



# *THE COMMANDER*

## APRIL 2025

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

### COMMANDER'S REPORT



Janelle reported the Post continues to be busy. Every Saturday in April is reserved for an event. Most Saturdays in May are reserved as well. If you are planning an event, I urge you to reserve early as reservations are on a first come first served basis.

St. Patrick's Day was very well attended. But more volunteers would have been helpful. Snowbirds are starting to return. And the summer tourism season is rapidly approaching. The result will be an increase in business - more volunteers are needed. So please let Janelle know when you are available to help out.

The Camp Ripley turkey hunt is scheduled for May first. Dan and Stacy Bednarek are coordinating the event. Those interested attending, please give Dan or Stacy a call to register.

There have been NO recent equipment major malfunctions. All is going well.

We do have a need to hire some individuals in paid positions - give Janelle a call to see what is available. If you know of anyone that may be a good fit for a position and team, please share the name.

Thank You to Janelle, Billy the entire staff and all the volunteers for all your time, effort and dedication to Post 255!

Post elections are approaching. A sign-up sheet will be posted with the open positions - I encourage anyone interested to get on the list.

Condolences to those that recently suffered the loss of a loved one. You're in our thoughts and prayers at this most difficult time.

Wishing everyone a Happy Easter!

Until next month, **Rick W**

PS - Kate and I are scheduled to return April 17th - looking forward to seeing everyone!

## AUXILIARY REPORT

Happy Spring to all. Hope you all are in good health.

I don't have much to share this month. Our next meeting is Monday April 21st at 6:00. It would be nice to see you all at our monthly meetings. Feel free to join us and see what we have going on. Happy Easter to all.

**Kate Wiersgalla – Auxiliary President**

## AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP 2024

I will be calling members that have not paid their dues for 2025. Please pay ASAP IN ORDER TO KEEP YOUR MEMBERSHIP CURRENT. The Auxiliary has an Emergency fund for members who would need help in case of a mishap but if dues are not paid no funds could be given.

Donna M Gode passed away on February 26 – 2025

**Sharon Berkner, Membership Chairman.**

## POST MEMBERSHIP

The 2025 membership-year started on 7/1/2024. Legion dues are \$55.00 and SAL dues are \$20.00. We have processed 479 Legion renewals for 2025. Our department goal is 531 member renewals. We are trying to achieve the April goal of 95%, currently at 90.2%. Please return your renewal as soon as possible. On the SAL side our goal is 61 members, 47 members have been renewed. Update reminders are mailed out by National and not by the post membership committee. If you received a notice after you paid the renewal, please ignore the notice. Do not send a note to the committee. The membership committee processes renewals every Tuesday, it takes about one week for the process to be finalized with National. We also mail out the membership cards the same day. Membership renewal of one year may also be made on-line via the mylegion.com site. Over 70 members have taken advantage of this method. If you are interested in the three-year Legion membership, 2025-2027, option, please visit <https://www.legion.org/renew> and follow the instructions. Payment only via credit card. Paid up for life (PUFL) memberships are available on-line at mylegion.com. Payment is based on the member's age.

**Membership Chair John Pietruszewski, 612-799-0055**

## BRAINERD AREA HONOR GUARD

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

Richard Klein, Mar 6th, US Navy  
Howard Caughey, Mar 17th, US Army

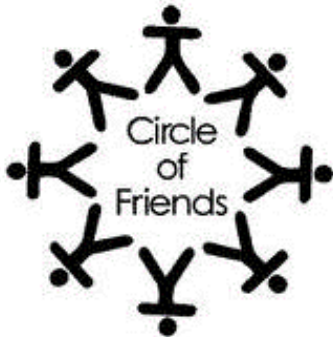
### BRAINERD AREA HONOR GUARD EVENTS:

The Brainerd St Patrick's Day Parade, Mar 15th

Consider becoming a Color Guard member.

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

## CIRCLE OF FRIENDS 2025



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

Tom Borden, John Borden, Don & Nealna Gylling,  
Duane & Sharon Berkner, Glen & Lela Anhorn,  
Duane & Sharon Berg, Aubrey Fillbrandt, Roger & Darla Gonnerman,  
Robert & Sue Rofidal, Tom & Helen Swanson, John & Patti Pietruszewski,  
Francis & Carol Welter, Shirley Hauck, Nate Tuomi & Gull Lake Glass,  
Anonymous Donor

The Circle of Friends provides money for the cost of mailing the "Brainerd Post 255 Newsletter" to people without internet or email access. We started a new calendar year

January 2025 and have received several donations. We presently are mailing 92 newsletters. If you know of someone who would like to be added to our mailing list, please call us and we will take care of that. If you would like to help with the costs of providing this service to our veterans, auxiliary, and SAL members, you can drop off your donation to the bar staff or mail donations to the Brainerd American Legion, 708 Front St, Brainerd, MN 56401. Attn: Circle of Friends account.

Thank You for your support.

## LEGION RIDERS REPORT: BLAIR FRANCIS



The weather finally broke. I take that back; it is winter again. No, it is another false spring. Please make up your mind Minnesota. Are we in for April showers or blizzards. Do I “summer-ize” the snow blower or re-winterize my bike? No wonder Minnesotans get kind of grouchy this time of year. I thought it was the time change that was doing it. Nope. It is the weather. Either way the sun is out more, and the days are getting longer. We can enjoy that.

April 9th the 194 Tank Regiment Dog Tag event at the Brainerd Armory will be taking place and the public is invited.

The list of rides throughout the state are starting to show up on the internet. Mark your calendars and let us know which ones you think would be fun to support. The Brainerd Post 255 Legion Rider’s plan to support the Memorial Day events at the MSVC Little falls on Sunday May 25 starting with a ride down from the post at 9:30 AM. We will support the events traffic control team and then ride to lunch from there. The following Monday May 26th we will be supporting the Brainerd Legion and VFW events at the bridge and the All-Veterans Memorial and the Memorial event in Cross Lake in support of the American Legion Post 500. We will return to Brainerd for lunch.

The rider’s again have donated gas and grocery card to our local VSO office for use by local veterans in need. The riders do this regularly and if you would like to contribute let us know.

We have started planning on how we can support the Gold Star Families event held at Camp Ripley in August. Tentatively they are scheduled to be hosted at Camp Ripley August 15-17. Flag line will be coordinated by the Patriot Guard for Friday afternoon. A motorcycle and hotrod ride in will be scheduled and coordinated by the ALR Brainerd Chapter for August 16th at 3:30PM. All interested riders and hotrod owners are invited. We meet, sign in and parade in from the Canteen Bar across from the Camp’s Main Gate. Details to follow.

There are always opportunities to serve your post and community. You could be the one to make a difference within your post. Become part of the team that powers the post. The Post can always use more volunteers for meat raffles and meals. Please let Janelle know if you would like to help.

Please do your buddy checks.

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.

Thank you to everyone who volunteers.

Sincerely,

Legion Rider’s Post 255

Director Blair Francis    **Next Meeting: April 14th 2025, 7:00 PM, Post 255.**

## CURRENT EXECUTIVE BOARD

Position	Name	Phone	Email
Commander	Rick Wiersgalla	218-851-1554	rickw@brainerd.net
1st Vice Commander	Open		
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander	Don Gylling	763-498-4699	d.gylling@hotmail.com
Adjutant	John Pietruszewski	612-799-0055	jpietru@comcast.net
Financial Officer	Kathy Marty	320-360-4737	k.marty56@yahoo.com
Chaplain	Mark Skinner	218-838-4195	skinner@brainerd.net
Sgt-At-Arms	Glen Anhorn	218-828-6421	
Past Commander	Kevin Stunek	218-839-1815	negotiator11@yahoo.com
1-year E-Board Member	Leroy Ailts	218-839-5101	leroyailts@gmail.com
1-year E-Board Member	Mike Bellos	218-838-9804	tulibeemike@gmail.com
2-year E-Board Member	Tom Getty	218-330-7766	tom.getty7766@gmail.com
2-year E-Board Member	Wayne Harting	218-831-2056	wayneharting @wastepartnersinc.com
3-year E-Board Member	Christine Casperson	218-820-6586	babe16@cloud.com
3-year E-Board Member	Brian Dunham	218-591-1864	dunham_brian@hotmail.com

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

The election for Post 255 officers and two executive board members will be held on May 19th. Please place your name on the nomination sheets, on the bulletin board by the bar, if you are interested in one of these positions. Please contact Wayne Harting, 218-831-2056, or Tom Swanson, 218-513-0681, if you have any questions. This is a great opportunity to become involved in the Legion. Early voting will be available at the Post. Only current members will be eligible to vote, bring your 2025 membership card. Additional information to follow.

Our Member Memorial Service will be held at Post 255 on 20 May 2025 starting at 6:30pm.

Veterans on the Hill is being held on Wednesday, 9 April 1025. A free bus ride from Brainerd to the state capital and back is available. Please contact Jeff McArthur, 320-360-6597, if you are interested in riding the bus.

John Pietruszewski, Adjutant

# **BRAINERD AREA CLUB BREAKFASTS**



**8 a.m. to Noon**

**ELKS: SUNDAY, APRIL 6<sup>TH</sup>**

**EAGLES: SUNDAY, APRIL 13<sup>TH</sup>**

**VFW: SUNDAY, APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup>**

**LEGION: SUNDAY, APRIL 27<sup>TH</sup>**

## **FRIDAY DINNERS SERVED 4PM-8PM**

**April 4<sup>th</sup> – Swedish Meatballs \$15 & Walleye Dinner \$15**

**April 11<sup>th</sup> – Roast Beef \$15 & Wayne's AYCE Fish Fry \$15**

**April 18<sup>th</sup> – Bob's BBQ Ribs \$18 & Walleye Dinner \$15**

**April 25<sup>th</sup> – AYCE Alfredo Pasta Bar \$15 & Walleye Dinner \$15**

# **MILITARY RETRIEMENT SEMINAR**

**April 17, 2025**

**Camp Ripley - Hangar building - 8am–11:30am**

**Free - Veteran and Guest Invited**

**Contacts:** Kristina Von Berge, Morrison County Veterans Service Officer,  
320-632-0291, [kris.vonberge@morrisoncountymn.gov](mailto:kris.vonberge@morrisoncountymn.gov) (New)

The gathering of Retired Military Veterans from all branches. We encourage networking and learning about opportunities and benefits for Retired Veterans in the Central MN area. The Camp Ripley Post Commander Staff briefs Camp Updates and welcomes guests to Camp Ripley. There will be over 20 tables with information for Veterans benefits and about 5 speakers. There will be time to meet and greet and explore the Hangar and learn about updated Veterans Benefits. Questions can be answered as well.

**EVERY  
FRIDAY  
NIGHT  
5:30PM**

Meat  
Raffle



## APRIL MEAT RAFFLE GROUPS

APRIL 4<sup>TH</sup> - GABRIEL'S HOME

APRIL 11<sup>TH</sup> - WARRRIOR CHEERLEADING

APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup> - SOUP KITCHEN

APRIL 25<sup>TH</sup> - WARRIOR WRESTLING

## THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

### March Sunday Breakfast Volunteers

Monica Eide, Christine and Bruce Casperson, Dale Tougas,, Pat O'Brian, Blair Francis, Leroy Ailts, Glen Anhorn, Mark Smieja, Wayne Harting, Don Gylling, Duane Berkner, Roger and Darla Gonnerman and Mike Bellos.

With volunteers like this, we are able to provide great food at reasonable prices.

Don Gylling 2nd Vice Commander

## Saint Patrick's Day Volunteers

Monica Eide, Peggy Doust, Mark Innes, Kevin Christensen, Don & Nealna Gylling,  
Derek Pollary, Mike Bellos, Kay Deist, Kimberly Finch

## March Friday Night Kitchen Volunteers

Derrick & Sarah Naumann, Jamie Neyens, Derek Pollary, Mike Bellos, Wayne Harting

# EVENTS AT THE LEGION

Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> – Downtown Golf 11am-8pm

Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> – BMX Fundraiser 5pm

Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> – Past Commanders Dinner 6pm

Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> – Birthday Party Noon-5pm / Celebration of Life Noon-3pm

Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> – Benefit for Kayse Bosh Noon-3pm / Group Upstairs Noon-5pm

Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup> – Breakfast 8am-Noon

# MEETINGS AT THE LEGION

Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> – BMX 6pm / Pool League 7pm

Thursday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> – Sports Boosters Noon-1pm / Marine Corp League 6pm  
Bricklayers 7pm

Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup> – Book Club Noon / IBEW 6pm

Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> – NARFS 11am / CWC Union Meeting 4:45pm

Wednesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> – Retired Nurses Noon

Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup> – Sports Boosters Noon-1pm

Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup> – Lions 6pm / Legion Riders 7pm

Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> – Class of '73 6pm / Pool League 7pm

Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> – Jacob's Lions 5:30pm-7:30pm  
Past Commanders Dinner 6pm

Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup> – Sports Boosters Noon-1pm

Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup> – Grief Group Noon / E-Board 5:30pm / Post Membership 5:30pm  
Gambling 5:30pm / Auxiliary 6pm / Bee Keepers 6pm

Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> – Jacob's Crew 6pm

Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup> – Scouts Breakfast / Sports Boosters Noon-1pm

Monday, April 28<sup>th</sup> – Lions 6pm

Tuesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> – Bethlehem Lunch Bunch 12:30pm



	<p><b>1</b> BROASTED CHICKEN HOT BEEF OR HOT TURKEY SANDWICH  BMX 6PM  POOL LEAGUE 7PM</p>	<p><b>2</b> BROASTED CHICKEN RIB BASKET</p>	<p><b>3</b> BROASTED CHICKEN SOUP &amp; SANDWICH SPORTS BOOSTERS NOON-1PM  MARINE CORP LEAGUE 6PM  BRICKLAYERS 7PM</p>	<p><b>4</b> CHILI DOG OR SLOPPY JOE 11AM-4PM SPECIALS: 4-8PM SWEDISH MEATBALLS \$15 WALLEYE DINNER \$15 <b>MEAT RAFFLE 5:30PM</b></p>	<p><b>5</b> DOWNTOWN GOLF  11AM-8PM</p>
<p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>7</b> MESS HALL MONDAY BOOK CLUB NOON IBEW 6PM</p>	<p><b>8</b> BROASTED CHICKEN HOT BEEF OR HOT TURKEY SANDWICH  NARFS 11AM  CWC UNION MEETING 4:45PM</p>	<p><b>9</b> BROASTED CHICKEN RIB BASKET  RETIRED NURSES NOON</p>	<p><b>10</b> BROASTED CHICKEN SOUP &amp; SANDWICH  SPORTS BOOSTERS NOON-1PM</p>	<p><b>11</b> CHILI DOG OR SLOPPY JOE 11AM-4PM SPECIALS: 4-8PM ROAST BEEF \$15 WAYNE'S AYCE FISH FRY \$15 <b>MEAT RAFFLE 5:30PM</b></p>	<p><b>12</b> BMX FUNDRAISER 5PM</p>
<p><b>13</b></p> <p><b>14</b> MESS HALL MONDAY LIONS MEETING 6PM  LEGION RIDERS MEETING 7PM</p>	<p><b>15</b> BROASTED CHICKEN HOT BEEF OR HOT TURKEY SANDWICH  CLASS OF '73 6PM  POOL LEAGUE 7PM</p>	<p><b>16</b> BROASTED CHICKEN RIB BASKET  JACOB'S LIONS 5:30PM-7:30PM  PAST COMMANDERS DINNER 6PM</p>	<p><b>17</b> BROASTED CHICKEN SOUP &amp; SANDWICH  SPORTS BOOSTERS NOON-1PM</p>	<p><b>18</b> CHILI DOG OR SLOPPY JOE 11AM-4PM SPECIALS: 4-8PM BOB'S BBQ RIBS \$18 WALLEYE DINNER \$15 <b>MEAT RAFFLE 5:30PM</b></p>	<p><b>19</b> BIRTHDAY PARTY NOON - 5PM  CELEBRATION OF LIFE NOON - 3PM</p>
<p><b>20</b></p>  <p><b>21</b> MESS HALL MONDAY GRIEF GROUP NOON  E-BOARD MTG 5:30PM POST MEMBERSHIP MTG 5:30PM GAMBLING MTG 5:30PM AUXILIARY MTG 6PM  BEE KEEPERS 6PM</p>	<p><b>22</b> BROASTED CHICKEN HOT BEEF OR HOT TURKEY SANDWICH  JACOB'S CREW 6PM</p>	<p><b>23</b> BROASTED CHICKEN RIB BASKET</p>	<p><b>24</b> BROASTED CHICKEN SOUP &amp; SANDWICH  SCOUTS BREAKFAST  SPORTS BOOSTERS NOON-1PM</p>	<p><b>25</b> CHILI DOG OR SLOPPY JOE 11AM-4PM SPECIALS: 4-8PM AYCE ALFREDO PASTA BAR \$15 WALLEYE DINNER \$15 <b>MEAT RAFFLE 5:30PM</b></p>	<p><b>26</b> BENEFIT FOR KAYSE BOSCH NOON - 3PM  GROUP NOON - 5PM</p>
<p><b>27</b> BREAKFAST 8AM - NOON</p>	<p><b>29</b> BROASTED CHICKEN HOT BEEF OR HOT TURKEY SANDWICH  BETHLEHEM LUNCH BUNCH 12:30PM</p>	<p><b>30</b> BROASTED CHICKEN RIB BASKET</p>			