



THE LEGION POST



OTIS SAMPSON POST 59 STOUGHTON WI

POST WEBSITE: POST59.ORG

POST PHONE 608-205-9090

MARCH 2010

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 3

Commanders Report



Greetings,

I think Mr. Groundhog is toying with us. I am ready for spring! I have some sad news to report. John Christopherson our cook is retiring from the kitchen. He will still be doing some things for us in the kitchen, but will not be fully in charge anymore due to health issues. He has put in some 30 yrs of service in the kitchen for the Post and we will miss his great dinners. Our sincere thanks go out to John. Dan Walters will step in as manager of the kitchen. He will need your help and understanding, so please be patient. This is a large task to under take. We thank Dan for stepping up

to the plate.

It has been brought to my attention that we are having a few issues in the kitchen and dining areas. Anytime we have issues, I want to be advised so we can straighten them out. We are one big happy family and let's keep it that way.

On a brighter note, we are having music on the March 6th from 8:00 to 12:00 with a group called Siren from Milwaukee. A three piece all girl band. Come on down and enjoy a variety of music.

We are now taking applications for outstanding -

1. Wisconsin Legislator of the Year.
2. Police Officer of the Year.
3. Fire Fighter of the Year
4. Emergency Medical Technician of the Year.
5. National Guard/Reservist of the Year.

Anyone wishing to nominate a person of the above titles please let me know soon.

Deadline is coming up.

The Legion Riders will be sending out Raffle tickets soon for the Legacy Scholarship, so please support their efforts. Thank you.

Memorial Day is right around the corner. Please give us a hand and volunteer for a task. We need all the help we can get as this involves many items to take care of for our program and parade.

Wednesday, March 10th at 5:30 we will hold a meeting at our Post. Many of our jobs are non-physical so please partake if you can.

Discover Wisconsin will air around June 19th, Sat. at 6:30. This will be all about the American Legion and what it stands for. Please tune in your TV at this time.

LZ Lambeau is getting larger. This takes place on May 22,23 in Green Bay. The

See Cmder PG 3

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Mike Griggs

2nd Vice Commander

Mary Lloyd

3rd Vice Commander

Richard Breyman

Adjutant

Dennis Rodenkirch

Finance

Don Helmke

Chaplain

Monte Whitford 873-

4020

Historian

Odean Teigen

Sgt at Arms

Ken Schieldt

Service Officer

Bob Lloyd

Judge Advocate

Terry McArdle

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Lori Redepenning 877-9918

1st Vice President

Linda Swanstu

Secretary

Evelyn Kahl

Treasurer

Rita Sperry

Chaplain

Marlene Bierman

Sgt at Arms

Mary Copley



Auxiliary News

Greetings!!

Since we are going into March pretty soon, we can all hope that Jimmy the Groundhog was correct with his prognostication of an early spring! For those of us who have stayed here in WI, we are looking forward to seeing the dirty snow gone, the flowers peeping up in the garden and putting our winter coats in storage. Oh, don't forget our snowbirds coming back home with wonderful tans and stories about "swimming in the pool ALL Winter"! Ladies, we are gearing up for a busy spring...

Our Juniors are keeping busy; they have recently each constructed a wall hanging to attach their badges to that they earn. They have a different project planned for each month. I hope these young ladies will keep up the good work! This year we want to have all the girls participate in the Poppy program by assisting with the distribution of our poppies. I think this will be a good experience for our younger generation to promote the symbolism of the poppy. If you know of a girl under the age of 18 who may be interested in joining our Junior's group, please contact any Auxiliary member, or myself, for additional details.

Mark your calendar for Sat. March 6 at 12:30 to be down to the Post for a lefse

demonstration and get some hands-on experience. If this is a successful adventure, we hope to have lefse for sale at the breakfast in May. If you would like to participate, please call Linda Swangstu at 873-9428 or Lori Redepenning at 877-9918, but it will be limited to members only at this time. I would like to know just how many to plan on and what utensils we will need.

Both the Legion and VFW have begun making plans for the 2010 Syttende Mai and Memorial Day festivities. PLEASE CONSIDER LENDING A HAND IF SOMEONE CALLS UPON YOU TO HELP. These two activities really honor our veterans, let's assist in

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CHAPLAINS CORNER

SOMEBODY'S RAISING THEIR KID RIGHT!

One Nation "Under God"

One day a 6 year old girl was sitting in a classroom. The teacher was going to explain evolution to the children. The teacher asked a little boy: Tommy do you see the tree outside?

Tommy: Yes

Teacher: Tommy, do you see the grass outside?

Tommy: Yes

Teacher: Tommy go outside and look up and see if you can see the sky.

Tommy: Okay. (He returned a few minutes later) Yes I saw the sky.

Teacher: Did you see God up there?

Tommy: No

Teacher: That's my point. We can't see God because he isn't there. Possibly he just doesn't exist.

A little girl spoke up and wanted to ask the boy some questions.

The teacher agreed and the little girl asked the boy:

Tommy, do you see the tree outside?

Tommy: Yes

Little Girl: Tommy do you see the grass outside?

Tommy: Yes

Little Girl: Did you see the sky?

Tommy: Yes

Little Girl: Tommy, do you see the teacher?

Tommy: Yes

Little Girl: Do you see her brain?

Tommy: No

Little Girl: Then according to what we were taught today in school, she possibly may not even have one!

(You go girl!)

If you know of anyone who is hospitalized, or in need please contact Monte at 873-4020.

LEGION HALL AVAILIABLE FOR RENTALS

The word is getting out regarding our hall rental. We have had funerals, a music jam session, and Christmas and birthday parties. We now have a portable dance floor as well. We are now getting wedding receptions and anniversary bookings also. How about those family and class reunions coming up this summer? Book your dates now before our calendar gets full. We have a wonderful kitchen and bar. We can hold approximately 150 people in our dining area. For more information, contact **Linda Swangstu** at **608-873-9428 or 608-577-7428**.

Aux

these projects and show our support in the community on behalf of our veterans!

March is the birthday month for the American Legion and Stoughton is the place to be! We are hosting that meeting, which will begin with a potluck dinner and the meeting to follow. The meeting will be held on March 25, 2010 with dinner serving at 6:30.

Congratulations to our members who have recruited a new Auxiliary member. These ladies are Ellen Curran (3), (the following have at least one) Mary Curran, Traci Lloyd, and Lisa Olson. Pat Christenson, and myself. Way to go, ladies-keep up the good work!

It's that time of year again to arrange for a slate of officers for the 2010-2011 year. Have you ever wanted to become more active and perhaps

work with others? When one of our members calls you, please consider filling a position.

Every year we try to schedule a day at CULVER'S for the Auxiliary to serve and assist customers while dining at their establishment. This is a great fundraiser for us and also a lot of fun. It will be on May 5, 2010 and there will be two shifts to work that day. We earn a certain percentage of the profits for the day; I hope you will plan on supporting us.

In closing, and with all of us preparing our taxes, I leave you with this message. Did you ever notice when you put the two words "The" and "IRS" together, it spells "THEIRS"! The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for!

Lori, Auxiliary President

PICK AND SAVE ADVANTAGE CARD

There have been some questions about the transfer of the American Legion account number from the old card to the new Roundy's Reward card. When you get your new (Black Card) it might be advisable to check at the service desk and confirm that our account number has been transferred to the new card. The account number for the legion is 026625. This will insure that 1% of your purchases will be credited to the legion.

If you are not already a participant in this plan, please sign up. Just go to the service desk and show them your card. The legion appreciates your help and it doesn't cost you anything. Remember our account number is 026625.

Membership Notes

Hello Everyone:

As of Feb. 9, 2010 our post is at 339 members, or 102% of our goal. Thanks to all who made this possible. We are only 1 of 2 posts in Dane County to reach 100% by Dec. 31, 2009. We are the only post in the Third District with membership of greater than 200 to accomplish this goal.

I would just like to remind everyone that we accomplished this by signing up 19 new members and getting 7 members to transfer in. It only takes a little arithmetic to see that we have a number of members who have yet to send in their 2010 dues. If they are not paid by Jan. 1st you are listed as delinquent, if not paid by Feb. 1st member will be suspended from all privileges. A member so suspended may be reinstated to active membership in good standing by vote of the post and payment of current dues for the year. (Information from Article IV, Section 4 of the Officers Manual) If you have not paid your 2010 dues, please send them in as soon as possible.

Please help for the good of the post, and The American Legion. We need your help so we can continue to help our veterans.

Keep recruiting.

That's it for now. Thanks again,
Archie Christensen

Membership Chairman

Don't forget that you can pay your dues online at
www.memberslegion.org/member.

Call All Organizers.

Are you the kind of person who likes numbers and organizing things without being in charge? Don Helmke, our Post Finance Officer, is looking for you. Don is doing a great job but could use someone to assist him with general bookkeeping. The time commitment is a couple of hours a month.

For more information contact Don or

Bar Banter:

Hello everyone:
Not a lot to report this month.

We had a Super Bowl Party on Sunday Feb. 7th. Everyone brought some snacks so we had plenty to eat. There was pulled pork sandwiches, shrimp, baked beans; bacon wrapped chestnuts, various salads and dips and lots of other goodies. Thanks to all who brought treats and who came and made the party a success. We had door prizes that were donated by

Stoughton Spirits, Page Street pizza. And the Legion Lounge. There were surprise drink specials and Jell-O shots provided by the lounge.

We are always welcome to any suggestions from the members for ideas that we might use to get more activities to utilize our facilities. I am considering having a karaoke on a weeknight. Let me know if you think it would go over.

That's about it for this month. Please come down and enjoy yourself and help support our post.

Archie and Joe

Cmder

Post will have 25 tickets if you would like to go. Let me know if you are interested. I don't think the tickets will last long. \$12.00 tickets will be sold for \$2.00.

I would like more input on building additional storage at the Post. Our truck box ceiling caved in from all the ice and snow. We

need more storage space. Our next monthly meeting will have more discussion on this, so please come with your ideas.

On sick call: Mel Cohen, Sonny Dahl, and Rollie Odland. Give them a call if you can.

Thank you,
Commander Swangstu

We wish to thank Jim and Ginny Hanson, and Cliff Maerz for their help this past month, in keeping the Hall cleaned.
Thanks again.
Monte and Karen Whitford

February 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 <i>Post and Aux Meeting at 7PM</i>	9	10	11	12 <i>Fish Fry at Waunakee</i>	13 <i>Breakfast Post 501 7-11 Stoton VFW aniv. Party 4:30 pm</i>
14	15	16	17	18	19 <i>Fish Fry at Post 481</i>	20
21 <i>Post Breakfast 7-Noon</i>	22	23 <i>Post dinner 6:30 PM</i>	24	25	26	27
28						

March 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 <i>Post and Aux Meeting at 7PM</i>	9	10	11	12 <i>Fish Fry at Waunakee</i>	12 <i>Breakfast Post 501 7-11</i>
14 <i>Post Breakfast 7-Noon</i>	15	16	17	18	19 <i>Fish Fry at Post 481</i>	20
21	22	23 <i>Post dinner 6:30 PM</i>	24	25 <i>Dane Cty Meeting Post 59 Stoton @ 7:30 pm Pot luck @ 6:30</i>	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Veterans Corner

Alden "Al" Phelps United States Navy 1954-1957 By Evelyn Kahl



Alden Phelps was born on March 7th, 1937 in Poynette, WI. We moved to the family farm at Portage after the death of his Grandfather in 1940. He attended the Staudenmeyer Grade School and graduated from Portage High School in 1954.

Alden listed in the United States Navy in December of 1954; he was 17 years old at the time living at Route 3, Portage, WI.

Alden entered the Navy after 2 of his Uncles, who were Navy career people, helped him make the decision to join the Navy. He received his Basic Training at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center in Illinois. It was one of the coldest winters on record! He pulled guard duty and the wind chill was horrible! Boot camp lasted 16 weeks.

Alden was then transferred to his first ship, the USS Latimer which was an APA 152 (an attack transport ship). He served on this ship for one year, then one deployment to Korea and various short deployments down the Caribbean. This ship was then put out of commission and it ended up in the reserve fleet in Orange, TX. In the ensuing years it was cut up for scraps. Alden was next transferred to the USS John R. Pierce, D.D. 753 (a heavy destroyer). He had 3 deployments on this ship to the Mediterranean area, the Middle East and Northern Europe. These deployments usually lasted about 6-7 months long.

We were commissioned to take the bronze Statue of Admiral John Barry to Ireland. Admiral Barry, originally from Wexford, Ireland was of Irish descent and the founder of the US Navy, there were 200 sailors on board. In Wexford fun activities and parades were taking place. The partying lasted for 3 days. The Irish people welcomed the sailors. It was a very pleasant and memorable experience and Alden considered the Irish people, some of the friendliest of

all the countries he had visited. In 1956, the dictator of Egypt (Nasser) decided he was going to nationalize the Suez Canal and Israel moved a whole armored division on to the Sianai Peninsula. The Israelites were very wary of Nasser's motives so were shooting at everything in sight. The Pierce was dispatched with other ships to evacuate American civilians out of Port Sied, Egypt. While we were passing thru the Suez Canal Israeli jets strafed us, and the cargo ship in the lock with us was sunk. So we proceeded into the Red Sea and the Arabian Sea around Cape Town and back into the Mediterranean. After returning to the Meditejanean we were off the coast of France participating in a gunnery exercise when one, he gun mounts exploded, ultimately killing three of my crew members and severely injuring nine other men including Ensign John T. Pierce, the son of the WWII naval hero for who the ship was named after. The explosion bent one of the propeller shafts and started a fire in the ammunition magazine, which we had to flood to save the ship. Because repair facilities were not available in the area we limped back across the Atlantic on one propeller to the Philadelphia naval yard where repairs were made. The trip, which would normally take eight days, took twenty-three days.

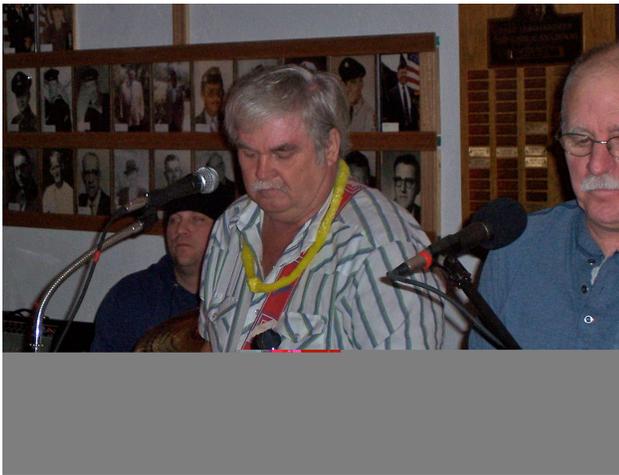
Alden was discharged in December of 1957. He arrived home shortly before Christmas back in his hometown of Portage. He hadn't been home for 3 years. At this time he needed much dental work done and pursued treatment with the VA after discharge which proved a disaster as treatment met with no avail. Some of the service medals that Alden received while serving his country were: National Defense

Medal Korean Defense Medal
Good Conduct Medal
Overseas Ribbon U.N. Ribbon
American Defense Medal His highest rank was E5-3rd class Petty Officer. After discharge Al sold cars for a few months and then into construction work for over 40 years in many different areas. He also managed the redi-mix concrete firm out at Middleton for some time. In 1962, he married Elvera and they have 2 sons, 1 daughter-in-law and 2 grandchildren, 1 son in Stoughton and the other in Delafield

Portage Sailor is Uninjured in Blast. A Portage sailor who was aboard the USS John L. Pierce at the time of an explosion early last week has informed his parents he was not close to the scene of the blast. S. N. Alden Phelps, 19, son of Mr. and Mrs.: Orlando Phelps, route 2, wrote his parents telling them he is in good condition, and was not injured by the blast which rocked the ship. Reports from the ship indicated a shell jammed in an anti-aircraft gun during some practice shooting. One sailor was killed outright and two died later. About eight or nine men were injured seriously. Mr. and Mrs. Phelps heard from their son Tuesday. The explosion occurred Monday, October 1. Since then the ship has returned to Cannes, France, where it is undergoing temporary repairs. • Phelps wrote that he did not know when the ship would return to the • states. The ship departed for Europe last August

1st ANNUAL AMERICAN LEGION NEW YEARS EVE PARTY

PHOTOS BY BILL REDDEPENNING



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