



# DISTRICT THREE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI

Summer Edition

June 2012

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## DISTRICT THREE JUNE MEETING

By  
Calvin Bumgarner, Commander

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The District Three Meeting for June 10<sup>th</sup> will be held at Clyde Gustine Post 236. 208 Veterans Memorial Dr. Excelsior Springs MO 64024 Phone # (816)630-7711 this is our June District Meeting.

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Boys State  
By John F. Kopp, District Chairman

Needless to say, this has been a pretty rough year. With the economy in such horrible condition, prices going through the roof, and so many people out of work and business slow, I can understand the difficulty in obtaining sponsors for our boys. And, considering all the time restraints this year, things were even more difficult. But, we did fairly well again. You sent me a total of sixty-seven application, thirteen of which were alternates. The Boys State team has already begun their orientation evenings throughout the state and are quickly getting Warrensburg prepared for all our boys. This year Boys State is scheduled for June 16 through 23. And, as District Three Chairman, I wish to thank each and every post chairperson for their hard work and dedication. Maybe next year we can send over a hundred. Just need sponsors. Remember, a person or company does not have to donate the entire four hundred sponsors – but **HE IS GOING**. So, when you ask a company for help, accept anything they can afford and remember to thank them as if they sponsored fifty boys. They are so important.

Again, thanks to all. A job well done.

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# DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

Mark you calendars for the next district meetings:

Date: June 10, 2012  
Clyde Gustine Post 236  
208 Veterans Memorial Dr.  
Excelsior Springs MO 64624  
Time: 1200 PM Lunch  
1300 PM Meeting

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Date: September 9, 2010  
Tweedie-Murray Post 117  
9<sup>th</sup> E Murray Ave  
Braymer MO 64624  
Time: 1200 PM Lunch  
1300 PM Meeting

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## COMMANDER'S CORNER

By  
**Calvin Bumgarner, Commander**  
District Three

I just want to thank every one who came to the last District meeting your participation made it successful meeting and we got a lot accomplished. This is the first time I have had 8 post show up and thank you for your support. We still have some issue to tackle so your presence will help resolve these. One issue I would like to discuss is the scheduling of the meetings sense I have been Commander we have conflicts with three meetings and we need your input to make it easier to have these meeting. Come and join us and help make these changes.

MAVO update the governor is signing the bill to help the Veterans Homes and Cemeteries MAVO Does Make a Difference thank to all who got in contact with there Legislators and made a difference.

The next district meeting is being held at Clyde Gustine Post 236 Excelsior Springs Mo. We are looking forward to seeing you there. We need a representative from every post to help decide how we are going to go forward with our district. See you there.

The next State Convention is the Ninety Forth Annual Convention on July 12, 13, 14, and 15, 2012. Come and see what the State Legion has to offer. Legion Convention will be held at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, 415 McCarty, Jefferson City, MO (800) 338-8088.

The SAL convention will be held on July 13, 14, and 15, 2012.

Contact me any time I am here to help you in any way I can.

# WE ARE FAMILY

By  
**John F. Kopp, Past Commander**  
District Three

District Three is very fortunate to have at least one of every member of The American Legion Family. Most of our posts have an auxiliary unit assisting and supporting them, we also have three active squadrons of the Sons of The American Legion and we also have one Chapter of The American Legion Riders. Do you realize that you do NOT have to be a member of the post that has a S.A.L. Squadron or Legion Rider Chapter to join? You can belong to one post and have a son or grandson that can join the S.A.L. Squadron at another post.

And like any family, communications is vital. When some one needs help that member needs to inform the others. That is like the Legion holding a fundraiser. The post should ask the Auxiliary, S.A.L., and Riders if they would like to participate, and the other ways also. None of the four members should go off on its own without at least informing the others as to what is going on.

Four times a year the District holds a meeting. The Legion and Auxiliary both hold their respective district meetings at the same time and same place. The times and locations are published in this letter and also sent to the post officers prior to the meeting. The Commander of that post should invite the S.A.L. and Riders to attend. Think of all the ideas that could come from such a gathering.

### 2011-2012 NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES

<b>Pearl Harbor Day</b>	<b>December 14, 2011</b>	<b>75%</b>
<b>Mid Winter</b>	<b>January 19, 2012</b>	<b>80%</b>
<b>President's Day</b>	<b>*February 8, 2012</b>	<b>85%</b>
<b>Legion Birthday</b>	<b>March 14, 2012</b>	<b>90%</b>
<b>Children &amp; Youth</b>	<b>*April 11, 2012</b>	<b>95%</b>
<b>Armed Forces Day</b>	<b>May 9, 2012</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Delegate Strength</b>	<b>30 days prior to National Convention</b>	

\*\*This date is also a renewal notice cutoff date.



## MEMBERSHIP

Every Friday afternoon, the Department of Missouri Department Headquarters publishes membership reports on the Department's webpage. They publish the districts totals in the order of percentages, and then they publish the totals for each district, the posts in that district and what the post membership was last year, what it is as of that date, and what the goal is for this year.

As of this writing we have six posts that have achieved at least 100% of this year's goal. Congratulations on a job well done. But, also, there are several posts that are within ten percent of the goal. Let's keep plugging along and see if we can get more posts over that 100% marker..

Let's keep asking the returning veteran, the older veteran who may have never been asked at all, and those people who may or may not look like they may be veterans. Unless we ask, we will never know.

If a veteran is on the fence, can't really decide whether to join or not, why not have your post offer a trial membership – pay his or her first years dues. Get them in, and then keep them.

Also, pay the dues for active duty personnel, especially if they are deployed. They have enough on their minds than to worry about dues. Besides, if they are a member while on active duty or deployed and the post sends care packages, writes letters, gets their families involved with the post, I would bet they would stay a member when their tour is over and they return home. Sure is worth the investment, wouldn't you say?

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### FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

By John F. Kopp, Chaplain

Have you ever had an idea, presented to someone in "authority" only to be ignored? Have you ever really busted your fanny doing something for the legion or veterans or other organizations only to see other get all the credit? Have you ever really wondered if it was worth it at all? Or, what's the use? Or asked yourself why are you banging your head against a brick wall? Did you ever just want to say, "The heck with it, I am going to quit?"

When this happens to me, and it has several times, I have to stop and think exactly why I am a PUFL in the American Legion, member of the Sons of The American, and several other organizations. I have to really think about what I say at the beginning of every meeting "FOR GOD AND COUNTRY ..." That is the reason I am a member. Not for some guy running for an office who will be sweeter than rock candy today and ignore me after the elections. Not for someone who totally ignores me because I haven't been in the legion since 1919. Not for recognition for my ideas or accomplishments. But for **GOD and COUNTRY**. As we begin a new Legion year, especially with the Department and National convention coming up and we are asked for this year's dues and what we want to do, we should try to keep "FOR GOD AND COUNTRY" in the forefront of our thoughts as we are asked to

## Sons of the American Legion

By John F. Kopp, Adjutant,  
Detachment of Missouri

Did you know that it only takes ten men to start a Sons of the American Legion squadron at a post? Look around your post. Are there guys always helping out with your functions who are not eligible for the Legion but would qualify for the S.A.L.? Ask them, maybe they would be interested in starting a squadron. Check your local schools. There is no minimum age requirement. My grandson is in he is second year as a member is only one year old. Check your high school in your area. This would be something positive for the kids to do. Think about it. I could just possibly help in increasing your post membership also. If you are interested or have any question, feel free to contact me any time.

### Eligibility Requirements:

**All male descendants, adopted sons and stepsons of members of The American Legion, and such male descendants of veterans who died in service during World War I, World War II, Korean War, the Vietnam War, Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, and the Persian Gulf War, during the delimiting periods set forth in Article IV, Section 1, of the National Constitution of The American Legion, or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service, shall be eligible for membership in the Sons Of The American Legion. There shall be no forms or class of membership except an Active Membership.**

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assist others, be it on a committee or a task or at a fund raiser or whatever. Let's not expect recognition or even a pat on the back for what we do. But, let's not fail to praise our fellow legionnaires for what they do. "Atta Boy" and "Warm Fuzzies" go a long way in keeping morale high. Here is a little something I wish to share with you, something I just read today"

People are often unreasonable and self-centered  
**FORGIVE THEM ANYWAY**

If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives  
**BE KIND ANYWAY**

If you are honest, people may cheat you  
**BE HONESGT ANYWAY**

If you find happiness, people may be jealous  
**BE HAPPY ANYWAY**

The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow  
**DO GOOD ANYWAY**

Give the world the best you have, and it may not be enough  
**GIVE YOUR BEST ANYWAY**

For you see, in the end, it is between you and God.

**IT NEVER WAS BETWEEN YOU AND THEM ANYWAY.**

-Mother Teresa

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**DEPARTMENT AND NATIONAL EVENTS  
TO REMEMBER**

**National Convention**

2012 - August 24-30, Indianapolis, Indiana

2013 - August 23-29, Houston, Texas

**Department Schedule**

Department Convention – 7/12 – 7/15, 2012

Fall Conference – 10/26 – 10/28, 2012

All **Department** Conferences and Conventions held at:

Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO

**CONSOLIDATED POST  
REPORT**

It is that time again, time for EVERY POST to submit their annual Consolidated Post Report. They are not that difficult to fill out and get them sent in to Department. It only takes a few minutes. Let's see if District Three can attain a 100% this year. These reports are very important for our District, Department and the Legion as a whole. Do it now. This is how we keep our tax exempt status. Please let me know when you send them in. so I can keep record.