







DISTRICT THREE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI

Spring Edition May 2011

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DISTRICT THREE SUMMER MEETING

By John F. Kopp, Commander

The District Three Meeting for June 12, 2011 will be held at Post 58 in Smithville MO. He post is located at 2607 E. 92 Highway/ (816) 532-8115. This is our Annual District Convention, and we will have the election of officer for the coming two years. If any one is interested in serving the district as an officer, contact either Gary Reno (816) 628-5773 or Robert Box (816) 453-1180. The elective offices for the District are as follows: Commander, Two Vice Commanders, Sergeant-at-Arms. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to serve, just willingness. The Commander cannot succeed himself as Commander.

Missouri Boys State

By John F. Kopp, Chairman

This has really been some year, hasn't it? The economy seems to have hit every aspect of our society. Our sponsorships seem to have been down and the number of boys is fewer than last year. We did send sixty-five boys, which includes only one alternate. While, yes the numbers are down, we can still pat ourselves on the back for a job well done.

For one reason or another this year's registration and information had been plagued by numerous road blocks and challenges, yet you all did a fantastic job, and we didn't lose one boy.

Thanks to all of you. And, while we are thanking ourselves for a job well done, let us not forget to be sure and thank all of the sponsors. If you haven't already done so, why not send the sponsors a thank you note, or, a certificate of appreciation. They will appreciate it and it will help in having them return next year as sponsors and maybe even sponsor more boys.

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Date: June 12, 2011 Place: Smithville Post 56

2607 E. 92 Highway Smithvile MO 64089

Time: 1200 PM Lunch

1300 PM Meeting

Date: Sept. 11, 2011

Gower Memorial Post 393

91 N. 3rd

Gower MO 64454 1200 PM Lunch

1300 PM Meeting

Time:

COMMANDER'S CORNER

By John F. Kopp, Commander District Three

The Department of Missouri Annual Convention is right around the corner. It would really be nice if each post in the district could send at least one representative. This will be my third convention, and each one that I have attended the knowledge attained and the people I have met are invaluable. That isn't even counting all the fun that goes on, also.

As a legion member you have the right to vote on many issues and the only way to have your voice heard is through attending functions like this, the convention, department conferences, district meetings, etc.

At the same time, the Sons of The American Legion will also have their annual convention. Both conventions are open to the respective members. You DO NOT HAVE TO BE AN OFFICER to attend the convention and/or the various committee meetings. The schedule for all the committee meetings will be on the department web site www.missourilegion.org/ printed in "THE **MISSOURI LEGIONNAIRE"** The Legion Convention will be held at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, 415 McCarty, Jefferson City MO (800) 338-8088. The cut off date for housing is June 10th.

The SAL convention will be held at Baymont Inn and Suites, 319 West Miller, Jefferson City MO (800) 392-3366. This includes free breakfast as well as shuttle to and from the Capital Plaza Hotel,

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 ways 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 district meetings at the same time and same place. The times and locations are published in this letter and also 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.

2010-2011 NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES

Legion Birthday March 9, 2011 90%
Children & Youth *April 13, 2011 95%
Armed Forces Day May 12, 2011 100%
Delegate Strength 30 days prior to National
Convention

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

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MEMBERSHIP

Every Friday afternoon, the Department of Missouri Department Headquarters publishes membership reports on the Department's webpage. They publish the districts totals in the order of percentages, and then they publish the totals for each district, the posts in that district and what the post membership was last year, what it is as of that date, and what the goal is for this year.

As of this writing we have four posts that have achieved at least 100% of this year's goal. Congratulations on a job well done. But, also, there are eleven posts that are within ten percent of the goal. Let's keep plugging along and see if we can get more posts over that 100% marker..

Let's keep asking the returning veteran, the older veteran who may have never been asked at all, and those people who may or may not look like they may be veterans. Unless we ask, we will never know.

Is a veteran is on the fence, can't really decide whether to join or not, why not have your post offer a trial membership – pay his or her first years dues. Get them in, and then keep them.

Also, pay the dues for active duty personnel, especially if they are deployed. They have enough on their minds than to worry about dues. Besides, if they are a member while on active duty or deployed and the post sends care packages, writes letters, gets their families involved with the post, I would bet they would stay a member when their tour is over and they return home. Sure is worth the investment, wouldn't you say?

Frank Buckles Memorial

A few months ago we lost the last American World War I Veteran, Frank Buckles. A few weeks later, I attended a memorial to Frank Buckles at the WWI Memorial and Museum. The Memorial was very nice and was well attended by American Legion members including the National Vice Commander, John Mella and several department officers.

Frank Buckles was a native of Bethany MO. American Legion Post 216, along with the local VFW post, is trying to construct a memorial for Mr. Buckles. Post 216 is asking for donations from Legionnaires to assist.

For more information please contact Jeffry Nichols, Commander American Legion Post 216 (660) 425-8680, nicholsj@grm.net

Sons of The American Legion

Something new. The 69th annual convention of The Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Missouri will be held at the Baymont Inn and Suites in Jefferson City. Here are the particulars:

S.A.L. 69th State Convention
July 9th – 10th 2011
8:30 AM DEC meeting
9:00 AM Regular Session
Baymont Inn and Suites
319 West Miller
Jefferson City MO 65101
(573) 636-5231
(800) 392-3366
\$70.00 per night

Includes free breakfast as well as shuttle to and from Capitol Plaza.

As with all conferences and conventions, you DO NOT have to be an officer to attend. It would be nice if every squadron in the third district would send at least one representative to the convention. Here is where they Detachment officers are elected, important information is exchanged, resolutions are voted upon by the membership, and lots lots more.

All we ask it that you try it once. If it isn't for you, then OK. But, unless you try it at least one time, you will never know!

DEPARTMENT AND NATIONAL EVENTS TO REMEMBER

National Convention

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

Department Schedule

Department Convention – July 7 – 10, 2011 Fall Conference – October 28-30, 2011i All **Department** Conferences and Conventions held at: Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO

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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.



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