

Post 59 Calendar of Events

MAY 2023

- May 20th: Dan Reilly Music – 7:00-11:00pm
- May 21st: Monthly Legion Breakfast – 7:30-11:30am
- May 26th: Blue Moon Karaoke – 7:00-11:00pm
- May 28th: Country Music JAM – 2:00-6:00pm
- May 29th: MEMORIAL DAY
- May 29th: Memorial Day Reception – 12:00-6:00pm

JUNE 2023

- June 2nd: Jackie Marie/Dancehall Kings – 7:00-10:00pm
- June 5th: Monthly Auxiliary Meeting @ 5:30pm
- June 9th: Psyche Band Fundraiser – 7:00-10:00pm
- June 10th: FREEDOM RIDE – All Day
- June 12th: American Legion Monthly Meeting @ 7:00pm
- June 14th: Flag Day
- June 14th: SAL Monthly Meeting @ 7:00pm
- June 16th: Bryan Alan Piper Music – 6:00-9:00pm
- June 18th: Fathers' Day
- June 18th: Monthly Legion Breakfast – 7:30-11:30am
- June 23rd: Blue Moon Karaoke – 7:00-11:00pm
- June 25th: Country Music JAM – 2:00-6:00pm

JULY 2023

- July 1st: Bad Habit Band – 7:00-10:00pm
- July 4th: Independence Day!
- July 8th: Back 40 Band – 7:00-10:00pm
- July 10th: American Legion Monthly Meeting @ 7:00pm
- July 12th: SAL Monthly Meeting @ 7:00pm
- July 14th: Vintage Country Band – 7:00-10:00pm
- July 16th: Monthly Legion Breakfast – 7:30-11:30am
- July 21st: Lefty's Old Time Country Jukebox – 7-10pm
- July 23rd: Country Music JAM – 2:00-6:00pm
- July 29th: Country Renegades – 7:00-10:00pm

**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.



**Sons of the American
Legion Report
Squadron 59**



Here we go. It is that time of the year again when the Son's of the American Legion, Squadron 59 continue with our Spring and Summer projects and events. Members of the SAL have already started the planning and assisting other members of the Legion Family, and friends at the Stoughton VFW with preparing for this year's Memorial Day Parade and Service. The parade will begin at Prairie and Main St. at 10:00 and proceed to the Mandt Center. The service honoring and mourning the U.S. military personnel who have died while serving in the United States armed forces, and local Vets who have passed in the last year will begin at 11:00 There will be a picnic lunch prepared and served at the Legion by the SAL and some wonderful volunteers following. All are welcome.

A reminder that this year's "Raise the Flag" events also begin on Memorial Day and now is the time if you have not renewed your involvement or would like to be included to do so. Applications are available at the American Legion or by contacting tammy.niedfeldt@thrivent.com or

608-873-3910 ext. 5

Bob Hocking
SAL Squadron 59
Commander

CHAPLAINS' CORNER

New Leaves,

Creator God, at the start of this spring, when thoughts again turn to new beginnings, starting afresh, new leaves and turning skeletons free from cupboards, be with us as we gaze into the distance of fresh mission grounds, of hopes and dreams, opportunities for service, challenges, and uncertainties. Take our fears and turn them into strengths. Take our lack of faith and empower us, through the Spirit who breathes life into this world, whose presence is reflected in the icy chill of winter's breath, as well as the comforting warmth of a summer breeze. Walk with us in this new season of opportunity. We pray this in your name. Amen

Ed Nowicki- Post 59 Chaplain

Post 59 Veterans Service Officer Report

During February Commanders Mike Currie (Post 59), Rob Drogsvold (VFW), Auxiliary President Amy Hermes and myself met and toured Stoughton's Heroes Center followed by discussions on how our service organizations can better support the veterans that are living at the facility. There is a need for adult men and female clothing, personal hygiene products, and nonperishable food products. If you wish to donate any of these or other items that can be used to support their daily living, please contact the Site Director Adrianna at 608-609-0480 or by email at adrianna@certidry.com

In our January 2023 Quarterly Newsletter Bud Erickson reminded veterans and their families that it is important to be able to provide proof of veteran's active military service (DD 214) to the funeral home director. This can be done as a prearranged funeral package or at time of death. This will ensure that the veteran is provided with proper military rights at time of their funeral. If you need assistance in locating a DD 214, please contact the Dane County Veterans Service Office at (608)266-4158 or The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs at (800)-947-8387.

Members and their families are also encouraged to prepare and have on file a Survivor's Plan/Checklist. There are many available online for each service or all services such as the one on the following link.

[Retirees Casualty Assist Checklist.pdf \(nd.gov\)](#)

Veterans are also entitled through the Veterans Administration to grave site markers and medallions.

Here are the VA links for the different markers and medallions and required veteran eligibility.

The last link shows the paperwork you need and where you need to send.

Here is the link for the different available stone markings.

<https://www.cem.va.gov/cem/hmm/types.asp#HeadstonesMarkers>

Here is link for different medallions.

<https://www.cem.va.gov/cem/hmm/types.asp>

Here is the link for sending in and/or filing paperwork.

<https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/memorial-items/headstones-markers-medallions/#applying-for-a-memorial-item>

The PACT Act and your VA benefits

The PACT Act is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances.

The PACT Act adds to the list of health conditions that we assume (or "presume") are caused by exposure to these substances. This law helps us provide generations of Veterans—and their survivors with the care and benefits they have earned and deserve.

Federal and State VA Services will not be contacting veterans and/or widows of veterans that may have reported and/or died from conditions related to the PACT Act. The Dane County Service Office is overwhelmed with request and will not be able to canvas area Stoughton residents. So, if you know of a veteran and especially a widow of a veteran that may be eligible, please relay this information to them or a member of their family.

The following VA link will assist you with finding out more information on those that may be affected and how to make application.

<https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/>

Mike Ayers - Post 59 Service Officer



“And now the Torch and Poppy Red, we wear in honor of our dead, Fear not that ye have died for naught; We'll teach the lesson that ye wrought in Flanders Fields.” -*excerpt of Moina Michael's 1918 poem "We Shall Keep the Faith."*

On May 25th, our Auxiliary will launch National Poppy Days in Stoughton as a way 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 have distributed millions of poppies annually across the country. Last year our Unit's Poppy distribution raised over \$3,800, 100% of which was donated to veteran projects & programs.

Be sure to wear your poppy that we have enclosed in this newsletter, in memory of the fallen and to honor those who have served for our freedom.

And if you are able, please use the enclosed return envelope to make a donation to this year's collection.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Otis Sampson Unit 59 American Legion Auxiliary

“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 21st

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

Memorial Day Parade - Monday, May 29th

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 29th

(Immediately Following the Parade @ 11:00 a.m. at Mandt Center **rain or shine**)

Program is open to the public.



Auxiliary News Unit 59



Greetings All~

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”
— **Mahatma Gandhi**

March 31 marked the end of our fiscal year and as I worked on our annual reports, I am amazed and a proud of all the things the ALA has been able to do this past year. Our members donated over 3000 hours of time volunteering and over \$8000 in donations to our community and veteran projects/needs. This year we are also excited to be giving our first high school scholarship for \$1000.

Thank you all who came and supported our first Senior Prom! All had fun and we have been asked to bring it back next year. Funds raised from this event will be donated to the Heroes Center.

Cathy Rigdon has been in charge of our Miss Poppy and poppy distributions. We had several girls who were interested in, and submitted essays for, the position of Miss Poppy. The selection was not an easy choice. This year's process was a bit different from in the past, as all members of our auxiliary who attended our May meeting were involved in the selection. Each essay was read aloud, in the order the essay was received and omitting any identifying factors. After all essays were read, a hand vote was taken. Hannah Peterson received the most number of votes. Her essay made an impression on our members as she recounted the in-depth military service of her family and her interest in helping to represent those who have served our country. She will be riding in the Syttende Mai Parade and participating in the Memorial Day events. You should have found a poppy in this newsletter. We will also be distributing them at various locations during Memorial Day Weekend.

Lisa Olson, Sherry Leick and the Memorial Day Committee have been busy making plans for this year's parade and program. This is a joint committee of the legion and VFW members. The Legion will be hosting a luncheon immediately following the program.

We are excited that we have two girls attending Badger Girl State in June. We have also received notice that our Junior, Ashley Liddicott has been selected for the National Spirit of Youth Scholarship and is also being considered at the National level which would mean a \$5000 scholarship for her.

On July 20, we will be sponsoring a bake sale at Gazebo Musikk at the Rotary Park. If you have never attended a gazebo night, you should! The band for this night will a local band, The Rotation. In July, we will also be helping with the raising of the flag during opening ceremony of the Dane County Fair. No resting for us during the summer!

In friendship & fellowship,

7TH ANNUAL FREEDOM RIDE

SATURDAY, JUNE 10TH 2023



ALL VEHICLES WELCOME

REGISTRATION 9:30 AM, RIDE STARTS 10:30 AM - Shot Gun Start
Ride Leaves & Returns to VFW Post 328
200 Veterans Road, Stoughton, WI 53589

**ONLY 1,000 RAFFLE TICKETS SOLD - ON SALE NOW until day of ride
\$20 Per Ticket - Drawing at the VFW (5:00 PM)**

Prizes: 3 - \$500 Winners and many more prizes!

Questions: Call Dan 608.770.9687 OR Rick 608.209.7764 OR Rob 608.445.6480
Food will be available after the ride and during the drawing.
















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2022-2023

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Lisa Olson



2022-2023

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**Otis Sampson American
Legion Post 59**



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