



DISTRICT THREE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI

Spring Edition

March 2011

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DISTRICT THREE WINTER MEETING

By
John F. Kopp, Commander

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The District Three Meeting for April 2011 is scheduled for the FIRST Sunday in April, April 3, 2011. 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 Robert H. Baker American Legion Post 95, Clay County Veterans Memorial Building, Hwy. H & B Liberty MO. Meal at noon, meeting begins at 1300 hrs.

All adjutants and/or commanders of posts in our district are encouraged to attend. We are scheduled to have some visitors for this meeting, and it sounds like it will be very informative and interesting. So, please try to attend. There will also be reports concerning the Spring Conference and the upcoming Department Convention.

All members from all of the posts in our district are cordially invited and urged to attend the district meetings.

This is also the time to nominate those interested in running for an office at the district level. Those up for election are the two posts of Vice Commander, Sergeant-at-Arms, Commander, and Finance Officer, Chaplain, and Historian. Only the Commander cannot run for re-election. The election will be held during our District Convention on June 12, 2011.

Oratorical Scholarship Contest

By
John F. Kopp, Commander

District Three conducted its 77th annual Oratorical Scholarship Contest on January 23, 2011 in Cameron Missouri. The winner this year was Elizabeth Bertram of Cameron. This year's contest was well attended by members of Post 95, and Post 33, plus Julio Bambini, past zone II commander, and Judge Dwayne Benton, Department Oratorical Chairman.

By competing at the district level, Miss Bertram received a \$5,000 renewable scholarship and work stipend totaling more than \$29,000 from Lindenwood University in St. Charles MO.

The contest was conducted extremely well, and our thanks and gratitude go out to District Three Vice Commander Ed Schmidt on a job well done.

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DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

Mark you calendars for the next district meetings:

Date: April 3, 2011
Place: Robert H. Baker Post 95
Hwy H & B
Liberty MO 64068
Time: 1200 PM Lunch
1300 Pm Meeting

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Date: June 12, 2011
Place: Smithville Post 56
2607 E. 92 Highway
Smithvile MO 64089
Time: 1200 PM Lunch
1300 PM Meeting

Date: Sept. 11, 2011
Gower Memorial Post 393
91 N. 3rd
Gower MO 64454
Time: 1200 PM Lunch
1300 PM Meeting

COMMANDER'S CORNER

By
John F. Kopp, Commander
District Three

The Department of Missouri Spring Conference is completed. District Three received its award for 100% Americanism for having 100% submission of the annual Consolidated Post Reports. The National Office had made an error and we were skipped over at the Fall Conference, but we did get our reward. As I was presented the award, one of the Vice Commanders stated that they expected 200% this year. Guess what! The will get 200%. Thanks to all of the posts that submitted their report last year.

They are not that difficult to fill out and send in and it only takes a few minutes to do so. By submitting your CPR your post gets credit for all of its activities throughout the year, plus the Department and Legion get credit and recognized for what we do. These reports are very important.

Also, each post adjutant should have received by now the annual Post Data Report. Please fill them out and send them in, also. If you have had no change in officers during this year, just state so and return the form to Department.

We were also reminded that it is tax time again and that every post MUST file. Most posts, those making less that \$50,000 should fill out the ecard Form 990. If you miss three years, you WILL lose your tax exempt status and will then be required to pay tax on ALL INCOME, including dues. This is extremely important.

WE ARE 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 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 SAL and Riders to attend. Think of all the ideas that could come from such a gathering.

2010-2011 NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES

Legion Birthday	March 9, 2011	90%
Children & Youth	*April 13, 2011	95%
Armed Forces Day	May 12, 2011	100%
Delegate Strength	30 days prior to National Convention	

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



CHANGE OF DATE

By
John F. Kopp, Commander

Since La Societe' des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux Grande du Missouri is holding their annual Grande Spring Wreck and Promenade on the weekend of April 10th, 2011, it became necessary for District Three to change the date of our Spring Meeting. The main reason is that most of District Three Officers are also Grand Officers in the Grande du Missouri and are required to be in Festus MO for that weekend. **So, we have decided to move the date back to Sunday, April 3rd, 2011. All times remain the same.**

For those who are not familiar with it, La Societe' des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux is commonly referred to as the 40 and 8, meaning forty men or eight horses – which was what the normal French Boxcar, during WWI, would hold and was the normal mode of transportation for the troops to an from the front lines.

The 40&8 has a long and wonderful history. It was founded in 1920 by members of The American Legion as a fun and honor society and the founders based the organization on their military experiences in WWI France.

Today it is an independent fraternal organization of wartime veterans, with close ties to the American Legion, whose membership is by invitation only. For more information feel free to contact me or any District Three officer.

Some of us may also lose sight of another very important aspect of The American Legion. We exist to serve, to serve God, Country, Community, and Family. If a veteran is in trouble and needs assistance, we don't ask if he is a member, we help. That is the Legion. I have been to several Department Conferences where a veteran was helped by the Legion, yet did not belong. It wasn't until after the Legion came to his assistance that he joined. He probably didn't even know we existed or if he did, really did not know what we do.

Keep up the good work. And thank you, all, for what you have done and continue to do for our country, community, and Legion.

MISSOURI BOYS STATE

By
John F. Kopp, Chairman

We should be receiving our information packets for this year's Boy State really soon. But, it is not too early to contact your sponsors and also contact the schools in your area. If your school would like some one to visit and talk about Boys State, let me know so we can get it arranged. Let's see if we can fill up Warrensburg this year. If you have the sponsors and the boys, Boys State has the room. Also, if you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask. If I don't know the answer, I can and will get it for you.

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, 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.

There are several posts in our district that are extremely close to achieving 100% of this year's goal. Most of these posts only need one or two more members.

Let's get out and ask our friends, our neighbors, those who attend our church. See if your post can afford to offer a gift membership to a promising veteran. Let that veteran see if he or she likes how the post is operated. It is less than thirty dollars a year in per capita tax to district, department, and national. And, it is definitely worth the gamble. All we have to lose is less than thirty dollars a new member.

DEPARTMENT AND NATIONAL EVENTS TO REMEMBER

National Convention

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

Department Schedule

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

Upcoming events in our district:

March 19, 2011 – S.A.L. Squadron 61 is hosting their second annual Chili Cook Off to be held at the Jarchow-Schroeder American Legion Post 61 Hall 5125 N. Bellaire, Kansas City MO (816) 454-7570 From 1:00 PM until finished.

\$5.00 entry fee for all chili (prizes to be awarded) \$5.00 for all you can eat. There will be a 50/50, plus at least one raffle. All proceeds go to support Squadron 61 ongoing projects.

March 26, 2011 – the Robert H. Baker American Legion Post 95 is hosting their annual spaghetti dinner in the Post Hall from 4:30 PM until 7:00 PM. Donation: Adults \$7.00, Children \$3.50, all you can eat. Gobs of door prizes and a very nice raffle. All proceeds go to supporting the post's youth activities.

March 26, 2011 – S.A.L. Squadron 58 is hosting a Wild Game Feed at the Smithville American Legion Hall, 2607 NE Hwy. 92 from 4 – 7 PM. Bring a cooked dish of your favorite wild game dish, salads, or Desserts for all to share. Free will donations accepted. There will be a raffle for a shotgun and a 50/50 drawing. \$2.00 per ticket - \$10.00 for six tickets. All proceeds go to support Post Traumatic Stress Disorder programs for our veterans.

District 3 News
C/O John F. Kopp
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