THE LEGION POST

OTIS SAMPSON POST 59
803 North Page Street - STOUGHTON, WI
PH: 608.205.9090
Post 59 Website: www.post59.us

FALL 2025

2025-2026
POST 59 OFFICERS
Commander
Michael Currie
1st Vice Commander
Rodger Hansen
2nd Vice Commander
Mike Ayers
3rd Vice Commander
Tom Jenny
Service Officer
John Solis
Sgt. At Arms
Jim Schiferl
Finance Officer
Jim Oler
Historian
Allen Vick
Adjutant
Joshua Holt
Judge Advocate
Mike Gerard
Chaplain
Edward Nowicki
Membership
Mike Ayers

FROM THE COMMANDER'S DESK

Good day to you all. In a few weeks the fall season will be upon us, with beautiful colored trees and crisp cool temperatures. I hope everyone had a wonderful summer. I'm sure the corn and soy bean crops loved all the rain and hot temperatures.

We once again worked with the Stoughton Police Department this year to help with National Night Out. This year's event was held at Nordic Ridge Park on August 6th from 5:00 to 8:00pm. It is aways a great community event.

We cut back on our musical entertainment during the summer months, however our musical coordinator, Larry Johnson, is making sure we will have some great music for the fall and winter months which should start this coming September. As always, the 4th Sunday of each month will have our Sunday Jams from 2:00 to 6:00.

We continue to work with the Stoughton community and Veteran's organizations to be a better place to live and work, including donating volunteer hours and funds to our community and school organizations throughout the year. We are hoping to have a customer appreciation day sometime this fall so please check out our calendar of events on our website or our Facebook page.

Our weekly meat raffle will startup in September and run through May of 2026 it is every Saturday from (2:00 to 4:00pm). We will also be starting up our monthly members dinner in September, this is held every 4th Tuesday of the month starting with cocktail hour at 5:00 and dinner at 6:00. This year we hope to have the monthly menu placed on our website for your convenience.

Our Post membership drive is going well, if you have not yet renewed your membership please consider sending in your membership soon. We would like to be at 100% by the end of December this year. If you have any questions, you can contact me or our membership chairman Mike Ayers.

As most of you know we put new flooring in the hall this spring. We have been waiting for the new floor for the bar to be delivered and hope we will have that soon. We are also planning to purchase some new barstools. If there are any questions or concerns you have regarding the Post, please feel free to contact me.

Don't forget Veterans Day which falls on November 11th, and, as always, our Post Honor Guard as well as members of Stoughton VFW Post 328 will be attending many of the Stoughton Schools and Senior Center celebrations.

In closing I would like to thank all our great volunteers and bartenders for the fabulous job they do!!! I would also like to thank all our members and patrons for your continued support of our Post. Without you we could not continue our mission to support our veterans and Stoughton Community.

See you all at the Post
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

As summer winds down and we head into the fall, the American Legion Auxiliary remains active and engaged in bringing our members and the broader community together. Mark your calendars for several upcoming events that offer something for everyone—from great music to meaningful remembrance and educational outreach.

Trip to The Highground – September 16

On Tuesday, September 16, the American Legion Auxiliary will join with the VFW Auxiliary for a trip to The Highground Veterans Memorial Park in Neillsville, Wisconsin. This solemn and inspiring visit will provide a chance to honor the sacrifices of veterans and reflect on our shared commitment to service. Please contact Lisa Olson to see if there are any seats still available.

Hosting "In the Know" – September 27

We're proud to host the "In the Know" on Friday, September 27. These annual fall presentations, offered by the American Legion Auxiliary, are designed to engage and educate our members strengthening our shared mission and building knowledge across our organization.

Support the Patriotic Stitchers – Crown Royal Quilt Raffle

Don't miss your chance to support the Patriotic Stitchers by entering their Crown Royal quilt raffle! This beautifully handcrafted quilt, made from repurposed Crown Royal fabric, showcases the dedication and creativity of this group, whose work benefits local veterans and Legion programs. Raffle tickets are on sale now ~ get yours before they're gone!

Whether you're coming out for the music, honoring fellow veterans, or learning something new, we hope to see you at one—or all—of these events. Your continued support keeps the spirit of the Legion strong and vibrant.

"Individual commitment to a group effort – that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work." ~ Vince Lombardi

In friendship & fellowship,

Amy Hermes

Sons of the American Legion Report
Squadron 59

2025-2026
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

Greetings all,

The SAL continues to provide volunteer support for many events throughout our community, including the upcoming National Night Out, and of course our monthly breakfast. We rely on the generous donation of time from our members, and are always looking for new volunteers.

All members are encouraged to attend our monthly meeting to discuss upcoming opportunities to make a difference and help in our continuing support of the entire Stoughton community.

SAL 1st Vice-Commander, Bob Crofoot

SAVMP Annual Chili Fundraiser

The American Legion Post 59 and Stoughton VFW Post 328 invite you to come on Tuesday, November 4 from 4:00 – 7:00 at the VFW Post 328, 200 Veterans Rd. We will be serving chili and fixings, roll, cookie, and coffee/milk.

All proceeds will benefit the Stoughton Area Veterans Memorial Park.

THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

God, we trust you and we put our confidence in you. As we look out at this world so full of conflict and disruption, violence and chaos, let us be rooted in you and let the waters of your peace flow out to all who are experiencing conflict.

We pray that your people will be like trees planted by streams of water. We do not fear when heat comes. We do not fear when violence erupts around us. Instead, may our leaves always be green. May we always bear fruit. By your grace, may we stand firm. By your grace may peace come. Amen.

Continue to watch over the men and women who serve this great nation of ours and keep them from harm's way. Also, watch over our veterans who have proudly served our country.

We pray this in your name. *Amen.*

Ed Nowicki

Chaplain

American Legion Post 59 Fall 2025 Membership News

"URGENT" We still have a few Legionnaire members that have not yet renewed their 2025 membership with one of the finest Post in Wisconsin. You can either send in your $40.00 check to Post 59 or go online at MyLegion.org or www.legion goal.org/renew where you can also renew for up to 3 years.

2025 Membership: As of this newsletter, we have exceeded our 2025 membership goal of 337 members with 311 renewals and 32 new members totaling 343 Thank-you for your continued support.

2026 Membership Thank you Again! We are on the right track as of this newsletter we have renewed 176 members and added 4 new Legionnaires to our ranks EXCEEDING our "Early Bird" September 10th goal of 50%.

Renewal Process: Membership is based on a calendar-year from January 1st to December 31st. Recruitment for renewals is now underway and began in July for the year 2026 membership year. This can be confusing since we are still collecting dues for 2025 for some members. Renewal notices are sent out in July, and reminders in October, January, March and May. When a member renews, they are removed from future notices. I have had a few members receive renewal notices when in fact they were paid-up for the year. Keep good records and if you receive such a notice after paying, call or text me and I will research and get back to you with an answer.

New Members - Since our Summer Newsletter we welcomed the following "13" new Legionnaires into our Post ranks: Bruce Buell - USA, Mel Cleveland - USA, Dan Greene – USMC, David Harvey - USMC, Wendey Larson - USAF, Jacob Madson - USAF, Lloyed Marlar - (PUFL) USA, Bob McCormick - USA, James Newcomb - USA/USAF, Rick Pearson - USMC, Mark Schiferl - USAF, Clayton Smith - USA and Llewellyn Torngren - USN.

Paid up for Life (PUFL): We wish to thank and congratulate Duwayne Teigen as our newest Paid up for Life Member in Post 59.

******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.***

Dan L. Hvam (May 24th) - Vietnam USA
Basil Sadler (Jun 26th) - Korea USN
Robert L. Olson (Jun 28th) – Korea USA

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

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Honor Our Country, Support Our Veterans

AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Membership renewal for the 2026 year is now open! Our 2026 100% goal is to have 171 paid members. There are several ways you can pay your dues this year:

1) Mail your Dues check to: Lisa Olson @ 1705 Severson Drive, Stoughton, WI 53589.
   Dues are $35.00 for Seniors and $5.25 for Juniors. Make your check payable to: ALA Unit 59.

2) Drop off your check at the Post & put it in the Auxiliary mailbox in the hall by the front door.

3) Pay with credit or debit card by phone by calling the *National Dues Call Line @ 317-569-4570*
   Monday-Friday 7:00 am to 3:30 pm. I just called and paid my dues and it was very easy.
   No checks to write or mail and much easier for our Treasurer too. I encourage you to try it.
   I am notified of your dues payment the next day and will send your membership card right out.

We recently had two new members join our Auxiliary. Welcome to Taylor Buell and Lonnie Luebke. Sadly, our member Joanne Volla passed away in June. She had been an Auxiliary member for 9 years. Our condolences go out to her family and friends.

If you have any questions, please call, text or email me.

Thank you for your continued dedication to our mission to serve our veterans and our community. Let's make this a strong and successful membership year!

Lisa Olson ~ ALA Membership Chair
608-279-4847 waucoman@hotmail.com

A Member's Perspective

As a newer active member of Post 59 Stoughton I have been able to see and experience the election of post officers over the last 2 years. Having been in the corporate world and many volunteer organizations over the last 40 years, I am convinced the Stoughton Post 59 has an outstanding group of leaders. Mike Currie, current post commander, has the responsibility of overseeing the post. He runs the monthly meeting with the honor and respect due the Legion protocol. His leadership skills are evident as he has a real command of delegating the responsibilities of running the Post and all that comes with being commander. He shows respect to the history of the Post. It is clear there has been a long history of good leadership at Post 59.

The professionalism of our Finance Officer Jim Oler makes the monthly finance reports very understandable and his attitude toward concerns about vendor's request for payment or services are not judgmental. He always offers sound choices for addressing the issues. I can only imagine the hours he spends investing in the Post.

Each and every elected officer is very clear in giving their respective reports. As one of the larger Posts in the area this doesn't just happen. It starts at the top and goes through the entire leadership team. Mike Ayers, our membership officer, seems to really enjoy his position and is a real asset to the growth and maintenance of the membership of Post 59.

In today's society, the tearing down of any leadership seems to be the norm. This is a group of local leaders that are worth getting to know better. I encourage all members to take the one hour per month to be a part of this veteran community organization. You may even have a few laughs and interesting conversation afterwards.

Richard Feran – Post 59 Member

Post 59 History

If you have visited the Legion in the past few months, you may have noticed that the photos of the Commanders in the dining hall have been updated. These photos now include all 52 Commanders since Post 59 was first chartered in 1919. Additionally, you might have seen our Post 59 Facebook page, which features stories about the history of both past Commanders and the Post itself.
What began as a relatively small project has significantly expanded over the last few months. In researching the history of our Commanders, we discovered that there was little information linking their stories together. With the help of Jim Oler, Steve Grady, and Al Vick, we have started to compile a comprehensive history that dates back to before 1919.

During this process, we located a series of binders compiled by Lennie Swingen, Lynn (Swingen) Robertson, and Steve Grady, which offer valuable insights into the evolving history of the Legion. For those who may not know, Lennie was a devoted member of Post 59 for 76 years before passing away in 2020 at the age of 103.

Al Vick, the current historian for Post 59, also provided a large box of binders compiled by Odean Teigen, another longtime member and past Commander of Post 59. I have created a webpage dedicated to Post 59's history, which currently includes newspaper articles about each Commander, articles from various eras of Post 59's past, and biographies of the Commanders. Please note that this is a work in progress, and we appreciate your patience.

You can find this page on the Post 59 website under "Post 59 History."

https://www.post59.us/post59history

Thank you,
Dean Stenjem
(16-year member of the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 59)

L-R Rodger Hansen, Al Vick, Tom Jenny, Michael Currie, Jim Schiferl, Mike Gerard, Josh Holt, Mike Ayers, Ed Nowicki

L-R Michael Currie, Rodger Hansen, Rick Feran

State Legion Vice Commander Jerry Hook, Jim Schiferl, Tom Jenny

Sandra Marcum, Rob Drogsvold, Michael Currie

with Past State VFW Commander Ron Ramos

Post 59 Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER 2025
Sep. 2nd: Monthly Auxiliary Meeting @ 5:30 pm
Sep. 5th: JR & Susie Anderson 7:00-10:00 pm
Sep. 8th: American Legion Monthly Meeting @ 7:00 pm
Sep.10th: SAL Monthly Meeting @ 7:00 pm
Sep.16th: Trip to Highground Veteran's Memorial Park
Sep.19th: Frank Lefty James 7:00-10:00
Sep.21st: Monthly Legion Breakfast – 7:30-11:30 am
Sep.23rd: Post Supper - 5:30pm-8:00 pm
Sep.27th: ALA "In the Know" Conference 8:00am-3:30pm
Sep.28th: Country Music Jam 2:00-6:00

OCTOBER 2025
Oct. 4th: Universal Sound Band 7:00-10:00 pm
Oct. 6th: Monthly Auxiliary Meeting @ 5:30 pm
Oct. 8th: SAL Monthly Meeting @ 7:00pm
Oct.11th: Bad Habit Band 7:00-10:00
Oct.13th: American Legion Monthly Meeting @ 7:00pm
Oct.19th: Monthly Legion Breakfast – 7:30-11:30am
Oct.20th: SAVMP Meeting @ 5:00pm
Oct.25th: Special Olympics Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser – 4:00-7:00pm
Oct.26th: Country Music Jam 2:00-6:00
Oct.28th: Post Supper - 5:30pm-8:00 pm
Oct.31st: Halloween Party – Blue Moon Karaoke – 7:00-11:00 am

NOVEMBER 2025
Nov. 3rd: Monthly Auxiliary Meeting @ 5:30 pm
Nov. 8th: Bad Habit Band 7:00-10:00
Nov.10th: American Legion Monthly Meeting @ 7:00pm
Nov.11th: Veterans Day
Nov.12th: SAL Monthly Meeting @ 7:00pm
Nov.15th: Wayne Road Band - 7:00-10:00 pm
Nov.16th: Monthly Legion Breakfast – 7:30-11:30am
Nov.23rd: Country Music Jam 2:00-6:00
Nov.29th: Country Renegades Band 7:00-10:00pm

Contact Information for Post 59

Post 59 Email: alpost59@gmail.com

Michael Currie – Commander
PH: (608) 712-6747
Email: Michaelcurrie@charter.net

Mike Ayers – Membership chair
PH: (608) 335-1771
Email: tqmgr@yahoo.com

Jim Oler – Finance Officer
PH: (608) 347-4407
Email: oller8888@gmail.com

John Solis – Service Officer
PH: (608) 213-6241
Email: solosolis@gmail.com

Amy Hermes – ALA President
PH: (608) 516-8720
Email: AHermes@stoughtonhealth.com

Bob Hocking – SAL Commander
PH: (608) 206-6980
Email: sonsofthelegion59@gmail.com
Email: bobghocking@gmail.com

Bob Crofoot – Editor
Email: hodagbob@yahoo.com

MEAT RAFFLE EVERY SATURDAY @ 2:00pm

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

BUSINESSES IN SUPPORT OF OUR POST

YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE

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Otis Sampson American Legion Post 59

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hodagbob@yahoo.com
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LIKE US ON facebook

Hall Rentals

For More Information, please contact Sherry Leick @ 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
STOUGHTON, WI
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**