

Commander’s Corner

Happy May! Check out our calendar of events this month and next, we’d love to see you.

I first want to extend MANY thanks to all of the volunteers from Post 51, and surrounding Posts, who helped with the 50th Anniversary Vietnam Veteran Welcome Home event at the end of March. It was an honor to be able to give these veterans the welcome home they deserve, and many hands made light work that day. Special thanks to Big Boar BBQ for providing the food, Post 336 for the venue, and of course my fellow committee members who spent so many months planning the event.

Second, I’d like to take a moment to congratulate a few members of SAL Squadron 51 who were sworn into District 7 Leadership roles last month: Scott Johnson (7th District Commander), Steve Craig (7th District Chaplain), and James Jacobson (7th District Adjutant). We’re incredibly proud to have these men representing Post 51 at the District level.

Over the coming months the Post 51 families will be transition to an all electronic newsletter. Phase 1 of the transition will begin with those individuals currently receiving a newsletter whom reside outside of the state of Wisconsin - these individuals will conver to an emailed newsletter first. Over the coming months we will convert all individuals registered to receive a newsletter to an electronic copy via email. If you find you have not been receiving a printed newsletter or copy via email, please do not hesitate to reach out. Please send correspondence to Post 51 via email at amlgn0051@gmail.com so you can be added to the email registry. We appreciate your understanding and patience as we navigate this transition.

-Ben VanHorn, Post Commander Post 51

2nd Annual Post 51 Range Day



Saturday, May 10th from 1:00- 4:00
@ the West Salem Rod & Gun Club

President’s Corner

Hello everyone,

Happy May! It is a joy to see the trees budding and the dandelions popping up already. I hope you can get out and see the splendor of Spring too!

Enclosed with your newsletter this month you will find 2 poppies and a return envelope to send your donation back in the mail or you can always drop them off at the post on a Friday night, we would love to see you. Do you know why May is poppy month and why the poppy is the flower for Memorial Day? Poppies are used to remember those who have given their lives in battle because they’re the flowers that grew on the battlefields after World War One ended. This is described in the famous WWI poem In Flanders Fields. Memorial Day (May 26th this year) is the day we remember those soldiers that served our country and have paid the ultimate price for our freedoms.

Speaking of Memorial Day, we’d love for you to join us for our annual Memorial Day Program in Village Park on Monday, May 26th at 10:00am. A potluck will follow at Post 51 - all are welcome!

If you haven’t done so, please make sure to renew your membership as soon as possible. If you would like to renew/join but you’re having difficulty, in any way, please reach out to me. What you tell me will remain confidential and I will do my best to help. If you are eligible to join or if you were a member before but let your membership lapse, we would welcome you with open arms. You can drop off or mail a check to me or you can renew online directly at alaforverterans.org.

Take care of yourselves and each other.

-Brooke Parr, ALA Unit 51 President

SAL

Hello All and Happy May!

May 8th marks the 80th Anniversary of the surrender of the German Army to the Allied Forces, marking the official end of the European Theater of Operations in World War II. While there was joy and jubilation on the home front, President Truman reminded the folks at home: “While we all take a moment to celebrate, let us remember that this is a Victory only half won.”

The war in the Pacific would last another three and a half months. 2.2 million Americans served in the European Theater of Operations. 193,500 made the ultimate sacrifice. 93,941 would be POW/MIA and over 400,000 would be wounded. Please take a moment to reflect on and honor the sacrifices our Father's and Grandfather's made in the European Theater of Operations.

Thanks to all who helped with our Old Fashioned Fish Fry last month. Prep for this month's Old Fashioned Fish Fry will be on Thursday, May 29th at 6:30.

The 7th District now has SAL representation and three of us from Squadron 51 were sworn into leadership roles on April 19th. Scott Johnson: 7th District Commander, Steve Craig: 7th District Chaplain and Interim Sergeant-at-Arms, and myself, James Jacobson: 7th District Adjutant.

Congrats to all in our Legion Family who won awards at our Past Commanders - Past Presidents Banquet on April 27th.

Last month Squadron 51 was only five members away from hitting the 100% membership mark for the 5th straight year, and I’m proud to say we’ve met our goal. Even so, if you have not renewed your membership please do so. Also if you or someone know anyone who is eligible for the SAL, stop down to the Legion and get signed up.

-James Jacobson, SAL Commander

Building Commission

Despite the wet spring weather, the Building Commission is gearing up for the summer months. Chicken Q and event dates have been set and we’re exploring some new event ideas. If you have event ideas, please bring them to one of the Commission members. We would love to hear them!

In more exciting news, The Building Commission has reviewed conceptual drawings for the possibility of an upcoming kitchen project. We need to give a big “Thank You” to the generosity from several anonymous community members who have made considerable donations, specifically for this project. What was originally thought to be many years off, may become a reality much sooner. Ben and Nikki have secured a line of credit, and the Commander is working on getting quotes for the project. If anyone would like to look at the concept drawings, please see Chairman Mike Schaller.

Chicken Q dates for 2025:
May 17th
June Dairy Days (May 31st & June 1st)
June 28th
August 2nd
September 20th

Other Important Event Dates:
May 3rd Fireman’s Dance
August 2nd will be the 1st Cocktail and Food Pairing (details to follow)
September 5th – 7th Flags of Honor
October 9th Wine Walk

-Phil Parr

12th Annual Craft Show

Applications are currently available for the 12th Annual American Legion Fall Craft Show. Applications are being accepted until June 15th. If you are interested in participating in this fun event please complete the online application before June 15th.

The link to the online application is:
<https://forms.gle/3fwD73oH1QwsN4Xu7>

The link is also available in the Facebook event or can be emailed to you by requesting it via email at wslegion-craftshow@gmail.com. All questions should be sent to that email address as well. All event information is included in the online application, so please review the application and if you still have questions then email your questions to the craft show email address above. We are always looking for talented people to participate.

Nikki & Mati Vidal

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

Non-profit Org.
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West Salem WI
Permit No. 34

Memorial Day Program In
Village Park: May 26th @
10:00am

American Legion Post 51 Officers:			American Legion Auxillary Unit 51 Officers:		
Commander:	Ben VanHorn	608-797-6402	President:	Brooke Parr	608-797-9613
1st Vice Commander:	LaRae Ludeking	715-897-3815	1st Vice President:	Karen Schaller-Wolf	608-797-8399
2nd Vice Commander:	Michael Schaller	608-386-3451	2nd Vice President:	Lisa Brickl	608-317-9727
3rd Vice Commander:	Jay Christianson	608-397-5005	Treasurer:	Nikki Vidal	608-385-1838
Finance Officer:	Jim Jenks	608-451-5962	Chaplain:	Joyce McLaughlin	608-799-2214
Chaplain:	Ron Corn	608-799-6804	Historian:	Wendy Tranberg	608-769-6110
Historian:	Steve Craig	608-797-1735	Sgt at Arms:	Judy Merfeld	608-786-3577
Sgt at Arms:	Roy Warthan	608-786-2047	Sgt at Arms:	Amy Moquin	608-399-9020
Sgt at Arms:	Warren Moquin	608-399-8898	Secretary:	Fran Amundsen	608-790-4860
Adjutant:	Phil Parr	608-343-4283	Sunshine Chairman:	Sue Haack	608-786-2923
Service Officer:	Vern Tranberg	608-769-1045			
SAL Commander:	James Jacobson	608-317-8654			
Honor Guard contact Mike Schaller 608-386-345					
Post 51 Phone: 608-786-0051 / Email: amlgn0051@gmail.com					

May 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 Fish & Shrimp 5:30pm	3
4 Boy Scouts Taco Dinner 3:00- 7:00pm	5 Bingo 6:30pm	6	7 Exec Board Meeting 6:30pm	8 Medicare 101 Meetings 11:00 & 1:00	9	10 Range Day 1-4 40/8 Femme
11 Auxiliary Mother's Day Breakfast 8-11	12	13 Aux Meeting 6:30	14 Legion Meeting 6:30pm	15 40-8 Meeting 6:30	16 Fish & Shrimp 5:30pm	17 Chicken Q in the Park
18	19	20 SAL Meeting 7:00pm	21 Building Comm Mtg 6:30pm	22	23 Senior Grad Breakfast	24
25 Grad Party	26 Memorial Day Program 10:00am, Potluck to follow	27	28 Investment Club Meeting 7:00pm	29	30 June Dairy Days	31 June Dairy Days