



DISTRICT THREE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI

Summer Edition

May 2013

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COMMANDER'S CORNER

By

Calvin Bumgarner, Commander
District Three

Well summer finally got here but now it won't stop raining. Hope everyone is doing well. I want to thank all of you for the hard work you have done on membership. We now have 9 Post in the district that are over 100%. And we are at 95.84% only 103 from being 100% for the year. We need to get the members who haven't renewed to renew. We need you help. Again thanks for all you do.

Consolidated Post Reports are due now we need to have them in by June 15 if you need help with this please call me John Kopp or Robert Emery and we can help you post these on line.

This next District 3 meeting we will be electing the next officers for the District. Come and help us elect the people that will be leading our district for the next 2 years

The Membership Banners have arrived I have them and will be displaying them at the next District meeting. This is a useful tool to use when recruiting. These are available by request.

The next meeting for District 3 is going to be In Excelsior Springs Mo. At Clyde Gustine Post 236 on June 9th lunch at 1200 hr. meeting at 1300 hrs. Let's make this a good meeting. Let's try and have at least one member from each post. We need your input. Hope to see you there.

This is also the Ladies Auxiliary District meeting too. Make sure they know and bring them along with you. Remember we are all Family and that is what it takes to make us a success.

To keep up with all information go to www.missourilegion.org. And get the latest news. Also on our website <http://www.mo3rdherd.com/>

DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

Mark you calendars for the next district meetings:

Date: June 9, 2013
 Place: Clyde Gustine Post 236
 208 Veterans Memorial Dr.
 Excelsior Springs MO 64024
 Time: 1200 PM Lunch
 1300 PM Meeting

Date: September 8, 2013
 Place: Boutwell-Clark-Craven-Eads Post 285
 300 W. Memorial Dr
 Hamilton MO 64644
 Time: 1200 PM Lunch
 1300 PM Meeting

Date: January 12, 2014
 Place: Jarchow-Schroeder Post 61
 5125 N. Bellaire
 Kansas City MO 64119
 Time: 1200 PM Lunch
 1300 PM Meeting

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OUR HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

By
John F. Kopp, Past Commander
District Three

Most people associate the birth of the Legion with the Paris Caucus, but, the Legion really started with the 1919 Caucus held in St. Louis, Missouri, held May 7th thru the 9th of 1919. It was during this caucus that the preamble was adopted, constitution and bylaws were written, and application for federal charter was written.

It was also during this caucus that the enthusiasm of Theodore Roosevelt Jr. inspired the participants to return to their respective states and begin forming departments and posts in preparation for the first national convention to be held in Minneapolis Minn. later in the year.

Our first state convention was held in Jefferson City on October 6th and 7th 1919. On the first day of the convention there were 158 posts chartered. And our first department commander was Sid Houston of Kansas City

By the time of the second convention, held in Sedalia on September 3rd and 4th of 1920, there were 335 posts.

(Information taken from "THE AMERICAN LEGION STORY" by Raymond Moley, Jr. published 1966

ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP

All who attended the District competition, Zone competition and Department competition knew she would do it. Agnes G. Rieger of Oak Park High School in North Kansas School District went to Indianapolis and won the national competition. Congratulation to Aggie for a job well done.

Free Accidental Death Insurance

Did you know that as members of The American Legion you can be covered by up to \$5,000 insurance policy for accidental death or dismemberment? It is free!!!! But, **you must activate it.**

If you have not received a brochure with the information and registration form, you can obtain one by calling Patty at Department Headquarters, contacting your post adjutant, or signing up on line at

<http://www.thelit.com/Benefits.aspx?prod=205>

Our district has twenty-nine posts with a total membership of 2469, last year's count. But, only three hundred forty (340) have enrolled. Since it is free, why not do it today. One never knows when something might happen,

There is an incentive for posts having members enroll.

Post size	Required Enrollment Percentage	Gift card level
50 or less members	100%	\$10
51 to 200 members	75%	\$15
201 to 400 members	70%	\$25
401 to 750 members	65%	\$50
751 or more members	60%	\$100

2012-2013 NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES

Legion Birthday	March 13, 2013	90%
Children & Youth	*April 10, 2013	95%
Armed Forces Day	May 8, 2013	100%
Delegate Strength	30 days prior to National Convention	

**This date is also a renewal notice cutoff date.

Boys State
By John F. Kopp, District Chairman

Boys State begins Saturday June 15, 2013. District three will be sending 45 boys this year. All are welcome to visit during the week and observe what the boys are doing. They would appreciate seeing members from the post that sent helped sponsor them. For more information, if you are interested in visiting boys state, contact Marvin Harper – (660) 652-3291 marehar@grm.net

Thoughts
John F. Kopp, Chaplain

A few years back I heard this little story about a pig and a chicken. They were walking down the road one day and came upon a family that was extremely poor. The chicken immediately felt sorry for the family, and being early in the day, the chicken thought it would be great if he and the pig provided breakfast for the family.

So the chicken turns to the pig and asks, "Wouldn't it be nice to provide a nice breakfast for these poor people?"

The pig replied, "What would you suggest?"

"How about a large serving of ham and eggs, or bacon and eggs"?

The pig was taken aback, "Well, my friend," he replied, "That is easy for you to say. For you it is a contribution for me it is a total commitment."

Think about that for a minute and then think about "For God and Country we associate ourselves." What exactly does this mean? Are we contributors or are we committed?

We are all veterans still serving. We know our military are committed to serve our country up to and including giving their lives.

Just something to think about.

DEPARTMENT AND NATIONAL EVENTS TO REMEMBER

National Convention
2013 - August 23-29, Houston, Texas
2014 – August 22-28, Charlotte, N.C.

Department Schedule
Department Convention – 7/18 – 7/21, 2013
Fall Conference – 10/25 –10/27, 2013
All Department Conferences and Conventions held at:
Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO

Sons of the American Legion

By John F. Kopp, Adjutant,
Detachment of Missouri

The American Legion family consists of four parts. First of all is The American Legion, then there is The American Legion Auxiliary, the Sons of The American Legion, and the newest member, The American Legion Riders.

Most posts have two family members, Legion and Auxiliary. Only one post in our district, so far, has a Legion Riders, Chapter. That being Post 61 in Kansas City. But, there are five Squadrons of the Sons of The American Legion in our district, Squadron 58 of Smithville, Squadron 61 of Kansas City, Squadron 117 of Braymer, Squadron 236 of Excelsior Springs, and our newest Squadron, Squadron 92 of Grant City.

Eligibility Requirements:

All male descendants, adopted sons and stepsons of members of The American Legion, and such male descendants of veterans who died in service during World War I, World War II, Korean War, the Vietnam War, Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, and the Persian Gulf War, during the delimiting periods set forth in Article IV, Section 1, of the National Constitution of The American Legion, or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service, shall be eligible for membership in the Sons Of The American Legion. There shall be no forms or class of membership except an Active Membership.

To start a squadron at your post, all it takes is ten male descendants as described above (age does not matter. My squadron, Squadron 61, has a member two years old) with the desire to assist the post and Legion. A squadron can also have Legion Members who are eligible due to their father or grandfather. My son and I are Dual Members, both being members of Legion Post 61 and Squadron 61. For more information feel free to contact me and I will get information to you.

CONSOLIDATED POST REPORT

It is getting close to that time again, time for EVERY POST to submit their annual Consolidated Post Report. They are not that difficult to fill out and get them sent in to Department. It only takes a few minutes. Let's see if District Three can attain a 100% this year. These reports are very important for our District, Department and the Legion as a whole. Do it now.