



THE LEGION POST

OTIS SAMPSON POST 59

803 North Page Street - STOUGHTON, WI

PH: 608.205.9090

Post 59 Website: www.post59.us

AUTUMN 2023



2023-2024

POST 59 OFFICERS

Commander

Michael Currie

1st Vice Commander

Rodger Hansen

2nd Vice Commander

Mike Ayers

3rd Vice Commander

Ken Schieldt

Service Officer

John Solis

Sgt. At Arms

Jim Schiferl

Finance Officer

Jim Oler

Historian

Al Vick

Adjutant

Joshua Holt

Judge Advocate

Tom Jenny

Chaplain

Edward Nowicki

Membership

Mike Ayers

FROM THE COMMANDER'S DESK



Well summer is almost over and in a month or so the fall colors will start to appear. Hope everyone has been enjoying our dry warm summer? The Post has been busy with bar and hall events and special fundraisers out at our Tiki bar.

Larry Johnson has been keeping us in the music all summer with a variety of very good bands and the Summer Jams on the last Sunday of every month.

We ended our 2023 membership drive at 92.2%. Just an FYI we are the largest American Legion Post in the county, and we should strive to set an example for other Posts and get to 100% for the 2024 membership. We have a new Membership Chairman, Mike Ayers and if you have any questions or need assistance in paying your dues please contact him. His contact information is in this newsletter.

I would like to see us have another customer appreciation day for our members and patrons sometime in September. I will need to work with our Post volunteers to plan when this will happen. We will have drink specials and be serving brats, burgers, hotdogs and much more so please check out our social media sites or our information monitors in the bar for more information on the date.

We would like to start up a Corn Hole League or at least a tournament this fall in our Post Hall and have it go into the winter months if possible. If you are interested in this please feel free to discuss.

Don't forget that our monthly breakfast is held on the 3rd Sunday of every month all year long. Also, we will be starting our monthly members and guest dinner on Tuesday September 26th and will be held the on 4th Tuesday of every month through May of 2024, with the exception of this December 26th because of Christmas falling on the 25th.

Please remember to check out our events calendar in this newsletter. In closing I want to thank all of our volunteers, you all are the ones that make our Post a fun, safe and successful place to come to. It helps us continue our support to our area veterans and their families as well as the Stoughton community.

See you at the Post and have a wonderful fall season.

Michael Currie - Commander



Sons of the American Legion Report Squadron 59



2023-2024

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

Sons of the American Legion, Squadron 59 has elected their officers for 2023-2024: Commander Bob Hocking will return, Bob Crofoot will move into the 1st. Vice Commanders position, “Dan the Man” Blomgren will resume his service as 2nd. Vice Commander, Jim Oler continues as Finance officer, Brian Vogt is our newly appointed Adjutant, and will do double duty as the Squadron Chaplain, Roger Strandlie takes over the Historians position, and Greg Clark was elected to the Sgt. at Arms position. Thanks, and good luck to the returning officers and special thanks to those willing to try a new challenge.

We are saddened by the decision to step away for an undetermined amount of time made by our SAL brother Dean Stenjem. We as a group and myself especially have leaned on Dean mightily over the years, we wish him the best and hope his health improves to the point where we can see his smiling face at the Post again soon.

With the Summer having turned the corner and cruising through the back nine the SAL is looking ahead to our future events, September 11th. will be our next “Raise the Flag” outing. The Super special Veterans Day Flag presentation being the Grand finale of this year’s “Raise the Flag” efforts. Keep your eyes peeled for other events such as our annual Amish candy sale, Fish boil, Toys for Tots drive, and Breakfast with Santa. You’ll always find our guys involved in other events as well going on at the Legion. Our Monthly meetings are held at 7:00 on the 2nd. Wednesday of every month in the dining hall.

Bob Hocking
SAL Squadron 59
Commander

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

2ND ANNUAL CHILI FEED

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7 — 5:00 TIL 7:30

VFW POST 328 - VETERANS ROAD, STOUGHTON, WI

ALL PROCEEDS GO FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

Bud Erickson – Contributor





**AMERICAN LEGION
AUXILIARY UNIT 59**



2023-2024

**UNIT 59 AUXILIARY
OFFICERS**

President

Amy Hermes

Vice President

Dawn Clark

Secretary

Kate Schieldt

Treasurer

Lisa Olson

Chaplain

Anna Paul

Membership

Lisa Olson

Founded in 1919, The American Legion Auxiliary has nearly 1 million members from all walks of life. The Auxiliary administers hundreds of volunteer programs, gives tens of thousands of hours to its communities and to veterans, and raises millions of dollars to support its own programs, as well as other worthwhile charities familiar to Americans. It is all accomplished with volunteers.

While originally organized to assist The American Legion, the Auxiliary has achieved its own unique identity while working side-by-side with the veterans who belong to The American Legion. Like the Legion, the Auxiliary's interests have broadened to encompass the entire community.

The American Legion Auxiliary is made up of the male and female spouses, grandmothers, mothers, sisters, and direct and adopted female descendants of members of The American Legion. Through its nearly 10,500 units located in every state and some foreign countries,

the Auxiliary embodies the spirit of America that has prevailed through war and peace. Along with The American Legion, it solidly stands behind America and its ideals.

www.legion.org/auxiliary



THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

We gather this day in your Name, mindful of the seasons of our lives and of our organization, mindful of the passing of time and of the shortness of time in which to plant the seeds and harvest the fruit of your Kingdom. Be with us this day. Heighten our awareness of the abundance of gifts and opportunities you have given us to carry out your healing work in this world. Strengthen our commitment to take the fullest advantage of the precious but ever fleeting time you have given us so that the harvest of our lives and that of our organization will be abundant. We ask this in faith. - Amen.

Ed Nowicki – Chaplain

Legion Membership News

On behalf of Commander Michael Currie and myself we thank you for your continued support and membership with American Legion Post #59. Take pride in knowing you belong to a membership strong and reputable post in Wisconsin providing community services and support for local veterans and their families.

As we continue to promote ways and means to expand our interactions with area veterans and those serving on active duty, we encourage you to reach out to those you may know and sponsor and/or encourage them in becoming a member of the Post 59 family. Legion Membership not only makes a great gift for veterans but those future veterans serving on active duty. Membership will provide them with National and Local information and news regarding veteran services, benefits and activities through the American Legion National Magazine and Local Post Newsletters.

2023 Membership: As of this newsletter our Post has 306 members that have joined or renewed their membership putting our post at 92% of our goal of 332. If you have not renewed for this year and wish to do so, please contact me or mail in your renewal notice with your payment

2024 Membership: Our post is off to a great start for 2024 with 8 new members and 147 renewals to date.

We welcome the following new Legionnaires to our post:

Jason Ayers – USA, William Aaberg - USMC, Gerald Graffin – USMC,
Melissa Huston – USAF, Michael Johnson – USA,
Richard Knipfer – USA and Randi Seamonson – USN

Your membership promotes and supports our commitment to serving area veterans their families and our community with the following services:

Stoughton Area Veterans Memorial Park (SAVMP) - Stoughton Heroes Center - Madison VA Hospital - Scouts (BSA) - High School Scholarships for our Stoughton High School Seniors - Stoughton Area Special Olympics - Camp American Legion - Stoughton Senior Center - Food Pantry - Legion Baseball - Proud sponsor of the Dane County Youth Government Day and Badger Boy State – Veteran Suicide prevention and Intervention education seminars.

What's happening at your post?

- We are committed to staying involved with area veterans and those returning service men and women providing services, support, education, and encouragement in joining our fine organization.
- A remodeled sports bar (open to the public Wed-Sun) and outside Tiki Bar (open for special events) with live bands, entertainment and meat raffles several times a month.
- Updated banquet hall available for rentals with discounted rates for Post Members.
- Your post is supported by a fine Honor Guard Unit providing memorial service support for our area veterans and their families, Auxiliary Unit 59, and Son's of The American Legion (SAL).

Michael L. Ayers – Post 59 Membership Chair

PH: (608) 335-1771 - Email: tqmgr@yahoo.com

THIS IS WHAT WE DO



On June 26th the American Legion Family (Post, Auxiliary & SAL) presented checks to the Stoughton Neighborhood Free Clinic Board of Directors from the proceeds of our May Breakfast which totaled \$1,800.



Post 59 Veterans Service Officer Report - August 2023

Fellow Legionnaires, let me begin by introducing myself, I am John Solis (Sew-lease) and I was recently elected as your Post Service Officer. I retired from the Air Force in June 1995 and moved to Stoughton in August 1995.

After completing additional education using my GI benefits I worked at several positions before I was hired as the Rock County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) in 2000; I enjoyed serving in that position until my retirement in 2021. I served as President of the County Veterans Service Officer Association of Wisconsin in 2013. I also served two years as the Chair of the Wisconsin American Legion Legislative Committee.

My family has a history of military service, besides myself, my wife, two sons, father-in-law, brother, daughter-in-law and several cousins and nephews served in the Air Force. I had three uncles, two brothers-in-law and several other cousins serve in the Army with my three uncles having served in Vietnam, and I had one nephew serve in the Marines.

My wife Deb and I have enjoyed making Stoughton our home and raising our boys here. For the first time since 2003 we have both boys and their families back in Wisconsin, one in Stoughton, the other in Evansville. My hobbies include traveling with my wife, helping my kids with home projects and playing guitar and singing when I can. I'm very popular with the nursing home and senior center crowd.

Well, that's who I am in a nutshell, and I look forward to serving as your Post Service Officer.

On To Official Business

The Dane County Veterans Service Office has moved and is now located at 1709 Aberg Avenue, Suite 2, Madison, WI 53704, (608) 266-4158. They are across the parking lot from the Dane County Job Center in the same building that houses the Vet Center. This ends my August report.

John Solis - Post 59 Service Officer

Phone: (608) 213-6241 Email: solosolis@gmail.com -



AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP NEWS



Our 2023 Membership year is now wrapping up with our Auxiliary achieving our 100% goal and then some! We ended the year at 10% over our goal & 161 members strong!

Since last fall we have welcomed 15 new members: Sue Deneen, Linda Tenpas, Pam LeMire, Bev Collins-Wittig, Teresa Plumley, Mary Hougan, Bentlie Barber, Jennifer Graffin, Paige Walker, Alisa Schepp, Jo Drew, Sherry Webb, Sue Vanderbilt, Ardys Outhouse and Kari Aagerup. Thank you to our members who invited them to join.

Unfortunately, we also lost three members, Donna Hoff, Patricia Holtan & Evelyn Kahl. We appreciate the contributions they made to our auxiliary thru their many years of service to the American Legion. They will truly be missed.

We are now beginning to collect the Dues for the 2024 Membership year. The dues have gone up this year to \$35.00 (\$5.25 for Juniors).

**Your check should be made Payable to ALA Unit 59.
Mail it to me at 1705 Severson Drive, Stoughton, WI 53589**

Or you can drop off your payment at the Post. Please put it in the Auxiliary mailbox inside the hall by the front door. If you happen to receive another notice in the mail after you have already paid, please disregard it or give me a call.

If you want to pay with a credit or debit card you can call National at 317-569-4570. (Monday-Friday 7:00 am to 3:30 pm).

I would like to thank Anna Paul for helping me during the last year in processing dues and sending out your membership cards. I really appreciated her help. If you have an interest in helping with membership this year, please let me know.

Lisa Olson - Membership Chairman
608-279-4847 – email: waucoman@hotmail.com



News from Stoughton Veterans Memorial Park

At the June Steering Committee meeting of the Stoughton Area Veterans Memorial Park, the following officers were elected: Randy Robertson, General Chairman; Rick Gullickson, Vice Chairman; Roger Kleven, Secretary; and Rick Kumlien, Finance Officer.

On Veterans Day this year, November 11, instead of putting the flags on individual lawns, Thrivent will display approximately 375 United States flags at the Veterans Memorial on County Highway B. This will be quite a spectacle.

Of the original nine members of the steering committee, dating back to August of 2014, seven are still active. However, two key members, Roger Kleven and Basil Sadler, are about to step aside from their duties. These two have done a yeoman's job collecting and verifying names of Stoughton-area veterans to be placed on the black granite walls. Therefore, we are looking for a person or team to assume this task. If you can help us out, please contact Randy Robertson at (608)764-5881 or tshirt.guy@gmail.com.

-Bud Erickson



ATTENTION

ALL Stoughton and surrounding area residents who have friends or relatives in the Armed Forces, presently stationed in the United States or foreign countries, who won't be home for Christmas.

American Legion Post 59 is sending Christmas service packages **FREE OF CHARGE** to all service men and women who qualify.

Simply text the soldier's name full military address, plus your name and phone number to: (608) 513-8218. For any questions, call Larry Johnson at this same number.

We need the names and addresses of the soldiers as soon as possible, but **no later than November 25th**.

Should a person or business care to donate money for packages, please mail a check to:

American Legion Post 59
c/o Jim Oler
803 N. Page St.
Stoughton, WI 53589

*Include a separate note, or memo on the check: **Christmas Service Packages**

Let's send our soldiers some Christmas Spirit from Wisconsin so they know we're thinking of them, proud of them and thanking them for their service.



Post 59 Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER 2023

Sep. 1st: Lefty's Old Time Jukebox 7:00-10:00pm
Sep. 11th: Monthly Auxiliary Meeting @ 5:30pm
Sep. 11th: American Legion Monthly Meeting @ 7:00pm
Sep. 16th: Bad Habit Band 7:00-10:00pm
Sep. 13th: SAL Monthly Meeting @ 7:00pm
Sep. 17th: Monthly Legion Breakfast – 7:30-11:30am
Sep. 24th: Country Music JAM – 2:00-6:00pm
Sep. 26th: Monthly Post Dinner @ 6:00pm
Sep. 30th: SAL Fish Boil

OCTOBER 2023

Oct. 2nd: Monthly Auxiliary Meeting @ 5:30pm
Oct. 7th: Special Olympics Spaghetti Dinner – 4:00-7:00pm
Oct. 9th: American Legion Monthly Meeting @ 7:00pm
Oct. 11th: SAL Monthly Meeting @ 7:00pm
Oct. 14th: Back 40 Band 7:00 - 10:00pm
Oct. 15th: Monthly Legion Breakfast – 7:30-11:30am
Oct. 20th: Lefty's Old Time Jukebox 7:00-10:00pm
Oct. 22nd: Country Music JAM – 2:00-6:00pm
Oct. 24th: Monthly Post Dinner @ 6:00pm
Oct. 27th: Karaoke (In the bar) 7:00-11:00pm
Oct. 27th: Halloween Party

NOVEMBER 2023

Nov. 4th: Veteran's Quilt Display 9:00-4:00pm
Nov. 4th: Back 40 Band 7:00 – 10:00pm
Nov. 6th: Monthly Auxiliary Meeting @ 5:30pm
Nov. 8th: SAL Monthly Meeting @ 7:00pm
Nov. 11th: Wayne Road Band 7:00-10:00pm
Nov. 13th: American Legion Monthly Meeting @ 7:00pm
Nov. 18th: Bad Habit Band 7:00-10:00pm
Nov. 19th: Monthly Legion Breakfast – 7:30-11:30am
Nov. 24th: Blue Moon Karaoke 7:00-11:00
Nov. 26th: Country Music JAM 2:00-6:00pm
Nov. 28th: Monthly Post Dinner @ 6:00pm

Contact Information for Post 59

Post 59 Email: alpost59@gmail.com

Michael Currie – Commander

PH: (608) 712-6747

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Mike Ayers – Membership chair

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Jim Oler – Finance Officer

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John Solis – Service Officer

Email: solosolis@gmail.com

Amy Hermes – ALA President

PH: (608) 516-8720

Email: AHermes@stoughtonhealth.com

Bob Hocking – SAL Commander

PH: (608) 206-6980

Email: sonsofthelegion59@gmail.com

Email: bobghocking@gmail.com

Doug Olson – Interim Editor

Email: 59legionpost@gmail.com

POP A TOP FOR -



ANY AMOUNT – DROP THEM OFF HERE OR VFW POST 328



The ALA Patriotic Stitchers presentation at the Post Dinner last April



Arlin Teigen – Quilt by Lori Moe-Kittelson
DuWayne Teigen – Quilt by Cathy Rigdon



Junior Volla –
Quilt by Alice Moen



Gene Heise –
Quilt by Pat Broadbent

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BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER - MEAT RAFFLE EVERY SATURDAY @ 2:00pm

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.

Otis Sampson American
Legion Post 59



Interim Editor:

Doug Olson

59legionpost@gmail.com

Website:



Hall Rentals

For More Information,
please contact Sherry

Leick @

[post59hallrental@gmail.co](mailto:post59hallrental@gmail.com)

m OR

go to our website @

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AMERICAN LEGION BAR

803 NORTH PAGE STREET

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Bar Open to Serve You:

Wednesday – Sunday

(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**