

Commander’s Corner

Greetings Members!

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our March events - your continued support is very much appreciated.

Last month we held our 1st Annual Commander’s Gun Raffle, and I am so grateful for the turn out from our community. The event was a huge success, and we were able to make great contributions to our building remodel fund and the Legion families. These contributions result in Post 51’s continuous ability to support our Veterans and community. I have to extend a special thanks to our Auxiliary for catering the event as we had rave reviews on the food that night, and all our volunteers that helped behind the bar and selling raffle tickets that night. As usual it was a team effort that made the night a success. If you or anyone you know would like to be on the list for first chance at tickets to the event next year let me know!

This month we’re looking forward to the Smelt Fry on Friday, April 14th. We will be looking for extra help on April 13th to help clean smelt, as well as volunteers for the event on Friday night. Join us for this annual tradition as we kick off Spring.

I’m very proud to share that Post 51 was the first in La Crosse County to reach 100% membership. A large credit is due to our 1st Vice Commander, Gary Merfeld, for helping us reach that goal. This does not mean the work to recruit doesn’t stop, though. We are always looking to expand our Legion, Auxiliary, and SAL families. If you have a friend or family member that’s eligible and interested in joining (in my opinion) the best Post in the area please let me or Gary know. Better yet, bring them along to a Friday night Fish Fry and SHOW them why we’re so wonderful.

Have a great April everyone, and Happy Easter.

*-Ben VanHorn,
Post Commander Post 51*

President’s Corner

It is officially Spring and I know I am looking forward to everything that Spring brings with it. Flowers, warmer weather and grilling out with friends are all things I am looking forward to.

Thank you to everyone that had volunteered and continues to volunteer at our events each month, we couldn’t do what we do without you! If you are looking to get more involved at our Legion Post, just let us know – we would love to see you all at our events and we sure have a bunch coming up in April.

Another reminder that our officer elections will be held at our May 9th meeting. If you are interested in running for an office please attend the April 11th meeting and talk to the nominating committee to be put on the ballot for the May meeting. Installation of new officers will be done at our June 13th meeting. Terms run from June 13, 2023 – 2nd of June in 2025. Thank you for considering a run for office. I am happy to talk to anyone that has interest in what each position does.

As I reflect on the last 7 years of holding different officer positions, I have many great memories and friendships that have been made and I wouldn’t trade a single one of them. I love our Legion family and look forward to continue to volunteer and support this great family of ours in a different way.

Thank you all for your support!

*-Nikki Vidal,
Unit #51 President*



Building Committee

Building Committee is scheduling a Wine Bus trip for Saturday, May 20th. Sign-up sheet will be at the Legion or you can contact Rita Schmitz. More details to follow.

Our Corn Beef and Cabbage Dinner was a success as usual. Thank you to all who volunteered and attended this event.

-Mike Schaller



SAL

Hello All,

Thanks to all our SAL members and everyone who helped work our March events. Your help was and is, greatly appreciated.

Due to the overwhelming support of the community and the Legion Family, our goal of raising \$12,000 to straighten the pillars at the Court of Honor has been met. To everyone who has donated and supported our events, we thank you. Work is tentatively scheduled to begin on the Court of Honor the second week of this month.

The SAL is always looking for new members. If you're the son or grandson of a Legionnaire or your father or Grandfather passed away subsequent to their discharge from the military, you're eligible. Dues are \$15. Anyone interested stop down at the clubroom or contact Steve Craig or myself to get signed up.

*-James Jacobson,
SAL Commander*

May Events

- 1 Bingo 6:30
- 3 Ex Board Meeting 6:30
- 5 Fish & Shrimp 5:30
- 6 Fire & Iron Ride (AM only, starts at Post 51)
- 9 Aux Meeting 6:30
- 10 Legion Meeting 6:30
- 13 Chicken Q
- 14 Aux Breakfast 8-11
- 16 SAL Meeting 7:00
- 17 Building Fund Meeting 6:30
- 18 40-8 Meeting 6:30
- 19 Fish & Shrimp 5:30
- 20 Novy Grad Party
- 21 Ekern Wedding Reception
- 26 Senior Class Breakfast
- 26 Fish & Shrimp 5:30
- 27 Wright Grad Party
- 28 Jandt Grad Party
- 29 Memorial Day Program in Park 10am

Please Note:

Due to rising costs all Friday Night dinner prices will be increasing \$2.00 effective April 1st



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

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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West Salem WI
Permit No. 34

Join us for a Smelt
Fry April 14th!

American Legion Post 51 Officers:

Commander:

1st Vice Commander:

2nd Vice Commander:

Finance Officer:

Chaplain:

Historian:

Sgt at Arms:

Sgt at Arms

Adjutant:

Service Officer:

SAL Commander

Ben VanHorn

Gary Merfeld

Michael Schaller

Jim Jenks

Al Johnson

Steve Craig

Roy Warthan

Warren Moquin

Phil Parr

Jim Gilbertson

James Jacobson

608-797-6402

608-304-3899

608-386-3451

608-406-1430

608-386-4578

608-797-1735

608-786-2047

608-399-8898

608-343-4283

608-769-9069

608-317-8654

Hall Rental contact Kate VanHorn 608-797-4734

Honor Guard Contact Mike Schaller 608-386-3451

Post 51 Phone Number 608-786-0051

American Legion Auxillary Unit 51 Officers:

President:

Vice President

2nd Vice President

Treasurer

Chaplain:

Historian:

Sgt at Arms:

Sgt at Arms

Secretary:

Sunshine Chairman:

Nikki Vidal

Barb Thill

Mary Schaller

Nikki Vidal

Joyce McLaughlin

Wendy Tranberg

Judy Merfeld

Amy Moquin

Fran Amundsen

Sue Haack

608-385-1838

608-385-4713

608-786-2398

608-385-1838

608-799-2214

608-769-6110

608-786-3577

608-399-8898

608-790-4860

608-786-2923

April 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Dobbs Baby Shower Liver Lover's
2	3 Bingo 6:30pm	4	5 Ex Board Mtg 6:30pm	6 TIC Medicare Mtgs 11-3	7 Fish & Shrimp 5:30pm	8 Retirement Party 1-4
9 Aux Breakfast 8-11am	10	11 Auxiliary Mtg 6:30pm	12 Legion Mtg 6:30pm	13 Smelt Fry Prep	14 Smelt Fry 5:30	15 Seeger Baby Shower 10-3
16	17	18 4H Mtg 6:00pm SAL Mtg 7:00pm	19 Building Fund Mtg 6:30pm	20 40-8 Mtg 6:30pm	21 Fish & Shrimp 5:30pm	22
23/30 23rd: Past Presidents & Comm's Dinner	24	25	26	27	28 Fish & Shrimp 5:30pm	29