

## Commander's Corner

Greetings all,

Spring is a busy time for our Post and we have a few fun events this month where we'd love to see you - the annual Corned Beef Dinner will be on Monday, March 17th. Prep for the dinner will happen on Saturday and Sunday prior, so any extra hands is are always appreciated. We also have another Designer Purse Bingo scheduled for March 30th, to support our Legion Softball Team. Tickets can be purchased via Eventbrite, at the Post or at First National Bank in West Salem.

A reminder about a very special event coming to the Legion community this month. On March 29th 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 Era 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 this month we will hold our Spring Joint Family Meeting on March 12th, and all are encouraged to attend.

Special thanks to all our members and volunteers for their hard work lately. Our Post would not be successful without your dedication to the American Legion's Pillars and our community.

See you next month for our annual Smelt Fry - April 4th!

*-Ben VanHorn, Post Commander Post 51*

## President's Corner

Happy Spring!

I, for one, am glad warmer weather is heading our way. Do you have your garden seeds started yet? While March is still chilly, it brings some wonderful things with too. We have a family meeting on the 12 th . I love family meetings because that is where we get updates on what each family is doing, discuss ideas and issues, vote as a family and set the schedule for the next six months. St. Patrick's Day is one of my favorite holidays. Can't wait for the Corned Beef Dinner on March 16 th ! We also have the first Vietnam War Remembrance Day on the 29th . Let us give the veterans the welcome home they deserve! Come out to partake or volunteer. Let's make this event a complete success so we can have many more events like this in our area. Flyers are up at the Legion, please look for them next time you are in the Post. We also have the girls softball Designer Purse Bingo on the 30 th . This is the big fundraiser for the team. The young ladies, parents and coaches will be floating around showing off purses and serving food. The bar will be open so you can still hang out and support the team even if you don't play bingo or want the chance to win a purse.

The Past Commanders and Presidents dinner is coming up on April 27 th . Keep an eye out for invitations in the mail towards the end of the month. Please let me know if you do not receive one and should.

Every month I am blown away at the number of people we have volunteer for one of the many events Post 51 hosts each month. It has been so helpful having someone wrap silverware, cut veggies, help prep, cook, serve or clean up! We would have a small fraction of the success we have without all of you! Thank you, thank you, thank you all for the time and effort you give so willingly!

We are still accepting new members and membership renewals. Please see me or Karen Schaller-Wolf for details. You can also call (317) 569-4570 or renew online <http://www.alaforveterans.org/>.

Be well and take care of each other.

*-Brooke Parr, ALA Unit 51 President*

## SAL

Hello All and Happy March!

**March 5th-7th marks the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Cologne in the European Theater of Operations during World War II. The battle was part of Operation Lumberjack, the Allied attempt to secure the west bank of the Rhine River. Led by the US Army's 3rd Armored Division, the Battle of Cologne would last for three days with Cologne being secured by Allied forces on March 7th. The battle also featured one of the most famous tank duels of the War. On March 6th, a German Panther tank was sitting in Cologne's Cathedral Square when two Sherman tanks, commanded by 2nd Lt. Karl Kellner of Sheboygan, WI and Sgt. Vernal Jacobson of Readstown, WI, approached the square from Komödienstraße. Unaware of the Panther, the two Sherman's continued towards the square until reaching an impasse due to rubble. At that moment the Panther fired twice, hitting Lt. Kellner's tank directly and Sgt. Jacobson's tank in the tracks, disabling it. Two blocks away on another street, the 3rd Armored's newest addition, an M26 Pershing, was alerted and charged towards the square. Firing twice on the move, both armor piercing shells from the Pershing hit the Panther and marked a victory for the 3rd Armored and the Allies. Victory would not come without cost. Lt. Kellner and his driver PFC Julian Patrick, would be killed in the hostilities with three others from their tank wounded. My Grandpa, Sgt. Jacobson, who would appear in a famous picture of the tank battle, escaped the battle without injury. Let us take a moment to honor the sacrifice our Father's and Grandfather's made in Cologne in March 1945.**

\*\* I will have a copy of the picture featuring my Grandpa during the Battle of Cologne at the Legion if anyone is interested in seeing it.

Thanks to all who worked and attended our events last month.

The SAL will be hosting an Old Fashioned Fish Fry on the last Friday of every month. An Old Fashioned Fish Fry consists of batter fried fish, french fries or baked potatoe and baked beans. Coleslaw and tartar sauce will be available family style. We're always looking for volunteers to help, so anyone interested, stop on down.

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. *[continued on next panel]*

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 he Legion clubroom to get signed up.

Happy St. Patty's Day.

*-James Jacobson, SAL Commander*

## Building Commission

The newly founded Building Commission has worked hard to get their feet under themselves and continue on with the amazing job that the former building fund had started. Special thanks to Chairman Schaller who has done an outstanding job in directing the Building Commission thus far. Thanks to the input of the members, the new Building Commission should prove to be a great success and a true asset to the Post 51 family.

We have many upcoming events. Most notably, Breakfast with the Easter Bunny on April 6th from 8:30 until 11:00. We will also be providing food at the West Salem Fireman's Dance on May 3rd.

*-Phil Parr*

## April Events

- 2 Executive Board Meeting 6:30
- 4 CVSO Office Hours 1-4
- 4 Smelt Fry 5:30
- 5 Private Party
- 6 Breakfast w/ the Easter Bunny 8:30-11
- 7 Bingo 6:30
- 8 Auxiliary Meeting 6:30
- 9 Legion Meeting 6:30
- 15 SAL Meeting 7:00
- 16 Building Commission Meeting 6:30
- 18 Fish & Shrimp 5:30
- 25 Old Fashioned Fish Fry 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

**Designer Purse Bingo  
 returns March 30th!**

**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 608-399-9020  
 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

## March 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						<b>1</b> Legion Birthday Party 5:00pm
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Bingo 6:30pm	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Executive Board Meeting 6:30pm	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> CVSO Office Hours 1-4 /Fish & Shrimp 5:30pm	<b>8</b> District Exec Board Meeting
<b>9</b> Auxiliary Breakfast 8-11	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Joint Family Meeting 6:30pm	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Corned Beef Dinner 5:30pm	<b>18</b> SAL Meeting 7:00pm	<b>19</b> Building Comm Mtg 6:30pm	<b>20</b> 40-8 Meeting 6:30	<b>21</b> Fish & Shrimp 5:30pm	<b>22</b> Wedding Reception
<b>23/30</b> 30th - Purse Bingo 1:00pm	<b>24/31</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Investment Club Meeting 7:00pm	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Old Fashioned Fish Fry 5:30pm	<b>29</b>