



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

2022 November 30

## FLASH

 AMERICAN LEGION

### 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

## No Fifth District TAL Meeting in December or January! Our next meeting will be in February

**December 4th** - Pearl Harbor Member ship Rally - Spicer American Legion Post 545. Membershiup Turn in at 11 AM. Lunch at Noon, program to follow. Meal Cost is \$15.00

**January 7th** - 4th & 5th District Midwinter Conference. North St. Paul American Legion. Cost \$15.00. Doors open at 8 AM, program begins at 9 AM.

Please check our calendar for additional information at [www.mnfightingfifth.org](http://www.mnfightingfifth.org). Click the link to be taken to the calendar, or scan the QR code with your smart device.



## Have you considered Planned Giving?

Planned giving is the process of thoughtfully including a charitable gift in your estate plans. It is a method of establishing your legacy of support for the organization you love while providing for your current financial needs. You can help ensure that The American Legion has a lasting impact for the generations that follow by providing for the continuation of our many programs and services that enhance the lives of those we serve.

Philanthropy and individual gifts have been essential in shaping the history of our organization, and these contributions will play an important role in its promising future. Your actions now can have a profound impact in the life of another person. And you can help contribute to that future by including The American Legion in your estate and other financial preparations.

Click the learn more [www.legion.org/plannedgiving](http://www.legion.org/plannedgiving)

Neither the author, publisher nor organization are legal or tax advice providers. These examples are general and may not apply to all individuals. The purpose of this website and publication is to provide accurate and authoritative information of a general character. Prospective donors should consult their personal tax and financial advisors for specific details about making gifts to The American Legion, The Department of Minnesota, or the Fifth District. State laws govern wills, trusts and charitable gifts made in contractual agreements. Professional advice should be sought when considering these as well as all other gifts.



# No Fifth District ALA Meeting in December or January! Our next meeting will be in February

## 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

Greetings to the 5th District American Legion family from the Auxiliary.

I wanted to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe, healthy, and happy holiday season. I hope that you have time with friends and family.

The 4th District is hosting the joint 4th and 5th District Mid-Winter conference at Post 39 on January 7, 2023. The address for Post 30 is 2678 7th Ave East, North St. Paul, MN 55109. Registration starts at 8am with speakers starting at 9am. We are planning a wide variety of speakers. Look for additional updates in the next few weeks as we finalize the agenda. We plan to be done by 2pm or so. Registration is \$15 and includes lunch. Please see the flyer in the mailing for Registration information.

The 5th District American Legion Family joint project is to raise funds for By The Yard picnic tables for the Minnesota Veterans Home Minneapolis. Our goal is to raise \$3500. This project is eligible for poppy donations. Check can be made payable to 5th District ALA and note District project in the memo line. Donations can be sent to Becky Nelson at 3217 19th Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55407



## Fifth District Officers

### Commander

Shawn Davis

### 1st Vice Commande

Robert Bristo

### 2nd Vice Commander

Matt Verkuilen

### Adjutant

Matt Verkuilen

### Finance

Leroy Gonzales

As we look toward the beginning of 2023 we need to continue to work on membership. Please reach out to those who haven't renewed yet and encourage them to renew their membership. Membership tough, but it is the backbone of our organization and how we make an impact on our Veterans, their families, and our entire community.

Thanks,

Jill Davis

5th District President

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## Next Fifth District SAL Meeting

Saturday December 3rd in person prior to the  
Pearl Harbor Membership Rally

Spicer American Legion Post 545

155 Lake Ave N

Spicer, MN 56288



## District Representative

Joe Starr

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## Next District Riders Meeting

## Christmas Social!

## Wednesday December 14th at 6 PM

Cowboy Jacks in Bloomington, MN

2801 Southtown Drive

Bloomington, MN 55431

# Save the Date!

## 4th & 5th District

# Family Midwinter Conference

Saturday January 7th, 2023

Topics for the entire  
American Legion Family!

Membership

Brain Science

Suicide Prevention

Cyber Security

And so much more!

Doors open at 8 AM  
Coffee & Donuts 8:30 AM  
Conference starts at 9 AM

Registration \$15  
Lunch includes Roast Beef, Cole  
Slaw, Chips, and Dessert

RSVP by December 31st  
Legion39news@gmail.com or  
Leave a message at  
651-647-1834

North St. Paul  
American Legion Post 39  
2678 7th Ave E.  
North St. Paul, MN 55109



# We Can All ‘Be the One’

By

Vincent J. “Jim” Troiola,  
National Commander



Dear American Legion Family Members and Friends,

As the nation’s largest veterans service organization, The American Legion has the ability to create positive change in the lives of veterans, servicemembers, their families, and our nation’s children and youth.

We’ve seen it in legislation that protects and provides for veterans.

We’ve seen it in relief efforts following a destructive natural disaster.

We’ve seen it in the leadership development of young people in our youth programs.

And there are many more examples. Now, just think of the impact American Legion members could have if every single one of us would “Be the One.”

The American Legion’s [Be the One campaign](#) has the potential to not only change lives, but save lives. The initiative aims to provide education and resources so that anyone — veteran, servicemember or civilian — can take the appropriate action to intervene when a veteran’s life may be at risk to suicide.

I am so pleased that we are already seeing posts achieve successes. Among those:

- In Portland, Ore., American Legion Family members distributed [nearly 800 Be the One bracelets and information cards](#) to fans attending the Trail Blazers game on Nov. 15, Military Appreciation Night. Post 104 led the effort, which included two wristbands. The idea for the wristbands is to “wear one, share one,” which spreads our message even further.
- Also in November, American Legion Post 373 in Baldwinville, Mass., coordinated a daylong [symposium on veterans suicide awareness](#). Various speakers, area nonprofits and others delivered success stories, resources and information to veterans and their family members.

These are just two of the ways that posts can spread the Be the One message and help eliminate the stigma of asking for help, and, therefore, reduce the number of veterans who die by suicide.

Want to get started but don’t know where to begin? We have created resources that include videos, brochures and more [that are available here](#).

Continued on Page 4

The success of Be the One will depend on our organization's combined efforts. Everyone of us can "Be the One." Join me in support of this critical mission. Thank you for your commitment to saving the lives of our military brothers and sisters.

Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola, National Commander

### ***News From Capital Hill***

## **Legion-supported legislation capping fees for lawyers representing Camp Lejeune Marines introduced**

On Nov. 17, U.S. Sen. Dan Sullivan introduced American Legion-supported legislation that would cap the fees trial lawyers can charge in cases representing sick Marines and other individuals impacted by water contamination at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in North Carolina. Less than two weeks later, on Nov. 30, [Sullivan made a motion for unanimous consent for his newly introduced bill](#). S. 5130, the [Protect Camp Lejeune Victims Ensnared by Trial-lawyers' Scams \(VETS\) Act](#), amends the Camp Lejeune Justice Act and caps legal fees at a maximum of 10% and ensures that attorneys are not paid before a veteran or family member as a result of any award made.

The Camp Lejeune Justice Act became law in August in the larger Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act.

"U.S. Marines and their families are being preyed upon by unscrupulous trial lawyers," said Sullivan, Alaska's former attorney general and currently a colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. "They're grabbing all the money, and the sick Marines and their families aren't getting it. (They're) using sick Marines to get rich. That's what my bill's going to change."

Sullivan, a member of American Legion Post 28 in Anchorage, called for unanimous consent for the legislation and cited specific American Legion support for it. He quoted directly from [Resolution 15: Oversight of Camp Lejeune Justice Act](#), which was passed by The American Legion National Executive Committee during its 2022 Fall Meetings, reading, "Whereas, predatory law firms charging exorbitant fees have engaged in aggressive marketing campaigns ... The American Legion urges Congress to provide the necessary oversight during the implementation of the Camp Lejeune Justice Act to ensure veterans receive fair consideration of their lawsuits and protections against predatory law firms."

In a press release issued prior to Sullivan's remarks, Chanin Nuntavong – executive director of government affairs for The American Legion – also expressed the organization's support for the bill. "With the passage of the Camp Lejeune Justice Act, veterans and their families were finally able to pursue legal action against the government for their exposure to toxic contaminated water at Camp Lejeune," he said. "After decades of waiting, and suffering the realities of life-threatening medical conditions, they were bombarded by advertisements from unscrupulous law firms charging exorbitant fees. We commend Sen. Sullivan for correcting this injustice by introducing legislation that caps legal fees at a reasonable amount to ensure our veterans and their families are not taken advantage of."

The American Legion [submitted congressional testimony](#) to the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee in mid-November during a hearing on PACT Act oversight that called for the capping of legal fees on Camp Lejeune Justice Act cases.



# Unit 435 Omelet Breakfast Fundraiser is back!

Sunday December 11  
8 AM until we are out of food  
or Noon,  
whichever happens first!

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

## **New Location**

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

# “Let’s Leave No Veteran Behind”

Our American Legion National Commander Paul E. Dillard in his inaugural speech ran on his 2022-2023 platform that American Legion Posts must not leave, “No Veteran Left Behind”. In his message he stressed awareness by all on veteran issues of homelessness, suicides, undiagnosed PTSD, and using & supporting the VA system more fully. Addressing membership, the first step is recruiting and signing up new members. Indirectly he cited the Post building site as the “key foundation” in making the veteran welcome into the family. We need to do a better job in showing gratitude to veterans by making them a welcome member to the Legion family.

Looking at numbers on the veteran population within Minnesota shows the state has approximately 291,453 veterans of which only 60,342 veterans belong to an American Legion Post. This equates to only 21% of eligible Minnesota veterans belong to the American Legion. Thus we as Legion Posts and a District need to revisit what we are about and what can we offer to these veterans. We need to find and use tools to reach out to those many veterans who may not be aware of a Legion Post nearby them, and the benefits that they are qualified to receive.

Commander Dillard went on saying “that a larger American Legion makes for a stronger American Legion which means a stronger America”. Thus with this message we need to revisit what the American Legion is all about.

Part of the Legion umbrella for membership is embracing, quite often forgotten resources, the “Four Pillars” of programs that require all Legion members to be involved in one or more of these pillars. The veteran will bring his military experience and his personal work experience, to manage and guide our youth and community. This will require the veteran to upgrade their personal benefit and involvement within their local community. The primary priorities are: (1) Legionnaires Volunteering service hours as VA volunteers, (2) Legionnaires Mentoring school children by teaching them of the virtues of scouting; history of the American Flag, to include proper protocol in folding the flag properly along with the care of our flag; and (3) Giving in attaining funds to continue to award scholarships and provide support to service members and their families.

**Pillar I - Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation** which includes and addresses the tools that improve lives of those who served, along with their families and dependents. The American Legion service officers need to spend time on claims for VA disability benefits. The Legionnaire needs to visit our local VA facilities, and ensure our District #5 veterans receive the proper benefits they are entitled to. In addition the Post needs to work with the veteran on using educational benefits offered by the Act of 2017, the Forever GI Bill. Another benefit opportunity the Legion helps veterans is to enroll them in job-training programs, and assist in identifying the “small business enterprise” federal contracting process.

**Pillar II – National Security** which the American Legion supports the initiatives of National Defense homeland security, border control, and military support in keeping peace and world stability with strong defenses. We need to protect America, troops, veterans and their families by supporting those who stepped up to serve and protect our freedoms.

**Pillar III – Americanism** is where each Legion member who will step up to make differences in their local communities by Volunteering and hosting community activities as American Legion Baseball to Boys State/ Boys Nation to Boy Scouts to the Oratorical contests. The Legionnaire member can lead with enthusiasm and with camaraderie by establishing relationships with our youth and local community. On the legislative side we need to continue to support the initiative for a constitutional amendment to protect the U. S. flag from



desecration by enacting flag-protection laws.

**Pillar IV – Children & Youth** where the American Legion is guided by the objectives of strengthening the family unit, supporting organizations that help children in need, and develop for the community well-rounded programs to provide hope and opportunity for our young people facing difficult challenges. Programs that are needed to be introduced include addresses the issues of lack of immunization, media violence, eliminate drug abuse, eliminate catastrophic illnesses, and enhance family integrity.

This is the foundation to revive our Posts as the basic foundation for each Post to reinsert itself within the community and make all of our Legion members proud to not only serve our country but to serve our local community and state.

Our message of involvement and volunteering for 2022 – 2023 is: we shall “Not leave no veteran behind”, this would give reason for individuals to join the American Legion and renew their membership to become part of a proud tradition started back in 1919 in Minneapolis.

Andru Peters  
Vice Commander  
5th District

## Targeted Financial Scams on the Rise

What are the most common scams today? My parent has fallen victim to some over the years and could use some help on how to avoid fraudulent schemes.

While many scams today are universal, some types of fraud specifically target older adults or affect them disproportionately. Unfortunately, these targeted scams are on the rise.

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), in 2021 there were over 92,000 victims of fraud over 60, resulting in approximately \$1.7 billion in losses. This was a 74% increase in losses compared to 2020.

Below are some of the most common scams that were re-ported last year.

**Government imposters:** These scams often start with a call, email, or text message from someone claiming to be from the Social Security Administration, the IRS, Medicare, or a fake agency. Scammers will falsely claim that money is owed, or that Social Security or Medicare benefits are in danger of being cut off. They will threaten to fine, arrest, or deport the individual if immediate payment is not made or if personal information is not provided. Many times, scammers "spoof" their caller ID to give the appearance that the call is coming from a government phone number. Government agencies, however, never call, email or text to ask for money or personal information.

**Sweepstakes and lottery scams:** Scammers may contact their intended victims by phone, mail or email saying a sweepstakes or other prize has been won. Then they ask for a fee or taxes to be paid to distribute the prize. They may say the odds of winning increase if money is sent. Scammers will request this fee in the form of a prepaid debit card, wire transfer, money order or cash. Scammers will try to mislead by pretending to be from well-known companies that run real sweepstakes or from official-sounding fake agencies.

 AMERICAN  
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BE THE ONE

[www.legion.org/betheone](http://www.legion.org/betheone)

**Robocalls:** One of the top consumer complaints are un- wanted calls from auto-dialing software, referred to as robocalls. Unwanted robocalls annoy consumers and can be a vehicle for fraud against trusting individuals. Some robocalls claim that a vehicle warranty is expiring, and payment is needed to renew it. Robocalls may also claim your identity was stolen or that irregular activity was flagged on your bank account. Another common robocall is the "Hello, can you hear me?" call. When the person answering says "yes," the scammer records their voice and hangs up. The criminal then stores the voice recording and uses it to authorize fraudulent activities. As mentioned above, your caller ID may be "spoofed" to make the call look authentic. **Computer tech support scams:** Tech support scammers may give the appearance that there is a serious problem with your computer or phone.

A pop-up message or blank screen will appear on a computer or phone, notifying you that the device is compromised and requires fixing. When the support number is called for help, the scammer may either request remote access to your computer or request a fee to have it repaired. These pop-ups are not authentic and there may be nothing that needs to be fixed on the device.

**Grandparent fraud scheme:** This scam takes advantage of a grandparent who has a hard time saying no to their grand- children. Scammers will data-mine, often on social media, to learn names of grandchildren. The scammer will then call and impersonate a grandchild to tell the grandparent something is wrong and ask for money to solve some urgent financial problem (legal trouble, a car accident, overdue rent, etc.). The fake grandchild will tell the grandparent not to call any other relatives to avoid embarrassment. Once the money is sent, through prepaid cards or money orders, the scammers are gone, and the money cannot be traced. **Other scams:** Other common scams are online romance scams, COVID-19 miracle cures and phony investment schemes. Scammers will impersonate Medicare representatives or health insurers to obtain personal information and submit bogus insurance claims. There are also internet and email scams, including phishing emails or texts, that appear to be from a bank or online stores. For more information on the different types of scams, along with tips to deter scammers, visit the Federal Trade Commission's Consumer Advice website at [consumer.ftc.gov](https://consumer.ftc.gov). The Federal Communications Commission also publishes [consumer guides](#), including "Call Blocking Tools and Resources" and "Stop Unwanted Robocalls and Texts," to help prevent consumers from becoming victims of fraud.

*"Savvy Living" is written by Jim Miller, a regular contributor to NBC's "Today Show." The column, and others like it, is available to read via The American Legion's Planned Giving program, a way of establishing your legacy of support for the organization while providing for your current financial needs. Learn more about the process, and the variety of charitable programs you can benefit, at [legion.org/plannedgiving](https://legion.org/plannedgiving). Clicking on "Learn more" will bring up an "E-newsletter" button, where you can sign up for regular information from Planned Giving.*



# Minnesota State American Legion Family Bowling Association

March 18-April 22 2023

**To:** All Legionnaire Bowlers

**Subject:** Tournament Information for 2023

Reservations are now being accepted for the 77th Annual Minnesota State American Legion Family Bowling Tournament to be held March 18th through April 22th 2023

## SHIFT TIMES

### Singles & Doubles:

Saturdays 12:00 Noon

### Team:

Saturdays 3:30pm  
Sundays 12:00 Noon

The Tournament will be held at Sundance Lanes in Dayton.

Please note that Cari Lamb is the Tournament Secretary. All requests for reservations, information, etc. should be directed to her. Her address is 3217 19th Ave. S. MPLS, MN 55407; Cell 612-968-4839; E-mail address [crlmb74@gmail.com](mailto:crlmb74@gmail.com).

If you made a reservation at last year's tournament, your ENTRIES and ALL FEES are to be postmarked to her by December 31st, 2022. Reservations for which all fees have not been received by the closing date are subject to cancellation and will be opened to other teams who request that time slot.

Entries will be taken up to 1 hour prior to bowling on any given date if openings are available, but please make your requests for teams at least 2 weeks in advance.

In many instances, entry blanks have been submitted without all of the required information. This is not acceptable. Entry blanks must include the *Bowler's Name, American Legion, Auxiliary, or S.A.L. Card Member for the year 2023, USBC card number* (if USBC sanctioned) and *Average*. If they are a non-sanctioned bowler, please place an *N* in the USBC member column followed by *Legion* in the USBC card number column.

Please note that the ten (10) pin rule is in effect. The ten-pin rule is: If your average is 10 pins higher in league bowling after 21 games than your last year's average, you must report this average as the average to be used in the tournament.

The number of bowlers required for the team event is 4.

Bowlers may enter both singles and doubles or can bowl in the singles or doubles event only, but must let the Secretary know their intentions.

**Division One** shall be the Legion division with the options, but must have at least one Legion member per team unless there are more teams than Legion members. The remaining teams may be made up of 4 S.A.L. members, or 3 S.A.L. members and 1 Auxiliary Member, or 2 S.A.L. members and 2 Auxiliary members, No more than 2 Auxiliary members per Legion team.

**Division Two** shall be the Auxiliary division, consisting of 4 Auxiliary members.

The tournament is open to all members of the Minnesota American Legion Posts, Sons of The American Legion members who are 18 years of age or older, and American Legion Auxiliary members who are 18 years of age or older. The entry fee is \$28.00 per person, per event, plus \$4.00 for all events (*optional*). **All participants bowling in the tournament MUST carry a current paid Legion, Auxiliary, or S.A.L. membership card.**

Persons desiring motel accommodations should make their reservations early. There are many motels in the Osseo-Maple Grove area.

All inquiries regarding the tournament information should be directed to the Secretary, Cari Lamb.

**Bob Mace**

*Department Bowling Chairman*



# Minnesota Veterans Assistance Fund (MVAF)

Fund 85 through the Minnesota American Legion Foundation

The Minnesota American Legion Foundation is committed to the health and welfare of our Minnesota Veterans and their families. Out of the desire to serve, the Minnesota American Legion Foundation established this program as a form of direct aid to Veterans, deployed service members' families, and surviving children to help sustain a quality of life so deserved.

The MVAF falls under our Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) pillar. Through MVAF, an American Legion Post can call upon the Minnesota American Legion Foundation for cash assistance to help maintain the basic needs of a Veteran, Deployed Serviceman's family, or to assist surviving minor children, (applicant), of eligible Veterans. Non-repayable grants are awarded to eligible applicants over a temporary period when it is determined that they need assistance. The purpose of the grant is to maintain a stable environment for the applicant by helping them meet the costs of shelter, food, utilities, transportation, and medical expenses.

## Grant Categories

### ***Basic Needs Maintenance***

Basic Needs include expenses such as shelter, utilities, and transportation. Maintenance grants cannot be used for previously incurred debt, except to prevent disconnection of utilities, eviction or foreclosure, and the inability to get to the place of employment.

### ***Health***

This grant may be used to assist with healthcare expenses such as medical care, dental care, surgery, hospitalization, medications, and dietary needs. Grocery gift cards may be given to those families who are having difficulty providing nutritious, quality food for their families. Clothing expense is to ensure the applicant has adequate clothing to protect them during Minnesota's fall, winter, and spring seasons. Grants for medical issues will require a written statement from a physician outlining the problem, treatment, and estimated costs. Medical treatment must be approved before the services are rendered unless it is a life-threatening emergency.

## Eligibility

Veterans, families of deployed service members, and surviving minor children are eligible to apply for the grant.

### ***Veteran***

Veteran eligibility for the MVAF grant is the same as the American Legion's membership eligibility; a veteran must have served at least one day of active military duty since December 7, 1941, and have been honorably discharged or are still serving active military duty honorably.

Official proof of eligible active duty must accompany the application. Typically, this is a DD Form 214 however, VA Regional Office verification letters and other official government records may be considered if the dates of service and characterization of discharge are included. An American Legion membership card is not acceptable. American Legion membership is not required to be eligible.

### ***Minor Child***

Minor children include any biological child of an eligible Veteran that is unmarried and 17 years old or younger. Minor children may also include stepchildren, grandchildren, adopted children, and others under 17 years of age and in legal custody of an eligible Veteran. Birth Certificates and or legal custody, divorce,

marriage, and name change papers provide proof of eligibility.

### ***MN Resident***

The applicant must be a resident of the state of Minnesota. Proof of residency includes an MN Driver's License, state ID, or utility bill.

## **Application**

### ***Who***

The MVAF application must originate and be completed by a local American Legion Post member. Local refers to the nearest post to where the veteran is living, regardless of its post-home status. The fillable MVAF application has been designed to allow any Post Service Officer or Legionnaire, regardless of previous experience with the MVAF grant, to complete and submit. The application is self-explanatory and has instructions throughout, along with detailed information on this webpage. Do not send it to your CVSO to complete. Counties don't manage the program, the American Legion Department of MN does. All questions should go to Department.

Before completing an investigation and application, determine if the applicant is eligible to apply to the MVAF. Proof of eligibility, noted in the eligibility section, must be included with the application. Additionally, preference will be given to American Legion Members who are in good standing.

### ***Investigate***

Once eligibility has been determined, an appointment should be scheduled with the applicant at their residence to complete the application if possible. Secure all requested documentation and information. The application must include a detailed description of the applicant's financial need, steps taken to alleviate the situation, and follow-up plans of the Post investigator.

### ***Financial Eligibility***

The post investigator determines if the applicant qualifies financially or not. No applicant is considered eligible to receive the MVAF grant until a complete investigation is conducted at the Post or District level, a legitimate need is determined, and all other available assistance resources have been considered. If the applicant doesn't have a current financial need for the MVAF, explain to them that they don't qualify.

### ***Bills and Estimates***

The MVAF pays the vendor directly. No money is distributed to the grant applicants. Bills, invoices, and estimates that qualify for the grant must be submitted along with the application. Screenshots of amounts due are not acceptable. The entire bill or quote must be included as a PDF or (scanned) paper copy. All bills and invoices must have an address and phone number for the service provider for Department to call and work with them to send payment. All bills and invoices submitted must be current. Incomplete applications will be kicked back to the post.

### ***Post Involvement***

The investigating American Legion Post and its Legion Family, Sons of the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Legion Riders, etc. should utilize their resources to help local veterans in need. Gambling funds or Post money that is set aside for veterans in need may be used to help an MVAF applicant and other local veterans. Vote to set aside funds now so that when a veteran in crisis comes to you for help, you will be prepared!

Train your club staff on what to do when veterans walk into your post asking for help. No veteran should be

turned away due to a lack of training or communication. VA&R is one of our 4 pillars. Create and post a policy and phone tree for employees to help veterans in crises. At a minimum, any employee should have the phone numbers of several board members who can provide direction.

### ***Community Partners***

The MVAF grant is to be used as a last resort. Every attempt should be made to partner with local nonprofits and government, including the post, to help the veteran first. The veteran benefits more in the long run because the lifetime grant will go further. Communicate with your local resources and document assistance received in the Other Assistance section of the application. One of the first calls you should have the veteran make is to your CVSO to determine if the applicant qualifies for other grants first. Communicate with the CVSO as necessary.

### ***Grocery Cards***

The Post investigator should be working with local food shelves to help the veteran first. If the investigator finds that the applicant still qualifies for help with groceries, this must be noted in the application and the amount requested. Grocery cards will not be issued from Walmart, Target, or any department store. Grocery stores selling alcohol do not qualify for a grocery card. The investigator must provide a list of local or neighboring qualified grocery stores with the application. MVAF funds may be sent to the post to purchase a grocery card if requested. The post should consider using gambling or post-funds to purchase a grocery card.

### ***Gas Cards***

There may be a need for help with gas if the applicant needs to get to work and back or drive children to school and doctor's appointments. If the investigator finds that the applicant qualifies for help with gas, this must be noted in the application and the amount requested (up to \$250). Gas-only cards (not gift cards) will be issued for gas stations in the applicant's local or nearby area. The investigator must provide a list of local gas stations with the application. MVAF funds may be sent to the post to purchase a gas-only card if requested. The post should consider using gambling or post funds to purchase gas cards.

### ***Clothing and Goods***

The post investigator should first work with local nonprofit thrift stores and other nonprofit organizations to help with clothing and goods (diapers). If the investigator finds that the applicant still qualifies for help with clothing or goods, this must be noted in the application and the amount requested. MVAF funds will be sent to the post to purchase qualified clothing and goods if requested. The post should consider using gambling or post funds to purchase qualifying clothing items for the applicant.

An example of a local resource: The MPLS VA has a Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE) that has donated clothing and hygiene items for veterans. If the applicant lives near the VA, this is an option. Reach out to the Department Service Officer so they can put in a request for items. It's up to the Post investigator to ensure the applicant receives the items.

There are many thrift stores throughout the state that offer low-cost or free quality clothing to those in need, Family Pathways, Basic Needs Inc. of South Washington Co., Hastings Family Service, Neighbor's Inc. Clothes Closet, St. Cloud Stand Down, etc. Find nonprofits like these online or as ask your CVSO for a list of local resources.

### ***Housing***

If the applicant needs help paying rent or mortgage, include the current bill or lease agreement clearly stating

the amount due with the application. If the veteran is homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, have them call [MAC-V](#) or visit the VA's Community Resource Referral Center ([CRRC](#)) in downtown Minneapolis to determine what they qualify for. Communicate with the representative as necessary.

### ***Bills Not Covered***

The MVAF is for basic needs maintenance and health. The following are examples of bills that do not qualify for the MVAF; reimbursement for qualifying bills, storage units or garages, previously incurred debt, credit, and debit card bills, insurance including auto, cable, and internet, car repair expenses for work already performed, vehicle purchase in spouse's name, second, third and fourth phone lines, vehicle impound fees, car payments on a totaled car-no longer in use or the applicant's possession, legal fees and anything not considered a basic necessity. If the veteran's cell phone is on autopay, we ask they remain on it instead of stopping it for us to make a payment.

### ***Budgeting***

Some veterans find themselves in need of financial help due to poor spending habits and a lack of budgeting. There are local resources that help people learn to budget. Refer the veteran to one or hold a budgeting class with your Finance Officer for local veterans.

### ***Submit Application***

Ensure all sections of the application are complete and the appropriate signatures are obtained. E-signatures are acceptable and encouraged; simply type in the signature block. Incomplete applications may result in delays or denial and will be returned to the investigator. The investigator is the point of contact for the applicant, no matter who referred them to the post.

Submit the application and supporting documents through the Unite Us platform. If your post is not yet signed up on the platform, email the Department Service Officers at [DSO@mnlegion.org](mailto:DSO@mnlegion.org). They will assist in setup and training.

If the application is deemed incomplete, a communication will be sent to the investigating Post through Unite Us that details exactly what additional information is needed so the Post investigator can take immediate action.

### ***Processing Time***

Once the application has been successfully submitted, don't refer the applicant to Minnesota Department Headquarters to inquire about the status of their application. No information is released to applicants. Instead, the Post investigator should check with Minnesota Department Headquarters. While we do our best to process applications speedily within 24 hours, this is not always a fast process, and the applicant must be patient.

## **Grant Limits**

MVAF recipients may not reapply for 30 days from the last payment issue date. The MVAF offers a lifetime maximum amount of \$5000.00. Previous recipients who have not used the entire lifetime grant amount, require a new investigation and application to include current statements and expenses.

### ***Application Dos***

- Do fill out the application electronically and submit it through the Unite Us application. Every post should be signed up on Unite Us.
- Do fill out the entire application. N/A or incomplete sections will most likely result in denial, a delay, or a return of the application.
- Do work with your local nonprofit community and government partners to get all help available for the

# *Wold Chamberlain American Legion Post 99 Family Fundraiser*



## **Pancake & Sausage Breakfast No Pancake Breakfast in December**

**Next one is on January 22, 2023**

**8:00 am to Noon**

**Wold Chamberlain American Legion Post**

**#99 5600 34<sup>th</sup> 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**





# DETACHMENT OF MINNESOTA

2023 MEMBERSHIP TOTALS

Report Date: 11/15/2022

2022 Results as of 7/31/2022	11158
<b>Current Received as of 11/15/2022</b>	<b>3904</b>
2023 Detachment Goal	11947

**32.68%** \*Includes traditional and online renewals  
 11378 34.31% set from national

Vice Commanders	2022 Results	2023 Goal	Current at Dept.	Percentage	Placing
1st and 3rd	3732	4008	1395	34.81%	2
2nd and 7th	2120	2186	677	30.97%	5
4th and 5th	712	762	285	37.40%	1
6th and 9th	2528	2708	861	31.79%	3
8th and 10th	2064	2210	685	31.00%	4
<b>Totals</b>	<b>11156</b>	<b>11874</b>	<b>3903</b>	<b>32.87%</b>	
<i>*The above goals are set by the District Leadership</i>					
Districts	2022 Results	2023 Goal	Current at Dept.	Percentage	Placing
1st District	1676	1807	524	29.00%	7
2nd District	1216	1241	418	33.68%	4
3rd District	2056	2201	871	39.57%	3
4th District	364	390	87	22.31%	10
5th District	348	372	198	53.23%	1
6th District	1601	1715	537	31.31%	6
7th District	904	945	259	27.41%	8
8th District	475	509	223	43.81%	2
9th District	927	993	324	32.63%	5
10th District	1589	1701	462	27.16%	9
<b>Totals</b>	<b>11156</b>	<b>11874</b>	<b>3903</b>	<b>32.87%</b>	
<i>*The above goals are set by the District Leadership</i>					
<b>1982 MN SAL AT-LARGE</b>			<b>1</b>		

2023 Original Goal	Percentage	Ranking
3996	34.91%	2
2273	29.79%	5
761	37.43%	1
2707	31.80%	3
2209	31.00%	4
<i>*The above goal set by the Detachment Membership Director</i>		
2023 Original Goal	Percentage	Ranking
1795	29.19%	7
1302	32.10%	5
2201	39.57%	3
390	22.32%	10
372	53.28%	1
1715	31.32%	6
970	26.69%	9
509	43.84%	2
993	32.63%	4
1701	27.16%	8
<i>*The above goal set by the Detachment Membership Director</i>		

## 5th District

Sqdrn.	Location	2022 Results (7/31/2022)	2023 Goal	Total at Dept	Rally Turn In	Grand Total	% of Goal	Date Goal Reached
1	Minneapolis	51	55	30		30	54.55%	
99	Wold-Chamberlain	18	20	15		15	75.00%	
129	Hellenie	0	IA	0		0	#VALUE!	
234	GiantValley	36	40	1		1	2.50%	
355	Bainbridge	0	IA	0		0	#VALUE!	
435	Richfield	186	193	101		101	52.33%	
440	Gopher	37	40	39		39	97.50%	
511	Aviation	9	13	1		1	7.69%	
555	Falldin	11	11	11		11	100.00%	
<b>5th District Totals</b>		<b>348</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>198</b>		<b>198</b>	<b>53.23%</b>	

Date	What	Location
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 8 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, 2023	5th District Membership Meeting	Minneapolis Post 1 25th Ave and 25th Street
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](mailto: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](http://www.mnfightingfifth.org)

Find us on  Facebook [www.facebook.com/MNFifthDistrict](https://www.facebook.com/MNFifthDistrict)