



The American Legion Department of Minnesota Sixth District

2024 – 2025 ANNUAL BOOK OF REPORTS



National Information

National Convention – Tampa, Florida Aug. 22 to 28 2025

Department Information:

Department of Minnesota Convention July 10 - 12, 2025 Willmar, MN

6th Dist. Information:

E-boards: 2022- 2023

4th E-board June 6, 2025 - Brainerd Post 255

6 District Convention - June 6 - 7, 2025 - Brainerd Post 255

The American Legion

Department of Minnesota



SIXTH DISTRICT

SUBJECT: District Convention Call
TO: All Posts and Officers of the Sixth District

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and Bylaws of The American Legion, Department of Minnesota, District Commander, Frank Grittner do hereby call a Convention of the Sixth District, to convene in Brainerd, Minnesota at the Brainerd American Legion Post 255, on Friday June 6, through Saturday, June 7, 2025.

The purpose of this convention is to:

- Receive reports pertinent to district operations in the past year.
- Present awards and recognition to individuals and posts.
- Act on resolutions presented to the convention.
- Elect officers for the coming year to include: District Commander,
4 Vice Commanders, Finance Officer, Sergeant at Arms, Chaplain and Historian.
- Elect delegates and alternates to the Department and National Conventions.
- Act on other matters as may be properly brought before the convention.

The voting strength of each Post shall be as provided in the Department Constitution and Bylaws, Article V, Section 3 and based on the Department Membership Bulletin issued closest to the day which would be thirty (30) days prior to the first day of the convening District Convention.

Frank Grittner
Commander
Department of Minnesota Sixth District

CONVENTION AGENDA

Brainerd American Legion Post #255
102nd 6th District
American Legion Family Convention
June 2-3, 2023

Friday June 2
Brainerd American Legion
708 Front Street
Brainerd, MN 56401

10:00am Auxiliary District Finance Meeting
1:00pm Auxiliary District E ~ Board Meeting
3:00 ~ 8:00pm registration
4:30 ~ 5:00pm Executive Board Meeting
5:00 ~ 6:00pm Past Commander's Social Hour
6:00 ~ 7:30pm Past Commander's Dinner
Past President Parley
5:00~ 8:00pm Friday night Dinner special and limited menu
5:30pm Meat Raffle

Saturday June 3
Brainerd National Guard Armory
1115 Wright Street
Brainerd, Mn 56401

7:00 ~ 8:00am Donuts and Coffee available
7:00 ~ 9:00am Registration
8:00 ~ 10:45am General Sessions
11:00 ~ 11:45am Memorial Service
12:00~ 1:00pm Lunch
@ Brainerd American Legion
1:30 ~ reconvening for General Sessions



Frank Grittner
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Greetings BIG 6th District –

Here we are at the end of the 2024-2025 Legion year for our BIG 6th District. I will do my best make this short and to the point. . .

THANK YOU first to the Officers and Committee Chairs this past year. I can't say enough about the wonderful job you have done. Your dedication to our District, our Posts, and our Legionnaires is to be commended.

THANK YOU to the Posts that have worked so very hard to make and exceed their membership goals. It is only through strong membership numbers that we can keep our elected officials listening to us. Every member is a voice that our Legislative spokespeople at all levels can use to make the lawmakers listen!

THANK YOU to all of the Posts it has been my privilege to be able to visit over the past year. Your warm welcomes and genuine comradery has been greatly appreciated by both myself and my wife. I look forward to continuing the relationships we have forged.

Ans last and certainly most important . . . THANK YOU to all of the Legionnaires of the BIG 6th District. YOU are the boots on the ground out there making a difference in our communities every day. YOU make sure we are passing down to our youth the vision our forefathers had of a free nation “by the people, of the people, for the people.” You are the ones out there when our fellow citizens and communities need help, leading the way and providing hope to those in need. YOU are the ones that are making sure our fellow veterans are getting the benefits each and every one of them have earned by their service to our nation!

Let's all make sure we are “blowing our own horn” at every turn. Continue to show our fellow citizens the The American Legion is the heart of their community.

And don't forget to BE THE ONE that reached out to a fellow veteran you may have not seen in a while. BE THE ONE that asks the tough questions of someone

that you think may be on the brink of the ultimate bad choice. BE THE ONE to show you care. Because you never know when you may BE THE ONE that saves a life.

I hope to see you at the 6th District Convention. Stay safe and God Bless!

Until next time remember to BE THE ONE and TOGETHER WE CAN!

Frank Grittner
Commander
TAL MN 6th District
TOGETHER WE CAN

Save the dates:

6th District Events

- 1) Convention held on 6 & 7-Jun-25 at Post 255 in Brainerd

Department of Minnesota Events:

- 1) Department Convention – 10 thru 12-July-2025 – Willmar Convention Center

Other Important Dates:

- 1) National Convention – 22 thru 28-August-2025 – Tampa, Florida

COMMANDER'S PROJECT UPDATE

As of this writing a total of \$29,405.00 has been donated to my project.

I would like to sincerely thank everyone that has donated to my project thus far. Your generosity and dedication to the comfort and care of our veterans is truly heartwarming. I'm sure the residents at the Minnesota Veterans Home – Bemidji will be very appreciative when they get the theatre seating. I'll do my best to be there and get pictures when it is delivered.

6th District American Legion – 2025 MEMBERSHIP BULLETIN – May 28, 2025

Frank Grittner, Commander 763-232-3526 cell almdist6commander@gmail.com

Kasey Krauthkremer, Membership Director 218-255-4035 cell kasey.krauthkremer@gmail.com

Current Target Percentage						100%							
Post	City	Goal	100% Target	Rec'd	%	Need For 100%	Post	City	Goal	100% Target	Rec'd	%	Need For 100%
Lake Of The Woods/Beltrami							Morrison						
14	Bemidji	253	253	245	96.84%	8	46	Little Falls	437	437	419	95.88%	18
217	Baudette	145	145	138	95.17%	7	100	Pillager	23	23	18	78.26%	5
372	Blackduck	73	73	68	93.15%	5	124	Motley	92	92	95	103.26%	-3
438	Pinewood	19	19	19	100.00%	0	136	Flensburg	70	70	70	100.00%	0
462	LaPorte	33	33	32	96.97%	1	137	Royalton	92	92	89	96.74%	3
470	Kelliher	41	41	40	97.56%	1	313	Swarville	59	59	54	91.53%	5
CC	Open	564	564	542	96.1%	22	341	Pierz	64	64	61	95.31%	3
Cass/Hubbard							350	Upsala	54	54	49	90.74%	5
134	Walker	435	435	409	94.02%	26	602	Hillman	144	144	139	96.53%	5
202	Hackensack	172	172	162	94.19%	10	642	Bowlus	94	94	88	93.62%	6
284	Cass Lake	41	41	34	82.93%	7	CC	Mike Costello	1129	1129	1082	95.84%	47
363	Akeley	13	13	13	100.00%	0	VCDR	Anthony Koop	3034	3034	2851	93.97%	183
368	Backus	125	125	128	102.40%	-3	Benton/Sherburne						
613	Pine River	109	109	99	90.83%	10	112	Elk River	307	307	309	100.65%	-2
2001	Bena, Leech Lake	29	29	24	82.76%	5	147	Big Lake	103	103	113	109.71%	-10
CC	Brad Taylor	924	924	869	94.05%	55	193	Becker	87	87	89	102.30%	-2
VCDR	Robert Albrecht	1488	1488	1411	94.83%	77	254	Sauk Rapids	133	133	124	93.23%	9
Todd/Wadena							298	Foley	133	133	134	100.75%	-1
12	Long Prairie	187	187	169	90.37%	18	354	Clear Lake	63	63	68	107.94%	-5
171	Wadena	42	42	41	97.62%	1	473	Rice	149	149	137	91.95%	12
212	Park Rapids	494	494	474	95.95%	20	560	Zimmerman	265	265	266	100.38%	-1
213	Clarissa	48	48	44	91.67%	4	CC	Lloyd Stimmler	1240	1240	1240	100.00%	0
280	Eagle Bend	17	17	15	88.24%	2	East Stearns						
293	Browerville	48	48	43	89.58%	5	76	St Cloud	109	109	104	95.41%	5
366	Bertha	50	50	49	98.00%	1	211	Holdingford	146	146	139	95.21%	7
417	Little Sauk	79	79	78	98.73%	1	221	St Stephen	71	71	74	104.23%	-3
456	Sebeka	73	73	65	89.04%	8	261	Kimball	57	57	53	92.98%	4
547	Grey Eagle	16	16	15	93.75%	1	277	Sartell	57	57	56	98.25%	1
CC	Open	1054	1054	993	94.21%	61	292	Richmond	114	114	110	96.49%	4
VCDR	Mike Van Heel	1054	1054	993	94.21%	61	328	St Joseph	229	229	209	91.27%	20
Aitkin/Crow Wing							428	Waite Park	435	435	376	86.44%	59
23	McGregor	74	74	69	93.24%	5	455	Cold Spring	203	203	192	94.58%	11
49	Pequot Lakes	204	204	187	91.67%	17	538	Avon	17	17	15	88.24%	2
86	Aitkin	342	342	310	90.64%	32	621	St Augusta	178	178	164	92.13%	14
255	Brainerd	531	531	494	93.03%	37	CC	Dave Wells	1616	1616	1492	92.33%	124
340	Hill City	43	43	44	102.33%	-1	West Stearns						
443	Ironton	145	145	139	95.86%	6	67	Sauk Centre	215	215	218	101.40%	-3
500	Crosslake-Fifty Lakes	221	221	201	90.95%	20	101	Melrose	217	217	205	94.47%	12
557	Deerwood	105	105	103	98.10%	2	271	Paynesville	167	167	156	93.41%	11
627	Nisswa	240	240	222	92.50%	18	288	Broton	39	39	34	87.18%	5
CC	Andy Ellering	1905	1905	1769	92.86%	136	482	Albany	168	168	158	94.05%	10
448	Mnangga	0	0	2	0.00%	0	612	Lake Henry	95	95	89	93.68%	6
6TH DISTRICT STATS			Target	Needed			CC	Jeff Thompson	901	901	860	95.45%	41
							VCDR	Jeff Thompson	3757	3757	3592	95.61%	165
							666	Sobieski	76	76	74	97.37%	2
14-May-25		100%	9409	487			6TH DISTRICT		9409	9409	8923	94.83%	486

DISTRICT	Goal	100% Target	Rec'd	%	Need For 100%			DISTRICT	Goal	100% Target	Rec'd	%	Need For 100%
1	6605	6605	6304	95.44%	301			6	9409	9409	8922	94.82%	487
2	5293	5293	4993	94.33%	300			7	4937	4937	4540	91.96%	397
3	9636	9636	9114	94.58%	522			8	3063	3063	2783	90.86%	280
4	1690	1690	1544	91.36%	146			9	5114	5114	4714	92.18%	400
5	1481	1481	1277	86.23%	204			10	7327	7327	6718	91.69%	609
Department of Minnesota							1982	2752	2752	1733	62.97%	1019	
TOTAL								57307	57307	52642	91.86%	4665	



RICHARD CROSS
6TH DISTRICT ADJUTANT
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Congratulations Commander Frank on a great year and we look forward to having your leadership this coming year. Thank you for allowing me to be your Adjutant. There is still a lot to accomplish with the Department Convention and National Convention coming up quickly. Like the District Convention, Posts should be sending a representative to the Department Convention to ensure their voice is heard when decisions are made on changes to our organization and leadership. Watch for opportunities to learn more about The American Legion. The American Legion website (legion.org) is very informative and always changing to keep members up to date and engaged. The following is a repeat from last year but is a good reminder. Take the opportunity to get involved and volunteer for leadership positions. Don't let time slip by, you are never too busy to help our organization stay strong and connect with veterans, their families and our communities.

ENDORSEMENTS:

Frank Grittner – 6th District Commander 2025-2026 – Endorsed by Zimmerman Post 560

Jeff Thompson – 6th District South-Sub Vice Commander 2025-2026 -Endorsed by Paynesville Post 271

Carl Moon – National Executive Committeeman (NEC) 2025-2027-Endorsed by Zimmerman Post 560

Tom Fernlund-Alternate Nat. Executive Committeeman (Alt NEC)2025-27-Endorsed by Waite Park Post 428

Robert Albrecht – 6th District North Sub Vice Commander 2025-2026-Endorsed by Hackensack Post 202

National Convention Delegate Endorsements – Aug. 22-28, 2025

Wes Thompson – Endorsed by Waite Park Post 428

Tom Fernlund – Endorsed by Waite Park Post 428

Veronica Fernlund – Endorsed by Waite Park Post 428

Susan Edwards – Endorsed by Nisswa Post 627

Paul Edwards – Endorsed by Nisswa Post 627

Lloyd Ricker – Endorsed by Sauk Rapids Post 254

Gene Hessee – Endorsed by Cold Spring Post 455

Jeff Thompson – Endorsed by Paynesville Post 271

Karen O'Bar – Endorsed by Bertha Post 366

Hosting 6th District Convention or Conference:

Ben Krueger Pequot Lakes Post 49 - Bid Submitted to Host 2026 6th District Midwinter Conference

MINUTES OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPT OF MINNESOTA 6TH DISTRICT CONVENTION

COMPILED BY: Tom Fernlund, Adjutant

APPROVED BY: Anthony Koop, Commander

The 6th District Convention held at Brainerd American Legion Post 255 was called to order on June 1, 2024 by 6th District Commander Anthony Koop at 8:35 am. Brainerd Post 255 Color Guard Posted the Colors. Following the opening prayer by 6th District Chaplain Frank Grittner and posting of the POW-MIA drape, the Pledge of Allegiance and the Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion were recited. Roll call of officers and chairmen was taken.

Baxter, MN Mayor Darrel Olson, an army veteran welcomed everyone to the area and thanked them for visiting. Other greetings to the Brainerd area and convention were presented by Brainerd Post 255 Commander Rick Wiersgalla, 6th District East Sub Vice Commander and Convention Chairman Dewayne Collins, Department Vice Commander Paul Edwards, Department Membership Director Pam Krill and Department Commander Paul Hassing.

Commander Koop read the appointments to the convention committees. Time & Place is Rick Cross, Vern Massie and Dewayne Collins. Credential's is Dave Doubrava, Veronica Fernlund, Judi Ficek. Resolutions is Lloyd Ricker, Carl Moon, Mel Beussler

Motion was made and seconded (Frank Grittner-Paul Edwards) to approve the Convention Rules as printed in the back of the Book of Annual Reports. Carried.

Motion was made and seconded (Jim Lucas-Frank Grittner) to dispense with the reading of the June 3, 2023, 6th Convention Minutes. Carried.

Roll call of Posts was taken by Adjutant Tom Fernlund. There were 21 Posts present.

Vice Commander Reports; South Sub Vice Commander Frank Grittner recognized current and past 6th District Officers and Chairman who died this past year, Jim Blakesley, Wayne Gilbertson and Ken Meyer. Frank also said membership is going well, his area is at 100.54%. East Sub Vice Commander Dewayne Collins gave a membership update for his area.

Guest Danny Schmidt, chairman for the Bemidji Softball Committee hosting the 2024 Department Girls Fastpitch State Tournament, requested financial help for the tournament. The host city is responsible for housing the players and a banquet along with other expenses.

Judge Advocate read the (2) proposed resolutions presented to the 6th District Convention.

Children and Youth Chairman Karen O'Bar announced the Posts receiving Children & Youth Awards: (Membership 15-99) Big Lake, (Membership 100-299) Hillman, (Membership 300-499) Walker, (Membership

500+) Brainerd. Certificates for participation were presented to Browerville, Bertha, Rice, Melrose, Waite Park and Little Falls Posts.

Membership Chairman Jim Lucas said the District is 147 from goal, currently 98.55%. He also said the District is in 1st place for the Premier race. Jim announced the Posts of the Year, St. Augusta Post 621 (small posts) and Little Falls Post 46 (large posts).

Department Auxiliary President Sharon Cross gave greetings and thanked everyone for all their support this year.

2022-2023 6th District Membership Chairman Dr. Carl Moon presented 2022-2023 membership awards. Carl was in the hospital for part of last year.

Jim Lucas presented the 6th District Legionnaire of the Year award to Dave Doubrava.

Veronica Fernlund provided the 1st credentials report. There are 21 Posts with a voting strength of 87 and 52 Legionnaires registered.

Motion was made and seconded (Tom Skuza-Karen O'Bar) to approve the finance report provided by Finance Officer Gene Hesse. Carried.

Motion was made and seconded (Paul Edwards-Rick Cross) to approve a 6th District dues increase of .75 cents to begin with the 2025 membership year. Carried.

Motion was made and seconded (Dave Doubrava-Rick Cross) to approve the recommendation by the Resolutions Committee to disapprove resolutions #1 and #2. Carried.

Legionville President Dr. Carl Moon provided a report on the upcoming camp season at Legionville. He said donations are needed. (See Attached Report)

Blood Chairman Judi Ficek said her report is published in the Annual Book of Reports. Judi presented certificates to Posts that submitted their Blood program reports.

Girls Fastpitch Softball Chairman Tom Fernlund provided a report on the upcoming season and State Tournament

Oratorical Chairman Jim Lucas said the winner of this year's contest was Elijah Cox sponsored by Walker Post 134. Elijah also won the Department Oratorical contest. Murray Bright reported on how Walker Post 134 recruits students to participate in the contest.

Commander Koop recessed the 6th District Convention at 10:30 am so everyone could attend the Memorial Service and Gold Star Banquet.

Commander Koop called the 6th District Convention back to order at 1:30 pm.

Roll call of Posts was taken by Adjutant Tom Fernlund. There were 20 Posts present.

Time & Place Committee reported Brainerd Post 255 was the only Post to bid for the 2025 6th District Convention and (2) Posts bid for the 2025 Mid-Winter Conference, Nisswa Post 627 and Melrose Post 101.

Motion was made and seconded (Paul Edwards-Jim Lucas) to approve Brainerd Post 255 as host of the 2025 6th District Convention. Carried.

Motion was made and seconded (Carl Moon-Paul Edwards) to approve Melrose Post 101 as host of the 2025 Mid-Winter Conference. Carried

Motion was made and seconded (Rick Cross-Karen O'Bar) to approve Menahga Post 448's request to turn-in their American Legion Post Charter. Carried

Motion was made and seconded (Lloyd Ricker-Frank Grittner) for the 6th District to endorse Dr. Carl Moon for 2024-2025 Department Commander. Carried

Motion was made and seconded (Lloyd Ricker-Dave Doubrava) for the 6th District to endorse Veronica Fernlund for 2024-2025 Department Vice Commander. Carried

Motion was made and seconded (Frank Grittner-Paul Edwards) for the 6th District to endorse Karen O'Bar for 2024-2025 Department Historian. Carried

Motion made and seconded (Paul Edwards-Karen O'Bar) for nominations for 2024-2025 6th District Officers were made. Those nominated were: Frank Grittner for Commander, Gene Hesse for Finance Officer, Jason Pierce for Chaplain, Veronica Fernlund for Historian and Tom Skuza for Sgt at Arms. Carried

Motion was made and seconded (Paul Edwards-Jeff Thompson) to cast a unanimous ballot to elect Frank Grittner 2024-2025 6th District Commander. Carried

Motion was made and seconded (Paul Edwards-Dave Doubrava) to cast a unanimous ballot to elect Gene Hesse 2024-2025 6th District Finance Officer, Jason Pierce for 2024-2025 6th District Chaplain, Veronica Fernlund for 2024-2025 6th District Historian, Tom Skuza for 2024-2025 6th District Sgt-at-Arms Carried

Commander Koop recessed the convention for 20 minutes for the sub-districts to caucus.

Motion was made and seconded (Paul Edwards-Jim Lucas) to approve the 2024-2025 6th District Vice Commanders and County Council Commanders elected by their Sub Districts. Carried (See attached for list of officers.)

Motion was made and seconded (Paul Edwards-Carl Moon) to approve the Delegates to the 2024 National Convention elected by their Sub-Districts. Carried (See attached for list of delegates)

Roll Call vote of Posts was taken to elect (1) At-Large Delegate to National Convention due to the North-Sub not having a delegate. Tom Fernlund was elected as Delegate-At Large and Alternates in order were Karen O'Bar, Veronica Fernlund.

Detachment of MN SAL Commander John Weis addressed the convention. John announced the Detachment Convention is scheduled for June 28-29, 2024 in Forest Lake.

Dr. Carl Moon installed the newly elected officers.

Newly elected Commander Frank Grittner thanked everyone for coming. The POW-MIA drape was removed from the chair. Chaplain Jason Pierce gave closing prayer. Sgt-at-Arms Tom Skuza retired the colors in place and closed the meeting at 3:45 pm.



ROB ALBRECHT
6TH DISTRICT NORTH SUB VICE
COMMANDER
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Greetings from the North Sub. –

Congratulations to all the new post officers for all branches of the Legion family and thank you to all that have finished their term.. We all need to get our plans in place for the new year ahead. Remember all ideas have merit and you will not know unless you try it. If it doesn't work the way you want adjust or return to the previous method. Don't say this is the way we always have done it. Change can be beneficial.

By the time you read this Memorial Day will be past. Hopefully everyone was able to attend or participate in the festivities at their post or in their community to honor our Veterans and their families.

This membership year is almost over. I would like to thank everyone for the job they did this year in our attempt or success in reaching our goals. We still have a short time left this year so we are not yet done.

The North sub has two posts at or above goal (Akeley, Backus) one post at 96.05% (Bemidji). Two posts at 94% (Baudette, Pinewood). Four posts at 93% (Blackduck, LaPorte, Walker , Hackensack). One post at 87.91% (Pine River), one post at 87.80% (Kelliher), two posts at 82% (Cass Lake , Bena)

Thank you Veterans for your service.



JEFF THOMPSON
6TH DISTRICT SOUTH SUB VICE
COMMANDER
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As of the 22 May membership bulletin:

Overall, the Deep South is still in 1st place in the district at 95.58%, needing 166 for 100%.

Benton/Sherburne County Council is at 99.92%, West Stearns at 95.45%, and East Stearns is at 92.33%.

As to individual posts:

Eight are over 100%, Elk River, Big Lake, Becker, Foley, Clear Lake, Zimmerman, St. Stephen, and Sauk Centre!

Four are over 95%, St. Cloud, Holdingford, Sartell, and Richmond.

All Benton/Sherburne posts are over 91.95%, East Stearns has two posts below 90%. West Stearns has one below 90%. Note that I'm not calling out individual posts. They should know who they are, and all info is in the weekly membership bulletin for all to see.

All three county councils are all active. West Stearns is picking up some momentum. Scott Kowski, Sauk Centre Post 67 has been elected as WSCC commander. Bud Stimmler, Clear Lake Post 354, is retiring after several years as BSCC commander. Bill Hannay, Big Lake Post 147, was elected to replace him. Congratulations Scott and Bill, and thank you Bud. Dave Wells was re-elected ESCC commander.

I posed a rhetorical question to all the south posts in my last news bit to them: Who is the most important member of your post?

In my opinion, for what little that's worth, the last NEW member you signed up is the most important post member. And, for what little my opinions are worth, it's my opinion too, that that last new member should somehow be recognized as such. And then the next newest member be recognized, and the next, and so on. For some of those new members, it might be the only recognition from the post they'll ever receive, but it could leave a lasting memory. And, over time, you'll build an environment of appreciative members being recognized for more than just becoming another number.

Curious as to how many posts put out periodic newsletters. That's a great way to recognize individual members for whatever. It's not only for upcoming meetings and other event dates. It is interesting to note that there are only eight post newsletters posted on the district website, five of those from south sub-district posts. Not all are current though, one is from 2023. That free posting is a great way to let neighboring posts know what your post is doing.

Thank you for what you all are doing for members, veterans, and their families.

Jeff Thompson, Vice Commander, South Sub-District



ANTHONY KOOP
East Sub District Vice-Commander
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A lot has happened over the past year. Losing our good friend, Vice Cmdr, and past Dist. Commander Dewayne Collins was tough, watching the legislative battles drone on and go nowhere hasn't been fun either.

However, there have been a lot of great things to happen this year! If you were to visit every post, you would be amazed at all the activities, fundraisers, community events, memorial services, etc. that they all do. There isn't enough time in the day to attend many of these events! Please keep it up, as the blue cap members are really the face of The American Legion and the reason we even exist.

The new membership year is right around the corner, so let's all pitch in and help! Make sure you are talking to your members and checking in on them. In fact, don't forget to check in on Veterans who aren't your members—We support ALL Veterans, not just members. (and who knows, maybe they will *become a member* if you stop and talk to them. Have you ever even asked them to join?

If you haven't completed your Consolidated Post Reports and turned in your Officer's List, please do so ASAP. They are now past due and are required to receive your membership packet. Remember that the CPR is complied with all posts across TAL and is used to "show off" when our National Commander goes to Capitol Hill and asks (Demands) support for our Veterans. This is also the case at the State level and can be used at your own local government level as well!

I had attended many of the Aitkin/Crow Wing CC & Morrison CC meetings over the last year. Much discussion was concerning Legislative concerns and how to get members in the door and involved. A reminder that these meetings are open to ALL of the TAL family, not just Post leadership!

I had also been running the Aitkin/Crow Wing CC meetings as the CC Cmdr. was unable to attend due to work scheduling.

East Sub Membership: We are currently sitting at 93.87%. Need 186 for 100% (as of 5/22/25).

Aitkin/Crow Wing Membership: 92.70%. Need 139 for 100%.

Check on your members out there that haven't renewed and see how they are doing. A personal check on them might be the magic ticket not only to get them to renew, but you might Be the One to save a Veteran.

Again, I want to thank everyone in TAL Family for all the work you do.

Have a safe and informative Convention!

MIKE VAN HEEL
WEST SUB DISTRICT VICE COMMANDER

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VERNDALE, MN 56481
CELL – 218-296-3177

MIKEVANHEEL62@GMAIL.COM

West sub vice commander report

To start I would like to thank the past district commanders Karen Obar, Anthony Koop, and current commander Frank Gritner the privilege to work with them. As I'm stepping down from the vice commander's position. I want to give a big thank you to the post of west sub for the hard work that they do for the American Legion and there members.

West sub is at 92.60% with,4 posts needing 1 member to reach goal, 4 post that need 2-9 members to reach goal and 2 post that need 18- 36 membership to reach goal . But it's that time of year when every post is struggling to reach goal .



Jason Pierce
6th District Legion Rider Liaison Officer
and Chaplain

Phone – 218-866-0399
roostercruiser114@gmail.com

I find myself in a reflective mood today. This past year has been one of education and transformation. I knew not what to expect. And I know not what to expect on the Journey that I am on. I am eternally grateful for the opportunity to have served as the 6th District Chaplain. With God willing I will be able to continue to serve and grow.

Daniel John Meer	59	4/3/2025	Army	Iraq	482	Albany	15 Year Member
Robert "Dusty" Smith	81	4/17/2025	Army	Vietnam	368	Backus	11 Year Member
Duane Ommen	91	3/11/2025	Army	Korea	134	Walker	5 Year Member
						Sauk	
James Deters	83	4/15/2025	USAF		67	Centre	
Art Wuertz	67	4/16/2025	Army	Korea	612	Lake Henry	67 Year Member
Vern Deering	89	4/10/2025	Army	Vietnam	46	Little Falls	13 Year Member
Larry L Terpstra	81	3/6/2025	Navy	Vietnam	288	Brooten	38 Year Member
Ambrose "Amby" Bzdok	90	4/26/2025	Navy	Korea	46	Little Falls	53 Year Member

"Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers."

Greetings Riders!

As you all know, I have stepped down as the Riders Liaison. This is an opportunity that I was blessed to receive. Yes, there are expectations. But for me the rewards were much greater.

I want to thank you all for your support during my recovery after my accident. With the strength and encouragement of the Riders and the 6th District Leadership. I was able to grow within the Legion Family.

We find ourselves in a unique position. The American Legion Riders span the entirety of The American Legion! We are the most visible and the most approachable in the entire Legion Family. The Riders Membership is the most diverse and eclectic! I may be stepping down, but I am not quitting. I will still be a Rider Supporter. I look forward to doing what I can as we move forward.

Thank you all for helping me over these last two years.

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## BOYS STATE

### District Chairman's report for District Convention of 2025

The 2025 Boys State leadership adventure (Boys State) is scheduled for June 8-114, 2025, at St. John's University. The cost this year is \$350 per delegate, which is payable from gambling funds. This year, the total anticipated attendance at Boys State throughout the nation is expected to be about 10,000 candidates; the participation rate in Minnesota is anticipated to be about 175 candidates. District 6 is contributing 28 candidates, which is fewer than the 34 candidates of last year. It appears to me that a significant cause for the reduction in participation this year is conflict with high school spring sports. Personally, there were 12 boys that I had recruited which ultimately dropped out due to sports conflicts. This is consistent with reports I received from several posts. I suspect that this is a topic that has been addressed several times; nevertheless, it deserves another look.

The boys who were selected to go on to Boys Nation from the 2024 program were Tucker Fournier (sponsored by Osseo-Maple Grove Post 172), and Lonne Gilbert (sponsored by Watertown Post 121).

I leave you with this: In the years that I have been involved in recruiting young men for the Boys State program, there have been several occasions that I have had a mother seek me out after her son returned, profusely thanking me for the positive changes she saw in her son. Other Posts have commented on the fact that returning candidates commonly talk about their "life-changing" experience. Sending boys to Boys State should be at a high priority for each of our posts.

Murray Bright (651) 263-5429

ipsofactormb@aol.com

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Blood Program

Thank you to the 21 Posts who sent in their Blood Program report. Your time and effort have truly made a difference. These donations are from January 1, 2024 thru December 31, 2024.

In the 6th District the total number of Legionnaire's, Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion members to donate blood were 256. These members contributed a total of 704 units to local Blood Banks. With members, non-members and through blood drive efforts, the total was a whopping 1355 units.

These numbers are way up compared to last year's program. Good job.

The following three Posts will receive certificates from Department: Kriesel-Jacobson Post 560, Zimmerman, Melrose Post 101, Melrose, Richard Howard Ferrell Post 46, Little Falls.

Now is the time to keep track of the blood donations from your post for the 2026 report.

I look forward to seeing 68 Blood Program reports next year. Remember to "Toot Your Horn".

Thank you, Commander Grittner for this Chairmanship. It is a pleasure serving the 6th District American Legion.

Commander Grittner, you are to be commended for the outstanding service, this year, for the 6th District. Your tireless energy shows how much you care about veterans and their families.

Thank you and keep up the great work. Semper Fi.

Judi Ficek

6th District Blood Chairman

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Happy Spring my fellow Legion Family. This year seems to have flown by. This past year I held the National Security and Foreign relations chair.

I want to thank the 6th District for letting me fill this Chairman.

The American Legion believes national security must be maintained to fulfill the mandate for a strong national defense. As stated in the Preamble, "FOR GOD AND COUNTRY WE ASSOCIATE OURSELVES TOGETHER FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America... To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy."

Remember the awards for next year:  
Law Officer of the year.  
Fire fighter award

Remember these resources:

The Landing Zone

Alan W. Dowd authors the Landing Zone column, offering insightful and in-depth analysis of national defense and global security issue.

<https://www.legion.org/advocacy/national-affairs/national-security/resources-links>

Karen O'Bar

6th District National Security and Foreign Relations Chair

## Note from the Newsletter Editor

First Announcement – I am stepping down as Newsletter Editor. I am not running away, just backing off from the primary position. I will be spending time in the future working with the new Editor, Shawna Knutson. Commander Frank has asked me to work with her to make sure of a smooth transition.

I want to remind everyone that we are coming to the end of the annual newsletter publishing cycle and how things will work between now and August. One thing that will not change is that the deadline for inputs for the newsletter will remain on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month for publication close to the first of the following month.

In May, the published document will be the Annual Book of Reports for 2024-2025. This book will not be mailed out but will be available for distribution at the District Convention in Brainerd.

We typically do not publish a newsletter for July.

The first published and mailed newsletter for the 2024 – 2025 cycle will be the August issue. For the August issue, the input deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of July. It is also important that the District Adjutant and the new Editor receive the information on new post and district officers and district committee chairs for publication in the August newsletter and to make sure that they are on the newsletter mailing list.

Throughout the summer months, I still want individual posts to send an electronic copy of their post newsletters so that I can post them to the district website.

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End of the Year Report from Media and Communications

Well, the time has come. After a few years, the publishing duties for the Website and Newsletter are leaving the Edwards' house. As I mentioned above, I am not running away but will be a little more relaxed serving as an advisor.

I think we have had some success in this endeavor. Every Month we have published and mailed out 354 individual newsletters. While it takes a little time to get all the addresses correctly entered and all the zip codes working, we deliver copies to 139 Auxiliary members, 33 to Sons of the American Legion and to 173 Legionnaires. And this is not to mention the End of the Year Reports. We have also made the newsletters and other documents available online at the 6th District Website.

I will close by saying "Thank You" to Commander Frank for appointing me to this position. I wish you every success for your second term. On to the next adventure.

Paul Edwards Editor

Resolutions to be considered and voted on at the 6th District Convention

A Resolution to clarify and restate the intent of Article II, Section 2 of the National American Legion Constitution and By-Laws. Written by Paul Edwards, Post Commander, Nisswa, MN

WHEREAS, the charter of the American Legion states under § 21706. Political activities, “The corporation shall be nonpolitical and may not promote the candidacy of an individual seeking public office”, and

WHEREAS, Article II, Nature, Section 2 states, “The American Legion shall be absolutely nonpolitical and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment”, and

WHEREAS, The American Legion uses political methods in support of its legislative agenda and priorities to support the four pillars of the American Legion, and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has Legislative Committees and Chairs at the national, department and district levels whose function it is to use political methods to work with federal and state legislators to support The American Legion’s policies, legislative agenda, and programs, and

WHEREAS, many Legionnaires interpret Article II, Section 2 to mean that Legionnaires are forbidden to hold or express a political opinion on any topic, and

WHEREAS, the definition and interpretation of the word “political” has changed since the Constitution was first written, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, by the members of Post 627 of Nisswa, Minnesota in regular meeting assembled that Article II, Section 2 of the National Constitution be changed from, “The American Legion shall be absolutely nonpolitical and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment.” To read “The American Legion shall use political tools and methods in pursuit of legislative action to support the furtherance of its legislative priorities and agendas but shall be absolutely nonpartisan and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment” and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded to the 6th District Adjutant for presentation to the District 6th District Convention convened at Brainerd, MN on June 6-7, 2025, for consideration and approval and be it further

RESOLVED, that on approval this resolution be presented for consideration to the Department of Minnesota Convention to be convened at Wilmar, Minnesota on July 10 – 12, 2025, and be it finally

RESOLVED, that upon approval this resolution be forwarded to the National Adjutant for presentation and consideration at the 2025 National Convention in Tampa Bay, Florida August 22 – 28, 2025.

Presented to and approved by the membership of Nisswa Post Nisswa Post 627 in regular meeting assembled at Nisswa, MN on January 21, 2025

A resolution requesting all veterans be allowed free access to Minnesota State parks.

WHEREAS, all veterans are allowed free access to all National Parks

WHEREAS, all disabled veterans now have free access to Minnesota State parks

RESOLVED, all veterans be allowed free access to Minnesota State Parks

RESOLVED, this resolution be forwarded to 6th District Adjutant for presentation at 6th District Convention on June 7, 2025 and be it further

RESOLVED, that on approval be forwarded to the Department of Minnesota Adjutant for presentation to the Department Convention on July 10-12, 2025.

Resolution presented to and approved at a regular meeting of Frank Krey Post 455, Cold Spring on March 13, 2025.

LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HOSTING DISTRICT CONVENTIONS

Note: This list does not replace the Constitution and Bylaws of the Sixth District American Legion, Article 12 – Time and Place; but to be used in conjunction with and as further clarification of that document.

1. The request to host a District Convention must be made by the Post Adjutant, in writing to the Time & Place Chair, showing approval of the membership at a Post meeting. It must state the date and year requested and be presented 30 days prior to the preceding District Convention for review by the Time and Place Committee at Convention.
2. The District Convention is to be held on Friday and Saturday only and to be held on or as close to the first weekend in June. However, the second weekend of June may be acceptable. The Convention for all delegates will be held on Saturday only.
3. Housing should be available in the area Friday night. Twenty-five (25) rooms minimum shall be “blocked” up to 30 days prior to the Convention.
4. Consideration should be given to having bus or shuttle service.
5. There must be adequate meeting places for the Legion, Auxiliary, S.A.L. and Legion Riders.
 - a. Minimum seating of 75 for the Legion.
 - b. Minimum seating of 75 for the Auxiliary.
 - c. Minimum seating of 10 for the S.A.L.
 - d. Minimum seating of 10 for the Legion Riders.
 - e. Breakout meeting rooms for smaller committees of the Legion and Auxiliary are also required.
 - f. An adequate PA system should be available for Legion, Auxiliary and joint meetings.

6. Host Post shall ensure meeting rooms have adequate heating and air conditioning as needed. Host Post must provide a Past Commander's Dinner for up to 50 people on Friday evening, including a "wet bar". The dinner may be held at the Legion Post Home or at a local supper club. Drink tickets will be supplied by the District Finance Officer. The immediate Past District Commander will notify all Past District Commanders and organize the dinner program. The total cost is to be paid by the District.
7. Host Post shall provide a site for the Memorial Service on Saturday to seat up to 175 people. This will be a service remembering the deceased Legion family members with the individual names read by Post number. The Legion family members in attendance will stand as the names of their Legion family are read. Names will be printed and will be part of the Memorial Service Program. This Program will be provided by the District Chaplain in coordination with the Auxiliary and SAL Chaplains and paid for by the District.
8. Host Post will provide a location for the Gold Star Family luncheon at noon on Saturday with seating for up to 175 people. The purpose of the Gold Star luncheon is to honor the parents of those service personnel who gave the supreme sacrifice. Host Post will set the price of the luncheon, however it is recommended to be no more than \$20.00. Host Post will provide recommendations for a guest speaker for the Gold Star Family luncheon and is responsible for the cost of the speaker. The speaker shall be approved in advance by the District Commander. Host Post is responsible if housing is required for the guest speaker if needed. It is suggested that the Host Post and all Posts within the District promote getting Gold Star Family Parents to attend this luncheon. The Host Post is responsible for the cost of these meals, but it is suggested that the sponsoring Post pay. Hosting Post shall be notified by sponsoring Post Gold Star Families attending.
9. Host Post will provide paid housing for the District Commander and District President for Friday night only.
10. Host Post will provide for pre-registration and onsite registration at the convention and retained by the Host Post. It is recommended that the charge be no more than \$20.00.
11. The program, agenda and Past Commanders/Presidents list will be provided by the District Commander and President. The Host Post will provide a program or booklet to include the supplied information. The Host Post has the option of selling advertising to other Posts and private businesses. The proceeds from this advertising are retained by the Host Post to cover costs and for added income.
12. The District Commander will be responsible for providing pictures of the past District Commanders who have gone to Post Everlasting during the past year. The picture/pictures will be displayed near the podium throughout the convention on the convention floor, with due respect and reverence.

Voting Rules for Convention

ADDUM C

District Convention Rules:

The following are the standing Convention rules adopted by the Sixth District American Legion Convention held at Sauk Rapids, Minnesota, on May 30, 31, June 1, 2008.

1. With the following modifications, Robert's Rule of Order, Revised, is adopted for this convention.

2. (a) That the speech of any delegate recognized by the District Commander or acting Chairman shall be limited to 3 (three) minutes and no more, and that each speaker must identify themselves by name and post.
2. (b) Where a motion is made to table a resolution, the sponsor shall be entitled to speak to the convention floor for 3 (three) minutes on the subject. 3 (three) minutes shall be granted for a rebuttal to the maker of the motion to table before the motion is put.
3. That the floor be permitted but once to any individual on any one subject except with the unanimous approval of the Convention.
4. That when the poll of any post delegation is demanded by the delegate of any post, the secretary of the convention shall poll the vote of that delegation by delegates without debate or discussion.
5. That, on roll call, the chairman or acting chairman of each delegation shall announce the vote of his/her delegation.
6. Persons, not duly accredited, shall not participate directly or indirectly in debate on any subject before the Convention. But Past District Commanders shall have the privilege of speaking from the floor but are not allowed to vote unless they are also delegates.
7. That no delegate be permitted on the convention floor unless he/she is certified by his/her post as a delegate or alternate, and that each delegate or alternate is duly accredited. To be duly accredited, he/she must be registered.
8. No delegate shall act by proxy for his/her post. No post shall vote unless there is at least one duly accredited delegate or alternate on the convention floor.
9. Voting shall be by acclamation except when a roll call is demanded by the Chairman or acting chairman of at least three Post Delegations, and except in the election of the District Officers, which shall be by roll call, providing there is more than one candidate running for that office.
10. Any guests who are not on the official program as speakers shall be introduced by the District Commander or acting chairman and shall be limited to an address of no more than 3 (three) minutes.
11. No intoxicating liquors shall be sold or 'sampled' in the building of the convention meeting unless authorized by the Convention Corporation.
12. No elected political office holder shall be permitted to speak during the convention except the Chief Executive Officer of the state of Minnesota and the Chief Executive Officer of the convention city or their representatives and such person as on the printed and published program.
13. The Credentials Committee shall be responsible for securing from the Registration Committee a list of the posts which have registered at least one accredited delegate or alternate to the convention. The Credentials Committee shall have the responsibility to update this list as additional posts register.
14. That all resolutions, with the exception of those submitted to the Resolutions Committee at least thirty days prior to the Convention, must be presented in writing and referred to the Resolutions Committee for consideration to be brought up on the

floor. This must be done prior to the Resolutions Committee meeting at the Annual Convention.

15. Nominations for District Officers shall be made from the floor.
16. Nominating speeches for District Officers shall be limited to 3 (three) minutes. No seconding speeches shall be made.
17. In the event more than 2 (two) candidates are nominated for any office, the balloting shall continue until one candidate shall have received a majority of the votes cast.
18. The order of business of the Convention shall be in accordance with the printed program except that the District Commander or acting Chairman may deviate from the program in case of emergency.

ADDENDUM D

6th District Voting Procedure

Each year at our District Convention, there is confusion on the voting procedure when there are multiple candidates for offices or delegates to the National Convention. Here are the rules.

I will be using a post example that has 6 votes in the examples.

1. The maximum number of votes any one candidate can get is the voting strength of the post. The post does not have to exercise its complete vote. *(The post could cast 6 votes but they could cast from 0-6 for a candidate)*
2. If a post decides to split its votes, the total votes cast cannot exceed the voting strength times the number of those to be elected. *(Let's say we elect 2 but have 4 candidates. The total votes that could be cast would be is 12 with no candidate receiving more than 6. Here are some combinations that could be used – 6-6-0-0 6-0-0-0 6-2-2-2 6-3-3-0 3-3-3-3, etc These are just some of the combinations.)*
3. No 'half' votes allowed.

6th District American Legion ~ 2025 MEMBERSHIP ~ ~ April 30, 2025					
Post Delegate Totals					
Frank Grittner, District Commander			Kasey Krautkremer, Membership Director		
Post	City	1-May	Dels		CONV
14	Bemidji	243	4		
217	Baudette	137	3		
372	Blackduck	67	3		
438	Pinewood	18	2		
462	Laporte	31	2		
470	Kelliher	36	2		
CC	Open	532	16		

134	Walker	406	6		
202	Hackensack	160	4		
284	Cass Lake	33	2		
363	Akeley	13	2		
368	Backus	126	3		
448	Menahga	2	0		
613	Pine River	98	3		
2001	Leech Lake	24	2		
CC	Brad Taylor	862	22		
VCDR	Robert Albrecht	1394	38		1
12	Long Prairie	168	4		
		0	0		
171	Wadena	41	2		
212	Park Rapids	456	7		
213	Clarissa	44	2		
280	Eagle Bend	15	2		
293	Browerville	43	2		
		0	0	-	-
366	Bertha	49	2		
417	Little Sauk	73	3		
		0	0		
456	Sebekka	64	3		
547	Grey Eagle	15	2		
CC	Open	968	29		
VCDR	Mike VanHeel	968	29		1
23	McGregor	69	3		
49	Pequot Lakes	187	4		
86	Aitkin	308	5		
255	Brainerd	488	7		
340	Hill City	44	2		
443	Ironton	135	3		
500	Crosslake-Fifty Lakes	197	4		
557	Deerwood	103	3		
627	Nisswa	220	4		
CC	Andy Ellering	1751	35		
46	Little Falls	410	6		
100	Pillager	17	2		
124	Motley	94	3		
136	Flensburg	69	3		
137	Royalton	89	3		

NATIONAL DELEGATES STRE

Incoming Commander

Outgoing Commander

North

East

West

South

At Large

TOTAL

313	Swanville	54	3		
341	Pierz	61	3		
350	Upsala	49	2		
602	Hillman	136	3		
642	Bowlus	88	3		
CC	Mike Costello	1067	31		
VCDR	Anthony Koop	2818	66		2
112	Elk River	307	5		
147	Big Lake	112	3		
193	Becker	89	3		
254	Sauk Rapids	123	3		
298	Foley	131	3		
354	Clear Lake	64	3		
473	Rice	136	3		
560	Zimmerman	262	5		
CC	Bud Stimmler	1224	28		
76	St. Cloud	104	3		
211	Holdingford	135	3		
221	St. Stephen	74	3		
261	Kimball	49	2		
277	Sartell	56	3		
292	Richmond	110	3		
328	St. Joseph	207	4		
428	Waite Park	374	6		
455	Cold Spring	188	4		
538	Avon	15	2		
621	St. Augusta	163	4		
CC	David Wells	1475	37		
67	Sauk Centre	217	4		
101	Melrose	205	4		
271	Paynesville	155	4		
288	Brooten	34	2		
482	Albany	158	4		
612	Lake Henry	87	3		
CC	Jeff Thompson	856	21		
VCDR	Jeff Thompson	3555	86		3
666	SOBIESKI	61			
	6TH DISTRICT	8,796	219		