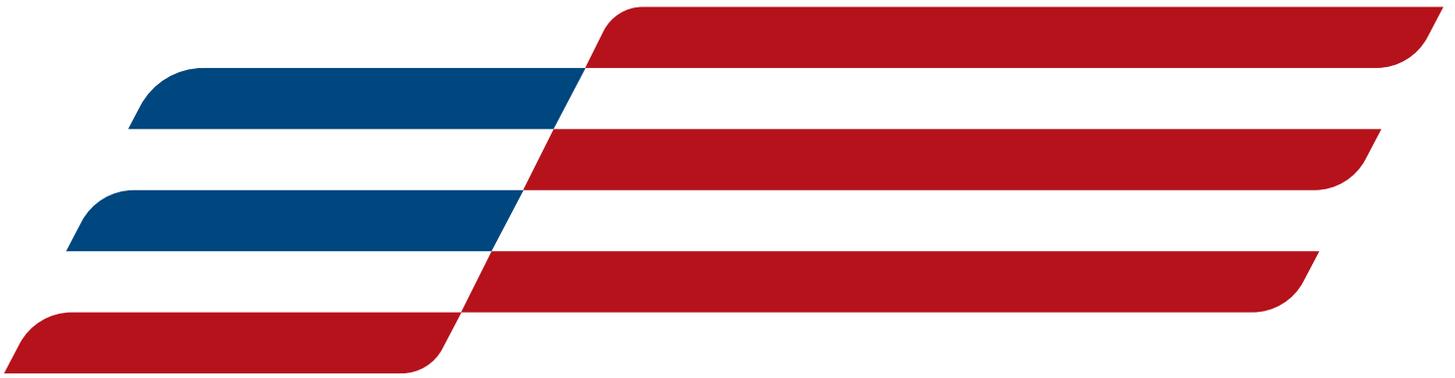


# NEWSLETTER

NORTH MANKATO AMERICAN LEGION POST 518



## FROM THE COMMANDER

Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season filled with time spent with family, friends, and loved ones. As we welcome the start of a new year, I want to wish each of you a happy, healthy, and successful beginning to 2026.

On behalf of the Post, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to all of our volunteers, staff, and leadership. Your dedication, time, and commitment made 2025 a great year for our Post and our community. None of what we do would be possible without your continued support and willingness to step up when needed.

As we move into the new year, we are looking forward to another great year

ahead. We hope to continue bringing new and fun events to the Post while also maintaining the strong sense of camaraderie and service that makes our Post such a special place.

Please be sure to stay informed about upcoming events and activities by checking our Facebook page and website regularly. We look forward to seeing you at the Post and working together to make 2026 another successful year.

Thank you all for everything you do, and I look forward to another great year with you.

**YOURS IN SERVICE**

**Iris Blooflat**  
 Commander  
 507-469-9283  
 irissalazar82@gmail.com



JANUARY 1, 2025

## FROM THE ADJUTANT

### Greetings Fellow Legionnaires,

I hope that you all had a Merry Christmas, we did not have any meetings in December so there really isn't much to pass on this month. However we do have the 3rd District Mid Winter conference coming up in January. This year the conference will be held in Lonsdale on Saturday January 24th. This is open to all Post Family members and will come with a lunch. The post will pay for anyone who is interested in going. I will have some registration forms behind the bar for anyone who is interested in going.

Our next meeting will be on January 15th at 7pm, I hope to see you there.

Thanks, Jeff Frye  
Adjutant, House Committee Chair

## SAL COMMANDER

### I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas with friends and family.

The time beginning with Thanksgiving and ending with New Year's Day is a magical time of the year. It starts with a gathering of people we love and care about sharing good times and food. It ends with saying goodbye to the old year and welcoming in the new year. With the new year comes the hope for an exciting and prosperous year coming up. I wish that for everyone reading this little note from me.

If you are looking for something to do with your loved ones, bring them to the club to enjoy the friendly atmosphere and cold drinks. North Mankato Post 518 is an open club. Everyone is welcome.

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

Sincerely,  
Kim Sward: SAL Commander  
kimsward12@gmail.com  
507-340-5972

## VETERAN OF THE MONTH #213

### **18 Years of Recognition**

Saturday, January 3, 2026  
Retiring Colors for Local Pearl Harbor Veterans. New Honoree of the Month: All Prisoners of War & Missing in Action.

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"

## A MOMENT OF HISTORY

**Jan 11, 1947:** First flight of the XF2H-1 Banshee, a significant Navy fighter/reconnaissance aircraft proving its capability with a high initial climb rate.

**January 27, 1973:** The Paris Peace Accords were signed, officially ending direct U.S. military involvement in the Vietnam War, with a ceasefire and troop withdrawal, though the conflict continued in Vietnam until 1975.

**Jan 16, 1991:** Operation Desert Storm began, a U.S.-led coalition's massive air and ground assault to liberate Kuwait from Iraqi occupation after Saddam Hussein defied UN demands to withdraw, resulting in a swift, decisive victory.

# FROM THE AUXILIARY

## Best wishes for a Happy New Year!

I hope that everyone enjoyed a wonderful holiday season with their family and friends. Thank you to everyone who came out to help decorate the legion for the holiday season. It was very festive looking, so nice to spend some time together at the start of the holidays.

Because we didn't have a meeting in December, I only have a few reminders of upcoming events. Please mark your calendars for the Auxiliary Christmas Party is January 29 at 6:00 pm. The Wooden Spoon is catering again this year, but we're going to try a new meal with a mashed potato and chili bar. Please sign up for the party at the club or let one of

the Auxiliary officers know if you would like to attend. We will do our gift exchange again this year, so please bring a wrapped \$10 gift to the party.

We are also planning the Soup and Chili Cook-off for Super Bowl Sunday, February 8 at 5 pm. Prizes awarded for first, second and third place in both categories. Please sign up to compete at the club. If you prefer to judge, it's only a \$10 donation to sample all of the chili and soup varieties. Nobody leaves hungry!

Looking forward to a charitable and productive new year,

Lisa Roberts



BELLS ON BELGRADE



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# FROM THE COLOR GUARD

## 113 Volunteer Hours

Since our November 20th meeting, the Color Guard performed 1 VOM ceremony, 2 Color Guard Events, and Military Honors with the Mankato Area Veterans Memorial Squad for 4 Area veterans. Thanks to our Color Guard members that helped & gave their time for these events!

## VETS FOR VETS

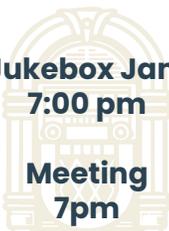
**Ron Giebel**  
 Commander  
 (507) 302-8026  
[ron.giebel@gmail.com](mailto:ron.giebel@gmail.com)



BELLS ON BELGRADE



# JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1  Jukebox Jam 7:00 pm	2 <b>RED FRIDAY</b>	3  Veteran of the Month 10am  Meat Raffle 4pm
4	5	6  Pfeffer 7:00 pm	7	8  Jukebox Jam 7:00 pm	9 <b>RED FRIDAY</b>	10  Meat Raffle 4pm
11	12	13  Trivia Night 7pm	14	15  Jukebox Jam 7:00 pm Meeting 7pm	16  <b>RED FRIDAY</b> Rankings 7-10	17  Meat Raffle 4pm
18	19	20  Pfeffer 7:00 pm	21	22  Jukebox Jam 7:00 pm	23  <b>RED FRIDAY</b> Malpractice 7-10	24  Meat Raffle 4pm 3rd District Mid Winter Conference
25	26	27	28	29  Auxiliary Christmas Party 6:00 pm	30  <b>RED FRIDAY</b> Billy & the Bangers 7-10	31  Meat Raffle 4pm