

American Legion Post 330 Newsletter

Hayfield, Minnesota

July/August 2024

A Message from the Legion Commander, Vince Reynolds hayfieldmnlegion@gmail.com

I hope everyone is making the most of their summer. The Post has been very busy since May, taking part in the flagpole dedication at Crest View Villa, Memorial Day ceremonies at several locations, a flag retirement ceremony, a Veterans Memorial Service, and the Field of Flags during the Chicken Fry. **A BIG THANK YOU to those who were able to help with those ceremonies.** I firmly believe that our involvement in the community is one of the main reasons our membership continues to increase. On that note, at the June membership meeting, we approved a recommendation to sponsor new members by paying their first year's membership dues. This is seen as a way to get prospective new members in the door and let them see what we are all about. We will give it a try and see what happens.

The **2025 Membership renewal letters** should be arriving in your mailboxes shortly. You will notice that dues have gone up to **\$45**, a \$5 increase from last year. This is an increase made by the Department / National level. There will also be an option to renew for three years. You can either mail your dues in, drop them off at the Club, renew online, or wait until September's Membership Dinner. We hope to have all of 2025 renewals completed by December.

We held Post elections in May, and I am honored to have been elected to serve another two-year term as the Post Commander. Craig Bauman was re-elected 1st Commander; Scott Phoenix was elected 2nd Vice Commander; Jerry McCloud was re-elected Finance Officer; and Kelly Sobeck was appointed as our new Adjutant. Frank Moon will continue as our Chaplain; Tom Walerak will continue as Sergeant-At-Arms; Pat Towey Jr. will continue as our Gambling Manager. Thank You and Congratulations to our new leadership team! I hope to continue the work we have started and rest on our achievements. There is more we can do for our members, at the Club, and within our community.

A Message from the SAL Commander, Matt Nelson HayfieldMNSAL.com

We placed approximately 500 flags in our communities this year during the four summer flag holidays. **"Thank You"** to all that have supported our **"Fly the Flag" project.**

We sponsored **"Hit, Pitch, and Run"** at the High School again this spring. We had an excellent turnout with 75-80 kids attending.

The SAL presented **two \$500 Scholarships** to qualifying seniors at Hayfield High School at their May Awards Program. **Congratulations to Chelsey Christopherson and Aidan Nelson!**

A few members were able to listen/watch **Jack Zimmerman, (Cleveland, MN)** speak at the High School in May. He was great! We may have him return to share his story.

We donated \$100 to buy meals for the two State Golf entrants.

Any SAL members needing shirts or hats, please let me know.

Please consider joining the **SAL (Sons of the American Legion).** We can always use new voices and support.

SAL usually meets the 1st Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Legion Clubroom, but due to our members setting up flags for our **"Fly the Flag"** project that evening, July 3rd, **the next meeting will be Wednesday, August 7th.**



A Message from the Auxiliary President, Andrea Reynolds

Summer brings us longer days, and many opportunities to fill them! The Auxiliary has been busy hosting BINGO at the Legion, with a successful move to Monday nights. There are still opportunities to help with BINGO through the end of July. Please reach out if you would like to be join the fun!

In May, our Unit awarded **three \$300 Scholarships** to graduating seniors from Hayfield High School. The scholarship winners were: **Jackson Thoe, Nicholas Larsen, and Jenna Klocke**. We **Congratulate them** on their achievements and wish them continued success!

The **Memorial Day program** was well attended despite the rain. **Thank You** to all our **Auxiliary members** who helped to lay the wreath for Gold Star families, and to those thoughtful souls who (literally) stood behind our uniformed Legionnaires, and **shared their umbrellas**.

Our Hayfield Unit was well represented at the **District Convention** in May, and brought home seven awards, recognizing the excellent work done by our programs throughout the year! Our **Auxiliary received awards for Children and Youth (Madison Edgar), Community Service (Judy Kaczmarek), Memorial (Diane Boley), Music (Debbie Nordland), National Security (Mary Wildeman), Public Relations (Darcy Lee), and Service to Veterans (Mary Wildeman)**. Also, **Congratulations to our own Leah Milburn who was elected to serve as Second Vice President of our District for the next year**.

At our Unit, officers who will serve for the 2024-2025 year are as listed below:

- **President** ... **Andrea Reynolds**
- **1st Vice** ... **Leah Milburn**
- **2nd Vice** ... **Darcy Lee**
- **Treasurer** ... **Deb Towey**
- **Sergeant At Arms** ... **Aimee Larson**
- **Executive Board** ... **Betty Moon and**
... **Sue Anderson**

Do you have gently used books you no longer need? Please consider donating them for a library at the new **Preston Veteran's Home!** They request **NO military books**. Donations will be collected at the Legion Club for delivery to the Veteran's Home.

We hope to see you at our next meeting! We meet the second Tuesday of the month at 7 PM at the Legion in Hayfield.



Listed below are the members that are known to have passed away since the last Newsletter:

Greg Osborn ... 3-Year Member - Post 330

Post 330 held a Memorial Service for Greg Osborn (Sargeant) on June 8th, at their farm near Sargeant.

Mary Jane Haukom ... 47-Year Member

A Memorial Service was held for Mary Jane following the June 11th meetings.

Our sincere thoughts and prayers go out to Greg and Mary Jane's families & friends.

The Auxiliary continues to collect small, unopened hotel/motel sized soaps, lotions, shampoos, etc. that will be given to the VA Hospital. We also collect the following items:

- Pop Can Tabs
- Used Greeting Card fronts
- (No handwriting on them)
- Cancelled Postage Stamps with ¼" border around them.

Please drop items off at the Legion Clubrooms. We appreciate your time and effort in collecting these items for us. Thank You!

Jerry Hugeback Veteran of the Month

Jerry Hugeback graduated from Hayfield High School in 1966. He attended Dunwoody Institute in Minneapolis majoring in Electronics.

In the fall of '68, he checked his status with the Dodge County draft board, and discovered he was number two on the list! So, he went to Minneapolis and enlisted in the US Navy! Hugeback reported to San Diego Naval Training Station on October 28, 1968 to begin his four-year enlistment. He remembers most of the young men in his group were from Minnesota.

Jerry had a 10 day leave to come home for Christmas and returned to finish boot camp.

He was assigned to the USS Hooper, a Destroyer Escort, which was used for two-week training sessions for Naval Reservists. He was assigned to IC (Internal Communications) with a rank of E-2, Fireman. His responsibility was to operate, and maintain, the gyroscope compass, the sound-powered phones, and the entertainment equipment. He was also in charge of selecting the movies for the troops. He recalls most of them were rather old movies, but he did the best he could with what was available to him. Hugeback spent two years on the USS Hooper and advanced in rank to Petty Officer 3rd class.

In April of 1970, Jerry was assigned to the USS Morton, DDG 948, located at Pearl Harbor. This was a destroyer which had been re-commissioned and the guns had been replaced with rocket launchers. In Sept. of '71, they left for WESTPAC, (Western Pacific) and spent seven months at sea. During the seven months they would port in the Philippines for repair and re-supply.

Their next assignment was to Vietnam for fire support, and plane guarding. They went through a nasty storm where the gyro indicated a 45 degree list, or tilt. (Very nearly capsizing!) As they crossed the equator, Hugeback was initiated in the King Neptune court and became a "shellback". This is an initiation for first-time equator crossings! They made stops at New Zealand and Australia before returning to Pearl Harbor.

Hugeback was released from active duty on Oct. 12, 1972 as an E-5, Petty Officer 2nd class. He worked briefly as an electrician in Elgin before becoming a maintenance supervisor for Stauffer Chemical in Rochester

Jerry married Dawn Severson May 8, 1971 and they raised two children; Mike and Heather.

Steve Jensen Veteran of the Month

Steve Jensen graduated from Hayfield High School in 1974, and attended RCTC for a short while before enlisting in the Navy in December 1975.

He reported to the Naval Training Center at Orlando, Florida for 10 weeks of Boot Camp. (Incidentally Dave Groteluschen of Sargeant was in his training company; #182.) Steve fondly recalls that he was a member of the base choir! He completed Boot Camp in February and had a ten-day leave before reporting to San Diego for 14 weeks of Radioman "A" school.

Following a 2-week leave at home, Steve spent 33 hrs flying to Pearl Harbor, Philippines, then to Seoul Korea, where his brother, Randy, had been stationed 5 years earlier! After 2 week of TDY, Jensen flew to Pusan, Korea where he boarded his ship; the USS Ogden LDP-5 which would be his home for the remainder of his enlistment. She was an amphibious transport dock, with a crew of 450 men, and capacity for 900 Marines. They could land two helicopters at a time on the deck, and could hold nine LST's (Landing Crafts) below deck. As was customary, he spent his first 90 days in the mess hall, although he was primarily assigned to the "Chief's mess hall, which put him in contact with all the "brass"! Steve was a part of the "Radio Shack" which was manned "around the clock" to send and receive messages. He had to climb the mast to maintain the integrity of the antenna regardless of the weather! He delivered most of the messages to the Captain, or the Exec, Officer, so he was well acquainted with each of them. Steve made two "West Pac" tours in '76 and '78.

Jensen became a member of the ship's soccer team. The Vietnam War was over, and they were considered ambassadors for the USA. They practiced on the deck, or below in the "hold", which resulted in lots of scrapes and bruises! They played teams in the Philippines, Korea, Australia, Japan, and Taiwan. While they generally couldn't speak their language, sharing a beer with the teams after the match produced some camaraderie! Their ship's commander told them they were the "champions" of the 7th Fleet, though they never saw the commendation!

Jensen recalls being docked at Hong Kong in 1978, as a typhoon was approaching. The MP's swept the area and ordered everyone back to the ship in order to get out of the harbor as 25-foot swells were moving into the area!

Jensen crossed the equator in '76 and was initiated in the King Neptune court and became a "shellback". When he crossed it again in '78 it was a very different event for him as a "Golden" shellback!

Steve was released from active duty Nov. 29, 1979 as an E-5, Radioman 2nd class Petty Officer. He spent 40 years in flooring sales in Rochester.

Hayfield American Legion Post 330
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LEGION, AUXILIARY & SAL UPCOMING EVENTS

July, 2024

- July 1 BINGO @ Legion @ 7 PM
- July 3 NO SAL MEETING (Setting up flags)
- July 4 4th of July
- July 8 BINGO @ Legion @ 7 PM
- July 9 Legion & Auxiliary Mtgs. @ 7 PM
- July 11-13 Dept. Convention @ Willmar
- July 15 BINGO @ Legion @ 7 PM
- July 22 BINGO @ Legion @ 7 PM
- July 29 BINGO @ Legion @ 7 PM

P.S.
Thank You to all who helped with the Omelet
Breakfast. You know who you are!! Jerry & Pat

LEGION, AUXILIARY & SAL UPCOMING EVENTS

August, 2024

- August 5 BINGO @ Legion @ 7 PM
- August 7 SAL Meeting @ Legion @ 7 PM
- August 12 BINGO @ Legion @ 7 PM
- August 13 Legion & Auxiliary Mtgs. @ 7 PM
- August 19 BINGO @ Legion @ 7 PM
- August 26 BINGO @ Legion @ 7 PM