

POST NOTES

OCTOBER 2025

Edwards-Foye



American Legion Post 534

Commander.....	Cory Gessler	Service.....	Mike Brennan
First Vice.....	Aaron Holland	Chaplain	Dale Sankey
Second Vice	Ian Caterall	Historian	Mike Meyers
Adjutant	Nate Weier	Sgt. at Arms	Paul Bartosch,
Finance.....	Trish Howen		Jim Sommers, Zach Beek, Kent Miller
Web Site.....	http://alp534.com	Post Phone Number	(608) 838-3249

COMMANDER'S CORNER



Dear Legion Family,
YAY October is here, my favorite month, football on TV, apple pie in the oven and my birthday month!

Thank you for all that attend the 40+ year service dinner. Everyone had a nice time and a good meal. Thank you Mike Brennan for the idea and

organizing it, you did a great job along with all that helped along the way.

At the September S.A.L. Meat raffle, Jim Sommers presented the check to Hero Centers of WI from the money that was raised during our annual golf outing. It was enough to cover their heating cost for the year! Good job everyone!

We are still looking for a Hall Rental Agent and more people for a our color guard. If you are interested let me or any officer know. Please attend the meetings, so you knwo what happening at your Post.

Cory Gessler
Commander

FROM THE CHAPLAIN



I've heard that the key to getting people to volunteer is to ask them. Well, I am asking every member to volunteer. Each of you have a different talent, we could use at the post. Show up, get involved, attend a meeting. Bid on an item in our raffles. SHOW UP-Read the volunteer list needed in the post notes. Make God smile.

Do everything excellent. If you don't like the way your life is going, because of the choices you have made? Maybe it's time to make some new choices. - Think yourself Happy or Sad, It's your choice.

PS: How well do you treat people that have nothing to offer you? Challenge: Start a conversation. What can we do to raise over \$100,000.00 to fix our parking lot? Any ideas, please contact. Deb Franklin, Matt Skemp, Jodie Armstrong or Dale Sankey.

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



Membership renewal for the 2026 year has started. You can renew online, the notice sent through the USPS, or stop in at the Legion during normal business hours. I have the 2026 membership cards which I will send in the mail as soon as I can.

Below is what a Paid Up for Life (PUFL) membership would cost. This can be set up online at mylegion.org if anyone is interested. It can be paid in one lump sum or spread out over 12

AGE	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90+
FEE	\$1,535	\$1,399	\$1,229	\$1,025	\$815	\$599	\$429	\$329

If there are any questions about your membership, please don't hesitate to email me at am-534firstvice@gmail.com.

Aaron Holland
1st Vice Commander



EVENTS REPORT



Greetings Legionnaires and Friends!

October is here, bringing with it crisp air, vibrant colors, and plenty of opportunities to gather as a Legion family. Let's take a moment to honor some important military dates, reflect on recent successes, and look ahead to the exciting events on the horizon.

Important Military Dates in October

October 13 – U.S. Navy Birthday: Happy 249th Birthday to the Navy! Thank you to all who have served and continue to serve at sea.

October 27 – Navy Day: Another day to honor the proud traditions and dedication of our naval forces.

October 27 – Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day: A solemn reminder of the families who have given the ultimate sacrifice. We honor their strength and the memory of their loved ones.

A Look Back – September Successes

We hope everyone who came out for Oktoberfest had a wonderful time! Great music, food, and camaraderie made it a truly memorable event. Prost! ☐

A very special thank you goes to Mike Brennan for orchestrating the Member Recognition Ceremony on September 14th. It was an incredible evening honoring members with 40+ years in the American Legion—a testament to their dedication and service.

Looking Ahead – October Events

Toys for Tots Campaign Begins – October 1st
We're kicking off another year of supporting Toys for Tots! Year after year, our Post has made a difference in the lives of local children. Let's push ourselves to

top last year's success and bring even more joy this holiday season.

Legion Halloween Party – October 25th, 7–11 PM
Costumes are expected, fun is guaranteed! Join us for a spooktacular night of laughs, music, and community. Bring your friends and get ready for a great time.

Volunteers Make the Difference

As always, a reminder—our Legion events don't happen without volunteers. Too often, it's the same small group stepping forward. While their efforts are truly appreciated, we need more hands and fresh energy to keep our calendar full of successful events.

If you've ever thought, "I'd like to get more involved," now's the time! Whether it's helping with setup, coordinating an event, or simply lending a hand where needed, your contribution can make all the difference.

Closing Thoughts

This October, let's honor the sacrifices of our military, celebrate our members, and continue building the sense of family that makes our Post so strong. With your participation and support, there's no limit to what we can accomplish together.

Ian Catterall
2nd Vice Commander

OCT

4 - AUX Chili Cook Off

5 - Poker Night at 1pm

19 -SAL Meat Raffle 2pm to 5pm

25 - Halloween Party 7pm to 11pm

NOV

7 - Live solo music in the Lounge 7pm to 10pm

9 - AUX Veterans Breakfast

16 - SAL Meat Raffle 2pm to 5pm

SERVICE REPORT



Fall is here and planning for events in the next year at the American Legion is just around the corner. If there are events that you would like to see us host as either a fundraiser or just for fun please bring your idea's to the attention of one of the board members.

Thank you to all of the members that came out and supported the dinner for our members with 40+ years. This dinner was a huge success and I heard a lot of good feedback from the veterans being honored and their families. I would like to also thank the SAL for their generous donation that made this event happen for us.

Next weekend, I will be walking in the final Ruck 22 which starts at VFW Post 7591 on Cottage Grove Road. This event is to bring attention to the 22 veterans a day that commit suicide. We have to do more to bring attention to this issue and take care of our own. If you see something say something, don't feel like you shouldn't get involved if you see a veteran, struggling and talking about suicide. We need to all be very proactive in looking out for each other. One life is too many. If you know of a veteran who is struggling or talking about suicide, you can always bring it to my attention or someone else on the board and we will reach out and get that person to help that they need. I have resources at the VA to get people in right away for the help they need.



GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE

September results? 37 units collected. 3 short of our goal, getting close. 111 potential lives saved!

Blood Drives at the Post.

OCTOBER 3 WILL BE 11-5

Mark your calendar. Jan 30 2026-APRIL 24
Go on line to make an appointment, Red Cross
WALK INS WELCOME.



AUXILIARY NEWS



Hello Auxiliary members,
It was a busy end of September with Oktoberfest the 27th and then the Chili Cookoff Oct. 4th. It's always exciting to see so many people having a good time. The legion Halloween party is next, October 25th. Start thinking about your costume! It's not mandatory but it sure is fun!

Let's think of some more event ideas that we could possibly do as an auxiliary. Your ideas are always welcome! Could we also plan something with the SAL?!!!!

Our next meeting is October 7th at 6:30. Please try to attend as we will be discussing our Veteran's Day breakfast. It's a special event for all of us.

Until next time,

Deb Franklin

Auxiliary President



SAL CORNER



Hello everyone,

It's great to see the fall colors and enjoy the cooler weather and Packers football. We hope you're having a wonderful season.

Our meat raffles are held on the third Sunday of the month at 2 p.m., and we'd love to see you there. For the next two

months, our 50/50 raffle will go to support the local food pantry.

We're also hosting our first annual Sons of the American Legion recruitment meeting on Monday, October 9, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. It's a great chance to meet and greet with fellow members, and we'll have food and drinks for everyone. We'd love for all of our current members to join us and help welcome new recruits.

Our regular monthly meetings are on the first Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. We welcome any new ideas or suggestions, so please feel free to stop by and share your thoughts.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Dave Murray



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.

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.

LAST CALL

Legion member: Roger Howard Stoeckmann, Sept. 14



L-R Jim Sommers, Adrianna Zimmerman, CDR Gessler presenting a check for the Hero Centers of WI. The money was raised at the Legion's annual golf outing.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 40+ YEAR SERVICE DINNER



SICK CALL PRAYER LIST



Allen Ahrensmayer,
Ron Walsvick, Bill and Micky
Jeager, Charles Thieme, Lin-
da Swenson, Doug Nichols
(Showtime), 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 – Cindy Berkowitz (608)345-3119

S.A.L. Chaplain – Scott Szukalski (608)658-2400

Sunshine – Sue Whipperfurth (608-535-0495)



WE NEED YOU VOLUNTEERS

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO MAKE THE POST BETTER? PLEASE FILL OUT THE VOLUNTEER FORM, LOCATED IN THE BAR ON THE COUNTER BELOW THE BULLETIN BOARD. THE AVERAGE HOURS DONATED PER VOLUNTEER IS 50 HOURS PER YEAR. HOW ARE YOU DOING? TYou have many gifts: spiritual, talents, financial. If you're not sharing. What good are they? Your legion needs you.

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.*

1-Hall rental manager. Contact any officer.
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](http://legion.org/buddy-check/tools) for more information. Contact any officer.

2- Maintain bushes around the patio.

2-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 (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 Kathy Durant 608-669-2604

4-Prepare a plan for parking lot fund raisers, Run a Go fund me. Contact Any Officer. At least 1 from SAL, and 1 from AUX.

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. Pickup truck or a van, is needed. Contact Dale Sankey 608-395-5942

1-Assist in running the Spring-cleaning Day at the post. Contact Steve Halverson 608-575-9146



10.25.25

Save the Date

Saturday October 25, 2025

SALVATION ARMY
3030 DARBO DRIVE, MADISON

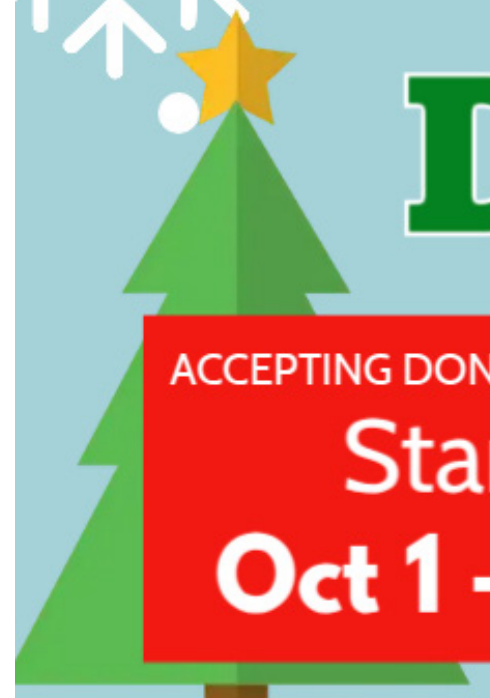


VOLUNTEER, DONATE OR ATTEND: LEARN MORE BY
VISITING WWW.STANDDOWNMADISON.ORG

Scan me



TOYS FOR TOTS DRIVE



ACCEPTING DONATIONS THROUGH

Starting
Oct 1 - Dec 21

Help donate to give children a better
Christmas season! Please donate a new
unwrapped toys for kids ages
NEWBORN to 12!
Drop boxes located at the Post.

We're open: Tues -Sat 2-5 pm
Sun 12-5 pm

CASH DONATION WELCOME



**The McFarland
American
Legion Post 534**
4911 Burma Road



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

Bar Manager.....Jeff Jourdain
Hall RentalsJeff Jourdain
Newsletter.....Cory Gessler

OCT 2025

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