



THE LEGION POST

OTIS SAMPSON POST 59

803 North Page Street - STOUGHTON, WI

PH: 608.205.9090

Post 59 Website: www.post59.us

SUMMER 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

Good day to everyone.

Well, we had a fairly mild winter until those few major snow storms in February and early March. The spring has been pretty nice as well with nice warm temperatures however we can do without Mother Nature's severe thunderstorms.

We have had some surprising events over the last few months here at the Post. The big one was a bathroom plumbing problem that started at 2:00 in the morning and wasn't discovered by one of our volunteers till 11:00 that morning. It left us with 3 inches of water throughout the hall and bar. We needed to replace our flooring which was brand new just a year ago. Thanks to the Post insurance everything is back to normal with new floors again.

Syttende Mai will be here the weekend of May 15 through the 17th. The Post will have it's annual Sunday Breakfast on the 17th starting at 7:30 am going to 11:30am.

On Monday May 25th we will also have our annual Memorial Day Parade and Program at the Mandt Center sponsored by the Stoughton American Legion Post 59 and the Stoughton VFW Post 328. We are looking forward to all area Stoughton veterans to participate and ride on our Memorial Day float. The parade starts at 10:00am with the Memorial Day Program following the parade. Please come and honor our fallen veterans and those Stoughton veterans who have passed over the last year. There will be a reception at the Stoughton VFW this year following the program.

Our Legion Post, VFW and area volunteers will be honoring veterans by placing flags on veterans' graves at the local cemeteries. We will be starting at Riverside Cemetery on May 21st at 8:00 and retrieving them May 26th. Inevitably we will miss a veteran's grave for various reasons, we apologize in advance. We leave extra flags on the terraces so that if a family member notices we missed a loved one's grave, you can take one and place it

Please visit our website and Facebook page for updates of upcoming events at the Post. We will continue to have musical events during the summer; however, we will not have the Country Jams through the summer months and will resume in September. We are planning on having our Tiki Bar open on Friday nights and Saturday afternoons weather permitting through the Summer and early fall.

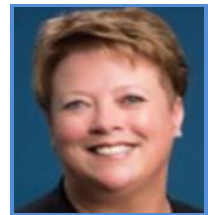
If you have questions or concerns feel free to contact me anytime.

Thank you to all our members, Patrons and volunteers for your continued support of your Post. Without your dedication we could not continue our mission of supporting our area veterans and the Stoughton community.

See you at the Post
Commander Michael



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 59



2025-2026

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

Tinamarie Nelson

Membership

Lisa Olson

Greetings All

“Alone we do so little, together we can do so much.

— Helen Keller

March 31 marked the end of our fiscal year and as I worked on our annual reports, I continue to be amazed and proud of all the things ALA has been able to do this past year. Our members donated over 6,000 hours of time volunteering and over \$12,000 in donations to our community and veteran projects/needs. Additionally, we reached our scholarship fund goal of \$30,000.

So much to be proud of!

Our big event in May will be all things poppy. Tina Marie Nelson has been working on Miss Poppy (please see her article). Lisa Olson and Sherry Lieck are part of the committee planning for the Memorial Day parade and program. You will be finding a poppy in this newsletter, and we hope you will consider donating. We will also be distributing them at various locations during Memorial Day Weekend.

We are excited that we have two girls attending Badger Girl State in June.

We appreciate the support of our sponsors, the Stoughton Lions and the

Stoughton Rotary Club. They both have generously contributed to the cost to send these two girls. Watch for potential “pop up” events this summer at the Tiki Bar.

In friendship & fellowship,



Sons of the American Legion Report Squadron 59



2025-2026

Squadron 59 SAL OFFICERS

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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

Before you know it, Memorial Day will be here again and Americans from across the country will honor those who lost their lives fighting for their families, friends, relatives and fellow military personnel.

Here in Stoughton, we celebrate these heroes with a parade in their honor, and a service to make sure once again that we will always remember.

I had a difficult time writing this article, and normally I would have several subjects that I would touch upon, but after a few starts and an incomplete effort, I came to the realization that what needed to be said at this time stands on its own and does not need to share space with anything else.

Bob Hocking
Commander, SAL Squadron 59



2026 AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP

To learn more about the Auxiliary, their mission and programs, visit the Wisconsin ALA website at <https://www.amlegionauxwi.org>



Lisa Olson ~ Auxiliary Membership Chair 2003~2026
Dawn Clark ~ Auxiliary Membership Chair 2026~2027

Honor Our Country and Support Our Veterans





A huge thank you to our wonderful Miss Poppys Olivia Suktay and Maddie Westby, for the time, heart, and dedication they have given in supporting our American Legion. Their kindness, involvement and willingness to represent our community has not gone unnoticed. We are so grateful for all they have done. Together they have set such a beautiful example, and we were lucky to have both had this role.

Now, we are so excited to welcome our new Miss Poppy, Madelyn Elsing. Madelyn is 9 years old, currently in 4th grade, and already has such a big heart for helping others. She enjoys volunteering in her community and is an active member of the Girl scouts, where she continues to learn, grow and give back. We can't wait to see the joy, energy and personality she will bring to this special tradition. We know she will carry it forward in her own unique way, and we're cheering her on every step of the way.

Here's to celebrating the past, embracing the present, and continuing this meaningful tradition together.

Tina Marie Nelson, Miss Poppy Chair



On May 22nd our Auxiliary will launch National Poppy Days in Stoughton to honor U.S. Service members, from the battlefields of France in WWI over a century ago until today. For over 100 years, ALA members & veterans across the country have distributed millions of poppies. Last year we were able to raise over \$3500 with 100% of the funds being donated to veteran projects & programs.

We have enclosed a poppy in this newsletter for each of our Legionnaires. Please wear your poppy with pride. If you are able, please use the enclosed return envelope to make a donation to this year's collection. If you are an email newsletter subscriber, and would like to donate, please drop off or mail to Post 59 at 803 N Page.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

American Legion Post 59 Summer 2026 Membership News

100% 2026 Membership: Congratulation and thank you to every member that assisted Post 59 in attaining our goal of 100%. As of this newsletter we have renewed 323 and added 23 new Legionnaires to our ranks for a total of 346. Our 13th of May goal is to be 100% or 345 members.

Wow!! 2027 Membership is right around the corner: Renewal notices are sent out in July, and reminders in October, January, March and May. When a member renews, they are removed from future notices. I have had a few members receive renewal notices when in fact they were paid-up for the year. Keep good records and if you receive such a notice after paying and you have your new card just disregard the notice or call or text me and I will research and get back to you with an answer.

New Members: Since our Spring Newsletter we have welcomed the following 7 new Legionnaires into our ranks: Robert Crofoot – USA, Brent Graffin – USMC/USA, Nichole Jansen-Withee – USA, Erik Michels – USA, Joe Miller – USAF, Joseph Overland – USN and Katie Young – USA.

New Member Incentives: A member here at Post 59 wishes to assist with our membership by providing 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. **We also have invited past members back into our ranks with a 1 year “try us again membership”.** Also remember American Legion Membership is open to all who have served during war and non-war eras including National Guard and Reserves.



*****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.**

Llewellyn “Lou” Torngren – USN Korea War

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



Membership table @ Veterans Resource
Event at VFW



Patriotic Stitchers preparing food for
April Monthly Members Dinner



As April slips away, we need to recognize Volunteer Appreciation Month, and we must take a moment to highlight a truly special family of volunteers here at Post 59 — the Strandlie family: Donna, Roger, and their daughter, Traci Williamson.

Their dedication does not go unnoticed. They work incredibly hard to ensure our monthly member dinners run smoothly, creating a welcoming experience for everyone who walks through our doors. As we wrap up the dinners for the summer, we already look forward to their return in September.

If you've spent any time around the Post, chances are you've seen Roger busy fixing or painting something, always lending a hand wherever it's needed. Donna and Traci are also active members of our Unit 59 Auxiliary, generously giving their time and energy in support of our mission.

It's volunteers like the Strandlie family who truly make our Post what it is today. Their commitment, generosity, and quiet leadership are what keep this place running strong.

From all of us at Post 59 — thank you, Roger, Donna, and Traci, for everything you do. We are incredibly proud and grateful to have you as part of our family.



Veterans Day November 2025. Visited all the Stoughton schools and many Senior Living facilities. We participated in each Veteran day celebration. Thank you to the Stoughton Community for your wonderful support.

THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

A Prayer for Veterans

"Oh God, Our Heavenly Father, you have blessed us with brave men and women who are willing to defend our freedom. May your protection and grace surround them each day. Let your healing hands be upon those who suffer wounds and injuries. May those who have made the ultimate sacrifice rest forever in your Holy presence. Comfort the families who mourn and are left to remember the precious lives of their loved ones. Help us to honor and support them. Let us be ever mindful of each sacrifice made on behalf of the American people by our sons, daughters, husbands, wives, mothers, fathers and friends".

Amen.

Ed Nowicki ~ Post 59 Chaplain



“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.

Syttende Mai Parade - Sunday, May 17

Meet at Mandt Park by 1:00 p.m. The Veteran’s Float parks on South Fourth Street

Memorial Day Parade - Monday, May 25

Beginning at 10:00 am on S. Prairie and West Main St.

Shuttle available from the Mandt Center to parade line-up for parade participants beginning 9:15.

Veteran’s Float parks on the corner of S. Prairie & W. Main at 9:30.

Memorial Day Program – Monday, May 26

Immediately following the Parade @ 11:00 a.m. at Mandt Center
RAIN or SHINE

The Program is open to the public.

Cemetery Flags Placement

Help needed: Thursday, May 21 @ 8:00am- Meet at Riverside Cemetery to put out flags. (Rain

Date: Friday, May 22 @ 8:00am)

Remove Flags Tuesday, May 26 @ 8:00am - Meet at Riverside Cemetery to remove flags.

(Rain Date: Wednesday, May 27 @ 8:00am)



THE AUXILIARY PATRIOTIC STITCHERS HONOR QUILTS

The Honor Quilts are crafted by the Auxiliary Patriotic Stitchers to recognize the service of Post 59 members and were presented at the February & April Post Dinners,

Clockwise from top left: Jerry Graffin - Quilt by Melissa Schiferl, Jim Hanson - Quilt by Alice Moen, Lanny Young - Quilt by Sandy Vike, David Aide - Quilt by Lori Moe-Kittelsohn, Philip Peterson - Quilt by Sherrie Hensel & Steve Armstrong - Quilt by Alice Moen





Post 59 Calendar of Events

JUNE 2026

- Jun. 1st: Monthly Auxiliary Meeting @ 5:30 pm
- Jun. 8th: American Legion Monthly Meeting @ 7:00 pm
- Jun. 10th: SAL Monthly Meeting @ 7:00 pm
- Jun. 12th: Posse Band – 7:00-10:00 pm
- Jun. 13th: Freedom Ride –Leaves VFW @ 10:00 am
- Jun. 21st: Legion Breakfast – 7:30-11:30 am

JULY 2026

- Jul. 4th: Independence Day – 250th Anniversary
- Jul. 8th: SAL Monthly Meeting @ 7:00 pm
- Jul. 13th: American Legion Monthly Meeting @ 7:00 pm
- Jul. 19th: Monthly Legion Breakfast – 7:30-11:30 am
- Jul. 25th: Class of 1966 Reunion 4:00 pm -12:00 am

AUGUST 2026

- Aug 10th: American Legion Monthly Meeting @ 7:00 pm
- Aug 12th: SAL Monthly Meeting @ 7:00 pm
- Aug 16th: Monthly Legion Breakfast – 7:30-11:30 am

Contact Information for Post 59

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Jim Oler – Finance Officer

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Email: oller8888@gmail.com

John Solis – Service Officer

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Email: solosolis@gmail.com

Amy Hermes – ALA President

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Bob Hocking – SAL Commander

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Email: sonsofthelegion59@gmail.com

Email: bobghocking@gmail.com

Bob Crofoot – Editor

Email: hodagbob@yahoo.com

MEAT RAFFLES MONTHLY ON SECOND SATURDAY THRU SUMMER @ 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.

SAVMP Freedom Ride – June 13, 2026 – Starts and ends at VFW Post 328



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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 @

[Post 59-Otis Sampson
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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**