

01 APRIL 2024



Spring



**MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 501 WOODBURY, MN**

**Post 501 Leadership**

Commander: Bob Dolan  
Vice Commander: JoAnne Kramer  
Finance: Bob Wuggazer  
Membership: Bruce Nettleton  
Sergeant at Arms: Tim Crear  
Chaplain: Mike Zerr

**COMMANDER'S CORNER**

Since becoming your Commander I have noticed that during the winter time we have a lull in activity. With Spring trying to bloom our events & activities will blossom. In the coming months there is the Veterans Day at the Twin Cities Auto Show, we will be at the Woodbury AFJROTC Awards Ceremony, conducting our first Poppy Days in May followed by our Memorial Day event.

**Membership Update:**

As of today, we are at 121 renewals for the 2024 membership year. Based on this year's goal of 133 we are at 90.98%. We are just 12 renewals away from meeting this year's renewal goal. What are you waiting for. It's fast & easy. Just go to [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) to renew your membership today.

We are also working with Scout Troop 9072 on an Eagle Scout project and the Middleton Elementary school on the meaning of Memorial Day.

Hopefully you can join the Post in any or all of these activities. It is a great way to connect with your fellow veterans and the Woodbury community.



### **Three Year American Legion Membership Option**

As I mentioned, National will be raising their portion of the dues by \$5 along with the MN Department and Third District with a \$3 and \$2 increase respectively. This has caused the Post to raise our dues to \$45 in 2025 and \$49 in 2026 membership years.

To help members cope with the sudden increase in dues The American Legion National is currently offering members the ability to prepay for 3 years of membership (2025-2027) at the current 2024 rate (\$39). This will give you a reprieve from the higher dues for a few years.

I have already done it myself and it was quick and easy. You will need to go to the MN American Legion web site at [mnlegion.org](http://mnlegion.org) and click on the 3 Year Renewal button. You will then be prompted to put in your membership number and last name.

I urge all members that have already renewed their 2024 membership to take advantage of this deal. It will only last until 30 June 2024. After that the increased dues will take effect.

### **Woodbury AFJROTC Happenings**

I thought that it would be fun to check in with the Woodbury AFJROTC cadets to see what they have been up to over the winter months. As you can see they are busy making American Legion poppies and recognizing cadets Noah Wahlquist & John Worth as unit top performers.





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**Poppy Days 2024**



Like last year we will be doing 2 poppy distributions. The first one will be 10-12 May, led by VFW Post 9024 and the second one will be 6-8 Sept led by the American Legion. I have already sent an email requesting volunteers for the May poppy distribution.

We need as many people as possible to assist in our annual fund-raising event. Poppy distribution gives us the funds we need to continue our support in the Woodbury community and the many Legion programs we are involved with. If you would like to volunteer for a half day shift let me know soonest.

**MINNEAPOLIS AUTO SHOW**

The Twin Cities Auto Show will be having a Military Appreciation Night on 2 April from 4pm to 9pm. On that night there will be free admission for all current military, veterans, & retired military. Half off admission will be offered to all of your guests for the night. This might be a great way to have a peek at the new cars. For more information on the auto show go to: <https://twincitiesautoshow.com/show.../military-appreciation>



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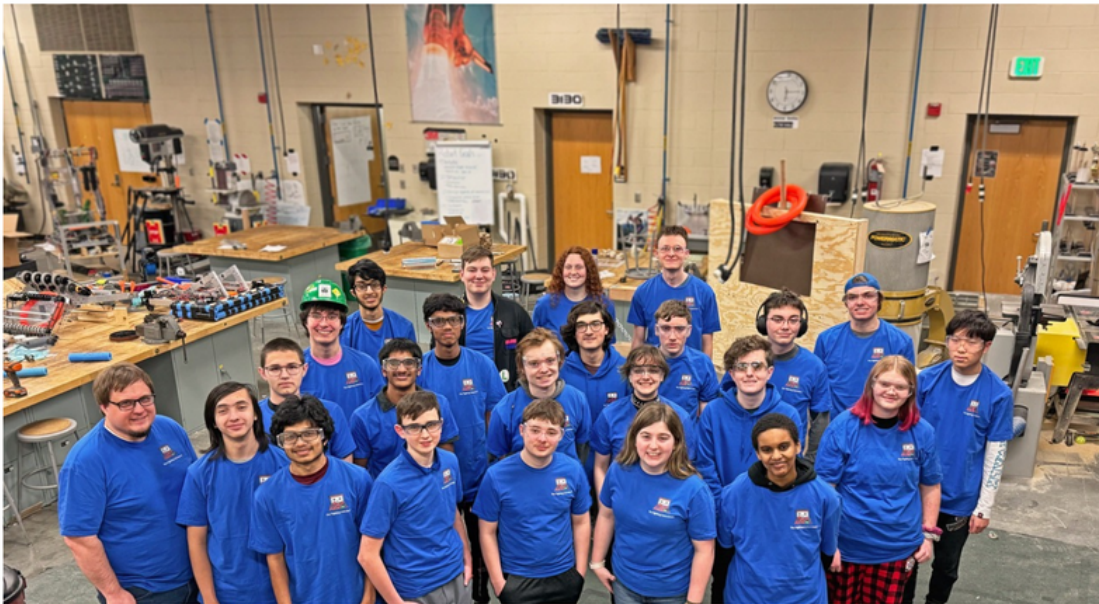
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**Math & Science Academy (M&SA) Robotics Competition**

The FIRST Robotics Competition Team, The Fighting Calculators, from the Math & Science Academy in Woodbury is having their first competition of the season at William Arena from 5-7 April. This is the first year our Post has sponsored a robotics team. The Fighting Calculators were established in 2007 and made it to the FIRST Robotics World Championship several times and have had many other amazing achievements. Post 501 will be going to their competition at William Arena on 6 April to cheer on the M&SA team. If you want to be part of the cheering section let me know.



### **This Month in History - Gold Star Spouses (April 5th)**

“Gold Star Families” or “Gold Star Spouses” are terms that traditionally refer to the surviving loved ones of military members who have been killed in the line of duty and/or in combat. Gold Star Spouses Day was created to honor these loved ones who have sacrificed so much.

The Gold Star tradition began in World War I. During that time families with someone serving in the military flew flags with blue stars representing each family member currently serving. When a member was killed in the war, the star was changed to gold to let the community know the sacrifice that family had made. This tradition has evolved to include wearing a Gold Star lapel pin that is awarded by the military to the surviving family members.

The designation of Gold Star Spouses Day in 2010 not only recognizes the sacrifices made by these military spouses. It is also a day of remembrance, a memorial for the fallen, and appreciation for those who might be in danger of being overlooked for their service and sacrifice for our country.



**Upcoming Events**

- **18 April – Woodbury Post 501 Monthly Meeting:** The Post’s April meeting will be held at Birdi Golf (conference room) located in the Valley Creek Mall 6:30 pm.
- **7 May – AFJROTC Awards Ceremony:** Please join us at the annual AFJROTC awards ceremony at Woodbury High School in the Lecture Hall, beginning at 6:00 p.m.
- **10-12 May – Poppy Days**
- **23 May – Woodbury Post 501 Monthly Meeting:** The Post’s May meeting will be held at the Woodbury City Hall in the Ash North (main floor) conference room at 6:30 pm.
- **27 May – Memorial Day:** Join us for a Memorial Day program at the Woodbury Veterans Memorial. The event starts at 11am.



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.