



THE LEGION POST

OTIS SAMPSON POST 59

803 North Page Street - STOUGHTON, WI

PH: 608.205.9090

Post 59 Website: www.post59.us

FALL 2024



2024-2025

POST 59 OFFICERS

Commander

Michael Currie

1st Vice Commander

Rodger Hansen

2nd Vice Commander

Mike Ayers

3rd Vice Commander

Ken Schieldt

Service Officer

John Solis

Sgt. At Arms

Jim Schiferl

Finance Officer

Jim Oler

Historian

Al Vick

Adjutant

Joshua Holt

Judge Advocate

Tom Jenny

Chaplain

Edward Nowicki

Membership

Mike Ayers



FROM THE COMMANDER'S DESK

Good day to everyone. In a few weeks the fall season will be upon us with crisp temperatures and beautiful colors. I hope your summer months were filled with a lot of fun and happy memories.

The Post has been very busy over the summer with many bar and hall events, and our Post volunteers have been busy within community with a number of special events. One of our annual events is working with the Stoughton Police Department to help with National Night Out. This is a wonderful community event the whole family can enjoy, and you should plan to attend next year. Another big event we will be working on is the 2025 Women's Veteran Recognition Day in June 2025. We will be working with the William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital. We will be asking for volunteers to help work this event.

We did cut back over the summer on our musical entertainment however our music man - Larry Johnson - is planning more entertainment for the fall and winter months including bringing back the monthly Country Jams on the 4th Sunday of every month starting in September.

We will continue to work with community and Veterans organizations to help our community be a better place to work and live, including donating volunteer hours and funds to our community and school organizations throughout the year. We are hoping to have a customer appreciation day sometime this fall, the plans are in the making, so please check out our events calendar for date and time on our Facebook page.

Our weekly Meat Raffle will begin every Saturday again this September and continue through May 2025. (2:00 to 4:00 pm) We also will start up our Monthly Members Dinner in September, cocktail hour at 5:00 dinner at 6:30 every 4th Tuesday of each month through May 2025. (excluding November and December, because of the holidays).

Our 2025 membership drive is going quite well so if you have not yet renewed, please consider sending in your membership. We would like to be at 100% by December 31st. Don't forget Veteran's Day on November 11th and, as always, the Post Honor Guard will be attending many of the local schools and retirement home celebrations.

In closing I would like to thank our many members and volunteers for your support of our Post, especially our bartenders, and a special thank you to Dean Stenjem and Roger Strandlie for all the volunteer hours you put in at our Post.

Our next newsletter will be our winter edition and will be out the first part of December. Until then have a safe and happy fall season!

See you all at the Post
Commander Michael



Sons of the American Legion Report Squadron 59



2023-2024

Squadron 59 SAL
OFFICERS

Commander

Bob Hocking

1st Vice Commander

Bob Crofoot

2nd Vice Commander

Dan Blomgren

Sgt. At Arms

Greg Clark

Finance Officer

Jim Oler

Adjutant

Brian Vogt

Historian

Roger Strandlie

Chaplain

Brian Vogt

What's going on with the SAL? The summertime is typically a slow time of the year for us and this summer has not been any different. We have managed though to be involved with some of the events that presented themselves over the last several months. A great team almost always consists of people who put their willingness to be part of something bigger than themselves as individuals.

Roger Strandlie and Bob Crofoot deserve recognition for preparing the brats and grilling the hot dogs and brats for the National Night Out. Roger and Bob were also part of the team of SAL members including Brian, Dan the Man, Dean, Greg, Rob, and myself who teamed with some fantastic volunteers including Amy, Donna, Marti, Pat, and Sally. This great group of people did a fantastic job of helping "Raise the Flag" on Flag Day and many of them will be present to do it again on September 11th.

The Sons of the American Legion, Squadron 59 also donated a basket for the raffle that the local VFW had to help raise funds for the improvements to their building. Upcoming events include the aforementioned Raise the Flag on Sept. 11th as well as Veterans Day Raise the flag on November 11th

The annual candy sale will start in October as will our Toys for Tots drive.

If you know of anyone willing to join the SAL Send them our way and we will be ready to help them become part of the team.

Bob Hocking, SAL Squadron 59 Commander



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 59

2024-2025

UNIT 59 AUXILIARY OFFICERS

President

Amy Hermes

Sr Vice President

Dawn Clark

Jr Vice President

Sally Schieldt

Co-Secretaries

Devon Hermes

Lana Aaberg

Treasurer

Jody Kumlien

Chaplain

Tinamarie Nelson

Membership

Lisa Olson

Greetings All

“The measure of who we are is what we do with what we have”

~ Vince Lombardi

If you know me, you know football is one of my favorite things about fall. Let’s hope for a great season for both the Badgers and Packers.

It is hard to believe that fall is here. It seems like just yesterday we celebrated Memorial Day. The events that take place during Memorial Day take many hands, but I’d like to give a shout out to Cathy Rigdon who has worked hard to streamline the processes for Miss Poppy and our poppy distribution. Kudos Cathy for a job well done! Also, kudos to Lisa Olson and Sherry Leick for all their work in making the Memorial Day program a huge success!

Our new slate of officers has been sworn in and are excited about the upcoming year! We welcomed several new officers this year. Lana Aaberg and Devon Hermes will be our co-secretaries, Jody Kumlien is taking over as treasurer, Tina Nelson will be our new Chaplin and Pam LeMire a member-at-large. I can’t thank these ladies enough for stepping up and joining our Executive Team.

Lisa Olson is hard at work on membership. Our new goal is to have 162 paid members (please see her article). Encourage family and friends to join our amazing unit.

Our first big event for the new year was our 100-year Centennial Celebration held August 11. It was a great event. The event committee consisted of Dawn Clark, Lisa Olson, Sherry Leick, Jo Drew, Pam LeMire, Tina Nelson and me. The event was well attended by community leaders including Mayor Tim Swadley. Our other guest speakers included Michael Currie, Legion Post 59 Commander, Rob Drogsvold, VFW Post 328 Commander, Noreen Schmidt, Third District ALA President and Joyce Endres, Past Department and Dane County ALA President.

The following article appeared in the September 2024 Third District Informer Newsletter.

**Congratulations to the
Otis Sampson American Legion Auxiliary Unit 59’s
100 Year Centennial Anniversary**

Unit 59 is in Stoughton within Dane County. The current membership as of July is at a 114% with 169 members. 7,000 volunteer hours and over \$10,000 was donated to the American Legion Auxiliary programs and to the community of Stoughton. Fund raisers were also conducted to raise money for a \$1,000 trades scholarship and to purchase a van for a Ukrainian refugee family.



Upcoming Auxiliary Events:

- In October, we plan to participate again in the Trunk or Treat event for our Stoughton youth.
- The Giving Tree-December
- Sock Hop Dance Party-April

Thank you to all our great volunteers for without your help and support we would not be able to do all the things we do! Blessed to be part of such an amazing unit.

In friendship & fellowship,



STILL MISSING

Since the beginning of Post 59 a record has been kept of our Post Officers. It is neatly typed and in a 3-ring binder. It was in our Post artifact area, but unfortunately has gone missing. It's the only historical record in existence of the Post Officers who made our organization what it is today. If you borrowed this item or know of its whereabouts, please return it. It's irreplaceable and the information it contains will be lost forever if not recovered.

Al Vick, Post 59 Historian (873-3481) (aavick2090@gmail.com)

LEGION MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Post 59 Legion Membership News

Commander Currie and I want to “tip our hats” and say thank you for your 2024 membership support which enabled post 59 to obtain 110% of this year’s goal by renewing 304 members and bringing in 34 new legionnaires. -- Well Done

New Members - Since our Summer Newsletter we welcomed the following new Legionnaires into our Post ranks: Leo Bays – USA, John Benedict – USMC, David Nelson – USMC, and Bernard Rivers - USA

2025 Membership is open for renewals, and we are off to a great start with 193 renewals or 57% of our yearly goal. Let’s get our post to 100 percent “*before the end of 2024*”.

PUFL - We would also like to send out a special thank you to our Paid Up For Life (PUFL) members. Our post currently has 36 members with lifetime membership. If you wish to find out more about becoming a life member, go to your online American Legion account where you can calculate your cost and how to make payment. If you do not have an account, you may also create one at the same site.

Reminder: The American Legion National Executive Committee has approved a multiyear renewal and new member signup option beginning with dues for 2025. Current members and new members may renew and sign up for 3 years at the current dues rate in place at time of signing. If you wish to take advantage of these savings, **you must do this online.** This is not mandatory, and you can continue to renew as you have done in the past.



*****Not only do we recognize our new and continued members for Post 59 but take a moment to recognize and honor those that Post 59 has lost since our last newsletter.**

Norman J. Gerber (July 7th) – Korea USA (62 years membership)
Robert B. Hesselman (June 11th) – Vietnam USA (24 years membership)
James K. Halverson (April 5th) – Vietnam USN (17 years membership)
David J. Slater (April 4th) – Vietnam USMC (5 years membership)

Again, thank you for your continued support and service to our country and the American Legion.

Michael L. Ayers – Post 59
2nd Vice Commander and Membership Chair
PH: (608) 335-1771 Email: tqmgr@yahoo.com



**AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY**



Serving our veterans, military and each other from the depths of our hearts.

ALA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Our new 2025 Membership Year has begun! Welcome to our first two new Auxiliary members, Abigail Cline and Lynene Wagner Harmon!

Our new 100% goal is to have 162 paid members.

There are several ways you can pay your dues this year:

- 1) Mail your Dues check to: Lisa Olson @ 1705 Severson Drive, Stoughton, WI 53589.
- 2) Drop off your check at the Post & put it in the Auxiliary mailbox in the hall by the front door.
- 3) To pay by credit or debit card you can do that online @ <https://www.legion-aux.org>
- 4) To pay by phone you can call the National Dues Call Line @ 317-569-4570 Monday-Friday 7:00 am to 3:30 pm

2025 Dues are \$35.00 for Seniors and \$5.25 for Juniors. Make your check payable to: ALA Unit 59
Dues Renewal notices will be mailed out by National in mid-September but you don't need to wait to receive a notice to pay. If you have any questions, please call or email me.

THANK YOU!

Lisa Olson – ALA Membership Chair
608-279-4847 – waucoman@hotmail.com

The American Legion Post 59 & Stoughton VFW Post 328 invite you to our Chili Fundraiser.

SAVMP CHILI FUNDRAISER

Tuesday, November 5th from 4:00 – 7:00 at the VFW Post 328, 200 Veterans Rd.

We will be serving chili & fixings, roll, cookie and coffee/milk.
All proceeds will benefit the Stoughton Area Veterans Memorial Park.



Post 59 Officers - L to R:

Joshua Holt – Adjutant
Ken Schieldt -3rd Vice Commander
Mike Ayers - 2nd Vice Commander
Allan Vick – Historian;
Tom Jenny - Judge Advocate
Ed Nowicki - Chaplain
Michael Currie – Commander
Jim Schiferl - Sergeant at Arms
Rodger Hansen - 1st Vice Commander
Jim Oler - Finance Officer
Not pictured: John Solis - Service Officer



Post 59 Veterans Service Officer Report

Hello Fellow Legionnaires, this quarter I am making available a list of additional benefits you may be eligible for when VA has determined you have service-connected disabilities. If you would like a list of these benefits please contact me. Please contact your local CVSO for additional information concerning specific benefits, which are subject to change. Many of the benefits have additional eligibility requirements.

John Solis, Post Service Officer 608-213-6241 Solosolis@gmail.com

THIS IS WHAT WE DO

Marlene Sorenson gave a presentation at our August Post 59 meeting. She and her husband, Kenton, are co-founders of “Zeteo Community” - Zeteo is affiliated with similar organizations and programs throughout the U.S. aiming to provide “residential reprogramming” and recovery resources for women who have suffered the trauma of sexual abuse and trafficking. An \$ 8 million dollar campus is envisioned in Dane County; an immediate goal is to raise \$ 400,000 to construct two ‘hope healing homes’ which will temporarily house victims and provide them with resources to recover and renew their lives. Marlene asks that we spread the word...and financial assistance is welcomed. We have shared this with our affiliates and anticipate a sub-committee will be formed to plan means of support. Ideas and energy will be welcomed.

Stoughton High School Juniors Simon Mehring and Jackson Mueller were selected as 2024 Badger Boys delegates, representing our community. The Badger Boys State Program, offered in June on the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire campus, promotes the principles and practice of good government and citizenship. It encourages active participation in the civic, commercial, social and moral welfare of our community. It helps lay the groundwork for our future leaders.

As co-sponsors, with the Stoughton Lions organization, we will be anxious to learn of their participation and response to this program. They and their family will be our special guests at our October 22nd dinner. Following the meal, we will ask Simon and Jackson to briefly share their experiences with attendees. Parents will be welcome to speak to this as well. See you then.

The late Shirley Linnerud and her family have been unequalled supporters of our organization. Shirley strongly advocated for the American Way - that of courage, honor, patriotism and service. We have thus named our Post 59 scholarships “The American Legion Shirley Linnerud Memorial Scholarships”. The Stoughton High School honors committee selected two seniors this past May that personified these qualities: Ruby Royston and Lily Tuttle.

Ruby will attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison this fall and will major in consumer behavior and marketplace studies. She would like to work in the sports industry upon graduation. Lily will head to the University of Minnesota-Twin-Cities and will major in anthropology

THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

John 15:13- Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. On this upcoming Memorial Day, we pray for those who courageously laid down their lives for the cause of freedom. May the examples of their sacrifice inspire in us the selfless love of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Bless the families of our fallen troops and fill their homes and their lives with Your strength and peace. We pray this in Your Name. Amen

Ed Nowicki – Chaplain



Olivia Holt
American Legion Auxiliary 2024-25 Ms. Poppy

When Olivia Holt was crowned Ms. Poppy, she was 11 years old and in 6th grade at River Bluff Middle School here in Stoughton. Olivia represented our auxiliary and poppy program by riding in both the Syttende Mai and Memorial Day Parades. She also participated in the Memorial Day Program. In addition, Olivia had a photo taken with Mayor Tim Swadley after signing the ALA Poppy Proclamation. Our auxiliary is so pleased to have Olivia representing our auxiliary as Ms. Poppy 2024-25.

Olivia is the daughter of Joshua & Katie Holt. She is an only child and she has a beloved dog Armani. Olivia's father Joshua is an active member of the Otis Sampson Post 59 American Legion and has served our country in the US Army from 1998 – 2003.





Post 59 Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER 2024

- Sep. 3rd: Monthly Auxiliary Meeting @ 5:30pm
- Sep. 6th: First Packer Game @ 7:15pm
- Sep. 9th: American Legion Monthly Meeting @ 7:00pm
- Sep. 11th: SAL Monthly Meeting @ 7:00pm
- Sep. 13th: Lefty's Old Time Jukebox 7:00-10:00pm
- Sep. 15th: Monthly Legion Breakfast – 7:30-11:30am
- Sep. 21st: Bad Habit Band – 7:00-10:00pm
- Sep. 22nd: Country Music Jam - 2:00-6:00pm
- Sep. 24th: Post Supper - 6:00pm
- Sep. 28th: Lounge Lizards Band 6:00-10:00pm

OCTOBER 2024

- Oct. 4th: Bryan Piper 7:00pm-10:00pm in the bar
- Oct. 7th: Monthly Auxiliary Meeting @ 5:30pm
- Oct. 9th: SAL Monthly Meeting @ 7:00pm
- Oct. 11th: JR & Susie Anderson 7:00-10:00pm
- Oct. 14th: American Legion Monthly Meeting @ 7:00pm
- Oct. 17th: Life Line Screening 7:00am-5:30 pm
- Oct. 19th: Country Renegades Band 7:00-10:00pm
- Oct. 20th: Monthly Legion Breakfast – 7:30-11:30am
- Oct. 22nd: Post Supper - 6:00pm
- Oct. 25th: Blue Moon Karaoke 7:00-10:00pm
- Oct. 27th: Country Music Jam - 2:00-6:00pm

NOVEMBER 2024

- Nov. 2nd: Veteran Quilt Display – 8:00am-3:00pm
- Nov. 4th: Monthly Auxiliary Meeting @ 5:30pm
- Nov. 5th: Election Day
- Nov. 11th: American Legion Monthly Meeting @ 7:00pm
- Nov. 13th: SAL Monthly Meeting @ 7:00pm
- Nov. 16th: Bad Habit Band – 7:00-10:00pm
- Nov. 17th: Monthly Legion Breakfast – 7:30-11:30am
- Nov. 22nd: Blue Moon Karaoke 7:00-10:00pm
- Nov. 24th: Country Music Jam - 2:00-6:00pm

**BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER ~ MEAT RAFFLES RESUME
EVERY SATURDAY @ 2:00pm**

Events are subject to change. Please check our website @ www.post59.us or our Facebook page @ www.facebook.com/post59stoughton for any changes to the events listed above.

Contact Information for Post 59

Post 59 Email: alpost59@gmail.com

Michael Currie – Commander

PH: (608) 712-6747

Email: Michaelcurrie@charter.net

Mike Ayers – Membership chair

PH: (608) 335-1771

Email: tqmgr@yahoo.com

Jim Oler – Finance Officer

PH: (608) 347-4407

Email: oller8888@gmail.com

John Solis – Service Officer

PH: (608) 213-6241

Email: solosolis@gmail.com

Amy Hermes – ALA President

PH: (608) 516-8720

Email: AHermes@stoughtonhealth.com

Bob Hocking – SAL Commander

PH: (608) 206-6980

Email: sonsofthelegion59@gmail.com

Email: bobghocking@gmail.com

Bob Crofoot – Editor

Email: hodagbob@yahoo.com



ALA Executive Committee 2024-2025



Front Row: Sherry Leick, Pam LeMire, Lana Aaberg, Dawn Clark and Lisa Olson
Back Row: Jody Kumlien, Cathy Rigdon, Tinamarie Nelson, Sally Shieldt, and Amy Hermes
Not Pictured – Devon Hermes

Life Line Screening will be at the American Legion Post 59 on Thursday, October 17. They offer preventative health screenings for the following.

- Carotid Artery Disease Screening
- Atrial Fibrillation Screening
- Peripheral Artery Disease Screening
- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening

The cost is \$159 for all 4. For Post 59 members only, we have a few free screening certificates for all 4 screenings and for a single screening or \$55 off the screening package of 4. For a free certificate, contact Sherry at leicksl@gmail.com. First come, first serve. The certificate is needed prior to registering.


Three ways to register or get more information:

- Toll-free: 1-888-814-0466 promo code HSCA001
- Online: <https://www.ilsa.social/hsca>
- Text: the word “circle” to 216-279-1607

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Otis Sampson American
Legion Post 59



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For More Information,
please contact Sherry

Leick @

post59hallrental@gmail.com
OR

go to our website @

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Saturday: **12:00am - 12:00pm**

Sunday: **12:00-6:00pm**