



DISTRICT THREE
AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI

Spring Edition

March 2015

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COMMANDER'S CORNER

By
 John F. Kopp

Greetings. Spring is just around the corner. Soon we will have the smell of flowers in the air, the migratory birds will be coming home, and the air will warm up. And, also at this time of year, we begin to look forward to the election of district officers. At the April 12th meeting in Excelsior Springs, we will be taking nominations and names of those who would like to take one of the offices in the district.

The offices that must be voted on are: commander; first and second vice commanders; Sgt.-at-Arms; and judge advocate. According to our constitution and bylaws, the commander cannot succeed himself or herself. Everyone else can.

All of the people holding these offices have had these or other district offices for several years. I urge each of you to consider one of these offices. None of them take a rocket scientist, just a little dedication.

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Just the fact that some geniuses were laughed at does not imply that all who are laughed at are geniuses. They laughed at Columbus, they laughed at Fulton, they laughed at the Wright brothers. But they also laughed at Bozo the Clown.

—Carl Sagan

DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

Mark your calendars for the next district meetings:

Date: April 12, 2015
Place: Clyde Gustine Post 236
208 Veterans Memorial Dr.
Excelsior Springs MO 64024
Time: 1200 PM Lunch
1300 PM Meeting

Date: June 7, 2014
Place: Robert H. Baker Post 95
Our Lady of Mercy Country Home
2115 Maturana Dr.
Liberty MO 64068
Time: 1200 PM Lunch
1300 PM Meeting

MEMBERSHIP

By
John F. Kopp, Commander
District Three

The surge is completed. I want to thank every post that participated in it. Over all we have quite a few members renewed and several transferred off of the Post 1000 list. Keep up the good work.

I ask each post to try like mad to achieve the April 8th goal of 95%. It will not be easy, but it can be done.

The true measure of a man is how he treats someone who can do him absolutely no good
Samuel Johnson (1709-1784)

2014 - 2015 NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES

CHILDREN & YOUTH	APRIL 8, 2015	95%
ARMED FORCES DAY	MAY 13, 2015	100%
Delegate Strength	30 days prior to National Convention	

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

MEMBERSHIP

If you look at the above "Membership Target Dates" you will notice that posts should be at 95% by April 8th. There is one way to achieve this goal. Pull out your membership records and look for present members who have not yet paid their dues. Call them or visit them and ask them to renew now. This is extremely important. Most posts have several members who have not renewed as of yet.

Congratulations to Posts 58, 117, 140, and 626 for reaching 100% of their goals for this year. A job well done.

VETERANS BENEFIT FAIR

Several Legion members from Districts Three and Four are going to conduct a Veterans Benefit Fair in April of 2015. The fair will be free to all veterans, veterans' families, and the general public. We are going to have as many veterans organizations as possible represented as possible, for instance, The American Legion, VFW, DAV, Vietnam Veterans, AMVETS, etc., along with several Veteran Service Officers, the VA mobile health unit, and as many companies that offer benefits or other incentives for veterans. There will be entertainment by the American Legion Band of Kansas City, free refreshments courtesy of the local Sons of The American Legion Squadron.

As you can imagine, there will be costs incurred with this, food, hall rental, etc. We are asking for any financial assistance that we could get. We would like to suggest that each post donate, if possible, just fifty cents per member. All funds that are not exhausted on the fair itself will be donated to Operation Comfort Warrior. If you wish to assist us, please make your check out to me, John F. Kopp or to District Three, with "Veterans Fair" in the bottom left corner of the check and mail it to either me or the district finance officer, Judi. Thank you for your support.

There are many benefits that veterans have earned and deserve due to their honorable service to our country and many of those benefits are not widely known. Many have changed over the years and these changes may not be known. People will be there to answer any questions that any one may have.

Mark your calendars for the fair. It will be held April 25, 2015, at

The Community Building,
603 S. 3rd St.
Tarkio Missouri

Boys State
By
John F. Kopp, District Chairman

We are winding down the application process for this year. As for the 17th I have received only fifty-one (51) applications from our posts. Of those fifty applications forty (41) have sponsors. Thank all of you who have worked so hard obtaining sponsor and working with the schools.

Remember this year Boys State will be held June 13-20, 2015.

**THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT
OF MISSOURI SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**

COMMANDER'S SCHOLARSHIP

If you know of a veteran presently attending has been accepted by an accredited vocational technical college, college or university in the State of Missouri and who has served a minimum of 90 days and honorably discharged and is a resident of Missouri, the or she eligible to apply for Commander's Scholarship.

The scholarship is for \$1000. If you know of anyone interested contact me for an application or contact the department headquarters.

**DEPARTMENT AND NATIONAL EVENTS TO
REMEMBER**

National Convention

- 2015-August 28-Sept. 3, Baltimore, MD**
- 2016-August 26-Sept. 1, Cincinnati, OH**
- 2017-August 24-30, Louisville, KY**
- 2018-August 24-30, Minneapolis, MN**
- 2019-August 23-29, Indianapolis, IN**

Department Schedule

- 2015 Convention 7/09-7/13
Springfield, MO**
- 2015 Fall Conference 10/23-10/25**
- All at Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO**

**Truth is like the sun. You can shut it out for a
time, but it ain't goin' away.
Elvis Presley**

**Some cause happiness wherever they go;
others whenever they go.**

**Do what you feel in your heart to be right.
You'll be criticized anyway.**

**Watch your thoughts; they become words.
Watch your words; they become actions.
Watch your actions; they become habits.
Watch your habits; they become character.
Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.**

CONSOLIDATED POST REPORT

Every post adjutant should have received the CPR form by now, You should start asking members for their hours of service, functions, and any other activity they may have been involved in that can be recorded on the form..

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

One of the American Legion's four pillars, as you know, is Children and Youth. And, there are several programs within the Legion that supports this pillar. But, serving our children and youth is not limited to just these programs. Take for instance Missouri Special Olympics.

We have probably all heard of the Special Olympics through the news and, maybe we are either personally involved or know someone who is. Or maybe you have a child, or know someone who has a child, participating in the Olympics.

But, have you ever thought about volunteering yourself? You don't have to be a coach, but can be. There are all sorts of ways to assist. Funding is one way. Since the Special Olympics operates strictly through donations, there is always a need for money. And, all funds are for the athletes. So, if you or your post wishes to support this very worthwhile project, or would like more information, contact:

For Clay County: Sarah Bachand
9001 W. 67th St.
Merriam KS 66202
(913) 789-0330

For all other counties in District Three
Alyssa Humphreys
2300 Frederick Ave. Suite 209
St. Joseph MO 64506
(816) 233-6232

These two ladies can give you all the information you want from funding to just moral support for the athletes.

Temporary Financial Assistance

I would like to tell you about what your district is doing to help Veterans under the Legions Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) program, as well as on our own, and what you could do to help. The Legion's TFA program is designed to help the children of Veterans and is a Children and Youth program, under our 4th pillar of values. The TFA was established in 1925 and came about after the Legion discovered that housing Veterans children in group homes after the family came apart due to financial stress was not as efficient as keeping the family together in the first place.

First, the District Commander gets a notification from the Department of Missouri whenever a Veteran living within the District's boundaries request financial assistance. The Commander then requests that one of the Districts processing team interviews the Veteran to determine his or her needs and what assistance can be provided. Right now there are three members on this team who have processed TFA's. The Commander, the District Chaplain Mr. Holtz and myself, Post 626 VA&R. During the initial interview we must determine if the Veterans children are eligible. Did the Veteran serve during the same time period as our membership eligibility requirements? Did the Veteran receive an honorable discharge? Is the Veteran legally responsible for the minor child(ren)? If it is determined that the family is eligible, will temporary financial assistance help, how much and for what? If the Veteran is in need and meets all of the requirements but does not have minor children, the District's fund can help but it will go no farther.

One of the first things that must be done and recorded is for the Veteran to attempt to get help from all other available resources first. What charities, churches and civic organizations has the family contacted? What help was

received? This is where we need the Posts help!! I know how to help Veterans in Clay County, and a little about the Counties around me. But way up north? I am slowly building County resource lists, but you know your area. I will call the local Post when I set up the initial interview. Please answer and get involved. We need your help! And if you want to be the "Go To" Legionnaire in your area, join the processing team. We will run the first couple with you and show you the ropes.

My last successful TFA was in Liberty. The Veteran asked for and received some help with bills from local charities; District 3 paid a bill, and Post 95 took the Veteran out to buy Christmas presents for her children. It was around 30 days from first contact that Department approved the TFA and sent checks to cover a couple utility bills. So as you can see, it is not a fast process. Some TFA's don't get approved by Department. We must explain the need, ensure it is temporary, and the Veteran must work to help themselves by asking for help, gathering the necessary paperwork, and work toward correcting the initial issue. The Liberty TFA worked because the Veteran was involved, the Post was involved as was the District.

The District recently passed a motion that allowed it to set aside \$400 this year and next to establish a fund of \$800 to help Veterans. When the fund is used it will be replenished in the next year or two at a max of \$400 a year with an \$800 cap. This can be used on an actual TFA or for the Veteran who needs a hand but doesn't have minor children. All other eligibility requirements remain. No money will be distributed to the Veteran. The District and Department will only pay bills that help the Veteran in need meet the cost of shelter, food, utilities and health expenses.

Douglas W. Millison
Post 626