

## Commander’s Corner

Greetings everyone!

As we say goodbye to summer and welcome the cool days and color changes of fall, this too is the season where a lot takes place at Post 51.

I would like to congratulate the SAL Detachment on a great job with their September fish fries, and thank everyone for attending and supporting them. There is a lot of work that goes into it each week and the patronage is greatly appreciated.

In September we held our bi-annual Family Meeting, and had some special guests from Badger Boys State and Badger Girls State, and Gilby (Our Post sponsored Service Dog) from Custom Canines came to visit and updated us on his training and all the things new and interesting to Puppy Gilby. It will be a great journey to watch him grow and learn in the next 12 months on his pursuit to helping another Veteran.

Last Weekend the 7th District held their Fall Conference at Post 336 in Onalaska, with some really great training on “Having the Hard Talk.” This included how to talk about suicide prevention, presented by Auxiliary District President Jesse Elmhurst, followed by Buddy Check Training and members of the conference contacted 45 members from around the District to ensure those members knew the American Legion is here for them, should they need help. National Vice Commander Roger Matthison was present and gave much support for the training and a great presentation on The American Legion’s year to come. I would also like to congratulate someone from Post 51, our very own Vice Commander Jay Christianson, who has accepted an appointment as the 7th District Adjutant! It is a great honor to have another member of the Post representing us further within the Department, and it truly reflects the leadership and comradeship that is cultivated at Post 51, Please congratulate Adjutant Christianson on his achievement when you see him at the Post.

A quick reminder as we move into October, we are in need for volunteers to help with Friday Fish Fries, and monthly newsletters. These openings are available to anyone in the community who would like to donate a few hours of their time each month in support of the Legion and its missions for the community, We appreciate all the support! In Service,

*-Ben VanHorn, Post Commander Post 51*

## President’s Corner

Happy Fall everyone!

Thank you to everyone who came out to the Joint Family Meeting. It was refreshing to see so many faces, especially newer ones! Our representatives for Badger Girls State and Badger Boys State shared their experiences and answered many questions. They had a great time and learned a lot!

It’s membership renewal time again. You should have received your membership renewal notice, if not, you should receive it shortly. You can use your credit or debit card to pay dues over the phone by calling (317) 569-4570 (Mon. – Fri. 7:00 am – 3:30 pm) or you can renew online at <http://www.alaforveterans.org/>. You will need to create a log in ID, add your email address and have your membership number handy. Membership numbers are on your Auxiliary ID card. If you missed renewing last year, it’s ok! You can choose to pay for last year and this year (to keep continuous membership) or pay \$36.00 for this 2025 year only.

Are you familiar with the Legion’s Action Alerts? Diane Weggen, 7th District Legislative chair, says it best: “Signing up for Alerts are a way to serve veterans and the American Legion Family. You can access the Alerts at [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org). Click on Programs, under programs select Legislative, on the right side of the screen you will see Grassroots Action center; by signing up you will receive action alerts, as well as other legislations that you can send an email to your representative, vote as often as you can. It will automatically bring up your representatives according to your zip code. The Major Richard Star Act is extremely important right now. Currently combat-injured veterans face a reduction in their retirement pay for every dollar of disability compensation they receive. If the act passes, it will allow combat-injured veterans to receive both their earned retirement pay and disability compensation without offset.” I’ve signed up myself and while it can seem a little daunting at first, it’s a piece of cake once you start getting the alerts.

Commander VanHorn invited me to attend the Legion’s 7th District fall meeting on September 21st. I was blown away at the amount of information shared and the speeches that were given! They dove into why buddy checks are so important and shared some staggering statistics. District 7 ALA President, Jesse Elmhurst, gave a presentation about destigmatizing mental health and had us practice asking people if they were ok and other uncomfortable personal questions. I sat next to someone I’ve known for years but we both learned so much more about each other in that five minutes of practice than we would have ever known if we hadn’t asked those uncomfortable questions. It’s very difficult at first but it is so worthwhile! Reach out to a friend and find out how they’re really doing.

*-Brooke Parr, ALA Unit 51 President*

## SAL

Hello All and Happy October.

October 20th will mark the 80th Anniversary of the Allies return to the Philippines in World War II with the Battle of the Leyte Gulf. This battle was instrumental in reestablishing the Allies footing in the Pacific Theater and driving the Japanese towards mainland Japan. Please take a moment to reflect on the sacrifices made by our fathers and Grandfather's in October of 1944.

I would like to send prayers and well wishes to fellow SAL member Tom Graff for a speedy recovery.

Thanks to everyone who worked events this past month.

The SAL made a \$500 donation to the La Crosse County Veterans Assistance Fund.

It's time to renew your membership if you haven't already done so. Stop down at the clubroom or contact Dan Hass.

Our meetings are held at 7:00pm on the third Tuesday of every month at the Legion. Please come and enjoy the fellowship of our organization. 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*

## New Event - BINGO & BLOODIES!

If you’re not going to be in the woods on Saturday morning, November 23rd, join us for Bingo & Bloodies! This fun new event will be from 9:00am-noon and will support Quilts of Honor.

## Building Committee

The Wicked Wine walk will be held on October 24th! Tickets are available at the Legion.

Purse Bingo returns on Saturday, November 2nd. Tickets are \$50 and include your bingo packet, dinner and door prize entry. Limited number of tickets are sold and can also be purchased at the Legion!

Raffle Ticket Winners:  
Wes Fechner - \$1,000  
Kevin Lombard - \$250  
Pam Hutson - \$250  
Sharon Fuller - \$50  
Tony Greene - \$50  
Roger Elsen - \$50  
Ashley Bohl - \$50  
Ryan Schaller - \$50

Special thanks to Sharon Fuller, as she donated her winnings back to the Building Fund!

*-Mike Schaller*

## November Events

- 1 Fish & Shrimp 5:30
- 2 Designer Purse Bingo
- 4 Bingo 6:30
- 6 Executive Board Meeting 6:30
- 8 Feather Party
- 9 Marine Corps Birthday Party
- 11 Veteran’s Day Meal
- 12 Auxiliary Meeting 6:30
- 13 Legion Meeting 6:30
- 15 Fish & Shrimp 5:30
- 16 40/8 Turkey & Pie Dinner 5:00
- 17 Auxiliary Breakfast 8-11
- 19 SAL Meeting 7:00
- 20 Building Fund Meeting 630
- 23 Bingo & Bloodies 9-12
- 27 Old Fashioned Party
- 29 Fish & Shrimp 5:30

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

Non-profit Org.  
 U.S. Postage  
 PAID  
 West Salem WI  
 Permit No. 34

**Annual Craft Show  
 Saturday, October 5th!**

**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

October 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 Executive Board Meeting 6:30pm	3	4	5 Craft Show 9-2
6 Christ Evang. Church Service	7 Bingo 6:30pm	8 Auxiliary Meeting 6:30pm	9 Legion Meeting 6:30pm	10	11 Fish & Shrimp 5:30pm	12 Class of '72 Reunion
13 Auxiliary Breakfast 8-11	14	15 SAL Meeting 7:00pm	16 Build Fund Mtg 6:30pm	17 Private Meetings 11:00 & 1:00	18 Fish & Shrimp 5:30pm	19 Nursing Scholarship Fundraiser
20	21	22	23	24 Wicked Wine Walk	25 Fish & Shrimp 5:30pm	26 40/8 Meeting & Dinner
27 Celebration of Life	28	29	30	31		