



American Legion Bennett and Dennis Herrick Memorial POST #626

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Wayne Beer, Commander Phyllis Rosales, Adjutant
436-6326 453-5842

Post meetings held the 4th Thursday of each month in the Gladstone Community Center at 7:00 p.m.
All members are invited to attend.

EDITORIAL

As we start this New Year and new Newsletter I would like to say something that is usually saved as a closing statement. I would like to say THANK YOU LEGIONNAIRES. Thank you for your Military Service during a time of war. Thank you for your continued service to the country, our community and other Veterans now. And not just to those who can attend our events and the diehard cadre that keep the post running year after year, but also to those that maintain their membership year after year, empowering the Legion as a whole to continue fighting for Veterans rights and improving our communities. If you are ever in doubt as to what we do and stand for, visit www.legion.org and explore. And Thank You!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Post 626 extends a warm welcome to our newest members: Patricia Ivey, a new member from the Persian Gulf War era; Wes Mahoney, Army Veteran of the Korean War era transferred in from MO Post 1000; Eugene Wolenski, also from Post 1000 is a Korea Veteran. Two other Veterans in the process of transferring are Gary Bisbee and Gregory Roberts. Welcome All!

WHAT'S HAPPENING

The District Oratorical Contest is on 5 Jan at Post 33 in Cameron. The purpose of the contest is to develop knowledge and appreciation of the United States Constitution, the ability to think and speak clearly and critically, and the acceptance of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship. There are four students in the District competing.

Jan 23rd is the Post meeting.

February 11th the annual Lincoln Pilgrimage starts with an open house at Springfield IL Post 32. Complete bar and dinner service is available at the Open House and all members of our American Legion Family are welcomed and encouraged to attend. On the 12th is the American Legion Auxiliary breakfast at the Hilton Springfield honoring the American Legion Auxiliary National President at 0800 followed by the National Commander at 0830. The Pilgrimage motorcade departs Hilton Springfield for the journey to Mr. Lincoln's Tomb, Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, Illinois at 1000 with Ceremonies, wreath placing remarks by the National President of The American Legion Auxiliary; National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion and keynote address by the National Commander of The American Legion beginning at 1100. At 1230 the Abraham Lincoln Commemoration Luncheon at the Hilton Springfield begins with the National Commander of The American Legion as the featured speaker. - See more at: <http://centennial.legion.org>.

February 15 is the date for the State Oratorical competition in Jefferson City held in conjunction with the spring Department Conference.

Presidents Day is Feb 17th and we will be conducting Poppy Sales at the Gladstone Walmart on MO1. This is not just a fund raising event for us. It is an opportunity to recruit new members and reconnect with old ones. Haven't made a meeting lately? Come on down and say hi! We'd be glad to see you.

Feb 27th is the monthly Post meeting. Emphasis will be on our Armed Forces and Memorial Day events in May.

March 15-17 marks the American Legions birthday. It was during this period in 1919 that members of the American Expeditionary Force convened the first American Legion caucus in Paris, France. It took a lot of work by a dedicated group of Veterans during that year to get this organization off the ground that year. The name, draft Preamble and draft Constitution are approved at the St. Louis caucus in May and in June the National Executive Committee adopts the Legion Emblem. The U.S. Congress charters The American Legion in September and the first Legion convention is convened in Minneapolis where the Constitution and Preamble are adopted in November of 1919. Quite a year! And remember, 2019 is coming up fast.

Mar 27th is the monthly Post meeting. Emphasis will be on Boys State in June.

CONGRATULATIONS

The following Legionnaires are congratulated for passing a 5 year milestone for continuous membership this year: At **45** yrs Robert Northcutt, Army Veteran from the Viet Nam era; at **40** yrs Larry Collier from the Viet Nam era; at **35** yrs Dale Caskey, Air Force Veteran from the Viet Nam era; at **30** yrs James Schroeder, Air Force Veteran from the Viet Nam era; Leland Welty from the Korea Era; at **25** yrs Floyd Atkins, Army Veteran from the WWII era; James Higbee, Army Veteran from the Korea era; Hugh Inman, Army Veteran from the WWII era, Rodney Majesty, Army Veteran from the Viet Nam era; John McIsaac from the Viet Nam era; John S. Smith, Air Force Veteran from the Viet Nam era; at **20** yrs Robert Bosak, Army Veteran from the Lebanon/Grenada era; Warren Jones from the WWII era, Mike Leake, Air Force Veteran from the Viet Nam era; Bruce McNamara, Army Veteran from the Viet Nam era; R.L. Tichenor, Air Force Veteran from the Korea era; Donald Ulrey, Army Veteran from the Lebanon/Grenada era; at **15** yrs Virgil Ballard, Air Force Veteran from the Korea era; Jon Kerley, Navy Veteran from the Viet Nam era; Irvin Magee, Army Veteran from the Korea era; Floyd Phillips, Air Force Veteran from the Korea era; Jennifer Pritchett, Marine Corp Veteran from the Lebanon/Grenada era; Richard Renken, Army Veteran from the Korea era; John N. Smith, Air Force Veteran from the Viet Nam era; at **10** yrs John Mills, Navy Veteran from the Viet Nam era; William Minner, Navy Veteran from the Lebanon/Grenada era; Robert Ohmes, Army Veteran from the Viet Nam era; David Pont, Marine Corp Veteran from the Korea era; Wilford Steel, Air Force Veteran from the Viet Nam era; Harold Trull, Air Force Veteran from the Persian Gulf era; Stewart Weaver, Army Veteran from the Korea era; at **5** yrs Russell Creason, Army Veteran from the WWII era; Larry Gates, Marine Corp Veteran from the Viet Nam era; Scott Lewis, Marine Corp Veteran from the Viet Nam era; Russell Lyon, Navy Veteran from the Viet Nam era; Robert Matthews, Army Veteran from the Viet Nam era; Paul Mimms, Navy Veteran from the Viet Nam era; Alan Naylor, Army Veteran from the Viet Nam era; Robert Parman, Navy Veteran from the Viet Nam era; Pamela Pelsman, Marine Corp Veteran from the Lebanon/Grenada era; Randall Sands, Army Veteran from the Viet Nam era; Marvin Shelton, Navy Veteran from the Viet Nam era; James Stark, Army Veteran from the WWII era; Cornelius Ueling, Air Force Veteran from the Korea era; Roger Yarberry, Army Veteran from the Korea era.

Congratulations Legionnaires, we are looking forward to posting your achievement in another 5 years.

SOCIAL MEDIA

I would like to add some tips for our Facebook and myLegion users. On Facebook, if you have an account please hit the like button for the page to get updates automatically on your page and **hit like on an occasional article or picture so that we know people are using this medium.** If you don't have an account check back regularly for changes and updates. I will delete some of the service messages and pics after 2 months or so and just leave pertinent Legion news.

myLegion users MUST reset their privacy settings in order to be able to Network with other users. First, click on "My Profile" above your picture after you sign in. Now click on "Edit my profile" which is now under your picture. This is the part that gives me the most trouble, if there is a message up that says Fetch to MYLPRFLF Failed, you will not be able to make changes!!!! This has happened to me several times. Try again later or contact pjohson@legion.org, 1-800-433-3318 for IT support. She is a lot of help.

If it is working uncheck the box on the right for "Set section private" on at least the first section, the second as well if you want someone to be able to find you by an address. I find that just opening the first section and searching by name and department are enough. When you do it, go to "Find Friends" on the left and type in MILLISON and Dept of MO. If I come up friend me and send a test message please.

MEMBERSHIP

Are you talking to friends and neighbors that are Veterans about the Legion? We need you to. You should not assume that they all know about us and understand what we do. *Spread the word.* What do you do with the Legion Magazine or the Missouri Legionnaire when you are done with it? I take mine to the next appointment I have and leave it in the waiting room so someone has something else to read other than US Weekly. *Spreading the word.*

National Commander Dellinger has set a goal of having 3 million members in the next 4 ½ years. That means Missouri must raise its membership from 43,000 to 55,000. We need to be involved at the Post level also and do our share. Talk to people; let them know why you are a Legionnaire. I think we all understand that the younger Veterans are not as active because of family and work commitments, but just being a member helps the Veteran community, and we need young(ish) members.

If you know someone, put them in contact with the Post Membership Chairman (SR Vice Commander) Nelson Duncan at 816-392-0972 or yolegend2@aol.com, or they can go online at www.think-legion.org.

DID YOU KNOW?

There is a benefit that pays for caregivers, assisted living and nursing homes. It is called the Aid and Attendance and Housebound Improved Pension benefit, known as the A&A. Our Facebook Timeline has a great article by the NY Times, as well as a link to the benefit in Notes/Links. www.benefits.va.gov/pension/#7

<i>CALENDAR OF EVENTS</i>
<i>District Oratorical Contest Jan 5, 1400 Hrs, Post 33 Cameron MO.</i>
<i>District Meeting Jan 12, 1200hrs, Jarchow-Schroeder Post 61 KCMO.</i>
<i>Lincoln Pilgrimage Feb 11-12, Post 32 Springfield IL</i>
<i>State Oratorical Contest Feb 15, Jefferson City MO</i>
<i>Department Spring Conference Feb 14-16, Jefferson City MO</i>
<i>American Legion Birthday Mar 15-17</i>
<i>Washington Conference Mar 23-26, Washington DC</i>

TAPS

It is our unfortunate duty as we close to inform you that the following Legionnaires have been transferred to Post Everlasting: Harvey Beckler, an Army Veteran of WWII who was a member of the Legion for 25 continuous years; Dean Blay, an Air Force Veteran of the Korean War who had 29 continuous years; Lester Sanders, an Army Veteran of Korea with 6 continuous years; Cecil Turley, a WWII Veteran with 26 continuous years.

Remember to visit www.facebook.com/post626mo and www.myLegion.org often for updates.

Please submit any announcements or items for the newsletter to Douglas Millison, Editor, at dwmillison7@gmail.com or 816-509-5247. Requests must be received before or at the Executive Committee meeting prior to the release date to be in the current bulletin.