



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

1 Apr 2016  
(Quarterly)

PO Box 10613  
Gladstone MO 64188  
(816) 787-1548 (Voicemail)  
[bennettherrick626@gmail.com](mailto:bennettherrick626@gmail.com)  
[www.al626mo.com](http://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

May is coming on at full steam. Traditionally May is one busy month. Peace Officers Memorial Day, Armed Forces Day, Voting on next year's officers and executive committee, poppy sales and the Memorial Day ceremony keeps us hopping but it is a good time. We always hope for all of our members to come out at least to the Armed Forces Day and Memorial Day ceremonies as spectators and this year is no different. It is usually the same ten of fifteen people working and attending the event out of a Post that numbers over 200. If you're not attending because you feel some else is doing it so why bother, you are wrong. We need you just to attend; you don't even need to do anything. (Not that we would deny you the opportunity of volunteering)

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 you don't see an existing program that fills a need 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

We have two new members this quarter and two transferees. The Post welcomes to the Legion Jeffery Benes, an Army Veteran of the Persian Gulf & Global War on Terror and Joe Cavallaro, a Navy veteran of Vietnam. And the Post also welcomes our two transferees who are both Vietnam veterans, Chris Lasco from the Navy and Buster Roper from the Army. **Welcome All!**

## WHAT HAPPENED



We interviewed a total of 20 students for this year's **Boys State** starting in January. We sat down at The Laughing Place Bakery to rate each student to see which ones we would sponsor. Through donations from members, local businesses one school and a church we will be sponsoring 9 students this June. All of the names have been forwarded in the hopes that Boys State can come up with some extra money to get them all in.

The Fundraising Committee asks local businesses and other entities to contribute to our fund which pays for these students but so far most of the contributions come from Post members. If you would like to contribute for next year please contact any Post officer and we will get you on the contact list. Every donation of any amount counts and is a tax deductible contribution.

This quarters **District Meeting** was on January 10<sup>th</sup> and hosted by CLYDE GUSTINE POST 236. The District Oratorical Contest did not happen as planned due to a lack of participants. Having an Americanism Committee with one member responsible for maintaining contact with each schools speech and debate teachers would probably help. (Another way for you to get involved folks) We were also presented with an Annual Children and Youth Citation for outstanding achievement in the programs of Children and Youth for 2014-2015 by the Department. This came from one of our members reporting that she does Halloween Safety at her Pre School, another member helps families apply for Temporary Financial assistance through the Legions TFA Program and because the Post stands ready to assist if called upon through the Family Support Network. That report goes in with the Consolidated Post report, so when the Historian asks what you did this last year answer up. Good job folks, as always.

A **Veterans Luncheon** was held on February 18<sup>th</sup> at 1130 Hrs. This luncheon benefited the Saint Michael's Veterans Center in KC. The National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors of Greater KC hosted this fundraising event at Post 21 in Independence. Our Post sponsored a table of 8 for \$300 which translates to \$37.50 a seat. Cost to members who attend was \$17.50 with the Post donating the remainder, most participants' payed \$20 however and that extra was also donated to ST Michaels. They sent us a nice thank you letter and told us that they were able to raise \$10,000 that will go directly to the Veteran's needs. Mark your calendars now for the next one, February 16, 2017. Maybe we can go for two tables??



**Department Spring Conference** was at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City, February 19 through 21. Gaila Sullivan and I attended. Not much business was conducted on the floor due to the Four Chaplain Service and the Department Oratorical contest. Some info off the floor includes;

- Membership is at 88%, 16<sup>th</sup> in the country
- Larry Kay, the Executive Director of the Missouri Veterans Commission gave an update about activities across the State to include progress on adding a new home somewhere in the State; the cost to run a 150 bed facility is \$12.5 Million a year; the downturn in the economy has not impacted the veterans homes because the commission has an excellent working relationship with the Governor and Legislature
- Four amazing students competed in the Department Oratorical Contest. Always a great presentation on the constitution by these students.

March 15 was 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. I hope this didn't keep you from Voting on that day...

Post 626 showed some love for **Post 445** by attending their corned beef fundraiser dinner on the 11<sup>th</sup> of Mar. Nelson, Bob, Jerry and Mary, and Michelle and I drove out and had a nice meal. This Post like many others does not have a bar or diner to earn a steady income through, so it's nice to be able to lend a hand. It seemed as if the whole town had the same idea and I am sure they did well.



Members of the Post attended the Rotary's "**Stacks for Students**" pancake breakfast (Left) on Mar 12<sup>th</sup>. I see a theme developing here... Seven members, a wife, Grand Daughter and Great Grand Daughter made it over for breakfast. I know I took them up on the all you can eat part of that deal. It was a fun time, it benefitted area students and it is a nice PR plug for the Post. If you let them see you out and about, it could increase interest in us as an organization.

**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 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month (Except June) at 1900 (7PM). (Apr 28, May 26, Jun 16)

Don't forget to **Vote on Apr 5<sup>th</sup>!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

The KC VAMC is hosting a **Veterans Town Hall** on April 7<sup>th</sup> at 1800 hrs. It is the place to be to hear about the latest changes at the medical center or have your questions or concerns answered. It is being held at the Honor Annex, 4251 Northern Ave, KCMO 64133

**Post 95** in Liberty is having a **spaghetti dinner fundraiser** at Our Lady of Mercy Country Home, 2115 Maturana DR., Liberty on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April. Doors open at 1630 and they usually have door prizes. Again, they do not have a bar or steady income so let's get out and help them support their youth programs. My wife and I plan on being there around 1700, sure would be nice to have y'all join us!!



This quarters **District Meeting** is on Apr 10<sup>th</sup> and is hosted by Post 58 in Smithville (2607 E 92 HWY). Lunch is at noon with the meeting at 1300 hrs.

**Candidates for next year's officers and executive committee** must be announced during the April membership meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup>. And no, you do not need to be an officer to be on the executive committee. If you would like to participate in charting the Posts course, step up. Doug Millison (that's me) has already announced that he is stepping down as Chair of the Fundraising Committee and would like to be nominated for SR Vice Commander and take over the Membership Committee. That leaves the Post with another leadership opportunity in an important Committee if there is a business minded person out there!! We will also be discussing the Armed Forces event, Memorial Day Poppy Sales and Memorial Day Ceremony.

The Elks are holding a **scholarship fundraising breakfast** on Apr 30<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>. We would like to meet as a group outside at 0800 hrs. on the 30<sup>th</sup> and then have a great breakfast and show the community how we support them. Some members of the Honor Guard will be there in uniform getting ready for their Missouri Military Funeral Honors certification at 1000. Come out and wish them good luck as well as support a local youth program.

**Peace Officers Memorial Day** is May 15<sup>th</sup> and we will be lowering the flag at Big Shoal Cemetery that morning. More info will be announced when I get it.

The City of Gladstone, your American Legion Post and VFW Post 10906 are busy finalizing plans for the **2016 Armed Forces Day Celebration** schedules for Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at Linden Square in Downtown Gladstone. We are inviting you to join us in this great annual event. The celebration begins at 0900 at the Big Shoal Cemetery with a tribute to the veterans buried in this historic local cemetery, including a rifle salute, speaker and wreath laying ceremony. From 1000 to 1600 the Atkins Johnson Farm & Museum will be open and free to honor veterans. Military re-enactment demonstrations will take place throughout the day.

The program at Linden Square will kick off at 1100 with Susan Hiland from Fox 4 News as M.C. This year the full program will be conducted in the first hour instead of being broken up over several hours. The program will include a keynote address by Brigadier General Greg Mason, Assistant Adjutant General of the Missouri Army National Guard. There will also be a future soldier swearing in ceremony, POW observance, remembrances of Clay County residents who gave all and a flag folding demonstration. Following the program, eventgoers will be able to enjoy a variety of activities including military displays, re-enactors, music, kids' activities, food and more.

Please come out and be recognized for your service by the residences of Gladstone as well as show your appreciation for the other veterans around you. YOUR participation is wanted, appreciated and crucial to the success of this event.

We will be **voting on officer and executive committee candidates** at the May Membership Meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> of May.



Volunteers will be holding the **Biannual Poppy Sale** at Walmart on May 28<sup>th</sup> from 0800 to 1600 hrs. If you would like to help us out on a four hour shift please contact me, Douglas Millison, at 509-5247. **All** proceeds fund our veteran assistance programs.

**Memorial Day** is on 30 May and we will be hosting our annual ceremony at the Big Shoal Cemetery at 1000 hrs. More information to follow.

We have an opportunity to participate in this year **Blues Fest** on June 3<sup>rd</sup> through the 5<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to volunteer to provide manual labor to set up and tear down before and after (3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>), or work during the music at a concession stand or the gate (3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>) please contact me, Douglas Millison, at 509-5247. Our Honor Guard will be opening the ceremony on the 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1800.

**Cadet Patrol** is happening from June 5<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> at the State Patrol training facility in Jefferson City. We had no applicants from our schools despite an active law enforcement class. Having an Americanism Committee with one member responsible for maintaining contact with each school's resource officers would probably help. (Another way for you to get involved folks) Redundant I know, but somebody needs to say it.

An area wide **Veterans Benefits Fair** will be held at Post 95 on June 11<sup>th</sup>, hours TBD. If you would like to Volunteer to help with this event (set up, tear down, man a table, etc.) please contact me, Douglas Millison, at 509-5247. There is also a need for an organizer to help make phone calls and schedule participants if you are ambitious, bored or both.

Our last **District Meeting** of the membership year is on June 12<sup>th</sup> at Wilson-Axline Post 216 in Bethany (1114 Barbara Street). Lunch is at noon with the meeting at 1300 hrs.

**Boys State** is held on MSU's in Warrensburg campus from June 19<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup>. Joe Farris and I are planning to visit for the day and see what goes on. If you want to see what it's all about contact me at [dwmillison7@gmail.com](mailto:dwmillison7@gmail.com) and I'll get you on the list.

**SPECIAL NOTE** – The Posts **Initiation and Induction ceremony potluck** will be on July 14<sup>th</sup> at 1830 and will be held at Jarchow-Schroeder Post 61, 5125 N Bellaire, Kansas City 64119(just outside Claycomo). Please hold the date!! This is how we welcome and recognize those who are new to the Legion or transferred in from Post 1000 or have passed your 5 year anniversary (5-10-15 and so on). We would love to get to meet more of you, and every 5 years wouldn't be too much would it?? Families are encouraged and more details will come in a separate flyer.

## CONGRATULATIONS

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;

<b>5 Years</b>	<b>10 Years</b>	<b>15 Years</b>	<b>20 Years</b>	<b>25 Years</b>	<b>30 Years</b>
Lasco, C. Vandenberg, E.	McCullough, E.		Rich, R.	Nickell, D.	

A certificate will be issued to you all at the Induction & Initiation Ceremony. 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

The Missouri Department of Mental Health is sponsoring an 8 hour training session called **Mental Health Its Aid**. It offers instruction to military personnel, veterans and their families on a simple proven combination of information and techniques for effective interventions when dealing with a veteran with mental illness or addictions. The training is May 4 from 0800 to 1730 and will be at the Adams Point Conference Center, 1400 NE Coronado Dr., Blue Springs. To register go to [www.goo.gl/m2TpCy](http://www.goo.gl/m2TpCy)

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.

April is **MST Awareness Month**. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) uses the term “military sexual trauma” or “MST” to refer to sexual assault or sexual harassment during military service and has services available to assist Veterans in their recovery from MST.

- Veterans can receive [free treatment](#) for mental and physical health conditions related to their experiences of MST at every VA medical facility. Veterans do not need to have documentation of their experiences and may be able to receive care even if they are not eligible for other VA services.
- Veterans can apply for [disability compensation](#) for any current difficulties that are related to their service, including difficulties related to MST.

### For more information

- For help with health care and treatment related to MST, please contact your [local VA medical center](#) and ask to speak to the MST Coordinator.
- For help with disability compensation related to MST, please contact an accredited Veterans Service Officer like our Ronnie McBee at the KC VAMC, 816-922-2883 or [Ronnie.mcbee@va.gov](mailto:Ronnie.mcbee@va.gov).

## 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](mailto: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](http://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. Unless you have an account ignore the annoying request to register and work around that (unless you wish to create an account of course). 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 posts!

## 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](mailto:yolegend2@aol.com), our website [www.al626mo.com](http://www.al626mo.com), or they can go online at [www.think-legion.org](http://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?**

That when the citizens of Kansas City started raising funds for the **Liberty Memorial** in October of 1919 the newly formed local American Legion Posts lined up to help in any way they could. When the city held the kick off parade for the 2 week fund drive to raise 2.5 Million dollars the Murray Davis Post alone pledged 400 members to march. Each Post assigned a member (or more) to assist the committee responsible for bringing this epic effort to fruition, going so far as to open offices downtown. And it payed off!!



If you haven't been to the Memorial that brings this tragic war to the forefront of the Nations consciousness "Lest The Ages Forget", you should get yourself down there. We are quickly arriving at out Centennial as well as that of the end of the great war and there is no better monument than now while you are thinking about it. There are discounts for seniors and card carrying veterans, but it is \$7 for everyone on Wednesdays.

## **TAPS**

It is my sad duty to report that the following Legionnaire has been transferred to Post Everlasting: Dale Caskey, a member of the Legion for 37 years, Navy Veteran from the Vietnam War. Dale was a Charter Member of this Post.

## **PARTING SHOTS**

### **The Honor Guard wants YOU!**

The Honor Guard is the "American Legion on Main Street." Nobody really thinks about the American Legion or any other Veteran organization for that matter until they see Veterans in uniform.

Our primary function is to bring Military Honors to a fallen fellow veteran. We currently have ten members on our roster and would ideally like to double that number. Please consider joining us. Military Honors should always be available to any honorably discharged or active duty soldier, sailor, airman, marine or coast guardsman when the family request our presence.

If you would like to join the Honor Guard, or have questions regarding the Honor Guard, please contact me at 816-536-2713 and I will be very happy to answer your questions.

Joe Farris  
Honor Guard Captain

---

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

Remember to visit [www.al626mo.com](http://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](mailto: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.