

Commander's Corner

Hello everyone,

Last month Post 51 continued with our Quilts of Honor program here in the community. Tom Halvorson, Mike Schaller and I presented Quilts of Honor to 9 veteran residents, including 2 women, at Lakeview Healthcare. The activities department at Lakeview organized a nice program and presentation of the quilts honoring the veterans, thanking them for their service.

Quilts of Honor is a new program the Legion is promoting to provide a quilt to veterans thanking them for their service. This program is funded by donations. We are thankful for our recent donations and to the quilters for making this possible. If you would like to support this cause you can send cash donations ear marked "quilts" or completed patriotic themed quilts to the Legion. If you know of someone who should have a quilt please contact me.

Tickets are still available for the 2nd Annual Commander's Gun Raffle on 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.

A reminder that this month we will hold another Joint Family meeting on Wednesday, March 13th at 6:30pm. This meeting is for all Post 51 Legionnaires, Unit 51 Auxiliary members, and Squadron 51 SAL members.

We look forward to seeing you!

-Ben VanHorn, Post Commander Post 51

President's Corner

Hello everyone,

So much is going on at the Post this month! The American Legion's 105 th birthday is coming up! All members are invited to join us for a potluck celebration on March 2nd. Cocktail hour starts at 5:30, dinner starts at 6:30. Please bring a dish to pass.

The Commander's 2nd Annual Gun Raffle is on the 9th. Doors open at 4:30, dinner is served at 5:30. There will be door prizes and raffle items. *[cont'd on next panel]*

Tickets are \$40 in advance or \$50 the day of the event, if there are any tickets left. Tickets are automatically placed in a drawing for door prizes and include a 2-meat meal. Everyone had a great time last year!

On the 11th, the Auxiliary will be hosting an all you can eat pasta dinner fundraiser for the family of a veteran who recently passed. We start serving at 5:30 until gone. Dinner includes multiple pasta options, a salad and dessert.

We have a joint family meeting on the 13th, please be sure to attend as important information is discussed and voted on, as a family. This is your chance for your opinion to be heard. We are hosting the District Auxiliary's Spring Conference on the 23rd. We will pay for current member's attendance and meal so let myself or Nikki Vidal know if you'd like to attend. The conference is a good place to learn more about the Auxiliary and the types of things we do as well as to share ideas and encourage each other. I urge all new members, and those who haven't been for a while, to come share in the camaraderie.

The 10th Annual Gerry Van Oss Corned Beef and Cabbage meal starts at 5:30 on the 18th with prep work on the 16th and 17th . Please let us know if you are able to help prepare, even an hour or two is helpful. If you'd like to help but have certain limitations, please reach out to me, there is no judgement, and we will train! We have a Ham Party on the 22nd . A light dinner will be offered, and bingo cards are \$50 each or 3 for \$1.00. Come on down and win a ham or two!

The Softball Purse bingo is on the 24th! Doors open at 4:00, bingo starts at 5:00. Tickets are sold out but don't worry if you didn't get one. You will have another chance to win a designer purse when we host the District Auxiliary with a designer purse bingo on May 11th. There will also be tickets sold for that event so keep your eyes out for more information in the future!

The Building Fund hosts the fish fry on the 29th . They're bringing back the "old fashioned" fish fry that night (No, not the cocktail though those will be available). Shrimp will not be available that evening. You're invited to come experience how things used to be done!

Be well and take care of each other.

-Brooke Parr, ALA Unit 51 President

SAL

Hello All and Happy March,

Thanks to all who volunteered and participated this past month with the fish fries and other events. We had great support from the Bowling Tournament and Heart of West Salem Meatball Dinner.

We are making good progress on the Chicken Pit remodel and hope to have everything completed by the time the first Chicken Q rolls around.

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

On Good Friday, March 29, the Building Committee will sponsor an old-fashioned fish fry. This will include all you can eat batter fried fish, baked potato or French fries, cole slaw, baked beans and bread.

Thank you to all who participated in Soup and Sandwich Night, Bowling Tournament and Liver Lovers. These annual events were successful because of your support!

-Mike Schaller

April Events

- 1 Bingo 6:30
- 3 Executive Board Meeting 6:30
- 5 Fish & Shrimp 5:30
- 9 Auxiliary Meeting 6:30
- 10 Legion Meeting 6:30
- 11 TIC Medicare Mtgs 11:00 & 1:00
- 11 Smelt Prep
- 12 Smelt Fry
- 13 SAL Ham & Taters
- 14 Robotics Team Spaghetti Dinner
- 16 SAL Meeting 7:00
- 17 Building Fund Meeting 630
- 18 40-8 Meeting 6:30
- 19 Fish & Shrimp 5:30
- 21 Past Commanders/Presidents Dinner
- 26 Fish & Shrimp 5:30
- 27 Private Baby Shower



BuildingFund Update

As of 2/22/24

Account Balance:

\$22,533.55

Loan Balance:

\$55,536.71

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

**2nd Annual Commander's
 Gun Raffle March 9th!**

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

March 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Fish & Shrimp 5:30pm	2 Legion Birthday Party 5:30
3 Private Baby Shower	4 Bingo 6:30pm	5 Documentary	6 Exec Board Mtg 6:30pm	7	8	9 Commander's Gun Raffle
10 Aux Breakfast 8-11	11 AYCE Pasta Dinner	12	13 Joint Family Mtg 6:30pm	14 TIC Medicare Mtgs 11:00 & 1:00	15 Fish & Shrimp 5:30pm	16 Corn Beef PREP
17 Corn Beef PREP	18 Corn Beef Dinner 5:30	19 SAL Meeting 7:00	20 Build Fund Mtg 6:30pm	21 40/8 Mtg 6:30	22 Ham Party 5:30	23 Auxiliary Spring Conference
24/31 24th: Designer Purse Bingo	25	26 Documentary	27	28	29 Fish & Shrimp 5:30pm	30