



# DISTRICT THREE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI

Spring Edition

March 2014

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## **COMMANDER'S CORNER**

By  
John F. Kopp

Spring has finally arrived, I think. It has been a long and hard winter this year and I hope all have come through it in good health and spirits. Membership in the district is looking pretty good. I can't thank all of you enough for all the hard work you have done with your membership. Keep up the good work. Listed below are the membership cutoff dates. Several of our posts have reached the goals for the upcoming cutoff dates. As of this writing we have six posts that have attained at least a 100% of this year's goal and several who are extremely close to that. Let's see how many posts can attain that 100% goal this year. I know it is difficult, especially for the posts in our smaller towns with fewer veterans in their area.

If your adjutant has internet access, he or she should sign up for mylegion.org. It is free. With that access the adjutant can look up the number of veterans in his/her area and be able to contact those veterans. If we don't ask, they cannot say yes. And, speaking from personal experience, many have no idea just what the Legion is or what we are about. It took over thirty years before I had any idea about the legion.

We are starting to make plans for next year. If you would like to host a district meeting please let me know. As you know, district meetings are the second Sunday in September, January, April, and June. Lunch begins at noon followed by the meeting at one. The Auxiliary also has their district meeting at the same time. So, some sort of separation for the meeting is necessary. The Post provides the meat and everyone else is to bring a covered dish. The district will pay the post, or post's Auxiliary for the meat.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, District Vice Commander and past District Commander Calvin Bumgarner is seeking the office of Department Zone II Vice Commander. This will leave a vacancy for the post of District Vice Commander. If interested in the position, let me know.

# DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

Mark your calendars for the next district meetings:

Date: April 13, 2014  
Place: Smithville Post 58  
2607 E. 92 Highway  
Smithville MO 64089  
Time: 1200 PM Lunch  
1300 PM Meeting

Date: June 8, 2014  
Place: Robert H. Baker Post 95  
Our Lady of Mercy Country Home  
2115 Maturana Dr.  
Liberty MO 64068  
Time: 1200 PM Lunch  
1300 PM Meeting

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## ZONE II ORATORICAL CONTEST

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

As you probably all know, every year there is an oratorical contest for each zone in the Department of Missouri. This year the contest was held in District 7. Next year it is scheduled to be conducted in District Three. If you think your post has the facility capable of holding this competition and you would like to offer your assistance, let me know. Your building should have a hall large enough to hold up to at least 50 people, have at least four separate rooms for the contestants, and be available for a Sunday afternoon contest.

What I will do is take the names of the contact people at the post and the post number and give them to the Zone II oratorical Chairmen, Marvin Harper and Dan Wirth. They will make the decision as to where the contest will be held. Please do not contact Marvin or Dan. Go through me or Ed Schmidt, District Three Oratorical Chairman.

Mr. Harper will be attending our next district meeting on April 13<sup>th</sup> in Smithville to discuss all of the requirements and other information concerning the Zone competition.

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Speaking of District meetings, it is that time of year again when those running for election for Department Offices visit the various districts. I would expect a couple of people to show up at our meeting on April 13<sup>th</sup> and June 8<sup>th</sup> meetings. Try to attend if at all possible, or send a post member. Remember the meeting begins at 1:00 PM, that's 1300 hrs for non-Navy vets. Lunch is at noon. Bring a covered dish, also. The April meeting is in Smithville at Post 58.

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2013-2014 NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES		
MID-WINTER	JANUARY 15, 2014	80%
PRESIDENT'S DAY	*FEBRUARY 12, 2014	85%
LEGION BIRTHDAY	MARCH 12, 2014	90%
CHILDREN & YOUTH	*APRIL 9, 2014	95%
ARMED FORCES DAY	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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## THE NAVY CLUB OF MISSOURI

We are in the process of forming a new ship in the Navy Club of Missouri. Presently there are only three ships in the club, the Mother Ship, Ship 4 and Ship 5. Ships 4 and 5 are on the eastern side of the state and the Mother Ship sort of covers the entire state. We would like to start up a new ship on our western side of the state.

Eligibility: Membership is made up solely of members who are in good standing in the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, American Veterans of WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Lebanon/Grenada, Panama, Gulf War/ War on Terrorism, having a membership card for the current year, and having served in the Navy, Seabees, Marines, Coast Guard, or Merchant Marines.

If anyone is interested in being a charter member of the new ship (number to be determined at first meeting) please contact me either by phone (816 699 8719) or by email (jfkopp@att.net).

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## FLAG FACTS

When is it proper to fly another flag above the Stars and Stripes?

Most of us at one time or another were taught that the American Flag should be flown even with or higher than all other flags. But there is one instance when another flag is flown above our Flag and that is the Christian Flag is flown above the American Flag onboard a naval vessel while at sea during religious services.

**The Christian flag may fly above the US flag only "during church services conducted by naval chaplains at sea, when the church pennant may be flown above the flag during church services for the personnel of the Navy" (Flag Code, Section 7c).**

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**THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF  
MISSOURI SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**

**COMMANDER'S SCHOLARSHIP**

If you know of a veteran presently attending has been accepted by an accredited vocational technical college, college or university in the State of Missouri and who has served a minimum of 90 days and honorably discharged and is a resident of Missouri, the or she eligible to apply for Commander's Scholarship.

The scholarship is for \$1000. If you know of anyone interested contact me for an application or contact the department headquarters.

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**DEPARTMENT AND NATIONAL EVENTS TO  
REMEMBER**

**National Convention**

- 2014 – August 22-28, Charlotte, N.C.
- 2015-August 28-Sept. 3, Baltimore, MD
- 2015-August 26-Sept. 1, Cincinnati, OH
- 2017-August 24-30, Louisville, KY
- 2018-August 24-30, Minneapolis, MN
- 2019-Augus 23-29, Indianapolis, IN

**Department Schedule**

- 2014 Spring Conference 2/12-2/23
  - 2014 Convention 7/10-7/12
  - 2014 Fall Conference 10/24-10/26
- All at Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO

**THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY**

We all know that the American Legion Family consists of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, The Sons of The American Legion, and The Legion Riders. District three is honored to have two posts with the complete family, Post 61 in Kansas City North and Post 58 in Smithville. These two posts consist of all three elements.

If your post does not have a Sons Squadron and you wish to join or know someone who is eligible you can join any squadron. If you are a member in good standing in your post and would like to be a Rider, you can join any Riders chapter. Just contact the Post Commander or me and we will get the ball rolling. I personally belong to the SAL and Legion, my son belongs to all three at Post 61.

Both programs can do wonders for any post and assist in increasing membership. Just ask any post with SAL and/or Riders.

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**CONSOLIDATED POST REPORT**

It is getting close to that time of year, the time for filling out the Post Consolidated Report. Every post does something. These reports are extremely important for the Legion and for our fellow veterans. So, please, every post fill out your report and send them in to department.

If you have internet access you can fill out the form on line and send it that way.