



THE LEGION POST

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



VOLUME 14 ISSUE 3

MARCH 2012

Commander's Report

2011-2012 OFFICERS

- Commander**
Sonny Swangstu
- 1st Vice Commander**
Steve Grady
- 2nd Vice Commander**
Larry Ambrose
- 3rd Vice Commander**

Service Officer

- Dan Call
- Sgt. at Arms**
Ken Schieldt
- Finance Officer**

- Jim Oler
- Historian**
Odean Teigen
- Adjutant**
Dennis Rodenkirch
- Judge Advocate**
Terry McCardle
- Chaplain**
Monte Whitford



Greetings,

I am starting my article with regard to the addition project. Everything was on an even keel until the problem of the furnace came up. It seems the furnace we received from Pete Gunderson (Gunderson Funeral Home) was determined not to be a good fit for our needs. As a result, we had to spend a lot more money than planned. This put us over our budget. Thanks to Steve Grady who had a solution for this and that is why the fund-raising raffle came about. The Post owes Steve a HUGE THANK YOU! We ended up with close to \$10,000. Thank you everyone who bought tickets as well as the people who donated extra. It is very, very much appreciated!!!!

Summary of donations received for addition:

- \$1,000 Pat Nowlin
- \$1,000 Honor Guard
- 2 donations @ \$200 each
- \$225 – Mike Swatek– donated back raffle winnings
- \$125 – Tammy Audron – donated back raffle winnings

In the mean while, our project has been sitting dormant because there are some members in the Post objecting to spending the raffle money for finishing the project (for which it was intended). Some members think the raffle money is supposed to go back into the Money Market. What do they think the purpose of the raffle was for? I guess I'll let it ride and let someone else come up with a way to finish it. I thought I was handling the situation OK, but I guess I have not.

Another problem is out there! Seems we have a thief within the Post. We are missing booze from the cabinet and someone has helped themselves to a 10# Prime Rib right out of the freezer. It had only been there for a couple of days. How sad to steal from such a great organization as we have! Whoever is the culprit should be very ashamed! We certainly have too many keys out there and this is not good. Please offer any

suggestions you might have. Do we spend the money to change the locks? What good would that do, plus it is costly.

There are some good things happening at the Post. The Friday Night Fish Fry seems to be doing well. Thanks to cook Mike Dickman for doing such a great job. Our repeat customers keep coming back and along with first timers. Keep up the good work Mike, as well as our helpers and volunteers.

We are looking into details now for a trip to the Mallards game in Madison. If there is an interest please call the Post at 205-9090 or me at 873-9428. I will assume that Saturday or Sunday would be the best for families. They also have early evening games. If you have never been to a Mallards game, they are lots of fun and there is something going on at all times for everyone. Actually, I believe they are much better than a Brewers game for family and price.

Thanks until next month,

Commander Sonny

Auxiliary

President

Linda Swangstu
873-9428

Vice President

Karen Whitford
873-4020

Secretary

Lisa Olson – 873-8924

Treasurer

Lynn Robertson
873-4889

Chaplain

Marlene Bierman
873-7397

Sgt. at Arms

Mary Copley
873-5804

Historian

Kathy Teigen
873-7518

Membership

Lisa Olson – 873-8924

Junior Leader

Jona Chat – 622-4574

Auxiliary News



Hello,

The planning activities are in full action at the Auxiliary. The meetings of the minds have been plotting. What can we do this year to keep things interesting, fun, and creative for fund-raising? Well, we are going to try a "SOUP'S ON" fund-raiser, consisting of homemade chili and chicken noodle soup, grilled cheese sandwiches, breads, dessert, milk, or coffee. The date is March 10 from 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm. Besides our Legion Vidalia Onion sale, we are planning another garage sale during the weekend of City-wide sales in June. So, clean out your closets, basements, garages, etc. and donate your items for the sale. More details later on.

Thank you to the people who came and helped clean the Post on our designated cleaning day. We tried to do the most important things with the amount of time and volunteers we had. If anyone has an idea how we can do this more often and get more people involved, it would not be such a task when we do it twice a year. Please suggest. Maybe we should set up some teams

for certain jobs throughout the year. With the amount of people we have as members of our Post families, we should be able to get more people involved. I guess I preach the same old story every month, but some of us are getting burnt out.

We are sending five girls to Badger Girls State again this year. How wonderful, since we have some regular donors again for two girls. They are the Lioness Club and also Elnora Johnson. Thank you so much for your generosity! This great program teaches the fundamentals of government and the opportunities out there for getting involved.

Remember, if you have some volunteer hours for last year between April 1, 2011 and March 31, 2012, please report them to me. My e-mail address is hemi-rt@charter.net. My article last month was cut off, so I am not sure if everyone understood. Please call me if you have questions on whether any volunteering you have done might be service or field related and what it means.

Thanks to our weekly cleaners for your help in keeping our Post looking nice and inviting!

Linda Swangstu
Auxiliary President

CALENDER OF EVENTS

- February 25 - Country Storm – 8:00 pm-Midnight
- February 28 - Legion Dinner – 6:30 pm
- March 10- Soups On – 4:00 pm-7:00 pm
- March 17- Corned Beef & Cabbage dinner – 4:00 pm -7:00 pm
- March 18 - Legion Breakfast – 7:00 am
- March 27 - Legion Dinner – 6:30 pm
- Badger Honor Flight - April 21
- Badger Honor Flight - May 19

Event Pricing

Post Dinner: 6:30 pm \$11.00

Breakfast: 7:00-11:30 am
\$7.00 adults, \$4.00 children

CHAPLAINS CORNER

A Letter from Jesus

How are you? I had to send a note to tell you how much I love and care about you. I saw you yesterday as you were talking with your friends. I waited all day hoping you would want to talk to me also. As evening grew near, I gave you a sunset to close your day and a cool breeze to rest you—and I waited. You never came. Oh, yes, it hurt me, but I still love you because I am your friend.

I saw you fall asleep last night and longed to touch your brow, so I spilled moonlight upon your pillow and face. Again I waited, wanting to rush down so we could talk. I have so many gifts for you! You awakened late and rushed off to work. My tears were in the rain.

Today you looked so sad and so all alone. It makes my heart ache because I understand. My friends let me down and hurt me many times, too, but I love you. Oh if you would only listen to me. I love you! I try to tell you in the blue sky and in the quiet green grass. I whisper it in the leaves on the trees and breathe it in the colors of flowers. I shout it to you in the mountain and perfume the air with natural scents. My love for you is deeper than the ocean and bigger than the biggest want or need in your head. Oh!, if only you knew how much I want to walk and talk with you. We could spend an eternity together in Heaven.

I know how hard it is on earth, I really know!, and want to help you. My Father is that way you know. Just call me—ask me—talk with me! Oh, please don't forget me. It is your decision. I have chosen you and because of this, I will wait—because I love you!!!

If you know of anyone who is hospitalized, or in need please contact Monte at 873-4020.

AMERICAN LEGION JUNIOR NEWS

The Juniors have been busy! In December we held a bake and craft sale. The girls baked for the sale at Jona Chat's home and had lots of fun in the making.

The January meeting consisted of making Valentine cards for the Skaalen Home and Nazareth House veterans.

The girls want to go on two special field trips this summer: Noah's Ark and Circus World. We will need drivers and supervisors. If anyone is interested in helping out, please contact me.

The project they are now working on is a Patriotic Quilt. The girls are busy cutting out the squares. This will teach them some great sewing pointers and as they mature it may be an inspiration to join a quilt sewing group too.

Anja Nygaard has turned in her Youth Hero and Good Deed Award Nomination form. All nominations will be reviewed by the C&Y National Chairman and awards will be distributed at her discretion.

The Juniors will also be participating in an essay contest "What it means to be Patriotic." This is an opportunity for cash awards.

It is soon time to select Poppy Princess's and get ready for our Syttende Mai parade.

Jona Chat
American Legion Junior Leader
622-4574



VIDALIA ONION TIME

The third annual Post 59 Vidalia onion fund-raiser kicked off on February 7. Orders can be placed with a committee member or at the lounge at 803 N. Page. Orders need to be placed by April 1 and the onions will arrive from Georgia in early May. Cost is \$10 for a 10# bag and \$6 for a 5# bag.

Proceeds from the past two fund-raisers have been distributed as follows:

Purchase chairs for the Legion dining hall	\$2,000
Set aside for Legion parking lot improvements	\$2,500
Stoughton Seniors in Need	\$1,000
Veterans Hospital in Madison	\$ 750
Camp American Legion	\$ 250

Bud Erickson
Chairman, Vidalia Onion Committee

DuWayne Elery Teigen

DuWayne was born on February 17, 1935 in Stoughton, WI. He received his early education in various Stoughton schools graduating in 1952. He lived at 106 Chicago St in Stoughton when he joined the National Guard in April 1953 at the age of 18. He knew he would be drafted in the near future, so he decided to join the Guard after some encouragement from his brothers. He was interested in becoming a paratrooper because he had become thoroughly fascinated by the thrilling experiences of the paratroopers after viewing the National Anthem story on TV depicting paratroopers jumping out of airplanes. Therefore, he made the decision to become a paratrooper. While in the National Guard, he went on active duty in February 1955. He was sent to Fort Leonardwood, MO for eight weeks of basic training. After training, he was shipped to Fort Campbell, KY for another eight weeks of training. After this second eight-week training period of boot camp, he was sent into jump school. This was a three-week training drill where he had to make five jumps—one a night jump. Five jumps were necessary to receive his “Jump Wings.”

Then DuWayne was placed in a mortar squad which was a four-man team that operated an eighty-one mortar gun. In July 1955, the four-man mortar squads participated in long runs, enduring *very hot* temperatures. Guys were passing out and some could not tolerate the terrible treatment. Much harassment took place, weeding out those who could not withstand the torture. He was determined to continue on and “hang in there” as he didn’t want to deal with all the harassment that took place.

In December 1955, he was assigned to a troop ship that went to Germany while still in the mortar outfit. The troop ship, a liberty ship, the USS *General Rose*, sailed to Germany and was the first airborne unit to return to Europe since WWII. General Rose was a general under General Paton and coincidentally was the same ship that DuWayne returned to the United States after spending 26 months in Germany.



In summer 1956, a conflict broke out between Israel and Egypt. Because of this alert, planes were all loaded to help. A very memorable experience took place as a practice jump was ordered while waiting for word to fly to Israel. An AC-19 flying box car took off for this practice jump. After only 500 feet in the air, one engine exploded. Black smoke came out of the plane. They weren’t high enough to jump. There were 42 jumpers—21 guys on each side plus the pilot and co-pilot. Since they weren’t high enough to jump, they just had to pray that the pilot would be able to somehow save the crew. With skill, the pilot was able to hold the bad side of the plane up in the air and was able to bring all the troopers in safely—a narrow escape. Many were worried that this was the end of all on board. Everyone was thrilled and they clapped and thanked the pilot

numerous times. What a great pilot!

Because of these alerts with Israel and Egypt, DuWayne’s leave was cancelled. He was supposed to be able to go home and be married. The following January 1957, his wife to be, Marilyn flew over to Germany and they were married by the Army chaplain in Munich, Germany at a Warner Kacern. Marilyn stayed in Germany and lived off post where she remained for almost a year and then returned to the states without him because she couldn’t travel with the troop ship. During the summer, while still living in Germany, they had the opportunity to do some traveling. They drove through Denmark in his Porsche and took a ferry to Norway and visited relatives in Oslo and other places in Norway. They drove above the Arctic Circle to visit relatives and saw large herds of reindeer—even Rudolph!! They also saw many Laplander natives. By way of a ferry, they traveled to Sweden and then back through Denmark to Germany. They did all of this on DuWayne’s two-week leave.

While in Germany, DuWayne’s outfit spent much time on guard duty along the Czech border, patrolling all over in convoys on alerts. Temperatures were very cold—20 degrees much of the time. The only heat they had was in the mess hall. DuWayne was thankful that he had grown up on a farm in Wisconsin where he had adapted to **COLD** temperatures.

In January 1958, DuWayne left Germany on a troop ship sailing to the United States. While we were crossing the North Atlantic the ocean was very rough. We were in a nasty storm and the ship rolled side to side. We could hear that the propellers were out of the water and everything was thrown about. Many soldiers fell down and were hurt, many were very seasick. The old Statue of Liberty looked pretty good after being away for 26 months. He was discharged at Fort Hamilton, NY. He had to pick up his car, a Porsche, at Brooklyn Naval Yard, NY. He drove home in a terrible snow storm on the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Sometimes wonders how he had made it home without an accident.

Stoughton looked pretty darn inviting after all this while. His job at the Janesville Chevrolet Plant was waiting for him when he returned. His sonority continued from the time he had enlisted. He was quite fortunate as jobs weren’t that plentiful at that time.

He and Marilyn have three sons: Randy, Brian and Nolan; and one daughter, Lori. They also have nine grandchildren.

MEDALS & AWARDS

Overseas Medal	Meritorious Service
Unit Citation	Good Conduct Medal
National Defense Medal	Paratroopers Wings
Firing Expert Badge (Rifle)	

DuWayne’s highest rank was Sgt. 1st Class and ended as a Platoon Sgt. He made a total of 23 parachute jumps during his three years of enlistment serving in the 11th Airborne Division 503rd RCT.

DuWayne is now retired and a life member of VFW Post 328 and a member of the American Legion and its Honor Guard. He states that it feels good to have served his country. He had many experiences and has many good memories and proud to have served. He was a paratrooper in the United States Army. *(The United States Army Paratrooper has added luster to proud and honored traditions of the American fighting man. His heroic exploits during WWII and Korea are listed among the greats feats of American arms, and have earned him the respect and admiration of soldiers everywhere.)*

Submitted by Evelyn Kahl

MEMBERSHIP

To date we stand at 348 members. We are in need of two more to make our 100%.

In order to do this, if you see any of our members below, ask them to please send in their renewal payment for the 2012 membership. If they have any questions, have them contact me.

STEPHAN BURCHELL
DON DARGEL
JAMES DUCY
JOHN EUGSTER
LOREN FARR
CURTIS GUNDERSON
HUBERR HANSEN
MICHAEL HANSEN
DAVID JACKSON
DAVID JONES
JAY JULSON
BRIAN KACHLIC
KEVIN LEWIS
JAMES E MILLER
DAVID NATYSIN
DANIO PATRINOS
ROBERT ROWLANDS
ARLOW SCHEDEL

Dennis Rodenkirch
608-438-8768



A big shout-out to the Navy League of the US Madison Council for donating \$50 to the Honor Guard.

Master Chief Denny Behr (ret)

A *Big Thank You* to all those who sold tickets for our building fund raffle and to those who bought them. It was a great success! A *special Thank You* goes out to Steve Grady for all the work he put into this, and to Pat Nowlin, the Honor Guard, Bob and Mary Bennett, and to John and Gwen Haugen for their generous donations.

Winners of the raffle drawing were:

- 1st Fred Juve
- 2nd Paul Nelson
- 3rd John Olson
- 4th Mike Swatek
- 5th Tammy Anderson

Congratulations to all and a *Big and Special Thank You* goes out to Mike and Debbie Swatek and Tammy Anderson for being, not only winners, but for their generosity in donating their winnings back to the Post for our building fund. This is greatly appreciated by one and all!

Jim Oler
Finance Officer

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\$6.50 per person, 4 and under, free

Saturday, March 10, 2012

4:00 pm to 7:00 pm



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Saturday, March 17, 2012

4:00 pm – 7:00 pm



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION fund-raiser

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Stay & enjoy the Wide Open Band from 8:00 pm to closing



Mary Lloyd



for



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District Adjutant (current)

County Commander (current) and 3rd Vice Commander Positions

Post Commander, 1st 2nd 3rd Vice Commander Positions, and Membership Team Member (current)

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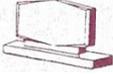


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February 28, 6:30 PM

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VISIT THE POST WEBSITE AT POST59.ORG Post e-mail [AmericanLegionPost59@ TDS.net](mailto:AmericanLegionPost59@TDS.net)
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