



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

1 Apr 2017
(Quarterly)

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*Post meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of each month in the Gladstone Community Center at 7:00 p.m.
All members are invited to attend.*

INTRO

So, Spring is here, not that Winter was very hard but it is nice to see the new blooms and such. We hope you can get out and enjoy some nice weather.

The April Membership Meeting is an important one if you care about how the Post is being run. That is the meeting where all nominations for Post Officer Positions and Executive Committee Members are made. No, not all Exec Cty slots are for Post Officers, we want at least two non-officers on the committee if any members are interested in having a voice on the budget and long term goals of the Post. It is a great way to see the inner workings of the Post and only takes an hour on one Saturday a month for the most part. Budget days can be a little longer. ALL officer positions can be run for by any member in good standing and a couple are being vacated voluntarily. The Commander and Jr Vice Commanders are stepping down so if anyone moves up their positions where they came from would be open also (SR Vice Commander for instance), and the Service Officer position is open.

So, the question is, how do you want to help? If you want to know the basics about a position the Post Officers Guide can be downloaded in pdf format from <https://www.legion.org/publications/160963/post-officer-guide-and-manual-ceremonies>.

Voting on the members who wish to take a position will be by the general membership at the May Membership Meeting and they will start their positions in July at the Induction & Initiation Ceremony.

Also in May the Historian will start compiling data for our annual Consolidated Post Report (CPR). This report is submitted to National and is used to let congress know what the organization does during a year. This is a requirement of our Congressional Charter. It is also a great way to put in one place all of what we and our members do, showing that what we do is definitely a worthwhile enterprise. So, all you volunteers out there, please think of how many hours you spend in the community from 1 June of last year to 31 May of this year and report it to Doug when he asks for it in June. He will need how many total hours for what project. If you are on the Honor Guard, Volunteer Team, Clay County Veterans Memorial or one of the other committee's those hours will be reported by the leaders of those groups.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

New to the Legion this quarter is Vietnam era veteran Russ Dubuc from the Army. Transferring in from Post 1000 are Air Force Veterans Howard Otis and Norman Dufresne of the Korean War era and James Tucker of the Vietnam War era; two Navy Veterans, Don Nunn of the Korean War era and Warren Hewitt of the Vietnam era; Marine Corps Veterans of the Vietnam era Stephen Jacobs and Larry Lein; and from the Army Larry Blowers and Lawrence Catanese from the Vietnam

era and Landon Kirk from the Korean War era. Transferring in from other Posts is Jane Jansenn, an Army Veteran of the Grenada/Lebanon era coming to us from Post 94 in Michigan.

Welcome All!

WHAT HAPPENED

Last quarters **District Meeting** at Post 216 in Bethany was cancelled due to the weather and was not rescheduled.

The **District Oratorical Contest** was held at Post 58 in Smithville on January 22nd instead of the 15th due to the weather. Renee Hill, the one contestant we had was from Oak Park High and participated in the Zone Oratorical in Concordia the next week.

As a side note, I was extremely disappointed that out of the entire District, only one Legionnaire who did not have a part to play in the contest showed up to support the student or OUR OWN PROGRAM! It is just sad to me that Legionnaires do not care more. And it's not just our Post, it was the entire District. Maybe the date change threw some off, maybe it wasn't well advertised, but I do not think that was generally the case. If every Post had an Oratorical person, and just that person showed up from the Posts, there would have been 27 spectators and not just me. – Doug

The **Zone Oratorical Contest** was held on 29 January in Concordia. It was very well attended by family and friends of the contestants and many Legionnaires including District Commanders, the Zone Commander and the Department/National Historian. It was wonderful listening to these students explain their thoughts on certain aspects of the Constitution and what it means to them. The student from Oak Park came in second, but she is a junior and intends to compete again next year. We all wish her the best of luck!

The VA ran out of warm winter coats in their **clothing closet for Veterans** so our VA&R Committee (Millison (Right), Rosales, Lantz) voted to go ahead and spend the \$200 that was set aside to participate in the Elks VA Coat Drive last fall that never happened. They also voted to spend up to \$100 from the projects portion of the VA&R fund but only had to spend less than \$10 of that thanks to the great deals available at the DAV's Red Racks store. Shopping there kept the money we spent in the Veteran community. Thanks to the hard work of Post Volunteers that go to Walmart and collect donations for poppies twice a year we could supply the VA Clothing Closet with 49 warm jackets and sweat shirts and 4 scarfs. Think about that next time we ask for volunteers!



A **Veterans Luncheon** was held on February 16th 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. Our Post sponsored a table of 8 for \$300. We had a sealed bid auction for our 8 seats and Cdr. Nelson (+1), Sr. Vice Millison (+1), Sgt. at Arms Sullivan, Finance Officer Mallams, Tara Robertson and Past Cdr. Box all donated money to attend, ponying up another \$367 for St Michael's. Joe Farris made a standalone donation bringing our total donation including the cost of the table to \$717. Then 3 slots opened at the last minute so two seats were given away to prospective members and new member Russ

Dubuc donated another \$50 bringing our Posts total to \$767, more than any other American Legion Post including Post 21. Thank you all for making that happen!

Department Spring Conference was at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, 415 W McCarty St, Jefferson City, MO 65101 February 17 through 19. SR Vice CDR Millison and SGT-At-Arms Sullivan attended, by the way, ANYBODY can attend these conferences and learn firsthand what is going on in YOUR Legion. However, not all meetings are open to the public or very interesting. Check with an officer who attends these events first.

Notes from the meetings-

The general session started with some fun had at the Department Commanders expense on the "raccoon incident". Apparently, there was a raccoon that had just gotten her life together after a bad marriage and drug problem. One night after getting four of her kids across the street she went back for the fifth when the Department minivan came barreling down the road out of nowhere. Even though the raccoon stood up on her haunches and begged for her life the commander mercilessly flattened her. No one in the commander's party who witnessed the act has been able to sleep since...



National Vice Commander for the Midwest region Douglas Boldt, a Vietnam era Navy Veteran from Nebraska visited and talked about the importance of bringing more veterans into the Legion as well as the hope of getting a flag protection amendment through the new administration as well as our own Resolution that prevents persons in Legion sponsored events from participating in those events if they don't show proper respect during the National Anthem.

Centennial Committee - Some of you may have heard about a possible Memorial Brick drive for the National WWI Memorial and Museum in conjunction with our Centennial. It was in the "let's see who is interested" phase, then it was sidelined by a parallel Department project. Well, now it is a go with Department support and I (Doug) am in charge. Yeah me... So some of you will be asked to step up and take on some of my Post activities next year. Tara has already stepped up to help with the Newsletter, what do YOU want to do??? Yes you, I'm looking right at you...c'mon now...

The raffle for the 1911 pistol will most likely be held at this coming convention in July. Most tickets are sold so we are closing it out over the next couple of months. The auction of the second pistol will happen immediately after the raffle drawing. The committee is also getting closer to the design for the Department Centennial shirt.

Membership - Out of 29 Posts in District 3 we are #2 with 91.05% and Post 260 in Stanberry is #1 at 91.67% as of 17 February. I know we are currently processing 6 transfers and I have a couple renewals on my desk and transfers to complete so it would be the other way around if they were in. Not that we would get anything from it, just good to know that we are on top of things! Let's go for 100% - who have YOU signed up this year???

The new Scholarships have been sent to the schools and the responsible committee will meet in May to award those scholarships. The new scholarships reflect an increase of \$250 to the award amount in most cases.

Newsletter contest and Toot our Horn award requirements are changing.
-----moving on...

Members of the Post interviewed students from Staley, Oak Park (Right) and St. Pious High Schools for this year's Boys State in Warrensburg. We will be sending five students. We also made donations to Unit 61 for their Auxiliary Girls State Program sending four girls from Oak Park.





On March 10th Commander Duncan, Sgt at Arms Sullivan, JA Lester and SR Vice Millison visited Oakhill Day School to give their history class a little Veteran Perspective (Left).

Ten members and one spouse (and Auxiliary member) attended the **Rotary Breakfast for Scholarships** on the 11th of March at 0800 (Right). We appreciate their support for this cause and the fact that we could show a



large group of people that the American Legion participates in the community. It would have been almost double the participation if people had brought their spouses... hint... hint

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 France.

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

This quarters **District Meeting** is at Post 95 on 9 Apr at 1400. (Our Lady of Mercy Country Home, 2115 Maturana Drive, Liberty, MO). A potluck meal follows the meeting. There is another at the end of the Quarter on June 11th at Post 132, 102 Pine ST, King City MO 64463.

Post Membership Meetings will be held at the Gladstone Community Center, 6901 N Holmes St., every 3rd Thursday of the month at 1900 (7PM). Apr 20, May 18, Jun 15. The Public Relations Chairman won another door prize at the latest Gladstone Chamber of Commerce event and it will be re-door prized out at our April meeting.

April

Post 95 Fundraiser –

Received this from Liberty:

Our Annual Spaghetti Dinner is Saturday, April 29, from 4:30 pm to 7 pm. at Our Lady of Mercy County Home 2115 Maturana Drive, Liberty, MO. \$7 for adults and \$4 for children under 12. We will have door prizes and raffle prizes. Dinner tickets and raffle prize tickets are now available. You can also purchase them at the door.

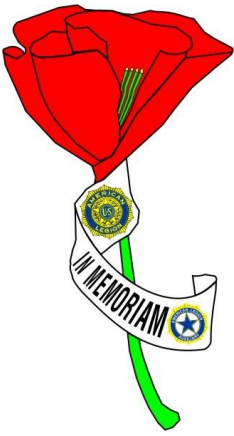
Thanks! – Judi Samborski, Post 95 Commander

Elks Breakfast for Scholarships will be the weekend of May 6-7, from 0700-1000 on both days. We are again calling for mass participation by Post members and their spouses on the 6th at 0800. This supports the Elks efforts in helping local kid's educations and increases our visibility as an organization also working to better the community. Please come out, wearing your uniform cap if you have one, or any other Legion/Veteran attire. If you cannot make that time or day, please go anyway whenever you can.

May

Peace Officers Memorial Day is May 15th.

We will be **Fluffing Poppies** at Heritage Village, 3000 NE 64th ST, at 1030 on Friday the 19th of May to prepare the poppies for donation day on the 27th. We get them stuffed into a small box and each one must be opened individually or they just look terrible. This is a great way to interact with a segment of the population that could use some new activity, and it works some finger dexterity issues as well, that's for sure! If you would like to participate contact Doug.



Poppy Donation Day will be held at Walmart on May 27th with an alternate date of the 28th from 0800 to 1600. We usually work two shifts of 4 hours each with 6 on a shift. Two working each set of doors with a third bundling the Poppy's and rotating with the others for breaks and handling any membership recruitment tasks that may present themselves. If you would like to participate contact Doug.

Our annual **Armed Forces Day Celebration** here in Gladstone will start with an early Memorial Day type wreath laying at Big Shoal Cemetery, 4125 NE 64th ST from 0900 to 1000. The construction area does not interfere with access from the west. Then the festivities begin at Linden Square, 606 NE 70th ST at 1100 and runs through 1300. The format has changed somewhat from last year. The city has a committee that works hard for several months trying to make it the best flowing event that it can be in order to make it enjoyable for everyone. Members of the City, Post 626 and the VFW Post sit on the committee.

This is where we celebrate the service of those who are in the Armed Forces today, a time of war, trial, and tribulation. Please come out and show your support by attending the celebration. It's a few hours out of your day but for those service men and women who will be able to attend, and the families of those who won't, your attendance could mean a great deal. I won't pretend to speak for them here, but how would you have felt knowing that you had the support of your local community, or not?

This year will include a military equipment display, the American Legion Band, Speeches, and presentations as well as fun activities for the kids like a bouncy house and costume contest. The flyers can be found on our website.

Memorial Day is Monday, the 29th of May.

School Awards at Antioch Middle School TBA

June

Gladstone's Bluesfest is slated for June 2-3. Our PR committee will be putting together volunteers to help with set up and tear down, the grill, concessions, and souvenir booth. Being part of the volunteer team for these types of events is a great way to show the community that the Legion is among them, working hard to make this a great community. The Chamber of Commerce was very appreciative of the way we helped with tear down on Sunday last year. It was probably the fastest that they ever got out of there. If you wish to participate contact Doug.



CONGRATULATIONS

Our Honor Guard Captain Joe Farris was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by the Commander at the January Membership Meeting for the work he has done since taking over the HG. It takes more time than you might think with getting and making phone calls, loading his vehicle with the gear for every drill and ceremony as well as tracking and rotating firearms through our Armorer Don Pind for routine maintenance and repair.

Well Deserved Captain Joe! Your Post appreciates all your hard work.

VETERAN AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

I am grateful to President Trump and to Members of Congress for entrusting me with the privilege of serving Veterans and the dedicated employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs as your Secretary. It is my highest professional honor.

Together, we'll ensure our Nation's obligation to provide care and benefits to those "who shall have borne the battle" and fulfill our institutional I-CARE Values: Integrity, Commitment, Advocacy, Respect, and Excellence.

That obligation and those values are sacred to me, first, as an American - a beneficiary of the service and sacrifices of Veterans and their families who defend our uniquely American freedoms and opportunities. They're also sacred to me because my father served the Nation as an Army psychiatrist, and both my grandfathers were Army Veterans. My paternal grandfather served as Chief Pharmacist at the VA hospital in Madison, Wisconsin, and as a young doctor, I trained in VA hospitals. So, serving the Nation and serving Veterans is a family tradition.

It was a privilege to serve as VA's Under Secretary for Health over the past year and a half. Now, I look forward to continuing our collective efforts across the Department and our country to deliver the care and services our Veterans need and deserve. Among many critical efforts already underway, we will continue building on significant progress increasing access for Veterans, preventing suicide, addressing unique needs of women Veterans, supporting Veterans' families and caregivers, continuing to drive down the disability backlog and Veteran homelessness, and pursuing necessary legislation to reform the outdated appeals process and for other critical legislative priorities.

With the support of the President, Congress, Veterans, their service organizations, and the American people, we - the dedicated employees of VA - will continue to fulfill President Lincoln's promise.

There is no nobler mission. There is no higher calling for any American. I am humbled and proud to serve with you.

David J. Shulkin, M.D.

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 or set yourself up for automatic renewal online at mylegion.org, and help us get even more active in the community than we are, spreading the word about our organization. If you would like literature and business cards to help recruit new members contact Doug Millison.

Did you know that when your membership is suspended on 1 February because you haven't renewed yet you are no longer eligible to receive your Legion Insurance Trust payout of \$1,000 to \$5,000 or a National Emergency Fund grant? Sign up for the automatic renewal program at Legion.org/renew or at least respond to the first renewal notice that goes out in July!! That would save our Membership team lots of time and the Post and National lots of money in printing and postage to try and get you to renew month after month after month...

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, Douglas Millison, at 816-509-5247 dwMillison7@gmail.com 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/purse/sock and know the eligibility requirements. We are losing ground in membership due to deaths, age, and interest 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.

If they don't want to join because they would want to be active and can't, let them know that their dues will be active for them! Their money pays our full-time service officers at Department level, Lobbyists at National level, the infrastructure that comes with being a National organization, and allows for overhead free charities run by the Legion where every dollar donated goes to the specified cause.

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

SOCIAL MEDIA

Our Facebook page www.facebook.com/Post626MO/ is a great place to stay informed on events happening at the VA, around Gladstone and throughout the Legion to include other Posts. If you use FB please Like and Follow our page.

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)

The VA has a Blog which is a great place to keep up to date on what's going on at the VA.

<http://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/>

DID YOU KNOW?

Appointment at VA? There's an App for that...

VA's new Veteran Appointment Request (VAR) App helps you schedule appointments with your VA care team from the convenience of your mobile phone, computer, tablet or any device with an internet connection.

To get the App go to www.mobile.va.gov/app/veteran-appointment-request

HONOR GUARD

POST 626 HONOR GUARD
"Doing Our Best 100% of the Time"
Joe Farris, Honor Guard Captain

In the first calendar quarter of the year, your Post Honor Guard has provided Military Funeral Honors for 15 funerals. This brings the total number of funerals we had the privilege of performing to 32 since our first on July 30, 2016. Thanks to the following Legionnaires for their faithful service, sometimes under bleak weather conditions, short call up notices and having to adjust to last minute changes by family members etc.: Nelson Duncan, Doug Millison, Dan Lester, Jerry Braton, Bill McDonald, and Kim Murch.



Q. What is said when the flag is presented?

A. On April 17, 2012, the Secretary of Defense directed the Dept. of Defense to start using the following standardized verbiage:

“On behalf of the President of the United States, (the United States Army, the United States Marine Corps, the United States Navy, the United States Air Force or the United States Coast Guard), and a grateful nation, please accept this flag as a symbol of our appreciation for your loved one's honorable and faithful service.” (Source: MO Army/Air National Guard)

TAPS

It is my sad duty to report that the following Legionnaires have been transferred to Post Everlasting:

Joshua Langton, an Army Veteran of the GWOT era who joined us just last year; Hugh Inman, an Army WWII Veteran and Charter Member of the Post with 29 years in the Legion; Joe Clark, one of only 5 Coast Guard Veterans in the Post and of the Vietnam era with 12 years in the Legion; and two Korean War era Veterans, William Moritz of the Marine Corps and Army Vet Norman Trigg who had 12 and 28 years in the Legion respectively.

MEMBER CONTRIBUTION

Travel Tips by Russ Dubuc

The most important travel tip that I can give you is to plan and book as early as possible. In some instances, a year is not too early. Why, because pricing depends upon occupancy. Everything starts at the lowest possible price to attract customers. As airplane seats are bought, cruise line cabins purchased, resort and hotel rooms sold, prices go up. Six to eight months in advance is the optimum time.

As a new member and a travel agent, I will be searching for military discounts that include veterans, retirees, and active duty personnel. As for Sandals Resort, the adult all-inclusive resort, you may have seen the TV adds, they offer a 10% military discount. What's even neater, once you've been to one resort, you receive another discount when you visit anyone of their other resorts.

Happy Travels.

(Russ is a new Post member and President of RD Travel Limited INC and has graciously offered to contribute free travel tips to our newsletter. Russ can be contacted at 816-454-3800 and is on our website under member owned businesses.)

PARTING SHOTS

Received this from Honor Flight headquarters;

WW II Veterans,

There is a group of retired military members who are organizing a trip to Normandy, France for the 75th anniversary of Operation OVERLORD. Veterans' costs for transportation and lodging will be covered, medical support provided as well as military escorts. I need your help to identify any US servicemen involved in combat operations from air, land or sea on 6 June 1944 that are interested in attending this momentous ceremony

Although the event is two and a half years away, I need your help to identify those veterans who both desire and are physically able to attend the event. It is critical to determining the scope of support required. Your help in locating and identifying these heroes who want to attend will be instrumental in maximum participation in what will be a monumental event!

Please contact OVERLORD 75 directly or send me contact information and I'll pass it to the organization POCs who will in turn contact back to the interested veterans.

Primary: john.carkin@overlord75.org; 951.712.7847

Alternate: info@overlord75.org; 951.323.7100

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

Please submit any announcements or items for the newsletter to Douglas Millison, Editor, at dwmillison7@gmail.com or 816-509-5247.