



OTIS SAMPSON POST 59, STOUGHTON WI



THE LEGION POST

Volume 9, Issue 11

Veterans Helping Veterans

November, 2007

2007-2008 Officers

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2nd Vice Commander

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PRIME RIB HOLIDAY GET TOGETHER PARTY

We will again be having our holiday dinner on DEC. 11, 2007. If you care to join us, we need your reservation to make sure J.C. orders enough prime rib. This year you need to call me at 877-9918, leave a voice message with your name and number of persons attending if I'm not at home. You can also email me at berede@peoplepc.com. As a last resort you can talk to me directly, but make sure I write it down as I suffer from CRS disease!! The meal is \$13.00 per person, so don't wait until the last minute to make your reservation!

I would not be doing my job if I didn't talk about the membership. Our goal is 278 and we have had 227 members renew, we are at 82%. Please send in your renewal as the Post will save \$3.00 per member if it's paid before January 1st, 2008. That will keep

COMMANDERS REPORT

another \$153.00 in our Post. Out of the 24 Posts in Dane Co., we are in 13th place. I hope we can be 100% very soon.

I would like to thank the new helpers that showed up to work at our breakfast on Sunday. It's great to see the new faces helping out, we appreciate your efforts. I hope you enjoyed the experience and will return again when called to work. **Anyone** who is interested in lending a hand for our functions, PLEASE feel free to call me and I can get you set up with the right contact member.

Commander Bill

PS. (or should I say BS)

I am writing this after our monthly Legion meeting on Nov. 12, the day after Veteran's Day, involving a group of Veterans who are supposed to be about serving our active military and Veterans. Please THINK about the last phrase of the PREAMBLE, "To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness". I wonder "What is happening to our Post?" Where is all the hostility, name call-

ing and bickering arising from? When did the respect for each other diminish? It has come to a point where a member that has the floor can't express their opinion without being shot down, or others in the meeting are talking loudly amongst themselves that the speaker can't even be heard! Tonight a Past Commander left the meeting after hearing comments about her not helping veterans and members calling her derogatory names. She has fallen, as of the first of the year she will cease helping arrange for workers at the breakfasts, she will not be putting articles in the paper or arrange the Troop Tree during the holidays-I can go on. Was Mary perfect? No, but guess what-you and I are far from perfect either!

If this Post wants to get back on track, let's start working together AGAIN!! Instead of being part of the problem, try being part of the solution and stop this nonsense, we are supposed to be adults—UNITED WE STAND, DIVIDED WE FALL.
Commander Bill



AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BURR, we can tell it's November. The weather has changed and not for the good. Oh well, that's Wisconsin, right?

We received a Thank You for Jan Pulvermacher Ryan's dinner from our District #3 President Joyce Endres and Dist. Commander Leo Endres for our hard work, wonderful prime rib dinner and our hospitality. It was well attended as we served 81 guests. Thanks for those that helped in anyway, **LEGION AND AUXILIARY MEMBERS**. They are still talking at the County meeting about how good the prime rib dinner was and the pies added a lot to it so thanks to my pie makers as well.

The BGS and BBS auction went off well but we won't know who won the scholarships till the County Christmas potluck at Post 501. This will be a very trying time to have to wait to hear who were the winners but we have no choice.

A BIG THANKS to our Co. Commander Wayne Christensen and Past Co. Aux. President Pat Anderson, our current Co. Aux. President Jenny Syftestad for making it a fun and hilarious time at the auction. A good time was had by all, they truly are comedians. Everyone says they brought in extra money for this auction so if you see them say thank you to them.

We have been asked by the Partners of Stoughton Hospital if we would contribute to the "love light" tree this year. We do this whenever we lose an Auxiliary member, this may not be something we would like to do every year.

We have decided to not do the West or East Towne gift wrap before Christmas as it was too late to get enough people to work at this, but will try to publicize it earlier and look for any men or women that would like to help at this. We keep whatever people would donate to us for gift wrapping their packages, suggested amount is \$1 a package but it is up to them what they want to give. This is on the back burner till next year. BUT we did donate \$25 to the Stoughton Christmas Fund once again.

Rita Sperry, Karen Whitford, Evelyn Kahl, Audre Kurowski, Mary Curran and yours truly went to the Fall Forum in Brookfield in October. Those in attendance thought they learned a lot by going and did enjoy the programs that were presented to them.

THANKS to all Auxiliary members as we were at 100% by September 22nd and I knew that you could do it and you did so congratulations.

There will be NO SNACKS at our December meeting AS WE WILL be furnishing Christmas cookies for the Legion's Christmas dinner on Tuesday December 11th so if you can donate 3-4 dozen cookies please give me a call at 873-5154 or Lori at 877-9918.

PLEASE notice that the December breakfast has been changed to the 2nd Sunday the 9th because of the Christmas Holiday.

The October breakfast went over well and a turkey was donated for an in house raffle. We netted \$82 and the winner was a Legion Member Orlie Wethal. Congrats Orlie.

Some of our supplies we had left over, eggs, milk, not sure what else went to the Stoughton Food Pantry at the Methodist Church and we received a thank you note for our donations to them. We have been freezing the bread that is left over

from one breakfast to the next. SO BE SURE AND COME to the breakfast and support our own Legion and Auxiliary.

We are trying to get all the Junior members from Dane County together either Saturday Dec. 1st or Sunday Dec. 2nd to have a holiday bag making and stuffing for the Middleton VA hospital. Watch the newsletter for more info or even in this newsletter.

Will close and remember I am here to help you so please give me a call if you need something, if I can't do it I will find someone else to help you.

President Elvera

PS

WE DO NEED MORE MEMBERS TO SIGN UP TO HELP AT A BREAKFAST. WE ARE TRYING TO GET MORE PEOPLE INVOLVED SO THE SAME PEOPLE DON'T HAVE TO WORK EVERY MONTH. WE WOULD LIKE THEM TO ONLY WORK EVERY OTHER MONTH OR EVEN EVERY 3RD MONTH. YES, IT DOES TAKE 3 HOURS BUT WE DO HAVE FUN. YOU GET TO MEET SO MANY STOUGHTONITES AND EVERYONE IS SO FRIENDLY IT JUST GIVES YOU A GOOD FEELING FOR THE REST OF THE DAY. ALSO COULD USE MORE PEOPLE TO SERVE AT THE LEGION DINNERS.

Chaplain's Corner

Jesus said, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry."

I worry, My mother worried. I suspect that my father also worried. I come from a long line of worriers. Many of our parents survived the Great Depression, but the memory of that era continued to haunt them.

The world is often a frightening place. When I am worried and afraid, I long for the peace of God and I pray to God, but I do not always feel the nearness of God. However, I know that feelings aren't facts and the fact is that God is always near.


I find it difficult to concentrate on thanking God when I am worrying. But when I can divert my attention and give thanks for my blessings, I slowly calm down. I think it is a matter of practice. If we offer thanks daily it becomes easier to offer thanks when we are anxious.

At this time of Thanksgiving let us offer thanks for our many blessings. And let us practice doing so every day. "When we have a spirit of thanksgiving we can hold all things lightly. We receive: we do not grab. And when it is time to let go we do so freely. We are not owners, only stewards.

If you know of anyone who is hospitalized or in need please call Chaplain Monte at 873-4020 or email at whitfrd@sbcglobal.net

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The Haircut

A young boy had just gotten his Driver's Permit and asked his father if they could discuss his use of the car. His father said he'd make a deal with his son. "You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible a little, get your hair cut and we'll talk about the car."

The boy thought about that for a moment, decided he'd settle for the offer, and they agreed on it. After about six weeks, his father said, "Son, I've been real proud. You brought your grades up and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, but I'm real disappointed you didn't get your hair cut."

The young man paused a moment, then said, "You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair, and there's even a strong argument that Jesus had long hair.

To this, his father replied, "Did you also notice they all walked everywhere they went?"



In order to make your newsletter more informative we have added some new features. You will see a condensed version of the minutes from our last meeting. You will also see calendars for two months, listing what we hope are items of interest you may want to attend. And as always we welcome comments and suggestions. Send them to the editor at the email address on the last page.

American Legion Meeting October 8

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 by Commander Redepinning
New Members Andy Phelps and Karl Hoff were welcomed
Sick Call Tom Stokes Pneumonia, William Heath would like visitors, John Christopherson, Pneumonia. Clyde McKitchen passed away, the military honors at his funeral were performed by the Post 59 Honor Guard.
The legion breakfast was not very successful. We need more participation from members to make these financially viable.

REPORTS:

MEMBERSHIP: 228 goal 278, 82% Carry a membership form with you and recruit people that are eligible.

BUILDING Dean Seilbaugh should be sending the plans up to the state.

FUNDRAISING – NTR

BUDGET – Mel Cohen made a motion to put the finalized budget in the newsletter, seconded by Mary Lloyd. Motion carried with 1 opposed.

Motion to accept budget with administrative changes was made by Mary Lloyd and seconded by Monte Whitford

SERVICE OFFICER nothing to report

Badger Boys – June 14th - 24th \$235 if paid by June 31st 2009 \$240 if paid by June 31st.

OLD BUSINESS -

A No Parking sign was posted, so the trailer was moved to Mel Cohen's farm. A suggestion was made that the Venture crew might be interested in it and also there was a suggestion to donate it to Camp Indian Trails in Janesville. Motion to donate it first to the Venture crew and if they decline to Camp Indian Trails was made by Mary Lloyd, seconded by Al Phelps, Motion carried! Value of the trailer was set at \$800.00
Mary will do the advertising to the hub for the breakfasts until January and then we need to find someone to pick that up in the new year.

NEW BUSINESS

Eagle Scouts are looking for some flags to perform a destruction ceremony. The post has donated 2 bags of old flags for their use.

Al Phelps has been shopping for the monthly breakfasts, but this year they will not be gone from January through April, so we need someone to shop for breakfasts during those months. If you are interested, please let Al know and he will get you the information you need.

Al Phelps made a motion for the post to host another troop tree. The motion was seconded by Bud Erickson and passed unanimously. Last years troop tree recipients were very grateful for the gifts.

Motion by Bob Lloyd and second by Mary Lloyd to donate \$200 for the Stoughton food pantry. The motion carried with 1 Opposed

FOR THE GOOD OF THE LEGION

Breakfast October 21 – Please sign up to help.

Rebel Jr who has been a member for 12 years donated 500 dollars to the post building fund. He challenged all the other post members to remember that the veterans who came before us raised the money for the old building and it is our job to raise the new building so those who come after us have a place to meet that is their own.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:13

OH HELL YEAH!

Love This Comeback One of my sons serves in the military. He is still stateside, here in California. He called me yesterday to let me know how warm and welcoming people were to him, and his troops, everywhere he goes, telling me how people shake their hands, and thank them for being willing to serve, and fight, for not only our own freedoms but so that others may have them also. But he also told me about an incident in the grocery store he stopped at yesterday, on his way home from the base. He said that ahead of several people in front of him stood a woman dressed in a burkha. He said

when she got to the cashier she loudly remarked about the U.S. flag lapel pin the cashier wore on her smock. The cashier reached up and touched the pin, and said proudly, "Yes, I always wear it and probably always will." The woman in the burkha then asked the cashier when she was going to stop bombing her countrymen, explaining that she was Iraqi. A gentleman standing behind my son stepped forward, putting his arm around my son's shoulders, and nodding towards my son, said in a calm and gentle voice to the Iraqi woman: "Lady, hundreds of thousands of men and women like this young man have

fought and died so that YOU could stand here, in MY country and accuse a check-out cashier of bombing YOUR countrymen. It is my belief that had you been this outspoken in YOUR own country, we wouldn't need to be there today. But, hey, if you have now learned how to speak out so loudly and clearly, I'll gladly buy you a ticket and pay your way back to Iraq so you can straighten out the mess in YOUR country that you are obviously here in MY country to avoid." Everyone within hearing distance cheered! IF YOU AGREE: Pass this on to all your proud American friends.

A Modern Parable

A Japanese company (Toyota) and an American company (General Motors) decided to have a canoe race on the Missouri River . Both teams practiced long and hard to reach their peak performance before the race.

On the big day, the Japanese won by a mile.

The Americans, very discouraged and depressed, decided to investigate the reason for the crushing defeat. A management team made up of senior management was formed to investigate and recommend appropriate action. Their conclusion was the Japanese had 8 people rowing and 1 person steering, while the American team had 8 people steering and 1 person rowing.

Feeling a deeper study was in order, American management hired a consulting company and paid them a large

amount of money for a second opinion. They advised, of course, that too many people were steering the boat, while not enough people were rowing.

Not sure of how to utilize that information, but wanting to prevent another loss to the Japanese, the rowing team's management structure was totally reorganized to 4 steering supervisors, 3 area steering superintendents and 1 assistant superintendent steering manager. They also implemented a new performance system that would give the 1 person rowing the boat greater incentive to work harder. It was called the 'Rowing Team Quality First Program,' with meetings, dinners and free pens for the rower. There was discussion of getting new paddles, canoes and other equipment, extra vacation days for practices and bonuses.

The next year the Japanese won by two miles. Humiliated, the American management laid off the rower for poor

performance, halted development of a new canoe, sold the paddles, and canceled all capital investments for new equipment. The money saved was distributed to the Senior Executives as bonuses and the next year's racing team was out-sourced to India Sadly, the End.

Sad, but oh so true! Here's something else to think about: Ford has spent the last thirty years moving all its factories out of the US, claiming they can't make money paying American wages. Toyota has spent the last thirty years building more than a dozen plants inside the US .

The last quarter's results: Toyota makes 4 billion in profits while Ford racked up 9 billion in losses. Ford folks are still scratching their heads.

IF THIS WASN'T SO SAD IT MIGHT BE FUNNY!

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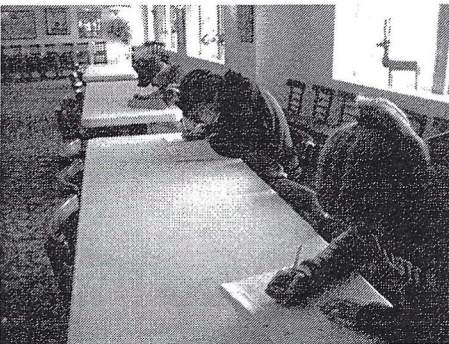
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Stoughton High School Students Take A & G Test For Chance at Scholarship money

On November 10th at the Legion post three Stoughton High School Seniors participated in the legions Americanism & Government Test Program (A & G). The test is open to students in 10th, 11th and 12th grade. Two winners in each grade at the post level have their test forwarded to the District. The district will select two winners in each grade to go on to State.

The State will award 12, \$500 scholarships to 12th grade and 10, \$250 scholarships each to 11th and 10th graders.

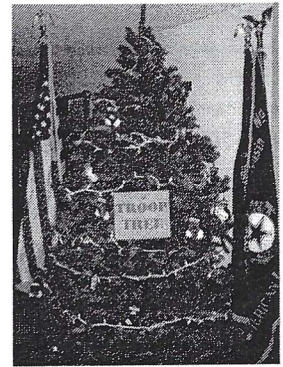
The 12th grade winners were Blake Johnson and Nathan Lyle.



Taking the A & G test pictured above from front to back are: Shelby Linerud, Blake Johnson and Nathan Lyle.

Photo Mary Lloyd

Stoughton Legion Post/Unit 59 TROOP TREE Now Thru Thanksgiving



Three ways to help us support the troops.

1. You can give us names and addresses of friends and loved ones who will be away from their family for the holidays. The names will be kept confidential and be used only for this purpose.
2. You can drop off items at the Post that can be put in the boxes. Items to include zip lock bags to keep the sand out of their toothbrushes and other items, squirt guns for a refreshing drink of water or a toy to pass the time, toiletries such as soap, shampoo, shaving cream and razors, toilet paper, and for the females-feminine items such as tampons and napkins. Most beef jerky, single servings of kool-aid and crystal lite, hard candy and any other nonperishable items.
3. You can sponsor a box. With your \$10 donation we will purchase PX cards, hand held video games, water resistant pocket flashlights and candy to place in the boxes. We will wrap the items in Christmas wrapping and place a card signed by you in the box.

The tree will be set up at the Stoughton Legion Post by the end of October. Names will be placed on the tree as they become available.

To support this program contact Mary Lloyd at (608) 873-5926 or lloydbobmary@aol.com. Checks can be made out to A.L. Post 59 and mailed to the Troop Tree program, Care of Mary Lloyd 1611 Moline Street, Stoughton WI 53589.

Last year we sent out over 40 packages to Korea, the Middle-East, the East and West coasts of the U.S. and other far away places.

Please help us spread a little holiday cheer to our troops. No matter where they are, if they are away from home. We would like to send a little happiness.



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