

BRAINERD AMERICAN LEGION POST 255



VETERANS HELPING THE COMMUNITY

THE COMMANDER MARCH 2026

COMMANDER REPORT



Greetings - As we head into March, spring is starting to peek through the snow, and we're excited about some positive changes and updates around the Post.

Breakfast Menu Update – Something for Everyone!

We're rolling out a refreshed breakfast menu this month with more flexibility. We will still have "all-you-can-eat Pancakes and French Toast", but you will now have great options to suit your appetite and budget: **This Month's Special (different each month):** Country

Fried Steak with eggs and potatoes – hearty, classic, and sure to hit the spot. Pick 2 or 3 items – like Pancakes or French Toast paired with your choice of meat, potatoes or scrambled eggs. Biscuits & Gravy available as a standalone order. And yes, we're keeping the popular **all-you-can-eat Potato Pancakes and French Toast** with all the fixings (sausage, eggs, potatoes, etc.) for those big appetites, just like before. Come on down and try the new lineup, whether you're grabbing a quick bite or loading up the plate. Breakfast hours remain the same 8am-Noon, and the kitchen team is ready to serve you hot and fresh.

Kitchen & Menu Improvements - The staff is really settling into their new positions, and the team is doing a fantastic job. We've already made some tasty upgrades: New fries, updated chicken strips, better pickles for the burgers. These changes are getting great feedback, and look for even more menu items to evolve in the near future. We're committed to keeping things fresh and delicious for all our members and guests.

Welcoming Our Snowbirds Back - We're looking forward to seeing our snowbird members returning soon as the weather warms up. The Post always feels more lively when everyone's back in town. Bring your stories from the road and join us for a meal or a cold one!

Membership Growth - Our membership continues to grow, which is fantastic news for the Post and our mission. If you know a veteran who isn't yet part of the Legion family, please invite them down. A personal invite from a fellow vet goes a long way. Let's keep building our community together. Eligibility info is always available on our website or from any officer.

Thank you all for your continued support, camaraderie, and service to our Post and our country. Stay safe out there, and we'll see you soon at the Legion.

Commander – Wayne Harting

AUXILIARY REPORT

Auxiliary did not meet in the month of February for a report. We are not meeting in the month of March either. See you at our monthly meeting the 3rd Monday of the month at 6pm starting again in April.

Kathy Wiersgalla
Auxiliary President

AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP

Everyone should have a 2nd notice from National if your dues have not been paid for 2026. Please pay now so it's not forgotten.

Deaths for Unit 255 Members. Cheryl Johnson and Sharon Leese.
Our sincere sympathy to the families on the loss of their love ones.

Sharon Berkner, Membership Chairman

ORATORICAL U.S. CONSTITUTION CONTEST

On January 24th the 6th District contest was held at the Nisswa Legion. Our Brainerd High School winner, Lilly DeRosier, won second place. Lilly did a wonderful job and learned valuable information about our constitution and her responsibilities as a citizen. As a result, Lilly won \$200 from our district and \$200 more from our Brainerd Legion.

For God and Country, Tom Swanson

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 92.5% 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 FUNERAL HONORS FOR THE FOLLOWING:

January 29th, William G Hanson, US Army
February 16th, Robert Horak, US Air Force, Post 255 member
February 21st, Daniel Wiechmann, US Army, Post 255 member

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

Executive Board

An election will be held in May for two Executive Board members. An Executive Board member serves a for three-year term. Please place your name on the nominating form if you are interested in serving. This is great way to become involved in the post activities. Contact one of the above listed board members if you have any questions.

**THANK YOU
VOLUNTEERS!**

**We are looking for more volunteers
willing to help serve food on
special occasions and Friday nights.**

**Please contact the Legion or ask
your bartender how to sign up.**

LEGION RIDERS REPORT



Nice little break with record setting warmth in February. The sun is getting stronger, not too many days left of cold weather. Time to start thinking about shining up the old bike or buying a new one. Put those tax returns to good use. Changes are coming to the post. The new commander is trying new things to bring more activity to the post and raise

membership. Please support him with this mission. It will benefit us all.

We would like to extend a hardy thank you to the Lions Club for a large donation to the post through the riders for the ice machine replacement.

On Saturday February 28th the post had a beanbag tournament open to the public and hosted by the riders. The riders administered the tournament, served the drinks, cooked the food. Payout was determined by the number of contestants. Cash prizes were award and participation was great and a big thank you to the participants and the riders who supported the event.

If you get a chance, 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 for a small donation to support the riders and their projects.

Due to the time of year, isolation is a common issue with some members, I would like to encourage everyone to remember to do your buddy checks and visit those who seem to be secluded during this period. If you are aware of someone who could use some company, visit them, or let us know so we can help.

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: April 13th, 2026 7:00 PM, Post 255.

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,
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, March 1st

EAGLES: Sunday, March 8th (8:30am)

VFW: Sunday, March 15th

LEGION: Sunday, March 22nd

ELKS: Sunday, March 29th



FRIDAY DINNERS SERVED 4PM-8PM

Friday, March 6th - AYCE Fish Dinner \$15

Friday, March 13th - Shrimp Alfredo \$15

Friday, March 20th - AYCE Fish Dinner \$15

Friday, March 27th - Roast Beef Dinner \$15

Walleye Dinner \$15 Every Friday Night

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

CORNED BEEF & CABBAGE \$15.50

REUBEN \$12

TUESDAY, MARCH 17TH
STARTING AT 11:30AM

LUCK OF THE IRISH
\$6

The graphic features a vibrant rainbow arching across a dark green background. On the left, a green leprechaun hat with a gold buckle sits on a bed of shamrocks. On the right, a wooden bowl is filled with gold coins. In the center, a wooden sign displays the menu items and prices. Below the sign, a plate of corned beef and cabbage is shown on the left, and a stack of Reuben sandwiches is on the right. At the bottom, a wooden banner announces the date and time, and a small sign in the bottom right corner advertises a \$6 drink.

MARCH MEAT RAFFLE GROUPS

Friday, March 6th - Gabriel's Home

Friday, March 13th - TBD

Friday, March 20th - Warrior Cheer

Friday, March 27th - Warrior Wrestling

Every Friday Night starting at 5:30pm

EVENTS AT THE LEGION

Sunday, March 1st - Warrior Cheer Purse & Gun Bingo 1pm Start

Saturday, March 7th - Kevin Christensen's Celebration of Life 4-7pm

Saturday, March 14th - Downtown St. Patrick's Celebration

Tuesday, March 17th - Happy St. Patrick's Day!!! Corned & Cabbage 11:30am

Sunday, March 22nd - New Breakfast Menu 8am-Noon

MEETINGS AT THE LEGION

Monday, March 2nd - IBEW 6pm

Tuesday, March 3rd - BMX 6:30pm

Thursday, March 5th - Sports Boosters Noon / Marin Corp 5:30pm

Women of Today 6pm / Bricklayers 7pm

Saturday, March 7th - Trappers Association Meeting 8:30am-2pm

Monday, March 9th - Brainerd Lions 5:30pm / Legion Riders 7pm

Tuesday, March 10th - NARFE 11am

Wednesday, March 11th - Retired State Hospital Workers Noon

Thursday, March 12th - LE & VETS Lions 6:30pm

Monday, March 16th - Grief Group Noon / E-Board, Gambling, Post Meetings 5:30pm

Bee Keepers 6pm

Wednesday, March 18th - Jacob's Voice 5:30pm / Jacob's Lions 6:30pm

Thursday, March 19th - Sports Boosters Noon

Monday, March 23rd - Brainerd Lions 5:30pm

Wednesday, March 25th - Gopher 1 Breakfast/Meeting 7am

Thursday, March 26th - Sports Boosters Noon

Tuesday, March 31st - Bethlehem Group Noon

