



The American Legion's
3rd District, Department of Missouri
"Third Herd"



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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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Web Site Address
www.mo3rdherd.com

Facebook Address
www.facebook.com/ThirdHerdMissouri

This newsletter is available to
view on our website

Upcoming Meetings

Meetings are held Quarterly on
the second Sunday of the month
at Posts throughout the District.

12 Dec 2021, Post 61, Kansas City

13 Mar 2022, "Unscheduled"

12 Jun 2022, Post 216, Bethany

Submit articles and pictures
for the Newsletter by email to
the Cdr. (Subject: Newsletter)
two weeks prior to Quarterly
publishing. All submissions
subject to editing.

Meet the Commander:

This is my first newsletter as your newly elected Commander. My name is Edward Weaverling and I am a retired U.S. Navy Senior Chief. I am truly a "Cold War" veteran. I went into service in 1971 during the Vietnam War and retired after the first Gulf War. During my career, I helped build and put into commission the USS South Carolina CGN-37, USS Dwight D. Eisenhower CVN-69 and USS Abraham Lincoln CVN-72. When deployed, I spent time doing things like chasing the Russians around the Mediterranean, conducting FON (freedom of navigation) operations along Colonel Gaddafi's "Line Of Death" and attempting to rescue hostages as part of Operation Eagle Claw to free the personnel taken when the Iranian Embassy was overrun. My travels took me to the Caribbean, North Atlantic, North Sea, Mediterranean, Black Sea, South Atlantic, South Pacific and Indian Ocean. When I retired, I found that ships were still in my veins. For three and a half years, I worked in a shipyard helping build three more aircraft carriers. I relocated back to my home state of Missouri to be with my extended family. Before taking on the role of 3rd District Commander, I was the 3rd District Sgt-At-Arms and the Commander of Post 285 in Hamilton, Missouri.

Annual Convention & Elections

Commander

With the initial surge of Covid-19 behind us and the new variant manageable, the annual American Legion Department of Missouri Convention took place 9-11 July 2021 at the Drury Plaza Hotel in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. It was a great convention.

Elections were held for various offices and here are some key results:

New Department Commander is Gary Grigsby (formerly Senior Vice Commander)

New Senior Vice Commander is Rose Noonan (formerly Zone 3 Vice Commander)

New Zone 2 Vice Commander is Calvin Bumgarner (also 3rd District Vice Commander and Post 61 Adjutant)

A new officer installation ceremony was held and I was sworn in as 3rd District Commander.

Conference Notes

Commander

The 2021 Fall Conference is being held October 15-17 at the Capital Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City, Missouri. The DEC will meet on October 17th at 1300 in the Truman Rooms.

Membership

Commander

Maintaining our membership numbers continues to be a never-ending challenge. Many of our elder comrades are being lost to the passage of time and recruiting new members to replace their numbers is difficult. My parent post has lost five (5) comrades in the last year. (There is one post in District 3 that has lost ten (10) members.)

Increasing our numbers is an even bigger challenge. With Covid-19 and its variants out there, not too many veterans are looking for more groups to associate with. So what do we do? We need to go after the inactive members that think of us as just another magazine subscription . . . the Post 1000 members. When a veteran joins the American Legion directly through National or Department, they are assigned to Post 1000 (administrative post). These are the members you can easily search for through myLegion.org

Post 1000 members are already members so your post recruiting battle is partly won. Now you just need to talk them into transferring into your post. Be sure to combine your recruiting call with a "Buddy Check". With Afghanistan back in Taliban hands & Covid variants abounding, many veterans might welcome the friendly voice of a fellow veteran.

Start with the 1000AD members that are paid up first. This way they will know you are not calling for money. If possible, have the caller be from the same service era and service branch. If they claim to be too busy to participate in post activities, just tell them your goal is to more easily keep them informed of local activities that might be of interest to them.

The National organization has enough funds to support the sponsoring of an Indy race car team while the Department of Missouri is having to cut costs just to survive. If we can get a post 1000AD member to transfer into a Missouri post, a portion of their dues formerly going to National will come to Missouri instead.

It's the final quarter of the membership year, please process your renewals expeditiously and manage those renewal notice cut-off dates so that members who have renewed are processed before they get another notice. Ideally, everyone is renewed by 31 Dec. They would have received 3 renewal notices by then, and hopefully many reminders by Post leadership.

1 January, non-renewed members are delinquent.

1 February, suspended without voting privileges.

1 June, dropped.

Why is membership so important? Membership drives our programs benefitting our Veterans, active duty military, and the community at large, and our programs drive membership. We cannot continue to do what we do effectively without the strongest membership possible.

District Meeting

Commander

Jarchow Schroeder Post 61 of Kansas City hosted the District Meeting on the 12th of September at 1500. Initially, we didn't even have a quorum present with only 3 of 26 posts represented. Luckily, another comrade from a 4th post showed up a little late, a quorum was established and the meeting was held.

While we would like to have all 26 post Commanders present, anyone can attend. District meetings are not just for district staff. They are a chance for post officers to interact with District staff. In the near future, training is going to be offered during the meeting to support you in your post membership retention and recruiting.

Four to seven Posts have been setting the budget, approving donations, electing officers for as long as I have been attending. We need more participation on the district level. We have various committee positions we can't find anyone to fill. We have District Officer positions that we need candidates for. We have comrades filling multiple positions because we can't find interested members. (Calvin Bumgarner is both my subordinate and my Boss! He is a Post

Adjutant, a District Vice Commander and the Zone 2 Vice Commander. That is a lot of irons in the fire at one time!!!)

We missing some of the start of the Chiefs vs Browns game but the meeting was over before 1600. We watched the rest of the game while munching on delicious BBQ Brisket, beans, potato salad, pasta salad and various deserts served up by our host, Post 61. Bravo Zulu.

Note: A copy of the official meeting minutes are always posted on the 3rd Herd webpage following each meeting. www.mo3rdherd.com

POW-MIA Empty Chair

Commander

This quarter we extend honors to the Missouri MIA's that resulted from the sinking of the USS Indianapolis CA-35 in World War Two.

In July 1945, *Indianapolis* completed a top-secret high-speed trip to deliver parts of Little Boy, the first nuclear weapon ever used in combat, to the island of Tinian, and subsequently departed for the Philippines for training. At 0015 on 30 July, the ship was torpedoed by the Imperial Japanese Navy submarine I-58, and sank in 12 minutes. Of 1,195 crewmen aboard, approximately 300 went down with the ship. The remaining 890 faced exposure, dehydration, saltwater poisoning, and shark attacks while stranded in the open ocean with few lifeboats and almost no food or water. The Navy only learned of the sinking four days later, when survivors were spotted by the crew of an aircraft on routine patrol. Only 316 survived. [Eight (8) of our Missouri comrades are amongst the missing.] The sinking of *Indianapolis* resulted in the greatest single loss of life at sea from a single ship in the history of the US Navy.

LEST WE FORGET

Post Activities in the JUL-AUG-SEP quarter

Commander

I know our posts have been more active than the following list would indicate but very few posts have directly reported any activities this quarter:

Jarchow Schroeder Post 61 (Kansas City)

- August 21, 12th Annual Car & Bike Show with proceeds to Legion charities

Wilson - Axline Post 216 (Bethany)

- July 4th Parade, we led the parade by marching with our color guard to lead the parade. We also had a trailer for veterans to ride in the parade.
- Also for the 4th of July we put the flags out all over Bethany. We are currently putting out 127 flags.
- In our August meeting the Auxilliary prepared a meal and the Girls State and Boys State attendees and their families were honored. The attendees gave presentations on their activities at their respective camps.
- On Sept. 1st, we put out the 127 flags again and also put up 16 large flags at the gate going into the Northwest Mo. State Fair. This was in preparation for the fair that ran for 5 days ending on Labor Day.
- During the 5 days of the fair the American Legion Post 216, the VFW Post 2176 and their Auxiliaries ran a booth in the exhibit hall. It was a weekend that was successful for all organizations.
- On Sept. 24th we went to Eagleville, Mo. and assisted in their flag raising. It was the opening of their Fall Festival. The flag raising was conducted by Eagleville American Legion Post 56, Bethany American Legion Post 216, and Bethany VFW Post 2176.
- On Sept. 25th we posted colors for the opening of the Fall Festival in Bethany.
- On the evening of Sept. 25 the local drag strip, Thunder Valley Raceway, had a Veterans Recognition night. We posted colors, Comrade Richard Graner sang the national anthem, we gave a rifle salute and played taps for the opening. This was conducted by Bethany American Legion Post 216 and VFW Post 2176.
- We have assisted in 3 military funerals over the last few months.

Clyde Gustine Post 236 (Excelsior Springs)

- July 4 conducted panhandling downtown handed out grave marker flags for free asking for donations. Raised approximately \$1600.
- Annual Car Show was held September 25, total money raised has not been tallied.
- Bingo every Friday night starting at 545 for early bird bingo, regular bingo at 7.

Boutwell-Clark-Craven-Eads Post 285 (Hamilton)

- On 04JUL21 & 06SEP21, we posted and retrieved American flags on the main highway through town.

- Hosted monthly Second Harvest Mobile Pantry food distribution events at the post on 09JUL21, 13AUG21 and 10SEP21.
- Volunteering weekly at the Caldwell County Food Pantry Foundation distributing food to low-income residents of Caldwell County.
- Achievers 4-H Club sponsored breakfast for Veterans & First Responders held at the post.
- Honor Guard provided services for eleven (11) funerals.

I know there were a few more that I missed. You can't tell me in passing, make sure I write it down. But the best way is to just send me an email, "we have this going on this day". Three things will happen. I will try to come, and all I have to do is copy and paste from your email into the newsletter, and forward the same to the Adj. to put on our website. Far enough in advance I can get it in the Newsletter.

PLEASE communicate your activities with me!

Upcoming Events

Commander

Support ourselves by supporting other Post activities!

Fall festival season is upon us and several holidays are occurring this coming quarter. I know there is a lot more activity in District 3 than the following list would indicate. I would love to help support your post activities but I can't advertise things I don't know about.

31OCT21 Clyde Gustine Post 236 (Excelsior Springs) Bill Payne Halloween party for the kids, costume judging with prizes followed by hotdogs and soda 6pm.

12DEC21 **District Meeting**, 1500, potluck meal follows. Robert H. Baker Post 95 (Liberty) is the hosting post. Due to scheduling issues, the meeting is going to be held at post 61, 5125 N. Bellaire, Kansas City, MO 64119

Sons Squadron 58 in Smithville, MO hosts an all you can eat breakfast every third Thursday from 0700 to 1000. Proceeds go to local charities.

Training Tuesdays

Commander

"Training Tuesdays" sessions have started back up after a summertime hiatus. They are geared toward the training of Post Commanders and Adjutants. Any member can benefit from the training though. It occurs the last Thursday of the month at 1900 eastern. The session is

conducted through Microsoft Teams. As part of the live session, you can ask questions and get immediate answers. If you miss the live session, a recorded version will be posted later for online viewing.

The Sept 28th training topics were:

Emergency Assistance for American Legion Members and Posts

National Emergency Fund and Mission Blue Post Assistance for American Legion members affected by natural disasters and posts facing loss of revenue due to the pandemic.

Hosting Posts Needed

Commander

Can your post host a district meeting? Most posts could if they wanted too. If a post is willing to host a district meeting, they will receive \$100.⁰⁰ to cover food/refreshment expenses.

Meetings are held on the second Sunday of September, December, March & June at 1500. Food is served following the meeting. We still need hosts for meetings on 3/13/22, 9/11/22, 12/11/22, 3/12/23 and 6/11/23. Please let me know if your post wishes to volunteer.

Final Thoughts

Commander

The internet can be your friend or your foe. Search the internet on the name of your post. Were you aware of all of the information you found? I found information about my parent post that was at least 10 years old and totally out-of-date!

Do you realize that every post in the district has an information page on the district web site?

www.mo3rdherd.com

Check your post information on the site. Make sure it has your post's official name, mailing address, physical meeting location, meeting date/time. Contact name & phone number. If someone is looking for your post, make yourself easy to find. Post a good picture too.

Content changes, so hold on to old Newsletters and attachments as reference!

Kansas City VA Medical Center Offers COVID-19 Vaccine Boosters

Kansas City – The Kansas City VA Medical Center (KCVA) will offer Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine boosters under Emergency Use Authorization. This decision follows the Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) announcement authorizing a booster dose of Pfizer vaccine and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) recommendations, as follows:

- Individuals who **should** get a Pfizer COVID-19 booster include:
 - People 65 years and older and residents in long-term care settings who received a Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 primary vaccine series at least six months ago
 - People 50 to 64 years old with [underlying medical conditions](#) who received a Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 primary vaccine series at least six months ago
- Individuals who **may** opt to get a Pfizer COVID-19 booster dose, based on their individual benefits and risks, including:
 - People 18 to 49 years old with [underlying medical conditions](#) who received a Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 primary vaccine series at least six months ago
 - People 18 to 64 years old who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of their occupational or institutional setting who received a Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 primary vaccine series at least six months ago

Veterans who meet these criteria and would like to receive the Pfizer COVID-19 booster can ask for it during any upcoming clinic visit or at one of the following walk-in vaccine clinics scheduled in the Hall of Heroes (Linwood campus main hospital):

- [Friday](#), Oct. 1, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- [Wednesday](#), Oct. 6, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- [Thursday](#), Oct. 7, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- [Friday](#), Oct. 8, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Additionally, KCVA will offer the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine boosters during the drive-thru flu vaccine clinics already schedule at the Linwood campus:

- [Saturday](#), Oct. 2, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- [Sunday](#), Oct. 3, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Both the walk-in and drive-thru clinics are open to Veterans, CHAMPVA recipients, Veteran's spouses and caregivers under the authority of the [SAVE LIVES Act](#), as supply and capacity permits. Anyone requesting a booster must be 18 years or older and meet the FDA and CDC's guidelines for a booster dose. Persons coming in for a booster dose should bring their vaccine card with them.

Currently, only the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine has been authorized as a booster shot. FDA and CDC continue to review data to determine whether and when a booster might be recommended for recipients of the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson (J&J)/Janssen) COVID-19 vaccine(s). VA will plan to offer boosters of these vaccines if authorized and recommended.

KCVA remains deeply dedicated to the health and wellbeing of the Veterans we serve. Thank you for choosing us for your healthcare needs as we work together to end this pandemic.

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