

The American Legion
Department of Missouri
District Three Commander

February 9, 2010

Dear Post Adjutant,

The Winter District Meeting was held in Excelsior Springs on January 17, 2010 with an attendance of five posts. We had two guests present, Department Commander Charlie Gooden and Boys State Spokesperson Bettie Rusher.

We received donations from three posts for The American Legion Children's Home, Post 95, Post 61, and Post 487, plus the District made a donation and we received two private donations. I am still asking for any donations your post would like to give. The Children's Home in Ponca City Oklahoma is the only Children's Home owned and operated by the American Legion. These are OUR kids. So, if your post would like to donate please make out your check to The American Legion Children's Home and send it to me. Once a month, if I have any, I will forward all checks to the home with a letter explaining exactly from whom they come. Thank you in advance.

As I have stated many times before it is tax time and EVERY post is responsible for filing their Form 990. Please see the explanation accompanying this letter. It seems like there are people in our Government that are out to get all of the non-profit organizations. If you fail to file Form-990 you will lose your tax-free status and will have to re-apply for the status. Between the time you lose your status and the time it is granted again, you will be responsible for paying taxes on any and all income your post may have earned during that period.

The Department's Spring Conference is scheduled for Feb. 19th through 21st. In the afternoon of the 20th the Department Oratorical Scholarship Finals will be held. If you have never been to a department conference, I encourage you to attend if at all possible. The Conference will be held at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City MO.

The District is planning of changing certain portions of our By-Laws and Constitution. The changes will be presented to the attendees at our Spring Meeting, April 11th in Hamilton and then be voted on during our Summer Meeting. Please plan to attend or send a representative!

Membership: As of Feb. 1st, the district stands at 84.81% of our goal for the year and are just .19% from reaching our February 10th goal. We have two posts that have already attained 100%, seven posts over 90%, 17 posts over 80%. Keep up the good work and recruit recruit recruit.

There have been times when some one will ask, "What exactly does the American Legion Do?" There have been times when an answer had totally escaped me. So, here is a little of what our American Legion does:

- Processes more than 600 disability claims appeals per month for veterans trying to get their VA medical benefits.
- Gives emergency financial assistance to Legion families it by disasters
- Urges Congress to provide enough VA funding to care for veterans – and provide in advance.



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District Three Commander

- Awards college scholarships to children whose mothers or fathers have sacrificed their lives in the global war on terrorism
- Volunteers over a million hours every year at about 160 VA medical facilities nation wide
- Help families of deployed troops through its Family Support Network and Operation Military Family Outreach
- Through its Temporary Financial Assistance program, helps children of veterans suffering hardships
- Donates about 100,000 pints of blood annually to the Red Cross
- Lobbies Congress to upgrade and improve post 9/11 GI Bill education benefits
- Works with communities to welcome back their returning veterans and help them make the transition to civilian life through its Heroes to Hometowns
- Sponsors over 5,000 American Legion Baseball teams, over 100,000 ballplayers
- Raises funds to improve the quality of life for active-duty troops through the Wounded Warrior Recognition Program and Operation Comfort Warriors
- Offers community programs that encourage the intellectual and social growth of America's children, (Boys State, Oratorical Competition, Boy Scouts)
- And this is just on the national level. This isn't counting the things your post may do that is not mentioned here, like, Funeral Honors Teams, Flag Etiquette Classes, dinners, dances, fund raisers for various needed programs,

And speaking of the GI Bill, it was the American Legion that wrote the original GI Bill called the GI Bill of Rights. It was The American Legion who presented the bill to congress and lobbied strenuously for passage.

Also, if you donate money to one of the funds, for instance the Children Welfare Fund or Temporary Assistance Program 100% of what you donate goes to that fund. There is absolutely NO overhead costs associated with these funds. All administrative costs, publication costs, clerical costs are paid for from the American Legion general operating funds. Not many, if any, organizations can truthfully make this claim.

This is our Legion, and we have every reason to be very proud to be members of the greatest Veterans Organization in our county!

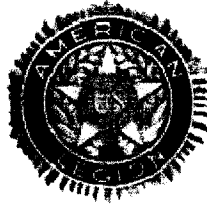
To save paper and postage, on the back of this letter is the 2010 Membership Recruiter report form. Please copy it from here and submit it as the directions dictate. And, Please, pass the information along to your post members and officers.

I received the schedule for the committee meetings/workshops for the department spring conference:

COMMITTEE MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS

Friday, February 19, 2010

12-4:00 p.m.	Baseball	Truman A
4:00 p.m.	Foundation	Truman A
	Intro to Vet Benefits	Truman B



The American Legion
Department of Missouri
District Three Commander

5:00 p.m.	Contest Committee	Truman C
	Education & Scholarship	Truman A
	Intro to Vet Benefits	Truman B
6:00 p.m.	Distinguished Legionnaire	Truman A
	VA&R	Truman B
	ROTC	Truman C
	Insurance	Joplin
7:00 p.m.	Truman Pilgrimage	Joplin
	Public Relations	Truman A
	Membership	Truman B
	Legislative	Truman C
8:00 p.m.	Dist Service Award	Truman A
	Law & Order	Truman B
	Children & Youth	Truman C
	Sub-Committee	Joplin

Saturday, February 20, 2010

8:00 a.m.	Finance Commission	Truman A
	History Book Instruction	Truman B
	S.A.L. (all day)	Carnegies
	Legion Riders Committee	Truman C
9:00 a.m.	Finance Commission	Truman A
	Boy Scouts	Truman C
	Cadet Patrol	Truman B
10:00 a.m.	Finance Commission	Truman A
	Oratorical Commission	Truman C
11:00 a.m.	Finance Commission	Truman A
11:45 a.m.	Lunch – Contestants	Lincoln
1:00 p.m.	Lunch – Judges	Truman B
1:30 p.m.	Legion Riders	Lincoln
4:30 p.m.	Past Post Commander's	Truman B
	Economic Commission	Truman A
	Homeland Security	Truman C

Sunday, February 21, 2010

7:30 a.m.	Past Dist. Cdr's Breakfast	Carnegies
8:30 a.m.	Closed DEC	Missouri/Capitol
10:00 a.m.	DEC	Truman A&B

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

If you or members of your post are planning to attend and I hope one or two from each post would, they can select which meetings/workshops they would like to attend.

Also, if your post publishes a newsletter, please add the district commander to your list. I would really appreciate knowing what is going on at your post. Thank You.

Lastly, here is the IRS reminder mentioned above, concerning the Form 990:



The American Legion
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The IRS Reminds Tax-Exempt Organizations of All Sizes to File the Form 990 on Time to Preserve Their Tax Exempt Status

IR-2010-10, Jan. 21, 2010

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service today reminded tax-exempt organizations to make sure they file their annual information form on time. In 2010 the tax-exempt status of any non-profit that has not filed the required form in the last three years will be revoked.

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 requires that non-profit organizations that do not file a required information form for three consecutive years automatically lose their Federal tax-exempt status. This requirement has been in effect since the beginning of 2007.

A list of revoked organizations will be available to the public, as well as state charity and tax officials on this website.

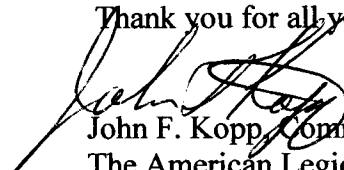
If an organization loses its exemption, it will have to reapply with the IRS to regain its tax-exempt status. Any income received between the revocation date and renewed exemption may be taxable.

Small non-profit organizations with annual receipts of \$25,000 or less can file an electronic notice, Form 990-N (e-Postcard). They will need only a few basic pieces of information to file: the organization's employer identification number, its tax year, legal name and mailing address, any other names used, an Internet address if one exists, the name and address of a principal officer and a statement confirming the organization's annual gross receipts are normally \$25,000 or less.

Tax-exempt organizations with annual receipts above \$25,000 are required to file the Form 990 or the Form 990-EZ annually. Private foundations file Form 990-PF. Churches and integrated auxiliaries of churches are not required to file Form 990-series returns or notices.

Form 990-series returns and e-Postcards, are due by the 15th day of the 5th month after an organization's tax year ends. For more information visit the relevant page on this web site.

Thank you for all you do


John F. Kopp, Commander
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