



# DISTRICT THREE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI

## DISTRICT OFFICERS

*Effective Sept. 8, 2013*

### COMMANDER

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## COMMANDER'S CORNER

By

**Calvin Bumgarner, Commander  
District Three**

Just hoping everyone is having a good Labor Day weekend. As I come to the end of my term as your District Commander I just want to thank all of you for the great job you have done for the District. This year we had 10 Posts that went over the top in membership. Six posts that retained there last year's membership. We added 89 new members and transferred 91 from Post 1000 and other places. With all of your support we ended up 9<sup>th</sup> in the state with 97.03% just 72 short of 100%. Let's keep up the good work.

The next 2 years John Kopp will be your Commander. Many of you know him as he was district commander before me. Please give him as much support as you have given me.

I also want to thank all of you who hosted district meetings for us. With your help it keeps the District's message alive.

The next District meeting will be September 8 at Boutwell-Clark-Craven-Eads Post 285, 300 W. Memorial Dr. Hamilton MO 64644. Lunch at 1200 PM. Meeting 1300 PM. Please come and support the 3<sup>rd</sup> District. We will have Installation of new officers and our annual Post Everlasting ceremony remembering our comrades who have passed in the last year. Please bring a list or Email one to John or me of the fallen members of your post, so we can honor them.

Last but not least Thanks again for all you do to support the American Legion State of Missouri. Your membership and programs you do every day help veterans everywhere in the state.

Keep up the good work  
3<sup>rd</sup> District Commander  
Calvin Bumgarner

## DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

Mark your calendars for the next district meetings:

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 North Bellaire  
Kansas City MO 64119  
Time: 1200 PM Lunch  
1200 PM Meeting

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## OUR HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

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

As we all know, the year 2019 will mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of The American Legion. While, to some, six years may seem like a long time from now, time seems to fly by faster than we really realize. Before we know it, it will be 2019.

The department is already preparing for the event. Our department convention is scheduled to be held in St. Louis, the location of the first American Caucus. This is where Theodore Roosevelt Jr. really got things going here in America.

We give Roosevelt the deserved honor of forming The American Legion but, just where did he get the idea? Many men of the AEF thought of the idea of forming some sort of alliance when they came home, but so many previous alliances from previous wars faltered with time because they had limited themselves with "conditions" for membership.

But, one day, in 1918, as Lt. Col. Theodore Roosevelt was recovering from his wounds at Base Hospital No. 2 in Paris, he hobbled along a walk and came upon a sergeant resting under a tree. The sergeant, William Patterson, gave Roosevelt a quick salute.

"Expect to get back soon, Sergeant?" Roosevelt asked.

"Yes, sir. Anxious to go back and get the whole job over, sir."

"So am I. But what will we do when all the Germans really are licked?"

"Go home and start a veterans' association for the good of the country, sir," the sergeant answered.

Roosevelt also had many such conversations with other wounded heroes and many had similar idea of some association being formed when they came home. From these conversations Lt. Col. Theodore Roosevelt began developing his ideas. He then met with Lt. Col. Franklin D'Olier, our first National Commander, and Lt. Col. Eric Fisher Wood to further

develop the idea. From here, Roosevelt invited twenty officers to a dinner at the Allied Officers Club in Rue Faubourg Saint-Honore', saying that he an important unofficial matter to discuss. All accepted the invitation. From this meeting developed plans for the Paris Caucus and the American Caucus.

The American Legion was in formation!

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

## 2012-2013 NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES

September 11, 2013**	50%
October 9, 2013	55%
November 14, 2013	65%
December 11, 2013**	75%
January 15, 2014	85%
February 12, 2014**	90%
March 12, 2014	95%
April 9, 2014	100%
May 14, 2014**	100% +
Delegate Strength	30 days prior to National Convention

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

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## ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP

County, District, Zone, and Department competitions are completed. The winner of the American Legion Oratorical Scholarship Department of Missouri Competition was Agnes G. Rieger of Oak Park High School in North Kansas School District. She is not preparing for the National Competition to be held in Indianapolis Indiana. Our support and best wished go with Aggie on her adventure forward and we wish her the best of luck.

Now is the time to contact the school consolors about getting students ready for this year's competition. They would have until December to prepare, which is when the county competitions are held. In January 2014, date to be announced, we conduct the district completion. In February is the Zone, and then during the spring conference the Department completion is held.

That may seem like a long time away, but now is the time to lay the ground work for your schools.

## CONSTITUTIONS AND BYLAWS

During the annual convention of the Department of Missouri, there were a few changes made to the department's constitution and bylaws. While they were minor changes, I would advise every post to obtain a copy for your records. Also, it is imperative that each post review its constitution and bylaws. His should be done every five years or so, just to make sure that there is nothing in it that is in conflict with the department's or national's constitution. Also, it is required that each post have a copy of its constitution and bylaws on file with the Department of Missouri.

Boys State

By John F. Kopp, District Chairman

I wish to thank all of the posts' chairpersons who work so hard with Boys State this past year. Another year of a job well done. Thank you all. Now is the time to begin thinking about next year and trying to find sponsors for boys next year. Missouri Boys State is one of, if not the, best Boys State program in the country. This year it was an international event with several boys from China. These young men from China received, probably, their first experience with democracy in action. Once again, thank you all for all you do.

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Thoughts  
John F. Kopp, Chaplain

I just want to remind everyone of the upcoming District Meeting to be held September 8, 2013 at Post 285 in Hamilton MO. It is the meeting in which we conduct our annual memorial service for all our fellow legionnaires who have transferred to Post Everlasting. I encourage everyone to try to attend. It is also the meeting in which the newly elected District Officers take their oath of office for the next two years. Past Department Commander Marvin Harper will conduct the swearing in ceremony this year.

It has been an honor to have been allowed to serve the district over the past two years as you Chaplain. Thank you all for your support.

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DISTRICT MEETINGS

Four times a year District Three holds its quarterly meetings, January, April, June and September on the second Sunday of that month. During the meeting, the district conducts district business, present various people to speak, offer suggestions to post commanders and members from the posts present, and pass along any information obtained from Department. Every other June we have election for district officers. Any American Legion member in good standing (dues paid up) is eligible to be an officer, committee chairperson, or work on a committee.

Your post and your members are vital to The American Legion. Your ideas and suggestions mean a lot to the others posts. We need to share these ideas. I know that for some Commanders and Adjutants it is difficult to attend. But, why not ask another member to attend. That way, your post is represented and the information and ideas presented at the meeting can be brought back and relayed to the other post members.

This year the Department of Missouri is conducting a lottery. At the bottom of page three you will find the entry form. What the lottery is about is, for every NEW Legion member, the recruiting member fills out this form, signs the bottom and the post adjutant sends it in with the new two parts of the the new member's card. All entries will be placed in a barrel (or something like that) and the winners will be selected during the spring conference in February.

Auxiliary members and Sons of The American Legion are eligible for this. But the new member MUST be joining the Legion. Prizes are: first place - \$1000, second place - \$500, and third place \$250.

At the top of the form, place the recruiter's name and membership number. Below, fill in the new member's information and have the recruiter sign on the line stating 'Name of recruiter.' That's it.

Speaking of membership, how can we get new members? Sometimes this question seems like an impossible question to ask. Here are a few suggestions:

The main suggestion is to just ask. Just ask your next door neighbor, the people you work with, members of your church or other organizations you may belong to.

So ask your friends and neighbors first, if they are veterans, then if they would like to join. The worst they can do is say, "No."

Another suggestion is getting your post involved in the schools. When a young man or young woman graduates from high school, if he or she is going to enter the military, help that person throughout his or her boot camp. Then on the day he or she gets out, sign them up. Give them free membership for a while - it is only \$22.50 a year for department and national. Some posts pay the dues fr the entire time that person is on active duty. Send care packages, letters, cards, etc.

Another suggestion is to hold information nights. Brochures can be obtained from department for free. The district has two banners available to use, also.

These are just a few ideas. Something to think about.

Another source of new members is the Post 1000 list. This is a list of American Legion members who do not belong to any post in the Legion. This list can be obtained by the post adjutant who has an account with MyLegion.com as a post adjutant. He or she can search for members living within the area of his or her post simply by doing a search and entering whatever mile radius desired. Then it is just a matter of contacting that person and asking if he or she would like to join your post.

**DEPARTMENT AND NATIONAL EVENTS TO  
REMEMBER**

**National Convention**

**2013 - August 23-29, Houston, Texas**

**2014 – August 22-28, Charlotte, N.C.**

**Department Schedule**

**Fall Conference – 10/25 –10/27, 2013**

**All Department Conferences and Conventions held at:  
Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO**