

01 NOVEMBER 2023



Thanksgiving



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 501 WOODBURY, MN

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Post 501 Leadership

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

At our October Post meeting we had the pleasure of having Ms. Julie Nelsen, Superintendent of South Washington County Schools. Ms. Nelsen gave us a short presentation on the school bond and levy referendums that are on the ballot for the 7 Nov election. She explained the purpose and impact of the 2 bond questions and the tax levy will have on improving the security and quality of life within the South Washington County schools. Ms. Nelsen also highlighted the impact on individual property taxes that will occur if passed.

Membership Update:

As of today, we have 95 renewals for the 2024 membership year. Based on this year's goal of 133 we are at 71.4%. We are well ahead of the renewal rate set by MN Department. Let's not take our foot off the gas and let's get across the 100% finish line by the New Year.

For those that could not attend the Post meeting information on the school bond and tax levy questions you can go on the South Washington County Schools web site: [Voting Information 2023 - South Washington County Schools \(SoWashCo Schools\)](#)

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.

The American Legion encourages Legionnaires to vote in all elections. Legionnaires have traditionally responded to the call and are among the groups of individuals most likely to cast their ballots on Election Day. Every election is important and it gives us a voice in issues that affect their lives. Let's get out there in force this Election Day.

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.

MN Department Fall Conference

This year's Fall Conference was held at the St Cloud Convention City on 27 Oct 2023. Your Commander (Bob Dolan), Vice Commander (JoAnne Kramer), and Seargent at Arms (Tim Crear) attended this year's sessions. The focus of the Fall Conferences is training and educating Posts on the various aspects of the Legion programs, Post processes & procedures, and Communications. Some of my take aways from the conference were:

- **2024 Membership dues increase:** National will be raising their portion of the dues to \$5 along with the MN Department and Third District with a \$3 and \$1 increase respectively. This will cause Posts to reevaluate the dues they charge members starting in July 2024. Post 501 will be reviewing and discussing this at the November Post meeting.
- **Try Something New Each Year:** One of the new events that Post 501 has been discussing is holding a blood drive. Blood donations is one of the many programs that the American Legion is passionate about. Look in future newsletter when details are finalized.
- **The American Legion is Apolitical:** 2024 will be a Presidential election year and we were reminded that as a non-profit we cannot overtly endorse a candidate running for political office. We all have an opinion about candidates, but when we are representing the American Legion, we need to be careful about our words and appearances.
- **Posts are a Bottom Up Organization:** It is you the members that run the Posts and not the Commander. This can only happen by participating in Post activities and meetings to make your voices heard. This is an extremely important concept and the cornerstone of how the Legion operates.
- **Know your Veteran Service Office (VSO):** The VSO is here to service the veterans in their community. They do this by counseling veterans on their benefits, assisting in the filing of Federal benefits, and networking with the various local, state, & Federal organizations to connect veterans to the appropriate services needed.



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VOLUNTEER HOURS

One of the measures that 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.



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 to woodburypost510@gmail.com and I can give you a group of people to call.

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Wall of Thanks

We will be again doing the Wall of Thanks at the Valley Creek Mall. The event starts on the weekend after Thanksgiving, 25/26 Nov, and lasts until the weekend prior to Christmas, 16/17 Dec (Sat/Sun only). The Wall of Thanks is our annual event to raise money for local charities and to honor veterans or members currently serving in the military. The booth will be located inside the Valley Creek Mall across from Keys Cafe. Visitors will be able to donate money that will benefit local charities.

Additionally, they will be able to post the name of a veteran or a family member currently serving in the military, on a placard and affix it to the Wall of Thanks. If you would like to volunteer a few hours contact Post member Mike Zerr, at 651-238-7331, or email the Post at woodburypost501@gmail.com and we can get you set up.

This is a great outreach to the local community to let them know that what our Post does within Woodbury.



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Upcoming Events

- **9 November – Woodbury Newcomers Event:** Post 501 will be participating in the City of Woodbury’s Newcomer event at M Health Fairview Sports Center (formerly HealthEast Sports Center), from 5:00 to 7:00pm. As part of the city’s goal to foster an inclusive and welcoming community, they have created an opportunity for the city to welcome new residents into our community, share information about the services and resources available from the city, and allow them the chance to learn about what the non-profit organizations in the area have to offer as well. Come see us at our table.
- **10 Nov – Veteran Day Events:**
 - Woodbury High School Veterans Day Ceremony: The program will start at 9:35 AM.
 - City of Woodbury: The ceremony will be at the Woodbury Veterans Memorial at 11:11am.
 - East Ridge High School: The program will begin at 2:20pm in the gym.
- **16 November – Woodbury Post 501 Monthly Meeting:** The Posts November meeting will be held at the Woodbury City Hall in the Ash North (main floor) conference room at 6:30pm.
- **21 December – Woodbury Post 501 Monthly Meeting:** The Posts December meeting will be held at the Woodbury City Hall in the Ash North (main floor) conference room at 6:30pm. Come join us for some Christmas cheer after the meeting.



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This Month in History – Veterans Day: 11 November 2023

Veterans Day is a time for us to pay our respects to those who have served. For one day, we stand united in respect for you, our veterans. This holiday started as a day to reflect upon the heroism of those who died in our country's service and was originally called Armistice Day. It fell on Nov. 11 because that is the anniversary of the signing of the Armistice that ended World War I. However, in 1954, the holiday was changed to "Veterans Day" in order to account for all veterans in all wars. We celebrate and honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

When first celebrated as Armistice Day, the day marked the end of World War I, formally recognized on the "11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month" in 1918.

Today we continue to celebrate the day as Veterans Day, still recognizing the original tie with November 11. That means Veterans Day is on the same day every year – November 11 – regardless of on which day of the week it falls.



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.

<https://americanlegionpost501.org/>