



# THE LEGION POST

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



Volume 18 Issue 9

September 2016

## Commander's Report

### 2016-2017 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**

Dale Seffens

**Finance Officer**

Jim Oler

**Historian**

Lenny Swingen

**Adjutant**

Bob Lloyd

**Judge Advocate**

Terry McCardle

**Chaplain**

Rich Fries



Greetings,

Hope you're staying cool in the good old summer time. Such a busy time for everyone to enjoy the last month of summer before vacations are over and school starts once again. Do you ever listen to the night time sounds in the summer with the windows open? Listen to the katydids in the trees or the frogs in the pond. What a wonderful season for even the outside creatures. I am sure that all of

you are looking forward to the start of the Packer season as well.

We celebrated Lenny Swingen's 100th birthday on August 7. What a crowd we had at the Post. What can you say about a Legion member that has dedicated 72 years as a great member? We are so lucky to have 50, 60, and 70-year memberships also at our Post. Thank you all for your years with us.

Our cook, Wally, is back from vacation so we can eat again!! We will have a Post dinner this month on August 23 and breakfast by the Auxiliary on the 21st. We will also have a wonderful donated gift basket

worth \$200 at our breakfast. So, please join us and get your tickets for the raffle.

Again this year, the Honor Guard group raised the flags at the Dane County Fair in the morning, but got rained out to take them down in the evening. Sid Boersma was kind enough to be there and gathered them in the drenching rain. Thank you Sid, and to all that participated that day. Until next month, stay safe and healthy.

Thank you volunteers,

Commander Sonny

### Auxiliary

#### President

Cathy Rigdon

873.5818

608.712.5312

#### 1st Vice President

Amy Hermes

608.516.8720

#### 2nd Vice President

Jona Chat

608.622.4574

#### Secretary

Lisa Olson

608.279.4847

#### Treasurer

Linda Schmidt

205.2517

#### Chaplain

Lynn Robertson

608.692.6321

#### Membership

Lisa Olson

608.279.4847

Bonnie Kennedy

608.669.7744

Linda Swangstu

873.9428

## Auxiliary News



Greetings,

Six of our members: Lisa Olson, Linda Schmidt, Lynn Robertson, Amy Hermes, Mary Curran, and I, attended the 2016 Department State Convention held at the Marriott in Middleton July 14-17. Our unit received a Leadership Award and a Certificate of Recognition.

The Leadership Award recognized the time and efforts our unit made to sponsor and attend a leadership training course. Both Past President Lisa Olson and Treasurer Linda Schmidt worked very hard to coordinate and host the training for our members, as well as other members from District 3. Good job!

Additionally, our unit received the 2015-2016 Veteran's Affairs and Rehabilitation Certificate of Recognition for Being a Spark for Our Veterans.

Laurel DuBois was elected as the 2016-2017 Department President. Her theme is *Soar for our Veterans*. One program that she is promoting is the ALA Honor Our Female Veterans. For Female Veterans who join the American Legion Auxiliary as NEW members for the 2017 membership year, national and department will be waiving the dues for their first year of membership. If you know of a female veteran who is not involved with the ALA, please take the time to invite her to our unit. For more membership information, contact Lisa Olson or Bonnie Kennedy.

*Did you know? Nationwide, the Auxiliary raises more than \$18 million every year and reinvests those funds in VA medical centers and community projects.*

Cathy Rigdon  
Unit 59 President

## CALENDER OF EVENTS

August 19 - Dean's Blue Country – 7:00-10:00 pm  
 August 21 - Legion Breakfast – 7:30-11:30 am  
 August 23 - Legion Dinner – 6:30 pm  
 August 26 - Jackie Marie – 7:00-10:00 pm  
 August 28 - Country Jam with Mikey Fuss – 2:00-6:00 pm  
 September 3 - Blue Moon Karaoke – 8:00 pm- ?  
 September 5 - Labor Day SAL cookout  
 September 11 - Patriot Day  
 September 18 - Legion Breakfast – 7:30-11:30 am  
 September 25 - Country Jam with Mikey Fuss – 2:00-6:00 pm  
 September 27 - Legion Dinner – 6:30 pm

### Event Pricing

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

**Breakfast:** 7:30-11:30 am  
 \$8.00 adults, \$4.00 children

*For upcoming Legion entertainment, call the Post at 205.9090 for a recorded message.*

## Progress Report on Veterans Memorial

Construction work on the Veterans Memorial began in earnest on August 15 as crews from the Pechmann Memorial Company began laying the more than 650 pavers (bricks) at the site on Hwy B and Country Club Road north of Stoughton. After the pavers are laid, the next steps are to install the foundations for all upright bases for flags, pillars, and monuments. Then the black granite memorial monuments containing the names of more than 5100 Stoughton area veterans will be installed, followed by the centerpiece and the archway. Crews of three to eight men from Pechmann will be working almost every day to have the work completed by the dedication on November 12, 2016.

Plans to have the landscaping delayed until the spring of 2017 changed when a private donor issued a check to pay for landscaping which is now scheduled to begin in September. Other financial contributions continue to come in.

As of 8/3/16, a total of \$875,000 in sales, donations, pledges, and payment-in-kind have been received. Money is still needed for educational pillars, pavers, the well—to be located on the northwest corner—and the sign to be placed near Highway B.

Please send donations to Veterans Memorial Park, Box 16, Stoughton, WI 53589.

*Submitted by Bud Erickson*

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

The thing to do, it seems to me, is to prepare yourself so you can be a rainbow in somebody else's cloud. Somebody who may not look like you. May not call God the same name you call God - if they call God at all. May not dance your dances or speak your language. But be a blessing to somebody.

*Maya Angelou*

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

*Auxiliary Members: If you know of anyone who is hospitalized, or in need, please contact Lynn Robertson at 608.608.692.6321.*

### Hall Rentals

Call Julie Nygaard at 608.333.9577

### Reminder: Post Dues Go Up

This is a reminder that the Post membership dues have increased \$5.00 for 2016/2017.

The new Post membership dues will be \$40.00 beginning July 1 when you receive your membership dues reminder from National Headquarters.

This increase reflects the dues increase passed by the National Headquarters last year. Therefore the Post must increase our dues to reflect this increase.

Thank you for your understanding.

Bob Lloyd  
 Membership Chairman



*Past ALA President Lisa Olson receiving the 2015-2016 Leadership Award at Department Convention, July 17, 2016.*

### **2016 Vidalia Onion Sales Report**

This year our Post and Auxiliary was assisted by the VFW as the main effort was to support the Veterans Memorial Park project.

We sold 1150 bags of onions. The profit was \$3,180 and was awarded as follows:

Veterans Memorial Park fund	\$2,500
Veterans Hospital Madison	200
Badger Honor Flight	200
Stoughton's Seniors in Need	200

A big thank you to all the volunteers who assisted in this annual fund-raiser.

Tom Lunde  
2016 Chairman

### **Edgerton Quilt Show**

Saturday, October 15, 2016  
9:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Edgerton Middle School  
300 Elm High Dr, Edgerton, WI

Vendors \* Demonstration \* Concession Stand  
Adult and youth quilt displays  
Basket and Bed Quilt Raffles

\$3.00 Admission – Children under 10 are free  
More info call: Elaine Jenson 608.884.6804

# Sons Happenings



Hello,

The Sons of the American Legion are very excited about having a place in the Legion Post. I'll start by introducing myself for those Legion members I have not met. I am Dean Stenjem and am Commander of the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 59. I am going into my second term as SAL Commander. It has been a great honor to get to know a lot of you during my time at the Post.

A little information on the Sons of the American Legion for those that may wonder what we are about: The Sons of the American Legion was founded in 1932 and exists to honor the service and sacrifice of Legionnaires. Our members include males of all ages whose parents or grandparents served in the U.S. military and were eligible for American Legion membership. Although the Sons has its own membership, the organization is not a

separate entity; rather, it is a program of the American Legion. The Sons organization is divided into detachments at the state level and squadrons at the local level. A squadron pairs with a local American Legion post; a squadron's charter is contingent upon its parent post's charter. However, squadrons can determine the extent of their services to the community, state and nation. They are permitted flexibility in planning programs and activities to meet their needs.

We look forward to working with Post 59 Legion members as well as the Auxiliary in the future. Feel free to contact me with any questions on the Sons of the American Legion: [sonsofthelegion59@gmail.com](mailto:sonsofthelegion59@gmail.com).

Thank you.

Dean Stenjem  
Commander, Squadron 59

### 2016-2017 OFFICERS

**Commander**

Dean Stenjem

**1st Vice Commander**

Jeff Gassen

**2nd Vice Commander**

Jim Oler

**Sgt. at Arms**

Alan Metzler

**Finance Officer**

Jim Oler

**Historian**

Roger Strandlie

**Chaplain**

Dan Blomgren

**Adjutant**

Clark Anderson

### Monthly Post Meeting Schedule

**Legion – 2nd Monday – 7:00 pm**

**Auxiliary – 2nd Monday – 6:30 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**



## The Driving Force Behind the Veterans Memorial



Pictured above is the Steering Committee for the Stoughton Area Veterans Memorial Park. Front row; (left to right) Jim Oler, Finance; Duane Broughton, General Chairman; Bud Erickson, Publicity. Back row: Vick Duesel, Construction; Randy Robertson, Fund-raising; Roger Kleven, Veterans' name collecting; and Dave Stolen, Construction. Missing are Roger Nitzsche and Sonny Swangstu, Fund-raising and Construction, respectively.

This committee has been meeting weekly for the past 15 months to plan, design, coordinate, and implement all the functions needed to meet the goal, which was stated in July 2014, to have the Memorial ready for the dedication on Saturday, November 12, 2016.

According to General Chairman, Duane Broughton, "We have met 85% of our objectives concerning finance and construction, but we still have work to do. Watch us grow granite in the next 60 days".

## The Wall That Heals

The "Wall That Heals" traveled through Stoughton on Wednesday, August 10 at 11:00 am escorted by a contingent of more than 80 Legion Riders. The pictures below were taken on US51/SH138 in front of Pick n Save/WalMart.



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Baked Knockwurst with Sauerkraut  
August 23, 2016

**DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES THE 8<sup>TH</sup> OF EACH MONTH**  
VISIT THE POST WEB SITE AT [POST59.US](http://POST59.US)  
Editors Cliff Maerz and Tim Carter: [C\\_Maerz@msn.com](mailto:C_Maerz@msn.com)