



OTIS SAMPSON POST 59, STOUGHTON WI



THE LEGION POST

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 2

2008-2009 OFFICERS

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I hope your holidays were very eventful for you and your family. It's entertaining watching the little ones write their letters to Santa and them opening their presents at Christmas.

Mother Nature got us again. For the second year in a row we have had to cancel due to winter storms. The next prime

Commanders Report FEBURARY 2009

rib dinner will be Jan. 27, 2009. Even if you signed up for the first dinner I need you to call or email. Please make sure you call me. Also I will be asking for your preference for your meat. No guarantees at the dinner time-rare, medium or done.

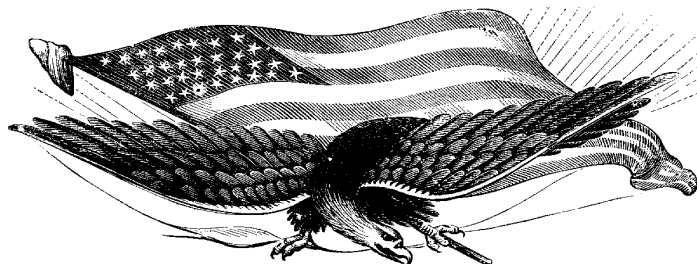
Looking back this past year we have come a long way. In Feb. we got the keys to the building. The remodeling was started. A very short time later in May we had our first breakfast in our "new home". The rest is history. Our latest addition due to the generosity of Patrick & Donna Nowlin we now

own the parking lot that butted up to our parking lot. WE ARE STILL DEBT FREE!!

Through donations for our troops we packed up 14 boxes to send to our active men and women. Thank you to all who made a contribution.

Commander Bill

Bar Banter:



Hello fellow Legionnaires. Just an update on our bar operations since we established regular hours. We have been doing really well. Our hours are, open at 3:00pm on Thursday and Friday, and at 12:00 noon on Saturday and Sunday. We stay open until the last customer leaves which can vary from 7:00 pm till 10:00 pm.

We are still in need of more volunteer bartenders. It is a lot of fun and the tips are not too bad either. See Bill, Archie or Joe about getting your certification online. We will pay for your certification and your license fees. If we can get some more bartenders we may consider opening on Wednesday after-

noon also. The hours for bartenders are 3:00 till closing on Thurs. and Friday and noon till 5:00 and 5:00 till closing on Sat. and Sunday.(Two shifts)

We would also like to see more support from our membership. Come on down and enjoy our wonderful facilities. We have snacks available and three TV's for your viewing enjoyment. It is a good time to get better acquainted with your fellow members, and to support your post.



Auxiliar

Happy New Year fellow ALA Unit 59 Members! As I look back on the past year, and into the New Year, I see there have been many changes, and maybe a few yet to come. We are a service organization, providing service to our Veterans, their families, and our Community. But I feel there is an important group that has been neglected: other service organizations. I feel we should make ourselves (American Legion Auxiliary Unit 59) available to assist other groups when needed, especially our comrades and fellow Veterans organization and their Auxiliary. Last November the AL and ALA jointly hosted a community "G I Party" with the VFW and the VFW Auxiliary that was very successful. It would be wonderful if more such projects could be considered, after all both groups are *Service Organizations* and not secretive sorority type groups. If anyone has ideas for such projects, *please* come to a meeting, and bring your idea up for discussion.

Our building has been open and operating since the middle of May. If you haven't seen it by now, ***please, please***, stop by 803 N. Page St. (in Stoughton, of course) and check out our new home, complete with commercial kitchen, bar, and a wonderfully large dining area! Breakfasts are every 3rd Sunday 7am to Noon, and don't forget the monthly Post dinner which is the 4th Tuesday of the Month. **Yes, women are welcome to attend the Post Dinner; the women that do attend would welcome new faces!**

In the December Unit mailing there was a letter from the wife of an Active Duty Service Member. Since there isn't a regular January meeting, I'd like to share it with you now.

"My name is Christina Roloson, and I am a USMC wife. I am married to Staff Sgt Aarond Roloson, USMC and a mother of 4 kids. We have been a military family for almost 11 years. We were stationed in Okinawa 2002-2005 with our 3 children, ages (at that time) 5, 3 and 1. My husband went straight to Kandahar, Afghanistan a mere 2 weeks after

we arrived on Okinawa. That first paycheck after he was gone was \$79. The unit's Administration had made a terrible error. It was just the kind of kindness and consideration shown by your organization and it's members that kept our spirits up. During this time in Okinawa, we were the recipients of the coupons clipped by so many wonderful, generous Americans. During one grocery trip, I actually saved \$70 in coupons! On average I probably saved \$40 or so. I cannot overstate the benefit to our family of receiving these coupons!

It is our greatest desire to 'pay forward' all of the generosity and kindness shown to us throughout our military experience. It is no small deed for someone to sit and clip coupons. It is deeply appreciated by many of us who have lived overseas, and it is one of the first things mentioned from one spouse to another newly arrived spouse. To me, these are Americans that have the true spirit of giving because many of them are elderly, and aren't able to do many things they once could, but they give of themselves where they can. This is America's 'Greatest Generation'! I say this because of the most amazing people we have met because of our military life, and I cherish all of them--including all of the many wonderful behind-the-scenes people like your members. Thinking about my generation in the military community--that is a humbling thought. I wish I could use more than words to thank these amazing Americans for everything they have done for our country, the military community, and my own family.

I am thrilled to see that you can help me at least to thank them! I have gone for most of my adult life wondering how to thank Americans who have made sacrifices, and I finally came to the decision just to do it where and when I can in my own simple way, and this is just a small token of that thanks. I have no idea how to get my thanks and apprecia-

tion out, but I wish there was a way to thank as many of these fine Americans as I can. I am a testimony to the fact that the coupons do make a difference. I cannot overstate the benefit to our family of receiving these coupons! I would love to share this thanks with as many people as possible, so please feel free to pass this thanks on.

Sincerely, Christina Roloson
USMC wife"

This letter touched my heart and reinforced how important a simple as clipping coupons can be and what huge impact it can make, especially with the way the economy is shifting right now! So, how about clipping a few coupons, and bringing them into the Post? It may make a difference to those protecting our country! Just leave clipped (manufacture only) coupons, no more than 3 months past expiration date on the table in the Auxiliary room. Lorraine Thompson, our Chaplain will see to it that they are mailed to an appropriate Commissary.

Have you ever wondered where all the donations go that are collected when Poppies are distributed? Glad you asked! First, the cost of the Poppies is deducted and returned to the General Fund. Then, the monies are distributed to programs that will benefit Veterans. These funds must be distributed before the end of the calendar year. In 2008 ALA Unit 59 distributed their Poppy Fund as follows:

- \$200.00 Veteran's Creative Arts Festival
- \$200.00 Wis Rehab Emergency Fund
- \$200.00 Christmas Gift Shop
- \$100.00 Camp American Legion – for wish list items
- \$200.00 National President's Project – Educating children of Warriors
- \$200.00 Madison VA Hospital for Comfort Items
- \$50.00 Women's Veterans Conference

January 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 <i>Fish Fry at Wau- nakee 5-8</i>	10 <i>Breakfast Post 501 7-11</i>
11	12 <i>Post Meeting at 7PM</i>	13	14	15	16 <i>Fish Fry at Post 481</i>	17
18 <i>Post Meeting at 7PM</i>	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 <i>Post dinner 7 PM</i>	28	29	30	31

February 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>4 Chaplains Sunday 1:30 Marshall</i>	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 <i>Post Meeting at 7PM</i>	10	11	12	13 <i>Fish Fry at Waunakee 5-8</i>	14 <i>Breakfast Post 501 7-11</i>
15 <i>Post Meeting at 7PM</i>	16	17	18	19	20 <i>Fish Fry at Post 481</i>	21
22	23	24 <i>Post dinner 7 PM</i>	25	26	27	28

LEGION HALL AVAILABLE FOR RENTALS

Are you having a birthday, wedding or anniversary soon? Do you have a family reunion or class reunion coming up? Or do you just want to have a private party. The Legion Hall is now for rent.

Contact Linda Swangstu

At 873-9429

Congratulations to all of you. For the 6th consecutive year we have achieved an all-time high in membership. As of January 6th we are at 307 members. This is 105% of our goal of 293. For the year we have signed up 23 new members. Many thanks to the Legion Riders for their participation.

If you haven't already paid your 2009 dues, please do it as soon as possible. If you have a question as to whether you have paid your dues, the expiration date is on the mailing

label of your newsletter. PUFL members do not have an expiration date printed on label

If you haven't paid your dues by January 1st you are considered delinquent, which means your free accident insurance is not active.

Just because we have reached our 100% it is not a reason to stop recruiting. We have a very active post and wonderful facilities.

Let's keep up the good work.
Archie Christensen- Membership Chairman

CHAPLAINS CORNER

Christmas has been unwrapped, its glittering mystery revealed to an expectant world, and we, the children of God have stood around the manger, our eyes wide in awe and wonder. God our Father has held out to us the gift of life, the gift of love. But now the adoring shepherds have returned to their flocks. The angels too have gone, their glorious song has faded, and we are left alone with the Christ child. We now have work to do, we who are mothers and fathers, yet also brothers and sisters, children and heirs to this newborn and tender joy, this fragile peace. We would cling to Jesus, hold him within us. In his name we would show gentleness, patience, and kindness to him who has shown them to us. We give him our very selves that nothing may come between us and our Lord. Take him and nurture him, this precious Christ child that God has given for us. Unless you take the gift and accept the commission, you cannot be called a child of God. Let us keep in mind all those that are sick, or in need. May we never forget those who have served our country, and especially those serving at this time.

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

Aux from pg 2

\$ 75.00 (\$125.00 from General Fund)
Quilting By The River Friends (for supplies for quilts made for patient at Madison VA Hospital)

\$25.00 Mazomanie Quilts (for the cabin they sponsor at Camp American Legion)

Your time, effort, and donations DO make a difference in MANY lives and ways. Thank you!

Notes of special interest and Reminders


Jan. 18th Band Breakfast; sponsored by the AL

27th Legion Dinner (postponed from December, by reservation)

Women have been asked to Please

bring 2-dozen cookies or bars
29th Dane Co. Meeting 7:30 P.M.
(Thursday) @ Mazomanie Post/ Unit # 423

Feb. 1st Four Chaplin's Sunday
1:30 P.M. @ Marshall Post 279
9th Auxiliary Meeting 7:00 P.M. 803
N. Page St. in Auxiliary Room

14th Valentines Day 
15th AUXILIARY BREAKFAST
(SUNDAY)

24th Legion Dinner (Tuesday) Remember, Ladies, we are welcome also!

26th Dane Co. Meeting 7:30P.M.
(Thursday) @ Marshal Post/Unit # 279

God Bless America, and all who watch over her!
President Ellen

Fundraiser for the Fallen Warrior Project

Spaghetti Dinner, Silent Auction, and DJ (Birdtrax) event planned (UW Badger Football Players have been invited to sign autographs)

Super Bowl Saturday, January 31, 2009 starting at 4 pm to ??? Autographs will begin at 4 (if the players are able to attend), Spaghetti will be served from 5-7 pm, Auction from 4-9 pm, DJ 7-?

VFW 1318 on Lakeside Street, Madison (off of John Nolen Drive)

The Fallen Warrior Memorial is a bronze sculpture representing the symbol of the rifle, helmet, and boots. This sculpture is presented during a private ceremony, to all the families of Wisconsin servicemen and women who have been killed in the war on terror. The League has only been able to present about 1/3 of these memorials leaving around 65 yet to present. Our goal is to present one to each family who has not received the Warrior while keeping current on presenting the current need. These memorials each cost just over \$200. Flowers and memories can fade and die, but the memorial lasts forever. The families who have received the memorial were overwhelmed with joy in their greatest time of sadness.

The Marine Corps League are current and former United States Marines who's missions are to support the United States Marine Corps and to support Troops of all branches in times of need. You may have heard of the Marine Corps League because of some of the things they do in Wisconsin communities. They assist in the annual Toy's for Tots toy collection and distribution, they march in parades and perform in color guards, and most importantly, they fundraise and present the FALLEN WARRIOR MEMORIAL to families of our military warriors, in all branches, who give the ultimate sacrifice in the War on Terror—their lives.

With the more than 3,500 National Guard members heading to the Middle-east, it is imperative that we be prepared for the worst, that some may not come home.

How can YOU help? Come eat, listen to good music, and bid on some great prizes. If you have items you wish to donate for the auction, please contact Mary ASAP to have the item added to our advertising.

Some auction items: Signed Green Bay Packer Football from 2007-08 team (Including Brett Favre), Signed Baseball (Jeff Suppan) and two Milwaukee Brewer club level tickets, US Flag flown over the Wisconsin Capitol November 10, 2008, Purse and Wallet made in Iraq, Stacking Dolls from Russia, American Girl Doll, Baby Quilt and accessories, Crochet American Flag, Capitol City Harley Davidson Blanket, Women's Leather Briefcase, a memorabilia section, and much, much more!

Please help us with this great project that allows us to give a little peace to the families who lose a loved one in the War on Terror.

Hope to see you there!

Semper Fidelis (Always Faithful).

Mary Lloyd, Four Lakes Detachment

Marine Corps League, Madison

1611 Moline Street

Stoughton, WI 53589

608-873-5926 (h) or 608-712-5450 (c)

Lloyd2364@sbcglobal.net





FUNDRAISER FALLEN WARRIOR



SPAGHETTI DINNER SILENT AUCTION DJ (BIRDTRAX)

VFW 1318-Lakeside St
Madison

Super Bowl Sat. JAN 31

4-7 pm—Autographs by
UW

Football Players
(invited)

4-9 pm—Silent Auction

5-7 pm—Spaghetti Dinner

7-?—DJ (Birdtrax)

Auction Items:

- Signed Green Bay Packer Football (2007-08 team including Brett Favre)
- Signed Baseball (Jeff Suppan) and two Milwaukee Brewer club level tickets
- US Flag flown over the WI Capitol Nov. 10, 2008
- Purse and Wallet made in Iraq
- Stacking Dolls from Russia
- American Girl Doll, Baby Quilt and accessories,
- Crochet American Flag



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