



THE LEGION POST

OTIS SAMPSON POST 59 STOUGHTON, WI
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VOLUME 15 ISSUE 4

APRIL 2013

Commander's Report

2012-2013 OFFICERS

Commander
Sonny Swangstu
1st Vice Commander
Dean Silbaugh
2nd Vice Commander
Larry Ambrose
3rd Vice Commander
Larry Johnson
Service Officer
Cliff Maerz
Sgt. at Arms
Danny Call
Finance Officer
Jim Oler
Historian
Odean Teigen
Adjutant
Dennis Rodenkirch
Judge Advocate
Terry McCardle
Chaplain
Rich Fries



Fellow Legionnaires,
Spring is around the corner and hopefully March goes out like a lamb!
Finally, I think we are near the end of making messes at our Post. There are a few odds and ends to wrap up. Thank you to all volunteers once again!
We do need a person to keep the hall bathrooms and hall floor clean. I have asked for help on this constantly to not avail, so it looks like we will have to hire someone.

At next month's executive meeting we will be reviewing our Constitution and By-Laws. If anyone has any recommendations for changes, please contact me before then. The meeting is scheduled for the April 4.

Please start thinking about a Post officer position because elections are coming up soon. We have positions to fill. Let's keep our Legion strong and come join the fun!

There has been a suggestion that we change our breakfast to a buffet style. Please let us know at the next breakfast what your thoughts are about this. I will place some cards on each table for your input.

Vidalia onions will arrive in May, so order yours now. Bud Erickson has introduced several onion dressing recipes that can be used for salads and dips. We have tested them all and they are really good! The recipes are for sale now and will also be when you pick up your onions. You will be called when the onions arrive.

We will have another Memorial Day meeting on March 18 at 7:00 at the Post. Please attend and be part of our organizing committee. We need lots of hands to keep our program the best in this area.

Thanks,
Commander Sonny

Auxiliary

President
Marlene Bierman
873-7397
Vice President
Julie Nygaard
333-9577
Secretary
Lisa Olson – 873-8924
Treasurer
Lynn Robertson
873-4889
Chaplain
Sharon Silbaugh
873-3927
Sgt. at Arms
Pat Christensen
873-7479
Historian
Kathy Teigen
873-7518
Membership
Lisa Olson – 873-8924
Junior Leader
Jona Chat – 622-4574

Auxiliary News



Hello American Legion Family,
I thought that spring was coming early, according to Mr. Groundhog. I think this has been the worst winter ever.
Thursday, March 28, our Post and Auxiliary will be hosting the Dane County Legion & Auxiliary Meeting. March is the birthday of the American Legion. It will be a potluck and we will a birthday cake. So bring a dish to pass. Dinner is at 6:00 and the meeting at 7:00.
The District Spring Convention will be held in Darlington on Saturday, April 20. Please let me know if you would like to attend. The reservations need to be by

April 15. My phone is 873.7397; or e-mail nickbierman@att.net.

Attention: Auxiliary members and Legion members: the Auxiliary will be having a garage sale again this year. It will be the last weekend in June. So, when you begin your spring house cleaning, lay your stuff aside that you want to get rid of and donate to the Auxiliary—more on this later.

Our officers for 2013-2014 will be: I will stay on as President for another year; Linda Swangstu, Vice President; Charlotte Heike, Secretary; Lynn Robertson resigned as Treasurer and Rita Sperry will take over as Treasurer until June; Pat Christenson is Sergeant-at-Arms; and Sherry Leick will be Historian. We are still in need of a treasurer. I want to thank Lynn Robertson for all the hard and good work she did as our treasurer. She went above and beyond the call of duty. We are sorry she needed to resign.

President continued on page 2

CALENDER OF EVENTS

- March 17 - Legion Breakfast
7:00–11:00 am
- March 20 - Spring begins
- March 26 - Legion Dinner – 6:30 pm
- March 30 - Universal Sound – 8:00–midnight
- March 31 - Happy Easter
- April 6 - Relay for Life spaghetti dinner
5:30–7:30 pm
- April 6 - Blue Moon – 8:00 – 11:00 pm
- April 13 - Northern Lights – 8:00–midnight
- April 21- Legion Breakfast
7:00–11:00 am
- April 23 - Legion Dinner – 6:30 pm
- April 27 - Universal Sound – 8:00–midnight

President continued from page 1

I want to thank the Auxiliary members that helped put Poppies in envelopes that will be mailed to the Legion and Auxiliary member in April. This is our yearly fund drive that helps support various Veterans’ programs.

Our raffle winner at the February Breakfast was Donnie Hellum. He won the bird feeder and bird food. The March breakfast raffle will be an Easter ham and other goodies. The April breakfast is to benefit Badger Girls State. Your support is appreciated. We won a scholarship from a silent auction raffle that was held at the Dane County meeting in McFarland last fall. We also received a check from an anonymous donor. The high school guidance office will select the junior girls who will represent Stoughton in June at Badger Girl State.

I want to thank the Teigen family for the memorial donation we received in Kathy’s name. Some of the money went to purchase the gavel bell and we will have it engraved in her name.

The Auxiliary and the VFW are putting together a cookbook. Please send your favorite recipes to Mary Sundby. Her address is 3436 Halverson Rd. We would like to thank her for organizing this project.

Thanks to everyone who ordered RADA products from the Auxiliary this month for our book party fundraiser.

Our next meeting is on Monday, April 8 at 7:00. We would like to see some new faces. The meetings last about an hour.

Our next euchre card game will be Wednesday, April 10 at 1:00 at the Post. Men and women are welcome. Bring a friend. We have a good time.

President Marlene

Event Pricing

Post Dinner: 6:30 pm \$11.00

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

CHAPLAIN’S CORNER



please contact Rich Fries at 608.273.8758.

Hall Rentals

Call Julie Nygaard at 608.333.9577

The Quilting by the River Friends group will have their monthly business meeting at 1 pm on Sunday, April 14, and their monthly work day on Wednesday, April 17. Both events will be held at the American Legion 59 Hall, at 803 N. Page St, Stoughton, WI. There will be no business meeting in May. The monthly work day will be held on Wednesday, May 15, also at the American Legion 59 Hall.

For more information, please contact Karen Lapidakis, co-chairperson, at 608.873.5100.

At Camp American Legion our district is replacing a broken/run down water fountain. This water fountain once before was the pride of Camp American Legion. The replacement one will be a place for veterans and their family to sit and enjoy. They served our county proudly and now it's time for us to step up and give them a place they will always remember. Please donate to the building of this fountain. Donations can be sent to the Post at 803 N Page Street, Stoughton, WI 53589

Dennis Rodenkirch
American Legion Post 59
[608-438-8768](tel:608-438-8768)



Calling all Veterans & Military Personnel

Veterans from all eras are needed to ride the veteran's float in the Syttende Mai and Memorial Day parades. Not necessary to have been in a combat zone. Not necessary to be in uniform. These floats are in your honor. Please come and participate. No RSVP necessary. If questions, call Bob Lloyd 873.5926.

Syttende Mai Parade -Sunday, May 19

(Meet at Mandt Park by 1:00 pm. Veteran's float parks on South 4th St.)

Memorial Day Parade - Monday, May 27

(Beginning on S. Prairie and West Main St.10:00 am

Parking at Mandt Center 9:15 am

Shuttles to parade line-up for parade participants

Veteran's float parks on the corner of S. Prairie & W. Main.

Memorial Program - Monday, May 27

(Following the parade 11:00 a.m. at Mandt Center *rain or shine*)

The Memorial Program is open to the public

Membership Report

Currently we are 96% renewed. Our post will lose our streak of nine consecutive years of over 100% renewed if we don't have 14 more renewals. If you haven't renewed, please do so at this time. Everyone who hasn't renewed will be contacted by the Dane County membership team April 4-6.

Welcome our newest members:
James Kamp
Philip Elsing

Thanks,
Dennis Rodenkirch
Membership Chairman
608.438.8768

Vidalia Onion Time

On February 4, the fourth annual Vidalia onion project kicked off. Orders will be taken until April 1, and the onions will be delivered in early May. The cost remains the same as in the past—\$10 for a ten-pound bag, \$6 for a five-pound bag. Vidalia's can be ordered from any committee member or stop by the Post lounge to place your order.



In the past three years nearly 2200 bags have been sold. Proceeds were used for Legion projects such as \$5300 for the parking lot and \$2000 for dining room chairs. Donations were also made to the Stoughton Senior Center, food pantry, Youth Center, Stoughton Dream World, the Veteran's Hospital in Madison, and Camp American Legion.

Bud Erickson
Chair, Vidalia Onion Project

Camp American Legion Fund-raiser

When: Saturday, May 11 cookout - 1:00-6:00 pm
Entertainment: Big Johnson Karaoke - 8:00-11:00 pm
Where: American Legion Post 59
803 N Page St
Stoughton, WI 53589

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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



John Herman Budden

This is a history of John Herman Budden. He was born on July 28, 1924 in Mercy Hospital in Dubuque, Dubuque County, Iowa.

John finished the two years of high school at Sacred Heart and then went to East Dubuque High. He had finished about three-quarters of his junior year when the school went on strike. This was in spring 1941. He figured his formal learning had ended because he could not attend school and so he went over to Dubuque and enlisted in the Navy. Being only sixteen-years-old, his parents had to sign permission papers. On the day after his 17th birthday he went to Des Moines to enlist.

He was sworn into the U.S. Navy on July 30, 1941 and reported to Great Lakes, IL for recruit training. John believes the company number was 123. Graduation was in August 1941. John was placed in the Outgoing Unit and served in the Seaman Guard until he went to radio school in San Diego, CA at the Naval Training Station in October 1941. John started radio school in November. It was to be a four month course. On December 7 the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor at about 8 AM Hawaiian time. John was at a movie in downtown San Diego, when about noon or a little after they stopped the movie and announced that the Japanese had attacked and all service men were to report back to their bases.



John Herman Budden

When they got back to the bases on December 7 instructions were given on what to do. A Springfield rifle, bandoleer of .30 caliber ammunition, and a gas mask were issued. They had to sleep that night and the next four or five nights with their clothes on and their rifle and gas mask in bed with them. During daytime, drills were held where they would open the gates of the training

center and disperse into the city around the training center.

Around the 15th of December they called them all together and said they had to take at least two weeks leave because new recruits were volunteering at a very fast pace and the barracks were needed because there wasn't anywhere to put them. They tried to put up tents for the new recruits but they were coming in too fast.

John wired home to his father because he needed fifty dollars for bus fare home. It was questionable as to whether his father could afford this, but the money came and after a long bus ride, John got to spend Christmas at home. This would be the last one at home until 1945.

When they reported back to radio school after the forced leave, everything was at a more hectic pace. They didn't have to sleep with their rifles, gas masks, and clothes on anymore. The class graduated a week or two early. Within a few days they were on the USS *Thomas Jefferson* APA-30 headed into the Pacific theatre. They were not told where they were going but after six or seven days at sea they figured they were headed for the South Pacific. After nine days at sea they finally arrived at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. It was explained that due to zigzagging to avoid submarines the ship had covered many more miles than the 2902 miles to Hawaii. They arrived about the first of March 1942. The place was still a big mess. Oil and debris were still floating in the harbor. Fifteen were assigned to the battleship USS *Nevada* to help clean it up. Storage compartments were cleaned out below decks and black oil was wiped from the bulkheads with kerosene and rags. They were on the *Nevada* only a few days when a warrant officer came aboard and looking for the 15 men who had just arrived that had attended radio school in San Diego. He said he had been looking all over for them and that they were sorely needed for communication work. That was the last day on the USS *Nevada*. Ford Island NAS in the middle of the harbor was to be their new home. Some were attached to the Flag Unit of Patrol Air Wing II. They worked in an underground communication station just off the end of the runway. Communications were handled there for the Battle of Midway. Some of the aviation radiomen were taken from the unit to fly on PBY's and other planes flying bombs and ammunition to Midway.

Then the Battle of Midway took place. Some of the communication chores were handled for the planes carrying bombs and supplies to Midway. Of course American planes guarded the waters around Oahu and the other Hawaiian Islands.

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After the Battle of Midway they were moved to a new location and given a new name. They were transferred to Commander Hawaiian Sea Frontier and moved to the inside of Red Hill (a hollowed out mountain) to another underground communications station. It was a Joint Operations center—Army, Navy, Marines and Army Air Force. Admiral Nimitz was our commander. This is where all ships and aircraft in the area and the South Pacific were controlled. They were billeted at Aiea Heights. Admiral Nimitz oftentimes took walks past the barracks in his shorts with his walking stick. He often spoke with the men if he had time to stop. Later on we were billeted at the CB camp near Red Hill.

All had to have very high security clearance to work there because messages were decoded. The locations of all ships and aircraft in the Pacific area were on charts on the walls of the tunnels. This ensured that they would not be transferred or granted any kind of leave. They were not permitted to leave the island of Oahu. John worked on the radios on some of the air-sea rescue boats at Pearl Harbor and around the area. He could not go out to the boats to check the radios. There was no way—with their knowledge of the location of ships and men—that they could step off the island.

Finally, after the Japanese had surrendered, ideas of going home for some long awaited leave surfaced. A 60-day leave was granted to them to spend with family. About November 1945 John finally got home to start my leave. The 60-day leave was very short and soon he was on my way to Ottumwa Iowa Naval Air Station. John boarded a train headed for Camp Shoemaker, southeast of San Francisco. The camp was a receiving and transfer base where your rating didn't mean much. At this time John was a Radio Technician First Class.

After a few weeks he received orders to the USS *Uvalde* (AKA-88). John's rating had been changed to an Electronics Technician Mate First Class. The pay was the same, but the duties had changed greatly because of the introduction of radar equipment. It was still very secret and if you didn't work with it there was no way you could learn anything about it. On the USS *Uvalde* the captain informed John that the description for his new rating required him to repair and maintain any and all electronic equipment including radar. There were two radar units on the ship, a model SG for surface search and a model SA for air search. Neither was working and the ship was leaving the next day for Port Hueneme and then to Guam. The captain wanted both working by the time the ship arrived. He handed John the books, showed him where the radar equipment was and said: "Get studying!" Believe it or not before arriving in Port Hueneme both units were working. While passing the breakwater, the SA radar stopped working. It was not

working when the ship docked. The Captain told John to remain aboard the ship and study the manuals. Restricted to the ship in a port near Los Angeles was pretty hard to take but that was the first and last restriction of his naval career. Radar posed no more great problems for him.

The ship then proceeded to Guam. A dispatch came from the Commodore, who was the Senior Officer Present Afloat (SOPA), transferring John to the USS *Kermit Roosevelt*. This is an internal combustion engine repair ship. The *Uvalde's* captain, who was a full captain by the name of Madden, was upset about losing his only electronic technician so he went to the USS *Kermit Roosevelt* to see what was going on. When he returned he told John that he could not keep him on the *Uvalde* as John was the only electronic technician west of Pearl Harbor—the reserve electronic technicians had all gotten out of the service on points—and the Commodore on the *Roosevelt* was senior and had many ships that needed electronics repairs. John went to the *Roosevelt* and did his job repairing all kinds of electronic equipment on the ships in the harbor.

When the *Roosevelt* was scheduled to leave for the United States a dispatch came in transferring John to Commander Marinas Naval Operating Base. Because the commander was a vice admiral there was no choice for John again. There were about four large Quonset buildings at NOB (Naval Operating Base) Guam that were used during WWII for the repair of ship electronics. One was for radar repair, one for sonar repair, and one for communication equipment repair. John spent about two years repairing all kinds of electronic equipment on ships that came to Apra Harbor Guam. He had his own coxswain and boat to be taken to the different ships to repair electronic equipment. Most of the ships did not have any electronic technicians at all. Finally, John's enlistment was up and it was time to make a decision again. A request to attend Electronics "B" school was submitted with the stipulation that he would reenlist for six years if the school was approved. The commander on the base turned him down saying the classes would start too soon and if he didn't reenlist he would be able to keep John there a couple of months longer until my enlistment expired. That's what happened. John returned to Long Beach, was discharged, and returned to East Dubuque, IL.

Submitted by Evelyn Kahl

Ann Halverson, John's daughter, helped in the preparation of this article about John's life in the U.S. Navy. John is now residing at the Harmony Facility on Jackson Street in Stoughton.

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This story will continue next issue.

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