NORTH MANKATO
AMERICAN LEGION
POST 518

NEWSLETTER

FROM THE COMMANDER

Legion Family,

Thank you to all of our members for your continued support and involvement in our meetings, events, and community activities. Your dedication and volunteerism continue to make a positive impact throughout our community and strengthen the mission of our Post.

We had several guest speakers join us this month:

Len Dohm visited the Post to personally thank our members for the monetary support provided to the Minnesota Warriors organization. He shared updates on the organization and the positive impact these donations continue to make for veterans and their families.

Loren Files presented information about the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association (CVMA) Chapter 48-9 and their upcoming "Welcome Home" event that will take place over Labor Day weekend at the Blue Earth County Fairgrounds. The event will focus on supporting veterans while remaining open to the public. Planned activities include educational classes such as wood and metal working, suicide prevention, first aid, a motorcycle ride, bean bag tournament, live music, and additional family-friendly activities.

Brent Danberry also joined us to provide information about Sierra Delta and the organization's mission to support veterans through the healing connection between veterans and their dogs. Sierra Delta focuses on providing programs, training resources, and community support that help improve veteran wellness, mental health, and daily quality of life through canine companionship.

Please join me in welcoming our newest members to Post 518:

Shawn Busse – U.S. Marine Corps

Samuel Watts – Army National Guard

The following donations and support requests were approved this month:

Mini Vets Fest 2026 – $500

Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association Chapter 48-9 "Welcome Home" Event – $1,000

Parade Candy – $350

Membership also approved Dutch Krediet's Eagle Scout Project. Dutch will be hosting a Flag Retirement Ceremony for younger Scout members where he will teach them the importance of respectfully retiring the American flag and honoring proper flag etiquette. His project will take place on May 31 at 4:30 p.m. We appreciate his dedication to preserving respect for our nation's flag and educating the next generation.

We also have several upcoming partnership and community events:

On June 12 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., SCHEELS in Mankato will host a Flag Exchange event in partnership with American Legion Post 518. Community members are encouraged to bring in frayed or worn American flags for dignified retirement. In appreciation, SCHEELS will provide one free replacement American flag per person while supplies last. We thank SCHEELS for partnering with us to ensure unserviceable flags are properly honored and respectfully retired.

Please also join us on June 14 for Flag Day activities. The Mankato Elks Lodge #225 will host a Flag Day Service at Wheeler Post beginning at 12:00 p.m. Following the program, everyone is invited back to the Post for hotdogs and camaraderie. At 1:30 p.m., Post 518 will conduct a Flag Retirement Ceremony.

June is an important month for honoring and recognizing many military observances:

June is PTSD Awareness Month

June 6 – Anniversary of D-Day

June 12 – Women Veterans Day

June 14 – Flag Day & U.S. Army Birthday

June 23 – Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday

June 27 – National PTSD Awareness Day

Thank you again for your continued dedication to our veterans, military families, and community. I encourage everyone to stay involved, attend upcoming events, and continue supporting one another as part of the Post 518 family.

YOURS IN SERVICE

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FROM THE ADJUTANT

Jeff Frye, House Committee Chair
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Greetings Fellow Legionnaires,

I really don't have a lot for you this month, we have started a new building sub committee that will report to the house committee. They will be working up a variety of different projects including some interior improvements to the club room and maybe a face lift for the front of the building. If you have any questions feel free to reach out.

Now that we are through Memorial Day, we will be starting our traditional summer routine full of parades and celebrations like our 250th Independence Day, Fun Days, Mankato Mayhem II among other fun events. This also means that we will be discontinuing live music and meat raffles until after Labor Day.

We had our elections for the upcoming year, here are the results. Installation will be at our June meeting.

Commander -	Iris Blooflat
1st Vice Commander -	James Peters
2nd Vice Commander -	Loren Files
Finance Officer -	Steve Lawrence
House Committee Chair -	Jeff Frye

Just a quick note on the 3rd District convention; I attended this event with Commander Iris and we had the opportunity to hear from one of the candidates that is running for Department Commander. If elected one of his platform items was to try and get the three family groups to start working together as a team. Iris and I looked at each other and smiled, our post has been doing this so well for so long that it is hard to believe that there are posts that just don't get that it takes all three family groups working together to make a post healthy. Once again, it makes me proud to be a part of such an awesome post.

Our next meeting will be on June 18th at 7pm, I hope to see you there.

FROM THE SAL COMMANDER

Hello everyone. This month's newsletter coming at you. We'll start out with the results of officer voting for the SAL family. The officers go as follows:

Commander: Kim Sward
Treasure: Travis DeFries
Adjutant: Jonny Henry
1st vice: Dennis Klienow
2nd vice : Bruce DeFries
Chaplain: Tony Giese
Sergeant At Arms: Matt Blooflat

Thank you to the officers both old and new. I look forward to working with you all as we take on another year. Thank you SAL members for having the trust in me to serve another year. I will, hopefully, do a good job as your commander. I try to improve a little each year.

Saturday May 16th, a few SAL members and a special guest donated their time In the name of the SAL. We worked with a committee from Hebron Cemetery by Nicollet. We helped them clean up some brush that was encroaching on some of the graves. They appreciated the help and we enjoyed doing it. Thank you LaDonna Johnson, Dave Spessard,Dennis Kleinow, Bruce Defries, Jeff Tiedekin for your time. I was there too but it seemed strange thanking myself.

On Sunday June 14th, weather permitting, the Legion is sponsoring a flag retirement ceremony. The SAL will be helping with preparation, setup, and cleanup. Come and help, you'll enjoy it. At least come and check out the ceremony. It is very moving. The details will be posted on the calendar and ScreenCloud as they become available.

Check out the calendar and ScreenCloud when you are at the club. There is bound to be something on them that will be of interest to you. The weather is turning great. Come on down and enjoy a drink on the patio. Bring friends. Post 518 is an open club. Everyone is welcome. Stop by and enjoy the atmosphere.

As usual if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me.

SINCERELY

Kim Sward
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FROM THE AUXILIARY

Lisa Roberts, Auxiliary President
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Greetings! Seems like June is here, and I'm left wondering what happened to May. I hope everyone enjoyed the Memorial Day Holiday and took a moment to reflect on the service and dedication of our Veterans. Thank you to everyone who donated or volunteered to make our Poppy Drive such a success! We raised over $2000 which will allow our auxiliary to make donations in support of Veterans programs over the coming year.

If you weren't able to attend the May family meeting, let me catch you up. We presented a quilt to Leo Anzures in celebration of his 80th birthday. Leo served in the Marines and his Marine Corps themed quilt-made by Sandi Forliti-brought a smile to his face. In other business, our membership voted to support Sierra Delta-a Veteran Service Dog organization, Minnesota Warriors Volleyball, Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association and A Fresh Start. Elections were also held, and the list of officers is below. We will have an installation of officers at our June meeting. Please join us!

The 518 Legion Family will partner again, with the Elks Lodge 225 on Sunday June 14 for a Flag Day Ceremony at Wheeler Park. The presentation begins at noon, followed by a light meal at the Post and a Flag burning ceremony afterward. It's a great opportunity to learn more about-and honor-the symbol of our freedom.

Keep in mind that parade season is almost here. If you would like to help ride on the float in any of the parades, please let either me or Sonja know. We will be in the St Peter and Elysian parades on July 4 and the Fun Days parade on July 11.

Finally, I would like to recognize Jim Rohlfing for his dedication to the club and the Post 518 Family over the past four years. Jim has decided to be fully retired and has resigned as the office manager. His last day was May 30. Best wishes, Jim!

2026-2027 Officers: Pres. Lisa Roberts, 1st Vice Pres. Deb Joerg, 2nd Vice Pres. Sonja Frye, Treasurer Bre Rients, Sgt-at-Arms Joanne Pooley, Members-at-Large Lyn Rohlfing and Kiersten Helgerson.

VETERAN OF THE MONTH #217

18 Years of Recognition

Saturday, June 6, 2026 ***Wheeler Park in North Mankato***

Retiring Colors for Air Force Colonel Leo K. Thorsness – Medal of Honor Recipient
New Honoree of the Month: Union Army Captain Lovilo Holmes – Medal of Honor Recipient
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

50 Volunteer Hours

Since our April 16th meeting, the Color Guard performed 1VOM ceremony, 2 Events and Military Honors with the Mankato Area Veterans Memorial Squad for 3 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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JUNE

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2 Pfeffer 6:30pm	3	4 Jukebox Jam 7pm	5 RED FRIDAY (Remember Everyone Deployed)	6 D-Day Anniversary Veteran of the Month 10am
7	8	9 Trivia Night 7pm	10 Legion Softball Game 6:15pm	11 Jukebox Jam 7pm	12 Women Veterans Day RED FRIDAY (Remember Everyone Deployed)	13
14 Flag Day U.S. Army Birthday Flag Retirement Ceremony 1:30pm	15	16 Pfeffer 6:30pm	17 Legion Softball Game 7:15pm 8:15pm	18 Meeting 7pm Jukebox Jam Afterwards	19 Juneteenth RED FRIDAY (Remember Everyone Deployed)	20
21 Fathers Day	22	23 Coastguard Auxiliary Birthday	24 Legion Softball Game 6:15pm	25 Jukebox Jam 7pm	26 RED FRIDAY (Remember Everyone Deployed)	27 National PTSD Awareness Day
28	29	30	The American citizen-soldier tradition emerged from colonial necessity, English traditions, and a ideological, anti-standing-army sentiment that prioritized civic duty. This model, which matured from Revolutionary War militias into the Continental Army, was formalized by the Second Amendment and eventually evolved into the modern National Guard through the Dick Act of 1903.			

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