September 2019 Newsletter

Hello to our American Legion Family and Friends;

**NOTICE: All items for the newsletter must be in the Post 59 email inbox by the 25 of each month so we can combine and get the same information to all departments and families.**

**NOTICE: New email for our office is** [**sclegionpost59@gmail.com**](mailto:sclegionpost59@gmail.com) **effective immediately.**

**MEMBERS**

ALL **LEGION MEMBERS** WITH PAID UP DUES please attend our regular Legion meeting on the 1st Thursday of each month @ 7pm.

**Legion Riders-**usually meet @6:30 pm the 2nd Thursday @ the Legion unless notified otherwise.

**Legion Auxiliary-**usually meets on the 3rd Tuesday @6:30 pm.

**Sons of the Legion-usually meet** the 3rd Monday of the month @7 pm.

Next meeting will be September 16th(please all members and those wanting to belong attend, some serious decisions must be made this night).

**Legion**

Those of you receiving the Iowa Legionnaire please note the September 2019 issue, especially the article about the donations and grants of the Department of Iowa. They have a grand total of $102,650 for last fiscal year, our Post 59 answers the call for anything in our community asking, especially RS Schools and 2-$1,000 scholarships each year. Our grand totals vary from $3,000 to $4,000 each year. We fund these donations with our feeds and special events, please attend these fund raisers that support our communities.

On September 15 from 11:30am to 2:00pm @ the Post the 40&8 Story County Voiture 285 is hosting its annual Sweet Corn & Bologna with fresh cut tomatoes & cole slaw. This is a free will donation with all proceeds going to the Story County Voiture 285 Nursing Scholarship Fund. (see attached flyer)

On September 28th from 5:30 – 7:30 Spaghetti fundraiser for the Story City carousel will be at the Senior Center. All help appreciated,

There are a few bricks available to purchase for our Veterans Memorial @ the Story City Cemetery for $100. Each brick is engraved with the service person name and rank along with the branch of service and the dates of service. A great gift for your veteran! Get an application @ the post club.

Please let us know of any Active Duty personnel from Story City now on duty, we will take care of their dues as long as they are on active duty. We also want to honor them for their continued service.

Buddy Check is a new National program. If you haven’t seen a member for a while, call them and check if they are OK. The same applies for members that have let their dues lapse; we need them back in the family so give them a call and tell them they are missed.

Dues notices have been mailed for next year 2020. Please remit in the provided envelope so that we can process them in a timely manner. We still have a few that have not paid their dues for 2019, if you want to have a continuous record of attendance please pay the back dues. Thanks. You can also renew online @ [www.legion.org/renew](http://www.legion.org/renew) with a credit card, a new membership card will be sent to you as soon as we receive notification of paid dues.

As most of you know we lost a great friend and long time Legion & SAL member Curt Owenson. He was thought of as Mr. Volunteer because he was always there preparing, serving, greeting friends and keeping people laughing with his sense of humor. For years he rarely missed a chance to be involved in all areas of the Family of the Legion. He Will be Missed, Thank You Curt for your service, dedication and friendship to us all. RIP Curt until we meet again.

**Legion Act is in effect NOW**

This legislation recognizes that more than 1,600 Americans have been killed or injured in the military during periods that are currently not considered wartime. It fills in the gaps of war eras and redefines dates. Beginning with the bombing of Pearl Harbor and continuing until it is determined the United States is no longer in a state of war. The gaps in the war were largely during the Cold War, a time when threats to U.S. national security were real, especially to the men and women serving in uniform.

American Legion National Commander Brett Reistad said “The American Legion appreciates the support our representatives have shown the veterans who were previously caught in the gaps.” “This also underscores the passion American Legion Family members have for our nation’s veterans. Their grass-roots advocacy for this bill has been inspiring.” “As we celebrate our centennial anniversary, we hold to the same truths that our founders appropriately crafted a century ago. Among those: **a veteran is a veteran**. It does not matter whether a veteran fought enemies on foreign soil, protected our interests in an ocean far away or secured our national defense here at home. Their service is what matters most. Now, thanks to this legislation, all veterans will be properly remembered for their service.”

This legislation is the first step to getting those periods declared wartime for benefits.

If a person has served in the military, no matter what branch, and was discharged under HONORABLE conditions, they may join our post. I would love to see our membership double or more with this new influx of eligible members. Last year paid members for Post 59 was 108, the first year we did not have a loss but had a gain of 1 for a long time!

This new eligibility includes the Auxiliary and SAL with relatives serving and meeting the new criteria would be able to join the Legion family.

**President Trump Signs Executive Order Cancelling Student Loan Debt for Disabled Veterans**

President Trump signed an executive order that forgives all student loan debt for any permanently disabled U.S. military veterans. The order, also clears those eligible veterans from having to pay any federal income tax on the loans. Trump added that he is pressuring individual states to follow suit. “The debt of these disabled veterans will be completely erased,” Trump said. “That’s hundreds of millions of dollars of student loans debt for our disabled veterans that will be completely erased.” The memo Trump signed directs the government to develop an "expedited" process so veterans can have their federal student loan debt discharged "with minimal burdens." Currently, just half of the roughly 50,000 disabled veterans who are qualified to have their federal student loan debt forgiven have received the benefit because of a burdensome application process. Under the current process, disabled veterans can have their debt forgiven under a loan forgiveness program, called Total and Permanent Disability Discharge, or TPD, as long as they have a VA service-connected disability rating of 100 percent. As of July, however, only about 20 percent of the eligible pool of veterans had taken advantage of the program due to the complicated nature of the application and other factors.

**Club Happenings**

**Auxiliary**

**Legion Riders**

**Sons of the American Legion**

Terry Greenfield, Post 59 Commander

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