



THE LEGION POST



OTIS SAMPSON POST 59 STOUGHTON WI

POST WEBSITE: POST59.ORG

POST PHONE 608-205-9090

MAY 2011

VOLUME 13 ISSUE 5

Commanders Report

2009-2010 OFFICERS

Post Commander

Sonny Swangstu

1st Vice Commander

Mike Griggs

2nd Vice

Commander

Richard (Reb) Breyman

3rd Vice Commander

Wendell Ott

Adjutant

Dennis Rodenkirch

Finance

Don Helmke

Chaplain

Monte Whitford

873-4020

Historian

Odean Teigen

Sgt at Arms

Ken Schieldt

Service Officer

Bob Lloyd

Judge Advocate

Terry McArdle



Greetings,

Spring has sprung, I hope. We now have horse shoe pits, so if you want to come down to the Post and horse around you sure are welcome. It is fun to enjoy outdoor activities after being cooped up all winter. We are going to have two horse shoe teams in the Thursday evening league. This should help increase our bar business.

Thanks to the city street department as we received several loads of ground up black top for our Post parking lot. We leveled and filled the pot holes. When you see any of the street department boys, tell them thanks as they saved us a lot of green backs.

At the last executive meeting on April 6,

the committee increased our budget of \$17,000 to \$25,000 for an addition to the building pending Post approval at the next regular meeting. As has been discussed in the past needed storage is a must. The kitchen expansion is to accommodate room for a walk in cooler (which we purchased from a state auction) with the help of the SAL (Son's of the American Legion), and possibly the Auxiliary. We are in the process of having plans drawn for approval at this time. Hopefully something can be done this summer.

We had a busy weekend at the Post both April 8th & 9th. Fish fry Friday night, meat raffle, graduation party and steak fry plus music on Sat. Bar business is great and all these functions help the Post and bar keep going and pays the bills. We must not forget all the hard work of volunteers and I cannot stress this too much! I know all of you enjoy coming to eat and coming to the different functions that are going on. If the Post doesn't have volunteers, it would have to close and we don't want that to happen after all our hard work of

getting it to where it is now. So again, I am asking for your volunteer support. It doesn't have to be only a few hours a month and we could divide up the needed help so that no one gets burned out and I believe some of us are getting to that point. So, I am asking don't wait until it is too late to come forward.

Don't forget **Post election is coming up on June 13 @ 7:00** and we need some interested candidates. Get involved and think of what a wonderful rewarding organization the American Legion is and can be to each and every one of you who participate and are members. Remember our country is great and we are privileged to be able to help support our veterans for they are the ones who gave us our freedom.

Thank you,
Commander Sonny

Auxiliary News



Hello,

Hope this finds everyone healthy and over their winter colds. You snow birds – WELCOME BACK!

We had a wonderful American Legion Birthday potluck at our Post. Lots of good food and a basket raffle plus 50/50 raffle. Also, very information meetings as well. There are many friendly people in our Dane County units.

The onions sales are still coming in and we have ordered extra. We are hoping for good weather in Georgia in hopes they come before our busy Syttende Mai weekend.

April is Children & Youth Month. It is up to the Auxiliary to guide them and include them in our projects and make them feel involved and explain the importance of our programs. They also can have good ideas and great enthusiasm. They will be our followers in the future. I believe we maybe can get them to help us distribute poppies after school and on Saturday if needed. Let's continue asking them to help with breakfasts and please

help me with some other suggestion where we can make them feel needed and have fun also.

Keep the food items coming for our Food Pantry Drive. I have taken 2 totes full so far to the pantry. Thank you for your support.

Auxiliary Spring Conference is coming up at Monticello High School on April 30. This is fairly close to home so I hope we can good attendance for this one.

The Auxiliary and the Funeral Committee has helped with the purchase of our 2 new outdoor gas grills. They sure produced excellent steaks for the past Saturday night Steak Fry. Watch the newspaper for the fish boil coming up May 14 at our Post.

Thank you to all the ladies for coming to the fluff and stuff poppy evening. Special thanks for Betty Neath for taking the remainder home and finishing the big job. I owe an apology to Lisa Olson, she is a good sport! Also, thank you cleaning crew! You are much appreciated!

Auxiliary

President

Linda Swanstu

1st Vice President

Lisa Olson

Secretary

Lynn Robertson

Treasurer

Rita Sperry

Chaplain

Marlene Bierman

Sgt at Arms

Mary Copley

CALENDER OF EVENTS

APRIL 2011

Apr-26 Post dinner 6:30 pm

Apr-28 Dane county meeting @ Post
481 Westport

Apr-30 3rd District Spring meeting in
Monticello Post 256 @ 8:00 am

MAY 2011

May 9th POST MEETING

May 14th Fish Boil
4:00 pm to 7:00 pm

May-14 Music by the Northern Lights from
8:00 pm to 12:00 pm

May-24 Post Dinner 6:30 pm

CHAPLAINS CORNER

A mom was concerned about her kindergartner son walking to school. He didn't want his mother to walk with him. She wanted to give him the feeling that he had some independence but yet know that he was safe.

So she had an idea of how to handle it. She asked a neighbor if she would please follow him to school in the mornings, staying at a distance, so he probably wouldn't notice her.

She said that since she was up early with her toddler anyway, it would be a good way for them to get some exercise as well, so she agreed.

The next school day, the neighbor and her little girl set out following behind Timmy as he walked to school with another neighbor girl he knew. She did this for the whole week.

As the two walked and chatted, kicking stones and twigs, Timmy's little friend noticed the same lady was following them as she seemed to do every day all week. Finally she said to Timmy, "Have you noticed that lady following us to school all week? Do you know her?"

Timmy nonchalantly replied, "yeah, I know who she is."

The little girl said, "Well who is she?"

"That's just Shirley Goodnest, Timmy replied, and her daughter, Marcy."

"Shirley Goodnest? Who the heck is she and why is she following us?"

"Well, Timmy explained, every night my Mom makes me say the 23rd Psalm with my prayers, "cuz she worries about me so much. And in the Psalm, it says, Shirley Goodnest and Marcy shall follow me all the days of my life, so I guess I'll just have to get used to it!"

CASINO TRIP

I am trying to schedule a trip to Potawatomi Bingo Casino in Milwaukee on June 20, 2011. We will be picked up at 9:00 AM at the Post- back approx. 6:00 PM. The cost is \$25 per person. The trip includes round trip deluxe coach, gaming and bingo action, \$5 cash coupon (when you earn 25 slot points) and "All you can eat" buffet making your net cost FREE. In addition everyone in the group will have the option of playing a 3 hr session of Matinee Bingo beginning @ 1:00 PM. We need at least 40 passengers to go but the bus holds 55 people, so we can have a full bus also. Come along and bring a friend and enjoy a fun trip.

Call the Post for reservations @ 205-9090 or Sonny @ 873-9428.

Prepay is a must to Sonny or the Post.

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

National Commander Incentive Pin Award

Congratulations to three legionaries from our post who have received the National Commander Incentive Pin Award. They each have signed up at least two new members and helped renew 5 of our current members. As we all know membership is the backbone of our post and they have each gone the extra mile to ensure our post stays among the best in the state.

Archie Christensen
Bob Lloyd
Mary Lloyd

Thanks,
Dennis Rodenkirch
Membership Chairman

LEGION HALL AVAILIABLE FOR RENTALS

The word is getting out regarding our hall rental. We are open for funeral luncheons, birthday parties, wedding receptions, family and class reunions, holiday parties, and anniversaries. We do have a portable dance floor as well. Book your dates now before our calendar gets full. We have a wonderful kitchen and bar. We can hold approximately 150 people in our dining area. For more information, contact **Linda Swangstu** at **608-873-9428** or **608-577-7428**.

Swangstu at **608-873-9428** or **608-577-7428**.

PICK AND SAVE ADVANTAGE CARD

There have been some questions about the transfer of the American Legion account number from the old card to the new Roundy's Reward card. When you get your new (Black Card) it might be advisable to check at the service desk and confirm that our account number has been transferred to the new card. The account number for the legion is 026625. This will insure that 1% of your purchases will be credited to the legion.

If you are not already a participant in this plan, please sign up. Just go to the service desk and show them your card. The legion appreciates your help and it doesn't cost you anything. Remember our account number is 026625.

STOUGHTON FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

A NEW AUXILIARY Community Service Project

Beginning this month the Auxiliary will start collecting for the Stoughton Food Pantry. We will have a collection container at the Post and welcome all donations. The pantry is fully funded by donations. No tax dollars are used to purchase supplies. The need this year is greater than ever before. Just since February the number of people using the Food Panty in Stoughton has almost doubled!

All non-perishable food items are needed, however there are some items that the Food Pantry does not purchase and are very much needed. They are the following: toilet paper, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and shaving cream, bar soap. Also: Hamburger Helper, rice mixes, Sloppy Joe mix, pasta, taco kits, cake and cookie mixes, oatmeal and cereal.

So please help us to help those in our own community who are in need by bringing in a few items each time you come to the Post for a dinner, a breakfast, a meeting or a drink in the lounge. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Olson at 873-8924 or Linda Swangstu at 873-9428.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Membership Report

As of April 5, we stand at 340 or 98% have renewed their dues. In order for our post to reach 100% we need 7 new members by end of May. We all need to reach out to all our veteran friends and neighbors and ask them to join. Once you explain all the positive things our post does most veterans join.

We have 4 new members so say hi to them when you see them.

- Patrick O'Connor
- David Slater
- Merrill Colby
- LaVerne Christianson

Any questions contact,
Dennis Rodenkirch
608-438-8768
rc0295@yahoo.com



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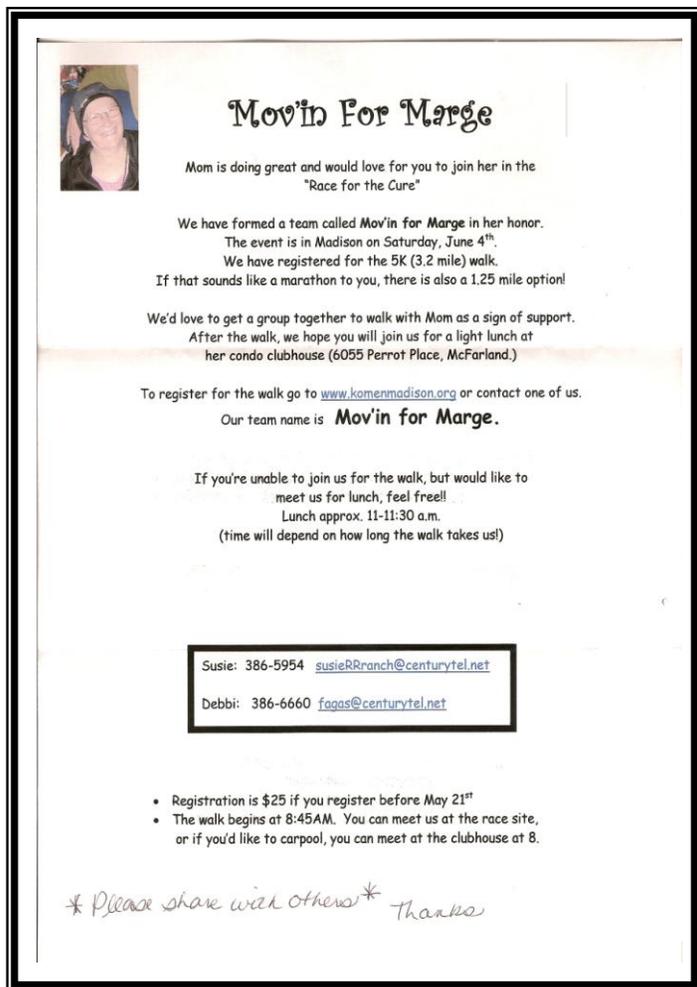
HAMBERGERS

MOZZARELLA STICKS



There will be no fish fry on Friday 5/13/11.

Please join us on Saturday 5/14/11 for our fish boil.



Mov'in For Marge

Mom is doing great and would love for you to join her in the "Race for the Cure"

We have formed a team called **Mov'in for Marge** in her honor. The event is in Madison on Saturday, June 4th. We have registered for the 5K (3.2 mile) walk. If that sounds like a marathon to you, there is also a 1.25 mile option!

We'd love to get a group together to walk with Mom as a sign of support. After the walk, we hope you will join us for a light lunch at her condo clubhouse (6055 Perrot Place, McFarland.)

To register for the walk go to www.komenmadison.org or contact one of us. Our team name is **Mov'in for Marge**.

If you're unable to join us for the walk, but would like to meet us for lunch, feel free! Lunch approx. 11-11:30 a.m. (time will depend on how long the walk takes us!)

Susie: 386-5954 susieRRranch@centurytel.net
 Debbi: 386-6660 fagas@centurytel.net

- Registration is \$25 if you register before May 21st
- The walk begins at 8:45AM. You can meet us at the race site, or if you'd like to carpool, you can meet at the clubhouse at 8.

** Please share with others* Thanks*

Please support the Legacy Scholarship Fund Sweepstakes

The Legion Riders of District 3 are holding their 4th annual sweepstakes to benefit the Legacy Scholarship Fund. As you may know, the Legacy Scholarship Fund provides college scholarships for children who have had a parent killed in the war on terror since September 11, 2001. The Legion Riders have taken the lead in fundraising for this scholarship fund.

Last year Wisconsin raised over \$18,000 which was included in the more than \$600,000 total collected. This year our aim is to do better than that.

As of January 2011, thousands of families with children have lost a parent since September 2001. This has resulted in over 10,000 children 18 years and younger who, as an unfortunate consequence, are in a single-parent family.

Conservative estimates are that costs will increase 5% per year. That means that in 16 years the most affordable college education will be \$105,800!

The mission of this scholarship is to ensure that higher education will be a reality for these families!

The prizes are 1st-\$1,000, 2nd-\$500, 3rd-\$250, 4th-\$100, 5th through 7th-\$50 each. The drawing will be held on Saturday, September 10 at noon at the American Legion Post 59.

The tickets are \$5 each, 6 for \$20 or 12 for \$25. We are encouraging all Post, Auxiliary, and SAL members to purchase tickets to help support the Legacy Scholarship Fund.

If you would like to help the Legion Riders help the children of America's fallen warriors by purchasing tickets or selling tickets to your friends, family, and co-workers, please contact Bob Lloyd at 608-873-5926 or lloyd2364@sbcglobal.net.

In 2011, our goal is to raise over \$450,000 nationwide. We are asking Wisconsin American Legion Family members to rally together to support this most worthy fund.

Thank you.

Bob Lloyd
 State President
 American Legion Riders Assoc. of WI

AMERICAN LEGION FUND RAISING

The Legion is going to have a book sale. Please bring any books you don't want down to the Legion and leave them in the meeting room in the container marked BOOKS. All money raised will go to the Legion.



The reason I am running for Commander of Post 59 is I feel I have not completed all the things I hope to accomplish for the Post. I have done a lot and there is still a lot to do. I don't need to write a brag letter to be convincing. All one needs to do is look around the Post and see the many improvements that are done under my guidance. I would like to continue as your Commander with your support.

Vote June 13 at our Post meeting @ 7:00.

Post Elections

Per our By-Laws:

A Nominations Committee shall be formed at the May meeting and shall meet on or before the June meeting of the post, and shall report its findings at that meeting. Nominations may also be made from the floor at the June meeting.

The annual elections shall be held at the regular June meeting, and all the elected and appointed officers shall be installed at the June meeting.

Dennis Rodenkirch
American Legion Post 59
608-438-8768



Post 59 Commander

Biography: 18 years in the American Legion Post 59, 2 yrs. Post Finance Officer, 4 yrs. Post Service Officer, instrumental in sending out over 500 care packages to troops, held many Post and committee leadership positions, ie: 2006 State Convention Corporation Secretary, Building Committee Chairman, Fundraising Committee, several years on the Memorial Day Committee, as well as the Post Executive Committee.

Held lead positions on the 2005 Tornado Benefit Committee and the Ash Guiles Benefit Committee being the Master of Ceremonies for both events.

Started the American Legion Riders chapter in District 3. 2yrs. as the District 3 American Legion Riders Vice President, 2yrs. as the American Legion Riders District 3 President, 2yrs as the American Legion Riders State President. Through these leadership positions I have learned to run effective and informative meetings.

Have attended all Post, County, District, and State meetings, conferences and conventions for the last five years.

Goals: I need to be clear on one issue from the beginning of this adventure. I am not running for Post Commander to get that darn Sonny out-a-there. Sonny is a good man and I respect him.

I am running for commander for more personal reasons. I feel I am ready personally to step up and do the job. I would be honored to lead Post 59 into a difficult future. I know with my experience in the American Legion that I have the leadership skills, event planning skills, and management skills to be a great benefit to our Post.

Years ago, Post 59 was the crown jewel of the Wisconsin American Legion. With being homeless for 5 years to buying a building to getting it up and operational, I feel we have lost our focus on the programs and issues of the American Legion. My goal is to get us on the road, and improve the overall communication back to crown jewel status by improving the Post's knowledge of the American Legion and it's programs, improve the Post officers knowledge of their respective positions to the Post membership.

My motto is and has always been- Information is the key to organization.

All of us working together is essential for our success.

There is no such thing as too much information. Too little information can severely limit our success. I will improve that!

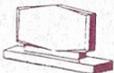
Please support your Post's younger, knowledgeable and talented members. Come down to the Post election meeting on Monday, June 13, 2011 at 7:00 pm and:

Vote Bob Lloyd Post Commander

THE LEGION POST

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