



THE LEGION POST

Quarterly Newsletter

OTIS SAMPSON POST 59

803 North Page Street - STOUGHTON, WI



Volume 22
Issue 3

POST WEB SITE:
post59.us



POST PHONE:
608.205.9090

November/December 2020
January 2021

Commander's Report



Greetings,

Hope all is well for you and your families at these trying times. I am sure we all feel that we have had enough of this COVID. Due to this, we are still closed at this time and we unfortunately have no idea when we will be able to open safely. We miss you all!

Things we have been able to do since being closed are we have painted the lounge/ bar, buffed the floors and placed only pictures on the wall pertaining to the military. We have also reduced the amount of clutter around the Legion.

Melissa Newton has accepted a full-time position at Edgerton Hospital and will no longer be our Legion facilities manager. We will miss her as she has done a wonderful job for us while here. Among the many tasks she had taken on, she had organized the 2 recent brat drive-thru fundraisers bringing in around \$2800.00 for the Post. Thank You Melissa!

Cliff Maerz, who has been doing our lawn work for many years has decided to call it quits and retire. Any volunteers that would be willing to take care of the lawn work would be greatly appreciated.

For those that feel comfortable, we have started up our monthly meetings again on the 2nd Monday of each month. Masks

are required. Not a whole lot of business, but some things must be addressed.

The newsletter is now quarterly. Dean Stenjem has agreed to be the editor as long as articles can be submitted in a timely manner. Here are the deadlines for the quarterly newsletter:

November, December January – Oct. 20th

February, March, April – January 20th

May, June, July – April 20th

August, September, October – July 20th

It is once again dues for 2021. Bob Lloyd is in charge, so please get your dues in. Bob Lloyds contact information can be found in the Legion membership news on the next page of this newsletter. Thank You Bob for what you do for the post.

The Sons of the American Legion are once again selling Amish candy this year. All information on this can be found in this newsletter. The Sons are also again having a "Toys for Tots" drive. Since the post is closed, there are 2 alternate drop off locations. These are the Zelm Chiropractic Centers in Stoughton and McFarland. For more information on the candy or the toys for tots, contact the Sons @ sonsofthelegion59@gmail.com

We thank you for your patience and continued support during this challenging time.

Stay well,

Sonny Swangstu

Commander, The Otis Sampson American Legion Post 59

Contact Information for Post 59

Post 59 Email:
alpost59@gmail.com

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Email: hemirt2017@gmail.com

Bob Lloyd – Legion Membership
PH: (608) 873-5926
CELL: (608) 219-3086 messages or texts
Email: Lloyd2364@sbcglobal.net

Jim Oler – Finance Officer
PH: (608) 347-4407
Email: oller8888@gmail.com

Cathy Rigdon – ALA President
PH: (608) 712-5312
Email: rigdon.thorson@gmail.com

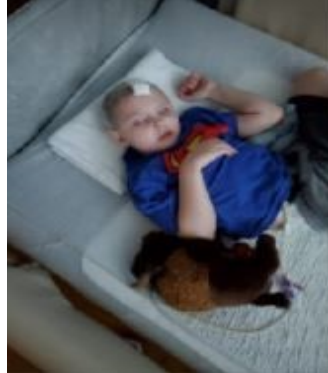
Bob Hocking – SAL Commander
PH: (608) 206-6980
Email: bobghocking@gmail.com

Dean Stenjem – Newsletter Editor
PH: (608) 516-0071
Email: 59legionpost@gmail.com
Email: deanstenjem@charter.net

“Freedom has many difficulties and democracy is not perfect, but we never had to put up a wall to keep our people in, to prevent them from leaving us.”

President John F. Kennedy

June 26, 1963



Update on Graeme McCrosson

One year ago, on Veteran's Day, November 11th, 2019, our Auxiliary Member, Michele McCrosson and her six-year-old son, Graeme, were in a horrible weather-related motor vehicle accident. You may recall seeing our [post on Facebook](#) awhile back or hearing about it from other members or friends.

Graeme suffered a severe traumatic brain injury. Since that day, Graeme had multiple surgeries at the American Family Children's Hospital. After months at the hospital he moved to the Central Wisconsin Rehab Center where he is today. He recently turned seven years old, but his family was not allowed into the facility due to an outbreak of the virus. He is progressing well thru multiple therapies including Physical, Occupational, Speech, Dietary and others. He works very hard every day. When he does get home the work will not stop. The hope is that he may be able to go home before Thanksgiving.

The American Legion Post 59, the SAL and our Auxiliary Unit have made donations to Graeme's fund to help with his recovery. His Dad, Curtis is an Afghanistan Veteran and Legion member.

We were able to help the family set up a donation fund at the Blackhawk Credit Union in Graeme's name which some of you may have already donated to.

If you wish to help, checks should be made payable to: **Graeme McCrosson Fund with the ACCOUNT #231335 noted on the check. SEND TO or Drop off at: [Blackhawk Credit Union, 1525 Hwy 51/138, Stoughton, WI 53589](#)**

We all continue to pray for a full recovery for Graeme and his family is very grateful and thankful for all donations.

Legion Membership News

I hope this letter finds you and your families all well. With our covid numbers spiking like they are I worry for the eldest of our members.

Currently, our post has 230 members out of 374 for 61.5%. That is a little below average for the post's in our district. In looking back at prior years' membership reports, we are 10-15 members below normal for this time of year as compared to 2018 & 2019. In the last 6 weeks I have received four (4) membership renewals in the mail. I don't know if everyone is ignoring their membership renewal notices or if the Post Office is really that backed up. So please, when you get that past due notice in the mail please pay it at once. It's not junk mail. It concerns your membership in our post.

If you are unable to afford your dues for any reason, please call me at once. We will work it out. My contact information is always at the bottom of my articles.

We have received many renewals on-line. Maybe that is the way of the future. Our post currently has 54 on-line renewals. More than twice that of any other post in the district. Please, keep it up.

Now that our post newsletter is sent out quarterly, we have limited opportunities to communicate with our membership. The next newsletter is due out in February. After Christmas and New Year, and after the election and when our membership year will be coming to a rapid end. Please VOTE.

Respectfully submitted by:

Bob Lloyd-Membership Chairman

1611 Moline St.

608-873-5926-H

608-219-3086-C (for messages and texts)

Lloyd2364@sbqglobal.net

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out the form.

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Hall Rentals

As of 10/2/2020, All Hall Rentals have
been suspended temporarily. Please
continue to check our website:

www.post59.us or our Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/post59stoughton

for more information.



Sons of the American Legion Report

Squadron 59



As leaves, footballs, and political uncertainty fill the cooler autumn air, we have made steps towards restoring (to some degree) a sense of normalcy in SAL Squadron 59, Stoughton, WI. We have been permitted to resume monthly meetings with some adjustments and strict adherence to State and County restrictions associated with Covid 19. Meetings have been limited to officers only to comply with size restrictions on gatherings, and we held our first in quite a while in early October. It was at this meeting that it was decided to move forward with our annual candy sale featuring one-pound bags of delicious Cashew Crunch Brittle, Chocolate Covered Cashew Crunch, and Scrunch a chocolate and peanut butter delight. Candy should be arriving soon from our supplier "Candy Andy" Miller and family, our Amish candy specialists in West Central WI. We will be designating days for pickup and will also be delivering if needed. Candy can be pre-ordered at email address: sonsofthelegion59@gmail.com or at [Post 59 Facebook](#) and [Website accounts](#). Calling in your order can be done also to SAL Commander Bob Hocking at 608-206-6980 bobghocking@gmail.com or 1st Vice Commander Dean Stenjem at 608-516-0071 deanstenjem@charter.net or Adjutant Roger Strandlie at 608-445-9459 rdtt74@charter.net

It is also time for our annual Toys for Tots Drive. This year has been tough on everyone and especially tough on families with children. Donations of toys will be accepted again by our friends this year at [Zelm Chiropractic Centers](#) in Stoughton and McFarland. We appreciate the help as post 59 remains closed. Cash donations can be made by contacting Finance Officer Jim Oler at 608-347-4407 or oller8888@gmail.com

If you are a SAL member and have anything you would like to see addressed at a meeting, please contact one of the officers. If you are a veteran or a member of the community and need some help, please contact one of our officers listed above or other SAL members.

SAL 59 Commander Bob Hocking

Squadron 59 Membership Update

The membership cards went out to SAL members last week. Please send in your dues as soon as possible in the self-addressed envelopes that were included. Some of you may have also received notice that you had dues owed from last year. If you are needing help with your current or past dues, please email us at sonsofthelegion59@gmail.com



Sons of the American Legion Fundraiser

Cashew Crunch

Chocolate Covered, Regular or Scrunch

1 Pound Bags

\$10.00



Pre-Order Candy by emailing: sonsofthelegion59@gmail.com

You can also order by contacting:

Bob Hocking (608) 206-6980 bobghocking@gmail.com

Dean Stenjem (608) 516-0071 deanstenjem@charter.net

Roger Strandlie (608) 445-9459 rdtt74@gmail.com



Zelm Chiropractic Centers

*in cooperation with The Sons of the American
Legion Squadron 59 are once again pleased to
be an official drop off location for*

Toys for Tots

*New, unwrapped toys can be dropped off at
either of our locations in Stoughton @ 798 US
51 or in McFarland @ 4861 Larson Beach Rd.*

Every Child Deserves a
Little Christmas.





Auxiliary News Unit 59



Greetings ~

Thanks to everyone who supported our 7th Annual Chicken & Biscuit fundraiser. Again, this year we served more meals than ever before. Although it was successful, it did not go without noticing that we could have done much better! We underestimated the amount of meals and support though the drive-through event. We were sold out in record breaking time and many cars were turned away. For that I am sorry. Every event relies on educated guesses for amounts of food and support. This year with Covid, we underestimated the number of supporters who would come to a drive-through vs a sit-down meal. We are already making plans for the 8th Annual Chicken & Biscuit fundraiser, evaluating our weaknesses and building on the successes of this fundraiser.

Due to Covid restrictions, this event was conducted with limited volunteers who worked very hard in the planning, shopping, cooking, meal preparation, serving and clean-up. Thanks to Sherry Leick, Lisa Olson, Melissa Newton, Judy Rabe, Linda Swangstu, Margo Benson, Donna Mauer, Patty Ryan, Dawn Clark, Lauren Currie, Julie Nygaard, Doug Bar, Traci Williamson and Roger Strandlie. A special thanks to Donna Strandlie for her cherry cheesecake dessert. Thank you all so much!!

Thanks to Dean Stenjem for taking on the job of keeping this newsletter going! And, a big shout out to our auxiliary member April Vingum for all her hard work as our previous editor. Thank you!

In memory of, and let us not forget, our auxiliary members who have passed.

- Elnora Johnson (Honorary) – April 4, 2020
- D’Ann Hocking (1-year member) – April 18, 2020
- Linda Schmidt (8-year member) – June 6, 2020
- Patricia Christensen (23-year member) – September 25, 2020

Last month, poppies were stuffed in many of the newsletters. If you sent back a donation, thank you. If for any reason you did not receive a poppy and want one, you can request them through email at waucoman@hotmail.com. As a reminder, 100% of the donations from the poppy distributions go to veteran’s projects. As November 11th approaches please take a moment to make a call, send a note and thank a veteran for the sacrifices he/she made for our country and our freedom.

On behalf of our auxiliary members, I send a special heart-felt thank you to all veterans, honoring you for your service and sacrifice. We have not forgotten you!

Cathy Rigdon – ALA Unit 59 President

UNIT 59 AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

THANK YOU to our Auxiliary Members who have paid their 2021 Dues! As of today, we have 150 members. For 2021 we need to have 153 paid up members in order to reach our 100% goal. We are at 71% of our goal right now with 110 members paid but 40 members unpaid. So please send in your Dues now if you haven’t already. This has been a hard year for many and if you need a little help to pay this year do not hesitate to reach out to us.

We are happy to WELCOME our six new members who joined the Auxiliary in 2020 so far. Welcome to Lauren Currie, Andrea Jones, Sarah & Katie Bohn, Sandy Vike and Traci Williamson. And thanks to our members who invited them to join.

Please contact us if you know someone who might be interested in joining but is not sure if they qualify. There have been some changes since 2019 in eligibility too. We now can enroll male spouses of female veterans!

Call Lisa Olson @ 608-279-4847 or email: waucoman@hotmail.com.

We miss you ALL! Stay Safe & Healthy until we meet again.

Your ALA Membership Team: Lisa Olson, Dawn Clark & Bonnie Kennedy

HISTORIANS’ CORNER

- On a submarine in the Pacific Ocean, a Navy captain, after being told to abandon ship stayed and went down with the ship rather than being taken prisoner by the Japanese and tortured and giving out some very important information he had. Rest in Peace: Capt. John P. Cromwell USN
- December 7, 1941, the USS Arizona during WWII while at Pearl Harbor when the Japanese attacked lost 1177 men. Among them were 23 sets of brothers and one father and son.
- Transfer of 11 SBD’s under Commander Turner Caldwell from the aircraft carrier Enterprise to Henderson Field where they fought for a month with Major Richard Mangrum’s VMSB 232. In passing tribute to Caldwell, Mangrum later remarked, “The best Marine I ever saw in bell bottom trousers.” Later, Capt. Caldwell was my boss. (Steve Grady)
- Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the control of it.

Steve Grady – Post 59 Historian

Significant Dates for this Quarter

All November – [Nat'l Veterans & Military Family Month](#)
November 1st - Daylight Savings Ends
November 3rd – Election Day
November 10th – [Marine Corps 245th Birthday](#)
November 11th – [Veterans Day](#)
November 26th – [Thanksgiving Day](#)
December 1st – [Civil Air Patrol \(USAF Auxiliary\) Birthday](#)
December 7th – [Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day](#)
December 13th – [U.S National Guards' 384th Birthday](#)
December 14th – [National Wreaths Across America](#)
December 18th – RSVP deadline for the FREE Christmas Dinner
December 25th – Christmas Day
December 25th – FREE Christmas Dinner (See Flyer)
December 31st – New Years' Eve
January 1st – New Years' Day (Happy New Year 2021)
January 18th – [Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday](#)
January 20th – Presidential Inauguration Day

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We are sorry, but the bar is closed temporarily due to COVID-19.

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and
HAPPY NEW YEAR



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NO DINE-IN
Due to Covid

All Are Welcome!

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Donations are Appreciated

RSVP to indicate which option works for you!
Call (608) 873-8585 by December 18th, 3:00pm

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Deliveries will start at 10:00am
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Deliveries limited to Stoughton Area School District

Leave Your name
Address
Phone number
How many dinners you need

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VETERANS MEMORIAL

Last month, the names of ninety-two Stoughton area veterans were added to the black granite walls of the veteran memorial. They include the names of those who recently joined the armed services; those who have recently moved into the area, as well as those whose names were missed earlier. This brings the total number of Stoughton area men and women who have served in the United States armed forces to 5739, dating back to the Civil War.

Almost all the fund-raising activities for the upkeep and maintenance of the memorial have been curtailed due to Covid-19. Maintenance costs, however, are on-going. Any donation toward this cause would be appreciated.

The memorial park will close in mid-November and re-open in the spring.

Please send donations to: Veterans Memorial Park, P.O. Box 16, Stoughton WI. or visit our website at stoughtonveteransmemorial.org.

Bud Erickson

CHAPLAINS' CORNER

*Father, in the Name of Jesus, I thank You for this great nation—the United States of America. I thank You that it was founded on Your Word, and faith in You alone. I thank You that this nation is blessed because of this foundation, and we desire to continue to live under a banner of blessing through our obedience to You Father, breathe a fresh wind of unity over this nation. Let Your Holy Spirit dominate every area of our government, our churches, our schools and our homes. Help us, as believers, to walk in love and unity together, so that all may see that we are one and know the power of the one true, living God. Protect us all this coming Holiday Season and Keep us Safe from harm and that we soon will all be together again shaking one another's hand and giving hugs and kisses to our families and friends everywhere...
I praise You and thank You for it, in Jesus' Name. Amen.*

Ed Nowicki - Post 59 Chaplain



LOCAL VIETNAM VETERAN HONORS CIVIL WAR UNCLE

On October 6, Doug Olson, a Stoughton resident and Post 59 member, helped set the stone for his great grand uncle, Cpl. James Croft, who was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor* for heroism during the Civil War. Cpl. Croft was wounded in the battle of Allatoona Pass, Georgia, on October 5, 1864.

The 200 pound granite stone was placed in the [Oak Hill cemetery](#) in Janesville, Wisconsin.

According to Vietnam veteran, Doug Olson, "my great grand uncle was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions during the Civil War. Until recently, there was no marker recognizing his military achievement. I, along with other descendants of Cpl. Croft, worked with the Congressional Medal of Honor Society to honor him. The Croft/Scott/Olson family has been a fixture in the Stoughton area for over 100 years and its military history predates the Revolutionary War".

The original gravestone, which remains in place, contained only Croft's name and years of birth and death.

*[The Congressional Medal of Honor](#) is the highest and most prestigious personal military decoration awarded to U.S. military service members for acts of valor.

Submitted by Bud Erickson

From the Editor:

If you are receiving this newsletter by email, you will notice that there are numerous areas throughout the newsletter that are "linkable". They are mostly lettered in blue, but there are some areas, the sponsors for example, that you can click on their business cards and it will take you to their websites if available. Just Scroll your mouse over anywhere on this publication to either link to websites or email to contacts in this newsletter.

Any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at 59legionpost@gmail.com

Thank You,
Dean Stenjem




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2020-2021

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2nd Vice Commander

Rodger Hansen

3rd Vice Commander

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Joshua Holt

Sgt. At Arms

Dale Seffens

Finance Officer

Jim Oler

Historian

Steve Grady

Adjutant

Roger Utermark

Judge Advocate

Doug Nelson

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Edward Nowicki

2020-2021

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1st Vice President

Amy Hermes

2nd Vice President

Jona Chat

Secretary

Randi Johnson Hanson

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Lisa Olson

Chaplain

Linda Swangstu

Membership

Lisa Olson

Bonnie Kennedy

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2020-2021

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1st Vice Commander

Dean Stenjem

2nd Vice Commander

Richard Budden

Sgt. At Arms

Bob Crofoot

Finance Officer

Jim Oler

Adjutant

Roger Strandlie

Chaplain

Dan Blomgren

Otis Sampson American Legion Post 59



DEADLINES FOR QUARTERLY ARTICLES

October 20th (Nov, Dec, Jan Newsletter)

January 20th (Feb, Mar, Apr Newsletter)

April 20th (May, June, July Newsletter)

July 20th (Aug, Sept, Oct Newsletter)

Editor: Dean Stenjem: 59legionpost@gmail.com

Visit the Post website at www.post59.us

Post Dinner

Postponed until Further Notice

