



THE LEGION POST

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



Volume 20
Issue 9



September 2018

Commander's Report

2018-2019 OFFICERS

Commander

Sonny Swangstu

1st Vice Commander

Michael Currie

2nd Vice Commander

Michael Pilot

3rd Vice Commander

Larry Johnson

Service Officer

Joshua Holt

Sgt. at Arms

Dale Seffens

Finance Officer

Jim Oler

Historian

Steve Grady

Adjutant

Vic Duesel

Judge Advocate

Rodger Hansen

Chaplain

Ed Nowicki/Rich Fries



Greetings,

The newsletter is coming back as everyone has had a busy summer. Thank you April Vingum for your return.

We recently had our election and I am once again your Commander. I believe I am on my 12th year. I enjoy what I do but one of these days we will need to have someone step up. We did get a couple of new members in office and they are Joshua Holt and Michael Pilot. Welcome aboard Legionnaires and thank you.

Come to the Legion and see our new flooring and bar. We all worked hard on the project and we have had many compliments. Large amount of stress for all who participated.

In Sept. we will be returning to our monthly Post dinners. Put Sept. 25th on your calendar for swiss steak. Hope we can have a very good turn out so we can continue having our dinners.

Again this year, the Honor Guard and Auxiliary ladies raised and lowered the flags at the Dane County Fair. This is an honor for us as well as good publicity. We have been doing this for several years.

Thank you to all volunteers of the Post.

Commander Sonny



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Auxiliary News



Greetings ~

The ALA calendar year begins April 1st and concludes March 31st of each year. Unit reports are sent to the Department [state], the Department collates the information and reports to the ALA National Headquarters. Reporting identifies individual unit programs, financial contributions and volunteer hours while supporting the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary. We have a very active auxiliary promoting several initiatives throughout the year and we have received several awards acknowledging our accomplishments:

Department Poppy Program

We received a citation for the Best Overall Poppy Program. The program highlighted the two poppy princesses Braelynn Olson (granddaughter of Doug & Lisa Olson), Rayana Lloyd (granddaughter of Bob & Mary Lloyd). The poppy princesses attended the city council meeting for the proclamation signing and distribution of poppies to each alderperson. The princesses also attended parades and the Memorial Day Program.

Department President's Award of Excellence

We were very excited to receive the President's Award of Excellence! This award is

presented by WI Department President Char Kiesling to only seven units throughout the State of WI. This award acknowledged our Support Our Troops Program, Knots of Love Program, Veteran's Quilts, basket raffle fundraisers and our annual volunteer hours.

National President's Award of Excellence:

We are over the moon to hear that we were also awarded the National President's Award of Excellence. This award is presented by National President Diane Duscheck to only five units throughout the United States!!!! The award was presented at the ALA National Convention in September and it highlighted Support Our Troops Program, Knots of Love Program and Veterans Quilts.

Since April, our members have sponsored two breakfast fundraisers, worked on poppy distributions, Memorial Day planning, implemented a Blue Star Banner Program, helped with the legion remodel, attended the 3rd District Picnic, Raise the Flag Ceremony at the Dane County Fair, sponsored four girls to Badger Girls State, financially supported several veteran's programs (from poppy proceeds), Stoughton Hospital's Swinging for Health fundraiser and the Stoughton Shillelagh Foundation Golf Outing. Our August breakfast fundraiser earmarked all proceeds to the Sun Prairie Disaster Fund. We had a record-breaking attendance, serving just under 400 meals, with proceeds of \$1,554.56.

On September 12th, there will be a Culvers Day Fundraiser. Members of our unit will be at Culvers from 4 pm – 7 pm serving meals and clearing tables. A portion of the sales during those hours will be donated to our auxiliary. Please mark your calendar and plan to stop by to support this fundraiser and say hi to our members who are working. If you can't stop in order at the drive through – one of our members will bring out your meal and your purchase will help with our fundraiser.

On September 29th, the Legion Family (Legionaries, SAL & ALA) will host a steak dinner fundraiser. All proceeds are earmarked to provide financial support to Stoughton area veterans going on the Honor Flight and VetsRoll. Mark you calendar and watch for our advertising of this event!

Again, thanks to all our members for all they do!

2018-2019 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

Polly Stout
608.513.5378

Treasurer

Linda Schmidt
608.205.2517

Chaplain

Linda Swangstu
608.577-7428

Membership

Lisa Olson
608.279.4847
Bonnie Kennedy
608.669.7544

Membership Dues Renewals

The Post is off to a great start with our membership drive. We reached 50% renewed in our first month! We are currently at 52.07% with 201 renewals out of 386 total memberships. We have 4 new members and 3 transfers already this year. 29 have renewed on-line. Keep up the good work. Now the hard work begins to renew the remaining 48% so please mail in your membership renewals as soon as you can. You may also renew on-line at wilegion.org and click on "Renew Online", enter your member ID #, and pay with a Master Card, Visa, or Discover card. Simple.

Bob Lloyd-Membership Chairman

Sons of The American Legion Report



What we did on our summer vacation

When the Sons of the American Legion, Squadron 59 set our goals and voted on our itinerary for 2018, we included a little much needed down time over the summer months. A diet if you will, a little time away from the table to recharge our batteries, spend more time with our loved ones, and do the things that always seem to make time fly over the hot summer months. Like most diets, however well intentioned, it seems the core of our group had difficulty with our resolution. I personally would like to thank Jim Oler, Roger Strandlie, and Ray Dzieciol for assisting me with the preparation of our 2017/2018 Consolidated Squadron Report. We logged 1281 hours of service and totaled just over \$10,000 in donations and assistance to various causes. Dean Stenjem fell off the diet early and often, assisting with the Post 59 renovation of the bar and dining area, updating our Facebook presence, as well as the Post website, and occasionally teaming up with Larry Johnson to provide entertainment in the form of being a co-DJ and Karaoke performer. Roger Strandlie has been spearheading our efforts to purchase several picnic tables, a permanently installed 6' x 3' x 4' composite bench, and a couple

trash receptacles that will be donated to the city of Stoughton and Bjoin park. This will be done in the name of Pat Nowlin and Sons of the American Legion honoring our past member and the time he spent with our organization. Ray Dzieciol joined me representing our SAL squadron at the State convention where we were honored to accept a citation of achievement for surpassing the previous years recorded enrollment, a citation of excellence for our squadron achieving all time high membership, and two more citations of excellence for our donations to the GI JOSH program and the child welfare Foundation. We were also able to obtain a GI Josh kit and we hope to display it prominently at Post 59 for educational purposes and to better illustrate the program for future fundraising efforts. Larry Onsrud has been his usual hard-working self, helping when needed with Sunday breakfast duty. SAL member Mike Griggs doesn't know the meaning of the words time off. You'll find him involved in just about everything that goes on at the Post. Dan "the man" Blomgren can often be found helping at a Friday night fish fry or a Sunday morning breakfast. We are happy to include a new SAL member John Drogsvold. He has joined the ranks, and his help at the Post in the past and in the future will make us proud that he's one of us. Well, seeing that the whole diet thing didn't exactly work out, time to get back to work. We'll be back at it on Patriots Day (September 11th) joining in the Raise the Flag program and again on Veterans Day (November 11th) We'll resume our monthly meetings on Wednesday September 12th and we have lots of great plans for the upcoming months.

Bob Hocking



2017-2018 OFFICERS

Commander
Bob Hocking
1st Vice Commander
Dean Stenjem
2nd Vice Commander
Jim Oler
Sgt. at Arms
Alan Metzler
Finance Officer
Jim Oler
Historian
Jeff Gassen
Adjutant
Roger Strandlie
Chaplain
Dan Blomgren

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sept 4-** Labor Day
- Sept 8-** Celebration of Life
- Sept 9-** Kensington Condo Picnic
- Sept 10-** National Grandparents Day
- Sept 11-** Patriot Day
- Sept 12-** ALA Culvers Day Fundraiser
- Sept 14-** Dean's Blue Country 6:00pm-9:00pm
- Sept 15-** Baby Shower
- Sept 16-** Breakfast - 7:30-11:30am
- Sept 17-** Constitution Day and Citizenship Day
- Sept 18-** Air Force Birthday
- Sept 19-** Quilting By The River Friends
- Sept 19-** POW/MIA Recognition Day
- Sept 22-** 70th Birthday Party
- Sept 23-** Country Jam Session with Mikey Fuss and the Cherokee Three 2:00pm-6:00pm
- Sept 24-** Gold Star Mother's Day and Family's Day
- Sept 28-** Frank (Lefty) James & Jackie Marie 6:00-9:00pm
- Sept 29-** Badger Honor Flight Steak Feed Fundraiser 4:00pm-7:00pm
- Sept 29-** All-Star Karaoke 7:00pm-11:00pm
- Sept 30-** Wedding Reception

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

**GOLD STAR MOTHER'S DAY
Monday, September 24th 2018**



www.goldstarmoms.com

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.





Steak Feed Fundraiser
Saturday, September 29th
from 4:00 - 7:00pm

See the Legion
Facebook page for more information



Thank you Thrivent for your support to the Stoughton Area's Veteran's Memorial Park in the "RAISE THE FLAG" program!

A picture was presented to Thrivent recently by Vic Duesel of the S.A.V.M.P. steering committee.



To Subscribe to an Email version of The Legion Post

Visit post59.us and subscribe or just email 59legionpost@gmail.com and in the subject line put subscribe.

Hall Rentals

Call Polly Stout 608.513.5378
(Between 8am-9pm)

Or email:

buddycatsonny@yahoo.com

AMERICAN LEGION BAR

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- Wednesday: **3:00pm or later**
- Thursday: **3:00pm or later**
- 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

FRIDAY IS OUR FISH FRY

5:00 – 8:00pm

Which includes salad bar

Meat Raffles

Recently I was asked, “Where does the profit go?” for our Saturday meat raffles. So, here is a little history about the raffles.

In 2009, at a Post meeting, we were trying to figure out a way to get more people to the Post on Saturdays. At the next meeting, we were discussing how to pay for our Youth Programming. At that meeting, Bob and Mary Lloyd brought up a Saturday Meat Raffle organized and staffed by the Legion Riders. The first raffle was Saturday, September 1.

Little has changed since the first raffle. We set up the Saturdays so that each Legion family organization would have a weekend. The first Saturday goes to the Legion Riders. The second to the Post. The third to the Son’s, the fourth to the Auxiliary and when there is a fifth it goes to the Riders to offset costs using their checkbook.

The meat has always been purchased from Bill’s Food Center in Oregon. They have provided excellent meat and customer service and have been very supportive of other veteran’s programs.

We usually provide around 20 packages of meat and sell 12 paddles per round. The paddles are \$1 each except for the “Secret Packages” which are \$2 each and usually are jammed with meat or are an entire family meal.

Like the bartenders, the meat raffle is provided by VOLUNTEERS. Over the years, the volunteers have changed, but the fun has not. We range between barely enough people to play to so many people that we can hardly get through the crowd to sell the paddles.

In 2017, we netted nearly \$6,000 with about \$1,500 going to each organization. These monies have a special purpose. For each organization the money goes to youth-related programs and needs. The Post has used the money to pay for our Badger Boys program, High School Scholarships, and County Government Days. The Sons have supported the “Josh Dog” program, the Auxiliary has used it for purchasing Christmas presents for needy families and to support their Badger Girls program, and the Riders have used it for the Legacy Scholarship Fund, Camp American Legion’s Family programs, and veteran’s with children in need.

We hold the meat raffles almost every Saturday at 2 pm. Please come to the Post and help us support our youth programs and our Post. You can have fun talking with other Veterans, veteran supporters and other community members, have a few drinks and take some meat home as a bonus.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Mary Lloyd at lloyd2364@sbcglobal.net or 608-873-5926/608-712-5450.

Submitted by Mary Lloyd, Past Post Commander and District 3 Legion Riders Treasurer



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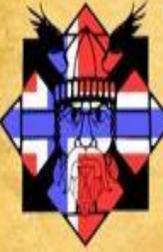
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Legion Post Dinner – Swiss Steak

September 25, 2018 6:30pm

For an updated Post Dinner Menu,

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
