

BRAINERD AMERICAN LEGION POST 255



VETERANS HELPING THE COMMUNITY

THE COMMANDER APRIL 2026

COMMANDER REPORT



Live Music Lineup – Mark Your Calendars! 2 great events. We've got two live music events lined up for April. Perfect opportunities to enjoy great tunes, laughs, and good company with friends old and new.

Thursday, April 17th – Hillbilly Rock Show 7PM – 10PM. Join us for a high-energy night featuring the fun and versatile Hillbilly Rock band! They'll be playing a mix of oldies, classic rock, country, and current hits that are sure to get everyone moving. We'll kick things

off with our popular Broasted Chicken Special and a meat raffle. Stay for the music and make it a full evening of fun!

Saturday, April 25th – Dos Guys Acoustic Duo 1PM – 4PM (Co-sponsored by Brainerd Elks) Come out for an afternoon with **Dos Guys** (Brian Wallace & Tim Peabody), Brainerd's favorite acoustic duo! Expect classic rock, country, and fun covers delivered with their signature style. This special event is a fundraiser for both organizations, with all proceeds supporting Veteran programs for each club. A great way to relax, enjoy live music, and give back. Will have full bar & food this day.

Kitchen Updates - We rolled out the new breakfast menu in March. Now you can choose exactly what you'd like from a full menu. Something to satisfy every appetite and craving. Huge thanks to all the volunteers who helped launch it successfully! We also had a visit from the food inspector, who pointed out that one of our storage rooms needed finished walls. Big shout-out to Dale & Don for stepping up and tackling that project. Your hard work keeps everything up to standard!

Club Improvements – Trophy Cases Getting a Refresh

You'll start noticing some changes around the club, starting with the trophy cases both upstairs and in the dining hall. We're going through our collected memorabilia to rotate items and give these display areas a fresh, updated look and maybe even a new look. If you have a trophy or item currently in one of those cases, please reach out to me soon so we can make sure it's handled properly. We'd love to keep honoring our history while making room for new memories!

A Big Thank You - To all our incredible volunteers and staff this month. Your dedication makes everything possible. Growing and staying busy comes with its challenges, but as Abraham Lincoln wisely said: *"Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced."* Let's keep facing things head-on, supporting our Veterans, and making the club a welcoming place for everyone. See you at the events – come hungry, come ready to enjoy!

Commander – Wayne Harting

AUXILIARY REPORT

Hello everyone and Happy Spring. I have things to share with you. First of all we had cake for our 107th Anniversary. We are also putting together Easter baskets for our Veterans in our nursing homes and care centers. The Turkey Hunt at Camp Ripley will be April 23rd. A reminder of the Girls State Conference in June. If you know of a junior who would like to attend just let Sharon Berg know. On April 15th we have Purple Up Day to honor all children of Military families. And finally May 22nd is our Poppy Day.

Well that's all for now. Enjoy the weather and stay healthy.

Kathy Wiersgalla
Auxiliary President



AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP

Sincere sympathy to the family of Lois Erickson who passed away at 98.

There are still a few members that have not paid their dues as of 3-21-26. It would be great would reach 100% soon. Thank You in advance and have a wonderful Spring.

Sharon Berkner, Membership Chairman

POST MEMBERSHIP

Membership for 2026 started on 7/1/2025. Legion dues will be \$55.00 and SAL dues will be \$20.00.

Our department goal is 497 member renewals. We are at 94.4% of the goal. We need 35 members to renew their membership to achieve our goal. Please return your renewal as soon as possible. On the SAL side our goal is 56 member renewals, we have exceeded the goal. Welcome to all new members.

Please renew for 2025 if you are not current. We encourage the expired members to rejoin; the post needs you. Your payment will be applied to most recent outstanding year. Membership renewal may also be made online via the mylegion.com site.

Mylegion is a convenient way of keeping your membership up to date. Also, you can update your mailing address, phone number, and email address. You can also print your current year membership card from the site. Renewal may also be paid for with a credit card from the Post 255 website, www.brainerdlegion255.org. Select the membership button at the top of the page. Zeffy is safe and secure.

If you are interested in the three-year Legion membership, 2026-2028, 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 and the Post's dues.

This is the rate schedule:

24 & Under	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54
\$2187	\$2096	\$1997	\$1890	\$1773	\$1647	\$1508
55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-85	85 & Over
\$1359	\$1204	\$1049	\$898	\$751	\$617	\$523

Chair John Pietruszewski, 612-799-0055

BRAINERD AREA HONOR GUARD

Brainerd Area Honor Guard Performed Military Honors for the following:

March 7th, Raymond L Frisch, US Army, Korea

March 14th, Gregory Skoog, US Army, Vietnam

Brainerd Area Color Guard led the St Patrick's Day Parade
in downtown Brainerd on March 14th

Consider becoming a member of the Brainerd Area Honor Guard. Uniforms and training will be provided. You are not required to participate in all events. Honor Guard members can earn a 2027 membership by participating in funeral services and civic events. Please contact John Pietruszewski, 612-799-0055, if you are interested or have any questions.

CURRENT EXECUTIVE BOARD

Position	Name	Phone	Email
Commander	Wayne Harting	218-831-2056	wayneharting@wastepartnersinc.com
1st Vice Commander	Don Gylling	763-498-4699	d.gylling@hotmail.com
2 nd Vice Commander	Bill Lowe	605-201-3987	billyjoelowe@gmail.com
Adjutant	John Pietruszewski	612-799-0055	jpietru@comcast.net
Financial Officer	Mike Bellos	218-838-9804	tulibeemike@gmail.com
Chaplain	Brian Dunham	218-591-1824	dunham_brian@hotmail.com
Sgt-At-Arms	Glen Anhorn	218-828-6421	
Past Commander	Rick Wiersgalla	218-851-1554	rickw@brainerd.net
1-year E-Board Member	Tom Getty	218-330-7766	tom.getty7766@gmail.com
1-year E-Board Member	Rory Papenfuss	218-330-3200	rory.papenfuss@gmail.com
2-year E-Board Member	Christine Casperson	218-820-6586	babe16@icloud.com
2-year E-Board Member	Dale Tougas	218-851-2481	daletougas@hotmail.com
3-year E-Board Member	Leroy Ailts	218-839-5101	leroyailts@gmail.com
3-year E-Board Member	Tom Swanson	218-513-0681	militarypapa@icloud.com

ELECTIONS

In May there are two 3-year Post 255 Executive Board Member positions to be elected. Any paid up Legion Post 255 member is eligible to sign up and run for these positions. The sign up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board in the bar area. Elected Board members are expected to attend the monthly board meeting on the third Monday of each month usually starting at 5:30pm. Also, they are expected to volunteer to help with activities and fund raisers sponsored by Post 255. Voting will take place in person only with no absentee ballots. Bring you membership card or picture ID to receive a ballot.

Election Schedule:

Sign up for board: April 6th-20th.

Early Voting: May 4th-18th.

Regular Voting: May 18th 3pm-5:30pm.

If you have any questions or concerns contact any member of the nominating committee: Don Gylling, Tom Swanson, or LeRoy Ailts

LEGION RIDERS REPORT



Wet, snow and nasty to 60 + degrees. Not sure if we are in the state of Minnesota or in some twilight zone. That said, we will take it. The snow melts and the weather warms and the riders start prepping their bikes, charging the batteries, shining chrome, checking tires, and changing oil. The riding bug starts the itch and the weather makes it worse.

For those who do not have to fight frozen or muddy driveways, remember to be careful as there is a lot of salt and sand on the roads still. That makes stopping and corners hazardous.

The last month was a quiet month for riders; however, things are still busy at the post and there are plenty of volunteer opportunities to support the post, please help.

Breakfast options have changed along with delivery; the post and Wayne could use some extra help until everything runs smoothly.

We are planning for a large commemorative Benghazi / Gold Star Families event in August, with special guest speakers at the MSVC Little Falls Memorial and at the Camp Ripley Hanger Complex Gold Star Families Ice Cream Social. Please mark you calendar and plan on joining us there.

Check out the new coloring books created by the riders. See if you can recognize anyone you may know. The books will be available soon.

I would like to encourage everyone to remember to do your buddy checks.

Socials are usually on Wednesdays, have short notice times and are at someplace decided by the group. Check your emails and phones for times and/or place.

Thank you to everyone that shows up and volunteers.

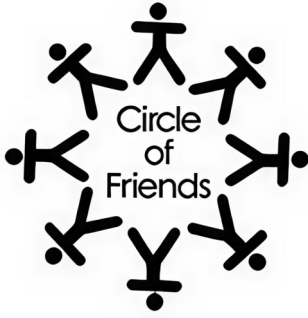
Sincerely, Legion Rider's Post 255 Director Blair Francis

Next Meeting: May 11th, 2026 7:00 PM, Post 255.

CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIP

The following members of Post 255 will receive certificates of continuous membership at the May 18th member meeting. Receiving a certificate of 50 years of membership will be: Robert A Christensen, Larry Osvold, and Floyd Sweet. Those receiving a certificate of 60 years will be: Howard R Cronquist, Darwin J Haberman, Judson R Murray, Dennis L Sands, and Allan L Whitted.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS



Glen & Lela Anhorn, Duane & Sharon Berg,
Duane & Sharon Berkner,
Roger & Darla Gonnerman, Shirley Hauck, John Raboin,
Patricia Wlasiuk, Darlene Schaefer, Don & Nealna Gylling,
Tom & Helen Swanson,
Tom Borden (in memory of Jack Borden),
Paul Gode, Frank & Carol Welter, Gary & Pat Bluth,
Nate Tuomi of Gull Lake Glass

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 presently are mailing about 85 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, riders, auxiliary or SAL members you can drop off your donation to the bar staff or mail Duane Berkner, 10998 Bonnie Rd, Brainerd, MN 56401. You can also use a credit card on our website under Donate.

Thank You for your support.
Don Gylling 763-498-4699 & Duane Berkner 218-829-5074

WHAT'S HAPPING

BRAINERD AREA CLUB BREAKFASTS **8 a.m. to Noon**

ELKS: Sunday, April 5th

EAGLES: Sunday, April 12th (8:30am)

VFW: Sunday, April 19th

LEGION: Sunday, April 26th



FRIDAY DINNERS SERVED 4PM-8PM

Friday, April 3rd - AYCE Fish Dinner \$15

Friday, April 10th - Bob's BBQ Ribs \$18

Friday, April 17th - Broasted Chicken (2 or 4 piece)

Friday, April 24th - Swedish Meatballs \$15

Walleye Dinner \$15 Every Friday Night

**APRIL IS
MONTH OF THE
MILITARY CHILD**

INITIATED IN 1986, PURPLE UP! FOR MILITARY KIDS DAY IS A NATIONWIDE CAMPAIGN ENCOURAGING PEOPLE TO WEAR PURPLE. THIS INITIATIVE AIMS TO RAISE AWARENESS, EXPRESS GRATITUDE, AND SHOW SUPPORT FOR MILITARY YOUTH.

**APRIL 17,
2026**



**THIS YEAR'S MN
PURPLE UP!
CELEBRATION FOR
MILITARY FAMILIES
WILL BE AT THE
MALL OF AMERICA**

**FOR MORE INFO & TO
GET INVOLVED, CONTACT**

JOY LUEDEMAN & NICKI SCHNEIDER
MN NATIONAL GUARD
CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAM COORDINATORS
MNARNGCYS@GMAIL.COM | 651.242.6910

APRIL MEAT RAFFLE GROUPS

Friday, April 3rd - Gabriel's Home

Friday, April 10th- TBD

Friday, April 17th - Warrior Cheer

Friday, April 24th - Warrior Wrestling

Every Friday Night starting at 5:30pm

EVENTS AT THE LEGION

Saturday, April 11th - Pohl Foundation 9am-4pm / Downtown Golf 11am-5:30pm

Sunday, April 12th - Tony Powers Painting Adventure 1pm-3pm

Friday, April 17th - Hillbilly Rock Show 7pm-10pm

Saturday, April 18th - LE & Vets Lions Pancake & Poker 11am-3pm

Saturday, April 25th - Dos Guys 1pm-4pm Presented by Brd Legion & Brd Elks
Food available starting at Noon

Sunday, April 26th - Breakfast 8am-Noon




MEETINGS AT THE LEGION

Thursday, April 2nd - Sports Boosters Noon / Marine Corp 5:30pm / Bricklayers 7pm
Monday, April 6th - Book Club 11:30am
Tuesday, April 7th - BMX 6:30pm
Wednesday, April 8th - Retired State Hospital Workers Noon
Thursday, April 9th - Sports Boosters Noon / LE & Vets Lions 6:30pm
Monday, April 13th - BRD Lions Meeting 5:30pm / Legon Riders 7pm
Tuesday, April 14th - NARFE 11:30am / Rod Benders 5:30pm
Wednesday, April 15th - Past Commanders 6pm / Jacob's Voice 5:30pm
Jacob's Lions 6:30pm
Thursday, April 16th - Sports Boosters Noon / Sheetmetal Workers 5pm
Women of Today 5:15pm
Monday, April 20th - Grief Group Noon / E-Board, Post, Gambling 5:30pm
Auxiliary 6pm / Bee Keepers 6pm
Tuesday, April 21st - Class of '73 6pm
Thursday, April 23rd - Sports Boosters Noon
Monday, April 27th - Brd Lions 5:30pm
Tuesday, April 28th - Bethlehem Group Noon
Wednesday, April 29th - Senior Mix Coffee League 11:30am
Thursday, April 30th - Sports Boosters Noon / Night Strikers Bowling Banquet 5pm



APRIL 2026



<p>5</p> 	<p>6</p> <p>HOT TURKEY SANDWICH BOOK CLUB 11:30AM</p>	<p>7</p> <p>BROASTED CHICKEN RIB BASKET BMX 6:30PM</p>	<p>8</p> <p>BROASTED CHICKEN POUND OF WINGS RETIRED STATE HOSPITAL WORKERS NOON</p>	<p>9</p> <p>BROASTED CHICKEN PULLED PORK SANDWICH & CUP OF SOUP SPORTS BOOSTERS NOON LE & VETS LIONS CROW WING/CASS 6:30-7:30PM</p>	<p>10</p> <p>SLOPPY JOE 11AM-4PM SPECIALS: 4-7:30PM BOB'S BBQ RIBS \$18 WALLEYE DINNER \$15 MEAT RAFFLE 5:30PM</p>
<p>11</p> <p>POHL FOUNDATION 9AM-4PM DOWNTOWN GOLF 11AM-5:30PM</p>	<p>12</p> <p>TONY POWERS PAINTING ADVENTURE 1PM-3PM</p>	<p>13</p> <p>HOT TURKEY SANDWICH LIONS MEETING 5:30PM LEGION RIDERS 7PM</p>	<p>14</p> <p>BROASTED CHICKEN RIB BASKET NARFE 11:30AM ROD BENDERS MEETING 5:30PM</p>	<p>15</p> <p>BROASTED CHICKEN POUND OF WINGS PAST COMMANDERS 6PM JACOB'S VOICE 5:30 JACOB'S LIONS 6:30PM</p>	<p>16</p> <p>BROASTED CHICKEN PULLED PORK SANDWICH & CUP OF SOUP SPORTS BOOSTERS NOON SHEETMETAL WORKERS 5PM-7PM WOMEN OF TODAY 5:15PM</p>
<p>17</p> <p>SLOPPY JOE 11AM-4PM SPECIALS: 4-7:30PM BROASTED CHICKEN DINNER WALLEYE DINNER \$15 MEAT RAFFLE 5:30PM HILLBILLY ROCK SHOW 7PM-10PM</p>	<p>18</p> <p>LE & VETS LIONS PANCAKE & POKER 11AM-3PM</p>	<p>19</p> <p>HOT TURKEY SANDWICH GRIEF GROUP NOON E-BOARD MTG 5:30PM POST MEMBERSHIP MTG 5:30PM GAMBLING MTG 5:30PM AUXILIARY 6PM BEE KEEPERS 6PM</p>	<p>20</p> <p>BROASTED CHICKEN RIB BASKET CLASS OF '73 6PM</p>	<p>21</p> <p>BROASTED CHICKEN POUND OF WINGS</p>	<p>22</p> <p>BROASTED CHICKEN POUND OF WINGS</p>
<p>23</p> <p>BROASTED CHICKEN PULLED PORK SANDWICH & CUP OF SOUP SPORTS BOOSTERS NOON</p>	<p>24</p> <p>SLOPPY JOE 11AM-4PM SPECIALS: 4-7:30PM SWEDISH MEATBALLS \$15 WALLEYE DINNER \$15 MEAT RAFFLE 5:30PM</p>	<p>25</p> <p>BRD LEGION & BRD ELKS PRESENT DOS GUYS 1PM-4PM FOOD AVAILABLE STARTING AT NOON</p>	<p>26</p> <p>BREAKFAST 8AM-NOON</p>	<p>27</p> <p>HOT TURKEY SANDWICH LIONS MEETING 5:30PM</p>	<p>28</p> <p>BROASTED CHICKEN RIB BASKET BETHLEHEM GROUP NOON</p>
<p>29</p> <p>BROASTED CHICKEN POUND OF WINGS SENIOR MIXED COFFEE LEAGUE LUNCH 11:30AM</p>	<p>30</p> <p>BROASTED CHICKEN PULLED PORK SANDWICH & CUP OF SOUP SPORTS BOOSTERS NOON NIGHT STRIKERS BOWLING BANQUET 5PM</p>	<p>31</p> <p>BROASTED CHICKEN POUND OF WINGS</p>	<p>BAR HOURS: MONDAY-THURSDAY: 11AM-9PM FRIDAY: 11AM-9PM SATURDAY: NOON-5PM SUNDAY: CLOSED</p> <p>KITCHEN HOURS: MONDAY-THURSDAY: 11:30AM-7PM FRIDAY: 11:30AM-7:30PM SATURDAY & SUNDAY: CLOSED</p>		