



The American Legion's
3rd District, Department of Missouri
"Third Herd"



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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

1 April 2025

Web Site Address
www.mo3rdherd.com

Facebook Address
www.facebook.com/ThirdHerdMissouri

This newsletter is available to
view on our website

Upcoming Meetings

Meetings are held Quarterly on
the second Sunday of the month
at Posts throughout the District.

06/08/25, Post 216, Bethany

09/14/25, Not Scheduled Yet

12/14/25, Not Scheduled Yet

The Commander is the source of all
content unless otherwise noted.
Submit articles and pictures for the
Newsletter by email to the
Commander. (Subject: Newsletter)
two weeks prior to Quarterly
publishing. All submissions subject
to editing.



*STAY INVOLVED &
ACTIVE AS SPRING
TURNS TO SUMMER*

Spring is actively trying to drive away the Winter weather. The frost and snow are receding. The flowers are starting to emerge. Trees are starting to bud. Very soon we will have leaves on the trees instead of just on the ground.

Throughout the winter, some of our posts have stayed very active in their communities. Others have been largely inactive & surviving on 'life-support'.

It is time to wake up, shake off the cobwebs and come out of hibernation. Get off the bench and get back into the game.

Bad weather is no longer an excuse. We need to get out and hit the ground running.

Show you care and call your post roster as a 'wellness check'. (Consider doing some 'home visitations' for your house-bound older members.) Keep the conversation casual and emphasize your wellness concerns. If they are one of those members that never attend meetings, ask them why? It might be something you can address to make them start attending again. If they have already renewed their membership for the current year, thank them for doing so. If they haven't, politely ask them to do so.

3rd DISTRICT MEETING

Polo Memorial Post 557 in Polo, Missouri hosted the quarterly 3rd District meeting on the 9th of March at 1500.

I would like to thank Commander Bruce Jelinek and Polo Memorial Post 577 for stepping up and hosting this meeting on very short notice. This meeting was originally scheduled to be held at Clyde Gustine Post 236 in Excelsior Springs. An unfortunate automotive accident damaged the Post 236 building. This made holding a meeting there impossible. A call went out for a replacement meeting at another post and Polo Memorial Post 577 answered to call!

Attendance was better than normal but still less than it should be. Every post in the district should have a representative attend if possible. Legionnaires were present from eight (8) of our posts (District staff members from posts: 61 – Kansas City, 95 - Liberty, 285 – Hamilton & 557 – Polo. Non-staff members from 97 - Plattsburg, 236 - Excelsior Springs, 237 – Richmond, 557-Polo & 626 - Gladstone.) The post-meeting potluck meal was excellent.

While I would love to have all 24 post Commanders and their adjutants present, any member from any post can attend. District meetings are not just for district staff. They are a chance for post officers to interact with District staff. If you decide to come to a district meeting, try to not come alone. Bring another member from your post with you. (If your spouse is an ALA member, call or text me because a 3rd District ALA meeting is often occurring simultaneously at the same post. If an ALA meeting is scheduled to occur, you are encouraged to bring you spouse with you.

Four to five Posts have been setting the budget, approving donations, electing officers for as long as I have been attending. We need more participation on the district level. We have various committee positions we cannot find anyone to fill. We have District Officer positions that we need candidates for.

As Commander, I am in the 4th year of my 2-year term. The district constitution says my position is a two-year term and I cannot be *elected* to succeed myself. However, no legionnaire has stepped up to take over the job of commander. As a consequence, I will remain your District Commander for the foreseeable future until my relief can be found, elected & trained to take my place.

A copy of the official meeting minutes are always posted on the 3rd Herd webpage following each meeting. www.mo3rdherd.com

Note: I have had one member show an interest in taking the position of District Commander from me. He has had a 'peek behind the curtain' but has not yet fully committed.

Join us for the Inaugural
Missouri American Legion College

April 11-13, 2025

Salvation Army Camp Mihaska

1466 Hwy N, Bourbon, MO 65441

This leadership development course taught by subject matter experts is designed to enhance your knowledge of The American Legion and to prepare students to lead The American Legion into the future.

Topics to be Covered:

History of National Organization

History of Department of Missouri

Servant Leadership

Mentorship: The Art of Inspiring

Post Officer Responsibilities

Conducting a Proper Meeting

Community Outreach and Involvement

Resolution Writing and Presentation

Understanding Department / District / Post Relationship

Membership Recruiting & Retention

Cost: \$168 all-inclusive (Admin / Meals / Dormitory Lodging)

Dress: Business Casual (Slacks / Polo or equivalent / Legion Cover if available)

All materials needed will be provided to each student upon check-in. Students may bring laptops or tablets if they desire

All graduating students will receive a Diploma and distinctive MOALC Lapel Pin

RSVP required by April 7 by emailing PDC Mark Clark at mandlclark@comcast.net

Application, housing request form, and payment must be sent to Dept HQ NLT April 7

Address: The American Legion Dept of Missouri, P.O Box 179, Jefferson City, MO 65102

Checks made payable to TAL Dept of Missouri

[Additional information, Application & Housing Request Form has been e-mailed to all 3rd District post commanders and adjutants.]

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

I was out driving with my wife of 50+ years when my mind began to wander as it often does. She is used to this happening and is just thankful that my septuagenarian brain still functions. “Answer a question for me?” I said. She looked at me as if to ask “What now?”. I asked her “How many military branches are there?” She said “Four.” I asked her to name them and she said “Army, Air Force, Navy and Marines”. I told her she was wrong and there were more than that. She had a puzzled look but after a few moments shyly said “Space Force?” I told her that was correct but there was still our ‘Brother From A Different Mother’. She asked me to explain and I told her she forgot the United States Coast Guard. She asked me why I referred to the USCG as a brother from a different mother. I informed her that the Coast Guard is not under the control of the Department of Defense. The Coast Guard is part of the Department of Homeland Security during peacetime. In wartime, the Coast Guard can be transferred to DOD by Presidential &/or Congressional action.

As a veteran, why should I care about this? If the Department of Homeland Security spends all their budget on immigration and border security, our veteran brothers in the Coast Guard might not get paid! This is just one of the many issues receiving legislative attention from the American Legion.

Read the article later in this newsletter to find out how you can get legislatively involved.



ONLINE TRAINING = BASIC TRAINING

On-line course consisting of 6 lesson units and 1 exam unit. (History / Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation / National Security / Americanism / Children & Youth / Course Conclusion / Final Exam). It is self-paced. You can log out and log back in whenever you have free time. Upon successful completion, you will receive a link to a web page to print out a course completion diploma. Graduation also qualifies you for an “American Legion Education Institute” lapel/hat pin. As an incentive, I will buy the pin for any district member that shows me that they successfully completed the course while I am District Commander. (Sadly, only one legionnaire in the district has taken me up on this offer! 😞)



POW-MIA EMPTY CHAIR

Every quarter, we feature a dedication to a POW-MIA individual or group. This quarter we honor 25-year-old, U.S. Air Force Major Frederick William Hess Junior from Kansas City, Missouri. Major Hess was a member of the 390th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Da Nang Airbase, South Vietnam. On 29 March 1969, he was the weapons systems officer of a McDonnell Douglas Phantom II Fighter (F-4D) on a defoliation mission near Ban Karai Pass, Laos, when his aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire. He ejected over Quang Tri Province, Laos but could not be found. His remains were not recovered.

Lest we forget.



FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Membership dues were supposed to be paid for 2025 by January 1st of 2025! If dues are not paid by Jan. 1 of each calendar year, the member is considered to be *delinquent*. After Feb. 1, the member is classified as *suspended*. If not paid by June 30, the member is *dropped* from the membership rolls.

Simplify your life and the life of your post adjutant. Each year on July 1st, the legion starts collecting dues for the upcoming membership year. Pay your dues as soon as possible after July 1st and everyone's life will be simpler. By renewing early, your post will reach its retention goals easier (and sooner). The American Legion will also save a lot of money by not having to send out renewal notices (which will help keep dues from going up).

Think about it this way: If you were buying a season pass to an amusement park, you would be expected to pay for the pass before you could use it. You should treat the legion the same way. ***You should pay for the new year before the start of that year.***

How is your post doing with renewals? Go to www.missourilegion.org and look at the district report on the membership page. The three rightmost columns are the important ones.

Note: If your membership is delinquent, suspended or expired, some of the American Legion membership benefits may not be available to you.

DÉJÀ VU

Are you seeing things? Is this the current newsletter or an old one? Didn't you see that article in the last issue? Maybe you did and maybe you didn't! Important things are worth repeating. Yes, some of the articles you have seen before. Some are similar but have been updated. Others are totally new. Do yourself and me a favor and read through it before you judge it. (NOTE: It might be more interesting if more members contributed to it.)

LEGISLATIVE INVOLVEMENT

When I was on active duty, I never thought about joining a veterans organization and I was never approached by one. When I retired, I felt my veteran rights were being threatened. The BRAC Commission was closing military facilities at every turn which would limit my ability to utilize military medical & commissary facilities. Any time Congress wanted to make monetary changes, it seemed like they wanted to target military retiree & veteran benefits. I found myself wanting to join an organization that would fight to maintain &/or improve my veteran rights. I found the American Legion!

The American Legion is constantly present in the halls of Congress. Some of our members are also members of Congress. The strength of our political influence depends on the volume of our membership. Our membership represents a huge voting block that Congress cannot ignore. However, we cannot sit back & rest on our laurels. We must work to keep our membership numbers strong and growing to maintain our influential status.

Besides maintaining our current benefits, the legion has been instrumental in gaining us additional benefits. The Legion helped bring about the GI Bill. They helped pressure the Veterans Administration into recognizing and providing treatment for PTSD, Agent Orange Exposure and most recently, Toxic Burn Pit Exposure. These changes didn't happen overnight. It took a lot of work from dedicated people to make these things a reality.

You can help by putting additional pressure on Congress. Go online to www.legion.org Select the 'Programs' menu, scroll down and select 'Legislative'. Click on the 'Learn More' button. On the left-hand menu, click on 'Legislative Action Center'. Here you can read about the latest issues the Legion is supporting to benefit veterans. Explore this page. From here you can sign up for email alerts. From any of the issue pages, you can have a form letter with your name on it sent to your Senator &/or Representative.

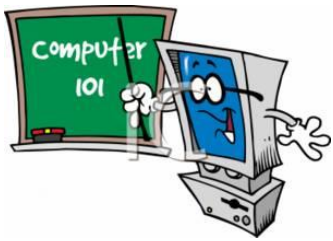
This 'Legislative Action Center' allows you to have a personal impact on veterans' issues with only a minimal amount of personal effort. Won't you help?!?

NOTE: There is a shortcut for legislative involvement. Log in at www.legion.org/action This takes you to a simplified page for rapidly voicing your views on important topics. (Less reading & more action). You can make entries here as often as you wish. Be aware that this legislative access page can be used by the public too! Have your non-veteran friends use this page to voice their concerns too!

3-YEAR RENEWALS: How does this work? Here's how. This can only be done on-line through National. You have to log on to www.legion.org/renew or www.legion.org/join , which ever applies. Fill out the form and use your credit card to pay. Dues for all three years are charged right up front. National will send the Department/Post yearly portions to the Department in 3 yearly installments. Your post adjutant will issue your new membership card as soon as National reports that your dues are paid.

Why would I want to do this? Here is why. Renewing this way saves the legion a lot of money. For the three-year period, no renewal notices will have to be printed and mailed out. With this being a direct electronic payment to National, there will be no paperwork to process which saves labor cost. It also locks the dues rate in at the *current rate* for all three years. At the end of the three-year period, any renewal by the member will be at whatever the rate is at the time of the renewal.

So the member saves a little money, avoids renewal notices & saves the legion money. Doing so will help keep future dues as low as possible for as long as possible.



Computer got you confused?!? If you are a post Commander or Adjutant, you need to get computerized to function effectively in today's American Legion. If you need help finding your way around in MyLegion and other legion websites, let me know and I will try to find you help.

DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN

At the 2024 Department Convention, Jarome Goolsby was elected to the position of 'Senior Vice Commander' for the Department of Missouri. Prior to this election, he held the position of Department Historian. He excelled in this position and set a high bar for anyone coming after him.

If you have photography skills and like to travel, this could be a job for you. Every time we have a department event/meeting, the historian is taking photographs to document the event. Where the Department Commander goes, the Historian goes to record it.

If this job interests you, contact Lowry Finley-Jackson at Department HQ.

APRIL – JUNE 2025 REMINDERS & UPCOMING EVENTS

April 2025 (Children & Youth Month)

- 1 'Be The One' Day
- 9 State Youth Government Day
- 9 95% Membership Target Date
- 11-13 Missouri American Legion College (MOALC)
- 15 Annual Post Data Report Due to Department
- 18 Good Friday – Department Headquarters Closed
- 20 All Scholarship applications are due to Department
- 20 Easter
- 26 American Legion Family Day
- 27 American Legion Family Day

May 2025

- 1 'Be The One' Day
- 5-8 National Spring Meetings – Indianapolis, IN
- 7-8 Truman Pilgrimage – Independence, MO
- 8 Truman Holiday - Department Headquarters Closed
- 10 2025 Membership Award forms due to Department
- 14 100% Membership Target Date
- 16-18 86th High School Oratorical Contest – Hillsdale College Michigan
- 17 Armed Forces Day
- 23 National Poppy Day
- 26 Memorial Day - Department Headquarters Office Closed

June 2025

- 1 'Be The One' Day
- 13 Cutoff for Department Convention Registration
- 8-14 Missouri Cadet Patrol Academy Jefferson City
- 14 Flag Day
- 14 Army's 249th Birthday
- 15 Post Consolidate Data Reports due to Department Headquarters if you are filing a paper form.
- 15 Father's Day
- 19 Juneteenth Day – Department Headquarters closed
- 21-28 84th Missouri Boys State (Lindenwood College)
- 23 JROTC applications are due to Department Headquarters
- 26-29 Missouri American Legion Legacy Ride
- 27 Korean War Remembrance Day
- 30 Toot Your Horn entries due to Department

July 2025

- 1 'Be The One' Day
- 1 Certification Of Post Officials report due to Department
- 1 Post Consolidated Data Report due to National if you are filing an electronic report through MyLegion
- 4 Independence Day – Department Headquarters Closed
- 7 Newsletter Competition Entries due to Department or can be hand delivered to the Department Convention office NLT 9:00 am July 12, 2025
- 10-13 Department Convention – Drury Inn & Suites, Cape Giraldeau
- 18-25 Boys Nation – Washington D.C.
- 19 Cutoff for National Convention Registration

August 2025

- 1 'Be The One' Day
- 7-9 National Membership Workshop – Indianapolis, IN
- 7 Purple Heary Day
- 7-17 Missouri State Fair – Sedalia
- 14-20 98th American Legion Baseball World Series – Shelby, NC
- 17-21 National American Legion Legacy Run
- 22-28 106th American Legion National Convention, Tampa, FL

Most of our lives are rather busy. Try to set aside time at your post to put on a pot of coffee & hold an informal 'workshop' session to brainstorm public relations, fund raising and recruiting ideas. Try to plan your upcoming activities for the rest of the year. Make plans and execute the best ideas.

Is your post a member of your community's 'Chamber Of Commerce'? If not, why not? This membership is a great way to stay informed about community activities that your post might benefit from participating in.

As always, continue working on your public image. How does the public perceive you? Do they think you are just a bunch of crotchety old geezers that put out flags occasionally and spend the rest of your time sitting around drinking beer and telling 'war stories'.

Take advantage of every opportunity to present your American Legion post to the public in a positive light.

Make your post a place a veteran would want to join regardless of their service branch or era.

TRUMAN PILGRIMAGE

- 1) Annual event recognizing the birthday of President Harry S. Truman (May 8th).
 - a) May 7th – Open House at Tirey J. Ford Post 21, 16701 E. 40 Hwy, Independence, MO.
 - i) 4 pm – Hors D’oeuvres
 - ii) 6 pm – Wreath laying briefing
 - b) May 8th – Wreath laying ceremony at Truman Presidential Library, 500 W. US Hwy 24, Independence, MO.
 - i) 10 am – Wreath Laying Ceremony
 - ii) Noon – Luncheon at Tirey J. Ford Post 21
- 2) Participants must sign-up in advance. Deadline is April 30th.
 - a) Wreaths cost \$20 each.
 - b) Luncheon cost is \$20 per person.
 - c) Form for wreath and luncheon ticket purchase is on next page of this newsletter.

ELECTIONS

Election season is fast approaching. Remember, elections have consequences. DO NOT elect ‘reluctant’ members to post officer positions. Elect members that will take their position seriously and give their best effort.

In accordance with the 3rd District Constitution, post elections should be held at least 30 days but no more than 60 days prior to the department convention.

The 2025 Department Convention is scheduled for 10-13 July 2025.

This makes the 2025 election window May 11th – June 10th.

District 3 elections will be held at the June 8th quarterly district meeting. This meeting will be at the Wilson-Axline Post 216 in Bethany, MO. Any current legion member in good standing is eligible to hold a district office position.

DISTRICT MEETING HOSTS NEEDED

If you look back at page one of this newsletter, you will note that the locations for the September 14th and December 14th district meetings are “yet to be determined”. If your post is willing to host a meeting, please contact me to volunteer (816-805-2319).

The hosting post receives \$100.00 from the district. As host, they are tasked with providing the main course & beverages (coffee, water, etc) for the fellowship meal that follows the formal meeting. Attendees from other posts and district staff are tasked with bringing side dishes and desserts. If your post also has an ALA unit, that is a bonus. The 3rd District ALA President is married to a 3rd District staff member and will attend to conduct an ALA district meeting simultaneously.

49th Annual Truman Pilgrimage

May 7th and 8th – 2025

DEADLINE IS April 30, 2025

Please print the requested information

WREATH ORDER FORM - Wreaths are \$20 each

Name of Organization: _____

Name of person laying the wreath: _____

Title of person laying the wreath: _____

LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS - \$20 per person

Name: _____

of Reservations: _____

OPEN HOUSE - Attending: Yes _____ No _____

Options for Reservations

1. Fill out the above form and mail with your check. Make check payable to Truman Pilgrimage – Post 21

2. Call Dorothy and use a credit card for your reservations.

Any questions feel free to email: alpost21manager@gmail.com

Work # - 816.373.0221 Cell # - 816.797.3210

Dorothy Ballew – 16701 E. 40 Highway, Independence, MO 64055

I look forward to seeing you at this historic event.

