



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



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## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

**1 October 2022**

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

Facebook Address  
[www.facebook.com/ThirdHerdMissouri](https://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 Dec 2022, No Host Yet ☹

12 Mar 2023, No Host Yet ☹

11 Jun 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.

## IF YOUR POST DISAPPEARED TODAY, WOULD ANYONE NOTICE?



Take a good hard look at your post and its value to those around  
you. Do so honestly & with a critical eye. Is your post an asset to  
your local community? Is your post an asset to the veteran  
community?

Revisit the 4 pillars listed below and evaluate your post  
performance in each area. Ask yourselves "Can we do better?" &  
"Is there more we can do?"

Pillar One: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

Pillar Two: National Security

Pillar Three: Americanism

Pillar Four: Children & Youth

Do you properly fly your flags and keep them in good condition as  
an example to your community. Do you post flags in the  
community on flag holidays? Does your post provide funeral  
honors for veteran funerals? Does your post have a color guard?  
Are you active in your local schools? Do you promote youth  
programs like Boy's State? Oratorical? Scouting? Cadet Law  
Enforcement? Do you hold fundraisers to support legion programs?  
Do you support local charities. Is your "Buddy Check" program  
consistently being worked twice per year (around Veterans Day &  
around the American Legion Birthday)?

## **DISTRICT MEETING**

Clyde Gustine Post 236 of Excelsior Springs hosted the District Meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> of September at 1300.

Attendance was better than normal. Zone 2 Vice Commander George Shepard was our guest speaker. Quite a few other legionnaires were present but only 5 of our 26 posts were represented.

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 Post 61 Adjutant, 3<sup>rd</sup> District Vice Commander and 3<sup>rd</sup> District Finance Officer. (That is a lot of irons in the fire at one time!!!)

I would like to personally thank Clyde Gustine Post 236 and Commander Christopher Stull for hosting this meeting.

Note: A copy of the official meeting minutes are always posted on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Herd webpage following each meeting. [www.mo3rdherd.com](http://www.mo3rdherd.com)

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## **POW-MIA EMPTY CHAIR**

The POW/MIA honoree for this quarter is Private Merlin R. Calvin from Saint Louis, Missouri.

Merlin enlisted in the United States Army Air Forces and served during World War II. He was attached to the 20<sup>th</sup> Air Force, 29<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group, 6<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron as Left Gunner on a B-29 Superfortress.

On May 5, 1945 his B-29 took off from the North Field on Guam for a precision bombing mission against an airfield in Japan.

Eyewitnesses reported that the aircraft was attacked by Japanese fighters and crashed at 36°46'N and 132°15'E. Eight parachutes were seen to open, but the identity of who bailed out could not be determined. When this plane failed to return, the entire crew was listed as '*Missing In Action*' (MIA).

Some of the men that bailed out were captured, and later executed on June 20, 1945, shot or beheaded while POWs. Merlin R Calvin was one of these POWs.

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.)

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## **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.<sup>00</sup> 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 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.

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## **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. The collection of dues for 2023 has started and they are supposed to be paid by January 1, 2023! 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 17MAY23.

How is your post doing with renewals? Go to [www.missourilegion.org](http://www.missourilegion.org) and look at the district report on the membership page. The three rightmost columns are the important ones.

Conclusion: Anybody that hasn't paid their 2022 dues are extremely late. Be responsible and get them paid! If you haven't paid your dues for 2023 yet, pay soon. Posts reaching 100% by December 31, 2022 will receive awards And this goal can be easily reached.

## **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.

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## **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. If they don't drive anymore, consider having a member give them a ride to a meeting. 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'. (Note: A Life member is a member that is officially adopted by the post and the post is obligated to pay their dues for the rest of their life.)

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## **SUICIDE PREVENTION**

As a society, we have an ongoing problem of suicide within our communities, especially amongst our veterans. Local help is available for the asking. Tony Gardner is a member of Gower Memorial Post 393 and a member of the "Missouri Veterans Suicide Prevention Team".

**BE THE  
ONE**

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. Tony has sent out emails to the American Legion, DAV and VFW challenging them to host training at the district level and post level. 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.



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## **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.

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## **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.) If you participate in one of these ‘live’ sessions, you can ask questions and get immediate answers. If you miss a session, no problem. Each session will be recorded and made available for later viewing online.

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## **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.

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## **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” of Northwest Missouri 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 in front of the post. 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.

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## **POST ACTIVITIES IN THE JUL-AUG-SEP 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)**

- ★Provided Honor Guard services for five (5) veteran funerals.
- ★Presented colors at one (1) American Legion baseball game.
- ★Sponsored an American Legion baseball team (Harrison County Hotrods).
- ★Participated in Bethany, Missouri’s 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade.
- ★Put out flags Over Bethany on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.
- ★Presented colors, folded flag with a reading of each fold and gave a gun salute for the opening of Constitution Day Camp in Gallatin, Missouri.
- ★Put out over 100 flags over Bethany for Labor Day and the start of the NWMO State Fair.
- ★Shared a recruiting booth at the NWMO State Fair with the local VFW post for one week.
- ★Presented colors on Sept 15<sup>th</sup> for the Annual Farm Bureau meeting at South Harrison High.

### **Clyde Gustine Post 236 (Excelsior Springs)**

- ★Hosted 3<sup>rd</sup> District Meeting on September 11, 2022
- ★Held a “Pancake Feed” fundraiser and raffle on Sept 17<sup>th</sup>.
- ★Held a fundraising “Car & Bike Show” on Sept 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **Ed J. Kenney Post 140 (Kidder)**

- ★In July, helped the city conduct the annual “Kidder Festival” and held a fundraising raffle.
- ★Twice in September, held “Bingo & Brownies” fundraising events.
- ★In September, held a “Vets Helping Vets” fundraising breakfast.



### **Polo Memorial Post 557**

- ★ Donated money and labor to build a new handicap ramp for the county nutrition center.
- ★ Helped an older post member move in with his children.
- ★ Supplied one of our oldest members with a mobility scooter at no cost to him.
- ★ Led the Polo High School Homecoming parade on 30SEP22.
- ★ Performed honors for three (3) military funerals this quarter.

### **Gower Memorial Post 393**

- ★ 16SEP22 - Four (4) members of the post helped package food for Ukraine.
- ★ 24SEP22 – A fundraising Breakfast was held.
- ★ 24SEP22 – A fundraising Bake Sale was held.
- ★ 30SEP22 – Led the Gower High School Homecoming parade.

### **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. (Their 24/7 restaurant posts daily specials on Facebook)

### **Robert H. Baker Post 95 (Liberty)**

- ★ Provided Color Guard & Honor Guard services for veteran funerals.
- ★ We requalified for Honor guard and color guard at the Missouri U.S. National Guard Armory.
- ★ 03JUL22 - Robert H. Baker Post 95 participating in Liberty's July 4<sup>th</sup> ceremony.
- ★ 24SEP22 - Participated in the Liberty Fall Festival. We had a trailer of veterans and color guard.

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

- ★ Hosted monthly Second Harvest Mobile Pantry food distribution events at the post on 08JUL22, 19AUG22 and 16SEP22.
- ★ One of our members volunteers weekly at the Caldwell County Food Pantry Foundation distributing food to low-income residents of Caldwell County.
- ★ One of our members volunteers as a member of C.E.R.T. (Community Emergency Response Team).
- ★ Provided Honor Guard services for seven (7) veteran funerals.
- ★ Posted flags throughout the city on 4<sup>th</sup> of July & Labor Day holidays.
- ★ Donated medical equipment (shower chair, bedside toilet, walker and a wheelchair) to local accident victim.
- ★ 30SEP22 - Led the Penny High School Homecoming Parade

### **Jarchow-Schroeder Post 61 (Kansas City)**

- ★ 20 AUG 2022 ⇒ Annual Car Show at the post.

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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## **UPCOMING EVENTS & DEADLINES**

Support ourselves by supporting other Post activities!

Autumn is in full swing and the threat of COVID-19 is greatly diminished. Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas will be here before we know it. It's time to come out of our posts 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.

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

★ 21OCT22 ⇒ Boutwell-Clark-Craven-Eads Post 285 will be hosting the Second Harvest Community Food Bank mobile food distribution event at the post (also on 11/18 & 12/16)

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

★ 03NOV22 ⇒ Jim Nelson Post 58 in Smithville will be hosting a district revitalization event being conducted from 0900-1600. National Vice Commander Glenn Wahus will be participating in this event as will members of the Missouri Department staff and Missouri District 3 staff.

★ 05NON22 ⇒ Robert H. Baker Post 95 is having their annual Chili Dinner at Our Lady of Mercy in Liberty MO. to start at 4 pm.

★ 11NOV22 ⇒ There is a Veterans Day ceremony at the Liberty Community Center at 6 pm. Robert H. Baker Post 95 is participating in the program, along with the local VFW. Bagpipes will be played at the ceremony. We will have a guest speaker, Steve Hansen a veteran.

★ In November, Wilson-Axline Post 216 will be presenting colors at the Veterans Assembly held at the South Harrison High School, along with the assembly we have made arrangements for the Buchanan Highlanders Pipes and Drums to perform. The night of Veterans Day we will have our annual free Veterans Day Soup and Chili Supper. The Legion and VFW go together each year to hold this supper. This year it will be held at the VFW Hall in Bethany.



**Mark your calendars!** On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, a revitalization event for District 3 is going to be held at Jim Nelson Post 58. The post is located at 2607 NW Hwy 92E, Smithville, MO. This will be a one-day intensive revitalization event scheduled from 0900-1600 but if we have enough people to work the phones, we can get it done in less time. There should be light refreshments available during the day and a lunch available for participants so we can continue to work through lunch.

National Vice Commander Glenn Wahus (North Dakota) will be in attendance and he plans to help man the phones and go visit local veterans. Additional attendees will include National HQ Staff, 2-3 Department Staff (Commander Rose Noonan [possibly], Senior Vice Commander Mark Clark, Adjutant Lowry Finley-Jackson, Zone 2 Vice Commander George Shepard), Myself, District 3 Staff, and as many Post Commanders/Adjutants/Members as I can persuade to participate.

Our National HQ Staff will assist in advertising the event and we will have a Dept of MO Service Officer available at the event so veterans in your communities can come and speak to him about VA Services and benefits. All materials required for a successful event will be provided by National HQ and our Dept Staff. What I need from every Post in our District is volunteers to make the phone calls and conduct visits with local veterans if necessary.

With our membership goals this year we have a real chance to achieve 100% membership and revitalizations are a great way to move members at large into your local posts and to reach out to expired members and get them back in the fold. Together we can do great things and I look forward to the National Vice Commander coming to our District and in having him work side by side with you and your members to help revitalize our district.

As far as working the lists, each post can certainly call the folks on their delinquent roster and those on the AD and MO 1000 rosters in the zip codes surrounding their posts. National will send out post cards letting all members both current and past in our zip codes know that we will be holding the event so our calls will not be cold calls. Rosters, transfer forms, and a script to follow will be provided for those not comfortable just calling and visiting with a fellow veteran on the phone.

You are being asked to give us one day a year to help with this effort and if we have enough people, we know that our posts will benefit by landing new transfers and renewals. Often times, for a small rural post this effort can be the difference between being an active, viable post in their community or falling into obscurity awaiting cancellation/closure. This event could be the transfusion your post needs to make a strong comeback. *Post Commanders and Adjutants, here is the help you requested in reaching your membership goals.* Don't let this opportunity pass you by.

As part of our preparation for the revitalization with the National Vice Commander, we provided national with a list of zip codes we want targeted during this event. All past/present Legionnaires who live in those zip codes will receive a post card from National HQ letting them

know we will be holding a revitalization on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. This card will list location/time and include information to let the recipients know what we are doing.

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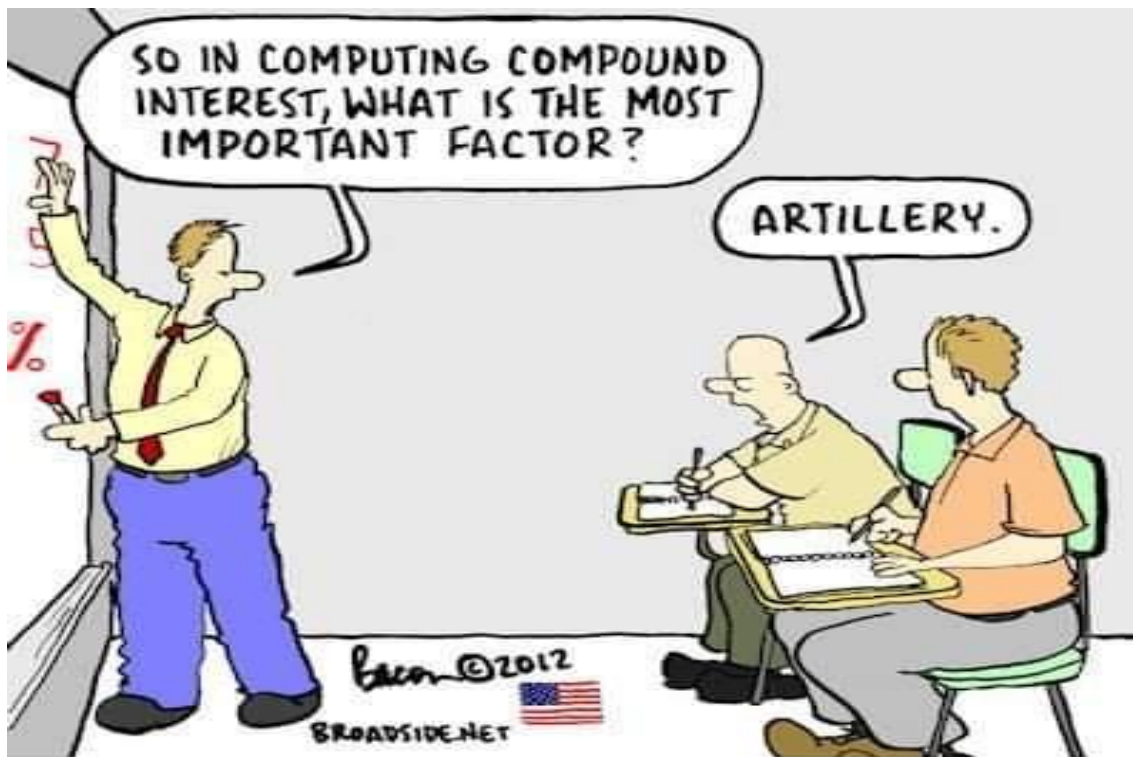
## **Glenn Wahus – National Vice Commander 2022-2023**



Glenn Wahus is a member of American Legion Carl E Rogen Post 29 in Watford City, N.D., and is a U.S. Navy veteran (1983-87). Wahus served as Department of North Dakota commander (2018-2019), and has served on several post, department and national committees, including the National Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission (2015-2022). Most recently he has served as the North Dakota Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation chairman. He was instrumental in bringing back the "courage carries on" suicide awareness and prevention program to veterans and youth in North Dakota. Wahus was picked by Governor Doug Burgum to serve on North Dakota's Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs.







To the Major, it was pretty much the solution to every problem.

