



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

Oct 2014
Vol. 1/ Issue 4
(Quarterly)

PO Box 10613
Gladstone MO 64188
bennettherrick626@gmail.com
www.al626mo.com

Wayne Beer, Commander Phyllis Rosales, Adjutant
(816) 436-6326 (816) 453-5842

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

INTRO

Welcome back to another newsletter. Another busy quarter has passed and another gets started. We have been forming committee's to get things done, we have a new web site and are entering the pre Boys State, Oratorical Contest and youth Cadet programs stage. That requires us to get in touch with the schools for students who may want to attend and also to contact local businesses to find sponsors.

We are dipping our fingers into Girls State this year to give our local girls a shot at going. It's not their fault that we do not have an Auxiliary, so let's help out. We already have on sponsor for that; Wee Care Preschool, a female veteran owned business.

If you have some spare time, we could use your help. If we split up the workload it would only be a few days a year of your time, and you get to say how much and when! Are you a retired teacher? Perfect to get students involved in legion programs to earn scholarships. Are you involved in Scouting? We would love to help out and be involved with you, honoring your best with awards. Do you like to honor Veterans with ceremony? Come join our Honor Guard. Are you a writer or like to network? Check out our Public Relations Committee or the Fundraising Committee. You could end up writing our Press releases and an occasional article for publication, or be the contact for us in the business community.

We have a place for you and do not require a whole lot of your time. A few days a year in some cases, more in others. Look at our website and Facebook page to see what we have going on and how it can fit your lifestyle.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Post 626 extends a warm welcome to our newest members: Transferring in from MO Post 1000 are Gary Bisbee and Gregory Roberts. Gary is a Navy Vet from the Vietnam era, Greg is Army from the Korean era. Other transfers are, Pete Hall from Post 95, Army from Vietnam era, Joseph Henchir from PA Post 380 also Army but from the WWII era, Clifford Hemphill from CO Post 211 a Navy Vet from the Vietnam era, and John Hodges comes to us from Post 21, a Marine from the Korea era. Two new members are Robert Ford and James Payton. Robert served in the Navy during the Persian Gulf era and James is a Marine Veteran. In the ready rack is Veteran Howard Jackson. More on him later.

Welcome All!

WHAT HAPPENED

Our **Jul 4 Poppy Sales** at Walmart was a success. We left early and still raised about \$1400 for our Veterans and service members in need.

Three Delegates were sent to **Department Convention** in Jefferson City at the Capitol Plaza Hotel **Jul 10 – 13**. If you don't know how that works, the Post pays the registration fee but the Delegates pick up their own transportation, room and food costs. The District reimburses \$100 to any delegate who is assigned to a committee and stays the entire convention. Only one of our Delegates saw any reimbursement, we thank all who attended.

Our PR Committee won a "Toot Your Horn" Award at the convention for their work in letting the public know about what we do for our Veterans and in our community. We will pick it up during Fall Conference in October. Keep your eye on the Gladstone Dispatch for our occasional articles.

Dennis L. Woeltje of Cape Girardeau, was elected as the Missouri Department Commander during the convention. A Navy veteran of the Vietnam era, he attended boot camp at Great Lakes Naval Training Center near Chicago Il in 1969. During his 32 year military career as a Navy Seabee Reservist, he served with various Seabee Units including NMCB 28, CBMU 302, RNCF SU4, NMCB 15 and RNCB 25. He worked at Proctor and Gamble Paper Products for 25 years as a line operator/mechanic. He also worked on several maintenance teams throughout his career. He has lived all his life in Cape Girardeau County and graduated from Jackson Sr. High in 1967. He attended SEMO College for 3 semesters before he joined the navy. He has been a member of Louis K. Juden American Legion Post 63 at Cape Girardeau since 2003. Woeltje has served as Post 63 Commander, District 14 Commander, and Zone 4 Vice Commander representing the Southeast Missouri area from St. Louis south to Hornersville and from New Madrid west to Thayer MO.

During the **August National Convention** Michael D. Helm was elected national commander. A U.S. Army veteran during the Vietnam War, he served with the 82nd Airborne Division in Fort Bragg, N.C., and earned his Ranger tab in 1972. He has been a member of Jack Helt American Legion Post 313 at Lebanon, Neb., since 1972. Born in McCook, Neb., he grew up in Norcatur, Kansas, where he currently resides. He is a retired U.S. Postal Service rural mail carrier with more than 33 years of service.

Several actions took place during the **July and August Post Membership Meetings** to include seating committee's for the Clay County Veterans Memorial, Fundraising and updating the By-Laws. This year's Veterans Salute at Linden Square will be organized with the help of Bob Box and Gerry Braton. We also wrote and passed two Resolutions to send to Department and National Conventions next year. They deal with having Petty Officer Fords Navy Cross (posthumous) upgraded to a much deserved Medal of Honor and his status of four days MIA changed to POW. I will attempt to write a short article on the story in the near future.

We met at City Hall on **September 8 during a City Council Meeting** and Commander Beer awarded Richard King and Paula Brooks Certificates of Appreciation for their hard work setting up the tents and equipment we used for the flag pole dedication at Big Shoal Cemetery in May instead of being cancelled due to rain. Yes, it can take 4 months to get several people together at the same place and time!

On **9/11** Nelson Duncan, William McDonald and I put the flag to half-staff in the morning and recovered it in the evening.

The **District Meeting on 14 September** was held in Bethany at Post 216. The district voted to replace the worn flag for a new one, to start a fund to cap at \$1000 to help TFA qualified Veterans and their families and will conduct a membership refresh in the near future. I was "Volunteered" to serve on the TFA Committee as well as the Membership Team. Our two Resolutions unanimously passed through District and will go to the Department Resolutions Committee next.

The **25 Sep Membership Meeting** was held and we got a bit done. Changes to the website which formalized some committee's was approved, we agreed to "explore becoming involved in Girls State" this year and immediately came up with one sponsor, and agreed to a \$200 budget for the fundraising committee for material and printing costs. It was also noted that Boys State and Oratorical contest information for next year is available on the internet and that the Americanism Chairman will start contacting the schools involved.



It was also revealed that our service officers wife is ill and in the hospital. The chaplain will deliver our sentiments to the family.

The **27 September American Royal Parade** in KCMO was a good time. The streets were lined with waving citizens and Veterans alike.

The parade was held down Grand Blvd, and as the Historian will tell you, the American Legions 1921 National convention parade was also held on Grand. It was a MUCH larger event!



WHAT'S HAPPENING

4 Oct 1000hrs Gladfest Parade. Meet at the Gladstone Plaza shopping center at 0800. Just look for the above truck and trailer rig out on N Oak. **Everyone is invited to walk or ride with us!!** Come on out and participate.

7 Oct 1900hrs meeting of the 1st ship of the Navy Club. VVA 317 at 3027 Walnut St. in KCMO. Meeting the first Tuesday of every month.

23 Oct 1900hrs Membership Meeting at the Gladstone Community Center. We will be reading our new draft of the By-Laws.

24-26 Oct Department Fall Conference in Jeff City.

1 Nov our recruitment display will be at the US Bank on Vivion in Gladstone for the entire month.

8 Nov 0800-1600 Poppy Sales at Walmart. 2 shifts of 08-1200 and 12-1600.

11 Nov Veterans Day, Poppy Sales at HyVee, AM only.

20 Nov 1900hrs Membership Meeting at the Gladstone Community Center. One week early due to Thanksgiving. We will be voting on the new By-Laws.

7 Dec Pearl Harbor Day.

18 Dec 1900hrs Membership Meeting at the Gladstone Community Center. One week early due to Thanksgiving.

CONGRATULATIONS

A well-deserved round of applause to Paul Mimms and R.D. Mallams. Our Service officer Paul Mimms, who is also a member of the BVA, was awarded the Major General Melvin J. Mass Achievement Award for exemplifying the principles of initiative, independence and self-reliance to which the Blinded Veterans Association is devoted. R.D. was inducted into the Kansas National Guard Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame. The Hall recognizes graduates who have made significant contributions to the achievement, tradition and history of the program and the armed services. A long story short, COL. Mallams' (Retired) long career in the guard and as an educator in the school system was long and distinguished. He is currently serving on the Gladstone City Council and is involved in many civic organizations as well as Post 626.

We do have some great members doing great things! Congrats to you both.

VETERAN AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

The Veterans Crisis Line is a toll-free, confidential resource that connects Veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring VA responders.

Veterans and their loved ones can call **1-800-273-8255 and Press 1**, chat online at **www.VeteransCrisisLine.net**, or send a **text message to 838255** to receive free, confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, even if they are not registered with VA or enrolled in VA health care. VA also provides support for Service members through the Military Crisis Line. Service members and their families and friends can call and text the Veterans Crisis Line numbers and can chat online at www.MilitaryCrisisLine.net/Chat.

The professionals at the Veterans Crisis Line are specially trained and experienced in helping Veterans of all ages and circumstances—from Veterans coping with mental health issues that were never addressed to recent Veterans struggling with relationships or the transition back to civilian life.

SOCIAL MEDIA

We have a website! The site will hold our basic information, as well as contact information and how to become a member. We have also added and will continue to update the site for our projects like Boys State and Cadet Patrol. If you know of someone who is thinking of joining or just wants to check out what we do, please steer them toward www.al626mo.com. We have also added links to other sites like National, Department and District pages as well as our Facebook page.

Our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/post626mo) is a great way to stay connected to the Post for last minute scheduling changes and to be kept abreast of what's going on locally, across the Legion and the Military Branches. There are helpful links, Post History, Post Roster, current and past Newsletters, a Bulletin Board and many other items of interest at your fingertips. You do not have to be a Facebook member to read the page, just to interact with it.

www.mylegion.org will keep you connected to the Legion and allow you to update your information remotely and immediately. You can also see our current newsletter there in case you delete or lose this one. Our Post history is also posted on The American Legion's Centennial website at centennial.legion.org/missouri/post626 and we occasionally post stories on www.LegiontownUSA.net.

If you would like help doing any of this internet stuff contact me and we can meet to get it done.

MEMBERSHIP

If you know someone that is interested in joining The American Legion and become part of the voice that speaks up for Veterans, put them in contact with the Post Membership Chairman (SR Vice Commander) Nelson Duncan at 816-392-0972, yolegend2@aol.com or our website www.al626mo.com, or they can go online at www.think-legion.org.

DID YOU KNOW?

That SB600 was passed by the MO Senate this year and is named the Honoring Our Veterans Bill? The bill changes provisions for license plates honoring veterans; expands WWII, Korean Conflict, & Vietnam War medallion programs to Missouri National Guard members; creates medallion programs for Operations Iraqi Freedom, New Dawn, Desert Shield & Desert Storm; requires school districts to teach at least one period leading up to an observance that conveys the meaning and significance of Veterans Day, and allows school districts to add Veterans Day as an official school holiday.

TAPS

We were fortunate to not have lost any members last quarter.

Remember to visit www.al626mo.com and click on Facebook *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 Newsletter.