

Commander's Corner

Greetings Comrades,

I hope all is good with each and every one of you. May is the time of blossoming, so plan to spend some time outside enjoying our Earth.

Attitude of Gratitude to all the people who helped make our April 17th Rib Fest a HUGE success! We raised \$4,300.00 for the Post! I thank each one of you: Russ Jenkins, Dale Sankey, Russ Reppen, Skip Lewis, Terry Lund, Sandy Haugen, Andy Otteson, Kurt Otteson, Mike Brennen, Dave Murray, Matt Skemp, Tyler Mortenson, Paul Roelke, Nathan Weier, Kelly Vinge, Sherry Clements, Larry Moe, Albie Wheeler, Casey Downs, Allison Downs, Jayden Downs, A.J. Vinmans, Troy Hix, Joan Garret, Carolyn Clow, Sarah Sheehan, Sue Wipperfurth, Steve Halverson. And Special Recognition to our vendors: Maple Tree, McFarland; Recheck's Food Pride, Beaver Dam; Pic-n-Save, McFarland: and Mid-Western Potatoes, Plainfield.

As previously mentioned, it is time for nominations for Post Officers. Open positions include: Commander, Finance, Chaplain, Sgt at Arms, and possibly other positions. (Of course ALL positions are open for nominations.) The May and June meetings will receive nominations in person. Elections will be held at the June meeting following additional nominations. The elections are also held in person per our By Laws. Please consider stepping up in a leadership role. You will have a wealth of experience from previous officers to help you.

Post 534 Clean-up will be held on Saturday May 1st at 9AM.

Memorial Day Ceremonies will be held on Monday May 31st at 10:30AM.

A reminder, the Lounge is now open. Please stop in and socialize with other members!

Tom Downs
Commander

From the Chaplain

Who will volunteer to be the next Chaplain? A desire to serve and listen, are the qualifications needed. I will help you until you are comfortable going solo.

Mark your Calendar for the Memorial Day celebration. Bring a friend.

Set your Goals so high, you have no idea how you will reach them. Stand up to your challenges. Take one step at a time. Anything is possible with God's help. Ask for help, be specific.

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 out, no matter how small or large a gift. For tax purposes, we are a 501C19 organization.

Each Legionnaire should be alert to the physical and spiritual needs of his/her comrades. As Chaplain, I seek to minister to people wherever there is a need. Please notify me when there is a death, 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. Dream BIG and put actions behind them. Start your day with God.

Free anonymous counseling: Text 741-741 or call 1-800-273-8255 (Press 1) Veterans Crises hot line.

Thank you for your service!
Remember: Jesus will never reject you.
God bless you and God bless America!
Chaplain Dale 608-395-5942
Email: am534chaplain@gmail.com

PS: Thank God for what did not happen! Expect something good to happen every day.
Challenge: Stop running from your problems, we all mess up. Admit your mistake, pay the price and move forward. People may never forgive you, God will.

Membership Report

In the last month, we have received 2 new members. We currently have 258 paid members which leaves us 52 members short of the goal established for us by National. We now are at 83% of last year's membership. For those of you who have not yet renewed, please do so ASAP. Membership dues are still \$35/yr. You can renew online or by mailing your renewal to the Post. To renew online go to <https://www.legion.org/membershipmanagement> and then click on the link "Renew Membership Online". It's quick and simple.

Our new members are:

- Michael Pilat, Persian Gulf, USN
- William B. Atkinson (I have no further info at this time. See below).

Both came to us from the Portage HQ Post.

Welcome to Post 534. Our membership meetings are held at 7 pm on the second Thursday of each month. We would love to see you there.

National has "upgraded" it's website. The upgrade has been very unfriendly to its users at the local level. The reality is that I haven't been able to access the membership database for a few weeks so I haven't been able to update member records, add new members to our roster or get background info on new members such as Mr. Atkinson. I called the State HQ for help and was told that they didn't know how to use it either. So much for "new and improved". Adjutant Mietz is trying to work through the issue.

Election of officers will be held in June. When I accepted the position of 1st Vice Commander, with responsibility for membership, I did so with the idea that it would be a two year commitment. However, I'm not married to the office. If nominated for another term, I will accept. However, if someone else would like to take a run at it, go ahead. I would do all that I can to insure a smooth transition.

If you know anyone eligible to join the American Legion, Auxiliary or SAL please encourage them to join or give the lead to me and I'll follow up. You can contact me at (608) 478-1937 or jwick16060@tds.net. Now that the Post is open, membership should be more attractive. Any new memberships and renewals apply to 2021.

Jim Wickert
First Vice Commander

Nate Weier Bio

I am seeking to run for Commander of American Legion Post 534. My intent is to continue the commitment towards our veterans, their families and the McFarland community. My number one goal is to recruit new members and encourage active participation in supporting the Legion and the community. It is my belief that by engaging families of our area veterans, we will continue the Post's legacy long into the future.

I was born and raised in Dodgeville, Wisconsin. My parents instilled in me the passion to serve the community and at age 7, I joined Scouting. In 1997, at age 16, I attained the rank of Eagle Scout. At my Eagle Scout Court of Honor, our Charter Representative who was in the National Guard said, "I'll take an Eagle Scout any day to be in a foxhole with". It inspired me to join the Wisconsin Army National Guard in 1999 as a Heavy Equipment Operator at age 17. In 2003, I volunteered to deploy to Iraq as a Sergeant (E-5) with the 229th Engineer Company; building roads, airstrips, bases, and checkpoints in the Sunni Triangle, also known at the time as the "Triangle of Death". Upon return, I was promoted to Staff Sergeant (E-6) and served as Human Resources NCO. In 2007, I was assigned to the 54th Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction) as the Human Resources NCO and Decontamination Leader. In 2008, I graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from Concordia University – Wisconsin, in Business Management. In 2009, I was appointed as a Warrant Officer One. I was commissioned as a Chief Warrant Officer Two in 2011. I served as the Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) Manager from 2011-2017 while simultaneously performing drill weekends as the Senior Academics Instructor of the Warrant Officer Candidate School at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. In 2016, I graduated with a Master's of Science from Columbia Southern University in Emergency Services Management. From 2017-2019, I served as the Executive Officer of Joint Force Headquarters – Wisconsin. In 2019, I was promoted to Chief Warrant Officer Three and deployed to Ukraine with the 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team as a NATO Advisor to the Armed Forces of Ukraine. Upon return in 2020, I was assigned to the Wisconsin Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion as the Resource Manager. I will retire from the Wisconsin Army National Guard in June 2022 with 23 years of total service; 20 years active federal service. I am an Emergency Medical Technician with McFarland Fire Rescue, a Den Leader with McFarland Pack 53 and currently serve as the Second Vice Commander of McFarland American Legion Post 534. My wife and I reside in McFarland with our son, Mason and daughter, Nora

Auxiliary News

Congrats!!! To the Legion and the Rib Fest volunteers for a successful event!

We start off the month of May with the Post Spring Clean-Up being held Saturday May 1st at 9:00 am. Please grab your buckets and rags and come lend a hand to spruce up the Post.

This month will be nomination of Unit Officers. All positions are a two-year term. Voting will take place at the June 1st meeting. Installation of the 2021-2022 Officers will take place Friday, June 25th. If you have any interest in representing your Unit or have questions about duties for each position, please let me know and I will provide you the information.

This Memorial Day our Auxiliary will be taking part in the:

2021 Build A BRAT FEST
May 31st 10:30 to 3 pm

We will purchase our Johnsonville Brats and ¼ lb. Boars Heads Hot Dogs and buns from Brat Fest.

- The Brat Fest will recognize our Auxiliary on their website and social media as an official location over the Memorial weekend.
- Brat Fest will provide us with all the marketing materials (poster, social media post and sign).

This will be a great way to get some visual ability and support the Brat Fest organization charities as well as our projects. We need volunteers: Prep workers, cashiers, order takers, etc. Please contact Carolyn Clow at 843-1740 or me at 332-3688.

Dates to remember:

May 09 – Mother's Day

May 30 – Brat Sale Prep Work

May 31 – Memorial Day Ceremony (flags up at 6:00 am) and Brat Sale

I hope to see everyone at our next meeting on **May 1, 2021 @ 6:30 pm**

Jodie Armstrong

Auxiliary 534, President

Jarmstrong0658@gmail.com

608-332-3688

SAL Corner

Hello SAL,

I hope this message finds all members well.

With Covid vaccinations on the rise, we should hopefully see things getting slowly back to normal. I hope everyone has been safe and in good health during these troubled times.

As we move into the month of May, the squadron and its members should be an active participant in the sponsoring posts Memorial Day ceremonies. Please come in and ask if there's any way that you can help the squadron or the post today or in the future. Examples of what one could help with are maybe assisting in the decorating of veterans' graves. Also another way to get involved is to study the emphasis on patriotism in the 10 ideals and five points program, citizenship in the 10 ideals program, and citizen and leadership in the five point program of service.

Fun facts:

May 8-9, 1969: The Legion's NEC gives its approval to resolution 60, which creates a Sons of The American Legion committee, consisting of four members and a chairman. Two of the members were from the ranks of the SAL, while the chairman and the other two members were legionnaires.

May 3-4, 1972: The Legion's NEC approves resolution 13, creating a national SAL organization under the full supervision and control of the Legion's NEC. That opened the door for the Sons of the American Legion to hold its first national convention in Chicago in August 1972. Resolution 13 also rescinded, in its entirety, the old SAL constitution and bylaws, as adopted in 1933.

As you all know, the election process starts this month and next. Nominations will be held at the May meeting, and elections will be held in June. Nominations will be open at the May meeting and then closed. At the June meeting, nominations will be opened up for any last-minute nominees and then ballots will get distributed and voted on. I would love to see as many people show up as

possible, and would love to see even more get involved.

Stay tuned as we will be bringing back the meat raffle and some other events that have been discussed in our last couple of meetings. For now stay safe, and be kind to one another.

Joe Larson
SAL Commander

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Members and Friends

Legion, SAL, Auxiliary to work each other's events.

- 8 to work meat raffles. Contact Dale Sankey 608-395-5942
- 2 to work on buildings and grounds to keep the post in pristine condition. You do not have to do all the work, you'll need to coordinate. Contact Dale Sankey 608-395-5942
- 2 to keep the hill weed free and bushes trimmed. Contact Dale Sankey 608-395-5942
- 1 (on call) to help set up chairs and tables for funerals. Contact Russ Jenkins 608-333-5787
- 8 Legion members needed to join the Color Guard (uniforms provided). Contact Jodie Armstrong 608-332-3688
- 6 (2 from each organization) to recruit new members. Contact Jim Wickert 608-228-3834
- 4 Veterans to join the Madison Veterans Firing Squad for Veterans' funerals (when you are available). Uniforms are provided. Contact Dale Sankey 608-395-5942
- 4 to help coordinate events. Contact Nate Weier 608-381-0800
- 1 to build a website that would include the names of Veterans on the hill, flags and monuments. Contact Dale Sankey 608-395-5942
- 4 to join the Clean Team. Pick a day weekly to spot clean the post floors and bathrooms. Contact Dale Sankey 608-395-5942

Lounge Corner...

We are happy to be open. We continue to follow CDC guidelines – masks are required.

Temporary Hours:

Tuesday – Friday 2 pm 7 pm

Saturday – 3 pm – 7 pm

Closed Sunday and Monday

Come down and join us. It's great to see everyone again!

Lounge Manager
Sue Wipperfurth

Calendar of Events...

May

- May 1 – Post Cleanup
- May 4 – Auxiliary Meeting, 6:30 pm
- May 5 – SAL Meeting, 6 pm
- May 13 – Legion Meeting, 7 pm

May 31 – Memorial Day Celebration, 10:30 am (flags up at 6 am) and Auxiliary Brat Sale

June

June 1 – Auxiliary Meeting, 6:30 pm

June 2 – SAL Meeting, 6 pm

June 10 – Legion Meeting, 7 pm

June 25 – Installation of officers