



AMERICAN LEGION POST 330 NEWSLETTER

Hayfield, Minnesota
March & April 2026

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

Whether you are getting ready to get crops in the ground, plant your garden, prepare your flower beds, or open the cabin, spring brings everyone out of hibernation.

With the turn of the Spring, our Legion schedule starts to get busier as well. We will soon be looking at elections and preparing for our summer activities. Rothie Post has always represented itself well in parades, funerals, and ceremonies. That being said, as members get older, the number of marchers is beginning to decline. We need the next generation of Legionnaires to step up and continue the legacy. If you are in need of a uniform, please contact our Sergeant at Arms, Tom Walerak, and he will get you suited up.

I would like to say a special thank you to Frank Moon for his decades of service to the Post. He has expressed his desire to step down from his Chaplain duties. We are also looking for someone to take over putting together the Veteran of the Month, highlighting our members' service. Frank has been doing these for a very long time. Those are going to be some pretty big shoes to fill but we will need someone to give it a shot.

We will be looking for nominations for officer positions and will hold our election at the May meeting. We should also look at making any needed changes to our bylaws.

We still have a handful of members that have not renewed for 2026 yet. I will not be sending out any more reminders, but Department and National may.

I am still trying to verify mailing address and contact information for all of our American Legion Family members. Every newsletter cycle, we will get several returned to us because of an incorrect address. In the past, we had to pay for the returned newsletter. We have decided to no longer pay the additional cost of return postage. Please, communicate to us your current contact information.

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

*The SAL will be giving away two \$500 scholarships to eligible HHS graduating seniors again this year.

*The SAL toured local American Legions last month and had a good time.

*We continue to donate money to local charities and organizations.

*We plan on making some upgrades to SAL Field this spring.
*We bought 50 plastic Hayfield Legion license plates that members can take with them as they tour our country and drop them off at legions that you might visit.
*Welcome to our newest member, Charles Ryan from Kasson.

A Message from the Auxiliary President, Andrea Reynolds

My vegetable seed order is in, and that means Spring is just around the corner! I hope the past months have given you a chance to recharge and get ready for the longer days ahead.

March is Community Service Month. Please remember to track the hours and dollars you donate to projects and services within your community! Chairpersons Judy Kaczmarek and Sandy Krekling will gather this information from all the members who log their hours, then share that with Department, reflecting the work done and impact made by our members. Our Unit numbers are part of the larger picture when the American Legion is lobbying in congress for our veterans. If you don't have a form for recording your hours, they can simply be written down, emailed, texted or called in to Judy or Sandy by the end of March.

Do you know a Junior girl ready for a life-changing week? The Girls State program provides Americanism and good citizenship training to participants, as they learn about Minnesota city, county, and state governmental processes. Girls State Chairperson Leah Milburn will be sharing information with this year's Junior Girls, and seeking participants for Girls State to be held at Bethel University June 14-19, 2026.

Are you interested in showing your pride and affiliation with the Hayfield American Legion Auxiliary? Our membership is in process of selecting a design, and will be ordering shirts to wear at Auxiliary events and in the community. Please contact me at 507-251-7305 with your intent to order.

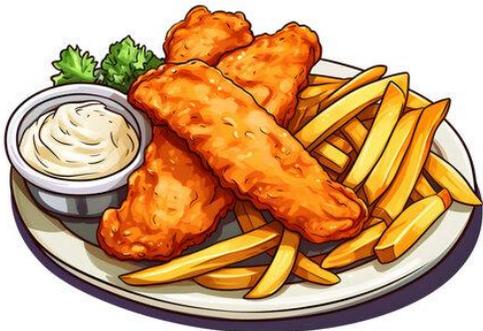
We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting! We're always excited to welcome new members and welcome back those who haven't gathered with us for a while. Reach out to your eligible friends and neighbors and bring them along to join! We meet the second Tuesday of every month at 7PM at the Legion Club in Hayfield.

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

Come on down for a Fish Fry Every Friday Night Through Easter!



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!

IN LOVING Memory

Members we have recently lost

Post 330

Patrick Towey Sr.

Blessed be his memory



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 May/June newsletter will be April 15. Please send any information to be included in the newsletter to HayfieldMNLegion@gmail.com

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-Hayfield, MN 55940 ... 507-259-8347.

Darrin Hongerholt - March Veteran of the Month

Darrin Hongerholt graduated from Lanesboro High School in the spring of 1986. He attended Winona State College for a year and a half, while working part time for his father. Dad was a heavy equipment contractor building roads, driveways, and other earth moving projects. Darrin operated road graders, front blade caterpillars, and packers too.

Hongerholt enlisted in the army for five years with a promise that he would indeed train and work with heavy equipment, including the rank of E-2. He reported to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri on January 11, 1990. He happened to be assigned to the new brick barracks (with individual rooms), while the company across the road was housed in the old wooden bare-wall facilities! It was cold and damp nearly every day, though not extremely cold for a Minnesota farm boy!

Hongerholt's AIT (Advanced Individual Training) was at Fort Leonard Wood for Heavy Equipment operator. Darrin could have been the instructor for the course as he could operate and maintain all of the equipment!

At the completion of his training, he had a brief leave back home, and reported to Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. He was assigned to the 84th Engineer Battalion as part of the 45th support group. One of their first assignments was to build a huge water containment facility on Kwajalein Atoll (part of the Marshall Islands.) in repayment to the natives for using their communities for combat practice. Darrin made E-4 after one year!

The 84th participated in Cobra Gold annually, which is one of the largest and longest running military exercises in the Indo Pacific region. It has evolved into a multi-lateral exercise involving numerous countries. The exercise focuses on improving coordination in both combat and humanitarian operations. Cobra Gold focuses on making it a vital component of regional defense and cooperation.

They were also part of the CAT (Civil Action Team) on numerous small islands of Micronesia while building water systems, causeways and roads to maintain goodwill with the natives.

Hongerholt completed his five-year enlistment in November of 1994 and was released as an E-4. Darrin and Norma were married in September 1998.

Norma and Darrin raised four daughters: Dee Dee, Melissa, Amanda, and Anastasia.

Adam Johnson - April Veteran of the Month

Adam Johnson signed up for "Delayed Entry" into the US Navy while he was still in high school. He was promised that his "A" School would be the Submarine Command Course.

Adam graduated from Hayfield High School in May 2007. That November, Johnson was on his way to Great Lakes Naval Training Center near Chicago, when he was injured at O'Hare Airport. He ruptured his MPFL (Medial Patellofemoral Ligament) This is the ligament which stabilizes the kneecap.

Johnson met with his Petty Officer to learn what his options in the navy could be. The news was not good; in fact, the Navy was insistent that separation would happen soon! While in separation, he was in a barracks with well over 100 other sailors going home. At one point, one of the other sailors got a sharpie and put an exclamation point at the end of his name on one of his shirts. Later, this caused him to get into some hot water during inspections.

Adam, along with several men, were expected to strip and wax the decks in the barracks! Johnson was released on December 3rd, 2007, after 23 days of active duty in the US Navy!

Adam found employment at The Great Harvest Bread Company in Rochester doing milling, mixing, kneading, and baking many kinds of specialty breads. After six years, he left and started a new job with Custom Alarm in Rochester. He developed many useful electrical skills and decided he'd like to pursue a career as an electrician.

In July of 2017, Johnson began a five year apprentice program with Sunlight Electric and the IBEW (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Union) in Rochester.

While Adam was studying for his Journeyman Electrician license, he pursued his license to be an electrical inspector.

Now he works for the city of Rochester as an electrical inspector. Johnson and two other inspectors are responsible for the flawless electrical installation of the massive Mayo Clinic expansion in downtown Rochester!

Adam married Sondra Roerish on June 21, 2014, and they are expecting their first child on July 4, 2026!

Adam has been a member of Post 330 for 19 years.

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LEGION, AUXILIARY, & SAL UPCOMING EVENTS

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

March 2026

April 2026

Mar 2	BINGO @ Legion @ 7PM
Mar 4	SAL Mtg. @ Legion @ 7PM
Mar 9	BINGO @ Legion @ 7PM
Mar 10	Legion & Aux. Mtgs. @ 7 PM
Mar 16	BINGO @ Legion @ 7PM
Mar 17	St. Patrick's Day
Mar 23	BINGO @ Legion @ 7 PM
Mar 30	BINGO @ Legion @ 7 PM

April 1	SAL Mtg. @ Legion @ 7 PM
April 5	Easter Sunday
April 6	BINGO @ Legion @ 7 PM
April 13	BINGO @ Legion @ 7 PM
April 14	Legion & Aux. Mtgs. @ 7 PM
April 20	BINGO @ Legion @ 7 PM
April 27	BINGO @ Legion @ 7 PM