

Berg-Hemker-Olson American Legion Post 51

NEWSLETTER



Commander's Corner

Ben VanHorn, Post Commander Post 51

Happy New Year to all - I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season.

Welcome to the first *electronic* Post 51 monthly newsletter. One last reminder that if at any time you need to update your email address please do so online, or let myself or Vice Commander LaRae Ludeking know and we can help. If you prefer a printed copy of your newsletter but do not have access to a printer at home, a handful of paper newsletters will be available at the Post. Many thanks to those who have worked to upload member information to this new system, and to all of you for your patience as we work out any kinks. Lastly, if you find your emailed newsletter in your "Spam" folder rather than your Inbox - please mark it as "Not Spam" for us!

2025 was another great year for Post 51. I continue to receive compliments from the community that our volunteerism and involvement in recent years is unmatched, and I am proud to call Post 51 home. Though the list is much longer, I'd like to take a moment to recognize a few individuals that have stepped up or stood out to me this past year for their dedication to the Post.

The Morris Family overall has been a great supporter of our Legion, but **Denys Morris** in particular has done a fantastic job stepping in as our Event Coordinator this year. **John Haack** for his continued dedication to recognizing Veterans from other war eras in his free time, and willingness to step up for fallen Veterans through Honor Guard. And lastly, **Jim Jenks** continues to be the backbone of this Post - after all he literally keeps our doors open.

In closing, I'd like to encourage each of you reading this to invite someone new into our Post this month. Veteran or not - invite a new friend, coworker, family member or neighbor to join us for a Bingo, Fish Fry or just a drink on a Friday night. It was just a few years ago that Kate and I were invited to the Legion by a new neighbor, and I know anyone experiencing our Post Family for the first time will see the comradery that we saw and want to return.

President's Corner

Brooke Parr, ALA President Unit 51

Happy New Year!! I hope you and your loved ones had a wonderful holiday season. I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to making the holidays more joyous for those outside of your own family. We are very blessed to have such a caring community who consistently help each other.

Please check in with our Facebook page: American Legion Post 51 - West Salem, WI 54669 to keep up to date on happenings and any cancellations. We are a 100% volunteer organized and run post. We do our best to be consistent while respecting our volunteers' needs and personal lives.

Want to volunteer? We have volunteer forms in our back office so you can tell us what you are comfortable doing, what you'd like to learn and general times you're available.

Membership: I am extending a friendly reminder that 2026 memberships are due. We currently have 132 members with our membership goal of 170. If you do not have a 2026 membership card, your membership and voting rights have expired. You can pay or sign up in person, online or over the phone. We also have the option to make a one-time payment that pays your dues for life.

Bingo: Please be sure to join us for Bingo on the 5th; Rita always has an amazing light dinner and delicious desserts to choose from at very affordable prices.

Fish: It's been a while since we've had a fish dinner but we're having one on the 9th. Please come down and join us! Due to costs and the consistently lower number of patrons coming for dinner, we've had to make the difficult decision to eliminate the salad bar. We will continue to offer fish and shrimp on the 2nd Friday of every month and the Son's of the American Legion usually have their Old-Fashioned Fish Fry on the last Friday of every month.

All you can eat Breakfast: Is on the 11th. It's \$14 for adults, children 10 and under are \$7. We have two different types of scrambled eggs, biscuits and gravy, waffles, pancakes, French toast, toast, 3 different types of potatoes, sausage, smoked bacon, ham slices, along with coffee, orange juice and milk. Jim has the bar open for anyone who would like a Bloody Mary or Screwdriver.

Bloodies and Bingo: Is back on January 17h, and February 21st! Grab a few friends and head down for some fun from 8am to Noon.

As always, take care of yourselves and each other.

SAL

James Jacobson, SAL Commander Squadron 51

Hello All and Happy New Year!!

January 15th marks the 60th Anniversary of Operation Van Buren during the Vietnam War. The Operation was led by the 101st Airborne Division of the US Army with support from the South Korean 2nd Marine Division. Operation Van Buren would last until February 25th with its main objective being to secure the rice growing region of the Tuy Hòa Valley which had been under the control of the People's Army of Vietnam and the Vietcong for over a year. Heavy fighting would commence throughout the entire operation and would result in a Victory for the US. 55 Americans were killed during the operation. Please take a moment to honor the sacrifices our Father's and Grandfather's made in 1966.

Thanks to everyone who worked events last month and throughout the last year.

We will be resuming our Old Fashioned Fish Fry this month and it will be on January 30th. Prep will be Thursday the 29th at 6:30pm. The Pillars Committee meeting will be on Monday, January 12th at 7:00pm at the Legion. Anyone interested in attending, stop on down. Contact Steve Craig with any questions. Our Membership meeting will be at 7:00pm on January 20th.

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.

All the best in 2026!

Building Commission

Phil Parr

Happy New Year to all.

This month the Building Commission will host another *All You Can Eat Taco Dinner* on Monday, January 19th from 5:30-7:30pm. We'll be serving hard and soft shell tacos with beef or chicken, chips and salsa, and ice cream for dessert. Pricing will be as follows: \$12 per person, or \$1 per year of age for kids 10 and under. Let us do the cooking for you and support the kitchen remodel project.

Check back next month for more updates and events to support the Building Commission.

January 2026 Post 51 Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 Private Birthday Party	3
4	5 Bingo 6:30pm	6	7 Executive Board Meeting 6:30pm	8	9 Fish & Shrimp 5:30pm	10 Celebration of Life
11 Auxiliary Breakfast 8:00-11:00am	12 Pillar Committee Meeting 7:00pm	13 Auxiliary Meeting 6:30pm	14 Legion Meeting 6:30pm	15 40-8 Meeting 6:30pm	16	17 Bingo & Bloodies 8:00am-Noon Private Party
18	19 Building Commission Dinner	20 SAL Meeting 7:00pm	21 Building Commission Meeting 6:30pm	22 District Meeting 6:30pm	23	24
25	26	27	28 Membership Committee 6:00pm Investment Club 7:00pm	29	30 Old Fashioned Fish Fry 5:30pm	31 Private Baby Shower