COMMANDER'S CORNER

Please see the attached insert for the Commanders April input.

All Post Officers are requested to attend the 10th District Meeting on April 12th at 7:00 PM.

For God, Country, and our American Legion Family at Post 444.

Bill Schnarr
Commander

MEMBERSHIP

First Vice-Commander Joel Hauck reports current membership is now at 456.
He asks everyone to send in their current dues, if they haven't done so by now.

ATTENDANCE DRAWING

March 5th meeting: Francis Stahlschmidt
March 19th meeting: John Littrel
They were not present to take home the $500.

TAPS

Chaplain reports: None

AUXILIARY NEWS

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 444 has a scheduled meeting on the 2nd Monday of each month. The meeting begins at 7:30 PM. All AUX. members please plan on attending these meetings.

There is one more Friday Fish Fry on April 6th. Please come and support the Fish Fry and the Auxiliary Pie and Cake sales.

The annual membership meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 444 is on Monday April 9th at 7:30 PM. There will be two quests from the 10th District. New Members will be initiated and those eligible will receive their new guard pins. Snacks will be served.
Also, 10th District will be having their meeting on Thursday April 12th at 7:30 PM in the red room at the Club House. AUX. members are invited to attend.

Please mark your calendars for our Annual Spring Luncheon on April 28. Doors will open at 11:00AM and lunch is served at Noon. Tickets are $12.00 in advance and $15.00 at the door. Contact Judy Declure at 314-868-3612 for info and advance tickets

Mary Jo Giessman
Unit 444 President

Our thoughts and best wishes go out for Mary JO Giessman to feel better soon!!!

FLORISSANT VALLEY MEMORIAL POST 444, INC.
THE AMERICAN LEGION (314-741-7786
17090 OLD JAMESTOWN ROAD
FLORISSANT, MO 63034-1499

NON-PROFIT ORG.
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POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #3

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

I have been asked to go into the reasons why we should sell the post and move closer into the Florissant Valley Area. As a Post we have a mission to support the local community, the Veterans, and the Veterans family in the community. This mission isn't an easy one nor is it a tasking that myself and others take lightly.

The reasons for selling the Post are simple, while we are thriving in some respects we are hurting in others. The bulk of our income is the Funeral Honors team that works hard to support our mission at Jefferson Barracks, but that mission is slowly dying because of manpower and support. Our fish fries and meat shoots while successful have also lost volunteers, the cost of overhead, and lack of turn out at these events. While our volunteers and the Command Team work hard to support these events, we are still fighting to get these events up and running.

Our membership numbers are down across the entire Legion family of Post 444 and to make it we have to grow that membership. The SAL and ALR charters are still active but we have almost no membership for these organizations. Moving into town will allow us to grow these memberships as well as reach out to a younger generation of Veterans and their families.

While the Post itself makes money and we have money we are putting more and more of that money into post infrastructure and up keep. This has hurt our income, while working to maintain the current buildings and grounds this task is getting bigger and bigger as we go along. Would a move change our current sources of income? YES! But for us to carry on as a Post and the mission we have we need to re-brand the Post to a more welcoming and open place for the people of Florissant. This new income would be meals on Friday or Saturday nights, more open bar hours for our members and the public, and more community engagement events that would boost not only our income but our membership as well and allowing us to regain the physical presence in the Florissant Area. We would keep our yearly fish fry and we would more than likely lose the meat shoot unless we find a group that would allow us to use their land for such an event. However, I understand that things like this will not happen over night and would take more logistics and manpower and those things can come about later in the process.

I am hosting a town hall style meeting on Sunday April 15th, 2018 at 1700 hours to discuss the future of the Post and to listen to concerns, take questions, listen to ideas, and go over what information we have at that current time. I feel that this will allow us to have an open forum to talk about the future of the Post 444 family. This meeting will be open to EVERYONE in the Post 444 family. The Legion and Auxiliy family are invited to attend. After that I will be asking for a vote on this issue at the Legion meeting on May 21st, 2018 to ultimately decide if will sell the Post grounds and move the Post.

If you have any question, comments, or ideas please feel free to reach out and I will be more than happy to answer any questions you may have.

There is a job to be done-a job of service to the POST, our members, community, and nation. We stand for self-reliance, decency, and respect for others.

For God, Country, and our American Legion Family at Post 444,

Bill Schnarr, Commander