



DISTRICT THREE
AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI

Winter Edition

December 2010

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DISTRICT THREE WINTER MEETING

By
 John F. Kopp, Commander

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The District Three Meeting for January 2011 is scheduled for the second Sunday in January, 9, 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 Jarchow Schroeder American Legion Post 61, 5125 N Bellaire, Kansas City MO 64119 (816) 454-7570. 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 Fall Conference and the upcoming spring conference.

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

District Three Vice Commander and Oratorical Scholarship Chairman Ed Schmidt has been working feverishly preparing for this year's High School Oratorical Scholarship Competition. This year the competition is scheduled for Sunday, January 23, 2011 to begin at 2:00 P.M. at the Elmer Ellis American Legion Post 33, 911 N. Ashland Dr., Cameron MO. Every one is invited to come and witness some of our fabulous students as they present their speeches.

Vice Commander Schmidt has also begun a District Three Oratorical Scholarship Fund. He is open to any and all contributions. This scholarship fund will be used to present the winner of the District Level Competition with a scholar to the college of their choice, to be presented upon graduation from high school.

For more information or to volunteer to assist call Ed (816) 200-7576

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DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

Mark your calendars for the next district meetings:

Date: **January 9, 2011**
Place: Jarchow Schroeder Post 61
5125 N. Bellaire
Kansas City MO 64119
Time: 1200 P.M. Lunch
1300 P.M. Meeting

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

COMMANDER'S CORNER

By
John F. Kopp, Commander
District Three

Finally, 2010 is coming to an end. The past several months have been rather eventful. As most of you probably know, the American Legion Legacy Run came roaring through District Three. The Legion Riders road from Indiana across Interstate 70, to Interstate 29 up to the Harley Davidson Plant. They stopped there for a tour before heading north through District Three. They stopped and spent the night in Bethany MO, the Wilson-Axline Post 216 presented a fabulous dinner for about 400 hot, sweaty, tired, gracious, thankful riders. I was there, along with Vice Commander Ed Schmidt and Past District Commander Gary Nichols. We had gone there to assist in any way necessary and ended up trying to stay out of the legionnaires' way. Commander Jeffry Nichols and his legionnaires and auxiliary did an excellent job. As Bubba Joe would say, "Ya done us good!"

A few weeks ago was the Department of Missouri's Fall Conference. During the conference several awards were presented. Every post in District Three received a certificate for Americanism. This certificate was awarded because a Consolidated Post Report for each post had been submitted to Department. I have checked with several past district commanders and none of them can remember when District Three ever received 100% participation before. But we did it this year. Great Job!

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 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 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

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, 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 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 whose membership is by invitation. For more information feel free to contact me or any District Three officer.

MEMBERSHIP

As with any organization, membership is vital to its very existence. We need new members with their fresh ideas and spirit and we need the renewal of older members also. Many members just need to be reminded to renew, it may take a letter or postcard, it may take a phone call, or even a personal, face to face invitation to renew. Try every avenue you can think of to retain our membership. Sometimes a member will get his or her feelings hurt by some one or some thing. Try to rectify the differences. See is amends can be made and bring comfort to the one who has been hurt.

Often times we notice that a member has not been attending the meeting, and though we wonder why, how often to we actually ask the person why. We cannot fix a problem unless we know it exists How many thousands of veterans, Sailors, Soldiers, Marines, and Airmen have been ignored? How many are just waiting to be asked to join? For many it is just a matter of being asked to join or invited to a meeting or a social gathering, like a post dinner or other post function. And, how many thousands of eligible veterans do not even know what the Legion is about?

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

Probably toward the end of February we should be receiving our information packets for this year's Boy State. 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.

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

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

*NEWSLETTER OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI
DISTRICT THREE*

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