



THE COMMANDER

MAY 2024

**CARL SYDNEY HANSON AMERICAN LEGION POST 255
708 FRONT STREET, BRAINERD MN 218-829-2249**

COMMANDER'S REPORT



Hello Everyone – The past month was a busy one. In May several events are already scheduled, along with Memorial events. The Memorial Day Picnic is on Monday, May 27th 11am-1pm. Our post Memorial Ceremony will be held Tuesday, May 21st at 6:30pm. I encourage everyone to attend this moving ceremony. More information about this event is in John Pietruszewski article. The post election for E-Board members is Monday, May 20th. Early voting starts May, 6th. We have three candidates for the 3 year term. They are Tom Swanson, Christine Casperson, and Brian Dunham. Please be sure to cast your vote. Thank you, candidates, for your willingness to help our post.

The Sixth District Convention will be held here Friday, May 31st and Saturday, June 1st. Registration starts Friday from 3pm-8pm. The Sixth District Past Commanders meeting and supper will start at 4pm. On Saturday registration will start at 7:30am with the meeting at 8:30am. Lunch break will be Noon-1:30pm with meeting reconvening at 1:30pm. I encourage our post members to register and attend this worthwhile event. Show your support and learn what is occurring in our 6th district.

Friday, May 31st is also Graduation Day. Congratulations to all Seniors graduating from BHS. Best wishes in all your endeavors as you go forward.

The next post breakfast will be a Waffle Breakfast on Sunday, May 26th 8am-Noon. Help is always needed to make this event and others successful. Thank you to all our volunteers.

Till next month, be safe, hope everyone enjoys good health.

Rick W

AUXILIARY REPORT

Greetings, May will be a busy month for us with lots going on. Memorial Day is May 27, remember and honor our deceased. The Legion will be having a memorial service for all our Legion Members who passed away May 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024, on Tuesday May 21 at 6:30pm.

May is also poppy month. Letters will be going out to all our Auxiliary members asking you for a poppy donation. Auxiliary and Legion members will be handing out poppies at various business places on May 24. Please help if you can. There will be a signup sheet and the shift is a 2 hour shift. Thank you for helping.

We have 3 girls going to Girls State this year. One from Brainerd, one from Little Falls, and one from Roseau who was originally from Brainerd. Very happy to have our unit so well represented.

We are going to honor some of our teachers with a small token of appreciation. We are going to start by doing a few schools this year and next year do some more till we have them all covered. Our teachers and faculty are so appreciated.

We will be handing out a nursing scholarship this year. Something new for us so getting a late start. Scholarship forms will be at the Legion and they need to be returned by May 31, 2024.

We provided cake April 26 and 27 for American Legion family day to thank all our members. Support your Legion, fly the flag.

Berg, Auxiliary President

BRAINERD AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 255 NURSING SCHOLARSHIP

The Auxiliary will be taking application from 05/01 thru 05/31 for a \$500.00 Scholarship.

Application forms for the scholarship may be obtained by request email stacbednarek@yahoo.com or The American Legion 708 Front St, Brainerd MN 56401. APPLICATION DEADLINE IS May 31, 2024. Please send to or drop off completed Scholarship Application to The Brainerd American Legion, 708 Front St Brainerd, MN 56425. If you have any questions, please call Stacie Bednarek @ (218) 825-4806

AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP 2024

Everyone that has not paid their 2024 dues received a 2nd notice at the beginning of February. Please take care of this so we can reach our goal.

Sharon Berkner, Membership Chairman.

BRAINERD AREA HONOR GUARD: FRAN BREERWOOD

BRAINERD AREA HONOR GUARD PERFORMED MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS FOR THE FOLLOWING:

**Donald E A Rogers; April 5, 2024
Matthew Gilgenbach; April 9, 2024
Lloyd T Ernst; April 10, 2024**

BRAINERD AREA HONOR GUARD EVENTS:

**USAF Band Concert; April 8, 2024
Bataan Memorial; April 9, 2024**

Consider becoming a Color Guard member.

Please contact John Pietruszewski, 612-799-0055, if you are interested or have any questions.

POST MEMBERSHIP

Post Membership 2024

The 2024 renewal rate will remain at \$50 for the Legion and \$20 for SAL. Legion renewals are 96% of the department goal and we need 23 members to renew. While the SAL is at 96% of the goal. It is not too late to pay your 2023 membership. The Post leadership encourages you to renew. Your Legion membership is needed. The 2024 membership year is from 7/1/2023 to 6/30/2024. Starting on 7/1/2024 the Legion Post 255 dues for 2025 will be \$55.00. We raised the dues \$5.00 to cover the National increase. The Post only keeps \$14.25 of the dues. The balance goes to the National and the MN Department.

If you are interested in the three-year membership options, please visit <https://www.legion.org/renew> and follow the instructions. Payment only via credit card.

Membership Chair John Pietruszewski, 612-799-0055

Elections

Elections for two Executive Board Members and for delegates to the 2024 District 6 convention, the Minnesota Department convention, and the National convention will be held on 20 May 2024. Early voting will start on 6 May 2024 and the last day to vote is 20 May 2024. You must be a current member to vote. Please bring your 2024 membership card to show proof of eligibility. See one of the bartenders to vote early.

Member Memorial Service

The post will be holding our annual Member Memorial Service on Tuesday, 21 May 2024, starting at 6:30pm at Post 255. This service will honor our deceased members of the Legion, SAL, and Auxiliary who passed away after 1 May 2023. Family members of the deceased are encouraged to attend, and the public is also welcome.

John Pietruszewski, Adjutant

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS 2024



SINCERE THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING FOR DONATING TO POST 255 "CIRCLE OF FRIENDS"

Robert & Sue Rofidel, Don & Nealna Gylling, Glen & Lela Anhorn
Joe & Kelli Enfield, Tom Borden, John Borden, Gary & Pat Bluth
Derald Watson, Duane & Sharon Berkner, Duane & Sharon Berg
Tom & Helen Swanson, Linda Engel (In memory of Jackie Bye Exstrand)
Cathy Pickar, Francis and Carol Welter

WHAT IS THE CIRCLE OF FRIENDS?

The "Circle of Friends" is an opportunity for members to help provide funds for the legion to cover the cost of postage for mailing the "Commander Newsletter" to people without internet or email access. We ask that you donate to the Brainerd Legion Circle of Friends to get included on the list. You can drop off the money or check in an envelope with your name to any of the bar staff and they will get it to the newsletter fund. Now is the perfect time to make a donation.

A big thank you to those of you that have already turned in your donation for the 2024 year.

Don Gylling

WE HAVE THE BEST VOLUNTEERS!

WE  **VOLUNTEERS**

Our sincere gratitude to all who have volunteered their time and efforts at the Friday meat raffles, dinners, and events at Post 255!

We couldn't do it without you!

LEGION RIDERS REPORT: BLAIR FRANCIS



Rain, Rain, don't go away. Wash the sand and gravel off the corners and intersections. Clean the salt off the roads and reduce the chance of fires. Green up the countryside. Spring has sprung and the bikes are out, so I ask everyone keep an eye out for motorcyclists. Been a snowless winter that went by slowly. Now, we need to get busy. It's time to ride and support the veteran activities within the communities. The post has the best drink and meal deals in town and Walleye Wayne Harting's fish fries are the best. The kitchen has been keeping up with the demands. If anyone is looking for a place to volunteer, that's it.

The First Annual Steve Eide Memorial Maintenance Raffle tickets are selling strong and available at the bar or from the legion riders. Cost per ticket: \$5.

1st Prize: 26" Blackstone Grill w/Cover and Starter kit

2nd Prize: Mall of America Pack (\$250) value

3rd Prize: \$100 Cash

4th Prize: \$50 Gift Card to the Smokestack.

Drawing date will be June 14th, 2024 at the Brainerd Legion Post 255 at 7:00PM. Need not be present to win. Riders will be doing the meat raffle that night also.

We will be looking for volunteers to assist with traffic control at the MSVC Little Falls on Sunday May 26th, 2024 for their Memorial event. All volunteers welcome. Legion Riders will ride down if the weather permits. Also, looking for riders to support Brainerd's all Veteran's programs 5-27-2024, in Brainerd and Riders to deliver the flag for the Crosslake American legion's Program on the morning of the 27th. All riders are welcome to join us for these events.

Wishing Dewayne Collins a speedy recovery and the rider's support to him and Brenda if we can be of service. Please continue to make your buddy checks.

Post could use more volunteers for meat raffles and meals. Please let Janell know if you would like to help. Thank you to everyone who volunteers.

Legion Riders meet on the second Monday of the month at 7:00 PM at the Post. Socials are usually on Wednesdays, have short notice times and are at someplace decided by the group. Check your emails and phones for time and place.

Sincerely,
Legion Rider's Post 255
Director Blair Francis

Next Meeting: April 9th 2024, 7:00 PM, Post 255.

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES: MONDAY, MAY 27, 2024

9:00am – Wreath thrown in the Mississippi River at the Laurel Street Bridge.

9:45am – Short ceremony at the All-Veterans Memorial, 4th and Laurel St.

10:30am – Parade on 3rd Avenue NE to Evergreen Cemetery, 1105 3rd Ave. NE

11am – Main Ceremony at Evergreen Cemetery with the High School Band

In case of rain, ceremony will be at the Brainerd National Guard Armory, 1115 Wright Street
Brainerd Legion Picnic 11am-1pm.

3pm – Taps Across America at the All-Veterans Memorial, 4th and Laurel

WHAT'S HAPPENING

BRAINERD AREA

CLUB BREAKFASTS

8 a.m. to noon



MAY

May 3rd - Gabriel's Home

May 10th - Jacob's Voice

May 17th - Brainerd Warrior Westling

May 24th - Zion Lutheran Youth Group

May 31st - Smiles For Jake

ELKS: SUNDAY, MAY 5TH

EAGLES: SUNDAY, MAY 12TH

VFW: SUNDAY, MAY 19TH

LEGION: SUNDAY, MAY 26TH

EVENTS AT THE LEGION

Every Thursday at Noon – Sports Boosters (No Boosters May 31st)

Saturday, May 4th – Benefit-4-Brittney Noon-3pm

Tuesday, May 14th – Edward Jones 4pm-6pm

Friday, May 17th – Rockstar Karaoke 7pm or after Meat Raffle

Saturday, May 18th – Celebration of Life 1pm-4pm

Monday, May 20th – Class of 1963 11:30am

Tuesday, May 21st – Memorial Ceremony 6:30pm

Sunday, May 26th – Waffle Breakfast 8am-Noon

Monday, May 27th – Memorial Day Picnic 11am-1pm

MEETINGS AT THE LEGION

Thursday, May 2nd – Chamber Meeting Noon-3pm / Women of Today 6pm /
Marine Corp League 6pm / Bricklayers 6:30pm

Monday, May 6th – Book Club 11:30am

Tuesday, May 7th – Lakes Area BMX

Wednesday, May 8th – Retired Nurses Noon / Dark House 7pm

Thursday, May 9th – Union Meeting 5pm

Monday, May 13th – Lions Meeting 6pm / IBEW 6pm / Legion Riders Meeting 7pm

Tuesday, May 14th – NARFS 11:30am

Monday, May 20th – Grief Group Noon / E-Board 5:30pm / Membership 5:30pm
Gambling 5:30pm / Beekeepers 6pm

Friday, May 31st – 6th District Convention

Saturday, June 1st – 6th District Convention

BRAINERD AMERICAN LEGION SPECIALS (DINE-IN or TAKEOUT)

MONDAY SPECIALS



**HOT BEEF or
HOT TURKEY
SANDWICH
\$9**

TUESDAY SPECIAL

**COOK'S
CHOICE**

WEDNESDAY SPECIAL



**WINGS \$10
(by the pound)**

**BROASTED
CHICKEN**

THURSDAY SPECIALS



TACO SALAD \$8

**BROASTED
CHICKEN**

FRIDAY SPECIALS 11AM – 4PM Chili Dog w/ Chips \$7

11AM-3PM Broasted Chicken

4PM-8PM Walleye Dinner \$15 (Every Friday)

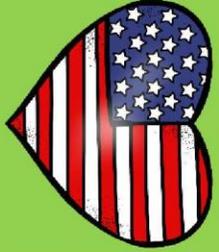
May 3rd – Bob's BBQ Ribs \$18

May 10th – Tenderloin Tips \$16

May 17th – Swedish Meatballs \$15

May 24th – Country Fried Steak

May 31st – Chicken & Ribs \$15




MAY

2024

5	<p>6 HOT BEEF OR HOT TURKEY SANDWICH \$9</p> <p>BOOK CLUB 11:30AM</p>	7	<p>COOK'S CHOICE</p> <p>LAKES AREA BMX 6PM</p>	8	<p>BROASTED CHICKEN WINGS BY THE POUND \$10</p> <p>RETIRED NURSES NOON</p> <p>DARK HOUSE 7PM</p>	9	<p>TACO SALAD \$8</p> <p>BROASTED CHICKEN</p> <p>SPORTS BOOSTERS NOON</p> <p>UNION MEETING 5PM</p>	10	<p>CHILI DOG W/CHIPS</p> <p>BROASTED CHICKEN</p> <p>11AM-3PM</p> <p>SPECIALS: 4-8PM</p> <p>TENDERLOIN TIPS \$16</p> <p>WALLEYE DINNER \$15</p> <p>MEAT RAFFLE 5:30PM</p>	11	<p>HAPPY HOUR</p> <p>NOON - 3 PM</p> 		
12	 <p>13 HOT BEEF OR HOT TURKEY SANDWICH \$9</p> <p>LIONS MEETING 6PM</p> <p>IBEW 6PM</p> <p>LEGION RIDERS MEETING 7PM</p>	14	<p>COOK'S CHOICE</p> <p>NARPS 11:30AM</p> <p>EDWARD JONES 4PM-6PM</p>	15	<p>BROASTED CHICKEN WINGS BY THE POUND \$10</p>	16	<p>TACO SALAD \$8</p> <p>BROASTED CHICKEN</p> <p>SPORTS BOOSTERS NOON</p>	17	<p>CHILI DOG W/CHIPS</p> <p>BROASTED CHICKEN</p> <p>11AM-3PM</p> <p>SPECIALS: 4-8PM</p> <p>SWEDISH MEATBALLS \$15</p> <p>WALLEYE DINNER \$15</p> <p>MEAT RAFFLE 5:30PM</p> <p>ROCKSTAR KARAOKE 7PM</p>	18	<p>CELEBRATION OF LIFE</p> <p>1PM-4PM</p>		
19	<p>20 HOT BEEF OR HOT TURKEY SANDWICH \$9</p> <p>CLASS OF 1963 11:30AM</p> <p>GRIEF GROUP NOON</p> <p>E-BOARD MTG 5:30PM</p> <p>POST MEMBERSHIP MTG 5:30PM</p> <p>GAMBLING MTG 5:30PM</p> <p>BEE KEEPERS 6PM</p>	21	<p>COOK'S CHOICE</p> <p>MEMORIAL CEREMONY 6:30PM</p>	22	<p>BROASTED CHICKEN WINGS BY THE POUND \$10</p>	23	<p>TACO SALAD \$8</p> <p>BROASTED CHICKEN</p> <p>SPORTS BOOSTERS NOON</p>	24	<p>CHILI DOG W/CHIPS</p> <p>BROASTED CHICKEN</p> <p>11AM-3PM</p> <p>SPECIALS: 4-8PM</p> <p>COUNTRY FRIED STEAK \$15</p> <p>WALLEYE DINNER \$15</p> <p>MEAT RAFFLE 5:30PM</p>	25	<p>HAPPY HOUR</p> <p>NOON - 3 PM</p>		
26	<p>WAFFLE BREAKFAST</p> <p>8 AM -NOON</p>	27	 <p>MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC 11 AM-1 PM</p>	28	<p>COOK'S CHOICE</p>	29	<p>BROASTED CHICKEN WINGS BY THE POUND \$10</p>	30	<p>TACO SALAD \$8</p> <p>BROASTED CHICKEN</p>	31	<p>CHILI DOG W/CHIPS</p> <p>BROASTED CHICKEN</p> <p>11AM-3PM</p> <p>SPECIAL: 4-8PM</p> <p>CHICKEN & RIBS \$15</p> <p>WALLEYE DINNER \$15</p> <p>MEAT RAFFLE 5:30PM</p> <p>6TH DISTRICT 11AM-4PM</p>	1	<p>6TH DISTRICT LUNCH</p> <p>NOON</p>