

**AMERICAN LEGION**  
**DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI**  
**3<sup>RD</sup> HERD NEWS**

Winter Edition

December 2008

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**THIRD DISTRICT WINTER  
MEETING**

The winter meeting of the Third District, Department of Missouri is scheduled for January 11, 2008 as will be held at the Jarchow Schroeder Post 61, 5125 N. Bellaire, Kansas City MO.

Lunch begins at NOON and meeting following at 1300 hrs., that is 1:00 PM for us non-military types. This would be a good start for the new year if every post would send at least one representative. Remember, bring a covered dish, our host, Post 61, will provide the meat.

This is a very important meeting. We have several extremely important issues about which to talk and on which to vote. Among those issues are financial topics which have been passed down from National, the "TOOT YOUR HORN" program, and others. Please try to attend or send a representative.

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**Missouri Returning Heroes'  
Education Act**

Beginning in August of 2008, any returning "combat" veteran can attend any Missouri funded institution of higher learning for a cost of no more than \$50 a credit hour for any program leading to a certificate, or an associate or baccalaureate degree. A "combat veteran" is any person who served in armed combat after September 11, 2001, who was a Missouri resident when first entering the military, and who was discharged from military service under honorable conditions.

While this "benefit" did go into effect in August of 2008, I bring it up now because there is a catch. This bill does have a catch to it. Most combat veterans, who would be eligible for this benefit, are presently covered by the Montgomery G.I. Education Bill. This bill does not pay for tuition out front. (continued on page 2)

# DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

Mark you calendars for the next district meetings:

Date: **April 13, 2008**

Place: Clyde Gustine Post 236,  
Excelsior, MO.

Time: 1200 Hrs for Lunch  
1300 Hrs for Meeting

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Date: **June 8, 2008**

Place: Tweedie-Murray Post 117  
Braymer, MO.

Time: 1200PM Lunch  
1300PM Meeting

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Date: **September 13, 2008**

Place: Wilson-Axline Post 216  
Bethany, MO

Time: 1200PM Lunch,  
1300PM Meeting.

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## HONOR FLIGHT NETWORK

Being a son of a WW II Veteran, I have a deep admiration for those of the great generation. Thanks to those fabulous heroes who literally saved the world from domination by tyrants, we still have the most freedom of any nation on earth. So, when Commander Nichols brought this to my attention I immediately wanted to share this with everyone. Most of you probably already know about this, but this organization, **HONOR FLIGHT NETWORK**, is really special.

**Honor Flight Network** is a non-profit organization created solely to honor America's veterans for all their sacrifices.

we transport our heroes to Washington, D.C. to visit and

reflect at **their** memorials. Top priority is given to the senior veterans – World War II survivors, along with those other veterans who may be terminally ill.

They provide, free of charge, one day trips to Washington, D.C. To me, this sounds like something that is really worth looking into. You can learn more about their organization and obtain applications for either a visit or to volunteer your services from their web site: <http://www.honorflight.org/>

There are also two points of contact, you can call Gary Swanson at (913) 744-8282 or 937-521-2400 - Main Office

614-558-6220 - Jim McLaughlin, Chairman of the Board.

Due to space limitation I cannot place an application here, but if you contact either Commander Nichols (816) 455-2624 or myself (816) 407-9740 (email [jfkopp@kc.rr.com](mailto:jfkopp@kc.rr.com))

we can get applications to you.

I urge all commanders to bring this to the attention of all the members of your post, no matter what age group.

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It provides a certain amount of money each month to the Veteran and the Veteran can use the money to either pay tuition or use for living expenses or both. The Missouri Returning Heroes' Education Act will limit the cost of tuition to \$50, but only where there is no other government paid tuition program. The new G.I. Bill, which goes into effect August of 2009, is similar to what the Viet Nam era vets had. It directly pays the tuition plus some for living expenses. Those presently under the Montgomery bill WILL be covered by the new G.I. Bill, and will lose all the money that they had paid into the Montgomery bill. So, if you know of any eligible Veteran, encourage them to attend college this upcoming semester on the Montgomery Bill, and get at least a part of their money back.

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## BOYS STATE

Now is the time for all the posts in the district to begin thinking about this year's Boys State. Now would be the time to check on those sponsors who have supported us in the past and seek out more sponsors. District 3, last year, voted to sponsor two boys from our district. Which post or posts will be selected or how they are selected needs to be addressed at the District meeting in January. Please plan to attend. Let's see if we can fill our entire quota for our District.

# DISTRICT 3 ORATORICAL COMPETITION



The Jarchow Schroeder Post 61 has graciously offered to host this year's District 3 Oratorical Competition. Our competition will be held on Sunday, January 4, 2009 beginning at 1:00 PM. **Post 61 is located at 5125 N. Bellaire, Kansas City MO 64119.** In the event of a snow out, we will be shooting for Sunday Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>, same time same place. Every one is invited and encouraged to attend. The young people who participate in this program are among the finest of our youth and they deserve all the support we can give them. Believe me, it is not easy to get up in front of a group of strangers and give a prepared speech. But, then, to be handed a topic and have five minutes to prepare another talk, I, personally, can't imagine how difficult that is. But, these young people do it. And, those who make it to District are excellent.

## MEMBERSHIP

### 2008 – 2009 TARGET DATES

MID-WINTER	JAN.14, 2009	80%
PRESIDENTS' DAY	FEB. 11, 2009	85%
LEGION BIRTHDAY	MAR.11,2009	90%
CHILDREN & YOUTH	APR. 8, 2009	95%
ARMED FORCES DAY	MAY 13, 2009	100%

How does your post compare to the target dates above?

Also, has your post paid its per capita fee for this year? Three post still have yet to pay for this year, Posts 106, 515, and 524.

### National Commanders Challenge

Dear Legionnaires

A short time ago we received an email from the National Adjutant concerning the need to supply Sweat suits for our wounded soldiers returning to Walter Reed Hospital and other VA medical treatment centers. Our National Commander David Rehbein has asked for all Departments to help raise \$50,000.00 to help these wounded soldiers.

Past National Commander Paul Morin immediately sent out an email stating that The Department of Massachusetts was donating \$1,000.00 and Challenged each Department to follow suit.

Department Commander Victor J. Stragliati has taken the Challenge on behalf of the Department of Missouri and requested that the Sub Committee elect to donate the \$1,000.00 to the National Commanders Challenge. It was approved. This was not a budgeted item but a very necessary one.

Commander Stragliati suggested that all Districts, that are able, contribute \$100.00 and each Post \$25.00 and any individual, that would like to help, \$10.00. Any amount would be appreciated and is needed. The first \$1,000.00 Collected will be returned to the Department General fund.

The 9<sup>th</sup> District accepted the Challenge. At their meeting, on Sunday 7 Dec 08, the District gave \$100.00 and Post 312 gave \$100.00 with a pledge to send another \$100.00 to the Department this week. \$250.00 was also collected from individuals at the meeting . We left the meeting with a total of \$450.00.

The 8<sup>th</sup> District also accepted the Challenge, on Sunday 7 Dec 08, and contributed \$100.00.

Comrades.... This is a very worthy cause. We have a good start .....and we need you to contact each of your Districts, Posts and Legionnaires and ask them if they can contribute.

Have them make their checks to: The American Legion Department of Missouri, P O Box 179, Jefferson City, Mo. 65109 and note on the check that it is for "Wounded Soldiers Sweat Suits Project". We will send in the total collected to National Headquarters.

Please help spread the word.

Lynn M. Dorrell  
Department Adjutant

# DEPARTMENT AND NATIONAL EVENTS TO REMEMBER

## **Spring Conference**

2009 -February 20-22, Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City

## **Department Convention**

2009 - July 16-19, Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City

## **National Convention**

2009 - August 21 - 27, Louisville, Kentucky

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

## **Fall Conference**

2008 - October 24-26, Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City

District 3 News  
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