THE LEGION POST

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

SUMMER 2024

2023-2024

POST 59 OFFICERS

Commander
Michael Currie
1st Vice Commander
Rodger Hansen
2nd Vice Commander
Mike Ayers
3rd Vice Commander
Ken Schieldt
Service Officer
John Solis
Sgt. At Arms
Jim Schiferl
Finance Officer
Jim Oler
Historian
Al Vick
Adjutant
Joshua Holt
Judge Advocate
Tom Jenny
Chaplain
Edward Nowicki
Membership
Mike Ayers

FROM THE COMMANDER'S DESK

Hello to all - It was a mild winter and a pretty nice spring however it's almost over and our warm summer days will be upon us. The last month of spring is always a very busy month for our Post and the Stoughton Community.

Syttende Mai will be here the weekend of May 16th through the 19th and our annual Memorial Day Parade and Memorial Day Program at the Mandt Center will be on Monday May 27th.We are looking for all Stoughton area veterans to ride our parade floats on both Syttende Mai and Memorial Day. The Memorial Day Parade starts at 10:00 with the Program following directly after. Please come and support the American Legion and VFW in honoring our fallen Veterans and those Stoughton area veterans who have passed over this last year. Following the Memorial Day Program there will be a reception sponsored by the Stoughton VFW so please join us for some food and refreshments. In addition, we will be opening the Legion Tiki bar on Friday May 17th from 5:00 to 9:00 so come on down and enjoy an evening with friends.

Our Post, VFW and volunteers will be placing the annual flags for veterans at all our local cemeteries. We will be placing flags on May 23rd and retrieving them on May 28th. Inevitably our Post members and volunteers will miss a veteran's grave for various reasons, we apologize in advance. Extra flags are left on the terraces so family members who see that we may have missed their loved one's marker can take a flag from the terrace and place it.

Please visit our website and Facebook page for updates and upcoming events for June, July and August. We will continue to have musical entertainment. We will have the Country Jams through June and take July and August off, and resume in September.

I would like to thank our Post membership for helping us reach our goal of a 100%. In fact we actually reached 107.47% membership with 18 new members. A special thank you goes out to our Membership Chairman Mike Ayers for his exceptional work.

As always thanks to everyone who supports and volunteers at the Post. Without your dedication we could not continue our mission of supporting our area veterans and the Stoughton Community.

See you all at the Post! Commander Michael

Sons of the American Legion Report
Squadron 59

2023-2024

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

Sons of the American Legion Squadron 59 is gearing up for the upcoming warmer weather and an active summer season. Our summer will start Memorial Day weekend as we assist American Legion members from Post 59, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 59 members, as well as our friends from VFW Post #328 in honoring America's military men and women who lost their lives in service to their country. Our guys will be assisting in planning and helping with the parade, service, and other duties associated with Memorial Day.
SAL members will also be involved in preparing the dinner for the Freedom Ride on June 8th. If you go home hungry it will be your own fault. We will do some of the routes for Raise the Flag on June 14th. If you haven't made plans to participate in the Raise the Flag this year, time is running out. Our Legion Family has been saddened lately with the passing of Veryl Pernot and Archie Christensen. Both were valuable members of the Legion family, and they will be missed.
On a personal note, thank you to all that participated in sending Birthday wishes to my wife's father Ed on his 95th birthday. Unfortunately, Ed passed away several days later. Ed was a Marine veteran who worked hard his whole life, and he will be missed by Donna his wife of 69 years, his daughters Beth and Amy, and multitudes of other family and friends.

Bob Hocking, SAL Squadron 59 Commander

MISSING

Since the beginning of Post 59 a record has been kept of our Post Officers. It is neatly typed and in a 3-ring binder. It was in our Post artifact area, but unfortunately has gone missing. It's the only historical record in existence of the Post Officers who made our organization what it is today. If you borrowed this item or know of its whereabouts, please return it. It's irreplaceable and the information it contains will be lost forever if not recovered.

Al Vick, Post 59 Historian (873-3481) (aavick2090@gmail.com)

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 59

Greetings All,

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."
— Mahatma Gandhi

2023-2024

UNIT 59 AUXILIARY OFFICERS

President
Amy Hermes
Sr. Vice President
Dawn Clark
Jr. Vice President
Sally Schieldt
Secretary
Kate Schieldt
Treasurer
Lisa Olson
Chaplain
Anna Paul
Membership
Lisa Olson

Our membership continues to remain strong at 114.97% of our goal. We recently welcomed Tina Nelson as a new member, and unfortunately had to say good-bye to our member and friend Veryl Pernot. March 31 marked the end of our fiscal year and as I worked on our annual reports, I am amazed and proud of all the things the ALA members have been able to do this past year. Our members donated over 7000 hours of time volunteering and over $10,000 in donations to our community and veteran projects/needs.

Thank you to all who came and supported our Senior Prom fundraiser! All had fun and once again we have been asked to bring it back. Next year will be a Sock Hop Theme….so dust off your saddle shoes and iron up your poodle skirts!

Cathy Rigdon has been working to get us ready for our Memorial Day events, poppy distribution and the selection of our Miss Poppy. You will be finding a poppy in this newsletter, and we hope you will consider donating. We will also be distributing them at various locations during Memorial Day Weekend.

Lisa Olson, Sherry Leick, Jan Rasmussen and the Memorial Day Committee have been busy making plans for this year's parade and program. This is a joint committee of the Legion and VFW members. The VFW will be hosting a reception immediately following the program.

We are excited that we have three girls attending Badger Girl State in June. We definitely appreciate the support of our sponsors, the Stoughton Lions and the Stoughton Rotary Club. They both have generously contributed to the cost to send these three girls.

On July 11, we will be sponsoring a bake sale at Gazebo Musikk at the Rotary Park. If you have never attended a gazebo night, you should! The band for this night will be a local band, The Rotation.

In friendship & fellowship,

Amy Hermes

LEGION MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Post 59 Legion Membership News

****** Thanks to everyone in making Post 59 108% percent membership for 2024 with room for more growth******

Currently we have 300 renewed and 32 new members for a total of 332 Legionnaires to date.

Since our Spring newsletter we welcomed the following new 2024 members to our post.
Lonnie Ebneter – USN, Jason Johns – USA (Purple Heart Recipient),
Michael Sissons – USA and Greg Vodak – USMC (Purple Heart Recipient)

On behalf of Commander Michael Currie and myself we thank you for your service, support, and membership with American Legion Post #59. Take pride in knowing you belong to a membership strong and reputable post in Wisconsin providing community services and support for local veterans and their families.

We would like to send out a special thank you to our post Purple Heart Recipients for it is truly an honor to have you as a Legionnaire here in Post 59.
Robert Hill, Andrew Howard, Jason Johns, Michael Johnson, Joe Lempa, Allen Pope,
Greg Vodak and Kenneth Whitford

We would also like to thank and acknowledge our members who have 50 or more years of continual membership with the American Legion.
Ned Burkhalter USAF 50 years, Ronald Buss USAF 52 years, Norman Gerber USA 62 years,
Louis Halverson USA 59 years, Ronald Kittoe USA 54 years,
and Sonny Swangstu USAF 50 years

Reminder: The American Legion National Executive Committee has approved a multiyear renewal and new member signup option beginning with dues for 2025. Current members and new members may renew and sign up for 3 years at the current dues rate in place at time of signing. If you wish to take advantage of these savings, you must do this online. This is not mandatory, and you can continue to renew as you have done in the past.

- Renewals must be done at legion.org/renew.
- New memberships must be made at legion.org/join.
- Multiyear membership participants will not receive future renewal notices.
- Each year Post 59 will send participants a new membership card.

***Not only do we recognize our new and continued members for Post 59 but take a moment to recognize and honor those that Post 59 has lost since our last newsletter.
Archie Christensen (11 Apr 2024) Korea - USAF
David Skavlen (10 Apr 2024) Vietnam - USA

Again, thank you for your continued support and service to our country and the American Legion.

Michael L. Ayers – Post 59
2nd Vice Commander and Membership Chair
PH: (608) 335-1771 Email: tqmgr@yahoo.com

There's Only One Rule On How to Wear Your Poppy

And That Is .....

WITH PRIDE

On May 23[3h] our Auxiliary will launch National Poppy Days in Stoughton to honor U.S. Service members from the battlefields of France in WWI over a century ago until today. For over 100 years, ALA members & veterans across the country have distributed millions of poppies. Last year our Unit raised over $5,000, 100% of which was donated to veteran projects & programs.

Be sure to wear your poppy that we have enclosed in this newsletter with pride, in memory of the fallen and to honor those who have served and are currently serving for our freedom. And if you are able, please use the enclosed return envelope to make a donation to this year's collection. *THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!*

Post 59 Veterans Service Officer Report

Hello Fellow Legionnaires, this quarter I am making available a list of additional benefits you may be eligible for when VA has determined you have service-connected disabilities. If you would like a list of these benefits, please contact me. Or you can contact your local CVSO for additional information concerning specific benefits, which are subject to change. Many of the benefits have additional eligibility requirements.

John Solis, Post Service Officer 608-213-6241 Solosolis@Gmail.com

THIS IS WHAT WE DO

On May 1st the Otis Sampson American Legion Post 59 Family presented the VFW Badger Post 328 a donation of $3,000 ($1,000 from each family group) to the VFW Building Fund for their new addition and renovation project. The addition will include new larger ADA compliant restrooms, a new kitchen with more storage, walk-in cooler, freezer, receiving corrider with ramp, upgraded electrical, fire doors.

Top Picture: Bob Hocking, SAL Squadron Commander – Jordan Tilleson, VFW Junior Vice Commander – Amy Hermes, Legion Auxiliary President - Michael Currie, Legion Post Commander – Rob Drogsvold, VFW Post Commander – Jim Oler, Legion Finance Officer – Dennis Schwenn, VFW Quartermaster – Sandy Sproul, VFW Auxiliary President & Melissa Huston – VFW Senior Vice President.
Bottom Picture: Michael Currie, Rob Drogsvold, Amy Hermes & Bob Hocking.

The ALA PATRIOTIC STITCHERS

Patriotic Stitchers Quilt & USA Eagle Banner Raffle

"HIS EYE IS ON THE SPARROW" QUILT

Pieced & quilted by Mary Ann S. Aylesworth

EAGLE BANNER

Pieced by Alice Asleson,
completed by Gloria Stehley

The ALA Patriotic Stitchers are selling raffle tickets for a beautiful full sized quilt and an eagle banner. **Tickets are $1.00 each or 6 for $5.00**. Tickets can be purchased at the Legion bar during regular business hours. Or you can also send cash or check made payable to the ALA Patriotic Stitchers. Send to 803 N. Page Street, Stoughton, WI 53589. Include a self-addressed stamped envelope Also please include your phone number and we will send you your tickets. 100% of the proceeds from this raffle go towards the cost of making quilts for our American Legion Post 59 Veterans.

Drawing: Memorial Day, Monday May 27, 2024 @ the VFW Post 328, Stoughton. Need NOT be present to win. All proceeds from this drawing will go toward the cost to make quilts for veterans.

Quilt by Sherri Hensel presented to Melvin Alme

Quilt by Alice Moen presented to Tom Jenny

American Legion Post 59 Honor Guard Annual Report

In 2023, the Honor Guard had the privilege of performing Honors for 32 of our deceased comrades. This was 6 less from the 38 that were performed in 2022. There were 16 Army Veterans, 8 Air Force Veterans, 4 Navy Veterans and 4 Marine Veterans that honors were performed.

We also did 4 other Honor Guard events besides the funerals. We did the Memorial Day Celebration/program including the Parade up Main Street, the program at the Mandt Center and a short program at the Stoughton Area Veterans Memorial Park.

We did 1 send off for 1 of the scheduled Badger Honor Flights at Dane County Airport.

We performed our annual flag raising and lowering at the Dane County Fair opening day.

We had a huge Veterans Day celebration. On the Friday before Veterans Day, we visited 3 Stoughton area schools. We did a meet and greet at the high school as students came to classes for the day. We then went to Sandhill and participated in their Veterans Day program. This included the unfolding and folding of the flag with narration of the meaning of each fold. Then we went to Fox Prairie and did a little program. From there we did a narration of the meaning of Veterans Day, unfolding and folding of the flag at assisted living facilities. We visited 4 Stoughton assisted living facilities. Kettle Park, Milestones, Skaalen and Nazareth. Then on the following day, we did the Veterans Day program at the Stoughton Area Veterans Memorial Park. It was very successful and I'm sure we will be doing this again in 2024. And finally, I would like to thank all the Honor Guard members for their continued support of the Honor Guard and the time you have committed to our fallen comrades.

Tom Jenny

THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

John 15:13- Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. On this upcoming Memorial Day, we pray for those who courageously laid down their lives for the cause of freedom. May the examples of their sacrifice inspire in us the selfless love of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Bless the families of our fallen troops and fill their homes and their lives with Your strength and peace. We pray this in Your Name. Amen

Ed Nowicki – Chaplain

Post 59 Calendar of Events

JUNE 2024
Jun. 3rd: Monthly Auxiliary Meeting @ 5:30pm
Jun. 8th: Freedom Ride 9:30
Jun. 10th: American Legion Monthly Meeting @ 7:00pm
Jun. 12th: SAL Monthly Meeting @ 7:00pm
Jun. 14th: Flag Day
Jun. 14th: JR & Susie Anderson – 7:00-10:00pm
Jun. 16th: Monthly Legion Breakfast – 7:30-11:30am
Jun. 23rd: Country Music Jam - 2:00-6:00pm

JULY 2024
Jul. 4th: Independence Day
Jul. 8th: American Legion Monthly Meeting @ 7:00pm
Jul. 10th: SAL Monthly Meeting @ 7:00pm
Jul. 21st: Monthly Legion Breakfast – 7:30-11:30am
Jul. 26th: Dean's Blue Country 7:00-10:00pm

AUGUST 2024
Aug. 5th: Monthly Auxiliary Meeting @ 5:30pm
Aug. 12th: American Legion Monthly Meeting @ 7:00pm
Aug. 14th: SAL Monthly Meeting @ 7:00pm
Aug. 16th: Lefty's Old Time Jukebox 7:00-10:00pm
Aug. 18th: Monthly Legion Breakfast – 7:30-11:30am

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: 59legionpost@gmail.com

SUMMER MEAT RAFFLE ONCE A MONTH @ 2:00pm
Saturday Dates to be determined

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.

Memorial Day Parade - Monday, May 27th
Beginning at 10:00 am on S. Prairie and West Main St.
Shuttle available from the Mandt Center to parade line-up for parade participants beginning at 9:15.
Veteran's Float parks on the corner of S. Prairie & W. Main at 9:30.

Memorial Day Program – Monday, May 27th
(Immediately Following the Parade @ 11:00 a.m. **at the Mandt Center - rain or shine**)
Program is open to the public

Coffee & donut reception and cookout at the VFW after the program.

2024 Memorial Day Help Schedule

Help Needed for Cemetery Flag Placement

Thursday May 23rd - 8:00 am - Meet at Riverside Cemetery to Put Out Flags
Rain Date: Friday May 24th - 8:00 am

Tuesday May 28th - 8:00 am - Meet at Riverside Cemetery to Remove Flags
Rain date: Wednesday May 29th- 8:00 am

Quilt by Lori Moe-Kittelson presented to Norval Morgan

Quilt by Pat Broadbent presented to Commander Michael Curry

Quilt by Sherri Hensel presented to Norm Gerber

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Otis Sampson American Legion Post 59

Editor:

Bob Crofoot

59legionpost@gmail.com

Website:

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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

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STOUGHTON, WI
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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**