

Berg-Hemker-Olson American Legion Post 51

NEWSLETTER



Commander's Corner

Ben VanHorn, Post Commander Post 51

Happy May, everyone -

At April's membership meeting we held nominations for incoming officers and Executive Board. Congratulations to the following nominees, and we hope to see you at the May membership meeting on Wednesday, May 13th at 6:30pm for Elections.

Post Commander: Phill Parr, Ron Corn

1st Vice Commander: LaRae Ludeking

2nd Vice Commander: Mike Schaller

3rd Vice Commander: Jay Christianson, Brad Heller

Sgt At Arms: Pam Christenson

Sgt At Arms: Warren Moquin

Finance Officer: Jim Jenks

Historian & Chaplain: Vacant

Executive Board**Vice Chair:** Ray Kline**2nd Seat:** Doug Schaller**3rd Seat:** Brad Heller**4th Seat:** Tim Noble**5th Seat:** Roy Warthan

On April 26th we held our Annual Past Commanders & Past Presidents Banquet where we honor milestone memberships and present awards for outstanding dedication to our Post and community. Thank you to everyone who was in attendance - special thanks to District 7 Commander Chet Faith, District 7 Auxiliary President Jesse Elmhorst, and our guests from the Freedom Honor Flight foundation for joining us. Congratulations to the following individuals for their honors:

Legionnaire of the Year: Mike Schaller**SAL Member of the Year:** Dan Hass**Dual Member of the Year:** Phil Parr**Auxiliary Member of the Year:** Lisa Brickl**President's Certificate of Appreciation:** Dan Hass & Jim Schmitz**Volunteer of the Year:** Denys Morris

Please join us for a Memorial Day Ceremony in Village Park on Monday, May 25th at 10:00am. A Pot Luck will follow at the Post, everyone is welcome.

Summer is a busy time for everyone, and the Post is no exception. As we get closer to June Dairy Days please consider giving a couple hours of your time to volunteer. Sign up sheets are at the Legion for helping with the Chicken Q, selling Onion Rings, etc.

President's Corner

Brooke Parr, ALA President Unit 51

Hello everyone! Warmer weather means we can finally get our hands in the dirt again – flowers, veggies, and all the good stuff that makes summer feel close.

With considerable gratitude to the generosity of local businesses, private donors, and our incredible community, we raised \$4,669.25 for the Freedom Honor Flight! That's an amazing total for a single event, and it speaks volumes about the heart of West Salem and the surrounding area.

And finally, we're looking for volunteers for April and May events, plus early signups for a two hour shift at the June Dairy Days Chicken Q June 6th and 7th. If you'd like to jump in for a shift or two, message me or check our Facebook page for details.

Many other Legions and Auxiliaries are also hosting fundraisers for this program – if you can, please support their dinners and breakfasts too. Each flight costs around \$160,000 and is completely free for veterans who may never otherwise experience this unforgettable trip.

I'm trying a few new approaches in my section of the newsletter, and I'd truly appreciate your feedback on what you find most helpful, or not, as I continue working to improve how I share information with our members. My email address is parr.jbala@gmail.com.

June Events at a Glance

- **Bingo – June 1** – Doors open at 5:30, bingo starts at 6:00. Light dinner and dessert available – bring your lucky charms..
- **Medicare Insurance Rep – June 11** – Deb will be at the Post from 10:00–3:00 answering Medicare questions. She's a walking encyclopedia – stop in and ask her anything Medicare related.
- **Father's Day Breakfast Buffet – June 21** – All you can eat breakfast with biscuits and gravy, made to order French toast and waffles, cheesy potatoes, and more. Treat Dad (and yourself). Adults: \$14 | Kids 10 & under: \$7
- **Old Fashioned Fish Fry – June 26** – The SAL hosts this popular event with fried fish, vinegar based coleslaw, beans, a roll and choice of baked potato or French fries.
- **Chicken-Q in Village Park – June 27** – ½ charcoal cooked chicken, coleslaw, beans and a roll for \$12. Serving starts at 11:00am and goes until sold out. We sell out fast so get there early!

Have you heard?

On the policy front, April brought national attention to a new proposal that would allow qualified special operations veterans and active duty operators to carry concealed nationwide, aligning their authority with retired law enforcement under existing federal frameworks. The bill emphasizes recognition of elite training standards without altering current safeguards for sensitive locations. VR&E = Veteran Readiness and Employment

Bills That Passed

- Bipartisan measures to expand telemedicine, modernize VA claims, and improve rural healthcare access
- Updates to VR&E (Veteran Readiness and Employment) oversight, travel reimbursement, and VA hospital inventory systems
- Strong focus on faster services, better access to care, and smoother benefits delivery for veterans and families

Bills That Stalled

- A major benefits expansion package for severely disabled veterans and surviving spouses hit funding disputes
- Lawmakers clashed over whether costs should come from ICE operations or VA home loan fees (Sharri Briley and Eric Amundson Veterans Benefits Act)
- Another proposed funding mechanism would have increased VA home loan refinancing fees for some veterans (generally those with disability ratings of 70% or below) to pay for the expanded benefits. Lawmakers argued that veterans shouldn't have to fund other veterans' benefits through higher loan fees. These amendments also failed in committee, contributing to the bill stalling.

Stay well and take care of each other.

May is Poppy Month!

Please watch your mail for your poppies, please wear your poppy with pride to honor our Veterans and their sacrifice

Any donation to support our Veterans is greatly appreciated and can be sent in the enclosed return envelope. The American Legion Auxiliary and our Veterans appreciate your support!



Building Commission

Phil Parr

Building Commission successfully sold nearly all of the \$10 Calendar Raffle tickets to benefit the Kitchen Remodel. Winners will be drawn each day in the month of May, and winning tickets will be put back into the drawing. You have the possibility of winning multiple times! Winners will be notified by phone or mail. Best of luck!

SAL

James Jacobson, SAL Commander Squadron 51

Hello All and Happy May!

Congrats to Dan Hass on being named SAL Member of the Year for 2025-26. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to the Legion Family.

Thanks to everyone who worked events this past month. The next few months will also be very busy at the Post, so any and all help from more SAL members would be greatly appreciated.

Due to rising costs, we decided to raise the price of our Old Fashioned Fish Fry to \$15, starting this month. The Old Fashioned Fish Fry for May will also be moved up a week to the 22nd. Prep will be at 6:00pm on Thursday, May 21st if you are available to help.

The Pillars Committee will meet on May 11th at 7:00pm at the Post. Anyone interested in attending, feel free to stop down or contact Steve Craig with any questions.

We will once again be cooking onion rings at June Dairy Days. I will have sign up sheets at the Post by the first weekend in May. Anyone from the Legion Family interested in helping please sign up.

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.



JUNE DAIRY DAYS CHICKEN Q VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

SHIFTS AVAILABLE:

SATURDAY JUNE 6
SET UP
10AM - 1PM (3 PEOPLE)

PLATING, CASHIER, RESTOCKING
& CLEAN UP 11AM - SOLD OUT
11AM - 2PM (4 PEOPLE)
1PM - 4PM (4 PEOPLE)
2PM - 5PM (4 PEOPLE)
3PM - 6PM (4 PEOPLE IF NEEDED)

SUNDAY JUNE 7
SET UP
10AM - 1PM (3 PEOPLE)

PLATING, CASHIER, RESTOCKING
TEAR DOWN & CLEAN UP
11AM - SOLD OUT
(7 PEOPLE)

SHIFT SIGN UP SHEETS ARE AT THE LEGION

TUESDAY, MAY 5TH
West Salem
American Legion
AYCE Taco Night

5:30 - 7:30

MARGARITAS
WILL ALSO BE
AVAILABLE



CHIPS & SALSA TOO

All proceeds benefit the Kitchen Remodel Fund

Mother's Day
AYCE Breakfast Buffet

Sunday May 10th
8 am - 11am



**LIVER
LOVERS**

&

Honey Pecan
CHICKEN TOO!

Saturday, May 16

Serving 5:30 - 7:30 (or until gone)

\$15.00 per person

Berg Hemker Olson American Legion
148 Leonard St S
West Salem, WI

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no Bloodies & Bingo in May! We will return on September 19th. **THANK YOU** for the support with this event - see you in the **FALL!**

May 2026 Post 51 Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 7 th District Legion Riders Meeting 1:00pm	4 Bingo 6:30pm	5 AYCE Taco Bar 5:30- 7:30pm	6 Executive Board Meeting 6:30pm	7 Medicare 101 Meetings 10am-3pm	8 Fish & Shrimp 5:30pm	9 Private Baby Shower
10 Mother's Day Breakfast 8:00-11:00am	11 Pillar Committee Meeting 7:00pm	12 Auxiliary Meeting 6:30pm	13 Legion Meeting 6:30pm	14	15	16 Liver Lovers & Chicken Too 5:30pm
17	18	19 SAL Meeting 7:00pm	20 Building Commission Meeting 6:30pm	21 40-8 Meeting 6:30pm	22 Senior Class Breakfast 7:30am Old Fashioned Fish Fry 5:30pm	23 Private Grad Party
24 / 31 24th: Private Grad Party	25 Memorial Day Celeb in Village Park 10:00am, Pot Luck to follow @ Post 51	26	27 Membership Committee 6:00pm Investment Club 7:00pm	28	29 CVSO Available 1:30-4:00pm Private Wedding Rehearsal Dinner	30 Private Grad Party