



THE LEGION POST

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



Volume 21
Issue 8



August 2019

2019-2020 OFFICERS

Commander

Sonny Swangstu

1st Vice Commander

Michael Currie

2nd Vice Commander

Rodger Hansen

3rd Vice Commander

Larry Johnson

Service Officer

Joshua Holt

Sgt. at Arms

Dale Seffens

Finance Officer

Jim Oler

Historian

Steve Grady

Adjutant

Roger Uttermark

Judge Advocate

Doug Nelson

Chaplain

Edward Nowicki

Commander's Report



Greetings,

Summer arrived like a furnace. Of course, we tend to complain no matter what the weather is. UGH, thank heavens for air conditioning but we all survived years ago without. We are spoiled!

My thanks to all the members who attended the June Post meeting. It was election night and we had a nice showing of membership. All the officers were re-elected for another term. Thanks to all for running again.

Previously we had our driveway blacktopped and our parking lot restriped. Things are looking good again.

We recently installed a gazebo in the fenced in area. Our Post carpenters made 12 wood chairs. It will be an enjoyable place to visit and consume some adult beverages with a roof over your head. Our girls are calling it a Tiki Hut! Everyone is really enjoying it and we even have a fan in the ceiling. We have it going only on Fri. and Sat. nights from 5-9:00.

Post bartenders had a class on our new AED machine. This is for saving lives when there is an emergency. Thanks to Melissa Newton for getting it organized and getting us certified.

The Post is investing a new security system. We have too many keys out and not knowing who have them so this will eliminate the problem plus we also have a camera system.

Thanks again to all the Honor Guard fellows, wives and girlfriends who helped raise and lower the flags at the County Fair again this year. We have been doing this for several years. Hope you are having a nice safe summer and enjoy. Thank you all volunteers!

Commander Sonny

CORRECTION FROM JULY NEWSLETTER. Please find below the updated info on the 2019-2020 Post Officers.



2019-2020 Post Officers:

Front Row (L to R): Jim Oler, Finance Officer; Sonny Swangstu, Commander; Steve Grady, Historian; Rodger Hansen, 2nd Vice Commander.

Back Row (L to R): Joshua Holt, Service Officer; Larry Johnson, 3rd Vice Commander; Ed Nowicki, Chaplain; Doug Nelson, Judge Advocate; Dale Seffens, Sgt. At Arms; Roger Uttermark, Adjutant.

Not pictured: Michael Currie, 1st Vice Commander.

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MONTHLY POST MEETING SCHEDULE

Legion
2nd Monday
7:00 pm

Auxiliary
1st Monday
6:30 pm

**Sons of the
American Legion**
2nd Wednesday
7:00 pm

Meetings are held
at the Post.

All members are
encouraged to
attend.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Aug 4 – Coast Guard Birthday
Aug 7 – Purple Heart Day
Aug 8 – VJ (Victory over Japan) Day
Aug 9 - Dean's Blue Country – 7:00-10:00pm
Aug 16 – Big Johnson Karaoke – 7:00-11:00pm
Aug 18 – Auxiliary Breakfast 7:30 – 11:00am
Aug 23 – Jackie Marie and Frank(Lefty) James 7:00-10:00pm
Aug 25 – Country Jam with Mikey Fuss and the Cherokee Three – 2:00-6:00
Aug 29 – Marine Forces Reserve Birthday
Sept 2 – Labor Day
Sept 4 – Eat an Extra Dessert Day
Sept 6 – Blue Moon Karaoke- 7:00-11:00pm
Sept 8 – Grandparents Day
Sept 11 – Patriot Day
Sept 13 Deans Blue Country – 7:00-10:00pm
Sept 14 – Legion 100th Celebration Open House – 10:00am-3:00pm
Sept 15 – Legion Breakfast – 7:30-11:00am
Sept 17 – Constitution Day and Citizen Day
Sept 18 – Air Force Birthday
Sept 21 – POW/MIA /Recognition Day
Sept 22- Country Jam with Mikey Fuss and the Cherokee Three – 2:00-6:00
Sept 24 – Legion Dinner 6:30
Sept 27 - Jackie Marie and Frank(Lefty) James 7:00-10:00pm
Sept 29 – Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day

For Upcoming Legion Entertainment, call the Post at 608.205.9090 for a recorded message or go to post59.us and click on the Upcoming Events tab.

As always, there is no cover charge for Legion Entertainment

EVENT PRICING

Post Dinner: 6:30pm

\$11.00

Breakfast: 7:30-11:30am

\$8.00 Adults/\$4.00 Children under 10

AMERICAN LEGION BAR

803 NORTH PAGE STREET – STOUGHTON, WI

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Bar Open to Serve You: Wednesday – Sunday
(Monday & Tuesday CLOSED)

- Wednesday: **Open at 3:00pm**
- Thursday: **Open at 3:00pm**
- Friday: **3:00-10:00pm or later**
- Saturday: **Noon-10:00pm or later**
- Sunday: **11:30am-6:00pm or later**

WEDNESDAY IS LADIES NIGHT

\$.50 off any Ladies Drinks

THURSDAY IS THIRSTY THURSDAY

Bud Light or Miller Light Taps
12oz.- \$1.00 / 16oz.- \$1.50

NO FISH FRY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

SATURDAY – MEAT RAFFLE

2:00 pm

Hall Rentals

Call

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(Between 8am – 9pm)

Or email:

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Payment made directly to Polly Stout

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Sons of the American Legion Report

Sons of the American Legion, Squadron 59 has elected their officers for 2019-2020: Commander, Bob Hocking; 1st Vice Commander, Dean Stenjem; 2nd Vice Commander, Dick Budden; Sgt. at Arms, Bob Crowfoot; Finance Officer, Jim Oler; Historian, Jeff Gassen; Adjutant, Roger Strandlie; Chaplain, Dan Blomgren. Congratulations to our new officers as well as those returning!

The summer meetings in Middleton were fruitful for SAL Squadron 59 as we were awarded a Citation of Excellence in the form of a Triple nickel Membership which requires 85% + renewal, 5+ new members, and 105+% membership for the year. A citation of excellence was also awarded for All Time High Membership for 2019, and a citation of achievement, recognition of outstanding endeavors in the accomplishments of current membership strength as of the American Legion birthday, March 15-17, surpassing the enrollment recorded by the Squadron during the preceding year. Combined awards scoring us a Membership – Superfecta in District 3.

We're not the type to sit back and let things happen, we prefer to make things happen. If you are or know of anyone who may be interested in joining the Sons, please let us know we'd be happy to help you through the application. We can offer to you an opportunity to make a difference in the local veterans community, veterans programs, community programs and you'll meet great people and have fun doing it. Applications are available at the Otis Sampson American Legion Post 59, 803 N. Page St. Stoughton, Wi.

If you are a current member of the Sons and are not receiving meeting reminders, or being contacted about upcoming events, please contact Bob Hocking at bobghocking@gmail.com or phone 608-206-6980, or contact any of the SAL officers.

Bob Hocking

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Prayer for Families of the Military

Heavenly Father, we thank you for our service men and women who are protecting us here at home and preserving our freedoms. Please protect them and keep them in your care. Please be with the families of these serve men and women and protect them as they await the return of their loved one. Give them strength physically and emotionally as they too have hardships here at home. Help them financially and keep their spirits up. Be with those who have lost their loved ones and now have but memories. Thank You, Lord for our brave service men and women, and thank You, Lord, for their families who wait at home. Bless them all and protect them so that they may once again be united as a family. In Your name we pray. Amen.

Ed Nowicki, Chaplain

Auxiliary Members: *If you know of anyone who is hospitalized, or in need, please contact Linda Swangstu at 608.873.9428.*

To All Legionaires:

Did you know that your members can easily enroll online for the LegionCare Accidental Death coverage on any web enabled device including your smart phone?

Here's how to do it:

Set your web browser to www.theLIT.com/LegionCare1

1. Click "Sign Up Now."
2. Enter the required information.
3. A few clicks and you're all done. When you provide your email address, you will get instant confirmation in your inbox.

And then, you'll have no cost accidental death coverage for \$1,000. In the case of an accidental death while on Legion Family business, the amount is \$5,000. (Except in Washington state in which the benefit is \$2,500 for all covered accidental deaths. You will never pay for this coverage and it is good for as long as you remain a dues paying member in the Legion Family organizations.

Please read all details on the website, www.theLIT.com.



Auxiliary News



2019-2020

OFFICERS

President

Cathy Rigdon

608.873.5818

608.712.5312

1st Vice President

Amy Hermes

608.516.8720

2nd Vice President

Jona Chat

608.622.4574

Secretary

Randi Johnson

Hanson

Treasurer

Linda Schmidt

608.205.2517

Chaplain

Linda Swangstu

608.577-7428

Membership

Lisa Olson

608.279.4847

Bonnie Kennedy

608.669.7544

Greetings ~

As another month ends I look back at all the activities, events and contributions our members have made in supporting our veterans and our legion; including the department convention, Tiki Bar Grand Opening, bartending, assisting with Raise/Lower The Flag ceremonies, attending CPR Training, assisting with AED training and making quilts for our veterans.

In July, the 2019 Department Convention was held in Middleton. Our unit was represented by eight of our members: Lisa Olson, Linda Swangstu, April Vingum, Elvera Phelps, Linda Schmidt, Sherry Leick, Ginger Beall, and me.

- ◆ While attending the 3rd District Caucus, Lisa Olson was awarded the *American Legion Auxiliary Leadership Program Certificate of Appreciation* from Department Chair Char Kiesling and Leadership Chair Amy Luft. Lisa did a lot of work to schedule and coordinate the leadership training that was hosted here in Stoughton. Thanks Lisa!
- ◆ Following our annual reporting, the Department recognized our unit for achieving 100% membership, and a citation for our annual poppy program.
- ◆ Five members of our unit have been given the *Service to Veterans* volunteer pin. The gold pin is inscribed with the words Volunteer Service to Veterans, with a bar that identifies their hours of service. Bonnie Kennedy is recognized for 500 hours of service, Alice Asleson recognized for 300 hours of service, and Pat Broadbent, Alice Moen and I were recognized for 100 hours of service.

Melissa Newton and Julie Stenjem worked very hard this past month to help get the Kiki Bar ready for the grand opening. It seems to be a hit, as several patrons like sitting outside while enjoying their totties. Several of our auxiliary members are bartenders and not only do they work each month to cover the bar hours, they are now volunteering hours to work in the Tiki Bar.

The Honor Guard conducted the Raise the Flag/Lower the Flag Ceremony at the Dane County Fair. Some of our members were able to attend the ceremonies and assist the Honor Guard. The auxiliary members who were able to attend were: Marie Matejka, Evelyn Kahl, Ginger Beall, Linda Swangstu and me. This is such a nice ceremony and we are proud of our Honor Guard and all they do for the legion!

Melisa Newton coordinated the CPR training that several of the bartenders attended along with AED training for interested legion members. The VFW also had members attend the training, as the VFW has also installed a Philips AED at their post.

There is no rest for the Patriotic Stitchers as they are still working hard making quilts to be presented once the legion dinners start up again.

The 100th Anniversary Celebration will be held in September and more information is included in this newsletter. Auxiliary members need to know that this 100th Celebration is not only to recognize the Legionnaires; it is also the 100th Anniversary of the Auxiliary. I hope all members are able to attend at least one of the events. Over the past several months there has been *a lot* of planning and work by legion family members to coordinate these events.

Thanks to all our ALA members – working together we make a great team!!!!!! -Cathy

Post Membership News

The membership renewal notices have been sent out by our National Headquarters so membership has been fast paced all of a sudden. That's Great!

Please be sure to pay them as soon as you can, except our WW2 members and Purple Heart recipients. The Post pays the dues of those members automatically. It is the least we can do to show our gratitude for their service and sacrifices. Remember, you can always pay your dues on-line at wilegion.org, click on "Renew On-line", enter your ID #, and pay with a Visa, Mastercard or Discover. It's that quick and easy.

Next month I should have some numbers to report. I do not have them yet because it is so early in the new membership year.

Submitted by Bob Lloyd
Membership Chairman- Post 59

AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP UPDATE & 2020 DUES NOTICE

We finished our 2019 Membership year by achieving our 100% goal of 159 paid members! Thanks to Evelyn Kahl, Amy Hermes and Sally Schieldt for helping us to reach that elusive goal at the last minute. We now welcome 5 new members: Alexix Douglas, Anna Hermes, Shanae Woodward, Devon Hermes and Kelly Schieldt.

Looking forward, I will now begin to collect your 2020 Dues. We will not be mailing a renewal notice in August as usual in an effort to save on postage costs. You will get a notice in the mail from headquarters in mid-September.

You can pay at our meetings on the first Monday of the month or at the breakfasts. You can also drop off your payment in the locked Auxiliary mailbox on the wall by the front door. If none of those options work for you, just send your check in the mail to my home address: [1617 Moline Street, Stoughton, WI 53589](mailto:1617MolineStreet,Stoughton,WI53589).

Members with Birthdates from 1919 to 2001 are Senior Members for 2020. **2020 Senior Dues are \$30.00 and Junior Dues are \$5.25.** Please make your check payable to: **ALA Unit #59**

Through Service Not Self and by Working Together, we support our Veterans, military and their families.

Lisa Olson

Membership Chairman



100th Anniversary Legion Family Supper

Date: Tuesday, September 24

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Where: Post 59

Please come to our Post supper to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the American Legion. There will be a short program following the supper to recognize our members for longevity.

Advanced sign-up is required to ensure we have enough food. Please sign up in the bar, email the legion at alpost59@gmail.com, at the August 18th breakfast, or call Linda Swangstu at 577-7428 providing your name and the number attending. Please sign up early as there is limited seating in the dining room. The deadline to sign up is September 9th.

Menu:

Stuffed pork tenderloin, scalloped potatoes, coleslaw, green bean almandine, dessert

Our Post is Turning 100 YEARS OLD!

Happy 100th birthday to Otis Sampson Post 59 members! We have reached a rare milestone. 100 years. How many businesses and organizations do you still frequent that have realized 100 years?

There are a lot of amazing things that our Post has done that has kept us thriving and relevant. Anyone remember the amazing dinners and drinks at the church at 401 Fifth Street?

We have supported our veterans, families, and communities virtuously through the American Legion's Four Pillars.

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R), National Security, Children and Youth (C&Y) and Americanism.

VA&R: We have members who have volunteered at the Veterans Hospital in Madison for decades, donating hundreds of hours from sitting and talking to veterans, to serving ice cream, to singing Christmas Carols, to donating money so our hospital visitors can watch cable/satellite TV in their rooms and waiting areas. We have donated thousands of dollars to the Wisconsin Camp American Legion. That money is used to help veterans and their families heal.

National Security: Our Post supported Homes for our Troops by building a disabled accessible home for SSGT Dennison and his family, replaced a leaky roof on the house of a veteran's home who was deployed, and financially supported a veteran father and son who hit a rough patch.

C&Y: For decades, we have supported Stoughton families with Christmas Presents Breakfast with Santa and Thanksgiving Turkey Dinners. Our SAL has supported the Josh Dog Program and hosted and volunteered at many Post fundraisers. The stuffed dogs go to children of deployed parents. The parent records a message to their child and gives the dog to their child before they leave.

Americanism: Do you know why we started the Saturday meat raffles 10 years ago? The bar wasn't doing that well on Saturdays and we wanted a way to find self-sustaining ways to fund our Americanism and youth programs. The meat raffles have helped bring customers into the Post, but also have netted more than \$10,000 for use for our Post family's youth and community support programs. Some of the money has gone to Dane County Government Days and Badger Boys State Government Program. For nearly 20 years we have helped Stoughton youth learn how voting, judicial and County and State-level governments work. We have co-chaired with the Veterans of Foreign Wars on many programs and projects. Together we have planned and executed Memorial Day parades and other veteran-related programs and most recently, built a living legacy to our local veterans; "The Veteran's Memorial" located at 1731 Country Club Road.

We have built-in supports that without them, we would not be able to do the wonderful and necessary services to our families, our veterans, and our community. Our community came together to support our member JD Guiles with the "Ash Guiles" fundraiser. We raised money by serving food and holding raffles and drawings. Following the Stoughton Tornado in 2005, we worked together with the VFW and other Stoughton organizations and businesses to raise money to help those who experienced losses.

We have a lot of exciting events and other opportunities to enjoy our 100 years of being a "do-gooder". We have 100-year memorabilia available; hats, polo's and 100-year collector's coins. We will celebrate at our September dinner Tuesday, September 24, and are hosting a 100-year celebration on Saturday, September 14 for all to enjoy. We will have a small program starting at 10 am including speakers, history extraordinaire and Post Historian Steve Grady, power points, videos, and a mini veteran's history museum.

Look for more information in this newsletter and on our Facebook and website.

Congratulations on being a part of history worth celebrating!

Mary Lloyd, 100 Year Committee Chairperson

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Post Dinner will resume September 24, 2019

please visit: www.post59.us/legion-post-dinner-information

Or Call 608.205.9090



**Otis Sampson American Legion Post 59
DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES THE 1st OF EACH MONTH.**

Editor: April Vingum: 59legionpost@gmail.com

Visit the Post website at www.post59.us
