

American Legion Post 330 Newsletter

Hayfield, Minnesota

May/June 2024

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

I am proud to announce that **Rothie Post 330** was selected as the **First District Mid-Sized Post of the Year!** This is an honor that we should all be proud of. We have not yet received the certificate, but I will display it in the Club as soon as we do. We also received a **Membership Recognition Certificate** for surpassing 100% of our Membership goal for the 2022-2023 Membership year. We were able to surpass our Membership goal this year as well. Speaking of Membership, it won't be long, and the Membership renewal letters will be showing up in your mailboxes. Our goal will be once again to be complete with renewals by December.

With summer on the way, we enter our busiest time of the year. From Memorial Day observances to the Hayfield Chicken Fry Parade, we could use as much help as possible from the membership to represent the Post. If not having a uniform is what is keeping you from joining in the fun, check with our Sergeant-At-Arms, Tom Walerak, and he will get you all taken care of.

We will be holding our **elections at the May Membership meeting**. All positions are open. We will be taking nominations and voting at our regular meeting on May 14th. There are positions that we have not been able to fill the past couple of years. I would encourage anyone who has not held an office to step into one of the open positions. There is a lot of experience in the room to ensure your success.

We will be honoring the **Hayfield Elementary School Patrol** kids before our **Tuesday, May 14th** Legion & Auxiliary meetings. The kids will get ice cream sundaes at **6:45 PM** and we will present them with their "**Certificates of Appreciation**" at **7:00 PM**. *****

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

The SAL "**Fly the Flag**" Project is back! Just like in previous years, you will get four holidays (**Memorial Day, Flag Day, 4th of July, and Labor Day**) for a one-time payment of only **\$25**. **If you paid for a flag last year, you will get one this year unless we hear differently from you. Please pay by the first holiday ... May 27th**. New people wishing to have a flag put up, should contact one of the following people:

- Fred Kindschy ... 507-477-2412
- Kasey Krekling... 507-259-0192

Checks can be made payable to ... Hayfield SAL & mailed to:

- Fred Kindschy
405 2nd St, NE
PO Box 271
Hayfield, MN 55940

The SAL (**Sons of the American Legion**) will be presenting **two \$500 Scholarships** to qualifying seniors at Hayfield High School at the May Awards Program. Congratulations!

SAL Field work day is **Sunday, May 19th**.

SAL, along with the Legion, is sponsoring a speaker to coincide with Memorial Day. **Jack Zimmerman, a wounded veteran**, will speak to 6th-12th graders at **Hayfield High School** on **May 6th at 10:00 AM**. **The public is welcome.**

We welcome new SAL members ...
Chad O'Connor, Norm Young, & Brad Pater.

**A Message from the Auxiliary President,
Andrea Reynolds**

With the warmer days, we look ahead to spring and summer activities at the Legion Club and outdoors! The Auxiliary will be hosting **BINGO Nights** at the Legion for twelve weeks starting in mid-May. **BINGO will start at 7 PM on Thursday nights in May and will move to Monday nights beginning in June.** We would love to have you join us during these fun filled evenings. Please reach out if you can help on any of these nights.

May is Poppy Month, and all are encouraged to wear the poppy to honor our fallen service members. Please watch for poppies in our communities and consider donating to support programs for our veterans active-duty service members and their families. Our area Kindergarten students will learn about the significance of the poppy during a classroom presentation in May, and **poppy coloring books will be available in our Legion Club. National Poppy Day is the Friday before Memorial Day, May 24, 2024.**

Please plan to participate in **Memorial Day** observances in our community, including **cemetery visits, Memorial Day program at Veteran's Memorial Park, and dinner at the Legion Club**, with times as listed elsewhere in this Newsletter.

"Flanders Field" is in place in the Legion dining hall, and crosses are available for purchase to honor or remember someone important in your life. Orders can be made using forms included in the last Newsletter or available at the Legion Club, for a **cost of \$5 per cross.**

We hope to see you at our next meeting, and that you will invite your eligible friends and neighbors to join our Auxiliary! **We meet the second Tuesday of the month at 7 PM at the Legion in Hayfield.**

*Enclosed with this Newsletter you will find
this year's information about the
"Field of Flags."
Your continued support is appreciated.*

**A Message from the Community Service
Chairperson, Judy Kaczmarek**

"THANK YOU" to all who have turned in their **Community Service Hours!** Once again, I submitted almost 3000 hours in my yearly report. **What a wonderful outpouring of care and service for others!** This is probably just a fraction of what our members do as there's a large number of members who don't turn in any hours. I'm sure they are busy sewing, quilting, and helping others in various ways. It can seem to be a daunting task to keep track of hours. A couple of things that might help: No names are used anywhere in reporting. Also, you don't have to jot down every fifteen minutes of service if you don't want to. You know how long a project took you, whether it's driving someone, making a meal or sewing a quilt. Estimates are fine. **Again," thank you" for all you do for our veterans and our community.**



Currently, only one Auxiliary member is known to have passed away since the last Newsletter:

Liz Fredrickson ... 58 years of Membership
Our sincere sympathy to Liz's family and friends.

For a donation of \$5 each, the Auxiliary is offering individual crosses to be designated **"In Memory of"** OR **"In Honor of"** any individuals on our Flanders Field Wall Display located in the Hayfield American Legion dining area. (Veterans and non-veterans). Forms were included in the previous Newsletter mailing, or are available at the Post Clubrooms. You can mail your requests to: Andrea Reynolds, - 70776 220th Ave - Hayfield, MN 55940. **(Please print clearly)!**

Legion, Auxiliary, & SAL Upcoming Events

May, 2024

- May 1 SAL Monthly Meeting @ 7 PM
May 2 BINGO @ Legion @ 7 PM
May 6 Jack Zimmerman, a wounded
o veteran, will speak @ HHS @
o 10 AM. The public is welcome.
May 9 BINGO @ Legion @ 7 PM
May 12 Mother's Day
May 14 Hayfield School Patrol
Recognition @ Legion @ 6:45 PM
Legion & Auxiliary Mtgs.@ 7PM
May 16 BINGO @ Legion @ 7 PM
May 18 Armed Forces Day
1st Dist. Convention-Austin Post 91
May 19 SAL Field work day
May 23 BINGO @ Legion @ 7 PM
May 24 National Poppy Day
American Legion Night @ Target
Field
May 27 Memorial Day
"Fly the Flag" payment due
May 30 BINGO @ Legion @ 7 PM

June, 2024

- June 2 Flag Retirement Ceremony@1 PM
June 3 BINGO @ Legion @ 7 PM
June 5 SAL Monthly Meeting @ 7 PM
June 10 BINGO @ Legion @ 7 PM
June 11 Legion & Auxiliary Mtgs. @ 7 PM
June 14 Flag Day
June 9-15 Boys State - St. John's Univ.
Girls State - Bethel Univ.
June 16 Father's Day
Legionville Safety Camp begins
June 17 BINGO @ Legion @ 7 PM
June 21-22 Hayfield Chicken Fry Celebration
June 22 Family BINGO-Times TBD
June 23 Breakfast served to Freedom
Wagon Train
June 24 BINGO @ Legion @ 7 PM

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 please)
- Cancelled Postage Stamps with 1/4" border around them.

Please drop items off at the Legion Clubrooms. We appreciate your time & effort in collecting these items for us.

Gene Trygstad May Veteran of the Month

Gene Trygstad graduated from Kasson High School in 1964. He worked for Loren Himle, and other farmers in the area for a couple of years.

He signed up for the Naval Reserves in 1965 and attended monthly meetings in Minneapolis. In the summer of 1966, Gene's draft notice arrived in the mailbox, so he drove to Minneapolis to make sure he was indeed a member of the US Navy! That summer he flew to Chicago and completed his "boot camp" at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center, on the North side of Chicago. He had a ten-day leave back home following boot camp.

Gene reported to the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard, and was assigned to the USS Wasp, CVS-18, an aircraft carrier with a compliment of +3,000 men. Trygstad has a special memory of November 15, 1966. The USS Wasp was the prime recovery ship to "pick up" astronauts James Lovell and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin when the spacecraft, Gemini 12, landed in the ocean. Gene remembers how hard the spacecraft hit the water, and he wondered if the astronauts had been hurt in the landing! They sent a watercraft to pick up the men and used helicopters to recover the spacecraft from the Atlantic Ocean, and return the capsule to his ship.

Trygstad's primary responsibility aboard the Wasp was desalination of sea water, using steam heat, to convert it to fresh water for human consumption, and for showers. He didn't have any special training for the process, but learned the operation through "on-the-job training"! They made numerous stops at Boston, Philadelphia, New Orleans, Puerto Rico, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, and Norfolk, Virginia, plus several bases in Florida. Gene recalls an incident one day, when the captain alerted the crew to look out over the fantail at a group of Russian submarines which were following their ship. The ship made a "U" turn and they watched the subs make the same maneuver and continue to follow them awhile!

Trygstad was released from active duty in 1968 at Naval Station, Newport, Rhode Island with a rank of E-3. Returning home, he attended Active Reserves for two years and had two more years inactive. He went back to work for Loren Himle, Farmers Co-op at Hayfield, and Kasson Concrete.

Gene married Ruth Nigon of Rochester on October 10, 1970 and they raised two children: Brian and Jenny.

Arlen Unger June Veteran of the Month

Arlen Unger was a member of the Kasson-Mantorville High School Class of 1960. He had been working with his dad when he decided to sign up for a three-year enlistment in the Army.

Unger took his Basic Training at Fort Leonard Wood, MO. He remembers it being so cold in June that the water froze in the Lyster Bags! He had a two-week leave upon completion of Basic.

Arlen's next assignment was to Fort Polk, LA for Advanced Infantry training. He recalls the extreme heat and humidity, and many of the men "falling out" because of "Heat Stroke"!

Unger signed up for Airborne training because you would earn an extra \$50 a month upon completion! He was assigned to Jump School with the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Benning, GA. After qualifying on the "towers" they went up in a plane for his first jump. (Also his first plane ride!) He remembers the fellow ahead of him "froze" at the door, but the instructor pushed him out anyway! Unger made PFC when he completed jump school. In October of 1962, the 101st Division was put "on alert to finish up the Bay of Pigs. They sat on the runway for three days, but never left the country.

Unger served in a number of positions including Supply clerk, Company Armorer, driver for the Company Commander, and payroll guard. However, he continued to make his monthly jumps to keep up his airborne certification. When President Kennedy was killed their unit was on "lock down" for a week,

They flew to Turkey for additional training, and ended up on the wrong side of Black Sea. Soon the Russian jets were along side of them, and motioning with their wing "wiggles" for them to land, which they ignored. They made stops in Terre Haute, Spain, the Azores, and Bermuda. The 101st was also sent to Natchez Trace, Mississippi to help calm the race riots. That was a scary assignment.

Arlen recalls they were also involved in a huge military exercise called "Desert Strike" in the Mojave Desert, CA in 1964

Unger was released from active duty on May 28, 1965 as an E-4. Arlen married Pam Wilson of Lyle Feb. 20, 1966 and the raised two children: Todd and Kathy.

The Hayfield American Legion will be holding **Memorial Day Services** at area cemeteries on **Monday, May 27, 2024** at these approximate times:

**POST 330 MEMORIAL DAY CEMETERY
"APPROXIMATE" TIME SCHEDULE**

8:15 AM	West St. Olaf
8:35 AM	Evanger
9:05 AM	St. John's - South of Sargeant
9:25 AM	Waltham-So. of Waltham-Hwy 56
9:45 AM	Greenwood-So. of Brownsdale
10:05AM	St. Michael's - Waltham
10:35AM	Trinity - Waltham
11:00AM	Fairview, Hayfield
11:30AM	Memorial Day Program- Hayfield @ Veteran's Memorial Park downtown Hayfield.

In case of **inclement weather**, the program will be moved to the **Hayfield High School Gym**. A **chicken dinner** will be **served** at the Legion from **11:30 AM-2:00 PM**. **Everyone is welcome to attend.**

The **bus** for the "**Legion Marchers**" will leave the Legion at **7:30 AM**.

<p>Enclosed with this Newsletter you will find this year's information about the "Field of Flags." Your continued support will be appreciated.</p>

“Field of Flags” - Saturday, June 22, 2024

Hayfield American Legion Post 330 is proud to again sponsor a “Field of Flags” during the Hayfield Fire Department Chicken Fry and Dance. This “Field of Flags” will be located on the lawn at Hayfield's Field Crest Care Center on Highway 30. **A short ceremony will be held at that location at 11:00 AM on Saturday, June 22, 2024.**

These flags are dedicated to all Americans - not just for our Veterans. Please help us by dedicating a flag to someone special in your life or for a family member ... living or deceased. If you would like a flag placed at the “Field of Flags,” **we are asking for a \$20 donation.** (Other contributions will be accepted also). **Please send your donation in the enclosed envelope, along with the form at the bottom of this page to:**

Hayfield Legion Post 330 – PO Box 448 - Hayfield, MN 55940

Checks can be made payable to: Hayfield Post 330

If you have questions, feel free to contact Mike Stasko at 507-696-1406, or Pat Towey at 507-421-4770, or Commander, Vince Reynolds at 507-251-6919.

Volunteers are needed to help set up the flags (June 19th at approximately 4:30 PM) and take them down the week after.

-----Cut and Return-----

Dedicate flag(s) to: _____

Dedicated by: _____

**Hayfield American Legion Post 330
PO Box 448
Hayfield, MN 55940
Phone: (507)477-2441
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**US Postage Paid
Non-Profit Organization
Hayfield, MN 55940
Permit #4**

[Type the recipient name]
[Type the recipient address]