

Commander's Corner

Greetings Members!

Last month we had a great turnout for our events. Special thanks to ALL our volunteers especially during June Diary Days, and our 2nd Custom Canines Dinner. Your dedication does not go unnoticed. As always, if you are interested in volunteering please reach out - any amount of time is very much appreciated!

Last month we also swore-in some new officers to our Legion and Auxiliary, including our new Auxiliary President Brooke Parr. Brooke has become a very active member at our post and will be a great leader for the Auxiliary. Please help me welcome and congratulate her and the other new officers on their new positions. I know they will serve our Post well.

New Legion Officers

1st Vice Commander: LaRae Ludeking
Service Officer: Jay Christianson

New Auxiliary Officers

President: Brooke Parr
1st Vice President: Karen Schaller-Wolf
2nd Vice President: Lisa Brickl
Treasurer: Jen Christianson

July will be a busy month for our Post on the ball fields - please help me welcome our brand new Legion Girls Softball team to the family. This is a new program for the State of WI and we are thrilled to be a part of it.

I hope everyone has a great, safe Independence Day. While you're celebrating with friends and family, join me in a toast to our freedom and the veterans that help us keep it. We are the free because of the brave.

*-Ben VanHorn,
Post Commander Post 51*

President's Corner

Hello everyone,

I am honored to hold the position of Auxiliary President for the next two years. Nikki will be missed and has left me with some big shoes to fill! There is much to learn and many ideas I would like for us to explore. We have many, many new members - to you, welcome! Please reach out if you would like a mentor to be able to help you figure out this whole "Auxiliary thing" and what it really means. As Nikki spoke about last month, there is a sense of family and kinship that is rarely rivaled, and we can't wait to show you!

Exciting news ~ we now have a Legion girls softball team! We are so excited each of the girls chose to join a brand-new team! Their home games are 6/28, 7/6, 7/12 and 7/26. Please come out and show them some Post 51 support!

I need your help to keep the auxiliary growing and prosperous. Volunteering is rewarding but many times our busy lives or health issues limit what we can do, I am no exception. We are trying to keep the shifts between two and three hours long and offer a buddy or mentor to show you what to do. If your time is limited but would still like to help occasionally, please give me a call or send me an email at parr.jbala@gmail.com and we can talk about options.

Thank you for putting your faith in me. I will do my best to serve you, our veterans, and our community!

-Brooke Parr, ALA Unit 51 President



Building Committee

We had another successful sold-out Chicken Q on June 24th! Our next Chicken Q is scheduled for Saturday, July 15th.

Flags of Honor dedication cards are now available in the clubroom! Flags of Honor will be held September 8-10th this year, and you'll also find a form included with your newsletter. If you wish to honor someone please complete the form and return as soon as possible.

-Mike Schaller

A graphic showing a simple line drawing of a house with a chimney, positioned above the text "Building Fund Update".

Building Fund Update
As of 6/19/23
Account Balance:
\$43,628.92
Loan Balance:
\$113,411.42

SAL

Hello All and Happy Independence Day,

I want to extend congratulations on behalf of the SAL to Brooke Parr on becoming the new Auxiliary President. I look forward to working with you as a part of the Legion Family. I also want to take this time to say thanks and good luck to outgoing Auxiliary President Nikki Vidal. It has been a pleasure working alongside you the last four years. Thanks for keeping Vern, Ben and I in line.

I would like to take this moment to address the Legion Family and the Community. Months ago, the SAL undertook the task of raising money to straighten the pillars in the Court of Honor at the Village Park. Our goal was to raise \$12,000 and thanks to the outpouring of support, we exceeded our goal. Work was set to begin in Spring, but we were informed by the contractor that the pillars could not be straightened due to the original construction of them not being below the frost line so anything we would attempt to do would be all for naught. We are continuing to look at options, but I felt it was important to keep our community up to speed on where the project currently lies.

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

-James Jacobson, SAL Commander

August Events

- 4 Fish & Shrimp 5:30
- 7 Bingo 6:30
- 8 Auxiliary Meeting 6:30
- 9 Exec Board & Legion Meeting 6:30
- 13 Auxiliary Breakfast 8-11
- 15 SAL Meeting 7:00
- 16 Building Fund Meeting 6:30
- 18 Fish & Shrimp 5:30
- 19 Membership Picnic
- 25 Fish & Shrimp 5:30
- 26 Brueggen Bridal Shower 11:00

Custom Canines Project

On June 26th we held our 2nd Custom Canines Dinner! We sold all the squares for the Packer Basket raffle benefiting Custom Canines that night, and the winners are...

Susan Kavajecz (Packer Basket)
Tom Graff (\$100)
Joyce McLaughlin (\$100)

Don't forget we also have 50/50 Raffle tickets for sale with a drawing to be held on October 23rd at 7:00pm. Our next dinner will be held Monday, July 24th at 5:00pm, join us for a delicious taco bar!

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

**Custom Canines Taco Bar
 - Monday July 24th!**

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
 Finance Officer: Jim Jenks 608-451-5962
 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: Brooke Parr 608-797-9613
 1st Vice President: Karen Schaller-Wolf 608-797-8399
 2nd Vice President: Lisa Brickl 608-317-9727
 Treasurer: Jen Christianson 608-738-4290
 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

July 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3 Bingo 6:30pm	4 Independence Day	5	6	7 Fish & Shrimp 5:30pm	8 Class of '73 Reunion
9	10	11 Volunteer Apprec Night 5:30pm (no Aux Mtg)	12 Exec Board & Legion Mtg 6:30pm	13	14	15 Chicken Q
16 Aux Breakfast 8-11am	17 Legion Riders Arrive in WS	18	19 Building Fund Mtg 6:30pm	20	21	22 Riniker Family Reunion
23 /30	24 /31 Custom Canines Dinner 5:00pm (24th)	25	26	27	28 Fish & Shrimp 5:30pm	29 Bridal Shower