



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



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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

1 October 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)

15 October 2020
19 November 2020
17 December 2020 (TBD)

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!

We are truly thankful that Jerry and Mary pulled through their brush with Covid alright, and hope that any other members are able to do so as well!

We continue in our mission to support the Veterans, the Community and the youth of Missouri, despite the circumstances. The Honor Guard continues to their missions with Military Funeral Honors relentlessly. In August we supported a Veterans 100th Birthday and gained a new member, and a new policy of paying the memberships and renewals on all members achieving 100 years on earth (something to shoot for!), so make sure the Adjutant has your birthdate on file. The National Security Committee has presented our annual donation to SAFE, and has pledged to work on Cadet Patrol enrollment and Law Enforcement / Firefighter / EMT award submissions when they start. The Boys State Committee Chair has been following up on this year's cancelled class and is ready to start work on next years as soon as we get enough information on that.

Internally, Vice Commander Bowman and I tried to do a few group walks in support of #100MilesForHope but mainly walked ourselves. VC Bowman also has a Flag Retirement ceremony in the works. Murch is working with the Elks with a new Committee called the cooking crew. They will be assisting the Elks with meals during game nights which will hopefully benefit us with experience and maybe a few members. The Adjutant continues to push your renewals through in a timely manner, the Finance Officer is paying the bills and the Media & Communications Committee continues to put out good to know stuff via Facebook, this Newsletter, and the website (which I admit still needs work). And of course, the Membership Committee has been working hard getting members to transfer in to the Post as well as Veterans to join.

Hopefully you see that we are a working Post, and that we have a job for you if you are looking for something to do!! Just ask!

This year's officer and chair roster is included below. Please print and use!

New Members

A big hearty **Welcome** to:

Transferring in,
Cortland Wittenhagen
William Anderson
Jeff Eads
F. Daniel Madinger
Gerald Mickey
Franciso Sanchez

New Member,
Philip Huebner
Wick Pickard
Jim Dallas

Thank you all very much for joining us, we truly appreciate your membership.

Membership

Larry Ragan

Last year which ended 30 June was a year with considerable challenges to keep members and acquire new members. Our goal was set very high and we had several transfers and deaths. due to the virus that hit in January it was very difficult to make contact with new and prospective members. The challenges financially for the entire nation also impacted renewals since many were without jobs and finances made spending \$40 for renewal a real challenge for many. We had 8 members transfer out of this world, 5 members transferred to other posts, 14 did not renew.

This year which started in July we currently have 245 members. We have had 6 new members transfer in since 1 July and we have had 1 new member join. We have started our annual renewal drive by making calls and sending emails with reminders and renewal information. Our goal is to reach 267 members this year. We need every member to be a recruiter. Make sure you have a membership form in your pocket at all times and be ready to share your experience and invited those veterans that you come in contact with to join the post. I wear a Navy hat and have had ex-military share their stories with me often and have been able to recruit a few members as a result.

Conference/Convention Notes

Commander

There was no Department or National Convention in July. The Fall Conference has been cancelled. The DEC will meet at Post 5 in Jefferson City on October 24th at 1300 Hrs.

District Meeting Notes

Commander

Gower Post 393 hosted the District Meeting on the 13th of September and we had 5 of 26 Posts represented. It was a good meeting where the Finance Officer presented the budget for the year with a couple notable reductions due to stalled membership. After the meeting we tried our best to eat all of the Taco's presented to us by Post 393 (at least I did) and caught up with a few of the members we haven't seen for a while. If you are interested in attending any of the District meetings let me know. The next one is in Dec.

Post Business

Bennett & Dennis Herrick Memorial American Legion Post 626 is inviting our members to a Flag Retirement Ceremony. The Ceremony will take place at 7029 North Charlotte Street, Gladstone, Missouri 64118 on Friday October 16th at 7:00pm. So, bring a lawn chair and help us properly honor a few of our country's most revered symbols that we all took oaths to defend. What better way "to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism" and "consecrate and sanctify our comradeship." There is parking on the street and adjacent to Santos' house at Central Park.

David Bowman
Vice Commander
American Legion Post 626

Community Contact

From the VA:

On the 25th of Jul, KCVVA recognized the following Volunteers with a Cumulative Hours Pin

Alvin Trusty 626 1,750 Hours

Douglas Millison 626 1,000 Hours

The following Volunteers were awarded Voluntary Service Award Certificates for having over 1,000 cumulative hours AND earning over 100 hours in the last year.

Alvin Trusty 626 2,484 Hours 10 years

RE Holtz 236 1,748 Hours 7 Years

There may be others that I do not recognize by name, but there are ONLY 10 Volunteers who are registered with the VA as Legionnaires! If you can help out contact the Voluntary Service Office at 816-922-2025 and ask where you can best serve or to update your organization affiliation.

From a family member:

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
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!

In Closing
Commander

Please download and read the District Newsletter, it is chock full of information about what's going on around us, as is the Post Minutes which go out every month. There is SO much, I am not going to include any here and get too redundant. For those who find this newsletter on the website without the attachment, you can find the District Newsletter on their website in a day or two at: <http://www.mo3rdherd.com/newsletter/newsletter.html>

When you come to our meetings please remember that our Mega 50/50 supports the end of year celebration, and we now have a change piggy bank to keep your cars clean of clinking change and support the Children's Welfare Foundation. <https://www.legion.org/childwelfare>

And please, start exploring who you want as Commander next year. There are many able candidates out there. The new Commander will not be as busy as I am because I can maintain the M&C Chair which includes Internet Administration and Public Relations (unless someone wants that), and the Committee's are running under their own power and just need the Adjutants and Executive Committees guidance. Think about it, but don't take too long.

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



(Upcoming Events next page)

Upcoming Events

Support ourselves by supporting other Post 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.

- 10 Oct **Post Executive Committee Meeting**, 1000 Hrs., TBD
- 15 Oct **Post Membership Meeting**, 1900 Hrs., Elks Lodge 2376
7010 N Cherry St., Gladstone MO 64118, West (lower) entrance
- 17 Oct **Post 140 Centennial Celebration**, 1300 Hrs at Kidder City Park
- 14 Nov **Post Executive Committee Meeting**, 1000 Hrs., TBD
- 14 Nov **Public Fish Fry** at Gower Post 393, 1700 – 1900 Hrs
91 N 3rd St, Gower MO 64454
- 19 Nov **Post Membership Meeting**, 1900 Hrs., Elks Lodge 2376
7010 N Cherry St., Gladstone MO 64118, West (lower) entrance
- 12 Dec **Post Executive Committee Meeting**, 1000 Hrs., TBD
- 13 Dec **District Meeting**, 1500, potluck meal follows
Post 236, 208 Veterans Memorial Dr., Excelsior Springs, MO 64024
Presentation by Caregivers on the Homefront, talking about services they provide to military and first responder caregivers.
<https://caregivers-homefront.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/caregiversonthefront/>
- 17 Dec **Post End of Year Celebration**, TBD
Hint Hint

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!

POST 626 OFFICERS LIST

Sept 9, 2020

Post 626 For any Post Business

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Vice Commander

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Service Officer

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Judge Advocate

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Chaplain

Rev Craig Lantz
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Sergeant-At-Arms

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Historian

Jane Janssen

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620-242-4296

Committee Chairs can be reached through the Post contacts or at meetings.

Committee Chairs

Membership, Ragan
VA&R, Thompson
CCVM, Robertson
National Security, Wawrzyniak
Honor Guard, Rosales
Media & Communications, Millison
Big Shoal Cemetery, Walker
Cooking Crew, Murch
Americanism
 Boys State, Dubuc
 Girls State, **Open**
 Baseball, **Open**
 Oratorical, Benes
 Cadet Patrol, National Security Committee

Executive Committee

Positions filled by By-Law
Chair, Cdr. Millison
Adj. Rosales, F.O. Robker
At Large Positions:
Murch, Thompson, Mallams

OTHER HELPFUL NUMBERS

National Headquarters

The American Legion
PO Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206-1955

800-433-3318

Department Headquarters

The American Legion
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3rd District Commander

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3rd District Adjutant

Robert Emery

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Missouri Military Funeral Honors

Amanda Western Area Supervisor
SGM. Jolliff Jefferson City, MO

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