

## Commander's Corner

Happy November to all,

We hope to see you at the post for our many events this month and for membership meetings.

This month we will honor our fellow Veterans on November 10th with our annual Veteran's Turkey Dinner - all are welcome and Veteran's eat free. On Veteran's Day, November 11th, we would love to see you at one of the West Salem School's for their annual programs. You will find the Hour Guard at West Salem Middle School at 8:00am, West Salem Elementary School at 9:00am, and West Salem High School at 10:30am. All veterans and guests are invited to all three schools.

One of my favorite events of the year is this month as well, the Annual Old Fashioned Night on Wednesday November 26th. Take a break for the Thanksgiving prep and join us for a hand-muddled Old Fashioned and live music.

*A reminder from 1st Vice Commander LaRae Ludeking:* While conducting buddy checks recently we have found that many members have incorrect or out-of-service phone numbers on file, or no phone number listed at all. We would love to be able to reach more of you for check-ins! You can update your phone number online via MyLegion.org or by calling the post directly and we can update your phone number on your behalf for national and post level communication.

Over the coming months the Post 51 families will be transitioning 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 convert 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](mailto: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*

## President's Corner

Hello everyone!

I hope everyone had a bountiful harvest from their gardens or picked up lots of fall goodies from the farmers markets and local growers. We were fortunate to have Jane Brannan, the La Crosse County Veterans Service Officer, visit the auxiliary at our last meeting. We received good information about new and updated services that have happened since the Pack Act took effect. Sometimes our loved ones forget to share changes they have learned about and it's important the family is also aware. Jane will be at our Post on the 7th; she will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

The holidays are quickly approaching, which means we are having some special events at the Legion. Bingo is Monday, November 3rd, and Our Veteran's Turkey Dinner is on the 10th. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend, as always, veterans eat for free. Join us for the Feather Party (bingo with turkeys for prizes) on the 14th. The Old Fashioned Night is a low-key event with hand-muddled Old Fashioned's and live acoustic music the evening before Thanksgiving.

A friendly reminder, membership renewal is in full swing! Please be sure to update your address and phone numbers. If you did not receive a renewal notice from National, either your membership was not renewed last year, or we don't have a good address on file. Please reach out to Nikki Vidal or me to submit updates or renewals.

Be well and take care of each other.

*-Brooke Parr, ALA Unit 51 President*

## SAL

Hello All and Happy November!

**November 14th marks the 60th Anniversary of the Battle of Ia Drang Valley during the Vietnam War. Ia Drang was the first major battle for the US during Vietnam and set the blueprint for the US strategy for the war by relying on air nobility, artillery fire and close air support. When the battle ended on November 18th, 237 Americans were killed and 258 wounded with 4 wounded. Please take a moment to honor the sacrifices our Father's and Grandfather's made during the Vietnam War.**

Thanks to everyone who worked events this past month.

Our Old Fashioned Fish Fry will be held on November 28th. Prep will be on Thursday the 27th at 6 PM.

The Pillars Committee meeting will be Monday, November 10th at 7 PM. Contact Steve Craig with any questions. We're always looking for new members, so if you're the male descendant of a Legionnaire or the male descendant of a veteran who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from the service, you're eligible. Anyone interested please contact myself or Dan Hass, or stop down at the Post to get signed up.

For current members, it's time to renew your membership! Renewing before December at Post 51 saves the organization millions of dollars in postage fees - which is money we can use to help move veterans.

Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Hunting.

*-James Jacobson, SAL Commander*

## Building Commission

To start out, I would like to say "Thank You, Thank You, Thank You" to all our volunteers that have been helping with our events. None of what we do could happen without our volunteer support.

Secondly, I would like to thank all our anonymous donors! Once the building loan was paid off and the proposal for a kitchen remodel was announced and we started receiving substantial anonymous donations. Out of the gate, we had a \$25K donation and a \$50K donation, with the potential of another \$50K. Last month, we received another \$25K. The funds are to be spent on our kitchen remodel, by these donor's request.

It warms my heart to see such substantial donations towards a cause in our small community. This tells me that all our support and involvement in our community has not gone unnoticed.

And Thank You to all our Post 51 donors. You contribute what you can, and we appreciate ALL of you.

The colors are beginning to change. Enjoy your fall. Watch your calendar for upcoming events.

To my fellow Marines; Happy 250th Birthday. Semper Fi.

*-Phil Parr*

## Bloodies & Bingo is back!

On Saturday, November 22nd our popular Bloodies & Bingo event is back! If you aren't in the woods for opening day of deer hunting, join us from 8:00am-12:00pm for the fun!

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

**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  
 3rd Vice Commander: Jay Christianson 608-397-5005  
 Finance Officer: Jim Jenks 608-451-5962  
 Chaplain: Ron Corn 608-799-6804  
 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: Annette Fechner 608-799-0111  
 2nd Vice President: Lisa Brickl 608-317-9727  
 Treasurer: Nikki Vidal 608-385-1838  
 Chaplain: Karen Schaller-Wolf 608-797-8399  
 Historian: Jenny Christianson 608-738-4290  
 Sgt at Arms:  
 Sgt at Arms:  
 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

## November 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						<b>1</b> Private Event (Day) <del>Steak &amp; Shrimp</del> <del>Dinner (5-8)</del> <span style="color: red; font-size: small;">Canceled</span>
2	3 Bingo 6:30pm	4	5 Exec Board Meeting 6:30pm	6	7 CVSO Open House 1-4	8
9	10 Veteran Turkey Dinner Pillar Committee 7pm	11 Auxiliary Meeting 7:00pm	12 Legion Meeting 6:30pm	13	14 Feather Party	15 40-8 Dinner
16 Auxiliary Breakfast 8-11 Ag Society 5:30	17	18 SAL Meeting 7:00pm	19 Building Comm Meeting 6:30pm	20 Ag Society 6:00pm	21	22 Bloodies & Bingo 8-12
23/30	24	25	26 Old Fashioned Night	27	28 Old Fashioned Fish Fry 5:30	29