



DISTRICT THREE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI

Fall Edition

September 2012

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COMMANDER'S CORNER

By

**Calvin Bumgarner, Commander
District Three**

Just wanted to thank everyone for the job they did in membership last year. We ended up with 95% overall and a special thanks to all the posts that reached 100%. This year I'm trying to put together a membership team. I have 2 helpers now they are committed to helping us get 100% for the District but I could use more and will take and any help I can get. The theme this year is to sign up the entire family not just the veteran. Let's get back to making the Legion a family affair with the Ladies Auxiliary and the Sons. I need all of your help to make this happen. The state has also issued some help. If you sign up a new member between September 1st and October 15th you can deduct \$5.00 from what you send to state. If you wanted to sponsor a new member all you would have to do is send the state \$17.50. If you know a young person in the military or who just got out of the service this would be a good way to get them involved.

The next meeting for District 3 is going to be In Braymer Mo. September 9th Lunch at 1200 hr. meeting at 1300 hrs. We will also be doing our Post Ever Lasting ceremony for all our departed members. Please send a list of all of the departed members from your post since last September to District Adjutant Robert Emery. Let's make this a good meeting. The last two we had were well attended. Let's try and have at least one member from each post. We need your input. Hope to see you there.

DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

Mark you calendars for the next district meetings:

Date: September 9, 2012
 Place: Tweedie-Murray Post 117
 9th and Murray
 Braymer, MO 64624
 Time: 1200 PM Lunch
 1300 PM Meeting

Date: January 13, 2013
 Place: Robert H. Baker Post 95
 Hwy. H & B
 Liberty MO 64068
 Time: 1200 PM Lunch
 1300 PM Meeting

Date: April 14, 2013
 Place: Wilson-Axline Post 216
 32932 W. Hwy 13
 Bethany MO 64624
 Time: 1200 PM Lunch
 1300 PM Meeting

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

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 2 - 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.

2012-2013 NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES

Early Bird/NEF Kickoff	September 12, 2012	50%
Fall Meetings	October 17, 2012	55%
Veterans Day	November 15, 2012	65%
Pearl Harbor Day	*December 14, 2012	75%
Mid Winter	January 16, 2013	80%
President's Day	*February 13, 2013	85%
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.**

ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP

The new school year as begun. Now is the time for all posts Oratorical Scholarship Chairmen to contact their respective school consolors concerning our Oratorical Scholarship Contest. Let's try to get more high schools and students involved this year. One main selling point is that any student that makes it to the District level automatically receives a scholarship from Lindenwood College. Now is the time. Don't wait until October or November.

Oktoberfest 2012

It's that time of year again. Fall is in the air. So, The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 61 is going to put on an Oktoberfest on October 13, 2012. It will start at 6:00pm and will feature:

- Bratwursts,
- hot dogs for those who don't like Brats,
- sauerkraut,
- potato salad,
- cole slaw,
- chips,
- and homemade desserts.

Donation is just \$7 for adults, \$4 for children under 12.

While we won't be serving beer upstairs, the bar will at extremely reasonable prices.

So, come on over; come on down.

Jarchow Schroeder Post 61
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 61
5125 N. Bellaire
Kansas City MO 64119
816-454-7570

Sons of the American Legion

By John F. Kopp, Adjutant,
Detachment of Missouri

Boys State

By John F. Kopp, District Chairman

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Another year has passed. The 2012 Boys State session has ended and everyone is back home. Considering the increase in cost and the state of the economy, we did pretty well. District Three received sixty-seven applications. Unfortunately, we were able to send only 54 as citizens.

But, while this year may be over, NOW is the time to start looking for sponsors for next year. Remember, no sponsor has to pay the entire fee. A boy can have as many sponsors as necessary to cover the fee. So, when asking for sponsorship, if the prospective sponsor balks at the entire fee, ask for any amount they are comfortable with.

That being said, I do want to thank all of the chairmen of all of the posts in the district for their hard work. Let's see how many more we can send next year. There is no limit on the number of boys that we can send.

Again, thank you for a job well done.

Thoughts

John F. Kopp, Chaplain

As the Legion Family begins its new year, we should take time to think back over the past year and think of our accomplishments, our losses, especially those comrades who are no longer with us, and those items on our to do list that were not quite finished.

At our Fall Meeting we will be conducting our annual Post Everlasting Ceremony. Here we will honor those who left us this year to serve in the eternal post and squadron. The S.A.L. lost its commander just three days before the convention. He was a true Legion Family, Bill Basey, while never serving in the armed forces, served his country honorably through the Sons of The American Legion. He is and will be missed.

While we will sorrow at our loss, we must also be thankful that we have been so blessed to have known and served with our departed comrades. So, while we keep them and their families in our thoughts and prayers, we must also thank God for allowing us to know them and to serve with them and be their friends.

“God so love the world that he gave us His only begotten Son, who died for us” God so loved us that he gave us, for such a short time, our departed comrades. May they rest in peace.

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.

**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 - 10/26 - 10/28, 2012

Spring Conference - 2/15-2/17, 2013

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

**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.