

Commander's Corner

Greetings Members!

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our April events - your continued support is very much appreciated. Our annual Smelt Fry was a big hit as usual, and I owe a big thank you to the abundance of volunteers that helped out.

On April 23rd we held our annual Past Commanders and Past Presidents Banquet where we honor not just those positions, but everyone who has held officer positions at our Post, as well as honor some valuable members. Thank you to everyone in attendance, including our County Commander, Brad Heller and family. Of course a special thank you goes out to the wonderful volunteers for providing the spaghetti dinner. We were able to present the following awards that evening:

SAL Member of the Year - Tom Graf
Legionnaire of the Year - Gary Merfeld
Dual Member of the Year - Steve Craig
Auxiliary Member of the Year - Judy Merfeld
Volunteer of the Year - Mike Lusk

In addition to these awards we were able to celebrate 35 years of Auxiliary membership for Sheri Craig and Barbara Grosskopf. Auxiliary President, Nikki, also presented Cheryl Thill with the Sunshine Award for her contagious positivity, and honored her Officers and Executive Board for their hard work.

As always the Month of May is a busy one at Post 51. In addition to hosting many private events we will prepare to honor our fallen veterans on the 29th for Memorial Day. Be sure to not only remember those we've lost, but also be thankful for those veterans still with us. Please join us at the Village Park at 10:00am on Memorial Day for a short ceremony.

Enjoy the warmer May weather, and we hope to see you at one of our community events.

*-Ben VanHorn,
Post Commander Post 51*

President's Corner

Happy Poppy month!

Enclosed with your newsletter this month you will find 2 poppies and a return envelope to send your donation back in the mail or you can always drop them off at the post on a Friday night, we would love to see you.

At the end of our May 9th meeting we will hold our 2023-2025 Officer elections and I am happy to report that we have a candidate for each office. Candidates are: Brooke Parr – President, Karen Schaller-Wolf – 1st Vice President, Lisa Brickl – 2nd Vice President, Jennifer Christianson – Treasurer, Judy Merfeld and Amy Moquin – Sgt at Arms (2 positions available), Joyce McLaughlin – Chaplain, Wendy Tranberg – Historian and Fran Amundson – Secretary. If no one challenges these candidates we will cast our votes for the entire slate. If someone wishes to run that isn't listed, you must attend the May 9th meeting to be added to the ballot. Thank you to the ladies listed above for volunteering for these very important positions, I give all of you my full support and will still be on the executive board to offer my assistance. Installation of officers will take place at our June 13th meeting. If you have never been a part of officer installation, I encourage you to come to the meeting.

We have our Memorial Day program on May 29th at the Village Park in West Salem at 10am. I encourage everyone to attend as we pay tribute to all the Veterans that have passed who fought for us to have the freedoms we enjoy every day. After the program in the park the color guard will do their annual flag ceremonies and we will all meet at the Legion Post for a potluck lunch and comradery. We would love for you to join us there and each year we draw the name of an Auxiliary member in attendance for a free membership for 2024.

Speaking of Membership, we are still short of being at 100% membership paid. I would love to be at 100% before I leave office on June 13th. If you haven't paid your membership yet you can drop off or mail a check to me or you can renew online directly at alaforveterans.org. Every member matters. If you are eligible to join or if you were a member before but let your membership lapse, we would welcome you with open arms. There is no better time to be a member of the Berg Hemker Olson American Legion Family.

Have a wonderful month!

-Nikki Vidal, Unit #51 President

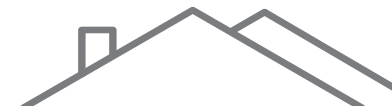
Building Committee

The first Chicken Q of the year will be on Saturday, May 13th. This will be a drive-through event the same as last year.

On May 20th there will be a Wine Bus Tour going to 3 different wineries: Eagle's Landing, Empty Nest and DnA Vintners. Price is \$60.00/person which includes lunch and wine tasting. Stop into the clubroom to sign up!

We are planning to continue our Flags of Honor event on the weekend of September 8th this year.

Lastly, thank you to all who have supported our efforts to pay off the loan which was utilized to transform our Legion post into its present state.



BuildingFund Update

As of 4/19/23

Account Balance:

\$40,038.38

Loan Balance:

\$117,162.70

-Mike Schaller

SAL

Hello All,

Thanks to all our SAL members and everyone who helped work our April events. Your help was and is, greatly appreciated and we had another successful Brat & Pork Chop sale on April 22nd.

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

June Events

2-4 June Dairy Days (NO FISH!)
5 Bingo 6:30
8 Private - Medicare Meeting 11-3
9 Fish & Shrimp 5:30
10 Private - Severson Party
11 District Legion Riders
13 Aux Meeting 6:30
14 Exec Board & Legion Meeting 6:30
18 Auxiliary Breakfast 8-11
20 SAL Meeting 7:00
21 Building Fund Meeting 6:30
23 Fish & Shrimp 5:30
24 Chicken Q
30 Fish & Shrimp 5:30

Custom Canines Project

Beginning Monday, May 22nd we will be serving meals on the 4th Monday of the month from 5:00-7:00pm to help raise funds for the Custom Canines Project! Custom Canines is an organization that trains service dogs for veterans with disabilities, and our funds will help offset the thousands of dollars it costs to train just one dog.

In addition, we are also starting a 50/50 Raffle in May with a drawing to be held on October 23rd at 7:00pm.

If you are interested in helping with either of these projects please contact:

Mike Schaller - (608) 386-3451
Jim Gilbertson - (608) 769-9096

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

**Memorial Day
 Ceremony - 10:00 am
 in Village Park!**

American Legion Post 51 Officers:

Commander: Ben VanHorn 608-797-6402
 1st Vice Commander: Gary Merfeld 608-304-3899
 2nd Vice Commander: Michael Schaller 608-386-3451
 Finance Officer: Jim Jenks 608-406-1430
 Chaplain: Al Johnson 608-386-4578
 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: Jim Gilbertson 608-769-9069
 SAL Commander: James Jacobson 608-317-8654

American Legion Auxillary Unit 51 Officers:

President: Nikki Vidal 608-385-1838
 Vice President: Barb Thill 608-385-4713
 2nd Vice President: Mary Schaller 608-786-2398
 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

Hall Rental contact Kate VanHorn 608-797-4734

Honor Guard Contact Mike Schaller 608-386-3451

Post 51 Phone Number 608-786-0051

May 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Bingo 6:30pm	2	3 Ex Board Mtg 6:30pm	4	5 Fish & Shrimp 5:30pm	6 Fire & Iron Ride Starts at Post 51 8-10am
7	8	9 Auxiliary Mtg 6:30pm	10 Legion Mtg 6:30pm	11 TIC Medicare Mtgs 11-3	12	13 Chicken Q
14 Aux Breakfast 8-11am	15	16 SAL Mtg 7:00pm	17 Building Fund Mtg 6:30pm	18 40-8 Mtg 6:30pm	19 Fish & Shrimp 5:30pm	20 Novy Grad Party
21 Ekern Wedding Reception	22	23	24	25	26 Senior Class Breakfast 7:30am Fish & Shrimp 5:30pm	27 Wright Grad Party
28 Jandt Grad Party	29 Memorial Day Program 10am & Potluck to follow	30	31			