



THE LEGION POST



OTIS SAMPSON POST 59 STOUGHTON WI

POST WEBSITE: POST59.ORG

POST PHONE 608-205-9090

JUNE 2011

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Commanders Report

2009-2010 OFFICERS

Sonny Swangstu

Mike Griggs

Richard (Reb) Breyman

Wendell Ott

Dennis Rodenkirch

Don Helmke

Monte Whitford
873-4020

Odean Teigen

Ken Schieldt

Bob Lloyd

Terry McArdle

Auxiliary

Linda Swanstu

Lisa Olson

Lynn Robertson

Rita Sperry

Marlene Bierman

Mary Copley



Hello Legion Members,

I would like to let the members know of all the donations we have given to our Veterans and our Community over the first eleven months of this Fiscal Year and my 2nd year as Commander. We have donated \$1,306 for Care Pkgs., Vets in need \$1,650, Educational Programs (Badger Boys and Girls and Scholarship Funds \$3,430, Stoughton Food Pantry, Hospital and Youth Center \$350, High School Band \$617 and misc. donations \$851.

Other credits should be given for the Chartering of Post 59 Sons of The American Legion which Dennis Rodenkirch and I started. They are in charge of the Friday Night Fish Fry and other projects which they are pursuing as income producing ventures.

The Post Lounge is doing well and in view of our generosity, their income is very important to the overall operation of the Post. The rental of

the Post facility for funeral luncheons, weddings, etc. has produced income to date of \$1,750 and has been going well. The Post dinners and breakfasts have been well attended and continue profitable.

The Horse Shoe pits are almost completed and the first competitive meet has been held. Bud Erickson's Vidalia project is also a great fundraiser and thank you for all your support again for the 2nd year. The one major project being considered at this time is an addition to the Parking Lot end of the Post building which would house a walk-in cooler, rest rooms and much needed storage. Money for this will come from the General Account. The Executive Committee has ok'd up to \$25,000. This is less than half of the money in the bank, so we are not breaking the bank as some members think.

My opponent Bob Lloyd has listed his accomplishment in his article, so I guess it is only fair that I list mine.

As your Commander for 2 years: These are improvements, purchases, and accomplishments - I did the foot work for our new sign (placed it on a pedestal - so sign changing would be easier than on a pole) - put sign in "Memory of the Buss Family", Supervisor of Construction (remodeling building & searching for used

goods), with my connections to the City (putting recycled blacktop in parking lot - No cost to Post (as we can't afford to do anything else at this point in time), Joined the Honor Guards (felt it was an honor to be part of this group - very gratifying), purchased a projector, screen and smoking tent (proceeds from the sale of a fryer)- No cost to Post, rounded up materials for the Horse Shoe pits, we purchased a used different dishwasher-\$2,668 -to make things easier for the kitchen workers, we purchased a new freezer with the help of the Auxiliary, we purchased a 2nd used freezer - \$800 -(needed for more food storage), we had donations for all new chairs and name plates - \$5,000- did the foot work for shopping around & placing order, display cabinets - Duane Broughton and I built, POW display - Steve Grady and I put the table on wheels so easier to move around as a whole, bar wall lights - donated from my daughter (Lynn Thorson), we purchased a used walk-in-cooler for new addition

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Auxiliary News



Hello Legion Family,

Spring seems to come and go this year. When I get geared up for the warm weather it gets cold again. Oh well, it's better than snow.

Election time is coming up and we have some vacant seats in our Auxiliary. Let's have some members step forward so we can keep our group going.

If a person joins an organization, there is an obligation to give some volunteer hours and support. There are many things to do for both young and older folks if you inquire. Attend a meeting now and then to see what is going on and where you can help. Our meetings are every 2nd Monday night of the month at 7:00. I try to keep them one hour long. It is nice to get new members as they are full of new ideas also. This year we have nine new members added to our Auxiliary.

The Auxiliary has made a donation of \$80 to the King

Veteran's Home for a Father's Day Chicken Dinner. We also made a \$25 donation to the Legacy Scholarship fund this month. The ladies worked at Culvers on May 11 as a fund raiser. We also sent 2 girls to Badger Girls State at \$240 each. Our list goes on and on throughout the year.

Poppy distribution starts on May 26-28th. Please come out and support your veterans and also attend our Memorial Day parade and services on May 30th at Mandt Park. Coffee and donuts will be served at the Legion Post after the services. Let's pray for nice weather. If you would like to help distribute poppies down town please call me (Linda) at 577-7428.

We are still selling the Rada Cutlery. They have outstanding knives, peelers, outdoor knives for Sportsman, useful Utensils for the kitchen, stoneware, soy candles, dips, etc. If you want to look at a catalog, give me a call (Linda - 873-9428.)

Thank you to all the volunteers this past month. Without you, we could not keep going.

Linda Swangstu
President

CALENDER OF EVENTS

May 24 – Post dinner 6:30 pm

May 28 – Country Renegades
7:00 -11:00 pm

June 13 – Voting and installation of new officers 7:00 pm

June 28 – Post dinner 6:30 pm

CHAPLAINS CORNER

Definition of a Friend

- A**-accepts you as you are.
- B**-believes in you.
- C**-calls you just to say hi!
- D**-doesn't give up on you.
- E**-envisions the whole of you even the unfinished parts.
- F**-forgives you.
- G**-gives unconditionally.
- H**-helps you.
- I**-invites you over.
- J**-just to be with you.
- K**-keeps you close at heart.
- L**-loves you for who you are.
- M**-makes a difference in your life.
- N**-never judges.
- O**-offer support.
- P**-picks you up.
- Q**-quiets your fears.
- R**-raises your spirits.
- S**-says nice things about you.
- T**-tells you the truth when you need to hear it.
- U**-understands you.
- V**-values you.
- W**-walks beside you.
- X**-x-plains things you don't understand.
- Y**-yells when you don't listen.
- Z**-zaps you back to reality."

Some people come into our lives and quickly go: others stay awhile make footprints on our hearts and we are never ever the same."-author anonymous

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

Commanders continued from page 1

with the help of Legion members with on- line bidding (\$1,7860) – excellent shape (new would cost \$17,000 (8x20), we have done \$12,500 – **roof repairs**, \$2,500 – **new furnace**, \$1,086 – **new sump pump**.

I may not be the best spokesman when it comes to meetings, but I do believe I get my points across. Sometimes maybe a little bit too harsh and I apologize for that. I guess my bark is maybe worse than my bite! It is hard to please the people all of the time in any organization and this one is not any different, but I try and do my best to keep the Post going. So many Post fold up because they can't support themselves.

As you can see, we have all been busy and all those involved, I would like to thank. My goal as your commander is to help the Veteran programs and support our community. To do this we need the tools to work with. We have all worked hard at the Post and it is beginning to be a great place to come and meet up with friends and exchange ideas and set goals. On June 13th, I would appreciate your vote as Commander for the next year.

P.S Voting on Building Addition

All members should attend the June 13 General Meeting at 7pm to vote on whether to build an addition to our post. The addition will cost around \$25,000 and require lots of volunteer help. The addition will have bathrooms, extra storage and cooler space along with a smoking area.

Post Cards will also be mailed to all members informing them of this meeting. If you need further details on the addition, contact Sonny 873-9428

Thank you,

Sonny Swangstu
Commander

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 eat" buffet make 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.



James Olaf Hanson

Jim, as he is known by many or "Red". When he was a young man, he had red hair and was born on a farm near Deerfield, WI on Aug. 17, 1931. The farm on which Jim was born had a round barn, a memory that stands out in his mind. The barn is no longer there. He was the youngest of four children. Jim graduated from Stoughton High School and shortly thereafter at the age of 19 years, he was drafted into the U.S. Army in April, 1951. He was the youngest of four children.

He received his Basic Training in artillery at Ft. Sill, OK. He received a total of 14 weeks of training, 6 weeks of Basic and 8 weeks of Advanced Training in Artillery. During Basic Training at Ft. Sill, OK while on bibwack duty, Jim had come across a large rock located in a creek bed where he could lean on and rest. While doing this, he fell asleep and it started to pour down rain. Needless to say, Jim was soaking wet in a short time and spent the rest of the night sitting on his helmet and leaning against a tree. This Basic training was rough on a guy!! This camp was all government owned land. During training time, Jim had the opportunity to watch huge herds of buffalo grazing on grounds nearby.

After completing his Basic, he was shipped overseas to Yokohama, Japan which was an old Japanese Naval Base. After leaving San Francisco on the way to Japan, there was a stopover in Hawaii. Jim, along with 3 other guys had a 16 hour pass. He had no money to spend – only enough to pay for a cab down town Honolulu. What a disappointment when they got downtown. There were many open, smelly fish markets! This didn't sit too well with the guys. So instead of going back to the ship, they found a park where they spent some time. Later, they fell asleep in the park and before long they were rudely awakened by the Honolulu Police telling them to get out of the park as there had been a murder there the night before and it was considered dangerous to "hang out" there. They walked back to the ship.

They continued on to Japan, taking them 13 days on sea from San Francisco to Yokohama in a 52,000 ton ship. After arriving in Japan, he received 6 more weeks of Advanced Training in Artillery. He was reassigned as a clerk where he handled 201 files for returning military personnel. He was there for 6 months. While in Japan, Jim met Leo Frye who had lived in the Stoughton Orphanage prior to entering the service and he was just being transferred to another area. As Leo was leaving his bunk in the barracks, Jim moved into Leo's bunk. That was quite a coincidence – One Stoughton guy leaving another from the same town. Jim was still working as a clerk in this second major part of Japan.

One afternoon while still in Japan, Jim was riding on a streetcar which was real crowded, the horn was stuck and honked for quite a distance. Jim moved from his standing position and the horn stopped!! All this while, Jim was standing on the horn button which was unbeknown to him.

Another funny memory which Jim recalls is the ping-pong story. One Sat. evening, he and a friend went to the Service Club to play ping-pong. He used his pass to get the necessary ping-pong equipment. When they had

finished their game, he had left his pass and paddle there. There were no other soldiers waiting to use the table --- but when the next morning came, he was leaving camp to attend church services and realized he did not have his pass. So he went back to the club to get his pass, but the Club was swarming with Military Police. They wanted to see Jim's pass. He told them he did not have one and that he had left it at the Club the night before. The Police could not find it, so they hauled him off to JAIL!!!! He spent ½ a day in jail until he was released to go back to his camp and they issued a new pass. His friend had to go to church alone. Maybe he prayed for Jim!!!! The editor put this little blurb in here.

He also went to a huge Tokyo bathhouse where he received a full treatment of a Japanese Sauna, body rub and a massage by Japanese girls! This was quite a unique experience for Jim "Red"! On one occasion Jim became very ill and he was evacuated to a hospital in a Mash-style helicopter. It took 15 minutes to arrive at the hospital where he spent 3 days recuperating. After being released, it took 5 days to get back to his unit as he had been assigned for a truck in a replacement depot that was going in the direction of Jim's unit. This was a lengthy trip after being released from the hospital. The total of sick experience was 8 days.

He got to see the exciting event when General Van Fleet, commander of the Far East, was being released of his commander ship. "A huge celebration was taking place in his honor". He received a royal send off with flowers, gifts and a band of lively music as he was about to be sent back to the U.S. Jim also has movies of the celebration.

Medals earned during 2 yrs in the Army: Korean Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, United Nations Service Medal, Korean War Service Medal (Awarded on the 50th anniversary of the Korean War).

Jim's highest rank was Corporal. He was discharged on April 11, 1953 from Camp Carson, CO. After discharge Jim came back to the farm and after a short time was hired at the Wilmer Grocery Co. in Madison as a salesman. After a period of time he went to Chambers and Owen in Janesville as a salesman and worked there for 50 years. Upon retirement, he was presented with a brand new Malibu!!!

Jim married Ginny and together they had 5 children. Garry, Lynn, Steve, Scott, and David – and they have "Squirt" their little dog who everyone knows.

He is a little sweetheart, just like Ginny and Jim!!!!

Jim has been a member of the American Legion Post 59 since 1998 and he is a Life member of the VFW Post 328. Jim is very proud to have served his country.

Submitted by Evelyn Kahl



Membership Report

As of May 5, we stand at 342 or 98.5% have renewed their dues. In order for our post to reach 100% we need 5 new members. The post annual dues of \$10 will not be charged to new members who sign up for the 2011 year. That means it will only cost \$25.00 instead of \$35.00 for their 2011 dues. Once you explain all the positive things our post does most veterans join.

Dennis Rodenkirch,
Membership Chairman
608-438-8768

STOUGHTON FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

AUXILIARY Community Service Project

Since last fall the Auxiliary has been collecting for the Stoughton Food Pantry. This is an on-going year-round Auxiliary project, not just a one-time food drive. The collection basket is by the front door. Last month we delivered 29 pounds of food. Thank you to all who have so generously donated. The Stoughton Food Pantry is fully funded by donations and no tax dollars are used to purchase supplies. It is a valuable resource for needy families of our area, and many benefit from your donations.

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

Please help us to continue to help those in our own community who are in need. Bring a few items each time you come to the Post for a dinner, a breakfast or meeting.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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.

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: 3 - 9 PM or later.

3 - 10pm or later

: Noon - 10pm or later.

Noon - 9pm or later.

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Wisconsin Telecommunications Equipment Purchase Program (TEPP) for hearing disabled Veterans

TEPP is a Wisconsin state program that provides free vouchers to residents with hearing loss so they can obtain amplified phones and improve their utilization of basic telephone services. TEPP is administered through the Public Service Commission and funded by a Wisconsin telephone user fee known as the Universal Service Fund. Most people have probably noted the "USF" charge on their phone bill but never knew its purpose. In effect, this is a "pre-paid program" that people are allowed to access if they struggle to communicate on a normal telephone.

The TEPP program will provide free vouchers for telephone equipment given that the following applicant requirements are met:

* Wisconsin residency.

* A voluntary declaration of hearing loss.

* No receipt of TEPP funding within the last three years.

There are no age or income restrictions.

The telephones offered have many features that enable those with a hearing loss to communicate over the phone. These features include hearing aid compatibility, amplified volume, enriched tone controls, extra large numbered keypads, loud ringer volume choices, caller ID enabled, and unique speed-dialing features.

People who apply for the TEPP program can expect to receive their equipment in approximately 4-6 weeks. No additional charges will ever appear on the individuals' phone bill and the amplified phone becomes their property. In several years time, TEPP participants may reapply in order to receive technologically advanced equipment to deal with additional needs.

TEPP provides a very turn-key approach by speaking with the client, taking the application, receiving the voucher, ordering the equipment, and providing any service related matters after the equipment is delivered. Contact for more information.

Paul M. Klocko
ElderCom
3907 Pat St
Weston, WI 54476
715-241-6940 fax 412-202-3786
E-mail: pklocko@dwave.net

LEGION HALL AVAILABLE 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.



Auxiliary ladies are busy fluffing the poppies for Memorial Day distribution.

Ways to Stay Informed

Our post tries to keep our members updated on the different things going to at our post. This is done by the means below. If you haven't tried these or need assistance using them, contact Dennis at 608-438-8768 or email RC0295@yahoo.com

WEBSITE:

Our post has had a website for the past couple of years which has a calendar of events for all reoccurring events. All post activities can be added to the website by contacting Dennis. www.post59.org

FACEBOOK:

Are you on Facebook? Did you know our post is? Anyone who uses Facebook can post an event or topic on our post Facebook page. Our Friend list continues to grow and we would like all activities at our post to be on Facebook.

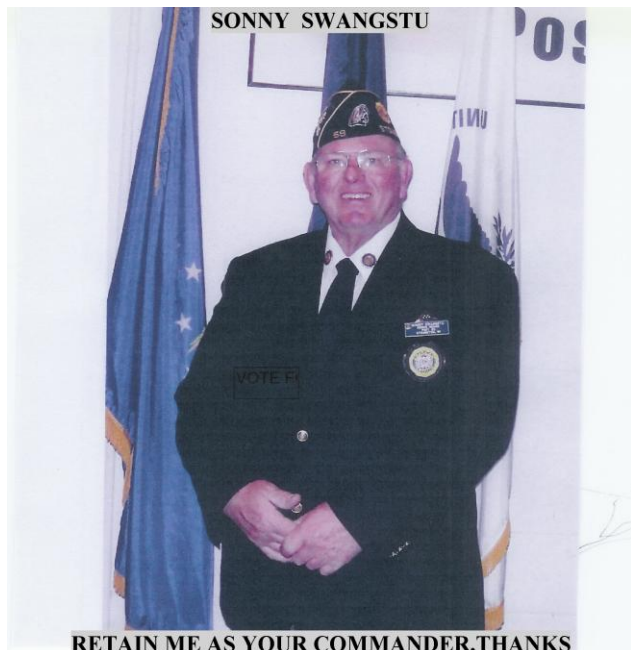
To locate our page, search for Otis on the top of each Facebook page.

E-MAIL:

Our post is gathering e-mail addressees for all members who have them. Collecting them will give the post a way to contact members quickly and save money on postage. We have no plans on stopping mailings at this time.

send your e-mail address to:
RC0295@yahoo.com

Thanks,
Dennis



Bob Lloyd for Post 59 Commander

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

✓ **Open lines of communication**

Between our members, County, District & Department

✓ **Strengthen our commitment to Legion Programs**

The 4 pillars; Americanism, Community & Youth, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, and National Security

✓ **Grow our membership**

Through better communication, commitment to Legion Programs, and mentoring.


Please attend the Post meeting Monday, June 13, 2011 at 7:00 pm and

VOTE for Bob

THE LEGION POST

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SWISS STEAK DINNER
ON MAY 24th 6:30 PM

VISIT THE POST WEBSITE AT POST59.ORG Post e-mail AmericanLegionPost59@TDS.net
Editors Cliff Maerz and Tim Carter: C_Maerz@msn.com
