



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

October 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, October 5th
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>

Department Commander Carl Moon



I just want to say how honored I am to be your commander this year.

That said, it saddens me when I hear about a veteran who is asked to join or to renew their membership say: "What's in it for me?"

As we know, it's not about us, it's about our servicemembers and veterans, their families and the freedoms we all enjoy. In the brief time just before our Department Convention and in the eight weeks since, I wish that those members who have not renewed or considering not renewing their membership could have experienced just some of what I have in this short period of time.

From attending two days at Boys State in June, the American Legion Baseball Div. I State Tournament in August, Legionville School Safety Patrol Camp graduation, the Jr. Auxiliary Fun Weekend, various posts' community activities, and the 105th National Convention in New Orleans, I have gained so much appreciation for the dedication and enthusiasm shown by not only the participants but more importantly by the staff and volunteers of these programs.

Our programs and their participants represent not only the future for our children and grandchildren, they represent our freedoms, morals and our continued way of life.

Congratulations to immediate Past Commander Paul Hassing on a very successful year and for exceeding the goal for his project: Fund 85.

I also feel that as the Minnesota delegation chairman at the National Convention in New Orleans, Paul had good participation (Continued on Page 3)

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Fifth District American Legion Auxiliary Meeting

Saturday, October 5th
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:

SAVE PAPER.
SAVE POSTAGE.
SAVE TIME.



QUICKLY AND EASILY RENEW ONLINE
MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
LEGION

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](https://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

Location: Still to 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!

Fall Conference - October 25 & 26: Fall Conference is a great way to learn more about the inner workings of our American Legion Family with many different topics to choose from. Fall Conference will be held at the River's Edge Convention Center, 10 4th Ave S. St Cloud, MN 56301. For more information and to register, go to: <https://mnlegion.org/fall-conference/>

The SAL Detachment Finance and Executive Committee meetings for Fall Conference will be held on Friday October 25 starting at 6pm with the general session starting at 9am on Saturday, October 26. We will also have the honor of hosting National Vice Commander Michael Monserud of Iowa for this conference.

I have to correct myself from the last newsletter. The riding season continues with the great weather we are having. Thank you to all for your support this past riding season. A couple of items for your calendars

Chapter 435 meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7 PM at Wold-Chamberlain American Legion Post 99. Come and join us, and support the district family.

Fall Conference is this month in St. Cloud MN. Your American Legion Riders will be meeting on Saturday, October 26th, likely at 2 PM. We will be in University Room B. This is subject to change so check in when you get to Fall Conference. We may adjust our start time to accommodate the end of the Sons of The American Legion session.

Saturday, December 7th is the Pearl Harbor Membership Rally sponsored by the Department of Minnesota American Legion Riders. Details are being worked on, so more to come about this event.

With that, stay safe and keep the rubber side down.

Department Commander Carl Moon Continued From Page 1

and fellowship from all of the delegates. I know he is looking to more road time on his Harley this next year.

I have reviewed the classes recommended by our department staff and approved by our Training Committee for the Fall Conference in October. It looks like there will be some great opportunities for district officers and their committees to learn more about the Legion programs and responsibilities.

The leading candidate for national commander, Dan Wiley from Kansas, will attend and speak. I have also invited a representative from my Commander's Project, Veteran's Defense Project, to give a presentation about their program.

Again, I am hoping to raise \$60,000 to support their efforts to expand excess for veterans living in underserved areas.

My theme is "ACT: Accountability, Communication, Transparency." It represents the responsibility of department officers and committees to assist the district officers and committees in any way we can to help your posts be successful.

I look forward to meeting and working with all of you this next year.

Carl Moon of Zimmerman Post 560 is the commander of The American Legion Department of Minnesota. His theme is "ACT: Accountability, Communication and Transparency."



The American Legion is a non-political organization

By Greg Colby, Department Judge Advocate.

The American Legion Department of Minnesota Constitution & Bylaws states: Article 2, Section 2., "The American Legion shall be absolutely nonpolitical and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking political office or preferment."



By the definition of the above statement Legionnaires when wearing American Legion apparel do not make political statements. When we are in uniform, wearing our covers, Legion-branded apparel and make a political statement it appears to the public you are speaking on behalf of The American Legion.

The only official statements that will be made against or for any politician or policy would be made by our national commander.

The Department of Minnesota commander will make the decision with the Department Executive Committee if we support the national stance. We are not saying you cannot be involved in the campaign process as it is your right as an American citizen, but you cannot do it when wearing Legion apparel or at an official function of The American Legion. Stay non-political when representing The American Legion.

Since we are on the subject of The American Legion being nonpolitical and your post wants to host a candidate to inform the community of the candidate's position is OK.

But you have to offer the same to all candidates and there are no pictures with The American Legion emblems, personnel in uniform, or in front of the post identifying the building as an American Legion post home.

Bottom line is: Don't do it.

And if you are in doubt, call the Department of Minnesota at 651-291-1800.

Greg Colby of Northfield Post 84 is the Department of Minnesota's judge advocate.

Getting to know our National Commander James A. LaCoursiere Jr.

James A. LaCoursiere Jr. was elected National Commander of The American Legion on Aug. 29, 2024, in New Orleans, during the 105th National Convention.

An Air Force veteran, LaCoursiere has been a longtime field representative for the American Legion Department of Connecticut's Soldiers, Sailors and Marines Fund, which financially assists veterans and their families in need.

LaCoursiere has held many leadership positions at The American Legion post,

department (state) and national levels. He is a member of American Legion Post 91 in Moosup, Conn. He has also served as a national vice commander, Connecticut state commander, and chairman of the national Legislative Commission.

LaCoursiere is married to his wife, Lisa, and has two children (Patrick and Meghan), and three stepchildren (Jason, Kaylene and the late Johnathan).

Born to a military family in Honolulu, Hawaii, LaCoursiere attended Montville High School where he played junior varsity football, varsity football and varsity track.

As national commander, LaCoursiere is strongly committed to raising awareness for The American Legion's Be the One mission to prevent veteran suicide.

Programs and Incentives

- National Commander's Incentive Program
- 103 Percent Membership Award
- Post Excellence Award
- 100% American Legion Family Ribbon



National Commanders Incentive Program

American Legion National Commander James A. LaCoursiere Jr. will award his national commander "Be the One" dog tag coin to any Legionnaire who obtains three new members into The American Legion.

A new member is any eligible person joining for the 2025 membership year who was not a member of The American Legion during the 2024 membership year. Transfers do not count as new members.

Each member listed must be eligible for membership in The American Legion. New Auxiliary members and Sons of The American Legion members do not count toward this incentive. Forward names of Sons of The American Legion members or Auxiliary members to your squadron or unit for use in their respective incentive programs.

Only one coin will be awarded per individual. Upon receipt, national membership staff will confirm the names in the national database and mail the coin directly to the person who earned it.

The Incentive form can be found here: <https://www.legion.org/getmedia/3d4ba9c3-ce33-4f98-a576-a8dc9d748226/LACOURSIERE-THREE-NEW-MEMBER-INCENTIVE-FORM.pdf>





The walk-in flu shot clinics will be held Thursdays: Oct. 3rd and October 10th at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center, One Veterans Drive, Minneapolis, from 1:00 to 3:30 P.M.

“Getting a flu vaccine every year is the very best action we can take to prevent flu,” said Minneapolis VA Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Program Manager Megan Daman.

Flu shot clinics will also be offered at all Community-Based Outpatient Clinics from 1:00 to 3:00 P.M. Covid boosters are also available, contact your VA primary provider.

Click for more information: <https://legionnaire.org/va-offers-walk-in-flu-shots-for-veterans-for-next-3-thursdays/>



It isn't member poaching; it's disrespect **By Michael Ash**

Some American Legion posts and districts have recently grappled with concerns over “member poaching” between posts and districts. However, this perspective overlooks a fundamental truth: Members cannot be “poached” if their current environment provides respect, opportunity and inclusivity.

At its core, The American Legion thrives on the diverse experiences and dedication of its members.

Yet, in some posts, a culture has developed that alienates newer or younger veterans, hindering the organization's growth and relevance. The notion of “poaching” deflects attention from these internal challenges that prompt members to seek more welcoming environments elsewhere.

One prevalent issue is the perception that younger members or recent joiners are “too young” or inexperienced to hold positions of importance. This ageist attitude not only disregards the valuable skills and fresh perspectives these veterans bring but also contradicts the Legion's mission of serving all generations of veterans.

Moreover, many posts struggle with longstanding leadership resistant to change. Some members who have held positions for years refuse to step aside or mentor potential successors. This creates a stagnant environment where ambitious and capable members see no path for advancement or meaningful contribution.

The reality is that members who feel valued, respected and see opportunities for growth within their current post are unlikely to be lured away. When veterans choose to transfer to another post, it's often a reflection of seeking an environment that aligns with their expectations of respect, inclusion and opportunity for service.

Posts that successfully retain and attract members typically exhibit the following characteristics:

- Inclusive culture that values all members, regardless of age or length of service.
- Clear pathways for advancement and leadership development.
- Active mentorship programs pairing experienced members with newcomers.
- Openness to new ideas and adaptability to changing veteran needs.
- Regular rotation of leadership positions to bring in fresh perspectives.

To address these issues, Legion leadership at all levels should consider:

- Creating formal mentorship programs to develop future leaders.
- Establishing committees that give voice to newer and younger members.
- Regularly assessing post culture and practices to ensure inclusivity.
- Providing leadership training and development opportunities for all members.

In conclusion, the concept of “member poaching” in The American Legion is a mischaracterization of a deeper organizational challenge. Members who feel respected, valued, and see opportunities for growth within their posts are naturally inclined to stay.

By fostering environments that embrace all members and provide clear paths for advancement, posts can not only retain their current membership but also attract new veterans eager to serve.

The future of The American Legion depends on its ability to adapt and remain relevant to all generations of veterans. By addressing these internal challenges head-on, the Legion can ensure its continued vitality and effectiveness in serving America's veterans for years to come.

Michael Ash of St. Paul Christie-DeParcq Post 406 is a past Department of Minnesota commander.

The American Legion Fifth District Membership By Gary Martin

Congratulations, we have achieved our 50% membership goal. Our next goal is 55% by October 16th. If all possible send or transmit your memberships four or five days prior to the target date.

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%

Past Cmdr. Assigned	9/26/24	Post	New	PUFLS	%PUFL/ Goal	Renewals	Transfers	Total 2024	Goal	Need To Make Goal	% Goal
Lynne Nottage	1	Minneapolis 1	1	17	8%	73	0	91	204	113	44.61%
Joe Bayer	99	Wold-Chamberlain	2	16	20%	20	0	38	80	42	47.50%
Lynne Nottage	129	The Hellenic	0	10	19%	24	0	34	53	19	64.15%
Ray Eiden	230	Northside	0	4	10%	14	0	18	41	23	43.90%
Joe Bayer	234	V. L. Giantvalley	0	6	16%	1	0	7	38	31	18.42%
Gary Martin	291	Johnnie Baker	0	3	12%	10	0	13	25	12	52.00%
Gary Martin	355	Bainbridge (PUFL Post)	0	3	100%	0	0	3	3	0	100.00%
Dennis DeLong	435	MPLS-Richfield	0	96	13%	285	0	381	724	343	52.62%
Gary Martin	440	Gopher	0	9	29%	22	0	31	31	0	100.00%
Dick Ward	493	Viking	0	1	2%	37	0	38	55	17	69.09%
Gary Martin	504	Bearcat*	0	8		0	0	8			
Ray Eiden	511	Aviation	0	12	24%	7	0	19	50	31	38.00%
Dick Ward	548	U of M	0	13	34%	1	0	14	38	24	36.84%
Ray Eiden	555	Falldin	0	26	29%	31	0	57	90	33	63.33%
Joe Bayer	581	Herb Gager (MVH)	0	2	7%	2	0	4	27	23	14.81%
Gary Martin	618	Longton (PUFL Post)		22	100%	0	0	22	22	0	100.00%
TOTALS			3	248	17%	527	0	778	1481	703	52.53%

Note:* Bearcat Post #504 turned in charter in 2024

Fifth District Minneapolis VA Hospital Visitation

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

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

The first notices have gone out so you should start seeing a lot of membership renewals coming in. Please process those promptly and get them submitted.

There are currently 3 units still on the goose egg. I hope to see everyone off the goose egg in the next week or two.

This membership report is as of 9/24/2024 and a new one will be coming out before the district meeting on Oct. 5.

Dist	Unit	Unit Location	2025 DNO	85% by 3/15/25	95% by 5/23/25	100% by 7/4/25	102% by 7/26/25	Junior	Senior	Total	Percent to Date	100%+ Date
05	0001	Minneapolis	65	55	62	65	66	5	12	17	26.15%	
05	0099	Minneapolis	44	37	42	44	45	0	10	10	22.73%	
05	0129	Minneapolis	69	59	66	69	70	0	0	0	0.00%	
05	0234	Minneapolis	54	46	51	54	55	0	0	0	0.00%	
05	0435	Richfield	181	154	172	181	185	0	15	15	8.29%	
05	0440	Minneapolis	32	27	30	32	33	0	1	1	3.13%	
05	0511	Minneapolis	18	15	17	18	18	0	0	0	0.00%	
05 Total			463					5	38	43	9.29%	

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%

Important Throw out your old forms!!

There are new forms for 2024 - 2025.

Membership Application (White)
Membership Data Form (White)
Tranmittal Form (White)

*****Unit Awards from National*****

- ❖ Units reaching 100% by January 31, 2025, will receive a Unit Flag Ribbon
- ❖ New Chartered Units between 9/1/2024 thru 7/31/2025 will receive a \$25 gift card to Emblem Sales
- ❖ Recruit 10 -Any combination of Jr & Sr members by 6/24/2025- will receive a special gift selected by the National Membership Chairman (1 entry per recruiter/member)

Membership is a constant battle. We need everyone to help in this fight. But we want to make it fun again. Let's make new friends, recruit old friends, ask friends that we see every day but have never thought to ask to join. We need people to ASK. Or if you have asked years before, things may now have changed, try asking again. The answer may now be different. It can't hurt to ask. What is the worst they can say? No or Not Now. Things to think about. WE ARE AUXILIARY, WE ARE STRONG!!!!



**MINNESOTA
AMERICAN LEGION
FAMILY
FALL
CONFERENCE**

2024 Fall Conference Official Registration

Mail to:

Minnesota American Legion Convention Corp.
P.O. Box 166
Princeton, MN 55371

Registration sliding fee:

Registration received by Oct. 14: \$15
Registration at mnlegion.org: \$15 + \$2.85 service fee
(Online registration is available until noon Oct. 18)
Registration at the door: \$25

Only the pre-registered will receive a booklet.

Registration fees are for each person attending, except for Junior SAL and Junior Auxiliary members. Please copy and send a separate form for each person attending. Everyone must pay the registration fee.

Checks only by mail; bank cards are accepted online. Please indicate "Fall Conference" on the memo line. Please make checks payable to:

Minnesota American Legion Convention Corp.

Conference dates:

Oct. 25-26, 2024
Various committees meet Oct. 24.

Contact the hotel directly for your reservations:

Headquarters hotel:
Best Western Plus Kelly Inn, St. Cloud
320-253-0606

Nearby hotels:
Courtyard by Marriott, St. Cloud
320-654-1661
Grand Stay Residential Suites St. Cloud
320-251-5400

District Post Unit Squadron

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Meals: Pre-purchased meals are available for \$15 each. The meals are breakfasts on Friday and Saturday and a lunch on Friday. Please indicate with your check which meals you desire. The deadline is Oct. 11. Meals are available to purchase at mnlegion.org until then, too.

Fall Conference is coming soon!

Early Registration is due October 14th to receive a Conference book. Use the form to the right or go to the following website and register there.

<https://mnlegion.org/fall-conference/>

Sessions include:

MyLegion.org: For our members who need assistance on how to use MyLegion. How to find members that have not renewed and retain them or bring them back. Reports that are available to manage membership.

Be the One: An explanation of the national organizations suicide prevention program. How the districts and posts can bring awareness to their members. Resources available for awareness from the national website.

Voter Outreach: Resources available to get out the vote in your communities. Voter programs tailored for veterans and their families.

Post Service Officer Responsibilities: The responsibilities of the post service officer to bring awareness to all veterans and their families on the rights and benefits granted to them. Resources available to help veterans in need and instruction on how to properly complete the annual "Post Service Officer" report.

Resolutions: How to write a resolution. The process, where to start, next level of approvals. The do's and don'ts when writing a resolution.

Protect Your Post: Why should your post incorporate. The constitution & bylaws are the governing documents on how the post operates. Record keeping and the accuracy of meeting minutes.

The American Legion: Why revitalizations are important to your post. Promote The American Legion and your post. Resources available to make your post and membership successful. Engage veterans to join The American Legion and an active post in your community.

Committee Chair Responsibilities: The responsibilities of a department, district, and post committees and chairs. How to run a successful committee.

Legislative Agenda: The 2025 American Legion Department of Minnesota's legislative agenda to take back to your posts. How to get involved and support the agenda.

Fund 85: Why it's so important for the posts to be involved in assisting veterans in need. The process starts at the post level. An overview of the process.

Why Legion College: Why our Legionnaires should attend Minnesota American Legion College and the National College. Subject matter taught at the college. The application process for both Minnesota and National.

Why Belong: Why you should belong to The American Legion and the programs of The American Legion. Our four pillars and the importance of them.

Veterans Defense Project: Their mission is to restore veterans involved in the criminal justice system to the communities they served. Along with The American Legion Department of Minnesota, VDP was key in the passage of the Veterans Restorative Justice Act by our state legislators in 2021. VDP is Commander Carl Moon's project for his year, with a goal of raising \$60,000.

Blood Drive at Fall Conference

The national blood supply has fallen by over 25% since July 1. Blood product distributions to hospitals are outpacing the number of blood donations, rapidly drawing down the blood supply. The Red Cross is working with hospitals around the clock to meet the blood needs of patients - but can't do it alone.

We need your help!

This year at our Fall Conference we will have an opportunity to make a difference. You can sign up to donate on Thursday, October 24th from 1200 noon to 5:00 P.M. Our drive goal is 35 units. This amounts to 3.5 donors per district.

You can go to [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org) and enter **legion conference** or zip code 56301 or call 866-236-3276. There's an urgent need for blood donors of all blood types to give now.

Thank you for your participation!

TERRY LARSON, Department Blood Chairman

American Red Cross Blood Services

Drives Near Legion conference [Refine Search](#)

Hide Full Drives OFF [What does this mean?](#)

BY DATE **BY DISTANCE**

Thursday, October 24, 2024

Best Western Plus Kelly Inn [SEE TIMES](#)

100 4th Ave S
St Cloud, MN 56301
mi | 12:00 PM - 05:00 PM

More Details

- Blood

Blood: The most common type of donation, during which approximately a pint of 'whole blood' is given. This type of blood donation usually takes about an hour.

[Learn More About Different Types of Donations >](#)

[- Less Details](#)

A flyer was added on the next page for you to post and share. - Editor



**American
Red Cross**

The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give blood.™

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS

Minnesota American Legion Family Blood Drive

Fall Conference St. Cloud

Thursday, October 24th

12 Noon until 5 PM

Contact information: Redcrossblood.org or call 866-236-3276

Department President Judy Ackerman



We have started this year by getting “Back to the Basics – Recognize, Respect, Remember”. Recognize - take the time to recognize that everyone is unique and special. We need to recognize everyone’s talents. We need to recognize all veterans, men and women.

Respect – Treat everyone with respect. Please be considerate and attentive to other people’s feelings, wishes, rights, or traditions. It’s a well-known fact that people will have disagreements for a variety of reasons. Please be respectful to all of our volunteers. They are volunteers. They are giving their time and talents to the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Remember - We can remember with fondness, appreciation and honor, the service of all our veterans. Veterans have defended this Country and protected our way of life since WWI. WWI veterans joined together to create the American Legion and those veterans, their spouses, friends and family through the years established our Auxiliary, Juniors, Sons of the American Legion and the Legion Riders. Together, we have served and continue to serve this Country, our veterans, our youth, and our communities.

By the time this mailing is received, Workshop for our new Department Chairman was held and they all worked hard to put the Basics of their individual programs together. Please take the time to read and share the information in this mailing with your members.

Membership Hope has the Member-opoly board ready to go for this year. You can pay your dues in several different ways. Online, mail, or drop off to the unit membership chairman.

I attended the Hopkins Raspberry Festival parade and the Lino Lakes parade.

Junior Fun Weekend was held with 23 juniors in attendance. This year we tried something new. A huge THANK YOU to our Department Poppy Chairman, Lorinda Kies, who helped the chaperones make Poppies while the juniors were involved in their activities. These poppy makers were able to complete making 912 poppies. The juniors also were excited to pack the personal care kits for female veterans. Thank you to the units that donated items at Department Convention and those units that brought items to Legionville. The Juniors packed 139 personal care kits for female veterans.

Save the Date! Planning is under way for Fall Conference. National President Trish Ward will be attending and will be presenting to our American Legion Family on Thursday, October 24th, at 6:30 p.m. I am so excited for our members to hear National President Trish’s message.

The National Convention will be history by the time this mailing comes out. What an experience that was. New Orleans scenery, cuisine, and a few adventures. More on that in the next mailing.

President’s Project –

Part 1 is to raise funds for rehabilitation equipment for the Veterans Homes. The two most requested pieces of rehabilitation equipment are the Kinevia Duo and the Scifit Stepper. These both allow residents in wheelchairs to access the equipment as well as those that are not in a wheelchair. Several of the other Veterans’ homes have needs for other smaller rehab equipment. (Space is an issue.) The approximate cost for these pieces of equipment range from \$6,000 - \$8,500 each. Four of the homes have these on their wish list.

Part 2 is to raise funds and in-kind donations to help out our female veterans. The new women’s clinic will be opening up in the spring of 2025. The VA is asking for Personal Hygiene kits to be given to our female veterans. This project will be started at the Junior Fun Weekend at Legionville the weekend of August 9-11th. (Depending on donations and where the required products are purchased.) I would love to be able to put together at least 300 of these kits.

I am looking forward to working with all of you this next year as we go Back to the Basics – Recognize, Respect, Remember.

ALA Fall Conference

Silent Auction

The Silent Auction to support the Auxiliary Emergency Fund is back again this year for Fall Conference!! Time to get together as a unit/post/squadron or family to come up with a theme basket or maybe even 2!! You can also bring in quilts, books, patriotic items, pictures, jewelry, American Legion family items, decorations.

Everyone loves bake sales! I know we have some wonderful bakers out there. And I hope you come through for a huge bake sale that will go with the silent auction. Bake sale items will be a free will donation. I am even making some items. (And if you know me that is a huge task because I am not usually someone who bakes.) 😊😊

We will also be taking monetary donations. To go along with Department President Judy's symbol each monetary donation that comes in will be a Lego block (building blocks) to make towers.

I am hoping to have a great silent auction for an even greater cause! Volunteers Needed!

If you would love to help with the auction whether it be setting up or working during the auction, please contact me or the Department Office.

Brandi Christensen (763) 843-0873, brandichristensen21@gmail.com

Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF)

The AEF was established in 1969 and is a national grant program to provide temporary monetary assistance (up to \$3000) to eligible members who have endured significant financial setbacks because of an act of natural or personal crisis.

This is possible all by donations. Members helping members.

AEF funds may be awarded to members whose primary residence has been devastated by disaster, flood, tornadoes, fires, hurricanes, earthquakes, or other catastrophic events.

Hardship Grants may be awarded to members that have past/overdue expenses pertaining to their primary shelter and basic household utilities due to medical or employment reasons.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Members who are current on dues and have been members for three (3) consecutive years.
- Cannot be used for medical expenses or debts from credit cards.
- Applicants for disaster assistance must apply within six (6) months from the disaster event.
- One grant (disaster or hardship) per grantee within a 12-month period.
- Must submit all qualifying documentation including pictures, invoices, bills, ECT.
- All applications must be submitted online at www.alaforveterans.org.

This is such a great program and an awesome cause to donate to! More information will be on the Department and National websites!

**2024 Fall Conference
Special Guest Speaker
2024-2025 National American Legion Auxiliary
President Trish Ward**



Fall Conference will once again be held at River's Edge Conference Center in St. Cloud October 24-26, 2024. Besides our annual Poppy Contests and the awesome AEF Silent Auction we are excited to announce

2024-2025 National President Trish Ward

will be speaking Thursday, October 24 at 6:30 p.m. in the main auditorium of the Convention Center.

The Department of Minnesota American Legion Family is invited to hear Trish's message. Trish is an engaging and dynamic speaker.
You won't want to miss it!

More details about Trish's presentation will be available soon.

Registration and hotel information for Fall Conference follows.



**Department of Minnesota
September 2024 Unit Mailing
Fall Conference**

Fall Conference American Legion Family Challenges

With the Poppy crisis that we faced last year trying to fill the poppy orders for our units and posts, there will be an opportunity on Friday night of the Fall Conference to assist with making poppies. Please attend and bring your friends. Commander Moon and President Judy will be offering a prize for the winning team.



WOMAN VETERAN PERSONAL CARE KITS

- ❖ The VA is asking for Personal Hygiene kits to be given to our female veterans.
- ❖ Care kits will be distributed to both inpatient and outpatient veterans.
- ❖ The care kit should be packed into an oversized 8 x 11” zippered pouch.

Please consider donating these items for the personal care kits. Bring them to Fall Conference and we will pack the care kits on Friday night. The items required are listed below. The Juniors were able to pack 139 of these kits at Jr Fun Weekend. It would be fantastic if we could pack an additional 150+ at Fall Conference. Zippered Pouches and thank you cards will be provided.

Required items		Optional Items
Shampoo	Lip Balm	Travel-size Kleenex
Conditioner	Chapstick	Pen/Pencil
Deodorant (non-aerosol)	Emery Board	Small Journal/Notepad
Bar Soap	Large Comb	Word Search/Puzzle Book
Body Wash	Hairbrush	Stress Ball/Fidget Item
Toothbrush	Lotion	Slipper/Cozy Socks
Toothpaste		Handwritten Note of Thanks/Encouragement



Judy Ackerman, Department President

Military Convoy of the Ages



The Historic 1918 Jefferson Highway Route

Don't miss this opportunity to see over 40 vintage military vehicles and much more!



October 5th, 2024 • St. Stephen, MN (Church Parking Lot)

Arriving approximately 9:00am • Departing approximately 10:30am

- 40+ Military Vehicles
- Freedom Flight POW MIA Balloon
- Central MN Model A Club
- Firetrucks and Police Cars



Visit www.mvpa.org/convoys for more information about the historic 1918 Jefferson Highway route.



Unit 435 Omelet Breakfast Fundraiser

Sunday October 13th
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, October 27, 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
October 1 - 6, 2024	The John Zgoda Memorial, SAL Disabled Veteran Deer Hunt	Legionville Education Center 9544 Legionville Rd, Brainerd, MN
October 1 - 31, 2024	Jefferson Highway Convoy Military Vehicle Preservation Association	Various: East Grand Forks to New Orleans
October 4 - 6	SAL NEC Meetings	Indianapolis, IN
Saturday, October 5, 2024 9:30 Exec, 10 AM Membership	5th District Meetings	Minneapolis Post 1 2507 E 25th St. Mpls, MN 55406
Sunday, October 6 1:45 PM	5th District Minneapolis VA Hospital Visitation	Minneapolis VA Auditorium
October 7 - 10	TAL NEC Meetings	Indianapolis, IN
October 8 - 10, 2024	Minnesota Veterans Outdoor Deer Hunt	Camp Ripley
October 13, 2024 8 AM until Noon	Unit 435 Omelet Breakfast Fundraiser	Wold Chamberlain Post 99 5600 S 34th Ave. Mpls
Thursday October 24 - Saturday October 26	Fall Conference	St. Cloud RiverEdge and Kelly Inn 10 4th St. S., St. Cloud, MN 56301
Thursday October 24th.	Department DEC	St. Cloud RiverEdge and Kelly Inn 10 4th St. S., St. Cloud, MN 56301
Sunday, October 27 8 AM until noon	AYCE Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser	Wold Chamberlain Post 99 5600 S 34th Ave. Mpls
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	TBD
Saturday, December 7, 2024	Pearl Harbor Membership Rally	Spicer American Legion Post 545

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.