



THE LEGION POST

OTIS SAMPSON POST 59

803 North Page Street - STOUGHTON, WI

PH: 608.205.9090

Post 59 Website: www.post59.us

SPRING 2026



2025-2026

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Commander

Michael Currie

1st Vice Commander

Rodger Hansen

2nd Vice Commander

Mike Ayers

3rd Vice Commander

Tom Jenny

Service Officer

John Solis

Sgt. At Arms

Jim Schiferl

Finance Officer

Jim Oler

Historian

Allen Vick

Adjutant

Joshua Holt

Judge Advocate

Mike Gerard

Chaplain

Edward Nowicki

Membership

Mike Ayers



FROM THE COMMANDER'S DESK

Greetings to everyone.

I can't say I'm enjoying the very long cold snap here in January and February, however, hopefully by the time you read this newsletter the weather will have improved with much warmer temperatures. We all know that when you live in Wisconsin that Mother Nature can change her mind in an instant.

Our membership goals are right on schedule and thank you to all members who have renewed for 2026 and welcome to all of our new members. If you need assistance to renew or continue your membership, please feel free to contact myself or our Membership Chairman Mike Ayers.

Two of our very important events, coming up in May, will be the Stoughton Syttende Mai Celebration from May 15th through May 17th, and our annual Memorial Day Parade and Program at the Mandt Center. These events are sponsored by the Stoughton American Legion and VFW. Please see notices for these events in this newsletter.

As always, we will have a variety of events over the next few months. Our music man, Larry Johnson, will make sure we have plenty of musical entertainment, which is usually scheduled on Friday and Saturday nights.

We have updated our Tiki Bar area with a new concrete area and new tables and chairs. Weather permitting, we hope to open sometime in May, and to offer some outside musical entertainment this year.

We will be having our annual St. Patrick's celebration in March; the Post Auxiliary will be having their Prom event on April 25th; and on May 2nd our Kentucky Derby Party. These events are always a lot of fun so please keep an eye on our events calendar.

I want to remind all our Post members that we will be hosting the Dane County members monthly meeting on Thursday June 25th starting with a meal at 6:00 and meeting at 7:00. There is always valuable information and ideas that keeps you informed as to what not only our Post is doing, but what other Posts in Dane County are up to.

I hope to see you there!

Please also keep in mind that our Post monthly breakfast is held the 3rd Sunday of each month from 7:30 to 11:30. We also will continue our Monthly Members Dinner on the 4th Tuesday in March and April. We will take a break from the monthly dinners from May through August, starting back up in September.

In closing I want to thank all of our members, guests, patrons and many volunteers for all your support. Without you the Post could not continue our mission of serving our area Veterans and the Stoughton Community.

Stay well and we will see you at the Post.

Commander Michael



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 59



2025-2026

UNIT 59 AUXILIARY OFFICERS

President

Amy Hermes

Sr. Vice President

Dawn Clark

Jr. Vice President

Sally Schieldt

Co-Secretaries

Devon Hermes

Lana Aaberg

Treasurer

Jody Kumlien

Chaplain

Tinamarie Nelson

Membership

Lisa Olson

Greetings All

Our membership continues to grow and we have achieved 100% membership. Thank you Lisa Olson. Lisa has done a great job in her role as Membership Chair. This upcoming year she will be handing this over to Dawn Clark, Senior VP, who was newly appointed to this role.

In December, we completed our Poppy Money Distribution donating \$3500! Donations going to Shield of Sisters, RSVP of Dane County (Vets Helping Vets), DAV Transportation Fund, Project Home, Madison VA Maternity Care and a variety of other Department specific funds.



On February 1, several members attended a Valentine Card signing in Deforest.

These will be sent to our veterans in various VA Nursing Homes

Karen Ayers and Sherrie Hensel chaired our Giving Tree project for the Veterans Home at King



We will be sponsoring 2 Badger Girls this year with the help of donations from both the Stoughton Lions Club and Rotarians. Our Stoughton High School Scholarship continues to grow. Our recent Golden Ticket event added \$10,000 to our funds. This year we will be giving a scholarship in the amount of \$1,500.

Going into spring will be a busy time for the ALA. In addition to helping support the meat raffles, in March we will be partnering with the Second Chance Animal Advocates, selling lunches for their Quarter Auction fundraiser on March 7th.

Other Save the ate events:

- April 19, ALA Breakfast. Proceeds helping to support our local Girl Scouts
- April 25, Back to the 80s Prom
- May, All Things Poppy



National Volunteer Month is celebrated April 1-April 30. Volunteering helps weave us together, strengthening the community we serve and the support we give to one another. This is so true of the amazing group I have the honor to lead.

In friendship and fellowship,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy Hermes".



Sons of the American Legion Report Squadron 59



2025-2026

[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

HAPPY NEW YEAR to those I've yet to personally greet.

Let's start with the end of 2025. SAL Squadron 59 and dozens of our friends and fellow members of Post 59 put on a wonderful "Breakfast with Santa" Thank you to all. Your efforts helped make a family Christmas possible for many local children. I'm pretty sure it was the largest turnout of children for a "Breakfast with Santa" that we've had to date.

New Years Eve snuck up on us and would not have been the success it was, if not for the help of Sherry and Cathy prepping the food, and Amy Hocking - our honorary "SON" helping in all aspects. Thanks to Brian, Mike and everyone else that had a hand in making the party a fun New Year experience.

While many of the things we do are repetitious, and following in the footsteps of what has worked for us in the past, (Why mess with success) one of the new things you can expect to see in the future is a scholarship program the SAL will make with Stoughton High School seniors. More on that as we finalize details.

Thank you and have a great 2026

Bob Hocking
SAL Squadron 59 Commander

THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

- **Song of Solomon 2:11-12: "See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come".**
- **A Prayer for New Life:** "Beloved Soul and Spirit, as the earth tilts forward, facing the sun and the winds soften with promise of new life, may our spirit awaken anew to the quiet welcome of Spring. May joy find its way through the budding trees and flowers, courage in the fading of frost, and hope as it blossoms in the light".

Continue to guide us as we journey on life's path to your glory. We ask that you continue to protect our men and women who are currently serving our country both here and around the world.

Amen.

Ed Nowicki ~ Post 59 Chaplain

Our 2026 Membership Renewal Drive has been a great success. Thank you to all of our members who have renewed! We have met our 100% goal already with 171 paid members and we continue to grow! We are one of only four Auxiliary units in Dane County to achieve this goal.

Welcome to our two newest members, Suzie Meyer and Gina Nordness. A special thank you goes to our members, Dawn Clark and Lana Aaberg who encouraged them to join.

But we are sad to have lost two of our loyal members in December, Karen Valient & Virginia Hanson.

I have enjoyed being your membership chair thru the years, meeting so many wonderful members and helping you become part of the American Legion Family. Dawn Clark will be taking over the membership job this spring. I'm sure she will do an excellent job!

I encourage you to get involved in the programs and activities that our unit has to offer. It's not hard and there are many people that will help. Our veterans need the help and support we provide as much today as they did over 100 years ago after WWI.

To learn more about the Auxiliary, their mission and programs, visit the Wisconsin ALA website at <https://www.amlegionauxwi.org>



Lisa Olson ~ Auxiliary Membership Chair 2003~2026

Honor Our Country and Support Our Veterans

American Legion Post 59 Honor Guard Annual Report

In 2025, the Honor Guard had the privilege of performing Honors for 32 of our deceased comrades. This was one less from the 33 that were performed in 2024. There were 15 Army Veterans, 8 Air Force Veterans, 8 Navy Veterans and 1 Marine Veteran that honors were performed.

We also did 9 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 2 send offs for 2 of the scheduled Honor Flights at Dane County Airport and we performed our annual flag raising and lowering at the Dane County Fair opening day. We also presented colors 3 times for the VA Hospital's Hall of Heroes Induction Ceremonies. We also helped the Auxiliary with their Trunk or Treat Scholarship fund raiser.

We had a huge Veterans Day celebration. On Veterans Day, we visited all Stoughton area schools and participated in their ceremonies. 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, Nazareth and Skaalan. Our program is very popular and we will be doing this again in 2026 if time permits. 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. This is a great group of Veterans who donate many hours to the Honor Guard which is greatly appreciated by the Veteran's families.

Tom Jenny - Honor Guard Coordinator



American Legion Post 59 Spring 2026 Membership News

*****2025 Membership: We ended the year with 313 renewals and 32 Members totaling 345 or 102% of our yearly goal. Thank you to everyone that helped in making this happen. *****

We are off to a great start for 2026: We are on the right track as of this newsletter we have renewed 294 and added 16 new Legionnaires to our ranks meeting our March goal of 310.

****But we still are not done. 37 members need to make their renewals for 2026****

Renewal Process: Renewal notices are sent out in July, and reminders in October, January, March and May. When a member renews, they are removed from future notices. I have had a few members receive renewal notices when in fact they were paid-up for the year. Keep good records and if you receive such a notice after paying and you have your new card just disregard the notice or call or text me and I will research and get back to you with an answer.

New Members: Since our Winter Newsletter we have welcomed the following 8 new Legionnaires into our Post ranks: Richard Christofferson – USA, Sharon Fritts – USA, William Johnson – USA, Steven Lessard – USMC, Jonathan Lowe – USA, David Pernot – USMC, Dale Steffens – USAF, and Dale Warwick USAF

New Member Incentives: We are looking for ideas and suggestions how to best target new members with Honorary Memberships. Currently we have 9 Purple Heart Recipients assigned to our post with this designation. If you have an idea or know of a deserving veteran please reach out to me or Commander Currie.



*****Not only do we recognize our new members for Post 59 but take a moment to recognize and honor those that we have lost since our last newsletter.**

**Robert Kocovsky – USN Vietnam
Robert Grady – USN Vietnam
Richard Feran – USAF Gulf War**

**Thank you for your continued support and service to our country
and the American Legion.**

**Michael L. Ayers – 2nd Vice Commander and Membership Chair
PH: (608) 335-1771 or email tgmgr@yahoo.com**

THE AUXILIARY PATRIOTIC STITCHERS HONOR QUILTS

Presented to our Post 59 Members at the January Post Dinners



Jason Ayers ~ Quilt by Lori Moe-Kittelson



Michael Ayers ~ Quilt by Sherrie Hensel



Scott Johnson ~ Quilt by Pat Broadbent



Post 59 Senior NCO's

(From left)

Navy Master Chief Denny Behr

Army Sergeant Major Mike Ayers

Air Force Chief Master Sergeant Jim Schiferl



Post 59 Calendar of Events

MARCH 2026

- Mar. 2nd: Monthly Auxiliary Meeting @ 5:30 pm
- Mar. 6th: JR, Susie Anderson, Frank Lefty James 7:00-10:00 pm
- Mar. 9th: American Legion Monthly Meeting @ 7:00
- Mar. 11th: SAL Monthly Meeting @ 7:00 pm
- Mar. 14th: Posse Band – 7:00-10:00
- Mar. 15th: Legion Breakfast – 7:30-11:30 am
- Mar. 22nd: Country Music Jam 2:00-6:00
- Mar. 24th: Post Supper - 6:00pm-8:00 pm – Cocktails at 5:00
- Mar. 28th: Universal Sound – 7:00-10:00

APRIL 2026

- Apr. 4th: Union MC Winter Party – 5:00-10:00 pm
- Apr. 6th: Monthly Auxiliary Meeting @ 5:30 pm
- Apr. 8th: SAL Monthly Meeting @ 7:00pm
- Apr. 13th: American Legion Monthly Meeting @ 7:00
- Apr. 18th: Universal Sound – 7:00-10:00
- Apr. 19th: Monthly Legion Breakfast – 7:30-11:30a
- Apr. 25th: ALA Prom Night -6:00-10:00
- Apr. 26th: Country Music Jam 2:00-6:00
- Apr. 28th: Post Supper - 6:00pm-8:00 pm – Cocktails at 5:00

MAY 2026

- May 2nd: Kentucky Derby Party
- May 4th: Monthly Auxiliary Meeting @ 5:30 pm
- May 9th: Wayne Road Band - 7:00pm-10:00pm
- May 11th: American Legion Monthly Meeting @ 7:00
- May 13th: SAL Monthly Meeting @ 7:00pm
- May 15th-17th: Syttende Mai Festival
- May 16th: Dan Reilly – 7:00pm-10:00pm
- May 17th: Monthly Legion Breakfast – 7:30-11:30am
- May 24th: Country Music Jam 2:00-6:00
- May 25th: Memorial Day – Parade and program @ Mandt Center

Contact Information for Post 59

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John Solis – Service Officer

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Amy Hermes – ALA President

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Bob Hocking – SAL Commander

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Email: bobghocking@gmail.com

Bob Crofoot – Editor

Email: hodagbob@yahoo.com

MEAT RAFFLE EVERY SATURDAY @ 2:00pm

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.

SAVMP Freedom Ride – June 13 2026 – Starts and ends at VFW Post 328



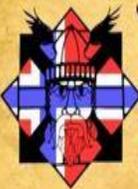
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For More Information,
please contact Sherry

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post59hallrental@gmail.com OR

go to our website @

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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**