



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



PO Box 10613  
Gladstone MO 64188  
816-787-1548 (Voicemail/Text)  
[Bennettherrick626@gmail.com](mailto:Bennettherrick626@gmail.com)

Commander Douglas W. Millison  
816-509-5247 [dwmillison7@gmail.com](mailto:dwmillison7@gmail.com)  
Adjutant Phyllis Rosales  
816-453-5842 [peacres@aol.com](mailto:peacres@aol.com)

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

**1 January 2021**

Web Site Address  
[www.al626mo.com](http://www.al626mo.com)

Facebook Address  
[facebook.com/Post626MO](https://facebook.com/Post626MO)

This newsletter is available to  
view on our website

**Upcoming Meetings**

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

21 January 2021

18 February 2021

18 March 2021

**ALL MEETINGS ARE SUBJECT  
TO CHANGE DUE TO COVID-19**

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 all, & Happy New Year!!

I hope this finds everyone well, or recovering. Some that I have talked to from the Post who had come down with COVID tell me that the recovery time can be long so if you are in that boat, we wish you well, and if there's anything we can do for you give the Post a call or email.

The Post continues to march forward without our normal meetings. We will get back to that as soon as possible. Keep an eye on the Facebook page or the calendar on our website for cancelations. We will take it one by one.

In the last quarter the Boys & Girls State Committees have started up; the Baseball Team is starting to gather players and have meetings Oratorical sponsored the County Contest and is looking forward to the Zone Contest for Mamus Ogolor, our student from Staley who won County and advances; National Security has started the Law Enforcement and Firefighter of the Year Award process as well as Cadet Patrol; the Vice Commander organized a Flag Retirement Ceremony; 4 members and 4 family members completed the #100MilesForHope Challenge; the Post had our first Post Orientation Meeting via ZOOM, giving new and/or inactive members a chance to meet the Officers and Committee Chairs who run things around here; the Cdr., Adj., and V. Cdr. honored our namesakes at this years Wreaths Across America at White Chapel; and the hardest working group of the bunch (Honor Guard) conducted 30 Military Funeral Honors (that I know of), 4 of which were conducted in one day at the State Veterans Cemetery in Higginsville.

C'mon, what's not to be proud of as a member of this Post? Let's all thank our active members and have an equally great new year!

(I thank each and every one of you for being members, active or not!!)

## New Members

A big hearty **Welcome** to:

Transferring in,  
Joseph Hallauer  
Bonnita McKinney  
Glendon Dingman  
Terry Jenne

New Member,  
(Go get some new member's people!)

Thank you all very much for joining us, we truly appreciate your membership! We are a very active Post, and if you have the time, we have the activities, just let us know what you are interested in and we'll get you hooked up with the right person or start something new.

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## Membership

Larry tells me that we have 213 new/renewed out of 254 from last year which puts us at 84% for retention, which is good, but our growth goal is 267 which puts us at 80% of goal. If you do not have a membership card with 2021 on it please contact the Adjutant and renew. If you think you renewed but don't have a 2021 card contact the Adjutant and let's find out what happened and get it fixed. Look at it this way, the membership year has started and 16% of our membership is late with their dues. If you are able to pay, why pay late when we have been sending out reminders since JULY!! Get 'er done.

If you need help making dues this year due to financial hardship (there's a lot of that out there this year) contact the Post and we will work with you.

As of **1 January, any member who has not renewed is considered delinquent.**

On 1 February, member who have not renewed will be suspended, a member on the roster without a vote or ability to transfer.

On 1 June suspended members will be dropped from the roster. (But able to come back in upon payment of dues)

Those are the rules we all have to abide by folks.

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## Conference/Convention Notes

Commander

The Fall Conference was cancelled but the DEC met at Post 5 in Jefferson City on October 24<sup>th</sup> at 1300 Hrs. The District Commanders report is attached. The Spring DEC will be February 27<sup>th</sup>

at Post 152 in Ashland and the Oratorical Contest will be at the South Boone HS, also in Ashland at 1300 on the 28<sup>th</sup>. The Washington Conference starts on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

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### **District Meeting Notes**

Commander

The December District Meeting was moved to ZOOM for Posts who could do that easily. Posts 61, 95, 285, 557 and 626 were in attendance. Subjects discussed included the Finance Report, Distinguished Legionnaire nomination, Mission Blue Post Grants, Oratorical Contest, Membership Goals and the Service Officer report. The Service Officer Report is inserted below and the District Newsletter is attached which has more information about what the District is up to.

The next meeting is scheduled for 13 March at Post 236 in Excelsior Springs. Taco's or Taco Salad will be served immediately after.

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### **Post Business**

Commander

Please read the Post Monthly Meeting Minutes to stay up to date on Post activities. The DEC also publishes notes of their meetings for all Officers and Committee Chairpersons.

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Many years ago, the Post received a donation of three cemetery plots at Terrace Park. There are 3 next to each other as well as a marker for two of those spots. They are currently posted on Craigslist at: <https://kansascity.craigslist.org/for/d/kansas-city-cemetery-plots/7246721072.html> for \$2,100 each. Members can apply to the Executive Committee for a better price if in immediate need.

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National hosts Training Tuesdays online on the last Tuesday of every month. These 60 – 90-minute classes are meant to give you access to information you need to be a more effective Legionnaire for your Post and Community. December's training was on four of our Programs to include TFA and OCW. Previous training sessions are recorded and available. Access here: <https://www.legion.org/training/training-tuesdays>

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Activities for the greater good conducted outside of the Post are of importance to us as well. Have you thought of being a volunteer at the VA? You would think that with this many Posts around KC we would have a hundred volunteers in the system... we have 8 known volunteers. That does not show us in that good of a light when we say we care for Veterans, but only 8 of us give our time on a regular basis. Maybe you don't because you volunteer with Scouting, food

pantry, meals or wheels, or any other charitable organization. That's great! Thank you for your time, and please let us know how many hours you regularly put in and at what. Those things are reported to Congress by National once a year to show that Legionnaires are the type of people who deserve the Charter they awarded us. Every year we must prove ourselves worthy of their trust and what you tell us is important. I will call for that in April, estimated through May 31<sup>st</sup>.

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Coming up quicker than you might realize are Post elections and Committee assignments for next year. Candidates must be announced or nominated at the April Membership Meeting with elections at the May meeting. That can come really quick this year as we deal with other things. You will need to pick a Commander for sure, and other replacements if people have to be shifted around. Think about how you want to contribute next year and let it be known.

If you currently hold a position of responsibility and can't or won't do it next year start asking members who you think would do a good job to take your place now, don't wait until April.

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All of the duties done by the Media & Communications Committee will also need to be covered. I had thought I would be able to retain this position but things have changed and the Post will need your help!

Chair – Coordinate all aspects of Committee with the Executive Committee and others to assist in Post functions and events

Internet Administrator – Check and distribute emails, maintain records of all log-in information for all web-based activities, assist all members of Committee as needed

Newsletter Editor – Publish and Post quarterly newsletter

Public Relations – Attend events and be the face and voice of the Post if the Commander is unavailable, Submit press releases and stories to the media and publications, external and internal

Photographer – Take pictures of Post events to share with PR for press releases and Historian for yearbooks

Webmaster – Maintain website, post/remove Member Owned Businesses, Member Time Capsule pictures, Newsletters, Yearbooks etc.

Social Media Manager – Post & Share to Facebook and Instagram information that benefits Veterans and Legionnaires alike on at least a weekly schedule, preferably bi-weekly

Ideally, each position has its own person, but they can be doubled up. I have been doing all of these tasks, so 2 or 3 can do it easily.

Chair & Newsletter & Internet Admin.

PR & Photographer

Webmaster & Social Media & Internet Admin.

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## Community Contact

Commander

### County Government:

Our reputation in the community is strong because of all of the activities we do. County Presiding Commissioner Nolte contacted me for assistance with reciting the Pledge of Allegiance at the Counties swearing in ceremonies. They needed help because instead of just one ceremony they are having 5 back-to-back in order to allow each person to invite their families and stay within COVID guidelines.

Myself and Chaplain Lantz each took one and the District Commander (also me) passed some to other County Posts with 61, 95 and 236 each taking one. Past Commander Duncan also volunteered but his official was in quarantine and could not attend.

### From a family member: (And a rerun from the October NL)

Greetings,

My name is Jennifer Carmichael, I am a spouse of a veteran who is a member of post 626. I am contacting the Legion because I may have an opportunity for other veterans in the Kansas City area who are looking to build career skills and add resume references while rehabilitating or job hunting.

I am the new volunteer coordinator for the Airline History Museum at the Charles B. Wheeler downtown airport in Kansas City. We have been blessed by the strange twist of fate to have an enormous number of new projects coming our way in 2021 and 2022 that require extra help.

Aviation or aerospace enthusiasts are certainly welcome, but anyone who is willing to show up for work is invited to share their skills and passion with our team. We need everything from mechanics to tour guides, facility maintenance and safety directors. We have lots of work for those interested in archives and exhibits. Teacher/educators with knowledge of building STEM based learning programs for youth - we need their expertise to help us teach our little aviators and mechanics the nuts and bolts to keep them chasing their dreams!

There's an extraordinary amount of work and opportunity to be shared at our museum. Anyone out of employment during these difficult times who needs something to keep them focused, we encourage them to come down. We have positions available from everything from gift shop cashier to front desk manager & logistics clerks. While we don't have any salaried positions, we can at least give individuals a couple significant duties to list on their resume to keep it fresh while they chip away at their job hunt. We are happy to write letters of reference after 120 hours of service has been complete.

Teens & youth who need to complete community service hours for school are also welcome, so long as they have consent from their parents to help out.

Veterans are welcome to contact me directly at: [jcarmichael@airlinehistory.org](mailto:jcarmichael@airlinehistory.org)  
Or come down and see us at the museum to fill out an application (201 NW Lou Holland Drive). We are open from 10am-4pm Wednesday through Saturday.

Find us on Facebook at:

<https://m.facebook.com/AirlineHistory/?tsid=0.18454182602265412&source=result>

Stay safe, we hope to see you soon!

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**In Closing**  
Commander

I am extremely proud of this Post for what you get done every year, but I do wish more members would get involved, even just by attending any events we might have. And no, it's not just COVID, it's been that way for a while and it's just worse now because of COVID. You do not have to do anything or have any responsibility to support the Post, just attend one or more of our events. We'd love to see you, even better get to know you because you show up often, or get to work with you because you get involved.

If you want it, it's here. It's up to you to come and get it. Tell other Veterans what we do and bring them along. The more voices we speak with the more we are heard in Jeff City and on Capitol Hill.

I sincerely hope you and yours are well, and that y'all stay that way. Things will improve this year, we'll get our vaccinations and do the right thing to come out of these damn masks the right way, and be able to mingle again. I can't wait! We have a cruise planned for July, keep your fingers crossed that we don't have to cancel again.

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





## Upcoming Events

Support ourselves by supporting all Legion activities!

Sons Squadron 58 in Smithville hosts an all you can eat breakfast every third Thursday from 0700 to 1000. Proceeds go to local charities.

- 16 Jan      **Post Executive Committee Meeting**, 1000 Hrs., TBD
- 21 Jan      **Post Membership Meeting (?)**, 1900 Hrs., Elks Lodge 2376  
7010 N Cherry St., Gladstone MO 64118, West (lower) entrance
- 31 Jan      **Zone II Oratorical Contest**, TBD, but possibly Post 21 in Independence
- 13 Feb      **Post Executive Committee Meeting**, 1000 Hrs., TBD
- 18 Feb      **Post Membership Meeting (?)**, 1900 Hrs., Elks Lodge 2376  
7010 N Cherry St., Gladstone MO 64118, West (lower) entrance
- 27 Feb      **Department Executive Committee Meeting**, 1300 Hrs. Post 152  
123 E Broadway, Ashland, MO 65010
- 28 Feb      **Department Oratorical Contest**, 1300 Hrs., South Boone HS  
14520 S Crump Ln, Ashland, MO 65010
- 13 Mar      **Post Executive Committee Meeting**, 1000 Hrs., TBD
- 14 Mar      **District Meeting (?)**, 1500, Taco meal follows (Do Not Bring Food)  
Post 236, 208 Veterans Memorial Dr., Excelsior Springs, MO 64024
- 18 Mar      **Post Membership Meeting (?)**, 1900 Hrs., Elks Lodge 2376  
7010 N Cherry St., Gladstone MO 64118, West (lower) entrance

(?) = Subject to change due to COVID, check before travelling.

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

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Attachments not available in online Newsletter:  
District Commanders DEC Report, District Newsletter

District Service Officer Report  
Ann Puck, 3<sup>rd</sup> District Service Officer  
13 Dec 2020

1. Covid-19f Vaccinations at the/a VA clinic: If desired to get the vaccination or just please let other veterans know of the information-(email, telephone number of VA Medical Center in KC, MO-(816-861-4700),,  
COVID-19 VACCINES: Stay informed and help the VA prepare.

**Eligibility and cost**--When more vaccines become available, we plan to offer a free COVID-19 vaccine to all Veterans enrolled in VA health care who want one.

\*\*USEFUL VA Web Links: Below

<https://www.va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine/>

<https://www.va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine/stay-informed>

[https://www.va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine/stay-informed/confirmation.](https://www.va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine/stay-informed/confirmation)

- 2. **Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers**-Personal care services

Web Link: <https://www.va.gov/family-member-benefits/comprehensive-assistance-for-family-caregivers/>

Contact the VA National Caregiver Support Line by calling [855-260-3274](tel:855-260-3274)-OR THE VA MEDICAL CENTER IN KANSAS CITY, MO (816-861-4700—ASK THE OPERATOR FOR THE “SOCIAL WORKER” -located in the Silver Clinic.

USEFUL: <https://www.va.gov/family-member-benefits/comprehensive-assistance-for-family-caregivers/>

3. VETERAN BURIALS AND MEMORIALS: Please make sure that you have your DD 214 readily available when planning a ‘veteran memorial and/or burial.

Other items in question, please call Service Officer-Ann Puck, 816-469-0271.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Puck