



The American Legion's
3rd District, Department of Missouri
"Third Herd"



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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

1 April 2022

Web Site Address
www.mo3rdherd.com

Facebook Address
www.facebook.com/ThirdHerdMissouri

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 Jun 2022, Post 216, Bethany

11 Sep 2022, Post 236, Excelsior
Springs

11 Dec 2022, No Host Yet ☹

The Commander is the source of all
content unless otherwise noted.
Submit articles and pictures for the
Newsletter by email to the
Commander. (Subject: Newsletter)
two weeks prior to Quarterly
publishing. All submissions subject
to editing.

WHAT DOES THE DATE OF MARCH 15th MEAN TO YOU?



It is significant for two reasons.

First, it is the birthday of the American Legion.
Secondly, it's time to pull out your roster and start making
"Buddy Check" phone calls. These calls should be done every
March around the Legion birthdate and every November
around Veteran's Day.

Life today is a lot harder than it was just a couple of years ago.
Some of our comrades may be going through some tough
times. The pandemic is mostly behind us but not totally gone.
Health problems, Supply chain issues, Labor shortages and
Inflation have played havoc with our daily lives. Now, the
conflict in Ukraine is starting to impact our daily lives also.
"Buddy Checks" are needed more than ever now. Start by
calling the members on your roster that don't attend meetings.

If you have already completed your post's buddy checks,
"Bravo Zulu". If you haven't, get busy & get them done!
If you are at a loss as to how to conduct a "Buddy Check" call,
there is a tool kit you can download from the Department of
Missouri home page (www.missourilegion.org). The tool kit
has sample scripts for people that aren't sure what to say.

A lack of manpower to make the calls isn't a valid excuse. If
you need help making the calls, let me know.

DISTRICT MEETING

Jarchow-Schroeder Post 61 of Kansas City hosted the District Meeting on the 13th of March at 1500. The meeting was originally scheduled to be held at Tweedie-Murray Post 117 in Braymer, Missouri. Unfortunately, they had to backout of hosting at the last minute due to unforeseen circumstances. (I hope to have them host at a later date.) Hearing this, Jarchow-Schroeder Post 61 of Kansas City came to the rescue once again. They stepped up and volunteered the use of their meeting room. (As a result of the last minute change of venue, the normal fellowship potluck meal was cancelled.)

Eight (8) members were present representing 4 of our 26 district posts (61, 95, 285, 557).

While we would like to have all 26 post Commanders present, anyone can attend. District meetings are not just for district staff. They are a chance for post officers to interact with District staff. In the near future, training is going to be offered during the meeting to support you in your post membership retention and recruiting.

Four to five Posts have been setting the budget, approving donations, electing officers for as long as I have been attending. We need more participation on the district level. We have various committee positions we can't find anyone to fill. We have District Officer positions that we need candidates for. We have comrades filling multiple positions because we can't find interested members. (Calvin Bumgarner is both my subordinate and my Boss! He is a Post Adjutant, a District Vice Commander and the Zone 2 Vice Commander. That is a lot of irons in the fire at one time!!!)

I would like to personally thank Jarchow-Schroeder Post 61 and Commander Mike Scruby for hosting this meeting.

Note: A copy of the official meeting minutes are always posted on the 3rd Herd webpage following each meeting. www.mo3rdherd.com

POW-MIA EMPTY CHAIR

This quarter we extend honors to a Missouri comrade. 1st Lt. Ross B. Lemmon Jr. of the USAAF, 13th Air Force, 42nd Bombardment Group, 70th Bombardment Squadron was the pilot of a B-25D-1 Strafer. He and his 5 crewmembers went missing during bad weather on January 14, 1944 while on a night bombing mission against Lakunai Airfield at Rabaul (Papua New Guinea). May he and his crew be granted "Fair Winds & Following Seas".

LEST WE FORGET

DÉJÀ VU

Are you seeing things? Is this the current newsletter or an old one? Didn't you see that article in the last issue? Maybe you did and maybe you didn't!

Important things are worth repeating. Yes, some of the articles you have seen before. Some are similar but have been updated. Others are totally new. Do yourself and me a favor and read through it before you judge it. (NOTE: It might be more interesting if more members contributed to it.)

HOSTING POSTS NEEDED

Can your post host a district meeting? Most posts could if they wanted too. If a post is willing to host a district meeting, they will receive \$100.⁰⁰ from District. As host, you provide the facility, the main food course and the drinks (iced tea, water, coffee). The rest of the potluck meal is side dishes brought by meeting attendees. Meetings are held on the second Sunday of September, December, March & June at 1500. Food is served following the meeting. We still need hosts for meetings on 12/11/22, 3/12/23 and 6/11/23. Please let me know if your post wishes to volunteer.



FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

We are all mature, fiscally responsible adults. We go through life paying our bills as they come due. However, it seems that some of our comrades don't think paying their annual dues on time is necessary. Dues for 2022 were supposed to be paid by January 1, 2022! If dues are not paid by Jan. 1 of each calendar year, the member becomes delinquent. Feb. 1, the member is suspended, June 30, the member is dropped from the membership rolls.

NOTE: The Department of Missouri realizes that some members are going to pay late and has set monthly goals for the posts that increase by approximately 5% per month. The 100% goal date is 11MAY22.

As of the March 25th 'District Membership Report', all of our posts should have over 90% of their members renewed for 2022. The report shows that 2 posts are over 100%, 5 posts are over 90%, 6 posts are less than 90% but ahead of the previous month's goal of 85%, 13 posts are less than 85% (with one post at 5.88%).

Conclusion: Anybody that hasn't paid their 2022 dues yet needs to do so. Be responsible and get them paid!

BUDDY CHECKS – POST 1000 MEMBERS

Making these calls is essential to keeping these comrades in the legion. They may have joined online to try the legion out. A personal call welcoming them to the legion and inviting them to transfer to a local post is the key to retaining them as members and getting them involved. And don't be selfish . . . if the member is interested in an American Legion program your post doesn't support (i.e. baseball), help them connect with a post that is active in that program. Involved members doing things that interest them are the kind of members that participate and stay with the Legion.

BUDDY CHECK – POST ROSTER

Show your older and less active members the respect they deserve. Even though they don't come to meetings anymore, let them know that their membership is still valued. Make sure you have good contact information for them so that you can keep them informed of post activities. Look closely at your roster. You may spot a member that has maintained a continuous membership for decades but they have suddenly fallen behind in paying their dues. Show some concern. They may be having personal issues (health, financial, etc). As a post, offer help if you can. Consider offering to pay their dues for the current year so that they won't have to worry about losing their continuous membership status. If your post is well situated financially, you might consider making them a 'Life Member'.

SUICIDE PREVENTION

As a society, we have an ongoing problem of suicide within our communities, especially amongst our veterans. Tony Gardner is the Adjutant of Gower Memorial Post 393 and a



member of the "Missouri Veterans Suicide Prevention Team". The team was founded by Jon Sabala, Missouri Department of Mental Health Veterans Service Officer. This team of volunteers conducts suicide prevention training around the state. Currently there are only a handful of team members doing this training. In November, Tony sent out emails to all of the state commanders for the

American Legion, DAV and VFW challenging them to host training at the district level and post level. In February alone, Tony had/has three (3) trainings scheduled from Belton, Missouri to DeSoto, Missouri.

Having him conduct a training session at your post would be a great public relations opportunity. You could make it a community event open to the public. After all, veterans are not the only potential suicide group. Teen suicide is also on the rise and the public could receive some much needed, potentially life-saving information.

BE HELPFUL - KNOW YOUR 'HELP' RESOURCES

Educate yourself on your local sources for help. This knowledge could be very useful when you make your 'Buddy Check' calls.

VACCINATIONS?: County Health Department, Walmart, etc.

FOOD?: Local Food Pantries, Second Harvest, etc.

CLOTHING?: Local churches and charities

SENIOR PROGRAMS?: County & Local government

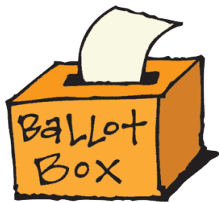
VA ASSISTANCE?: VA Service Officer, District Service Officer, Department Service Officer

FREE COVID-19 TEST KITS

Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order 2 sets of 4 free at-home tests. If you already ordered your first set, order a second today. To order, log on to <http://www.covidtests.gov> and follow the easy steps. Need help placing an order for your in-home tests? Call 1-800-232-0233

(NOTE: These are rapid antigen tests, not PCR and they give results within 30 minutes.)

(NOTE: These test kits would cost you \$80 if you bought them through Walmart.)



ANNUAL ELECTIONS ARE JUST AROUND THE CORNER

The constitution/bylaws of both the 3rd District and the Department of Missouri state "The election of post officers for the ensuing year shall be held at least thirty (30) days but not more than sixty (60) days prior to the Department Convention, and officers elected shall be installed after the

Department Convention but no later than October 20, after the adjournment of the Annual Department Convention." The next Department of Missouri Convention is July 14-17, 2022. That makes the election window May 15th through Jun 14th.

Start grooming and training potential candidates now. Encourage members with leadership potential to advance into post &/or district leadership positions. Don't elect members that aren't qualified just because 'It's their turn'. If you are nominated for a position but don't think you have the time or skills to do the job to the benefit of the legion, your post and your fellow members, turn down the nomination. To be successful as an organization, we need qualified and dedicated people in positions that they want to be in.

MYLEGION.ORG

The system still has issues but use it if you can. If you encounter a problem, use the ‘help’ button and click on ‘known issues’ to see if the problem has already been reported. If it hasn’t been reported, do so. The system is only going to get better if we use it and provide feedback. This system is invaluable to Post Commanders, Post Adjutants & Post Membership Chairpersons. The search functions will help you locate Post 1000 members to potentially transfer into your post and the administrative functions are designed to make the Adjutant’s job much easier.

ONLINE TRAINING = TRAINING TUESDAYS

The last Tuesday of each month American Legion National Headquarters staff will present 60-90 minute sessions on topics aimed at post commanders and adjutants. (Although all members can benefit from this training.) Each session will be recorded and made available for later viewing. This quarters topics were “Legislative Priorities”, “Legal Matters”, “Logo/Branding Usage” and “Public Relations Toolkit”. All were very well presented.



ONLINE TRAINING = BASIC TRAINING

On-line course consisting of 6 lesson units and 1 exam unit. Self-paced. You can log out and log back in whenever you have free time. Upon successful completion, you will receive a link to a web page to print out a course completion diploma. Graduation also qualifies you for an “American Legion Education Institute” lapel/hat pin. (History / Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation / National Security / Americanism / Children & Youth / Course Conclusion / Final Exam). As an incentive, I will buy the pin for any member that shows me that they successfully completed the course while I am District Commander.

IMAGE, IMAGE, IMAGE . . .

Continue to work on your public image. How does the public perceive you? Do they think you’re just a few crotchety old geezers that put out flags occasionally and spend the rest of your time sitting around drinking beer and telling ‘war stories’. Take advantage of every opportunity to present your American Legion post to the public in a positive light. Hold an informal ‘workshop’ session at your post to brainstorm PR and recruiting ideas. Make plans and execute the best ideas.

As an example, here is what I am doing in Hamilton:

★To provide good PR (Public Relations) for the American Legion and my local post (Boutwell-Clark-Craven-Eads Post 285), I personally serve as Vice President at the local county food

pantry. I do so wearing a Legion shirt/sweatshirt & hat. I work as the customer service person at the door and do all the carry-out to the cars/trucks of the patrons receiving food. The public readily sees the support the Legion is providing to help feed people in need.

★To provide additional good PR (Public Relations) for the American Legion, my local post (Boutwell-Clark-Craven-Eads Post 285) and American Legion Auxiliary Unit 285, we collectively allow the “Second Harvest Community Food Bank” to conduct a monthly food distribution event in front of our legion hall. Citizens in line to receive food line up behind the local football stadium and I am one of two people that control the line, collect data and send them one-at-a-time to the loading area. Needless to say, again I do all this wearing Legion logo-wear so that they know the legion is an active part of the event.

DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Spring DEC met on February 12th at 1300. The meeting was held at the Harry B. Pryor Post 152 in Ashland, Missouri. Minutes from this meeting can be found on the Department of Missouri website.

POST ACTIVITIES IN THE JAN-FEB-MAR QUARTER

I know our posts have been more active than the following list would indicate but very few posts have directly reported any activities this quarter:

Wilson-Axline Post 216 (Bethany)

- 1/29/22 Held a fund-raising cornhole tournament. (40% payout with remaining funds going to legion programs.)

Gower Memorial Post 393

- 2/26/22 Held a fund-raising breakfast to pay for sending three students to Boys State. Their event was a success and they raised enough funds.

Smithville Post 58

- 3/3/22 Held a Blood Drive (Community Blood Center).

- Too many items to list. This post has AL/ALA/SAL/ALR members. And all four groups have activities scheduled. Search for them on Facebook to see their never-ending activities.

Robert H. Baker Post 95 (Liberty)

- 3/19/22 Held a fund-raising spaghetti dinner & raffle

Boutwell-Clark-Craven-Eads Post 285 (Hamilton)

- Hosted monthly Second Harvest Mobile Pantry food distribution events at the post on 14JJAN22 and 12FEB22.
- One of our members volunteers weekly at the Caldwell County Food Pantry Foundation distributing food to low-income residents of Caldwell County.
- Honor Guard provided services for nine (9) funerals.

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!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Support ourselves by supporting other Post activities!

Spring is rapidly approaching. It's time to come out of hibernation and start planning activities. Does your community have any local festivals planned where you can set up a recruiting table? Find ways to serve your fellow veterans and your local community. I would love to help support your post activities but I can't advertise things I don't know about.

★Gower Memorial Post 393 plans to hold fund-raising breakfasts on the last Saturday of each month from 0700-0900.

4/12/22 - Missouri State Youth Government Day in Jefferson City: 7 students from King City, MO.

5/30/22 – Memorial Day (Make plans to properly celebrate the day)

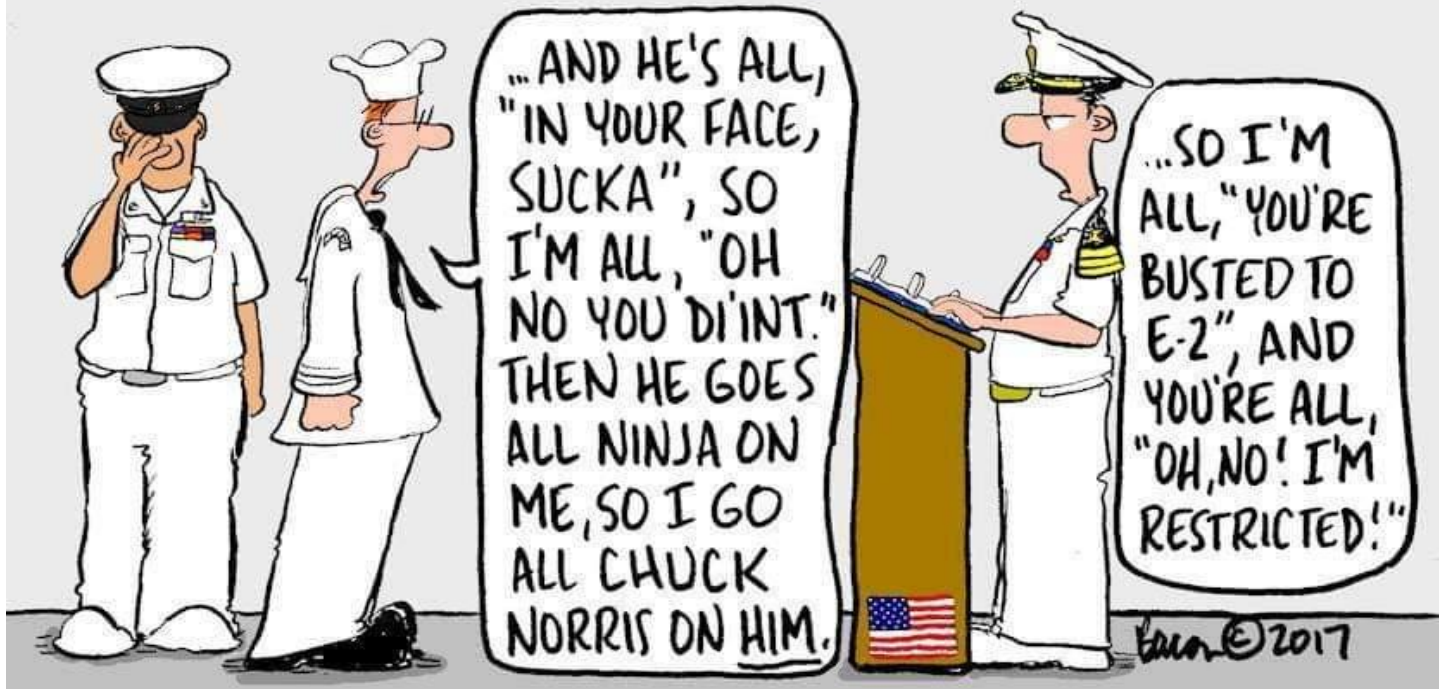
5-10 JUN 2022 – Cadet Patrol – Missouri Highway Patrol HQ

11-18 JUN 2022 – Boys State (@ Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Missouri)

6/12/22 – 3rd District Meeting @ Wilson-Axline Post 216 (Bethany), 1500

14-17 JUL 2022 – Department Convention @ Hilton Airport, St Louis, MO

MILLENNIAL MAST



THERE'S NO SHAME IN SEEKING HELP.