



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



Commander Edward A. Weaverling
101 E. Samuel St., Hamilton MO. 64644
816-805-2319 commander.third.district@gmail.com

Adjutant Robert C. Emery
16001 E 31st St. Independence MO 64055
816-313-5109 remery18@comcast.net

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

1 July 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.

11 Sep 2022, Post 236, Excelsior
Springs

11 Dec 2022, No Host Yet ☹

12 Mar 2023, 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.

PUFL

(Paid Up For Life)

Have you considered becoming a PUFL? Some members find
having to pay dues every year kind of annoying and
bothersome to remember.

Becoming a PUFL could be the just right for you.

The PUFL program will give you convenience but may not
provide any monetary savings. In most cases, you will have to
live into your mid-nineties to break even financially. The
convenience comes in the form of never having to remember
to renew your membership again.

However, your current age does matter when considering
becoming a PUFL. I will use my situation as an example. I
am 69 years old. If I had paid to be a PUFL in 2022, it would
have cost me \$815. I have already paid my regular dues for
2022 but decided to become a PUFL starting in 2023. At 70
years old, the price was \$599. That is an initial savings of
\$216! And I got an additional \$100 discount for paying in one
lump sum. Total savings = \$316!!

Note: The price of a PUFL membership drops significantly
every ten (10) years. (changes at 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90+)

DISTRICT MEETING

Wilson-Axline Post 216 of Bethany, MO hosted the District Meeting on the 12th of June at 1500. Attendance was better than normal. Nineteen (19) members were present representing 7 of our 26 posts.

While we would like to have all 26 post Commanders and their adjutants 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, the District Finance Officer and the Zone 2 Commander. (That is a lot of irons in the fire at one time!!!)

I would like to personally thank Wilson-Axline Post 216 and Commander Tom McFall 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

The POW/MIA honorees for this quarter are three members of the Skiles family from Richmond, Missouri.

Charles Jackson "Charley" Skiles Jr and his older brother Eugene Skiles Jr both worked at a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp before enlisting in the US Navy in April, 1941. Both loved music and played in the USS Arizona band. Both brothers died on the USS Arizona during the attack on Pearl Harbor.

They also had a cousin, Garold Leroy Skiles who enlisted along with them. He died the same day, during the attack on Pearl Harbor, while serving on the USS Oklahoma.

All three have yet to be found, identified and returned home.

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 and 3/12/23. 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 was 11MAY22.

As of the June 24th 'District Membership Report', all of our posts should have had 100% of their members renewed for 2022. The report shows that 2 posts are over 100%, 8 posts are $\geq 90\%$, 11 posts are $<90\%$ but $\geq 80\%$, 5 posts are less than 80% (with one post at 66.67%).

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

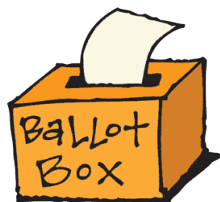
As a society, we have an ongoing problem of suicide within our communities, especially amongst our veterans. Tony Gardner is the Adjutant of Gower Memorial Post 393 and a



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.



ANNUAL ELECTIONS ARE BEHIND US

The constitution/bylaws of both the 3rd District and the Department of Missouri state “Post officers elected shall be installed after the Department Convention but no later than October 20”. The next Department of Missouri Convention is July 14-17, 2022. Therefore, new officers must be installed between July 18th and October 20th.

IMPORTANT ADJUTANT’S NOTE -- Your Post **Will Not** receive the new membership cards until you return your completed “Certification Of Post Officials” form to Department Headquarters. Early submission by 9/01/2022 will ensure your Post listing in the 2022-2023 Department Directory.

Encourage any members with leadership potential to train for advancement into post &/or district leadership positions. We need different people in the various job positions. We have too many members holding down multiple jobs. To be successful as an organization, we need qualified and dedicated people in every position.

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 “Toxic Exposure Legislation”, “Membership”, “Constitution & By-Laws” and “Filing 990’s”. 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

There is going to be two (2) DEC meetings in July. One meeting will serve to start the annual Department Convention and the other will act as the finale of the convention. Minutes from these meetings will appear on the Department of Missouri website.

POST ACTIVITIES IN THE APR-MAY-JUN 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)

- ★6/12/22 Hosted the 3rd District quarterly meeting.
- ★Provided Honor Guard services for six (6) veteran funerals.
- ★Presented colors at one (1) American Legion baseball game.
- ★Sponsored an American Legion baseball team (Harrison County Hotrods).
- ★Presented colors at Farm Bureau Annual meeting.
- ★Presented colors at Lincoln Days Supper in Albany, MO.
- ★Held Memorial Day ceremony at Miriam Cemetery in conjunction with VFW Post 2176.
- ★Put out flags Over Bethany on Memorial Day and Flag Day.
- ★Put out approximately 635 gravesite flags at Miriam Cemetery for Memorial Day.
- ★Held a luncheon and deployment information meeting on June 22nd for the deployment of the soldiers of the 387th of Bethany.
- ★Gave a donation for the WWI Traveling Museum that will be in Bethany on June 23, 24, and 25. Museum will be located in the Gathering Place located on the east side of the square. Hours are 8 to 5 the 23rd and 24th. The 25th hours are 12 noon til 8 p.m. The American Legion and the VFW will assist with the tear down of the museum from 8 p.m. til whatever after closing at 8 p.m. on the 25th.
- ★Sponsored traveling costs for a veteran to go to the VA in Kansas City.

Gower Memorial Post 393

- ★6/16/22 - Completed improvements to the Gower Memorial Park. The old central flag pole was removed and new flagpole that is 1/3 taller was installed.

Smithville Post 58

- ★Too many items to list. This post has AL/ALA/SAL/ALR members. And all four groups have activities scheduled. All four (4) groups are very active in the Smithville community. Search for them on Facebook to see their never-ending activities.

Robert H. Baker Post 95 (Liberty)

- ★Provided Honor Guard services for veteran funerals.
- ★ 6/17/22 Participated in the Juneteenth parade in Liberty.

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

- ★Hosted monthly Second Harvest Mobile Pantry food distribution events at the post on 08APR22, 13MAY22 and 10JUN22.
- ★One of our members volunteers weekly at the Caldwell County Food Pantry Foundation distributing food to low-income residents of Caldwell County.
- ★Provided Honor Guard services for ten (10) veteran funerals.
- ★Posted flags throughout the city on Memorial Day & on Flag Day.

★ Coordinated with the Boy Scouts to conduct a memorial service at the city cemetery on Memorial Day.

★ Conducted a flag disposal ceremony on Flag Day.

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 & DEADLINES

Support ourselves by supporting other Post activities!

Summer is in full swing and the threat of COVID-19 is greatly diminished. It's time to come out of hibernation and start participating in community activities. Does your community have any local festivals planned where you can set up a recruiting table? Are there any local parades you can walk or ride in. 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.

★ 03 JUL 2022 ⇒ Robert H. Baker Post 95 participating in Liberty's July 4th ceremony.

★ 04 JUL 2022 ⇒ Independence Day (Make plans to properly celebrate the day)

★ 05 JUL 2022 ⇒ Boutwell-Clark-Craven-Eads Post 285 & Auxiliary Unit 285 will be supplying manpower for weekly food distribution at the Caldwell County Food Pantry.

★ 08 JUL 2022 ⇒ Boutwell-Clark-Craven-Eads Post 285 will be hosting the Second Harvest Community Food Bank mobile food distribution event at the post (also on 8/19 & 9/16)

★ 14-17 JUL 2022 ⇒ Department Convention, Airport Hilton, Saint Louis, MO

★ 28-30 JUL 2022 ⇒ 59th National American Legion Membership Workshop in Indianapolis

★ 29-30 JUL 2022 ⇒ Ed J. Kenney Post 140 Fundraising Raffle at "Kidder Festival"

★ 20 AUG 2022 ⇒ Jarchow-Schroeder Post 61 Annual Car Show at the post.

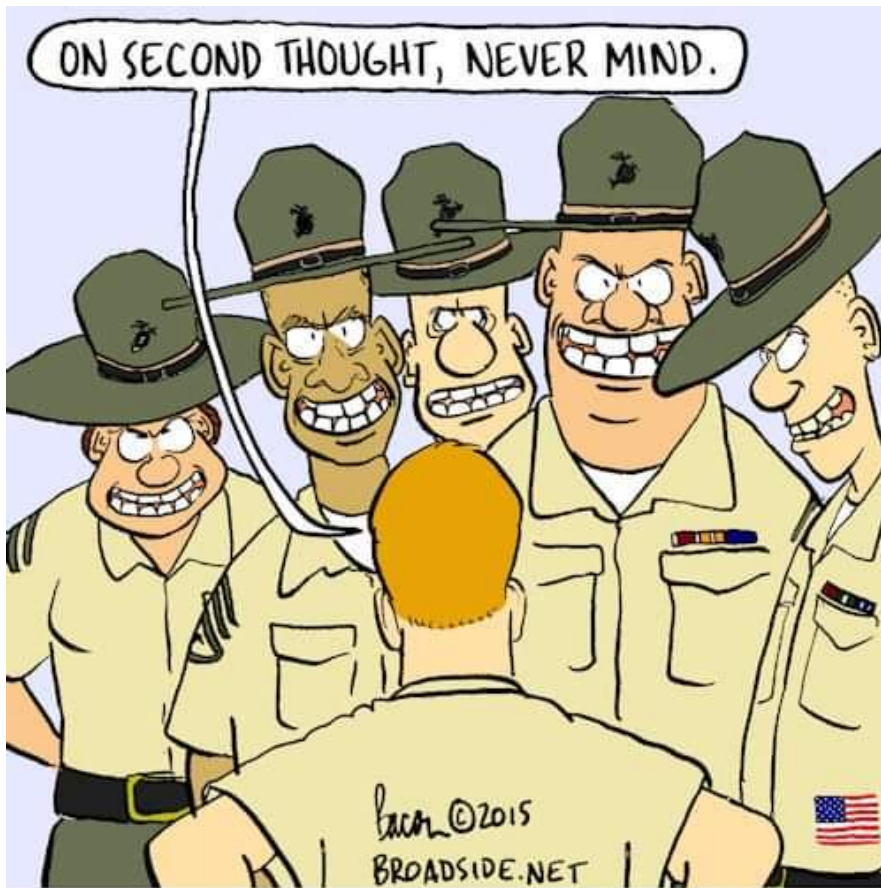
★ 26 AUG – 01 SEP 2022 ⇒ National Convention, Milwaukee, WI

★01 SEP 2022 ⇒ Certification of Post Officers due to Department

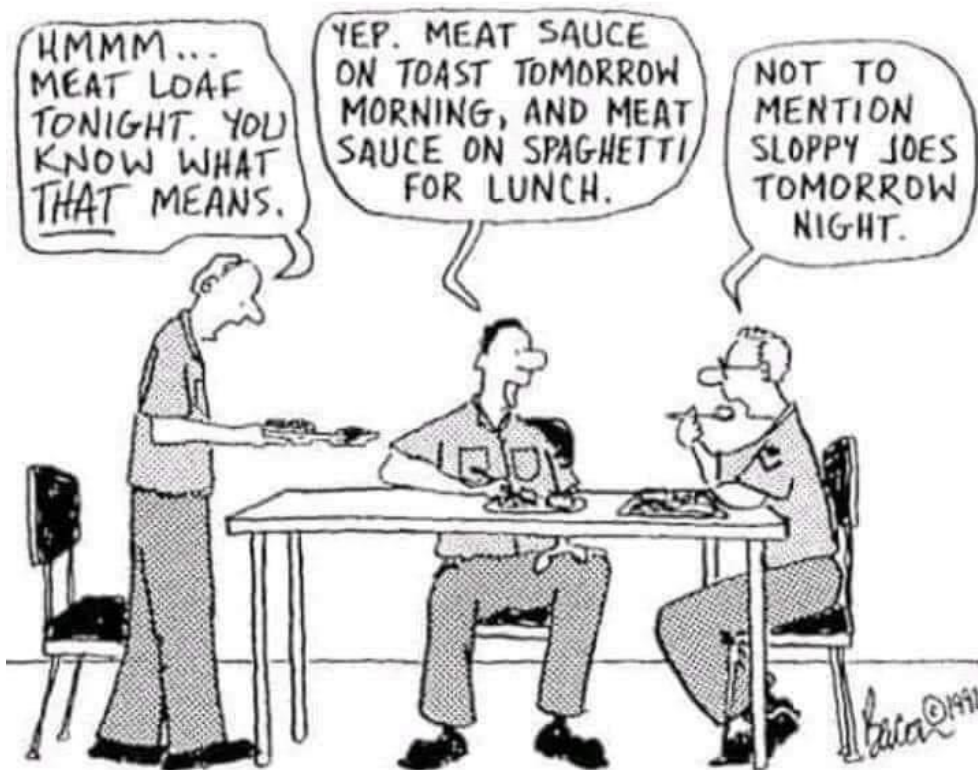
★11 SEP 2022, 1500 ⇒ **3rd District Meeting @ Clyde Gustine Post 236, Excelsior Springs**

★ 23 SEP 2022 ⇒ Robert H. Baker Post 95 participating in Liberty's Fall Festival parade.

★21-23 OCT 2022 ⇒ Department Fall Conference, Capital Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO



The short lived "Semper Smile" campaign



The life cycle of "mystery meat"



Worse than the butt dial: the inadvertent text

