



# THE LEGION POST

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



Volume 18 Issue 8

August 2016

## Commander's Report

### 2016-2017 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

Bob Lloyd

#### Judge Advocate

Terry McCardle

#### Chaplain

Rich Fries



Hello,

I can't believe another month has gone by. With all the graduations, cookouts, and holidays, it has been a busy time for all. Everything outdoors looks green, good, and growing.

Things are rolling along with the Veteran's Memorial Park project under Duane Broughton's guidance. He really keeps things going with hopes of the November opening. Keep up the great job!

Business has slowed down at the Post as it always does in the summer. People are busy camping, vacationing and enjoying the outdoors. There wasn't a meat raffle a couple of Saturdays because there weren't enough people to participate.

We are still doing the Friday night fish fry from 5:00-8:00 pm.

The last Sunday of the month jam session draws people who like to dance or just listen to the music. There is terrific talent for your enjoyment with BBQ's and chips served if you get hungry.

Come and take a gander at our display case in the banquet hall. We have flags, hats, and shirts for sale. The flags are

very nice as they have embroidered stars on them with good quality material.

Just a reminder again, for the Veterans that do not want to take the Honor Flight because they do not want to fly. Sign up for the Vets Roll out of Beloit (vetsroll.org). This is a four-day trip to Washington, DC. Ask me for details if interested.

Bob Lloyd has reported our Post membership is currently at 96.52%—still short of our goal and Bob has sent letters to 13 members that have not renewed yet. This will be updated at our August meeting.

*Commander continued on page 2*

### Auxiliary

#### President

Cathy Rigdon

873.5818

608.712.5312

#### 1st Vice President

Amy Hermes

608.516.8720

#### 2nd Vice President

Jona Chat

608.622.4574

#### Secretary

Lisa Olson

608.279.4847

#### Treasurer

Linda Schmidt

205.2517

#### Chaplain

Lynn Robertson

608.692.6321

#### Membership

Lisa Olson

608.279.4847

Bonnie Kennedy

608.669.7744

Linda Swangstu

873.9428

## Auxiliary News



Greetings,

The 2016-2017 American Legion Auxiliary year kicked off with our executive committee meeting to plan our calendar of events. We already see it will be a busy year! A special thanks to Elvera Phelps and Bonnie Kennedy for accepting the committee appointment of Member-at-Large.

On August 11, we will be holding our first fund-raiser at the Gazebo Muzik, here in Stoughton. For those of you who may not be familiar with this event, it is a free weekly concert held on Thursday evenings during the summer at the Stoughton Rotary Park (next to the Stoughton Fire Station). Each week features a different style of music and artist(s). It is a way to enjoy the wonder

summer evenings while listening to music and enjoying one another. Music begins at 6:00 pm and concludes at 7:30 pm.

Attendees bring their own chairs, blankets, and sometimes their own food and drinks (alcohol permitted). Others support the non-profit organization that is providing food that night. Our auxiliary will be selling regular hot dogs, Chicago-style hot dogs, chips, and sweets. Music that night will be provided by The Lowdown, playing Rock, Alt-Rock, and Indie. Please plan to attend our fund-raising event, while enjoying a night of music and relaxation.

The 2016 Department State Convention will be held at the Marriott in Middleton July 14-17. Our unit will be represented at the convention by Lisa Olson, Linda Schmidt, Lynn Robertson, Amy Hermes, and me.

*Did you Know?* Two women from Stoughton have served as the Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary President; Mattie Keenan from 1935 – 1936 and Margie Martin from 1949-1950.

Cathy Rigdon  
Unit 59 President

## CALENDER OF EVENTS

- July 17 - Legion Breakfast – **Canceled**
- July 24 - Country Jam with Mikey Fuss – 2:00-6:00 pm
- July 26 - Legion Dinner – **Canceled**
- July 29 - Jackie Mabie Country/Oldies Rock – 7:00-10:00 pm
- August 6 - Blue Moon karaoke – 8:00- ?
- August 19 - Dean’s Blue Country – 7:00-10:00 pm
- August 21 - Legion Breakfast – 7:30-11:30 am
- August 23 - Legion Dinner – 6:30 pm
- August 28 - Country Jam with Mikey Fuss – 2:00-6:00 pm

Commander continued from page 1

The SAL and Post will be holding an awards banquet in the future to recognize the outstanding citizens in the Police Department and in the community. No date set as of yet.

Our monthly meetings will be held *every other month* instead of monthly on a trial basis. We will see how it pans out.

Thank you volunteers,

Commander Sonny

### Event Pricing

**Post Dinner:** 6:30 pm \$11.00

**Breakfast:** 7:30-11:30 am  
\$8.00 adults, \$4.00 children

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



## CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

“Friendship is the source of the greatest pleasures, and without friends even the most agreeable pursuits become tedious.”

*Thomas Aquinas*

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

### Hall Rentals

Call Julie Nygaard at 608.333.9577

### Reminder: Post Dues Go Up

This is a reminder that the Post membership dues have increased \$5.00 for 2016/2017.

The new Post membership dues will be \$40.00 beginning July 1 when you receive your membership dues reminder from National Headquarters.

This increase reflects the dues increase passed by the National Headquarters last year. Therefore the Post must increase our dues to reflect this increase.

Thank you for your understanding.

Bob Lloyd  
Membership Chairman



We received a check last night from the Sons of the American Legion and the American Legion for \$1500 to go towards the Paul Kraby Memorial and Awards Banquet, which is scheduled for later this year. The Legion raised the proceeds from a fish boil. Thanks to the Legion and thanks to all who supported the effort by attending the event.

From left to right, Police Chief Gregory Leck, Sons of the American Legion Commander Dean Stenjem, American Legion Finance Officer Jim Oler and Police Sergeant Nathan Hartwig.

NEW SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION OFFICERS FOR 2016-2017



2016 – 2017 Squadron 59 Officers

- |                                  |                 |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| ➤ Commander                      | Dean Stenjem    |
| ➤ 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Commander | Jeff Gassen     |
| ➤ 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander | Jim Oler        |
| ➤ Sergeant-at-Arms               | Alan Metzler    |
| ➤ Finance Officer                | Jim Oler        |
| ➤ Historian                      | Roger Strandlie |
| ➤ Adjutant                       | Clark Anderson  |
| ➤ Chaplain                       | Dan Blomgren    |

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Macbook 11 inch Notebook Computer .....		\$899
Cash Prize .....		\$500
Custom Built 3 Club Wedge Set 52, 56, 60 Degree .....		\$300

**Drawing at American Legion Post 59, Stoughton, WI**  
**August 15, 2016**  
**4,500 tickets to be sold**  
**\$10 each or 3 for \$25**

*Tickets available at American Legion & VFW*

**Monthly Post Meeting Schedule**

**Legion – 2nd Monday – 7:00 pm**

**Auxiliary – 2nd Monday – 6:30 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








# The 50th Anniversary of the War in Vietnam Operation Badger Base



An Event Commemorating All Wisconsin Veterans



## Join Us August 11 - 14, 2016 to Commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the War in Vietnam.



*Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund "Wall that Heals" and Learning Center/Museum, Live Music, Veteran Services and Counseling Information, Wisconsin National Guard participation with vehicle and equipment displays, Military Aircraft Fly-by, Food Booths, and much more!!*



On the grounds of:



6200 Millpond Road, Madison, WI



## Operation Badger Base-Volunteers Needed

Operation Badger Base has many volunteer opportunities available. This is a massive effort similar to Bratfest that is a veteran themed event. We will need about 40 volunteers between 10 am and 10 pm each day as beertenders (bartender licenses not required), parking attendants, beer and food ticket sellers, ID checkers among many other duties over the four-day event.

We will have top notch entertainment in the evenings and will especially need beertenders and other volunteers then. Entertainment is free so it is expected to be very well attended.

This is also a great chance at recruitment as there will be many Vietnam era veterans as well as younger OEF/OIF veterans in attendance.

We will also feature a life-size replica of "The Tomb of the Unknown" that was unveiled in Deforest on Memorial Day. Four wreath placements ceremonies will be performed every day and also feature the "Changing of the Guard" twice daily, 11:00 am and 6:00 pm.

We are asking for your help in making this event a rousing success for Madison and the American Legion, Auxiliary, and SAL. Please contact District Commander Mary Lloyd for volunteer opportunities at [Lloyd2364@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Lloyd2364@sbcglobal.net) or 608-873-5926.

(Need not be a Legionnaire to volunteer).



## The Vietnam Memorial Traveling Wall is Coming to You

On Wednesday, August 10 the American Legion Riders will lead approximately 100 motorcycles in a procession bringing in the Vietnam Memorial Traveling Wall to the Ho-Chunk property on Millpond Road in Madison.

This escort is the beginning of Operation Badger Base, a celebration of service for all Wisconsin veterans, being conducted by a wide range of veterans organizations that include the local American Legion's, VFW's, and many others.

This escort will begin in Janesville at 10:00 am, proceed up Hwy. 51 to Edgerton at 10:25 am, **arrive in Stoughton at 10:46 am**, continue on Hwy. 51 **through McFarland at 11:05 am**, and arrive at the Ho-Chunk property at approximately 11:15 am. Please allow 10 minutes or so before or after these times.

We are asking all Legionnaires and townspeople to come out on the street and cheer us on in support of this effort and the sanctity of The Wall.

Your support would be greatly appreciated.

## Honor Guard Report

For the first six months of 2016 we have provided military honors for 11 funerals. Two included pass-in-reviews for Don Heiliger and Ken Stelzer. In addition we provided a flag ceremony at the Skaalen Home honoring their resident veterans on the Thursday before Memorial Day. We also had a significant role in the parade and Memorial Day program at the Mandt Center. I know it's not always that convenient to be on an honors detail, but I do know we all realize what an honor it is to provide military rites for our deceased comrades. A good example of our commitment is the pass-in-review for Don Heiliger on Easter Sunday. Nearly the entire Honor Guard turned out to provide a truly first class ceremony.

We do need some new HG members. If you know someone who would be reliably available during the week as well as weekends, have them call me. 873-3481. I realize none of us are available all the time, but we do need people that we can count on.

If you are a friend or relative of a recently deceased veteran and would like to be on the honors detail, call me as soon as possible and I'll certainly include you on the detail.

Constructive suggestions are always welcome.

*Submitted by Al Vick*

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No dinner in July  
Next dinner August 23, 2016

**DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES THE 8<sup>TH</sup> OF EACH MONTH**  
VISIT THE POST WEB SITE AT [POST59.ORG](http://POST59.ORG)  
Editors Cliff Maerz and Tim Carter: [C\\_Maerz@msn.com](mailto:C_Maerz@msn.com)