



Members Newsletter

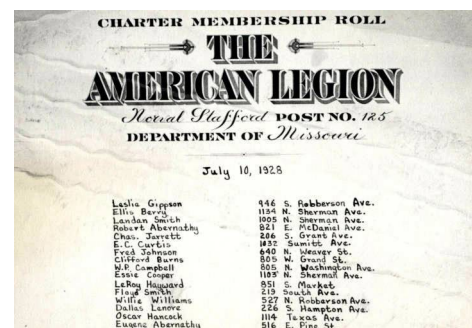
Volume 1 Issue 1



Since the start of the 21st century this country has been in a state of war. This has created an unprecedented number veterans eligible for membership in the American Legion. It has also created problems that were undreamed of when the American Legion was founded in 1919. The sheer number of veterans eligible for VA benefits, the types of injuries being suffered by our veterans, the difficulty finding employment upon a veteran's return, and the struggles faced by veterans and their families when they return to civilian life coupled with the millions of veterans from past conflicts,

As of 2014 we no longer have a Legion hall. We decided that the time and money being spent to maintain a century old building could be better utilized helping veterans and their families. We are now meeting at 1816 South Glenstone Ave in Springfield, MO. This is the home of Prehistoric Brewing Company which is open Tuesday to Sunday and closed on Mondays. They have graciously allowed us to have meetings and some events on Mondays. Post 125 has decided that a lot of American Legion Posts spend a great deal of money to support a “brick and mortar” building and that money might be better spent on veterans. We will raise funds for projects that are important to all veterans and will keep all updated on this website on the Projects Menu.

The American Legion is dedicated to activity to protect our veterans, but we also feel that our 4 Pillars are the heart and soul of what the organizations, especially at the local level at-



tempt to achieve. The fact that we have minimal monthly expenses allows us to use virtually all our resources toward accomplishing our missions within the parameters of the 4 Pillars of the Legion. Here is a link to a summary of the 4 Pillars.

At Post 125 we understand that veterans are more than just the former service member. Today's veterans are also their wives, husbands, and children. As we restructure Post 125, we will be looking at ways to help these members of our families as well. The American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion are just a couple of the organizations within the Legion family designed to do just that. The American Legion Riders are another branch of the Legion who use their common love of all things motorcycle to help veterans and their families. If there is a veteran in your family, let Post 125 help you by becoming a member of our family.



Commander's Desk:

Let me take this opportunity to express my honor in becoming your commander. For those of you that do not know me, I've been an American Legion member for over 20 years. I've served in many capacities within the legion as a Commander, First Vice Commander, Historian and chairs of committees at the post level. I've also served as Judge Advocate, Area Vice Commander, Senior Vice Commander and chaired committees at the District 17 level. I've done post and district websites for many years and have edited newsletters for many more years. I'm very excited about the potential that is afforded by becoming involved with a post with incredible background and heritage. If you have not attended one of our meetings in the past 4 or 5 months, let me give you a quick update. Over the past several years the post had

become inactive to a large degree. We have a group of legionnaires now that are willing to become active and make Post 125 a great post with projects intended to serve veterans and the community at large.

First thing that was done was to elect a slate of officers that are willing to sacrifice time and efforts to make that happen. That slate of officers includes: Bill Roark, Commander - Ron Paluska, Adjutant/Finance Officer - Mike Cook, First Vice Commander - Russ Steuber, Sgt-at-arms - Darrell Smith, Chaplain - John Foss, Service officer - Rusty Shalla, Historian. There are still a couple of vacancies.

We now have a website: post125.org There is a very large amount of information there including the history of the post, contact information, meeting times and updates. There is a link to our calendar with updates on meeting times and location. There is also a link to our Facebook page and anticipated projects.

This newsletter will be published quarterly with this one being the first quarter of 2020.

If anyone has ideas, suggestions or would like additional information, it is located on the "contact us" page. I very much look forward to serving as your commander this year.

Bill Roark, Commander

Membership

First Vice Commander:

Why join the American Legion? There are many reasons why every Veteran should become a member. The goal of the Legion is to provide a voice informing our elected officials of the concerns and issues important to all Veterans. As a group we are able to help provide Benefit assistance, comfort for our fellow veterans with health or injury issues, Homeless Veteran Outreach and Honor and Remembrance of our fellow veterans at their funeral. Beyond

that each post is different. Why should you join American Legion Post 125? We are a small post that is dedicated to community outreach. We are not a country club or frat house and have no debt. We actively raise money to help causes for veterans in need. Our finances are an open book to all members. We need more members who are motivated to give back and help other veterans. If you are a Veteran that wants to be an active member of a great group of guys then we are the post for you. Please read about the history of our post and consider applying for membership!

Mike Cook, First Vice Commander



Finance Report:

The good news is that we have a little money in the bank. The really good news is that we have very few expenses. The bad news is that we have a lot of projects that will require money, some of them substantial amounts. We will be starting some fund raising events during this quarter. Our post finances will always be open to any post member that would like to see our books at any time. All our financial records are kept in Quick Books and will be reported at all meetings. Fund raising ideas are welcome and will be considered.

Ron Paluska, Finance/Adjutant

“It is the Soldier”

“It is the Soldier, not the minister
Who has given us freedom of religion.
It is the Soldier, not the reporter
Who has given us freedom of the press.
It is the Soldier, not the poet
Who has given us freedom of speech.
It is the Soldier, not the campus organizer
Who has given us freedom to protest.
It is the Soldier, not the lawyer
Who has given us the right to a fair trial.
It is the Soldier, not the politician
Who has given us the right to vote.
It is the Soldier who salutes the flag,
Who serves beneath the flag,
And whose coffin is draped by the flag,
Who allows the protester to burn the flag.”

Charles M Province

Post 125 Office	Officer
Commander	Bill Roark
First Vice Commander	Mike Cook
Second Vice Commander	Terry Willey
Adjutant/Finance	Ron Paluska
Service Officer	John Foss
Sergeant at Arms	Russ Steuber
Chaplain	Darrell Smith
Judge Advocate	Vacant
Historian	Rusty Shalla

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THE AMERICAN LEGION PREAMBLE

"For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a 100-percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the great wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness."