



# THE LEGION POST



OTIS SAMPSON POST 59 STOUGHTON WI

POST WEBSITE: POST59.ORG

POST PHONE 608-205-9090

SEPTEMBER 2010

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 9

## 2009-2010 OFFICERS

### Post Commander

Sonny Swangstu

### 1st Vice Commander

Mike Griggs

### 2nd Vice Commander

Richard (Reb) Breyman

### 3rd Vice Commander

Wendell Ott

### 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

Linda Swanstu

### 1st Vice President

Lisa Olson

### Secretary

Lynn Robertson

### Treasurer

Rita Sperry

### Chaplain

Marlene Bierman

### Sgt at Arms

Mary Copley



### Greetings.

Let's start off by congratulating Post #59. We now have a SAL (Sons of the American Legion) squadron. We have a total of 32 Charter members with more to come. We still have room for more members if yours sons or grandsons would like to join. We will meet the new members at our next monthly dinner.

Secondly, we now have new bar managers. Archie wants less stress and more time to do his own thing. Ray Dziecol and Joe Erickson will run the every day bar business and Archie will stay and keep track of the finances. We thank Archie for all the time he has given to the Post over the past years. Good job Archie!

Don't forget Sept. 11. The

Post and the VFW are combining in the Flag retirement ceremony to be held at the VFW. We plan on a 10:00 burning of the retired flags and a pig roast to follow at 11:00. Please plan on attending this dedicated event. Music will follow at the American Legion that same evening by the Northern Lites at 7:00. Enjoy some good old country music.

We are starting a raffle at the Post for the Junior Brown concert at the Opera House. Proceeds go to the Post so stop in and help us out. Tickets are \$1.00 each. He will be performing on Sept. 24, Fri., 7:30 pm. He is a singer and guitarist with a blend of Western swing, honky tonk, country, rock and roll. His web site is [www.juniorbrown.com](http://www.juniorbrown.com) if you want to know more about him.

Our fish fries will start in October. Once per month for starters. Possibly steak or spaghetti on alternate Fri. nights. Any suggestions are welcome. Lets make use of our

beautiful kitchen!

We are in need of a kitchen cop. Odean can't be there all the time so we need to have someone to look after the kitchen clean-up crew. Not to work, but over see things get done correctly and items are put back in their proper place neatly. If a person worked one a month should not be too much to ask. That way no one gets burned out. See Sonny if you can help.

We are discussing having the Auxiliary officers and SAL officers become voting members on decisions the Post makes. We are all family and it seems only fitting. We all do a share of the work at the Post and the ladies have made good contributions on items of need.

See you at the garage sale on Aug. 27-28 behind the post in Pat's garage where we sold the onions. All **MARKED** goods can be dropped off the week of the sale. No clothes please.

Thanks,

## Auxiliary News



Hello,

I feel like I'm on a tropical island and the mosquitoes are carrying me away! By the time this article reaches everyone, we will be getting ready for our garage sale at the Post on Aug. 27-28. Please do not bring clothes, as they do not sell that well. When you drop off your articles (priced) let us know what to do with the remains if all your items do not sell. The items can be dropped off on Wed. or Thur. after 3:00. Also Joe, Ray and Archie are usually there between 8 - 10:00 most days. If needed, you can also call me at 577-7428 or 873-9428 (Linda). We plan on running it from 7:00 - 4:00 on Friday and 7:00 - 12:00 on Sat. We can use help so please call me if you can lend a hand for just a few hours. The proceeds from

this sale will go towards the purchase of the new chairs for the hall.

If any of the Auxiliary Members feel they would like to participate in some way and are not able to physically, one could collect soup labels, milk and box tops for schools, which would be helpful. This is a great community project. If you are creative in making cards for Holidays this also would be a good thing. We send these to soldiers and Veteran homes. Cutting quilting squares for the ladies who meet at our Post and sew. Some of you ladies may enjoy baking. We are in need for baked goods from time to time for different functions going on at the Post. If you would like to attend our meetings which are held every second Monday of the month at 7:00 and don't like driving at night, please feel free to call my number (listed above) and we would be glad to make riding arrangements for you. I am trying to keep our meetings down to one hour.

I would like to thank our cleaning people again as they come every week and vacuum,

wash dining room floors, clean bathrooms. Karen & Monte Whitford, Cliff Maertz, Ginny & Jim Hanson. If you enjoy coming to our dinners and breakfasts please pitch in and help us from time to time with the cleanliness of our great facility. Please contact me if you feel you can give some time for this.

We now have a Public Relations Committee and their duties will be to put pictures and articles in our hometown newspaper and the Post newspaper of different events that have been held regarding our organization. This will inform people of all the good things we do for our community and the Veterans.

Thanks to Lynn Robertson and myself, we finally have some things on the wall in our meeting room and there is organization in our cupboards. Feel free to peak in the room when you come to the Post.

Thanks to all the ladies who attend the meetings. We need your support and ideas. We have a great group and would like for it to expand.

Linda Swangstu  
President

# CHAPLAINS CORNER

Take time to smell the roses

Take time to smell the roses  
Time moves along so fast  
It could be that your turn is next  
Tomorrow might be your last.

Take time to look around you  
See loved ones pass away  
We do not know the future  
It could be you today.

Take time to read the Bible  
There's power in the Light  
You think you'll live forever  
But you might go tonight.

Take time for fervent prayer  
Lift up His name on high  
Call out the name of Jesus

For you will surely die.

Take time for sweet surrender  
Seek out His mighty will  
Today while you are able  
For soon, you will be still.

Take time to grasp the moment  
So fast, the clock does tick  
We do not know the hour  
Your number could be next.

Take time to smell the roses  
Before it is too late  
Today is full of promise  
Tomorrow will not wait.

Author/written by:  
Marilyn Ferguson2003

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

Again 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

## DoD to troops: Tell buddies about stop-loss pay By Rick Maze - Staff writer for Air force Times

With an Oct. 21 deadline approaching to apply for a \$500 monthly stop-loss allowance, the Defense Department appears to have exhausted most conventional means of trying to contact eligible veterans and is now asking current service members to get involved by calling any buddies who may be eligible.

"We are asking military members to tell a friend ...if they know people who separated or retired and may be eligible for this benefit, remind them to submit a claim before the deadline," Pentagon spokeswoman Eileen Lainez said.

Stop-loss allowance applies to those whose separation or retirement was involuntarily extended between Sept. 11, 2001 and Sept. 30, 2009. About 145,000 people are believed to be eligible but only about 30,000 have applied for the retroactive payments. The average payment is about \$3,700, enough that military officials believe eligible veterans would jump at the

chance to get the payment if only they knew about the opportunity.

The low application rate has prompted concerns from key lawmakers, including Sen. Frank Lautenberg, D-N.J., one of the chief sponsors of the stop-loss allowance legislation. On Wednesday, Lautenberg asked the Defense Department to explain what efforts have been made to contact eligible veterans.

Lainez said the Defense Department would respond directly to Lautenberg, but she defended the efforts to locate veterans. Letters have been sent to veterans and their families, more than 95 military and veterans organizations have been contacted and information has been provided to the news media and to veterans medical centers and vet centers.

Still, the fact that all of that work has resulted in just 30,000 applications being received and processed is why officials are now asking for current service members to help, she said. People should apply if they think they are eligible, even if they do not have all of the paperwork on hand to prove their claim, so they do not miss the Oct. 21 deadline, Lainez said.

Information on the benefit and how to apply is available [online](#).

## LEGION HALL AVAILIABLE 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**

## 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 doesn't cost you anything. Remember our account number is 026625.

## CHAIR FUNDRAISER

We have been in our building for over two years and the chairs that we have leave a bit to be desired. As our facility becomes more inviting for group parties, we want to portray a nice seating area as well.

What is being proposed for this project is for members (or anyone, for that matter) who would want to purchase a chair for \$30.00 each, which includes a metal plaque. The plaque will be attached to the back with the name of the person for which it was purchased. This is a wonderful way to memorialize a family member. Our goal is to purchase 175 chairs and we want it completed by THE END OF AUGUST.

If you are interested in supporting this project, please call **LORI OR BILL REDEPENNING 877-9918, OR REBEL BRYMAN 469-0054**. Don't delay!

## Membership Notes

Last year we had 347 members. As of August 8 we stand at 177 or 51% of them have renewed their dues. Great job. Let's try and get the remaining dues in this month.

10 of our members have renewed online and have expressed on how easy and quick it was. Our Post is leading the state with online renewals so lets try for another 10 this month. All you need is a credit/debt card. Our post has a computer so at all meetings I can assist members with paying your dues online. If you want to pay online at home, here's the link. [www.memberslegion.org/member](http://www.memberslegion.org/member)

I would like to congratulate the four new members to our post. If you see them around the post, say hi.

Dale Seffens  
Larry Springer  
Duane Miller  
Glenda Taplick

Question for you. Which two Post members have the most continuous years of 66? Thanks for everyone's help in recruiting,

Dennis Rodenkirch,  
Membership Chairman

Answer: Richard Amundson & Leonard Swingen

Dennis,  
608-438-8768 Don't forget that you can pay your dues online at [www.memberslegion.org/member](http://www.memberslegion.org/member).

### 3rd Annual Veterans United For Veterans Celebration

The Largest Annual gathering of Veteran organizations in the State of Wisconsin will be represented. September 25, 2010

9am-5pm  
Kutter Harley  
3223 N. Pontiac Dr.  
Janesville, WI  
Poker Run 10 am  
Military Ceremonies 3:30-4:30 (A Must See)

## Bar Banter:

Hello everyone:

Well this will be the last copy of Bar Banter that will be sent by me. After two and a half years, I think it was time to get some younger blood involved. Ray Dzieciol will be assisting Joe with the day-to-day operations, such as scheduling the bartenders, making sure that all the needs are covered for special events and doing all the ordering. I will still assist with the financial end, going to the bank and keeping the checkbook in balance. I have enjoyed acting as your bar manager and I thank you for the trust you put in me.

I want all of you to assist Ray

and Joe. The immediate need is to get more volunteer bartenders. They will help you with getting you certified, and the post will pick up all associated costs. Bartending is really a lot of fun, and the tips are not bad.

Starting Sunday Aug. 15th we will be having Texas Hold-um starting a 5:00 PM. If you have any suggestions for activities that we can have this fall, like potluck for football games, or anything else that we can do to promote our post and get more people involved, please let them know.

I guess that is all for now. Please help us by getting involved. At the very least come on down, and enjoy the companionship of your fellow Legionnaires.

Thank You: Archie

## Stop-loss now down to 4,000 soldiers, Army says

By Tom Vanden Brook - USA Today  
Posted: Thursday Aug 5, 2010 22:54:15 EDT

The number of soldiers forced to serve beyond their commitment has been cut in half in the past year and is on track to be eliminated by March, Pentagon records and interviews show.

Stop-loss affected more than 15,000 troops at its peak in 2005 and has been cut to about 4,000. Experts on military morale say the steady decline in forcing troops to serve has dampened the controversy, though they say the Pentagon delayed action.

The use of stop loss during the Iraq and Afghanistan wars has "dragged on for years," said James Martin, a professor of social work at Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania and a retired Army colonel and Pentagon official. "In terms of policy, clearly somebody had to think out of the box."

Defense Secretary Robert Gates declared in March 2009 that the practice had to end, saying it was "breaking faith" with those who volunteered to serve. He had ordered the services to reduce stop loss in 2007. However, the numbers of troops affected climbed more than 40 percent in the months that followed, largely because of the additional troops sent to Iraq.

More than 140,000 troops — all but about 20,000 of them Army soldiers — had assignments extended under the policy

since 2001. It was referred to as a "back-door draft" by Rep. John Murtha, the combat veteran and Pennsylvania Democrat who died early this year. Troops affected are eligible for additional payments of \$500 for each month they were compelled to serve.

Stop loss can keep a service member in the military if his or her unit deploys within 90 days of the end of the commitment they make when they join. The Army relies on stop loss to keep units intact through training and combat tours.

"The Army was careful when determining whether or not to employ stop loss because we knew it placed an unfair burden on soldiers and families," Army Secretary John McHugh told USA Today. The policy affected about 1 percent of all soldiers, said Maj. Tim Beninato, a spokesman for the Army's personnel office.

**Post and member awards will be handed out at the September dinner. Please attend and congratulate our outstanding members for their hard work.**

# AUGUST 2010

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

# SEPTEMBER 2010

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

## Veterans Corner

**Melvin David Cohen**  
**2655 Co. Hwy BN**  
**Stoughton, WI 53589**  
**Interviewed Nov. 12, 2009**  
**By Evelyn Kahl**



Mel, as he is known to all Stoughtonites was born in Fondle WI on May 30, 1931. He grew up in Fondle. When he was fifteen years old he joined the U.S. Regular Army. To be accepted, he had to be seventeen years old. His mother had his birth certificate changed so he could enter the service at that early age.

He was sworn in at Fort Smelling, MN on January of 1946. He served his country for twenty-two years during four Wars. World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War and the Cold War.

He saw much combat action in Korea. He was wounded twice. The first time by enemy fire in 1950 and the second time by artillery shrapnel in 1951. Their worst enemy in Korea was the weather. Many days of -20^ or more. There were many casualties due to the weather conditions. They often burned Korean houses to keep warm and to prevent frostbite. He was in combat many times and always on the front lines. One job in the army no one wants! Do you know why? You get shot at!!! Here he earned the Combat Infantry Badge. He was discharged in 1951.

He re-enlisted in 1958 and started all over again, but ended up with some of the best jobs in the military. Ten more years at re-enlistment. His wife was with him and she had the rank of Lieutenant Colonel while they were both stationed in France. It was there that he earned the Distinguished Newspaper Award presented in Heidelberg, Germany. His last discharge was in 1968 after having earned thirty medals.

Among them were the Purple Hears, 2 Bronze Stars (for heroism in combat action), WWII Victory Medal, The Army Commendation Medal, The Korean Service Medal, The Japanese Occupational Medal, The American Defense Medal and the U.S. Presidential Citation Medal just to mention a few of his 30 metals.

He is a Veteran Class I in the VA System and is service connected and receives all VA Benefits. He received the Combat Infantry Men's Badge, one of the highest medals anyone can receive as a Rifle Platoon Sergeant.

His career in the Army was a very interesting time in the service of his country. He received an education and grew up in the Military. He wouldn't change any of his life and is happy and proud to be a soldier.

He is a "Paid up for Life" (PUFL) American Legion Member, a VFW Life Member, a Disabled American Veteran Life Member, a Korean War Association Member and VUMS (Volunteer of Underage Military Service). His advice to young men is to get into the service and be somebody. "I was a soldier, I am a soldier, I will always be a soldier" quotes Mel Cohen.

### 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.

## WE NEED YOU!

Have you thought about honoring our Fallen Comrades? Now is your chance to become part of the Honor Guard. We need some volunteers; our current group consists of about 30 members. That may sound like plenty, but with vacations, doctor appointments, working, illness, sometimes it's difficult when I may have a funeral that is requesting only a firing detail. What happens when you keep calling the same volunteers every time? It's called "burn out", and then we have less. Ladies and gentlemen, if you have spare time, or perhaps a few hours on a weekend available, please take 10 minutes and talk to any Honor Guard member, or call me at 608-877-9918.

Past Commander, Bill Redepenning

## Salute to Veterans

The Wisconsin Badgers Football Salute to Veterans for 2010 will take place on Saturday, September 11 at 11:00 a.m. at Camp Randall, versus the San Jose State Spartans. WDVA has had posted to the Events page a listing on the website ([www.WisVets.com/Events](http://www.WisVets.com/Events)). The listing is linked to a flyer about the event, which includes an entry form and instructions for veterans to apply for game tickets electronically or via fax, by a suspense date of August 16. A lottery of ticket entries will be drawn on August 17. WDVA has already been receiving entries, but if you can help us get the word out to veterans it would be appreciated. Thank you.



## OUTWARD BOUND

### OUIWARD BOUND OFFERING FREE WILDERNESS EXPEDITIONS FOR OEF/OIF VETERANS



*Seeking veterans nationwide for all expenses paid expeditions*

Outward Bound, a 45-year old non-profit outdoor, adventure-education organization, is looking for **OEF and OIF Veterans**, interested in participating in **fully-funded reintegration wilderness expeditions**. Adventures are physically, mentally and emotionally stimulating and work to build the self-confidence, trust, and communication skills necessary to successfully return to their families and communities following war time service.

Goals of the program are to provide a positive outdoor experience for military veterans that will enable them to experience the healing benefits of the natural world and benefit from quality environmental education.

- Who: Available to all OEF or OIF Veterans who were deployed to Iraq and/or Afghanistan, pending medical screening
- What: A 5-7 day Wilderness Expedition: may include backpacking, rock climbing, canoeing, dogsledding, sailing, sea kayaking and white water rafting
- When: Dates available year-round
- Where: Wilderness locations include: California, Colorado, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Utah, Oregon, Washington, Alabama, and Florida
- How: What sets Outward Bound apart is that the goal is personal growth. The wilderness and the skills learned to deal with it are simply a vehicle for growth.
- Cost: All expenses paid! Veterans will not be responsible for cost of expedition including round-trip stateside transportation to course site. Funding provided by the *Military Family Outdoor Initiative Project*, a joint project of the Sierra Club and The Sierra Club Foundation.
- To Enroll: Please call 1-866-669-2362 ext 8387 (VETS)
- Website: <http://www.outwardbound.org/index.cfm/do/cp.veterans>

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**August Dinner**  
**Meat Loaf**  
**August 24th 6:30 PM**

**Zen for Those Who Take Life Too Seriously:**  
**How do you tell when you're out of invisible ink?**