

POST NOTES

MAY 2025

Edwards-Foye



American Legion Post 534

Commander.....Cory Gessler	Service.....Mike Brennan
First Vice.....Aaron Holland	ChaplainDale Sankey
Second ViceIan Caterall	HistorianMike Meyers
AdjutantNate Weier	Sgt. at Arms Mike Verdico,
Finance.....Trish Howen	Steve Halverson, Jim Sommers and Zach Beek
Web Site..... http://alp534.com	Post Phone Number (608) 838-3249

COMMANDER'S CORNER



Dear Legion Family, May is here and Memorial Day will soon be here. It's day to remember those who gave all so that we can enjoy our freedom. I had the honor of going on the Badger Honor Flight as Paul Bartosch's guardian and see the numerous memorials erected to honor these

fallen heroes. It was truly a moving day.

A big thank you to Gumby, Steve Halverson and all those who helped with the Spring Clean-up. The post looks great.

Make sure to sign-up for Memorial day help. Whether it be helping set up the parade, bringing a convertible for a dignitary or marching in the parade in our color guard we need your help.

Lastly, please attend the meetings, we cover a lot of things that help the post and community. This month we nominate officer and next month we vote.

Cory Gessler
Commander

FROM THE CHAPLAIN



Memorial Day. May 26, please attend the ceremony. Bring your neighbors, family and friends. We need new members to join the firing squad and color guard. Contact any officer. – The kindness you put out there, always finds its way back to you. -Someone has made a positive difference in your life, who are you paying it forward to?

PS: Everyone around you is starving for Love, Share yours.

Challenge: You owe someone a thank you conversation. Do it now!

If you are having a financial hardship, ask your department Chaplain, how they can help.

Read: Psalm 27 All have abandon you? Know that you are not alone.

Please Volunteer at the Post. If you see something that needs to be cleaned, step up and take care of it. We have hired cleaners on Monday AM only.

When you are planning/writing your will, or if a loved one dies, please remember American Legion Post 534. Your memorial gift is a beautiful way to help, no matter how small or large a gift. For tax purposes, we are a tax deductible, 501C19

organization.

Please notify me when there is a death, if you would like a Pass and Review at a service let me know ASAP. Illness or special concern in the membership.

God is the source of all rights and privileges; God has a great future in store for you. Ask and you shall receive. Dream BIG and put actions behind them. Start your day with God. Pray 5 minutes a day. Daily, know that God said, let me Love you. LISTEN to Gods word daily, many TV shows, pod casts available Question how to live? Read Proverbs in the Bible. You Prayed for forgiveness, You confessed your sin. You are forgiven the first time you asked. No need to keep asking. Move forward. Free anonymous counseling for depression, suicide, anxiety Text 741741 or call 800-273-8255 (Press 1) Veterans Crises hot line. ALSO, GOOGLE 22 ZERO-Text or call 988

Chaplain Dale
608-395-5942
E mail: am534chaplain@gmail.com



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Do you leave Wisconsin during the winter? Did If there are any questions about your membership, please don't hesitate to email me at am-



534firstvice@gmail.com
Here are some Q & A I often receive.

Q: When does my membership expire?

A: Your membership expires on Dec. 31 of the paid year shown on your card.

It can be confusing because your annual dues are supposed to be paid by Jan. 1 each year, so National Headquarters starts accepting dues for the upcoming year on July 1. The goal is to have everyone renewed for the new year by Jan. 1. If dues are not paid by Jan. 1, the member becomes delinquent. On Feb. 1, the member is suspended, and on June 30, the

member is dropped from the membership rolls.

Q: Why doesn't my membership card reflect the total number of years I've been a member?

A: The annual card reflects your continuous years of membership. If you miss a year of paying dues, your continuous years start over. However, if you think there's a mistake, contact your post adjutant. If confirmed, they can submit a request to correct your record.

Q: I paid my dues a while ago, so why did I get another renewal notice?

A: Renewal notices are mailed from National Headquarters based on the information in our records at the time the notices are printed. Although you may have paid your dues, the National portion of your dues may not have reached our offices yet. When you pay your dues to the post, they process your payment and keep a portion for the post; the balance is sent to your department headquarters with your membership card; and finally, the department deducts its portion of your dues and then forwards the remaining balance and your membership card to National. Once National receives your dues and card, they are usually processed within 48 hours. On the renewal notice, you'll see there is an "as of" date which is when the notice was printed. If you paid your dues around that date, your dues and the renewal probably just crossed in the mail, and you shouldn't receive another one for that membership year. However, if you paid well in advance of that "as of" date, then contact your post to verify the status of your renewal payment.

Aaron Holland
1st Vice Commander



EVENTS REPORT



Greetings Legionnaires and Friends!

As we fly into May, we're reminded of the many ways we honor service—both past and present. This month is filled with opportunities to reflect, recognize, and come together as a community. We hope you'll join us as we pay tribute to those who serve and those who have made the ultimate

sacrifice.

Important Military Dates in May

May 1 – Silver Star Banner Day: A day to recognize and honor the service members who have been wounded, ill, or injured in combat while defending our nation.

May 9 – Military Spouse Appreciation Day: We salute the spouses who stand behind our heroes, providing unwavering support through every challenge.

May 17 – Armed Forces Day: A day to celebrate all branches of our military and honor those who proudly wear the uniform.

May 26 – Memorial Day: A solemn occasion to remember and honor the men and women who gave their lives in service to our country.

Join Us for the Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony
We invite everyone to come out and show their support at our Memorial Day Parade on Sunday, May 26.

Parade begins at 12:00 PM at Christ the King Catholic Church and will proceed to the Legion.

Memorial Day Ceremony begins at 1:00 PM, held behind the Legion.

This is a special day of remembrance and community, and your presence makes it even more meaningful. Please help us honor the fallen with your support.

Thank You for Supporting Live Music at the Legion! A big thank you to everyone who joined us for the Stone Cold Country concert on April 26th! It was a fantastic night of music, dancing, and fellowship. Your participation keeps the spirit of the Legion strong and lively!

We Need You – Volunteer and Make a Difference
As always, we want to remind everyone that our events are made possible by volunteers. Right now, a small but mighty group is working hard to keep things going—but we can't do it alone.

If you've enjoyed an event, please consider lending a hand to help run one. Whether it's helping with set-up, coordinating activities, or just being an extra pair of hands, your time and effort are incredibly valuable. Even the smallest contributions make a big difference!

Let's keep our calendar full and our Post thriving—together.

Closing Thoughts

This Memorial Day—and every day—let's remember the true meaning of service and the power of community. By honoring the past, supporting the present, and building the future, we continue the proud legacy of the American Legion.

Thank you for your dedication, spirit, and support. Let's make May a month of honor, unity, and purpose.

Ian Catterall
2nd Vice Commander

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY

4 - Poker Night at 1pm

18 - SAL Meat Raffle

26 - Memorial Day Parade

JUN

1 - Poker Night at 1pm

14 - Take a Vet Fishing (w/Stone Cold Country)

15 - SAL Meat Raffle

26 - Installation of Officers



SERVICE REPORT



It's hard to believe it's already April and we are planning for Memorial Day weekend and summer events. We have a spring chicken barbecue planned by the SAL on April 26 and a live band Stone Cold Country April 26 as well. Watch for all of the information regarding these events in

the post notes. We really need the participation of our members to make these events a success. Share the information about these with all your friends, family, and neighbors also share these events on Facebook. It only takes a few seconds to let other people know about our events so we can be more successful. There is a sign-up genius that was sent out to sign up to help with the band. We need our members to participate to be able to continue to provide this entertainment and raise money for the post. We are also in need of new members for the color-guard and rifle team. We are short bodies currently to march in the parade. If you are not a member but would like to join contact one of the post officers for more information. If you have been a member, we need all hands-on deck for Memorial Day. Make sure you let friends and family know about our memorial day ceremony at the American legion at 1 o'clock following the memorial Day parade.

AUXILIARY NEWS



Sounds like a great statement to make after all Robins are in view, Easter is upon us, bees are starting to make their appearance and by the words of this song "Spring is in the Air".

April proved to be a busy month for Legion Family Post 534, Auxiliary Spaghetti Dinner, Spring Clean-up, Easter Egg Hunt, and SAL Chicken BBQ. Plus many Celebrations of Life. Thanks to all of our Legion Family for making this month a success, thanks to our volunteer bartenders for all their hard work and dedication in helping to make our organizations events more successful it has not gone unnoticed and I for one deeply appreciate all of your efforts.

Our Auxiliary 4th Annual Spaghetti Dinner was a grand event and enjoyed by all, Spaghetti was terrific; Movie was wonderful, advertising was done well and all volunteers need to know that "we cannot succeed without you". Each and every one of our volunteers stepped up and did their part and more for which I personally am grateful...Thank you...Thank you...THANK YOU!!!

Thanks to all that helped with Spring Clean-up and the Easter egg Hunt... Kudos!! job well done. Thanks to all for helping and attending the SAL Chicken BBQ. Our volunteers truly are amazing..

May is here the buds are on their way to a new year...and with that being said all of our organizations are embarking on a new year ... Nominations will be held for the Legion, the Auxiliary, and SAL the first meeting in May. . Be sure to attend and let your voices be heard.

One of the biggest events of the American Legion in McFarland is Memorial Day to be held on May 26th the Auxiliary will again this year serving Brats and Hot Dogs before and after the parade and ceremony . . . come for an awesome day as we remember those Veterans who have given the ultimate sacrifice that we may enjoy all the freedoms we have and pay tribute to



those Veterans who are still giving. "Thank you for your Service."

May meeting is May 6th see you there.

As always . . . We Succeed Because of You
Stay Safe
Karen Larson
President



GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE

Next Blood Drive at the Post. Mark your calendar for future drives.

05/30---07/01---08/07 and 0 9/26

Go on line to make an appointment, Red Cross
Results of January drive.

Goal 38 ♦ Collected 48 ♦ New donors 6
8/7 time will be 12-5



SAL CORNER



Dave Murray
SAL Commander

Greetings to all,
May is upon us, and hopefully the weather will be better than the April we've had.
Nominations for officers will be at our next meeting, The first wednesday in may. We will resume our meat raffles, The third Sunday of the month.
Hope to see all of you there..

DONATIONS NEEDED

Valuable items, Collectibles, we can use in Silent Auctions. Sports items are the most popular. Drop them off at the bar, attach a note for Silent auction and your name. Please list current value if you know it.

\$3,300.00 A complete set of U.S. Flags for the hill
\$3,500.00 New hot water heater. Ours was installed in 2003
Parking lot replacement (Ask your employer to be a corporate sponsor)
\$350.00 to pay for 1 month mailing for Post Notes.
\$35.00 to sponsor a military flag on the hill. Army, Navy, Marine, Air Force, Coast Guard, Space Force, Merchant Marine.
\$2,900.00 per month needed for monthly operating cost.
New siding for the building.
\$1,500.00 install an automatic flusher. In Men's bathroom.
\$1,400.00 for an event to honor our members with 40 or more years.
Contact, Commander or Chaplain or send your donation check to the post,
with a note to where you would like your donation to be applied.

BARTENDERS NEEDED

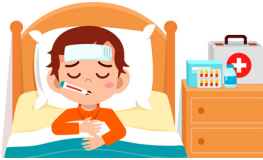
We are looking for help behind the bar. Licencing and training will be taken care by the post. Great way to meet your fellow Legion family. If interested contact Jeff Jordain Bar Manager or the Commander.

LAST CALL

Past Commander: Russell J. Jenkins. Dec. 26
Auxiliary member: Janet "Jan" Rice, Feb. 6
Legion member: Charles E "Chuck" Egner March 13
Legion member: Jerry Rice. Jan. March 24



SICK CALL PRAYER LIST



Allen Ahrensmayer,
Ron Walsvick, Bill and Micky
Jeager, Charles Thieme, Lin-
da Swenson, Rich Eith and
Carol Welch

Please notify the following

Legion members for sympathy or get well cards:
Legion Chaplain – Dale Sankey (608)395-5942
Aux. Chaplain – JoAnn Schuetz (608)234-0603
S.A.L. Chaplain – Nate Weier (608)516-7769
Sunshine – Sue Whipperfurth (608-535-0495)



WE NEED YOU VOLUNTEERS

VOLUNTEERING IS AT A 30 YEAR LOW. THE AVERAGE HOURS DONATED PER VOLUNTEER IS 50 HOURS PER YEAR. HOW ARE YOU DOING? Tithing 10% of your time as a volunteer, serving others, opportunities listed below

EVERYONE AT THE POST IS A VOLUNTEER. When the uniform comes off, for many is the start of a lifetime of service. For God and country. Romans 2:6 He will judge everyone according to what they have done. He will pay people back for what they have done.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED NOW Members and Friends (NEW MEMBERS PLEASE SIGN UP):

*Legion family members to work all events.
Legion, SAL, Auxiliary to work each other's events.*

2-leaders per event., Memorial Day, Christmas Party, Band nights, Toys for Tots, Local food drive and Spring cleanup.

We have a checklist for you to follow. Contact, Ian Catterall 608-445-9315 (We have instructions, step by step. For you to follow.

1 - from Legion .1 From SAL and 1 from Auxiliary.
To lead a Buddy check program for your unit., simple phone calls to veterans, to make sure they are OK.
Look up legion.org/buddy check/tools for more information. Contact any officer. IN 2023 4,456 AMERICAN LEGION POST PARTICIPATED IN THIS PROGRAM. WE ARE N

1-Help maintain the hill, Contact. Dale Sankey 608-395-5942

8- To work Meat raffles Contact any officer in the SAL
6 - To join Madison Veterans Firing Squad to attend Veteran's funerals, (sometimes called 21-gun salute) when you are available. UNIFORMS ARE PROVIDED, AT NO COST.

No experience required. Takes approx., 1 ½ hours
Contact Joseph M. Lustgraaf 608-249-2581 (IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DO A RIDE ALONG TO SEE WHAT IT ENTAILS, Contact Dale Sankey 608-395-5942)

4-Join Color guard, UNIFORMS ARE PROVIDED AT NO COST. You are called upon, maybe 3 times per year. Contact Jodie Armstrong 608-332-3688
4-Prepare a plan for parking lot fund raisers, need \$65,000.00 ? for blacktop . Run a Go fund me. Contact Any Officer. At least 1 from SAL, and 1 from Auxiliary.
2-Toys for Tots event. Contact Dale Sankey 608-395-5942

2-Food Drive event Contact Dale Sankey 608-395-5942
4-Be on call to set up chairs and tables in the hall for funerals. Contact Dale Sankey.608-395-5942.
3-To put up signs in the village for events. Approx. 1 1/2 hour. On call .1 needs to be able to drive fence post. Truck or van to carry fence post. Contact Dale Sankey 608-395-5942



On Saturday, April 19 we had a great crew of adults and students to help spruce up our post for the spring-cleaning event we had. Windows got cleaned, a year's worth of dust removed, kitchen got polished to a bright shine along with many other tasks. Bushes on the hill, plants in the front got a trimming and cleaned up for Memorial Day events just to name a few things. I would like to give a big thanks to the people that took a few hours to help make our post look better.
Students- Rowan Amundson, Abby Cappazzo, Katie, Kylie, Khloe Rossman, Wyatt Pageels, and Jay Sitts.
Members- Dale Sanke, Tom Downs, Steve Halverson, Gumby, Timmy Smith, Lary Moe, Aaron Holland, Dave and Lisa Rossman, Jessica Crass and her daughter and Kris Cornelius.



THANK YOU-THANK YOU.VOLUNTEER MADISON FIRING SQUAD 2024
PERFORMED AT VETERANS' FUNERALS,21 GUN SALUTE.

NAME	2024 # OF FUNERALS	EVENTS	TOTAL HOURS DONATED UP TO 2024
Tom Downs	88	2 Member 534	2386
Steve Halverson	48	3 Member 534	
Ray Schara	101	3 Member 534	5068
Tom Uebersetzig	59	3 Member 534	1740
Dale Sankey	63	2 Member 534	1760
Joeseeph Lustgraaf	104	3	4445
Jason Boyton	18		
Dan Wethal	100		3134
Larry Pensinger	5	1	
Judy White	61		894
Gene Vanden Bosch	22		
Paul Bartosch - joined in '25			

Ask any member for information ON HOW TO JOIN or to do a ride along. Takes approximately 2 hours.

BADGER HONOR FLIGHT

Member Paul Bartosch was selected for the the Badger Honor Flight Mission 58 on Saturday, April, 19th. His Guardian for the Day was Post Comander Cory Gessler. Paul and Cory had a great, albeit it was a long day. Members Dale Sankey, Chuck Mulcahy and Larry Rodd





American Legion Post 534
 4911 Burma Rd.
 McFarland, WI 53558

Bar Manager.....Jeff Jourdain
 Hall RentalsJen Murray
 Newsletter.....Cory Gessler

MAY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	1 LEGION MTG 7:00P	2	3
4 POKER NIGHT 1:00P-4:00P	5	6 AUX MTG 6:30P	7 SAL MTG 6:00P	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 SAL MEAT RAFFLE 1:00P-4:00P	19	20	21	22 EXEC BRD MTG 6:30P	23	24
25	26 PARADE - NOON CEREMONY 1PM Memorial Day	27	28	29	30	31