HALLIE WILLIAMS
Department Commander

We had a prodigious summer 2019. One of the highlights of the summer was a visit by our National Commander, James W. “Bill” Mathis, a junior at Cor Jesu Academy. His visit included 19 different Posts. It was a visit of encouragement for me and he made some valuable suggestions that I hope we can implement.

Another highlight was the passing of the “Legion Act Bill” It was signed by President Trump on July 30, 2019. This act will allow more than 6 million Honorially Discharged Veterans to join an American Legion Post. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage each Legionnaire to become a “Committee of One” in helping to increase our membership. Each of us knows how beneficial it is for Veterans to become a member of the American Legion. Please let your Veteran friends know they can sign up at http://www.legion.org/join. Membership is immediate. Inform them of the Sons of the American Legion Program (SAL) and other programs. Let them know of the many benefits of being a part of an American Legion Post.

It was an honor to attend the 86th Annual National Pilgrimage to the tomb of Abraham Lincoln. The Department of Missouri was well-attended.

DIGITAL PREFERENCE

I want to receive the Missouri Legioneer digitally, by e-mail or by link to web.

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Mail to Headquarters, PO Box 179
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HALLIE WILLIAMS
Department Commander of Missouri

A NOTE FROM THE DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT
Lowry Finley-Jackson

Missouri American Legion Popular Programs have been cancelled due to Coronavirus Concerns

Greetings Fellow Legioneers,

It is now the end of June and as we have been social distancing ourselves for the past 4 months, a lot has happened. Your headquarters staff like most of the country went into a work from home mode. The Department Executive Committee made some tough decisions in the interests of the health and welfare of the membership and youth program participants that would have typically taken place this spring and summer.

The DEC canceled the State Youth Government Day, that is held in April. The Highway Patrol Cadet Program, and the Legion Baseball 2020 season. At the time of this publication Missouri Boy State session that would have taken place June 13-20 was postponed with plans for an alternative date in late 2020. The DEC also canceled the Department Convention that was scheduled for July 8-12, 2020 in St Louis MO, which would have included department officer elections. The Department of Missouri DEC has decided to follow the National Headquarters recommendations to keep all officers in place for another year.

The American Legion National Headquarters has also canceled the National Oratorical Contest, Boys Nation, Junior Shooting Sports and National Spring Meetings.

The Department of Missouri DEC did not make these decisions lightly. The health and safety of our Missouri Legion family at the forefront during these serious, unprecedented times. Wishing each of you good health,

Lowry A. Finley-Jackson, Department Adjutant

Four High School Youth Win Legion’s Speech Scholarships

Oratorical Chairman - Duane Benton

Many high-school students will remember this year as the year they participated in the 86th National High School Oratorical Scholarship Program - just as many Legioneers remember participating as students. This year’s Missouri contests climaxed in four students competing at the State contest in Ashland on Sunday, February 23.

Each of the four was selected by their high school, then moved through the county, district, and Zone competitions. Each received medals – and thanks to some generous posts and districts, scholarship funds along the way. Each received a $13,000 renewable scholarship for attendance at Drury University.

February 23rd was the “dream come true” for the four contestants. At Post 152, in Ashland, they – accompanied by parents and greeted by Department officers – were the guests of honor at the VIP luncheon. Unknown to the contestants, seven highly recognized professionals were also having lunch, while being briefed about their duties as judges for the contest. Many Legioneers made the contest possible by serving as escorts, timekeepers, and tabulators.

Judge Duane Benton – Department Oratorical chair and a Legion favorite – presided, making opening comments. He then called for contestant number one. “Silence can be loud” was never truer. All heads turned as contestant number one entered the room and presented her oration. Then, every eye followed as each contestant was escorted to the stage and presented a prepared oration about some phase of the Constitution of the United States, emphasizing the duties and obligations of a citizen to the United States government. Then each student was given 3 to 5 minutes on a randomly assigned amendment to the United States Constitution.

Andrew Moore, a senior at Clark County R-1 High School in Kahoka, won the highly competitive Missouri State competition, with his oration titled “Our Constitution: A More Perfect Recipe.” Marissa was the 2019 Missouri champion, advancing to the National Semi-finals. Marissa has earned about $7,000 in scholarship from her Department championship, with her oration titled “Liberty or Death”. Her oration earned a $2,000 scholarship, a Gold Medal, and the first-place trophy. Andrew now advances to the national contest with $4 of other Department champions, where the top scholarships are $20,000, $17,000, and $15,000.

Receiving a Silver medal and a $1,800.00 scholarship for second place was Marissa Gertz, a junior at Cor Jesu Academy. Her oration was about “Constitutional Rights and Responsibilities.” A scholarship of $1,400.00 and a Bronze medal was presented to fourth place winner Elizabeth Cardoza, a senior at Central High School in Springfield. Her oration – addressing voting rights of veterans from American territories – was entitled “Who’s In?”

In her years of competing in the Legion’s program, Elizabeth has earned about $3,000 in scholarships.

The American Legion Oratorical Contest exists to develop deeper knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution among high school students. The contest meets the guidelines of the Missouri State High School Activities Association and appears in the Advisory List of Competitions for Speech and Debate, of the National Association of Secondary School Principals. The Legion contest is a partner with the National Speech and Debate Association, the honor society for high school students. This 85 year old program presents participants with an academic speaking challenge
Well, as you probably know by now, the Department Convention was cancelled. For that reason, there will not be a History Book contest this year. I do encourage you to furnish your book and present it at a Post meeting so the members can see what they’ve done in this past year. It’s also essential you record what went on during the Convention. Future Legumarians to look back on to see what happened and to serve as a resource should a similar event occur in the future.

I know you have the Department Convention as the starting point for your book. If you need help, I have a page design I can send you in WORD format that you can use to develop your own page for your book. Just drop me an e-mail and I will send it to you.

I’ve been told that at the Department’s Facebook page, please feel free to use any of them you want for your own book, but make sure you note you got it from the Missouri Department Historian.

The guidelines for doing a History Book are in the Post Officer’s Guide. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, I will be glad to help.

Please remember that I can’t be everywhere things happen so please send me photos of what goes on during special holidays and Legion events and activities over this coming year. It will help me greatly in doing the Department History Book.

Good luck in the next year, and remember you’re recording a truly historic time in our nation and our organization. Enjoy the experience.
It has been 10 months since our National Conven-
tion then. It was elected your Senior Vice Commander. I have been to In-
dianapolis 3 times; Springfield, Illi-
nois for the Legion Pilgrimage; & driven nearly 20,000 miles on Legion business. What a Robot Frost poem goes, “I have miles to go before I sleep.”

Your Department is in 43rd place in Missouri to promote the Amer-
ican Legion Act which made every veteran serving from the bombing of Pearl Harbor to the present date eligible for Legion membership. Our National Vice Commander is our own Ms. Root, Rich Heiger. Remember the phrase, “Win one for the Gipper?” I’m saying, “Win one for Rich!”

Every one of us has a friend or acquaintance who has not become a member of the American Legion, ask them to join! Do a little more. Show them what the Legion has done in getting the Veterans Affairs Medical Centers, VA hospitals & nursing homes, VA disability benefits for veterans; in other words, the American Legionnaires are providing youth programs like Boys State, Legion Fellowship, Youth 

Legionnaires are providing youth programs like Boys State, Legion Fellowship, Youth & active duty suicide are tragedies which can be prevented by your Post. I challenge each of you to get a new member to join your Post &

Applications for the 2020 Me-
dia and Communications awards were originally due on June 30, 2020 (Toot Our Homs) and July 3, 2020 (Annual Newslet-
ter Competition). In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Media and Communications Commis-

sion has extended the deadline for submission of both to September 10, 2020. Submissions should cover the period from August 1, 2019 to July 31, 2020. Details on each award are found on the Department Website, www.missouri.legionnaires.org, under the “Pro-
grams” tab, then under “Awards.” These awards recognize outstanding efforts and outstanding post level to spread the word about The American Legion. Submissions should be mailed or sent in electronic form to the Department Headquarters by September 10. Winners will be announced at the Fall Confer-
ence.

A good Newsletter is an ama-
zing tool to inform and recruit potential members. What does a Post need to do to remain RETAIN Post members, as well as a vehicle to let potential mem-
bers know what your Post is doing and to RECRUIT new members? Many Posts relied on their News-
letter to maintain contact with members during the COVID-19 crisis. The Department wants to recognize those efforts.

What does a Post need to do to have an effective Public Relations program? The Department Committee developed the “TOOT OUR HORNS” program. This is an encouraging Post in Missouri to promote the Amer-
ican Legion. A Post which meets the requirement of the Toot Our Homs award will have an effec-
tive public relations program without even knowing it. The more items a Post completes be-
yond the minimum for the award, the better your Post and the more effective that Post’s media presence. There are nine catego-
ries in the public relations portion of the award, a Post must com-
plete at least four.

1. Publish a Post newsletter. A good newsletter is a vital tool for retaining and recruiting mem-
bers.
2. At least 2 post members at-
tend the Fall Conference or the Spring District Meeting. Again, if Posts want to know first-hand what is happening at Department level, and if Posts wanted Post members influencing the Department of Missouri is to attend and partici-

pate in the Convention.
3. At least 4 post members at-
tend the Fall Conference or the Spring District Meeting. Again, if Posts want to know first-hand what is happening, then they need to attend the Fall Conference or Department meetings, then share what they learn with the leaders and mem-
bers of their Post.
4. Post participation in a com-
munity event. Wave the Flag! Posts are the public face of the American Legion. Let me tell you that the people from the national staff, Bridget Robinson, Andrea Watson, Reggie Mathis along with National Con-
vention Committee members John Alcona and Mike Walton, definitely know your staff are the best interest of the American Legion Family front and foremost. I can safely state that of those attending these site visits learned a great deal from the national staff and committee members. Hopefully the information that was so well-served the Department of Missouri’s American Legion in future conventions and conventions.

We will get to give you an update, as you know now that everything has been cancelled for national and Missouri except Boys State, which they have a possible date in November. National will keep all officers and members up to date as to when the convention will be complete at least four:

1. Conduct monthly meetings. A Post which meets regularly is much more likely to be success-
ful.
2. One or more members of the Post is a District Officer. Par-
ticipate outside the Post!
3. One or more members of the Post is a District Commissioner
4. Host a District Meeting. It is often hard to get members to attend a District Meeting when your Post hosts the meeting, the District comes to you.

5. Submit the Consoli-
dated Post Report for the current year. You have to do this anyway.
6. Submit the Certi-
fication of Post Officer List to the de-
partment within 30 days of the National Convention. Again, your Post has to do this anyway.

We also met with Paul Dillard, the leading candidate for National Commander on Monday and presented him with the Missouri con-
tribution to his campaign. He told me to thank everyone who donated to his campaign.
I do have some good news about the Bladensburg, Maryland deci-
sion on protecting a Veteran memorial which passed by a 7 to 2 vote in the Senate. This decision was not about one case it was about protecting the religious freedom of those wishing to honor and me-

morialize veterans. In addition, the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals used this earlier victory to reverse a previous decision that called for the removal of a World War II era cross at a park in Pensacola Florida. The Bayview cross in Florida will remain.

I would like to talk about the 2025 national convention. The Great State of Missouri has two cities bidding for the 2025 National Conven-
tion, Kansas City and Saint Louis along with Tampa Bay, Florida and Salt Lake City, Utah. Adj. Lowry, National Vice Commander Rich Heiger, George Scarborough and I attended the Kansas City site visit with members of The American Legion’s National Convention Com-
mittee. Over the course of three days Kansas City did an outstanding job of presenting their city and what they could offer The American Legion, the following week we attended a site visit with members of the National Convention Committee in Saint Louis. Adj. Lowery and National Vice Commander Rich Heiger, Betty Gonzales and I were there, and Saint Louis also did an outstanding job in promoting their city. Let me tell you that the people from the national staff, Bridget Robinson, Andrea Watson, Reggie Mathis along with National Con-
vention Committee members John Alcona and Mike Walton, definitely know your staff are the best interest of the American Legion Family front and foremost. I can safely state that of those attending these site visits learned a great deal from the national staff and committee members. Hopefully the information that was so well-served the Department of Missouri’s American Legion in future conventions and conventions.

If you have any questions, please give me a call at 660-351-2184. For God and Country

Kenny Goth

KENTEN GOTH
National Executive Committeeman

Legionnaires,

Good day my Legion Family. We just returned from the Washington Convention, which was held March 8th thru the 11th. Those attending were Tracy Vawter, Dennis Voetje, Rich Heiger, Carole Bell, John Alcona, Charley and wife Jill Goodson, Kathy and Cathie Goth, Hallic Williams, Tom Goodin, Harley “Larry” Sweeney. We challenged the hall and talk with our senators and represent-
atives, few of us got to talk with our senators, represent-
atives or most of us talked with their legislative person due to everyone in meetings.

We talked about our legislative agenda. Toxic exposures and burn pits, Health care for women veterans, PTSD, Covid-19 pandemic efforts, Reafirm commitment to our allies. Fully fund a superior na-
tional defense. Reafirm commitment to our allies.

Protect the GI Bill, Help end veteran homelessness, Support for Gold Star Families and last but certainly not least protecting the American Flag. Let us hope some of these priorities gets passed.

FUTURE CONVENTIONS AND CONFERENCES

NATIONAL CONVENTION

2021 – 7/17 to 7/24
2022 – 8/26 to 9/1
2023 – 8/25 to 8/31
2024 – 8/16 to 8/20
2025 – 8/22 to 8/28
DEPARTMENT CONVENTIONS

2021 – 7/10 to 7/14
2022 – 7/7 to 7/10
2023 – 7/5 to 7/10
2024 – 7/3 to 7/8
2025 – 7/2 to 7/6
TOLL CONFERENCE

2021 – 10/24 to 10/28
2022 – 10/10 to 10/14
2023 – 10/9 to 10/13
2024 – 10/8 to 10/12
2025 – 10/6 to 10/10
Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO
Expo Center Plaza Hotel, St. Louis, MO
Expo Center Plaza Hotel, Kansas City, MO
Expo Center Plaza Hotel, Springfield, MO
Expo Center Plaza Hotel, Columbia, MO

Pastoral Address

John R. Buckwalter – Public Relations Chairman

Your Horn!

The bottom line is that if you use the “Toot Our Horns” checklist as an out-
line for your Post’s public relations program, you will have a good start. And if you do the majority of the tasks in each category, when you are qualified to Toot Your Horn!

GARY GRIGSBY
Sr. Vice Commander

Missouri Legionnaire
Greetings Riders!

Winter is once again, for the most part, behind us. Thank goodness for that. I must say though, that we had a fair amount of decent riding days thrown in between the blowing snow and freezing rain days. May has passed, and we are experiencing April showers. As usual in Missouri, you just never know it’s an adventure. Speaking of adventure, our Ride Captain, Bob Norris and the Riders he has chosen to assist him, have been busy finalizing the planning for this year’s Missouri Legacy Ride. Please support him if he calls on your Post.

This year’s theme is “Gold Star Tribute Ride.” Registration for the Missouri Legacy Ride was prepared by Assistant Director Brian Sapp and began at our spring meeting at Post 152 on 22 February. The details of the Ride have been published to the MO ALR Legacy Ride Facebook page. Registration forms are available. Our Department Secretary, Sherrie Norris has the T-Shirt order forms ready for you to submit. We had a great turnout for our spring meeting. Thanks to all who attended. I’d like to thank Brian and Christine Sapp for handling all of the preparations for the meeting to be held at their Post. The members present discussed the many exciting group rides, chapter events, and even a possible ride being planned for the upcoming better weather, or “riding season.” Please share your events with other Chapters. We are also in the early planning stages of a competitive event between the Riders of Missouri and the Riders of Kansas. More to follow on that.

While at our spring meeting, I had the honor of announcing the 2020 Rider of the Year: Chapter 152 Director, Brian “Java” Sapp. Congratulations to “Java.”

Department Convention being cancelled, we will have to make adjustments to how business will be conducted this year. The Executive Committee is considering whether to cancel our summer meeting or hold it at an alternative venue. This of course depends on the status of the many operating restrictions, county by county, that are currently in place. We are currently planning to have the discussion at the next Legacy Ride.

This will, of course, have an effect on the way Chapters conduct the business of electing officers. To keep it simple, and avoid some confusion, if your Post is open for business, and your Post will be holding elections, the installation of the new officers will take place on 1 October, then by all means, hold your elections. Submit your new 2020-21 Officer Rosters as you normally would. If you are not holding elections, your Post is closed, or reopened and your Post will not hold elections, and Installations, by 1 October, feel free to resubmit your 2019-20 Officer Roster, and retain your current officers for the next year. Please change the date reflecting the 2020-21 election cycle, prior to submitting an Officer Roster.

Even numbered District Directors: If your Districts Chapters are back in operation at their Post, feel free to query them for nominations and elect another Director, or re-certify yourselves with the approval of your Chapters.

Any questions, concerns, or if you just want to share your sick sense of humor (thanks Bob and Ted), feel free, as always, to contact me by email or phone any time.

JANICE HARTLEY
Grand Chef de Gare
Grand Chapter of Missouri
Greetings Legionnaires and Voitures:
I sincerely hope and pray that you and your families are in good health.

During my year as Grand Chef de Gare, I have attended several installations of both the Voiture Locales as well as homecomings of the Missouri Legion Commander and the Legion Auxiliary Detachment. Thank you for the invitations. I also attended a couple of Christmas parties, where it seemed all had a great time – at one they even had a visit from the man in the red suit.

I would like to take a moment to thank everyone for the cards, flowers, gifts that I received when my husband passed away last October and the help from many of you moving me from my old house in St Peters to my new home in Old Monroe shortly after the funeral.

As a veteran with almost three decades of service, covering every era from Vietnam to the Gulf Wars, I am proud of how far the American Legion and this Grand has come in recognizing women veterans. It is with honor that I serve as your first female Grand Chef de Gare. My term of office is fast approaching and I’m looking forward to attending the Legion Department Fall Conference and introducing my successor to everyone.

Both of our organizations are in a fiscal year that will be coming to a close in just a few more weeks so let’s look forward to completing membership. We all have been working on retaining our current members and recruiting new ones. The Legion now has new membership eligibility. So, go out and ask – all they can say is “no”. The same applies to the 40&8 – ask, ask, ask! Thanks for all you do for Grande du Missouri, the Department of Missouri American Legion, SAL, and the Auxiliary.

God bless you and God bless America. Pray for all our servicemen and women, keep them safe.

Janice Hartley
Grand Chef de Gare
Grand Chapter of Missouri

Thank you to the Department and Detachment of Missouri, Sons of the American Legion, and the Department of Missouri Department of the American Legion Auxiliary for inviting the Detachment of Missouri to participate in the 86th Annual American Legion Lincoln Pilgrimage to the Tomb of President Abraham Lincoln. It is an honor and privilege to participate in the wreath laying ceremony with Missouri’s Auxiliary President Marsha Mooney and Commander Hallie Williams.

With that said moving on Membership is everyones responsibility, thank you to everyone who has met goal. As we are winding down on this year’s obligations and goals remember we have a goal of $1.00 per member for Child Welfare Foundation. Please consider a donation. Department convention is July 10th thru 12th the Sons of the American Legion will meet at 9am for general meeting DEC will meet at 8am, hope to see a big crowd especially since this is in my back yard essentially. I will also take this opportunity to thank Commandant Hallie Williams, President Marsha Mooney and Riders Director Don Gerspach.

Sincerely,
Justin Marsden
Commander Sons of the American Legion

The year of 2020 has been quite a roller coaster ride, it began on a high with our Department Convention and then the National Convention, then just as we were all busy spreading the word about The American Legion Family COVID happened.

Although our traveling and meetings were postponed, we have still tried to do our mission helping our Veterans, Military, and their families. It has been a pleasure this year working with Commander Hallie and the Missouri Legion Family. We attended the Lincoln Pilgrimage and the Sikeston Cotton Carnival together, I also attended the Eisenhower Pilgrimage in Abilene, KS.

I am looking forward to completing my term as Department President in July 2021 and continuing working with The American Legion Family of Missouri. We will have a lot of hard work this next year winning back our members and recruiting new ones. Our job is essential to the well being of our Veterans, Military, and their families. We will need to have our Children and Youth programs restarted after schools being closed this last year. It will be a major undertaking but with all of us working together I know that Missouri can get it done.
2020 BASEBALL REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS AND WORLD SERIES CANCELED

With the unpredictability of the current worldwide COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic and the manner in which the virus spreads, its duration and the resulting public health regulations and restrictions across the nation, The American Legion is facing an improbable situation. The Americanism Commission, in consultation with National Commander James William "Bill" Oxford, announces the cancellation of all 2020 American Legion Baseball National Tournaments, inclusive of all 2020 Regional Tournaments and The American Legion World Series. The awarding of The American Legion Baseball scholarships and the Samsung American Legion Scholarships for scholarships and the Samsung Legion World Series. The awarding of The Americanism Commission, Richard Anderson noted ‘These times are unparalleled. And while it is distressing to think of all those youth across the nation who are disappointed to learn of the cancellation of American Legion programs this year, it would be a much greater tragedy if even one of those youth were to fall ill during a program. The Americanism Commission feels this is the right thing to do.’

Thanks to all for your continued support.
Gary Stone
Department of Missouri Baseball Chairman
National American Legion College

The 2020 National American Legion College Application can be found on the Department Website

Class dates: November 1 - November 6, 2020
Where: Indianapolis, Indiana

Applications are due to the Department Headquarters on or before July 15, 2020

Spring Department Executive Committee Meeting

The first Spring Department Executive Committee Meeting was held on February 22, 2020 at Harry B. Pryor American Legion Post 152 in Ashland, MO.

Kansas City Flag Day Recognition

Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas presented Flag Day Resolutions to Post 626 Commander Douglas Millison and to the Missouri Boy State Staff on June 17, 2020.