

01 MARCH 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

Membership Update:

The 85% membership target date was Feb. 14. There were 51 American Legion departments that met or exceeded this target. The last time The American Legion had more than 50 departments hit the 85% target date was in 2014. Post 501 is one of the Post's leading the way with a renewal rate of 90.2%.

As of today, we have 120 renewals for the 2024 membership year. We are just 13 renewals away from meeting this year's renewal goal.

Let's keep up the momentum. It's fast & easy. Just go to www.legion.org to renew your membership today. What are you waiting for.

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Volunteerism connotes a mindset or a philosophy. It can also mean an attitude of service or a willingness to give back to your community – and in doing so, to make the world around you a better place.

As it turns out, volunteerism doesn't just help the organization, population or community on the receiving end. Volunteering your time or energy can have amazing benefits for you, too. As a member of the American Legion, we offer a number of opportunities for volunteering at events or being a Post officer.

Volunteering for a shift at Poppy Days offers you the opportunity to connect with your fellow veterans and interaction within the Woodbury community. I hope you can be a part of this important fund-raising event.



Post 501 members delivering Thanksgiving Day meals

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Three Year American Legion Membership Option

As I mentioned in prior newsletters, 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 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 had their annual Joint Awards Banquet at the Green Mill Restaurant on 22 February 2024. This event is the VFW and American Legions way to recognize and celebrate the youth in our community and some of the amazing people in Woodbury that make it a great place for veterans to life. Below are some of the pictures from the night's festivities.



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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.



BUDDY CHECKS

As Legionnaires, our most sacred responsibility is to look out for each other and our fellow veterans. As Legion members we are encouraged to reach out to veterans who may need assistance but don't know where to go or who to ask. We need to let the veterans in our community know we care and provide whatever assistance they may need. It's what we do for our battle buddies. This is a Post activity that you can do in the comfort of your home and at your own pace.

If you want to be part of these Buddy Checks give me a call at 703-851-5416 or email at woodburypost501@gmail.com and I can give you a group of people to call.

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This Month in History - American Legion Birthday – 15 March 2024

On this day 105 years ago, members of the American Expeditionary Force convened in Paris for the first American Legion caucus. Much as the birthday of the United States is celebrated on July 4, for the date in 1776 when patriots declared the independence of the British colonies and the spirit of America was born. March 15 is the date when The American Legion came to life.

Throughout the organization's history, local posts across the country have celebrated with festivities that have included the entire community. For the 20th birthday in 1939, Battle Mountain Post 71 in Hot Springs, S.D., brought out a 40-pound birthday cake - two pounds for every year of The American Legion's history. For the 38th birthday in 1957, Post 214 in Upper Darby, Pa., hosted an entire week's worth of events as part of American Legion Birthday Week, so proclaimed by the township's Board of Commissioners. Parties, dances and a two-act play were held at Post 214's clubhouse.



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Upcoming Events

- **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.
- **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.



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.