



THE LEGION POST

Quarterly Newsletter

OTIS SAMPSON POST 59

803 North Page Street - STOUGHTON, WI



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POST PHONE:
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May/June/July 2021

Commander's Report



Greetings All,
Hope everyone has received their Covid shots and are doing well. It has been difficult to know just when to open our Post. We have started out with a limited number of patrons in the bar. We hope to do Celebrations of Life in June if things get better. We also hope to start up the monthly dinners and breakfasts also at that time.

May 17th parade will have a different kind of lineup this year. It will be at Mandt Park with a stationary parade line up. Cars will pass by the stationary floats parked along the route.

The Memorial Day parade is also cancelled. We are going to have a program at the Memorial Park and a Social gathering at Post 59 after the program. Time will be advertised. Please join us for both events and show your support.

With our Lounge painted and Military pictures on the walls it looks very good and bright. **Continued>>>**

We no longer have a smoking room. It will be a mini bar to serve our "Tiki Hut" patrons. Come and enjoy the outdoor seating around our picnic tables. Also, we are putting cabinets in our two pantries and making it one storage pantry to keep things more organized.

The Post is having a Money Raffle on a Donation basis. The tickets will either be enclosed in this newsletter or mailed separately. Give it a try if you would like to be a winner!

June's Post meeting is election night, so if you are interested in running for any position, please notify any Post officer before then.

Thank You,
Commander Sonny

Hall Rentals

As of 10/2/2020, All Hall Rentals have been suspended until further notice. Please continue to check our website: www.post59.us or our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/post59stoughton for more information.

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Memorial Day Flags - If you are able to help:

Thursday May 13 - 8:00 am - Meet at Riverside Cemetery to put out flags
Rain Date: Friday May 14 - 8:00 am

Thursday June 3 - 8:00 am - Meet at Riverside Cemetery to remove flags
Rain date: Friday June 4 - 8:00 am

Legion Membership News

Our membership numbers have not moved much from my last writing.

We have renewed 322 out of 379 members or 86.10%.

We should have been over 90% a long time ago. Mail volume has been down considerably the last couple months. In the last 6 weeks I have received two renewals, one on-line and one by mail.

Not only are the numbers down considerably from what they should be, I noticed that National Headquarters was slow at processing the membership they did get.

During a pandemic that is not surprising. However, it did cause some to receive another membership dues renewal notice after they already paid their dues. Most ignored the second request, but we had some get angry and call or write me regarding the second notice.

Your dues payment could take up to six weeks to reach National Headquarters during the processing of it. So, your payment and that second notice do get crossed in the mail. Expect it. If you are holding your current years membership card, simply ignore future correspondence from them.

Apparently, some members think that if they say "I quit" or "not renewing" they will drop off the membership roster immediately. That is not how it works. You will be carried on our roster for up to 3 years so you will receive other notices from National Headquarters. So, expect future mailings. They don't want members to drop out of their membership because numbers are important when they report to Congress.

I still have 37 membership cards of people who have not renewed their dues as of yet. If all renew, we will have 359 members but well short of last year's total.

Those members not yet renewed will receive a letter from me shortly. If they remain unpaid you will receive a phone call as well.

So please if you have not paid your dues please do so at your earliest convenience.

Remember, you can always pay on-line at www.wilegion.org and click on "renew on-line", enter your name and ID# and pay with a Visa, Mastercard, or Discover card.

Submitted by Bob Lloyd

Post 59 Membership Chairman.

CHAPLAINS' CORNER

On this Memorial Day, we remember the many brave men and women who have given their lives through the history of our country to protect us from danger and harm. We remember all those who sustained injury in mind/and or body in the course of their service. We salute all those who have served in the military. We ask You dear Lord to protect and watch over those men and women who continue to serve our country, in your name we pray.

Amen

Ed Nowicki
Post 59 Chaplain

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Auxiliary News Unit 59



Greetings ~

This will be my last message to you as auxiliary president as my term will come to an end before our next newsletter. Over the past three years, we have had so many successes and accomplishments and for that I am both proud and thankful. To all the members of our auxiliary, *'thank you for all you do to make our unit a success'*! Although we have taken on many new projects and goals, I am leaving with some unfinished projects and to-do list for our next president, Amy Hermes. I look forward to working with Amy as she takes on the new role and brings her ideas and leadership to our unit.

We currently have 144 paid members. The goal set by the department is 153 members, so at this time we have reached 94.1% of the goal.

We have supported the Tomah VA Project by purchasing requested food items for the Tomah VA residents. We were able to coordinate an exchange point to transfer items from our unit to our Dane County President Karen Runk, who in turn delivered the items to Tomah.

We also took on the Purple Up Project. Lisa Olson has added an article to this newsletter describing the project.

Mark your calendars ... on Saturday, May 22nd the Second Chance Animal Advocates (SCAA) will have an Open-Air Flea Market in the legion parking lot. Our auxiliary will have a spot for our bake sale. Please stop by to support this project and the other vendors. Advertising for this event will be in the local newspapers and multiple social media sites.

Our fiscal year came to an end on March 31st. This past year our unit has financially supported community projects by contributing to Stoughton Hospital's Love Light Tree, VFW/Legion/Community dinner and Host A Family. We also supported Veteran's projects by contributing to the VA Tomah LTC Center, Purple Up Project, Post 59 fundraiser, ALA Department Sweepstakes, Stand Down for Homeless Veterans, Stoughton Veteran's Transport Fund, Hawk Jones Family Fund, VA & R Project Support as well as Children & Youth Support.

Several of our members have been working at the legion doing deep cleaning and organizing the kitchen. Some of our other auxiliary members have come back as volunteer bartenders. It is good to see that some parts of our lives are starting to open up. Please continue to do your part to stay safe!

Thanks to all our members for all they do!

Cathy Rigdon



Sons of the American Legion Report

Squadron 59



Hope springs eternal, it's not just a baseball cliché anymore. Those three words from "An Essay on Man" by Alexander Pope have been a longtime staple at the beginning of the baseball season. And while fans always have high hopes for their favorite team, fans of living their lives without the issues or the inconvenience of a pandemic, not to mention the horrific loss of life, are ready to move on and resume some type of normalcy. We are witness to that every day as we see more and more glimpses into our pre pandemic lives. We all hope the seemingly endless Covid 19 will soon be a horrible memory. Please take care, get vaccinated, protect your future, and "GO BREWERS".

Without a great deal to talk about, I'll share the only news that I have and even that is incomplete at this point in time. The SAL is tentatively planning a Brat, Burger and Beer drive through on Saturday or Sunday of Memorial Day weekend. The possibility of allowing dine in options are not clear at the time of this article. We will be confirming our plans soon and notice and more information will be provided on the Legion website and on Facebook.

Bob Hocking

SAL Squadron 59

Commander

AMERICAN LEGION BAR

803 NORTH PAGE STREET – STOUGHTON, WI

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Bar Open to Serve You: Wednesday – Sunday

(Monday & Tuesday CLOSED)

- Wednesday: 3:00pm – 10:00pm
- Thursday: 3:00pm – 10:00pm
- Friday: 3:00pm - 10:00pm
- Saturday: 12:00 - 10:00pm
- Sunday: 12:00-6:00pm

VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

The Stoughton Area Veterans Memorial Park (SAVMP) officially opened on April 15 this year. Since last Memorial Day, the names of twelve more Stoughton area veterans have been added to the black granite walls, bringing the total to 5786. In addition, thirteen pavers have been added and one \$1,000 endowment plaque has been installed. Thirteen new flags are flying; mulching, fertilizing, and trimming have been completed. Visitors are arriving at this internationally known veteran's memorial.

RAISE THE FLAG

Two major fundraising events for the memorial are planned and already in progress. Kicking off these events is the Thrivent sponsored Raise the Flag program, a Stoughton city-wide community effort to raise funds for the ongoing maintenance of the VMP. This unique program will place a beautiful 3 by 5-foot American flag, made in the USA, in the participant's yard five times per year, beginning with the first one on Memorial Day, May 31. The other days are: Flag Day, June 14; Independence Day, July 4; Patriots' Day, September 11; and Veterans Day, November 11. The event, started in 2016 with 175 flags being displayed, has grown to 317 in 2020.

The cost to participate in this program is \$50.00 per year. This show of support from the Stoughton community will honor our nation, those who served, and help keep the Veterans Memorial Park a landmark in Stoughton.

Stoughton area groups place the flags early in the morning and take them down at dusk. If your group would like to help out in this patriotic event, or if you wish to be a Raise the Flag participant or have questions, please contact Tammy Niedfeldt at Thrivent. Tammy's phone number is 608 873 3910--ext 5.

FREEDOM RIDE

The second major fundraising event, is the 5th annual Freedom Ride, scheduled to take place on Saturday, June 11. All vehicles are encouraged to participate--cycles, cars, trucks. The ride begins with the registration at the VFW starting at 9:00 a.m., and with a shot gun start at 10:30. Stops along the route are the Silver Fox in Marshall; the Thirsty Beaver in Beaver Dam; and the NV corners in Bristol. The last stop is the American Legion in Stoughton to be followed by a police escort through town to the VFW at 4:30. At the VFW, a light lunch will be served to all participants and also to anyone else wanting to buy a ticket to support this patriotic event.

According to Dan Gallagher and Rick Gullickson, organizers of this event, "We are doing something different this year to raise money that will all go toward the maintenance of the Veterans Memorial Park. >>>

Significant Dates for this Quarter

May 1st – [Silver Star Service Banner Day](#)

May 7th – [Military Spouse Appreciation Day](#)

May 8th – [VE Day](#)

May 9th – [Mothers' Day](#)

May 15th – [Armed Forces Day](#)

May 15th – [Peace Officers Memorial Day](#)

May 31st – [Memorial Day](#)

June 6th – [D-Day](#)

June 11th – SAVMP Freedom Ride (See Article)

June 12th – [Women Veterans Day](#)

June 14th – [Army Birthday](#)

June 14th – [U.S. Flag Day](#)

June 20th – [Father's Day](#)

June 23rd – [Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday](#)

June 27th – [PTSD Awareness Day](#)

July 4th – [Independence Day](#)

July 27th – [Nat'l Korean War Veterans Armistice Day](#)

July 28th – [Nat'l Buffalo Soldiers Day](#)

July 29th – [Army Chaplain Corps Anniversary](#)

Veterans Memorial Park Cont'd

We are selling raffle tickets to help the cause.". Tickets cost \$20.00 to participate in the ride. All riders, and any others who purchase a raffle ticket, will be eligible for the cash drawings. 1st prize, \$1,000; 2nd prize, \$300; 3rd prize, \$ 200. Winners need not to be present to win.

Ridership in 2016 was 86; in 2019, ridership had grown to 160. (Because of Covid, no ride was held last year). This is a fun event and important for the upkeep of the Veterans Memorial.

For more information, contact Dan at 608 873 5305; Rick at 608 209 7784, or Rob at 608 445 6540.

Although many people think park maintenance consists only of mowing the lawn, many other expenses are involved. These include replacing the 13 flags three time per season, trimming, mulching, fertilizing, watering, utilities, insurance, web site, inscribing names of veterans on the black granite walls, and accounting work.

Interested citizens can donate by participating in the above events or by donating to the memorial at SAVMP, PO BOX 16, STOUGHTON, WI.

Bud Erickson

Purple Up Day Information Link

<https://militarybenefits.info/purple-up-day/>



Junior Members: Amery Drogsvold & Jade Garfoot

Military children face unique challenges and make sacrifices. To recognize this, April is designated as the Month of the Military Child in the ALA.

Purple Up! Day was April 15 this year. To show support for military children and raise awareness about their sacrifices, people wear purple on this special day. Purple symbolizes a combination of the colors of each branch of the U.S. military: Army green, Navy blue, Air Force blue, Marine red, and Coast Guard blue.

As a major supporter and advocate for veterans, the military, and their families for more than a century, the American Legion Auxiliary appreciates and celebrates these children who give up so much as their servicemember parents work to protect and defend America, its people, and its principles.

Our Unit 59 joined together on a project to bring PurpleUp! to Stoughton by making 29 PurpleUp! Activity bags for children ages 5 to 17 years in the Stoughton school district who had parent(s) serving in the military. We divided them into 3 age groups and purchased fun items for them and every child received a Culvers gift card and handwritten thank you card from the Auxiliary. We were also thankful for donations from WPS, the Sun Prairie Auxiliary Unit 333 along with donations from members.



HISTORIANS' CORNER

Steve Grady – Post 59 Historian

STARS & STRIPES

Flag Day commemorates the day when Congress adopted the red, white and blue flag with 13 stars — June 14, 1777. President Harry S. Truman designated that day as National Flag Day in 1949.

Beginning Baltimore

Mary Pickersgill made two flags for Fort McHenry: A huge garrison flag and a smaller storm flag. The largest flag was so big she assembled it on the floor of a Baltimore brewery. The flag was sewed by hand with linen stitching.

The Perilous Fight

The English and French were at war since the early 1800s in Europe. The U.S. was brought into the war when the British refused to stop kidnapping U.S. sailors and forcing them into the British navy. The U.S. declared war on Great Britain in 1812. The British had captured and burned Washington, D.C., then sailed toward Baltimore.

The Battle of Baltimore saw the British bombard Fort McHenry for 25 hours beginning on September 13, 1814. Estimates

have 1,500 to 1,800 bombs being fired. Four hundred of them fell within the fort's walls. The U.S. Army had held and stopped the British advance. There were 24 U.S. soldiers wounded and four dead.

Inspiring the Poet

Francis Scott Key intended his poem to be sung to the tune *To Anacreon in Heaven*. The music originally was written in England around 1775 and played in pubs and clubs. The original song was about a sixth-century Greek poet named Anacreon who wrote about drinking and womanizing.

Before *The Star-Spangled Banner* was adopted as the national anthem in 1931, sometimes the tune of *Yankee Doodle Dandy* was used as a traditional ceremonial song.

Meaningful Colors

There is no congressional documentation that states the colors of the flag have official meaning, but historians trace each color to have symbolic representation.

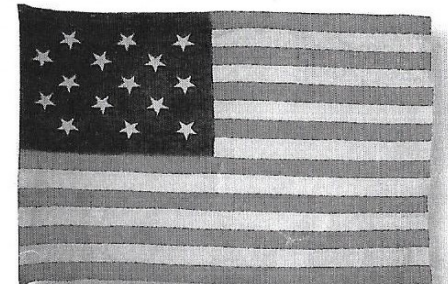
BLUE: Perseverance

RED: Valor

WHITE: Liberty and/or Purity



Most flags have the blue field, or canton, resting on a white stripe. This had been a custom among flagmakers long before law regulated it.



But during times of war, some flagmakers rested the canton on a red strip. This was called the "war" or "blood" stripe like the flag flown in the War of 1812.



“Courage is not having the strength to go on; it is going on when you don’t have the strength.”

Theodore Roosevelt

The next Newsletter will be out in August 2021. All articles are due no later than July 20th, 2021. If you would like to see anything added or have any comments, please contact Dean Stenjem at 59legionpost@gmail.com



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2020-2021

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2020-2021

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2020-2021

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**Otis Sampson American
Legion Post 59**



DEADLINES FOR QUARTERLY ARTICLES

October 20th (Nov, Dec, Jan Newsletter)

January 20th (Feb, Mar, Apr Newsletter)

April 20th (May, June, July Newsletter)

July 20th (Aug, Sept, Oct Newsletter)

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