



AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI

Winter Edition

December 2009

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DISTRICT THREE WINTER MEETING

By John F. Kopp, Commander

The District Three Meeting for January is scheduled for January 10, 2010 at the Clyde Gustine Post 236, 208 Veterans Memorial Drive in Excelsior Springs. Dinner begins at noon, bring a covered dish, the post provides the meat. I cannot stress enough just how important it is for each post to have at least one representative there. This is your district. We will be approving this year's budget, electing a Vice-Commander, and several other issues. If the district spends any funds not in the budget, it must be approved by the member present at the district meeting. If you are not there, then your post does not have a say in how YOUR money is spent.

I realize that for some, it is quite a distance to travel to Excelsior Springs and at the cost of gas today, it tends to become a little expensive. I suggest that each post select a member to represent their post and possibly reimburse the representative for his/her gas. That way the representative is not spending a bunch on gas and your post is represented.

JUST A REMINDER

By

Gary Reno, Judge Advocate

Within the past several years the tax laws concerning non-profit, tax exempt organizations have changed. It is extremely important that each post check with its tax preparation person to make sure that the post is in compliance with all of the new tax laws governing their tax exemption. Failure to comply with the law could result in that post losing its tax exempt status. If you have any questions, please call the Department Judge Advocate:

**Roger (Jim) Davis
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DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

Mark your calendars for the next district meetings:

- Date: **January 10, 2010**
 Place: Clyde Gustine Post 236
 208 Veterans Memorial Dr
 Excelsior Springs MO
 Time: 1200PM Lunch
 1300PM Meeting
- Date: **April 11, 2010**
 Place: Boutwell-Clark-Craven-Eads Post 285
 Legion Hall
 101 East 7th St.
 Hamilton MO
 Time: 1200 PM Lunch
 1300 PM Meeting
- 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

COMMANDER'S CORNER

By
John F. Kopp, Commander
 District Three

CONSOLIDATED POST REPORTS. Those three dreaded words. What do they really mean? Why should my post fill one out, we don't hardly do anything? Do these questions sound familiar? Well, many adjutants are asking these questions. Actually, CPR's are extremely important. These reports give our legion a purpose. We say we care about our fellow veterans. How do we show it? Maybe there is a member who drives a veteran back and forth to and from a VA facility, or just visits a vet who happens to be a shut in. Child welfare, do we send a boy to boys state? Do we award citizenship awards to students? Does our post conduct a dinner or other community event? All these things show the importance of our Legion to the community, county, state, and nation.

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. So, please brag a little about what you do and submit your Consolidated Post Report this year.

FRENCH LEGION OF HONOR MEDAL

By
John F. Kopp, Commander
 District Three

US Veterans who helped in the liberation of France during WWII could be eligible to receive the French Legion of Honor Medal, previously issued only to WWI Vets. The French Government has asked the Secretary of VA for assistance in identifying qualified US Veterans for medal consideration, to be reviewed and approved by the Legion of Honor Committee in Paris, France. French consulates in the US will distribute approximately 100 medals each year. Members of the Army Air Corps, Navy, and Coast Guard who participated in one of four major campaigns in the liberation of France (Normandy, Southern France, Northern France and the Ardennes) are eligible.

Those applying must have written documentation (normally a copy of military separation order, DD-214, and other official orders which verify military history during combat).

Any previous military awards such as the Congressional Medal of Honor, Silver Star, the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, etc., would indicate meritorious actions during combat operations.

For more information contact:

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A NEW YEAR

By
John-Paul Kopp
 Membership Chairman

So far this year, membership for our district is coming along pretty good. Congratulation to the Floyd Ray Ames Post 515 of Sheridan MO for being the first post to reach the 2009-2010 100% membership goal. Well done. Membership goals for this year are very achievable. National has set the goals for this year as membership for 2009 plus one. That means that each post should be able to sign up one more member than they had on the rolls last year. In other words if your membership last year was, say, 110 members, your goal for this year is 111.

2009-2010 NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES

Veterans Day	Nov. 11, 2009	65%
Pearl Harbor Day*	Dec. 9, 2009	75%
Mid-Winter	Jan. 13, 2010	80%
President's Day*	Feb. 10, 2010	85%
Legion Birthday	Mar. 10, 2010	90%
Children & Youth *	Apr. 14, 2010	95%
Armed Forces Day	May 12, 2010	100%
Delegate Strength	30 days prior to National Convention	

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

THE AMERICAN LEGION CHILDREN'S HOME

By
John F. Kopp, Commander

Did you know that the American Legion had a Children's Home? I had read once that early on in our history the Legion had several Children's homes but that over the years, as society changed, they closed in favor of foster homes. But, during the Fall Conference I found out that, yes, the American Legion has a Children's Home in Ponca City OK.

The home was founded in 1928. The land and funds for the first dormitory were donated by Mr. E. W. Marland, Conoco Oil man and past Governor of Oklahoma. It was established as an orphanage for children of veterans who could not provide care to their young. And the facility presently is the home to 62 children ages 11 – 18. Since its founding, the American Legion Children's Home has served approximately 8,000 children.

The Home is owned by The American Legion and is funded through an Endowment Fund. The principle in the fund cannot be used and the home receives only the interest. As we all know, the economy over the past several years has really been the pits and interest rates are at rock bottom. So the home is in need of other outside assistance and funds.

Even after more than 80 years, they are still growing and increasing their services. Right now they are raising funds for a storm shelter to provide safety during Oklahoma's wonderful weather, an additional dormitory so as to be able to serve more Veteran's children, and a multi-purpose building to house classrooms, conference rooms, chapel, etc.

So, I am asking all of the post in District Three to step up to the plate and assist our Children's Home.

The Department of Missouri has its Spring Conference scheduled for February 19, 2010. I would love to be able to report that our district has a nice check to donate to the Home. If each post could give a minimum of \$50.00 we would have enough to sponsor one child for over a year. They figure a sponsorship is \$800, and \$50 each would be enough for almost two. Or, there are several other options for which to designate our money and that can be decided at our January 10th meeting.

I am suggesting \$50 as a minimum but any amount would be helpful. Maybe your post could hold a fund raiser for this, or take donations from the members of your community.

You can send your checks to me, and make them out to District Three, with a notation as to what it is for. We will then deposit all of the checks and then present one large check to the home.

This is truly the American Legion in Action. Oh yes, and the contribution and efforts in raising the money can also be reported on your Consolidated Post Report under Americanism or Children and Youth.

If you want to learn more about the American Legion Children's Home, visit their web site:

americanlegionchildrenshome.org

Thank you.

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SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

By
John F. Kopp, Commander

I am pleased to announce the re-activation of a Squadron of the Sons of The American Legion. On October 8th, several legion members and other qualified men met at the home of the Jarchow Schroeder Post 61 in Kansas City. During that meeting we all filled out membership forms, paid our dues, elected officers and decided upon a meeting time and date. Our meetings are scheduled for the third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 PM at Post 61, 5125 N. Bellaire, Kansas City MO. Any eligible male or legionnaire is welcomed to attend. Also, any American Legion Post in District Three that would be interested to starting up their own Squadron, feel free to contact me and I will get the information to you.

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AWARDS

From the Fall Conference the following awards have been presented:
Americanism Awards for 2009 to the following posts:

- Smithville Post 58, Smithville MO**
- Jarchow-Schroeder Post 61, Kansas City MO**
- John Edgar Barnes Post 92, Grant City MO**
- Robert H. Baker Post 95, Liberty MO**
- John Callahan Post 97, Plattsburg MO**
- Tweedie-Murry Post 117, Braymer MO**
- Opdyke Post 176, Ridgeway MO**
- Wilson Axline Post 216 Bethany MO**
- Kirby Stapleton Post 467, Lathrop MO**
- Bennett & Dennis Herrick Memorial Post 626, Gladstone MO**

Also, Robert H. Baker, Post 95 of Liberty MO earned eighth place for Zone II for Americanism.

Congratulations to all, well done. Let's do it again this year.

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WANTED

There is presently an opening in our district for the office of Southern Vice-Commander. Become part of the team working with all of the posts in our district south of Highway 36. Assist the post commanders and members with ideas for membership, recruitment, retention, and other various aspects of post membership and in any other area where needed.

What you get:

- The opportunity to purchase and wear a two tone cover**
 - The right to the title of Vice Commander**
 - The opportunity to speak at every district meeting**
 - The opportunity to visit every post south of Highway 36**
 - The opportunity to meet with many great and wonderful fellow legionnaires**
 - The pride of knowing that you served your district**
 - And many many more benefits too numerous to mention here**
- If interested, please let either myself, Gary Reno, Robert Emery, Calvin Bumgarner, or John-Paul Kopp know.

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

- Spring Conference – February 19 – 21, 2010
- 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

ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

This years District Oratorical Scholarship Competition will be held on Sunday, January 3, 2010 at the Jarchow Schroeder American Legion Post 61 5125 N. Bellaire, Kansas City MO., beginning at 1:00 P.M. In the event of a snowout the competition will then be held the following Sunday just prior to our dinner which precedes our District Meeting. If we are forced to move the Oratorical Competition to January 10, the competition will begin at noon, 12:00 P.M. and dinner will follow.

Please plan on attending the completion and show our support for our young orators.