



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



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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

1 October 2019

Web Site Address
www.al626mo.com

Facebook Address
facebook.com/Post626MO

This newsletter is available to
view on our website

Upcoming Meetings

Meetings are held almost every
3rd Thursday in the Gladstone
Community Center, 6901 N
Holmes St., at 1900 Hrs. (7 PM)

17 October 2019
21 November 2019
19 December 2019 (Party-TBD)
(Exec's are Sat. prior at 1000)

Submit articles and pictures
for the Newsletter by email to
the Post (Subject: Newsletter)
two weeks prior to Quarterly
publishing. All submissions
subject to editing.

Commander Says:

Look at us GO!

I&I, Funerals, Elks Downs Syndrome breakfast, Presenting Colors for an event, Memorial Brick ceremony at The National WWI Museum & Memorial, hosting the National Commander for a dinner at the Elks Lodge and the 1st Annual Bridging the Gap Community Walk. Great job people, thank you.

Hosting the National Commander is a big deal and with the help of our volunteers and the Elks we pulled it off. I am not aware of us hosting the commander, or even one of his Vice Commanders since our renaming ceremony in 1988 when National Vice Commander Joe Frank came out from St. Louis. Frank went on to become National Commander several years later.

I'll take a moment to call out the Elks Lodge for their support in all of this. Donating the space, members volunteering their time to cook and set-up / clean-up, and just showing up to have a good meal and support the activity. Many thanks Elks. But also, Kim Murch and RD Mallams who spent a lot of time wrangling volunteers, coordinating with the Elks, handling issues and making decisions in my absence while I was performing District duties. Thanks guys! (Next batch of CDR/VCDR?)

But something else I noticed was all of the helpful spouses who were there beginning and end, setting up, manning the sign in table, taking pictures, and at the end a whirlwind of activity getting it shut down. And you know, it only takes 10 spouses to open an Auxiliary Unit. And you're doing all the same work anyway...

So, another great quarter, and I'm thanking everyone here. Yes, doing the work is great, but I'm also very thankful for those who come just to participate in the activity. I may say this too much, but it's worth repeating. It's very disappointing to do all of that work and your own people don't show up for the event. Very. So those that do also get a warm thankyou from me.

And it's full speed ahead into winter. Gladfest, Fall Conference, Veterans day and all of its activities, Oratorical Contest, Boys State / Girls State applications, Thanksgiving, Post Party and Christmas... Did I miss anything? Probably, I'll find it...

The meeting location is moving to the Elks Lodge starting in January. See upcoming events for address.

And again, everything is open to everyone! If you see somewhere that you would like to contribute let me know.

New Members

Welcome to:

NAME	BRANCH	FROM	ERA (Earliest eligibility)
Robert Quackenbush	Navy	Complicated	Vietnam
Gary Lint	Airforce	New	Legion Act
Kevin Jamison	Army	New	Vietnam
Ray Buckner	Army	MO Post 1000	Korea
Michael Konieczka	Airforce	New	Gulf War
John (Jack) O'Mara	Marines	New	Vietnam

Again, thank you all for joining us at Post 626! It's a great post, fiscally responsible, respectful, active in Veteran support, community participation and youth activities. Your support makes it so. Hooah!

Membership

An annual membership is from 1 January to 31 December of any given year and dues are now \$40. Renewal notices start going out the July prior. To keep from getting 6 renewal notices and to save the cost of printing 5 of those, please renew the first time you get one. This month. Watch for it and just get it done.

The next renewal notice comes out Oct 7th. If your renewal was not all the way to National before Sep 11th you will be getting a renewal notice. Once you receive your new membership card you have paid for that year regardless of some renewal notice sent in error. If in doubt, instead of paying twice contact the Adjutant.

If you have a MyLegion account (available at link below) you can renew with a credit card online. You could even set up a recurring payment option and have it come out automatically every year that you keep that card open. Easy Peasy, and just think, NO renewal notices!

https://www.members.legion.org/CGI-BIN/lansaweb?webapp=MYLINTRO+webtrn=WR_INTRO+ml=LANSAXHTML+part=tal+lang=ENG

Don't like that your membership dues have gone up at National and Department? Don't want that trend to continue? Join the membership committee and help recruit new members and retain our existing members. Or, just recruit one new member! Do SOMETHING to help reverse the trend.

Conference/Convention Notes

Commander

National Convention, 23 – 29 Aug 2019, Indianapolis IN.

- Membership
 - Just over 1.8M members
 - 37,500 in MO (39,900 in 2018, 53,200 in 2010, 61,200 in 2000)
 - The Legion Act changed the definition of Wartime Service, allowing us to have any veteran who has served one day of active federal service and has an honorable discharge (or is still serving) from 7 Dec 1941 until a cessation of hostilities
 - 1,200 new members nationally from the Legion Act in the first month
 - Membership requirements for the Auxiliary also changed
 - The word “wife” was changed to “spouse”, and men have already started joining the Auxiliary
- Legislative
 - Committee’s hard at work and getting things done
 - Centennial Commemorative Coins passed
 - Blue Water Navy Bill passed
 - Legion Act passed
 - Encourage all members to sign up for MyLegion and enroll in “Call to Action Bulletins”
 - Bulletins allow you to take action by sending a pre written (but changeable) email to all of your representatives based on your address (Link above)
- Speakers
 - Admiral Charles Ray, Vice Commandant, USCG
 - Thanked us for our immediate response to pay issues during the government shutdown
 - A resolution is in the works to re-route how the USCG is paid to avoid that issue again
 - Legion Donated \$1M and supported 3,100 CG families
 - Greg Gibbs, Past National Commander, Sons of the American Legion
 - Touted a successful year of supporting our programs and running their own
 - Sons have donated over \$10M to Legion charities to date
 - Donald Benton, Director, US Selective Service System
 - Asked us to remind people that there are repercussions to not registering and they become un-reversible at 26 years of age

Those are the highlights. A lot goes on at these things and I also try and take in as much training as I can and attend some other meetings. Next quarter you will get notes from Fall Conference. If there is anything of immediate importance, I will send it right away. Watch for emails!

I also attended a Veterans Affairs Voluntary Services (VAVS) Board Meeting in September. That report follows as an insert.

Gladfest

We will have a table set up to sell a limited number of items and talk membership to Veterans on the 4th and 5th. **We need two more volunteer** on the 5th (Sat) at the table. One at 1300 – 1600 **&** one 1600 – 1900. Please let us know if you can be there.

The parade starts at 1000 from 65th and N. Oak and go for approx. 1 mile, ending at the Security Bank parking lot on 70th and Locust. The route is different than the last few years. The trailer will be able to take you back to the start point but it will have to wait for the parade to pass.

Those riding the trailer should check in at Shady Lane & N. Oak and ask for Red Section B, Unit #4. We will be near the front, but not at the front. About 3 or 4 units back. We only have Murch, Thompson, Rosales, Duncan, Millison, Bowman there for now and **room for about 6 more**. Let the commander know if you want to come along. The baseball Team will be walking along passing out candy! Not to you, to the audience...

Veterans Day Activities

There will be Veterans in the Classroom at Antioch Middle School as well as a Veteran recognition Ceremony on Nov 8th. If you don't like to do one, do the other. A visit to the Missouri Veterans Home in Cameron is also in the works.

For our Poppy Donation Day, we will be fluffing the poppies at Linden Woods Village on the 15th of October at 1300. Please join us as we chat with the residents. Poppy Donation Day will be on the 9th of November at Walmart on 72nd and MO1 from 0900 to 1500. We need 3 more names for 09-12 and **5** more from 12-15. **Please let us know what slot we can sign you up for.**

Help Wanted

Oh, so many things...

Oratorical Contest looking for judges, tabulators, escorts, timekeepers over 4 events.

Boys State Selection Committee needs a chair, primarily to set up interviews and schedule members for those and application processing. No chair will mean we do application processing only.

It would be great to have a **Gladfest** Coordinator for next year, a recurring event.

Members wanted to help with **Activities**, we'll get your name to David.

Big Shoal Cemetery needs one person to make sure it gets decorated three times a year.

The **Volunteer Team** is looking for people willing to help out at community events like setting up and tearing down Bluesfest, Gladfest, and any other Volunteer need where you can wear a Legion shirt to advertise our presence in the community.

But probably the most important is our ability to grow membership. Our portion of the dues DID NOT cover our basic overhead costs last year. We need help from dedicated members on the **Membership Committee**. Calling, greeting, organizing, outreach, one task or all of the above.

Upcoming Events

- 4-6 Oct **Gladfest**, varies
Linden Square, 602 NE 70th St, Gladstone, MO 64118
Table – 4 Oct 1630 – 2200, 5 Oct 1000 – 2200
Parade Sat, 5 Oct 1000
- 13 Oct **District Meeting**, 1400 – 1600 (Potluck Dinner after meeting)
Post 237, 312 S. Clark St., Richmond MO., 64085
EVERYONE Invited
- 15 Oct **Poppy Fluffing**, 1300 – 1400
Linden Woods Village, 2901 NE 72nd St, Gladstone, MO 64119
- 16 Oct **Friday Fright Night**, 1800 – 2000
Oak Grove Park
- 16 Oct **Veteran Take Over**, 1700 – 2100
Sponsored by Veterans Code Initiative
2110 E Jackson Dr., Independence MO 64057
Flyer below
- 18 – 20 Oct **Fall Conference**
Capital Plaza Hotel, 415 W McCarty Jefferson City MO 65101
- 19 Oct **Celebration of Veterans**, 1000 – 1200
NKC Public Library
2251 Howell St, North Kansas City, MO 64116
Flyer in attachments (Members conducting flag folding demonstration)
- Nov – Feb **Boys and Girls State** application processing
- 2 Nov Post 95 **Chili Supper**, 1630 - 1900
Our Lady of Mercy Country Home, Liberty MO.
- 9 Nov **Poppy Donation Day**, 0900 – 1200 & 1200 - 1500
Walmart, 7207 N Hwy M1, Gladstone, MO 64119
- 30 Nov High School **Oratorical Certifications Due**
- 14 Dec **County Oratorical**, Time TBD
Antioch Middle School, 2100 NE 65th St. Gladstone MO. 64118
- 11 Jan **District Oratorical**, Post 58, 1300 - 1500
2607 NW Hwy 92E, Smithville MO. 64089
- 16 January **First Membership Meeting at the new location, 1900**
Elks Lodge 2376, at 7010 N Cherry St., Gladstone MO 64118
West (Lower) entrance
- 26 Jan **Zone Oratorical**, Post 58, Time TBD
2607 NW Hwy 92E, Smithville MO. 64089

EVERYONE is more than welcome at any of these events! Please contact the Commander or Adjutant for any additional details. Also watch our Facebook Page for changes and updates.

**THE VETERANS CODE INITIATIVE
PRESENTS**

"THE VETERAN TAKE OVER"

Join Us in Taking Over
Buffalo Wild Wings

**OCTOBER 16 2019
5PM-9PM**

**2110 E JACKSON DR,
INDEPENDENCE, MO 64057**

Come Spend a few hours meeting
new veterans, promoting your
business, and making new friends.

POC:Terry James
Website:Theveteranscode.org
Email:
TerryJames@theveteranscode.org

Officers and Committee Chairs, this Newsletter is an excellent way to reach the 200 or so members who do not attend meetings. I encourage you to use it!!

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