



The American Legion  
Department of Missouri  
District Three Commander

March 8, 2010

Dear Commanders and Adjutants,

Since I will only be sending this to you adjutants, I trust that you will share this with your commander and also with the members of your post.

This letter and packet will take the place of the usual newsletter, since there is so much included here. I just returned from the Department of Missouri's Spring Conference. As usual, the conference was very educational and I believe somewhat productive also. I was able to attend several committee meetings as well as much of the general assembly, as well as the DEC on Sunday morning.

I will give the highlights here, but there will be a better explanation, I hope, with our news letter before the next district meeting.

As always, there was a push for membership. Membership is the driving force behind the Legion. There is definitely strength in numbers, especially when the Department or National goes before congress with requests. Besides the usual recognition that has always been in the past, we also have what is called "I met T.H.E. Job Challenge". If a member recruits five or more new members, he or she is entitled to receive "T.H.E. Job Challenge" pin. The number of available pins is limited, so, if you have a member that meets the criteria and you need a form, let me know and I will get the form to you. As you probably know the membership goal for February 10<sup>th</sup> was 85%. Our district also attained this goal with an 86.84 % - GREAT GOING GUYS!! Now comes the most difficult part, to keep going and contact those who, for whatever reason, have not paid this year's dues. Send a reminder post card, make a simple phone call, go visit. If they have concerns, listen to them; see if there is any way to address them favorably to all parties.

Boys State – You should all have received you information by now. Now is the time to contact every high school in your area along with potential sponsors. If you post cannot afford to send at least one boy to Boys State, contact the businesses in you area. Ask for donations, even if it is just a portion. Sponsors can be combined to support one boy. Boys State is very important to the Legion, to your community, to the boys, and to our country's future. Some dates to remember are the deadline for submitting applications to me, the District Chairman, is April 15<sup>th</sup>. That gives me about two weeks to get everything in order and get the applications off to Warrensburg by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

I hope that by now all posts have either submitted their IRS forms, either the Form 990-N (e-card) for gross receipts normally less the \$25,000, or the 990-EZ or 990 for larger incomes. This is really important. If you fail, or have failed file for the past three years, including this year, you will lose your Non-Profit status. What does this really mean? It means that every penny you have coming in, that is dues, contributions, fees, whatever, will be taxable. It means that if a person wishes to donate money or goods to your post that person cannot deduct the contribution. And your post will have to reapply for the status. To file an e-Postcard go to <http://epostcard.form990.org>

Register as new user (unless you have already obtained a login ID from a previous year



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Once you have a login ID, you can access the system and create you e-Postcard. When you put in you Post EIN the name that will show up will be that of the Department or National Legion. The Post will need to input a DBA (Doing Business As) name to reflect the name of the post. I believe that there is a phone number for questions. All posts EIN numbers are under the National Umbrella, and thus are in the National data base.

One of Department Commander Charley Gooden's attainable goals for this year is that the American Legion present at least one award in every high school in the state. This means contacting every high school and offer to present a certificate and/or medal a student or students that, say, show superior citizenship, leadership, etc. This can be part of your Americanism Program.

Enclosed in this packed is a copy of the District's Constitution and By-Laws. There are a couple of changed that need to be addressed concerning our By-Laws. One has to do with the titles of our Vice-Commanders. Right now the by-laws state that we should have two vice-commander, one elected from the posts north of Highway 36 and one elected from the posts of south of Highway 36. Over the past few years, those interested in serving as vice-commander have only been members from posts south of Highway 36 and one of those elected was called Northern Vice-Commander and the other Southern Vice-Commander. We propose to change the names to First Vice-Commander and Second Vice-Commander.

Another change we are looking at is the number of posts required for a quorum. Originally the number was set at one third of the posts, which came to ten posts. Again, over the past few years the number of posts participating in the operations of our district has shrunk, for whatever reason. So, it is necessary to change the one third number required to Five Posts.

So, there are two resolutions included. These will be discussed at the April meeting in Hamilton MO, and will be voted on at the June meeting. This is in accordance with the Department and National Guidelines for Constitution and By-Laws change.

You all may wish to check out <http://www.missourilegion.org/>. The Department of Missouri has a newly designed web site and it is pretty impressive. There are several forms that you post may need on there and are either fillable or downloadable or both.

One last thing. Some of our posts are very small in membership. Several posts are so small that their meetings are on a "called" basis. Some are even in danger of losing their post building for one reason or another. If your post is in this position or you are having trouble getting any program started or completed due to just lack of members, maybe you might look into consolidating with your neighbor post. If you are interested in looking into this option, just let me know.

I wish to thank all of your for you continued service to our country, to your community, and to the Legion.

John F. Kopp, Commander  
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