

THE LEGION POST

OTIS SAMPSON POST 59 803 North Page Street - STOUGHTON, WI

PH: 608.205.9090

Post 59 Website: www.post59.us

WINTER 2023



2023-2024

POST 59 OFFICERS

Commander

Michael Currie

1st Vice Commander

Rodger Hansen

2nd Vice Commander

Mike Ayers

3rd Vice Commander

Ken Schieldt

Service Officer

John Solis

Sgt. At Arms

Iim Schiferl

Finance Officer

Jim Oler

Historian

Al Vick

Adjutant

Joshua Holt

Judge Advocate

Tom Jenny

Chaplain

Edward Nowicki

Membership

Mike Ayers

FROM THE COMMANDER'S DESK



Hello Everyone,

The warmer months have now passed and the cool and cold winter months are ahead. The Post was very busy during the summer and fall months with many events and a lot of musical events (Thank you Larry Johnson for the music). We had a few special events at our Tiki bar which were quite successful and we have now closed the Tiki bar for the season and will reopen sometime spring of 2024.

We started up our monthly members dinner in September with our ever favorite Swiss Steak dinner. At each dinner the Auxiliary Patriotic Stitchers present two Post members with beautiful quilts of honor. The November and December holidays fall about the same time as our monthly dinners, so as usual we will not have the monthly dinners for those two months. We will begin the dinners again starting on the 23rd of January. We do have a sign-up sheet in the bar for you to sign up, this is important because it helps us know how many dinners to prepare.

The Post will have number of bands playing during the next few months. Starting in December, we will have Universal Sound playing at our Ugly Christmas Sweater event on Saturday December 2nd from 7 to 10. Bryan Piper will be playing on Friday December 8th, Country Renegade Band December 16th and Dean's Blues Country on December 29th all from 7 to 10. Don't forget the monthly Country Music Jams every 4th Sunday.

Other events coming up that we will be hosting are the annual Army/Navy Football game and fundraiser for the Madison Navy League, The SAL Toys for Tots and Breakfast with Santa will be on Sunday December 10th.

January will start out with a bang with our annual New Years Eve party with Bad Habit Band playing through the evening. Check our events calendar or social media pages for more events in January.

If you have or know someone who is deployed or on active-duty Larry Johnson is sending out Christmas packages again this year. Larry will need to have names and addresses no later than Saturday November 25th, you can text Larry at 608-513-8218.

As a reminder to those members who have not renewed your 2024 American Legion membership please do so by December 31st we would like to be at 100%. If you have any questions or need help in renewing you may contact our Post Membership Chairman Mike Ayers. His contact information is in this newsletter.

In closing I want to thank all our American Legion family members, volunteers and patrons for your continued support of our Post. It allows us to continue our mission to the Stoughton area veterans and community.

Happy Holidays and a Happy and Healthy New Year to you all!

Commander Michael

Chili Feed Fundraiser

The second annual chili feed fundraiser was held at the VFW on November 7. It was well attended by the Stoughton Community. The event was sponsored by the Stoughton Area Veterans Memorial Steering Committee to provide funds for the ongoing maintenance of the Veterans Memorial, and this years event attracted more than double last years attendance.

In addition, the Bonnie Basket Raffle, put together by Bonnie Kennedy, generated more than \$1000. VFW & American Legion Auxiliary members, along with Bud Erickson sold more than \$670 worth of tickets leading up to the event. Bud also contributed another \$57 with the sale of his flowered plants. The Post 59 Auxiliary donated the basket. The winner of the basket was Sue Maerz. Thanks to all who contributed, and especially Kendall Gulseth of the Koffee Kup Restaurant for his contribution of chili.

Hope to see you at next year's event on November 5, 2024

PATRIOTIC STITCHERS



Dennis Behr & Quilter: Pat Broadbent



Lowell Jacobson & Quilter: Sandy Vike





Mike Gerard & Quilter: Teresa Vike-Kelly

Jack Lyon & Quilter: Lori Moe-Kittelson



FREE CHRISTMAS DINNER

December 25th

VFW Hall, 200 Veterans Road (Hwy N) Stoughton, WI.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Dine-In 11:00am – 1:00pm Deliveries will start at 10:00am

If you need a ride (handicap accessible van) or if you want a meal delivered, **please RSVP** to indicate which option works for you!

Call (608) 873-8585 by December 21st

Leave: Your Name, Address, Phone Number
How many dinners you need
How many passengers need a ride
(Rides and delivery limited to Stoughton School District area)

HOSTED BY: American Legion Post 59, VFW Post 328, their Auxiliaries, SAL Sqdn. 59 and Volunteers

THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

We gather this day in your Name, mindful of the seasons of our lives and of our organization, mindful of the passing of time and of the shortness of time in which to plant the seeds and harvest the fruit of your Kingdom. Be with us this day. Heighten our awareness of the abundance of gifts and opportunities you have given us to carry out your healing work in this world. Strengthen our commitment to take the fullest advantage of the precious but ever fleeting time you have given us so that the harvest of our lives and that of our organization will be abundant. We ask this in faith. - Amen.

Ed Nowicki – Chaplain



Post 59 Veterans Service Officer Report

I want to take this opportunity to encourage fellow Post 59 members who receive care through the VA Healthcare System to participate in the MVP program. The program provides VA with needed data to see health issue trends sooner than later.

<u>VA's Million Veteran Program (MVP)</u> is a national research program looking at how genes, lifestyle, military experiences, and exposures affect health and wellness in Veterans.

Since launching in 2011, under 990,000 Veterans have joined MVP. It's the largest research effort at VA to improve health care for Veterans and one of the largest research programs in the world studying genes and health. To learn more or join, visit **mvp.va.gov** today.

Have questions? Visit the <u>Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)</u> section of MVP Online to search or browse common questions about the program, participation, privacy, and more. The MVP program office can be reached by sending an email to <u>MVPPO@va.gov</u>.

Interested in MVP research? Visit our <u>research page</u> to learn more about new findings from the MVP cohort and how VA investigators and other approved partners can apply for access to MVP data.

Contact MVP

For additional information, call the **MVP Info Center** toll-free at **1-866-441-6075** (Monday - Friday; 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. ET).

Have questions? Send us an email at askmvp@va.gov.

Sign up to receive our MVP Insider newsletter and learn about the latest news and discoveries.

Note: The Million Veteran Program will **never** ask for your financial, credit, or bank account information or ask you for money. If you think you have been contacted as part of a scam, you can visit the <u>Federal</u> <u>Trade Commission (FTC)</u> website for information about how to report the scam.

John Solis ~ Post 59 Service Officer



Sons of the American Legion Report Squadron 59



2023-2024

Squadron 59 SAL OFFICERS

Commander

Bob Hocking

1st Vice Commander

Bob Crofoot

2nd Vice Commander

Dan Blomgren

Sgt. At Arms

Greg Clark

Finance Officer

Jim Oler

Adjutant

Brian Vogt

Historian

Roger Strandlie

Chaplain

Brian Vogt

Welcome to our quarterly Newsletter and welcome to Bob Crofoot who has taken on the responsibility of putting everything together and getting the newsletter out to the members of the American Legion Family. Having known Bob for at least a couple of decades, Bob is a member of The Sons of the American Legion and I'm sure Bob will do an excellent job. Thank you Bob and best of luck in your new position.

Veterans Day took on a different look this year as the flags from the "Raise the Flag" program here in Stoughton were generously offered up this year for a beautiful display at the Stoughton Area Veterans Memorial Park. Honoring our military veterans of the United States Armed Forces. The park was decorated with more than 300 flags mounted on poles. Thank you to all involved in the effort to create the display and thank you to all the service men and women who served and made it possible for us all to live in a country where our freedom is guaranteed and protected by our members of the military and the veterans who served with and before them.

The SAL will be hosting this year's Breakfast with Santa on Sunday December 10th from 7:30 to 11:30 am. Great food, a balloon twister artist, and of course an opportunity for a one on one with the "Big Guy" are all on the docket. There will also be a wonderful basket raffle with a minimum of three separate prizes.

Lastly, the Amish Candy fundraiser featuring the delicious Cashew Crunch, Chocolate covered Cashew Crunch, and Scrunch is off to a strong start. At \$11.00 for a 1-pound bag there's no better Christmas present anywhere for our loved ones with a sweet tooth.

Bob Hocking SAL Squadron 59 Commander



Commander Michael receiving Membership Citation at 3rd District Fall Conference From Department Commander & Vice Commander



Post Member - David Aide Received "Quilt of Valor" at the October Post Dinner





AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 59

Greetings All

fall activities!

2023-2024

UNIT 59 AUXILIARY OFFICERS

President

Amy Hermes

Vice President

Dawn Clark

Secretary

Kate Schieldt

Treasurer

Lisa Olson

Chaplain

Anna Paul

Membership

Lisa Olson

"The measure of who we are is what we do with what we have."-Vince Lombardi

If you know me, you know football is one of my favorite things about fall. Although our

Badgers and Packers have had their struggles this season, our Stoughton High School Vikings

had a fantastic season! The start of the holiday season, packed full of our memories and

traditions, is also a time to show gratitude to others who may not be as fortunate as ourselves.

With that being said, the ALA has been very busy giving to others and planning for a variety of

- Lisa Olson, Bonnie Kennedy, Anna Paul and Sharon Mason-Boersma represented the
 ALA at the START event in October where we were recognized as Bronze Members for our
 \$1000 donation. Additionally, our members gathered Birthday Party supplies to donate to
 START.
 - At our October meeting, we welcomed Sharon Hoff, the founder of Shield of Sisters (SOS), who spoke to us about their work in helping ease the trauma of military sexual assault through supporting victims at various retreats.
- In October, we participated along with members of the Post at a Trunk or Treat event for our Stoughton youth. It was a great opportunity for us to be visible in the community.
- At our November meeting, we welcomed Cindy McGlynn, chair of the Housing Advocacy Team of Stoughton (HATS). She spoke to us regarding the needs of our homeless Stoughton community members.
- On November 12, in honor of Veterans Day, we will be joining forces with other District ALA members and sign Christmas cards for our veterans in VA facilities.
- In December, we will be donating over \$3,600 from our Poppy Funds to various veteran programs.

Upcoming Events to Watch for:

- The Giving Tree-December
- Quarter Auction March
- Senior Prom-April 13
- Kentucky Derby Party-May 4
- Joint Event with VFW & Legion Auxiliaries-Pie Auction-TBD

Thank you to all our great volunteers for without your help and support we would not be able to do all the things we do!

amy termes

In friendship & fellowship,

Legion Membership News

Legion Membership News -80% and climbing for our Post 2024 Membership.

Currently we have 226 renewed and 20 new members to date.

Since our last newsletter we welcome the following new Legionnaires to our post.

Jodie Barnett – USN, James Barnett – USN, August Dexter – USMC, Robert Grady – USN, Claude Gunderson – USA, Carey Hensel – USN, Christopher Molitor – USA, Richard Nodolf – USA, Robert Olson – USN, Amanda Peterson – USA, Daryl Peterson – USMC/USA, Tracy Peterson – USA and John Shipley - USA

On behalf of Commander Michael Currie and myself we thank you for your continued and new support and membership with American Legion Post #59. Take pride in knowing you belong to a membership strong and reputable post in Wisconsin providing community services and support for local veterans and their families.

If you have not done so yet we encourage members to get your 2024 membership renewals submitted either by mailing in your dues notice with your check for \$40.00 to the address shown on the front page of this newsletter or online at www.legion.com. If you lost, cannot locate, or never received your notice simply send in your check made out to AL Post 59 and we will take care of the rest. ***In the near future we will also be sending out reminders encouraging your continued membership support by either phone, email and/or letter so please do not consider this as spam but a friendly reminder.

As we continue to promote ways and means to expand our interactions with area veterans and those serving on active duty, we encourage you to reach out to those you may know and sponsor and/or encourage them in becoming a member of the Post 59 family. Legion Membership not only makes a great gift for veterans but those future veterans serving on active duty. Membership will provide them with National and Local information and news regarding veteran services, benefits and activities through the American Legion National Magazine and Local Post Newsletters.

Not only do we recognize our new and continued members for Post 59 but take a moment to recognize and honor those that Post 59 have lost during 2023.



Allan Eggleson (10/26/23) Korea – USA, (60 years Membership)
Stanley Lund (08/17/23) Korea – USAF
Jerry Green (07/12/23) Vietnam - USAF
Leo Ambrose (04/29/23) Vietnam – Army National Guard
Timothy Henning (01/27/2023) Vietnam – USMC
William Hye (11/21/23) Korea – USA

Thank you for your continued support and service to our country and the American Legion.

Michael L. Ayers – Post 59 2nd Vice Commander and Membership Chair PH: (608) 335-1771 Email: tqmgr@yahoo.com

THIS IS WHAT WE DO



Pictured: Jim Oler, Michael Currie, Brian Vogt, Cathy Rigdon, Sonny Swangstu & Dave Melton

The members of the three "family" units (Post, Auxiliary & SAL) jointly purchased a van last August from Melton Motors to help with the transportation needs of the Ukrainian families here in Stoughton.

Stoughton Resettlement co-director Kay Weeden gratefully accepted the donation, which she said will be a community vehicle able to be used by several families.

TRUNK OR TREAT!



Thanks to: Ken Schieldt, Sonny Swangstu, Mike Griggs, Sally Schieldt, Kelly Schieldt, Dawn Clark & Lisa Olson.

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AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Our 2024 Membership Renewal is going strong! Thank you to all our members who have renewed. We have 173 members now and 150 have paid. Department set our 100% goal for 2024 at 147 paid members. We are now over our goal at 102%!!

This fall we welcomed eight new members: Estelle Dobeck, Linda Egleston, Mary Haley, Sherrie Hensel, Nancee Linnerud, Leah Olson and Amanda Weisensel & Fran Burns. Thank you to our members who invited them to join. Anyone who recruits a new Auxiliary member will receive a Poppy Pin this year. "Poppy Up for a Veteran" is the new membership theme in Wisconsin. Ten members have already received their Poppy pin. Who will be next?

On a sadder note, we recently lost two of our long-time members, Doris Helmke and Pam Griggs. Doris was a member for 25 years. Pam was a 21 year member and long-time volunteer. We appreciate their many years of membership and service.

If you have not renewed your membership yet, please remember you can now also pay your dues by credit or debit card. Just call National @ 317-569-4570 (Monday-Friday 7:00 am to 3:30 pm). It's very fast and easy! Renewal notices were sent out in September and again in October.

Thank you to Jan Rasmussen who has volunteered to send out our Welcome Packets to new members. That has been a big task in the last few years! If you have an interest in helping with membership, please let me know.

Lisa Olson Auxiliary Membership Chair 608-279-4847 waucoman@hotmail.com https://www.amlegionauxwi.org



News from Stoughton Veterans Memorial Park

Each year just prior to Memorial Day and Veterans Day the names of Honorably Discharged Veterans are added to the granite walls at the Veterans Memorial. These names consist of veterans who have recently moved to Stoughton or may have been missed earlier. If you are either of these, or if you know of a deserving veteran, please contact Roger Kleven or Basil Sadler, who are about to step aside from their duties. These two have done a yeoman's job collecting and verifying names of Stoughton-area veterans to be placed on the black granite walls. Therefore, we are looking for a person or team to assume this task. If you can help us out, please contact Randy Robertson at (608)764-5881 or tshirt.guy@gmail.com.

-Bud Erickson







Post 59 Calendar of Events

DECEMBER 2023

Dec. 2nd: Ugly Sweater Contest 5:00 PM - Universal Sound 7-10

Dec. 4th: Monthly Auxiliary Meeting @ 5:30 PM

Dec. 8th: Bryan Piper 7-10 Dec. 9th: Army-Navy Game 1:00 PM

Dec. 10th: Breakfast With Santa 7:30-11:39

Dec. 11th: No Post Legion Meeting in December

Dec. 13th: SAL Monthly Meeting @ 7:00 PM

Dec. 16th: Country Renegade Band 7-10pm

Dec. 22nd: Blue Moon Karaoke 7-11pm

Dec. 29th: Deans Blues Country 7-10

Dec. 31st: Bad Habit Band 8:30-12:30

JANUARY 2024

No Auxiliary Meeting Jan.

Jan. 8th: American Legion Monthly Meeting @ 7:00pm

Jan. 10th: SAL Monthly Meeting @ 7:00pm

Jan. 13th: Jackie Marie & The Dance Hall Kings 7-10pm

Jan. 21st: Monthly Legion Breakfast – 7:30-11:30am

Jan. 23rd: Monthly Post Dinner @ 6:00pm

Jan. 28th: Country Jam With Mickey Fuss 2-6pm

FEBRUARY 2024

Feb. 3rd: Universal Sound 7-10pm

Feb. 5th: Monthly Auxiliary Meeting @ 5:30pm

Feb. 10th: Bad Habit Band 7-10pm

Feb. 12th: American Legion Monthly Meeting @ 7:00pm

Feb. 14th: SAL Monthly Meeting @ 7:00pm

Feb. 18th: Monthly Legion Breakfast – 7:30-11:30am

Jan. 25th: Country Jam With Mickey Fuss 2-6pm

Feb. 27th: Monthly Post Dinner @ 6:00pm

Contact Information for Post 59

Post 59 Email: alpost59@gmail.com

Michael Currie - Commander

PH: (608) 712-6747

Email: Michaelcurrie@charter.net

Mike Ayers - Membership chair

PH: (608) 335-1771

Email: tqmgr@yahoo.com

Jim Oler - Finance Officer

PH: (608) 347-4407

Email: oller8888@gmail.com

John Solis - Service Officer

PH: (608) 213-6241

Email: solosolis@gmail.com

Amy Hermes - ALA President

PH: (608) 516-8720

Email: AHermes@stoughtonhealth.com

Bob Hocking - SAL Commander

PH: (608) 206-6980

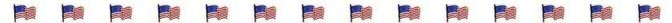
Email: sonsofthelegion59@gmail.com

Email: bobghocking@gmail.com

Bob Crofoot - Editor

Email: 59legionpost@gmail.com

Check Out our Facebook Page for more events and calendar updates



BUSINESSES IN SUPPORT OF OUR POST

Thomas M. Fendrick Financial Advisor

Edward Jones



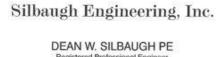
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MEAT RAFFLE EVERY SATURDAY @ 2:00pm

Events 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 above.

Otis Sampson American Legion Post 59







Editor:

Bob Crofoot 59legionpost@gmail.com Website:



Hall Rentals

For More Information, please contact Sherry

Leick @

post59hallrental@gmail.co m OR

go to our website @

Post 59-Otis Sampson American Legion Stoughton/Hall Rental Information

AMERICAN LEGION BAR

803 NORTH PAGE STREET STOUGHTON, WI OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - 608-205-9090

Bar Open to Serve You: Wednesday – Sunday (Monday & Tuesday CLOSED) Wednesday: 3:00pm - 8:00pm Thursday: 3:00pm - 8:00pm

Friday: 3:00pm - 10:00pm Saturday: 12:00am - 12:00pm

Sunday: 12:00-6:00pm