



THE LEGION POST



OTIS SAMPSON POST 59 STOUGHTON WI

POST WEBSITE: POST59.ORG

POST PHONE 608-205-9090

JANUARY 2011

VOLUME 13 ISSUE 1

2009-2010 OFFICERS

Post Commander

Sonny Swangstu

1st Vice Commander

Mike Griggs

2nd Vice Commander

Richard (Reb) Breyman

3rd Vice Commander

Wendell Ott

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

Auxiliary

President

Linda Swanstu

1st Vice President

Lisa Olson

Secretary

Lynn Robertson

Treasurer

Rita Sperry

Chaplain

Marlene Bierman

Sgt at Arms

Mary Copley



Holiday Greetings,

Those of you, who have not paid your dues for 2011, please do so ASAP. We need your membership to continue and keep the growth of the American Legion. Contact Dennis Rodenkirch if you have any questions or need help with payment.

New Year's Eve is coming soon. We will have our prime rib and shrimp dinner. Please RSVP soon. Contact John Christopherson at 873-3436 or Sonny at 873-9428. We have Larry Johnson & the Northern Lites for your entertainment starting at 8:00.

The SAL will be doing the Friday night fish and burgers from now on. Stop in and help support their cause. They are doing the Post a very nice and needed service. Thank you fellows for taking over!

We have put our Post addition on hold until spring. The City Planning Dept. suggested we have our property surveyed and combine both parcels into one. This will eliminate any problems down the road. The addition in question is to add a parcel 24x45 along the east side of the building. A 24x20 for a kitchen addition and the rest for added bar use. Hopefully we can get started this spring. We have bids estimated at 17-20,000 for the building. A furnace has been donated by Pete Gunderson's funeral home and Ken Stelzer (our one and only) will take care of the wiring. We are fortunate to have so many good

members who are willing to help at our Post. This saves a lot of money for us.

We now have a suggestion box at the Post. Please place your opinions and suggestions in it so we can talk about and improve things that might need attention.

Elnora Johnson has donated 150 books to the VA in the name of the Auxiliary. What a wonderful gesture!

Remember the Stoughton Food Pantry needs our help, especially during the Holidays. Our box is at our Post. STOP --- Remember our soldiers in your prayers!!! Merry Xmas and Happy New Year!

Commander Sonny Swangstu

Auxiliary News



Merry Christmas to All,

It is now a Winter Wonderland out there! Hopefully the germs will all get frozen out and everyone will stay healthy for the winter.

Thank you to all who helped decorate for the Holidays. Also, a big thank you for the ladies that have worked so hard making lefse throughout these past weeks. It is an excellent fund raiser for the Auxiliary. Maybe next year we can get more people involved. Volunteering is what our organization is all about.

We have closed on the chair orders. We have met our quota and can no longer get them at that price as the shipping is so expensive for just a few chairs. Sorry if you

did not get your order in. The labels are still being worked on at Prize Possessions in Stoughton.

The Post and Auxiliary are hosting a 10 person family in Stoughton for Christmas. What a wonderful time to remember those less fortunate in our community! This is the season for giving and hopefully your generosity will continue throughout the year. The Auxiliary also has a container in the bar and hall for placing Food Pantry items in. This is another Community Project we are doing.

With our 2010 Poppy Funds we have distributed the following monies. \$250 for the VA Hospital for Cable TV bills, \$500 for Homeless Women Vets, \$40 for Family Readiness for Deployed Vets and \$500 for the next Badger Honor Flight. We also contributed \$663 towards the purchase of our replacement dishwasher for the Post kitchen.

Good Job for all those involved! We will continue on for 2011 with great pride in our organization. Oops!! We must

not forget our cleaning crew for their much appreciated helping hands. God Bless them!!!! Our Auxiliary member Cindy Raasch won one of the Dept. calendar raffles in October. Congratulations Cindy!

Thank you,

President Linda

LEGION HALL AVAILIABLE FOR RENTALS

The word is getting out regarding our hall rental. We are open for funeral luncheons, birthday parties, wedding receptions, family and class reunions, holiday parties, and anniversaries. We do have a portable dance floor as well. 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**.

I want to wish all members and there family's a Merry Christmas! Let us reflect on the true meaning of Christmas this year. "The Birth of Jesus Christ our Lord and savior. " Let us also keep those defending our country and there family's in our thoughts and prayers.

Monte Whitford Chaplain

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

Awards For Our Community

Our post is trying to locate some area Legislators, Policeman, Firefighters, Medical Technicians and National Guard/Reservists to put in for awards. These people don't need to be outstanding or even a veteran but are just valued employees. The post will select one person for each profession to forward to County, District and then Department. This is a way for our post to show our appreciation for their service in our community.

Filling out the award application does take time and must be submitted to the post by February 1, 2011 to be voted on at the Monthly Post meeting, February 14. To get an application and assistance filling out the form contact Dennis at 608-438-8768 as soon as possible.

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.

STOUGHTON FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

A NEW AUXILIARY Community Service Project

Beginning this month the Auxiliary will start collecting for the Stoughton Food Pantry. We will have a collection container at the Post and welcome all donations. The pantry is fully funded by donations. No tax dollars are used to purchase supplies. The need this year is greater than ever before. Just since February the number of people using the Food Panty in Stoughton has almost doubled!

All non-perishable food items are needed, however there are some items that the Food Pantry does not purchase and are very much needed. They are the following: toilet paper, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and shaving cream, bar soap. Also: Hamburger Helper, rice mixes, Sloppy Joe mix, pasta, taco kits, cake and cookie mixes, oatmeal and cereal. So please help us to help those in our own community who are in need by bringing in a few items each time you come to the Post for a dinner, a breakfast, a meeting or a drink in the lounge. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Olson at 873-8924 or Linda Swangstu at 873-9428.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

My Wish for You in 2011

May peace break into your house and may thieves come to steal your debts. May the pockets of your jeans become a magnet of \$200 bills. May love stick to your face like Vaseline and may laughter assault your lips! May your clothes smell of success like smoking tires and may happiness slap you across the face and may your tears be that of joy. May the problems you had forget your home address! In simple words .

May 2011 be the best year of your life!!!

Membership Notes

As of December 5, we stand at 289 or 83% have renewed their dues. If you haven't paid your dues, please do so by the end of this month.

Our goal is the same as all the other years to have 100% renewed by the end of the year. We're 60 renewals short at this time. Don't think your renewal doesn't count.

If you want to pay online at home, here's the link. All you need is your Member ID# and a credit card.
www.members.legion.org/renew

We have 4 new members who have transferred from Post 2930.

Peter Grafton
Robert Komes
Michael Lenihan
Douglas McIvor

Did you know we have 109 members who have been a legionnaire 5 or less years which is 31% of our post. Thank them because they are the future of our post.

Thanks for everyone's help in recruiting,

Dennis Rodenkirch,
Membership Chairman
608-438-8768

National Commanders Jimmie Foster's Incentive Program

I Am a Part of the "Lucky 7" Pin

Our National Commander will award his National Commander pin to any Legion family member who signs up at least two new members and renews 5 current members into The American Legion.

A "New Member" is defined as any eligible person joining the 2011 membership year who was not member of The American Legion during the 2010 membership year.

The program ends on June 30, 2011 so lets see how many of our post members can get this pin. A list of renewal names will be available at the next monthly post meeting.

Any questions contact,
Dennis Rodenkirch
608-438-8768
rc0295@yahoo.com

WARNING TO VETERANS

An organization called Veterans Affairs Services (VAS) is providing benefit and general information on VA and gathering personal information on veterans. This organization is not affiliated with VA in any way.
<http://www.vaservices.org/us/index.html>

VAS may be gaining access to military personnel through their close resemblance to the VA name and seal. Our Legal Counsel has requested that we coordinate with DoD to inform military installations, particularly mobilization sites, of this group and their lack of affiliation or endorsement by VA to provide any services.

Michael G. Daugherty Staff Attorney Department of Veterans Affairs Office of General Counsel (022G2)



AMERICAN LEGION BAR 803 N. Page St. Stoughton, WI



Open to the Public

Bar open to serve you Wednesday – Sunday

Wednesday & Thursday: 3-9 PM or later.

Friday: 3-10pm or later

Saturday: Noon-10pm or later.

Sunday Noon-9pm or later.

Wednesday Ladies Night

\$.50 off any Ladies drinks

NOW SERVING FOOD FRIDAY & SATURDAY

TIME : 5 TO 8 PM

FISH DINNER WITH SLAW AND FRIES

CHICKEN STRIPS

HAMBERGERS

MOZZARELLA STICKS

CALENDER OF EVENTS

DECEMBER 2010

Dec 17-Fish Fry Post 481 Westport

Dec 19-Legion breakfast 7-noon

Dec 25- Christmas

Dec 31- New Years Eve Prime Rib Dinner at the Post.

JANUARY 2011

Jan 1- New Years Day

Jan 9- Breakfast Post 501 Madison

Jan 10- Legion and Auxiliary meeting @ 7 pm.

Jan 14- Fish Fry @ Waunakee

Jan 16- Legion Breakfast 7-noon

Jan 17- Martin Luther King Day

Jan 21-Fish Fry Post 481 Westport

Jan 25- Legion Dinner 6:30pm

*In this season of peace and good will,
Remember all of our service members who can not be
home with their family an friends who are preserving
Peace around the world.*



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8421A



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8421F



8421E



8421C

Veterans Corner
DEBRA DAWN HOTTINGER
WI Army National Guard
1985-2006
By Evelyn Kahl



Debra was born on 10/21/33 in Chicago, IL. She grew up in Freeport, IL. After completing High School she moved to Monroe, WI. She graduated from Blackhawk Area Technical College in Janesville where she received an Associate Degree in Accounting.

March 11, 1985 she entered the WI Army National Guard at the age of 28. Her reason for enlisting was because she thought it would look good on a resume. She initially entered as an M-Day soldier (1 weekend a month & 2 wks during the summer). She received her Basic Training at Fort Dix, NJ and received Advanced Individual Training (AIT) at Fort Benjamin Harrison, IN where she learned her job skill as a Unit Clerk from June 3 1985-Sept. 1985. Because of her age the other soldiers who were 17 & 18 yrs. old called her "Grandma".

She was assigned to the 1158th Transportation Co. in Monroe, WI as the Unit Clerk. After approximately 1 yr., she transferred to the Active Guard Reserve program. This meant she would work full time for the military on active duty. During her time in this program she had many different positions. She served as a recruiter in Milw., WI. She was a Unit Clerk for the 106th Maintenance Co. also in Milw., WI. She then transferred to the 232nd Personnel Service Branch as a records clerk in Madison, WI. At this time she moved to Stoughton, WI. She also worked for the 147th Aviation Battalion in the S-1 and deployed to Kuwait for a period of 6 months. After that she transferred to State Headquarters where she was the Student Loan Repayment Manager and the Bonus Manager until her retirement.

When she deployed to Kuwait, VFW representatives came to speak to the soldiers and gave them calling cards, a free membership in the VFW for 1 yr. When that yr. expired she then joined VFW Post 328 in Stoughton and has been a Life member for 9 yrs.

She retired on Aug. 31, 2006 as an E-7 Sergeant First Class with over 21 yrs. of service to her country. Awards and Metals Received: Meritorious Service Medal, Army Achievement Medals (2), Army Service Ribbon, Driver's Mechanic Badge, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon (3), Army Forces Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Service Medal (2), Armed Forces Reserve Medal W/M, Armed Forces Reserve Medal W/2, Global War of Terrorism Medal, Good Conduct Medal (6), WI Service Ribbons (3), WI Wright Medal (20), Army Overseas Training Ribbon, Expert Rifle Badge M/16, Army Lapel Button.

Since her discharge she continues to reside in Stoughton where she spends her time as a puppy raiser for "Leader Dogs for the Blind" and time with her 5 Grandchildren. She owes much gratitude to her two sons, Dennie and A.J. who made many sacrifices while their mother was serving her country for those 21 yrs. She spends her winters in Weekee Wachee, FL where she is a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Debra has been in the Legion for 9 years and is a paid up for life member. She is also a member of American Legion Post 59 and a Past Senior Vice for VFW Post 328.

Merry Christmas from Post 59

On Nov. 30, Bob and Mary Lloyd, Yolanda Statz, and Terry Rayfield packed and mailed 30 care packages to Stoughton area service men and women serving overseas. The packages are always greatly appreciated. Special Thanks go out to Yolanda Statz and Terry Rayfield who provided great assistance in this effort.

Plans are already underway for next years Christmas effort. Names and addresses of service members serving overseas will be needed at that time and are kept strictly confidential. For questions or donations, please contact Stoughton American Legion Post 59 Service Officer Bob Lloyd at 608-873-5926 or Lloyd2364@sbcglobal.net.

Mrs. Lloyd

We cannot thank you enough for the great care packages we received from the American Legion. They were fantastic. I was able to share them with several of my fellow soldiers. The letters and notes from the kids were great. Please pass our appreciation for their efforts on to them.
 Take care and God Bless.

CW4 Brad Stepp

1st Annual 3rd District Extravagansa

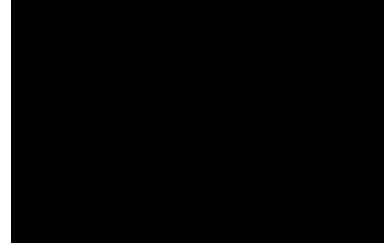
Open to all American Legion Family
 & Friends Saturday, February 19 2011

Barneveld Legion Post 433 Doors
 open at 11:00 Play begins at 12:00

Pool Darts Eucher

Food and refreshments

Contact Athletic Chair Lee Pollack
 At 576-4022 to sign up for pool or
 any questions



Kitchen Help

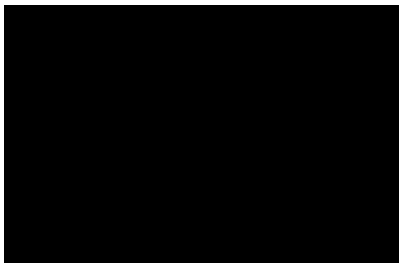
On the 3rd Sunday morning of each month the Post has an ALL U CAN EAT breakfast for \$9.00. It includes Pancakes, French toast, sausage scrambled eggs and biscuits & gravy. We also serve coffee, milk and orange juice. It takes many hands to prepare and serve this delicious breakfast. Pictured are Dan Blomgren, Pam Griggs, Doug Olson and Mike Griggs. Other dedicated workers are: Dean Horner, Larry Onsurd, Ken Schieldt, Sherry Leck, John Christopherson, Jim Griffin, Rebel Brehman, Odean Teigen, Truman Harried, Lyman Hawkinsom, Phil Hawkenson as well as many more. Come and enjoy. Serving begins at 7am and runs until noon.

Lefse for Sale by Mary Curran

A number of enthusiastic American Legion and Auxiliary members have been meeting at the Legion kitchen the popular Norwegian delicacy. This is usually done on Wednesday or Thursday nights starting at 6pm. Between 60-65 lefse are made each night. All the mistakes get to be eaten by the workers.

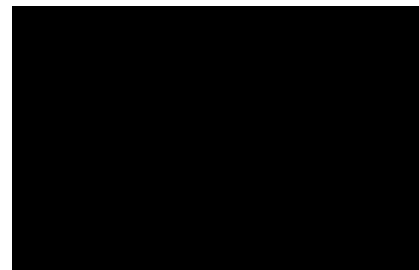
Asleson's Hardware was gracious enough to give us a good deal on two lefse grills. Our thanks to Asleson's. Those who came to work on this project were: Linda and Sonny Swangstu, Lisa Olson, Rita Sperry, Linda Robertson, Betty Neadth, Connie Zutter, Lori Redeppening, Jim Griffin, Rick Gullickson and Mike Swatch.

The lefse sells for \$5.00 for a pack of three. It is sold at the monthly breakfasts and during the winter months.



Serving up Breakfast

These members are all ready to serve you a delicious steaming hot Sunday Breakfast. Pictured left to right Rita Sperry, Vicky Carlson, Ona Chat, Lisa Olson and Jim Hanson.

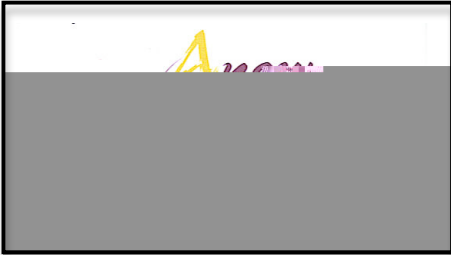


Christmas Ornaments

Many Christmas ornaments and decorations have been made by our Junior Auxiliary members, under the leadership of Tracy Lloyd.

These enthusiastic and energetic young ladies meet periodically at the post to work on various projects to benefit veterans and their families. This photo shows Jr. member Anja Nygaard and her grandmother Shirley Nygaard selling items to Lisa Olson at a Sunday breakfast. Other Jr. members are Kim Thomson and Josie Silbaugh.

THE LEGION POST



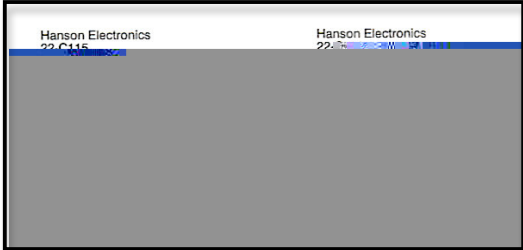
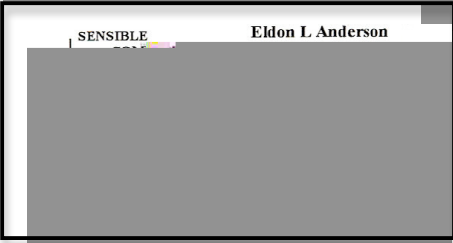
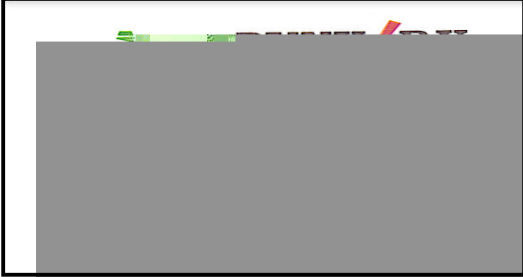
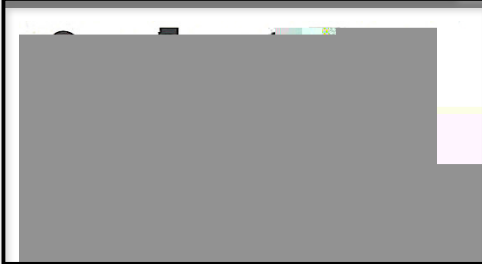
Local Representative
Stoughton &
Surrounding Area

Myron Sime
Consultant
Res. (608) 873-9290

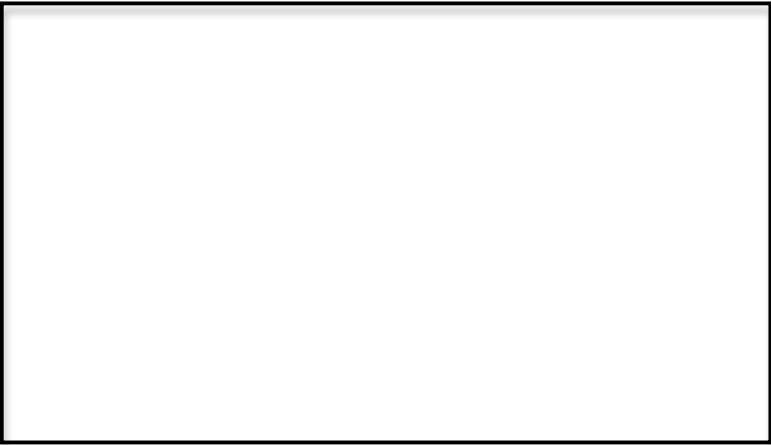
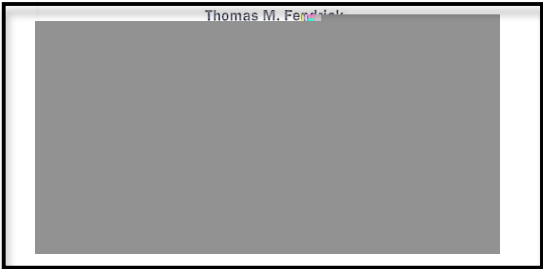
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NEW YEARS EVE
PRIME RIB DINNER
December 31st 6:30 PM

Zen for Those Who Take Life Too Seriously:

**Light travels faster than sound, which is why some people
appear bright until you hear them speak.**

Editor Wayne Christensen: wac33@sbcglobal.net,

DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES THE 10TH OF EACH MONTH

VISIT THE POST WEBSITE AT POST59.ORG Post email AmericanLegionPost59@TDS.net