



*American Legion Post 388  
607 Westridge Dr  
O'Fallon, MO 63366*



Commander John Hodge

Adjutant Barry Hardin

Phone: (636) 294-5890  
Email: [alpst388@gmail.com](mailto:alpst388@gmail.com)

**April, 2025**

Web Site: <https://alpost388mo.org/>  
Facebook: American Legion Post 388

**All meetings are held at our Post Home, 607 Westridge Drive, O'Fallon, MO 63366**

**Next Membership Meeting  
April 27th, 6 pm**

**Next Executive Meeting  
April 23rd, 6 pm**

**9th District Meetings  
June 1st, 2025**

**Post 312, St Charles, MO  
Registration at 9 am meeting at 9:30**

**Vietnam War Remembrance Day Ceremony  
March 29, 2025 11AM  
Municipal Center (City Hall)  
100 N. Main Street, O'Fallon, MO 63366**

**Veterans Resource Fair  
April 12, 2025 10AM-2PM  
O'Fallon Elks Lodge  
1163 Tom Ginnever Ave, O'Fallon MO 63366  
(Bring DD214 if available)**

**Post Storage Update**

Our storage shed was damaged by the hail last year. We expect the replacement to be completed by the end of April. After replacement we will need some help sorting and moving items that will go in the new shed. If you would like to help contact John Hodge or Bernie Groharing

**Hall Rental**

If you are interested in renting the Post Hall for an event or know of someone looking for a small venue please contact Bernie Groharing (Building Committee Chair).

**Post JAG**

We currently have an opening for the Post JAG. If you are interested please contact John Hodge.

**Membership**

Written by Post Commander Hodge

We currently have a membership problem. There is currently no program to encourage renewals, recruit new members or invite a current member who recently moved into the area to join our merry Post.

The Post Commander has gathered a few volunteers to form a Membership Team for the purpose of setting up and the initial implementation of a membership program.

HOWEVER this will take some effort from everyone in the post. Many hands make light work. If you are called or asked to help, know that it will be appreciated.

**Training**

If you are looking for some Legion training, I recommend going to [Legion.org](http://Legion.org), select Information Center, select Training and sign up for the Basic Training. This training is free and will give you a great foundation of The American Legion's history, purpose and how you might wish to patriate.

**Honor Guard**

Our Honor Guard has continued to keep busy but our numbers are dwindling. Each funeral is considered a "mission". If you are called to serve on a mission you always have the option to decline. This happens for a number of reasons such as a doctor's appointment, vacation, etc. If you would like to honor those who have served, in a unique way, consider joining this team. You will be provided the necessary training. If you would like to volunteer or have questions contact any Executive Committee member or any Honor Guard member.

---

## COMMANDERS' COMMENTARY

---

This month we start our membership program push. First we are developing a program and not doing a campaign. A campaign has a beginning and an end. A program starts and should be self-perpetuating.

The American Legion is a service organization for veterans, the community and the country. There are several programs Post 388 has done in the past however we have come to a point where we are only providing one service.

To be a healthy service organization it takes people. While we have 221 people on the rolls of our Post, currently less than 15 are active members. Of the 221 members we have birthdates for 182 of which 34 are less than 70, 60 are in their 70's, 58 are in their 80's and 30 are over 90.

There are a couple of ways to become a healthy Post. One is for a larger percentage of people from the existing pool to become active. Two we increase our membership. I believe it will take both of these to become a healthy Post.

What do I mean by a healthy Post? A Post that is vibrant and alive. One that has opportunities for all to participate in helping our fellow veterans, our community and our nation. We do not have to participate in every American Legion Program, however there are many we could and have in the past. Examples, 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, Poppy Days, Boy's and Girl's State to name a few. We have participated in these since I have been a member. However an increase in the average age resulting in declining activity and membership has resulted in a Post that is struggling.

What is the plan? With the current participation levels the following two items are about all we can support.

1. Keep current programs going.
2. Work to add new membership to increase both our numbers and our percentage of participants.

The membership program will be putting out information in the next few weeks. We are planning to provide some visibility, training, and excitement to bring in new members and help existing members to find ways to participate. The membership team will need help. If you can make a few phone calls or be willing to help in other ways let us know. If you are called to help, please consider doing so.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or would like to help please contact the Post at [alpst388@gmail.com](mailto:alpst388@gmail.com) or (636) 294-5890.