



THE LEGION POST

OTIS SAMPSON POST 59 STOUGHTON, WI
POST WEB SITE: POST59.ORG POST PHONE: 608.205.9090



Volume 18 Issue 3

March 2016

Commander's Report

2015-2016 OFFICERS

Commander

Sonny Swangstu

1st Vice Commander

Vik Malling

2nd Vice Commander

Mary Lloyd

3rd Vice Commander

Larry Johnson

Service Officer

Bob Lloyd

Sgt. at Arms

Dale Seffens

Finance Officer

Jim Oler

Historian

Lenny Swingen

Adjutant

Bob Lloyd

Judge Advocate

Terry McCardle

Chaplain

Rich Fries



Greetings,

Let's all get on the bus and go to Spring training in Arizona for the rest of the winter! Wouldn't that be great? Spring is getting closer and closer!

The Memorial Park got a big boost from the weather. After all the rain and the snow left and the ground dried up, we got most of the underground work completed. We dug down in the area and found lots of sand which is great for a base when

we do the cement work. This will give us a good start and more time for our spring and summer work. The months seem to fly by and thanks to Duane Broughton for his push to keep our schedule in order.

We also have found enough good days to get our storage shed/garage framed up and the roof installed. Thanks to some good volunteers for their help.

I am reminding everyone again about membership dues. Let's get our dues paid as soon as possible. If you are having difficulties, please let the Post know and we will work it out. We want to stay at 100% membership.

We will keep the *family style*

suppers on the 4th Tuesday of each month. Last month was not good for buffet style. We have too many people that need to just sit and not have to get up and down out of their chairs. I apologize for the hardship it caused. Swiss steak is being served this month. We have changed our menu somewhat for the breakfasts which I think you will enjoy. Our Friday night fish fry has chili on the menu for the winter months. Change can be a good thing sometimes. Thank you to all volunteers for your hard work!

Commander Sonny

Auxiliary

President

Lisa Olson

873-8924

1st Vice President

Elvera Phelps

873-5154

Secretary

Cathy Rigdon

873-5818

Treasurer

Linda Schmidt

205-2517

Chaplain

Sharon Silbaugh

873-3927

Sgt. at Arms

Pat Christensen

873-7479

Historian

Sherry Leick

873-6687

Auxiliary News



Hello Auxiliary Members and Friends,

Hopefully we are in the final stretch of winter. Everyone could use a break from this cold. But at least the days are getting longer now, which is a good sign that spring is right around the corner.

We recently presented special certificates and "60 Year" pins to Terry King and Mary Curran for reaching 60 years of continuous Auxiliary membership. Congratulations to both of them for reaching this milestone year and for their dedication to the American Legion.

We have been having basket raffles each month at the breakfasts. Last month it was a Valentine's Day basket and the lucky winner

was Roger Thorsen. The raffles help our unit to maintain our budget and continue to respond to the donation requests we receive. Again, I can't thank you enough for buying tickets and supporting our raffles.

We decided to dedicate the proceeds from our February breakfast to the Stoughton Food Pantries, Personal Essentials Pantry, and the START program. I also recently dropped off two large boxes of school supply items at the Stoughton Head Start program that our ladies have been collecting for them. They really appreciated receiving them.

We are happy to welcome new member Sue Hopper to our unit this month. If you know of someone who is thinking of joining please let us know.

Your volunteer hours need to be turned in to me by March 14 if you did any volunteering since last

April 1. Some examples are helping at funeral luncheons, breakfasts, the chicken dinner, poppies, Culvers Day, or addressing envelopes for the Park.

President continued on page 2

CALENDER OF EVENTS

- February 21 - Legion Breakfast – 7:00-11:00 am
- February 23 - Legion Dinner – 6:30 pm
- February 28 - Country Jam with Mikey Fuss – 2:00-6:00 pm
- March 5 - Blue Moon Karaoke – 8:00pm-?
- March 17 - St. Patrick's Day
- March 20 - Legion Breakfast – 7:00-11:00 am
- March 22 - Legion Dinner – 6:30 pm
- March 26 - Universal Sound – 8:00-midnight

Event Pricing

Post Dinner: 6:30 pm \$11.00

Breakfast: 7:00-11:00 am
\$8.00 adults, \$4.00 children

For upcoming Legion entertainment, call the Post at 205.9090 for a recorded message.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

We must love them both, those whose opinions we share and those whose opinions we reject, for both have labored in the search for truth, and both have helped us in finding it.

Thomas Aquinas

If you know of anyone who is hospitalized, or in need, please contact Rich Fries at 608.273.8758.

Hall Rentals

Call Julie Nygaard at 608.333.9577

President continued from page 1

If you donated any items, cakes, candy, cookies, or money to any veteran's program or event please list those amounts too. The American Legion relies on us to report our time and efforts as a unit. Our time, together with the units from across the country makes us a stronger voice as an organization. Also, any time spent volunteering for any community program can be listed as long as you didn't get paid for it. If you don't have a volunteer sheet, just write it down on a piece of paper or send me an e-mail.

On March 24 Stoughton Post 59 will again be hosting the Dane County Council Meeting. There will be a potluck lunch starting at 6:30 pm. Come and meet other Legion and Auxiliary members who are our guests. It's fun to get to know other members in the area.

SAVE THE DATE: On Saturday, April 2, our unit is sponsoring Leadership Training for all 3rd District members at our Post! More info will be in the next newsletter.

Our next meeting is on Monday, March 14 at 6:30 PM. We will be getting our poppies ready to put in the newsletter. Hope to see you then. We could use your extra pair of hands.

Lisa Olson
Unit 59 President

May your blessings outnumber the shamrocks that grow and may trouble avoid you wherever you go.







Irish Blessing



Lisa Olson (left) and Cathy Rigdon presented Terry King (right) with her 60 year membership certificate and pin at Skaalen Home on February 14.



The Raise the Flag campaign is a Stoughton city-wide community effort Sponsored by Thrivent Financial to raise funds for on-going maintenance of the Stoughton Area Veterans Memorial Park and various service groups that install the flags. This innovative program will place a beautiful 3'x5' American Flag that is made in the USA in each participant's yard 5 times per year. The flags will be installed no later than 8:30 am and will be taken down by dusk on the following celebration days:

Memorial Day  Flag Day  Independence Day  Patriot Day, 9/11  Veterans Day

The cost to participate in this program is only \$50.00 per year. This show of support from the Stoughton community will honor our nation and help keep the Memorial Park a landmark in Wisconsin. Please tell your neighbors to join this great patriotic event. The more families that participate, the more dramatic the effect will be on your street and in our community!

If you are in the City of Stoughton, OR are within 6 miles of Stoughton, SIGN UP NOW to be part of this effort!

.....

Mail this form along with your check to: (**Checks should be made payable to SAVMP, LLC in the amount of \$50**)

Thrivent Financial
 RAISE THE FLAG PROGRAM
 PO Box 116
 Stoughton, WI 53589

If you have questions, contact us at
tammy.niedfeldt@thrivent.com
 608-873-3910, ext. 5
 Your donation may be Tax Deductible

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Do you have an invisible dog fence and/or a lawn sprinkler system installed? YES NO NOTE: _____

Order form and payment must be received by May 1, 2016 to guarantee Memorial Day delivery.

Veterans Memorial Park Update

January was a good month for the fund-raising effort. The big hit was a donation of \$125,000 from the Bryant Foundation to be used to purchase the centerpiece. This donation, plus the earlier pledge of \$50,000 by the Wahlin Foundation for the archway, was tremendous boosts. Sales, donations, and pledges now total over \$481,000 toward our goal of \$800,000.

ITEM	SOLD	REMAINING
1. Flags and bases @\$5200	11	0
2. Benches @\$3,000	18	7
3. Pavers @\$150, \$250, \$550	425	115
4. Educ. Pillars @\$16,000	3	9
5. Entrance Archway @\$50,000	1	0
6. Centerpiece @\$125,000	1	0
Total sales, donations, and pledges:	\$480,000	
Project goal (funds still needed):	\$320,000	

Funds still needed for:

Pavers, pillars, excavating, cement work, 30 black marble monuments to inscribe names of Stoughton area veterans, electrical, blacktopping the parking lot (20+ cars), landscaping, and miscellaneous.

Paver forms can be picked up at the Post at 803 North Page or at the VFW on Veterans Road. They are also available on our Web site at post59.org.

Send donations to:

Stoughton Area Veterans Memorial Park
 PO Box 16
 Stoughton, WI 53589

Submitted by Bud Erickson

Monthly Post Meeting Schedule

Legion – 2nd Monday – 7:00 pm

Auxiliary – 2nd Monday – 6:30 pm

SAL – 2nd Wednesday – 7:00 pm

Meetings are held at the Post.

All members are encouraged to attend.



**AMERICAN LEGION BAR
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Wednesday & Thursday: 3:00 pm or later

Friday: 3 – 10 pm or later

Saturday: Noon – 10 pm or later

Sunday: 11:30 am – 6 pm or later

Wednesday Ladies Night

\$.50 off any Ladies drinks



At the January dinner, several American Legion Post 59 members received certificates and pins for their long-time membership. Presenting the awards were Commander Sonny Swangstu, Auxiliary president Lisa Olson, and Adjutant Bob Lloyd. Pictures submitted by Lvnv Robertson.



Mary Curran 60 years



Leonard Swingen 72 years



Richard Amundson 72 years



Norm Gerber 60 years



Allan Eggeson 60 years



Louis Halverson 60 years

Club 600 Fund-raiser

"Club 600" is a fund-raiser to benefit Wisconsin's Candidate for National American Legion Commander, Denise Rohan and National American Legion Auxiliary President Diane Duscheck.

Information about this fund-raiser was included in your November Post and Units mailings.

- ONLY 600 tickets were printed to increase the odds of winning
 - Individually tickets are \$50 per ticket or
 - Share the cost of the ticket:
 - A post and a unit each donate \$25 to buy one ticket. If they win, they may want to donate the winnings to a veteran, community, or youth project
 - American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary member each donate \$25 to buy one ticket, split the winnings and support both candidates
 - Friends or family members buy a ticket or split the cost of a ticket between two or four people and share the winnings
- Please have checks made payable to the *National Candidate Fund*.

Prizes:

1st Prize: \$2,000; 2nd Prize: \$1,000; 3rd Prize: \$750; 4th Prize: \$500; 5th Prize: \$500 and 6th Prize: \$250.

The drawing for the winners will take place at the American Legion's fall meetings in October 2016. *You do not need to be present to win.*

We thank you for your help in selling the "600 Club tickets" and your ongoing support of fund-raising efforts for both candidates.

Any questions, please contact Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan at jl004@charter.net
5400 Blue Bill Dr. Madison WI 53704 or 608.246.9707

Excavating Begins at Veterans Memorial Park

Visible progress at the Stoughton Area Veterans Memorial Park began in earnest last week with the excavation of dirt in advance of setting the footings. The R.G. Huston Construction Company of Cottage Grove did the work.

The first step was the removal of all black dirt and clay to a depth of seven feet. That space was then backfilled and compacted with layers of sand. Dave Stolen, co-chairman and senior staff consultant of the construction phase of the project, remarked, "We were very fortunate in that the digging crew discovered a mother lode of sand, which was used for the backfill. Otherwise sand would have had to be trucked in".

Huston also leveled the parking lot area. In the next week, Jon Halverson of the Forever Sandfill and Limestone Company will make an in-kind donation and haul in the gravel needed for the parking lot. When the frost is out of the ground, the engineer will set new grades for the concrete work. The concrete company will then pour the footings. After the footings have set for a month, the concrete flat work will commence.

All good black soil will then be leveled over the area.

Bryant Foundation Donates \$125,000

Another big story is the significant donation of \$125,000 by the Bryant Foundation. This money will be used to purchase the centerpiece for the park. This six-foot-high granite monument, with a bronze eagle on top, will contain the names of 150 Stoughton area servicemen killed in action dating back to the Civil War. The eagle has a wing span of six feet.

The Bryant Foundation donation, along with an earlier donation of \$50,000 from the Wahlin Foundation, gives a tremendous boost toward reaching the goal of \$800,000.

Submitted by Bud Erickson




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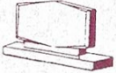
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Swiss Steak
February 23, 2016

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