



# DISTRICT THREE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI

Winter Edition

Dec 2011

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## DISTRICT THREE JANUARY MEETING

By  
Calvin Bumgarner, Commander

The District Three Meeting for January 8 will be held at Post 61 in Kansas City Mo The post is located at 5125 N. Bellaire Kansas (816) 454-7570. This is our January District Meeting.

### Boys State

By John F. Kopp, District Chairman

Hopefully by the time this is printed all posts and schools have received their packets for this year's Boys State. You should have noticed that the cost has raised \$50.00 this year, due to rising costs in food and other uncontrollable circumstances. This may turn off some sponsors from sponsoring a boy. When talking to them, you may want to suggest that they contribute the same as last year. You can combine two or more sponsors for one boy.

Also, you should have noticed that the deadlines have been moved up a month. So it is important to get in contact with the schools in your area as soon as possible to get things rolling. And, please try to get your citizens applications in on time so I can get them to Warrensburg on time. Let's try to make this year our best year ever. Thank you

## DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

Mark your calendars for the next district meetings:

Date: January 8, 2012  
Place: Jarchow-Schroeder Post 61  
5125 N Bellaire  
Kansas City MO 64119  
Time: 1200 PM Lunch  
1300 PM Meeting

Date: April 15, 2012  
Wilson-Axline Post 216  
32932 W Hwy 13  
Bethany, MO 64424  
Time: 1200 PM Lunch  
1300 PM Meeting

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### COMMANDER'S CORNER

By  
**Calvin Bumgarner, Commander**  
**District Three**

It's the Holiday season again and I hope you all will have a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. This is the time of sharing in our community and our Families. Hopefully we are trying to help our fellow Vets in their needs we are all here as Legionnaires for a purpose and that is to support our fellow Veterans and there needs.

The next District Meeting will be held at Jarchow Schroeder Post 61 in Kansas City Mo. on January 8 2012. There will be several of the State Officers there for this meeting. Come and listen to what they have to say about the Legion and the State. Come and hear what is going on with our Veterans homes and cemeteries. Come and join us and support our district. I would like to see some one from each of our post.

The next State Conference is the Spring Conference on February 17<sup>th</sup> thru the 19<sup>th</sup> 2012. Come and see what the State Legion has to offer.

The Department Oratorical Scholarship Contest is also held during this weekend, usually on Saturday afternoon.

Legion Conference will be held at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, 415 McCarty, Jefferson City, MO **(800) 338-8088**.

The SAL Spring Conference will also be held at that time, also at the Capitol Plaza Hotel.

Again hope you have a Great Christmas And a happy new Year!!!!

Contact me any time I am here to help you in any way I can.

## WE ARE FAMILY

By  
**John F. Kopp, Past Commander**  
**District Three**

District Three is very fortunate to have at least one of every member of The American Legion Family. Most of our posts have an auxiliary unit assisting and supporting them, we also have three active squadrons of the Sons of The American Legion and we also have one Chapter of The American Legion Riders.

Do you realize that you do NOT have to be a member of the post that has a S.A.L. Squadron or Legion Rider Chapter to join? You can belong to one post and have a son or grandson that can join the S.A.L. Squadron at another post.

And like any family, communications is vital. When some one needs help that member needs to inform the others. That is like the Legion holding a fundraiser. The post should ask the Auxiliary, S.A.L., and Riders if they would like to participate, and the other ways also. None of the four members should go off on its own without at least informing the others as to what is going on.

Four times a year the District holds a meeting. The Legion and Auxiliary both hold their respective district meetings at the same time and same place. The times and locations are published in this letter and also sent to the post officers prior to the meeting. The Commander of that post should invite the S.A.L. and Riders to attend. Think of all the ideas that could come from such a gathering.

### 2011-2012 NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES

|                             |   |             |
|-----------------------------|---|-------------|
| <b>Pearl Harbor Day</b>     | <b>December 14, 2011</b>                    | <b>75%</b>  |
| <b>Mid Winter</b>           | <b>January 19, 2012</b>                     | <b>80%</b>  |
| <b>President's Day</b>      | <b>*February 8, 2012</b>                    | <b>85%</b>  |
| <b>Legion Birthday</b>      | <b>March 14, 2012</b>                       | <b>90%</b>  |
| <b>Children &amp; Youth</b> | <b>*April 11, 2012</b>                      | <b>95%</b>  |
| <b>Armed Forces Day</b>     | <b>May 9, 2012</b>                          | <b>100%</b> |
| <b>Delegate Strength</b>    | <b>30 days prior to National Convention</b> |             |

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

## MEMBERSHIP

Every Friday afternoon, the Department of Missouri Department Headquarters publishes membership reports on the Department's webpage. They publish the districts totals in the order of percentages, and then they publish the totals for each district, the posts in that district and what the post membership was last year, what it is as of that date, and what the goal is for this year.

As of this writing we have one post that has achieved at least 100% of this year's goal. Congratulations on a job well done. But, also, there are eleven posts that are within ten percent of the goal. Let's keep plugging along and see if we can get more posts over that 100% marker..

Let's keep asking the returning veteran, the older veteran who may have never been asked at all, and those people who may or may not look like they may be veterans. Unless we ask, we will never know.

If a veteran is on the fence, can't really decide whether to join or not, why not have your post offer a trial membership – pay his or her first years dues. Get them in, and then keep them.

Also, pay the dues for active duty personnel, especially if they are deployed. They have enough on their minds than to worry about dues. Besides, if they are a member while on active duty or deployed and the post sends care packages, writes letters, gets their families involved with the post, I would bet they would stay a member when their tour is over and they return home. Sure is worth the investment, wouldn't you say?

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### Our Prayers Are Answered By John F. Kopp, Assistant Chaplain

Often we hear people say that God never answers their prayers, so they quit praying. At the opening and closing of every Legion meeting, conference, and convention there is a prayer and we ask the Supreme Commander for various things. But, are our prayers answered?

When I think of this I am reminded of a story about a man named Joe (it is Joe because everyone uses John).

Joe was a prayerful man living alone on his farm. One year there was a terrible flood. As the forecast came out for rising waters, and the call for evacuation, local officials started sending out people to assist. Joe prayed to God to protect and save him.

The police came by Joe's house to drive him to safety. Joe told the officers, "I am OK. God will protect and save me." So they drove off. Just as the water was about to cover the road, the police came by again. And again Joe told them, "I am OK, God will protect and save me."

Water rose to fill Joe's house, forcing Joe to the second floor. Along came a boat to save Joe. Again Joe said, "I am OK. God will protect and save me."

## 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 one year 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.

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As the water rose and forced Joe to the roof, another boat came along. Again Joe said, "I am OK. God will protect and save me." Joe kept on praying for God to save him and protect him from harm.

And here was Joe, on the very peak of his house holding on to the chimney. Along comes a helicopter. Joe again shouts out, "I am OK. God will protect and save me."

Well, poor Joe drowns. As he enters Heaven, he goes to see God.

"God," Joe asks, "why did You not save me? I prayed so hard and long to you."

God looks lovingly and tenderly as He says, "My son, I sent you two police cars, two boats and a helicopter, what more did you want me to do?"

The response to our prayer is not always in the form in which we expect it. After all, who can really say how God thinks? But we can rest assured that He will always answer our prayers.

"Whatever you ask the Father in My name it will be given to you."

**DEPARTMENT AND NATIONAL EVENTS  
TO REMEMBER**

**National Convention**

2012 - August 24-30, Indianapolis, Indiana

2013 - August 23-29, Houston, Texas

**Department Schedule**

Spring Conference – 2/17–2/19, 2012

Department Convention – 7/12 – 7/15, 2012

Fall Conference – 10/26 – 10/28, 2012

All **Department** Conferences and Conventions held at:

Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO

**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.