



THE LEGION POST



OTIS SAMPSON POST 59 STOUGHTON WI

POST WEBSITE: POST59.ORG

POST PHONE 608-205-9090

DECEMBER 2010

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 12

2009-2010 OFFICERS

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4020

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Secretary

Lynn Robertson

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Mary Copley



Greetings,

Lets start off by thanking the Legion and SAL fellows who showed up to help clean up around the outside of the Post. It was very much appreciated.

Our Prime Rib Dinner turn out was great and I thank everyone for making it successful. Again, John C. and his kitchen crew did a good job preparing the meal. We are going to have another Prime Rib Dinner for New Years Eve, before the music starts. More information will be in next month's newsletter.

For those who are still wondering about the building next door, our dealing is off the table for now. Another party is interested at this time and he might be willing to let go of some land adjacent to

ours. Some are wondering why we need more land and I say we could use more parking and a little more green space for our Post events. Land doesn't always come along and if it does, we should take advantage of the opportunity.

We still need volunteers around the Post to do cleaning jobs. I know for some of you, it is difficult to do some things, but we could use you for less strenuous things. Here is a list of some of the things that need constant attention. Sweeping, dusting, mopping, washing windows and mirrors, clean off tables, cleaning fans, wipe off chairs and bar stools, shelves in the kitchen, scrubbing sinks in kitchen, shining up appliances, cleaning refrigerator. etc.

It is time for Care Pkgs. to be sent to our Troops. We are collecting for that now. Items can be:

Instant coffee, presweetened Kool-aid and crystal light packets, sausage stick other than slim jims, turkey jerky, canned meat,

granola bars, dried fruit, instant soups, chips, hard candy, cookies fast food condiments, Easy Mac in a bowl, chicken or tuna salad kits, soups in a bowl, fruit snacks, fruit roll-ups, Soduko puzzle books, paperback books & magazines, newspapers from Wisconsin cities, zip locks, homemade items (not food), and thank you cards. Please be generous and make this a successful drive.

December's Post dinner will be December 14th. Santa is coming for our December 21st breakfast for all the children and grandchildren. Hope to see a great turnout.

Have a Safe and Happy Thanksgiving,
Commander Sonny

Auxiliary News



Hello,

Let's start out with cleaning at the Post. The kitchen needs some good scrubbing. Seeing we are not getting any where with people volunteering, the need of making calls has arisen. We will be going down the list and setting up groups to come in every month for this. We do have some faithful members who are taking care of the bathrooms and hall each week. God Bless them!!! If this does not work, the facility will have to hire cleaning help. Let's hear some suggestions. We desperately need some help! Our Legion is getting busier and therefore maintenance is important.

We will be setting up a container for the Food Pantry at the Post. Please be generous with your donations.

There are many families in need in our community. Non-perishable items only.

The Auxiliary purchased two lense grills and we are busy making it each week on Wed or Thurs nights depending on people's schedules. We are selling it at 3 pcs. for \$5.00. Some of the men have been helping also which is great to see. Sonny suggested trying to bake them on the grill last week and so he did and it worked out wonderful. Our grills are thermo controlled so it works.

Santa will be coming to our breakfast in December. Please bring your children or grandchildren to this event. The hrs. he will be there will be advertised in our ad.

The Stoughton Hospital has a Military Tree Love Light. A minimum of \$5.00 can be given in honor of a living or deceased Veteran. December 2nd is when the ceremony is. They read off the names that have been honored. This is a very emotional event. If you have any questions, please call the Hospital as Nov. 26th is the deadline. You may pick up an envelope at the Hospital for

your donation.

If you know of any children who have Activated Military Parents in the community, please let the Post know. We are getting together back packs full of goodies for these children to let them know we are thinking of them also.

Have a safe and blessed Thanksgiving Holiday! Pray for our troops over seas and pray for peace on earth!

President Linda Swangstu

CHAPLAINS CORNER

Do everything without complaining. The lines in the grocery store were long. There were only two cashiers, while six other registers stood unattended. It was the end of the workday for most of those standing in the lines. Frustration set in, and I stood there and complained like others. "They need more cashiers!" Whatever happened to customer service?

While relaxing later that evening, I watched the evening news. One of the stories was about a mission on skid row that was giving away clothing, shoes, and school supplies to children in need. Many homeless and low-income parents had camped out for up

to four days on a sidewalk on behalf of their children. And I complained about standing 15 minutes in a grocery store line! What kind of Christian witness did I show to others?

Our patience and peacefulness can shine like a light in a dark and perverse world. Are you shining brightly, or is your light clouded by complaints? Each of us can choose to shine brightly for God.

Prayer:
Heavenly Father forgive us for complaining, and help us to be patient and show your kindness in difficult situations. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

LEGION HALL AVAILIABLE FOR RENTALS

The word is getting out regarding our hall rental. We are open for funeral luncheons, birthday parties, wedding receptions, family and class reunions, holiday parties, and anniversaries. We do have a portable dance floor as well. Book your dates now before our calendar gets full. We have a wonderful kitchen and bar. We can hold approximately 150 people in our dining area. For more information, contact **Linda Swangstu** at **608-873-9428** or **608-577-7428**.

PICK AND SAVE ADVANTAGE CARD

There have been some questions about the transfer of the American Legion account number from the old card to the new Roundy's Reward card. When you get your new (Black Card) it might be advisable to check at the service desk and confirm that our account number has been transferred to the new card. The account number for the legion is 026625. This will insure that 1% of your purchases will be credited to the legion.

If you are not already a participant in this plan, please sign up. Just go to the service desk and show them your card. The legion appreciates your help and it doesn't cost you anything. Remember our account number is 026625.

If you know of anyone who is hospitalized, or in need please contact Monte at 873-4020.

STOUGHTON FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

A NEW AUXILIARY Community Service Project

Beginning this month the Auxiliary will start collecting for the Stoughton Food Pantry. We will have a collection container at the Post and welcome all donations. The pantry is fully funded by donations. No tax dollars are used to purchase supplies. The need this year is greater than ever before. Just since February the number of people using the Food Panty in Stoughton has almost doubled!

All non-perishable food items are needed, however there are some items that the Food Pantry does not purchase and are very much needed. They are the following: toilet paper, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and shaving cream, bar soap. Also: Hamburger Helper, rice mixes, Sloppy Joe mix, pasta, taco kits, cake and cookie mixes, oatmeal and cereal. So please help us to help those in our own community who are in need by bringing in a few items each time you come to the Post for a dinner, a breakfast, a meeting or a drink in the lounge. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Olson at 873-8924 or Linda Swangstu at 873-9428.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Attn. Honor Guard

Members, and all interested in joining the Honor Guard: we will hold a meeting Tuesday Sept. 21st at 7:00 P.M. at the post. This will be a time to sign up new members, order pins, shirts etc. Also we will have demonstrations of flag presentation, flag folding along with rifle squad, etc. Please make an effort to come; as we are expecting some new members signing up from the SAL.

Also this is open to all, if you have any interest please come, we can't have too many members.

Thanks, Monte/Nick



Membership Notes

As of November 10, we stand at 270 or 78% have renewed their dues. If you haven't paid your dues, please do so this month. The Membership Committee will be a contacting member who hasn't paid their dues in early December.

Our goal is the same as all the other years to have 100% renewed by the end of the year.

If you want to pay online at home, here's the link.

www.members.legion.org/renew

Our newest member is SSgt Kevin Lewis who is currently serving in the Marines. Welcome Kevin.

Did you know we have 76 Korean War post members, which is 22% of our post? Give them a friendly handshake when you see them.

Thanks for everyone's help in recruiting,

Dennis Rodenkirch,
Membership Chairman

National Commanders Jimmie Foster's
Incentive Program

I Am a Part of the "Lucky 7" Pin

Our National Commander will award his National Commander pin to any Legion family member who signs up at least two new members and renews 5 current members into The American Legion.

A "New Member" is defined as any eligible person joining the 2011 membership year who was not member of The American Legion during the 2010 membership year.

The program ends on June 30, 2011 so lets see how many of our post members can get this pin. A list of renewal names will be available at the next monthly post meeting.

Any questions contact,
Dennis Rodenkirch
608-438-8768
rc0295@yahoo.com

Poem Worth Reading

He was getting old and paunchy
And his hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the Legion,
Telling stories of the past.

Of a war that he once fought in
and the deeds that he had done,
in his exploits with his buddies;
they were heroes, every one.

And 'tho sometimes to his neighbors
His tales became a joke,
All his buddies listened quietly
for they knew where of he spoke.

But we'll hear his tales no longer,
for ol' Bob has passed away,
and the world's a little poorer
For a Soldier died today.

Many, just his children and his wife
won't mourn He. For he lived
an ordinary, Very quiet sort
of life.

He held a job and raised a family;
Going quietly on his way;
and the world won't note his passing,
though a Soldier died today.

When politicians leave this earth,
their bodies lie in state,
while thousands note their passing,
and proclaim that they were great.

Papers tell of their life stories
from the time that they were young
But the passing of a Soldier
Goes unnoticed, and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution to the welfare
of our land, some jerk who breaks his promise
And cons his fellow man?

Or the ordinary fellows who in times
of war and strife, Goes off to serve
his country And offers

up his life?

The politician's stipend
And the style in which he lives,
Are often disproportionate,
to the service that he gives.

While the ordinary Soldier,
Who offered up his all,
is paid off with a medal
and perhaps a pension,
small.

It is not the politicians with their
compromise and ploys, who won
for us the freedom that our country
now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger,
with your enemies at hand,
would you really want some cop-out,
with his ever-waffling stand?

Or would you want a Soldier--
His home, his country, his kin,
just a common Soldier,
Who would fight until the end.

He was just a common Soldier,
and his ranks are growing thin,
but his presence should remind us
we might need his like again.

For when countries are in conflict,
we find the Soldier's part is to clean
up all the troubles that the politicians
start.

If we cannot do him honor while
he's here to hear the praise,
then at least let's give him homage
at the ending of his days.

Perhaps just a simply headline
in the paper that might say:
"OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING,
A SOLDIER DIED TODAY."

CALENDER OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER 2010

Nov 2- Election Day VOTE

Nov 2-Post 59 Junior Aux
meeting at 7:30 pm

Nov 3- Lefsa making at post
kitchen time TBD

Nov 8- Post & Aux meeting
7pm

Nov 9- Post Dinner 6:30pm

Nov 10- Lefsa making at post
kitchen time TBD

Nov 11- Veterans Day

Nov 12-Fish fry at Waunakee
4-8 pm

Nov 13- Post 501 Madison
Breakfast 7-11:00 am

Nov 17-Lefsa making at post
kitchen time TBD

Nov 19- Fish Fry Post 481
Westport

Nov 21- Legion breakfast 7-
noon

Nov 25- Thanksgiving

DECEMBER 2010

Dec 1 – Lefsa making at
post kitchen time TBD

Dec 2-Dane County
Christmas party Post 501
Madison 7pm

Dec 7-Post 59 Junior Aux
meeting at 7:30 pm

Dec 8-Lefsa making at
post kitchen time TBD

Dec 10-Fish fry at
Waunakee 4-8 pm

Dec 11-Post 501 Madison
Breakfast 7-11:00 am

Dec 13-Auxiliary
meeting 7pm

Dec 14-Post Dinner
6:30pm

Dec 15-Lefsa making at
post kitchen time TBD

Dec 17-Fish Fry Post 481
Westport

Dec 19-Legion breakfast
7-noon

Dec 25- Christmas

**Veterans Corner
Odean A. Teigen
National Guard
1949-1962**

By Evelyn Kahl



Odean was born in Stoughton, WI on June 25, 1933. Odean enlisted in the National Guard in 1949 at the early age of 16. At this time the National Guard was paying enlistees 2-dollar bills and silver dollars and that looked pretty good to a 16 year old kid, so he decided to follow in his older brother's footsteps and besides that he could avoid two weeks of tobacco hoeing, much to his delight.

At the age of 17, he was required to re-enlist as he would qualify in the right age. He re-enlisted into the National Guard on June 25, 1950, the day the Korean War broke out.

He served with the National Guard in the Army Infantry. He received his basic training in his hometown of Stoughton, preparing for his later years of service. He served here in this capacity for 10 years before being sent on a troop train to Ft. Lewis, Washington.

Odean served his country for 13 years. During this time the Berlin Crisis, Vietnam War and Korean War were taking place. His Guard Unit had been sent to Ripley, MN for two weeks and then released to return to Stoughton. His time in the National Guard was spent mostly in Stoughton and at Ft. Lewis, WA.

Odean was called to Active Duty during the Berlin Crisis reporting to Ft. Lewis in 1961, but was never shipped out. He was also on Active Duty at the beginning of Vietnam Conflict. Odean was with the 32nd Division, Co. I 128th Infantry Division – the Red Arrow. It was called the Red Arrow because the Infantry had pierced every enemy line that they had encountered during World War I. He was de-activated in the fall of 1962.

His highest rank in the National Guard's was E-6 before getting promoted to E-4! His DD 2-14 government form shows he was born in 1932 because of his early enlistment at the age of 16. His medals consisted of the Good Conduct Medal, MI CARBINE and VAR, (expert) in firing range. He was never a prisoner of war and was never injured during his years in the National Guard.

Odean enjoyed his ride on the troop train to Ft. Lewis, WA. Many stops were made along the way at small towns picking up other Units. They were greeted by the townspeople at these stops with fruit baskets and other items of their likening – but no beer Odean said! While stationed in Ft. Lewis, his wife and small daughter Sherry joined him and lived off the Post. They would spend weekends traveling and during a two-week leave in the spring, the family traveled the entire West Coast visiting Disneyland and Mexico. His daughter was 6 years old at the time.

In 1963, Odean was discharged at Ft. Lewis. He purchased a car and the family drove back home to Stoughton. Soon he began working at his previous job with the Stoughton Street Department. He worked for the city 43 years. He also worked as a volunteer fireman for 41 years. He retired as Street Superintendent for the City of Stoughton in 1999. He retired as Chief of the Stoughton Fire Department in 2002.

He is a Past Commander of the American Legion Post 59 and is now the Historian for the Legion. He also serves as an Honor Guard and is a Charter Member. He married his wife, Kathy in 1964 and they have a daughter and 2 sons – Sherry, Arlan and Dale.

Dated: March 8, 2009

Ole Fills In For The Doctor

A doctor in Duluth wanted to get off work and go hunting, so he approached his assistant. 'Ole, I am goin' huntin' tomorrow and don't want to close the clinic. I want you to take care of the clinic and take care of all my patients.' 'Yes, sir!' answers Ole.

The doctor goes hunting and returns the following day and asks: 'So, Ole, How was your day?' Ole told him that he took care of three patients. 'The first one had a Headache so I gave him TYLENOL.' 'Bravo, Mate, and the second one?' asks the doctor.

'The second one had stomach burning and I gave him MAALOX, sir,' says Ole. 'Bravo, bravo! You're good at this and what about the third one?' ask the Doctor.

'Sir, I was sitting here and suddenly the door opens and a woman enters. Like a flame, she undresses herself, taking off everything including her bra and her panties and lies down on the table and shouts: HELP ME - I haven't seen a man in over two years!! 'Tunderin' Lard Yeezus, Ole, what did you do?' asks the doctor.

I put drops in her eyes!!

U all thought I was sending a dirty joke!!!!

VA Begins Paying Benefits for New Agent Orange Claims

VA Encourages Affected Vietnam Veterans to File Claims

Juneau - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has begun distributing disability benefits to Vietnam Veterans who qualify for compensation under recently liberalized rules for Agent Orange exposure.

"The joint efforts of Congress and VA demonstrate a commitment to provide Vietnam Veterans with treatment and compensation for the long-term health effects of herbicide exposure," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki.

Agent Orange. The expansion of coverage for Agent Orange related conditions involves B-cell (or hairy-cell) leukemia, Parkinson's disease and ischemic heart disease.

Shinseki said VA has launched a variety of initiatives - both technological and involving better business practices - to tackle an anticipated upsurge in Agent Orange-related claims.

Providing initial payments - or increases to existing payments - to the 200,000 Veterans who now qualify for disability compensation for these three conditions is expected to take several months, but VA officials encourage all Vietnam Veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange and suffer from one of the three diseases to make sure their applications have been submitted.

VA has offered Veterans exposed to Agent Orange special access to health care since 1978, and priority medical care since 1981. VA has been providing disability compensation to Veterans with medical problems related to Agent Orange since 1985.

In practical terms, Veterans who served in Vietnam during the war and who have a "presumed" illness do not have to prove an association between their illnesses and their military service. This "presumption" simplifies and speeds up the application process for benefits.

The three new illnesses - B-cell (or hairy-cell) leukemia, Parkinson's disease and ischemic heart disease - are added to the list of presumed illnesses previously recognized by VA.

Other recognized illnesses under VA's "presumption" rule for Agent Orange are:

- * Acute and Subacute Transient Peripheral Neuropathy
- * Chloracne
- * Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia
- * Diabetes Mellitus (Type 2)
- * Hodgkin's Disease
- * Multiple Myeloma
- * Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma
- * Porphyria Cutanea Tarda
- * Prostate Cancer
- * Respiratory Cancers
- * Soft Tissue Sarcoma (other than Osteosarcoma,

- Chondrosarcoma,
- Kaposi's sarcoma, or Mesothelioma)
- * AL Amyloidosis

Veterans interested in applying for disability compensation or have questions about any veterans benefits and reside in Dodge County should call The Dodge County Veterans Service Officer Mark Grams at 920 386 3798.



Military Service Tree

Honoring Those Presently
Serving Our Country

<p style="text-align: center; color: green;">Join us for a Ceremony to Honor our Military Service Members Currently Serving</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Friday, November 26, 2010 3:00pm in Gillett Park 1300 Superior Avenue Tomah, WI 54660</p>	<p>If you have a loved one who is serving in the military and is away from home please call the Chamber office at 608-372-2166, to have an ornament personalized for them on the Military Service Tree.</p>
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Show your Support of our Service Members and Their Families

Join us for This Ceremony & Bring a Donation for Operation Homefront.

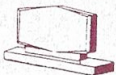
Suggested Items: Beef jerky, toothpaste, toothbrushes, bars of soap, hand sanitizer, lotion, deodorant, foot powder, after shave, shampoo, conditioner, cough drops, candy, nail clippers, 4 piece manicure kits, batteries, trail mix, mixed nuts, Fritos, Pringles, Cheetos, writing paper, pens & pencils, gum, a personal note.

The Tomah Chamber in cooperation with the Tomah Rotary, will be hosting a tree lighting and decorating ceremony on **Friday, November 26th at 3pm in Gillett Park**. Personalized ornaments will be placed on the large spruce tree in the center of the park. Community members are asked to call the Chamber office with the names of family members and friends who are currently in military service away from home. This event is to let our soldiers and their families know that we support them and are keeping them in our thoughts especially during this holiday season. Operation Homefront will be accepting donations for the care packages they send to our Military Service Members. Please donate if you are able and join us at the Park!

THE LEGION POST

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December Dinner
Roast Pork
December 14th 6:30 PM

Zen for Those Who Take Life Too Seriously:
What happens if you get scared half to death twice?

Editor Wayne Christensen: wac33@sbcglobal.net,

DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES THE 10TH OF EACH MONTH

VISIT THE POST WEBSITE AT POST59.ORG Post email AmericanLegionPost59@TDS.net