



Volume 16 Issue 6

THE LEGION POST

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



July 2014

Commander's Report

2013-2014 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

DuWayne Stellmacher

Judge Advocate

Terry McCardle

Chaplain

Rich Fries



Greetings Legionnaires,

Hope everyone is enjoying the nice weather with all the fun summer activities going on. Take time out to smell the roses and enjoy each day. Have a safe 4th of July.

We have good news again this year. The Bryant Foundation, for the third year, came through with funding for us. We had a wish list of things that we, the Post, thought would be good to have done. We purchased a

new freezer, door closures for both front and back entrances for disabled folks, an enclosure for the back door to keep cold air out during winter months when the door is opened, painting some of the outside of the Post, new awnings, and a garage for the Honor Guard van. The van has to be out of the winter weather. The Bryant Foundation is such a wonderful organization to acknowledge our Post year after year.

So far, our Country Jam on the last Sunday of each month has been nicely attended. Please stop by and enjoy the talented

singers as well as the great music players. No cover charge is required, only friendly hospitality.

July is dues time again. Vik Malling, our Post membership officer, suggests one use the internet to pay their dues if possible. It makes the job much easier. Otherwise, you can drop it off at the Post when we are open. It takes a lot of time and energy to chase folks down to collect the dues. The dues fee is \$35.00.

President continued on page 2

Auxiliary

President

Marlene Bierman

873-7397

Vice President

Linda Swangstu

873-9428

Secretary

Linda Schmidt

205-2517

Treasurer

Alice Moen

444-7320

Chaplain

Sharon Silbaugh

873-3927

Sgt. at Arms

Pat Christensen

873-7479

Historian

Sherry Leick

873-6687

Auxiliary News



Hello American Legion Family,

Hello summer! It is about time. Hope everyone is enjoying the nice, sunny, warm weather.

There are a many people in the Legion, Auxiliary, and VFW, who deserve a big **THANK YOU** for doing an amazing job putting together the Memorial Day Parade and Program. It was well attended and very enjoyable. A special **THANKS** goes out to Lisa Olson who coordinated it all. It was a lot work. Jade Garfoot was our Poppy Princess. She did a great job. Thanks again to everyone.

Our Poppy Days were a big success. Over the three days that Poppies were sold, and the money that was sent in for the Poppies from the newsletter, we received \$3,598. Thanks to everyone who helped those three days and also to Elvera Phelps, for getting the Legion and Auxiliary members to help sell. The profit goes to many veterans' projects and programs.

The girls that will attend Badger Girls State in June are: Jessica Havlicek, Samantha Ward, Elizabeth Goodnaugh, and Claire Onsager. Thanks to Mary Curran for contacting Stoughton High School to get the girls. She is also one of the counselors for the Badger Girls State. The Badger Girls State Breakfast will be held in July, so please attend.

On Sunday June 22 some members from the Legion and VFW auxiliaries will hold an Ice Cream Social at the VA Hospital. I would like to have some Junior members or other young people go with us. The veterans love to see and talk to the younger people.

President continued on page 2

CALENDER OF EVENTS

June 15 - Legion Breakfast
7:00 – 11:00 am
June 24 - Legion Dinner – 6:30 pm
June 27 - Blue Moon Karaoke - 7:30 – 10:30 pm
June 29 - Don Heiliger Day
July 4 - Independence Day
July 5 - Blue Moon Karaoke - 8:00 pm – midnight
July 19 - SAL benefit -3:00 pm 'til...
July 20 - Legion Breakfast
7:00 – 11:00 am
July 22 - Legion Dinner – 6:30 pm
July 25 - Blue Moon Karaoke
8:00 pm – midnight
July 27 - County Jam Session with Mikey Fuss and
the Cherokee Three - 2:00 – 6:00 pm

Event Pricing

Post Dinner: 6:30 pm \$11.00

Breakfast: 7:00-11:00 am
\$8.00 adults, \$4.00 children

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

"You may encounter many defeats, but you must not be defeated. In fact, it may be necessary to encounter the defeats, so you can know who you are, what you can rise from, how you can still come out of it."

Maya Angelou

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

Commander continued from page 1

You may call Vik if you need any more information. His phone number is 345-8052.

Thank you to all the folks that planned and participated in the Memorial Day celebration. We try to do a good job every year and it is a big job. I hope people realize it takes many people and meetings to get everything organized for this event. Thanks to all that attended.

Don't forget Don Heiliger Day coming up on June 29. Reservations for the meal are closed now, but you can still come to the program which starts at 2:15.

God Bless,

Commander Sonny

President continued from page 1

On Sunday June 22 some members from the Legion and VFW auxiliaries will hold an Ice Cream Social at the VA Hospital. I would like to have some Junior members or other young people go with us. The veterans love to see and talk to the younger people.

We are still in need of help for the garage sale. On June 25, between 8:00-5:00, you can bring in your merchandise. It will be held in the garage behind the Post. The sale runs, June 26-28, 7:00-5:00 and 7:00-1:00 on Saturday. I am trying to get enough help that you will only have to work a couple of hours.

Please no clothes and mark your items before you bring them.

Our Auxiliary officers will remain the same for 2014-2015.

Have a fun and safe summer.

Volunteering - The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing.

President Marlene

Attaboy

A big shout out and thank you needs to go to Bud Erickson for his unwavering dedication to the Vidalia onion program that he has built and to his committee. Thanks to you and your committee, our Legion Post and many community organizations have benefitted from your efforts and dedication. THANK YOU.

Jim Oler
Finance Officer



Memorial Day 2014



Commanders Patrick Nowlin and Sonny Swangstu



The deuce and one-half



Proud veterans



*Poppy Princess Proclamation
Mayor Donna Olson, Marlene Bierman, Elvera Phelps,
and Poppy Princess, Jade Garfoot*



*Carl Sampson delivers 70th consecutive
Gettysburg Address with Steve Grady*

Vidalia Onions—1000 Bags and 552 Bottles

The Vidalia onion committee, which began work in February, recently closed out the season with the awarding of donations to six different organizations.

In addition to selling nearly 1000 bags of Vidalia onions, the committee also sold 552 bottles of Vidalia onion salad dressing, steak and barbeque sauces, and Vidalia onion relishes. The top overall sales producer was Bud Erickson, who sold 423 bags of onions, followed by Evelyn Kahl with 163 bags. Other top salespersons were Archie Christensen, Jim Hanson, Bob Lloyd, Mary Curran, and Linda Swangstu.

Donations were made to the following organizations:

Stoughton Senior Center
Stoughton Senior's in Need
Stoughton Essential Pantry
Veterans Hospital in Madison
Badger Honor Flight
Camp American Legion

A special project donation to Post 59 will be determined at a later date.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Bud Erickson announced that after five years as chairman of the committee he was stepping down. The committee is looking for his successor.



Members of Vidalia Onion Committee pictured at left

*Front row from left:
Dolly Bailey, Mary Curran,
Archie Christensen, and
Evelyn Kahl*

*Back row from left:
Bob Lloyd, Bud Erickson
(chairman), Vick Duesel, Pat
Nowlin, and Jim Hanson*

*Not pictured : Linda Schmidt
and Linda Swangstu*

Monthly Post Meeting Schedule

Legion – 2nd Monday – 7:00 pm

Auxiliary – 2nd Monday – 7:00 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

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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



LEADERS IN OUR KITCHEN

For many years, American Legion Post 59 has served monthly breakfasts and dinners, and for many years, three Legion members have been responsible for the planning, organizing, and preparation of the food.

JOHN CHRISTOPHERSON—JC—joined Post 59 in 1984 after having served with the infantry at Fort Lewis in 1961-62. Later, while still a member of the National Guard, he attended an eight week cook school.

He became the "Head Cook" at the Legion under unusual circumstances. As Post Commander in 1981, JC went down to the Legion for the monthly dinner. When he arrived, one member of the cooking crew had just dropped a pan of raw meatloaf on the floor. It was a mess, and the cooking crew, while trying to clean it up, was chuckling and laughing. JC checked the ovens and they were cold—the crew forgot to turn them on. Dick Amundson came to help set up but first helped clean up the mess and offered words of advice to the kitchen crew. John fired the whole crew on the spot. (He also declared the bar closed to that crew for the rest of the night.) JC pulled together a crew consisting of Truman Harried, Dick Amundson, Odean Teigen, Joe Erickson, and a couple of others. That crew, under JC's leadership, have been the backbone of the kitchen staff ever since.

For both the Sunday breakfasts and the Tuesday dinners, JC is responsible for all aspects of the kitchen from the planning, ordering the food, setting-up the dining room, final preparation, serving, and cleanup. Prep for the dinners starts on Monday morning for JC and continues through cleanup on Tuesday evening.

John says he enjoys doing the work as long as his health holds up and as long as he continues to have reliable helpers like old timers Don Helmke, Dick Amundson, Odean Teigen, Truman Harried, Archie Christensen, and the many others who pitch in regularly.

TRUMAN HARRIED—the Utica Kid—John's right hand man, has been cooking at the Legion for 33 years. Truman started cooking for Post 59 in the old armory when he first joined the National Guard. Following a stint at Fort Lewis, where he and Odean Teigen ran the unit's mess hall, Truman returned to Stoughton and resumed his duties in the kitchen for Post 59. He has been here ever since.

On a typical Sunday morning, Truman arrives at the Post around 4:30 am and begins getting the sausage,

ham, and eggs ready to cook. JC makes the pancake batter; Dick Amundson prepares the French toast. Truman then helps set up the line and whatever else is needed.

For the Tuesday dinners, Truman starts in the early afternoon and usually goes home around 8:30.

DUANE BROUGHTON considers himself "just a helper", but according to JC, "Duane is a very reliable worker who can always be counted on to help out with any job".

Duane, who served with JC and Truman at Fort Lewis, has been a regular in the kitchen for eight years, helping with both the breakfasts and dinners. His main responsibility with the breakfasts is the scrambled eggs. The challenge is not making up too many eggs ahead of time or they will get tough and stale; on the other hand, when the rush comes, people want their eggs now, and eggs will cook only so fast.

Duane is also responsible for helping in several ways with the dinners. However, when Swiss steak is on the menu, Duane arrives about noon to brown the meat.

These three Post 59 members, along with a host of other volunteers, are a key reason the rest of us can sit back and enjoy those good meals—month after month and year after year.

A big *THANK YOU* to all of them.

Submitted by Bud Erickson



The Leaders: Duane Broughton, John Christopherson, and Truman Harried

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

GARAGE SALE

Located: Behind Legion Post at 803 N Page Street, Stoughton

THURSDAY – JUNE 26 7:30 to 4:30

FRIDAY – JUNE 27 7:30 to 4:30

SATURDAY – JUNE 28 7:30 to 1:00

ITEM Donations Needed – Please drop off
donations @ the Post on Wednesday (6-25)
8:00 am to 4:00 pm

*No clothing & Please price your items.



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