



# THE LEGION POST

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



VOLUME 15 ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2013

## Commander's Report

### 2013-2014 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**  
Danny Call
- Finance Officer**  
Jim Oler
- Historian**  
Lenny Swingen
- Adjutant**  
DuWayne Stellmacher
- Judge Advocate**  
Terry McCardle
- Chaplain**  
Rich Fries



Greetings,

Another month has flown by and fall is in the air. The leaves are turning colors and Jack Frost is coming—time to prepare our yards and gardens for those winter months ahead.

I truly thank all the hands that helped with our annual fish boil. Each year will become more successful. We now have all the equipment we need for cooking and our experience will become perfected with time.

Our prayers go out to Al Phelps and his family. Al is recovering from serious surgeries. Please take time to visit him at the Skaalen Home where he is rehabbing. He has been a long-time active member of the American Legion. Our get well blessings go out to him.

In speaking to my connection at the Bryant Foundation last week, he suggested another wish list from the Post to see what can be done in 2014. As you all know, the Bryant Foundation has given us a total of \$60,000 in the past two years. We are so lucky and words cannot thank them enough.

Bud Erickson presented a drawing of a mural for the outside of the Post, identifying us. The mural would be paid for with money remaining in the onion fund. The estimated cost of the mural would be \$3,500-3,600. \$4,000 is left in the fund. Previously the onion fund gave \$200 to the VA, \$250 to the senior center, and \$500 to Camp American Legion. It was discussed whether painting the outsider of the building would improve the visibility of the mural. Sonny will take the plans for the mural to the planning commission.

*Commander continued on page 2*

### Auxiliary

- President**  
Marlene Bierman  
873-7397
- Vice President**  
Linda Swangstu  
873-9428
- Secretary**  
Linda Schmidt  
205-2517
- Treasurer**  
Alice Moen  
444-7230
- Chaplain**  
Sharon Silbaugh  
873-3927
- Sgt. at Arms**  
Pat Christensen  
873-7479
- Historian**  
Sherry Leick  
873-6687

## Auxiliary News



Hello American Legion Family,

What a beautiful fall we have been having, hope it lasts for another five months. Hope everyone is enjoying it. Good weather to get the lawns and gardens ready for the winter.

Please keep Al Phelps in your prayers. He is at Skaalen. Linda Swangstu hasn't been feeling well either, was in the hospital, but is home and felling somewhat better now.

The Legion Auxiliary will be ordering 100 cookbooks. We will be selling them for \$16.00

Mary Curran and Linda Schmidt attended the Fall Forum in Oconomowoc in

September.

We will be making lefse for the holidays, November 16.

There will be a book sale at the Post on December 14—more on this next month.

I would like to thank everyone who helped with the fish boil and brought bars or cookies. I don't know how much profit was made or how many people attended, but it was steady. The people that did eat said it was very good.

Congratulations to Pat Christianson, who won the Badger Basket at the Post breakfast.

Remember to pay your dues. They are \$21.00. Thanks to everyone that have paid. The Department has raised our quota 5%. We are 62% membership, which is good. If you know of anyone that would be interested in joining please let Lisa Olson know. Lisa can get them an application. I have some too.

*"Share your Life – Be Gems of Service"*

President  
Marlene Bierman

# CALENDER OF EVENTS

- October 20 - Legion Breakfast  
7:00 – 11:00 am
- October 22 - Legion Dinner – 6:30 pm
- November 2 - Halloween Party  
7:00 – 11:00 pm; Blue Moon Karaoke with Renee – 8:00 – 11:00 pm
- November 10 - Veteran’s Appreciate Day Event  
Noon – 3:00 pm; OK Band - 3:00 – 6:00 pm
- November 11 - Veteran’s Day
- November 12 - Legion Dinner – 6:30 pm
- November 16 - Jessie Walker  
8:00 – 11:00 pm
- November 17 - Legion Breakfast  
7:00 – 11:00 am
- November 23 - Rotation – 8:00 - midnight

**Event Pricing**

**Post Dinner:** 6:30 pm \$11.00

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

# CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

Remember when you leave this Earth, you can take with you nothing that you have received—only what you have given.

–St. Francis of Assisi

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

**Book Sale**

We are going to have another book sale, so please bring your gently use ones to the Post. The date is December 14 at the Post.

*Commander continued from page 1*

Bud Erickson also wants to retire from chairing the onion committee and the Purple Heart activity. Procedures are in place, but a new chair is needed. Bud suggested the chair come from the Executive Committee. Discussion was tabled until the next meeting. Please sign up for a committee and be a proud, active member of our wonderful organization.

Larry Johnson talked about care packages. He is planning to put an ad in the newspaper regarding this service. Contacts for this project are Sonny and Bob. Estimated cost for an ad would be \$207.

Special thanks to all the volunteers in our American Legion Family. You probably don’t hear it often enough, but know you are appreciated.

Thanks,  
Commander Sonny

**Veterans Day and Halloween Events**

This year for Veterans Day we are going to have a Veterans appreciation day that will be held on Sunday, November 10. Starting about noon, we are going to show some DVDs in the dining room about music and entertainment from World War II like Abbott and Costello, Danny Kaye, and the Andrews Sisters. Also, clips of the United States Marine Corps drum and bugle corps, silent drill team, and America’s military honor guards will be shown.

From 3:00 pm till 6:00 pm we have the “OK” band playing. But don’t worry, the Packer game will be on in the bar from noon till 3:00 pm. Weather permitting, I’ll bring the M 35 deuce and a half and give some truck rides between the American Legion and VFW.

We also are going to have a Halloween party on Saturday, November 2 beginning about 7:00 pm. You don’t have to dress up in a costume, but if you do, your first drink will be free and we will also have a costume contest around 9:30. Blue Moon Karaoke with Renee from 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm will also be on hand. It will be great fun, so come on down!

We have some diehard members that come to the Legion on music nights but we’d like to see more of you. You don’t have to stay all night; you don’t even have to buy anything. Just come down and listen to the music for an hour or so. You never know, you might even have some fun. Call in advance to make sure it’s the type of music you like. It will be on the recording on the Legion phone: 205.9090. Plus information will be posted on the information sign in the bar.

Larry Johnson  
Third Vice Commander

This season the Bucks are proud to participate in Military Appreciation Night, Saturday, Nov. 9 at the BMO Harris Bradley Center.

Our goal is to fill as many seats as possible with Military Veterans while honoring them throughout various ways throughout the game. We would like to have all branches represented. It will be an unforgettable night, I promise.

Here is where I'm asking for your help. I am hoping you can reach out to your military families/connections to spread the word and encourage participation/interest in attending the game. If you know of Veterans interested in tickets for the game, please have them email the following to [seatsforsoldiers@bucks.com](mailto:seatsforsoldiers@bucks.com)

- Name/Rank
- Branch of Service
- Number of years served
- Number of Tickets requested
- Contact info. to be notified of request fulfillment
- Unit you are representing
- Mission/Deployment(s) served in

Tickets are complimentary for Veteran's with the anticipation of that also being the case for their families, so please have the veterans include family members in the number of tickets they're interested in. Thanks so much for your help and service. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,  
Jill Wunrow

Community Relations Manager, Milwaukee Bucks  
[jwunrow@bucks.com](mailto:jwunrow@bucks.com) <mailto:[jwunrow@bucks.com](mailto:jwunrow@bucks.com)>  
O: (414) 227-0578  
F: (414) 227-0767  
Twitter @BucksCR; @JillWunrow  
1001 N. Fourth Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53203-1312



### Membership

Let me introduce myself: I'm Vik Malling. Upon being elected as First Vice Commander, I have the additional duty of Membership Chairman. I'd like to thank the two-thirds of you who have already renewed your 2014 dues—our Post response is better than almost all other Dane County Legion posts to date. I encourage the remaining one-third to get your dues in. The easiest way is to do this on-line; this saves a tremendous amount of processing time for me, the district, and national...just a few clicks and you're done! A big thanks to the 10% of you who have renewed on-line. How would you like to be eligible to win \$1000 at the winter Legion Conference in January at Ho Chunk in the Dells? This is the GET ONE new membership recruiting campaign incentive: simply sign-up a new member or any former member who has not paid dues for two years. There is no limit to the number of times you can enter. There is a detailed letter from the Legion Department of WI posted around the post or see me. I can be contacted at [vmalling@charter.net](mailto:vmalling@charter.net) or my cell: [608.345.8052](tel:608.345.8052). I look forward to meeting you all.

### Christmas Care Packages

American Legion Post 59 will again be sending care packages to men and women from the Stoughton area stationed overseas at Christmastime. We need your help getting the names and addresses of these service members. Send information to Cliff Maerz, 873.3474 or Sonny Swangstu, 873.9428 or leave a note in the office door at the Post.



### Monthly Post Meeting Schedule

**Legion – 2nd Monday – 7:00 pm**

**Auxiliary – 2nd Monday – 7:00 pm**

**SAL – 2nd Wednesday – 7:00 pm**

Meetings are held at the Post.

All members are encouraged to attend.



### AMERICAN LEGION BAR 803 N. Page St. Stoughton, WI

Open to the Public

**Bar open to serve you Wednesday - Sunday**

**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**



### Hall Rentals

Call Julie Nygaard at 608.333.9577



### U.S. Military Veterans

Every year on November 11 we celebrate Veterans Day  
A day to remember, honor and express our appreciation  
For those great Americans who have given us so much  
To preserve the heritage of our nation

We honor all veterans both living and dead  
For their magnificent contribution  
In times of peace and in wars past and present  
Dating back to the Civil War and the American Revolution

Those who served in the U.S. Military  
Served their country with honor and pride  
They were committed to preserving our liberty and freedom  
For which so many of their comrades fought and died

Some veterans have been highly decorated  
And we honor them for their deeds on the field of glory  
But it took every veteran doing his job  
To defeat the enemy and bring a victorious end to the story

Committed to duty, honor, and country  
Do not vanish as time of separation  
Along with discipline, courage, and valor  
They remain part of a veteran's life in this great nation

Every veteran is indebted to our veterans  
We are the recipients of their service and sacrifice  
The Liberty and freedom that we enjoy  
Cannot be purchased at any price

Thanks a veteran this Veteran's Day  
Give him a salute or shake his hand  
Showing your appreciate will make his day  
And in return it will make you feel just grand

Jess Johnson  
October 6, 2012

## America's Wars



### WORLD WAR I (1917 - 1918)

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Total Servicemembers (Worldwide).....      | 4,734,991 |
| Battle Deaths.....                         | 53,402    |
| Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)..... | 63,114    |
| Non-mortal Woundings.....                  | 204,002   |
| Living Veterans.....                       | 0         |



### WORLD WAR II (1941 - 1945)

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Total Servicemembers (Worldwide).....      | 16,112,566 |
| Battle Deaths.....                         | 291,557    |
| Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)..... | 113,842    |
| Non-mortal Woundings.....                  | 670,846    |
| Living Veterans.....                       | 1,711,000  |



### KOREAN WAR (1950 - 1953)

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Total Servicemembers (Worldwide).....      | 5,720,000 |
| Battle Deaths.....                         | 33,739    |
| Other Deaths (in Theater).....             | 2,835     |
| Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)..... | 17,672    |
| Non-mortal Woundings.....                  | 103,284   |
| Living Veterans.....                       | 2,275,000 |



### VIETNAM WAR (1964 - 1975)

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Total Servicemembers (Worldwide).....      | 8,744,000 |
| Battle Deaths.....                         | 47,434    |
| Other Deaths (in Theater).....             | 10,786    |
| Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)..... | 32,000    |
| Non-mortal Woundings.....                  | 153,303   |
| Living Veterans.....                       | 7,391,000 |



### GULF WAR (1990 - 1991)

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Total Servicemembers (Worldwide).....      | 2,322,000 |
| Battle Deaths.....                         | 148       |
| Other Deaths (in Theater).....             | 235       |
| Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)..... | 1,565     |
| Non-mortal Woundings.....                  | 467       |
| Living Veterans.....                       | 2,244,583 |



### GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR (2001 - PRESENT)

The Global War on Terror is an ongoing conflict. For the most recent statistics, please visit the Department of Defense Web site:  
[http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/gwot\\_component.pdf](http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/gwot_component.pdf)

## Sometimes It's Not Really Just Luck

Elmer Bendiner was a navigator in a B-17 during WWII. He tells this story of a World War II bombing run over Kassel, Germany, and the unexpected result of a direct hit on their gas tanks.

"Our B-17, the *Tondelayo*, was barraged by flak from Nazi anti-aircraft guns. That was not unusual, but on this particular occasion our gas tanks were hit. Later, as I reflected on the miracle of a millimeter shell piercing the fuel tank without touching off an explosion, our pilot, Bohn Fawkes, told me it was not quite that simple.

"On the morning following the raid, Bohn had gone down to ask our crew chief for that shell as a souvenir of unbelievable luck. The crew chief told Bohn that not just one shell but 11 had been found in the gas tanks—11 unexploded shells where only one was sufficient to blast us out of the sky. It was as if the sea had been

parted for us. A near-miracle, I thought. Even after 35 years, so awesome an event leaves me shaken, especially after I heard the rest of the story from Bohn.

"He was told that the shells had been sent to the armorers to be defused. The armorers told him that Intelligence had picked them up. They could not say why at the time, but Bohn eventually sought out the answer.


"Apparently when the armorers opened each of those shells, they found no explosive charge. They were as clean as a whistle and just as harmless. Empty? Not all of them! One contained a carefully rolled piece of paper. On it was a scrawl in Czech. The Intelligence people scoured our base for a man who could read Czech. Eventually they found one to decipher the note. It set us marveling. Translated, the note read: *This is all we can do for you now...using slave labor is never a good idea.*"



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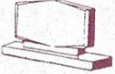
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Editors Cliff Maerz and Tim Carter: [C\\_Maerz@msn.com](mailto:C_Maerz@msn.com)