



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

2022 October 30

FLASH

Next Fifth District TAL Meeting

Saturday November 5th in person at Minneapolis Post 1 and online



Fifth District Officers

Commander

Lynne Nottage

1st Vice Commander

Andru Peters

2nd Vice Commander

Wade Larson

3rd Vice Commander

Andrew Rose Sr.

Adjutant

Ray Eiden

Finance

Dennis Delong

Chaplain

Harry DeCrescenzo

Sergeant-At-Arms

Don Gustafson

Minneapolis Post 1

(Shared with the Fraternal Order of Eagles)

2507 E 25th Street

Minneapolis, MN 55406

Click to view map and directions: <https://goo.gl/maps/uqTTsm3NXtDtK1cLA>

Executive Board will meet at 9:30 AM

General Membership at 10:00

Join Zoom Meeting by Computer, tablet or smartphone

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84307897147?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84307897147?pwd=ZFK1aXhzdStLU0dlcTVpa3dCbkwwdz09)

[pwd=ZFK1aXhzdStLU0dlcTVpa3dCbkwwdz09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84307897147?pwd=ZFK1aXhzdStLU0dlcTVpa3dCbkwwdz09)

Dial by your location on a regular phone

+1 646 931 3860 US

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 309 205 3325 US

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 386 347 5053 US

+1 507 473 4847 US

Meeting ID: 843 0789 7147 Passcode: 293888

Find your local number: [https://us06web.zoom.us/u/kdvFgPobJX](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84307897147?pwd=ZFK1aXhzdStLU0dlcTVpa3dCbkwwdz09)

The Fighting Fifth presents:

“AMERICAN LEGION HISTORY PRESENTATION”

Ever wonder how the American Legion got started? Has Minnesota had a prominent National position in the history of the American Legion?

Answers to these questions, and more, at the November 5th District Meeting Saturday, November 5th. We'll have a presentation that explores the history of the American Legion, some interesting Minnesota 'look-backs' that made a difference.

Minnesota was there in the beginning and grew to become one of the largest Departments in the entire American Legion family. One Post in our 5th District was the single largest Post in the entire world!!!

C'mon down and join us for the first in a series of presentations brought to you by the Fighting Fifth!!

Be there or be square, On November 5th!



www.legion.org/betheone

Next Fifth District ALA Meeting

Saturday November 5th in person at Minneapolis Post 1 and online



Fifth District Officers

President
Jill Davis

1st Vice President
Cari Lamb

2nd Vice President
Deb Bayer

Secretary
LuAnn Grill

Treasurer
Becky Nelson

Chaplain
Julie Martin

Minneapolis Post 1
(Shared with the Fraternal Order of Eagles)
2507 E 25th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55406

Click to view map and directions: <https://goo.gl/maps/uqTTsm3NXtDtK1cLA>

Executive Board will meet at 9:30 AM
General Membership at 10:00

Join Zoom Meeting by Computer, tablet or smartphone
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88079759186?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88079759186?pwd=bDQ4aGczTzNIWW9rSTFjZ3ZJSUNTZz09)
pwd=bDQ4aGczTzNIWW9rSTFjZ3ZJSUNTZz09

Dial by your location on a regular phone
+1 646 931 3860 US
+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
+1 309 205 3325 US
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 386 347 5053 US
+1 507 473 4847 US

Meeting ID: 880 7975 9186. Passcode: 222809
Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcU1KMUw9j>



Next Fifth District SAL Meeting

Saturday November 5th in person at Minneapolis Post 1

Fifth District Officers

Commander
Shawn Davis

1st Vice Commande
Robert Bristo

2nd Vice Commander
Matt Verkuuilen

Adjutant
Matt Verkuilen

Finance
Leroy Gonzales



District Representative
Joe Starr

Come learn the history of the American Legion (10 AM) and then stay to catchup on the 5th District SAL. This gathering will start after the presentation.

Breakfast is served at Post 1! Come support them!

Next Riders Meeting

Wednesday November 9th at 7 PM

Bloomington Knights of Columbus/Bloomington Events Center

Chapter 435 will be meeting at the Bloomington Knights of Columbus, Bloomington Event Center at 7 PM. Most of us will be there befor hand (around 6 PM) to eatr dinner. All are welcome to join in the comraderie and learn about the American Legion Riders.



www.legion.org/betheone

Our civic responsibility to Get Out the Vote

By

Vincent J. “Jim” Troiola,
National Commander



Dear American Legion Family and Friends,

Election Day is Nov. 8, a time when American Legion Family members and other voters will head to the polls to uphold a constitutional right and civic responsibility. As citizens and veterans of this great nation, it is our duty to exercise our right to vote and encourage others to do so as well. And we accomplish this through our Get Out the Vote program.

The American Legion’s [Get Out the Vote program](https://www.legion.org/vote) (<https://www.legion.org/vote>) encourages all Americans to register and vote in each election, as well as for Legion Family members to be involved in the electoral process. You can do this by registering voters, volunteering at the polls, using social media to share information about poll locations and times, and hosting or participating in nonpartisan candidates' forums.

This is also an important time to conduct Buddy Checks. I encourage you to call post members and veterans in your community to see if they need a ride to the voting precinct, or if they need assistance with voting early or casting an absentee ballot. As Legionnaires, this is an important Get Out the Vote opportunity to help our fellow veterans.

Please remember that you may support candidates of your choosing, but during American Legion Get Out the Vote promotional efforts it is important to remain nonpartisan. Article II, Section 2 of the Constitution of The American Legion, states, “The American Legion shall be absolutely nonpolitical and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor the promotion of the Candidacy of any person seeking office or preferment.” Legionnaires engaged in partisan activities – such as attending a candidate’s rally – should do so without wearing the Legion cap or other Legion attire.

As you prepare to vote and engage with others to do the same, download The American Legion’s [“Vote, America”](https://www.legion.org/publications/230202/vote-america) (<https://www.legion.org/publications/230202/vote-america>) brochure to help your efforts. The brochure provides information on how to organize a Get Out the Vote program and create a media plan, promote the electoral process, follow American Legion rules of nonpartisanship and more.

Voting is a powerful way to participate in our government. By your efforts in promoting The American Legion’s Get Out the Vote program, you are upholding a civic responsibility and demonstrating how we are truly ...Veterans Strengthening America.

Vincent J. “Jim” Troiola, National Commander

5th District Post Commanders, Membership Directors, and Adjutants,

What do you need from the district officers to help connect with members of your post to renew their dues? November is just a week from now and we are in our fourth month of the membership renewal drive, thus far we have turned in 43.31% of the district goal. The average district membership in the department is 63.50%. Some of our posts are doing well while others are struggling. Those posts that are doing well are turning in memberships every week or two. Sitting on memberships until you accumulate five or ten is not a good practice. Rather than use USPS to send in memberships to the department do it online using mylegion.org. Inform your post membership they can pay their dues using mylegion.org. Your district vice commanders can assist you logging in and process the dues.

***Vice Commander Andru Peters (651-345-3045) (cadancinbear@yahoo.com) is responsible for the following posts: Minneapolis Post 1, The Hellenic #129, V. L. Giantvalley #234, Minneapolis-Richfield #435 and Joe Smith #468.

***Vice Commended Andrew Sr. (612-703-4392) (arosesr@msn.com) is responsible for: Northside # 230, Johnnie Baker #291, U of M #548, Auther Falldin #555 and Minneapolis Veterans Home #581.

***Vice Commander Wade Larson (940-435-4636) (wadelrson@yahoo.com) is responsible for: Wold-Chamberlain #99, Gopher #440, Viking #493, Aviation #511 and Patrick Novack #5222.

***Membership Director Gary Martin (612-207-2175) (g.martin01@msn.com) is responsible for: Courthouse #310, Bainbridge #355, Fire and Police #396, Bearcat #504 and Langton #618.

Thank you for all the work you are doing. Now is the time to get those renewals, once the holidays are here they are hard to get.

Gary Martin
Membership

“Why Join & Continue My American Legion Membership”

It is interesting to note and observe that for numerous years, the message from the American Legion is to join and return for the following years to remain as a member. To many this message has become old, like a “broken record” which goes around and around and nothing changes. Membership numbers for the National, State, District and Posts have been declining consistently over the years. But yet we have many veterans who could become members. Having been associated with professional organizations for some 60 years, one learns what makes the organization, Post or Club successful or start fading away. Viewing membership from the basics, we need to reassess how we change this.

Let’s look at the numbers of veterans. As of 2019 there were 17.4 million veterans in the USA. In 2000 there were 26.4 million veterans. As of 2022 there were 291,453 veterans in Minnesota. American Legion has approx. 60,342 veterans with District 5 @ 1,683. From the raw data Minnesota has ONLY 21% of the veteran population in its membership and assigned to a specific Post. Correct we are missing the mark, and possibly sending out the wrong message.

Members, whether new or returning are the lifeblood of the American Legion Post. The members keep the Post moving, thriving and contributing to our community and youth. We veterans, at one time, served our nation defending the Flag, Constitution, Bill of rights and the Ten Commandments. With the lack of feedback, support, participation the Post becomes “stale and starts the dying process”.

Why did we join, for me in 1965 the Legion Post was a “Safe Haven” to congregate and network with fellow veterans of all branches, rank and war periods. We had commonality, pride in serving. Many of us went through a lot of challenges but the comradery to rejoin with fellow veterans and on the civilian side to contribute back to our community and to ensure our youth do not go through what many of us experience during the recent war periods.

The Post needs to develop an incentive to join, and then engage members in those activities that helps our youth and community. In addition, as a Post and District, we need to show and demonstrate value in “sticking around”. The key to all aspects of managing a Post is develop an open line of communication and encourage members to regularly provide feedback back to the Post or District. There are numerous tools to use, but, in my view, the best is “in-person meeting to network with the members,

Why join a Post, membership dues provide an immediate source of funds to the Post, serves as a basis to initiate other fund-raising activities to support the Post mission statement; a definitely allows members to have an intimate, ongoing relationship with the Post. One reason why the “Buddy Check” program started because this element has been struggling. The VA states the best form of health care is the day-to-day in-person relationships.

As a member you engage with other veterans, learn about the benefits the Legion and the VA offer to the veteran. Locally, reaching out to the community makes the public aware of the Legion presence and we are there to assist the community. A veteran’s active membership is needed to revive many Post events and have the leadership become more involved, like: giving out appreciation awards, identify member of the month or quarter, identify Post & member milestones, conduct contests, offer member discounts to include partnerships with local businesses, organize community service projects (food drive, clean-up day), career & generational support, set a membership directory (facilitate the buddy check program), introduce use of technology, at District meetings organize informational topics, such as thru use of ZOOM and offer certification courses on site.

With these numerous points, the goal is to reinforce member’s pride in belonging to the American Legion by stressing “we served together once, now it is time to renew that commitment”. In addition, the membership should know all the names (Post, District, and Department) and contact means of these critical members.

In summation, renew your membership, become more active, and ensure your post survives the next 100 years. With continued membership decline could be the impetus for Congress to defund the VA and suggesting other adverse conditions for veterans.

Respectively submitted

Andru Peters
Vice Commander,



Unit 435 Omelet Breakfast Fundraiser is back!

Sunday November 13
8 AM until we are out of food
or Noon,
which ever is later

New Location

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

Wold Chamberlain American Legion Post 99 Family Fundraiser



Pancake & Sausage Breakfast

Sunday, November 27th

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



Desk of the Minnesota Department of
Veterans Affairs Commissioner Herke - October
At MDVA, every day is Veterans Day
October 20, 2022



As our nation approaches another Veterans Day (Friday, November 11), Minnesota's more than 300,000 Veterans may reflect on the individual journeys that brought us to become a "Veteran."

We are both diverse and similar in so many ways.

As MDVA Deputy Commissioner Brad Lindsay is often quoted to say: "Veterans are people, too." Veterans come from all walks of life, represent urban and rural roots, enjoy a variety of interests, may be part of large or smaller families, and had diverse experiences during their military careers.

Veterans also share a strong common bond with their brothers and sisters in arms. Through both training and experience, we have learned the discipline and respect that comes from military service. We are patriotic, willing to serve and sacrifice for the common good, and are passionate regarding the defense of life, liberty and pursuit of happiness that the United States represents.

Many of us also share the characteristic of modesty. We may not reveal our military history without being prompted. Or we may be most comfortable with fellow Veterans who can best understand our life experiences.

The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs is committed to ensuring that all Minnesota Veterans, regardless of era, age or location, receive the benefits they are earned. We also are honored to recognize our Veterans through the official State of Minnesota Veterans Day program each year.

This year is a special occasion as we return to an in-person event after two years of celebrating virtually through a video program in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Once again, we appreciate the hospitality of the Inver Grove Heights Veterans Memorial Community Center. We hope you will join us for a complimentary breakfast starting at 8:30 a.m. and then stay for the formal program that begins at 10 a.m. See more information on our website. <https://mn.gov/mdva/news/events/?id=1066-540884>

When I was young, my grandmother always referred to Armistice Day, first proclaimed on November 11, 1919 by President Woodrow Wilson to mark one-year anniversary of the end of World War I. In 1954, after World War II and the Korean War, Congress amended the legislation by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting in its place the word "Veterans." Going forward, November 11th became a day to honor American Veterans of all wars.

I look forward to seeing my fellow Minnesota Veterans in person on November 11. If you are not able to attend, I hope you will join us virtually as the program is livestreamed or will view a recording of the program later. This livestream option will be available with details on the event page (See link above), and the recorded version available following the event. The program and day are about you, our Minnesota Veterans. Thank you for your service.

As always, if you need information or support on any Veteran issue, please visit our website, contact your County Veterans Service Officer (<https://www.macvso.org/index.html>), or contact LinkVet (<https://linkvet.org/app/home/search/1>) at 1-888-LinkVet.

Honoring Veterans with Restorative Justice

Friday, November 11, 2022

4:00 – 6:00 p.m. CST

1st Floor Atrium Minneapolis School of Law & Livestream

On Veterans Day, Nov. 11th, the University of St. Thomas will host a special event “Honoring Veterans With Restorative Justice” at its law school in downtown Minneapolis. The two-hour program, starting at 4:00 p.m., also will be livestreamed around the country. The event is co-sponsored by St. Thomas Law’s Initiative on Restorative Justice and Healing and the Veterans Defense Project, a non-profit veterans advocacy group.

The event’s purpose is to highlight why so many veterans need restoration and healing from invisible injuries resulting from their military service. It will describe the role that veterans’ treatment courts and the Minnesota Veterans Restorative Justice Act (VRJA) can play in meeting that need. This legislation was recently featured in an NBC News article.

The first of three panels will address what veterans’ treatment courts do, why the VRJA was needed, and how other states could benefit from passing similar legislation. The second panel will cover how the VRJA became law through bipartisan actions and why veterans everywhere merit similar efforts. The final panel will feature veterans who have graduated from Minnesota veterans’ treatment courts and who are inspiring success stories.

A reception will follow the program. CLE credits will be applied for.

The event is free but registration is necessary to attend in person or to receive an email with a link to the livestream.

Register here: <http://listprod.stthomas.edu/t/522047/25021409/50236/4/>

Veterans Day Discounts

Here is a list of Some discounts compiled by Military.com (www.military.com/veterans-day/restaurants-veterans-day-military-discounts.html) Please click the link for the full list.

- Caribou Coffee
- Charleys Philly Steaks
- Chili’s
- Cracker Barrel
- Freddy’s Frozen Custard and Steakburgers
- Golden Corral
- Red Lobster
- Starbucks
- White Castle

Also Minneapolis Post 1/Eagles 34 from our District.



Date	What	Location
Saturday November 5th 9:30 AM - 12 (Noon)	5th District TAL, and ALA Meetings, SAL meets at 10:30	Minneapolis Post 1 25th Ave & 25th Street
Friday November 11th	Veterans Day Activities and discounts	Various
Sunday, November 13th 8 AM until gone or Noon	Unit 435 Omelet Breakfast Fundraiser	Post 99 5600 34th Ave S
Sunday, November 27th 8 AM until Noon	Post 99 Pancake Breakfast	Post 99 5600 34th Ave S
Saturday December 3rd 11 AM - 2 PM	Pearl Harbor Membership Rally Chicken Dinner \$15	Spicer Post 545 155 Lake Ave N. Spicer 56288
Saturday January 7th AM	4th & 5th District Joint Midwinter Conference	North St. Paul Post 39 2678 7th Ave E, NSP 55109
Saturday January 28th 10 AM - ?	St. Paul Winter Carnival Parade	Arcade Phalen Post 577 1129 Arcade St. St. Paul 55106
Saturday February 4th 10:30 AM - 2 PM	Sweetheart Family Rally	Osseo Post 172 260 4th Ave SE, Osseo 55369

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