



# DISTRICT THREE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI

Summer Edition

May 2010

## DISTRICT OFFICERS

### COMMANDER

*John F. Kopp*  
417 Melrose  
Liberty MO 64068  
(816) 407-9740  
(816) 699-8719  
e-mail: jfkopp@att.net

### NORTHERN VICE

*John-Paul Kopp*  
(816) 407-9740  
(816) 529-8227  
e-mail: jpkopp@att.net

### SOUTHERN VICE

*Ed Schmidt*  
ed@maysvillemo.com

### ADJUTANT

*Robert Emery*  
(816) 833-7285  
e-mail: remery18@comcast.net

### FINANCE OFFICER

*Gary Reno*  
(816) 628-5773  
e-mail: greno001@kc.rr.com

### CHAPLAIN

*Rev. Donna Warren*  
PO Box 417  
Liberty MO 64069  
e-mail: Dimlitwit@aol.com

### SGT. AT ARMS

*Calvin Bumgarner*  
5212 Cody  
Shawnee KS 66203  
(913) 522-1103  
e-mail: cbumgar522@aol.com

### JUDGE ADVOCATE

*Gary Reno*  
(816) 628-5773  
e-mail: greno001@kc.rr.com

## DISTRICT THREE SUMMER MEETING

By John F. Kopp, Commander

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The District Three Meeting for June is scheduled for June 13, 2010 and will be held at the Griffith-Skiles Post 237 312 S. Clark St, Richmond MO. As usual, things will begin with dinner, bring a covered dish, the Post and District furnish the meat and drinks, at noon followed by the District Meeting at 1300 Hours. This June meeting is considered our District Convention and is the time that all resolutions are voted on and elections are held. There isn't any election this year for District, but we do have two resolutions to vote on. We will also be discussing the upcoming Department Convention and National Convention. I encourage each post to send at least one representative.

You cannot judge a district meeting that you have not attended by a meeting you may have been to say five or ten years ago. Each new commander has his or her way of doing things and presenting topics to the assembled. So, all I am asking is to give it a shot. If you don't like it, then fine. But try attending a meeting at least once every two years, when commanders are different.

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## Missouri Boys State

By

John F. Kopp, Chairman

All of the applications are in, processed, and sent off to Warrensburg. Our district did not send as many boys this year as last, but we did have several schools participating this year that have not for the past year or two.

As Chairman, I wish to thank all of the Posts Chairmen for their hard word in obtaining sponsors, talking to school consolors, and getting the applications and checks to me in a timely manner.

Through your hard work and dedication, we sent in fifty-nine (59) applications. That includes 56 citizens and three alternates. Not a bad count. Again, thanks to all who have helped.

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# DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

Mark your calendars for the next district meetings:

Date: **June 13, 2010**  
Place: Griffith-Skiles Post 237  
312 S. Clark St  
Richmond MO  
Time: 1200PM Lunch  
1300 PM Meeting

Date: **September 12, 2010**  
Place: Wilson-Axline Post 216  
32932 W. State Highway 13  
Bethany MO  
Time: 1200 PM Lunch  
1300 PM Meeting

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## COMMANDER'S CORNER

By  
**John F. Kopp, Commander**  
District Three

For most people there are two things in life that are for certain, Death and Taxes. But, for American Legion Post Adjutants and Commanders there is another thing that is for certain. And that is the Consolidated Post Report. These reports are extremely important, not only for the individual post, but also for the District, Department, and National. They are not used as a judgmental tool for or against any post, but the data are compiled and used for such things as explaining to members of congress just how many thousands of hours are volunteered each year by Legion members. They show how the Legion is really accomplishing the support of our goals – the four pillars

Last year, out of 29 posts in our district, only 11 submitted reports. Each of the reporting posts has received a certificate from department. I would love to be able to present a certificate to each and every post in our district. I don't think there is any post that actually can say that they do everything mentioned on the report, but, likewise, I am willing to bet that every post does at least one or two things.

You may think that your post doesn't do anything to record on the report. If you have members who have paid their dues, either annually or PUFL, your post is supporting all of the Legion's programs. The cost of administering Legion programs like the Temporary Financial Assistance, National Emergency Fund, Child Welfare Fund, etc. is only from membership dues. The overhead for these and many other programs administered by the Legion comes, not from the fund, but from dues. I have not heard of any other organization that can claim that.

And that goes for all of the other programs of The American Legion, Legion Baseball, Boys State/Boys Nation, High School Oratorical Competition, Heroes to Hometowns, etc.

So, please fill out your Consolidated Post Report and send them in at the proper time. Let's get 100% reporting. Thank You

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## WE ARE FAMILY

By  
**John F. Kopp, Commander**  
District Three

District Three is very fortunate to have at least one of every member of The American Legion Family. Most of our posts have an auxiliary unit assisting and supporting them, we also have three active squadrons of the Sons of The American Legion and we also have one Chapter of The American Legion Riders.

Do you realize that you do NOT have to be a member of the post that has a SAL Squadron or Legion Rider Chapter to join? You can belong to one post and have a son or grandson that can join the SAL Squadron at another post.

And like any family, communications is vital. When some one needs help that member needs to inform the others. That is like the Legion holding a fundraiser. The post should ask the Auxiliary, SAL, and Riders if they would like to participate, and the other way also. None of the four members should go off on its own without at least informing the others as to what is going on.

Four times a year the District holds a meeting. The Legion and Auxiliary both hold their respective meetings at the same time and same place. The times and locations are published in this letter and also usually sent to the post officers prior to the meeting. The Commander of that post should invite the SAL and Riders to attend. Think of all the ideas that could come from such a gathering.

## 2009-2010 NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES

<b>Armed Forces Day</b>	<b>May 12, 2010</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Delegate Strength</b>	<b>30 days prior to National Convention</b>	

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

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# SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

By  
John F. Kopp, Commander

As I announced in our last news letter, Winter 2009, we have a new S.A.L. Squadron in our district. Squadron 61. We are up and running. Already we have had a Chili and Pie cook off to raise funds for Boys State and are planning for parades and fairs throughout the summer.

The S.A.L. is a very important member of the Legion Family. The S.A.L. was started in the early 1920's for the sons of the WWI veteran Legion members. During WWII many of the S.A.L. members became war veterans themselves, and then their sons joined the S.A.L. but the then WWII Veteran remained a dual member, S.A.L. and Legion.

So, if you are any member of your post or if you know of any eligible male who would like to join the S.A.L. let me know, or go to [www.squadron61.org](http://www.squadron61.org). You do not have to belong to Post 61 to join Squadron 61.

There are also two other active Squadrons in our district, Squadron 117 in Braymer and Squadron 236 in Excelsior Springs.

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## DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

The Department Convention this year will be held July 8<sup>th</sup> through the 11<sup>th</sup> at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City. I strongly urge each post to send at least one delegate to the Convention. If anyone from your post intends to attend the convention, you should get your reservations soon. Even though there are several months to go, the hotel does fill up fast. To make a reservation you must call the hotel and state you are from the American Legion. Otherwise, they may say that there are no rooms available.

Besides being a lot of fun, the convention is stocked full of educational conferences and meetings, the election of Department Officers for the up coming year, awards are presented, and hospitality rooms galore.

There are also two Department Executive Committee meetings, one on Thursday and one on Sunday. The meetings are generally open to the general membership. It is the DEC that is responsible for the business of the Department, and at time, many decisions are made during this meeting.

If you decide to join us at the Convention, you won't be disappointed.

## Amy Marie Abbott Benefit

By  
John F. Kopp, Commander

Just prior to the monthly meeting of The Sons of The American Legion Squadron 61, Commander Dave Miller received a plea for help. Amy Marie Abbot, 28, of Weston MO was involved in an automobile accident in Independence MO. As a result of the accident, Amy lost her life, leaving three fantastic sons, Anthony (5), Ethan (3) and Cooper (7), motherless and their father seriously injured.

Squadron 61 accepted the challenge to help and, with only a couple of weeks to prepare, sponsored a spaghetti dinner. On Saturday afternoon, May 1, 2010 from 4P.M. until 7 P.M. the Sons of The American Legion Squadron 61, with the assistance of some of the Auxiliary member of Unite 61 and Legionnaires from Post 61 served dinner.

Besides the spaghetti dinner, there was a can for donations, a fifty-fifty raffle, and three other raffles. And, thanks to several donations of food and money, there was absolutely no overhead and we were able to give all proceeds to the family.

I turned out to be a fun day and everything came together and worked. And, thanks to all those who came to eat and participate, the S.A.L. was able to raise and give to the family over one thousand dollars \$1,000.00.

Needless to say tears flowed freely and hugs were in abundance. Those of us who worked, contributed, and supported were able to walk away knowing that, in our little way, helped someone in need.

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## DEPARTMENT AND NATIONAL EVENTS TO REMEMBER

### National Convention

- 2010 - Aug 27 -Sept 2, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- 2011 - Aug 26 - Sept 1, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- 2012 - August 24-30, Indianapolis, Indiana
- 2013 - August 23-29, Houston, Texas

### Department Schedule

- Department Convention – July 8 – 11, 2010
- Fall Conference – October 22 – 24, 2010
- All **Department** Conferences and Conventions held at:  
Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO

District 3 News  
C/O John F. Kopp  
417 Melrose  
Liberty MO 64068