



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



Commander Douglas W. Millison  
7001 N. Highland Ct., Gladstone MO. 64118  
816-509-5247 [commander.third.district@gmail.com](mailto:commander.third.district@gmail.com)

Adjutant Robert C. Emery  
16001 E 31<sup>st</sup> St. Independence MO 64055  
816-313-5109 [remery18@comcast.net](mailto:remery18@comcast.net)

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

**1 July 2020**

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

Facebook Address  
[facebook.com/Post626MO](https://facebook.com/Post626MO)

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.

13 Sep., Post 393, Gower

13 Dec., Post 236, Excelsior Sp.

14 Mar, Post 117, Braymer

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

**Commander Says:**

Well, that was a fast and furious year!

I had intended to get to you all twice to try and get to know you better, but the shutdowns got in the way. And considering I am in a county with a larger number of infected I didn't want to bring it up to you. I will try and get some visits in again this year, but we shall see what happens. If we take off again this winter...

There are a couple of projects I was hoping to be further along on than I am. A district revitalization and a couple training sessions for MyLegion and utilizing social media. I'll get there.

At the beginning, probably April(?), I called every Post Commander (or Adj.) to find out how the shutdown was affecting the Posts and your communities. I was happy to hear that as far as health was concerned, there were no major known issues. Many Posts were losing revenue from Bingo and fundraising activities, but were generally solvent. 58 in Smithville is the only one with a large mortgage to worry about and took a pretty big hit but they will recover.

I was disappointed that not very many Posts were doing a form of Buddy Check to ALL of their members. The numbers are in my District report (Attached). I am quite disappointed in that. I am a firm believer in the fact that if we are not contacting every one of our members at some point, we are wrong! Especially during a pandemic or other natural disaster. Not just the ones that come to a meeting, not just the "at risk" members. These are our people. EVERY member should at least get a message on their answering service letting them know that we are thinking of them and are standing by to help.

I know, they don't answer, they don't call back, you never see them. So what?

## Membership

Congratulations are in order!

As you know, my goal for the District was to just hold the line and stop the slide to obscurity by ending this year with the same membership numbers as last year as a District. We came SO close to that I call it a success. We are only 4 members shy of last year.

According to the last District Membership Report that I have received (23 Jun, inserted below), the District is finishing second in achieving membership goal out of all of the districts in the Dept. A job well done, THANK YOU for your hard work.

Starting July 1<sup>st</sup>, the 2021 renewals can be processed online, and you may already be seeing renewal notices in your mailboxes. The earlier you renew, the fewer reminders we have to print (saving the organization money) and the fewer times we will have to call members to remind them (letting us do more important work).

Please renew now and save us all some hassle. No, really, *now*. Go get online or find your checkbook and a stamp.... (I know, it never stops until the transfer to Post Everlasting...)

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## Conference/Convention Notes

The Department and National Conventions have been cancelled for 2020. Fall conference has not been determined yet. Spring Conferences have been cancelled due to annual dues shortfalls.

### FUTURE CONFERENCE AND CONVENTION DATES AND CITIES

#### DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

2021 – 7/7 to 7/10 Drury Plaza Hotel, Cape Girardeau, MO

2022 – 7/13 to 7/17 Hilton St. Louis Airport, St. Louis, MO

2023 – 7/12 to 7/17 University Plaza Hotel, Springfield, MO

2024 – 7/10 to 7/14 Hilton St. Louis Airport, St. Louis, MO

#### FALL CONFERENCE

2020 – 10/16 to 10/18 Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO

2021 – 10/15 to 10/17 Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO

#### NATIONAL CONVENTION

2021 – 8/27 to 9/2 Phoenix, AZ

2024 – 8/23 to 8/29 New Orleans, LA

2022 – 8/26 to 9/1 Milwaukee, WI

2025 – Under bid

2023 – 8/25 to 8/31 Charlotte, NC

2026 – Louisville KY

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## Last District Meeting

Dist. Meeting was last June 14<sup>th</sup> in Bethany  
Only 6 of 26 Posts were present to represent their membership  
Posts were reminded to submit CPR and Officer Certifications  
Officer elections for most positions and Committees were held to get us back on a 2-year cycle  
Approved a Policy to manage distribution of District TFA requests  
Approved a policy to manage District Media Accounts  
The next District Meeting for installation of officers is 13 Sep in Gower

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## Upcoming Programs

All National programs that we participate in have been cancelled this year.

### **Cadet Patrol**

There were NO applicants from the District for Cadet Patrol before it was cancelled. While the form our police departments take on as a whole may be at question at the moment, there will always be a need for law enforcement. This program that teaches a younger generation about that field WILL GO AWAY unless we get our students there. We couldn't find 2 or 4 students interested in law enforcement out of 8 counties? Well, it certainly could be harder next year with the current state of things, but we will try, won't we? Please assign someone from your Post to talk to the school resource officer if you aren't getting the assistance you need from the counselors.

Calvin Bumgarner is the District Chair again and he will be reaching out to you for your support when the applications come out.

### **Boys State**

June 15, 2020

The American Legion Missouri Boys State, Inc. has been closely monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic since its outbreak. As we previously announced, due to ongoing concerns related to the pandemic, Boys State did not proceed as scheduled (June 13-20, 2020). However, we have evaluated our ability to have an alternative form of Missouri Boys State this Fall.

We are excited to announce that we will host Boys State in a hybrid format kicking off with a series of virtual sessions that will begin on November 14th. The virtual sessions will last approximately one hour each day. Then, on the afternoon of Thursday November 19th, Boys

State citizens will convene in Warrensburg, Missouri for an in-person session. The “live” session will adjourn on Sunday, November 22nd.

During the in-person session, we will take the utmost precautions related to COVID-19, including temperature screenings, face masks, and social distancing. Furthermore, we will proceed with Boys State only if we can do so in compliance with recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and local health authorities. The safety and well-being of Boys State citizens remains our top priority, and we will not proceed with the session unless we believe it is safe to do so.

Unfortunately, due to space considerations we will not be able to accommodate everyone at this shortened session. We will follow up soon with those who have already applied with more information about how to secure a spot at the 2020 session of Boys State. In the meantime, mark your calendars for November and prepare for a great leadership experience.

Please stay healthy and safe.

Matt Dameron  
Director, The American Legion Boys State of Missouri, Inc.

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**Service Officer**

VA & R Resources, S.O. Resources-Veterans and Families:

1. Veterans help for themselves, family tools and skills from the VA-Contact: Kim Jackson, (816.861.4700, Ext. 57927).
2. Mission Act-/teleconference connection-Rural veterans: VA311; 1.844.698.2311. (new)
3. New-Women Veterans call Center-new) 1.855.829.6436; New-June 12<sup>th</sup>-Women Veterans Day, annual celebration.
4. kc, va—some clinics are open. screening still done-covid-19.
5. Military One Source-militaryonesource.org-NEW Covid-19, transiting military & family resources: 800.342.9647-24 hour daily.
6. Suicide Prevention-QPR Gatekeeper Training: Contact Ann Puck, Post 61.

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**Misc.**

The State of Missouri Veterans Recognition program recently added Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom to the roster of eligible periods for recognition. See attachment. (No, I am not responsible for that crooked page)

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The Director of Friends of Fisher House was slated to open the June District Meeting but couldn't make it due to health concerns. We will attempt to have him open the September meeting. He did send some material which is attached.

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From Caregivers on the Homefront:

Missouri Elizabeth Dole Caregiver Fellows Rachel Moyers, [Barb Webb](#), Melody Slusher, and Shawn Moore are looking to recognize 100 veteran and military family caregivers in Missouri through their community navigator project. These family members/caregivers will get a personal care package and yard sign to show our appreciation of YOU! You can nominate yourself or someone can nominate their friend/family member who cares for a wounded/ill service member or veteran. Thank you to the [Elizabeth Dole Foundation](#) and [Wounded Warrior Project](#) for this great opportunity to recognize these [#HiddenHeroes!](#)  
<https://forms.gle/1h3ufSvWrs5yKSRu5>

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From the Kansas City VA

Kansas City VA offers new COVID-19 entry screening on your mobile device.

Starting Monday, June 29, 2020, Kansas City VA Medical Center is offering a new COVID-19 entry screening tool for your cell phone.

To assist with improved health screening efforts, the VA created a digital pre-entry screening tool which now allows Veterans, caregivers, and employees to answer questions on their mobile phones and share their results at facility or outpatient clinic entrances.

Providing simple, easy-to-use digital tools like this helps reduce wait times at entrances, ease stress, and lower the risk of exposure. It also helps Veterans gain confidence in the new reality of increased digital interactions as part of their VA health care experience.

On your mobile device, text the word Screen to 53079. Tap the preview screen and answer the questions. (Note- It does not work from inside the parking garage! I tried it. – Cdr. Doug)

Clear results: The results screen shows 1 of 2 messages (“OK to proceed” or “More screening needed”) plus a timestamp and next steps. The large, clear text and color-coded screens help staff quickly triage:

Easy-to-update screening protocols – The tool's features allow the VA to update questions within 24 hours to meet evolving needs.

Veterans, please remember our new covered parking garage at the Freedom entrance is available to park in. It significantly reduces walking distances for appointments, and the sheltered spots will keep your vehicle cooler during the summer months.

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From the US Census Bureau

My name is Melissa and I am with the 2020 Census. We are contacting local organizations and businesses that may know individuals who are in need of work to let them know that the Census is hiring for part time jobs. If anyone you know has been laid off or is at risk of losing their job

this is a way to help make ends meet during this difficult time, or it can be a source of supplemental income to help make up from the last couple of months. I know that currently families and those with unstable job histories are being affected particularly hard especially if they don't know what the future holds for them. If you are willing, we would love to send you flyers and materials that can be put up for local advertising if your location allows it, or distribute them to your membership. We are trying to help keep local people and families in the area employed during these unforeseen circumstances. I hope you will help us spread the word that there is still available work out there and the Census is always interested in hiring applicants from all different backgrounds regardless of educational or work history.

Thank you,

Melissa Dods

2020 Census

Recruiting Assistant

[melissa.j.dods@2020census.gov](mailto:melissa.j.dods@2020census.gov)

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The Posts submitted 20 out of 26 CPR's to Dept., only 14 of them on time. The District Commander prepared and submitted the rest using information from Post visits. Because of that they probably do not reflect the amount of effort you actually put into the work being done by your Post. This comes around every year folks. Same time. If you are registered with MyLegion you can fill it out throughout most of the year and just hit submit on 1 June. They are all DUE to Dept., on or near the 15<sup>th</sup> of June, so they can get them to National on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July. It being in the mail to Dept. on the 28<sup>th</sup> won't cut it.

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Certification of Post Officials is usually due within a time frame set before Department Convention. Without convention it is due NLT 1 Oct to Dept. If not received they will use last years. This is for 2020-21 ONLY. If you are unable to hold elections due to COVID, they will assume the same officers are in place for next year. If an officer changes, please submit your form!!

The problem with forms going in late is that I do not see any changes before I start making my calls, so an old commander may get to hear from me again instead of a new one. Please do not wait if you don't need to, and get your forms in.

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Read and share the District Newsletter. It is also available on the District website at <http://www.mo3rdherd.com/>. This NL is not just for Post leadership, it is for every member in the District. Please let your members know about it. In the last NL there was information on: Membership goals, Spring DEC, Oratorical, March Dist. Meeting, Missouri Veterans Hall of Fame nominations, using Facebook, past and future Post activities, suspense's for reports,

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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*And finally, please email me anything that you do, monthly would be great, but on or before the District meeting would be better!! I need that info to prepare the Newsletter and the District Report, and it could help prepare for the meeting as well. And if you are having an event get me the info in time for the Newsletter so we can help you advertise it.*

### Inserts

Membership Data

### Attachments

District Cdr.'s Report

Missouri Awards

Fisher House

TFA Policy

Social Media Policy

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### Upcoming Events

- 16 Jul      **Post 626 I&I Ceremony**, 1900 Hrs., Elks Lodge 2376  
7010 N Cherry St., Gladstone MO 64118, West (lower) entrance
- 22 Aug      **Post 61 Car Show**, 1000 – 1400, Kansas City (North)  
5125 N. Bellaire Ave., KCMO 64119
- 5 Sep        **Post 58 Suicide Prevention & Veteran Benefits presentation**, 0900 – 1700  
2607 E 92 HWY, Smithville MO 64089
- 13 Sep      **District Meeting**, 1500 Hrs., Post 393  
91 N 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Gower MO 64454  
Presentation by R. ADM. Penfield (RET), Director of Friends of Fisher House for  
the new Fisher House being constructed at the KCVA
- 26 Sep      **Post 236 Car Show**, 1000 – 1600, Excelsior Springs  
208 Veterans Memorial Dr., Excelsior Springs, MO 64024-2009

Your activity could be here!!  
The next Newsletter is 1 Oct, think ahead if you have something after that.

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**Content changes, so hold on to old Newsletters and attachments for reference!**

06/23/2020

**District Membership 2020**  
LGN Department of MO

District # 3			2019	2020	2020	2020	2020		
County	Post	Name	City	Total	Total	Goal	NEW	Transfers	% Goal
Clinton	Post 0033	- Elmer Ellis	Cameron	75	69	80	1	4	86.25
Harrison	Post 0056	- Eagleville Memorial	Eagleville	25	20	27	0	0	74.07
Clay	Post 0058	- Smithville	Smithville	314	320	336	18	33	95.24
Clay	Post 0061	- Jarchow-Schroeder	N. Kansas City	139	142	148	6	8	95.95
Daviess	Post 0068	- McAfee-Stephens	Gallatin	7	7	7	0	0	100.00
Worth	Post 0092	- John Edgar Barnes	Grant City	23	23	25	1	0	92.00
Clay	Post 0095	- Robert H. Baker	Liberty	211	227	225	9	16	100.89
Clinton	Post 0097	- John Callahan	Plattsburg	43	48	46	0	3	104.35
Gentry	Post 0106	- Donald Holden	Albany	26	21	28	0	0	75.00
Caldwell	Post 0117	- Tweedie-Murray	Braymer	61	59	65	2	2	90.77
Gentry	Post 0132	- King City	King City	41	41	44	0	0	93.18
Caldwell	Post 0140	- Ed J. Kenney	Kidder	7	7	7	0	2	100.00
De Kalb	Post 0169	- Lincoln-Anderson	Osborn	10	9	11	0	0	81.82
Harrison	Post 0176	- Opdyke	Ridgeway	12	11	13	0	0	84.62
Clay	Post 0194	- Marsh-Seuell-Dykes	Holt	3	1	3	0	0	33.33
Harrison	Post 0216	- Wilson-Axline	Bethany	71	78	76	5	3	102.63
Clay	Post 0236	- Clyde Gustine	Excelsior Springs	20	122	128	5	0	95.31
Ray	Post 0237	- Griffith-Skiles	Richmond	143	138	153	5	1	90.20
Harrison	Post 0257	- Cainsville	Cainsville	19	16	20	0	0	80.00
Gentry	Post 0260	- Raymond Sager	Stanberry	73	76	78	2	1	97.44
Caldwell	Post 0285	- Boutwell-Clark-Craven-Eads	Hamilton	54	52	58	0	2	89.66
Clinton	Post 0393	- Gower Memorial	Gower	49	46	52	2	0	88.46
Clinton	Post 0467	- Kirby Stapleton	Lathrop	35	34	37	1	2	91.89
Ray	Post 0487	- Hardin	Hardin	17	17	18	0	0	94.44
De Kalb	Post 0508	- Robinson-Beeching	Stewartsville	62	53	66	0	2	80.30
Worth	Post 0515	- Floyd Ray Ames	Sheridan	5	0	5	0	0	0.00
Caldwell	Post 0557	- Polo Memorial	Polo	55	56	59	1	0	94.92
Clay	Post 0626	- Bennett and Dennis	Gladstone	249	252	267	21	10	94.38
<b>District Totals</b>	<b># Posts</b>	<b>% District Goal</b>		<b>1949</b>	<b>1945</b>	<b>2082</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>89</b>	
	<b>28</b>	<b>93.42 %</b>							

*Outstanding!*