



THE LEGION POST

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



VOLUME 13 ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2011

Commanders Report

2011-2012 OFFICERS

- Commander**
Sonny Swangstu
- 1st Vice Commander**
Steve Grady
- 2nd Vice Commander**
Larry Ambrose
- 3rd Vice Commander**
John Christopherson
- Service Officer**
Dan Call
- Sgt. at Arms**
Ken Schieldt
- Finance Officer**
Don Helmke
- Historian**
Odean Teigen
- Adjutant**
Dennis Rodenkirch
- Judge Advocate**
Terry McCardle
- Chaplain**
Monte Whitford



Hello Comrades,

Here's hoping we have a beautiful Indian summer ahead of us.

We have final approval to move on with the addition. We hope to get started real soon. We need to get the ground work done before cold weather comes. We can use a hand or two if you are able to help, so come on by and check it out.

We now have a new lounge manager. Dan Call has taken on the job as of September 13 and he has new ideas for the lounge. Please come in and get acquainted with him. We thank him for taking on the challenge. Just to let you know, we have raised our drink prices 25 cents at the lounge. We have not raised them since we moved into our building.

The Post would like to thank Ray for all his hours and effort he has put into the

Legion in the past.

Friday night fish fry will start on September 23. We hope all of our good customers come back and enjoy again! Joe, the bartender is back in full swing again, so come in and give him a hard time. We will now be open on Sundays again. Come join us and watch the Packers!

Thanks to the S.A.L. for putting on the fundraiser for the Youth Center. Parents and children all had a good time and we had a great crowd. Special thanks to Jeff Gassen for organizing and rounding up door prizes and auction items. Very nice gesture!

Pat Nowlin did a nice job with the September 11 memorial service at the VFW. Also a thank you to Steve Grady our MC, Police Chief Leick, Fire Chief Lamers, Mayor Olson, Honor Guard, Boy Scout Troops, and the bugler.

The Post has voted **NO FIRE ARMS ALLOWED TO ENTER THE BUILDING** except for those used by the Honor Guard or for use in the military display case.

Note – we are back to starting the breakfast at 7:00 again. We have had a number of people ask for this. We aim to please all!

October's dinner will be our Prime Rib night. This way the Snowbirds can join us and the weather will not be a factor. We will start taking reservations now. Please call Sonny at 873-9428 or the Post during their open hours at 205-9090. Wed. – Fri = after 3:00. Sat. – Sun. = after 12:00.

We will be taking another bus trip on October 20 to *Mystique* in Dubuque. Cost is \$28 and has to be paid when you sign up. There is a bathroom on the bus. There will be posters on our bulletin boards for more information. We will leave at 8:45 am from the Post and arrive around 10:00 am. Departure will be 3:00 pm and home approx. 4:30 pm – free lunch, \$10 to play, and \$5 to match play. Not sure about the dog races as it all depends on the weather the man said. ALL ABOARD!!!

Sonny Swangstu
Commander

Auxiliary

- President**
Linda Swangstu
873-9428
- Vice President**
Karen Whitford
873-4020
- Secretary**
Lisa Olson – 873-8924
- Treasurer**
Lynn Robertson
873-4889
- Chaplain**
Marlene Bierman
873-7397
- Sgt. at Arms**
Mary Copley
873-5804
- Historian**
Kathy Teigen
873-7518
- Membership**
Lisa Olson – 873-8924
- Junior Leader**
Jona Chat – 622-4574

Auxiliary News



Hello to all,

It seems I'm lost for words as the months go by so fast. I hope everyone is getting out and enjoying the weather as much as possible. Take in all the functions you can before the season changes.

I would like to thank all of the cleaning volunteers who helped spiff up the Legion September 10. Special thanks to Robin Robertson for getting the bird yuckies out of the Auxiliary room ceiling. What a sweetheart! Our carpet is clean once again! Thank you to the whole Legion family for helping with the bill. Let's not forget our regular cleaners of the hall and bathrooms – Jim & Jenny Hanson, Lyman Hawkinson, and Cliff Maerz.

Our Junior Auxiliary members have been busy helping with another fund-raiser. This one was to raise money for the Youth Center so the kids that go there can have some healthy snacks after school. Many of the kids don't get a balanced diet every day. This way they can go after school and get a good snack, enjoy their friends, work on computers, play basketball, and the many other activities there is to do there. Thank you Junior's for a great job with the food sales and also thank you to the Auxiliary ladies for their help in working with the youth. Teaching the young to help the community by volunteering is an important asset and paves a path for good citizenship. Food for the food pantry has been flowing in quite well at the

Post. Thank you again for your generosity in these hard times. I delivered 30# to the pantry last month. Another full tote will be taken to the pantry this week.

We would like to have some new volunteer workers at our breakfast Sundays which are held the 3rd Sunday of each month. If you are interested for a couple of hours to help out please call me at 873-9428 and I will add you to our list. We have fun meeting and greeting people and it is for a good cause. The food is excellent so you can kill two birds with one stone, eat and volunteer.

If you would like a raffle calendar from the Department of WI Auxiliary (American Legion) please call me at 873-9428. This is an excellent fundraiser for the Department. It supports Americanism, Children & Youth, Community Service, Education, Junior Activities, Legislative, National Security, and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitations programs of the American Legion Auxiliary. Drawings are daily, 366 chances to win, and over \$12,000 in cash prizes. Cost is \$10.00. Sign up and get a surprise in the mail when your name is drawn. All holidays, the drawing is \$500. Sundays is \$25 and all other days are \$15. Your name always gets put back in for the next daily drawing.

Thanks,

Linda Swangstu
President of Auxiliary

CALENDER OF EVENTS

- September 18 - Legion Breakfast
7:30 am – 11:30 am
- September 24 - Back "40" band
7:00 pm – 11:00 pm
- September 27 - Post Dinner @ 6:30 pm
- October 16 - Operation Thank A Veteran
12:00 noon – 6:00 pm
- October 20 - Bus trip to *Mystique*
8:45 am
- October 25 - Post Dinner @ 6:30 pm
Prime Rib - special pricing

Operation Thank A Veteran

All Stoughton area veterans and their families will receive free hot-dogs and chips on October 16 at the Stoughton American Legion from noon until 6pm. Just stop by and grab a hot dog.

All Post members who have renewed their dues will have the opportunity to win some raffle prizes during this event. Veterans who sign up for The American Legion on that day will be entered in a special raffle just for them.

A group picture of post members will be taken at 5 pm and a picture of Stoughton area veterans will be at 4:30 pm. Come and stand proud with your fellow veterans.

Other things happen during the day.

Breakfast during the morning

Packer Game at Noon

Hot Dogs and Chips throughout the afternoon

Renewal and new membership accepted

Laminating of Membership cards

The American Legion in Stoughton thanks all veterans and their families for their sacrifice.

The American Legion
803 North Page Street
Stoughton, WI 53589

CHAPLAINS CORNER

THE VETERINARIAN

One Sunday, in counting the money in the weekly offering, the Pastor of a small church found a pink envelope containing \$1,000.00. It happened again the next week.

The following Sunday, he watched as the offering was collected and saw an elderly woman put the distinctive pink envelope on the plate. This went on for weeks until the pastor, overcome by curiosity, approached her.

"Ma'am, I couldn't help but notice that you put \$1,000.00 a week in the collection plate," he stated. Why yes, "she replied, "every week my son sends me money and I give some of it to the church."

The pastor replied, "That's wonderful. But \$1,000.00 is a lot, are you sure you can afford this? How much does he send you?" The elderly woman answered, "10,000.00 a week."

The pastor was amazed. "Your son is very successful; what does he do for a living?" "He is a veterinarian," she answered. "That's an honorable profession, but I had no idea they made that much money," The pastor said. "Where dose he practice?" The woman answered proudly, "In Nevada...He has two cat houses, one in Los Vegas, and the other in Reno."

"AS we always know the Lord works in mysterious ways!

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

Event Pricing

Post Dinner: 6:30 pm \$11.00

Breakfast: 7:00-11:30 am
\$7.00 adults, \$4.00 children

The book sale made \$226.85 and all the money is going into the Education Fund.

Thank you all for your book donations and for coming in and buying books.

Executive Committee



Pictured are District 3 and Post 59 Legion Riders escorting an Army Reserve Unit home to Dodgeville after 13 months in Iraq.
Submitted by Bob Lloyd



The American Legion Riders complete the 2011 Legacy Run riding 1,225 miles raising \$651,744.00 for the Legacy Scholarship Fund to provide a college education for the children who had a parent killed in this war since September 11, 2001.
Included in this picture is Post 59 member, Bob Lloyd, who complete the entire ride from Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota ending at the National Convention in Minneapolis.

JUNIOR GIDDY-UP GO EVENT

Don't forget the Junior Giddy-up-go event on Sunday October 9th at the Mel Cohen Farm from 2-5 pm. If you need more info, please check with your President or Chairman of your Junior Group. Send your reservation in as we need a count for the roasted hot dogs later.

Contact Jona Chat – 608.622.6574 or
Elvera Phelps – 608.873.5154

See you there as it is a fun afternoon. I might even try riding a horse for the 2nd time in my life which ought to be interesting!

Elvera Phelps
Dane County Junior Events Chairman
ephelps2@sbcglobal.com

WANTED: Items for the Display Case

I need items for the display case for the time period of the Korean War. This would include those that served in Korea and those that served in Europe during that time.

Please bring them to the Post asap. Please put them in the Auxiliary room in a bag or box with my name on it: **Lynn Robertson**. Please make sure that you include your name and phone number and a short note about the item.

If you have questions or would like to hand me the items, I will be at the August breakfast from sun up until noon.

I only have five small items at this time. If we are going to keep rotating the display, I need to get items on loan from those of you that served.....thanks!

Membership Report

As of September 11, we stand at 64% have renewed their dues. If you haven't paid your dues, please do so by the end of this month.

To meet our goal of 100% by November 11 our post is having a membership event called *Thank A Veteran* on October 11. See article in this newsletter.

At least five members have renewed on-line the last couple of months. Let's get another five on-line renewals this month.

Paying on-line all you need is your Member ID# and a credit card. Use the link below.
www.members.legion.org/renew

Three legionaries have transferred into our Post the last couple of months: Basil Sadler, Michael Wahlin, and James Hoffman.

Thanks,
Dennis Rodenkirch
608-438-8768V

STOUGHTON FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

AUXILIARY Community Service Project

Since last fall the Auxiliary has been collecting for the Stoughton Food Pantry. This is an on-going year-round Auxiliary project, not just a one-time food drive. The collection basket is by the front door. Last month we delivered 29 pounds of food. Thank you to all who have so generously donated. The Stoughton Food Pantry is fully funded by donations and no tax dollars are used to purchase supplies. It is a valuable resource for needy families of our area, and many benefit from your donations.

All non-perishable food items are needed, however there are some items that the Food Pantry does not purchase and are very much needed such as: toilet paper, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shaving cream, bar soap. Also: Hamburger Helper, rice mixes, Sloppy Joe mix, pasta, taco kits, cake and cookie mixes, oatmeal and cereal.

Please help us to continue to help those in our own community who are in need. Bring a few items each time you come to the Post for a dinner, a breakfast or meeting.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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

Open to the Public

Bar open to serve you Wednesday - Sunday

Wednesday & Thursday: 3 – p pm or later

Friday: 3 – 10 pm or later

Saturday: Noon – 10 pm or later

Sunday: Noon – 6 pm or later

Wednesday Ladies Night

\$.50 off any Ladies drinks





Dane County Commander and 3rd District Adjutant Mary Lloyd presents a Blue Star Banner to Denise Nettum at the City/County Building in Madison. Denise's son is heading to Afghanistan in about seven weeks.

Ways to Stay Informed

Our post tries to keep our members updated on the different things going to at our post. This is done by the means below. If you haven't tried these or need assistance using them, contact Dennis at 608-438-8768 or email RC0295@yahoo.com

WEBSITE:

Our post has had a website for the past couple of years which has a calendar of events for all reoccurring events. All post activities can be added to the website by contacting Dennis.
www.post59.org

FACEBOOK:

Are you on Facebook? Did you know our post is? Anyone who uses Facebook can post an event or topic on our post Facebook page. Our Friend list continues to grow and we would like all activities at our post to be on Facebook.

To locate our page, search for Otis on the top of each Facebook page.

E-MAIL:

Our post is gathering e-mail addressees for all members who have them. Collecting them will give the post a way to contact members quickly and save money on postage. We have no plans on stopping mailings at this time.

send your e-mail address to:
RC0295@yahoo.com

Thanks,
Dennis

LEGION HALL AVAILABLE 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.

Next Badger Honor Flight Carries One of Our Own

The Saturday, October 8 Badger Honor Flight out of Dane County Regional Airport will be carrying Robert Deutscher, a member of Post 59. If you have never witnessed one of these 'homecomings', please consider getting friends together and going to meet these veterans as they return home from a long and exciting day. You will be joined by about 1,000 other family and friends. It is an experience you will never forget. I have two weddings to attend on that day, but I WILL be at the Dane County Regional Airport at 9:00 pm to welcome Bob home. If you would like more information, please call me at 692-6321 or go to the Web site at www.BadgerHonorFlight.org

Lynn Robertson
ALA Post 59
Treasurer

For Sale

For sale: One WWII flag holder grave marker - \$20

See Bud Erickson
873-5305

ROBERT GERALD SORENSON

Bob, as he is known to all Stoughtonites, was born in Elroy, WI on June 26, 1928.

His early education began at the age 7 in the Elroy Elementary School and continued in Elroy graduating from Elroy High School in 1948. He was active in both football and basketball and played on the varsity teams for three years in each sport.

At age 22, Bob was drafted into the Army on January 8, 1951 reporting to the Juneau County Courthouse in Mauston, WI and then assigned to Sheridan, IL.

He was shipped to Camp Polk, LA where he received basic training for about two months. In November 1951 he was assigned into the Oklahoma National Guard where he was assigned to the 179th Infantry Division attached to the 45th Division known as the Thunderbird Division at Norman, OK, home base of the Oklahoma National Guard where he received most of his training.



At this time the Division was sent to Hokkaido, the northernmost island of Japan. He traveled to Hokkaido on a ship called *General Black*, sailing through some very turbulent waters on the way. There he had his Advanced Infantry Training for about another two months. During this period he also received Amphibian Training.

On Christmas Day after completing this training, he was sent directly to Korea on the front line of battle which was approximately on the 38th parallel about 50-60 miles east of Seoul. Here he continued front line duty for two months from January to February 1952. After that he was pulled off the front line and sent back to a rest area for some more training.

He began Army life as a Private receiving \$75 per month. He was issued a sniper's rifle and became a sniper and then acquired the rank of PFC adding about \$10 to his monthly pay, before his advanced training was completed; he was promoted to Corporal where he was a squad teacher – squad being a part of a platoon. After another session of training, the platoon was sent to a very mountainous region where he spent the rest of the winter, but not seeing much action. The most action

he encountered was nearly driving off the mountain side! As winter passed, they were sent back to the rest area for about 10 days to recuperate. He then received R&R (Rest and Recuperation) and spent five days in Tokyo, Japan.

He then flew back to Seoul and returned to his company at the rest area on the last truck. By being last, he avoided an attack where 45 of his platoon buddies were killed. It was known as the Bonsai Attack on Hill 255. A new platoon was formed. About the same time, the Oklahoma National Guard was recalled home. Bob was promoted to Sergeant and two months later he became a Sergeant 1st class. His responsibility was Platoon Sergeant.

Bob spent time in various locations along the 38th Parallel in Korea, now known as South Korea. Anything north of the 38th parallel is in North Korea and is still today. He was to stay in service until 1953, but he received an early release and was discharged from the U.S. Active Reserve. Bob was discharged from the Army at Camp Mc Coy, WI in October 1952 after serving his country almost two years. He remained with the Inactive Reserves until March 1957 when all the men that were drafted at the time as Bob were discharged.



After discharge, he was employed in a milk factory for 1 1/2 years. He was then contacted by the Chicago Northwestern Railroad for employment and began working for the railroad as a fireman on steam engines. After retiring the steam engines, Bob worked on diesel powered engines for another nine years.

He met his future wife, Jan, in 1953. They married in 1955. Because Jan had a teaching position in Stoughton, they settled here. Bob and Jan have two daughters, Mary Clare Sorenson of Madison and Deana Hall of Farmington, New Mexico.

Bob owned a service station for about 10 years at County Highway N and I-90 that was later turned into a convenience store. He owned another store on Hwy 26 in Janesville that he operated for 27 years.

Bob's awards and medals:

1. Korean War Citation
2. Rifleman Medal, there are others too

His highest rank was Sergeant 1st Class. He is a member of the American Legion and the American Legion Honor Guard. He is proud to have served his country.....but "ONCE WAS ENOUGH" quoted Bob!

Interviewed by Evelyn Kahl

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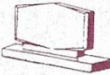
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