



**American Legion Post 388**  
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**November 2019 News Letter**

**Commanders Desk Notes**

This year marked the 100th anniversary of the founding of the American Legion. Along with the numerous ceremonies the President of the United States signed the American Legion Act which allows any veteran who served in the military since December 7, 1941 eligibility to join the American Legion. If you know of any fellow veterans who were told they could not join the Legion please reach out to them or let me know and we will visit with them and tell our Post story.

On November 25th we have our annual Awards Dinner at Crossroads Church. We will honor the city of O'Fallon's the First Responders of The Year, our Boys and Girls State students, our Honor and Color Guard members and finally most importantly our Legionnaire of The Year. Please contact the Post for tickets.

As we enter 2020 please look at Post 388 for both civic and community volunteer opportunities, charitable donations to assist our numerous causes but what we really need is EVERY member to stop by and join us at our membership meetings. For information please call the Post or me directly at 636-474-9256 or email at [Brett.bemis@charter.net](mailto:Brett.bemis@charter.net)

**New Officers for 2019**

Commander	Brett Bemis	1 <sup>st</sup> V Commander	Joe Belforie
2 <sup>nd</sup> V Commander	Barry Harden	Adjutant	Oliver McGuire
Service Officer	Jim David	Judge Advocate	Ted Richardson
Chaplin	Robert Lord	Financial Secretary	Bernie Groharing
Historian	Ralph Pieper	Sgt-at-Arms	Phil Conrad
3 yr term Executive Board	Kelly LaCombe		

**Executive Meeting November 2019**

Under New Business:

Two years ago we had 25 members in the Funeral Honor Guard. We lost 8 members during the first year and we have lost another 6 members this past year. We have one member that rarely goes to a funeral and we have one member that is on both the Funeral Honor Guard and the motorcycle riders that do funerals. That leaves us with a total of 10 people to do the funerals we also have two that might have to give it un shortly because of their health. That will bring us down to 8 members. What would life be like here at American Legion Post 388 if the Funeral Honor Guard folded up? Without any money coming in from the Funeral Honor Guard or other income coming into the Post and with mortgage payments/utility payments/misc. payments all totaling about \$ 900.00 a month we will survive a total of 36 months or 3 years. We have the following balances in our accounts:

Building fund account -----	\$ 8,722.23
Legion account-----	\$3,312.50
Funerals Honors account-----	\$8,928.54
CD in savings account-----	\$10,000.00
<b>Total----</b>	<b>\$30963.27</b>

\$30,963.20 that can be used to take care of the post!

All that will be gone in 36 months. If the Funeral Honor Guard were to fold and we declared an emergency and we are forced to use the Poppy Fund Account we could survive for another 18 months until or until 2023, and we would still owe **about \$12,000 on our mortgage.**

**First on the positive side:**

Funeral Honor Guard; If they go to two teams and go to JB two times a month and if the income from funerals would drop to say 8 a month, we could survive for a couple more years.

On the serious side we need the Funeral Honor Guard in the worst way. So how can we help maintain the Funeral Honor Guard and recruit new members?

If we are trying to get new members into the Funeral Honor Guard why don't we pay the dues for the members that commit to go to JB on a regular schedule and use it as an incentive to join the ranks of the Funeral Honor Guard. That would only be \$35.00 a year for each member of the Funeral Honor Guard and might help with getting new members, and the money would come out of the Poppy Fund. Why don't we pay the mileage and the cost of the food out of the Poppy Fund?

**On the not so positive side**

How could we raise money within our ranks to help pay the bills?

1. With an estimated 300 members we could raise the dues another \$ 15.00 a year for the next 3 years that would bring in \$13,500.00 over three years and keep us solvent for another 15 months.
2. If we are able to use the Poppy Funds that we project coming in for the next three years in the amount of about \$ 3000.00 a year or \$ 9000.00 over three years that would keep us solvent for another 10 months. This will take us up to May of 2026 which by the way is the Month when we make the last payment on our Post Home. We will be broke but our Post Home will be free of debt. Now is the time we need to make some tough decisions on what route we are going to take to get this done.
3. We can't kick our decision making down the road if we are to survive as a Post.
4. We need to discuss this and come up with a solution between now and next June when we again have election of officers to run the post. At that time you will have a new Commander, new Executive Committee, possibly new Building Committee and possibly no income from the Funeral Honor Guard.
5. If we don't have income from the Funeral Honor Guard and don't use the Poppy funds or raise the dues we will be flat out broke in 36 months and will still owe \$ 15,233.59 on our Mortgage.
6. We have \$ 16,282.18 in the Poppy Fund.
7. We could declare an emergency and take all of our funds totaling \$ 47,286.00 and pay off the Mortgage, that would leave us a balance of about \$ 21,000.00 or enough to last us for three years without income from the Funeral Honor Guard, or raising the dues or collecting more money from the Poppy Fund. That would take us up to about October of 2023 .
8. If we were to go this route any money that would come in from the Funeral Honor Guard or a raise in dues would add months to the above. For every \$ 516.00 of income would add another month to the equation.

9. Also if we were to pay off the mortgage on the building we would save about \$ 4,500.00 in interest payments.

10. Any decisions on what I just spoke about is yours to make; my suggestion is to do it sooner rather than later. The question is do you want the American Legion Post to remain a Post for several more years or do you want it to end in 36 months at which time we would have to sell our Post Home.

11. If that were to happen we would be out of a Post Home but we would probably have about \$ 200,000.00 of money from the sale of the building. Again if that were to happen with the small group that is attending our meetings we could meet in the dining room of a local restaurant. We really wouldn't need a Post Home.

## **Awards Dinner**

The awards dinner will be held at Cornerstone Methodist Church located on Tom Ginever Dr. The date is November 25, 2019 The doors will open at 5:30 pm and dinner will be served at six. The cost to a member and spouse or friend is \$6.00 per person. To a non member the cost is \$12.00 per person. We will be honoring the policeman or policewoman, the fireman or firewoman, the young men and women that went to Boys State/Girls State, and a person from Post 388 that the nomination committee feels has given outstanding service to the post over the past years. If you wish to attend this dinner, call Bernie Groharing at 636-248-6205 to reserve your seating.

**[www.alpost388mo.org](http://www.alpost388mo.org)**

Just a reminder that at the above address, you may read the minutes from the previous meetings along with the previously sent out new letters. Any information that you feel might help the post with this site, the web master would be happy to consider. If you belong to more than one organization and would have information that would benefit all of us, pass it on.

The congress has now made it possible that any individual that served in the military since the beginning of the 2WW and is honorable discharged is now eligible to join the American Legion. This change also effects the membership of the Sons of the American Legion and the women's auxiliary. This information will be posted on our web site in the next few days.

The Holidays are fast approaching and the Officers of Post 388 wish all the members a healthy and happy Holiday. We know that this is not possible for everyone, but for those that are in pain or suffering a loss in the family we wish you the best.