

Commanders Corner

Greetings Members:

July is shaping up to be a busy month and here are some of the things that are going on; Legion State Convention in Madison, WI on 18-21 Jul, if anyone is interested in attending, you can contact me or go to www.wilegion.org to register. La Crosse County Interstate Fair is 17-21 Jul, if you're interested in volunteering, please call or stop into the Legion to sign up. We also are hosting a Regional Legion Baseball Tournament 18-21 Jul, if you can volunteer please contact the Legion at 608-786-0051.

Volunteer: "A person who freely offers to take part in an enterprise or undertake a task, or freely offer to do something." This is what our Legion family is made of and here are a couple of examples. Legionnaire Michael Schindler volunteered to be a Mentor for a West Salem High School Student's Senior Exit Project. Also we had about 30 of our Legion Baseball players, plus coaching staff, and a few legionnaires' go to the Tomah VA on June 7, 2019, to volunteer for their June Dairy Days. They assisted and talked with our veterans during this time. Also while there the veterans enjoyed pulled pork sandwiches and ice cream served by our volunteers. Thank you!!

This year's Membership picnic is on Aug 24, 2019 in the Village Park. You can pre-order your chicken dinners.

Thank you to all that helped with all the events this past month. June Dairy Days weekend was a great success again with our chicken and onion rings; thanks to all who volunteered. This month's calendar is now available, so I would encourage you to look at it and make plans for you and your friends to join us for great food and fun events! It is baseball season, so don't forget to pick up your American Legion baseball schedule at the Legion.

The next two months our Membership/Executive meetings will be held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month; Executive meeting @ 6:30pm and Membership meeting will follow.

Please check out our website www.westsalempost51.org

Also, if you know someone who doesn't belong to the American Legion and is eligible to join, encourage them to join. Just a reminder that if you need to renew your membership or get in touch with me and prefer to do it from home you can log in to our website at; www.westsalempost51.org Thank You.

Post Commander, Vern Tranberg

President's Corner

Hello Ladies!

Happy 4th of July! As you r newly elected President, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. Many of you have met me or possibly seen me at our many building fund-raisers and Auxiliary events, if we haven't officially met yet, please stop me and say "Hi" the next time you see me as I would like to get to know each and every one of you. A little about me – I grew up in West Salem and graduated from West Salem High School, I joined the Auxiliary under my grandfather who served in the Army during WWII. My father and his father both served in the Navy during Vietnam (fun fact - I was born on a Navy base in Japan and spent the first year and half of my life their) and WWII respectively, my husband (Alex) served in the Marine Corps and I have uncles and cousins that have also served, one is currently on active duty in the Air Force. They are my "why" I joined The American Legion Auxiliary. I am currently the Branch Manager of The First National Bank of Bangor – West Salem Branch, President of the West Salem Business Association and a Girl Scout troop co-leader. We have an almost 16 year old daughter (Matilda) that will be a sophomore at West Salem High School. She is very active in Show Choir, Theater and The American Legion Auxiliary Juniors – you may have seen her waiting tables or working in the kitchen at the Legion over the last few years and she is a former Poppy Princess. We also have 3 Great Danes that we love to spoil.

I ask each of you to remember your "why" you joined the American Legion Auxiliary and re-commit to our Unit, our service to Veterans and our Post. We meet the 2nd Tuesday of every month and I would love to pack our meetings with not only familiar faces but new ones as well. We have been hard at work to get our membership numbers up to National's goal and we have succeeded the last 2 years, but I challenge each of you that are members, past members or are eligible to be a member of the Auxiliary to not only join but encourage a friend to join us as well. We have a lot of great things happening at our Post and I honestly mean it when I say that there is no better time to be a member of our Legion Family.

Please know that I am always open to ideas of things we can do to assist our Veterans, our Legion and our Unit, so if you have an idea or would like to volunteer for an event please feel free to call or text me at 608-385-1838 or email me at Nicole.vidal44@gmail.com. You are an important part of our Legion Family and your voice matters. Have a wonderful July!

Thank you,
Your President Nikki Vidal

Building Committee

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The building fund committee met Wednesday June 19. The building is nearing completion – the waterline work in the street has been completed along with a handicap ramp being installed in front of the Legion, a new NSF stainless steel refrigerator was purchased for the kitchen by the Auxiliary, Hand wash sink and air gaps installed in the kitchen. We are currently planning a Grand Opening Celebration once everything is completed – invitations will be sent out as soon as a date is decided. The Wine walk was a huge success – Thank you to everyone that volunteered for the event, the businesses that opened their businesses for the event and everyone that participated. We have set a date for a Fall Wine Walk – October 24th. We have several fundraising opportunities that we need volunteers to help. There are sign-up sheets for dates and times at the Legion – WE NEED YOUR HELP! Many hands make for lighter work. Upcoming fundraising opportunities are working the Centurylink Parking lot on July 3rd shifts are 9:30-1, 1-4:30 and 4:30-8 for Riverfest parking, and 3 different MoonTunes – July 25, August 5 , and August 22 - shifts start at 4:30. We added a couple more building fundraisers - August 10th – Liver Lovers and Chicken too, October 6th Chicken Que. And don't forget about the Raffle fundraiser! Drawing will be September 27th at 9pm, get your raffle tickets at the Legion! We also have the 6th annual craft show on October 5th – registration will be open to new vendors/crafters on July 11th – if interested contact Nikki Vidal at nikkiandalexv@yahoo.com starting July 11th.

If you have an idea for a fundraiser or would like to volunteer to help at any event please let us know.

Nikki Vidal

August Events

- 2 GFF
 - 4 Private Party
 - 5 Bingo
 - 10 Liver N' Chicken
 - 12 Good Food Friday
 - 14 Ex Board & Regular Mtg
 - 16 GFF
 - 21 Building Committee
 - 24 Membership Picnic
 - 28 Noon Lunch
 - 30 Fish & Shrimp
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Fourth Of July

God, we remember the courage and determination of our founding fathers. We remember the brave patriotic men and women who gave so much for us. We thank them that we are a free nation and a free people. It is through them that we carry forward the ideals of Justice, Freedom and Democracy.

We ask that You would rekindle the flame of compassion within us so that we might show real care for our fellowman. Teach us to be sensitive to the needs of others.

Grant that as Americans and as Legion Family, we may continue to help our veterans and those in need. Be with us and guide us.

**Happy Independence Day
July 4th, 2019**