



The American Legion's  
3<sup>rd</sup> District, Department of Missouri  
"Third Herd"



Commander Edward A. Weaverling  
101 E. Samuel St., Hamilton MO. 64644  
816-805-2319 [commander.third.district@gmail.com](mailto:commander.third.district@gmail.com)

Adjutant Robert C. Emery  
16001 E 31<sup>st</sup> St. Independence MO 64055  
816-313-5109 [remery18@comcast.net](mailto:remery18@comcast.net)

**QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER**

**1 July 2023**

Web Site Address  
[www.mo3rdherd.com](http://www.mo3rdherd.com)

Facebook Address  
[www.facebook.com/ThirdHerdMissouri](http://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.

09/17/23, Post ???, NO HOST YET!  
One week later than normal

12/10/23, Post 557, Polo

03/10/24, Post 236, Excelsior Springs

The Commander is the source of all  
content unless otherwise noted.  
Submit articles and pictures for the  
Newsletter by email to the  
Commander. (Subject: Newsletter)  
two weeks prior to Quarterly  
publishing. All submissions subject  
to editing.



**ELECTIONS ARE  
OVER!**

New officers may be installed immediately after the  
election but must be installed by October 20<sup>th</sup>.

Your "Certification of Post Officials" form should be  
submitted to the Department Adjutant as soon as possible  
after your election (no later than July 1<sup>st</sup>). You do not  
have to wait until after new officer installation.

This new deadline is being put in place to reduce  
Department expenses and it may become the new norm.

For those that have never been an adjutant, here is the  
scoop. After every convention, Department sends out a  
personalized packet to every post Adjutant. It contains a  
new Officer's Guide, a new Adjutant's Guide, a quantity  
of 'Why You Should Belong' pamphlets, various other  
paperwork and all the membership cards for the coming  
year. As you can imagine, the postage to mail these  
paperwork packets can cost quite a bit.

District Commanders can pick up these packets at the  
convention but only for the posts that have their  
"Certification of Post Officials" form submitted.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> DISTRICT MEETING**

Wilson-Axline Post 216 in Bethany, MO hosted the District Meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> of June at 1500.

Attendance was better than normal and the post-meeting meal was excellent. Fifteen legionnaires were present but only 6 of our 26 posts were represented (61 – Kansas City, 95 - Liberty, 106 – Albany, 216 – Bethany, 285 - Hamilton, & 557 - Polo).

While we would like to have all 26 post Commanders and their adjutants present, anyone can attend. District meetings are not just for district staff. They are a chance for post officers to interact with District staff.

Four to five 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 held our district elections. As Commander, I am at the end of my two-year elected term. The district constitution says I cannot be *elected* to succeed myself. However, no legionnaire has stepped up to take over the job of commander. As a consequence, I will remain your District Commander for the foreseeable future until my relief can be found, elected & trained to take my place.

Comrade Jerry Galloway of Post 557 was elected to replace Calvin Bumgarner as Senior Vice Commander. Comrade Bruce Jelinek of Post 557 was elected to replace Jerry Galloway as Sergeant-At-Arms. All other staff positions remain the same.

I would like to personally thank Wilson-Axline Post 216 and Commander Thomas McFall for hosting our June 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Note: A copy of the official meeting minutes are always posted on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Herd webpage following each meeting. [www.mo3rdherd.com](http://www.mo3rdherd.com)

---

### **HOSTING POST(S) NEEDED**

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.<sup>00</sup> from District. As host, you provide the facility, the main food course, and the drinks (iced tea, water, coffee). The rest of the potluck meal is side dishes brought by meeting attendees. Meetings are held on the second Sunday of March, June, September & December at 1500. Food is served following the meeting. We still need hosts for meetings beyond our next scheduled meeting on 6/11/23. Please let me know if your post wishes to volunteer. Note: If your post has an Auxiliary Unit, the Legion Auxiliary District President will hold a meeting also.

---

---

## DÉJÀ VU

Are you seeing things? Is this the current newsletter or an old one? Didn't you see that article in the last issue? Maybe you did and maybe you didn't! Important things are worth repeating. Yes, some of the articles you have seen before. Some are similar but have been updated. Others are totally new. Do yourself and me a favor and read through it before you judge it. (NOTE: It might be more interesting if more members contributed to it.)

---

## BE THE ONE – Not Just A One Year Program

Every year, the American Legion elects a new National Commander. Each new commander places emphasis on a program of personal interest. Our outgoing National Commander J. “Jim” Troiola put Suicide Prevention in the spotlight and named this campaign “BE THE ONE”.

**BE THE ONE**

Unlike previous commander's programs, BE THE ONE is going to continue indefinitely. As a society, we have an ongoing problem of suicide within our communities, especially amongst our veterans. Local help is available from the “Missouri Veterans Suicide Prevention Team” for the asking. The team is directed by Jon Sabala, Missouri Department of Mental Health Veterans Service Officer. This team of volunteers conducts suicide prevention training around the state. Currently there are only a handful of team members doing this training. They have sent out emails to the American Legion, DAV and VFW challenging them to host training at the district level and post level. Having them conduct a training session at your post would be a great public relations opportunity. You could make it a community event open to the public. After all, veterans are not the only potential suicide group. Teen suicide is also on the rise and the public could receive some much needed, potentially life-saving information. This training is free, approximately 90 min. long and designed to help prevent ALL potential suicides (not just veterans). (<https://dmh.mo.gov/veterans>) (<https://www.facebook.com/MOVSPT>)



## ONLINE TRAINING = BASIC TRAINING

On-line course consisting of 6 lesson units and 1 exam unit. (History / Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation / National Security / Americanism / Children & Youth / Course Conclusion / Final Exam). It is self-paced. You can log out and log back in whenever you have free time. Upon successful completion, you will receive a link to a web page to print out a course completion diploma. Graduation also qualifies you for an “American Legion Education Institute” lapel/hat pin. As an incentive, I will buy the pin for any district member that shows me that they successfully completed the course while I am District Commander. (Sadly, not one legionnaire in the district has taken me up on this offer yet! 😞)

---

## **IMAGE, IMAGE, IMAGE . . .**

Continue to work on your public image. How does the public perceive you? Do they think you're just a few crotchety old geezers that put out flags occasionally and spend the rest of your time sitting around drinking beer and telling 'war stories'. Take advantage of every opportunity to present your American Legion post to the public in a positive light. Hold an informal 'workshop' session at your post to brainstorm PR and recruiting ideas. Make plans and execute the best ideas.

Make your post a place a veteran would want to join regardless of their service era.



---

### **POW-MIA EMPTY CHAIR**

At every 3<sup>rd</sup> District meeting, we feature a POW-MIA dedication.

This quarter, we honored Ensign Jesse L. Brown. In 1950, he was an F4U Corsair pilot in Fighter Squadron VF-32 aboard USS Leyte (CV-32). Ensign Brown held the distinction of being the first African-American fighter pilot in the United States Navy.

On December 4, 1950 Ensign Brown and his wingman LTJG Hudner took off from USS Leyte CV-32 on a ground attack mission near the Chosin Reservoir. While in formation over the target, his plane was hit by either ground fire or small arms fire. His plane lost oil pressure and he had to make a forced dead-stick landing in a snow covered clearing behind enemy lines. He was injured and the lower half of his body was trapped in the cockpit. His wingman witnessed Brown's landing and noted that he appeared to be trapped. LTJG Hudner force landed his own plane next to that of Ensign Brown. His efforts to free Jesse were unsuccessful. He stayed with Jesse until he passed away from his injuries and exposure. LTJG Hudner was rescued by helicopter.

On December 7, 1950 F4U Corsairs from VF-32 dropped napalm on both aircraft to keep them out of enemy hands. It is not known if Ensign Brown's body was still in the aircraft at that time. He is listed as both KIA and MIA in that his remains have never been recovered. (This story is depicted in the 2022 biographical movie "Devotion" starring Jonathan Majors & Glen Powell.)

Lest we forget.

---

### **PER CAPITA DUES**

What are they? Member dues go to National & Department with some staying at the post level. Per Capita Dues are the only source of income for the district. It is assessed at the rate of \$1 (one dollar) for each member on your post roster at the EOY. Billings are sent out to the posts in September and are due to be paid to the District Finance Officer by a November due date. 4 of 26 posts in our district have yet to pay this assessment!



## **FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY**

We are all mature, fiscally responsible adults. We go through life paying our bills as they come due. However, it seems that some of our comrades don't think paying their annual membership dues on time is necessary. The collection of dues for 2024 will start on July 1st of 2023. Dues are supposed to be paid for 2024 by January 1<sup>st</sup>! If dues are not paid by Jan. 1 of each calendar year, the member becomes delinquent. Feb. 1, the member is suspended. June 30, the member is dropped from the membership rolls.

If you were buying a season pass to an amusement park, you would be expected to pay for the pass before you could use it. You should treat the legion the same way. You should pay for 2024 before the start of 2024. And do not wait until the last moment. Yes, money is a little tight right now but it will get even tighter as we approach the holiday season. Give yourself an early Christmas present and renew this Summer.

NOTE: The Department of Missouri tracks renewals and has set monthly goals for the posts that increase by approximately 5% per month. The 100% renewal goal date for 2024 will be Mid-May of 2024 but don't wait.

How is your post doing with renewals? Go to [www.missourilegion.org](http://www.missourilegion.org) and look at the district report on the membership page. The three rightmost columns are the important ones.

Conclusion: Anybody that hasn't paid their 2023 dues is extremely late. Be responsible and get them paid! Note: If your membership is delinquent, expired or suspended, some of the American Legion membership benefits may not be available to you.

---



## **RECRUITING / BUDDY CHECKS – POST 1000 MEMBERS**

Veterans love to know that someone appreciates and cares about them. Making these 'Buddy Check' calls is essential to keeping these comrades in the legion. They may have joined online to try the legion out only to feel ignored after joining. A personal call welcoming them to the legion and inviting them to transfer to a local post is the key to retaining them as members and getting them involved. If they say they don't want to join a local post, ask them why. Remind them that as a member of Post 1000, their dues go to National and the local post(s) don't receive any of the money to support youth programs on the local level. And don't be selfish . . . if the member is interested in an American Legion program your post doesn't support (i.e. baseball),

help them connect with a post that is active in that program. Also, don't forget that we are a 'Legion Family'! They might have a spouse/daughter that qualifies to be an 'Auxiliary' member or a son that qualifies to be a 'Sons' member. If they are a motorcycle rider, put them in contact with the 'Riders' chapter nearest their home. Involved members doing things that interest them are the kind of members that participate and stay with the Legion.

Note: Start with the members that have their dues paid up. They will know you're not just calling for money.



### **BUDDY CHECK – POST ROSTER**

Show your older and less active members the respect they deserve. Even though they don't come to meetings anymore, let them know that their membership is still valued. Make sure you have good contact information for them so that you can keep them informed of post activities. If they don't drive anymore, consider having a member give them a ride to a meeting. Look closely at your roster. You may spot a member that has maintained a continuous membership for decades but they have suddenly fallen behind in paying their dues. **THIS IS A RED FLAG!** Show some concern. They may be having personal issues (health, financial, etc). As a post, offer help if you can. Consider offering to pay their dues for the current year so that they won't have to worry about losing their continuous membership status. If your post is well situated financially, you might consider making them a 'Life Member'. (Note: A Life member is a member that is officially adopted by the post and the post is obligated to pay their dues for the rest of their life as long as they are a post member.)

Don't let these members be forgotten! When I was a Post Commander, we had a member that had earned a "70 years Continuous Membership" certificate. I placed his certificate in a nice frame, put on my white Legion uniform and went to visit him. As a civilian, he was a retired Missouri Highway Patrolman. In military service, he was a Combat Engineer attached to Patton's 3<sup>rd</sup> Army during WW2. Boy did he have some stories to share. I spent over two hours just listening to this gentleman. He seemed overjoyed that someone cared enough to visit him and personally present him his certificate. I assured him that it was my honor and privilege. Sadly, he passed away 2 years later and I was the only post member at the 'Post Everlasting' ceremony that had ever met him. Don't let these members be forgotten!

---

### **MYLEGION.ORG**

The system still has issues but use it if you can. If you encounter a problem, use the 'help' button and click on 'known issues' to see if the problem has already been reported. If it hasn't been reported, do so. The system is only going to get better if we use it and provide feedback. This system is invaluable to Post Commanders, Post Adjutants & Post Membership Chairpersons. The search functions will help you locate Post 1000 members to potentially



transfer into your post and the administrative functions are designed to make the Adjutant's job much easier.

Remember the "We want you back!" retention letters that used to exist? Well, they're back! With just a few key strokes, you can print off letters addressed to your post members that are behind in their dues. The letters are customized with your post's dues amount filled in and your post Commander's name at the bottom. It has a detachable portion at the bottom with mailing instructions.

---

## **LEGISLATIVE INVOLVEMENT**

When I was on active duty, I never thought about joining a veterans organization and I was never approached by one. When I retired, I felt my veteran rights were being threatened. The BRAC Commission was closing military facilities at every turn which would limit my ability to utilize military medical & commissary facilities. Any time Congress wanted to make monetary changes, it seemed like they wanted to target military retiree & veteran benefits. I found myself wanting to join an organization that would fight to maintain &/or improve my veteran rights. I found the American Legion!

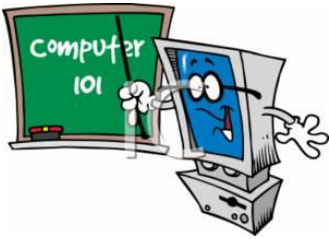
The American Legion is constantly present in the halls of Congress. Some of our members are also members of Congress. The strength of our political influence depends on the volume of our membership. Our membership represents a huge voting block that Congress can not ignore. However, we can't sit back & rest on our laurels. We must work to keep our membership numbers strong and growing to maintain our influential status.

Besides maintaining our current benefits, the legion has been instrumental in gaining us additional benefits. The Legion helped bring about the GI Bill. They helped pressure the Veterans Administration into recognizing and providing treatment for PTSD, Agent Orange Exposure and most recently, Toxic Burn Pit Exposure. These changes didn't happen overnight. It took a lot of work from dedicated people to make these things a reality.

You can help by putting additional pressure on Congress. Go online to [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) Select the 'Programs' menu, scroll down and select 'Legislative'. Click on the 'Learn More' button. On the left-hand menu, click on 'Legislative Action Center'. Here you can read about the latest issues the Legion is supporting to benefit veterans. Explore this page. From here you can sign up for email alerts. From any of the issue pages, you can have a form letter with your name on it sent to your Senator &/or Representative.

This 'Legislative Action Center' allows you to have a personal impact on veterans' issues with only a minimal amount of personal effort. Won't you help!?!?

---



Computer got you confused?!? If you are a post Commander or Adjutant, you need to get computerized to function effectively in today's American Legion. If you need help finding your way around in MyLegion and other legion websites, let me know and I will try to find you help.

---

### **POST ACTIVITIES (past & future)**

These would be posted here but nobody sent me any content.

I would love to post about your successes here as an example to other posts of what can be accomplished.

I would also love to promote your upcoming events to possibly add to their success.

---

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

July 2023

- 1 "Certification of Post Officials" due to Department
- 13 Department Golf Tournament, Springfield, MO
- 13-16 104<sup>th</sup> Department Convention, Springfield, MO
- 27 Korean War Ends
- 27-29 National Membership Workshop, Indianapolis, IN

August 2023

- 4 USCG Birthday (1790)
- 14 V-J Day (1945)
- 25-31 104<sup>th</sup> National Convention, Charlotte, NC

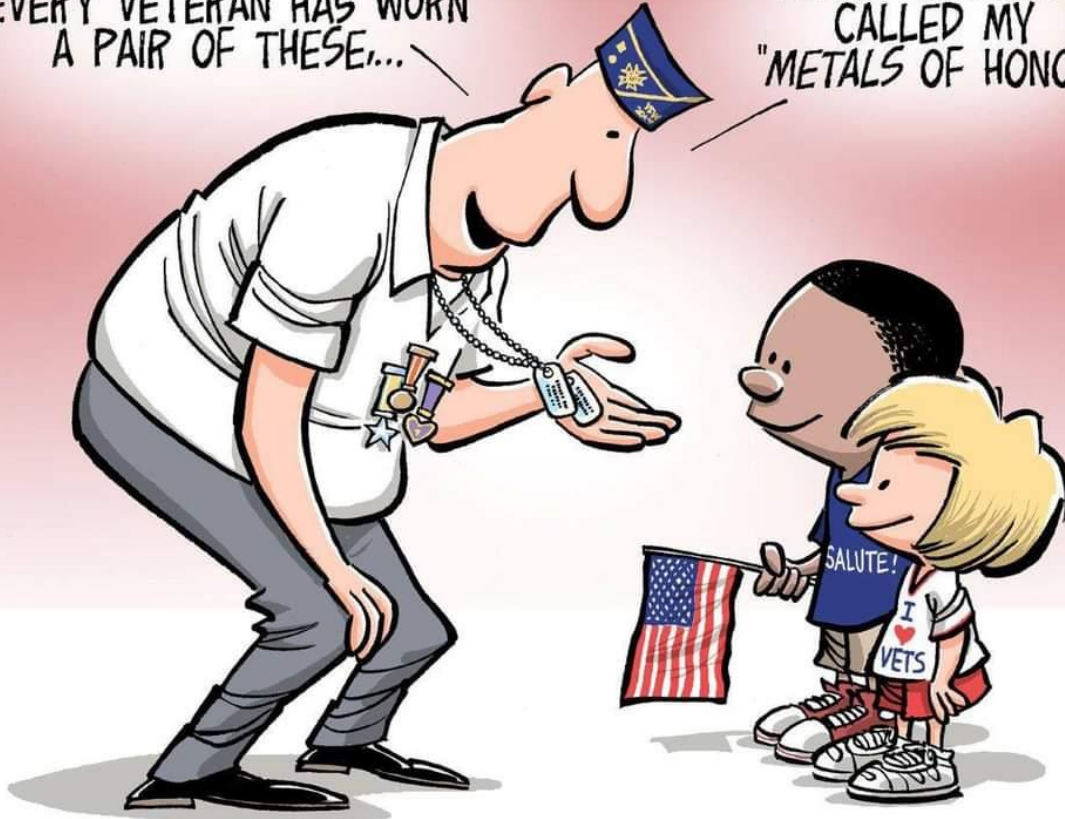
September 2023

- 11 Patriot Day
- 11 USAF Birthday (1947)
- 15 POW/MIA Recognition Day
- 16 American Legion Day
- 17 3rd District Meeting



YOU'RE RIGHT. SINCE EVERY VETERAN HAS WORN A PAIR OF THESE...

...THEY COULD BE CALLED MY "METALS OF HONOR."

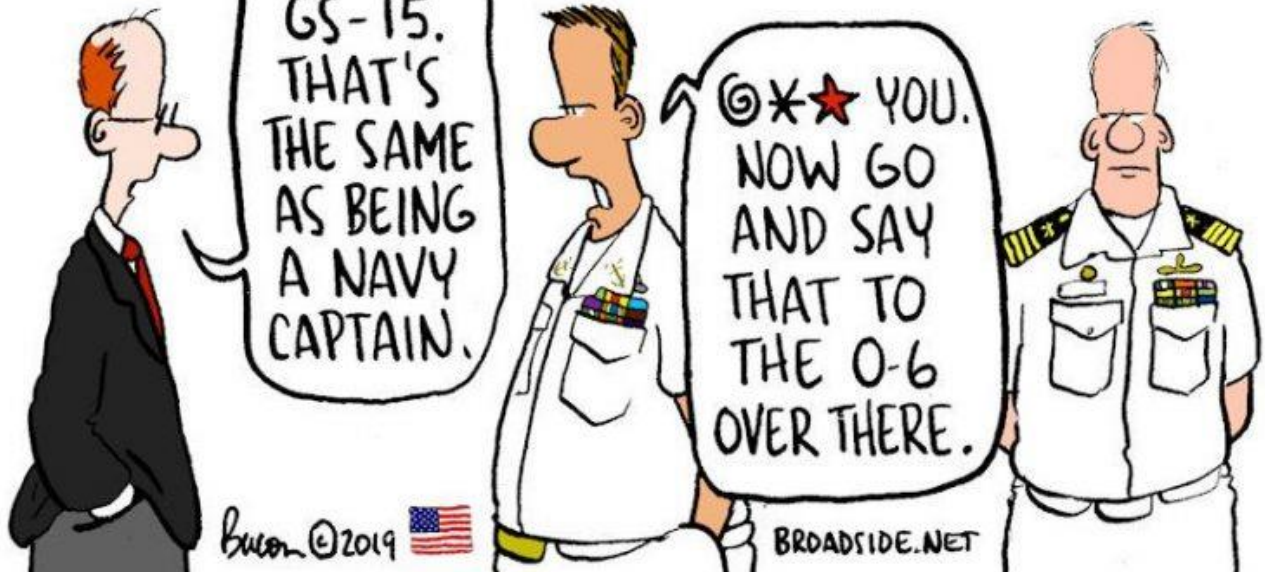


JEFF PARKER  
©2008  
FLORIDA  
TODAY

THE MASTER CHIEF TESTS A THEORY

I'M A GS-15. THAT'S THE SAME AS BEING A NAVY CAPTAIN.

©\*★ YOU. NOW GO AND SAY THAT TO THE O-6 OVER THERE.



Buon ©2019

BROADSIDE.NET

SUDDENLY, ENSIGN BROWN SUFFERS A MASSIVE PHONETIC ALPHABET MELTDOWN

I SPELL... UNICORN SALTY SALTY CAKE ONION ONION KANGAROO... OVER?



Bacon ©2014 BROADSIDE.NET 

THAT MARINE IS GOING TO NEED A CHAPLAIN.

THAT IS THE THE CHAPLAIN.



©2015 Bacon BROADSIDE.NET 