NEWSLETTER

NORTH MANKATO
AMERICAN LEGION POST 518

FROM THE COMMANDER

Dear Legion Family,

Thank you to everyone who attended our recent meeting. It was great to see strong participation and continued engagement from across our Legion Family.

We were honored to have two guest speakers join us this month. Rick from Hebron Cemetery provided a meaningful overview of the cemetery's history and shared the importance of ongoing maintenance and preservation efforts. He formally requested support to assist with needed updates and upkeep to ensure this important site continues to honor those laid to rest there.

We also welcomed Jose Peña from Minnesota Southeast Stars, a nonprofit AAU basketball organization serving youth ages 9 to 17 across Mankato, Owatonna, Rochester, Faribault, Janesville, and surrounding communities. Jose spoke about the organization's mission to give all children the opportunity to develop their skills and showcase their talents—regardless of financial circumstances. His request focused on helping cover participation costs for families facing financial hardship.

After thoughtful discussion, membership approved the following donations:

$1,000 to Hebron Cemetery for maintenance and improvements

$500 to Minnesota Southeast Stars to support youth participation

$500 donation to the Minnesota Warriors Hockey - for Mankato Warriors

These decisions reflect our continued commitment to supporting both our local community and meaningful causes that align with our values.

I'm also pleased to share that John Ganger has accepted the position of Communications Chair. With this renewed focus, we look forward to continuing to improve communication—not only with our members, but also with our community and potential partners. Strong communication will help us grow our impact and better share the great work being done by Post 518.

Planning is already underway for some of our upcoming events. The Mankato Mayhem Committee has begun organizing this summer's event. If you're interested in being part of the planning or volunteering, please feel free to reach out to a committee member for more information.

Additionally, the Golf Tournament Committee will be starting their planning efforts soon. This is another great opportunity to get involved—if you're interested in assisting, please connect with a committee member.

As we look ahead, please take note of the following April military holidays and observances:

April – Month of the Military Child

April 5 – Gold Star Spouses Day

April 14 – Air Force Reserve Birthday

April 23 – Army Reserve Birthday

These observances are an important reminder of the sacrifices made not only by those who serve, but also by their families.

Thank you again for your continued dedication, volunteerism, and support of Post 518. Everything we accomplish is because of you.

YOURS IN SERVICE

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FROM THE ADJUTANT

Jeff Frye, House Committee Chair
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April is upon us which means that we have nominations for officers, positions that are elected are as follows: Commander, 1st Vice Commander, 2nd VIce Commander, Finance Officer and House Committee Chair. If you have any interest or know of anyone who might be interested contact any former commander, Mike Forlit, Tom Maus, Paul Wingert, Iris Blooflat or me.

We are also at the point in the year that we will be doing our consolidated report. This report tracks how active we are as a post. The big items are dollars donated and volunteer hours. We do try to track the volunteer hours on our sign in sheet, but some people aren't always at the meetings. If you have helped out with any veterans projects, visited a veteran in the hospital or nursing home, helped with home repair projects, please email me at jefffrye927@gmail.com with any volunteer hours or monetary donations that you may have made in the past year. This could also be to any youth organizations - boy or girl scouts - local high school groups or church youth groups. It all helps show what our organization is doing in our community.

I also wanted to reach out about fun opportunities that are available here at the post. We currently have 4 dart teams that are getting ready to wrap up their seasons. We have a horseshoe team and we are sponsoring our first volleyball team, we are also looking for players for our Men's over 50 league. If you are interested in playing we play on Wednesday nights and are games are either at 6:15 or 7:15, and after the game we come back down to the post for a couple of cold ones and some fellowship. You do not necessarily have to be over 50, we can have a player or 2 that are not quite there yet. We will be having a meeting on April 1 at 6:15 if you're interested or you can contact me.

Our next meeting is on April 16th at 7pm. I hope to see you there. Thanks

FROM THE SAL COMMANDER

Hello everyone it's newsletter time once again!

First thing that comes to mind is a little more information about MANKATO MAYHEM II! Just a few weeks in and it is already getting a lot of attention from donors. Pretty much all of the sponsors from last year have returned along with several new sponsors for this year! Thank you to all the sponsors. Your support is the reason we can have success with our projects. The money raised goes a long ways in helping us with our goal of helping our veterans and our community. MANKATO MAYHEM II will be presented on August 22nd. Write it on your calendar. You don't want to miss it!

For those of you wondering about the golf tournament, that information will be available as we get into working on the details. It will be as fun as all the other years.

At our SAL family meeting those present discussed and voted to donate $250 to Minnesota Southeast Stars. They are an Amateur Athletic Union team that emphasizes team unity, faith, compassion, as well as team work and ball skills.

We also met with a group to get contact information so we can possibly help them to help clean up a cemetery by Nicollet. Hebron Cemetery has become over grown and we are going to help restore it to its deserved state. If you are interested in getting involved with that project, contact me. My contact information is at the end of this news letter.

Come on down to the club. Bring your friends. Show them what a great place it is to relax and have a drink. There are a lot of things to do at Post 518. There is Trivia and Pfeffer. Take a look at the Calendar. There is bound to be something of interest to you.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact me.

SINCERELY

Kim Sward
SAL Commander
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FROM THE AUXILIARY

Lisa Roberts Auxiliary President

Greetings! April is here already, and it's time for our Spring Shop and Sip on Saturday April 11, from 1 to 3 pm. Our membership has voted to use this event as a fundraiser for the new Bravo Zulu Women's House. As in the past, we will have wines to sample with the opportunity to purchase in addition to the silent auction and bake sale. This is a great opportunity to support our military community; all proceeds will be donated to help Bravo Zulu create their new home for female veterans in recovery and suffer from PTSD. Just like the men's house, this is the first of its kind in the country. Please come out and support us as we support Bravo Zulu.

The deadline for Unit 518 Auxiliary scholarship applications is right around the corner. If you have a post-secondary student who would like to apply, you can pick up an application at the club. Alternatively, you can reach out to Lyn Rohlfing at 507-217-9361 and request to have the application emailed. Time is short; applications must be turned in by April 15.

The Auxiliary is also asking for donations for MACV. We will have a donation box at the club for donations of bathroom items. These will help previously unhoused veterans furnish their new homes. We are requesting new items only. MACV has need of anything bathroom, including full sized shampoos, soaps and conditioners. Bath towels, hand towels, and washcloths. Shower curtains and laundry baskets. Check out the donation box for other ideas of what is needed.

Thank you for supporting our veterans!

Looking forward to May, the Auxiliary will be at Fleet Farm with poppies Friday May 15 and Saturday May 16. Look for a sign-up sheet later this month. You can volunteer for just an hour or two. These donations help us support our veterans in many ways. Last year our poppy donations allowed Veterans in the Luverne Veterans Home to have a meal out on the town. Unit 518 has also supported Gold Star Weekend, Vet's Court and Blue Earth and Nicollet County VSO's in addition to our Post 518 Color Guard. Please show your support and help us with this important annual event.

Wishing everyone a happy Easter!

Lisa Roberts

VETERAN OF THE MONTH #215

19 Years of Recognition

Saturday, April 3, 2026 ***Wheeler Park in North Mankato***

Retiring Colors for Pfc. Richard E. Kraus,U.S. Marine Corps – Medal of Honor Recipient
New Honoree of the Month: Army Corporal Lloyd Arthur Duenow

Public is welcome, refreshments served after the ceremony.
Let us know if you have a family or loved one you'd like to honor as "Veteran of the Month"

FROM THE COLOR GUARD

36 Volunteer Hours

Since our February meeting, the Color Guard performed 1 VOM ceremony, and Military Honors with the Mankato Area Veterans Memorial Squad for 2 Area veterans. Thanks to our Color Guard members that helped & gave their time for these events!

VETS FOR VETS

Ron Griebel
Commander
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APRIL

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
 Mixology Class			1	2 Jukebox Jam 7pm	3 REMEMBER EVERYONE DEPLOYED RED FRIDAY	4 Veteran of the Month 10am Meat Raffle 4pm
5 Easter Sunday	6	7 Pfeffer 6:30pm	8	9 Jukebox Jam 7pm	10 REMEMBER EVERYONE DEPLOYED RED FRIDAY Rock of Ages 7-10pm	11 Sip & Shop 1pm Meat Raffle 4pm
12	13	14 Trivia Night 7pm Air Force Res Birthday	15 Gold Star Spouses Day	16 Meeting 7pm Jukebox Jam Afterwards	17 REMEMBER EVERYONE DEPLOYED RED FRIDAY	18 Meat Raffle 4pm
19	20	21 Pfeffer 6:30pm	22	23 Jukebox Jam 7pm Army Res Birthday	24 REMEMBER EVERYONE DEPLOYED RED FRIDAY	25 Meat Raffle 4pm Dark Horse 7-10pm
26	27	28	29	30 Jukebox Jam 7pm	31 REMEMBER EVERYONE DEPLOYED RED FRIDAY	 Another Time Around

AMERICAN LEGION