

**American Legion Post 388 Inc.  
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### **July 2019 News Letter**

As another American Legion year comes to an end, I want to thank each and every member of Post 388 for their continued support in ensuring our post remains a vibrant part of the community. In the next year your leadership team will be working on the following items to strengthen Post 388.

- 1) Membership retention and recruitment
- 2) Community involvement
- 3) Reaching out to the confined, convalescing and ill veterans of the community
- 4) Strengthen our commitment to the 4 Pillars of the American Legion
- 5) Post Home Improvements

I will be sending out messages throughout the year updating our members on the status of these items and any assistance you may be willing to offer is always appreciated. Thank you and I look forward to seeing you at our next membership meeting

Brett Bemis; Commander American Legion Post 388 Inc.

July is almost upon us and time for another news letter. I will attempt to bring everyone up to date as to what has transpired in the past three months with our Post and the Post home.

"Our SAL" " Sons American Legion" charter was received and Scott Setzer has agreed to be the Commander. The first meeting was held in the second week of June. We are actively seeking new members. If you have a son or grandson that is interested, please have them reach out to us. You can find more information on the Post 388 web site at [alpost388mo.org](http://alpost388mo.org), or go to face book" FB @ofallonmosal388. There is a letter on the web page from Scott with a form to be filled out if you are interested. This organization can be very helpful to our Post.

Honor Guard: The honor guard meeting is held on the second Monday of the month and starts at 7 pm. At the April meeting, a new roster was given the membership. We are down to three teams because of the dwindling health of the membership. Each team now goes to Jefferson Barracks every third week to honor the deceased Veterans. At this meeting we also discussed the Memorial Day Services to be held at Assumption and Mount Zion Cemeteries and the ceremony at the Walk. The 4th of July parade permit will be handled by our Commander Brett Bemis and Don Smith will be driving his antique Chevrolet and will be transporting our Gold Star Mother, Cindy Blakely. At the May meeting, captain of the Honor Guard team, John Brumley announced the names of the team members for the Lift Disability ceremony. They were Ted Richardson, Oliver McGuire, John Brumley, and Roger Hadley. Final preparations were made for the Memorial Day ceremony at the Walk. Don Smith attended the National Guard dinner at Jefferson Barracks and passed on the changes that the Nation Guard wanted to implement for the funeral services. At the June meeting, a report was given by the Commander on the Memorial Day Services. Everything went well at the cemeteries with one exception. Robert Lord, a member of the team became dehydrated and the ambulance was called to Mount Zion cemetery and he was Transported to St. Joe's in Lake St Louis. All is well! The 11 am ceremony at the Walk Memorial was once again led by Post 388. Other service organizations such as the VFW, Amvets, Marine Core League, Vietnam Vets were also included in the service. Fort Zumwalt North volunteered their Jazz Band for the music From the Master of Ceremonies, the Officer of the Day, the Marching Troops, the Key Note Speaker, the Color Bearers the Firing Squad, the playing of Taps, left us all with a good feeling. The city of O'fallon gave Post 388 high marks for their handling of the Memorial Day services at the Walk.

Building Committee: The first meeting was held in April of this year. The building committee meets immediately after the Honorguard meeting. This is a new committee and the members are; Bernard Groharing, Ralph Pieper, Roger Hadley, Ted Richardson, Jim Griesenauer and the Commander Brett Bemis. The duties of each member were discussed along with the condition of the building. Several shrubs in the front of the building were replaced and the roof needs

attention. At the May meeting, WiFi was brought up and it was decided that the cost does not justify having it at this time. Roger Hadley asked to be relieved of this committee and the Commander will replace him in the near future. At the June meeting, Robert Weidner was chosen to replace Roger Hadley on the committee and he accepted. There were three estimates given to repair the roof on the main building and it was also reported that two leaks were discovered on the overhang. The roof on the storage shed has also been repaired.

Executive Committee; The Executive Committee meets on the Wednesday before the 4th Monday of the month. It is always on the Wednesday before our regular meeting and starts at 6:30 pm. These meetings are open to everyone that wants to attend. Only the Executive Committee members have voting rights. There are eight members on this committee, five officers and three members that were voted in by membership. One of the three is replaced every year. All matters pertaining to the Post are discussed at these meetings and then presented to the membership for approval, or to be not approved.

Boys State/Girls State; In 2019, Post 388 had solicited enough funds to send six girls and one boy to Warrensburg Missouri for Boys State/Girls State. Not our best year, but it is a number to be proud of. Thanks to all that help support these young men and women. They could be our future leaders.

Poppy Days; Our collections were good this year, but could have been a lot better if we had more members helping distribute Poppies. The money donated goes only to veterans in need and their families. We receive calls for help all the time. Recently a call came in on the post phone and the veteran stated that nobody wants to help him. He made several calls in a very short period of time. Our Adjutant tried to explain to him that it does take time to look into the legitimacy of his request. After a short conversation, our Adjutant asked the veteran if he wanted the phone number of the crises hot line. The veteran stated "anyone that can help me". We later received a call from the crises hot line that the veteran did call and will be receiving help. They said he has PTSD and could very well be suicidal. Hopefully a life was saved.

AL Riders; If you are interested in riding your bike for a cause, the post is trying to reform this group and resubmit their application for a new charter. At one time, Post388 held the first charter in the State of Missouri. Call Adjutant Oliver McGuire at 636-219-0553 for more information.

Officers; These officers will be voted on at the June meeting; Commander *Brett Bemis* 636-474-9256, First Vice Commander *Joe Belifore* 314-420-8463, Second Vice Commander *Barry Hardin* 314-565-9118, Adjutant *Oliver McGuire* 636-240-2975, Chaplin *Robert Lord* 636-699-7926, Sgt-at-Arms *Phil Conrad* 636-474-6008, Historian *Ralph Pieper*, Financial Secretary *Roger Hadley*, Judge Advocate *Ted Richardson* 636-544-2171, Service Officer *Jim David* 314-750-3002, Three year term on the Executive Committee *Kelly LaCombe*. All members nominated were voted in for the year 2020 which begins July 1st. with the exception of Roger Hadley, because of health reasons, withdrew his name. These members will take office after the swearing in at the July dinner meeting.

The July meeting is our dinner meeting and the doors will open at 5 pm. Fried chicken will be the main dish. All last names that begin with A to O bring a covered dish. All others bring a desert. Dinner is at 6 and meeting follows. If you have not attended one of these dinners before, but wish to attend, give the Adjutant a call at 636-219-0553 and that helps us plan the food. Hope to see you at 607 Westridge Dr. on July 22nd. Doors open at 5pm. Dinner at 6 and meeting at 7.

Food and drinks are served at our regular meetings, Doors open at 6 with a light lunch and the meeting starts at 7. Cards are played on Wednesday from 1 pm to 3 pm. All are welcome. Come check it out.

One of the duties of First Vice Commander is to take care of the membership. First Vice Commander Joe Belifore passed this information to me and asked me to inform the 36 members that have not paid their dues for the past two years, that come July, they will automatically be removed from the roster by National Headquarters. If there is a financial reason for this, give the First Vice Commander a call at 314-420-8463. He will bring it to the attention of the Executive Board and help might be available.

If you have not received a e-mail from the post in the past six months, it is probably because we do not have your current e-mail address. The Adjutant request that you send a e-mail to "alpst388@gmail.com", and he will bring his books up to date. He suggest you mark your calendar for the 4th Monday of the month as the day for the legion meeting. Doors open at 6 pm for a social hour with a light lunch. Meeting starts at 7pm and we lock the hall when the last member leaves.

As you drive down Main Street in O'Fallon, have you noticed the 39 American Flags mounted on the light poles. We are all proud of our Colors and you can be extra proud because those flags were donated to the city by American Legion Post 388. We have a lot to be proud of.

Our hall is for rent. It is not a large hall, but we can handle 60 people and still be comfortable. For a non member, the cost is \$200 plus \$50 deposit. The deposit is returned if the property is left in the same condition as it was when rented. For a member that has their dues paid up to date, the cost is \$75 plus \$50 deposit. The return policy on the deposit is the same. You as a member, can rent this home for yourself, or any family member you choose to do so as long as you sign the agreement. If there are questions, contact Jim Griesenauer at 636-688-9052. If you wish to see the facilities, call the same number.

The post is looking for a member with some financial experience to take over the position of Finance Officer left vacant by the resignation of Roger Hadley due to his health. If you feel that you could fill this position, give the Commander, Brett Bemis, a call at 636-474-9256.

Our web site is up to date and running well. This letter, along with tons of information for the veterans can be found at "[www.alpost388mo.org](http://www.alpost388mo.org)".

CHAPLINS CORNER ; Two words we should embrace in American Legion are **Duty** and **Honor**. Tom Cotton a senator from Arkansas stated, "One of the most meaningful things I've done is serving in the military". Senator Cotton has written a book "Sacred Duty" in which he describes his time in the "Old Guard". Created in 1784, The Old Guard is the oldest regiment in the army and has been the army's official ceremonial unit since 1948. The regiment sometimes performs more than 20 funerals per day. Senator Cotton said "I think it's important to remember Patton's old line that we shouldn't just mourn the fact that these men and women died, We should celebrate the fact that they lived and the kind of life they lived of service and sacrifice," We in Post 388 perform many funerals at Jefferson Barracks and surrounding cemeteries. It is our **DUTY** to perform these ceremonies in the highest degree of professionalism to **HONOR** the deceased and their families. God and country should be an important part of our lives. We in Post 388 have a reputation for our professionalism and we will continue in our duties.

**Special Notice;** At our **next** meeting, we will be voting on a minor change to our by-laws.

On the lighter side:

A young man was in the back yard talking to his dad. Dad, he said! What is it like to be the dad of an intelligent, good looking young man like me? The dad hesitated for a moment and then gave this reply. I don't know son, why don't you go ask your grandpa.

We hope your 4th of July holiday was a good one. Remember the guys and gals serving our country and we thank them for taking over where we left off.

God Bless America