

Commander’s Corner

Hello all,

At the end of June I had the privilege of joining the Legion Riders on Stu’s Cruise as the chaise vehicle. Their original goal was to raise \$40,000 for the Troop & Family Support Fund and the WI Female Homeless Veterans Fund, yet their final amount raised was over \$60,000. I feel honored to have been included in this event, and am so incredibly proud of the Riders for their dedication to these causes.

Last month I also had the opportunity to attend Department Convention for the second year in a row. This year at Convention there was a lot accomplished, and a lot of fun was had. I was able to sit in on many Department meetings to include the Finance, Marketing, National Security and Legislative Meetings to see the bills that are voted on and passed up to National Convention and hopefully to Congress. The goals of such bills are to continue improving the betterment of veterans and the pillars of the American Legion. It was also great to celebrate the outgoing officers at Department on a fantastic year, as well as congratulating the incoming officers on the start of their 2024-2025 term. I’d like to extend a special thanks to Department Commander Karl Stuvengen for the mentorship this past year, President Maggie for the support and positivity, and SAL Commander Allen Watry for the continuous advocacy of all Legion programs. Congratulations to newly appointed Department Commander Jim Johnson and new Department Vice Commanders - I’m excited for the experience you bring as incoming leaders.

Post 51 will be hosting the Legion Baseball State Tournament August 2nd - 6th. While this is a very exciting opportunity for our community, it will also take many hands to host the event as well as our usual Friday Fish Fry. If you are available to assist with the State Tournament we have a sign-up at the Post, or you may reach out to Steve Craig.

As always, I appreciate all of our volunteers and community support. I hope everyone enjoys the remaining days of Summer.

-Ben VanHorn, Post Commander Post 51

President’s Corner

Hello all,

August 24th is our annual Membership Picnic. When you renew your membership(s) at the Legion on the 24th, you get a free chicken dinner(s)! Auxiliary membership prices are holding at \$36 for adults and \$6.75 for Junior members. The Membership Picnic got me thinking about what it means to be an auxiliary member and why I chose to be one.

Auxiliary Mission Statement:

“In the Spirit of Service, not self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.”

For me, most of my life has revolved around something having to do with the military. Lord knows it wasn’t always easy, but I was proud to support my family while they served. I am proud to once again serve a different kind of family as well as my community.

August 17th the Legion County Council, along with its posts, will take part in the Big River Rally at the Onalaska Legion Post 336. The purpose is to promote membership and programs to the public. Many times, veterans and their families do not understand the benefits of belonging to a Legion family. We are here to share information, support and teach each other, to provide an environment where they don’t have to be “on guard” because they are in a safe zone. Would you able to help serve breakfast to local veterans and community members from 6:30 to 9:30? Would you be willing to sit at a table and share why you joined the Auxiliary? Would you like to come have breakfast from 7-9 or come hang out and listen to a band a little later in the day? We would love to have you in whatever capacity you choose!

Thank you for all you do!

Be well and take care of each other.

-Brooke Parr, ALA Unit 51 President

SAL

Hello All and Happy August!

August 15th will mark the 80th Anniversary of Operation Dragoon, the Allied liberation of Southern France in World War II. Please take a moment to reflect on the sacrifices our fathers and grandfathers made in August, 1944.

Thanks to everyone who worked events this past month.

County Legion Commander Brad Heller attended our meeting last month to install our Squadron officers. After the ceremony, Commander Heller presented our Squadron with some awards from the State Legion Convention. We were presented with:

- Back-to-back Triple Nickel Awards
- 3 consecutive All Time High Membership Awards
- National Achievement Award for Squadron success from National Legion Commander Seehafer and National Detachment Commander Hall.

These awards show our commitment of working together as a Squadron, our Legion Family and our commitment of honoring the priceless heritage of our fathers and grandfathers. I'm proud of our Squadron and our membership. Let us continue.

SAL members are eligible to join the Legion Honor Guard. I encourage anyone interested to contact Mike Schaller. This is a great way to pay homage to all who served.

For the fifth straight year we have met our membership goal and we're always looking to keep our Squadron growing. So, if you are the male descendant of a Legionnaire or if your father or grandfather was in the service from December 7th, 1941 onward and died subsequent to their discharge, you are eligible for membership in the Son's Of The American Legion. Anyone interested can contact myself or Steve Craig or stop down at the Legion clubroom to get signed up.

-James Jacobson, SAL Commander

Building Committee

The Legion is helping to sponsor the National Night Out on August 6th. The Legion will supply chicken quarters and cole slaw, other food items will be provided by other organizations. This event will be at the Village Park.

Next Chicken Q is scheduled for Saturday, August 10.

Flags of Honor is set for the weekend of September 6 – 8. Signup sheets for flags are available at the Legion. Flags can be in honor of or in memory of any loved one.

A craft show will be held at the Legion on October 5th.

A Wicked Wine Walk will be held on October 24th. Tickets will be \$30.00 in advance, or \$35 day of (if available) with registration starting at 4:30pm.

The first purse bingo was a success; therefore, we are scheduling a second one for Saturday, November 2nd with doors opening at 11:30 a.m. Price will be \$50.00/ticket. Maximum of 175 tickets will be sold.

This year’s building fund raffle tickets were mailed to people on Post 51 mailing list. If you want to purchase more tickets or try to sell more tickets, they are available at the Legion.

We owe approximately \$21,000 against the building fund loan that was utilized to remodel our Legion building. We have events listed above that we hope will raise enough money to pay off this loan. Thank you to everyone who has helped raise the money to remodel our Legion.

-Mike Schaller

Berg Hemker Olson
 The American Legion Post 51
 148 South Leonard Street
 West Salem, WI 54669

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**Chicken Q Saturday,
 August 10th!**

American Legion Post 51 Officers:

Commander: Ben VanHorn 608-797-6402
 1st Vice Commander: LaRae Ludeking 715-897-3815
 2nd Vice Commander: Michael Schaller 608-386-3451
 3rd Vice Commander: Jay Christianson 608-397-5005
 Finance Officer: Jim Jenks 608-451-5962
 Chaplain: Ron Corn 608-799-6804
 Historian: Steve Craig 608-797-1735
 Sgt at Arms: Roy Warthan 608-786-2047
 Sgt at Arms: Warren Moquin 608-399-8898
 Adjutant: Phil Parr 608-343-4283
 Service Officer: Vern Tranberg 608-769-1045
 SAL Commander: James Jacobson 608-317-8654

American Legion Auxillary Unit 51 Officers:

President: Brooke Parr 608-797-9613
 1st Vice President: Karen Schaller-Wolf 608-797-8399
 2nd Vice President: Lisa Brickl 608-317-9727
 Treasurer: Jen Christianson 608-738-4290
 Chaplain: Joyce McLaughlin 608-799-2214
 Historian: Wendy Tranberg 608-769-6110
 Sgt at Arms: Judy Merfeld 608-786-3577
 Sgt at Arms: Amy Moquin 608-399-8898
 Secretary: Fran Amundsen 608-790-4860
 Sunshine Chairman: Sue Haack 608-786-2923

Honor Guard contact Mike Schaller 608-386-345

Post 51 Phone: 608-786-0051 / Email: amlgn0051@gmail.com

August 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 Fish & Shrimp 5:30pm	3
4	5 Bingo 6:30pm	6	7 Exec Board & Legion Mtg 6:30pm	8 Private Meetings 11:00 & 1:00	9	10 Chicken Q in the park
11 Aux Breakfast 8-11	12	13 Auxiliary Mtg 6:30pm	14 Class of '57 Private Event	15	16 Fish & Shrimp 5:30pm	17 Private Party
18	19	20 SAL Meeting 7:00	21 Build Fund Mtg 6:30pm	22	23	24 Membership Picnic
25 Private Birthday Party	26	27	28	29	30 Fish & Shrimp 5:30pm	31