

01 OCTOBER 2023



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 501 WOODBURY, MN

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

Membership Update:

As of today, we have 83 renewals for the 2024 membership year. Based on this year's goal of 133 we are at 62.4 %. This is a good start for the 2024 membership year, but the renewal rate in the last few months has slowed down.

Let's get the renewal rate revved up again. If you have not renewed your membership do so by going to www.legion.org and get it done.

It's fast & easy. Do not wait until the last minute to do it.

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Over the past year the Post has had a tough time getting enough people to volunteer for Poppy Days in May & September. We have had to rely on the older members of both Posts, in particular two 90 plus year old WW2 veterans, to staff our six store locations. In the long term this is not very sustainable.

Poppy distribution is our only source of revenue for both Posts and is used to support veterans, High School scholarships, Boys State, and Woodbury charities that promote veterans' care. With our busy lives, it can be hard to find time to volunteer. However, the benefits of volunteering can be enormous. Volunteering offers vital help to people in need, worthwhile causes, and the community, but the benefits can be even greater for you, the volunteer.

Giving to others can help protect your mental and physical health. It reduces stress, combats depression, keeps you mentally stimulated, and provides a sense of purpose. The more you volunteer, the more benefit you'll experience, volunteering doesn't have to take a huge amount of time out of your busy day.

I hope I can count on you to be part of this fund-raising event as we plan for 2024. It is a great way to catch up with fellow Legion members and meet members in the community.

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Poppy Days Sept 2023 Recap

The three-day joint event was a great success, and the American Legion & VFW Posts are thankful for the outpouring of support from the community. Even combatting the Vikings opening day game on Sunday we made a little over \$15,000 split between the two Posts. Thanks to all of the volunteers from American Legion Post 501, VFW Post 9024, and cadets from the AFJROTC. But we do need more volunteers next year.



Twin Cities Honor Flight

In May of 2004, our nation completed the construction of the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. to commemorate the sacrifices of the "Greatest Generation." Sadly, because of their age, financial constraints or health concerns many of these veterans may not have an opportunity to see their monument. Honor Flight Twin Cities offers free flights to World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam Veterans to Washington D.C. to see their Monuments. Since its inception in May 2005, 223,000 plus veterans from across the United States have been transported as guests of the Honor Flight.

If you are interested in doing an Honor Flight in 2024 let me know and I can help you with the application process. There is normally a guardian that accompanies you and the Woodbury Legion will pay the fee for your escort.

If you want to discuss this with me, give me a call at 703-851-5416. For additional information on the Honor Flight Twin Cities go to www.honorflighttwincities.org.

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2023 EAGLE SCOUT OF THE YEAR PROGRAM

The American Legion has been partners with the Boy Scouts of America since the beginning of the organization in 1919. As part of this relationship, the Legion offers a scholarship program to Eagle Scouts through their “Eagle Scout of The Year” Program. Two years ago, the Woodbury Post 501 conducted its first selection for this program with great success. Our selectee, Matt Korf, won at Minnesota state level and received a \$1,000 scholarship. Matt also competed at the National level and was the 2nd runner up and received a scholarship award of \$2,500.

The new season for this program starts on 1 Nov 23 and Post 501 is looking to repeat its success from 2021. If you know of any young scout in the Woodbury scouting community that would be a great fit for this program let me know.



Veterans Day

On Friday, November 10, 2023, there will be a number of Veterans Day events that will be conducted within the Woodbury community:

- The AFJROTC unit will be having a Veterans Day program in the Woodbury High School gym. The program will start at approximately 9:35 am. Attendees are requested to arrive by 9:00am for some refreshments.
- There will be a short presentation at the Woodbury Veterans Memorial at 11:11 am. In case of rain, it will be held in City Hall. We are looking for volunteers who can raise their Service flag during this presentation. If you are interested let me know.
- East Ridge High School will have a program to celebrate veterans. The program will begin at 2:20pm in the gym. Our Vice Commander JoAnne Krammer will be the guest speaker.

If you want to attend let me know by November 1st so that I can pass the attendance numbers to Woodbury & East Ridge High Schools and the Lions.

Upcoming Events

- **26 October – Woodbury Post 501 Monthly Meeting:** The Posts October meeting will be held at the Woodbury City Hall in the Ash North (main floor) conference room at 6:30pm.
- **27 October – MN American Legion Fall Conference:** This will be held at the St Cloud Convention Center.
- **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.



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This Month in History – Navy Birthday: 13 October 2023

IN AN EFFORT TO CURB BRITISH SEA CONTROL, the Continental Congress established the Continental Navy, which later, on October 13, 1775, became the United States Navy. When the infant Navy was first formed, it consisted of just two armed vessels – tasked with disrupting munition ships supplying the British Army in America. Yet over the past nearly two and one-half centuries, our Navy has grown to become the largest, most advanced, and most lethal fighting force the world has ever known.

In 1972, the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Elmo Zumwalt, designated October 13 as the Navy’s official birthday, and directed that it be commemorated so as to “enhance [the] appreciation of our Navy heritage” and reinforce “pride and professionalism in the Naval Service.”

The Navy League Minnesota Council will cohost the Navy’s 248th Navy and Marine Corps Ball with the University of Minnesota NROTC. This year’s theme is “248 Years of Power, Presence, and Protection”. The event will be held Saturday, October 28th from 5:30 to 11:30 PM at the Radisson Blu at the Mall of America in Bloomington, Minnesota. For tickets, please visit the website: Navy League of Minnesota (navyleaguemn.org).



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/>