



**American Legion Post 388
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March 2020 News Letter

From The Commanders Desk,

Welcome 2020 and the fresh view of a new year

This year your post will be faced with new challenges.

First, in July we will need a new Commander, Adjutant and Vice Commander. The commander position is a term limited position and that term expires on June 30th, your adjutant and vice commander both desire to step aside for personal reasons and both deserve our gratitude for their efforts at the post. We will need individuals to step up and be willing to serve in these positions so at the May membership meeting we will nominate our new officers and the June membership meeting we will vote for our new officers. I encourage you to take this time to reflect on how you, as members, would like to see this post grow and share that vision with fellow members.

Second, the upcoming March meeting to be held March 23rd is a vitally important meeting to attend. There will be a full membership vote on two items. The first being a dues increase to \$40 per year and the second being to borrow from the building, poppy and honor guard accounts to pay off the mortgage. This will be a private vote and done by ballot box just like an election with anonymity guaranteed.

At the March meeting the floor will be open to full discussion before the vote is taken and all views will be heard, all voices heard and disagreements handled with no arguing or voices raised.

Finally I want to mention that beginning in the very near future your post will have a monthly open house on either a Saturday or Sunday from 12-5 and I encourage all to attend and it is open to the public. There will be more details to follow.

Thank each of you for your continued membership.

Brett Bemis
Commander

National Vietnam War Veterans Day; Post 388 has been invited to participate in the upcoming observance of the National Vietnam War Veterans Day. This event is a relatively new national observance, by order of the president, to commemorate the deep input of the Vietnam conflict on the nation. Attendance is deeply encouraged to reveal our untiring support for the veterans who suffered so much in lives and agony and treasure.

Participation is expected to include all Veterans Organizations. The location for our area is the St. Charles Veteran's Museum located on East Elm Street in O'Fallon, and is scheduled for 1400 hours, Sunday the 29th of March 2020.

Post 388 is requested to provide flag bearer and Post Flag. An invitation has been extended to all of the local veteran's organizations to provide a wreath which will be leading the ceremony. Preference was made for a wreath that has served in multiple occasions. The Post 388 wreath is especially welcome.

Boys State/Girls State: The deadline for the applications to be turned into the post is February 29th. At this point in time, we have two applications from Fort Zumwalt North. One young man and one young woman! Their application along with the cost of the program has been sent to American Legion State headquarters and they should receive their acceptance papers shortly. At the present time we have funds to cover two boys at \$500 per student and two girls at \$300 per student. The post made a pledge of one boy and one girl from each of the four schools in our area. The schools are “FZN, FZS, Christian High and St. Dominic High” As has happened in the past, if we don’t have enough money to cover the cost, a request will go out to the membership and the response has always been positive.

Adjutant’s Corner; In the opening letter from our commander, he brought up the dues increase. No one wants to see an increase in our dues. Here is the way that the National Department works. Last year National increased their dues to our Post 388 by \$5. We did not pass that increase on to our membership. When you renewed, you sent a check for \$35 along with your information. We take that information and enter it into the computer and this information goes directly to National Headquarters. Once they receive the information they immediately extract the funds from our bank account even before we deposit your check. Their take is \$32.50. Nine dollars and fifty cents go to State and National keeps the rest. That leaves us with \$2.50. Now District 9 comes along and duns us another forty five cents per member for their operation cost. That leaves us with \$2.05. We had 251 members pay last year and that comes to a total of \$514.55. That amount does not begin to cover our office supplies and mailing of these letters. An increase of \$5 would amount to forty two cents per month. If we lost 51 members, we would still gain \$1000.

What do I get for my membership? Come to a meeting and find out. We usually have something to eat before the membership meeting. We have a social gathering on Wednesday and play cards. You can rent the Post Home for \$125.00 and get \$50 back if you leave the building the way you found it or you can become active in the post and get a much better price. A member can rent the house for any **family** member. “Daughter, granddaughter, son, or son-in-law” You as the member are responsible for the condition of the building. Come check it out. You might be surprised.

March is our dinner meeting. We are planning on having corn beef and cabbage. The cost to you is \$0. There is some prep time involved and if you should decide to attend the dinner and meeting, a phone call or e-mail to the post computer would be all that is needed. It is an important meeting and hopefully it will be a good dinner.

Post 388 Adjutant
Jim Griesenauer