



Woodbury American Legion
-----The Fighting 501st-----

Post 501 Membership Meeting, 23 May 2024

Guest: Ms. Sally Schoephoerster, Regional Ombudsman, Office of Ombudsman for Long Term Care. The Office, a program of the Minnesota Board on Aging, works to enhance the quality of life for people receiving long-term care, services and support through advocacy, education and empowerment.

Meeting called to order, by Commander Dolan, with opening ceremonies at 7:00PM.

Previous Meeting's Minutes -- Meeting minutes from 18 April membership meeting were reviewed and approved.

Financial Report

Post financial report, referencing checking account balance of \$ 21,136.77, savings account balance of \$ 5.00, and certificate of deposit account balance of \$ 10,582.69, with total account balance of \$ 31,724.46 was approved.

Membership

Membership Chairman, Bruce Nettleton, reported that 123 members are paid for this year, with a goal to have 133 members paid by 30 June 2024.

Service Officer

- American Legion award presented to JROTC cadet and wooden U.S flag presented to Major Petzold at JROTC award Program on 7 May.
- Minnesota legislature passed Omnibus Veterans Bill on 18 April, important legislation supported by American Legion and VFW lobbying efforts.
- Memorial pavers, including our first responder paver, were recently installed at the Veterans Memorial.
- Our annual picnic and Woodbury Days are scheduled in August. Post 501 will have a booth all three days at Woodbury Days and will be participating in parade on Sunday.

Communications -- No communications reported.

Donation Committee

At the Post meeting it was decided to allocate \$500 to the AFJROTC unit & \$500 to the Commanders project at Legionville. Both of these donations were approved in the current budget.

Unfinished Business

- Boys State: Post 501 has received a Boys State nomination from a student at Woodbury High School. We had previously received an application from a student at East Ridge High School. We have one applicant, a student at Woodbury High School, for Girls State.
- Legionville Student Summer Camp: Post 501 budgeted to sponsor two (2) students to attend Legionville (\$ 500.00 each), however only one student will be attending. Motion made, seconded, discussed and approved to not allocate the remaining budgeted funds (\$ 500.00).
- Poppy Distribution Collection Boxes: 15 Poppy collection boxes, being built as part of an Eagle Scout project are near completion.
- May Poppy Days: Successful poppy distribution conducted on 10,11,12 May, with total donations of \$ 15,708, which was shared with VFW Post 9024. For comparative purposes, donations in September 2023 distribution were \$ 15,319.
- Memorial Day Update: Memorial Day plans continue to be finalized. Practice is scheduled tomorrow at 5:00PM at the Memorial.

New Business

- Legion Baseball: Support for Legion baseball discussed. Motion made, seconded and approved to expend \$1,500.00 (funds budgeted to Legion baseball) to support the Legion teams (two from Woodbury High School and one from East Ridge High School) each school receiving \$750.00.
- Woodbury Days: Woodbury Days is scheduled 23-25 August. Post 501 will staff a booth at the event. The parade for Woodbury Days will be that Sunday on 25 Aug.
- Annual Post Elections: Commander Dolan stated that the Post 501 annual officer elections will be conducted at June meeting. Anyone that is seeking nomination for one of the Post positions need to get together with Commander Dolan prior to the June Post meeting.
- Third District Convention Feedback: Commander Dolan attended this years Third District Convention held on 18 May at the New Prague Post.
 - At the convention Post 501 was awarded a trophy for Outstanding Community Service for 2024.

- At the convention it was discussed that both the Boys State and Oratorical programs have dropped significantly since the pandemic. It was discussed during the meeting that Post 501 should look into participating in the Oratorical contest for 2024/25 program. Vice Commander JoAnne Kramer took the action to develop a plan of action, to include a budget, on conducting the program. It will be discussed during the December Post meeting.

Announcements

- Commander Dolan mentioned Suppression Solutions FST, a fire safety solution, as a potential community service project. He will provide further information after he conducts additional research.
- Commander Dolan mentioned that the Post hosted the 5th graders at Middleton Elementary School at the Woodbury Veterans Memorial this morning. Thanks to all that participated.
- The cover on flag collection box at City Hall has been returned to the woodworking shop, Veterans Home in Hastings, for repair.
- Next meeting is scheduled at 6:30PM, on 27 June at Birdi Golf in Valley Creek Mall

Closing Ceremonies and Prayer

Meeting adjourned at 8:25PM

Meeting prepared by Paul Lindahl