



# THE LEGION POST

OTIS SAMPSON POST 59

803 North Page Street - STOUGHTON, WI

PH: 608.205.9090

Post 59 Website: [www.post59.us](http://www.post59.us)

## SPRING 2025



2024-2025

### **POST 59 OFFICERS**

#### **Commander**

Michael Currie

#### **1st Vice Commander**

Rodger Hansen

#### **2nd Vice Commander**

Mike Ayers

#### **3rd Vice Commander**

Ken Schieldt

#### **Service Officer**

John Solis

#### **Sgt. At Arms**

Jim Schiferl

#### **Finance Officer**

Jim Oler

#### **Historian**

Al Vick

#### **Adjutant**

Joshua Holt

#### **Judge Advocate**

Tom Jenny

#### **Chaplain**

Edward Nowicki

#### **Membership**

Mike Ayers



### **FROM THE COMMANDER'S DESK**

Greetings everyone, hope everyone is enjoying this very mild and snowless winter. It looks like Jimmy the Ground Hog maybe right and we'll have an early spring. As we all know living in Wisconsin you never know what Mother Nature will bring.

As always there will be a number of events here at the Post over the next several months. Our music man Larry Johnson will make sure we have plenty of musical entertainment, which is usually scheduled on either Friday or Saturday nights. In March we will be celebrating St. Pats Day, and on April 12th the Post Auxiliary has their annual Sock Hop which is a fun event for all!

Two of our most important events coming up in May will be Syttende Mai celebration from May 16th thru the 18th and our annual Memorial Day Parade and Program on May 26th that is co-sponsored by the Stoughton American Legion and the Stoughton VFW. Please see the notices for those events in this newsletter.

Weather permitting, we hope to open up our Post Tiki bar sometime in May and we are also hoping over the warm coming months to have some musical events at the Tiki bar as well.

Our membership goals are right on schedule and thank you Mike Ayers (Membership Chairman) for all your hard work. To all our Post 59 members a big Thank You for your renewed membership and welcome to all of our new members. If by chance you need assistance in renewing your membership please contact us so that we can help you out.

I want to remind our Post members that Post 59 will be hosting the Dane County member's meeting on June 26th starting at 7:00. There's always valuable information and ideas that keeps you informed as to what not only our Post is doing but what other Posts in the county are up to. Hope to see you there!

As always thank you to all our wonderful volunteers, patrons, members and guests for your continued support of our Post. Your support allows us to continue our programs that support our Stoughton area veterans and the Stoughton community.

One last note please remember that we have our monthly Post Breakfast every 3rd Sunday of the month however because our breakfast in April will fall on Easter we have moved the April breakfast to April 6th. We also have our monthly member dinner on the 4th Tuesday of the month. (Special note we do not have Post dinners from May thru August.)

Stay well and we'll see you at the Post!

Commander Michael



## Sons of the American Legion Report Squadron 59



**2024-2025**

**Squadron 59 SAL  
OFFICERS**

**Commander**  
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

As 2025 begins the Sons of the American Legion, Squadron 59 is preparing for another busy year. We will once again be participating in the "Raise the Flag" program on Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day and a big finish on Veterans Day with a spectacular display of several hundred American flags completely circling the Stoughton Area Veterans Memorial Park. Our annual Amish made candy sale was another success. Thanks to all who helped make that possible. Breakfast With Santa in December was enjoyed by many, especially with the amazing balloon creations.

If you know of anyone willing to join the SAL send them our way and we will be ready to help them become part of the team.

Bob Hocking, SAL Squadron 59 Commander



Stoughton High School senior Jackson Mueller was our honored guest at the American Legion Post 59 January 28 dinner. Jackson, along with Simon Mehring, recognized earlier, was sponsored by the Post and Stoughton Lions, selected by school staff and participated in the June 2024 Badger Boys' State program, on the UW Eau Claire campus. Pictured: Jackson Mueller, Post vice commander Rodger Hansen and Commander Michael.



## AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 59



**2024-2025**

**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 can do so little; together we can do so much.” – Helen Keller

In December, we completed our Poppy Money Distribution donating \$3200! Donations going to Shield of Sisters, RSVP of Dane County (Vets Helping Vets), DAV Transportation Fund, Camp American Legion, and the Madison VA Hospital. Karen Ayers and Sherrie Hensel chaired our Giving Tree project for the Veterans Home at King. Our unit was able to collect over 200 items.

Going into spring will be a busy time for the ALA. In addition to helping support the meat raffles, in March we will be partnering with the Second Chance Animal Advocates, selling lunches for their Quarter Auction fundraiser, March 1. We are also hosting a “baby shower” for the Madison VA. A donation box with a list of items to donate will be available soon. Other save the date events:

- Chicken and Biscuit Dinner, March 22
- April Breakfast, *date change April 6*
- Sock Hop, April 12
- All Things Poppy, May

We will be sponsoring 2 Badger Girls this year with the help of donations from both the Stoughton Lions Club and Rotarians. Our Stoughton High School Scholarship continues to grow and will be giving out our 3<sup>rd</sup> scholarship in May.



2024 Badger Girl -  
Brianna Woelke

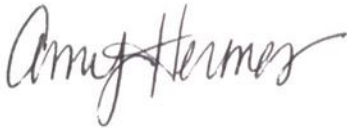


2023 Scholarship Recipient-  
Caleb Krentz who is working for J.F. Ahern  
through Local 601 Steamfitters construction  
apprenticeship.

Our membership continues to grow. We are 177 members strong with 12 new members for the 2025 year.

National Volunteer Month is celebrated April 1-April 30. Volunteering helps weave us together, strengthening the community we serve and the support we give one another. This is so true of the amazing group I have the honor to lead.

In friendship and fellowship,



## **THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

This is taken from a prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love.

Where there is injury, pardon.

Where there is doubt, faith.

Where there is despair, hope.

Where there is darkness, light.

Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console.

To be understood, as to understand.

To be loved, as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive, and it is in pardoning that we are pardoned.

And it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life,  
Amen.

*Ed Nowicki – Chaplain*

# LEGION MEMBERSHIP NEWS

***ALERT \*\*\* Some members that have renewed their 2025 memberships are receiving a 2<sup>nd</sup> renewal notice. If you received this notice, please check to ensure that you in fact have not yet paid for 2025 before paying. \*\*\****

***\*\*\*If you have not yet paid your dues for 2025, please consider making your renewal as soon as possible. \*\*\* You can either send in your \$40.00 check to Post 59 or go online at [MyLegion.org](http://MyLegion.org) or [www.legion.org/renew](http://www.legion.org/renew) where you can also renew for up to 3 years.***

***2025 Membership Goals:*** As of this newsletter, our membership renewals total 281 with 23 new members totaling 304 and meeting our March goal of 90%. *Thank you for your support.*

***New Members*** - Since our Fall Newsletter we welcomed the following 9 new Legionnaires into our Post ranks: Antonio Ante – USN, Larry Aschbrenner – USA, William Cogger – USAF, Leif Ehrke – USMC, James Gamoke USN, Matthew McQuillen – USMC/USA, Brian Skolaski – USA, David Tipple – USN, Terry Virgil – USMC.

***Paid up for Life (PUFL):*** I also would like to thank the 39 members within Post 59 that are Paid up for Life Members. Since our Fall newsletter PUFL Member Bradley Little has transferred into our Post with David Gerber and Chris Nygaard joining the PUFL ranks. *If you would like to know more about becoming a Life Member drop me an email or text and I will send you some information.*



***\*\*\*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.***

**Charles Lyke (Nov 17<sup>th</sup>) – Vietnam USA – 38 Years PUFL Membership**  
**David Jensen (Nov 30<sup>th</sup>) – Panama – USAF – 31 years Membership**  
**Melvin Alme (Dec 16<sup>th</sup>) – Korea USA – 20 years PUFL Membership**  
**Richard Boyd (Jan 26<sup>th</sup>) – Vietnam USAF – 21 years Membership**

**Thank you for your continued support and service to our country and the American Legion. Michael L. Ayers – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander and Membership Chair PH: (608) 335-1771 or email [tqmgr@yahoo.com](mailto:tqmgr@yahoo.com)**





*Serving our veterans, military and each other from the depths of our hearts*

## AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Our 2025 Membership Renewal Drive is still going strong. We have exceeded our 100% goal and are now at 106%! Thank you to all who have renewed. We have 177 total members right now and growing!

Welcome to our newest members, Nancy Fuller, Elizabeth Murphy, Julie Maier and Dee Gullickson. And thank you to our members Mary Haley and Amy Hermes who invited & encouraged them to join.

If you have an interest in helping with membership, please let me know.

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  
608-279-4847 [waucoman@hotmail.com](mailto:waucoman@hotmail.com)



## American Legion Post 59 Honor Guard Annual Report

In 2024, the Honor Guard had the privilege of performing Honors for 33 of our deceased comrades. This was one more from the 32 that were performed in 2023. There were 16 Army Veterans, 6 Air Force Veterans, 8 Navy Veterans and 3 Marine Veterans that honors were performed for.

We also did 8 other Honor Guard events besides the funerals. We did the Memorial Day Celebration/program including the Parade up Main Street, the program at the Mandt Center and a short program at the Stoughton Area Veterans Memorial Park.

We did 2 send offs for 2 of the Badger Honor Flights at Dane County Airport.

We performed our annual flag raising and lowering at the Dane County Fair opening day.

We also did a flag raising/lowering orientation at Skaalan and raised the flag on opening day of Stoughton Fair.

We had a huge Veterans Day celebration. On Veterans Day, we visited 4 Stoughton area schools. We did a meet and greet at the high school as students came to classes for the day. We then went to Sandhill and participated in their Veterans Day program. This included the unfolding and folding of the flag with narration of the meaning of each fold. Then we went to Fox Prairie and did a little program and ended up at Saint Anne's. From there we did a narration of the meaning of Veterans Day, unfolding and folding of the flag at assisted living facilities. We visited 3 Stoughton assisted living facilities. Kettle Park, Milestone and Skaalan. We did not do anything for Veterans day at the Stoughton Area Veterans Memorial Park because of time restrictions. Our program is getting quite popular and I'm sure we will be doing this again in 2025 if time permits. We also did the Paul Kraby memorial at Riverside Cemetery that the Stoughton Police Department does annually. I would like to thank all the Honor Guard members for their continued support of the Honor Guard and the time you have committed to our fallen comrades. This is a great group of Veterans who donate many hours to the Honor Guard which is greatly appreciated by the Veteran's families.

**Tom Jenny - Honor Guard Coordinator**

# THIS IS WHAT WE DO

## THE LEGION “FAMILY” BREAKFAST

The Stoughton Post 59 Breakfasts have been a regular monthly event in the community for at least the last 25 years, probably more. Most months it is held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, although it does change from time to time. In April it will be on 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. We call it a “Family” breakfast because the Legion, Auxiliary & SAL all work together every month to put it together. It is a very important fundraiser for each of our groups. If you haven’t been to our breakfast in awhile, please join us next month. The food is delicious & the price is right! We have 2 shifts of about 8 members each in the kitchen & 10 in the dining room plus a basket raffle. Then there’s the shopping, the prep and the cleanup too! The bar is open at 9:00 for Bloody Mary’s & Mimosas too. If you are interested in volunteering sometime just let the Commander know. You’ll find him in the kitchen makin’ the bacon on 1<sup>st</sup> shift at every breakfast.

We greatly appreciate our members’ support!



*January Breakfast Volunteers - Second Shift*

## THE AUXILIARY PATRIOTIC STITCHERS



Don Moe – Quilt by Lori Moe-Kittelson



Mike Johnson – Quilt by Sherrie Hensel



DuWayne Kittelson – Quilt by Lori Moe-Kittelson



Rod Haried – Quilt by Teresa Vike-Kelly



Past Commander Bill Redepenning – Quilt by Melissa Schiferl



Rick Kumlien – Quilt by Teresa Vike-Kelly



Shelley Anderson – Quilt by Sherrie Hensel



Tom Chose – Quilt by Sandy Vike





Claude Gunderson – Quilt by Pat Broadbent



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*AUXILIARY 10th ANNUAL  
Chicken 'n Biscuit Dinner  
Saturday March 22<sup>nd</sup>  
4:00 pm to 7:00*

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**Veterans Crisis Line**

Veterans can contact the Veterans Crisis Line by dialing 988 and pressing 1.

The Veteran Crisis Line offers 24/7, confidential crisis support for Veterans and their loved ones.

**\*\*You don't have to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care to connect. \*\***





## Post 59 Calendar of Events

### **MARCH 2025**

- Mar. 1<sup>st</sup>: Wayne Road Band 7:00-10:00 pm
- Mar. 3<sup>rd</sup>: Monthly Auxiliary Meeting @ 5:30pm
- Mar. 7<sup>th</sup>: Frank Lefty James 7:00-10:00 pm
- Mar. 10<sup>th</sup> American Legion Monthly Meeting @ 7:00 pm
- Mar. 12<sup>th</sup>: SAL Monthly Meeting @ 7:00 pm
- Mar. 14<sup>th</sup>: Bryan Piper Music 7:00-10:00 pm
- Mar. 16<sup>th</sup>: Monthly Legion Breakfast – 7:30-11:30 am
- Mar. 17<sup>th</sup>: St. Patrick’s Day
- Mar. 22<sup>nd</sup>: Chicken & Biscuits Dinner 4:00-7:00 pm
- Mar. 23<sup>rd</sup>: Country Music Jam - 2:00-6:00 pm
- Mar. 25<sup>th</sup>: Post Supper - 6:00-8:00 pm
- Mar. 29<sup>th</sup>: Bad Habit Band – 7:00-10:00 pm

### **APRIL 2025**

- Apr. 5<sup>th</sup>: Universal Sound 7:00-10:00 pm
- Apr. 6<sup>th</sup>: Monthly Legion Breakfast – 7:30-11:30am
- Apr. 7<sup>th</sup>: Monthly Auxiliary Meeting @ 5:30pm
- Apr. 9<sup>th</sup>: SAL Monthly Meeting @ 7:00pm
- Apr. 12<sup>th</sup>: Sock Hop 6:00-10:00 pm
- Apr. 14<sup>th</sup>: American Legion Monthly Meeting @ 7:00pm
- Apr. 19<sup>th</sup>: Country Renegades Band 7:00-10:00pm
- Apr. 20<sup>th</sup>: Easter Sunday
- Apr. 22<sup>nd</sup>: Post Supper - 6:00pm-8:00pm
- Apr. 27<sup>th</sup>: Country Music Jam - 2:00-6:00pm

### **MAY 2025**

- May. 3<sup>rd</sup>: Bad Habit Band – 7:00-10:00pm
- May. 5<sup>th</sup>: Monthly Auxiliary Meeting @ 5:30pm
- May. 12<sup>th</sup>: American Legion Monthly Meeting @ 7:00pm
- May. 14<sup>th</sup>: SAL Monthly Meeting @ 7:00pm
- May 16-18 Syttende Mai Festival
- May 17<sup>th</sup>: Dan Reilly Music 7:00-10:00 pm
- May. 18<sup>th</sup>: Monthly Legion Breakfast – 7:30-11:30am
- May. 25<sup>th</sup>: Country Music Jam - 2:00-6:00pm
- May. 26<sup>th</sup>: Memorial Day

### **Contact Information for Post 59**

**Post 59 Email:** [alpost59@gmail.com](mailto:alpost59@gmail.com)

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**Mike Ayers – Membership chair**

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Email: [tqmgr@yahoo.com](mailto:tqmgr@yahoo.com)

**Jim Oler – Finance Officer**

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Email: [oller8888@gmail.com](mailto:oller8888@gmail.com)

**John Solis – Service Officer**

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Email: [solosolis@gmail.com](mailto:solosolis@gmail.com)

**Amy Hermes – ALA President**

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Email: [AHermes@stoughtonhealth.com](mailto:AHermes@stoughtonhealth.com)

**Bob Hocking – SAL Commander**

PH: (608) 206-6980

Email: [sonsofthelegion59@gmail.com](mailto:sonsofthelegion59@gmail.com)

Email: [bobghocking@gmail.com](mailto:bobghocking@gmail.com)

**Bob Crofoot – Editor**

Email: [hodagbob@yahoo.com](mailto:hodagbob@yahoo.com)

## **MEAT RAFFLE EVERY SATURDAY @ 2:00pm**

Events are subject to change. Please check our website @ [www.post59.us](http://www.post59.us) or our Facebook page @ [www.facebook.com/post59stoughton](https://www.facebook.com/post59stoughton) for any changes to the events listed above.



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Legion Post 59



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**Bob Crofoot**

**hodagbob@yahoo.com**

**Website: [post59.us](http://post59.us)**



## **Hall Rentals**

For More Information,  
please contact Sherry

Leick @

[post59hallrental@gmail.com](mailto:post59hallrental@gmail.com) OR

go to our website @

[Post 59-Otis Sampson  
American Legion  
Stoughton/Hall Rental  
Information](#)

## ***AMERICAN LEGION BAR***

803 NORTH PAGE STREET  
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**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – 608-205-9090**

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**