

01 OCTOBER 2025



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 501 WOODBURY, MN

Post 501 Leadership

Commander: Bob Dolan
Vice Commander: JoAnne Kramer
Finance: Teresa Skinner
Membership: Bruce Nettleton
Service Officer: Paul Lindahl
Sergeant at Arms: Tim Crear
Chaplain: Mike Zerr

Membership Update

As of today, we have 88 renewals for the 2025 membership year. Based on this year's goal of 126 we are at 69.9 %. We are ahead of the goal of 55% by October, but the renewal rate in the last few months has slowed down.

Let's get the renewal rate revved up again. If you have not renewed your membership do so by going to www.legion.org and get it done. It's fast & easy.

Do not wait until the last minute to do it.



COMMANDER'S CORNER

Over the past few years, the Post has had a tough time getting enough people to volunteer for Poppy Days in May & September. We have had to rely on the older members of both Posts. In the long term this is not very sustainable.

Poppy distribution is our main source of revenue for both Posts and is used to support veterans, High School scholarships, Boys State, and Woodbury charities that promote veterans' care.

With our busy lives, it can be hard to find time to volunteer. However, the benefits of volunteering can be enormous. Volunteering offers vital help to people in need, worthwhile causes, and the community, but the benefits can be even greater for you, the volunteer.

I hope I can count on you to be part of our fund-raising events as we plan for 2026. It is a great way to catch up with fellow Legion members and meet members in the community.

Poppy Days Sept 2025 Recap

The three-day joint event was a great success, and the American Legion & VFW Posts are thankful for the outpouring of support from the community. The weather was outstanding, and we made a little over \$12,000 split between the two Posts. Thanks to all of the volunteers from American Legion Post 501, VFW Post 9024, and cadets from the AFJROTC. But we need more volunteers next year.



Toys for Tots

This is the third year that the Legion partnered with Talamore Senior Living on collecting toys for the Marine Corps sponsored Toys for Tots. Last year we included the Valley Creek Mall and Thrivent Financial as new collection points. This year we will have a new collection point at the Woodbury Public Safety Dept building. This greatly increased the exposure of the program within Woodbury community. I will also talk to the Chamber to get assistance from the Woodbury businesses. At our Nov Post meeting members are encouraged to bring a toy(s). Let's show a lot of Christmas spirit this year.



2026 Eagle Scout of the Year Program

The American Legion has been partners with the Boy Scouts of America since the beginning of the organization in 1919. As part of this relationship, the Legion offers a scholarship program to Eagle Scouts through their “Eagle Scout of The Year” Program. Three years ago, the Woodbury Post 501 conducted its first selection for this program with great success. Our last year selectee, Ryan Kuehn, won at Minnesota state level and received a \$1,000 scholarship.

The new season for this program starts on 1 Nov 25 and Post 501 is looking to repeat its success from last year. If you know of any young scout in the Woodbury scouting community that would be a great fit for this program let me know.



New Woodbury Central Service Center

The new Woodbury Central Service Center is now open. It is a greatly expanded facility that houses the Licensing Center, Career Force, Veterans Services, Public Health, and a community center. Come by today and take a look around.



Upcoming Events

- **23 October – Woodbury Post 501 Monthly Meeting:** The Post's Oct meeting is cancelled, due to the conflict with Woodbury Newcomers Event.
- **23 October – Woodbury Newcomers Event:** Post 501 will be participating in the City of Woodbury's Newcomer event at M Health Fairview Sports Center (formerly HealthEast Sports Center), from 4:30 to 7:00pm. As part of the city's goal to foster an inclusive and welcoming community, they have created an opportunity for the city to welcome new residents into our community, share information about the services and resources available from the city, and allow them the chance to learn about what the non-profit organizations in the area have to offer as well. Come see us at our table.
- **25 October – MN American Legion Fall Conference:** This will be held at the St Cloud Convention Center.
- **11 Nov – Veteran Day Events**
- **20 November – Woodbury Post 501 Monthly Meeting:** The Posts November meeting will be held at the Woodbury City Hall in the Ash North (main floor) conference room at 6:30pm.

01 OCTOBER 2025

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 501 WOODBURY, MN

This Month in History – 250th Navy Birthday: 13 October 2025

America is a maritime nation. Since before our Nation's inception, the Navy has sailed the globe in defense of freedom. On 13 October 2025, the Navy celebrates its 250th birthday with a series of commemorative events, multilateral exercises, and community engagements. Over the course of this two-year effort, the Navy will inform and engage audiences about how it safeguards U.S. national security, supports our Allies and partners, and remains essential to sustaining America's prosperity and protecting U.S. interests around the globe.

Born in Philadelphia, PA, the U.S. Navy is honored to return in October 2025 to celebrate its 250th birthday. The Navy, along with the Marine Corps are working with the cities of Philadelphia, PA and Camden, NJ to plan a Fleet Week-style celebration from October 9-16, 2025.

During this celebration, Navy-Marine Corps 250 will feature a series of events and activities designed to honor our rich history and showcase the incredible skill of today's maritime service through live demonstrations, musical performances, ships tours, static displays, and aviation events while also allowing our Sailors and Marines the opportunity to experience the warm hospitality of the City of Brotherly Love and Sisterly Affection through various community engagements.



This activity supports the U.S. military and its veterans; however, it is not officially connected to or endorsed by the U.S. Department of Defense or any of its branches.