



THE LEGION POST

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



VOLUME 14 ISSUE 4

APRIL 2012

Commander's Report



Greetings,

I will start out with a progress report at the Post. Jay Domkoler and Kenny Stelzer are in the process of installing a security system. They are placing cameras at places that will cover the whole building. Hopefully this will resolve some previous problems. We thank both of these comrades, as they have saved the Post many dollars. Jay has done all the planning and furnished the materials not only for the security system, but has donated other equipment. Ken and Rae (his little gopher) Stelzer have put in many hours of electrical work. We could not have done all of this without their help. Please thank them personally when

you see them. The flooring is now complete in the new addition. Comments heard are very positive. Thanks to Mike Ellingson and his crew for such a nice job.

June is coming fast and that means it is election time again. I would like to see more people involved in the process. Let's have more than one candidate for each office. We need younger people to get involved and keep our Post going full force. We have a wonderful set up and our Post is growing into a business now, so sign up, get involved, and run for an office. You will be proud to make a difference in the American Legion Family. We are going to simplify our voting this year and make it easier and less time consuming. I am working on a nominating committee at this time and it will be posted at the Post when I am done.

Memorial Day is around the corner and we need more help with the planning of the parade and program at Mandt Park. Please give us a call and volunteer for a few hours. The town's people enjoy our

program and we want to keep it going. Let us not forget our heroes that have fought for our country.

We are still waiting for people to respond regarding our Mallard baseball game. Get the ball rolling and sign up by giving me a call (Sonny @ 873-9428) or call the (Post @ 205-9090.) The Mallard people are waiting for our decision so we can get a date.

I am in the process of ordering Post 59 summer jackets. You may have seen them around the Post and now you can have a chance to get one. They make nice gifts also. They are a little expensive as they have embroidery work, emblems, and names on them. If you would like to see one and order, please let me know. The cost is around \$100, but they are nice.

Thank you,
Sonny Commander

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

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,

It looks like we will be mowing grass soon if this weather keeps up. The flower bulbs are starting to poke their heads out of the ground. Yippee!! The birds are happy and I hope they don't get disappointed.

March has been another busy month at the Post. I want to thank all the people who attended and worked at our Soup Dinner on March 10. It was a great success! The Auxiliary has a group of great organizers and hard workers. Our plans down the road include a June 29 – 30 garage sale again. Please gather up your articles to donate and save them until further notice. No clothes please.

Memorial Day is right around the corner and we will be distributing our poppies again. Please volunteer for a good cause. We will need several people for this project. We distribute them May 24-26.

Women Veteran's Week at Camp American Legion is June 18-24. First come, first served

basis for signing up. It is a nice camp and an excellent place for rest and relaxation. For more information, you may call me (Linda) at 873-9428. They have a nice facility, good food, pontoon boat rides, daily trips, campfire, fishing, exercise room, and a chance to meet some very nice people. Oh...also you can feed the friendly chipmunks!

Our District 3 Spring Conference is April 20-21 in Barneveld. Please notify me (Linda) at 873-9428 if you are interested in attending. Fees are \$1.00 and lunch is \$8.00. We will be car pooling if you need a ride.

Our National membership has dropped to 5th place. The American Legion Auxiliary is the largest patriotic women's service organization and we must work to ensure the future growth and prosperity of our great organization. We're a non-profit, non-partisan, non-political organization committed to supporting America's core values, our communities, children, and most importantly veterans and their families. So, please give us a thought and come join our organization. We are a family!

Kudos to all our volunteers!

P.S. Lori R. – we are thinking of you.

Thank you,
Linda Swangstu
President

CALENDER OF EVENTS

March 24 - Universal Sound
8:00 pm - midnight
March 27 - Legion Dinner – 6:30 pm
March 31- Spaghetti Dinner
Performing Arts fundraiser
5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
April 14 - Home Talent League Steak
Feed – 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm
April 14 - Northern Lites – 8:00 - midnight
April 15 - Legion Breakfast – 7:00 am
April 24 - Legion Dinner – 6:30 pm
April 28 - The Rotation
8:00 pm - midnight
Badger Honor Flight - April 21
Badger Honor Flight - May 19

Event Pricing

Post Dinner: 6:30 pm \$11.00

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

AMERICAN LEGION JUNIOR NEWS

Hello Junior members and their parents,

All Junior members are invited to be in the Memorial Day parade. Please give Jona Chat a call at 622-4574 if you are interested. Thank you to the Juniors for helping the Auxiliary fluff poppies.

Jona Chat
Junior Leader



CHAPLAINS CORNER

Since I only have a couple months left on my term as Chaplain, I thought I would repeat a couple of my favorite articles from the past years.

THE BUTTERFLY AND THE FLOWER

Once there was a man who asked God for a flower and a butterfly. But instead God gave him a cactus...and a caterpillar. The man was sad; he didn't understand why his request was mistaken. Then he thought: Oh well, God has too many people to care for...and decided not to question.

After some time, the man went to check up on his request that he had left forgotten. To his surprise, from the thorny and ugly cactus a beautiful flower had grown. And the unsightly caterpillar had been transformed into the most beautiful butterfly.

God always does things right! His way is ALWAYS the best way, even if to us it seems all wrong. If you asked God for one thing and received another, TRUST. You can be sure that He will always give you what you need at the appropriate time. What you want... is not always what you need! God never fails to grant our petitions, so keep on going for Him without doubting or murmuring. Today's THORN...is tomorrows FLOWER!

God gives the very best to those who leave the choices up to Him.

God Bless You

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

VIDALIA ONION TIME

The third annual Post 59 Vidalia onion fund-raiser kicked off on February 7. Orders can be placed with a committee member or at the lounge at 803 N. Page. Orders need to be placed by April 1 and the onions will arrive from Georgia in early May. Cost is \$10 for a 10# bag and \$6 for a 5# bag.

Proceeds from the past two fund-raisers have been distributed as follows:

Purchase chairs for the Legion dining hall	\$2,000
Set aside for Legion parking lot improvements	\$2,500
Stoughton Seniors in Need	\$1,000
Veterans Hospital in Madison	\$ 750
Camp American Legion	\$ 250

Bud Erickson
Chairman, Vidalia Onion Committee

MICHAEL IRA GRIGGS

Mike, as he is known by all Stoughtonites, was born in Groton, CT on December 5, 1945. He is the son of a military man and moved throughout the US while his father served his country. He attended high school in Ocean Springs, MS and graduated in 1964.

He joined the US Navy on November 8, 1965 after enlisting at the age of 19 to avoid the draft. He wanted to serve in his chosen branch of service. He was living in Mississippi at the time.

Upon entering the service, he was sent to boot camp in San Diego, where he received his basic training. After completing boot camp, he was assigned to a ship fitter Class A school where he learned maintenance aspects of aircraft. He was then prepared to serve on the USS *Ranger*-CVA-61 aircraft carrier, where he spent the next four years.

His responsibilities on the carrier consisted of: repairing and taking care of damages to aircraft as well as working on the boilers and basic maintenance of steam pipes that were used to launch aircraft from his repair shop. He was also on the firefighting squad as the No. 1 hose man. Fires could really be bad especially inside the ship. Smoke had nowhere to go and this happened quite frequently.

The USS *Ranger*-CVA-61 was as long as four football fields and approximately 80 feet high. It carried around 4,000 service men on board which included the aircraft squadron. Mike commented that sometimes they had to unit in line a long time for food and supplies. He served on this carrier for four consecutive years during his time in the Vietnam War!



Mike recalls a very memorable time while serving on the ship when they were off the coast of Vietnam. After about the 230th day, they were ordered to go to Korea for another 30 days. The Koreans had captured the ship called the *Pueblo* off the coast of North Korea and the Koreans were debating about the ship and what should

be done with it. Finally, the Koreans released the *Pueblo* back to the US and the *Ranger* crew was sent home to their families. What a joy to be home after about 65 continuous days at sea – being released from the Navy was even more memorable!

Four years was a long time to be stationed on the ship. Mike earned the following metals while serving in the Navy:

1. National Defense Service Medal
2. Vietnam Service Medal
3. Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal
4. Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon
5. Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal

While serving those four years, Mike started out as a FN-E1 Fireman Recruit – then as BMR-E2 (Basic Medal Repair), SFM 3-2-E3 Ship fitter maintenance Petty Officer 2 & 3, MRPO – 3-E4 2-E5 (3rd class and 2nd class) Master Repair Officer. His highest rank was Petty Officer 2-DR-E-5. He was discharged on August 19, 1969 from the USS *Ranger* in San Diego.

After discharge, he lived in Washington State for approximately 10 years and worked in a shipyard as a welder. After his divorce, he moved back home to Mississippi. There he worked as a bartender until he met some people from Wisconsin and decided to come to Wisconsin to visit. He is still visiting in Wisconsin!!!

He went to work for the Verizon Telephone Co. in Oregon and there he met his future wife Pam Norin. They have been married for 17 years. Pam has two daughters, one in Edgerton and one in Ohio. She has three grandchildren. Mike has one son, three grandchildren and one great-grandchild. They all live in the state of Washington. Mike also had a daughter Teresa, who is deceased.

He is now retired and works part time at the Yahara Golf Course during the summer and bartends part time at Post 59. Mike has been in charge of the joint VFW and American Legion Christmas dinner held annually at the VFW on Christmas day. An average of 300 meals is served to Stoughton residents and their families. It has become an event that serves many local residents a wonderful delicious Christmas dinner.

Mike is a Life Member of both the VFW and the American Legion and is very active in both organizations. He is also a member of the American Legion Honor Guard. He is proud to have served his country in the US Navy for those four years.

Interviewed by Evelyn Kahl

MEMBERSHIP

I would like to thank all members who have renewed. If you haven't, there is still time. We are at 101% with 352 members. We are one of the largest Post in the state and it's all because of you and your willingness to support our veterans. You should be proud to be a member of Post 59.

In March we lost three post members. They each gave to our post to help veterans. They will be missed.

Robert Gilbert (50 year member) WWII
Wilbur Jensen (13 yrs) PUFL, WWII
Tom Ore (5 yrs) Vietnam
Cuzzy Nelson (15 yrs) Korea

Dennis Rodenkirch
608-438-8768



A big thank you goes out to Jona Chat and her husband for doing the grocery shopping and delivery to veteran Ken Larson and family. This is appreciated by one and all.

A thank you needs to go out to Commander Sonny for all the work and effort he has done for on the Post addition. In addition, a tip of the hat to all who volunteered their time and effort in getting the great addition completed. Some names that come to mind are: Al Phelps, Rich (Rebel) Breyman, Odean Teigen, Cliff Maerz, Ken Stelzer, Steve Grady, Ray Dzieciol, and Don Helmke – just to name a few of many. My apologies for not knowing all the names of those who contributed in anyway. Oris Hougan gave \$500 toward the building fund. When you see the people that helped, please let them know how much you appreciate their efforts.

A special thank you to Dean Horner for keeping the bar products put away in the cooler and for keeping the lounge area and floors spic 'n span.

Thank you, too, to Dan Call and the lounge team members for the great job serving our members.

Lastly, special thanks to the hard work and efforts of the newsletter team: Cliff Maerz, Tim Carter, and Archie/Pat Christensen, and contributors, for all the work and time put in to getting the newsletter published.

Jim Oler
Finance Officer

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

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





At a Glance

Who we are, what we do
and why it matters to you

The American Legion Auxiliary is the largest woman's patriotic organization. We are wives, mothers, daughters, granddaughters and great granddaughters of veterans who served our great Country during times of war. Some of us are veterans ourselves. We are passionate about making a difference.

We serve veterans, contribute to veteran programs, volunteer to support veteran programs, contribute to programs benefitting children and youth and volunteer for community service. For God and country we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth and promote patriotism good citizenship, peace and security, but we cannot support our veterans, the military, their families and our communities without membership support.

Why become a member? To honor the sacrifice of those who served. So that no one forgets the sacrifices of our men and women who have fought to protect our freedoms. No matter your age or interests, there is a way to contribute to our organization. We distribute, rehabilitating Veterans hand-made, Poppies where all donations are used exclusively for the rehabilitation of honorably discharged veterans and their families; collect items for the food pantry, Camp American Legion, Homeless Veterans; serve funeral lunches, pack & ship packages to Active Duty Service Members, volunteer at the VA Hospital and many more activities.

To Join Us to become informed, involved and in touch, fill out and return the application below to:
Lisa Olson, Membership Chairman, 1617 Moline St., Stoughton, WI 53589. Annual dues are \$20.00.



There are many opportunities for involvement in the American Legion Auxiliary

Help us get you connected!

I am interested in learning more about:

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paid-Up-For-Life Membership (VIM) | <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarships | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteering for Veterans | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Service | <input type="checkbox"/> Member Discounts and Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational Activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Auxiliary Emergency Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Activities to support active duty military and families |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Unit Activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Recruiter's Name

Unit/Post #

City

State



American Legion Auxiliary - APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

(return completed application to local contact or recruiter)

Applicant Information

Eligibility Information

(First)

(M.I.)

(Last)

Eligible Through-Name of Veteran

☐ Living ☐ Deceased
(if living, must be American Legion member)

VA Launches Personalized Health Benefits Handbook

WASHINGTON (Feb. 22, 2012) – Veterans enrolled in the health care system of the Department of Veterans Affairs have begun to receive personalized booklets that explain their health care benefits and contain other useful information.

“VA is committed to providing our Nation’s Veterans with consistent, clear information about the services available to them,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki.

The new booklet, called a Health Benefits Handbook, will provide a personalized listing of health benefits based on each Veteran’s specific eligibility. The handbook will also have contact information for their local VA medical facilities, appointment scheduling information, guidelines for communicating with their clinical team and, as applicable, information about co-pays.

Distribution of the handbooks began this month, with all 8.5 million Veterans enrolled in VA’s health care system scheduled to receive their handbooks by 2013. Veterans will receive updates to their handbook to reflect changes to their benefits or eligibility.

VA operates 152 medical centers and more than 800 community-based outpatient clinics. Last year, inpatient facilities treated more than 690,000 patients, while outpatient clinics registered more than 79 million visits.

For more information about the Health Benefits Handbook, visit www.va.gov/healthbenefits/vhbh or call VA’s toll-free number at 1-877-222-VETS (8387).



Historical Trivia

In George Washington’s days, there were no cameras. One’s image was either sculpted or painted. Some paintings of George Washington showed him standing behind a desk with one arm behind his back while others showed both legs and both arms. Prices charged by painters were not based on how many people were to be painted but by how many limbs were to be painted. Arms and legs are ‘limbs,’ therefore painting them would cost the buyer more. Hence the expression, ‘Okay, but it’ll cost you an arm and a leg.’ (Artists know hands and arms are more difficult to paint.)

At local taverns, pubs, and bars, people drank from pint and quart-sized containers. A bar maid’s job was to keep an eye on the customers and keep the drinks coming. She had to pay close attention and remember who was drinking in ‘pints’ and who was drinking in ‘quarts,’ hence the phrase ‘minding your P’s and Q’s.’

In the heyday of sailing ships, all warships and many freighters carried iron cannons. Those cannons fired round iron cannonballs. It was necessary to keep a good supply near the cannon. However, how to prevent them from rolling about the deck? The best storage method devised was a square-based pyramid with one ball on the top, resting on four resting on nine, which rested on sixteen. Thus, a supply of 30 cannonballs could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon. There was only one problem...how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding or rolling from under the others. The solution was a metal plate called a ‘Monkey’ with 16 round indentations. However, if this plate were made of iron, the balls would quickly rust to it. The solution to the rusting problem was to make ‘Brass Monkeys.’ Few landlubbers realize that brass contracts much more and much faster than iron when chilled. Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannonballs would come right off the monkey; thus, it was quite literally, ‘Cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey.’ (All this time, you thought that was an improper expression, didn’t you?)



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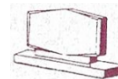


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Stuffed Pork Chops, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetables, Cole Slaw, and Dinner Roll
March 27, 6:30 PM

DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES THE 8TH OF EACH MONTH
VISIT THE POST WEBSITE AT POST59.ORG Post e-mail [AmericanLegionPost59@ TDS.net](mailto:AmericanLegionPost59@TDS.net)
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