



THE LEGION POST

OTIS SAMPSON POST 59 STOUGHTON, WI
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VOLUME 14 ISSUE 5

MAY 2012

Commander's Report

2011-2012 OFFICERS

- Commander**
Sonny Swangstu
- 1st Vice Commander**
Steve Grady
- 2nd Vice Commander**
Larry Ambrose
- 3rd Vice Commander**

Service Officer

- Dan Call
- Sgt. at Arms**
Ken Schieldt
- Finance Officer**
Jim Oler
- Historian**
Odean Teigen
- Adjutant**
Dennis Rodenkirch
- Judge Advocate**
Terry McCardle
- Chaplain**
Monte Whitford



Comrades, Ladies, and Sons:

Here is an update on the addition:

1. Cement pad was poured in the back and finished just in time for the big steak feed this past Saturday hosted by the Home Talent League. The boys did another great job and sold 300 meal tickets. Everyone had a great time and we thank them for bringing in all the

people.

2. Our air conditioner is now hooked up in the new addition and the bar area. This should be more efficient than what we had in the past. Olson Heating did a great job and we thank them.
3. Coming soon, we will have an ATM machine for no cost to the Post for a year. Steve Grady's niece is helping us get it. After a year, we have a couple of options: Lease the machine or buy one and stock it ourselves. The one we will be getting now is stocked by the company. Many customers have asked whether we have a

machine and we feel this would be more convenient for them and for us not having to take checks.

Just a reminder about the **Mallards game** coming up on Saturday, June 16 at 6:30 –at the Duck Pond: cost is \$10 per person for a ticket and a Mallards' hat. Make your reservations at the Post Lounge soon. A special section of seating will be saved for our Post 59. Bring the family and enjoy a fun night out at the old ball game!!!

See Commander page 3

Auxiliary

President

Linda Swangstu
873-9428

Vice President

Karen Whitford
873-4020

Secretary

Lisa Olson – 873-8924

Treasurer

Lynn Robertson
873-4889

Chaplain

Marlene Bierman
873-7397

Sgt. at Arms

Mary Copley
873-5804

Historian

Kathy Teigen
873-7518

Membership

Lisa Olson – 873-8924

Junior Leader

Jona Chat – 622-4574

Auxiliary News



Hello Ladies and Juniors,

We would like to welcome our newest member, Charlotte Heitke. We look forward to seeing you at our meetings and thank you for supporting our organization.

I would like to thank all the ladies who will be the new officers in June. You are all wonderful for stepping up and taking a position for another year. President – Marlene Bierman, Vice President – Julie Nygaard, Secretary – Lisa Olson, Treasurer – Lynn Robertson, Chaplain – Sharon Silbaugh, Sgt. at Arms – Pat Christensen.

Please do not drop off any more books at the Post until further notice. There has been no date set yet for another book sale.

The Auxiliary garage sale will be the last weekend in June. **Save your items until further notice.** We do not want them yet. Will let you know in May's newsletter.

We will need volunteers for distributing poppies around town. Please call Elvera Phelps at 873-5154 or Marlene Bierman at 873-7397 if available for a couple of hours per shift. Dates are May 17, 18, and 19 at various locations. All proceeds go for Veteran programs and families in Wisconsin. Planned to coincide with the Memorial Day holiday, the annual event pays tribute to those veterans who have died in the last 80 years. It also honors the millions of Americans who have willingly served their country in eight decades. Won't you please make a donation when you see the volunteers on Memorial Day weekend or send a donation when you receive a little red poppy in an envelope with your May newsletter

See President page 3



CALENDER OF EVENTS

- April 24 - Legion Dinner – 6:30 pm
- April 28 - The Rotation
8:00 pm - midnight
- Badger Honor Flight - April 21
- May 12 - Northern Lights
8:00 pm - midnight
- Badger Honor Flight - May 19
- May 20 - Legion Breakfast – 7:00 am
- May 22 - Legion Dinner – 6:30 pm
- May 28 - Memorial Day

Event Pricing

Post Dinner: 6:30 pm \$11.00

Breakfast: 7:00-11:30 am
\$7.00 adults, \$4.00 children

Help Wanted

Float set-up for Syttende Mai and Memorial Day

Syttende Mai float set-up Saturday, May 19,
9:00 am at the VFW parking lot.

Memorial Day float set-up: Monday, May 28,
7:00 am at the VFW parking lot.

People needed to place and to remove flags on
veterans' graves:

Meet at Riverside Cemetery, 9:00 am May 23;
rain date: May 24 to place flags.

9:00 am May 30; rain date: May 31 to remove
flags.



CHAPLAINS CORNER

Why Go to Church?

If you're spiritually alive, you're going to love this! If you're spiritually dead, you won't want to read it. If you're spiritually curious, there is still hope!

A churchgoer wrote to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So I think I'm wasting my and the pastors time."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this. They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

When you are down to nothing...God is up to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible, and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical and our spiritual nourishment!

When Satan is knocking at your door, simply say, "Jesus, could you get that for me?"

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

The Quilting by the River Friends group will hold their monthly work day on Wednesday, April 18, at the American Legion Hall on North Page Street, from 9 am - 3 pm. There will be no monthly meeting in May. However, the work day will be held on Wednesday, May 16, at the American Legion Hall from 9 am - 3 pm. We welcome anyone who is interested in making patriotic quilts for the VA Hospital in Madison. Contact Karen Lapidakis for more information.

Commander continued from page 1

Bud Erickson, Nick Bierman, and Monte Whitford are on the Nominating Committee. We have some vacancies for Post officers that we need to fill by June when our new year begins. Please step up and take your turn and keep our Post thriving. Taking an office is a good way to learn how our organization works and all the good that is done for our Veterans through our Post.

Linda Swangstu has been taking care of hall rentals for four years and would like to step down. If you are interested, please give her a call (873-9428) and she will fill you in on the position. Also, she has been recruiting all of the help for the Friday Night Fish Fries since September. These two positions will end for her **May 31**. This is everyone's Post so please help support it by volunteering a few hours. Thanks in advance.

The Post is starting something new as of the May meeting. We are going to give out an award for volunteer of the month. Our first winner is John Christopherson. We thank John for all he has done throughout many, many years.

A thank you to all volunteers! Your work is appreciated!

Commander Sonny

President continued from page 1

Ladies who signed up for our **Culver's Work Day on Wed. May 9** don't forget to mark your calendars. Our shifts are 11:30 – 1:30 pm and then 4:00 – 7:00 pm. We need two more ladies for the 4:00 – 7:00 pm shift. Please give me a call (873-9428) if interested. This is a great fundraiser! The proceeds will go for Veteran projects. Ask your family and friends to come and enjoy Culver's menu for lunch or dinner.

Badger Girls and Boys State orientation is coming up on May 21 – 7:00 pm at WPS in the Norbby Building if you would like to attend.

Please remember Lori Redepenning, Nancy Schieldt, Kathi Christopherson and their families and care takers in your prayers. We miss you and let us know if we can help in any way and also any other members who are ill that we do not know about!

Thank you,
Linda
Auxiliary President



The two little girls fluffing poppies are this year's Poppy Princesses. They are Ashley and Lexi Liddicoat.

Why I Want to be a Poppy Princess

I want to be a poppy princess because I like to give veterans things. I want to honor my great grandfather who was in the Navy. I enjoy doing things for veterans who might be sick. We let them know we love them.

Ashley Liddicoat

I want to be the poppy princess because I want to serve my country. I want to honor my great-grandfather who was in the Navy. I like to give stuff to veterans. I want to honor veterans if they are sick.

Lexi Liddicoat

MEMBERSHIP

There is nothing new to report this month.

Dennis Rodenkirch
608-438-8768



This month, a special *Thank You*, goes out to Jim and Ginny Hanson for keeping the Legion Hall clean and ship shape; to Linda Swangstu for doing the hall and kitchen help scheduling, and doing the kitchen laundry as well as being in charge of the Auxiliary. A job well done! Also, to the Auxiliary for all you do for the Legion and Post 59.

An honorable and big *Thank You* to Monte Whitford, Nick Bierman, and the Honor Guard for the great service that they provide to our fallen comrades and their families.

Dean Horner has informed us that Dick Boyd has come on board to help out as sanitation and floor maintenance engineer. Thanks Dick!

We can always use more volunteer help here at the Post, so don't be shy, because everyone has a talent to lend that can be put to use. Come on and get on board.

Thanks to all the volunteers, both past and present, who have donated their time and resources to make this Post what it is today. Take pride and be proud!

Thank you,
Jim Oler
Finance Officer

Looking for drivers to and from the VA, if interested, please call Sonny @ 873-9428

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The POW/MIA Flag



Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

In 1971, Mrs. Michael Hoff, the wife of a U.S. military officer listed as missing in action during the Vietnam War, developed the idea for a national flag to remind every American of the U.S. servicemembers whose fates were never accounted for during the war.

The black and white image of a gaunt silhouette, a strand of barbed wire and an ominous watchtower was designed by Newt Heisley, a former World War II pilot. Some claim the silhouette is a profile of Heisley's son, who contracted hepatitis while training to go to Vietnam. The virus ravaged his body, leaving his features hollow and emaciated. They suggest that while staring at his son's sunken features, Heisley saw the stark image of American servicemembers held captive under harsh conditions. Using a pencil, he sketched his son's profile, creating the basis for a symbol that would come to have a powerful impact on the national conscience.

By the end of the Vietnam War, more than 2,500 servicemembers were listed by the Department of Defense as Prisoner of War (POW) or Missing in Action (MIA). In 1979, as families of the missing pressed for full accountability, Congress and the president proclaimed the first National POW/MIA Recognition Day to acknowledge the families' concerns and symbolize the steadfast resolve of the American people to never forget the men and women who gave up their freedom protecting ours. Three years later, in 1982, the POW/MIA flag became the only flag other than the Stars and Stripes to fly over the White House in Washington, D.C.

On August 10, 1990, Congress passed U.S. Public Law 101-355, designating the POW/MIA flag:

"The symbol of our Nation's concern and commitment to resolving as fully as possible the fates of Americans still prisoner, missing and unaccounted for in Southeast Asia."

Displaying the POW/MIA Flag

Congress designated the third Friday of September as National POW/MIA Recognition Day and ordered prominent display of the POW/MIA flag on this day and several other national observances, including Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day. The 1998 Defense Authorization Act (P.L. 105-85) mandates that on these national observances, the POW/MIA flag is to be flown over the White House, the U.S. Capitol, the Korean and Vietnam Veterans War Memorials, the offices of the Secretaries of State, Defense and Veterans Affairs, offices of the Director of the Selective Service System, every major military installation (as directed by the Secretary of Defense), every post office and all Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical centers and national cemeteries. The act also directs VA medical centers to fly the POW/MIA flag on any day on which the flag of the United States is displayed.

When displayed from a single flag pole, the POW/MIA flag should fly directly below, and be no larger than, the United States flag. If on separate poles, the U.S. flag should always be placed to the right of other flags. On the six national observances for which Congress has ordered display of the POW/MIA flag, it is generally flown immediately below or adjacent to the United States flag as second in order of precedence.



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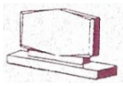
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