



# THE LEGION POST

OTIS SAMPSON POST 59 STOUGHTON, WI  
POST WEB SITE: POST59.ORG POST PHONE: 608.205.9090



VOLUME 15 ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2013

## Commander's Report

### 2013-2014 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**  
Danny Call
- Finance Officer**  
Jim Oler
- Historian**  
Lenny Swingen
- Adjutant**  
DuWayne Stellmacher
- Judge Advocate**  
Terry McCardle
- Chaplain**  
Rich Fries



Greetings,  
By the time this newsletter reaches every one, Thanksgiving will have passed by. I hope everyone has had a good family get together and ate lots of turkey.  
I suppose the snowbirds are getting anxious. It is too bad they can't spend a winter with us and our colds, flu, freezing temperatures, and snow shoveling. I'll bet they really miss that sort of thing. Ha! Ha!  
Our Bryant Foundation Wish

List is nearing completion. Most priority things on the list are taken care of and we still have some bucks to spend. We need to extinguish the funds so we can start a list for next year. Any suggestions for things the Post needs would be very helpful. Because of the Foundation requirements, any money left over from this year cannot be saved. Hopefully they will come through again next year.  
As long as I am thanking folks, I think it is time to thank all the kitchen help we get from the Post, Auxiliary, and SAL throughout the year. Without them, we wouldn't be as successful as we are. Ditto

goes for the Funeral Committee and the Auxiliary gals who do the funeral lunches. They stay extremely busy year-round and donate many of their funds back to the Post. Thanks to all!  
This will be the last letter for the year and it has been a good year for the Post. Don't forget our last Tuesday night dinner on December 10. Larry Johnson and the Northern Lights will be playing on New Year's Eve with Champaign, snacks, hats and horns for your enjoyment, so come on down. Until next year, have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!  
Commander Sonny

### Auxiliary

- President**  
Marlene Bierman  
873-7397
- Vice President**  
Linda Swangstu  
873-9428
- Secretary**  
Linda Schmidt  
205-2517
- Treasurer**  
Alice Moen  
444-7230
- Chaplain**  
Sharon Silbaugh  
873-3927
- Sgt. at Arms**  
Pat Christensen  
873-7479
- Historian**  
Sherry Leick  
873-6687

## Auxiliary News



Hello American Legion Family,

Well the Holidays are coming upon us, way too fast. I hope you are getting geared up for it. It is a nice time to send with your family.

I am sorry to write that one of our members, Betty Neath, passed away in October. She was Sonny Swangstu's sister.

Some the Auxiliary ladies got together and made lefse on October 26. Alice Moen was in charge of doing her recipe and getting the workers. Want to thank all that helped: Sara Westbury, Jessica Stenjem,

Ellen Curran, Sharon Dalsoren-Lunde, Rita Sperry, Caron Deneen, Lil Smithback, Marno and DuWayne Stellmacher, Alice Watson and the dish washer... me. Also thanks to Alice Moen for organizing it. We have 52 to bags of lefse, three to a bag. They will be selling for \$5.50 a bag. We will be selling them at the December breakfast. Get some for the Holidays. Hope we still have some left.

We didn't have a raffle at the October breakfast because it was the Venture Crew breakfast. The Auxiliary had a turkey basket raffle and a carved wooden turkey for the November breakfast raffle. Sharon Silbaugh won the turkey basket and Bob Lloyd won the carved wooden turkey. Congratulation to both of you! Thanks to everyone who has been supporting the Auxiliary raffles at the breakfasts. The money goes to the different Veterans' programs.

*President continued on page 2*

## CALENDER OF EVENTS

- December 7 - Blue Moon Karaoke  
8:00 – 11:00 pm
- December 10 - Legion Dinner – 6:30 pm
- December 14 - Book Sale – 7:00 am – 3:00 pm
- December 14- Universal Sound  
8:00 pm - midnight
- December 15 - Legion Breakfast  
7:00 – 11:00 am
- December 21 - Northern Lights  
8:00 - midnight
- December 25 - Merry Christmas
- December 31- New Year's Eve Party  
Northern Lights – 8:30pm – 1:00 am
- January 4 - Blue Moon Karaoke  
8:00 – 11:00 pm
- January 19 - Legion Breakfast  
7:00 – 11:00 am
- January 28 - 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

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

"Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

*Luke 2:10-14*

May the peace and joy of Christmas be with you and your families throughout the coming year.

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

*President continued from page 1*

*Attention Auxiliary Members:* If you are interested in purchasing an American Legion Auxiliary shirt, please contact Linda Schmidt, 205-2517 or myself, 873-7397 or e-mail me: [nickbierman@att.net](mailto:nickbierman@att.net). They are \$18.99 plus tax and shipping, but the more that are ordered, the cheaper the shipping. We will be getting them from Stoughton Screening. If you order out of the Legion catalog, they are more than \$30.

The American Legion Auxiliary and VFW Auxiliary cookbooks are here. You can order one by calling Sharon Silbaugh, 873-3927 or Alice Moen, 444-7320. They are \$16.00 each and would make nice Christmas presents.

Just want to thank the Legionnaires, cooks, workers, and anyone else who was involved in putting on a delicious prime rib dinner. Good job everyone!

Linda Swangstu is still not feeling her best. Linda, hope you get better so you can enjoy the Holidays. Also keep Al Phelps and Elvera and family in your prayers.

I have scholarship forms for the next school year. If you are interested please let me know, 873-7397 or e-mail me They need to be in by the first of March.

Hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Stay healthy and safe.

President  
Marlene Bierman



### Book Sale

December 14 – 7:00 am–3:00 pm

\$1.00 for hardcovers  
\$.50 for paperbacks  
Plus some miscellaneous items.

Books can be dropped off at the Post until December 12.

### Lefse Making at the Post



*and Rita Sperry – October 26, 2013*

District Chaplain Joe Hodgson is putting together the District Post Everlasting Memorial and is in need of a WWII or Korean era Steel Helmet. This is the memorial where we burn the names of the deceased members in our District each April at Spring Conference.

If you have one and would like to donate it to the District, please contact Joe at 608.753.2520.

### Thank You

A big thank you goes out to our Honor Guard for what they do for our fallen comrades and to the Auxiliary for what they do for our fallen comrade's families. Job well done. A big thank you goes out to Noel Halverson and Tami and Jeff Gassen for their generous donations to purchase gifts for the TOYS for Tots program that our very own Sons of American Legion decided to do for some needy children this Christmas. Thank You.

Jim Oler  
Finance Officer



### ATTENTION Legion – Auxiliary – SAL Members

We have a POW/MIA Stamp Resolution Petition being circulated in the Post in request for our support for issuing a stamp for this cause. Please support this worthy cause by signing the petition.

If you need or would like more information on this request, please e-mail [doonermay@charter.net](mailto:doonermay@charter.net) or phone DuWayne Stellacher at 873.3569. We need as many signatures as possible before Memorial Day 2014.

### Christmas Care Packages

American Legion Post 59 will again be sending care packages to men and women from the Stoughton area stationed overseas at Christmastime. We need your help getting the names and addresses of these service members.

Send information to Cliff Maerz, 873.3474 or Sonny Swangstu, 873.9428 or leave a note in the office door at the Post.

### 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.



### AMERICAN LEGION BAR 803 N. Page St. Stoughton, WI

Open to the Public

**Bar open to serve you Wednesday - Sunday**

**Wednesday & Thursday:** 3:00 pm or later

**Friday:** 3 – 10 pm or later

**Saturday:** Noon – 10 pm or later

**Sunday:** 11:30 am – 6 pm or later

**Wednesday Ladies Night**

\$ .50 off any Ladies drinks



### Hall Rentals

Call Julie Nygaard at 608.333.9577



*Pictured above is Greg Vodak as he is presented a Purple Heart plaque by Purple Heart Chairman Bud Erickson. Greg was awarded the Purple Heart as a result of injuries sustained in combat in Vietnam in 1967.*

### **Purple Heart Recipient Sergeant Greg Vodak**

Gregory L. Vodak entered the Marine Reserves on February 1, 1966. While taking boot camp in San Diego, he decided to switch to the regular Marine Corps for a commitment of four years. His reasons for enlisting were to serve his county and to take advantage of the educational benefits offered to veterans. Greg was deployed to Vietnam on December 10, 1966 as a combat engineer. In addition to building roads and bridges for the infantry, his job consisted of sweeping roads and bridges nearly every day to clear them of mines and booby traps. He was stationed near Calu, which is north of Da Nang near the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). On the morning of April 25, 1967 while riding on a truck with other engineers to build a bridge near Khe Sanh, a mountaintop Marine base, his convoy was ambushed by the North Vietnamese firing automatic weapons and rockets. When his truck was disabled by a land mine, Lance Corporal Vodak jumped to the ground and, while lying on his belly, kept firing at the attackers. At that time, Greg was hit in the right knee by enemy rifle fire. He kept firing at the attackers until the remainder of his platoon had pulled back and things quieted down. He then crawled on his hands and knees about 100 yards to rejoin the remainder of his platoon. All but two had been killed or wounded.

Greg was given morphine and evacuated to a field hospital, examined, and then sent to a hospital near Da Nang; then to a hospital in Yokohama, Japan; and finally to a hospital ship, the USS *Sanctuary* for surgery. It was there that he found out he had three

broken bones in his knee. After surgery, Greg was transferred to hospitals in Philadelphia, Subic Bay, Philippines, Alaska, and Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland before being sent to Great Lakes, IL for rehabilitation. He spent six months in a cast followed by six more months in rehabilitation. Greg was given morphine and evacuated to a field hospital, examined, and then sent to a hospital near Da Nang; then to a hospital in Yokohama, Japan; and finally to a hospital ship, the USS *Sanctuary* for surgery. It was there that he found out he had three broken bones in his knee. After surgery, Greg was transferred to hospitals in Philadelphia, Subic Bay, Philippines, Alaska, and Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland before being sent to Great Lakes, IL for rehabilitation. He spent six months in a cast followed by six more months in rehabilitation.

*Submitted by Bud Erickson*

### **FIVE FINGER PRAYER**

1 Your thumb is the nearest to you, so pray for those closest to you, they are the easiest to remember.

2 The next finger is the pointing finger, pray for those who teach, instruct, and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction.

3 The next finger is the tallest finger; it reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the President, leaders in the industry, business, and administrators. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion, they need God's help.

4 The fourth finger is our ring finger. Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble, or in pain. They need your prayers day and night. You cannot pray too much for them.

5 And lastly our little finger, the smallest finger of all, which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible says, "the least shall be the greatest among you." Your pinky should remind you to pray for yourself.

As members of the American Legion and Auxiliary, look at your palm and see that your fingers move freely. This reminds us that we have the opportunity to live in a free country and to pray for Veterans of yesterday and today.

We have the chance to thank those who have given us the opportunity to sleep in peace at night in a country that is free.

# Get the Veteran Identifier on your License or ID Card

Available  
December 2



## *Verify - Then Apply*

- Establish eligibility with Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs
- Renew license at a DMV Service Center

To establish eligibility, contact the WDVA's  
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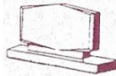


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Editors Cliff Maerz and Tim Carter: [C\\_Maerz@msn.com](mailto:C_Maerz@msn.com)