

Commander's Corner

Hello everyone,

In January I was able to participate in a couple very special events. On January 18th in conjunction with the Department Midwinter Conference I slept outside in the cold to raise awareness for Veterans in Crisis, along with my Adjutant Phil Parr, La Crosse County Commander Brad Heller and other local Legionnaires. That night checks were presented for the cause totalling over \$3,000, and donations were still rolling in. Many thanks to La Crosse Post 52 for welcoming us that night.

Earlier that week I also had the opportunity to visit the West Salem Middle School 8th Grade Class with fellow Legionnaires. We shared our experiences in the military and students were able to ask any and all questions. I was very grateful to get this opportunity to speak further with our community's youth about our service and how we continue to serve.

Our annual Bowling Tournament will be held on Saturday, February 3rd at Features in West Salem. Even if you aren't bowling stop down for raffles and comradery.

Tickets are now on sale for the 2nd Annual Commaner's Gun Raffle. The date is set for March 9th, and tickets are \$40 in advance. Tickets include dinner and entry to door prizes. To purchase tickets stop down to the Legion or contact me. You can call or text my wife, Kate, at 608-797-4734.

As always, please stop down to the Legion for one of our many great events. We are always looking for extra hands to help here and there, so if you are willing and able to lend a hand even just for an hour or two we'd love to have you.

We look forward to seeing you!

-Ben VanHorn, Post Commander Post 51

President's Corner

Hello,

Spring is fast approaching and with that, so are deadlines for scholarships and contests. If your student is a member of the Wisconsin American Legion Family, they should look at this web site to see if they can qualify for a National & Department Scholarship: <https://www.amlegionauxwi.org/scholarships>. Unit 51 is sponsoring 3 female juniors in high school to participate in ALA Badger Girls State competition. Coulee Christian academy and West Salem High School counselors have been given information on this program. The Legion is also sponsoring junior boys to participate in the Badger Boys State. Badger Boys and Girls State is an immersive weeklong government leadership program. The girls session takes place June 16 – 21st in Oshkosh and the boys session takes place June 9 – 15th in Eau Claire. The students stay in dormitories, elect public officials for one of their cities or counties then run a mock government. These young leaders earn valuable lessons and experiences along with developing lifelong relationships.

Essay contest - <https://www.legion-aux.org/americanism-essay-contest> - The current theme is "What does Freedom mean to me?" This contest is for students in 3 – 12th grade and including a category for students with special needs. They can win \$50 and have \$50 donated to the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship fund.

Some happenings at the Legion this month: The First Responders Chili Dinner is Sunday, 2/4 from 3-7. The long-awaited Liver Lover's dinner is on Saturday, 2/10 from 5:30 – 7:30! And the Heart of West Salem Dinner and Fundraiser is Sunday, 2/25 from 3 - 7. The WWII documentaries are still playing at 6:30 – 8:30pm the first and last Tuesdays of the month.

We are looking for a catering chairman or volunteers who wouldn't mind catering an event at certain times or would just like to help with an event sometime throughout the year. Please call me if you would be willing to help in whatever way you are able. Sometimes we need people to help chop vegetables, wrap silverware, make desserts or prep in the days prior to the event. Please call me if you would be willing to help in whatever way you are able.

I wish everyone a happy and healthy February. See you at the Legion!

-Brooke Parr, ALA Unit 51 President

SAL

Hello All and Happy February!

Thanks to Vern Tranberg for hosting a bowling tournament on February 3rd at Features to help us raise money for the Chicken Pit and thanks to all who are participating in the bowling tournament.

The SAL is in charge of the first two fish Fry's this month and I encourage any SAL member to stop down and help on February 2nd or 16th.

It was recently brought to my attention that SAL members are eligible for the Legion Honor Guard. I encourage anyone who is interested in joining the Honor Guard to contact Mike Schaller. This is a great way for the SAL to pay homage to those who have served.

For the last five years, Squadron 51 has met and exceeded the membership goals set by National. We are very close to doing so again. So if you know anyone who is interested and eligible - you're the son or grandson of a Legionnaire or if your father or Grandfather passed away subsequent to their discharge from the military - we'd love to have you. 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

A huge thank you to the community for the support of our Soup & Sandwich night that was held on January 22nd. We had a great turnout.

A bowling tournament will be held on Saturday, February 3rd at Features in West Salem.

We are holding a fundraiser to raise money to rebuild the chicken pit so we can continue to hold our delicious chicken ques. A Wisconsin Badger crate with numerous Badger items will be on display at the Legion during Legion events. Stop in and enter to win.

-Mike Schaller

March Events

- 1 Fish & Shrimp
- 2 Legion Bday Party
- 3 Private Baby Shower
- 4 Bingo 6:30
- 5 Documentary
- 6 Executive Board Meeting 6:30
- 9 Gun Raffle
- 10 Auxiliary Breakfast 8-11
- 13 Joint Family Meeting 6:30
- 15 Fish & Shrimp 5:30
- 18 Corned Beef Dinner
- 19 SAL Meeting 7:00
- 20 Building Fund Meeting 6:30
- 21 40-8 Meeting 6:30
- 23 District Aux Conference
- 24 Designer Purse Bingo
- 26 Documentary
- 29 Fish & Shrimp 5:30



BuildingFund Update

As of 1/18/24

Account Balance:

\$20,000

Loan Balance:

\$57,576.09

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

**Annual Liver Lovers Is
 February 10th!**

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

February 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 Fish & Shrimp 5:30pm	3 Game Getters
4 1st Responders Chili Supper	5 Bingo 6:30pm	6 Documentary	7 Exec Board Mtg 6:30pm	8	9	10 Liver Lovers
11 Aux Breakfast 8-11	12 Charcuterie Class	13 Auxiliary Mtg 6:30pm	14 Legion Mtg 6:30pm	15	16 Fish & Shrimp 5:30pm	17
18 Private Baby Shower	19	20 SAL Meeting 7:00	21 Build Fund Mtg 6:30pm	22 40/8 Mtg 6:30	23 Fish & Shrimp 5:30pm	24
25 Heart of West Salem	26	27 Documentary	28	29		