



THE LEGION POST

OTIS SAMPSON POST 59 STOUGHTON WI

POST WEBSITE: POST59.ORG

POST PHONE 608-205-9090

JULY 2010

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 7

Commanders Report



Greetings,

I would like to thank our Post for allowing me to be your Commander this past year. It's been a rewarding experience for me and the other officers as well. We have made some progress with things around the Post with more to come.

We, the Executive Committee have decided to up the price of the Legion dinners \$1.00. We will no longer pass the hat for the dishwashers, as the intake was not sufficient enough to pay for their help. Sorry for the increase but we cannot expect the clean up crew to do it for nothing. We also need some volunteers to wash the kitchen towels after each dinner. Please step up

and take a turn.

I have been told we have sixteen comrades in the Skaalen Home. I would like to pick a day a month to have a group visit them. Many are alone and would enjoy a visit from a comrade. Please think about this and let the Post know if you would like to join a group for this purpose. This will give you a good feeling in the heart.

I'm looking into getting a used pool table for the Post. Does anyone have one they would like to donate? It is time we have some social gatherings for our members. Pool, cards and bingo on a Monday or Tuesday afternoon with coffer, tea and some conversation would be good and also get you out of the house.

Bud's onion group had a successful sale and they have offered to help buy new chairs

for the Post Dining Hall. Also, the Funeral Committee and Auxiliary will help. As long as these groups are so involved (we) the Post members and any others might like to help. You could also be buying a chair of your own. These chairs will have a small tag on the back with the name of the person who bought the chair. They cost approximately \$30 a chair. We will need about 150 chairs to furnish the hall. Your thoughts and generosity will be very much appreciated. With so many functions going on and an increase in the use of the hall, we need to spiff it up.

Lastly, I have been approached by a lawyer about any interest the Post might have on the property next door where the Carpet Warehouse was. I have brought it up to the Executive Committee and they thought we should look

See Cmdr PG 3

2009-2010 OFFICERS

Post Commander

Sonny Swangstu

1st Vice Commander

Mike Griggs

2nd Vice Commander

Mary Lloyd

3rd Vice Commander

Richard Breyman

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

Lori Redepenning 877-

9918

1st Vice President

Linda Swanstu

Secretary

Evelyn Kahl

Treasurer

Rita Sperry

Chaplain

Marlene Bierman

Sgt at Arms

Mary Copley

Auxiliary News



Greetings

May has been a very busy month! Our Syttende Mai & Memorial Day parades went well and fortunately the weather cooperated for both. Thanks, Mother Nature! There are many of you who have volunteered many hours over the last month, and for fear of missing someone, I want to say THANK YOU to everyone; for putting the floats together; participating in the parades and attending the Memorial Day Ceremony; making the flower box and planting the beautiful flowers; cleaning and organizing the kitchen; volunteering at Culvers, and for a VERY successful Poppy distribution! Without the help of our members, we would not be able to support our veterans like we do, ALL OF US

SHOULD BE VERY PROUD OF THE HOURS WE PUT IN.

Our poppies brought in over \$2,700.00 this year!! It was amazing to hear the total. I am impressed with this community of Stoughton. Our members alone donated over \$650.00 from the mailing we did. This money is designated for veterans and their families, nothing else. Our Culver's day was very profitable, too. \$500.00 was received from our two shifts of work. We appreciate those of you who stopped by for a meal!

Congratulations to Ruth (Tootsie) Wilson who won on our Auxiliary's calendar raffle. The \$10.00 that it costs to support the programs of Department does pay off for some. Her name may come up again before the end of the year.

This is my last newsletter. I am looking forward to sitting back and being a member at the meetings, and not making major decisions. I have been an officer since I joined the Auxiliary over 9 years ago. Linda Swangstu will carry on as President, along with Vice Pres. Lisa

Olson, Treasurer Rita Sperry, Secretary Lynn Robertson and Sgt. at Arms Mary Copley. Please welcome in your newest officers and support them in the jobs they will be doing.

Thank you for having confidence in me to be the leader of our Unit, I did not do it alone. Many hands make a job go much better, and I have my members to thank for that. I will leave you with this thought...Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me, I want people to know 'why' I look this way. I've traveled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved...

Lori

CHAPLAINS CORNER

PRUNING

Growing up, we had a long hedge between our front yard and our neighbor's. The hedge was beautiful—full and green and budding with life. My job was to prune that hedge. That meant going beyond the beautiful exterior of the hedge and getting into the inside, where I would find dead branches. These branches were threatening to choke other branches. I worked inside that hedge with small, hand-held pruning shears to rid the hedge of dead branches, pruning them down to the main root where life began and disentangling their chokeholds.

In our faith lives, there may be many things that are holding us back from living in the ways of God's kingdom, things that are choking the life from us. We need the Holy Spirit to prune these things back to the point where life begins, so that we may experience the new life of the righteous Branch springing forth within us.

LIFE-GIVING GOD, SEND YOUR SPIRIT INTO MY LIFE TO PRUNE ALL THE THINGS THAT HOLD ME BACK FROM YOU AND TO INVIGORATE NEW LIFE WITHIN ME. IN JESUS NAME. AMEN

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

We wish to thank Jim and Ginny Hanson and Cliff Maerz for their help this past month, in keeping the hall cleaned. Thanks again. Monte and Karen Whitford

LEGION HALL AVAILABLE FOR RENTALS

The word is getting out regarding our hall rental. We have had funerals, a music jam session, and Christmas and birthday parties. We now have a portable dance floor as well. We are now getting wedding receptions and anniversary bookings also. How about those family and class reunions coming up this summer? 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**.

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

Military Appreciation Day at the Dane County Fair

Thursday, July 15, Alliant Energy Center, Madison, Wis.

The Dane County Fair is pleased to host Military Appreciation Day on Thursday, July 15.

Free Admission for you and your family

In honor of your service, all Armed Forces personnel (active, reserve, retired and veterans) and immediate family members will receive free admission to the Fair. Please be sure to bring your Military ID. Parking is always free at the fair for all attendees.

Military Resource Fair

This exclusive trade show will feature all of the resources and benefits available to military families. The Military Resource Fair will be open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Exhibition Hall. Visit www.danecountyfair.com for a complete list of exhibitors with a booth in the Military Resource Fair.

Enjoy a complimentary ice cream social

Special hospitality and games for the children will be available, thanks to Operation Homefront. With the help of Chocolate Shoppe Ice Cream, Operation Homefront is sponsoring an ice cream social. Military personnel and their families will be able to build their own sundaes and socialize with other area military families, while the kids enjoy the fun and games.

Activities for all

Many special activities and equipment displays will be part of Military Appreciation Day. The Red Cross is hosting a blood drive on this special day at the Fair from 1:00-6:00 p.m. New and returning donors are encouraged to donate. Flag raising and lowering ceremonies will be held at 11 a.m. and 8 p.m., respectively.

Special Fair entrance just for you

When entering the Fair, look for the military VIP gate. Have your military identification (or your spouse's if he or she is deployed) to expedite your admission. Our vendors are excited to say "Thank you!" to you by offering military-only specials and discounts. You will receive a flyer highlighting these specials at the entrance gate.

"Last year's inaugural Military Appreciation Day was very successful, and we're thrilled to make this event even bigger in 2010," says Susan Orth, event coordinator. "It's an honor to recognize and thank military families for their work and personal sacrifices."

For more information about Military Appreciation Day and daily events at the Dane County Fair, visit www.danecountyfair.com or call 608-224-0500. The Dane County Fair takes place July 14-18, 2010, at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison, Wisconsin.

Membership Notes

Hello everyone:

Well this will be my final membership report. Dennis Rodenkirch will be our new membership chairman.

My final report is that we have 347 active members. This is 104% of our goal of 334. Thanks to everyone for making this successful year.

Lets all give Dennis the great support you have given me for all these years. I am leaving this job in good hands. With your help I am sure Dennis will keep Post 59 at the top of the list for our county and district.

Goodbye for now, but I will still be around the bar. Stop in and see me.

Archie

Don't forget that you can pay your dues online at www.memberslegion.org/member.

Bar Banter:

Hello everyone:

Things have been going pretty good at the lounge. As usual we are still in need of some more volunteer bartenders. We have been booking numerous birthday, graduation and special celebrations that require more than one bartender; so more help is needed for these events. Please let us know if you would be interested in helping us out.

We have decided to continue the meat raffle on Saturdays during the summer. It starts at 2:00pm. The bar is running the raffle, but the proceeds are still going to the scholarship fund. Come on down and join in the fun. We are

getting the meat from Bill's Food Market in Oregon, and the quality is exceptional.

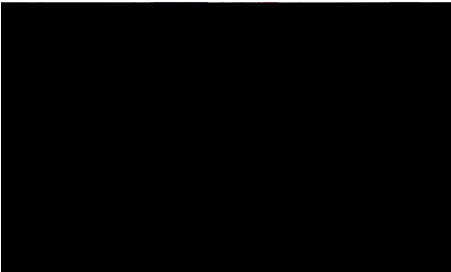
The Northern Lights band will be entertaining again on Saturday June 12th, from 7:00 till 11:00. Come on down and join in the fun.

We are trying something new this month. On Saturday June 26th we will be having our first martini night. The feature drink will be the Cosmopolitan, as seen on "Sex In The City" Our hosts and Lovely bartenders will be Sally and Deanna. You don't want to miss this.

If you have any other suggestions for special events at the lounge, please let us know.

Come on Down. Archie, Joe and staff.

Legion member



JUNIOR AUXILIARY NEWS

Our Junior Members have been very busy so far this year! We now have 23 Junior Members from 2 to 18 years old. They get together once a month on the first Tuesday. This year so far they have made wall hangings for displaying the badges that they earn, Valentines for Veterans at the hospitals and shut-ins and St. Patty's Day T-shirts. In April & May they made their poppy tiaras to wear in the parades and Memorial Day Thank You cards, which they gave to the veterans at the program. This year they also had fun presenting a skit called "The Flag Recipe" at the Memorial Day program. We had two Poppy Princesses this year. Lizzie Sankbeil was our Poppy Princess selected from the older age girls. Her father Tim is a

JUNE 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 <i>Breakfast Post 501 7-11</i>
13	14 <i>Post and Aux Meeting at 7PM</i>	15	16	17	18 <i>Fish Fry at Post 481</i>	19
20 <i>Post Breakfast 7- Noon</i>	21	22 <i>Post Dinner 6:30 pm</i>	23	24 <i>County meeting Post 437 Mazomanie 7:30</i>	25	26
27	28	29	30			

July 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 <i>Breakfast Post 501 7-11</i>
11	12 <i>Post and Aux Meeting at 7PM</i>	13	14	15	16	17
18 <i>Post Breakfast 7- Noon</i>	19	20	21	22	23 <i>Fish Fry at Post 481</i>	24
25	26	27 <i>Post dinner 6:30 PM</i>	28	29	30	31

Veterans Corner

Donald Helmke
U.S. Army
1950-1960
By Evelyn Kahl

Donald was born in Milwaukee, WI on March 4, 1929. He was inducted into the U.S. Army at the age of 21 during the Korean Conflict on Dec. 15, 1950. He was sworn in at Milwaukee, WI on that date and was transported immediately in Camp McCoy, WI for Basic Training. On completion of his Basic Training, he continued duty at Camp McCoy for approximately a year as a member of the 431st Engineer Truck Co. His duties consisted of driving and working in the Company Motor Pool as a welder.

In 1952, he was transferred to Camp Carson, CO and after a brief lay over there he continued by train to San Francisco where he boarded a ship for deployment overseas. After two weeks aboard the ship, he and others disembarked on the Island of Okinawa just south of Japan. The two-week journey was rather uneventful until a day or two out from Okinawa the ship encountered a typhoon accompanied by rather rough seas.

On Okinawa he was assigned to the 41st Petroleum Co., which was in charge of a fuel, dump supplying fuel to the U.S. Air Base at Kadena, Okinawa. His major duties with the 41st consisted of welding and maintaining the flow of fuel to the Air Base. His tour of over seas duty was completed there and in Dec. of 1952 another two week ship ride across the Pacific brought the Golden Gate Bridge into view and he knew then that he was back to the States.

After disembarking in San Francisco another train ride brought him again to Camp Carson CO where he was discharged to the inactive Army Reserve on Dec. 12, 1952. After eight years in the Reserves a full Honorable Discharge was received. Another train ride from Camp Carson to Chicago and on to Stoughton brought him home. He stepped off the train in Stoughton at midnight to a cold, crisp and actually pretty night because of all the Christmas lights and colors. A short walk home and his tour of duty in the U.S. Army ended.

After returning home, he returned to work at the Highway Trailer as a welder. Approximately one yr later he decided to move on and enrolled at the Madison Business College where he acquired degrees in Accounting and Business College. After college he acquired a job managing the office for a company by the name of Farm Loan Service. After approximately six yrs there, he went to work for the Stoughton State Bank as a Loan Officer. Over the next thirty-five yrs he continued his education by attending the University of Wisconsin Graduate School of Banking, related workshops and seminars, working himself up the ladder at the Bank eventually becoming President and Chairman of the Board. In the 1990's the Bank became a Wells Fargo Bank and he retired from Wells Fargo as an active employee in 1998. He continued on as a member of the Wells Fargo Advisory Board for approximately five yrs and retired from the Banking Business all together.

Don is a Life Member of the VFW Post 328 in Stoughton, WI and has been a member of the American Legion Post 59 in Stoughton for the last 19 yrs. He is presently serving as the Treasurer for Post 59. He married his wife Doris in 1953 and they have three children (two daughters and one son). They also have two grandchildren. Both at home and abroad. He was pleased to have had the opportunity to serve his country.

3RD DISTRICT AMERICAN LEGION GOLF OUTING SUNDAY, JULY 25, 2010

8:30 Shotgun Start Registration fee: \$ 45.00

Deer Valley Golf Course
HWY 18/151 Barneveld

Open to Legionnaires, Auxiliary, & SAL

Numerous flag events

Awards presentation to follow at clubhouse
Lunch available-sponsored by
3rd District Legion Riders

Door prize donations welcome

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JULY 18th

No walk-ins & no refunds

Questions: Lee Pollack 608-924-5404

-----Clip & send to address below-----

Contact person: _____

Phone: _____

Golfers names: _____ Phone: _____
Fee _____

Make checks payable to Lee Pollack

\$ _____
Send to: Box 163
Barneveld, WI 53507

BY JULY 18th



Badger Girls State is an experience like no other for the over 700 Wisconsin High School girls as they will be doing things, not out of a textbook, but hands on as they will be learning all facets of government in a mythical state very similar to the State of Wisconsin.

The entire assemblage will become a fifty-first state and will function according to the laws of the state of Wisconsin. Most of each day will be given to the various activities of government. Badger Girls State is not a recreation or sports program. It is a school of government training for which the girls have been selected by their school and local Unit.

Citizens are divided into two political parties, the Federalists and the Nationalists. They develop their own party plat platforms and formulate their own issues. Citizens "learn by doing" as the function on city, county and state levels by electing officials in the manor prescribed by regular election procedures and conducting business on those levels.

helping to pay the registration fees for the delegates.

The 1937 National Convention organized the Girls State program as a national Americanism activity. The entire program in a non-partisan, non-political attempt to teach and instill in the youth of America a love Of God and country.

Our purpose in sponsoring this Americanism Program is to develop leadership and pride in American citizens, to educate citizens about our system of government, to instill a greater understanding of American traditions and to stimulate a desire to maintain our democratic government processes.

We believe that every citizen completing this program will help to ensure the survival of our republic

This year's 2010 Badger Boys State participants. (L-R) Matt Doll, David Bradley, Aaron Kumlien, Alex Smith. They will attend Badger Boys June 12-19 at Ripon College. Stoughton Rotary, Stoughton Lions, David & Nancy Hoffman, and Post 59 awarded their scholarships.

Legion Riders to Collect Scrap Metal for American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund

Legion Riders District 3 is collecting scrap metal for the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund. The riders collected scrap metal a couple of years ago and it turned out to be a great fundraiser. \$600.00 was collected for the Scholarship Fund.

If you have scrap metal (no matter how big or how small including appliances, cars, farm equipment, etc), the Legion Riders would like to make arrangements to get it from you.

For arrangements, contact Ken Rynes Jr. (Richland Center) at 608-647-8642 or annies@mwt.net or Bob Lloyd (Stoughton) 608-873-5926 or lloyd2364@sbcglobal.net.

We will collect scrap metal until around August 15.

OTIS SAMPSON POST 59
PO BOX 16
STOUGHTON WI 53589

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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WALPA
WISCONSIN AMERICAN
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ASSOCIATION

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STOUGHTON WI
PERMIT NO.9

June Dinner
Swiss Steak
June 22nd 6:30 PM

Zen for Those Who Take Life Too Seriously:

If you think nobody cares, try missing a couple of payments.

Editor Wayne Christensen: wac33@sbcglobal.net

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