

American Legion Post 330 Newsletter

Hayfield, Minnesota

January/February 2025

**A Message from the Legion Commander,
Vince Reynolds**

Hayfieldmnlegion@gmail.com

I hope everyone's new year is off to a great start. I think we had a very successful year in 2024 and hope to continue the trend. We have continued the renovating and updating of the bar and hall including a completely new sound system and new commercial grade and ADA compliant stools in the bathrooms.

I would like to, once again, thank Sue Anderson for producing the Rothie newsletter for the past 10 years and Dawn Reed who has volunteered to take it up. Please be patient as we make this transition, In 2025, we are looking to remodel the front entrance to make it ADA compliant as well.

Thank you to those who have gotten your membership renewals submitted. We are only looking at a couple of renewals remaining which puts Rothie at a 98%. We are always looking for new members and the Post will sponsor new members by paying their first year's membership dues. If you know of a veteran in your neighborhood, invite them to join the largest veteran's group in the country that represents us by lobbying congress to enact pro-veteran legislation and overlooks the veteran's disability claim process. It is important that our voices be heard!

**A Message from the SAL Commander,
Matt Nelson**

HayfieldMNSAL.com

We will once again be giving Free meals to families in need this holiday season.

We donated \$800 worth of stuff for the Cancer Telethon Auction.

The SAL is taking a tour of area legions on January 11th. Contact Matt Nelson if interested.

We donated \$500 to Hayfield Christmas, \$500 to Share and Care, \$500 to HHS for Wrestling mat, \$1,000 to HHS for the CTE class. I guess it is the time of year for giving:):)

We "Welcome New Member," Dominic Dahlen!

**A Message from the Auxiliary President,
A Message from the Legion Auxiliary
President,**

Andrea Reynolds

As we look forward to a fresh start in 2025, we also reflect thankfully on a full holiday season for the Auxiliary. We hosted another successful Turkey BINGO in November, as well as Family BINGO for Hayfield's Holiday Fest in early December-many thanks to the volunteers who helped with calling, selling cards, providing and serving treats to make these festive events possible! Our Unit also celebrated with a Holiday party and

collected many food items for donation to the Hayfield Community Food Pantry.

January brings National Security month, headed by chairperson Mary Wildeman and Legislation month, headed by chairperson Deb Towey.

February brings us Americanism month, and chairperson Sandy Krekling is again organizing the essay writing contest in our schools. We look forward to hearing what our students have to say about "What does America The Beautiful mean to me (regarding veterans and our military)?"

Are you or another American Legion Auxiliary member you know pursuing education in a health care field? Did you know that the Past Presidents Parley Health Care Scholarship was established to assist needy and deserving youth and adults to commence or further any phase of their education in a health care field? The applicant must be a member of the ALA for a minimum of three years, and the application deadline is in March. Please contact Education chairperson Lori Kindschy (fredlorik@yahoo.com or (507) 696-0113) or President Andrea Reynolds ((507) 251-7305) for more information.

If the New Year finds you cleaning and organizing, please consider donating Christmas Cards to be crafted into gift tags for our veterans at 2025 VA&R gift shops; please bring these cards to the January Auxiliary meeting for collection. You may also bring in pop tabs, postage stamps, and greeting card fronts, which are collected for other ongoing Auxiliary projects.

As you make your list of goals for 2025, I hope you include attending our monthly meetings, 7PM the second Tuesday of the month at the Legion building in Hayfield, and that we see you soon!

Wishing you a healthy and blessed New Year!

**A Message from the Auxiliary
Membership Chairperson, Marcia Bungum**
Thank you to all the Auxiliary members who have paid their membership dues for 2025.

You can pay your dues by sending a \$35 check to:
Marcia Bungum - 27491 State Hwy 30 - Hayfield,
MN 55940 OR by paying online by going to:
www.mnala.org Thank you!

**A Message from the Legion Chaplain,
Frank Moon**

Listed below are the Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and SAL members that are known to have passed away since the last Newsletter:

- Larry Sparks
- Donald Bungum (Non-member)
- Richard Root (Omitted from previous Newsletter)

Our sincere sympathy to their families & friends.

I have nearly completed the "**Vietnam Veteran of the Month**" articles for those individuals listed as Vietnam Vets on our Legion roster. If you were missed, it is probably because I could not contact you by mail or by phone. Or perhaps you originally "turned me down" and now you are willing to be interviewed.

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Hayfield, MN 55940
Phone: (507)477-2441
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Label

LEGION, AUXILIARY, & SAL UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 2025

Jan. 1 New Years Day
Jan. 6 BINGO @ Legion @ 7PM
Jan. 8 SAL Mtg. @ Legion @ 7PM
Jan. 11 1st District Mid-Winter Conference,
Winona Post 9
Jan. 13 BINGO @ Legion @ 7PM
Jan. 14 Legion & Aux. Mtgs. @ 7 PM
Jan. 20 BINGO @ Legion @ 7 PM
Jan. 27 BINGO @ Legion @ 7 PM

FEBRUARY 2025

Feb. 3 BINGO @ Legion @ 7 PM
Feb. 5 SAL Mtg. @ Legion @ 7 PM
Feb. 8 Sweetheart Rally-Royalton
Feb. 10 BINGO @ Legion @ 7 PM
Feb. 11 Legion & Aux. Mtgs.@ 7 PM
Feb. 14 Valentine's Day
Feb. 17 BINGO @ Legion @ 7 PM
Feb. 24 BINGO @ Legion @ 7 PM

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Mike Stasko January Veteran of the Month

Mike Stasko graduated from Green Bay East High School in 1993. He attended the University of Minnesota for 2 years, and worked as a roofer and also at IBM before enlisting in the Army in Jan. 1999.

Mike was sent to Fort Knox, KY for sixteen weeks of OSUT (One Station Unit Training). This combined the normal Basic Training with his Advanced Individual Training (AIT) in armored tanks. Upon completion, he was promoted to E-3 and had a two week leave back home.

In June 1999, Stasko reported to the 270th Armored Battalion at Fort Riley, KS on a 4-year assignment. Mike, and his wife April, lived off-post and eventually they were able to live on-post. He was deployed to Kuwait in August 2000, and was promoted to E-4. Just before deploying to Kuwait, their daughter, Abby, was born. He deployed to Kuwait again in 2002. Much of their work was training for defending Kuwait against another possible Iraq invasion.

Stasko was released from active duty in January 2003, and in May 2003 he joined the Army National Guard with the 1194th Armored Battalion at Brainerd. A couple of months later, their unit was activated and sent to Fort Dix, NJ for more training. They were sent to Balad Air Base, Iraq which is located 40 miles north of Baghdad. They were an area security company, and patrolled the highways in Humvees. No other vehicles were allowed on the roads at night. Mike recalls being the lead vehicle on a very narrow road during a night patrol. The Humvee behind Stasko hit an IED (Improvised Explosive Device) which blew the front end off that vehicle! The soldiers were shaken up, but unhurt! One of their jobs was to explode large quantities of ordinance. The natives would wait for the signal when they could venture into the area to pick up the "spent" brass and sell it on the market!

Mike's battalion was supposed to fly to Fort Irwin, NE of Los Angeles, to the National Training Center on 9/11 but they were held back several days because of the terrorist attack. While at the Center, they took turns being the "aggressor" and the "defender" in mock battles for four weeks.

Stasko was released from the National Guard in June 2006 as an E-5. He eventually went to work for the Freeborn County Sheriff's Office, and is now the Jail Administrator.

Mike and April (Haskins) raised four children: Karl, Abby, Aine, and Sam.

Nancy Haukom February Veteran of the Month

Nancy (Jensen) Haukom graduated from Austin High School in 1969. She worked for Owatonna Canning Company for several months before signing up for a three-year enlistment in the WAC (Women's Army Corp), with a guarantee for training as a Medical Lab Technician.

On January 22, 1970, Nancy reported to Fort McCellan, Alabama (near Anniston) for her Basic Training. She remembers it being chilly and rainy much of that time. They did much the same as the male recruits with lots of marching, calisthenics, KP, and the gas chamber, but no weapons training! She was promoted to E-2 upon completion of Basic and had a brief leave back home.

Haukom's next assignment was to Fort Sam Houston, TX in late May 1970 for Medical Tech training. Many Vietnam veterans with serious burns came through this post. Nancy was promoted to E-3 upon completion of her training.

She was transferred to Fort Belvoir, VA and worked in the DeWitt Army Hospital lab for 6 months. She was then attached to Vint Hill Farm Station dispensary, an army security facility, and home of the Morse Code Interceptors, whose assignment was to monitor messages from all over the world. Nancy was the Lab tech for the facility, so she "did it all". In January 1971 she was promoted to Spec-4. Later that year she was promoted to Specialist 5.

A highlight for Nancy was to be among five WAC's who conferred with Brigadier General Mildred Bailey regarding their concerns, discrimination, and opportunities with WAC,

Haukom remembers a bomb scare in 1972 which caused a "lock down" of the post. At the time she was supposed to be meeting her mother and her sister at the airport! It caused considerable stress until they were cleared to leave the post!

Nancy was released from active duty as a Spec-5 and used the GI Bill for additional schooling. She briefly attended Austin Community College taking prerequisites for a major in Medical Technology. Haukom changed majors and attended Rochester Community College to earn her RN degree, and worked for St Marys Hospital/Mayo Clinic in Rochester for 35 years. During this time she earned a Bachelor's degree in Nursing from St. Catherine College in Saint Paul.

Nancy met Larry Haukom at the Austin American Legion while at a Vietnam Appreciation event. They were married in August 1975, and raised two daughters: Lisa and Laura.