



DISTRICT THREE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI

Autumn Edition

August 2010

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DISTRICT THREE AUTUMN MEETING

By

John F. Kopp, Commander

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The District Three Meeting for September 2010 is scheduled for the second Sunday in September, September 12, 2010. We will begin with a meal at noon, bring a covered dish – the post will provide the meat and drinks. The meeting will be held at the Wilson-Axline Post 216, 32932 W, State Hwy. 13, Bethany MO. Meal at noon, meeting begins at 1300 hrs.

All adjutants or commanders of posts in our district whose posts have experienced the loss of a member over the past year are asked to submit the names of all of the deceased members to the district Adjutant, Robert Emery, or myself as soon as possible. We will be conducting our annual Post Everlasting Ceremony at the beginning of our meeting.

All members from all of the posts in our district are cordially invited and urged to attend the district meetings. Also, all S.A.L. members and Legion Riders are also invited and urged to attend. Your input and ideas are vital to the operations of the programs of the American Legion.

Oratorical Scholarship Contest

By

John F. Kopp, Commander

I know it seems rather early to speak of this, but school is starting up for a new year. So, now is really the time for all post and county Oratorical Chairmen to start getting geared up for this year's contest. It is time to begin contacting the schools about preparing their students for the contest. Last year the state winner made it up to the semi-finals at national. He collected several thousand dollars in scholarships for his efforts. Also, remember that all who make it to the district level receive a scholarship to Lindenwood College. Our Second Vice-Commander Ed Schmidt has taken over as District Chairman. His email address is just to the left of this article. If you have any questions, feel free to contact him or me. Keep up the good work and let's get more of our kids involved.

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DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

Mark your calendars for the next district meetings:

Date: **September 12, 2010**
Place: Wilson-Axline Post 216
32932 W. State Highway 13
Bethany MO
Time: 1200 PM Lunch
1300 PM Meeting

Date: **January 9, 2011**
Place: Jarchow Schroeder Post 61
5125 N. Bellaire
Kansas City MO 64119
Time: 1100 A.M. District Oratorical Contest
1200 P.M. Lunch
0100 P.M. Meeting

COMMANDER'S CORNER

By
John F. Kopp, Commander
District Three

We now begin a new membership year. And also, we start a new year for the Legion. As you all know, the district meetings are held four times a year, September, January, April, and June. The location of the meeting rotates around the district.

If you would like to host a district meeting, feel free to contact me so we can schedule your post. The district pays the post for their part. Usually the Ladies' Auxiliary takes care of the meal. All participants bring a cover dish, which eases the burden on our ladies.

The District Ladies Auxiliary hold their meeting at the same time, so there should be room for them to do so.

Now for membership. As I said above, we begin a new membership year. Last year our district ended up being ranked 9th out of 17 districts. This is really not very good. Out of twenty-nine posts only seven posts reached their goal of 100% of the previous year plus one. Several posts were oh so close to attaining their goal, and missed by less than ten members.

But, this is a new year. Let's set a district goal of attaining whatever the membership ended up last year plus one. That means if your post membership last year ended up being 20 members, this year's goal is just one more, or 21

Try signing up active duty personnel. See if your post can afford to pay their dues for a year. Check with the local recruiting office to see if you can get the names of new recruits and write to them while they are in boot camp, then offer them membership when they graduate. Remember, it takes just one day of active duty to be eligible for membership.

It can be done. It may not be easy, but it can be done. Ask yourself, Why do I belong to the Legion? Share your thoughts with these new potential members. You just never know.

DISTRICT THREE FAMILY

By
John F. Kopp, 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 SAL Squadron or Legion Rider Chapter to join? You can belong to one post and have a son or grandson that can join the SAL 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, SAL, and Riders if they would like to participate, and the other way 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 meetings at the same time and same place. The times and locations are published in this letter and also usually sent to the post officers prior to the meeting. The Commander of that post should invite the SAL and Riders to attend. Think of all the ideas that could come from such a gathering.

2010-2011 NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES

Early Bird/NEF Kickoff	*September 9, 2010	50%
Fall Meetings	October 210, 2010	55%
Veterans Day	November 17, 2010	65%
Pearl Harbor Day	*December 8, 2010	75%
Mid-Winter	January 20, 2011	80%
Presidents' Day	*February 9,2011	85%
Legion Birthday	March 9, 2011	90%
Children & Youth	*April 13, 2011	95%
Armed Forces Day	May 12, 2010	100%
Delegate Strength	30 days prior to National Convention	

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

THE AMERICAN LEGION

By
John F. Kopp, Commander

As you all know, in 1919 several officers stationed in Europe with the American Expeditionary Forces came up with the idea of a Veterans Organization who's main goal in life was to serve fellow veterans. Thus, through the hard work of several brilliant men we have The American Legion. Just a little tidbit, The American Legion was chartered by the United States Congress before the Legion ratified its constitution and by-laws and is the oldest federally chartered war time veterans organization in the United States.

Shortly thereafter, in the same year, the Auxiliary was formed to assist the Legion and to also serve veterans. Two years later they held their first convention in Kansas City.

The membership in the Auxiliary is based upon a woman's relation to a veteran, i.e., the mother, wife, daughter, sister, grand-daughter, great-grand-daughter, or grandmother of members of The American Legion, and deceased veterans who served in the United States Armed Forces during the listed war eras. Also, any woman eligible to be a member of The American Legion is also eligible for the Auxiliary and several members are dual members,

Then in 1932 The Sons of The American Legion was created as an organization within The American Legion and is made up of boys and men of all ages whose parents or grandparents served in the United States military and became eligible for membership in The American Legion.

These three organizations all have a national and state organizational structure with constitutions and by-law which govern and guide the officers of their respective organization.

In 1993, American Legion Post 396 of Garded City, Mich. formed a group of bikers and, with the approval of The Department of Michigan and, eventually the National Office. During the National Convention in October of 2007, the members attending the convention approved Resolution No. 35 approving The American Legion Riders as a Program within The American Legion.

This is THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY. All of the organizations and programs have one thing in common – THE AMERICAN LEGION. All exist to support the programs of The American Legion. WE ARE LEGIONAIRES FIRST!!!! The reason I say this is because every member MUST have an association with the Legion first.

DEPARTMENT AND NATIONAL EVENTS TO REMEMBER

National Convention

2010 - Aug 27 -Sept 2, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
2011 - Aug 26 - Sept 1, Minneapolis, Minnesota
2012 - August 24-30, Indianapolis, Indiana
2013 - August 23-29, Houston, Texas

Department Schedule

Fall Conference – October 22 – 24, 2010
Spring Conference – February 18 – 20, 2011
Department Convention – July 7 – 10, 2011
Fall Conference – October 28-30, 2011
All **Department** Conferences and Conventions held at:
Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO



District 3 News
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