



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

1 Oct 2015
(Quarterly)

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*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

Here we are again, with summer behind us and a new leadership team in place ready to face the new year. Dale Barnett of Douglasville, Ga., was elected national commander in Baltimore during the 97th National Convention. Our new Department Commander is George Scarborough of Grain Valley, now at District is R.E. Holtz of Excelsior Springs and the new Post Commander is Nelson Duncan who has served as SR Vice Commander for the past several years. Good luck to all.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Transferring in from MO Post 1000 was Raymond Taylor JR, an Army Veteran from the Grenada/Lebanon era with 1 continuous year in the Legion. Joe Farris Transferred from (Parkville Post), he is an Air Force Vet from the Vietnam era starting his impressive 27th year in the Legion. Transferring from Louisiana is Douglas Robker, an Army Veteran of the VN era with 11 years. Our newest members are USMC Veteran Tara Robertson and Navy Veteran Jim Armstrong. **Welcome All!**

WHAT HAPPENED

Installation and Initiation Ceremony, Dare to Dabble, 1329 Swift Ave, North Kansas City 64116, 25 July at 1830 hrs went very well. The District Commander swore in the 2016 officers and conducted an initiation of new (and some not so new) members. Thanks to everyone who set this event up!

Department Convention, Jefferson City, Jul 10-12. Legion business was handled and the Historian came away with an award for his Post History Scrapbook.

Membership Meetings, Community Center, 1900 hrs, 23 Jul, 27 Aug and 24 Sep showed an increase in attendance and that we are continually at work helping Veterans and our community.

Button Sales (Fundraising), Walmart, 1000-1400 hrs, 4 July & 11 Sep were a great success and contributed over \$1,900 to our General Fund. Thank you Honor Guard and other volunteers for making this happen.





KC Airshow (Fundraising), Downtown KC Airport, 0800 – 1700, 22 & 23 Aug was a blast and hard work at the same time. With the hard work of post Volunteers we raised just over \$1,000!

Clay County Veterans Memorials' Afghanistan addition also went well with over 50 people in attendance for the wreath laying ceremony on 9/11, including family members of the honored Veterans. Added to the Memorial were; Robert Wayne Crow



Jr and Shawn Mittler who were killed on 10 Jul 2010 when their Vehicle hit an IED: Matthew Mason, a member of Navy Seal Team 6, was killed along with other members of his team and the aircrew when their helicopter was shot down on August 6, 2011: and finally Trenton Rhea. His family could not be reached to get the details of his death.

Big cudo's to Jerry & Phyllis for all of their hard work. And thank you to Boy Scout Troop 260 for helping out!!

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Membership Meetings, Community Center, 1900 hrs, 22 Oct, 19 Nov and 17 Dec. (Nov and Dec are the 3rd Thursday!)

District Meeting, 11 Oct 1200 hrs. Post 236 in Excelsior Springs.

National Commanders Walk, National WWI Museum and Memorial in KCMO, 3 Oct @ 0800. Packet pickup will start at 0730. This walk benefits the National Emergency Fund and there is also a Veterans Benefits Fair on the grounds until 1500.

Gladfest Parade, N. Oak Traffic way to Linden Square. 3 Oct, line up starts at 0900 and the parade is at 1000 hrs. If you would like to walk in the parade; * Parking will be at the south end of Gladstone Plaza Shopping Center at 64th (Shady Lane) & N. Oak. **Access will only be available by way of the 64th St. entrance.** The N. Oak entrance will be inaccessible. * Ask any of the parade stagers and they will know where to find us & the trailer. You will need to tell the stagers that we are **BLUE Section F, Unit 1.**

Veterans Benefits Fair and Resource Expo, 17 Oct 0800-1400 hrs, KC VAMC

Flightless Honor Flight, 18 Oct 0900-1500 hrs at Union Station. Honor Flight Network of Kansas City is holding a "flight" at Union Station for those that don't want to or can't fly for whatever reason. If you are interested in participating or Volunteering to help contact Commander Duncan.

Department Fall Conference, Jefferson City, 23-25 Oct.

Fright Night, Oak Grove Park, 23 Oct 1800 hrs. We will be passing out items instead of candy.

Post 95 Chili Supper, 24 Oct 1630-1900 hrs. Our Lady of Mercy Country Home, Liberty MO.

Veterans Day Poppy Sales, 7 Nov 0800-1600 hrs. Walmart. At least eight Volunteers are needed so that we can run two 4 hour shifts. Ten would be better. All proceeds are used for the benefit of Veterans.

Veterans Day. Antioch Middle School would like to do a veterans visitation from 0830 to 1030. Other veterans are welcome to attend our traditional ceremony, to be recognized by the students, from approximately 0930 or 0940. **Details still need to be worked out.**

Honor Flight. Honor Flight Network of KC is holding another flight for WWII and Korean War Veterans on Veterans Day, Nov 11th. Also under consideration are Vietnam Veterans who have life threatening medical issues. If you are interested in going contact Commander Duncan for an application.

Honor Guard, 12 Nov, Present the National Colors at the Midwest Roofing Contractors Association's 66th Convention & Trade Show business meeting. **Details still need to be worked out.**

Tribute to Women Veterans, 21 Nov 1100-1500 hrs, Christy Banquet Center, St. Louis MO. See the flyer on our Facebook page bulletin board.



CONGRATULATIONS

The Commander had the privilege of presenting Legionnaire and Post Charter Member George Nicholson with his Certificate for having maintained his American Legion membership for *60 continuous years*. George joined the Legion at the age of 21 in 1955 while living in Pittsburg Kansas. The Korean War Veteran was an Artilleryman who was put ashore at Inchon on May Day of 1953 and assigned to the 40th ID, a California National Guard outfit. After the war he and his friends joined the local American Legion and VFW. “Kansas was a dry State back then” said George. “But at the Post you could find the illegal and fattening stuff”. George became a pipe fitter and worked in the nation’s first liquid fertilizer plant in Lawrence, the Topeka VA Hospital, and missile sites around Kansas before coming to Gladstone and working at the Ford Motor Company plant for 30 years. He and his wife still live in the house they bought in 1965. Congratulations George and thank you for being a member of the largest veterans’ organization, The American Legion!

VETERAN AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

The VA&R Chairman is looking for some help. The committee has non-voting positions that serve as the “SME”, or Subject Matter Experts, on certain areas. We would like to have someone who can visit and talk to the veterans and administration at the Maple Woods Community College and also someone for the Cameron Veterans Home. These people or person would bring the committee ideas on how we can help sponsor events, supply equipment or anything else we can do to support these Veterans. Be our eyes and ears. The Maple Woods contact would also ensure that Veterans are aware of scholarships that are available through the Legion. In place are representatives at the VAMC, Camp Valor Outdoors and the Warrensburg Veterans Home.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Did you know that you do not need to create a Facebook account or give them any information to keep in touch with your Posts activities and plans? Just go to our web page at www.al626mo.com and click on the Facebook button. On the page you will see not only our history and future activities but other posts that I think may concern Veterans, including up to date info that comes out of the VA. But if you do have an account, “Like” our page so that you get timely information and updates. The more you hit our Like button, the more often our postings get into your “News Feed”. If you haven’t seen a post from us lately, you’re not liking enough!

MEMBERSHIP

We encourage you to think of membership in three layers. Recruitment, Retention and Revitalization. Ask a veteran to join, become a Paid up for Life member, and help us get even more active in the community than we are, spreading the word about our organization.

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 SR Vice Commander Bob Box at 453-1180 or Commander Nelson Duncan at 816-

392-0972, volegend2@aol.com , our website www.al626mo.com, or they can go online at www.think-legion.org. It is also a good idea to keep an application in your wallet and know the eligibility requirements.

And just so you know, we really do appreciate **your continued membership!!**

DID YOU KNOW?

One of the most positive developments of the V.A. – Legion relationship occurred in 1945. Up to that point the Legions practice had been to generally eschew affiliating with any other organization, preferring, instead, to pursue its own various programs of service to veterans and the nation. But the word “affiliation” took on a decidedly positive meaning before the end of WWII when Legion Rehab planners began looking for ways to increase the quality of medical care for veterans.

A concept considered by the 1943 National Convention in Omaha was the Department of Wisconsin’s Resolution 580, which called for new V.A. facilities to be located adjacent to a qualified medical school or institution and that the V.A. “secure the assistance and cooperation of the faculty and staff of all medical schools possible”. The mutually helpful aspects of such an arrangement were readily apparent: up to date medical care for veterans and teaching-hospital arrangements for medical education in the nation. Like other particularly noteworthy recommendations coming from the field this one arose from a general need – more and better hospital care for veterans – and progressed to a specific plan that would revolutionize the practice of Veterans Medicine. The concept would come to be called simply “affiliation”.

In 1945 Public Law 293 of the 79th Congress established a department of medicine and surgery at the V.A. This was an important development and of particular interest to the Legion because the new department was given the responsibility of establishing a residency program. This development helped complete the cycle needed for “affiliation”. Soon three types of residency programs at V.A. hospitals and clinics were established. By Aug 1st of 1946 some 650 resident physicians were on duty in the V.A. under the various programs of affiliation. In each case their presence meant state-of-the-art expertise.

(The American Legion, an official history, 1919 – 1989, Thomas A. Rumer)

TAPS

It is my sad duty to report that we have lost James Morgan, a Navy Veteran of the Vietnam era and 23 year American Legion member.

PARTING SHOTS

Esprit De Corps. Pride in ownership. Brand awareness. Whatever you call it, it’s what I feel and it’s what I try and express or “put out there” about the Legion whenever I can. I don’t keep it in a box or in my briefcase until the last moment. It’s “out there” for all to see when I’m on legion business. From the time I leave my house until I return. There is no need to hide it or protect it under most circumstances; it is who I am and what I represent. What am I talking about? My American Legion Cap of course! Here’s a little background on my Cap.



In 1918 American Doughboys serving in France needed headgear that was comfortable to wear, yet could be stored in the pocket when the helmet was donned. The "Montana Peak" campaign hat proved to be a storage problem. A wool OD "overseas" cap replaced the "Montana" campaign hat in 1917 and was worn in the rear areas of France. Modeled after a French cap, the 1918 overseas cap was later to become the field or garrison cap and in 1940 it was authorized for wear in the U.S. Then a cord was added in the color of the wearer's branch of service. Officers wore yellow cords until 1940 when the cord was changed to a gold and black braid. These caps allow one to interpret shipboard photos of the Doughboys. If they are wearing campaign hats, they are on their way to France. If they are wearing overseas caps, they are on their way home.

At some point, and I haven't found when or how (yet), the American Legion and other service organizations chose it to represent them as a uniform piece. It's recognizable; it won't get confused with any other group of organizations. And yet many new Posts have started accepting the use of ball caps as a uniform item over the Garrison Cap during meetings. And not just ours, the VFW and DAV are also experiencing this. And I have no problem with that myself. When I was younger I did not want to wear the Garrison Cap either, it was only later when I began to learn more about the history of the Legion and saw what the cap represents that I started to take more pride in "the Cap". It's a piece that says "I am here doing what needs to be done". And I believe that with the cap firmly in place not only are we recognized as Veterans who have served their country; we are recognized as Veterans who are *still serving* their country. Be proud of that. Advertise that.



or an Airman, Marine or Sailor.
Thank you for your service!!

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

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.