



# DISTRICT THREE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI

Winter Edition

December 2012

## DISTRICT OFFICERS

### COMMANDER

*Calvin Bumgarner*  
5212 Cody  
Shawnee KS 66203  
(913) 522-1103  
E-mail: cbumgar522@aol.com

### FIRST VICE

*John-Paul Kopp*  
(816) 476-3105  
E-mail: jpkopp@att.net

### SECOND VICE

*Ed Schmidt*  
ed@maysvillemo.com

### ADJUTANT

*Robert Emery*  
(816) 833-7285  
E-mail: remery18@comcast.net

### FINANCE OFFICER

*Gary Reno*  
(816) 628-5773  
E-mail: greno001@kc.rr.com

### CHAPLAIN

*John F. Kopp*  
417 Melrose  
Liberty MO 64068  
(816) 699-8719  
E-mail: jfkopp@att.net

### SGT. AT ARMS

*Gary Nichols*  
3433 Drury  
Kansas City Mo 64117  
(816) 455-2648

### JUDGE ADVOCATE

*Gary Reno*  
(816) 628-5773  
E-mail: greno001@kc.rr.com

## COMMANDER'S CORNER

By

**Calvin Bumgarner, Commander**  
**District Three**

Hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and your new year will be Happy.

With the New Year upon us we are doing very well with membership as a District. We are ahead of our membership target which is 80% by January 16. We are currently at 83.80% but the hardest part is yet to come. The last 17% will be the most challenging. We are 401 away from being 100%. Lets get on the phone and get everyone renewed we can. We also have a listing of Post 1000 members that we need to get transferred to a local post. There are 2754 across the State that need to be put in a post and we can help you. All it takes is a phone call or an email to me and we can get it set up. I would like to visit each Post in the next 2 months to go over things you need and to help with anything I can do to make your Post successful in the coming year. Let's keep up the good work.

Don't forget the District Oratorical will be hosted by Post 33 in Cameron Mo on January 6<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM. Everyone is invited to attend.

The next meeting for District 3 is going to be In Kansas City Mo. Jarchow Schroeder Post 61 January 13<sup>th</sup> Lunch at 1200 hr. meeting at 1300 hrs. 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.

This is also the Ladies Auxiliary District meeting too. Make sure they know and bring them along with you. Remember we are all Family and that is what it takes to make us a success.

The Spring Conference in Jefferson City is February 15<sup>th</sup> thru the 17<sup>th</sup> at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City Mo. Come and see what the Missouri Legion is all about. For more information go to missourilegion.org. And get the latest news.

# DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

Mark your calendars for the next district meetings:

Date: January 13, 2013  
 Place: Jarchow-Schroeder Post 61  
 5125 N. Bellaire  
 Kansas City MO 64119  
 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

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## 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 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

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.**

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## ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP

Our Oratorical Scholarship Program is well on its way. All of the county contests must be completed by December 17<sup>th</sup>. This year's District 3 Oratorical Scholarship Contest will be held at American Legion Post 33, 911 N. Ashland Dr., Cameron MO 64429 on January 6, 2013 at 2:00 PM with the backup date being January 20<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.

## Free Accidental Death Insurance

Did you know that as members of The American Legion you can be covered by up to \$5,000 insurance policy for accidental death or dismemberment? It is free!!!! But, **you must activate it.**

If you have not received a brochure with the information and registration form, you can obtain one by calling Patty at Department Headquarters, contacting your post adjutant, or signing up on line at

<http://www.thelit.com/Benefits.aspx?prod=205>

Our district has twenty-nine posts with a total membership of 2469, last year's count. But, only three hundred forty (340) have enrolled. Since it is free, why not go it today. One never knows when something might happen,

There is an incentive for posts having members enroll.

Post size	Required Enrollment Percentage	Gift card level
50 or less members	100%	\$10
51 to 200 members	75%	\$15
201 to 400 members	70%	\$25
401 to 750 members	65%	\$50
751 or more members	60%	\$100

# Sons of the American Legion

By John F. Kopp, Adjutant,  
Detachment of Missouri

## Boys State

By John F. Kopp, District Chairman

Every post boys state chairman should be receiving his or her information packet for this year's Boys State. Now is the time to start contacting the schools in your post's area, lining up sponsors for the boys, and preparing everything else necessary for a successful year.

Just remember, there is no limit to the number of boys your post can send. And, there is no limit to the number of sponsors a boy can have, either. A boy can have, say ten sponsors that can only afford forty dollars. Or one sponsor who give four hundred. So, let's see if we can send a hundred boys this year from District Three.

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## Thoughts

John F. Kopp, Chaplain

As winter sets in, and we tend to become home bound from time to time. Many of us may turn to prayer. And on of the reasons we pray is to ask our Creator for something we may need or want. And this always reminds me of a story I heard.

There was this very holy and pious man living in this two story house. One spring it started to rain and rain and rain. Soon the river overflowed and the levees gave way. As the water started to rise the highway patrol came by his house and said he should evacuate. He told them that God would protect him. And he prayed for God's protection.

The next day the water was over all the land, and up to his front door. Neighbors in a boat came by and offered to take him to safety. He said that God would protect him. And he prayed for God's protection.

Then the next day the water was over his first floor. Another boat came by offering to take him to safety. Again he told the neighbors that God would protect him. And he prayed for God's protection.

Later that day he was forced out onto the roof and the government sent a helicopter to pick him up. Again he refused saying that God would protect him. And he prayed for God's protection.

The water rose and the man drowned. As he was standing before God, he asked God why He didn't protect him. God looked lovingly at the man and said, "Son, what would you have me do? I sent a car, two boats and a helicopter to save you."

God answers our prayers, and not always the way we might expect Him to.

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.

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**DEPARTMENT AND NATIONAL EVENTS  
TO REMEMBER**

**National Convention**

2013 - August 23-29, Houston, Texas  
2014 - August 22-28, Charlotte, N.C.

**Department Schedule**

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.