



Volume 17 Issue 1

THE LEGION POST

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



February 2015

Commander's Report

2014-2015 OFFICERS

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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,

I hope the New Year brings everyone prosperity and good health all year long. The month of January is going fast and I hope our remaining winter is mild. Let's hope the flu bug stays away, too.

Our last Packer game was very disappointing and what a shame for the team that has worked hard and done well throughout the season.

Recent news is that we have

started organizing committees for our Veteran's Memorial Park. If you would like to be involved on a committee, just let the Post know and we can fix you up. We have monthly meetings at the Post and the VFW, so stay informed. The next newsletter will have more information on the dates.

Our Post Web site is now up and running. It has all the latest news. Thanks to SAL member Dean Stenjem for all his work. We really appreciate his help. The Web site is: post59.org You will find a lot of information there such as our newsletter, music dates, food menu, Legion and Auxiliary officers, photos,

and etc.

At this time of the year, the Bryant Foundation is asking for a wish list for the things we would like to do for our Post in 2015. If you can think of anything we should need, let me know soon as the list is due in February. They have been so generous to the Post. It is hard to believe and we can't thank them enough. Our Post meetings are still the 2nd Monday of each month at 7: 00 pm. More participation would be excellent and we try to keep each meeting to an hour. If you need a ride, please

Commander continued on page 2

Auxiliary

President

Marlene Bierman

873-7397

1st Vice President

Elvera Phelps

873-5154

2nd 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,

Hope everyone had a nice Christmas and everyone has a Happy New Year. We have been lucky so far and not much snow. I am sure that will come to an end soon.

Hope all of our members that went south for the winter are enjoying their time away from the cold and snow.

I am sure everyone has heard by now, that the American Legion is planning on building a Stoughton Area Veteran's Memorial Park. Right now they are getting bids for the construction and design. It will be on the corner of County B and Country Club road. If

anyone in your family or relatives have been or are still in the service please let Doug Olson, Roger Kleven, Scott Richmond or Linda Schmidt know. They will need the names and branch of service in which they served. This will take a while so the sooner the better. This will be a big project.

Just want to thank everyone for paying their 2015 dues. We made the 100%. Thanks to Lisa Olson for keeping on top of getting members to pay. Good job Lisa!

Want to thank Steve Grady for donating a \$500 phone card that we gave to the VA Hospital in Middleton.

The Auxiliary is looking for a President and Membership Chairman. We have a great Auxiliary, over 130 members, and we don't want it to fold. We do a lot for Veterans and our community and work with the Legion. I have been President for three years. I have other commitments and Lisa has been membership chairman for 10 years. I will be Past President to help and Lisa will help with the membership. We have outlines to follow and the Department manual to follow. Soooooo, please step forward.

President continued on page 2

CALENDER OF EVENTS

January 25 - Mikey Fuss Country Jam
2:00 – 6:00 pm
January 27 - Legion Dinner – 6:30 pm
February 7 -Blue Moon Karaoke – 8:00 – midnight
February 14 - Valentine's Day
February 15 - Legion Breakfast
7:00 – 11:00 am
February 16 - President's Day
February 21 - Blue Moon Karaoke – 8:00 – midnight
February 22 - Country Jam with Mikey Fuss
2:00 – 6:00 pm
February 24 - Legion Dinner – 6:30 pm
February 27 - Blue Moon Karaoke – 8:00 – midnight
February 28 - Universal Sound – 8:00 – midnight

Event Pricing

Post Dinner: 6:30 pm \$11.00

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

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

The Lord is my Pacesetter, I shall not rush;
He makes me stop and rest for quite intervals.
He provides me with images of stillness, which
restores my serenity;
He leads me in the ways of efficiency through
calmness of mind.
And His guidance is peace, even though I have a
great many things to accomplish each day.
I will not fret, for His presence is here. He will keep
me in balance.

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

Commander continued from page 1

feel free to call me and we will get you there and home again. Wouldn't it be great if all the members that come to our Tuesday night monthly dinners would come to our meetings! Again, our monthly Country Jam sessions have that good old country music with no charge. Come listen and enjoy our BBQ'S for a snack at a small fee. Thanks again to all the volunteers for your services.

Commander Sonny

President continued from page 1

The Auxiliary Board got together for a January meeting because we don't have a regular meeting in January. Some suggestions for monies to be distributed from the general fund are: Senior Center, Seniors in Need, two food pantries (Stoughton and Methodist), Personnel Essentials, Stoughton Area Veterans Memorial, VA Hospital, Badger Honor Flight, and Support Military Families.

In my packet that I receive monthly from Department, there was a list of items the VA Hospital in Madison needs: fleece blankets – store bought, scarfs/knitted hats, postage stamps, activity books (word search, crossword puzzles, Sudoku etc. in large print, tray favors for holidays or special days, terry bibs in large, ladies plastic welcome totes, needlework, and gift cards from department stores for transplant patients. If you could donate some of these items, please bring them to the Post.

REMEMBER: ANYONE WHO HAS VOLUNTEERED AT THE LEGION SINCE APRIL 1, 2014—FUNERAL DINNERS, FUND-RAISERS, BREAKFAST ETC.— PLEASE FILL OUT YOUR TIME SHEETS. THEY ARE IN THE WHITE NOTEBOOK. INCLUDE YOUR NAME, HOW YOU HELPED, AND THE HOURS. I WOULD LIKE THEM BEFORE MARCH 15.

Save the date, our District Conference will be held in Gays Mills on April 18. There will be training for Auxiliary members, March 7. I would like our new members to attend. If you would like to attend, please contact Linda Schmidt, 205-2517.

Hope everyone stays in good health the rest of the winter.

Marlene Bierman
President

350 Served at Christmas Dinner

Under the direction of Mike and Pam Griggs, and ably assisted by 40-year veteran, John Christopherson, the annual Christmas dinner again was a huge success. Many others were involved in the preparation, serving, and delivery. Sponsored jointly by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion, along with their Auxiliaries, the dinner was served at the VFW Post. There were many other volunteers and donors. All told, approximately 40 people were involved. Jean Torgerson, manager of the VFW bar and kitchen, deserves a special pat on the back for her work and overseeing the total operation from start to finish.

Although plans began several weeks earlier, cooking and preparations began in earnest four days before Christmas, when 26 turkeys and 10 hams were cooked and sliced at the American Legion. Donations of pies, salads, bakery items, and vegetables were brought to the VFW on Christmas Eve and Christmas morning. Stoughton Trailers donated nearly half of the turkeys, and Fosdal Bakery donated all the breads and rolls. Inkworks, Inc. supplied posters and Star Supply LLC donated all paper products. In addition, there were many cash gifts. Beautiful poinsettia plants, donated by Stoughton Floral, were placed on the dining tables.

Volunteers worked in two shifts serving, clearing tables, washing dishes, and packing for delivery. Ten volunteer drivers delivered 136 packages to the homes of shut-ins.

Three hundred and fifty Stoughton residents were served a great Christmas meal thanks to the local veterans' organizations, their auxiliaries, and many other volunteers and donors.

Submitted by Bud Erickson

New Vidalia Onion Co-chairmen

DuWayne Stellmacher and Wendell Ott have taken over as co-chairman of the Vidalia onion project, replacing Bud Erickson, who was the chairman and originator of the project for five years. Bud will remain on the committee. Since its inception, profits from Vidalia sales have totaled over \$18,000 which have been used for Post 59 projects as well as for donations to local organizations and state veterans groups.

The Vidalia committee is currently taking orders for the 2015 season for orders that will arrive around May 10.

Membership

We still have 15 percent still not having paid their 2015 dues. Please keep our 100 percent Post membership record alive by doing your part. Thanks.

Vik Malling
1st Vice Commander

Thank You

A big *Thank You* goes out to Dean Stenjem for getting the Post Web site up and running again. It looks great, so check it out. Also a thank you needs to go out to Mike and Pam Griggs for always pitching in at our breakfasts, dinners, and special events. You can usually find them somewhere around the kitchen doing something. Last but not least a *huge* thank you to all our volunteers. You're great! Happy New Year everyone.

Jim Oler
Finance Officer



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

Hall Rentals

Call Julie Nygaard at 608.333.9577

Progress Report on Veteran's Memorial

Although the idea of a veteran's memorial has been kicked around for several years, the idea got legs in July 2014 with the formation of a steering committee. The committee consisted of Duane Broughton, chairman, Bud Erickson, Jim Oler, and Sonny Swangstu of the American Legion, and Rick Kumlien and Vic Duesel of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Several potential sites were explored, but when Commander Sonny approached Oscar Linnerud about a possible site on his land, Oscar and his wife, Shirley, volunteered to donate two plus acres of land at the corner of Highway B and Country Club Road. After meetings with representatives of the Department of Transportation and others, the surveyor measured the exact dimensions and the total amount of land is 2.38 acres.

Members of the steering committee then visited 11 other veterans' memorial parks in southwest Wisconsin. At the conclusion of each visit, the positives were noted along with the less desirable features of each. Committee members also visited the production facilities of the Krause Monument Company in Viroqua and Pechmann Monuments in Madison.

Next was the meeting of the whole committee. In addition to representatives from the VFW and American Legion, both Auxiliaries, the Sons of the

American Legion, and members from the community are represented on the committee, for a total of 25. Members volunteered on which sub-committee they wished to work. The four are fund-raising, name collection, publicity, and construction.

The next major task was the selection of a monument company. Four companies were contacted and their representatives each gave a one and one-half to two-hour presentation to the full committee. The four companies were Reiner Monuments from Rockford, Archie Monuments of Watertown, Pechmann Monuments of Madison, and Krause Monuments of Viroqua. These presentations were spread over four days.

Shortly after the final presentation, the whole committee reconvened, and after a discussion about the merits of the top three finalists, Pechmann was the unanimous choice.

As we move into 2015, the first step is to get a design concept which Pechmann, working with the Steering Committee, will draw up. After the design is initially approved, fund-raising, collection of the names of all Stoughton area veterans dating back to the Civil War, and publicity on the project will begin.

Submitted by Bud Erickson

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.



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Wednesday Ladies Night

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Online!!

Check us out at
www.post59.org

Also:



The Otis Sampson American Legion Post 59
is the official facebook page and can be linked
to from The Legion website.

Women Veterans: The Long Journey Home

A recent DAV report shows service gaps for women in health care, transition services, disability compensation, employment and housing.



The research reveals that America's nearly 300,000 women veterans are put at risk by a system designed for and dominated by male veterans.

This report paints a compelling picture of federal agencies and community service providers that consistently fail to understand that women are impacted by military service and deployment differently than men. And it points to changes that are needed in the overall culture and services provided by the federal government and local communities, listing 27 specific recommendations.

The VA and DoD are still not fully prepared to provide equitable access to the gender-specific care and services that women need, even as the demand for such care increases.

MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA

One in five women enrolled in VA health care screen positive for MST, but 31% of VA medical centers and CBOCs can't provide adequate services.

MENTAL HEALTH

The VA and DoD have difficulty providing gender-specific peer support, group therapy, and specialized inpatient mental health care designed to meet the needs and preferences of women.

DISABLED VETERANS

Women who have lost one or more limbs may not receive support and care tailored to their needs. And women are less likely to have a prosthetic that fits properly.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Post-9/11 women veterans have higher unemployment rates than male veterans and non-veteran women. Challenges in the labor market are exacerbated by medical and mental health concerns.

HOMELESSNESS

Women veterans are at least twice as likely to be homeless as non-veteran women. Women veterans are also more likely to be single parents with one or more dependents.

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Meat Loaf
January 27, 6:30 pm
Bone-in Ham with all the trimmings
February 24, 6:30 pm

DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES THE 8TH OF EACH MONTH
VISIT THE POST WEB SITE AT POST59.ORG
Editors Cliff Maerz and Tim Carter: C_Maerz@msn.com