



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

1 Jan 2016
(Quarterly)

PO Box 10613
Gladstone MO 64188
(816) 787-1548 (Voicemail)
bennetherrick626@gmail.com
www.al626mo.com

Nelson Duncan, Commander Phyllis Rosales, Adjutant
(816) 392-0972 (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

We hope that everyone had an outstanding holiday season, and that you still have jobs or other forms of income to pay the results! Fall and early winter is always a busy time for us with family, community and Veteran commitments. We participated in a county Purple Heart ceremony and a roofer's convention; made monetary donations to Goodwill, Mayors Christmas Tree Fund, Surviving Spouses And Family Endowment Fund for Law Enforcement Officers, Fire Fighters and Emergency Workers, and the Missouri Veterans Home in Cameron; and we made donations of goods directly to the VA and indirectly through the Eagles Coat Drive for Veterans.

I don't know about you, but it makes me feel really good to be a part of Post 626 when I see all that we can accomplish.

Do you retire this year, or have you retired and have a hard time finding a meaningful hobby? ***Come get active!!*** We do a lot and there is much more that can be done using existing Legion programs. If not you can make it up! We will support you if it is a worthwhile project that supports our community and/or veterans. Talk to a Legion officer or committee member about rolling up your sleeves and joining in.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

New to the Legion this quarter are Paul Smallwood and Phillip Evans. They are both Vietnam era veterans, Paul of the Airforce and Phill from the Marine Corps. They both Volunteer with me at the VAMC in KC. Gaila Sullivan is a 4 year Legion member who is transferring in from Post 1107. She is a Lebanon/Grenada era Veteran.

Welcome All!

WHAT HAPPENED

The Historian and his wife were able to participate in the **National Commanders Walk** at the National WWI Museum and Memorial in KCMO on October 3rd. Proceeds from the walk went to the National Emergency Fund, a Legion program that helps members and Posts recover from natural disasters.

The **Gladfest Parade** (Right) was also held on the morning of October 3rd and had a good turnout to ride the float and a very large turnout of spectators. A fun time was had by all. And remember, we welcome ALL MEMBERS to come out with us on these parades.



The **3rd District meeting** was held at Post 236 in Excelsior Springs on the 11th of October. Only 6 Posts were present out of a possible 29. John Kopp, the District Boys State Chairman reminded everyone of the March 13 deadline for applications to be turned in to him along with the \$400 tuition. Another great Legion program, the High School Oratorical contest is also upon us with the District contest to be held immediately after the next District meeting on January 10th back at Excelsior Springs.



Honor Flight Network of Kansas City held the country's second **Flightless Honor Flight** on October 18th at Union Station. This "flight" was for those who could not or did not want to fly to DC. The experience was brought to the big screen in Union Station followed up by a trip to the National WWI Museum and Memorial across the street. They really didn't skimp on any of the experience except the long flight and longer day. They didn't need us to volunteer this time but we did participate in the welcome home at the end of the day and welcomed home our own Past Adjutant Bill McDonald (Left). As always all of the Veterans thoroughly enjoyed the experience. They are taking WWII, Korean War and Vietnam War Veterans. If you would like to go on a future flight, please talk to the Commander.

The **Department Fall Conference** was held in Jefferson City as usual, 23-25 Oct. The Post Historian who also sits on the Department Centennial Committee attended that meeting. The committee is working on coming out with pins and finalizing the details surrounding the Centennial Convention in ST Louis as well as promoting the Legions Centennial across the State. The Historian has Challenge Coins that were produced to raise funds for this event and if you want one of these fine looking coins they can be purchased from him for \$8 each. BUT WAIT, there's more. For just another \$20 you can enter into a drawing for an intricately decorated American Legion edition 1911 pistol. Only 500 tickets are being sold, so get yours NOW! Some other highlights from the meeting;

- Membership is at 67% so far for 2016, ahead of the November goal but less than this time last year.
- Denise Rohan of Wisconsin, the next endorsed candidate for National Commander talked about her goals of "Family First" in how the military treats rotating military personnel.
- Americanism awards will now be categorized by Post size in order to open up the competition a little more.
- The Department has completed 100% of its Consolidated Post Reports for 4 years in a row.
- On the legislative front, the Legion will not back legislation legalizing medical marijuana until it is proven medically effective.
- The Judge Advocate encourages people who may be experiencing medical problems and were stationed at Camp Lejeune, El Toro or McClellan Alabama to contact a service representative to talk about water borne illnesses associated with those sites.
- Membership in the Auxiliary ("We have your six") fell below 13,000 in the Department.
- Baseball programs are in desperate need of coaches. They lost 9 teams last year.
- The National Vice Chairman of the SAL commented on how that organization donated \$6.5M to the Child Welfare Fund last year, and has a \$7M goal for next year.
- The Missouri area of the Medal of Honor Grove in Virginia needs \$15,000 in repairs. So far MO is the only state stepping up to make repairs.
- Our 8 Service Officers across the state handled 16,000 contacts for assistance this year, up 1,000 over the previous year.
- The two Resolutions submitted by our Post to support changing PO Ford's Navy Cross to a Medal of Honor and to change his status from MIA for 4 days to POW have been approved at the National Convention in Baltimore. Legionnaire Patty Ivey continues to fight the case with help from Congressman Graves's office.

Commander Duncan and Adjutant Rosales passed out stickers to the kiddie's for **Friday Fright Night** at Oak Grove Park on the 23rd of Oct from 6 to 8.

A big THANK YOU to members Robke, Lester, Braton, McDonald M., McDonald W., Box, Owens, Farris and Millison for the usual great work collecting **Poppy Fund Donations** (Left) on the Saturday prior to Veterans Day (7th) at Walmart. We had enough people to run 2 four hour shifts so that we were able to stay from 0800 to 1600 and raise \$1658!! And on Veterans Day Braton and Rosales went to Hy-Vee in the morning and made another \$191!!! All proceeds are used for the benefit of Veterans.

On **Veterans Day** several members went to the Antioch Middle School for their program. We started out in the classrooms answering questions about our experiences in the military and then went to the auditorium for a short program. The kids left the auditorium before we did and lined the hallway for our exit, clapping and cheering. It was a great heartwarming experience. Mr. Benes arranged the program and thanked us for participating, saying it was a great experience for the kids as well. But wait, there's more! We also participated in the County's ceremony commemorating Clay County as a "Purple Heart County" (Left). You may have seen the signs pop up on the main access routes into the county.



Honor Flight Network of KC held another successful flight on Veterans Day. Our own Bob Box attended this one and ended up being very glad that we talked him into going. The comradery was great, but flying around town in speeding busses with a police escort and all of the people who came out at every stop to show their appreciation was awesome. If you are interested in going, contact Commander Duncan for an application. They are taking Vietnam Veterans on a space available basis, and this last flight had quite a few.

Wreaths Across America (Right) was held on the 12th of December at the White Chapel Cemetery. Members of the Honor Guard and Rev. Craig Lantz were on hand to place wreaths on the graves of Bennett and Dennis Herrick as well as their parents who were Charter Members of Post 626. We also assisted Bob Box to place a wreath on the resting place of his wife.



The **Mega 50/50** drawing was held during the December meeting with \$292 going to Andy Lester and \$292 going to the Post to support our end of year Party on the 30th. Anything left over will go into the general fund.



The **End of Year Party** was held at Dare to Dabble in NKC on December 30th. It was a potluck but the party committee bought pulled pork and beans from Smokin' Guns BBQ which was outstanding of course. And thank you to all who showed up and brought some great food. I'm proud of myself; I only made 2 runs at the desert table. There was balloon making by Craig and face painting by Olivia for the kids also, and they did a great job. Door prizes donated by local businesses and Jerry Braton were handed out to a lucky few. Laughing Place Bakery, Kate's Kitchen and Funky Monkey Popcorn Co. donated to us just for this party, so let's remember them by shopping and or eating at these great local companies'!!

WHAT'S HAPPENING (*Go ahead, get out your calendar now while you're thinking about it...*)

Post membership meetings will be held at the Gladstone Community Center, 6901 N Holmes St., every 4th Thursday of the month at 1900 (7PM). (Jan 28, Feb 25 and Mar 24)

We will be choosing candidates and fundraising for this summer's **Boys State and Girls State** starting in January. No dates have been set for interviews yet. If you wish to contribute to either Boys State or Girls State student fees contact the Fundraising Committee Chairman, Douglas Millison at 816-509-5247 or dwmillison7@gmail.com. And it doesn't matter how much, we already have one for \$25.

This quarters **District Meeting** is on January 10th and is hosted by CLYDE GUSTINE POST 236, 208 Veterans Memorial Dr., Excelsior Springs, MO 64024. District meetings begin with a potluck lunch at 1200, followed by the meeting at 1300 (1PM).

The **District Oratorical Contest** will be held at Post 236 immediately following the District meeting on January 10th.

Post 58's Auxiliary (**Unit 58**) is hosting a chili, ham and bean and baked potato **fundraising lunch** on January 24th. Post 58 is located at the intersection of MO-92 & Co Rd DD, Smithville, MO 64089. Lunch starts at 1100 and goes until sold out, so 1200(?). \$10, \$5 4-12yo, 3 and under free. If you haven't gone to one of their lunches you're missing out. And as Legionnaires we are all one big family and should think about supporting each other's events. It would be nice to fill a table of 626ers!

A **Veterans Luncheon** will be held on February 18th at 1130 Hrs. This luncheon is to benefit the Saint Michael's Veterans Center in KC. The National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors of Greater KC is hosting this fundraising event at Post 21 at 16701 E Hwy 40 in Independence. Our Post is sponsoring a table of 8 for \$300 which translates to \$37.50 a seat. Cost to members who attend will be between \$17.50 and \$20 with the Post donating the remainder. That detail will be worked out at the next executive committee meeting. We think we can fill one table easily just from members who attend the meetings. Can we do two? If you would like to go contact the VA&R Chairman Douglas Millison at 816-509-5247 or dwmillison7@gmail.com ASAP to get on the list. Even if you go to the meetings, contact Doug now if you wish to go please.

Department Spring Conference is at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, 415 W McCarty St, Jefferson City, MO 65101 February 19 through 21.

March 15 is the designated **birthday of The American Legion**. On that day in 1919 the first American Legion caucus held by members of the American Expeditionary Force was convened in Paris.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the Public Relations Chairman Douglas Millison for his hard work publicizing what we as a Post do in our community. He came away from the Fall Conference with a "Toot Our Horn" award. That's two in a row and he assures us that it will keep going.

We would also like to congratulate and thank the following members who have renewed for 2016 and reached a 5 year **continuous membership milestone** with The American Legion;

5 Years	10 Years	15 Years	20 Years	25 Years	30 Years
Ashlock, R.	Bingham, L.	Bianchina, E.	Courtney, R.	Auld, S.	Chapman, E.
Hemphill, C.	Caldwell, C.	Hudson, C.	McDowell, H.	Boydston, R.	George L.
Leeder, W.	Daniel E.	Palmer, E.	Mosby, E.	Hercules, D.	Long I.
Mathieu, F.	Ehrhart, J.	Rhodes, R.	Simmons, M.	Kindler, D.	Manoy N.
McKnight, H.	Eitel, R.	Wilson, K.	Sollars, R.	Meyer, R.	McDonald W.
Randall, R.	Hibschle, W.			Norwood, V.	Stephens, E.
Rosales M.	Murch, K.			Raye, B.	Williams C.
Suiter, R.	Neely, E.			Vongeyso, F.	
Wolenski, E.	Rogers, D.			York, N.	

A certificate will be issued to you all as well, time and place TBD. For those few who have not yet renewed you will be recognized and a certificate printed as you renew. If you recently renewed I may not have you on this list and I apologize.

VETERAN AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

After Memorial Day and Veterans Day the VA&R Committee contacts the Voluntary Services rep at the Kansas City Veterans Hospital to see where we can be most helpful with any donations. This November they had a need for calling cards for the inpatients in the Mental Health Clinic and Coffee Pots for Veterans using the CBOCs around the area. Using Poppy Funds the Post donated \$200 in calling cards and \$70 dollars for the 6 coffee pots and we received a donation of \$75 from Walmart for another 5.

Also the Elks were again hosting a Coat Drive which went to the VAMC's clothing closet for Veterans. The Post donated \$200 from the Poppy Fund which was spent in local thrift stores to purchase 43 pieces of warm clothing, 2/3rds of the total collected by the Elks. (Right) Buying in local thrift stores helped serve the community as well as our Veterans!



And lastly we made a visit up to the Missouri Veterans Home in Cameron and gave them our customary donation. When the Executive Committee meets next year to review the budget the VA&R Chair will propose rewording the line item for this donation to be a one-time donation in honor of Veterans Day that amounts to 10% of all Poppy Sales funds raised the previous year. Using the last 2 sales as an example that would raise our annual contribution from \$200 (made in two \$100 payments) to one payment of \$300. We also have a list of things that give us ideas on how we request this money be spent and in which we can participate, like sponsoring Bingo, holiday party's or restaurant outings.

The VA continues to make changes to the “ship list” in reference to Agent Orange exposure in Vietnam. If you haven't checked it recently, go to <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/shiplist/index.asp> and check it out.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The Post will place your business card on our Facebook page and website if you own or are a partner in your own business. If someone clicks on that card on the website it will link directly to your website if you have one. That's some great free advertising! Contact the Internet Administrator for details. (Doug Millison, dwmillison7@gmail.com)

Did you know that you do not need to create a Facebook account or give them any information to use it and 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. 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 becoming 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, yolegend2@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. Just look at the difference in our Welcome column and the Taps column. We are losing ground and need your help to maintain the organizations strength in numbers which translates to political clout and dollars to pay our Veterans Service Officers and other staff. We need you to be proactive. Ask your coworkers, boss, poker buddies, doctor and barber/hairstylist to become members.

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

DID YOU KNOW?

Missouri Attorney General Chris Koster has released a new consumer guide for military personnel and veterans to offer information regarding laws that protect them from consumer fraud and provide tools to help them if they become victims of scams. Topics in the guide include predatory lending, education fraud, residential rent scams and identity theft.

The 34 page guide can be downloaded from the Attorney Generals website at www.ag.mo.gov. In addition, individuals can request the printed publication online or by calling 800-392-8222.

TAPS

It is my sad duty to report that the following Legionnaires have been transferred to Post Everlasting: Jinx Beasley, an Army Veteran of the Korean War with 46 years as a Legionnaire; Harold Early, a WWII Navy Veteran and 11 year member; Clifton Hemphill, a Vietnam era Marine Veteran with five years as a Legionnaire; Grover Hewlett, a WWII Veteran of unknown service branch and 29 years membership; Ron Walters, a Vietnam Veteran also with an unknown branch or service and 28 years as a Legionnaire; Leland Welty, an Air Force Veteran of the Korean War and 31 year membership and Herbert Willans, an Army Veteran of WWII with 25 years Legion membership.

PARTING SHOTS

Ghost Veterans
by Phyllis Rosales

You see a gathering of people who are all wearing American Legion covers and right away you recognize they are an elite group of our Nations veterans. It doesn't matter what branch of service they served, the fact that they all signed and promised to defend this nation with the price of their life if need be, makes them all super hero's! You walk up to the group, shake each ones hand while thanking them for their service, except for the ghost veteran, then you walk away feeling good inside that you were able to thank those veterans.

The ghost stand shoulder to shoulder with the other veterans, wear the same uniform yet are not seen by the public. They are overlooked more times than recognized. It usually takes a ghost to see another ghost or a ghost to point out to others, even veterans, why they are a ghost among all other veterans.

If you haven't figured out by now who are the ghost, don't feel alone. It is only when they are specifically pointed out that they are truly seen. I want to point out for all to see, our female veterans are ghost or invisible to many. Although we served and stand amongst our brothers, we are more times than not overlooked, mistaken for one of our brothers wives, or just plain ignored.

On Veterans Day this year, my husband and I went to dinner and the waitress acknowledged his service because he was ordering off a special veteran's menu. When he told her I was also a veteran, she wanted to see proof of my service. I was hurt by her actions, but I was able to show her my Veteran status on my Missouri Drivers license. I thank the state for allowing this status to be place on an official document.

Our ranks are fewer than our male counterparts, but Women Are Veterans Too! So the next time you see females amongst a group of male veterans, please don't skip them when shaking hands, acknowledge their service and sacrifice. If you're a veteran and you see a ghost member, please stand up for them. Most likely they won't say anything to the people making them a ghost, but with a few words from you, you can help educate others and make ghost veterans disappear.

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

Remember to visit www.al626mo.com and click on Facebook *often* for updates.

<p>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.</p>
--