



Bennett and Dennis Herrick Memorial American Legion Post 626 Gladstone, MO.



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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

1 July 2020

Web Site Address
www.al626mo.com

Facebook Address
facebook.com/Post626MO

This newsletter is available to
view on our website

Upcoming Meetings

Meetings are held every 3rd
Thursday in the Northland Elks
Lodge #2376, 7010 N. Cherry
St., at 1900 Hrs. (7 PM)

16 Jul 2020
(I&I Ceremony)
20 Aug 2020
17 Sep 2020

Submit articles and pictures
for the Newsletter by email to
the Post (Subject: Newsletter)
two weeks prior to Quarterly
publishing. All submissions
subject to editing.

Commander Says:

Hello again!

It was different being shut down without meetings for so long but we are still at it. Over the last three months we had to re-look how we were planning on doing our activities, and cancelled many. But we still; Conducted Buddy Checks (7 volunteers contacted 245 members, 2 volunteered to help, one was assisted); Conducted School Awards; Donated a flag to the Kansas City Northern Rail Road (KCNRR) and the Elks; Conducted Virtual Poppy Days (received \$628.98); Worked with Scout Pack 271 to decorate Big Shoal for Memorial Day; Held private Memorial Day Ceremony at the Clay County Veterans Memorial (CCVM); Conducted Color Guard for Elks for Flag Day, and the Post has submitted the Consolidated Post Report (CPR), prepared a Children & Youth (C&Y) narrative and TOOT OUR HORN Award request, prepared the TACOM certification for our rifles (Due every 3 years) and is ready with the Certification of Post Officials form which is normally due immediately after elections and has continued to conduct Military Funeral Honors with only a brief respite.

Who said we took time off?

Thank you all for your time, your efforts, your donations. YOU are outstanding!

We do not have much planned in the next couple of months other than our annual Induction & Initiation (I&I) ceremony in July (details inside) and regular meetings. We will continue to make sure our meetings are adequately socially distanced. Please do not come if there is a possibility that you may infect someone else, bring a mask and sanitizer for personal use, be courteous of others who are attempting to stay distant and do not walk up to someone you are not in regular contact with.

(Hopefully I spelled everything out adequately – You know who you are...)

New Members

Welcome to:

Mark Nelson, USA; Johnny Freeman, USAF; Francis Philip, USA; Joyce Washington, USN;
David Carmichael, USAF; Gary Ashwill, USA; Santos Rocha JR, USA

THANK YOU all for joining The American Legion, or for transferring into our Post. We stand ready to assist you as needed, and hope that you can find the time to assist others through one of the many American Legion programs we sponsor. See something that you are interested in? Just let me know! Cdr. Doug

Membership

Starting July 1st, the 2021 renewals can be processed online. If you don't do things online and you haven't gotten your reminder yet you can go ahead and mail your renewal to our Adjutant. The earlier you renew, the fewer reminders we have to print (saving the organization money) and the fewer times we will have to call members to remind them (letting us do more important work). I won't put her address here because this is a public document, but her phone number and email are above if you need it.

Please renew now and save us all some hassle. No, really, *now*. Go get online or find your checkbook and a stamp....

Conference/Convention Notes

Commander

The Department and National Conventions have been cancelled for 2020. Fall conference has not been determined yet. Spring Conferences have been cancelled due to annual dues shortfalls.

FUTURE CONFERENCE AND CONVENTION DATES AND CITIES

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

2021 – 7/7 to 7/10 Drury Plaza Hotel, Cape Girardeau, MO

2022 – 7/13 to 7/17 Hilton St. Louis Airport, St. Louis, MO

2023 – 7/12 to 7/17 University Plaza Hotel, Springfield, MO

2024 – 7/10 to 7/14 Hilton St. Louis Airport, St. Louis, MO

FALL CONFERENCE

2020 – 10/16 to 10/18 Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO

2021 – 10/15 to 10/17 Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO

NATIONAL CONVENTION

2021 – 8/27 to 9/2 Phoenix, AZ

2024 – 8/23 to 8/29 New Orleans, LA

2022 – 8/26 to 9/1 Milwaukee, WI

2025 – Under bid

2023 – 8/25 to 8/31 Charlotte, NC

2026 – Louisville KY

District Meeting Notes

Commander

District Commanders Report attached

Dist. Meeting was last June 14th in Bethany

Posts were reminded to submit CPR and Officer Certifications

Officer elections for most positions and Committees were held to get us back on a 2-year cycle

Approved a Policy to manage distribution of District TFA requests

Approved a policy to manage District Media Accounts

The next District Meeting for installation of officers is 13 Sep in Gower

Post Business

Commander

Officers and Committee's approved at last regular meeting: (In parentheses not yet confirmed)

Standing Officers

Commander, Millison

Adjutant, Rosales

Jr Vice Cdr, Bowman

Finance Officer, Robker

Service Officer, Thompson

Chaplain, Lantz

Historian, Janssen

Open Position Nominations

Sr Vice Cdr, (???????????)

Sgt at Arms, Steve Walker

Judge Advocate, Ken Jamison

Committee Chairs

Membership – Ragan (Co-Chair)

VA&R, Thompson

CCVM, Robertson

National Security, Wawrzyniak (NEW COMMITTEE!!!)

Honor Guard, Rosales

Media & Communications, Millison

Boys State, Dubuc

Girls State, (?????????)

Executive Committee

Cdr., Millison (Chair)

Adj., Rosales

F.O., Robker

At Large 1, Murch

At Large 2, Thompson

At Large 3, (Mallams)

As you can see, the big hole is at the SR Vice position. The SR Vice Chairs the membership Committee (with Co-Chair Ragan), conducts business as Commander when necessary, and eventually moves into Cdr. position. I have stated that this will be my last year. YOU need to get a Commander Candidate into this position. Eventually will get here quickly, and it would not be fair to have your next commander miss the opportunity at Sr. Vice. We are also looking for someone to coordinate with local Auxiliary's to help sponsor students for Girls State.

We can fill these positions at any time. We just need YOU to speak up.

Steve Wawrzyniak has taken on the role as National Defense Committee Chair and Michael McDonald has volunteered his services as well. For our area that will entail supporting Law Enforcement and Firefighter personnel and getting candidates enrolled in Cadet Patrol. The Legion puts personal security issues with National Defense because we want our service members to feel that their families are safe when they are deployed away from home.

The Committee is requesting that members show their support to local police officers at this time when some are painting all law enforcement officers with the same brush. We know there are good and bad in all facets of life, lets show our support to our officers by delivering some snacks for them to enjoy while on duty. Steve has prepared a note sheet that you can print off, cut, and put in whatever you deliver your treats in. It is inserted at the end of the newsletter.

If you would like to volunteer to assist Steve and Mike in their duties, even just go along to visit with some of our great officers please let me know and I'll get your contact info to Steve.

In Aug the Finance Steering Committee report will be presented to the Post in regular meeting for approval of recommendations. The committee was tasked with developing a strategy for the use of savings, nicknamed "reserves" and future earnings above annual budgeted amounts.

They held an open forum to discuss a managed fund approach for sponsoring a scholarship on June 25th. The Chairman's notes from that meeting are attached.

The Induction & Initiation (I&I) Ceremony will be scaled back this year but it will still happen. No meal or guest speakers, just the awards, I&I, and some socializing after the ceremonies with cake and non-alcoholic drinks provided by the Post.

16 July 2020, 1900 Hrs. (7PM) to 2030 Hrs. (8:30PM)
Elks Lodge 2376, 7010 N Cherry St., west (lower) entrance

Please RSVP at the following link or call the Post phone and leave a message with your name and number in your party so that we can adequately set up a socially distant area. **Inserted at the end of this Newsletter are names of those being recognized. Please make sure you RSVP so that we can have your certificates prepared.**

RSVP at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080F45ADAA2BA7F58-annual1>.

Bring your own mask and sanitizer. Please respect others space unless it is someone you have regular contact with. We are relying on distance as many will not wear a mask.

Please direct any questions to Post email or phone and they will be forwarded to VC David Bowman.

Post Activities Committee

JR Vice Bowman

I would like to ask everyone's thoughts on different activities that more of our members would like to attend or would enjoy. If there are activities that you enjoy doing and think others might also enjoy let me know. The activities could be anything from meeting up for coffee/breakfast once or twice a month to having a cook-out in a park or at someone's house. Maybe there are people that like going on walks, but would rather meet up and walk with a group. Maybe you like playing golf, disc golf, horse shoes, card games, or maybe would just like to sit and visit with someone that doesn't get many visitors. Any activities that you would like to share with your American Legion family send me an e-mail (david.bowman80@yahoo.com) or give me a call (816-214-7312). I do still work so if I don't answer your call please leave me a message. If you don't leave a message, I probably won't call you back. It's not that I don't want to talk to you, but I'm a busy person with three kids (5, 7, and 9) and a wife with their own activities.

If there are events that you are normally involved with and you don't see any or many other legionnaires at, please share them. You might be surprised to find out another legionnaire is involved with the same or a similar event. Unfortunately, there has been a lack of activities and events that we as legionnaires usually attend or volunteer at because of COVID-19. We started an American Legion ran/sponsored community walk event last fall. I was encouraged and excited to start planning for this year, as I want it to be an annual event, but then COVID happened. With the uncertainties of the effects of COVID on events should I be planning the walk event? Some parts of the country have started to increase the restrictions again because of a surge in COVID cases.

I would also like to ask for some people to join me on an activities/event committee. Members of the committee would help plan, attend, and run activities. You don't have to do all of the activities, unless you want to. If you are interested in being an activities/event committee member please let me know. I want our Post to be more active with its own members as well as our community, but I can't do it alone. Even though, as some of you know, I have a problem with asking for help to get things done. This is my attempt to change that.

Thank you all! For those that might not know, I am David Bowman your Jr. Vice Commander.

Member Contribution

Kim Murch sent in some info for you...

Subject: Free license plates for veterans with service-connected disability

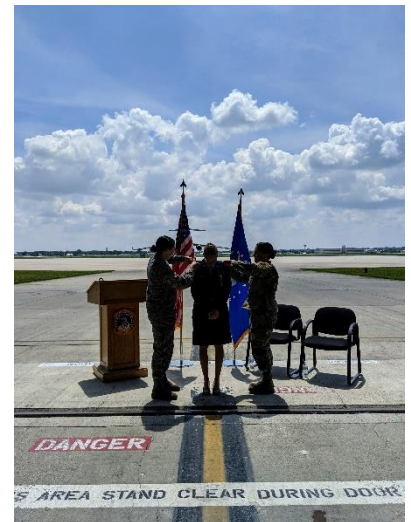
The link will take you to the web site and the form to be completed for the free plates. The pdf form can be filled in and printed out. Click on this link:

<https://dor.mo.gov/motorv/plates/dvplates.php>

The letter from the VA can be downloaded from <https://www.va.gov/>. Scroll down to RECORDS, click on Download your Benefit Letters. Take the VA letter, the application, personal property tax forms, inspection and renewal notice to a license bureau. It takes about 3-4 weeks until the Revenue Department sends a letter instructing you to take the letter to the license bureau to pick up the plates.

You only have to do this one time. When the plates are renewed in 2 years, you do not have to provide the VA letter or the application. Simply mail the renewal notice, personal property tax receipts and inspection for (if required) to Dept of Revenue and they will mail the tabs to you.

Congratulations to Legionnaire Jessica Farris, Joe's Granddaughter, who was promoted to Captain. She was also awarded the AF Commendation Medal at the same ceremony. Her next assignment will be at McConnell AFB (Wichita) where she will be OIC of a maintenance Sq. responsible for maintaining 28 KC-135's.



Community Contact

From Caregivers on the Homefront:

Missouri Elizabeth Dole Caregiver Fellows Rachel Moyers, Barb Webb, Melody Slusher, and Shawn Moore are looking to recognize 100 veteran and military family caregivers in Missouri through their community navigator project. These family members/caregivers will get a personal care package and yard sign to show our appreciation of YOU! You can nominate yourself or someone can nominate their friend/family member who cares for a wounded/ill service member or veteran. Thank you to the [Elizabeth Dole Foundation](#) and [Wounded Warrior Project](#) for this great opportunity to recognize these [#HiddenHeroes!](#)

<https://forms.gle/1h3ufSvWrs5yKSRu5>

From the Kansas City VA

Kansas City VA offers new COVID-19 entry screening on your mobile device.

Starting Monday, June 29, 2020, Kansas City VA Medical Center is offering a new COVID-19 entry screening tool for your cell phone.

To assist with improved health screening efforts, the VA created a digital pre-entry screening tool which now allows Veterans, caregivers, and employees to answer questions on their mobile phones and share their results at facility or outpatient clinic entrances.

Providing simple, easy-to-use digital tools like this helps reduce wait times at entrances, ease stress, and lower the risk of exposure. It also helps Veterans gain confidence in the new reality of increased digital interactions as part of their VA health care experience.

On your mobile device, text the word Screen to 53079. Tap the preview screen and answer the questions. (Note- It does not work from inside the parking garage! I tried it. – Cdr. Doug)

Clear results: The results screen shows 1 of 2 messages (“OK to proceed” or “More screening needed”) plus a timestamp and next steps. The large, clear text and color-coded screens help staff quickly triage:

Easy-to-update screening protocols – The tool’s features allow the VA to update questions within 24 hours to meet evolving needs.

Veterans, please remember our new covered parking garage at the Freedom entrance is available to park in. It significantly reduces walking distances for appointments, and the sheltered spots will keep your vehicle cooler during the summer months.

From the US Census Bureau

My name is Melissa and I am with the 2020 Census. We are contacting local organizations and businesses that may know individuals who are in need of work to let them know that the Census is hiring for part time jobs. If anyone you know has been laid off or is at risk of losing their job this is a way to help make ends meet during this difficult time, or it can be a source of supplemental income to help make up from the last couple of months. I know that currently families and those with unstable job histories are being affected particularly hard especially if they don’t know what the future holds for them. If you are willing, we would love to send you flyers and materials that can be put up for local advertising if your location allows it, or distribute them to your membership. We are trying to help keep local people and families in the area employed during these unforeseen circumstances. I hope you will help us spread the word that there is still available work out there and the Census is always interested in hiring applicants from all different backgrounds regardless of educational or work history.

Thank you,

Melissa Dods
2020 Census
Recruiting Assistant
melissa.j.dods@2020census.gov

In Closing
Commander

Stay Safe, take care of your fellow human beings, protect others as you would yourself. It's not the end of the world; change is inevitable, necessary, and a part of evolution. Think ahead, not back. "Always Forward!"

OK, that was a lot of positive vibes, but they were needed!

Inserts

I&I Recognitions
Note for L. E. Officers

Attachments (Not available at website)

Finance Steering Committee Report
District Commanders Report

JOIN US IN OUR ACTIVITIES, WE'DE BE DELIGHTED TO MEET YOU!



Upcoming Events

- 16 Jul **Post I&I Ceremony**, 1900 Hrs., Elks Lodge 2376
7010 N Cherry St., Gladstone MO 64118, West (lower) entrance
Open to family and prospective members, Please RSVP at
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080F45ADAA2BA7F58-annual1>.
- 20 Aug **Post Membership Meeting**, 1900 Hrs., Elks Lodge 2376
7010 N Cherry St., Gladstone MO 64118, West (lower) entrance
- 13 Sep **District Meeting**, 1500 Hrs., Post 393
91 N 3rd St., Gower MO 64454
- 17 Sep **Post Membership Meeting**, 1900 Hrs., Elks Lodge 2376
7010 N Cherry St., Gladstone MO 64118, West (lower) entrance
- 2-4 Oct **Gladfest**, Linden Square
Membership table 2 – 4 Oct
Parade 3 Oct
- 16-18 Oct Fall Conference
Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO

EVERYONE is more than welcome at any of these events! Please contact the Commander for any additional details.

Content changes, so hold on to old Newsletters for reference!

The following Legionnaire's will be Inducted into officer positions

Jamison, Kenneth	Judge Advocate
Walker, Steven	Sgt at Arms

The following Legionnaire's are to be initiated into The American Legion:

Guthrie, Mark	Balkit, Edwin	Lint, Gary	Jamison, Kevin
Buckner, Ray	O'Mara, John J Jr	Konieczka, Michael	Wilson, Nicole
Carmichael, David	Hawkins, Chad	Washington, Joyce	Aubuchon, Dan
Jardon, Francis	Fox, Doug	Roller, Robert	Vecchi, Gregory
Ashwill, Gary	Rocha, Santos Jr	Luster, Yolanda	Freeman, Johnny
Philipp, Francis	Quackenbush, Robert		

The following Legionnaire's are to be transferred to Post Everlasting:

Baker, Leslie	Ballard, Virgil	Bianchina, Edward	Brogan, Harry
Crookshanks, Samuel	Donegan, George	Fischer, Wayne	Hibschle, William
Kellogg, Danny	Kirk, Landon	Lewis, Donald	Northcut, Robert
Sherlock, Zenas	Stafford, Charles		

The following Legionnaire's are eligible to receive their 5-year anniversary continuous membership star:

Five Year

Benes, Jeffrey	Cavallaro, Joe	Dufresne, Norman J	Harper, Robert J.
Marquis, Preston	Quick, Richard L. JR.	Robertson, Tarra	Rodriguez, David
Rueter, Rodney	Thompson, Billy	Tucker, James D.	Wahl, Raymond

Ten Year

Alleven, George P	Bledsoe, Ricky J.	Haney, Bufford L	Lester, Andrew D
Ragan, Larry	Roe, Bruce D.	Stewart, Roy A.	Taylor, Richard E
Thomsen, Jim A.			

Fifteen Years

Clark, John	Davis, John H	Duncan, Nelson	Farrar, William L
Hahn, Robert D	Kaufman, Gerald L	Martino, John	Pajer, Joe C
Praschak, Chris	Roberts, Thomas	Robertson, Warren E	Robker, Douglas E
Waits, William F			

Twenty Years

Hillegas, Michael J	Liles, Joseph J	Smallenberger, Arthur	Patterson, J M
Willhaus, Will			

Twenty-Five Years

Bradbury, Thomas D Clubine, Clyde L Millison, Douglas W

Thirty Years

Langley, William R Lowe, Billy D Morrow, Farrell R

Thirty-Five Years

Hart, Terry E Tognascioli, Joseph H

The following Legionnaire's will be recognized for service:

Larry Ragan	Dan Lester	Jeffery Benes	Donna Bierle
Russ Dubuc	Gary Lint	Gaila Sullivan	George Stratton
Larry Catanese			

The following Legionnaire's will be recognized for membership committee activities:

Douglas Millison	Phyllis Rosales	Larry Ragan	Donna Bierle
Gary Lint	George Stratton	Gaila Sullivan	Russ Dubuc

Normally, certificates for these actions are only printed for attendees. However, if you feel that you cannot attend because of the current pandemic, please let me know and we will print your certificate and mail it to you.

To: The brave Men and Women of our Police Department

From: The Veterans of American Legion Post 626, Gladstone Mo and their Families.

Please accept these snacks as a small token of our appreciation for all of you and for your dedicated and honorable Service. As veterans we are profoundly saddened and angered by the disgusting physical attacks, threats, and verbal abuse you are experiencing.

Our hearts ache seeing the news of radicals attacking our Police and accusing them of the actions of a few. Now they even attack and deface our war memorials dedicated to those who made the ultimate sacrifice protecting their freedoms to peacefully protest. Many of our members have painful memories of their return back from Viet Nam, being attacked by radical protestors upon screaming the vilest accusations.

Please know that we all salute each of you & appreciate all you do. May God protect you and bless you abundantly.

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