



AMERICAN LEGION POST 330 NEWSLETTER

Hayfield, Minnesota
January & February 2026

A Message from the Legion Commander, Vince Reynolds - Hayfieldmnlegion.org

It is hard to believe that 2025 is already in the history books, I hope that 2025 brought you good fortune and that you were surrounded by loved ones when you needed support.

We have concluded the major renovations at the club and I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to the members of the Post, Auxiliary and SAL who rolled up their sleeves to help. There are always going to be things that need to be updated and fixed up but we knocked out some major ones this past year. Thank you for your support and patience as we worked through and around these renovations.

Membership renewals are coming in slowly. We are currently waiting for 15 members to renew.

We will be having Post elections coming up in May. We will have a couple of positions open if anyone would like to take on a bigger role in the Post.

Something that we have been working on for a while is updating our member information database. Much of the information that shows up on our roster is outdated or just wrong. I would ask members to send me an email with your current mailing address, email address, and phone number, so we update the database and contact you if needed. I would also encourage you to create a My Legion account. You can manage your membership and access important information. If you do not have an email account, please send us a letter or call me at 507-251-6919.

In closing, I would like to thank Stan Arendts for serving as our maintenance guy for the past three years. He has done a great job of taking care of maintenance issues, large and small. Stan has decided to step away from that position, so we are looking for someone to replace him. If you are interested in hearing more details, please get ahold of me.

We would like to introduce our newest
Rothie Post #330 Member:
Walter Borland

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

The SAL has been busy again these last few months. The dining room ceiling in the Legion has been taken down and replaced. Now the bar area and the dining room look very nice. We once again have been donating money to our communities this Holiday season, including giving free meals to families in need, donating to the Hayfield Christmas, and the Cancer Telethon auction. We have also purchased license plates that will have Hayfield, MN Legion post 330 SAL written on them. Our members will be able to take these to give to other legions around the country as they visit them.

SAL members, Mark Your Calendars. Our "Thank You Tour" of area legions will be on Saturday, Jan.10th. Look for more info to be coming soon.

We have our monthly meetings on the first Wednesday of the month at 7pm. Hope to see you there.

A Message from the Auxiliary President, Andrea Reynolds

And just like that we're turning the calendar page to a whole new year! It was a full and festive holiday season for the Auxiliary, including hosting another successful Turkey BINGO in November, and Family BINGO for Hayfield's Holiday Fest in early December- many thanks to the volunteers who helped with calling and selling cards to make these community events possible! Our Unit also celebrated with a Holiday party and collected many food items for donation to the Hayfield Community Food Pantry.

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.

One thing to note is that our membership dues will be increasing to \$40 for the year 2027. We want members to understand that this increase is out of necessity and not for our Unit's profit. From each Senior member's dues, we send \$35 to National, Department, and District, and the Unit keeps \$5 per member for postage and other administrative tasks. We appreciate your support and continued membership.

If the New Year finds you cleaning and organizing, please consider donating pop tabs, postage stamps, and greeting card fronts, which are collected for ongoing Auxiliary projects. As you make your list of goals for 2026, 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!

E-Newsletters

The Rothie Post Newsletters have been available on the Post website going back to July 2022 and we have been emailing them out to members who have requested it. We are going to make an effort to send more of them out through email to those who would prefer to receive them that way. This will not only save money on postage, but it will get to you sooner. We will 100% keep sending them out by mail if you prefer that.

If you would like to start receiving the newsletter by email only or in addition to by mail, please email us at HayfieldMNLegion@gmail.com

In order to get the newsletter out in a timely manner, we need all submissions in by the 15th of the month prior. The deadline for the March/April newsletter will be February 15. Please send any information to be included in the newsletter to HayfieldMNLegion@gmail.com

IN LOVING Memory

Members we have recently lost

Post 330

Ralph Kylo

Raymond Kylo

James Cleppe

Blessed be their memory



A Message from the Auxiliary Membership Chairperson, Marcia Bungum

Thank you to all the Auxiliary members who have paid their membership dues for 2026.

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!

I have 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 “turned me down” and now you are willing to be interviewed. We do not want to miss anyone so please contact me. We will start the new group of **Desert Storm & Global War on Terror “Veterans of the Month”** early next year, based on seniority by year of Legion membership. Frank Moon - PO Box 306-Havfield, MN 55940 ... 507-259-8347.

Doug Miner January Veteran of the Month

Doug Miner graduated from Blooming Prairie High School with the class of 1988, and 2 days later he reported to Fort Dix, NJ for his Basic Training. Miner had opted for “delayed entry” as a 16 year old junior in high school! At Basic Training he was named “Soldier of the Cycle”, and was promoted to E-2.

Doug was selected for AIT (Advanced Individual Training) as a Nuclear Weapons Specialist at Redstone Arsenal near Huntsville, AL. This training required Top Secret clearance, with a very extensive background check. Miner made E-3 upon completion of this part of his training. He remembers thinking his MOS was stressful, but not as much as the EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) guys who were training near them and dismantling live explosives!

After AIT, Miner was transferred to Fort Sheridan, IL and assigned to the Nuclear Weapons Support Branch. Here, Doug’s primary job was maintaining and instructing the Field Artillery Units in the Midwest. They traveled throughout much of the Midwest by van with their training materials and Doug was one of the “lead” instructors. In 1990, Miner attended Primary Leadership Development Course at Fort Campbell, KY where he received his E-4. During his time at Fort Sheridan, he was awarded “Soldier of the Year by the 4th Army”!

Miner completed his three-year enlistment in June 1991 with the rank of E-4. At that time, he came home to rural Blooming Prairie to work on the farm and in the snowmobile repair shop with his dad. He also worked full-time with Blooming Prairie Well Company. Upon returning home, Miner joined the Austin National Guard, and became a 63T (Bradley Fighting Vehicle Mechanic). In early 2000, he attended BNOC (Basic Non-Commissioned Officer Course) at Fort McCoy, WI where he was promoted to E-5.

In 2005 Miner successfully graduated from Warrant Officer Candidate School at Fort Rucker, AL. And, in 2006 was promoted to Chief Warrant Officer-2. A Chief Warrant Officer combines both technical expertise and leadership responsibilities. In early 2007, Miner spent a month on active duty in New Mexico for Border Patrol. Later that year he was deployed to Camp Bondsteel in Kosovo, where he was the Battalion Maintenance Officer. He was granted a brief leave back home during his one-year deployment. Doug recalls how difficult it was to return to active duty in Kosovo, leaving his wife and 1 ½ year old daughter!

Miner retired from the military with twenty-one years of service: Three years active, seventeen years National Guard, plus one year deployed.

Doug married Kristi Van Deest on November 11, 2000. Together they run their business, Miner’s Outdoor which they opened in 2001. They reside on their family farm where they are raising their four children: Elizabeth (19), Derek (15), Alexa (12), and Maverick (10).

Don Konken February Veteran of the Month

Don Konken graduated from Hayfield Schools in 1966, and worked at the Austin Veterinary Clinic. Konken was drafted into the US Army on January 25, 1968. He did his Basic Training at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Don remembers it snowing in mid-April and the non-Minnesota boys complaining loudly as they tried to make their way around the base!

Konken’s AIT was in Military Intelligence at Fort Meade, Maryland. They were housed in WWII barracks. The base was being de-activated so the facilities were in disrepair and declining by the day!

Don left for Vietnam on July 1st and made stops in Alaska and Japan before landing at Ben Long. He was assigned to Company A, 519 Military Intelligence Battalion. They lived in hooches, and in the cold weather, they kept the wood-burning heaters well supplied with anything that would burn!

Konken made E-3 after about four months in Vietnam. He was part of CDECK (Combined Document Exploration Center) in support of field units. He observed many young North Vietnamese boys, maybe 10-12 years old, carrying two RPG’s which weighed about 20 pounds each, coming from the North and headed for action in South Vietnam.

Don spent a lot of time in enemy territory north of the Ben Hai River, DMZ (Demilitarized Zone), looking for enemy gatherings or movement. He was often accompanied by Vietnamese guides. Konken never wore a military patch which would indicate his work with Intelligence. Being in enemy territory, he was often sprayed with Agent Orange. This has caused several very serious medical conditions for Don.

Konken remembers coming back to camp from an assignment of gathering information. He was met by General Creighton Abrams, commander of military operations for the Vietnam war! Colonel Abrams wanted to know all that Konken had seen and heard! Another memory for Don was listening to the radio program called “Good Morning Vietnam” hosted by Air Force DJ, Adrian Cronauer

Don and Leah married in 1973, Leah died in June 2025 after 52 years of marriage! Over the years they hosted five “Foreign Exchange” students in their Brownsdale home.

Konken was released from service in September 1970 with the rank of E-3. He remembers being spit upon when he arrived back at the airport in Oakland, CA!

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

Check out our website for current events and more at *HayfieldMNLegion.org*

January 2026

February 2026

Jan 1	New Years Day	Feb 2	BINGO @ Legion @ 7 PM
	Customer Appreciation Event 1 PM	Feb 4	SAL Mtg. @ Legion @ 7 PM
Jan 5	BINGO @ Legion @ 7PM	Feb 9	BINGO @ Legion @ 7 PM
Jan 7	SAL Mtg. @ Legion @ 7PM	Feb 10	Legion & Aux. Mtgs.@ 7 PM
Jan 12	BINGO @ Legion @ 7PM	Feb 14	Valentine's Day
Jan 13	Legion & Aux. Mtgs. @ 7 PM	Feb 16	BINGO @ Legion @ 7 PM
Jan 24	1 st District Mid-Winter Conference	Feb 23	BINGO @ Legion @ 7 PM
	Stewartville – Post 164		
Jan 19	BINGO @ Legion @ 7 PM		
Jan 26	BINGO @ Legion @ 7 PM		