



DISTRICT THREE
AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI

Winter Edition

December 2014

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COMMANDER'S CORNER

By
John F. Kopp

Well, the new year is upon us and it is winter. For me, the only good thing about winter is that spring is not far away. I hope all had a wonderful Christmas. Now, as we start the new year, it is time to buckle down and think about, among other things, membership. Last year we had five posts with at least 100% of goal, more than any other district in the department and were second in Zone II. Let's see if we can get a 100% in all the posts, it can be done.

At the beginning of December we had a District Revitalization. Since I could not get a date before the end of April, I teamed up with District 7. We picked up over 25 transfers from Post 1000, both department and the national DMS list. Much thanks to Calvin Bumgarner, Doug Millison, and Nelson Duncan.

If you attended the last district meeting you know that we approved a TFA (temporary financial assistance) fund in the district. It has been very successful so far. We have used it once and paid a needy veteran's water bill before the water was shut off. The paper work was finalized and sent to National, where it was approved.

Another motion that was passed what for the district to purchase a new district flag. No one seemed to know how old the present one is and it has holes in it and thread bare in several places. The Adjutant and Finance Officer are going to purchase a new one.

It is not too early to start thinking about the elections this year. All of the officers on the left of this page are up for re-election except for me. I cannot succeed myself unless no one else is interested in being commander. So, if you, or you know of anyone, who is interested in holding a district office, let me know.

Another item to consider is the Consolidated Post Report. Adjutants should begin not collected data for the report. All posts do something and it should be reported on those reports.

Get your facts first, then you can distort them as you please.

Mark Twain

DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

Mark your calendars for the next district meetings:

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 236
208 Veterans Memorial Dr.
Excelsior Springs MO 64024
Time: 1200 PM Lunch
1300 PM Meeting

Date: June 8, 2014
Place: Robert H. Baker Post 95
Our Lady of Mercy Country Home
2115 Maturana Dr.
Liberty MO 64068
Time: 1200 PM Lunch
1300 PM Meeting

MEMBERSHIP

By
John F. Kopp, Commander
District Three

About a week before Christmas I received a letter from the Department Commander about a plan sent to him from the National Commander to retain all our current members. Department Headquarters had sent to every post commander a list of members who had no renewed their membership. The plan from National was that each post's membership team would call at least three of these members and ask them to renew immediately instead of waiting until later in the year. Then the post Commander was to send a report to me with the information as to who renewed, who was going to renew, who was not going to renew, and who could not be contacted.

Some posts had very short lists, mainly due to their location and lack of veterans in their area, while others had rather large numbers. It is extremely important to contact these members and ask them to renew ASAP.

If you get all the members on that list contacted, then you should go to the Post 1000 list and ask those members if they would like to transfer into your post.

I think if we all work on this, District Three can make its goal this year.

The trouble with having an open mind, of course, is that people will insist on coming along and trying to put things in it.

Terry Pratchett

2014 - 2015 NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES

MID-WINTER	JANUARY 21, 2015	80%
PRESIDENT'S DAY	FEBRUARY 11, 2015	85%
LEGION BIRTHDAY	MARCH 11, 2015	90%
CHILDREN & YOUTH	APRIL 8, 2015	95%
ARMED FORCES DAY	MAY 13, 2015	100%
Delegate Strength	30 days prior to National Convention	

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

ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP

This years District Three Oratorical Scholarship contest is scheduled for January 18, 2015 at Smithville Post 58, 2607 E. 92 Highway, Smithville MO 64089. The contest is scheduled to begin at 1:00 P.M. All are welcomed and encouraged to attend. Right now I have received no information as to where or when the Zone II contest is scheduled to be held. Hopefully we will know something by the district meeting on Jan. 11th.

The State Oratorical Contest is scheduled for Saturday, February 21, 2015 in Jefferson City at the Capitol Plaza Hotel. Again, all are invited.

I also would like to thank Ray Nichols of Post 95 for stepping up and filling in for our Chairman, Ed Schmidt, who has been experiencing health problems for a while.

VETERANS BENEFIT FAIR

Several Legion members from Districts Three and Four are going to conduct a veterans benefit fair in April of 2015. The fair will be free to all veterans, veterans' families, and the general public. We are going to have as many veterans organizations as possible represented as possible, for instance, The American Legion, VFW, DAV, Vietnam Veterans, AMVETS, etc., along with several Veteran Service Officers, the VA mobile health unit, and as many companies that offer benefits or other incentives for veterans. There will be entertainment by the American Legion Band of Kansas City, free refreshments courtesy of the local Sons of The Legion Squadron.

As you can imagine, there will be costs incurred with this, food, hall rental, etc. We are asking for any financial assistance that we could get. We would like to suggest that each post donate, if possible, just fifty cents per member. All funds that are not exhausts on the fair itself will be donated to Operation Comfort Warrior. If you wish to assist us, please make your check out to District Three with Veterans Fair in the bottom left corner of the check and mail it to either me or the district

Boys State

By

John F. Kopp, District Chairman

Hopefully all are ready for the applications to start rolling in from boys desiring to attend this year's boys state. This year the program is scheduled for June 13 - 20. Please try to get the applications and sponsor information to me as soon as possible. I must have all the information in to MBS headquarters by March 15. So, the sooner I get the forms and checks the better.

Remember, Program Fee is \$400 and can come from as many sponsors as necessary. A post can send as many boys as there is money for. Often, a boy will discover that he cannot attend. There are no refunds, but , in the case of a cancellation, an alternate will be selected. MDS tries to get an alternate from the same school. So, all applications are important.

**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.

**DEPARTMENT AND NATIONAL EVENTS TO
REMEMBER**

National Convention

- 2015-August 28-Sept. 3, Baltimore, MD**
- 2016-August 26-Sept. 1, Cincinnati, OH**
- 2017-August 24-30, Louisville, KY**
- 2018-August 24-30, Minneapolis, MN**
- 2019-August 23-29, Indianapolis, IN**

Department Schedule

- 2015 Spring Conference 2/20-2/22**
- 2015 Convention 7/09-7/13**

Springfield, MO

2015 Fall Conference 10/23-10/25

All at Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO

**Truth is like the sun. You can shut it out for a
time, but it ain't goin' away.**
Elvis Presley

Veterans Fair Cont.

There are many benefits that veterans have earned and deserve due to their honorable service to our country and many of those benefits are not widely known. Many have changed over the years and these changes may not be known. People will be there to answer any questions that any one may have.

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CONSOLIDATED POST REPORT

I know it is early, but it is not too early to start thinking about your Post's Consolidated Report. How about every post in the district filing this report this year. It can be done. They are not that difficult to complete.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

One of the American Legion's four pillars, as you know, is Children and Youth. And, there are several programs within the Legion that supports this pillar. But, serving our children and youth is not limited to just these programs. Take for instance Missouri Special Olympics.

We have probably all heard of the Special Olympics through the news and, maybe we are either personally involved or know someone who is. Or maybe we have a child, or know someone who has a child, participating in the Olympics.

But, have you ever thought about volunteering yourself? You don't have to be a coach, but can be. There are all sorts of ways to assist. Funding is one way. Since the Special Olympics operates strictly through donations, there is always a need for money. And, all funds are for the athletes. So, if you or your post wishes to support this very worthwhile project, or would like more information, contact:

For Clay County: Sarah Bachand
9001 W. 67th St.
Merriam KS 66202
(913) 789-0330

For all other counties in District Three
Alyssa Humphreys
2300 Frederick Ave. Suite 209
St. Joseph MO 64506
(816) 233-6232

These two ladies can give you all the information you want from funding to just moral support for the athletes.

John F. Kopp, Commander
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Department of Missouri
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