

Commander's Corner

Greetings all,

A reminder about 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.

Another reminder that next month we will hold our Spring Joint Family Meeting on March 12th, and all are encouraged to attend.

Additionally, the La Crosse County Veterans Service Office will begin hosting informational services at the Post on the first Friday of each month beginning 2/7/25. The Team will be at Post 51 on the scheduled Fridays from 1-4pm to cover any questions you may have and to talk about additions to benefits available.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the newly elected Officers of the Post Building Commission, I have every faith these Officers will lead the Commission into the next phase of greatness, and I look forward to their leadership within the Community.

-Ben VanHorn, Post Commander Post 51

President's Corner

Hello everyone,

I hope you are doing well. Have you renewed your membership yet? We are still accepting renewals and applications. You can renew by check or credit card in person or through the mail, online at www.legion-aux.org/renew or by calling National Headquarters at (317) 569-4570. Please have your member ID ready to give your Unit and Membership numbers. Please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns.

We have decided to keep accepting VA donations of new clothing, games and food items all year long. Please reach out if you would like a list to keep handy for when you're out shopping or cleaning out a closet. Donations need to be new items.

Our Poppy Princess is getting her very own parade float! Thank you to Lisa Brickl for the idea and gathering the information so we could vote on it at our last meeting.

Do you have any Vietnam veterans in your life? On March 29th, 2025, at noon, the La Crosse County American Legion is hosting a Vietnam Remembrance Day to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. They would like to honor and salute the men and women who served during the war. Please gather your veteran and plan an afternoon at the Onalaska American Legion. It is free and is open to any Vietnam Era veteran and a guest, lunch will be catered by Big Boar. Reservation "tickets" are available on Eventbrite, or you can email lacrossecountylegion@gmail.com. Don't let them tell you they didn't earn it because they 100% did! Let's all work together to make this event a huge success! We cannot erase the disgusting behavior they endured when they came home, but we can all gather to show them honor and respect now.

Stay well and take care of each other.

-Brooke Parr, ALA Unit 51 President

SAL

Hello All and Happy Happy February!

February 19th marks the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima in the Pacific Theater of Operations during World War II. The battle which would become one of the most famous of the War, pitted 110,000 Allied troops, comprised mostly of the USMC V Amphibious Corps and the US Navy's 5th Fleet, against 21,000 troops of the Imperial Japanese Army. The battle would last six weeks and would be a decisive victory for the Allied forces in the Pacific. But victory would come at a cost as Allied Casualties outnumbered Japanese casualties at a rate of 3:2. On February 23rd, six Marines of VAC would become synonymous with the Battle of Iwo Jima as they raised the American Flag on Mount Suribachi. The photo of the event has become one of the most recognized of the war and was awarded the Pulitzer Prize the same year. Please take a moment to recognize the great sacrifice our Father's and Grandfather's made at Iwo Jima in February, 1945.

We hosted a pasta buffet on January 11th for the Quintin Browne Memorial Scholarship with a great turnout. Between the fundraiser and donations we were able to present a check for \$3757. Thanks to everyone who helped, donated and attended.

The SAL is in charge of the fish fry's this month, so I ask any member who is able to help, please do so. Prep will be on the Thursday's before and any help would be appreciated.

At last month's meeting we voted to take over the last fish fry of the month. Starting this month and going forward, we will be doing a simple Old Fashioned Fish Fry. Again, any help would be appreciated.

Squadron 51 had great representation at the Legion Midwinter Conference last month in Appleton. A lot of good information was gained and a good time was had by all.

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.

-James Jacobson, SAL Commander

Building Commission

Hello Everyone! We have had a lot of exciting things happen this month! January marked the inauguration of the Commissions newly elected Officers, they are:
Executive Chair - Mike Schaller
Vice Chair - Nikki Vidal
Adjutant - Phil Parr
Finance - Tim Noble
Member - Ron Corn
Member - James Jacobsen

The Officers of the Commission are all very excited to hit the ground running, anyone wishing to help with events and projects are encouraged to contact us!

Commander VanHorn presented the Commission with contributions for the Commission, solicited from two anonymous Donors of the community totalling \$75K, making our current fund balance of \$128,489.71, with another \$50k contribution commitment, to be issued at a later date.

The Commission, the Post, and its members continue to be humbled by the Community's full support of the Legion, and we greatly appreciate the dedication and commitment from all those who are involved.
THANK YOU!

-Phil Parr

March Events

- 1 Legion Birthday
- 3 Bingo 6:30
- 5 Executive Board Meeting 6:30
- 8 District Executive Board Meeting
- 9 Auxiliary Breakfast
- 12 Joint Family Meeting 6:30
- 15 Corned Beef Prep
- 16 Corned Beef Prep
- 17 Corned Beef Dinner
- 18 SAL Meeting 7:00
- 19 Building Commission Meeting 6:30
- 20 40-8 Meeting 6:30
- 21 Fish & Shrimp 5:30
- 30 Designer Purse Bingo

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

**Liver Lovers & Chicken
 Too! Saturday, February
 15th**

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: Nikki Vidal 608-385-1838
 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

February 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Game Getters 5:00pm
2 1st Responders Chili Supper 3pm	3 Bingo 6:30pm	4	5 Executive Board Meeting 6:30pm	6 West Salem Bus Assoc Dinner	7 CVSO Office Hours 1-4 /Fish & Shrimp 5:30pm	8
9 Auxiliary Breakfast 8-11	10	11 Auxiliary Meeting 6:30pm	12 Legion Meeting 6:30pm	13	14	15 Liver Lovers & Chicken Too
16	17 WS Rod & Gun Meeting 5:30	18 SAL Meeting 7:00pm	19 Build Comm Mtg 6:30pm	20	21 Fish & Shrimp 5:30pm	22 Bingo & Bloodies 9am-12pm
23 Heart of WS 4-7	24	25	26	27	28 Fish & Shrimp 5:30pm	