



DISTRICT THREE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI

Fall Edition

September 2014

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COMMANDER'S CORNER

By
John F. Kopp

One question I receive most often from the officers in the posts in our district is, "How can we increase our membership." Given the diversity of our posts, this is an extremely difficult question to answer. Of course there are always the standard answers: ask any veteran you see, become noticed in the community, get involved in the schools, etc.

So, what is the answer?

Besides what is mentioned above, there are a few other resources available. If the post's adjutant uses a computer, and most do, he or she should sign up on mylegion.org. He or she can set up an account just for the adjutant and will have access to the post 1000 list. This is a list of all of the members within a defined area. The adjutant can insert any radius from 1 to 99 miles and it will show all of the legion members who do not belong to a post in that area.

Then it is just a matter of contacting that person and asking if he or she would like to be transferred into your post.

Sponsor information nights in your community to answer questions about the legion and your post.

Invite veterans to one of your meetings and make that veteran feel welcomed. This is extremely important. If that veteran feels welcomed and comfortable, he or she will probably be more willing to join your post.

Try anything.

If we all work together, our district can have over 100% of our goal for this year.

You all did a fabulous job last year. But, we did come up 142 shy of our goal. We can do it.

And, thank you all for all your hard work.

DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

Mark your calendars for the next district meetings:

Date: September 14, 2014
 Place: Wilson-Axline Post 216
 32932 W. Highway 13
 Bethany MO 64424
 Time: 1200 PM Lunch
 1300 PM Meeting

Date: January 11, 2015
 Place: Jarchow-Schroeder Post 61
 5125 N.Bellaire
 Kansas City MO 64119
 Time: 1200 PM Lunch
 1300 PM Meeting

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

Date: June 14, 2015
 Place: Robert H. Baker Post 95
 Our Lady of Mercy Country Home
 2115 Maturana Drive
 Liberty MO 64068
 Time: 1200 PM Lunch
 1300 PM Meeting

SEPTEMBER DISTRICT MEETING

As stated above, the September 14th meeting will be held in Bethany. All those attending should bring a covered dish, and Post 216 will furnish the meat.

This will be an important meeting with a lot on the agenda. We will discuss this year's membership goals and the District revitalization. Final plans and dates will hopefully be made.

Our District Flag is just about worn out and needs to be replaced.

Our finance officer will discuss the problems we are having with the IRS.

We will discuss establishing an emergency finance fund for Veterans and their families who apply for Temporary Financial Assistance.

It is also the meeting when we hold our annual Memorial service for the members we have lost over the past year.

So, I urge each post to be represented at the meeting. Every decision made then will affect every post one way or another.

2014-2015 NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES

EARY BIRD	SEPTEMBER 10, 2014	50%
FALL MEETINGS	OCTOBER 8, 2014	55%
VETERANS DAY	NOVEMBER 13, 2014	65%
PEARL HARBOR DAY	DECEMBER 10, 2014	75%
MID-WINTER	JANUARY 21, 2015	80%
PRESIDENT'S DAY	FEBRUARY 11, 2015	85%
LEGION BIRTHDAY	MARCH 11, 2015	90%
CHILDFEB & YOUTH	APRIL 8, 2015	95%
ARMED FORCES DAY	MAY 13, 2015	100%
Delegate Strength	30 days prior to National Convention	

THE NAVY CLUB OF MISSOURI

We are in the process of forming a new ship in the Navy Club of Missouri. Presently there are only three ships in the club, the Mother Ship, Ship 4 and Ship 5. Ships 4 and 5 are on the eastern side of the state and the Mother Ship sort of covers the entire state. We would like to start up a new ship on our western side of the state.

Eligibility: Membership is made up solely of members who are in good standing in the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, American Veterans of WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Lebanon/Grenada, Panama, Gulf War/ War on Terrorism, having a membership card for the current year, and having served in the Navy, Seabees, Marines, Coast Guard, or Merchant Marines.

If anyone is interested in being a charter member of the new ship (number to be determined at first meeting) please contact me either by phone (816 699 8719) or by email (jfkopp@att.net).



VETERANS APPRECIATION EVENT



Live Music

Beer Garden

Great Food * Raffle * 50-50 * Vendors

Registration \$15 Donation

Hey Kids!!! Enter your Bicycle in our bicycle show and win a prize. Ages 13 and under.

DOOR PRIZES!!

Trophies for, Cars, Bikes, and bicycles



Marine Color Guard Static Displays Come and help us thank our heroes!!!

Sponsor : Jarchow-Schroeder Post 61
 Where : 5125 N Bellaire Kansas City, Missouri 64119
 When: September 13, 2014: 11am - 3pm

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY

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.

We all know that the American Legion Family consists of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, The Sons of The American Legion, and The Legion Riders. District three is honored to have two posts with the complete family, Post 61 in Kansas City North and Post 58 in Smithville. These two posts consist of all three elements.

If your post does not have a Sons Squadron and you wish to join or know someone who is eligible you can join any squadron. If you are a member in good standing in your post and would like to be a Rider, you can join any Riders chapter. Just contact the Post Commander or me and we will get the ball rolling. I personally belong to the SAL and Legion, my son belongs to Legion Post 95 and Riders and SAL at Post 61

Both programs can do wonders for any post and assist in increasing membership. Just ask any post with SAL and/or Riders.

DEPARTMENT AND NATIONAL EVENTS TO REMEMBER

National Convention

2015-August 28-Sept. 3, Baltimore, MD

2015-August 26-Sept. 1, Cincinnati, OH

2017-August 24-30, Louisville, KY

2018-August 24-30, Minneapolis, MN

2019-Augus 23-29, Indianapolis, IN

Department Schedule

2014 Fall Conference 10/24-10/24*

2015 Spring Conference 2/10-2/22*

2015 Department Convention 7/9-7/15

Ramada Oasis, Springfield MO

2015 Fall Conference 10/23-10/25*

2016 Spring Conference 2/19-2/21*

2016 Department Convention 7/7-7/10

*All at Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO

BOYS STATE AND ORATORICAL

With the new school beginning, now is the time for all Oratorical and Boys State Post Chairs to start up again. The post Oratorical Chairperson should start contacting the high school(s) in his or her area with information concerning our Oratorical competition.

The post Boys State committees should begin talking to businesses and others about sponsoring boys for boys state.

The Oratorical contests should begin in December with the county contests, then in January we hold our district contest and in late January or early February is the Zone contest followed by the state competition held during the department'