The Clarion

St. Charles American Legion Post 312

March 2018

1ST VICE COMMANDER

Larry Carron, 1st Vice Commander
(636) 345-6106

Membership Orientation

On January 23rd, we held our initial Membership Orientation session with a few in attendance.

As I write tonight (02-15-18), the course is fully structured. So the February 20th session, which will have been completed by the time you receive this newsletter, and the March session will be proven productive.

Please plan on joining us for the March 20th session in the hall at 6:30 PM.

Bingo

We are still in need of more Bingo workers. We need at least one more Bingo Captain and a couple of callers. So, next in my sites is training for those positions on days where there is no Bingo crowd to distract your learning.

Contact me if you're interested in volunteering for Bingo which is held every Friday night. Bingo is what keeps the lights on at Post 312.

www.alpost312mo.org

Please check the Post website and flyers at the Post for upcoming events and specials. There is lots of fun coming up this time of year.

SERVICE OFFICER REPORT

Don Lauer, Service Officer
(636) 947-1050

There has been two more inquiries concerning Veteran's needs, which the post has covered since our last meeting.

We at the Post greatly appreciate the Memorials from the American Legion Services conducted for our members who have been called to the High Command, which goes directly into the Veteran Relief Fund to help those Veterans and family in financial difficulties

CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

Rich Middendorf, Chaplain
(636) 328-6996

Since the last Clarion, two Post 312 members have been called to the High Command:

John Wyhs

David Huesing

A Legion Service was held for John Wyhs.

Please keep their families in your thoughts and prayers.

Funeral Call List

Please consider signing up for the Funeral Call List. You will be notified when a member passes, so you can pay your Final Respects to deceased Post members.

When you are at the Fox Hole, don't forget to check the board to see if there are any Sympathy or Get-Well cards to sign.

Spaghetti Dinner

The Spaghetti Dinner has started up again on the last Tuesday of each month. All leftovers are donated to "Youth In Need."

"Thanks" to all who have helped out for the past several years.

AMERICANISM/ CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Larry Dufour, Chairman
Americanism/Children & Youth,
Public Relations,
Law & Order and Public Safety
(636) 441-7102

Oratorical Scholarship Program "A Constitutional Speech" Contest

Uma Upamaka, a Francis Howell North High School Sophomore, won the 9th District contest, and Bret Martin, a Liberty Christian Academy Senior, came in second. The 9th District contest was held on January 14, 2018 at the Wentzville A.L. Post 323.

The Zone 1 contest was held on January 21, 2018 at the Hannibal A.L. Post 55, and the winners were:

1st Place – Madison Brown, Sr, Norborne R-VIII High, Norborne MO

2nd Place – Andrew Moore, Soph, Clark County R-I High, Koboko MO

3rd Place – Micayla Gentges, Sr, Calvary Lutheran High, Jefferson City MO

4th Place – Uma Upamaka, Soph, Francis Howell North High, St. Charles MO

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The 1st and 2nd Place winners both received scholarships of $13,000, each renewable for 4 years to Drury University in Springfield MO.

Madison Brown competed in the Department (State) of Missouri contest on February 17, 2018 at the Capital Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City MO. I'll report the results of this contest in next month's Clarion.

The winners of the State contest Zone 1, 2, 3, & 4 receive scholarships of $2,000, $1,800, $1,600, & $1,400 respectively.

In addition to the $2,000 scholarship from the Department of Missouri, the State winner receives a $1,500 scholarship from the National Organization. Also, from National, they receive an all-expenses paid trip to compete in the National contest in Indianapolis Indiana, April 13-15, 2018.

At the National level, the top 3 winners receive $18,000, $16,000, and $14,000 respectively. This money comes from the American Legion Life Insurance Trust Fund.

Stay tuned for more exciting news of how our A.L. programs benefit children and youth.

American Legion Boys State of Missouri Inc.

All Boys State applications and sponsorship checks from the eight counties in the 9th District are due into me by March 1, 2018.

This Boys State program is another fine example of our Americanism/ Citizenship programs in which students recreate our entire form of City, County, and State governments on the campus of the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg, MO (June 16 – 23). All participating students receive 2-3 college credit hours for completing the course. This is called:

"A Week To Shape a Lifetime".

Magazines, Books, and Puzzles

Magazines, books, and puzzles continue to be distributed to area nursing homes but on a limited basis. This is due to them reaching their limit on intake.

However, Albert of the St. Clair's Hearts Foundation is distributing some to the area homeless veterans.

All the residents look forward to your generosity.

"Thank You Very Much"

JUDGE ADVOCATE REPORT

Tom Goodnick, Judge Advocate
(636)578-8865
tgoodnick@att.net

At the General Membership Meeting on Feb. 12th, we had planned to vote on acceptance of a draft of the revised Constitution and By-laws.

Unfortunately, this did not happen, and it was not because we weren't ready or didn't have a quorum. Jack Spitler, one of our Revision Committee Members and the Post Adjutant stepped down from these positions; a new member stepped up to fill the Post Adjutant position but there wasn't enough time to address these changes. In addition, we had some last moment recommendations that should be discussed further and possibly incorporated into this revision.

We hope to address these changes within (60) days and have a recommendation for the membership at a meeting shortly thereafter.

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Jan Irwin, President
(636) 699-9577

March is Community Service month. Ladies, this is one area in which you excel! The giving nature of the ladies in this Unit never ceases to amaze me! I know there is a lot of our members who are unable to make meetings that volunteer in our community (or your community if you do not live near-by). PLEASE remember to turn your hours in, even if you are not at meeting. Send them with a friend, call me, drop a note off at the Foxhole (I have a mailbox there). If you volunteer at a nursing home, hospital, library, senior center – let us know how many hours you spend and how many miles you drive and if you spend any money to do so. If you crochet lap robes for our nursing homes, please send us your hours so that we may include it in our Unit totals. Your time IS valuable, and it means so much to those you help!

Have you paid your 2018 dues yet? Our dues are due by January 31, and delinquent after that date. Please get them in!

See you at the next meeting on March 12 at 7:30!

AUXILIARY CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

Jeanne Steinhoff, Chaplain
(636) 219-4311

Quite a few years ago, the Auxiliary started a phone tree. Members who are on the list are called when a member passes away, and the family request a memorial service at the funeral home. We also will call if you are willing to help at funeral lunches that are held in the hall.

Please let me now if you would like to be on one of these lists or both.

We could really use the help. You can call, email, text or send me a note.

Jeanne Steinhoff, Chaplain
2835 Hwy. B, St. Charles 63301
636-219-4311
steinhoff50@att.net

VA&R REPORT

Rich Middendorf
(636) 328-6996

The next Veteran's Home Bingo will be held on Thursday, March 15th. We could always use some more volunteers. You don't have to work Bingo, just visit with the residents, if you like.

If interested in helping with this visit, please contact me at the above phone number.

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S.A.L.

Justin Marsden, Commander
(636) 219-6475

Hello and greetings to all. I hope to make this short and sweet so forgive me if I ramble, it's not my intention. Just a few quick notes, first I would like to ***"Thank"*** everyone who came out February 4th and all who helped. You all have my deepest gratitude. Second thing on the list is that if you haven't paid your 2018 dues, please do so. Last but not lease, please join us for our annual Post Trivia night on March 3rd. Details on tables and time will be posted at your local Fox Hole and on the Post 312 Facebook page.

As always our meeting are on the first Monday of the month at 7:00 pm. Hope to see you there.

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A.L.R.

Kerry Humphrey, Director
(314) 603-2347

The Riders are moving forward with the Annual "Curse-In" and the date is set for June 3, 2018. Table/booth areas will be available to the Legion, Sons, and the Auxiliary and outside organizations.

If you know of someone or an organization who might want to get a table/booth, please have them call the Post at (636 634-0403) for additional information.

St. Charles Troop Support

Please drop off any personnel hygiene items in the containers at the Post. These items are donated to the St. Charles Troop Support for distribution.

Christmas Dinner

The 35th Annual Glen Remington Memorial Christmas dinner was a great success and a lot of fun. Leftover food was given to Michelle Brooks at Youth in Need and delivered by Frank Hotmer.

"The answer my friend is blowing in the wind."

"Don't let my motorcycle ride interfere with the safety of your texting."

As always be safe.

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RETIREE'S CLUB

Bill Reilly, President
(636) 328-2340

When: 1st & 3rd Wednesday

Where: Legion Hall

Starting @: 10:00 am

Lunch Served: 12:00 Noon

Fare: $5.00

K.P.

March 7th – Freeman Keesling, Don Laur, Neal Lang

Menu

Corned beef & Cabbage

Little potatoes

Bread

Dessert

March 21st – Joe McCarthy, Jim McCormick, Mac McKinny

Menu

Mostaccioli

Salad

Garlic bread

Dessert

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FOX HOLE NEWS

Dean Irwin, Chairman
(636) 288-1888

Greetings from your Fox Hole staff.

We hope that everyone got thru the New Year's Eve celebrating and are ready to charge into 2018!

Yes, bar prices went up a little due to our distributor's price increases plus the insurance increase. We hope that won't deter you from coming into the Fox Hole.

On February 1st, we started issuing new bar entry cards which required a 2018 membership card. This requirement has been in effect for many, many years but seems to always cause some confusion with a few members of the 3 organizations in our Post. It is one of the Fox Hole standing rules that if asked by the bartender on duty or the bar manager to show your membership card, you must show the current card, or you will not be served until you present such card. ***"Thank You"*** for your patronage.

Entertainment Schedule

Getting into the new entertainment schedule has been a little challenging. However, once we have gone thru a couple of cycles of the odd/even months, we hope that everyone is on board.

In January, Larry & Jake sang and played to a full bar of members plus

being added on by Dave & Jackie D. in a few duo/trio songs and when it was Jack D.'s Saturday, Larry and Dave added to the entertainment.

On the Juke Box nights, we have had great nights with music of YOUR choice! Sounds like a win, win situation!

In March, we had to move Larry's March 3rd date to March 31st due to the Post Trivia night being scheduled on March 3rd.

On Sunday, March 11th, we will hold our 4th Annual Chili Cook-Off so put on those chef hats and start cooking up something for us "non-cooks" to enjoy eating.

Jackie D. will be with us on March 17th (St. Patrick's Day) for a fun evening. We will lead off the evening with our normal "Fabulous Corned Beef & Cabbage" prepared by Jan. Sounds like a great evening.

A fun-filled month as we finally move out of winter into spring. And, with spring, comes Baseball! Hopefully, the Cards will have a much better season for all of us to watch.

Shuffleboard

Now, for some competition results, in the Shuffleboard competition on January 28th, the winners were:

1st Place – Betty & John

2nd Place – Royce & Mike

3rd Place – Roseann & Diane

In March, Shuffleboard will be on the 11th and 25th.

Bowling

In the bowling tourney on 01/16, the winners were:

1st Place – Rich & Dean

2nd Place – Stan & Karen

3rd Place – Jeanne & Sean

4th Place – John & Kevin

(Kevin's 1st time! Welcome Kevin).

In the 02/06 tourney, the bowling winners were:

1st Place – Jay & Dean

2nd Place – Stan & Kevin

3rd Place – Rich & John

More fun in the Fox Hole, that's one of the reasons it was built! Come join us, there are drink & food specials for the players.

In March, Bowling will be in the 6th and 20th.

"Squirrels Barn-Raising"

On February 17th, the Fox Hole once again supplied the alcohol requirements for a 500 person sold-out "Squirrels Barn-Raising" in the combined halls. It was a great event for them and for the Fox Hole. The four bar tenders were: Kris, Debbie, Cyndi, and Jan with Kerrey and Dean as runners. What a day but with great results for both organizations. They love our total facility and we love them as hall clients for these many years.

On behalf of the Bar Committee and the bar staff, we want to ***"Thank You!"*** for your patronage in the past and always look forward to seeing you "SOON & OFTEN"!! Cheers.

Editor Needed.....

In June 2018, we are going to need a new newsletter editor.

Requirements for this position are a basic understanding of Microsoft Word or similar word processing software and being a member in good standing.

This position is open to all Post family (i.e., Post, Auxiliary, SAL, ALR) members.

If interested, please contact me (Mike Ramirez, 636 294-9459, mikeramirez91@gmail.com) or any Post Board member.

Newsletter 2018 – Distribution

As mentioned in the last couple of newsletters, beginning the 2nd quarter of 2018 (i.e., April issue), members will have the choice to receive their Clarion via US mail or by downloading it from the Post's website (www.alpost312mo.org).

We asked that you let your preference be known by contacting your Post family (i.e., Post, Auxiliary, SAL, ALR) Adjutant or Secretary.

Remember, the default distribution is the printed format, so if you wish to continue getting your copy in the mail, you have to do nothing.

But, if you choose to download your copy off the Post's web site and have not contacted your unit's Adjutant or Secretary, please do so immediately.

**** Unit Adjutant and Secretary****
Please forward your list of web site folks to the Post's Adjutant, Kerry Humphrey (Adjutant@alpost312mo.org) no later than March 15, 2018.

Again, ***"Thanks"*** to all helping us make this change.

Best Regards,
Mike Ramirez, Clarion Editor

EDITOR'S NOTE

Mike Ramirez, Clarion Editor
(636) 294-9459

Email Clarion articles to:
mikeramirez91@gmail.com

Please include a phone number.

"Thank You"