THE LEGION POST

OTIS SAMPSON POST 59 STOUGHTON, WI

POST WEB SITE: POST59.ORG POST PHONE: 608.205.9090

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Commander's Report

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1st Vice Commander
Vik Malling
2nd Vice Commander
Mary Lloyd
3rd Vice Commander
Larry Johnson
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Bob Lloyd
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Dale Seffens
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Jim Oler
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Bob Lloyd
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Chaplain
Rich Fries

Auxiliary

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608.712.5312
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608.516.8720
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Jona Chat
608.622.4574
Secretary
Lisa Olson
608.279.4847
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205.2517
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Linda Swangstu
873.9428

Greetings,

Summer is June 21 but the 90's have crept up on us, but we shall not complain – RIGHT!

On May 22, my pal, Cliff Maerz and I experienced an awesome trip to Washington DC on a bus trip through the Vets Roll out of Beloit. We also had Jim Miller and Dave Hermanson on the trip with us. We were gone for four days and I could have never imagined how wonderful it was. We were in a caravan of 10 buses with 20 vets on each plus 10-15 escorts and medical people. They had assigned two escorts to each Vet and I almost felt like a little kid pushed around in a stroller as they continuously were by my side.

Day one, we left at 5:15 am and stopped in Lafayette, IN for breakfast. Then we stopped at Dayton, OH at the Air Force Museum. We had a wonderful supper in this huge hanger where many Air Force planes were on display. What a site it was! After supper we had music by a small Air Force band and a speech from a three star General. What an honor it was to shake his hand! We stayed in Dayton for the night.

Day two, we stopped in a small town for lunch at a church. What a great time that was as the streets were lined with people, young and old, for blocks waving flags and cheering. We were all very touched! That night we made it to Washington, DC. We stayed at the Marriott Hotel. We had supper there and we were treated like royalty. The hotel was excellent.

Day three, we were off to all of the monuments. We stayed there all day and what a site. We visited the Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument, the Vietnam

Commander continued on page 2

Auxiliary News

Greetings,

Getting to know the new American Legion Auxiliary President:

Although I am a fairly new ALA member, I have been a long-time resident of Stoughton. I am beginning my third year of retirement. I worked full-time for the City of Stoughton for 29 1/2 years, the first 18 1/2 years as deputy treasurer and ending my full-time career as the emergency medical services (EMS) director. In 1987 I became a volunteer firefighter on Stoughton Fire Department, being the first female firefighter hired, wherein I served 22 years. I have been an emergency medical technician (EMT) for the past 23 years and I continue to volunteer on Stoughton Area Emergency Medical Services (SAEMS). I also serve on several city committees and foundations, including the Dane County EMS Commission.

The 2016-2017 ALA Officers will be: Cathy Rigdon, President, Amy Hermes Vice President, Treasurer Linda Schmidt, Secretary Lisa Olson and Chaplin Lynn Robertson.

On behalf of our members, I want to thank Lisa Olson for all her hard work this past year as the ALA President. Lisa worked endless hours in her position and she went above and beyond to ensure we met our goals and objectives. Thanks Lisa!

Cathy Rigdon
Unit 59 President

CALENDER OF EVENTS

June 19 - Legion Breakfast – 7:30-11:30 am
June 24 - Dean's Blue Country – 7:00-10:00 pm
June 28 - Legion Dinner – 6:30 pm
July 2 - Blue Moon Karaoke – 8:00 pm 'til ?
July 3 - Country Jam with Mikey Fuss – 2:00-6:00 pm
July 4 - Independence Day
July 17 - Legion Breakfast – 7:30-11:30 am
July 24 - Country Jam with Mikey Fuss – 2:00-6:00 pm
July 26 - Legion Dinner – 6:30 pm

Event Pricing

Post Dinner: 6:30 pm $11.00

Breakfast: 7:30-11:30 am
$8.00 adults, $4.00 children

For upcoming Legion entertainment, call the Post at 205.9090 for a recorded message.

Commander continued from page 1

Memorial Wall, Arlington Cemetery, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, WWII, Korea, and Vietnam Memorials. Arlington Cemetery is so huge that no matter which direction one looked, the crosses were in perfect straight lines. The Changing of the Guard was very impressive.

Day four, on our return home we were greeted at each state line and escorted for awhile. In Illinois at the toll road, we were met by at least 200 motorcycles who escorted us 20 miles into Beloit. The troopers stopped all north bound traffic behind us until we got off the toll road. We were then greeted by people, fire trucks, fireworks, and more. The place was packed and that is when the tears arrived.

I guess I better stop for now, but my heart is still throbbing. I can't express my gratitude enough for being chosen for this trip. If this trip interests any Vets out there, please go to Vetsroll.org and sign up for next year, ASAP. It fills up really fast.

Last week the Post was been cleaned from top to bottom and what a good feeling. We will be doing this thoroughly each year. So many things to keep up and also the shelving is in the new garage. We are now able to be more organized.

Keep supporting your Legion!

Commander Sonny

Note: Beginning in July, the Post meeting will be held <u>every other month.</u> The next Post meeting will be held Monday, August 8,2016.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

"I would rather feel compassion than know the meaning of it. I would hope to act with compassion without thinking of personal gain."

Thomas Aquinas

If you know of anyone who is hospitalized, or in need, please contact Rich Fries at 608.273.8758.

Hall Rentals

Call Julie Nygaard at 608.333.9577

Reminder: Post Dues Go Up

This is a reminder that the Post membership dues have increased $5.00 for 2016/2017.

The new Post membership dues will be $40.00 beginning July 1 when you receive your membership dues reminder from National Headquarters.

This increase reflects the dues increase passed by the National Headquarters last year. Therefore the Post must increase our dues to reflect this increase.

Thank you for your understanding.

Bob Lloyd
Membership Chairman

Steve Grady at the SUNRISE Family Restaurant & Linda Swangstu at CULVERS

POPPY DAYS SUCCESS

The most important fundraiser of the American Legion Auxiliary every year is distributing our poppies, simply because all of the funds we raise go to support veterans.

Again this year we were blessed to be part of such a generous and caring community and Legion Post. With the donations from our newsletter and sidewalk distribution we were only a few dollars short of last year's record! We expanded our locations and defined the best times to go out to spend our volunteer time wisely.

Our thanks to the following businesses for their support: Culvers Restaurant, Fosdals Home Bakery, Koffee Kup, Pick N Save, Sunrise Restaurant, Walmart and the Stoughton Hospital Gift Shop.

And special thanks to all of our volunteers who braved both the rain and hot sun.

Post Members: Bob Lloyd, Archie Christiansen, Jack Lyon, Steve Grady, Jim Hanson, Lyman Hawkinson, Roger Uttermark, Tom Lunde, Larry Ambrose, Wendall Ott, Roger Hansen, Allen Vick, Jim Hahn and Patrick Nolan.

Auxiliary Members: Marie Matejka, Elvera Phelps, Evelyn Kahl, Lynn Robertson, Linda Swangstu, Marlene Bierman, Sharon Ambrose, Jane McGuire, Pat Day, Anja Nygaard, Mary Onsrud, Ginny Hanson, Bonnie Kennedy, Alice Asleson, Cathy Rigdon and Becky & Mia, Amy Hermes, Sharon Lunde and Julie Stenjem .

And thanks also to our Poppy Headquarters volunteers who readied the poppies and counted and tracked all the donations for two full days! Linda Schmidt, Elvera Phelps, Cathy Rigdon, Lisa Olson, Dolly Bailey, Mary Curran and Marlene Bierman.

We also thank Donna Strandlie, Sue Hopper and Cheryl Heiliger who were more than ready to go out Saturday morning had we not run out of poppies already!

The Poppy Committee: Cathy Rigdon, Marlene Bierman, Elvera Phelps, Sharon Silbaugh & Lisa Olson

Stoughton Area Veterans Memorial Park

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Colt .45 Caliber Semi-Auto Pistol 1070 M45 ..... $1,849

Desert Eagle .357 Semi-Auto Pistol DE 357 IMB $1,710

Royal Prestige 18 Piece Knife Set $1,025

Cash Prize $1,000

55 inch 4K Ultra HD Smart TV $899

Macbook 11 inch Notebook Computer $899

Cash Prize $500

Custom Built 3 Club Wedge Set 52, 56, 60 Degree $300

Drawing at American Legion Post 59, Stoughton, WI

August 15, 2016

4,500 tickets to be sold

$10 each or 3 for $25

Tickets available at American Legion & VFW

Monthly Post Meeting Schedule

Legion – 2nd Monday – 7:00 pm

Auxiliary – 2nd Monday – 6:30 pm

SAL – 2nd Wednesday – 7:00 pm

Meetings are held at the Post.

All members are encouraged to attend.

AMERICAN LEGION BAR

803 N. Page St. Stoughton, WI

Open to the Public

Bar open to serve you Wednesday - Sunday

Wednesday & Thursday: 3:00 pm or later
Friday: 3 – 10 pm or later
Saturday: Noon – 10 pm or later
Sunday: 11:30 am – 6 pm or later

Wednesday Ladies Night
$.50 off any Ladies drinks

Veterans Memorial Park Update

Continued steady progress is being made on the Veterans Memorial Park as we move toward the goal of the dedication on Saturday, November 12.

Rutland Construction has completed the cement work and Jim Oler and Son have finished putting in the electrical conduit. In late June, Pechmann Memorials will begin laying the nearly 600 pavers purchased to date, followed by the installation of benches, flag poles, and educational pillars.

Stoughton Garden Center is the vendor of choice to do the grass seeding. Phase #1 of the landscaping which will be done in late September. Depending on funding, Phase #2 (trees, shrubs, etc.) may be delayed until next year.

Roger Kleven and Basil Sadler continue to collect and verify the names of more than 5,000 Stoughton area veterans whose names will be inscribed on the granite monuments. They are also putting together plans for a directory.

All 48 vignettes for the educational pillars have been written and are in the final approval stage.

Preliminary plans for the November 12 dedication are being set.

Badger Boys State 2016

Through our Post, four young men will again be attending Badger Boys State.

Garrett Kluever, Cash Hoffman, Jacob Thalacker, and Palang Barrow will all be spending the week of June 11-18 at Ripon College participating in the American Legion leadership program.

What is Badger Boys State? Eight days of excitement, learning, and fun that the participants will remember for a lifetime. Approximately 800 young men from all over Wisconsin attend Badger Boys State each year. In eight days the citizens of the "new state" (state 51) will carry out all the main functions of city, county, and state government using basic laws and fundamental procedures of the State of Wisconsin as their guide.

They are following in the footsteps of some very successful people: Governor Walker, Former Governor Scott McCallum, US House of Representatives Thomas E Petri, Award winning Actor Daniel Travanti, and renowned Jazz Singer Al Jarreau to name just a few.

This experience is made available by the generosity of David and Nancy Hoffman, Stoughton Rotary, Otis Sampson Post 59, and Stoughton Lions Club.

We will again invite them to a Post dinner to tell us about their experience.

Submitted by Mary Lloyd

Fund-raising Events Continue

On May 23, under the leadership of Randy Robertson, the Janesville Texas Roadhouse sponsored a Dine to Donate evening where ten percent of designated proceeds were donated to the Veterans Memorial Project.

The first annual Raise the Flag program on Memorial Day was a huge success. 165 flags were purchased and put up around Stoughton by two local girl scout troops. Under the leadership of Tammy, Mike, and Terry Niedfeldt of Thrivent Insurance, flags will also be put up on Flag Day, July 4, Patriot Day, and Veterans Day. A portion of these funds will go toward the purchase of the pillar face of Iwo Jima. Funds from subsequent years will go toward the maintenance of the park.

The first annual Motorcycle Poker Run was held on June 11. Event organizers, Rick Gullickson and Dan Gallagher, reported that more than 115 bikes and 170 people took part in the ride which ended with a police escort from the VFW to the American Legion. There, lunch was served; raffles and a silent auction were held; and music provided. More than $4000 was raised for the park. Subsequent runs over the next years will also go toward maintenance of the park.

On June 24, the annual 50/50 raffle will be held at the Oregon Race Track. This is also Fireworks Night at the track and a good crowd is anticipated. Come on over; enjoy the races and fireworks, and take a chance on the raffle.

Sales of tickets for the Super Raffle are in full swing. Tickets may be purchased at the VFW, American Legion, or from any committee member. The drawing will be held on August 15.

Please send donations to: Veterans Memorial Park, Box 16, Stoughton, WI 53589.

Tim & Dennie Carter with Raise the Flag placed by the Girl Scouts in their yard on Memorial Day.

Memorial Day 2016

Carl Sampson delivered the Gettysburg Address for the 72nd consecutive year

Purple Heart recipients—from left: Greg Vodak, Ken Jaeger, Russell Dennison, and Robert Hill

To honor those who served

Legion Riders

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Steak sandwiches, baked potatoes, salad,
corn/green beans, desert
June 28, 2016

DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES THE 8TH OF EACH MONTH
VISIT THE POST WEB SITE AT POST59.ORG
Editors Cliff Maerz and Tim Carter: C_Maerz@msn.com