

## Commander's Corner

### ***Greetings Members!***

As always I'd like to start by thanking everyone for the support during all of our May events - we couldn't do it without the community support and our volunteers.

Aside from our scheduled events, May was a difficult month for our Post. As you may know, we unexpectedly lost our fellow Legionnaire and Service Officer, Jim "Gilby" Gilbertson, and held a very nice Celebration of Life at the Post on May 19th. Gilby was loved by all, and I learned that very quickly in the few short years I knew him. Before he passed Gilby was dedicating his time to our Custom Canines fundraising efforts. We are working hard to make sure Gilby's passion for this cause lives on - so we would love nothing more than to see you at one of our upcoming Custom Canine dinners. The fourth Monday of every month we will provide dinner at Post 51 from 5:00-7:00pm, and all proceeds go to Custom Canines. Join us for a good cause and to honor Gilby!

Due to Gilby's passing we have an open officer position. I'd like to thank Jay Christianson for stepping in and filling the position for the remainder of the term.

Next month we will be swearing in new officers for both the Legion and Auxiliary. I'd like to take this time to thank Nikki Vidal for her time as Auxiliary President as her term will be coming to an end. Nikki has been a wonderful leader and always encompassed Post 51's passion for working as one family. We will be lucky to have Nikki's presence as an active Auxiliary member going forward.

I hope everyone has a great June. Stop down and see us at June Dairy Days for the best chicken and onion rings around.

***-Ben VanHorn,  
Post Commander Post 51***

## President's Corner

Hello all - this month's message is a bit different as it is my last one as your President.

I want to thank everyone for all their support during my 4 years as your President. We accomplished so much as an Auxiliary and Legion Family in the last 7 years that I have been an officer in our unit. We have become the largest Auxiliary Unit in the 7th District. Our Legion Family approach in working alongside our Legionnaires, SAL members and volunteers with one common goal is to not only to be commended, but copied. We have set the bar high not only for ourselves but other Units and Posts. I am so very proud of each of us for our continued dedication not only to our community but to our Veterans and Post 51. I am confident that the new slate of officers will not only continue what we have done, but build upon it as well. Please make sure you show them your support.

This isn't goodbye, just see you later. I will still be an active member of our unit and Legion Family, my focus will just shift to the other projects I work on for The Family here at Post 51 and of course our Veterans & Community. I have enjoyed being your President, Membership Chair, Treasurer and also my work with the Juniors and Poppies. I will cherish the projects and relationships that have been built over the years and look forward to enjoying it all from a different perspective.

A huge thank you to Pat Smith, Diane Weggen, Virginia Kodl, Becca Gleason and of course Andrea Page for being amazing mentors. I have learned so much from you ladies and enjoyed all the laughs, your stories and your support (and road trips). Thank you for believing in me when I didn't believe in myself and for sharing your passion.

Thank you to each of you for making this a labor of love, I appreciate each of you more than you know. Please make sure you give as much support (if not more) to your new President, Brooke Parr. She and all newly elected officers for Unit 51 will be installed at the end of our June 13th meeting, start time for the meeting is 6:30pm.

For the final time, if you haven't gotten your 2023 membership dues in, please do so ASAP. We are so close to being at 100% membership, I would love to reach it by the 13th of June. There truly is no better time to be a member of the Post 51 Legion Family.

Please be kind to one another and remember WHY we are all members of this amazing Legion Family. See you all at Post 51.

***-Nikki Vidal, Unit #51 President***

## Building Committee

The first Chicken Q of the year was a success! As usual we sold out of our delicious chicken and appreciate the support. The next Chicken Q is scheduled for Saturday, June 24th.

Speaking of Chicken - we need your help serving Chicken and onion rings at June Dairy Days! If you'd like to help serve chicken (Saturday and Sunday only), call the clubroom or stop down to sign up. If you are available to help serve - our famous onion rings (Fri-Sun), give Rita Schmitz a call at 608-799-9945.

Flags of Honor dedication cards are now available in the clubroom! Flags of Honor will held September 8-10th this year.



**As of 5/16/23**

Account Balance:

**\$41,886.27**

Loan Balance:

**\$115,274.24**

*-Mike Schaller*

## SAL

Hello All,

We have an update on our Pillars project in Village Park. After meeting our original goal of \$12,000 to straighten the pillars we scheduled the work to begin right away. Unfortunately we were informed there will be additional expenses to properly repair the pillars, therefore we will need to raise more funds to continue on with the project. As always we appreciate your support of the SAL and will keep you informed as we get closer to our new fundraising goal.

***-James Jacobson, SAL Commander***

## July Events

3 Bingo 6:30

7 Fish & Shrimp 5:30

8 Class of '73 Reunion

9 Auxiliary Breakfast 8-11

11 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

12 Exec Board & Legion Meeting 6:30

15 Chicken Q

17 Legion Riders arrive in WS

19 Building Fund Meeting 6:30

19-22 Lax Interstate Fair

20-22 State Convention

22 Riniker Family Reunion

21 Building Fund Meeting 6:30

24 Custom Canines Dinner 5:00

28 Fish & Shrimp 5:30

## **Custom Canines Project**

On Monday, May 22nd we held our first dinner to benefit Custom Canines and we had a great turnout! The folks from Custom Canines even stopped by to visit with a service dog currently in training, Apollo. Our next dinner will be Monday, June 26th - keep an eye on our Facebook page for the menu!

Don't forget we also have 50/50 Raffle tickets for sale 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

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

**Next Chicken Q is  
 Saturday, June 24th!**

**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: Jay Christianson 608-397-5005  
 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

June 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 June Dairy Days (no fish)	3 June Dairy Days
4 June Dairy Days	5 Bingo 6:30pm	6	7	8 TIC Medicare Mtgs 11-3	9 Fish & Shrimp 5:30pm	10 Severson Party
11	12	13 Auxiliary Mtg 6:30pm	14 Exec Board & Legion Mtg 6:30pm	15	16	17
18 Aux Breakfast 8-11am	19 County Meeting	20 SAL Mtg 7:00pm	21 Building Fund Mtg 6:30pm	22	23 Fish & Shrimp 5:30pm	24 Chicken Q 11:00am
25	26 Custom Canines Dinner 5:00pm	27	28	29	30 Fish & Shrimp 5:30pm	