



THE LEGION POST

OTIS SAMPSON POST 59

803 North Page Street - STOUGHTON, WI

PH: 608.205.9090

Post 59 Website: www.post59.us

FALL 2026



2025-2026

POST 59 OFFICERS

Commander

Michael Currie

1st Vice Commander

Rodger Hansen

2nd Vice Commander

Mike Ayers

3rd Vice Commander

Tom Jenny

Service Officer

John Solis

Sgt. At Arms

Jim Schiferl

Finance Officer

Jim Oler

Historian

Allen Vick

Adjutant

Joshua Holt

Judge Advocate

Mike Gerard

Chaplain

Edward Nowicki

Membership

Mike Ayers



FROM THE COMMANDER'S DESK

Hello everyone.

I hope everybody's summer went well. Soon the weather will change and we will be welcoming cooler temperatures and beautiful fall colors. It was a pretty dry July with very hot temperatures, but I think Mother nature is helping us catch up a bit with some long overdue rain.

Once again, we worked with the Stoughton Police Department to help with the annual Police Night Out. This year's event was held at Nordic Park, and it was a wonderful turnout. The Post volunteers grilled and served 720 brats and 500 hot dogs. Thank you to all the Post volunteers that made this happen!

Our mission is to work with local Veterans organizations and the Stoughton community to make this a better place to live. This includes donating funds and volunteering hours to our veterans, community, and school organizations throughout the year.

Our weekly Saturday meat raffles will resume starting September 12 and run through May from 2:00 to 4:00pm. We will also be starting up our monthly members dinners in September. These are held the 4th Tuesday of the month. We will have cocktails at 5:00 and dinner is at 6:00. For your convenience the menu for the year is on our Post website, so please check it out and we hope to see you there.

Our Post 2027 membership drive is going quite well, and if you have not yet renewed your membership, please consider sending in your submission soon. If you have any questions regarding your membership, please feel free to see myself or our membership Chairperson Mike Ayers.

I know this is out there but I wanted to mention that November 11th is Veteran Day, and as always, our Post Honor Guard and members of the Stoughton VFW Post 328 will be attending many of our Stoughton schools and Senior living facilities celebrations.

As always, thank you for your continued support of the Post and our mission. Without your support we could not fulfill our promise to our veterans and community. A special thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who work tirelessly every day.

YOU ARE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED!

Have a wonderful fall season and we'll see you all at the Post.

Commander Michael



Sons of the American Legion Report Squadron 59

2025-2026

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

Hello Friends,

From the members of SAL Squadron 59: We hope you have enjoyed your Summer.

The Sons of the American Legion are busy making donations to several causes including the Madison Honor Flight, the VA Hospital food pantry, the Legion Riders Gun Raffle and Dogs for Vets.

Squadron 59 is also making plans to provide a scholarship to a graduating senior who is interested in working towards a career in the trades. We are working with Terry and Keaton from Thrivent on setting up our account. Terry has also worked with Squadron 59 and our involvement in the "Raise the Flag" program here in Stoughton.

We are currently planning a "Meet and Greet" for all SAL Squadron 59 members. This will take place Saturday, September 26th beginning at noon, Brats and beans will be prepared and offered.

We will also be able to sign up new members. Hope to see you there, and please feel free to bring a friend.

Bob Hocking
Squadron 59 Commander



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 59

2026-2027

UNIT 59 AUXILIARY

OFFICERS

President

Amy Hermes

Sr. Vice President

Dawn Clark

Jr. Vice President

Sally Schieldt

Co-Secretaries

Devon Hermes

Lana Aaberg

Treasurer

Jody Kumlien

Chaplain

Pam LeMire

Membership

Dawn Clark

Unit 59 Auxiliary Update

As summer begins to wind down, we want to take a moment to reflect on the impact our Unit has made in the community over the past few months.

This summer, Unit 59 proudly sponsored two delegates to Badger Girls State, helping to support the development of future leaders. We also joined our Legion Family in making contributions to the Stoughton Police Department Safety Camp, and most recently the Auxiliary made a donation to the Stoughton Lions Club's Stuff the Bus program, supporting local youth and families as they prepare for the upcoming school year.



In support of our state veterans, Unit 59 also organized and delivered a large donation of food items to the VA, helping provide comfort and assistance to those who have served our country. We are grateful to all who contributed to this effort and helped make a meaningful impact.

In addition to our community outreach efforts, the Executive Team recently met for a strategic planning session. Together, we developed goals and priorities that will help guide our Unit through the coming year and strengthen our mission of service to veterans, military families, and our community.

We would also like to extend our sincere appreciation to two dedicated members who are stepping down from leadership roles. Lisa Olson, our Membership Chair, and Tina Marie Nelson, our Chaplain, have generously shared their time, talents, and commitment to Unit 59. We are grateful for their service and leadership. Fortunately, both Lisa and Tina Marie will remain active members, and we look forward to continuing to work alongside them in the year ahead.

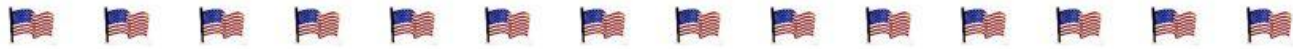
After summer break, we are excited to bring the Unit back together and resume our regular meetings in September. We look forward to reconnecting, welcoming members back, and beginning another year of service, fellowship, and making a difference together.

Thank you for all you do to support the American Legion Auxiliary and the mission we proudly serve.
For God and Country,

In friendship & fellowship,

President, Unit 59 American Legion Auxiliary





Wings of Honor: Helping Our Heroes Take Flight



AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Membership renewal for the year 2027 is now open! Our 2027 100% goal is to have 180 paid members.

Dues are \$35.00 for Seniors and \$5.25 for Juniors. Make your check payable to: ALA Unit 59. There are several ways you can pay your dues:

1. Mail your check to: Dawn Clark at the Otis Sampson American Legion Post 59, 803 N. Page Street, Stoughton, WI 53589.
2. Drop off your check at the Post and put it in the Auxiliary mailbox in the Hall by the front door.
3. Pay with credit or debit card by phone by calling the *National Dues Call Line* at 317-569-4570, Monday through Friday, 7:00am to 3:30pm.

If you have any questions, please call, text, or email me.

We recently had three new members join our Auxiliary. Welcome to Yolando Staats, Kristine Annen, and Olivia Holt. Sadly, our members, Lexi Samantha Liddicoat & Charlene Rae Stelzer have passed away. They both were Auxiliary members for over 20 years. Our condolences go out to their families and friends.

Thank you for your continued dedication to our mission to serve our veterans and our community. Let's make this a strong and successful membership year!

Dawn Clark
ALA Unit 59 Membership Chair
608-512-2017
dmmclark@gmail.com

THE AUXILIARY PATRIOTIC STITCHERS HONOR QUILTS

The Patriotic Stitchers will recognize the service of Post 59 members and present quilts again beginning at the September Post Supper.



American Legion Post 59 Fall 2026 Membership News

103% 2026 Membership: Congratulations and thank you to every member that assisted Post 59 in surpassing our goal of 345 members. We have renewed 326 and added 28 new Legionnaires to our ranks for a total of **346**.

Wow!! 2027 Membership is off to a great start. As of this newsletter we have renewed 196 and added 2 members for a total of 198. Thank you for getting those renewals completed so early. Renewal notices were sent out in July, and reminders will follow in October, January, March and May. Please keep good records because at times members will receive a renewal when in fact they have already paid. If this happens to you just send me a text or call and I will research and get back to you with an answer. Also, if you have not heard Post 59 provides a free 1-year trial membership for veterans living in care and assisted living facilities. Also new members signing up for 3 years will receive their first year free. The American Legion Membership is open to all who have served honorably during war and non-war eras including National Guard and Reserves.

Remember you can renew your membership online at www.mylegion.org.

New Members: Since our Summer Newsletter we welcomed the following new Legionnaires into our ranks: Jeremy Annen USN, Lowell Dalsoren USA, Gregory Hines USA, Jessica Phelan USA, Ron Trachte USA and Edward Wright USAF.



******Not only do we recognize our new members for Post 59 but take a moment to recognize and honor those that we have lost since our last newsletter.***

**Douglas Bar USN Other Era 7 years as Member
Rodney Brickson Korea War 32 years as Member
James Hanson USA Vietnam 41 years as Member
Ronald Buss USAF Vietnam 54 years as Member**

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

Michael L. Ayers – 2nd Vice Commander and Membership Chair

PH: (608) 335-1771 or email tgmgr@yahoo.com



THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Autumn Prayers

We will soon see signs of summer's passing in golden leaves,
shortening days, misty mornings, autumn glow.

We sense its passing in rain that dampens,
winds that chill, Harvest's bounty placed on show.

Creator God, who brings forth
both green shoot and hoar frost,
sunrise and sunset,
we bring our thanks

for seeds that have grown,
harvests gathered,
storehouses filled,

mouths fed. We give thanks to all the farmers, who provide sustenance in many ways to this needy world.

We ask that you continue to provide care for all our service members worldwide. Continue to bless the veterans of our American Legion as we do your work and the work for our communities.

We ask this in your name.

Amen

Ed Nowicki ~ Post 59 Chaplain



Vets Roll Applications email addresses. Applications@vetsroll.org or Mark@vetsroll.org

Badger Honor Flight, info@badgerhonorflight.org



🎉 Happy 105th Birthday, Teresa King! 🎉
72 Year Honorary Member of the American Legion Auxiliary

Jodi King (granddaughter), Theresa King,
Jerry King (son), Maxine King (Jerry's
wife) and Janel Cedarleaf (Theresa's
daughter)



Check out our new Post 59 Honor Guard Bus!!

We are continually humbled by the incredible way this community honors its veterans. This beautiful Honor Guard Bus was purchased through the generosity of The Bryant Foundation. Their extraordinary gift will help the American Legion Post 59 Honor Guard continue its mission of ensuring that every veteran is given the military honors they earned and deserve as they pass from this life. Every funeral, every flag presentation, and every final salute is one last opportunity to say, "Thank you for your service."

From all of us at American Legion Post 59, thank you to The Bryant Foundation for making this possible. Your generosity will help us honor veterans and serve their families for many years to come.



Post 59 Officers presenting a check for \$2000 to the Badger Honor Flight





A Legacy of Service

Submitted by: Dean Stenjem

The Story of Stoughton's Veterans Organizations

"The names have changed over the years, but the mission has remained the same—veterans serving veterans, honoring those who came before them, and strengthening the community they call home."

For more than 160 years, the people of Stoughton have answered our nation's call to serve.

From the battlefields of the Civil War to today's active-duty military, generations of local men and women have worn the uniform of the United States Armed Forces. When they returned home, they didn't simply resume their lives—they continued serving their fellow veterans and the Stoughton community.

That tradition did not begin with the American Legion or the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Its roots reach back to the Civil War and a small group of Union veterans determined to ensure that the sacrifices of their comrades would never be forgotten.

This is the story of that legacy.

The Stoughton Light Guard

When the Civil War erupted in 1861, Stoughton was a growing Wisconsin community filled with young men willing to defend the Union.

Many joined the **Stoughton Light Guard**, which became Company D of the 7th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. Alongside the 2nd Wisconsin, 6th Wisconsin, and 19th Indiana, they formed the legendary Iron Brigade—one of the most respected fighting units of the Civil War.

These men fought in many of the war's bloodiest battles. Some returned home. Many did not.

Among those who made the ultimate sacrifice was **First Sergeant Philo C. Buckman**.

Philo C. Buckman Post No. 153

Grand Army of the Republic

Following the Civil War, Union veterans found themselves facing a new challenge—caring for one another after the war had ended.

In 1866 they formed the **Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.)**, the nation's first major veterans organization. Stoughton's chapter became **Philo C. Buckman Post No. 153**, named in honor of the young first sergeant who was killed during the Battle of Gainesville on August 28, 1862.

The members of Post 153 understood that their duty had not ended when the fighting stopped.

They cared for disabled veterans, assisted widows and orphaned families, advocated for veterans' benefits, promoted patriotism in local schools, and organized Memorial Day observances long before they became national traditions.

Most importantly, they made sure their fallen comrades would never be forgotten.

They laid the foundation upon which every veterans organization that followed would be built.

VFW Mother Post 328

As one generation of veterans aged, another returned home from overseas service.

Veterans of the Spanish-American War, the Philippine Insurrection, and other foreign conflicts organized what would become **VFW Mother Post 328**.

Founded in 1899, Stoughton holds a unique place in American veterans history. Post 328 is recognized as Wisconsin's first Veterans of Foreign Wars post and one of the oldest VFW posts in the United States.

For well over a century, Mother Post 328 has stood as an advocate for combat veterans and their families while remaining deeply involved in the civic life of Stoughton.

Its members have carried forward the same ideals first embraced by the veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic—service, remembrance, and unwavering support for fellow veterans.

Otis Sampson American Legion Post 59

The end of World War I brought home yet another generation of veterans.

In 1919, the American Legion was founded by veterans who believed those who had served their country also had a continuing obligation to their communities.

Stoughton answered that call.

In 1921, **Otis Sampson American Legion Post 59** received its charter, taking its name from Stoughton native Otis Sampson, who became the community's first casualty of World War I.

For more than a century, Post 59 has continued the work begun decades earlier.

Through funeral honors, youth programs, scholarships, community service, support for veterans and their families, patriotic ceremonies, and countless volunteer hours, the Post has remained a cornerstone of the Stoughton community.

Better Together

While the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars are separate organizations, their missions have always been closely connected.

Throughout the years, members of both organizations have stood shoulder to shoulder for Memorial Day ceremonies, Veterans Day programs, military funerals, scholarship efforts, community projects, and countless events honoring those who served.

Perhaps no project better demonstrates that partnership than the creation of the **Stoughton Area Veterans Memorial Park**.

Made possible through years of volunteer effort, fundraising, and community support, the Memorial Park stands as a lasting tribute to every generation of veterans—from the Civil War to today's service members.

It represents more than stone and bronze.

It represents a promise.

A promise that every veteran's service will be remembered.

One Continuous Legacy

The Grand Army of the Republic eventually passed into history as the last Civil War veterans left us.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion carried that torch forward.

Today, new generations of veterans continue to join their ranks.

Although the uniforms have changed and new conflicts have been fought, the purpose remains remarkably similar to what it was more than 160 years ago.

Veterans caring for veterans.

Neighbors serving neighbors.

Communities remembering those who sacrificed for our freedom.

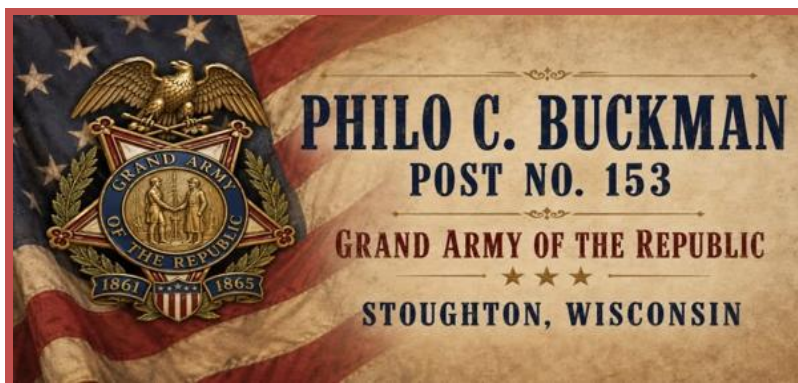
That is the true legacy of Stoughton's veterans organizations.

It began with the soldiers of the Stoughton Light Guard.

It continued through **Philo C. Buckman Post No. 153**, **VFW Mother Post 328**, and **Otis Sampson American Legion Post 59**.

And it continues today.

As long as veterans stand together, that legacy will never end.



More New bus pictures!



Post 59 Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER 2026

Sep. 5th: Marcy & The Highlights - 7:00-10:00 pm
Sep. 8th: Monthly Auxiliary Meeting @ 5:30 pm
Sep. 9th: SAL Monthly Meeting @ 6:00 pm
Sep. 11th: Class of 1976 – Class Reunion 6:00-10:00 pm
Sep. 14th: American Legion Monthly Meeting @ 7:00
Sep. 18th: Universal Sound Band – 7:00-10:00 pm
Sep. 20th: Legion Breakfast – 7:30-11:30 am
Sep. 22nd: Post Supper – 6:00-8:00 pm
Sep. 27th: Country Music Jam 2:00-6:00

OCTOBER 2026

Oct. 2nd: Rainbow Bridge Band – 7:00-10:00 pm
Oct. 5th: Monthly Auxiliary Meeting @ 5:30 pm
Oct. 9th: Country Corners Memories 7:00-10:00 pm
Oct. 12th: American Legion Monthly Meeting @ 7:00
Oct. 13th: SAVMP Meeting @ 5:00pm
Oct. 14th: SAL Monthly Meeting @ 6:00pm
Oct. 16th: Deans Blue Country 7:00-10:00 pm
Oct. 18th: Monthly Legion Breakfast – 7:30-11:30 am
Oct. 25th: Country Music Jam 2:00-6:00 pm
Oct. 27th: Post Supper – 6:00-8:00 pm
Oct. 30th: Country Renegades Band 7:00-10:00 pm

NOVEMBER 2026

Nov. 2nd: Monthly Auxiliary Meeting @ 5:30 pm
Nov 6th: Rainbow Bridge Band – 7:00-10:00 pm
Nov 9th: American Legion Monthly Meeting @ 7:00
Nov 11th: SAL Monthly Meeting @ 6:00pm
Nov 13th: Country Corners Memories 7:00-10:00 pm
Nov 15th: Monthly Legion Breakfast – 7:30-11:30 am
Nov.22nd: Country Music Jam 2:00-6:00 pm
Nov 28th: Wayne Road Band 7:00-10:00 pm

Contact Information for Post 59

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Email: Michaelcurrie@charter.net

Mike Ayers – Membership chair

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Email: tqmgr@yahoo.com

Jim Oler – Finance Officer

PH: (608) 347-4407

Email: oller8888@gmail.com

John Solis – Service Officer

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Email: solosolis@gmail.com

Amy Hermes – ALA President

PH: (608) 516-8720

Email: AHermes@stoughtonhealth.com

Bob Hocking – SAL Commander

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Email: bobghocking@gmail.com

Bob Crofoot – Editor

Email: hodagbob@yahoo.com

MEAT RAFFLES EVERY SATURDAY @ 2:00pm BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 12

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.



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Otis Sampson American
Legion Post 59



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Hall Rentals

For More Information,
please contact Sherry

Leick @

post59hallrental@gmail.com
OR

go to our website @

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(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**