



# THE LEGION POST

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



Volume 20

Issue 6



June 2018

## 2017-2018 OFFICERS

### Commander

Sonny Swangstu

### 1st Vice Commander

Michael Currie

### 2nd Vice Commander

Vik Malling

### 3rd Vice Commander

Larry Johnson

### Service Officer

OPEN

### Sgt. at Arms

Dale Seffens

### Finance Officer

Jim Oler

### Historian

DuWayne Teigen

### Adjutant

Derick Gefke

### Judge Advocate

Rodger Hansen

### Chaplain

Edward Nowicki

## Commander's Report



Greetings Legion Family,

Hope everyone is feeling upbeat with the wonderful warm weather. It is about time we hear the birds singing again and see the flowers blooming. The giggles of the kids playing outside and the beautiful summer blue sky paint a pretty picture. Also, to hear the sound of rain falling softly at night puts us asleep.

Because everyone will be grilling out, camping, vacationing, boating and doing all the fun things soon, we will not be having any Post dinners until late summer. Hopefully when we resume more members will return for our meals. Our monthly newspaper is back on track with our editor April Vingum and it will have the beginning dinner information when the time comes. Thank

you April for keeping the news flowing again!!

Thank you Bob Lloyd for collecting the Post dues! We have over 350 + members and he has been instrumental in getting the job done. Bob has always completed every job he has taken on for the Post. It is great to have volunteers like that and we would like to have more that help the Post with its many tasks.

Al Vick and his Honor Guard crew did some yard work around the Post last weekend. We are lucky folks show up when we ask for help. Thanks guys! Would it be possible for someone to spray for weed control around the back bushes to keep the weeds down and lay some mulch around the bushes? Linda would appreciate it as she has been pulling weeds the past few years. We could use one more bush in the empty spot back there also. The Post will reimburse for those

items.

The tile has been ordered for our new floors. The new bar and flooring will be installed in June as May is a busy month for the Post.

May 26<sup>th</sup> is the **Celebration of Life** for our long time Post member **Eugene (Beanie) Bjoin**. The Ladies Auxiliary will serve at the luncheon. Further notice will appear in the paper. We sure do miss the little red car stating "Here Comes Beanie".

Enjoy the Norwegian celebration coming up and our Memorial Day parade and program.

Thank you all volunteers,

Commander Sonny

## Monthly Post Meeting Schedule

**Legion**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Monday  
7:00 pm

**Auxiliary**  
1<sup>st</sup> Monday  
6:30 pm

**Sons of the American Legion**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday  
7:00 pm

Meetings are held at the Post.  
All members are encouraged to attend.

## Hall Rentals

Call

Linda Swangstu 608.873.9428

Or email:

Alpost59@gmail.com

## Interested in an Email version of our newsletter The Legion Post?

1. Visit <https://www.post59.us/>
2. Scroll down to yellow box that says "Legion Post 59 Newsletter" and click on "Find Out More-Click Here"
3. Click on "Contact the Editor"
4. In Subject Line of email, enter "Subscribe to Email Version of Newsletter"
5. Add your name to the body of the email.
6. You're all set! You'll receive the next month's newsletter in your Inbox!



## Auxiliary News

### 2017-2018 OFFICERS

#### President

Cathy Rigdon  
873.5818  
608.712.5312

#### 1st Vice President

Amy Hermes  
608.516.8720

#### 2nd Vice President

Jona Chat  
608.622.4574

#### Secretary

OPEN

#### Treasurer

Linda Schmidt  
205.2517

#### Chaplain

Lynn Robertson  
608.692.6321

#### Membership

Lisa Olson  
608.279.4847  
Bonnie Kennedy  
608.669.7744  
Linda Swangstu  
873.9428

Greetings ~

The American Legion Auxiliary's fiscal year ended on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Each auxiliary unit is required to submit annual reports to the Department. While compiling the reports, it was amazing and heartwarming to see all of our accomplishments this past year. Our members volunteered 3,543 hours in service to our veterans, our military families, our youth, activities and projects for the good of our Legion, as well as community based volunteerism. The beautiful baskets that Bonnie Kennedy makes each month to be raffled off brought in over \$4,000!

Those proceeds help to us to financially support veterans' projects and community based projects/support. We were able to send 4 girls to Badger Girls State. The main project we focused on was supporting our deployed veterans. Throughout the year, several comfort packages were sent to 3 different troops deployed in Afghanistan and Iraq. We were overjoyed when we heard all three troops have come home safe and sound! Additionally, at Christmas time, we were able to work on a joint project with the Legion to send holiday packages to deployed troops. Now, on to our next fiscal year, which began April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Poppy distribution is scheduled for Memorial Day weekend. We have over 2,500 poppies to distribute.

Everyone is invited to help us in our efforts to distribute the poppies. If you can volunteer just 2 hours of our time on Thursday (May 24) through Saturday (May 26), it would be appreciated. Several time slots are available in the mornings, afternoon or evenings. If you can help, please call me on my home phone at (608)873-5818. Leave a message if I am not able to answer and I will return your call.

I am sending a special shout-out to all our auxiliary members for their commitment to our veterans. Thank you for all your work this past year. And now, on to continued successes!

Cathy



## Sons of the American Legion Report

Welcome back to the warmer weather that many of us had missed for so long, and a big welcome back to those who enjoy getting Post 59 information and reports in the form of a monthly newsletter. Special thanks to April Vingum for stepping up to the challenges that come with making it possible to provide something that many had missed over the course of the last few months.

Another big thank you to my SAL brother Dean Stenjem for helping April to get a great start.

Now to the business at hand. Memorial Day weekend is quickly approaching and along with remembering and honoring those who made the supreme sacrifice, the Sons of the American Legion will be involved with the "Raise The Flag In Stoughton". If you are in the City of Stoughton, or are within 6 miles of Stoughton you qualify to be a part of this effort. Five times each year you can have a beautiful 3' x 5' American Flag displayed in your yard. (Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Patriot Day, 9/11 and of course Veterans Day.) The cost to participate is \$50.00 per year and the program is handled

by Mike, Tammy & Terry Niedfeldt of Thrivent Financial who do an excellent job of managing the effort that will help maintain the Veteran's Memorial Park for years to come.

Sign up Forms are available at the Legion Post 59 or you can contact Tammy at [tammy.niefeldt@thrivent.com](mailto:tammy.niefeldt@thrivent.com) or 608-873-3910 ext. 5. SAL members are looking forward to helping with the delivery and planting of the flags again this year.

If you know or are aware of a veteran who would like to have a flag this year but it may not be in their budget, please contact Bob Hocking (608-206-6980), Dean Stenjem (608-516-0071) or Jim Oler at Post 59, the SAL will make it happen.

The Sons of the American Legion would also like to invite you to a Memorial weekend picnic on Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup>. Beginning at approximately 4:00, we will be having a traditional grilled cookout style picnic, to be followed by music and entertainment by Andy "Big Johnson".

Come on down and enjoy yourselves with your friends and neighbors.

Lastly the Squadron 59 SAL members are proud to announce our donation of \$1,000.00 toward the Josh Dog Program which provides stuffed dogs to children of service members who are being deployed and the deployed parent as well to help ease the separation.

Bob Hocking  
SAL Squadron 59 Commander

### **2018 SAL OFFICERS**

**Commander**  
Bob Hocking  
**1st Vice Commander**  
Dean Stenjem  
**2nd Vice Commander**  
Jim Oler  
**Sgt. at Arms**  
Alan Metzler  
**Finance Officer**  
Jim Oler  
**Historian**  
Jeff Gassen  
**Adjutant**  
Roger Strandlie  
**Chaplain**  
Dan Blomgren

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- June 6 - D-Day – WWII Allied Invasion Anniversary
- June 8 - Dean's Blue Country 6:00-9:00pm
- June 14- Flag Day
- June 14 – ARMY Birthday
- June 17 - Legion Breakfast – 7:30-11:30am
- June 17 - Fathers' Day
- June 22 – Frank (lefty) James & Jackie Marie 6:00–9:00pm
- June 23 - Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday
- June 27 - PTSD Awareness Day

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**For Upcoming Legion Entertainment, call the Post at 608.205.9090 for a recorded message or go to [post59.us](http://post59.us) and click on the Upcoming Events tab.**

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**EVENT PRICING**

**Post Dinner: 6:30pm  
\$11.00**

**Breakfast: 7:30-11:30am  
\$8.00 Adults/\$4.00 Children under 10**

**As always, there is no cover charge for Legion Entertainment**

**AMERICAN LEGION BAR**

803 NORTH PAGE STREET – STOUGHTON, WI

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Bar Open to Serve You: Wednesday – Sunday

- Wednesday: **3:00pm or later**
- Thursday: **3:00pm or later**
- Friday: **3:00-10:00pm or later**
- Saturday: **Noon-10:00pm or later**
- Sunday: **11:30am-6:00pm or later**

**WEDNESDAY IS LADIES NIGHT**

\$ .50 off any Ladies Drinks

**THURSDAY IS THIRSTY THURSDAY**

Bud Light or Miller Light Taps  
12oz.- \$1.00 / 16oz.- \$1.50

**FRIDAY IS OUR FRIDAY NIGHT FISH FRY**

5:00 – 8:00pm  
Which includes salad bar

**Reminder!**

Notices, ads, etc. that are hung at the Post **should not** be taped to windows or doors.

**CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

*"Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!  
For his mercy endures forever."*

**Psalm 136:1**

**Lord,**

We give thanks to you for our brave men and women in uniform. We pray for your love to lead them and your wisdom to guide them *each and every day*.

Ed Nowicki  
Post Chaplain

**Legion Members:** *If you know of anyone who is hospitalized, or in need, please contact Edward Nowicki at 608.249.9510*

**Auxiliary Members:** *If you know of anyone who is hospitalized, or in need, please contact Lynn Robertson at 608.692.6321.*

God Bless America



**Ilein F. Taipe**  
**Veteran Interview**

- Submitted by Evelyn Kahl

Ilein F. Taipe was born in New York City, NY on January 30, 1973. She attended elementary school in Queens, NY, also Junior High and High School in Queens, NY.

She will be receiving her Bachelor's Degree on May 19, 2018 from Concordia University, Wisconsin and will hold a graduation party at the VFW in Stoughton on that day, which area residents are invited to attend. Ilein is employed as a bartender at the VFW Post 328.

Ilein enlisted at the age of 18 while living in Ozone Park, NY at her mom's persuasion. Her mom confirmed her initial decision to enter the Branch One and Only Marine Corps (The Few, The Proud, Marine Corps.). She needed to find out why the Marine Corps had 13 weeks of Boot Camp and the other branches had only 8.

She received her Basic Training in Parris Island, SC. After Basic Training, she was sent to Okinawa, Japan. She then served in Operation Iraqi Freedom, (O.I.F.), the year of 2006 and continued in this capacity until she retired after serving 21 years in the military.

One memorable experience that is especially memorable happened in Iraq. She was a Gunnery Sergeant in charge of 7 young female Marines. They all volunteered to work checkpoints with the Infantry men. They were stationed on the borders of the countries of Jordan and Syria. They were in the front lines with the Infantry and she was happy to finish that assignment and bring the women Marines back safely. They had no facilities during

the month of the Lioness Program. Ilein was very proud of her team as they obeyed orders, stayed alive, and Ilein brought them all safely home.

At the time, women were not allowed to see combat so they volunteered for this duty and they did an outstanding job. They all received recognition for this service and it was a milestone for other women to follow. It was a one-year experience in Iraq.

Ilein's highest rank was E8 which has the equivalent of Master Sergeant.

During her years of service, she received the following awards and medals:

1. 2 Navy Commendation Medals
2. 2 Navy Achievement Medals
3. 1 Marine Security Guard Medal
4. 1 Drill Instructor Medal
5. 7 Good Conduct Medals
6. 1 National Defense Medal

She was discharged in February 1, 2013 from Newport News, VA.

After discharge, she joined a catastrophe claims company that specialized in hiring veterans. It required lots of work and travel nationwide.

After some time, she decided she wanted to work on completing her degree from Concordia University in Madison and will receive this degree in May 2018.

After receiving this degree and

her 21 years in the military, she will work with the Department of Corrections in Dane County.

She was married and has a 15 year old son, Jonah O'Connor, at Stoughton High School. They reside in Stoughton.

Ilein is an active member of VFW Post 328 and is a Vice Commander. She is also a member of the American Legion Post 59.

She said it was her pleasure to do this interview and very happy to be a part of the Stoughton Community. It is her "home away from home". She is proud to have served her country for 21 years!!

She ended this interview by commenting:

"\*Stay tuned – her plans are to run for town chairman or possibly even Mayor! Semper Fidelis!



RAISE THE FLAG  
IN STOUGHTON



*A flag by itself has its own meaning.  
Hundreds of flags together make you  
think about all the people who  
fought and died for our freedoms  
and about those who came back  
after serving.*

Sponsored by:



The Raise the Flag campaign is a Stoughton city-wide community effort Sponsored by Thrivent Financial to raise funds for on-going maintenance of the Stoughton Area Veterans Memorial Park and various service groups that install the flags. This innovative program will place a beautiful 3'x5' American Flag that is made in the USA in each participant's yard 5 times per year. The flag will be installed no later than 8:30 am and will be taken down by dusk on the following celebration days:

- Memorial Day 🇺🇸
- Flag Day 🇺🇸
- Independence Day 🇺🇸
- Patriot Day, 9/11 🇺🇸
- Veterans Day 🇺🇸

The cost to participate in this program is only \$50.00 per year. This show of support from the Stoughton community will honor our nation and help keep the Memorial Park a landmark in Wisconsin. Please tell your neighbors to join this great patriotic event. The more families that participate, the more dramatic the effect will be on your street and in our community!

**If you are in the City of Stoughton, OR are within 6 miles of Stoughton, SIGN UP NOW to be part of this effort!**

.....  
Mail this form along with your check to:

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Your donation may be Tax Deductible

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If you have questions, contact us at  
[tammy.niedfeldt@thrivent.com](mailto:tammy.niedfeldt@thrivent.com)                      Email \_\_\_\_\_  
608-873-3910, ext. 5  
  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

House color \_\_\_\_\_ Special Placement Instructions: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have an invisible dog fence and/or a lawn sprinkler system installed? YES  NO

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### ***Post Dinner Menu***

***No dinners for the months of May, June, or July  
please visit: [www.post59.us/legion-post-dinner-information](http://www.post59.us/legion-post-dinner-information)  
Or Call 608.205.9090***



**Otis Sampson American Legion Post 59**

**DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES THE 1<sup>st</sup> OF EACH MONTH**  
Editor: April Vingum: [59legionpost@gmail.com](mailto:59legionpost@gmail.com)

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