

Save these dates and call the post phone if you are able to help us. Poppies will be distributed at Shop & Save on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup>. We have two doors at Wal-Mart on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and the 27<sup>th</sup>.

It was not a Happy Holiday Season for two veterans from the O'Fallon area. Just days before Christmas, Montana Stevenson and his family lost their home in Moscow Mills due to a fire. Montana is employed by the O'Fallon Police Department.

Just a few days after Christmas Sean Bernhoster and his family lost their home from fire just three blocks from the Post Home on Westridge Dr.. They escaped the fire with just the clothes on their backs. They also lost their pet in the fire. Sean's wife was a decorated veteran with many commendations. Sean lost his wife in a tragic way this past July. Sean has four children ages two, four, ten, and twelve years old. In his grief, he had failed to remove her name from the title on the house. This left the insurance company holding back any funds that he had coming until the deductible had been paid on the policy. Post 388 purchased a \$250 gift card from Wal-Mart and were in the process of seeing how we could help him with the deductible payment when the insurance company finally agreed to pay Sean what he had coming. The Post had also volunteered to pay his utilities which were now past due.

At the membership meeting on January 22<sup>nd</sup> we had two guests, Scott Sitzler and Jeff White. These two men were members of the Sons of the American Legion, Warrenton Post until that post ceased to operate in 2017. They had asked to join our program which we did not have. They were informed by the Adjutant and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander that we would support them 100% if they could come up with ten members as that is the number needed to get a charter from State. We are getting close to that number and hopefully in March or April we can proceed with the process of accruing a charter. If you have a family member that might be interested please let the post know. They just have to be the son, or grandson of a veteran. That veteran does not have to belong to the American Legion.

That brings us to the Ladies Auxiliary. Any lady that has a brother, a father, mother, a sister, a grandfather or in some way can connect themselves with a veteran is eligible to join the Ladies Auxiliary. Your contact would be Donna Hadley at (636) 379-1615.

Five years past, in 2013 we purchased our Post Home at 607 Westridge Dr. The purchase price was \$120,000. Before that time, and since that time the Honor Guard has been working hard to pay off that debt. We are now down to just under \$38,000 and have a year's payment in escrow. This building will seat 65 people and is handicap excess able. You as a member of Post 388 can reserve this building for \$75 with a deposit fee of \$50. The \$50 is returned if the hall is left in the same state as it was reserved. You can reserve it for any member of your family, including your grandson or granddaughter. You would need to sign for it and it would be your responsibility.

If you are not receiving e-mails from the Post Adjutant, that means that we either do not have your address, or we have the wrong address. Please notify the Adjutant.

At the dinner meeting in November, we honored Detective Scott Pierce as law enforcement officer of the year and Tom Vogelgesang as fireman of the year.

From the desk of 1<sup>st</sup>. Vice Commander Oliver McGuire

I would like to start by informing our members of our current problems at our Post. Our Honor Guard has been the main resource for income for our Post. The problem is that we have been losing members due to sickness or they can no longer perform the duties of the Honor Guard. We had four full teams to spread out the requirements needed. We are now down to two full teams putting the Honor Guard duties on just a few members. Our Post needs more members to join the Honor Guard. If we don't increase the number of Honor Guards we will not be able to perform services at Jefferson Barracks or at local funeral homes at our current commitment for our Fallen Veterans.

This will reduce our income to the Post, and make it harder for paying the debt on our home. The amount of commitment is at your discretions. If only 1 or 2 days a week or whatever works for you, give our Post Commander a call and sign up. Next I would like to talk about a new program for our Post. Due to the closing of the American Legion Post in Warrenton Mo. and Lake St. Louis, we have been contacted by one Member of the Sons Of Legionnaire who wanted to transfer to our Sons of Legionnaire program. In order to get a Charter we need to have 10 members. I'm asking every member to ask their sons if they would like to join. We have nearly 400 members in our Post, I'm sure we can get a few dozen sons to join. For information please call 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Oliver McGuire at 636-248-4882. This is a great program for our sons and our Post.

Next I would like to talk about membership. We are in February of 2018 and we still have members that have not paid their dues for 2018. If you received this letter please respond as soon as you can. If for some reason you just can't pay the dues, call the post and we will see how the post might be able to help.

I have been a member of ALP 388 for several years now. I have heard several times that we need to have a post picnic. But it has never happened, so I'm reaching out to all members for their input. We need a person to chair the project, and members for support. If anyone has thoughts on how, where or when or wants to chair this post picnic project please email the post with your concerns. I'm not just reaching out to our Veteran Members but also their spouse. All help is needed. It would be great to meet all members of Post 388 and their family. Let's try and make this happen this summer.

Oliver McGuire 1st Vice Commander  
American Legion Post 388

March 26<sup>th</sup> will be our dinner meeting. Those

whose last name begins with A to J please bring the desert. The remaining names please bring a covered dish. The Post will furnish the meat.

Our SAL program has a face book address. "It is Sons of the American Legion Squadron 388@ofallonmosal388". There email address is [ofallonmosal388@yahoo.com](mailto:ofallonmosal388@yahoo.com)'

On a lighter note, an elderly couple had just left a restaurant and returned to the interstate when the wife realized that she had left her glasses at the restaurant. She mentioned this to her husband and he became a little agitated... The further he had to drive to find a turnaround spot the more agitated he became. They finally turned around and headed back to the restaurant with him getting louder and complaining the whole time. When he reached the restaurant he said to her; Please go get your glasses and while you're in there, get my hat and credit card.

A trivia question;

Who is the oldest member of AL Post 388?

Elaine Ooley is a paid up for life member of our post. She just celebrated her 104<sup>th</sup> B-day. She is a A/Force veteran from WWII and lives in assisted living off of Hwy 94 and O'Fallon road. Yes she uses a walker. Maybe because she had either hip or knee surgery last year!

Adjutant AL Post 388  
Jim Griesenauer