



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

March 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

Fifth District American Legion Meeting

Saturday, March 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=x1x2DqprwbfHHI8qdABw9Mvcl0a9VI.1>

Save the Date!
Fifth District Convention
Friday June 5th and Saturday June 6
Hotel reservations can be made now.

Use this link

[American Legion 5th District](#)

or call the hotel at 952-884-8211 and ask for the American Legion 5th District Room block.

Rooms are **\$149** for poolside, **\$109** for non-poolside.
Room block will close May 29.



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Ray Eiden
District Adjutant

The next District Assembly will be Saturday, March 7 at Post 1. Executive Meeting at 9:30am

followed by the District Assembly at 10:00am. The meeting will be carried on Zoom.

The Appreciation Rally will be on Saturday, March 14 at the Bloomington Veterans Center/American Legion Post 550/VFW Post 1296. They are located at 311 West 84th Street in Bloomington, MN. The Department Executive Committee meets at 9:30 AM. Socail will start at 11 AM. Meal will be at Noon, with program to follow.

The meal is free if you register before March 11. Go to the Department website (mnlegion.org) to register or click here. [2026 Appreciation Rally](#)

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.

Ray Eiden
5th District Adjutant

Fifth District American Legion Auxiliary

Saturday, March 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



Fifth District SAL meeting

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

Greetings Fifth District SAL!

A reminder that we will have our bi-monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 3 at 7 PM. We will be at Wold Chamberlain American Legion Post 99.

At the meeting, we will discuss continuing to work together, membership status, and do a session on MyLegion.

The Detachment Spring Conference is coming up as well. This will be held at Arcade Phalen American Legion Post 577 located at 1129 Arcade Street in St. Paul, MN. Finance and Executive Boards meet on Friday, March 20 beginning at 7 PM. The General Conference session will be held on Saturday, March 21 at 9 AM. Registration is \$20 if paid before March 13th, \$25 afterwards. Children ages 5 - 10 are \$10, and under age 4 are free. This will include Saturday lunch. We will have our auction and a bake sale for the Child Well-being Foundation. Everyone is encouraged to bring items for the auction.

Donations are accepted at the conference. Some to consider:

Project

American Legion Child Well-Being Foundation
National Emergency Fund
Brain Science Foundation
John Zgoda Disabled Veterans Deer Hunt
Veteran Assistance Fund
Detachment Commanders Project
Helping Paws

Check payable to

American Legion Child Well-Being Foundation or CWF
National Emergency Fund
Brain Sciences Foundation
MN American Legion Foundation (Fund 54)
MN American Legion Foundation (Fund 85)
MN American Legion Foundation (Fund 99)

The registration form is included in this newsletter.

Also has your squadron begun to prepare its Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR)? These are due to the Detachment Adjutant by June 19.

Also consider stepping up to be an officer of the District for the 2026 - 2027 season.

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

Matthew Verkuilen
Fifth District Commander
Sons of the American Legion

Fifth District Chapter 435 ALR Meeting

Wednesday, March 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.



20 W. 12th Street ~ Room 300A ~ St. Paul, MN 55155-2000
 Email: department@mnlegion.org Phone: 651-291-1800
 Fax: 651-291-1057 Toll Free: 866-259-9163

DETACHMENT OF MINNESOTA SPRING CONFERENCE RESERVATION FORM

Registration Fee	\$20.00	reservations received by March 13th
Late Registration Fee	\$25.00	reservations received after March 13th
Children ages 5-10	\$10.00	reservations received by March 13th
Late Registration Fee	\$15.00	reservations received after March 13th
Children ages 4 & under	FREE	



DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS – Friday, March 13, 2026
Checks made payable to: SAL Squadron #577 – Arcade/Phalen
Send to: Jason Voss, Detachment Adjutant
5213 Howe Lane
Brooklyn Center, MN 55429
(612) 834-4004

Squadron No. _____ Squadron Location _____

District No. _____ Number Attending _____

Names of Attendees	Amount
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED	\$ _____

Children and Youth Reports

The Children and Youth Reporting forms have been mailed out to all of the Posts in the 5th District. They need to be received by your District chairperson, Ray Eiden, by March 31, 2026 to be eligible for District and Department awards.

Even if you did not do anything for Children and Youth you need to fill out the bottom portion of the reporting form and send the white copy to your district children and youth chairman. The address of your district chairman, Ray Eiden, is listed on one of the pages in your packet. Call your district chairman or department chairman if you need help. I would like to get 100% reporting from our Posts.

Ray Eiden
5th District Children and Youth Chairman

Leadership and the Discipline of Truth

Leadership in the American Legion isn't defined by titles, years of membership, or the number of

meetings attended. It's defined by character. And one of the clearest measures of character is how we handle information—especially when we don't have the facts. Rumor-mongering is one of the quietest but most corrosive forces in any organization. It often starts with innocent phrases like "I heard..." or "I think what happened was..." but those small seeds can grow into division, mistrust, and unnecessary conflict. When we repeat unverified stories, we're not just passing along words—we're shaping perceptions, influencing decisions, and sometimes harming people who have done nothing wrong. As Legionnaires, we hold ourselves to a higher standard. We are veterans, family members of veterans, and community leaders. Our oath and our mission call us to uphold integrity, respect, and service. That means resisting the temptation to fill in the blanks with speculation when we don't know the full story. A true leader doesn't rely on whispers. A true leader goes to the source. Asking for facts isn't confrontational—it's responsible. It shows maturity, respect for the people involved, and commitment to the health of the post. It prevents misunderstandings from becoming grievances and keeps our focus where it belongs: serving veterans, supporting our communities, and strengthening the bonds that make the American Legion a force for good. Leadership isn't just about what we do when everyone is watching. It's about the choices we make in the quiet moments, in the hallway conversations, and in the stories, we choose to repeat—or refuse to repeat. If we want a stronger Legion, it starts with stronger habits. And one of the strongest habits we can cultivate is simple: If you don't know, don't assume. If you're unsure, ask. If it's unverified, don't repeat it. That's leadership. That's integrity. That's the American Legion at its best.

Legionville is accepting Registrations for the 2026 Season!

We have all donated to Legionville in the past, and they will always accept donations to help with the facility. But there is one thing they really need...

KIDS!

Legionville needs us to recruit youth to attend the camp this year! The fifth District (prior to 2021 (Covid shut down) paid for **73** children to attend in 2019. Since then we have paid for **13** in 2022, **7** in 2023, **16** in 2024, **14** in 2025 (all from one Post). We need to share this camp with anyone we are in touch with. Schools, community groups, other businesses, anyone we (as an organization) interacts with.

Legionville Safety Camp is open to ANY child aged 9-13. They will have fun in the great Minnesota outdoors while also learning about safety, including first aid, intro to CPR, swimming, canoeing, online safety, intro to gun safety, and much more! The registration fee is \$550 per camper. They can be sponsored by a Post, Squadron, Unit, Parent/Grandparent, or any other organization willing to sponsor a child., We also have scholarships available through the Legionville General Scholarship Fund. You can find all registration information on the "registration" tab of our website. We are excited for another great summer at Legionville, and we hope to see your kids back this year!

Please spread the word and let me know if you have any questions. Thank you!
Shawn Davis
Fifth District Legionville Representative



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
20 W 12th Street, Room 300A
St. Paul, MN 55155-2000
Phone: 651-291-1800
Email: mlc@legionville@gmail.com



SAFETY SUMMER CAMP

ON NORTH LONG LAKE, BRAINERD, MN



Legionville Educational Center was established by the Minnesota American Legion in 1956 for the purpose of training young people in the correct school patrol procedures. School safety patrol crossing and bus training have always been the primary focus of the camp, but this has been expanded to include additional safety classes and tons of fun in the great Minnesota outdoors.

WHO: Open to all students who will be between 9-13 years old by September 1st

WHAT: Learn school patrol safety from Safety Education Officers of the Minnesota State Patrol along with First Aid, CPR, Canoeing, Swimming, Online Safety & much more!

WHERE: Located on North Long Lake in Brainerd, MN

WHEN: Sessions are Sunday thru Friday, beginning the second week of June.

REGISTRATION: Register online at legionville.org

Campers may be sponsored and tuition paid by an American Legion Post, School, other Community Organization, or an individual such as a parent/guardian. Contact your local post for more information or visit www.legionville.org.

**ENROLL YOUR STUDENTS NOW!
SPACE IS LIMITED!
OUR SESSIONS BEGIN IN JUNE!**

**REGISTER ONLINE
TODAY!**



LEGIONVILLE
The American Legion
20 W 12th Street, Room 300A
St. Paul, MN 55155-2000
Phone: 651-291-1800
Email: mnlegionville@gmail.com

Richfield High School Food Shelf

Minneapolis-Richfield American Legion Auxiliary Unit 435 donated \$200 to the Richfield High School Food shelf. Their community has been heavily impacted by recent ICE activities and impacted the students access to food and other necessities outside of school. The supplies are then shared with other Richfield schools and distributed to families.

The donation was accepted by Christina Gonzalez, Director of Student Support Services



Want better meetings? Debrief!

At every American Legion meeting, we talk about service, teamwork, and looking out for each other. But one thing we don't always do is debrief the way elite teams do.

Some groups, like the Blue Angels, run a rankless, nameless debrief after every flight. Anyone can speak up. The most junior member can challenge the most senior. No ego. No defensiveness. Just honesty and improvement.

Imagine if our meetings worked the same way. No one stays quiet because they "aren't senior enough." No sugarcoating issues because no one wants to be the one to say it. No repeating the same mistakes because we never talked about them openly.

So picture this at the end of every Legion meeting, event, or fundraiser: Everyone gets a voice. Titles don't matter. We ask two simple questions: What went well? What can we do better next time? At first, it might feel awkward. People aren't used to speaking freely in a room with officers, long-time members, and new faces all together. But that's how you catch problems early. That's how the newest member spots something the commander didn't. That's how the team improves faster, serves better, and strengthens the post. If a team flying inches apart at hundreds of miles an hour can create a culture where anyone can speak up...A Legion post or district or department can too.

Make it rankless. Make it safe. Make it expected. That's how you get truth instead of polite silence—and how the whole post gets stronger.

National Commanders Incentive Program

American Legion National Commander Dan K. Wiley will award his national commander Be the One membership incentive pin to any Legionnaire who obtains two new members into The American Legion.

A new member is any eligible person joining for the 2026 membership year who was not a member of The American Legion during the 2025 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, American Legion National membership staff will confirm the names in the national database and mail the coin directly to the person who earned it.

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 February 18, 2026

Post	Name	Location	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Tran	Totals	Goal	% of Goal
MN-0001	Minneapolis	Minneapolis	2	16	144	3	165	184	89.67
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	28	0	33	37	89.19
MN-0234	Vincent L Giantvalley	Minneapolis	0	6	6	0	12	33	36.36
MN-0291	Johnnie Baker	Minneapolis	3	3	14	0	20	19	105.26
MN-0355	Bainbridge	Minneapolis	0	3	0	0	3	3	100.00
MN-0435	Minneapolis-Richfield	Richfield	4	92	437	1	534	630	84.76
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	24	1	35	42	83.33
MN-0548	University Of Minnesota	Minneapolis	0	13	8	0	21	24	87.50
MN-0555	Arthur And Leonard Fall	Minneapolis	1	24	42	0	67	75	89.33
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:	26	229	852	5	1,112	1,305	85.21

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 (**April 5**) 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 March 1, 2026. Now is the time to push for those renewals. Reach out to your members. Call them. Send a letter. Do what you can for membership.

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	142	0	146	82.49%	
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	284	0	298	83.24%	
# of Sqdns - 8									Off Goose Egg	9/21/25



DETACHMENT OF MINNESOTA

2026 MEMBERSHIP GOALS

Report Date: 3/1/26

2025 Results as of 7/29/2025	11654				
Current Received as of 3/1/2026	10319	85.56%	*Includes traditional and online renewals		
2026 Detachment Goal	12060	12015	85.88%	set from national	

Vice Commanders	2025 Results	2026 Goal	Grand Total	Percentage	Placing	2026 Original Goal	Percentage	Ranking
1st and 3rd	3992	4072	3406	83.64%	3	4072	83.64%	3
2nd and 7th	2220	2340	2171	92.78%	1	2340	92.78%	1
4th and 5th	728	808	652	80.69%	4	808	80.69%	4
6th and 9th	2594	2668	2369	88.79%	2	2668	88.79%	2
8th and 10th	2120	2199	1712	77.85%	5	2199	77.85%	5
Totals	11654	12087	10310	85.30%				

**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	1535	85.99%	5	1785	85.99%	5
2nd District	1225	1275	1304	102.27%	1	1275	102.27%	1
3rd District	2247	2287	1871	81.81%	7	2287	81.81%	7
4th District	410	450	354	78.67%	9	450	78.67%	9
5th District	318	358	298	83.24%	6	358	83.24%	6
6th District	1643	1683	1463	86.93%	4	1683	86.93%	4
7th District	995	1065	867	81.41%	8	1065	81.41%	8
8th District	479	519	452	87.09%	3	519	87.09%	3
9th District	951	985	906	91.98%	2	985	91.98%	2
10th District	1641	1680	1260	75.00%	10	1680	75.00%	10
Totals	11654	12087	10310	85.30%				

**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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Unit 435 Omelet Breakfast Fundraiser!

Last one for Spring 2026.
We will be back this Fall in October .

Sunday March 8th
8 AM until Noon

\$13.00 good will 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

To be notified when we
restart the fundraiser
text **OMELET** to **84483**
to subscribe to the
breakfast alerts.



Wold Chamberlain American Legion Post 99 Family Fundraiser



Pancake & Sausage (and Bacon) Breakfast Fundraiser

Sunday, March 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



Girl Scout Cookies
available!



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
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
Saturday, April 4, 2026 9:30 Exec, 10 AM Membership	Fifth District Meeting TAL, ALA	Minneapolis Post 1 2507 E 25th St. Mpls, MN 55406
Sunday, April 5, 2026, 1:45 PM	5th District Minneapolis VA Hospital Visitation	Minneapolis VA Auditorium
Sunday April 19 - Thursday April 23	National Commander Dan Wiley Tour of Minnesota	Various Posts
May 1 - 3	SAL National Meetings	Indianapolis, IN
May 3 - 7	American Legion National Meetings	Indianapolis, IN
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.