



# The American Legion's 3<sup>rd</sup> District, Department of Missouri "Third Herd"



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## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

### 1 January 2020

Web Site Address  
[www.mo3rdherd.com](http://www.mo3rdherd.com)

Facebook Address  
(Volunteer Needed)

This newsletter is available to  
view on our website

### Upcoming Meetings

Meetings are held Quarterly on  
the second Sunday of the month  
at Posts throughout the District.

12 Jan, Post 061, Kansas City

8 Mar, Post 095, Liberty

14 Jun, Post 216, Bethany

Submit articles and pictures  
for the Newsletter by email to  
the Cdr. (Subject: Newsletter)  
two weeks prior to Quarterly  
publishing. All submissions  
subject to editing.

### Commander Says:

Happy New Year Legionnaires!

I want to start by thanking Post 237 in Richmond for hosting our District Meeting last Oct. In the attachments you will find the schedule for future meetings. You will notice that I brought us back to a every 3-month schedule instead of it varying from 3 to 4 months, starting in March. I also moved the start time back an hour giving travelers more time between the meeting and morning church services, also starting with the March meeting. If you stay for the meal you might be traveling in the dark after the December meeting, so keep that in mind.

We will also be able to start spreading our meeting around in the District area thanks to Post 393 in Gower, Post 117 in Bethany and Post 132 in King City joining the schedule. The goal here will be to hold winter meetings down south, and summer farther north or into the interior. If your Post is not in the rotation and you would like to be let us know. Most of our Posts do not have 2 separate areas to host the Legion and the Auxiliary at the same time, so if I didn't call you that is why. However, if you could think of a way around that, like maybe a building next door that wouldn't cost extra, we could talk about it.

I have done some travelling this last quarter, and my report will be in the attachments. You can help my reports by sending me a quick email when your Posts do something. Either an invitation before so I can continue to enjoy the chili or fish or soup or whatever, or afterwards. Any fundraiser, flag raising, open house, membership drive, or Post function is reportable and I enjoy them all. If you send after-actions to me just prior to the District meetings we are golden! If you do that you have a great record started that can go onto your CPR in the spring!

Thank you for being a Legionnaire!

## **Membership**

I am working up a separate email on membership goals and sending new contact lists and letters for you to use. The trick to making them work is to actually mail the letters, call the numbers, send the emails. I know a lot of Posts don't have "extra" people to do the work, but if we are going to survive, let alone grow, somebody needs to do it.

Renewal reminders are going out on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of January. If the renewal was NOT processed by National before Dec 15<sup>th</sup>, your member will get a renewal notice. The same happens again with the 12<sup>th</sup> of February being the cutoff for the mailings on Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>. Let's be timely with our processes and not hold renewals past what is necessary please.

The 2020 memberships take effect on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Memberships not renewed by then are delinquent. If dues are not paid by February 1<sup>st</sup>, the membership is suspended and the suspended member loses voting privileges, they do not have a vote in Post affairs. By June 30<sup>th</sup>, the membership is forfeit. Are your members aware of that? Do you hold them to that? Schedule a vote for the February meeting that members would most likely want to vote on. Let them know that by Legion by-law, they need to renew to do so. (A little under handed there, but ya never know...)

Don't like that our membership dues have gone up at National and Department? Don't want that trend to continue? Build a Post membership committee to help recruit new members and retain our existing members. Use the tools available to you at MyLegion. We have only had one Post start a new MyLegion account since July. If you need help just let me know. Myself or one of the Vice Commanders would be happy to help get you started.

Do you have a best practices lesson on membership? What do you do that works, what have you tried that backfired? Share that with us, I'll get it in the newsletter.

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## **Conference/Convention Notes**

Commander

I attended the Fall Conference in Jefferson City last November. Post 626 in Gladstone received their 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive "Toot your Horn" award, and Post 237 in Richmond their second. This Award recognize the Posts for their work in Media and Communications to spread the word about the American Legion in their communities. Post 236 in Excelsior Springs and Post 169 in Osborn received Americanism Awards which are judged in Post size category by the activities reported on their CPR. I was able to present these awards to the Posts at their next meetings. Congrats to all 4 Posts, great work representing the Legion in your communities!!

There will NOT be any more spring conferences due to reductions in memberships which lead to budget woes. The DEC will meet on a Saturday and the Department Oratorical Contest will be held the following day. Attendees are asked to stay after for the contest and ALL members

are encouraged to attend the contest to support OUR Legion programs. See upcoming events for details.

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### **High School Oratorical Contest**

Post 626 in Gladstone hosted a contest at Staley High School on November 20<sup>th</sup> with 3 contenders. One was chosen for the County Contest. Oak Park High School, also in 626's area submitted one student for the County Contest. The Clay County Contest was held at Antioch Middle School in Gladstone on Dec 14<sup>th</sup> with 2 contestants, the Staley student was chosen to move forward. A big thank you to Post 626 and 95 for supporting this event. Because no other counties had applicants the District contest scheduled at Post 58 in Smithville was cancelled and the student from Staley will compete at the Zone II Oratorical Contest. Sorry 58, but we will hit you up again next year.

It is 3<sup>rd</sup> Districts turn to host the Zone contest. The contest will be held at the Antioch Bible Baptist Church in Gladstone on January 26<sup>th</sup> and it starts at 1330 Hrs. Post 626, my home Post as well as the District Oratorical Chairs', has taken on the majority of the work here, but more help is requested. We do have a volunteer from 95, possibly 2, and an Auxiliary member from 61. This is an American Legion Program, and ALL of the Legion family is invited to attend as well as volunteer to help out. If you can help, contact the commander.

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### **Upcoming Programs**

Missouri Cadet Patrol Academy June 7 - 12 2020 \$450

Missouri Boys State June 13 - 20 2020 \$500

Missouri Girls State June 21 - 27 2020 \$300

Is your Post ready? Contact the following for help...

Boys State – R.E. Holtz

Cadet Patrol – Calvin Bumgarner

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### **Misc.**

The **January District Meeting** will start with a short presentation on what you can expect if using community care in conjunction with the VA. The presenter is Lauren Jilek, Patient Relations, Partners in Primary Care, one of the recognized Urgent Care providers in the Gladstone area, possibly in yours also. But the information is generic and *should* apply with any authorized provider. Also on hand will be Brad Gibson with Advocate Health, a brokerage

company owned and operated by veterans that helps veterans understand community benefits available to them. To keep the presentation short, we will not allow personal individual cases to be discussed at the meeting, but this is where you come to get the broad concepts and contacts that might help you *or one of our Legionnaires* later.

Read and share the District Newsletter. It is also available on the District website at <http://www.mo3rdherd.com/> In the last NL there was information on:

Notes from the National Convention

Recruiting, retaining and activating members

Open your personal MyLegion account and sign up for notifications and news

Use the District Calendar to advertise your events and find things to do

Support the American Legion by supporting our events and activities

Some funeral homes are charging the family a clerk fee to arrange for the honor guard, if we know that is going to happen recommend to the family to have the Guard do the paperwork, they will do it for free.

Officers and Committee Chairs, this Newsletter is an excellent way to reach the Posts, especially those who do not attend meetings. **I encourage you to use it!!**

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### **Post Activities in the last quarter**

- 5 Oct Gladstone Post 626 had a float in the “Gladfest” parade and had an info table present for 2 days.
- 7 Oct Cainsville Post 257 hosted a flag retirement ceremony with local Girl Scouts.
- 12 Oct Polo Post 557 hosted a public fish fry and participated in the homecoming parade.
- 15 Oct Gladstone Post 626 held a poppy fluffing event a local retirement facility.
- 19 Oct Gladstone Post 626 participated in a Veteran Recognition event hosted by the NKC Public Library
- 26 Oct Richmond Post 237 hosted a public Chili and Soup dinner.
- 31 Oct Excelsior Springs Post 236 hosted a kids Halloween costume contest for the 90<sup>th</sup> (?) year. (Sorry 236, lost the note)
- 2 Nov Liberty Post 95 hosted a public chili dinner.
- For a week in November Post 95 also sends members to all of the local schools to greet the students at the doors and lead them in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3 Nov Bethany Post 216 and local VFW Post hosted a reserve unit return celebration in conjunction with a Quilts of Honor presentation.

- 7 Nov Excelsior Springs Post 236 received a Proclamation from the city recognizing the 100<sup>th</sup> year of their Post.
- 8 Nov Gladstone Post 626 had veterans in the classrooms at a middle school and attended their Veterans Day ceremony.
- 9 Nov Gladstone Post 626 conducted a Poppy Day to raise funds for their VA&R programs.
- 10 Nov Richmond Post 237 hosted an open house.
- 11 Nov Richmond Post 237 hosted a public breakfast.  
Bethany Post 216 hosted a Veterans Dinner.  
Stanberry Post 260 led the Homecoming parade with colors earlier and attended Veterans Day Activities in school.  
Hamilton Post 285 had veterans in the middle school and posted flags around town.
- 19 Nov Gladstone Post 626 members visited the Missouri Veterans Home in Cameron, sponsoring a bingo game, making a cash donation and donating several puzzles.
- 20 Nov Gladstone Post 626 conducted a school level Oratorical Contest at Staley HS.
- 7 Dec Bethany Post 216 hosted a suicide prevention and PTSD awareness seminar in conjunction with a local VFW Post.
- 14 Dec Gladstone Post 626 & Liberty Post 95 conducted the Clay County Oratorical Contest as well as participated in Wreaths Across America.  
Smithville Unit 58 conducted a public Tree of Honor dinner.

I know there were a few more that I missed. You can't tell me in passing, make sure I write it down. *But the best way* is to just send me an email, "we have this going on this day". Three things will happen. I will try to come, and all I have to do is copy and paste from your email into the newsletter, and forward the same to the Adj. to put on our website. Far enough in advance I can get it in the Newsletter.

PLEASE communicate your activities with me!

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### Attachments

(Attachments are not available on the website. Contact Cdr. or Adj. if you want a copy)

1. VAVS Board Meeting
2. VA Urgent Care Tips

3. 3<sup>rd</sup> District Meeting Schedule
  4. 11 Things about the Legion Act
  5. Dept. Convention Housing info
  6. Primerica Jobs
  7. DPAA News Release
  8. Zone Oratorical Flyer
  9. District Commanders Report
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### Upcoming Events

- 3 Jan        **Renewal Reminders** mailed (The new membership year started on the 1<sup>st</sup>)  
Call your members NOW while they have the reminder in their hands.
- 12 Jan       **District Meeting**, 1400 Hrs., Post 61, potluck meal follows  
5125 N Bellaire, Kansas City, 64119
- 15 Jan       **80% Membership Goal**
- 26 Jan       **Zone Oratorical Contest**, 1330 Hrs., Antioch Bible Baptist Church  
800 NE 72<sup>nd</sup> St. Gladstone, 64118
- 12 Feb       **Renewal Cutoff** for the 26<sup>th</sup> mailings
- 22 Feb       **Spring DEC Meeting**, 1300 Hrs. Post 152  
123 E. Broadway, Ashland MO 65010
- 23 Feb       **Dept. Oratorical Contest**, 1330 Hrs. Southern Boone County High School  
14520 S. Crump LN., Ashland MO
- 26 Feb       **Renewal Reminders** mailed
- 8 Mar        **District Meeting**, 1500 Hrs., Post 95, potluck meal follows  
Our Lady of Mercy Country Home  
2115 Maturana Drive, Liberty, 64069  
(Drive past the front entrance and park in back parking lot.)
- 1 Apr        **Next Newsletter**
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Content changes, so hold on to old Newsletters and attachments for reference!