THE LEGION POST

Quarterly Newsletter
OTIS SAMPSON POST 59
803 North Page Street - STOUGHTON, WI

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POST PHONE: 608.205.9090

November/December 2021
January 2022

Commander's Report

Hello and Happy Fall to everyone,

Our hot dry summer is now behind us and fall is upon us with bright colors and cooler temperatures. Soon we will be looking at the white stuff. Since our last newsletter our Post has been very busy, we had our Post roof resurfaced and with the help of Randy Robertson and a grant from Home Depot in Janesville the Legion hall got a fresh coat of paint, new ceiling and new lighting. Thank you to Randy and Home Depot.

The Legion hall has been booked solid on weekends through October. Our bar area is doing well, and the Tiki bar was open through October. We started having Friday night Karaoke and other special events.

We started up our monthly Breakfasts in August and the Post monthly dinners in September with the ever-favorite Swiss Steak dinner. We also had a great party for our past Commander Sonny Swangstu in September.

As of the writing of this article, the SAL will be having their Fish Boil and the Post will be having our annual Halloween party both on Oct 30th. Come on out and support the post! Our November through January calendar is filling up with a number of events. We will be hosting a Veterans Appreciation Day on November 11th to honor all those who have served with free coffee and donuts. With the Thanksgiving and the Christmas holidays coming up we will not be having our monthly dinners in November and December; however, we will start the dinners again in January so keep the 25th open. In December we will be having our Ugly Sweater event and our friends at the Wisconsin Navy League will be having their annual Army/Navy football game fundraiser at our Post on December 11th, so come on down and root for your favorite team and enjoy the festivities. The Post SAL will also be having their annual breakfast with Santa and Toys for Tots event and to end the year we will be having our New Year's Eve Party. We are hoping to start having our Jam sessions again beginning in the new year.

In closing I want to take a moment and let all of our members know that we continue our successful service to our veterans and the Stoughton community because of you and your support to the Post. To all of our wonderful volunteers who continuously work hard to make this Post successful. Thank you so much for all you do.

Commander Michael

CONTINUED>>>>

ATTENTION PLEASE!

Want to be part of something special?

Want to honor Veterans and their families?

Post 59 is looking for members interested in becoming active Honor Guard members.

Please contact:

Al Vick at 608-873-3481

Or

Michael Currie at 608-712-6747.

Contact Information for Post 59

Post 59 Email:
alpost59@gmail.com

Michael Currie – Commander
PH: (608) 712-6747
Email: Michaelcurrie@charter.net

Bob Lloyd – Legion Membership
PH: (608) 873-5926
CELL: (608) 219-3086 messages or texts
Email: Lloyd2364@sbcglobal.net

Jim Oler – Finance Officer
PH: (608) 347-4407
Email: oller8888@gmail.com

Amy Hermes – ALA President
PH: (608) 516-8720
Email:
AHermes@stoughtonhealth.com

Bob Hocking – SAL Commander
PH: (608) 206-6980
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Dean Stenjem – Newsletter Editor
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POST 59 SERVICE OFFICER

Let me start by thanking Post 59 in allowing me to serve as your Post Service Officer. I feel that my past experiences working for Federal and State Agencies supporting Veterans and their families will greatly assist me in providing you with area resources and contacts.

As Post Service Officer my duties include:

(1) serving as a link between veterans/and or dependents with area programs and services including representative(s) holding American Legion accreditation.

(2) providing post membership and their families with up-to-date information on available programs and services for veterans regarding Federal, State, and Local veterans' programs and services.

(3) understanding benefits afforded to veterans and dependents, providing information on changes that may affect you and your family.

To accomplish this, I will be providing program and contact information on our Post Website https://www.post59.us/serviceofficerpost59, quarterly newsletters, at face-to-face town hall style meetings with area program specialist.

My first introduction to veteran programs and services is Adayta Axelson from the Wisconsin Department Veterans Affairs a member of the Veterans Outreach and Recovery Program (VORP) supporting Dane County. This program is unique in that the coordinator provides direct support and assistance face to face at the veteran's location. If you are a veteran or know of veteran in need, please contact Adayta at 608-215-6897.

Mike Ayers

Post 59 Service Officer

Legion Membership News

In the most recent membership report from Department Headquarters our goal for the 2022 membership year has been left unchanged from its previous goal of 374 members. Last year we renewed 356 members so I don't have much faith that we will reach 374b but, to date we have renewed 209 members for 55.88%. Yes, it's true, our Post membership is shrinking not growing. That is happening all across the board in all Posts in The American Legion. With our older generations passing on the younger members are not ready to step up and join our ranks. They are still focused on their job and raising their family, as it should be. They aren't looking for a volunteer veteran's organization to join yet, if ever.
This trend will eventually eat away at our budgets and our programs we have held dear for decades but, we aren't there yet. Our Post remains strong and healthy for now. To stay that way, we need all of our members to pay their membership dues. You can pay your dues by sending $40.00 to American Legion Post 59, P.O. Box 16, Stoughton WI 53589 or you can pay on-line at wilegion.org, click on "Renew Online", enter your member ID# and pay with a credit card.
The best part of paying on-line is it is immediately in the hands of National Headquarters. Not waiting for snail mail to catch up.

Submitted by Bob Lloyd - Post 59 Membership Chair

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Visit:

www.post59.us/the-legion-post and fill out the form.

AMERICAN LEGION BAR

https://www.post59.us/the-legion-bar

803 NORTH PAGE STREET – STOUGHTON, WI

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Bar Open to Serve You: Wednesday – Sunday
(Monday & Tuesday CLOSED)

- Wednesday: **3:00pm – 10:00pm**
- Thursday: **3:00pm – 10:00pm**
- Friday: **3:00pm - 10:00pm**
- Saturday: **12:00 - 10:00pm**
- Sunday: **12:00-6:00pm**

Auxiliary News
Unit 59

Greetings all~

Fall is one of my favorite times of the year! From pumpkin-spiced-everything to hayrides and haunted houses, there is so much to love about the fall. Autumn represents the start of the holiday season, packed full of our memories and traditions. And the annual shedding of the trees' leaves holds the everlasting promise of new blooms to come!

As we begin to move back to "normal" with the pandemic still a part of our lives, the ALA has been busy with revitalizing our club and activities. Dawn Clark, VP will be sharing information on our growing membership, which is very exciting. Lisa Olson, Treasurer will be sharing information on our recent Diaper Drive, which was hugely successful thanks to everyone's generosity.

We are looking to add community speakers to our meetings. At our October meeting, Adrienna Zimmerman speak to us about the Hero Center. She was very informative and also is willing to set up tours for our Post if interested. Other happenings with the ALA include:

- In September, we hosted "In the Know". The purpose of ALA "In The Know" presentations is to engage and educate The American Legion Family. Members that attended found it to be very educational.

- National Day of Deployment is October 26. One of our new members, Louise Christopher's son, Edward Wagner, was recently deployed to Saudi Arabia. He will be staying in a tent in the desert until the end of January. Sherry Leick and Lisa Olson have already sent out two boxes with "wish list" items. If you would like to donate, there will be an envelope at the bar.

- Annual Chicken and Biscuit Dinner: Unfortunately, this has been postponed. New date determined.

In friendship and fellowship, wishing everyone a wonderful fall and upcoming holiday season.

Stay safe, stay well.

Amy Hermes

Auxiliary Membership Update

THANK YOU to our Auxiliary members who have paid their 2022 dues! As of today, we have reached our goal of 145 paid members! If you haven't paid your dues yet, please send them in as soon as possible. This was another difficult year with the pandemic still going strong. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need assistance in paying your dues. The Auxiliary is always ready to help.

We are happy to WELCOME 15 new members who joined the Auxiliary in 2021: Lana Aaberg, LuAnn Alme, Karen Ayers, Natalie Christensen, Louise Christopher, Kimberly Currie, Dana Ertl, Halia Heimlich, Mary Hermes, Jody Kumlien, Ann Milner, Lauren Olson, Kate Schieldt, Anna Schieldt, and Karen Valient. Also, a big thank you goes out to our members for recruiting them. Keep in mind we now can enroll male spouses of female veterans who are Otis Sampson American Legion Post 59 members. Please contact us if you know someone who might be interested in joining. We are happy to answer any questions. You can contact Lisa Olson by phone at 608-279-4847 or by email at waucoman@hotmail.com. Dawn Clark can be reached by phone at 608-512-2017 or by email at dmmclark@gmail.com.

We would also like to welcome all the members who recently joined the Legion and the Sons of the American Legion. We are always looking for new members and there is room for your entire family to join, even children under 18 years in age. Please contact us if you have a family member interested in joining any of the American Legion Families and we will direct you to the person in charge of membership.

Stay safe and healthy.

Lisa Olson and Dawn Clark - Membership Chairwomen

A big thank you to all of the members and friends who donated to our Auxiliary Diaper Drive in September. With your help we were able to donate 1,146 diapers, 4,104 wipes plus almost $300 in cash donations to the Madison VA Hospital Women's Center.

Sons of the American Legion Report

Squadron 59

Guess what time it is? **IT'S CANDY SALE TIME.**

The Sons of the American Legion have kicked off our annual candy sale fundraiser. The sale which helps us to assist with local and State veterans causes, area children's causes, and helping our neighbors as needed has begun and will go through the holiday season while supplies last. Our three favorite types of candy, Cashew Crunch (a brittle), Chocolate covered Cashew Crunch, and Scrunch (A chocolate, peanut butter, and krispie combination) are available at the American Legion or by sending us an email at sonsofthelegion59@gmail.com . Our Amish candy supplier has done his usual excellent job of preparing the best we've ever tasted. Thanks again Candy Andy and family for your hard work. The cost remains at $10.00 for a one-pound bag. There is a possibility that we may have a couple drive through sales like those we did last fall. A special THANK YOU to SAL member Roger Strandlie and his beautiful wife Donna for making the annual trip to pick up the hundreds of pounds of deliciousness for us all to enjoy.

Our members are also gearing up for the Toys for Tots campaign, with of course a little help from our friends. Toys can be dropped off at the Legion during the open hours at the bar, or we will have a collection box available inside the vestibule at the rear entry to the building. Collection boxes are also available again this year at:

- **Crown Flooring, 2421 S. Stoughton Rd. Madison**
- **Zelm Chiropractic Center, 798 US 51 Stoughton**
- **Zelm Chiropractic Center, SC 4861 Larson Beach Rd. McFarland**

We will again be hosting Breakfast with Santa on Sunday, December 12th from 7:30 am – 11:30 am with fun for the youngsters and the not so young alike. Breakfast costs will be $10.00 for adults, $5.00 for children under six years of age.

We hope to see you soon.
SAL Commander
Bob Hocking

American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 59

Junior Membership

If you didn't know, our Auxiliary has a Junior Activities program. Currently there are 14 Junior members ranging from the ages of 1 to 17 and we would love to have more. If you have a daughter who is under the age of 18, please encourage them to join. Being a Junior member increases your daughter's knowledge of patriotism, citizenship, leadership, and her loyalty to America. It also is a great way to make life-long friends.

Americanism is the major focus of the Junior Activities program. Under the guidance of the Auxiliary, Juniors participate in many activities which help veterans. Activities can range from collecting school supplies for military kids to working at a VA Medical Center. Other activities can include participating in a workshop on flag etiquette, having a float in a Memorial Day parade, or distributing Poppies just to name a few. We also encourage older Junior members to mentor younger Junior members. There also are many opportunities available for Junior members including several national scholarships like the Spirit of Youth Scholarship, Non-Traditional Student Scholarship, and the James H. Parke Memorial Scholarship (awarded by the Department of Veterans Affairs). The Wisconsin Auxiliary also offers over 20 different scholarships in addition to Badger Girls State and a Patch Program.

Starting in 2022, the Auxiliary is going to start holding events for the Junior members and their families. We encourage you to participate in these events and learn more about the American Legion Families. We hope to hold the first event in February or March. There will be more information to follow.

Dawn Clark

Membership Chairwoman

Hall Rentals

Hall Rentals are back at Post 59

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

ATTENTION PLEASE!

Next Quarters Newsletter article deadline is **JANUARY 15th, 2022.**

CHAPLAINS' CORNER

There is a winter in all of our lives, a chill and darkness that makes us yearn for days that have gone or put our hope in days yet to be. Father God, you created seasons for a purpose. Spring is full of expectation buds breaking frosts abating and an awakening of creation before the first days of summer. Now the sun gives warmth and comfort to our lives reviving aching joints bringing color, new life and crops to fruiting. Autumn gives nature space to lean back, relax and enjoy the fruits of its labor mellow colors in sky and landscape as the earth prepares to rest. Then winter, cold and bare as nature takes stock rests, unwinds, sleeps until the time is right. An endless cycle and yet a perfect model. We need a winter in our lives a time of rest, a time to stand still a time to reacquaint ourselves with the faith in which we live. It is only then that we can draw strength from the one in whom we are rooted take time to grow and rise through the darkness into the warm glow of your springtime to blossom and flourish bring color and vitality into this world your garden. Thank you, Father, for the seasons of our lives. Unknown

Ed Nowicki –
Post 59 Chaplain

Did you know?

>>> Charles A. Lindbergh after his history making solo flight across the Atlantic was accorded the honor of being the only living American civilian ever brought home on an American Warship expressly sent to expedite his return.

>>> One of the most famous pre-WWIIs Olympians of all time was James Cleveland Owens known as "J.C." a nickname mis-interpreted as "Jesse."

POST 59 EVENTS for this Quarter

Month of November: Military Family Month

November 1st: Post 59 Executive Committee Mtg. (5:00 – 6:00pm)

November 1st: American Legion Monthly Meeting @ 7:00pm

November 1st: ALA Monthly Meeting @ 6:00pm

November 2nd: Election Day

November 7th: Daylight Savings Time Ends

November 10th: Veterans' Town Hall Meeting

November 11th: Veterans' Day

November 11th: Veterans Appreciation Day (Post 59)

November 21st: Legion Breakfast

November 25th: Thanksgiving Day

December 1st: Civil Air Patrol (USAF Auxiliary) Birthday

December 4th: Ugly Christmas Sweater Party

December 6th: Post 59 Executive Committee Mtg. (5:00 – 6:00pm)

December 6th: American Legion Monthly Meeting @ 7:00pm

December 6th: ALA Monthly Meeting @ 6:00pm

December 7th: Pearl Harbor Day

December 8th: SAL Monthly Meeting @ 7:00pm

December 11th: Army/Navy Game Fundraiser (Wisconsin Navy League)

December 12th: BREAKFAST with SANTA (SAL)

December 13th: National Guard Birthday

December 18th: National Wreaths Across America

December 25th: Christmas Day

December 25th: FREE Christmas Dinner at The VFW

Dec.31st to Jan.1st: NYE Party at The Legion

January 3rd: American Legion Monthly Meeting @ 7:00pm

January 12th: SAL Monthly Meeting @ 7:00pm

January 16th: Legion Breakfast

January 25th: Legion Membership Monthly Dinner

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.

FREE

CHRISTMAS DINNER

December 25th

VFW Hall, 200 Veterans Road (Cty.N)

Stoughton, WI.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Dine-In 11:00am – 1:00pm

Deliveries will start at 10:00am

If you need a ride (handicap accessible van)

Or

If you want a meal delivered **please RSVP** to indicate which option works for you!

Call (608) 873-8585 by December 21st

Leave: Your Name, Address, Phone Number
How many dinners you need
How many passengers need a ride

(Rides and delivery limited to Stoughton School District area)

HOSTED BY: The American Legion Post 59, The VFW Post 328, and their Auxiliaries and Volunteers

DONATIONS ARE APPRECIATED

Madison Navy League invites You to Army-Navy Game Social

1 p.m. – End of Game
Saturday, Dec. 11, 2021, Post 59 Hall

The greatest rivalry in sports – the Army-Navy football game – takes place Saturday, Dec. 11, and Madison Navy League invites members of American Legion Post 59 to attend their Army-Navy Game Social right here in our hall. Come dressed in support of your favorite team.

It's sure to be a fun afternoon watching the Black Knights and the Midshipmen. Festivities get under way at 1 p.m. and will continue until the game is over. Madison Navy League will be offering food, a 50/50 raffle and basket raffles. Event proceeds will be donated to Fisher House Wisconsin, a non-profit organization that is planning to build a Fisher House near the Madison VA grounds. Fisher House is "a home away from home" for families of patients receiving medical care at major military and VA medical centers.

For event information or to donate, contact Joan Behr, event chair, at (608) 669-3182 or joanbehr@aol.com.

Attention

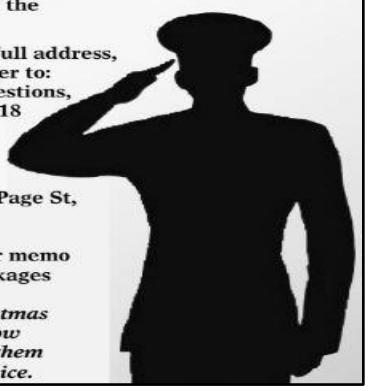
All Stoughton and surrounding area residents who have friends or relatives in the Armed Forces presently stationed in the United States or in other countries that won't be able to come home for Christmas.

The American Legion Post 59 Stoughton is sending Christmas service packages FREE OF CHARGE to all service men and women who qualify.

We need names and addresses of the soldiers no later than Nov. 25th.

Just text the soldier's name and full address, plus your name and phone number to: 608-513-8218. If you have any questions, call Larry Johnson at: 608-513-8218

If a person or business wants to donate money for packages, mail check to:
American Legion Post 59, 803 N Page St, Stoughton, WI 53589.
C/O Jim Oler.
Please include a separate note or memo on check: Christmas Service Packages



Let's send our soldiers some Christmas Spirit from Wisconsin so they know we're thinking of them, proud of them and can thank them for their service.

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2nd Vice Commander
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3rd Vice Commander
Cliff Maerz
Service Officer
Mike Ayers
Sgt. At Arms
Randy Robertson
Finance Officer
Jim Oler
Historian
Steve Grady
Adjutant
Joshua Holt
Judge Advocate
Doug Nelson
Chaplain
Edward Nowicki

2021-2022

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Vice President
Dawn Clark
Secretary
Randi Johnson Hanson
Treasurer
Lisa Olson
Chaplain
Anna Paul
Membership
Lisa Olson
Dawn Clark

2021-2022

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1st Vice Commander
Dean Stenjem
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Richard Budden
Sgt. At Arms
Bob Crofoot
Finance Officer
Jim Oler
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Roger Strandlie
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Otis Sampson American Legion Post 59

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DEADLINES FOR QUARTERLY ARTICLES
October 15th (Nov, Dec, Jan Newsletter)
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July 15th (Aug, Sept, Oct Newsletter)