



Volume 17 Issue 4

THE LEGION POST

OTIS SAMPSON POST 59 STOUGHTON, WI
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May 2015

Commander's Report

2014-2015 OFFICERS

Commander

Sonny Swangstu

1st Vice Commander

Vik Malling

2nd Vice Commander

Mary Lloyd

3rd Vice Commander

Larry Johnson

Service Officer

Bob Lloyd

Sgt. at Arms

Dale Seffens

Finance Officer

Jim Oler

Historian

Lenny Swingen

Adjutant

DuWayne Stellmacher

Judge Advocate

Terry McCardle

Chaplain

Rich Fries



Greetings to all,

The days are getting longer so we can enjoy the outdoors more. Now is the time to work on our lawns and get the fields and gardens in shape for planting. The miracles come when the plants and flowers peek above the ground and perform their dance.

I want to take this time to point out where the grant money from the Bryant Foundation has been spent or applied with regard to the Post for the last three years.

There has been some talk concerning this which is disturbing, so I ask that if there are questions come forth and ask our Finance Officer or me to see a report. In 2012 we did not have a wish list as we did for 2013 and 2014. We will be requesting another wish list for 2015.

I have listed what the Bryant Foundation Grants have done for our Post. As follows:

2012 – paved the parking lot and painted the parking lines, fence, retaining wall, sod, planted trees, horseshoe pits.

2013 – cooler in bar, new refrigerator, new griddle, used van for Honor Guard with decals and insurance, new front door, front and back door closures, dining hall painting, new front

awnings, snow blower, and Youth Center Christmas donations.

2014 – New sign out front with color version and computer hardware, new kitchen dishwasher, new freezer, repaint parking lot lines, pressure wash and repaint building exterior.

Any surplus left will be spent this summer on things that we couldn't get done. This money has to be spent from year to year as close as possible to the grant. What is left is in a money market account waiting to be used.

Enjoy the weather,
Commander Sonny

Auxiliary

President

Marlene Bierman

873-7397

1st Vice President

Elvera Phelps

873-5154

2nd Vice President

Linda Swangstu

873-9428

Secretary

Linda Schmidt

205-2517

Treasurer

Alice Moen

444-7320

Chaplain

Sharon Silbaugh

873-3927

Sgt. at Arms

Pat Christensen

873-7479

Historian

Sherry Leick

873-6687

Auxiliary News



Hello American Legion Family,

Hope everyone enjoyed your Easter. We sure need rain for the farmers, our yards, and gardens.

Our officers for this year will be: Lisa Olson, President; 1st Vice President, Elvera Phelps; Secretary, Cathy Rigdon; Treasurer, Linda Schmidt; Chaplin, Sharon Silbaugh; Sergeant-at-Arms, Pat Christianson; Lisa Olson will remain as Membership with Linda Swangstu's help. I want to thank you ladies for stepping up to serve. I also want to thank all past officers for doing a good job and all your help.

Be watching for your next newsletter—there will be a Poppy in it. I hope the Legion and Auxiliary members will be generous. You might be getting a call to help distribute Poppies over the Memorial

Day weekend. It will be in two-hour intervals, from 7 AM to 1 PM, Thursday, May 21 through Saturday, May 23. Please call Elvera Phelps, 873-5154, to volunteer. The money goes toward veterans' programs and projects, so please donate. If you have a 7-9 year old daughter or granddaughter and would like to be a Poppy Princess please give Elvera or me a call. The princess will have a picture taken with the Mayor and ride in the Memorial Day Parade.

Thanks goes to Bonnie Kennedy for making a Spring/Garden basket for the Spring Conference in Gays Mills, April 25.

There will be a fund-raiser for Denise Rohan on April 18 at the Post. She is running for District Commander. It will be a beer and wine tasting event. I hope many members will attend—so mark your calendars.

Elvera and I were very disappointed in the attendance at the Dane County meeting that was held at the Post on Thursday, March 26. Only four Auxiliary members and one Legion member attended. A nice potluck dinner was served. About 50 members from other units attended. The meeting is held the same month each year.

Marlene Bierman
President

CALENDER OF EVENTS

April 18 - Denise Rohan for National Commander fund-raiser – 4:00-7:00 pm
 April 19 - Legion Breakfast – 7:00–11:00 am
 April 20 - Stoughton Area Veteran's Memorial Park meeting – 6:30 pm
 April 24 - Blue Moon Karaoke – 8:00–11:00 pm
 April 26 - Country Jam with Mikey Fuss 2:00–6:00 pm
 April 28 - Legion Dinner – 6:30 pm
 May 2 - Sons of American Legion Fish Boil 4:30 pm; 5:30 pm; 6:30 pm with music to follow
 May 15 - Blue Moon Karaoke – 8:00-midnight
 May 16 - Dan Riley – 7:00-11:00pm
 May 17 - Legion Breakfast – 7:00-11:00 am
 May 22 - Blue Moon Karaoke – 8:00–midnight
 May 24 - County Jam with Mikey Fuss – 2:00-6:00 pm
 May 25 - Memorial Day
 May 26 - Legion Dinner – 6:30 pm

Event Pricing

Post Dinner: 6:30 pm \$11.00

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

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.

If questions, call Bob Lloyd 873-5926.

Syttende Mai Parade–Sunday, May 17

(Meet at Mandt Park by 1:00 pm: Veteran's float parks on South 4th street)

Memorial Day Parade–Monday, May 25

(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 25

(Following the parade 11:00 am at Mandt Center **rain or shine**)

The Memorial Program is open to the public

Thank You

I just wanted to take a few minutes to acknowledge two members that we have at the Legion who are often overlooked. If you are a regular attending or an occasional member you have seen both of them there. They both work "behind the scenes" making sure everything is the way it should be.

One of the people I'm talking about is Jim Oler. Jim is the finance officer for both the American Legion and the Sons of the American Legion. I know he doesn't like any of this recognition, he would rather be the one thanking everyone else, but this American Legion Post runs very smoothly financially because of him. If you've ever stopped by his office to chat with him, he is always working on something, but he will always take the time to talk with you. He works very hard to make sure that this American Legion stands out. Thank you Jim!

The other person I am talking about is Larry Johnson. The same goes for him. He would rather be the one thanking, than the one being thanked. If you've ever come in during holidays, Larry is the one that decorates everything. He is also the person who sets up and tears down tables and chairs for all the events that take place at the Post, not an easy task.

Also, as a bartender here at the Post, I really appreciate what Larry puts into bringing in entertainment—from getting the ads in the paper to helping them to carry in their equipment. He is here before they arrive, while they are here, and afterwards, he's cleaning it all up.

Thank you Larry!

Dean Stenjem

Letter of Thanks

Evelyn Kahl took a picture of the fund-raising sign for the veterans memorial and sent it and a thank you note to the Linneruds for their generous donation. The following is Shirley and Oscar's reply:

Evelyn,

That was so thoughtful of you to send us that note and picture. It was a decision we didn't have to think about. It made us feel good they asked us.

What an honor to have a Veterans Memorial Park on our farm.

It is so little to give compared to what our Veterans have done for us.

Love,

Oscar and Shirley

For upcoming Legion entertainment, call the Post at 205.9090 for a recorded message.

Fund-raising for Veterans Memorial Park

Fund-raising for the veterans memorial began in earnest on April 25 with donations coming in from several patriotic individuals. Fund-raising chairman, Randy Robertson, personally kicked things off by making a presentation to the Pleasant Springs Town Board. At the conclusion of the meeting, the board agreed to purchase one of the eleven flag poles and bases. The flag they sponsor, the Merchant Marines, will fly at the entrance to the park. Three days after that, Randy announced that three other flags-- the U.S., Army, and the American Legion flag--had also been sold.

In addition, orders are coming in for the bricks (pavers). Bricks come in three sizes and can be purchased to honor a special veteran or person, or just as a donation. Early brick purchasers include Evelyn Kahl, Duane Broughton, Randy Robertson, Dean Mykeljord, and the Derke family. The three-inch bricks come in three sizes and will be inscribed the way the donor wants. The bricks will be placed in multiple patio areas near the educational pillars. Stop by the VFW or Legion to pick up an order form.

Of the ten gray granite benches that will line the educational segment of the park, one has been sold. These benches will feature two lines of text engraved on the front of the seat. The first line is for the donor's name and the second line is for their message. For those wishing to make a more generous donation, they might consider an educational pillar or even the archway entrance. The pillars are red granite and are 20" wide and 2' deep and 6'6" tall. They will feature bronze plaques and etchings that display historical information about significant military battles, speeches, and events.

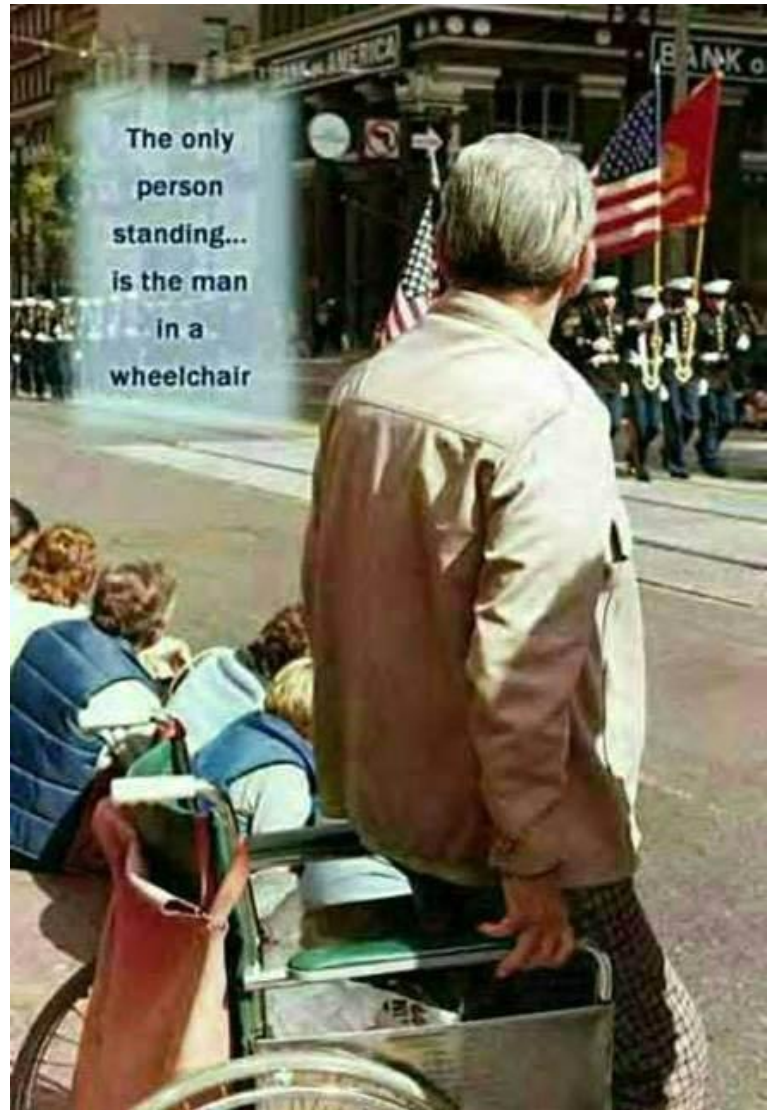
The entrance is comprised of two granite pillars that support a wrought iron archway. The red granite pillars have gray granite bases and caps. The total size is 3' wide by 3' deep by 6' tall. The archway is handcrafted wrought iron that spans 10' and incorporated into the archway is lettering that reads "Stoughton Area Veterans Memorial Park".

In kind donations are also welcomed for site preparation, landscaping, and parking lot. Checks may be made out to Stoughton Area Veterans Memorial Park, LLC and mailed to Veterans Memorial Park, Box 16, Stoughton, WI 53589.

The Veterans Memorial will inspire pride and patriotism and touch the hearts of all who will see it. For generations to come, it will remind people of the honor, service, and sacrifice of the Stoughton area men and women who proudly served our country.

Submitted by Bud Erickson

MEMORIAL DAY is MAY 25, 2015



You can draw your own conclusions.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

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

Syttende Mai and Memorial Day Schedules

Syttende Mai

Saturday May 16—Decorate float at VFW at 9:00 am.
8:30 am bring up chairs and float materials
9:00 am decorate float

Memorial Day

Thursday May 14—8:00 am - Meet at Riverside Cemetery
to put out flags
Rain Date: May 15—8:00 am
Thursday May 28—8:00 am - Meet at Riverside Cemetery
to remove flags
Rain date: May 29—8:00 am

Set up for the Memorial Day Program

Saturday May 23—9:00 am - Meet at Mandt Center for
chair and podium set up
Monday May 25—7:00 am - decorate float at VFW (if
one)

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

Thank you in advance for your help.

The Memorial Day Committee



*Pictured is Dane County Commander Pete Pullen
enjoying the delicious potluck buffet prepared by the
Stoughton Auxiliary during the Dane County Council
meeting held at the Post March 26.*

Monthly Post Meeting Schedule

Legion – 2nd Monday – 7:00 pm

Auxiliary – 2nd Monday – 7:00 pm

SAL – 2nd Wednesday – 7:00 pm

Meetings are held at the Post.

All members are encouraged to attend.



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Sons of the American Legion Fishboil

The Sons of The American Legion here at Post 59 will be having Fishboil coming up on Saturday, May 2nd. The proceeds from this event will be going to The Stoughton Area Veterans Memorial Park that is in process. Serving times will be at 4:30, 5:30, and 6:30.

After the Fishboil we welcome everyone to stay for entertainment from: **RETROBUS**, a Madison area band of season musicians playing 60's, 70's, 80's, & 90's Classic Rock.

We will be having some raffles and such going on during the fishboil and during band breaks also.

We would appreciate all the support we can for this event. More information will be available on the Legion website: www.post59.org and The Legion facebook page as the event gets closer.

Thank You, Dean Stenjem , SAL Adjutant

Chris Allen Nygaard

Chris Nygaard was born in Madison, WI on February 24, 1964. He graduated from Stoughton High School in 1982 and from Madison Area Technical College in 1985. At age 19, on September 20, 1983, Chris enlisted in the Wisconsin Army National Guard while living in Stoughton.

His decision to enlist in the service was largely influenced by his father's prior Army service and also by Chief Warrant Officer Marvin White, a Stoughton resident who worked fulltime for the Wisconsin National Guard. These two individuals played a big role in helping Chris to make this decision.

His eight week basic training was taken at Ft. Jackson, SC. After basic training he was sent to Ft. Eustis, VA for approximately 12 weeks where he received training in attack helicopter repair. In 2002, he was then deployed to Kuwait in southwest Asia for the Iraq invasion in 2003. He served 10 months in Iraq supporting on-going combat operations.

When asked for a specific memorable experience during his 21 years in the service, Chris related his involvement when deployed to Guatemala soon after Hurricane Mitchell devastated the region. He was on a separate humanitarian mission where he helped to construct schools and roads which required considerable amount of time. Upon completion of this mission, Chris remained to support the relief efforts for people who had been affected by the hurricane.



His combat experience consisted of 10 months in Iraq in *Operation Iraqi Freedom* where he flew combat flight missions over the countries of Iraq and Kuwait. He served as the platoon air crew member for Lt. General McKiernan, Commander of all

Coalition Ground Forces in Iraq. His highest rank was Sergeant 1st Class.

Among the many medals and awards Chris achieved are:

Air Medal
Army Commendation Medal
Army Achievement Medal
National Defense Service Medal
Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
Humanitarian Service Medal
Senior Aviation Badge Medal
Bronze Star

and others as well.

After 21 years serving his country, Chris retired from the 1-147 Aviation Battalion in June 2004. After retirement, Chris returned as an employee of the city of Madison. Today, he resides in Stoughton with his wife Julie and daughter Anja.

Since 2002, he has been a Life Member of VFW Post 328 and American Legion Post 59. Chris serves with the Post 59 Honor Guard and on the committee for the Memorial Day Parade and Color Guard. He stays involved and active in the community on various projects and activities.

Chris is proud to have served his country for 21 years.

Submitted by Evelyn Kahl

In the Display Case

Different pictures and copies of the following;
The last message from Corregidor-6 May 1942
Desk Log of the USS Missouri -2 September 1945
Instrument of Surrender - 2 September 1945
Surrender of the Islands of the Ryukyus - 7 September 1945
Christmas message 24 December 1944 from Gen McAuliffe to his troops
101 Airborne near Bastogne
Germany Surrenders 7 May 1945

Submitted by Steve Grady

Hall Rentals

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Editors Cliff Maerz and Tim Carter: C_Maerz@msn.com