

Commander's Corner

Greetings everyone!

There is a very special event coming to the Legion community this Spring that I'd like to share with you all. On March 29th, 2025 your La Crosse County Council will host a Vietnam War Remembrance Day Welcome Home Celebration in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War ending. The event is open to all Vietnam veterans and a guest, will be held at Onalaska Post 336 from 12:00-4:00pm and Big Boar BBQ is providing lunch at no cost to attendees. Free tickets are available for the veterans on Eventbrite beginning December 7th. If you have questions or need assistance obtaining tickets for a veteran please let me, or Mike Schaller, know.

Building Fund Committee officer terms end this month. I greatly appreciate all of the hard work over the years and the large impact this group has made on our Post. New officers for the commission will begin their term on January 1st after voting takes place by the Legion Executive Board this month. Look for newly appointed officers to be shared in the January newsletter.

A reminder for Post 51 Executive Board: our January meeting will be combined with the regular Legion Membership meeting on January 8th.

We have lots of fun Holiday and annual events this month that we'd love for you and the family to join us for: Breakfast with Santa, the Army/Navy Game, Bake Sale & Christmas/Ugly Sweater Party, and finally finish the year with us on New Year's Eve. I hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in the new year.

-Ben VanHorn, Post Commander Post 51

Want to go paperless?

If you prefer to go paperless in the future, we have an email list! If you'd like to receive future newsletters via email please send an email to amlgn0051@gmail.com with your information.

We appreciate the consideration!

President's Corner

Hello everyone. Happy December! I hope you were able to visit and relax with family and friends for Thanksgiving. Can you believe the December holiday season is right around the corner? It may be the weather, but it sure seems to be quickly coming upon us!

While we are making plans to celebrate the season with our loved ones, please remember the veterans in need. The VA has a list of items they are requesting for veterans. The complete list can be found by doing an internet search for "Wisconsin VA hospital wish list 2024". We will also have printed lists available, with sizes, at the post for you to take on your next shopping trip along with barrels to hold your donations. You don't have to buy a lot to make an impact, even one item will help, and there are items to fit all budgets.

Men: New T-shirts, sweatshirts (hoodies), athletic shorts and shoes, winter coats.

Women: New sweatpants/yoga pants, sweatshirts, t-shirts, athletic shoes, winter coats.

For men and women: Toiletry items like Dove soap, bodywash, deodorant, lip balm, razors (minimum 3 blades), baby wipes. Food items like 4 or 8 oz bottles of juice and water, granola, chips, individually wrapped packages of gum and mints, goldfish crackers, cookies, fruit strips, peanut butter or cheese crackers, shelf stable coffee creamer, sugar packets or sugar substitute. Backpacks, playing cards, board games, puzzle books, large print crossword, Sudoku, word find puzzles and fidget spinners. All subscription reading glasses, planners, pocket calendars, small memo books or notebooks. Gift cards for fuel and food to help veterans afford to go to their appointments. As you can see, the needs are varied and don't have to be expensive.

Please join us for our popular Breakfast with Santa on the 7th. The Auxiliary meeting starts at 5:30pm this month. We will wrap presents for the children of the community followed by a pizza party and white elephant card game. Lisa Brickl has offered to bartend for us too! We have breakfast on the 15th and the Bake Sale/quilt drawing the morning of the 21st followed by the Ugly Sweater Christmas Party, starting at 5:00. Tom Carpenter will be delighting us with his acoustic music so be sure not to miss it. The public is encouraged to attend. On the 22nd, we have a big crew who put together and deliver Christmas trays to local veterans, auxiliary members and people of the community who don't get out much (last year we served over 120 people). We start at 7am and are usually done before noon. Please let me know if you can help or if you'd like to make a dozen cookies to fill out the trays.

Please take care of yourselves and each other. Remember presence makes more memories than presents.

-Brooke Parr, ALA Unit 51 President

SAL

Hello All and Happy Holidays.

December 16th marks the 80th Anniversary of the Ardennes Offensive, better known as the Battle of the Bulge in World War II. German forces launched a surprise attack on Allied forces in the forested Ardennes region in Belgium, Luxembourg, and France. It was a brutal battle both in terms of combat and elements. Harsh winter conditions made it hard for the tired and battered Allies to regroup and go on the counter. After gaining a foothold, the Allies launched a counter offensive and were able to push the Nazis and the war into Germany. When it was all said and done the US suffered 83,000 casualties, lost 800 tanks and over 1,000 aircrafts. Please take a moment to reflect on and honor the sacrifice our Father's and Grandfather's made during the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944.

On January 11th the SAL will be hosting a Spaghetti Dinner at the Legion in honor of local serviceman Quintin Browne. All proceeds will go to the Quintin Browne Memorial Scholarship. Prep for the dinner will be January 10th.

I know it's a couple months early, but the SAL will be in charge of the Friday Fish Fry's in February. I'm asking all SAL members who are able, to help out. Same for the event in January as well.

It's membership time again, so please if you haven't yet renewed your membership for the upcoming year please do so. 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.

Festivus is December 23rd, so remember to put up your Festivus Pole, have a Festivus Dinner, air your grievances and end the celebration with feats of strength. It's a "Festivus for the rest of us!" Happy Festivus.

On behalf of SAL Squadron 51 and the entire Post 51 family, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

-James Jacobson, SAL Commander

Building Committee

Breakfast with Santa is scheduled for Saturday, December 7th from 8:30-11:00am. Bring the kids and get their picture with Santa! The cost for this event is a free will donation.

Our Annual Bake Sale will be held on Saturday, December 21st from 9:00am-1:00pm. Come early to grab your favorites! If you wish to provide any baked goods for this sale, please contact Melody Schmitz. Quilt raffle drawing will be held the same day.

-Mike Schaller

January Events

3 Fish & Shrimp 5:30

6 Bingo 6:30

8 Executive Board & Legion Combined Mtg 6:30

11 Quentin Browne Spaghetti Dinner 5:30

12 Auxiliary Breakfast

14 Auxiliary Meeting 6:30

15 Building Fund Meeting 6:30

16 40-8 Meeting 6:30

17 Fish & Shrimp 5:30

20 Rod & Gun Club Meeting 5:30

21 SAL Meeting 7:00

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

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**Join us for New Year's Eve
 Dinner & a midnight toast!**

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

December 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Bingo 6:30pm	3	4 Executive Board Meeting 6:30pm	5	6 Fish & Shrimp 5:30pm	7 Breakfast w/ Santa 8:30-11 WS FD Xmas Party
8 Private Party	9	10 Auxiliary Meeting 5:30pm	11 Legion Meeting 6:30pm	12	13	14 Army vs Navy Game 1:00
15 Auxiliary Breakfast 8-11	16 WS Rod & Gun Meeting 5:30	17 SAL Meeting 7:00pm	18 Build Fund Mtg 6:30pm	19	20 NO FISH (bake sale prep)	21 Bake Sale 9-11 Christmas Party 5:00
22 Food Tray Deliveries	23	24	25	26	27	28 Private Party
29	30	31 NYE Dinner				