



DISTRICT THREE
AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI

Winter Edition

December 2013

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COMMANDER'S CORNER

**By
 John F. Kopp**

Well, the new year is upon us and it is winter. For me, the only good thing about winter is that spring is not far away. I had the honor of being selected to attend the National Legion College the last week of October. Besides being a lot of long hours and hard work, it was quite educational. During the next district meeting in January, I hope to share some of what I had learned.

As of this writing, District Three has three posts that have attained their membership goal for the year. Hats off to Opdyke Post 176 in Ridgeway, Cainsville Post 257 in Cainsville, Eagleville Memorial Post 56 in Eagleville and John Edgar Barnes Post 92 in Grant City. Keep up the good work.

I know it sometimes is very difficult obtaining new members, especially if your post is in a small town. And, most people in the larger cities have this idea that a small town consists of ten thousand people or more. Many do not realize that several of our cities have a population of less than five hundred. But it can be done. Just ask, ask your neighbor, ask those at your church, at school meetings, etc. The worst they can do is say no. But, if we don't ask, they cannot say yes.

Another idea, why not sponsor a vet. If your post sponsors a vet, the cost is only \$22.50 per year. It is worth a try, especially for those on active duty or are experiencing financial difficulties. Remember, if we can talk to the young men and women just enlisting, like right out of high school, and offer them free membership for a year, or longer, they are eligible after one day out of boot camp, if they are regular military, not reserve.

Ever wonder where the navy term Hunky Dory came from?

The term meaning everything is O.K. was coined from a street named "Honki-Dori" in Yokohama, Japan. Since the inhabitants of this street catered to the pleasures of sailors, it is easy to understand why the street's name became synonymous for anything that is enjoyable or at least satisfactory. And, the logical follow-on is "Okey-dokey."

DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

Mark your calendars for the next district meetings:

Date: January 12, 2014
Place: Jarchow Schroeder Post 61
5125 N. Bellaire
Kansas City MO 64119
Time: 1200 PM Lunch
1300 PM Meeting

Date: April 13, 2014
Place: Smithville Post 58
2607 E. 92 Highway
Smithville MO 64089
Time: 1200 PM Lunch
1300 PM Meeting

Date: June 8, 2014
Place: Robert H. Baker Post 95
Our Lady of Mercy Country Home
2115 Maturana Dr.
Liberty MO 64068
Time: 1200 PM Lunch
1300 PM Meeting

An Article from *THE DISPATCH*

By
John F. Kopp, Commander
District Three

I thought the following article from the September issue of The Legion Dispatch. Being a Vietnam Veteran myself, this article really meant a lot to me. It is well worth reading.

On his way home from serving in Iraq, U.S. Army Staff Sgt. David Bellavia landed in Atlanta and was walking through the airport wearing his protective combat uniform when he was approached by two crying men — Vietnam veterans. They said to Bellavia, "Welcome home." And then they said three words that Bellavia "never expected to hear from another veteran. They said, 'I love you.'"

Bellavia is the recipient of the Silver Star for his actions during the Second Battle of Fallujah, as well as the recipient of the Bronze Star, three Army Commendation Medals, two Army Achievement Medals and the New York State Conspicuous Cross. He currently resides in Batavia, N.Y., is the vice chairman of Vets for Freedom, and he published a memoir in 2007, "House to House: An Epic Memoir of War."

Bellavia told attendees at The American Legion's 95th national convention that after his brief encounter with the Vietnam veterans, he believes the greatest generation is those who fought for their country and never received the proper welcome home.

"I think the greatest generation is an 18-year-old kid, who can't even spell the country he was drafted to serve in," Bellavia said. "I think the greatest generation is a young man who instead of being homecoming king, he was told to go fight a war overseas that he didn't ask for, he didn't vote for. The greatest generation would turn on the radio and be told that they were baby killers by popular culture."

They were told by Hollywood that they were ignorant and a fool for doing what their country asked of them.

"In my opinion, the greatest generation was a generation that stood shoulder to shoulder and protected Iraq and Afghanistan veterans from the same unwashed ignorant classes that choose to put the soldier behind the foreign policy. The greatest generation is a generation of veterans who were treated with dishonor and shame and made sure that their sons and daughters would never be treated like they were treated."

Bellavia asked all Vietnam veterans in the audience to stand and he said, "Welcome home. We love you."

2013-2014 NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES		
MID-WINTER	JANUARY 15, 2014	80%
PRESIDENT'S DAY	*FEBRUARY 12, 2014	85%
LEGION BIRTHDAY	MARCH 12, 2014	90%
CHILDREN & YOUTH	*APRIL 9, 2014	95%
ARMED FORCES DAY	MAY 14, 2014	100%
Delegate Strength	30 days prior to National Convention	

**This date is also a renewal notice cutoff date.

ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP

By
Ed Schmidt, Oratorical Chairman

Greetings 3rd district Legionnaires,

Once again we are coming up on our annual District Oratorical contest. Fortunately last year was Amazing! Our Clay County contestant Aggie Reiger went all the way to win as National Champion. While watching many Orations from district to zone to state and then the National Contests I took notes along the way. Missouri has their contestants pause and salute the flag at all levels. I didn't see a lot of that at the National Contest. I received comments from many Legionnaires that they were very pleased to see our contestant respect the flag. Aggie probably got many extra points for that. Aggie was an excellent speaker first and foremost. Her orations were not like a lecture. She had current and interesting information and even brought a little humor in. It was something to see the audience reactions to her. I hope that she is enjoying her freshman year in college. I was very honored to follow her through her contests.

That brings us to this year, I think because of our district having the National Champion, there is an increased interest in our oratorical contest. This year we already have several contestants enrolled to participate. Soon Clay County will be picking their county contestant. On Sunday January 5th at 2pm we will hold our contest at the Cameron American Legion Post 33 home. I hope to get plenty of help because I'm going to need it.

Boys State
By
John F. Kopp, District Chairman

Before we know it, it will be time for Boys State. Now is the time to begin searching for sponsors for our boys. Hopefully we will not have to turn any boy away due to lack of funds. Remember, you can have as many sponsors as necessary to attain the needed amount. So, let's begin now. Keep up the good work.

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

COMMANDER'S SCHOLARSHIP

If you know of a veteran presently attending has been accepted by an accredited vocational technical college, college or university in the State of Missouri and who has served a minimum of 90 days and honorably discharged and is a resident of Missouri, the or she eligible to apply for Commander's Scholarship.

The scholarship is for \$1000. If you know of anyone interested contact me for an application or contact the department headquarters.

DEPARTMENT AND NATIONAL EVENTS TO REMEMBER

National Convention

- 2014 – August 22-28, Charlotte, N.C.**
- 2015-August 28-Sept. 3, Baltimore, MD**
- 2015-August 26-Sept. 1, Cincinnati, OH**
- 2017-August 24-30, Louisville, KY**
- 2018-August 24-30, Minneapolis, MN**
- 2019-Augus 23-29, Indianapolis, IN**

Department Schedule

- 2014 Spring Conference 2/12-2/23**
 - 2014 Convention 7/10-7/12**
 - 2014 Fall Conference 10/24-10/26**
- All at Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO**

Sailors wear Pea Coats

Sailors who have to endure pea-soup weather often don their pea coats but the coat's name isn't derived from the weather. The heavy topcoat worn in cold, miserable weather by seafaring men was once tailored from pilot cloth -- a heavy, course, stout kind of twilled blue cloth with the nap on one side. The cloth was sometimes called P-cloth for the initial letter of "pilot" and the garment made from it was called a p-jacket -- later, a pea coat. The term has been used since 1723 to denote coats made from that cloth.

Sons of the American Legion
By
John F. Kopp, Adjutant,
Squadron 61

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

I know it is early, but it is not too early to start thinking about your Post's Consolidated Report. How about every post in the district filing this report this year. It can be done. They are not that difficult to complete.

What is a Port Hole

The word "port hole" originated during the reign of Henry VI of England (1485). King Henry insisted on mounting guns too large for his ship and the traditional methods of securing these weapons on the forecastle and aftcastle could not be used.

A French shipbuilder named James Baker was commissioned to solve the problem. He put small doors in the side of the ship and mounted the cannon inside the ship. These doors protected the cannon from weather and were opened when the cannon were to be used. The French word for "door" is "porte" which was later Anglicized to "port" and later went on to mean any opening in the ship's side, whether for cannon or not.

ZONE II COMMANDER CANDIDATE

I have been actively involved in District Three activities for over eight years. In that period of time there has not been a Department Zone II Vice Commander from our district. But, I am very proud to announce that at our District meeting in January I will present a resolution supporting Calvin Bumgarner, immediate past District Commander and present Post 61 commander for the high office of Zone II Vice Commander.

Calvin has been an active Legion member for over 17 years and has held many offices in the post and district. He is a Veteran and honorably discharged from the U.S. Army



District Three Commander receives diploma from National American Legion College

From Past District Commander Calvin Bumgarner

Hope everything is going well with all of you. Just wanted to drop you a line and ask for your support in my next endeavor with the American Legion as Zone II Vice Commander. It is an honor to serve the State of Missouri and the American Legion as a member of this great organization. I have been involved with the American Legion for 17 years and served my post as Finance Officer, Adjutant and Commander for 2 years. I have held office in the District as Sergeant of Arms, Vice Commander and Commander. I served in the Army Reserve from 1970 to 1976. I am currently Commander of Post 61 and Vice Commander of the Third District.

I would like to serve Zone II as their Vice Commander for the 2014 - 2015 term. I will work hard to support the American Legion in all of their programs and projects and also the needs of Zone II and its four Districts.

Thank You For Everything You Do and also for your support.

*Vice Commander Third District
Commander
Jarchow – Schroeder
American Legion Post 61
Calvin Bumgarner*

From the National Adjutant regarding IRS Audits

This memorandum was issued to all EO examinations managers and EO examinations revenue agents.

Effective immediately, if an agent needs to determine the composition of membership of a veterans' organization, the agent shall *initially* request and collect from the organization four sets of documents, as follows:

1. Membership list(s) that contain the names of members, the military service dates, and the status of each individual member. This status information is to indicate whether the member is active duty, veteran, cadet, or spouse. The organization may provide list(s) from its affiliated parent organization.
2. A document that shows the dues structure and classes of membership
3. The documentary information used by the organization to create the membership list(s) noted above. Organizations should be informed that to satisfy this request they may provide membership applications, membership cards, or other similar documentation, *other than* DD form 214
4. Documents showing the organization's policies and procedures on how it decides an individual is eligible for membership, including documents which show the means by which it enforces its membership requirements.

If an agent possesses information that contradicts documentary information provided or if the organization fails to satisfy a reasonable request, agents may *then* request DD Forms 214, or other discharge documents from the organization in order to ascertain compliance with the federal tax laws cited herein. DD Forms 214 must include the name, department, component and branch of service, and record of service dates. All other personal information may be redacted.

The contents of this memorandum will be incorporated in IRM 4.76.26.

If you have any questions regarding the above memorandum, feel free to contact the National Adjutant for further clarification.