



THE BUCK PASSER

May-July 2023

*Official newsletter of the Hesley Jensen American Legion Post 491
Serving Veterans Since 1922*

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

Welcome to Summer! Okay, winter was awful, but it's (hopefully) behind us now. We've got a busy season ahead, with new summer hours, Memorial Day, the new Centennial Pavilion, the Fair, Derby Days, and the Field of Bands. We're serving great meals, with expanded offerings, and we've still got bingo and gambling, so head down to the Post and join us!

Thank you. I am humbled to have served as Post Commander for the past year, which has been full of challenges and triumphs. At our April meeting, I was elected to serve another term, and am looking forward to continuing the work we've been doing. One of my duties is to set goals for the upcoming year. I will focus on: (1) increasing member participation, (2) clarifying and organizing our donation efforts, and (3) ensuring we have financial stability and transparency. I invite anyone who has experience or interest in those projects to contact me.



Membership is up. I'm pleased to announce that in the last six months, we have added over forty new members, many of whom are currently serving in the military, as we continue to strengthen our relationship with the 34th Military Police in Stillwater. If you have family members, neighbors, or friends who have served, bring them to the Post and keep growing our Legion family!

Free insurance: My wife, Laura Hammond (Auxiliary) and I both signed up for free accidental death insurance available through the Legion Insurance Trust. No cost, no questions. Go to www.TheLit.com to sign up.

Contact me: You can call or text at (715) 338-8991 or email commander@bayportlegion.org. Email preferred.

Finances: As I noted above, one of my goals for the upcoming year is to stabilize our financial position. The Post will be receiving a payment of nearly \$90K in December for an ERC tax credit, thanks in large part to Keith Keeley, a Post member who approached us last year from his



company. Even with that windfall, we must be diligent in controlling our spending and revenue. Our club operations have been in the red for years, and we cannot stay financially soluble on our current course. You can help by including the Post in your estate planning, by making a donation, or by lending us your financial expertise.

A more perfect Union: As Legionnaires, we are sworn to uphold and defend the Constitution, the goal of which is "to form a more perfect Union." Clearly, the framers in 1787 could not conceive of America in 2023, but they created a flexible document that would allow us to grow and change with the times. Now, it may seem that there's too much change, and we might long for the "good old days." But I'm convinced that these are the good days, and there are even better days ahead, that the path of America has always been, and will always be, one toward a more perfect Union, one where all people are truly equal, free, and secure, where genuine opportunity for all will be the reality, where our children can build on what we leave them. I am proud to have served my nation, and am proud to continue my service in the Legion. Let us be courageous and continue to build the ever-improving nation our founders envisioned.

MEMBER MILESTONES

Welcome new members: Bill Anger, David Pergrande, Dean Korsgren, Beth Dedic, Joseph Ekhaml, Cody Kinsman, Vanessa Deerberg, Andrew Martin, Rio Brown, Samantha Ardolf, Dustin Ardolf, Michael Wilhelmi, Tom Miller, Patrick Slaughter, Jake Dusenberger, Paul Schmidt, and Dave Godbolt. **40 years:** Patrick Riley, Terry Poirier, JR Helget, George Machesney. **50 years:** Bruce Stanton, Richie Johnson, David Carlson, James Borden, Charles Green, Donald Anderson. **60 years:** Richard Schmidt, Charlie Ciesman. **76 Years Club:** Leslie Krongard, George Siegfried. **Fallen comrades:** Calvin Brookman, Melvin Friedrich, James Luckey, Clarence Polzin, Al Roettger.

NEWS

Membership dinners and meetings: Third Tuesday of every month, 6 pm, at the Post. We need members at these meetings in order to conduct important business. Our attendance has been down to just a handful of members.

Planning an Event? Members get one free hall rental per year, and discounted rentals after that. You can reserve the upper hall or the lower level, which we've cleaned up and have in operation. Chef Luke will work with you on your catering needs. Contact the Post for your reservation.

2023-24 Legion Officers: Officers were elected in April, and will take office on May 16.

Commander: Corey Quick, First Vice & Finance: Eric Larson, Second Vice: Rich Eder, Adjutant & Membership: Paul Curl, Sergeant-at-Arms: Pat Logan, Service officer: Thallassa Gunelius, Chaplain: Jennifer Jewell.

Your Experience Needed: Our Post works when we all work together, and we need your help! If you have experience in accounting, finance, marketing, communications, website maintenance, building maintenance, IT, or just a desire to help out in any way you can, we have a position for you. Please contact the commander and help us keep going for another hundred years.

Volunteer Coordinator: We welcome Auxiliary member Becca Wolfe as our new volunteer coordinator. If you'd like to donate some time, you can contact her at volunteers@bayportlegion.org. She has lots of opportunities available to fit any schedule.

Items for the Buck Passer: If you have something you want to see or share in the next issue (May-June-July), send it to the commander and we'll do our best to get it included.



Did you know that only eight dollars of your annual dues goes to our Post? The rest goes upstream to support Legion activities at the state and national level.

HELP WANTED

Kitchen Volunteers. Chef Luke shares his profits with us, as long as we can provide volunteer assistance. We need one volunteer for Wednesdays, two for Thursdays, and three for Fridays. Hours are 4:00-8:00 pm.



Volunteers receive a free meal. You can sign up for shifts at the bar during regular business hours, or contact the volunteer coordinator volunteer@bayportlegion.org with your name, number, and desired days / shifts.

Pull Tab Sellers. \$11/hr + cash tips. Various sites and shifts available. Contact gambling@bayporlegion.org or leave your contact information at the bar.

Cleaner. \$15/hr. 1-2 hours per day, five days per week, with flexibility on the times. Not too strenuous, good for someone local.

Color Guard: We are in need of new members for our color guard for parades, veteran funerals, holidays, etc. We will provide uniforms and training, and will be flexible with your schedule. Contact Pat Logan, Sergeant-at-Arms, if interested. (612) 396-0615.

Buck Passer: We need someone to take over the Buck Passer, beginning with the next issue (Aug-Oct). Contact commander if willing.

CLUB NEWS

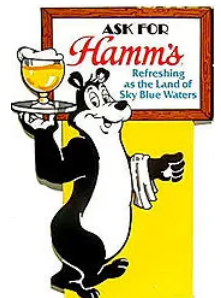
Summer Hours: The bar is now open at 2:30 Wed-Thur-Fri. Happy hour until 4:30.

Member specials: Bring your membership card in and take a spin on the Discount Wheel!

Great deals: 16 oz Hamm's, \$2 all day, every day! Try our double up for a buck, mystery shots, or other specials.

Great meals: Chef Luke is serving meals Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at the Post from 4:30 to 7:00 pm, with carry-out and curbside pickup available.

We're also anticipating starting homemade pizza service soon. We've included a menu with this issue. You can also find the menu on our website. Contact Luke for all your catering needs as well. Call (651) 285-8564 or email luke@riverdogsmn.com.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Chicken Fry: First Friday of every month, 4:30-7 pm

Bingo: Fridays at 7:00 pm at the Post. Other bingos:

Saturdays at 2 pm at Bungalow, Mondays 7 pm Stillwater Bowl, Wednesdays at Brookside in Marine on St. Croix (regular and purse)

May 7: Purse Bingo: 1-4 pm at the Post.

May 13: Bayport Pub Crawl: Specials throughout Bayport

May 14: Mothers Day Brunch Buffet: Noon to 4 pm. \$25 for public, \$20 for members.

May 16, Membership Meeting and Dinner: 6 pm at the Post.

May 18: 100-year Ribbon Cutting: 4 pm at the Post, bar open.

May 29: Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony: Bar opens at 8:00 am, parade at 8:30, ceremony at 10:00 at Hazelwood cemetery. Free hot dogs at the Post after.

June 17: Italian Luncheon Fundraiser: Noon to 4 pm, \$20 cash donation.

June 18: Father's Day BBQ Brunch: Noon to 4 pm, \$25 public, \$20 members.

July 4: Fourth of July Event: TBD-check our website for details.

AUXILIARY UPDATES

Bingo at Hastings: We call bingo for our veterans at the VA Home in Hastings the third Sunday of every month. Volunteers welcome.

Meetings: We meet the first Monday of each month. All members are welcome.

Bake sales: Bake sales fundraisers the first and third Fridays of each month at the Post. Drop off your goodies by 4:00, stick around for dinner and Bingo!

Pop sales: The Auxiliary has taken over canned pop sales at the Legion to raise funds. They are also selling snacks during Friday bingo.

Table donation: The Auxiliary recently donated a custom made POW/MIA table. You can see it in the club.



From the President, Helen Strong: Hello Ladies. I would like to take this time to introduce and welcome our 2023-2024 Auxiliary Officers: Janet Eder, President; Rebecca Wolfe, First Vice; Lori Gunderson, Secretary/Membership; Jean Pritchard, Treasurer; Jackie Savage, Chaplain. Congratulations, Ladies, and thanks for stepping up.

- ★ Our membership for 2022-2023 is over 100%. Good work!
- ★ I also want to give a shout out to Rebecca Wolfe for jumping in and organizing/scheduling our volunteers during our Lenten fish fries, Volunteers will continue to be needed every week for dinners and various other things happening at our Legion. Thanks to all of you who were there to help make our fish fries a success.
- ★ May is Poppy month with May 26 being Poppy Day. Funds received from poppy donations are used strictly for Veterans and those currently serving.
- ★ May 29 is Memorial Day-Don't forget about our Annual Parade and the Ceremony at the cemetery. Parade starts at 8:30 AM, goes through Bayport and ends at the cemetery for the ceremony. Anyone interested in walking with the Auxiliary, please be at the Legion at 8:00 AM.
- ★ June 5, 2023, 6:00 PM will be our last meeting before the summer break. Meetings will resume Tuesday, September 5, 2023. This is the only Tuesday meeting due to Labor Day. Dues for the 2023-2024 year have been raised to \$35.00 due to National increasing the amount we need to send them.

FROM THE SONS OF AMERICAN LEGION

Seeking new members: We're always looking for new members. American Legion members who are also the children of veterans can also join the SAL.

Regular meeting: Second Saturday of each month, 2:30 pm. Squadron Commander Marc Palmer can be reached at (651) 398-0760.





Stay informed about Bayport Legion by visiting
www.bayportlegion.org