



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

February 2026

AMERICAN LEGION

Fifth District Officers

Commander
Lynne Nottage

Adjutant
Ray Eiden

Finance
Dennis De Long

Chaplain
Andrew Rose Sr.

Sergeant-At-Arms
Joe Bayer

Save the Date!

Fifth District Convention

Friday June 5th and Saturday June 6

Fifth District American Legion Meeting

Saturday, February 7

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=x1x2DqprwbfHHI8qdABw9Mvcl0a9Vl.1>

**Ray Eiden
District Adjutant**

The next District Assembly will be Saturday, Feb. 7 at Post 1. Executive Meeting at 9:30am followed by the District Assembly at 10:00am. The meeting will be carried on Zoom.

I want to thank all the volunteers who helped out at the Oratorical Contest held at Wold-Chamberlain Post 99 on Feb. 17, 2026. Carolyn Vickers, sponsored by Falldin Post 555, was this year's winner. Carolyn will represent the 5th District in State finals to be held in Anoka, Minnesota on Feb. 28, 2026. Carolyn is home schooled and a sophomore this year. She was awarded \$1,000.00 for first place. Aidan Andrews, sponsored by Wold-Chamberlain Post 99, came in second place and was awarded \$750.00. He is a sophomore at Bloomington Jefferson High School. Congratulations to both of our contestants for their efforts and participation.

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The **Blood Reports** are due into me by May 1, 2026. This is for blood that was donated between January 1, 2025 and Dec. 31, 2025 by Legionnaires, SAL or Auxiliary.

The **5th District Hospital Visitation** is going well but we would like to see more volunteers to help with our visits. We are getting 10-12 coming each month. We visit a total of 9 wards. The veterans in the hospital are very receptive and enjoy getting company. We meet on the first Sunday of each month in the VA hospital auditorium at 2:00pm. Posts go to their assigned Wards and we are usually done between 3:30 and 4:00pm.

Ray Eiden
5th District Adjutant

From Left to Right: Fifth District Commander Lynne Nottage, Carolyn Vickers (Vickers Academy), Aiden Andrews (Bloomington Jefferson), Fifth District Adjutant Ray Eiden.





Fifth District American Legion Auxiliary

Saturday, February 7
10 AM Membership

Fifth District Officers

President
Becky Nelson

1st Vice President
Mary Younkin

2nd Vice President
Deb Bayer

Secretary
LoAnn Grill

Treasurer
Cari Lamb

Chaplain
Mary Younkin



Fifth District Officers

Commander
Matt Verkuilen

1st Vice Commander
Bill Hawkins

2nd Vice Commander
Mark Braley

Adjutant
Shawn Davis

Finance
Leroy Gonzales

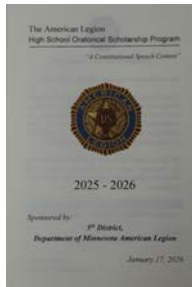
Chaplain

SAA
Lee Davis

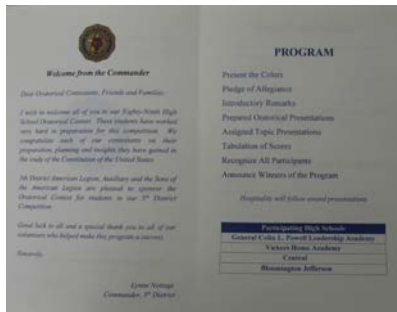


District Representative
Jill Davis

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



Additional Oratorical Pictures



Fifth District SAL meeting

Tuesday, March 3 at 7 PM
Wold-Chamberlain Post 99.



Greetings Fifth District SAL! It's hard to believe that we are already into February. Hopefully this means that things will start warming up a bit too.

I have a couple of things that I'd like us to be thinking about. First, there is a reason why we call ourselves the "American Legion Family". It's important to understand that while we are a program of the American Legion, we are also an important part of the American Legion Family.... and family supports each other. We may bicker, we may disagree, we may even make things more complicated than they need to be... we still are there to support the family and in our case the mission of the American Legion Family. After all, our constitutions are pretty clear "For God and Country we associate ourselves TOGETHER..."

Secondly, what does this mean? The reality is it can mean very different things depending on the squadron or even depending on the person. Things like buddy checks, invites for coffee, and community support are all things that are not limited to one arm of our family. When was the last time as an SAL member you called on a Post, Auxiliary, or Riders member to see how they're doing? When was the last time you contacted a school, to see if there is anything you can help with or support them with. Even though these are just examples, I challenge you (and all of our district family) to look at where you can help. Where can you help bring our family together? Where are these areas where you can help bring the community together? Where can we involve ourselves in the work of the American Legion Family to further our mission?

Thank you for all that you do. The SAL and American Legion Family is strong because of everything you do everyday.

Fifth District Chapter 435 ALR Meeting

Wednesday, February 11 at 7 PM.
Wold Chamberlain Post 99

The Fund 85 Run and the MN Legacy Run are being planned. Fund 85 will be in Southern MN this year. If you know of any location that would like to be a atop, reach out and let us know.

Old newsletters (and other historical items) wanted!

The Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum is requesting donations of Minnesota Legionnaire newsletters and Minnesota Legion post newsletters.

The mission of their Archive office is to preserve the legacy of the Legion and Minnesota veterans.

Their modest Legion collection needs your contribution. If you can help by donating your back issues of The Minnesota Legionnaire, post newsletters, or other historical materials, please contact their Archivist, Daniel Ewer, at dewer@MnMilitaryMuseum.org.

We need you to contribute to the Newsletter.

Upcoming Intel: If you have an event on the horizon, give us the "who, what, where, and why" early so we can help fill the seats.

The "Write-Groove": You don't need to be Hemingway. If you have a reflection on your service, a tribute to a fellow Vet, or an opinion on a Veteran-centric issue, put pen to paper.

Spotlight Moments: Know a member who deserves a shout-out for their service to the District? Let's get their name in lights.

Keep it Veteran-Centric: The only rule? Keep the focus on our mission. Whether it's legislative advocacy, community service, or the camaraderie that keeps us strong, if it matters to a 4th District Vet, it belongs in these pages.

Don't let the "Empty Page" win. Our newsletter should be a reflection of the active, vibrant District we are.

THE AMERICAN LEGION DOES WHAT??!

I've been hearing from several members who weren't aware of the many programs The American Legion offers beyond our local post activities. We always need a hand. Whether you're a newer member or have been with us for years, here are a few highlights:

Veterans Benefits & Assistance – The Legion's trained service officers help veterans and their families navigate VA benefits claims at no cost. From disability compensation to pension claims, assistance is available to all veterans, not just members. They can be found at www.mnlegion.org

Education Programs – Beyond our well-known scholarships, the Legion sponsors Boys State and Girls State programs, Junior Shooting Sports, and the National Oratorical Contest, helping develop tomorrow's leaders.

Community Service – Our organization coordinates programs like American Legion Baseball, supports youth through Junior Law Cadet programs and promotes flag education and patriotic observance in local schools.

Support for Military Families – The Legion Family supports active-duty families through temporary financial assistance, provides care packages to deployed troops, and helps veterans transition back to civilian life.

These represent just a fraction of what's available. For a complete overview of national programs, visit www.legion.org/programs or check the resources section at www.legion.org.



2026 DATES	
All sessions run Sunday to Friday	
1	June 14 – June 19
2	June 21 – June 26
3	July 5 – July 10
4	July 12 – July 17
5	July 19 – July 24
6	July 26 – July 31

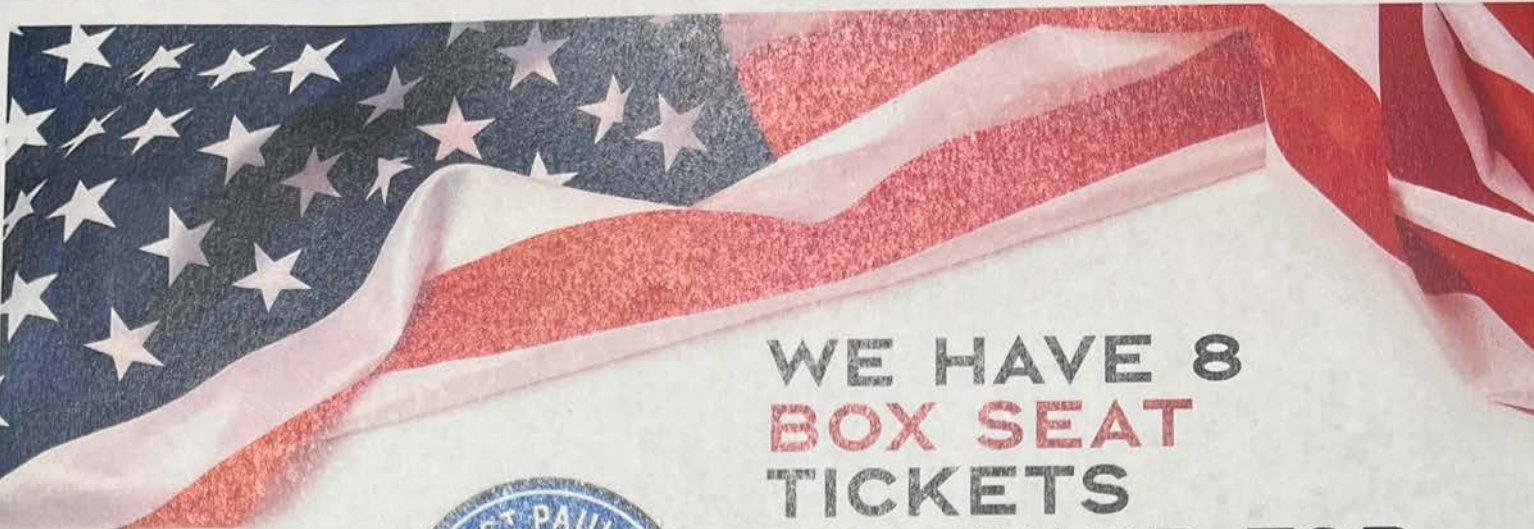
2026 Registration Fee:
\$550.00 per camper



REGISTER ONLINE TODAY!



LEGIONVILLE
The American Legion
2011 32th Street, Room 300A
St. Paul, MN 55155-2000
Phone: 651-291-1800
Email: mlegionville@gmail.com



**WE HAVE 8
BOX SEAT
TICKETS
TO AWARD FOR
LEGION NIGHT
AT CHS FIELD!**



**AMERICAN
LEGION**

American Legion Night at CHS Field is Friday, May 22. Commander Linda Dvorak is tossing out the first pitch, and the New Prague Area Honor Guard is presenting the colors during the national anthem.

**THE CHALLENGE:
TOP 4 RECRUITERS
OF NEW MEMBERS
BETWEEN JAN. 1 & MAR. 1
WILL EACH RECEIVE
2 BOX SEAT TICKETS,
WHICH COMES WITH FREE
FOOD AND REFRESHMENTS.**



Winners will be announced March 14 at the Appreciation Rally in Bloomington.

Winners to sit with the department commander during the game.

Minimum qualification: recruit at least 3 new members.

To enter, submit the full names and member IDs of the new members to Membership Director Joe Bares by 5 p.m. March 12 via email at jebares@yahoo.com or via mail to 843 Lodge Drive, Jordan, MN 55352.

(Any transportation, lodging or additional expenses are not included.)

The American Legion Fifth District Membership

Membership Target Dates

Early Bird/NEF Kickoff - Sept 10 - 50%	Fall Meetings - October 15 - 55%
Veterans Day - November 13 - 65%	Pearl Harbor Day - December 10th - 75%
Mid-Winter - January 14 - 80%	Presidents Day - February 11 - 85%
American Legion Birthday- March 11 - 90%	Children and Youth Month - April 8 - 95%
Armed Forces Day - May 13 - 100%	

MN Dist 0005 LGN

As of January 28, 2026

Post	Name	Location	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Tran	Totals	Goal	% of Goal
MN-0001	Minneapolis	Minneapolis	1	16	144	3	164	184	89.13
MN-0099	Wold-Chamberlain	Minneapolis	5	19	43	0	67	79	84.81
MN-0129	The Hellenic Inc	Minneapolis	0	8	35	0	43	53	81.13
MN-0230	North Side	Minneapolis	1	4	27	0	32	37	86.49
MN-0234	Vincent L Giantvalley	Minneapolis	0	6	6	0	12	33	36.36
MN-0291	Johnnie Baker	Minneapolis	3	3	10	0	16	19	84.21
MN-0355	Bainbridge	Minneapolis	0	3	0	0	3	3	100.00
MN-0435	Minneapolis-Richfield	Richfield	3	92	420	1	516	630	81.90
MN-0440	Gopher	Minneapolis	0	7	16	0	23	32	71.88
MN-0493	Viking Inc	Minneapolis	0	1	45	0	46	50	92.00
MN-0511	Aviation	Crystal	0	10	20	1	31	42	73.81
MN-0548	University Of Minnesota	Minneapolis	0	13	8	0	21	24	87.50
MN-0555	Arthur And Leonard Fallc	Minneapolis	1	24	41	0	66	75	88.00
MN-0581	Herb Gager	Minneapolis	10	3	10	0	23	22	104.55
MN-0618	Longton	Minneapolis	0	20	0	0	20	22	90.91
		SUM:	24	229	825	5	1,083	1,305	82.99

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 (**February 1**) assemble at **1:45 PM** at the **Minneapolis VA Auditorium**. Please bring your cover, or where something Legion Family related.



The Sons of The American Legion Fifth District Membership

By Bill Hawkins

This membership report is as of February 1, 2026.

5th District										
Sqdrn.	Location	2025 Results (7/29/2025)	2026 Goal	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Tran	Grand Total	% of Goal	Date Goal Reached
1	Minneapolis	33	38	1	0	34	0	35	92.11%	
99	Wold-Chamberlain	15	20	3	0	20	0	23	115.00%	10/6/25
129	Hellenic	24	29	0	0	17	0	17	58.62%	
234	GiantValley	18	23	6	0	17	0	23	100.00%	12/14/25
435	Richfield	172	177	4	0	140	0	144	81.36%	
440	Gopher	43	48	0	0	40	0	40	83.33%	
511	Aviation	2	7	0	0	3	0	3	42.86%	
555	Falldin	11	16	0	0	11	0	11	68.75%	
5th District Totals		318	358	14	0	282	0	296	82.68%	
# of Sqdns - 8									Off Goose Egg	9/21/25



DETACHMENT OF MINNESOTA

2026 MEMBERSHIP GOALS

Report Date: 2/1/26

2025 Results as of 7/29/2025	11654				
Current Received as of 2/1/2026	9437	78.25%	*Includes traditional and online renewals		
2026 Detachment Goal	12060	12015	78.54%	set from national	

Vice Commanders	2025 Results	2026 Goal	Grand Total	Percentage	Placing	2026 Original Goal	Percentage	Ranking
1st and 3rd	3992	4072	3188	78.29%	3	4072	78.29%	3
2nd and 7th	2220	2330	1869	80.21%	2	2330	80.21%	2
4th and 5th	728	808	626	77.48%	4	808	77.48%	4
6th and 9th	2594	2668	2208	82.76%	1	2668	82.76%	1
8th and 10th	2120	2199	1546	70.30%	5	2199	70.30%	5
Totals	11654	12077	9437	78.14%				

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

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

Districts	2025 Results	2026 Goal	Grand Total	Percentage	Placing	2026 Original Goal	Percentage	Ranking
1st District	1745	1785	1457	81.62%	4	1785	81.62%	4
2nd District	1225	1275	1211	94.98%	1	1275	94.98%	1
3rd District	2247	2287	1731	75.69%	6	2287	75.69%	6
4th District	410	450	330	73.33%	8	450	73.33%	8
5th District	318	358	296	82.68%	3	358	82.68%	3
6th District	1643	1683	1349	80.15%	5	1683	80.15%	5
7th District	995	1055	658	62.37%	10	1055	62.37%	10
8th District	479	519	385	74.18%	7	519	74.18%	7
9th District	951	985	859	87.21%	2	985	87.21%	2
10th District	1641	1680	1161	69.11%	9	1680	69.11%	9
Totals	11654	12077	9437	78.14%				

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

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

1982 MN SAL AT-LARGE	4	4	9	225.00%				
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SONS OF THE
 AMERICAN
LEGION



MIDWEST REGION GATHERING

MARCH 13-14, 2026
American Legion Post 112
8904 Military Rd.
Omaha, Nebraska 68134

Join Us for a Weekend of Brotherhood and Purpose!

The Midwest Region Gathering brings together Sons of The American Legion members for a weekend of learning, connection, and forward momentum. Come share ideas, build new partnerships, and strengthen the mission of supporting our veterans, their families, and our communities.

Highlights Include:

**Leadership Development Sessions
Membership & Training Workshops
Regional Collaboration Meetings
Fellowship, Networking, and Social Events**

Schedule of Events:

Friday 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM - Meet & Greet at American Legion Post #112. National Vice Commander Chris Casey

Saturday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM - Leadership Development and Training Workshops. There will be a working lunch provided to those who register. Snacks will be available throughout the day.

TECHNOLOGY AND THE USE OF AI - SHAWN DAVIS
FIVE STAR AND TEN IDEALS - TODD KABELLA
SAL AWARDS - CASEY HANSON
NEC/COMMITTEES/COMMISSIONS/NVC EXPECTATIONS ROUNDTABLE - MIKE MONSERUD, TERRY HARRIS, CHRIS CASEY

Saturday evening - Take advantage of Omaha restaurants/sites. Safe travels!

For those flying into Omaha, utilize Eppley Airfield (OMA)
Hotel Accomodations:

Holiday Inn Express & Suites Cherry Hills; 6939 N 102 Cir.
Omaha 68122; 402-505-8181

Fairfield by Marriott Inn & Suites Omaha NW; 7101 N 102 Cir.
Omaha 68122; 402-999-8089

February, we take time to remember the Four Chaplains. Here is their story.

Early on Feb. 3, 1943, an enemy torpedo struck the Army transport Dorchester as it carried 902 officers and enlisted men, Navy armed guard, merchant seamen and civilian workers in the North Atlantic. The Coast Guard cutter escorts Comanche and Escanaba rescued 230 men.

As Dorchester took on water, four Army chaplains— Lt. George L. Fox (Methodist), Lt. Alexander D. Goode (Jewish), Lt. John P. Washington (Roman Catholic), and Lt. Clark V. Poling (Dutch Reformed) – calmed frightened soldiers, aided the wounded and guided the disoriented toward safety.

On deck, they opened a storage locker and began distributing life jackets. When there were no more available, the chaplains removed their life jackets and gave them to four young men. “It was the finest thing I have seen or hope to see this side of heaven,” said John Ladd, a survivor.

As the ship went down, men in rafts saw the four chaplains, arms linked and braced against the slanting deck, singing hymns and praying.

Congress attempted to confer the Medal of Honor on the chaplains but was prevented by strict requirements of heroism under fire. It authorized a one-time posthumous Special Medal for Heroism, awarded by President Eisenhower in 1961; it was intended to have the same weight and importance as the Medal of Honor.

(FourChaplains.org. Four Chaplains Day, American Legion, Indianapolis, IN, 2020.)

Please reserve your spot and include **\$20 per person** to cover lunch, drinks, and snacks.

Registration deadline: March 1, 2026

Mail or email completed form to:

Chris Casey
2239 Meadow Dr.
Blair, NE 68008
aproudpatriot1776@gmail.com



Venmo payment to: **@FlagProfessor** or
make checks payable to: **Chris Casey**

Name(s) of people attending: _____

Detachment: _____

Total amount: \$ _____



Leading the Celebration is Kollett Kaehlert



DISTRICT	# of Units	Goal	Period Gain	Membership To Date	Percent of Goal	Membership LY 1/28/2025	Difference from Last Year
One	47	3,240	8	2,637	81.39%	2792	-155
Two	68	3,228	12	2,728	84.51%	2748	-20
Three	45	3,390	20	2,619	77.26%	2799	-180
Four	5	456	0	342	75.00%	367	-25
Five	7	344	0	244	70.93%	273	-29
Six	57	4,370	40	3,646	83.43%	3756	-110
Seven	49	2,427	2	1,950	80.35%	2057	-107
Eight	20	1,092	6	820	75.09%	833	-13
Nine	43	2,786	28	2,340	83.99%	2356	-16
Ten	40	3,146	34	2,470	78.51%	2584	-114
1982	1	408	2	233	57.11%	230	3
Depart. Total	382	24,888	152	20,029	80.48%	20795	-766
Group 1 (Even)	190	12,292	92	10,006	81.40%	10,288	-282
<i>Jodi Hassing</i>							
Group 2 (Odd)	191	12,188	58	9,790	80.32%	10,507	-717
<i>Linda Kelly</i>							

RANKINGS

Rank	Unit	%	District	Membership	Percent	Goal	Period Gain	Membership To Date	Percent of Goal	Membership LY 1/28/2025	Difference from Last Year
1st	84.51%		District 9	83.99%							
2nd			District 9	83.99%							
3rd			District 6	83.43%							
4th			District 1	81.38%							
5th			District 7	80.35%							
6th			District 10	78.51%							
7th			District 3	77.26%							
8th			District 8	75.09%							
9th			District 4	75.00%							
10th			District 5	70.93%							

UNIT NUMERIC OBJECTIVES 2026

If your percentages show NaN and/or Infinity please send us your Goals
This report updates once daily at midnight Eastern Time

UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	JUNIOR	SENIOR	TOTAL	PERCENT	25% by 9/15	60% by 11/11	85% by 3/15/26	95% by 6/12/26	100% by 7/4/26	102% by 8/1/26
0001	Minneapolis	50	2	28	30	60.00%	10/30/25	12/16/25				
0099	Minneapolis	31	0	28	28	90.32%	9/23/25	11/11/25	12/23/25			
0129	Minneapolis	52	0	47	47	90.38%	10/25/25	11/18/25	12/5/25			
0234	Minneapolis	38	0	31	31	81.58%	10/15/25	11/4/25				
0435	Richfield	135	0	85	85	62.96%	10/15/25	12/23/25				
0440	Minneapolis	25	0	16	16	64.00%	10/7/25	12/9/25				
0511	Aviation	13	2	5	7	53.85%	9/30/25					
Total		344	4	240	244	70.93%						



Unit 435 Omelet Breakfast Fundraiser

Sunday February 8
8 AM until Noon!

\$13.00 goodwill donation
for a custom made omelet,
hash-browns, toast,
Fruit Cocktail, and drink
(coffee, juice, or milk)



Come Meet
the
Department
President
Robin Dorf

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



Wold Chamberlain American Legion Post 99 Family Fundraiser



Pancake & Sausage Breakfast Fundraiser

Sunday, February 22, 2026

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

Bags
every
Friday
Night



are now
available!

Date	What	Location
Fridays 6:30 PM	Bags Tournament (every Friday, except holidays)	Wold Chamberlain Post 99 5600 S 34th Ave. Mpls
Saturday, February 7, 2026 9:30 Exec, 10 AM Membership	Fifth District Meeting TAL, ALA	Minneapolis Post 1 2507 E 25th St. Mpls, MN 55406
Sunday, February 8, 2026 8 AM - Noon	Unit 435 Omelet Breakfast Fundraiser	Wold Chamberlain Post 99 5600 S 34th Ave. Mpls
Sunday, February 22, 2026 8 AM - Noon	Post 99 AYCE Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser	Wold Chamberlain Post 99 5600 S 34th Ave. Mpls
Sunday, March 1, 2026, 1:45 PM	5th District Minneapolis VA Hospital Visitation	Minneapolis VA Auditorium
Saturday, March 7, 2026 9:30 Exec, 10 AM Membership	Fifth District Meeting TAL, ALA	Minneapolis Post 1 2507 E 25th St. Mpls, MN 55406
Sunday, March 8, 2026 8 AM - Noon	Unit 435 Omelet Breakfast Fundraiser	Wold Chamberlain Post 99 5600 S 34th Ave. Mpls
Saturday, March 14, 2026 11 AM Social, Noon Lunch, Program after	Appreciation Rally	Bloomington Veteran Center American Legion Post 550
Friday, March 20; Saturday, March 21	Detachment Spring Conference	Arcade-Phalen American Legion Post 577, 1129 Arcade St. St. Paul MN
Sunday, March 22, 2026 8 AM - Noon	Post 99 AYCE Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser	Wold Chamberlain Post 99 5600 S 34th Ave. Mpls
Friday, June 26 - Saturday, June 27	Detachment Conventon	Crystal VFW 5222 Bass Lake Rd. Crystal, MN 55429
Thursday, July 10 - Saturday, July 11	Department Convention	Willmar Convention Center

Visit our Website: MNFightingfifth.org
A calendar of events can be found there.
or

Click here to add to your device.
[https://teamup.com/
ksvvhn5e4e7ce5ag9w](https://teamup.com/ksvvhn5e4e7ce5ag9w)
or

scan this QR code



Send in news and content to 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.