

01 JULY 2024



4th of July



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 Fourth of July holds profound significance for every American, marking the day they achieved their cherished independence. This Independence Day, let us all, regardless of our differences, reflect on the true spirit of 1776, acknowledging that our freedoms were hard-won. It is to honor those who paid the ultimate price that we illuminate the skies on the Fourth of July.

Membership Update:

As we end the 2024 membership year our Post ended with 124 renewed members. This is down from the 143 members we started with last year.

If you know a veteran that is looking at giving back to the community Post 501 is the place to make that happen. Our Post continues to support the local High School Legion baseball, Boys State participation, Christian Cupboard, Big Marine Veteran Camp, AFJROTC scholarships, and many other activities in the Woodbury community.

Let's get a jump on the year by going to www.legion.org and renew your membership. We need to strive for a 100% renewal rate for the 2024/25 membership year. Remember that the annual membership runs from 1 July to 30 June.

Do not wait until the last minute to do it.



COME CHECK OUT THE FIREWORKS DISPLAY IN WOODBURY AT M HEALTH FAIRVIEW SPORTS CENTER AROUND 10PM.

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Post Elections

At our 27th June meeting we elected new Post officers for the 2024/25 season. Below is the complete roster of Post 501 Officers that were confirmed:

- Commander: Bob Dolan
- Vice Commander: JoAnne Kramer
- Sergeant at Arms: Tim Crear
- Finance Officer: Bob Wuggazer
- Chaplin: Mike Zerr
- Service Officer: Paul Lindahl

Being a Post officer is a great way to contribute not only to the Legion, but veterans and the Woodbury community. We have an opening for Adjutant & Historian. If interested let me know.

2024 Salute to Women Golf Classic

The Salute to Servicewomen Golf Classic, held on 18 June at the Prestwick Golf Club in Woodbury was a great success. This annual event, sponsored by the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV), raises money for female veterans to provide much needed transitional housing and moving them from transitional to permanent housing. Our Joint Honor Guard participated in the opening ceremony.



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Joint Color Guard & Rifle Squad

Legion Post 501 & VFW Post 9024 have a Joint Color Guard and Rifle Squad. This joint team performs at Veteran funerals, parades, and other occasions that require their services. Team lead John Martin is looking for new recruits to ensure that we have enough members to allow us to continue this service to the community. I was drafted to be part of the Color Guard at the Woodbury Days parade last year, so previous experience is not required. Training and uniforms will be provided. If you are interested in being part of this group let me know.



NEW POST 501 DONATION BOXES

If you have done any of the Poppy Days events you are familiar with the plastic buckets that we used for the donations that we received. Gone are those days. Scout Troop 72, as an Eagle Scout project, constructed 15 wooden boxes that will last for many years. As you can see they did a fabulous job on the donation boxes. We will be styling at our next fund drive.



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Woodbury Legion Baseball

Post 501 supports the Woodbury & East Ridge Legion teams through a donation to their organization. This year we will be presenting a check to the Woodbury team manager in between games of the Gopher Classic. The game is on 12 July and starts at 3:30pm at the Woodbury High School. If you plan on attending this game let us know soonest so that we can get you in for free.

We will be doing the same thing at the East Ridge game on 17 July at 6pm.

Join the Post in cheering on the Legion teams and show your support.



East Ridge High School Legion Baseball team



Woodbury High School Legion Baseball (Blue team)

Joint VFW/American Legion Annual Picnic

In giving back to our members the Woodbury Legion and VFW Posts will be jointly hosting the Annual Veterans Picnic on 20 August, 3:00 to 09:00 pm, at Carver Lake Park. The picnic is free and open to all Legion & VFW members and their families. If you can bring an appetizer, salad, or dessert to share that would be greatly appreciated. If you plan on attending, I need to know how many people from your household as soon as possible. The picnic organizer needs to get an accurate head count to order enough meat. Hope to see you there.



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Poppy Days Sept 2024

Our second distribution of poppies will be on 6-8 Sept, led by American Legion Post 501. Shortly I will be sending an email to Post volunteers for the Sept dates. Poppy distribution is a major source of revenue for both Posts and is used to support veterans, active-duty military personnel and their families with medical and financial needs, local scholarships, Boys State, and Woodbury charities that promote veterans' care. I hope I can count on you to be part of this fund-raising event.



BOYS STATE 2024

Woodbury Post 501, Vice Commander JoAnne Kramer awarded a certificate of appreciation to Boys State participant Cade Wright. Cade expressed his enjoyment of this year's Boys State, highlighting the camaraderie among attendees and his newfound understanding of state government operations as the pinnacle of his experience at St. John's University. His application of this knowledge was evident in his election as the MN Lieutenant Governor—an impressive achievement.



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This Month in History – 4 July Independence Day

Our Beginning

The Fourth of July

The 1770's, both good and bad

we were in a new land, both happy & sad

The British controlled, & were demanding & bold

but we had brave people who didn't like to be told

Town meetings were held & great speeches rang out

they wanted to make sure everyone knew what the rule was about

But the British had an army, uniformed & armed

they had food & shelter & felt very charmed

They never suspected the commoners would rise

and when they did, it was a disastrous surprise

Through terrible conditions the common folk endured

but they were determined, challenged & demurred

Through starvation and sickness, the death toll was high

but despite all the hardships they never went awry

Sure there were deserters, too sick to go forth

they went in all directions, east, south, west and north

But Washington pleaded, and gave it his all

seeing his suffering, with them, they together stood tall

In the end their freedom was won

they returned home in peace once the fighting was done

We must always remember the sacrifices from those who devoted their lives for the cause of freedom and are still doing so on this very day



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Upcoming Events

- **4 July – Joint Color Guard:** The Legion/VFW Joint Color Guard will be performing in the Afton 4th of July parade at 1pm. Come early to get a good seat and cheer on our Color Guard.
- **12 July - Woodbury High School Legion Baseball:** Join us to cheer on the Woodbury High School Legion team to victory. Game will be at Woodbury High School and will start at 3:30pm.
- **17 July - East Ridge High School Legion Baseball:** Join us to cheer on the East Ridge Legion team to victory. Game will be at East Ridge High School and will start at 6pm.
- **25 July – Woodbury Post 501 Monthly Meeting:** The Post’s July meeting will be held at Birdi Golf (conference room) in the Valley Creek Mall at 6:30 pm.
- **27 July – Wounded Warrior Project Soldier Ride:** Come out to cheer on the Wounded Warriors Woodbury ride. It starts at City Hall/Veterans Memorial at 0900 with Woodbury Police & Fire, Washington Co. Sheriffs, and a few surrounding Police Bicycle Units also attending.
- **12 Aug – Woodbury Lions Golf Tournament:** The Woodbury Lions Golf Tournament in Memory of Dick Stafford will be held on August 12, at Eagle Valley Golf Course.
- **20 Aug – Joint VFW/American Legion Annual Picnic:** In giving back to our members the Woodbury Legion and VFW Posts will be jointly hosting our Joint Veterans Picnic on 20 August, 3:00 to 09:00 pm, at Carver Lake Park. The picnic is free and open to all Legion & VFW members and their families. If you plan on attending let me know as we are trying to get an accurate head count. Hope to see you there.
- **22 Aug – Woodbury Post 501 Monthly Meeting:** The Post’s August meeting will be held at the Woodbury City Hall in the Ash North (main floor) conference room at 6:30 pm.
- **23-25 Aug – Woodbury Days & Parade:** Our Post will be participating again in Woodbury Days Business Fair. Come see us at our booth. This year we will be conducting a raffle with some great prizes. All proceeds will go to the purchase of portable fire suppression units for our Woodbury Public Safety Department.
- **6-8 September – Poppy Days**



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.