



# THE LEGION POST

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



VOLUME 15 ISSUE 6

JUNE 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



Greetings Fellow Legionaries,  
The crops are being planted and the lawnmowers are buzzing. Hopefully the frosty nights are done until fall. Summer is here and we can look forward to parades, fairs, grilling out, picnics, garage sales, flea markets, and farmers market all around the area.

Thanks to Dennis Rodenkirch for accomplishing over 100% membership again this year. We will be receiving an award at the State

Convention in July. Also, thanks to everyone who helped us get this award. Membership renewals can now be set up for automatic withdrawals starting in July. Contact the Membership Chairman for details. Dennis will be leaving the Post Adjutant position after June and again, we are grateful for the work he has done.

There are still openings for officers for our new year starting in June. I will be running for the Commander position again this calendar year. I would appreciate your support. Voting will be June 10 at our next Post meeting. Please take the time to come and vote for the candidate of

your choice.  
Steve Grady has come up with a great suggestion regarding a Resource Center. This would promote Americanism in our schools and our Post.

We wish to inspire patriotism and good citizenship through patriotic observance: To have a place where students or persons who are interested in the history of American's involvement in wars can come and research it by books, DVDs, or cassettes. A school could request a certain war they would like information on and Post 59

*Commander continued on page 2*

### 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,  
Well I think spring has finally sprung. Now everyone can get out and clean their yards and start their gardens.

Welcome home to all the snow birds: Jack & Marie, Dewayne & Marilyn, Larry & Sharon, and Al & Elvera. It is nice to have you back.

On April 20, Linda Swangstu, Lisa Olson, Mary Curran, Mary & Bob Lloyd, and I attended the District Conference in Darlington. It was a very informative conference. There was a "Parade of Checks" that was collected for a total of \$2,290 that went to homeless women

veterans.  
I want to thank the ladies that help make the lefsa to sell at the May 19 breakfast: Alice Moen, Linda Swangstu, Evelyn Kahl, Amy Hermes, Sharon Silbaugh, Sara Westbury, Ellen Curran, and Rita Sperry. For some of us it was our first time making, so there were a few mistakes at first, so Sonny and Dan got to eat them. It was a fun after noon. We will be selling them for \$5.00 a package.

Memorial Day is soon, so we need help with the Poppy sale, which will be May 23, 24, and 25. There will be two hour shifts, so if you have any free time please call Elvera Phelps: 873-5154; or if you can't get hold of her, you can me: 873-7397. The places will be Pick N Save, the Kwik Trips, Asleson's Hardware, and Walgreens. Take your pick, the shift begin at 6:00 am for Pick N Save & the Kwik Trips. We hope to have all the Poppies gone by Saturday noon, May 25.

*President continued on page 2*

## CALENDER OF EVENTS

- May 18 - Dan Riley – 7:00 – 11:00 pm
- May 19 - Legion Breakfast  
7:00 - 11:00 am
- Memorial Day - May 27
- May 28 - Legion Dinner – 6:30 pm
- June 1 - Blue Moon
- June 14 - Flag Day; Blue Moon karaoke  
8:00 - 11:00 pm
- June 16 - Legion Breakfast  
7:00 - 11:00 am
- June 25 - Legion Dinner – 6:30 pm
- June 29 - Rotation – 8:00 pm - midnight

### Event Pricing

**Post Dinner:** 6:30 pm \$11.00

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

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is:  
What are you doing for others?"  
— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

*If you know of anyone who is hospitalized, or in need, please contact Rich Fries at 608.273.8758.*

### The American's Creed

by William Tyler Page

I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed, a democracy in a republic, a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it, to support its Constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies.

—Written 1917, accepted by the United States House of Representatives on April 3, 1918.

*Commander continued from page 1*

would research it and be prepared to give a talk to the class. When the Resource Center is completed, all schools in our area would be notified of the center and what services we would provide. We would not go into any other town. After material, books, etc are gathered, we will have a better idea on how much space is needed and then decide where to put it. Anyone who has military books, DVDs, or cassettes and would like to donate them to the Post could leave the item(s) any time they stop in. Put your name on the material, so if we did not get enough to do a center the item can be returned. The object of the center is to have the largest Military Resource Center at a Legion Post in our area so we can preserve the heritage of our country. *This is a suggestion and your input is important, so please express your feelings on this matter.*

Thank you to all volunteers.  
Enjoy those Vidalia onions!

Commander Sonny

*President continued from page 1*

We would like to have some of the new members get involved. You can also bring your young daughters or granddaughters. You will see a lot of people.

Here are names of the girls that will be attending Badger Girl State in June in Eau Claire: Emily Peterson, Kimberly Wethal, Cassandra Adams, Emily Koshollek, and Maggie Lessor. Congratulations girls! We hope to have them attend our Auxiliary meeting July 8 to tell us about their experiences.

The raffle that was held at the April breakfast, a Stoughton Gift Certificate, was won by Alice Moen. Congrats Alice.

President Marlene

### Hall Rentals

Call Julie Nygaard at 608.333.9577

### SAL Report

I want to thank everyone who supported the SAL fundraiser for Camp American Legion, Andy Johnson—Big Johnson Entertainment—and the Legion for their donation of a few things. By the time you get the newsletter horse shoes will have already started and Syttende Mai will just be a memory.

Memorial Day weekend is just around the corner. Please take some time to remember what Monday, May 27 is all about. It's not just another day off to BBQ. We are the land of the free because of the brave. Honor our fallen and thank a Vet. Please continue to support the Legion/Auxiliary/SAL and Legion Riders.

Ray Dzieciol  
SAL Commander  
Squadron 59



### Thank You

A great big Thank You to Bud Erickson and his merry band of helpers for another great Vidalia onion sale. Still time to get your salad dressing—cucumber is great—hot sauce and BBQ sauce. Yummy! Help Bud out and get yours today, only \$5.00 per bottle.

Also a shout out goes to Dennis Rodenkirch, Archie Christenson, and Scott Richmond and others that helped for getting the Post to 100% plus membership—the first to do so in the 3<sup>rd</sup> District. Congratulations on a job well done!

Jim Oler  
Finance Officer

### Syttende Mai and Memorial Day Schedules

#### **Syttende Mai**

May 18 - Decorate the float at the VFW  
8:00 am - Bring up chairs  
9:00 am - Start decorating the float

#### **Memorial Day**

May 23 - 9:00 am - Meet at Riverside Cemetery to put out flags

*Rain date:* May 24 - 9:00 am

May 30 - 9:00 am - Meet at Riverside Cemetery to remove flags

*Rain date:* May 31 - 9:00 am

#### **Set up for the Memorial Day program**

May 25 - 9:00 am - Mandt Center for chair and podium set up

May 27 - 7:00 am - VFW to decorate the float for the parade

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

Thank you in advance for your help.

THE MEMORIAL DAY COMMITTEE

### 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. Any 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



### Nominations for Post 59 Officers 2013-2015 Election June 10

Commander: Sonny Swangstu / Dean Silbaugh  
1st Vice Commander: Dean Silbaugh  
2nd Vice Commander: Mary Lloyd / John Christopherson  
3rd Vice Commander: Larry Johnson  
Chaplain: Rich Fries  
Adjutant: DuWayne Stellmacher  
Finance Officer: Jim Oler  
Sgt-at-Arms: Dan Call  
Service Officer: Bob Lloyd  
Historian: Len Swingen  
Judge Advocate: Terru McCardle

#### On-line Membership Renewal

All Legion members may renew their membership on-line through [www.legion.org/renew](http://www.legion.org/renew). Members can renew using a credit card and print a temporary card.

#### Automatic Membership Renewals

Members now have the option of setting their on-line account for annual automatic renewal. Once a member sets their account, their dues will be automatically charged to their debit/credit card on or around July 15 of each new membership year. Just go to [www.legion.org/renew](http://www.legion.org/renew). Click on "Renew Now" and follow the directions. It's fast and easy.

Dennis Rodenkirch  
American Legion Post 59  
608.438.8768



Lefsa makers in the Post galley



Mary Lloyd and River Bluff students during Dane County Youth Government Day - April 16, 2013



Flag Day – June 14

## 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







JOIN US FOR THE  
**STOUGHTON MEMORIAL DAY  
PARADE**

**MONDAY, MAY 27th, 2013 10:00 am**

**Beginning at South Prairie & West Main Street and  
ending at the Mandt Center**

**Memorial Program in the MANDT CENTER  
at 11:00**

Please join us for a **Coffee & Donut** Reception  
following the program at:

**The American Legion Post 59**

803 N. Page St.

Stoughton, WI

*In case of rain the PROGRAM will begin at 11:00 am in the Mandt Center*

***Sponsored by the American Legion Post 59 and VFW Post 328 & Auxiliaries ,  
& Sons of the American Legion (SAL)***

---

## Cemetery Watchman

My friend Kevin and I are volunteers at a National cemetery in Oklahoma and put in a few days a month in a 'slightly larger' uniform.

Today had been a long, long day and I just wanted to get the day over with and go down to Smokey's and have a cold one. Sneaking a look at my watch, I saw the time, 16:55. Five minutes to go before the cemetery gates are closed for the day. Full dress was hot in the August sun Oklahoma summertime was as bad as ever--the heat and humidity at the same level--both too high.

I saw the car pull into the drive, '69 or '70 model Cadillac Deville, looked factory-new. It pulled into the parking lot at a snail's pace. An old woman got out so slow I thought she was paralyzed; she had a cane and a sheaf of flowers--about four or five bunches as best I could tell.

I couldn't help myself. The thought came unwanted, and left a slightly bitter taste: 'She's going to spend an hour, and for this old soldier, my hip hurts like hell and I'm ready to get out of here right now!' But for this day, my duty was to assist anyone coming in.

Kevin would lock the 'In' gate and if I could hurry the old biddy along, we might make it to Smokey's in time. I broke post attention. My hip made gritty noises when I took the first step and the pain went up a notch. I must have made a real military sight: middle-aged man with a small pot gut and half a limp, in marine full-dress uniform, which had lost its razor crease about thirty minutes after I began the watch at the cemetery.

I stopped in front of her, halfway up the walk. She looked up at me with an old woman's squint.

'Ma'am, may I assist you in any way?'

She took long enough to answer.

'Yes, son. Can you carry these flowers? I seem to be moving a tad slow these days.'

'My pleasure, ma'am.' (Well, it wasn't too much of a lie.)

She looked again. 'Marine, where were you stationed?'

'Vietnam, ma'am. Ground-pounder. '69 to '71.'

She looked at me closer. 'Wounded in action, I see. Well done, Marine. I'll be as quick as I can.'

I lied a little bigger: 'No hurry, ma'am.'

She smiled and winked at me. 'Son, I'm 85-years-old and I can tell a lie from a long way off. Let's get this done. Might be the last time I can do this. My name's Joanne Wieserman and I've a few Marines I'd like to see one more time.'

'Yes, ma'am. At your service.'

She headed for the World War I section, stopping at a stone. She picked one of the flower bunches out of my arm and laid it on top of the stone. She murmured something I couldn't quite make out. The name on the marble was Donald S. Davidson, USMC: France 1918.

She turned away and made a straight line for the World War II section, stopping at one stone. I saw a tear slowly tracking its way down her cheek. She put a bunch on a stone; the name was Stephen X. Davidson, USMC, 1943.

She went up the row a ways and laid another bunch on a stone, Stanley J. Wieserman, USMC, 1944.

She paused for a second and more tears flowed. 'Two more, son, and we'll be done'

I almost didn't say anything, but, 'Yes, ma'am. Take your time.'

She looked confused. 'Where's the Vietnam section, son? I seem to have lost my way.'

I pointed with my chin. 'That way ma'am.'

'Oh!' she chuckled quietly. 'Son, me and old age ain't too friendly.'

She headed down the walk I'd pointed at. She stopped at a couple of stones before she found the ones she wanted. She placed a bunch on Larry Wieserman, USMC, 1968, and the last on Darrel Wieserman, USMC, 1970. She stood there and murmured a few words I still couldn't make out and more tears flowed.

'OK, son, I'm finished. Get me back to my car and you can go home.'

'Yes, ma'am. If I may ask, were those your kinfolk?'

She paused. 'Yes, Donald Davidson was my father, Stephen was my uncle, Stanley was my husband, Larry and Darrel were our sons. All killed in action, all Marines.'

She stopped! Whether she had finished, or couldn't finish, I don't know. She made her way to her car, slowly and painfully.

I waited for a polite distance to come between us and then double-timed it over to Kevin, waiting by the car.

'Get to the 'Out' gate quick. I have something I've got to do.'

Kevin started to say something, but saw the look I gave him. He broke the rules to get us there down the service road fast. We beat her. She hadn't made it around the rotunda yet.

'Kevin, stand at attention next to the gatepost. Follow my lead.' I humped it across the drive to the other post. When the Cadillac came pattering around from the hedges and began the short straight traverse to the gate, I called in my best gunny's voice: 'Teheh Hut! Present Haaaarms!'

I have to hand it to Kevin; he never blinked an eye—full dress attention and a salute that would make his DI proud.

She drove through that gate with two old worn-out soldiers giving her a send-off she deserved, for service rendered to her country, and for knowing duty, honor and sacrifice far beyond the realm of most.

I am not sure, but I think I saw a salute returned from that Cadillac.

Instead of 'The End,' just think of 'Taps.'

As a final thought on my part, let me share a favorite prayer: 'Lord, keep our servicemen and women safe, whether they serve at home or overseas. Hold them in your loving hands and protect them as they protect us.'

Let's all keep those currently serving and those who have gone before in our thoughts. They are the reason for the many freedoms we enjoy.

'In God We Trust.'

Sorry about your monitor; it made mine blurry too!

If we ever forget that we're one nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under!

**SENSIBLE COMPUTER SOLUTIONS**

**Eldon L. Anderson**  
1060 West Main St.  
Stoughton, WI 53589  
Phone: (608) 873-5134

Custom Built Computers  
Computer Repair/Tune-ups  
Hardware/Software Upgrades  
House Calls by Appointment

**Microsoft CERTIFIED**

Email: [scs.consulting@charter.net](mailto:scs.consulting@charter.net)  
[www.scsconsultingservice.com](http://www.scsconsultingservice.com)

Local Representative  
Stoughton & Surrounding Area

**Myron Sime**  
Consultant  
Res. (608) 873-9290

**ARCHIE MONUMENTS INC**  
Since 1865

P.O. Box 10  
Watertown, WI 53094

Main Office/Showroom  
2 Miles South of  
Watertown on Hwy. 26  
1-800-242-9519

**GIS Greater Insurance Service**

414 Atlas Avenue  
Madison, WI 53714

**DANIELLE OTT**  
Commercial Sales

Cell: 608-235-0014  
Office: 608-221-3996 Toll Free: 800-747-4472 Fax: 608-221-0484  
E-mail: [danieleleo@greaterinsurance.com](mailto:danieleleo@greaterinsurance.com)

**Stoughton Collision Center**  
140 West Street

call 608.877.1907

For computerized estimates on all makes & models

Jeff Gassen

- ✓ Frame & Unibody Repair
- ✓ Insurance Work
- ✓ Show Quality Paint Jobs
- ✓ Expert Color Matching
- ✓ Fiberglass Repair
- ✓ Glasurit Paint

Thomas M. Fendrick  
Financial Advisor

**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

1609 Hwy 51/138  
Suite 102  
Stoughton, WI 53589  
Bus. 608-873-8502 Fax 877-222-4313  
TF. 888-873-8550  
[www.edwardjones.com](http://www.edwardjones.com)

**Gunderson**  
Funeral and Cremation Care  
*A life celebration center*

Laurie Dybevik – Pre-Planning  
Jodi Corbit, Jim Dupor, Pete Gunderson  
Dale Holzhter, Mike Smits – Funeral Directors  
Paul Selbo, Herb Gundlach  
Larry & Sharon Ambrose – Service Assistants

**CONANT AUTOMOTIVE INC.**  
SERVICE & REPAIR 608-873-8800

1324 Hwy 51-138  
Stoughton, WI 53589  
Phone 608-873-8800  
Fax 608-873-8822  
[www.conantauto.com](http://www.conantauto.com)  
Joe & Erin Conant - Owners

ASE CERTIFIED

**The Koffee Kupp**  
Restaurant LLC

Hours:  
Mon - Sat 5 am - 5 pm  
Sunday 5 am - 2pm  
(608) 873-6717

Smoke Free Environment

Come Join Us for Dinner

VISA MASTERCARD

**NATIONAL MUTUAL BENEFIT**  
A Fraternal Life Insurance Society

6522 Grand Teton Plaza  
P.O. Box 1527  
Madison, WI 53701-1527  
1-800-779-1936  
[www.nmbilfe.org](http://www.nmbilfe.org)

**JULIE F. NYGAARD**  
District Representative

1800 Parmenter Street, Suite 200  
Middleton, WI 53562-3185  
Office (608) 836-1922 • Cell (608) 333-9577  
Fax (608) 883-1922 • [jnygaard@nmbilfe.org](mailto:jnygaard@nmbilfe.org)

Serving Our Members Since 1902

**Rural Mutual Insurance Company**

**Matthew Kripschack**  
CAREER AGENT  
373 W. 6th St. suite A  
Richland Center, WI 53581  
Office: 608-647-2251 • Fax: 608-647-1110  
Cell: 608-512-5766  
[mkripschack@ruralins.com](mailto:mkripschack@ruralins.com)

**True Value.**  
Help Is Just Around The Corner.

**WHERE ALL YOUR RENTAL NEEDS ARE MET**

1415 Hwy. 51-138  
Stoughton, WI 53589  
608-873-3161

Hanson Electronics  
22-C115  
2380 Jackson St.  
Stoughton, WI 53589  
608-877-9548

Hanson Electronics  
22-C403  
613 E. Main St.  
Evansville, WI 53536  
608-882-0680

d-sh NETWORK  
U.S. Cellular AUTHORIZED AGENT

RadioShack.  
A Division of Tandy Corporation

**CRESS FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICE**  
SINCE 1869

[BCress@CressFuneralService.com](mailto:BCress@CressFuneralService.com)

**Friend of the Legion, Sponsor of the Month**

**HOME SavingsBank**  
*There's no bank like Home!*

400 W. Main Street  
Stoughton

Member FDIC  
[home-savings.com](http://home-savings.com) 282.6160

OTIS SAMPSON POST 59  
PO BOX 16  
STOUGHTON WI 53589  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

WISCONSIN AMERICAN  
LEGION PRESS  
ASSOCIATION

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
STOUGHTON WI  
PERMIT NO.9

Ham with all the trimmings  
June 25, 6:30 pm

**DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES THE 8<sup>TH</sup> OF EACH MONTH**  
VISIT THE POST WEBSITE AT [POST59.ORG](http://POST59.ORG) Post e-mail [AmericanLegionPost59@ TDS.net](mailto:AmericanLegionPost59@TDS.net)  
Editors Cliff Maerz and Tim Carter: [C\\_Maerz@msn.com](mailto:C_Maerz@msn.com)