

Berg-Hemker-Olson American Legion Post 51

NEWSLETTER



Commander's Corner

Ben VanHorn, Post Commander Post 51

Happy March, everyone -

I would first like to thank all who attended the Celebration of Life last month for our friend and fellow Legionnaire, Al Johnson. Al will be greatly missed and the attendance and support for his family that day really proves the wonderful man he was.

This month we will have our semi-annual Joint Family Meeting on Wednesday, March 11th at 6:30pm - a time for all Legion, Auxiliary and SAL members to meet, discuss Post matters and set the next six months of calendar events.

A reminder for Legionnaires and Executive Board members that because of the Joint Family Meeting we will have a dual member and Executive Board meeting this Wednesday, March 4th. We will not have a routine membership meeting following the Joint Family Meeting like in the past.

We hope to see you at this month and next month's events - and as always we are happy to have any new faces to volunteer or visit. Check out the last couple pages of the newsletter for some important events coming up.

President's Corner

Brooke Parr, ALA President Unit 51

Happy March!

Spring begins this month, I hope you all are rested and ready!

We currently have 29 members from last year who have not renewed their auxiliary membership. There is still time to renew or sign up for a new membership! We are still accepting renewals and applications. You can renew by check or credit card in person or through the mail, [click here to renew online](#), or call National Headquarters at (317) 569-4570. Please have your member ID ready, give your membership number, and tell them you're with Unit 51 in West Salem, WI. Please reach out to me or Nikki Vidal if you have any questions or concerns.

Upcoming events:

- **Bingo - March 2nd** Doors open at 5:30 and bingo starts at 6:00. There will be a light dinner option with dessert.
- **Auxiliary Breakfast - March 8th** Skip the dishes and enjoy breakfast with us. Adults: \$14; Children 10 and under: \$7.00.
- **Joint family meeting - March 11th** Meeting begins at 6:30 pm. This meeting is where we set the calendar of events for the next six months, as well as discuss and vote on any changes or updates to the way things are done at the Legion.
- **Fish, shrimp and more - March 13th** We start cooking at 5:30. Join us for a meal or to help if you have time. It's OK if you haven't helped before or don't know which position you'd want to fill. We can explain everything and do on the job training!

- **Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner – March 16th** Dinner starts at 5:00 pm. It sells out quickly so don't wait too long!
- **Ham Party – March 20th** Who doesn't like bingo with hams for prizes? It's always a great time!
- **Old Fashioned Fish Fry – March 27th** The SAL host this popular event with fried fish, vinegar based coleslaw, beans, a roll and choice of baked potato or french fries.
- **3rd Annual Designer Purse Bingo – March 29th** This even is a fundraiser to help offset costs for the Legion Softball program. Spend an afternoon with the players and coaches, enjoy bingo, lunch, raffles, and baskets!
- **Freedom Honor Flight Fundraising Dinner – April 12th** Yes, I know it's always away, but I want to get this on your radar now. 100% of the profits are going to benefit the Freedom Honor Flight program. They are in dire need of donations to keep the flights going. Dinner is provided by Big Boar, plus we will have raffle baskets and 50/50 raffles! We are looking for volunteers, donations of baskets to raffle or items to go into baskets to help us make this the most successful night possible! Lets all work together to keep this program going!

Have you heard? Veteran and active duty updates for March 2026 center on the VA's rollout of new Community Care contracts, which keep eligibility and covered services the same while aiming to streamline referrals and improve access as the transition continues this spring. VA has also released updated 2026 disability compensation information and continues refining benefits delivery, while service members are now receiving this year's increases to basic pay, BAH, BAS, expanded CONUS COLA, and updated PCS allowances. Major disability rating changes remain under review, with expected updates later in 2026 that could shift evaluations for sleep apnea, tinnitus, and mental health conditions toward function based criteria, potentially affecting new claims once finalized. As these changes develop, VA will begin reporting on Community Care access, referral speed, and provider availability—key indicators to watch throughout the spring.

I'm excited to see you all at the Legion! Stay well and take care of each other.

Building Commission

Phil Parr

Building Commission will continue to sell \$10 Calendar Raffle tickets through the end of April - proceeds will benefit the kitchen remodel, and there are cash prizes almost every day in May! Stop down to the Legion during any event this month to get yours.

This month's Bloodies & Bingo on March 21st will benefit the Building Commission also, stop by for a good time. Doors open at 8:00am.



SAL

James Jacobson, SAL Commander Squadron 51

Hello All and Happy March.

March 4th marks the 60th Anniversary of Operation Utah during the Vietnam War. Led by the 1st Marine Division, Operation Utah would last until March 7th. The bloody, search and destroy mission was the first large-scale conventional engagement for the USMC during the war. It was an early turning point in the war that showed US forces the North Vietnamese Army was willing to fight in large, regiment-sized units rather than just guerrilla-style. 99 Marines would make the ultimate sacrifice in Que Son during Operation Utah. Please take a moment to honor the sacrifices our Father's and Grandfather's made in Vietnam in March, 1966.

Thanks to everyone who worked events this past month. Our Old Fashioned Fish Fry will be on March 27th. Prep will be at 6:00 on Thursday the 26th.

The Pillars Committee meeting will be at 6:30 on March 9th at the Legion. Anyone interested in attending please stop down. Contact Steve Craig with any questions.

Our membership meeting will be at 7 PM on March 17th.

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.

May the luck o' the Irish lead to the happiest heights, And the roads you travel are lined with green lights. Where'ere you go, what'ere you do, May the luck o' the Irish be there with you.

Happy St. Patty's Day.



Bloody's & Bingo
 SATURDAY, MARCH 21ST 8:00AM

AMERICAN LEGION POST 51 SOFTBALL FUNDRAISER

3rd Annual Designer Purse Bingo

March 29, 2026

1:30 pm Doors open

3 pm Bingo begins

BERG HEMKER OLSON AMERICAN LEGION POST 51
 148 S LEONARD ST, WEST SALEM, WI

Save the date

AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY

Save the date

2026 Past Commanders and Past Presidents Dinner & Banquet

Sunday, April 26th

The night we honor our past, present and future

Cocktails at 5:00, Dinner at 6:00
 Presentations will follow dinner

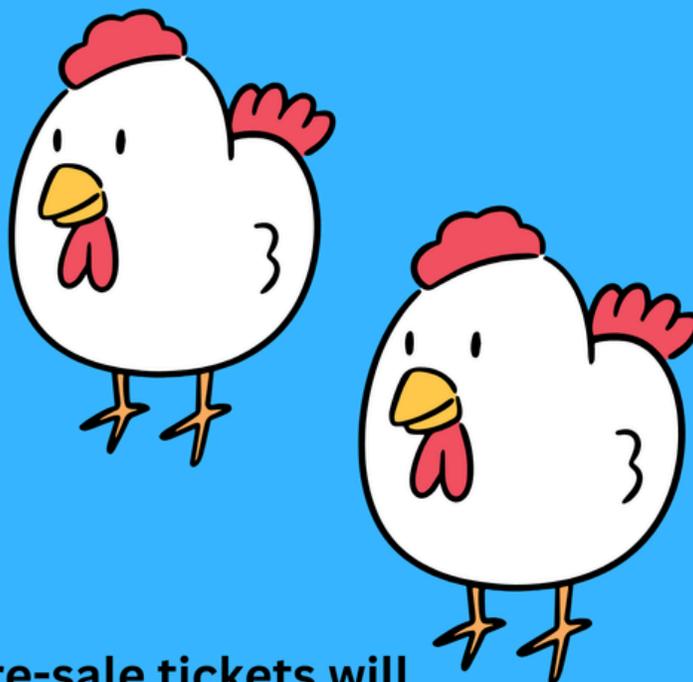
RSVP (for you and a guest)
 NO LATER THAN APRIL 19TH
 Invitations are being mailed out soon

**West Salem American Legion
Pillar Fundraiser
Chicken Q
Saturday, April 25th**

DRIVE

Serving 11 am until gone

Village Park, West Salem, WI



**No pre-sale tickets will
be sold, all dinners are first come first served
until sold out**



**JUNE DAIRY DAYS
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

JOB/SHIFT SIGN UP SHEETS WILL BE AT THE
LEGION BEGINNING THIS MONTH

Help is needed both at the park
and inside the Legion Hall, many
different jobs need coverage

March 2026 Post 51 Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Private Event	2 Bingo 6:30pm	3	4 Executive Board Meeting 6:30pm	5	6	7
8 Auxiliary Breakfast 8:00-11:00am	9 Pillar Committee Meeting 6:30pm	10 Auxiliary Exec Board Meeting 6:30pm	11 Family Meeting 6:30pm	12	13 Fish & Shrimp 5:30pm	14
15 4H Meeting 4:00pm	16 Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner 5:30pm	17 SAL Meeting 7:00pm	18 Building Commission Meeting 6:30pm	19 40-8 Meeting 6:30pm	20 Ham Party 5:00pm	21 Bingo & Bloodies 8:00am-Noon
22	23	24	25 Membership Committee 6:00pm Investment Club 7:00pm	26	27 Old Fashioned Fish Fry 5:30pm	28 Breakfast w/ Easter Bunny 8:00am Private Event 3pm
29 Designer Purse Bingo 1:30pm	30	31				