20.53%	4	2315	20.60%	4
4th and 5th	759	787	187	23.76%	3	787	23.76%	3
6th and 9th	2510	2608	737	28.26%	1	2608	28.26%	1
8th and 10th	2126	2208	453	20.52%	5	2208	20.52%	5
Totals	11457	11918	2882	24.18%				

*The above goals are set by the District Leadership

Districts	2024 Results	2025 Goal	Current at Dept.	Percentage	Placing
1st District	1670	1743	383	21.97%	5
2nd District	1313	1385	299	21.59%	6
3rd District	2177	2249	645	28.68%	3
4th District	410	422	67	15.88%	10
5th District	349	365	120	32.88%	2
6th District	1631	1693	412	24.34%	4
7th District	902	938	178	18.98%	9
8th District	489	509	98	19.25%	8
9th District	879	915	325	35.52%	1
10th District	1637	1699	355	20.89%	7
Totals	11457	11918	2882	24.18%	

*The above goals are set by the District Leadership

*The above goal set by the Detachment Membership Director

2025 Original Goal	Percentage	Ranking
1743	21.97%	5
1377	21.71%	6
2249	28.68%	3
422	15.88%	10
365	32.88%	2
1693	24.34%	4
938	18.98%	9
509	19.26%	8
915	35.52%	1
1699	20.89%	7

*The above goal set by the Detachment Membership Director

Midwest Region - Michael Monserud (IA)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
SOUTH DAKOTA	1,985	828	41.71%
IOWA	5,264	2,046	38.87%
NORTH DAKOTA	1,128	409	36.26%
MISSOURI	3,287	1,066	32.43%
OKLAHOMA	1,303	413	31.70%
KANSAS	6,127	1,925	31.42%
NEBRASKA	7,080	1,880	26.55%
MINNESOTA	11,821	2,971	25.13%
Totals:	37,995	11,538	30.37%



Unit 435 Omelet Breakfast Fundraiser

Sunday November 10th
8 AM until Noon

\$13.00 donation for a
custom made omelet,
hash-browns, fruit cocktail, toast,
and drink

(coffee, juice, or milk)

Supporting American Legion
Auxiliary Charities



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

Wold Chamberlain American Legion Post 99 Family Fundraiser

THE
AMERICAN
LEGION **FAMILY**



Pancake & Sausage Breakfast Fundraiser

Sunday, November 24, 2024

8:00 am to Noon

Wold Chamberlain

American Legion Post #99

5600 34th 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, November 2 9:30 Exec, 10 AM Membership	Fifth District Meetings TAL and ALA	Minneapolis Post 1 2507 E 25th St. Mpls, MN 55406
Saturday, November 2 10 AM	Fifth District Meetings SAL	Minneapolis Post 1 2507 E 25th St. Mpls, MN 55406
Sunday, November 3, 1:45 PM	5th District Minneapolis VA Hospital Visitation	Minneapolis VA Auditorium
Sunday, November 10, 2024 8 AM until Noon	Unit 435 Omelet Breakfast Fundraiser	Wold Chamberlain Post 99 5600 S 34th Ave. Mpls
Sunday, November 24, 2024 8 AM until noon	AYCE Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser	Wold Chamberlain Post 99 5600 S 34th Ave. Mpls
Thursday, November 28, 2024	Thanksgiving	
Sunday, December 1, 1:45 PM	5th District Minneapolis VA Hospital Visitation	Minneapolis VA Auditorium
Saturday, December 7, 2024 11 AM Social and turn in, meal at 12	Pearl Harbor Membership Rally	Spicer American Legion Post 545
December TBD	Fifth District Meetings TAL only	Minneapolis Post 1 2507 E 25th St. Mpls, MN 55406
Sunday, December 15, 2024	Fifth District Holiday Social All are welcome, please RSVP	TBD
Wednesday, December 25, 2024	Christmas Day	
Tuesday, December 31, 2024	New Years Eve	
Wednesday, January 1, 2025	New Years Day	
Saturday, January 11, 2025 8 AM registration, 8:30 Session begins	4th & 5th District Midwinter Learnign Event	Arcade Phalen Post 577

Send in content that should be shared to
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

Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/MNFifthDistrict

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