



# *THE COMMANDER*

## MARCH 2025

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

### COMMANDER'S REPORT



The recent below zero temps are now history – (hopefully). Current temps rising spring is rapidly (I hope) approaching -and snowbirds will return.

A couple topics discussed at the last membership and E board meeting: First - The large folding door has seen better days and requires replacement. Second - The main hall flooring likewise will need to be replacement - it was installed approximately seven or eight years ago. Bids are being obtained and determining which project will be first. We should continue upgrades as needs arise

rather than allowing several issues all at once. I encourage ALL members to attend these meetings and present your thoughts and ideas. It's YOUR Post. Be an active participant!

We continue booking numerous events. This speaks volumes about our staff, service, quality of food and appearance.

Our Post is scheduled to host the sixth district meeting early June. DeWayne Collins was leading the preparation for the event. With his unfortunate passing his wife Brenda will assist with the prep work. Anyone interested in helping please give her or Janelle a call.

Every month I continue to remind our entire membership the need volunteers to assist with the many events our Post hosts. We are fortunate to have so many events scheduled but they require much work to make them successful. We need YOUR help. Our continued success requires TEAM effort - that includes YOU! And extremely important is an increase in our membership! If we are not growing????

SADLY - This past month several members of our Post Passed away. Our condolences thoughts and prayers are with those who lost family members and friends. Until next month, **Rick W**

## AUXILIARY REPORT

March is now upon us and our first meeting of the year will be March 17th at 6:00 PM. In February we sent out Valentine Cards to the Veterans in our care centers. We also have girls state coming up June 15th through the 21st at Arden Hills, MN. If there are any seniors interested in attending this can contact Sharon Berg at 218-838-8830. To report volunteer hours contact Sharon Berkner by April 1st. I have nothing else to report at this time, have a good month.

**Kate Wiersgalla – Auxiliary President**

## AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP 2024

2nd notices were sent out the 1st week of February, if you have not paid them, please do so ASAP. THANK YOU IN ADVANCE. If anyone has questions, please contact me at 218-828-5074. Dues are \$40.

Unit 255 of Brainerd sends Sympathy to the families of your deceased loved one. Myrtle Tuil, Kathleen Hanson, Ruth Forseth, Karen Reither, Donna Peppel.

Have a great MARCH. **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 471 Legion renewals for 2025. Our department goal is 531 member renewals. We might achieve the March goal of 90%, currently at 88.7%. Please return your renewal as soon as possible. There are 47 members that have not yet renewed their 2025 membership. Please renew soon.

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:

Donald Jensen, Feb 10th, US Army, Post 255 Member  
 Max Rehling, Feb 15th, US Army  
 James A Wilson, Feb 18th, US Army, Post 255 Member  
 Ronald Bird, Feb 20th, US Navy  
 Wayne Calson, Feb 22nd, US Navy  
 Laverne "Bob" Beavers, Feb 27th, US Navy, WWII, Post 255 Member

### BRAINERD AREA HONOR GUARD EVENTS:

None for the month of February

Consider becoming a Color Guard member.

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

## GAMBLING NEWS

We have added another off site. We have teamed up with the Brainerd Elks to provide pull tabs and Etabs at their location. This brings us to 10 off site and 1 on site. Places you can support the Brainerd American Legion and the community are: Dunmire's Bar & Grill, Goodstop Gas Station, Top Fuel Liquor, Cornerstone Liquor, Gas Can Bar & Grill, Tasty Pizza North, Dunmire's on the Lake, St Mathias Bar & Grill (Machine Pull Tabs only), Sage on Laurel, and Elks Lodge 615-Brainerd. We also have a meat raffle at both Dunmire's at 6pm on Thursday evenings, 6pm on Wednesday at Gas Can Bar and Grill, 5:30pm at the Legion and Bingo Tuesdays at 6pm at Gas Can.

We welcome Dale Tougas to our gambling team part time. Dale will be learning the ins and outs of Minnesota Charitable Gambling! He will be overseeing a few of our off sites and helping around the office as needed!! Welcome DALE!!!

We are at least 2 full months into the new Etabs required by the state. So far things are looking promising. We use Pilot games for our etabs and we are lucky we do. Pilot games invested over 300K in each game to make them meet new state requirements. I have heard positives and negatives with the new games. So, here's to the future and hoping the good outweighs the bad. We have gotten very lucky that we partnered with the right ones here.

I am honored to announce that we have added a Dewayne Collins Memorial Scholarship. Available through Brainerd Public School Foundation (BPSF). The Brainerd American Legion Funds 5-\$1000 Scholarship for kids of Veterans pursuing a 4-year degree. We have the Al Broman, Frank Vadnais, Henry C Mills, Steve Eide and Dewayne Collins Memorial Scholarships. March 17th is the deadline for this year's application. **Billy Lowe – Gambling Manager**

## 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

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,  
Don Gylling (763-498-4699) & Duane Berkner (218-829-5074)

## 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	218-829-8845	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

## DISTRICT 6 ORATORICAL U.S. CONSTITUTION CONTEST

On February 8<sup>th</sup> the 6<sup>th</sup> District contest was held at the Nisswa Legion. Our Brainerd High School winner, Lilly DeRosier, was ill and unfortunately couldn't participate. Our second place winner, Kristi Moore, was sponsored by the Cross Lake Legion and won fifth place. Our third place winner, Isabell Bednarek, was sponsored by the Nisswa Legion and won third place. Both girls did a wonderful job and learned valuable information about our constitution and their responsibilities as a citizen.

Tom Swanson

## THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to the following for volunteering February 1<sup>st</sup> 7:30am-Noon for the Jaycees Fishing Contest in Nisswa. Clayton Eisel, Ricky Eisel, Don Gylling, Paul Berkner, Duane Berkner, Andrea Lanke, May Jo Cody, Dale Tougas, Tom Lang, Dan Holmes, Darla Gonnerman, Roger Gonnerman, John Piertozewski and Tom Swanson

Tom Swanson

We Have The Best Sunday Breakfast Volunteers  
2/23/2025 Volunteers

Monica Eide, Peggy Foust, Andrea Lamke, Dale Tougas, Mark Smieja, Duane Berg, Glen Anhorn, Duane Berkner, Blair Francis

With these great volunteers we put together a great low cost Sunday Breakfast for Veterans and the community. Thanks for all your help and time.

Don Gylling - 2nd Vice Commander

**EVERY  
FRIDAY  
NIGHT  
5:30PM**



## MARCH MEAT RAFFLE GROUPS

MARCH 7<sup>TH</sup> – GABRIEL'S HOME

MARCH 14<sup>TH</sup> – SMILES FOR JAKE (PIG & DUCK RACES TOO!)

MARCH 21<sup>ST</sup> – WARRRIOR CHEERLEADING

MARCH 28<sup>TH</sup> – WARRIOR WRESTLING

## LEGION RIDERS REPORT: BLAIR FRANCIS

### American Legion Riders Post 255 3-10-25 Letter to the Commander



The weather finally broke. The first false spring is here. Warm weather has arrived, and everyone is getting outside for some fresh air that does not hurt your face. Now watch out for the ice that forms from the freeze-thaw cycles thru out the day. Be careful, be alert, we do not want to visit anyone else in the hospital this year.

Our CORNHOLE (Bean Bag) tournament was well attended, considering the weather. (Snow, ice and cold) Wayne and Stacey Harting did a great job organizing the event. We had about 25 teams register. Many traveled over 30 miles to participate. They enjoyed full bar for drinks and limited menu for food. The post was busy all day and the riders made a few dollars also.

“Wreath for the Fallen”, honor wreath recovery, February 1st went well. About 115 people showed up to collect 7800 wreaths and dispose of them. The snow started about 10 along with the wind but that did not stop people from braving the weather for this good cause. The process took a total of 18 minutes. Cookies were provided by WFTF and ten gallons of coffee was donated by Starbucks, Baxter location. Thank you to all who support the event.

Plug in your battery tenders, bring those batteries back to life slowly. Dust off those covers, pull the mouse nests out of your airboxes and exhaust pipes. Get the acorns out from under your seat. It will save you money in the long run, and your mechanic wont cuss under his breath at you for the lack of maintenance. Riding season is getting closer. We are always looking for new riders and new riding experiences. Please join us and let us make memories together. We are a veteran’s group with many of the same experience as you. There are always opportunities to serve your post and community. Everything from paid staff positions to the highly praised position of egg cracker. The post can always use help for meals and legion activities. 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: February 12th 2025, 7:00 PM, Post 255.**

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

Veterans on the Hill is being held on Wednesday, 9 April 2025.

A free bus ride from Brainerd to the state capital and back is available.

Please contact Dave Meyer, 218-839-2653, if you are interested in riding the bus.

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

The election for Post 255 officers and two executive board members will be held on May 19th. If you are interested in one of these positions, please contact

Wayne Harting, 218-831-2056, or Tom Swanson,

218-513-0681. Early voting will be available. Additional information to follow.

## BRAINERD AREA CLUB BREAKFASTS



**8 a.m. to Noon**

**ELKS: SUNDAY, MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup>**

**EAGLES: SUNDAY, MARCH 9<sup>TH</sup>**

**VFW: SUNDAY, MARCH 16<sup>TH</sup>**

**LEGION: SUNDAY, MARCH 23<sup>RD</sup>**

**ELKS: SUNDAY, MARCH 30<sup>TH</sup>**

## FRIDAY DINNERS SERVED 4PM-8PM

**March 7<sup>th</sup> – Swedish Meatballs \$15 & Walleye Dinner \$15**

**March 14<sup>th</sup> – Bob's BBQ Ribs \$18 & Wayne's AYCE Fish Fry \$15**

**March 21<sup>st</sup> – Seafood Platter \$15 & Wayne's AYCE Fish Fry \$15**

**March 28<sup>th</sup> – Bob's BBQ Ribs \$18 & Walleye Dinner \$15**

# EVENTS AT THE LEGION

- Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup> – Baby Shower 2pm-4pm  
 Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> – Purse & Gun Bingo (must have ticket for this event)  
     Doors open at 11am Bingo at 1pm  
 Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> – Pool League 7pm  
 Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup> – Sports Boosters Floor Hockey Lunch Noon  
 Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup> – Wedding Reception 4pm-8pm  
 Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup> – CELEBRATING AMERICAN LEGION'S 106<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY!!  
     Happy Saint Patrick's Day!  
     Corned Beef & Cabbage, Rubeens & Grasshoppers Noon-Gone  
 Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> – Jacob's Lions Glow In The Dark Bingo (Open to Public)  
     5pm-8pm  
 Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> – Breakfast 8am-Noon  
 Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup> – Wedding Shower / Anniversary Party 12:30pm-3pm

# MEETINGS AT THE LEGION

- Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> – Book Club Noon / IBEW 6pm  
 Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> – CWC Union 4:45pm / BMX 6pm / CWC Township 6pm  
     Pool League 7pm  
 Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup> – Sports Boosters Noon / Marine Corp League 6pm  
     Women of Today 6pm / Bricklayers 7pm  
 Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup> – Lions 6pm / Legion Riders 7pm  
 Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> – NARFS 11am  
 Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> – Retired State Hospital Workers Noon  
 Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup> – E-Board, Post Membership, Gambling Meeting 5:30pm  
     Auxiliary Meeting 6pm / Beekeepers 6pm  
 Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> – Jacob's Voice 5:30pm / Jacob's Lions 6:30pm  
 Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup> – Sports Boosters Noon / CTC Training Noon  
     Lakes Area Growers 6pm  
 Monday, March 24<sup>th</sup> – Lions 6pm  
 Tuesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> – Jacob's Crew 6pm  
 Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> – Gopher 1 Breakfast 7am / Class of '73 6pm  
 Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup> – Sports Boosters Noon



# MARCH 2025



<p><b>1</b></p> <p>HAPPY HOUR NOON-3PM</p> <p>BABY SHOWER 2PM-4PM</p> <p>BAHMA ROOM</p>						
<p><b>2</b></p> <p>PURSE &amp; GUN BINGO</p> <p>DOORS OPEN 11AM</p> <p>BINGO STARTS 1PM</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>MESS HALL MONDAY</p> <p>BOOK CLUB NOON</p> <p>IBEW 6PM</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>BROASTED CHICKEN</b> HOT BEEF OR HOT TURKEY SANDWICH</p> <p>CWC UNION MEETING 4:45PM BMX 6PM</p> <p>CWC TOWNSHIP 6PM</p> <p>POOL LEAGUE 7PM</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>BROASTED CHICKEN</b> RIB BASKET</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>BROASTED CHICKEN</b> SOUP &amp; SANDWICH</p> <p>SPORTS BOOSTERS NOON-1PM</p> <p>MARINE CORP LEAGUE 6PM</p> <p>WOMEN OF TODAY 6PM</p> <p>BRICKLAYERS 7PM</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>CTC BREAKFAST 7:30 AM</p> <p>CHILI DOG OR SLOPPY JOE 11AM-4PM</p> <p>SPECIALS: 4-8PM SWEDISH MEATBALLS \$15</p> <p>WALLEYE DINNER \$15</p> <p><b>MEAT RAFFLE 5:30PM</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>HAPPY HOUR NOON - 3PM</p>
<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>MESS HALL MONDAY</p> <p>LIONS MEETING 6PM</p> <p>LEGION RIDERS MEETING 7PM</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p><b>BROASTED CHICKEN</b> HOT BEEF OR HOT TURKEY SANDWICH</p> <p>NARFS 11AM</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>BROASTED CHICKEN</b> RIB BASKET</p> <p>RETIRED NURSES NOON</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p><b>BROASTED CHICKEN</b> SOUP &amp; SANDWICH</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>CHILI DOG OR SLOPPY JOE 11AM-4PM</p> <p>SPECIALS: 4-8PM BOB'S BBQ RIBS \$18</p> <p>WAYNE'S AYCE FISH FRY \$15</p> <p><b>MEAT RAFFLE 5:30PM</b></p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>HAPPY HOUR NOON - 3PM</p> <p>WEDDING RECEPTION 4PM-8PM</p> <p><b>AMERICAN LEGION 106<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY!</b></p>
<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p><b>HAPPY SAINT PATRICK'S DAY!</b> CORNED BEEF &amp; CABBAGE, GRASSHOPPERS &amp; REUBENS NOON-GONE E-BOARD, POST MEMBERSHIP &amp; GAMBLING MTG 5:30PM AUXILIARY MTG 6PM BEEKEEPERS 6PM</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p><b>BROASTED CHICKEN</b> HOT BEEF OR HOT TURKEY SANDWICH</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p><b>BROASTED CHICKEN</b> RIB BASKET</p> <p>JACOB'S VOICE 5:30PM</p> <p>JACOB'S LIONS 6:30PM</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p><b>BROASTED CHICKEN</b> SOUP &amp; SANDWICH</p> <p>SPORTS BOOSTERS NOON-1PM</p> <p>CTC TRAINING NOON</p> <p>LAKES AREA GROWERS 6PM</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>CHILI DOG OR SLOPPY JOE 11AM-4PM</p> <p>SPECIALS: 4-8PM SEAFOOD PLATTER \$15</p> <p>WAYNE'S AYCE FISH FRY \$15</p> <p><b>MEAT RAFFLE 5:30PM</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>HAPPY HOUR NOON - 3PM</p> <p>JACOB'S LIONS GLOW IN THE DARK BINGO 5PM-8PM</p>
<p><b>23</b></p> <p><b>BREAKFAST 8AM - NOON</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>MESS HALL MONDAY</p> <p>LIONS MEETING 6PM</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p><b>BROASTED CHICKEN</b> HOT BEEF OR HOT TURKEY SANDWICH</p> <p>JACOB'S CREW 6PM</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p><b>BROASTED CHICKEN</b> RIB BASKET</p> <p>GOPHER 1 BREAKFAST 7AM</p> <p>CLASS OF '73 6PM</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p><b>BROASTED CHICKEN</b> SOUP &amp; SANDWICH</p> <p>SPORTS BOOSTERS NOON-1PM</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>CHILI DOG OR SLOPPY JOE 11AM-4PM</p> <p>SPECIALS: 4-8PM BOB'S BBQ RIBS \$18</p> <p>WALLEYE DINNER \$15</p> <p><b>MEAT RAFFLE 5:30PM</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>WEDDING SHOWER</p> <p>ANNIVERSARY PARTY 12:30-3PM</p>
<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b></p>					