

Commander's Corner

Happy New Year everyone,

I want to thank all of our Post 51 Legionnaires, Unit 51 Auxiliary members, SAL members, honorary Post 51 members and community supporters for everything we've accomplished this year. 2023 has been an outstanding year for us and I can't thank you enough for your dedication to Post 51 and the American Legion's pillars.

On Wednesday, January 10th at 6:30pm we will hold our first General Membership Legion meeting of 2024. At this meeting we will be making our final reviews to bylaw amendments, and final voting will take place. If you would like to participate in this final review please make sure you are present. If you have any questions please contact myself or 1st Vice Commander LaRae Ludeking.

Our annual Bowling Tournament will be held on Saturday, February 3rd at Features in West Salem. If you're interested in signing up stop down to Features! If you aren't a bowler, join us for food, drinks and raffles.

Also this month I will be attending the Mid-Winter Conference here in La Crosse. We are lucky to have the conference so close to home this year, as this is a great opportunity for Legionnaires to attend, learn, network and socialize with other members from around the state. You can easily register at www.wilegion.org.

As always, please stop down to the Legion for one of our many great events. Special this month we will be trying out walleye at our last Fish Fry of the month - January 26th. We will also have a Soup & Sandwich night on Monday, January 22nd to benefit our Building Fund.

We look forward to seeing you!

-Ben VanHorn, Post Commander Post 51

Congratulations to the Army/Navy Game Winners! Stop by the clubroom if you have not collected your winnings.

Phil Langston	Tom Heffernonn
Scott Johnson	Matt Thorsen
Lisa Brickl	Jim Jenks
Connie Dutton-Snell	
Jan	
Gary	

President's Corner

Happy New Year everyone,

I hope everyone enjoyed all the holiday festivities. We were a busy legion family in December. Our auxiliary was able to help three families with Christmas gifts this year! We also had a very fun auxiliary meeting where we wrapped presents for the three families, ate pizza and played a game with white elephant gifts. We served over 230 Christmas snack trays to community members - a big thank you to everyone who shopped, prepared and delivered the trays. Thank you to the Building Fund Committee for donating lots of yummy, home-made Christmas cookies for the trays too! We could not do what we do if it were not for the amazing volunteers who so selflessly donate their time and talents, in whatever way they are able, throughout the year. I am extremely grateful for every single one of you who answer the call or seek me out to offer help. We are truly a family, with the Legion, Auxiliary, Sons of the Legion and Building Fund Committee all working together to make the magic happen all year round. Thank you all!

Did you know that the Big Boar owners, Quinten, Carter and Cody Morris, used to volunteer at the Legion when they were younger? They have also helped with private events in 2023 but they are making a public return to their roots on January 19th! They will be lending their kitchen talents for the fish and shrimp fry starting at 5:30pm. We are very lucky they were able to carve out time from their busy schedule. Come on down to say hello to them!

We have fish fries on the 5th, 19th and 26th this month and the delicious all you can eat breakfast buffet on the 14th. Join Roy Warthan for his WWII documentary series on the 30th! The documentaries dig into the not so well-known WWII history and are quite informative.

Last but certainly not least, welcome to all our new members! We look forward to seeing all of the new and returning shining faces in 2024. I wish you all a year filled with joy, peace and happiness.

-Brooke Parr, ALA Unit 51 President

SAL

Hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season.

As I've previously mentioned, work on the Village Park Pillars was set to begin in the 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. We continue to look at what our options are going forward, but I felt the need to inform everyone as to the situation and will keep you updated as to what we decide to do in the future.

The SAL is always looking for new members as well. 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 just \$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

Building Committee

Many young people enjoyed Breakfast with Santa on December 2nd, it was a great event! Additionally, the Bake Sale on December 16th was a huge success. Thanks to everyone who donated and purchased bake sale items. The winner of the quilt raffle was Nicole Vidal. Congratulations!!! Thank you to all who supported this fundraiser.

The building committee will be hosting a Soup and Sandwich meal on Monday, January 22nd, 2024. Join us!

On January 19th Post 51 will have the owners of Big Boar as guest chefs during the Fish and Shrimp, etc. dinner!

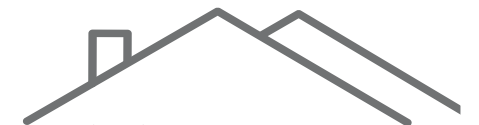
During the January 26th Fish and Shrimp dinner there will be a limited number of walleye fillets available. This is a trial to see if we should offer walleye fillets on a regular basis.

The Building Committee would like to thank everyone who supported our efforts in 2023.

-Mike Schaller

February Events

- 2 Fish & Shrimp
- 3 Game Getters Private Event
- 5 Bingo 6:30
- 6 Documentary
- 7 Executive Board Meeting 6:30
- 10 Liver Lovers
- 11 Auxiliary Breakfast 8-11
- 12 Charcuterie Board Class
- 13 Auxiliary Meeting 6:30
- 14 Legion Meeting 6:30
- 16 Fish & Shrimp 5:30
- 17 40-8 Dinner
- 20 SAL Meeting 7:00
- 21 Building Fund Meeting 6:30
- 22 40-8 Meeting 6:30
- 23 Fish & Shrimp 5:30
- 20 Private Party
- 25 Heart of West Salem
- 27 Documentary



Building Fund Update

As of 12/20/23

Account Balance:

\$48,903.30

Loan Balance:

\$87,435.05

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

**Join us for Soup &
 Sandwiches on Monday,
 January 22nd!**

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 608-386-345

Post 51 Phone: 608-786-0051 / Email: amlgn0051@gmail.com

January 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Bingo 6:30pm	2 Documentary	3 Exec Board Mtg 6:30pm	4	5 Fish & Shrimp 5:30pm	6
7	8	9 Auxiliary Mtg 6:30pm	10 Legion Mtg 6:30pm	11	12 Softball Coaches Meet & Greet 6:00 (bar open)	13 Private 90th Bday Party
14 Aux Breakfast 8-11	15	16 SAL Meeting 7:00	17 Build Fund Mtg 6:30pm	18 40/8 Mtg 6:30	19 Fish & Shrimp 5:30pm	20 Private Retirement Party
21	22 Soup & Sandwich Night Bartender Mtg 7:00	23	24	25	26 Fish & Shrimp 5:30pm	27
28	29	30 Documentary	31			