

Commander's Corner

Hello all,

Last month Post 51 hosted the Legion Baseball State Tournament. While this was a very exciting opportunity for our community, it also takes many hands to host the event. I'd like to thank all of the volunteers that made the weekend a success. Congratulations to both the Post 51 Baseball team, and the Post 51 Softball Team, on another great season. We are proud of you all!

On August 24th we also held our Annual Membership Picnic - this event kick starts our year and we had a great turnout.

I'd like to take a moment to thank the Legion Riders, as well as our Honor Guard, for their assistance last month as well. Sergeant (SGT) Jack Hohlfeld, a native of La Crosse and Trempealeau, survived the brutal Bataan Death March during World War II and died while being held captive at the cruel Cabanatuan Japanese POW camp in the Philippines. Later buried in a common grave, Jack's remains were only recently identified. Now, more than 80 years later, he finally returned home to La Crosse. The Legion Riders assisted in escorting SGT Hohlfeld from Minneapolis to La Crosse, and on August 26th the Honor Guard gave him proper honors as he was finally laid to rest. I was proud to see the overwhelming support from the Legion families, as well as the community, for SGT Hohlfeld's family that day.

This month we have the annual Flags of Honor display in Village Park, and I highly encourage everyone to take a walk through the park. The Flags are dedicated by community members for their own heroes, alive or passed, and is emotional and beautiful to experience. The Flags will be on display September 6th-8th, and admission is free.

As always, I appreciate all of our volunteers and community support. I hope everyone enjoys the remaining days of Summer as we move into Fall.

-Ben VanHorn, Post Commander Post 51

President's Corner

Greetings everyone,

Our new District and State officers were installed in July. We are excited to announce our new State Auxiliary President, Becky Mueller as well as District 7 Auxiliary President Jesse Elmhorst from Neillsville! President Becky's theme for this year is, Serving Our Veterans, Military and Each Other from the Depths of Our Hearts. "What I envision for us this year is that we tap into the love we hold in the very depths of our hearts and release it for action towards those who mean the most to us. Our organization is built on the desire to serve, protect, and advocate for our Veterans of military service, those currently serving in the military, their family members, and their communities. We are all family members. Our services should include each other." She has 2 projects she wants us to focus on this year. First, to bring awareness to the 1,800 MIA/POWs that are still missing from Wisconsin. Sgt Jack Hohlfeld, a native of La Crosse and Trempealeau, came home August 23rd. Sgt Hohlfeld remains were identified 80 years after being held captive then died at Cabanatuan Japanese POW camp in the Philippines, then was buried in a common grave. He was escorted by the Legion Riders. President Becky encourages all of us to reach out to families that are still missing their loved ones. Remind them that we care and encourage them to submit DNA samples to the UW Recovery and Identification Project to help the efforts in reunification of their missing loved one. Second, she would like to challenge each member of The American Legion Family, especially the Auxiliary, to donate \$1 per member to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF). AEF is a national grant assistance program that provides financial assistance to eligible members of the American Legion Auxiliary who have endured a significant financial setback as the result of an act of nature or other personal crisis.

The District and State newsletters, as well as information about all things Auxiliary, can be found on the State website. <https://www.amlegionauxwi.org>. Urge our senators to support the Major Richard Star Act as an Amendment! Currently, combat-injured veterans face a reduction in their retirement pay for every dollar of disability compensation they receive. More information can be found at www.legion.org.

The Membership picnic was a great success! Thank you to everyone who came in to renew their membership(s) early and to those who cooked and served the chicken, as well as to those who manned the tables and answered any questions! Flags of Honor is Sept 6 - 8. This is an awe-inspiring event. If you haven't done so in years past, I highly encourage you to stop down at the park at 148 Leonard St. Please note there is a joint family meeting this month. Please plan on attending if you are able. We will be discussing events and pertinent information about the next 6 months.

-Brooke Parr, ALA Unit 51 President

SAL

Hello All and Happy September!

September 15th and 17th will mark the 80th Anniversary of two significant battles as part of the allied offensive Operation Forager in the Pacific Theater of Operations during World War II. The Battle of Peleliu on September 15th and The Battle of Angaur on September 17th. Both battles were bloody and were significant to the Allied victory in the Pacific. Please take a moment to reflect on the sacrifice our father's and grandfather's made in September of 1944.

Thanks to all who worked events this past month.

The SAL is in charge of the Fish Fry's on September 6th and September 20th. Any and all help is welcomed. Prep for the fish fry will be Thursday the 5th and Thursday the 19th at the Legion. Please let me know if you are willing and able to help out with either, even if just for an hour or two.

It's time to renew your membership if you haven't already done so. Stop down at the clubroom or contact Dan Hass to do so.

Our meetings are held at 7:00pm the third Tuesday of every month at the Legion. Please come and enjoy the fellowship of our organization.

For the fifth straight year we have met our membership goal and we're always looking to keep our Squadron growing. So, if you are the male descendant of a Legionnaire or if your father or grandfather was in the service from December 7th, 1941 onward and died subsequent to their discharge, you are eligible for membership in the Son's Of The American Legion. Anyone interested can contact myself or Steve Craig or stop down at the Legion clubroom to get signed up.

-James Jacobson, SAL Commander

Building Committee

Hooray, due to a generous donation, the building renovation loan is PAID OFF! Thank you for the tremendous support from all members of the Legion family and from the community.

Our next Chicken Q is Saturday, September 21st.

We will be holding our fall Wicked Wine Walk on Thursday, October 24th. Tickets are available at the Legion for \$50.00.

The building fund raffle drawing will be on Friday, August 30th at 8:00pm. The complete list of winners will be published in October newsletter. We will notify each individual winner after the drawing.

-Mike Schaller

October Events

- 2 Executive Board Meeting 6:30
- 4 Fish & Shrimp 5:30
- 5 Craft Show
- 7 Bingo 6:30
- 8 Auxiliary Meeting 6:30
- 9 Legion Meeting 6:30
- 12 Class of '72 Reunion
- 13 Auxiliary Breakfast 8-11
- 15 SAL Meeting 7:00
- 16 Building Fund Meeting 630
- 17 TIC Medicare Mtgs 11:00 & 1:00
- 17 40-8 Meeting 6:30
- 18 Fish & Shrimp 5:30
- 19 Fundraiser
- 20 Retirement Party
- 24 Wine Walk
- 25 Fish & Shrimp 5:30
- 26 40/8 Dinner

Berg Hemker Olson
 The American Legion Post 51
 148 South Leonard Street
 West Salem, WI 54669

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**Flags of Honor In Village
 Park September 6th-8th!**

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 2nd Vice Commander: Michael Schaller 608-386-3451
 3rd Vice Commander: Jay Christianson 608-397-5005
 Finance Officer: Jim Jenks 608-451-5962
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 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: Vern Tranberg 608-769-1045
 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

Honor Guard contact Mike Schaller 608-386-345

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

September 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 West Salem St Dance	2 Bingo 6:30pm	3	4 Executive Board Meeting 6:30pm	5 Private Party	6 Fish & Shrimp 5:30pm Flags of Honor	7 Flags of Honor
8 Aux Breakfast 8-11 Flags of Honor	9	10	11 Joint Family Meeting 6:30pm	12 Private Meetings 11:00 & 1:00	13	14 Private Party
15 WS Historical Society Banquet	16	17 SAL Meeting 7:00pm	18 Build Fund Mtg 6:30pm	19 40/8 Meeting 6:30pm	20 Fish & Shrimp 5:30pm	21 Chicken Q
22	23	24	25	26	27 Fish & Shrimp 5:30pm	28 Private Party
29	30					