

Commander's Corner

Greetings all,

It's officially Spring and Post 51 is as busy as ever. Check out our calendar of events this month and next, we'd love to see you.

As you may know the SAL has been fundraising for the repair of the Court of Honor pillars in Village Park. We are now looking to reform a committee to chair these fundraising efforts on behalf of the SAL, and are looking for members to be apart of the committee. Anyone interested should contact myself or SAL Commander, James Jacobson.

Over the coming months the Post 51 families will be transition to an all electronic newsletter. Phase 1 of the transition will begin with those individuals currently receiving a newsletter whom reside outside of the state of Wisconsin - these individuals will convert to an emailed newsletter first. Over the coming months we will convert all individuals registered to receive a newsletter to an electronic copy via email. If you find you have not been receiving a printed newsletter or copy via email, please do not hesitate to reach out. Please send correspondence to Post 51 via email at amlgn0051@gmail.com so you can be added to the email registry. We appreciate your understanding and patience as we navigate this transition.

-Ben VanHorn, Post Commander Post 51

May Events

- 2 CVSO Office Hours 1-4
- 2 Fish & Shrimp 5:30
- 3 Taco Dinner Boy Scout Foundation
- 5 Bingo 6:30
- 7 Executive Board Meeting 6:30
- 8 Medicare 101 Meetings 11:00 & 1:00
- 10 40/8 Femme
- 11 Auxiliary Breakfast 8-11
- 13 Auxiliary Meeting 6:30
- 14 Legion Meeting 6:30
- 15 40/8 Meeting 6:30
- 16 Fish & Shrimp 5:30
- 17 Chicken Q
- 20 SAL Meeting 7:00

May Events Continued

- 21 Building Commission Meeting 6:30
- 23 Senior Breakfast
- 25 Graduation Party
- 26 Memorial Day Program
- 28 Investment Club 7:00pm
- 30-31 June Dairy Days

President's Corner

Happy Spring!

I hope everyone is enjoying the more moderate temperatures.

I hope you can join us for our smelt fry on the 4th and the Ham Party (bingo with ham as the prizes) on the 11th. We are doing the Smelt Fry in place of the regular fish dinner on the 4th. Fish, shrimp and more will be on the 18th and the Son's of the American Legion have their Old-Fashioned Fish fry on the 25th. A fan favorite - Breakfast with the Easter Bunny will be on Sunday, the 6th this year! The children enjoy eating breakfast and taking pictures with the Easter Bunny.

If you haven't done so, please make sure to renew your membership as soon as possible. If you would like to renew/join but you're having difficulty, in any way, please reach out to me. What you tell me will remain confidential and I will do my best to help.

During the last Family meeting, the Legion family voted to stop hosting our family fish frys for June, July and August. The Auxiliary also will not be hosting breakfast during those months. We will do one big event in the early summer then we are giving our hard-working volunteers the summer "off". There are still many events going on this summer so you will still see a family presence at one of the many events around town. As always, the Legion bar will still be serving cold beer and cocktails every Friday night. The Sons of the American Legion will also host their Old-Fashioned Fish Frys in June and August.

For those who celebrate, I wish you a Happy Easter with good food, friends and family. For those who don't, I wish you a joyous April also filled with good food, friends and family.

Take care of yourselves and each other.

-Brooke Parr, ALA Unit 51 President

SAL

Hello all,

April 1st will mark the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Okinawa in the Pacific Theater of Operations during World War II. Nicknamed "Operation Iceberg," it would be the largest amphibious landing and the last major battle in the Pacific Theater, pitting 250,000 Allied troops against 116,000 troops of the Imperial Japanese Army. The amphibious assault would be led by the Tenth Army, an amalgamation of four US Army infantry divisions and three Marine Corps divisions with support from US Navy Task Force 58 and Royal Navy Task Force 57. Okinawa was a must win for Allied forces as the war raged toward Japan itself. Victory would come 82 days later on June 22nd, but victory would come at a cost. Total allied casualties would be close to 85,000 including 15,000 dead. 375 tanks would be destroyed, 386 Navy ships damaged, 13 Destroyers sunk, 15 Amphibious Vehicles sunk and 8 other ships sunk. Okinawa would go down as the bloodiest battle in the Pacific. April 12th also marks the 80th Anniversary of the death of President Franklin Roosevelt. FDR led America out of the Great Depression and had been the beacon of leadership for the Allied Forces during World War II. Please take a moment to reflect on the sacrifices our Father's and Grandfather's made at Okinawa in April, 1945 and take a moment to remember the steady leadership of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt during the war.

Thanks to everyone who helped out at events this past month and thanks everyone for attending our Old Fashioned Fish Fry.

The SAL Old Fashioned Fish Fry will be on the 25th of this month and prep will be on the 24th at 6PM. I ask any SAL member who is able to make it to either, please do.

Features in West Salem will be hosting a Meat Raffle on April 6th from 1-3PM. Proceeds from the raffle will be donated to the Court of Honor pillar fund.

We as a Squadron are five members away from hitting the 100% membership mark for the 5th straight year. So, if you have not renewed your membership please do so. Also if you or someone know anyone who is eligible for the SAL, stop down to the Legion and get signed up.

-James Jacobson, SAL Commander

Building Commission

I don't care what the groundhog says, the first day of Spring was March 20th. We'll still see heavy snowfall before Spring is here, but that is part of life in Wisconsin.

Speaking of snowfall, the March 19th Building Commission meeting was cancelled, due to inclement weather and rescheduled for the 26th. Today is March 23rd and we haven't had our meeting yet. So, I'll get you up to speed on what we have planned.

The Building Commission is coordinating with the SAL and gearing up for the 2025 Chicken Q season. You can almost smell the fresh air and charcoal, and taste that delicious chicken. This summer's Chicken Q dates are:

- Saturday May 17th
- Saturday June 28th
- Saturday August 2nd
- Saturday September 20th

2025 will bring the First Annual Breakfast with the Easter Bunny!! That will be held on April 6th. Our hats are off to Lisa and Rita for coordinating this event. Good job ladies!

Another mentionable event for the Building Commission will be the Wine Walk on October 9th.

The new Building Commission is still getting up and running. I'm sure we will have more events to be announced at a later date. As it stands, it looks like our next goal will be the much-needed kitchen remodel. So far, we have had over \$100,000 donated and earmarked for that cause. I cannot begin to express my gratitude to this family, our volunteers and donors. Thank you to our Legion members, Auxiliary members, our SAL and our Family members. Post 51 is a continued success because of you.

-Phil Parr

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

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**Annual Smelt Fry Is
 Friday, April 4th at
 5:30pm!**

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

April 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4 CVSO Office Hours 1-4 /Smelt Fry 5:30pm	5 Private Birthday Party
6 Breakfast w/ Easter Bunny 8:30-11	7 Bingo 6:30pm	8 Aux Meeting 6:30	9 Legion & Exec Board Meeting 6:30pm	10 Medicare 101 Meetings 11:00 & 1:00	11 Ham Party 5:30	12 Wedding Reception
13 Auxiliary Breakfast 8-11	14	15 SAL Meeting 7:00pm	16 Building Comm Mtg 6:30pm	17 40-8 Meeting 6:30	18 Fish & Shrimp 5:30pm	19 Celebration of Life
20	21	22	23	24	25 Old Fashioned Fish Fry 5:30pm	26
27 Past Comm/ Presidents Dinner	28	29	30 Investment Club Meeting 7:00pm			