

Commander's Corner

Greetings and Happy New Year 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 now available for the veterans on Eventbrite. If you have questions or need assistance obtaining tickets for a veteran please let me, or Mike Schaller, know.

New Executive Committee officers for the Building Commission begin their terms this month and are listed below. I greatly appreciate all of the hard work over the years and the large impact this group has made on our Post, so I look forward to seeing how this group continues to make an impact.

Committee Chair: Mike Schaller

Vice Chair: Nikki Vidal

Finance Officer: Tim Nobel

Adjutant/Secretary: Phil Parr

Member Seat 5: Ron Corn

Member Seat 6: James Jacobson

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

-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

Happy New Year!

I hope you all had a wonderful and joyous holiday season! I am so grateful to all of you who helped to make 2024 a successful year. We were able to donate about \$300 worth of toys to the Jaycees Toys for Tots program! The Auxiliary also donated multiple Christmas gifts to five children and gift cards for 4 parents in the West Salem community! A huge thank you to Judy Merfeld for reaching out to the school, buying gifts, making sure we had enough wrapping paper and putting together the Auxiliary Christmas party in December!! It was so fun to watch everyone be excited to wrap presents then finish up with eating pizza and playing card bingo.

The government gives a value of \$35.00 per hour, per person, for each of our volunteer hours. That does not mean any of us get paid or a tax credit for that amount, it means that is the financial value of our contributions given to Congress for our acts of service (volunteering) for veterans and military members. I haven't totaled the number of Auxiliary volunteer hours yet as that will take some time. Please consider helping at one event throughout the year and be sure the chairperson has your name written down on our volunteer list so we can count your contribution(s) accurately.

Friendly reminder to catch up on Auxiliary membership dues, we are short quite a few renewals this year. Please reach out to me by phone or text if you have feedback as to why you are not renewing or if you have any questions or problems about renewal. I am here to listen and see how I can help.

It's scholarship time again! Please go to - <https://www.amlegionauxwi.org/scholarships> for a list of available scholarships. Applications are available to pick up at the Legion or you can message our Facebook page with your address to have applications sent to you. Our FB page has a picture of our sign and is named, "American Legion Post 51- West Salem, WI 54669". Facebook is a great resource for current schedules and events.

Badger Girls State (BGS) sign up deadline is due by January 25th. This is open to junior girls and will be held June 15 through June 20th. Badger Boys State is open to junior boys. We have information about both programs (and applications) at the post, Mrs. Stenberg at West Salem High School and Coulee Christian school.

Take care of yourselves and each other.

-Brooke Parr, ALA Unit 51 President

SAL

Hello All and Happy New Year!

January 9th marks the 80th Anniversary of the invasion of Luzon by Allied Forces in the Pacific Theater during World War II, with the first of two amphibious landings, both led by the US 6th Army. The second amphibious landing would occur southwest of Manila on January 15th, marking the Allies return to the Philippines. Hostilities would last until March, 1945. The Allies would be met with heavy resistance at Clark Air Base on January 23rd, where hostilities would last until the end of February. The largest tank battle of the Pacific Theater would occur at Luzon in the middle of January as well, pitting 76 Allied Sherman and Stuart tanks with support from infantry units against 200 Japanese tanks. The tank battle would last three weeks resulting in the loss of over 30 American tanks and hundreds of American deaths. Please take a moment to reflect on the sacrifice our Father's and Grandfather's made at Luzon in January 1945.

The SAL is hosting a pasta buffet on Saturday, January 11th, with proceeds going to the Quentin Browne Memorial Scholarship. Serving starts at 4:30 and will feature a variety of options including Spaghetti, Alfredo, Chicken Alfredo, Caesar Salad, Garlic Toast and desserts. Tip boards and other raffles will also be available. Prep will be Friday, January 10th. I ask that any SAL member who is able to, please volunteer.

The SAL is in charge of the fish fry's next month (February) as well. I ask again, any SAL member who is able to, please lend a hand.

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 Dan Hass or stop down at the Legion clubroom to get signed up.

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 Commission

Come and enjoy another Bloodies and Bingo on Wednesday, January 25th, 2025 from 9am-noon!

Sunday, February 23rd, 2025 will be our annual Heart of West Salem event. This will be a soup and sandwich night. Proceeds from this event will go to the West Salem food pantry. Please make a note on your calendar to attend to help support this very worthwhile event for West Salem families in need.

After 7 years of helping the Building Committee raise funds for remodeling our Legion Post, Paul and Vicki Degenhardt are taking a break. When you see Paul and Vicki, please thank them for their generous contribution to the building committee. Their efforts, along with many others, have transformed the interior of our Legion building.

If there are any individuals who wish to help out the Building Committee in the future, please call Mike Schaller at 608-386-3451. Or come to our next meeting on the third Wednesday of January. The Building Committee is still raising funds to pay for the 2nd phase of our building remodeling to include kitchen renovation.

-Mike Schaller

February Events

- 1 Game Getters 5:00
- 2 WS 1st Responder Chili Supper
- 3 Bingo 6:30
- 5 Executive Board Meeting 6:30
- 6 WS Business Assoc Dinner
- 7 Fish & Shrimp 5:30
- 9 Auxiliary Breakfast
- 11 Auxiliary Meeting 6:30
- 12 Legion Meeting 6:30
- 17 Rod & Gun Club Meeting 5:30
- 18 SAL Meeting 7:00
- 19 Building Fund Meeting 6:30
- 21 Fish & Shrimp 5:30
- 23 Heart of West Salem

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

Bingo & Bloodies:
January 25th 9:00am -
Noon!

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

January 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3 Fish & Shrimp 5:30pm	4
5 Private Party 12:00-3:00pm	6 Bingo 6:30pm	7	8 Exec Board & Legion Meeting 6:30pm	9	10	11 Q Browne Pasta Dinner 4:30pm
12 Auxiliary Breakfast 8-11	13	14 Auxiliary Meeting 6:30pm	15 Build Fund Mtg 6:30pm	16 40-8 Meeting 6:30pm	17 Fish & Shrimp 5:30pm	18 Piston Pounders Car Club Mtg 4:00pm
19	20 WS Rod & Gun Meeting 5:30	21 SAL Meeting 7:00pm	22	23	24	25 Bingo & Bloodies 9am-12pm
26	27	28	29	30	31	