



THE LEGION POST

Quarterly Newsletter

OTIS SAMPSON POST 59

803 North Page Street - STOUGHTON, WI



POST WEB SITE: www.post59.us



POST PHONE:
608.205.9090

May/June/July 2022



Commander's Report

Greetings to all,

Well spring has sprung however I don't think it's quite made up its mind. May is going to be busy month with Syttende Mai and other events and celebrations going on. I want to thank everyone who came out for our March monthly dinner. We will be having our April dinner on the 26th. We will be having turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans and of course a delicious dessert.

This will be our last meal for the summer, and we will start up again in September. Syttende Mai will soon be here, and we will be having our Sunday breakfast on May 15th. I would like to congratulate Roger and Donna Strandlie on being this year's Syttende Mai's King and Queen, a well-deserved honor.

As I stated above this is a busy month. Cinco de Mayo is on May 5th and on May 7th the Post will be having our Kentucky Derby Party starting at 12:00 noon to 10:00pm. The following day May 8th is Mother's Day. On Saturday May 14th the Post will have live music with Dan Reilly playing from 6:00 pm to 11:00pm. May 15th we will be having our monthly breakfast from 7:30 am to 11:30am.

This year there will be a Memorial Day parade, so we are looking for area veterans to participate in the Memorial Day Parade and Syttende Mai parade and ride on our float. We will also be having the annual Memorial Day celebration back at the Mandt Center. After the celebration there will be a reception and cookout at the VFW.

Please make sure you check the Events Calendar for June and July as there are a few more events scheduled.

Our Events Committee has been meeting and working to come up with other events for you all to enjoy during the summer. Last year we had several drive through brat events which were quite successful, so we are hoping to have several more over the summer months. **CONT'D >>>>**

There will be more information as we scheduled those dates. If anyone has any ideas for events, please go to our website and fill out the events form, and the committee will review and get back to you. We will also be opening the Post Tiki Bar as soon as weather permits. We have also had people ask about the Sunday jam sessions. We are working on getting those started again and will get information out when the time comes.

In other news the Post has contracted with the Fearing's Company to update our audio and visual system at the Post. This should be completed in the next month or so. The Honor Guard needed to purchase a new vehicle to accommodate our members so we were able to purchase a minibus that will have more room, be safer and we will go from carrying seven members to possibly fifteen. We may also use this bus to take area Veterans to their VA appointments.

I would like to ask that any Post members who have not renewed your 2022 membership dues, to please do so. If you need help with renewing your dues, please feel free to ask, we do have funding for this. It's important for the Post to be at 100%.

The Post had some sad news recently that one of our members and Post officer Doug Nelson passed away. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family. RIP comrade.

Thank you to all our bartenders and all our volunteers for all you do and to all our members and guests for supporting our Post and its mission. Looking forward to seeing you at the Post.

Commander Michael

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Dean Stenjem – Newsletter Editor

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The American Legion

Post 59 is proud to announce that we will be sponsoring Patrick Lyons and Finn Novak, two young men from S.H.S, for the 2022 Badger State program that will be held on June 12th -18th, 2022 at the UW Eau Claire campus. Post 59 will be inviting delegates and their families to our Oct. 25th monthly dinner to share their experience.

Dale Seffens

2nd Vice Commander – Post 59

MONTHLY POST 59 MEETING TIMES



AMERICAN LEGION

2nd Monday of Each Month @ 7:00pm



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

1st Monday of Each Month @ 6:00pm



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

2nd Wednesday of Each Month @ 7:00pm

Significant Dates for this Quarter

MAY

- May 2nd: [Women's Overseas Service League Established \(1921\)](#)
- May 2nd: [Monthly Auxiliary Meeting @ 6:00pm](#)
- May 6th: [Military Spouse Appreciation Day 2022](#)
- May 7th: [Kentucky Derby Party @ The Legion 1:00pm](#)
- May 8th: [Mothers' Day](#)
- May 8th: [V-E Day \(1945\)](#)
- May 9th: [Monthly Legion Meeting @ 7:00pm](#)
- May 11th: [Sons of the American Legion Monthly Mtg. 7:00pm](#)
- May 13th: [Navy Nurse Corps Established \(1908\)](#)
- May 14th: [Dan Reilly @ The Legion \(Music\) 6:00pm](#)
- May 15th: [Legion Monthly Breakfast 7:30-11:30am](#)
- May 16th: [Armed Forces Day](#)
- May 21st: [American Red Cross Founded \(1881\)](#)
- May 22nd: [National Maritime Day](#)
- May 30th: [Memorial Day \(Observed\)](#)
- May 30th: [Memorial Day Parade & Program \(Mandt Center\)](#)

JUNE

- June 6th: [Monthly Auxiliary Meeting @ 6:00pm](#)
- June 6th: [D-Day Invasion \(1944\)](#)
- June 8th: [Sons of the American Legion Monthly Mtg. 7:00pm](#)
- June 11th: [6th Annual SAVMP Freedom Ride](#)
- June 13th: [Monthly Legion Meeting @ 7:00pm](#)
- June 14th: [Flag Day](#)
- June 14th: [U.S. Army Established \(1775\)](#)
- June 19th: [Fathers' Day](#)
- June 19th: [Legion Monthly Breakfast 7:30-11:30am](#)
- June 25th: [Korean War Began \(1950\)](#)

JULY

- July 2nd: [US Army Corps Established \(1926\)](#)
- July 4th: [Independence Day \(1776\)](#)
- July 11th: [Monthly Legion Meeting @ 7:00pm](#)
- July 13th: [Sons of the American Legion Monthly Mtg. 7:00pm](#)
- July 17th: [Legion Monthly Breakfast 7:30-11:30am](#)

MEAT RAFFLE

EVERY SATURDAY @ 2:00pm

Any events that are listed here for Post 59 are subject to change. Please check our website @ www.post59.us or our Facebook page @ www.facebook.com/post59stoughton for any changes to the events listed.

"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.

Syttende Mai Parade Sunday, May 15th

Meet at Mandt Park by 1:00 p.m. The Veteran's Float parks on South Fourth Street

Memorial Day Parade Monday, May 30th

Beginning at 10:00 am on S. Prairie and West Main St. Shuttle available from the Mandt Center to parade line-up for [parade participants beginning 9:15.](#)

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

Memorial Day Program Monday, May 30th

Immediately Following the Parade @ 11:00 a.m. at Mandt Center Rain or Shine

Program is open to the public

2022 Syttende Mai and Memorial Day Schedule

Help needed for Syttende Mai

Saturday, May 14th- Decorate float at VFW at 9:00am

Help needed- Cemetery Flags Placement

Thursday, May 26th @ 8:00am- Meet at Riverside Cemetery to put out flags. (Rain Date: Friday, May 27th @ 8:00am)

Thursday, June 2nd @ 8:00am- Meet at Riverside Cemetery to remove flags. (Rain Date: Friday, June 3rd @ 8:00am)

Set up for the Memorial Day Program at the Mandt Center

Saturday, May 28th @ 9:00am

After the Memorial Day Program, help is needed at the Mandt Center to take down chairs and at the VFW to disassemble the float.

Thank you in advance for your help.

The Memorial Day Committee



**Sons of the American
Legion Report**

Squadron 59



Happy Spring! As the cold weather slowly changes and warms our bones, and thoughts of outdoor activities begin to fill our calendars. We can't help but think of the people who make our lives better. One such couple will be honored at this year's Syttende Mai celebration by taking their place in Stoughton's long list of Norwegian Constitution Day royalty. Donna and Roger Strandlie are this year's Queen and King. I'm not totally familiar with how a couple is chosen to be honored in such a way. However, during the time I've been lucky enough to know them I've been totally amazed by the hard work, dedication, and love that they show towards the city of Stoughton, the Veteran community in general, and the American Legion in particular. Donna and Roger are always there when needed and have passed that trait along to their family as well. Congratulations to you both, enjoy the recognition. And if hard work, love, and dedication are not part of the criteria of being chosen, it should be. I'm reminded of another couple that shared a lot of the same ideals and I'm sure that Sonny and Linda are waiting to welcome you to the royal family.

Speaking of Sonny and Linda, they will be enjoying a mid-May Brewers game in Milwaukee against Atlanta. The tickets were a gift to Sonny upon his retirement as Commander of Post 59 and were provided by Sons of the American Legion Squadron 59, and the Auxiliary. There is also a Brewers bus trip for Post 59 family members being planned for this summer. Details to be released soon.

Of course, none of this can be truly appreciated without honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Stoughton will be having the Memorial Day parade on Monday May 30 with a service to follow at the Mandt Center and a luncheon following the service at the VFW.

Bob Hocking
Commander- SAL Squadron 59

Hall Rentals

For More Information, please contact
Sherry Leick @

post59hallrental@gmail.com

or go to our website @

[Post 59-Otis Sampson American Legion
Stoughton/Hall Rental Information](#)



**Post 59
Service Officer Report**



Post 59 Service Officer Updates

Plans are continuing for a second co-sponsored (Legion Post 59 and VFW Post 328) spring Veterans Town Hall Meeting to be held at the VFW Post here in Stoughton. Our event will bring in area representatives to share information on their programs and services. More information will be provided once details have been finalized. I would like to introduce the following two excellent veteran resources.

1 - The Wisconsin Department of Veteran Affairs (WDVA) is a state operated agency dedicate to assisting and providing programs and services for veterans and their families. The agency can assist with many services including:

Specialized Program/Services: Women Veterans, Military service records and medals, discharge upgrades, veteran's driver's license identifier and license plates, Incarcerated Veterans, Veteran's Courts, Veterans Outreach and Recovery Program (VORP).

Housing: Skilled Nursing and Assisted Living Facilities, Resident Veterans Housing and Recovery Program (Homelessness), Temporary Housing for Veterans and Families (SSVF).

Education: Wisconsin G.I. Bill, Troops to Teachers, Vet-Ed reimbursement grant, Law Enforcement, VA Vocational Rehabilitation Program.

Employment: Retraining services, apprenticeship programs, Entrepreneurship, Hiring of Disabled Veterans, Transportation/CDL, VET2RN, Employer certification of Vet/Disabled Veteran Business, Business Employment Grant for hiring disabled veteran, VA Vocation Rehabilitation Program.

Miscellaneous Benefit Assistance: Federal Benefits and Claims Assistance, Military Funeral Honors, Veteran Cemetery Placement, assistance for needy veterans, State Park and Trails, Disabled Hunting and Fishing License, 100% Disabled Property Tax Credit.

You may contact WDVA by calling 1-800-947-8387 or by going to their benefits web site at wisvets.com

2- The Department of Wisconsin American Legion Service Office. This office Team is headed up by James Fialkowski and is located at the Milwaukee VA Regional Office.

This office will provide free services to the veteran and/or their family assisting with compensation, pension, appeals, education, vocational rehabilitation, home loan guarantee and death benefits. Additionally, they will assist with obtaining records, awards and decorations, discharge upgrades and answer questions of general nature pertaining to veteran's programs. They will work with County Veteran's Service Officers to process your claims and represent you at Regional Office and Board of Veteran's Appeals Travel Board hearings.

You may contact the WI American Legion Service Office by calling 414-902-5722.

If I can be of assistance or point you in the right direction, please feel free to contact me at my email tqmgr@yahoo.com or for more dire needs by phone at 608-335-1771.

Mike Ayers
Post 59 Service Officer

CHAPLAINS' CORNER

Lord Jesus Christ, who are called the Prince of Peace, who are yourself our peace and reconciliation, who so often said, "Peace to you," grant us peace. Make all men and women witnesses of truth, justice, and brotherly love. Banish from their hearts whatever might endanger peace. Enlighten our rulers that they may guarantee and defend the great gift of peace. May all peoples of the earth become as brothers and sisters. May longed-for peace blossom forth and reign always over us all.

We also pray for all our service men and women as they guard this nation of ours. Keep them in your care and return them safely home to us.

Amen

*Ed Nowicki
Post 59 Chaplain*

2022 HONOR GUARD RECAP

It was a busy year for the Honor Guard. We provided military rites for 37 veteran funerals. In addition, we did a flag ceremony at the Kettle Park retirement community, honoring their resident veterans, including our own esteemed HG comrade, Archie Christensen. We conducted a Memorial Day program at our Veterans Military Park and raised the flags at the Dane County Fair for Hometown Heroes Day. We did a very nice flag ceremony at the Stoughton Home Talent championship baseball game, which they won. We also participated in a Veterans Day program at Fox Prairie Elementary School.

On a sad note, one funeral was for our own HG comrade Cliff Maerz. Cliff was one of the best. We all miss him. The Honor Guard exists to serve our community by being at our very best for every function that requests our services. It's our way of giving back to the community for the support our Post receives.

If you think you might like to join us, give me a no obligation call. It is a definite commitment, but very fulfilling.

Al Vick 873-3481

ATTENTION PLEASE!

Want to be part of something special?

Want to honor Veterans and their families?

Post 59 is looking for members interested in becoming active Honor Guard members.

Please contact:

Al Vick at 608-873-3481

Or

Michael Currie at 608-712-6747.



The Stoughton Girl Scouts staffed a successful Auxiliary Breakfast on April 10th. The Auxiliary donates the profits to the Girl Scouts & their Badger Girls State program.



To Subscribe to an Email (PDF) version of The Legion Post

Visit:

www.post59.us/the-legion-post

and fill out the form.

From the Editor:

As some of you know, it takes a lot of volunteers to put together this newsletter. My name may be listed as editor, but I would like to recognize the people behind the scenes.

First off, if you've spent any time at the Legion, you've seen these two. They are tireless volunteers who give not only their time to the Legion, but many other organizations as well. Mike and Pam Griggs have spent many hours perfecting and teaching the process of assembling and preparing the newsletter for mailing.

Before my time as editor, Tim Carter and Cliff Maerz were monthly editors of the Legion newsletter. Tim Carter and Cliff Maerz along with Cliff's wife, Patty, also helped with the monthly mailing process. Sadly, Cliff passed away in September of 2021.

April Vingum also needs to be recognized for stepping up as editor in 2018 until January 2020 when I couldn't during that time.

After I complete this quarterly newsletter, I then send it to Inkworks for printing. Dennis Kittleson and his staff has always done an excellent job for us. From the printer it is then picked up, and prepared for mailing by these group of volunteers:

Sherry Leick, Cathy Rigdon, Linda Swangstu, Veryl Pernot, Jean Haase, Anna Paul, Lisa Olson, and on occasion our previous commander, Sonny Swangstu, and our current commander, Michael Currie, will help when needed.

Thank you to all these volunteers!

Dean Stenjem

Legion Post 59 Newsletter Editor

Membership News

I hope everyone stayed safe since our last newsletter. I recently turned in a membership transmittal that had thirteen members on it. Memberships have picked up recently.

That transmittal finally put us over 300 members renewed.

We currently have 301 out of 374 for 80.5%. We should be over 95% by now.

I am still holding 55 membership cards for the members who have not renewed their dues as of yet.

Some people may have lost track of if they have paid or not. So, I will send a postcard to every member that still owes dues. If you get this postcard, please send the post \$40 immediately. The address of the post will be on the postcard.

I want to make you aware that I will be resigning as your membership chairman. It has been a pleasure serving all of you over the years. Lately, I have been cutting back on my responsibilities at the post due to my PTSD.

I have applied for a veteran's PTSD service dog from Custom Canines. They do wonderful work supplying veterans in need with a dog. Please consider them at donation time. My dog and I will eventually retire to the woods of north Central Wisconsin.

In closing, if you receive a postcard in the mail in the next couple of weeks, please send the post \$40 right away.

Remember, you can always pay on-line at www.wilegion.org.

Click on "renew on-line," enter your name and ID#, and pay with a MasterCard or Visa. It's as easy as 1-2-3.

Submitted by:

Bob Lloyd

Membership Chairman-retired.

AMERICAN LEGION BAR

<https://www.post59.us/the-legion-bar>

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(Monday & Tuesday CLOSED)

- Wednesday: 3:00pm – 10:00pm
- Thursday: 3:00pm – 10:00pm
- Friday: 3:00pm - 10:00pm
- Saturday: 12:00 - 10:00pm
- Sunday: 12:00-6:00pm

ATTENTION PLEASE!

Next Quarters Newsletter article deadline is:

JULY 15th, 2022.




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Randy Robertson

Finance Officer

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Historian

Steve Grady

Adjutant

Joshua Holt

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Doug Nelson (In Honor)

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Edward Nowicki

2021-2022

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Anna Paul

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Lisa Olson

Dawn Clark

2021-2022

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Dan Blomgren

**Otis Sampson American
Legion Post 59**



Editor: Dean Stenjem
59legionpost@gmail.com

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DEADLINES FOR QUARTERLY ARTICLES
October 15th (Nov, Dec, Jan Newsletter)
January 15th (Feb, Mar, Apr Newsletter)
April 15th (May, June, July Newsletter)
July 15th (Aug, Sept, Oct Newsletter)