



DISTRICT THREE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI

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Spring Edition

March 2013

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COMMANDER'S CORNER

By

Calvin Bumgarner, Commander
District Three

With the spring upon us we are doing very well with membership as a District. We are ahead of our membership target which is 90% by Mach 13. We are currently at 91.72% we need to be at 95% by April 10th. This going to take a lot of hard work to get this last 8% to get to 100% by May the 8. We are 205 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 still 2676 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.

Our District Oratorical Contestant Agnes G Rieger of Oak Park High School won the State Competition and is now preparing for the National Competition in Indianapolis on April 12th, 13th, and 14th. We wish her all the success. We thank Post 95 and 3rd District Second Vice Ed Schmidt for all of their support in her endeavor.

The Membership Banners have arrived I have them and will be displaying them at the next District meeting. This is a useful tool to use when recruiting. These are available by request.

The next meeting for District 3 is going to be In Bethany Mo. Wilson-Axline Post 216 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 will be nominating new officers for the next 2 years keep in mind the people you would like to see run. 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.

To keep up with all information go to www.missourilegion.org. And get the latest news. Also on our website <http://www.mo3rdherd.com/>

DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

Mark you calendars for the next district meetings:

Date: April 7, 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

OUR HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

By
John F. Kopp, Past Commander
District Three

As we all know, the year 2019 will mark the 100th anniversary of the founding of The American Legion. While, to some, six years may seem like a long time from now, time seems to fly by faster than we really realize. Before we know it, it will be 2019.

The department is already preparing for the event. Our department convention is scheduled to be held in St. Louis, the location of the first American Caucus. This is where Theodore Roosevelt Jr. really got things going here in America.

We give Roosevelt the deserved honor of forming The American Legion but, just where did he get the idea? Many men of the AEF thought of the idea of forming some sort of alliance when they came home, but so many previous alliances from previous wars faltered with time because they had limited themselves with "conditions" for membership.

But, one day, in 1918, as Lt. Col. Theodore Roosevelt was recovering from his wounds at Base Hospital No. 2 in Paris, he hobbled along a walk and came upon a sergeant resting under a tree. The sergeant, William Patterson, gave Roosevelt a quick salute.

"Expect to get back soon, Sergeant?" Roosevelt asked.

"Yes, sir. Anxious to go back and get the whole job over, sir."

"So am I. But what will we do when all the Germans really are licked?"

"Go home and start a veterans' association for the good of the country, sir," the sergeant answered.

Roosevelt also has many such conversations with other wounded heroes and many had similar idea of some association being formed when they came home. From these conversations Lt. Col. Theodore Roosevelt began developing his ideas. He then met with Lt. Col Franklin D'Olier, our first National

Commander, and Lt. Col. Eric Fisher Wood to further develop the idea. From here, Roosevelt invited twenty officers to a dinner at the Allied Officers Club in Rue Faubourg Saint-Honore', saying that he an important unofficial matter to discuss. All accepted the invitation. From this meeting developed plans for the Paris Caucus and the American Caucus.

The American Legion was in formation.
 (Information taken from "THE AMERICAN LEGION STORY" by Raymond Moley, Jr. published 1966

2012-2013 NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES

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.**

ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP

County, District, Zone, and Department competitions are completed. The winner of the American Legion Oratorical Scholarship Department of Missouri Competition was Agnes G. Rieger of Oak Park High School in North Kansas School District. She is now preparing for the National Competition to be held in Indianapolis Indiana. Our support and best wished go with Aggie on her adventure forward and we wish her the best of luck.

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 do it today. One never knows when something might happen,

There is an incentive for posts having members enroll.

Post size Required Enrollment Gift card level
 Percentage

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

Boys State
By John F. Kopp, District Chairman

As of this writing, applications are slowly arriving from all over the district. This has been a difficult year for us, with the economy and our lovely snow coming just at the wrong time. But, by the time of our Spring District Meeting in Bethany, I should have a completed report. Keep up the good work!

Thoughts
John F. Kopp, Chaplain

Somebody told me, just the other day that spring is just around the corner. We are actually beginning to see what seems to be the start of things growing again. The early spring flowers are beginning to poke their delicate heads through the ground and up through the remaining snow.

Spring is also the time on rebirth, Easter and Passover. Just as a tid bit of information, do you know how the date for Easter Sunday is obtained? After all, it is different every year. Well, Easter Sunday is always the first Sunday after the first full moon in spring.

As our children, and/or grandchildren impatiently await the added fuel for their hyperactivity, as we carefully decorate the eggs and things, let us not forget those who will not be home this year, those still deployed overseas protecting our country and other freedom loving people around the world.

Let us all say a little extra prayer for their safe keeping and return home. After all, this IS the day of our Prince of Peace, His triumph over death itself. Every post meeting, district meeting, department conference and convention, each of them begins with the chaplain asking our Supreme Lord of all to assist us in our undertakings. Our preamble, declared prior to each of these undertakings, begins with "For God and Country."

DEPARTMENT AND NATIONAL EVENTS TO REMEMBER

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

Department Schedule
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

Sons of the American Legion

By John F. Kopp, Adjutant,
Detachment of Missouri

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.

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.