

01 FEBRUARY 2024



**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**

The Woodbury American Legion Post 501 was recognized as a finalist for Non-profit of the Year at the Woodbury Chamber of Commerce Community Award Gala last month. This is a great honor and a testament to the hard work that our Post has done over the past year. The Woodbury Chamber of Commerce sees that we are thriving in Woodbury without the need of a Legion bar/restaurant.

**Membership Update:**

As of today, we have 114 renewals for the 2024 membership year. Based on this year's goal of 133 we are at 85.7 %. As a reminder your annual dues has:

- Provided two \$1,000 scholarships to Woodbury AFJROTC cadets
- Supported the Woodbury HS Legion baseball teams
- Contributed over \$12,000 to local charities & veteran groups over the years

Help us to continue our outstanding support to the Woodbury community & veterans by going to [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) to renew your membership today. Do not wait until the last minute to do it.

This is a testament to all of the hard work we have done in not only assisting veterans but being good neighbors within the Woodbury community. Bravo Zulu to us all!!!!



**American Legion Woodbury Post 501  
Non-Profit of the Year Finalist**

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

As I mentioned in last month's newsletter, 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.

### **Annual Awards Banquet**

The American Legion Post 501 & VFW Post 9024 will be having our annual Joint Awards Banquet at the Green Mill Restaurant on 22 Feb 2024. As a Legion Post we will be presenting a Veterans Memorial paver certificate to a Woodbury military veteran First Responder and our second Eagle Scout of the Year award. The banquet starts at 5pm with a social hour, dinner at 6:15 pm (free to you) and the awards presentation at 7pm. If you have not RSVP'ed please do so by 5 February so we can get an accurate head count.



01 FEBRUARY 2024

---

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 501 WOODBURY, MN

---

**SYNERGY Home Care**

At SYNERGY Home Care, they believe people want to live their lives where they feel most comfortable - at home. They offer a range of home care services, from basic companionship to round-the-clock care, that allows seniors and other individuals to remain in their own homes for as long as possible. All with NO MINIMUM hours required for their team's services.

As a Veteran, you may be eligible for the Homemaker/Home Health Aide (HHA) and Respite benefits which provide home care services. These benefits can alleviate some or all of the financial burden of receiving home care, or to supplement care which is being paid for privately.

Ms. Alicia Harmon, Owner of Woodbury SYNERGY Home Care will be our guest speaker at the Post's March meeting. At the Post meeting you will be able to address your questions to see if this service is right for you.

**POST OFFICER NEEDED**

The life blood of any Post is its members, but it takes a group of dedicated members, as Post officers, to make things run smoothly and keep the lights on. A few of our members are currently performing in multiple Post officer positions and this cannot be maintained long term for the Post to remain a viable activity. I am asking if you can find the time, I am looking for a person for the following position:

**Adjutant:**

1. Is the primary administrative officer for the Post;
2. Maintains Post records;
3. Sets up Post meetings to include: meeting agenda, meeting minutes, & annual conference room scheduling;
4. Picks up & distributes of Post mail and
5. Assembles & submits annual Post reports.

We can start you as an assistant and work up into the full position duties over time. If you interested in becoming more involved in the Post, give me a call at (703) 851-5416 and we can discuss.

01 FEBRUARY 2024

---

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

---

**Boys State 2024**

The Woodbury American Legion Post 501 is seeking candidates from local Woodbury High Schools for the 75th Annual American Legion Boys State that will be held June 9-15, 2024. Boys State will be held on the campus of St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota.

Legion Boys State is a practical learning experience in local and state government. You will apply knowledge gained through their school experience and teaching from instructors to organize and operate their own city, county and state governments. The week will emphasize civic leadership and pride in American citizenship, a detailed study of our government, and our country's democratic ideals. Additionally, the week includes political speakers, mock trials, campaigning, elections, and announcement of Boys State Governor and State Constitution Officers.

Applicants for Boys State must be juniors in High School, be in the upper class scholastically at their school and reside in Woodbury. Information has been provided to all Woodbury High Schools guidance counselors or principals, including East Ridge, Woodbury, New Life Academy, and the Woodbury Math and Science Academy. Applicants who reside in Woodbury but go to high school outside the city are also eligible to apply through Post 501.

If you know of an interested junior boy have him, contact his High School guidance counselor.



### Did You Know – USO Birthday 4 February

USO Day on February 4 is the birthday celebration of the American nonprofit-charitable corporation, the United Service Organizations Inc. Providing live entertainment, care packages, and much more, the USO is the bridge connecting overseas soldiers to their friends, families, and homes. The USO partnered with the War Department, and later with the Department of Defense (DoD), to serve everyone in military life. The troops fighting in WW2 were the first to benefit from this organization's efforts, and now, almost 4.9 million members are impacted by the USO.

At first, the organizers wanted special live shows and events to boost morale and showcase American involvement in the war. This brought out 'Camp Shows,' which were live shows performed by various members of the entertainment industry, including many then-superstars. Some were paid, but most top stars came on as volunteers, placing their own lives in danger to perform under hazardous conditions. By November 1941, overseas shows had begun, and the first was held in the Caribbean. Overseas shows were held in multiple places during the war, including China, Russia, Burma, Australia, and the U.K.

The USO disbanded after the war, as people believed it had served its purpose, only to be revived during the Cold War. These actions would be repeated during the Korean and Vietnam Wars and would also show how important the USO was to troops' morale. The USO got a government charter by the late 1970s and subsequently worked to raise the spirits (even more than before) of all those working in the military. Their purpose also evolved over the years, with many programs now featuring quality-of-life improvements for military personnel and their families alongside the entertainment the USO was famous for.

Today's USO helps the troops a hundred times as much as before, providing emergency contact, financial assistance, and even educational aid for American soldiers all over the globe.



## Upcoming Events

- **22 Feb - Joint Awards Banquet:** The annual Joint Awards Banquet will be held on 22 Feb at the Green Mill restaurant. The banquet starts at 5pm with a social hour, dinner at 6:15 pm and the awards presentation at 7pm.
- **21 March – Woodbury Post 501 Monthly Meeting:** The Posts March meeting will be held at the Woodbury City Hall, Ash North (main floor) conference room at 6:30pm.
- **25 April – Woodbury Post 501 Monthly Meeting:** The Post’s April meeting will be held at the Woodbury City Hall in the Ash North (main floor) conference room at 6:30 pm..



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.