

01 JANUARY 2024



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 501 WOODBURY, MN

COMMANDER'S CORNER

2023 was a tremendous year for our Post. We were select as a finalist for Non-Profit of the Year by the Woodbury Chamber of Commerce, had fun at Warrior Brewing making a batch of Legion Lager, selected as a top American Legion Post at the Twin Cities Auto Show, and partnered with Talamore Senior Living for our first Toys for Tots drive.

We also got out into the community with involvement in 2 golf tournaments, Woodbury Days parade and fair booth, and participated in numerous Veterans Day activities in Woodbury. We capped it off with another successful Wall of Thanks.

Check out the 2023 recap video on our Post Facebook page or the link that I provided in the email.

Here's to all that we can accomplish in 2024.



Post 501 Leadership

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

Membership Update:

As of today, we have 110 renewals for the 2024 membership year. Based on this year's goal of 133 we are at 82.7 %, which is fabulous. We are slightly ahead of the renewal rate set by MN Department. As a reminder your annual dues helps us fund the various activities and local charities that we support such as the local High School Legion baseball, Boys State participation, Christian Cupboard, Big Marine Veteran Camp, AF JROTC scholarships and many more activities within the Woodbury Area.

Let's continue to support all of these great activities by renewing your membership. It's fast & easy by going to www.legion.org. Do not wait until the last minute to do it.

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2024 Membership Dues Increase

As I mentioned in last month's newsletter, National will be raising their portion of the dues to \$5 along with the MN Department and Third District with a \$3 and \$2 increase respectively. This has caused the Post to reevaluate the dues we charge members starting in July 2024. After a long discussion at the December Post meeting, it was decided to raise our dues to **\$45 in 2025** and **\$49 in 2026** membership years. This allows the Post to maintain its funds it gets from each member to assist in funding all of our programs, scholarships, and charities that we support.

Shortly The American Legion National will be giving members the ability to prepay for 2 years of membership at the current 2024 rate. This will give you a reprieve from the higher dues for a few years.

Wall of Thanks

Another successful Wall of Thanks has come to a close. We raised enough money for our charities for them to have a very Merry Christmas and had over 300 veterans posted on the Wall. Thanks to Legion members Mike Zerr & Dale Johnson for organizing this event for the Post. This is a great outreach event to the local community to let them know that what our Post does within Woodbury.



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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 teacher 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. A separate email will go out shortly soliciting members for attendance to the awards banquet.



Volunteer Hours

One of the measures that the Posts get recognized each year is the amount of volunteer hours our members serve throughout the year. We normally collect this information from the members that attend our monthly meetings. I know that there are a lot more members that volunteer on a weekly basis that we need to gather information from. If you volunteer at an organization such as, a local charity, youth programs, VA home, etc. I would ask that you send me your hours at the end of each month to woodburypost501@gmail.com or call 703-851-5416.

Did You Know – Old Glory Story

You may think ‘Old Glory’ is just a fun nickname for the United States flag, but the term once referred to one very special 19th century American Flag with quite the story.

The original Old Glory survived turbulent seafaring expeditions, toughed out a search-and-destroy mission by the Confederate army, and even withstood a bitter family feud. Old Glory is the story of one man’s devotion to a national treasure and an inspiring example for all Americans who revere their flag.

In 1824, William Driver – a merchant seaman from Salem, Mass. – assumed command of his own ship, the Charles Doggett, and prepared for the first of many voyages that would take him to faraway places such as China, India and the South Pacific.

To commemorate this special occasion, Driver’s mother and several female admirers sewed a 24-star American flag and presented it as a gift to the young captain. During his 20-year career, Driver earned acclaim for steering the ship out of danger during severe storms, staring down a hostile New Zealand tribal chief and picking up 65 descendants of survivors of the HMS Bounty.

Always flying high above Driver’s ship was his favorite flag, which he soon named Old Glory. As Driver once wrote, “It has ever been my staunch companion and protection. Savages and heathens, lowly and oppressed, hailed and welcomed it at the far end of the wide world. Then, why should it not be called Old Glory?”

Here is a poem commemorating Old Glory and what it means:



A man having once served will always serve.

They served their Country in times of wars

Old Glory led them on.

They learned to love those Stripes and Stars.

Old Glory led them on.

And so they served in times of peace,

Old Glory led them on.

They’ll continue to serve until their decease

With Old Glory leading them on.

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Upcoming Events

- **25 January – Woodbury Post 501 Monthly Meeting:** The Posts January meeting will be held at Birdie Golf, located in the Valley Creek Mall, conference room at 6:30pm.
- **22 Feb - Joint Awards Banquet:** The annual Joint Awards Banquet will be held on 22 Feb at the Green Mill restaurant. More information will be passed as we get closer to this event.

Happy
New Year

MAY THE NEW YEAR BRING YOU PEACE, JOY, AND HAPPINESS.



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.