



2ND DISTRICT
SECOND TO NONE

www.alohio2.com

May 1, 2017

I know I put this in the April newsletter but we need to make sure the word gets out to all Posts.

To receive your new 2018 membership cards you need to:

- 1 Send in the consolidated Post report (CPR).
- 2 Send in the Certification of Post Offices form for the upcoming year.
- 3 You do not need to send in the extra 2017 cards.

IMPORTANT! The 2nd District Summer Convention is being held at the Van Wert Post 178 Sunday May 21st starting at 9:00 am. Elections will be held for District officers, and setting our delegates and alternates for Department and National Conventions. Please plan on attending.

1st Vice Commander Kent Long has informed me that we have a candidate for the position of 2nd District 2nd Vice Commander.

Many Posts still have membership credits at Department. This is money to you to be used for paying memberships. Please go to www.ohiolegion.com click on department membership, then scroll down to district membership, find the 2nd district and click on that. This will show the Post totals and any credit or deficit for your post. As of April 26th the 2nd District was still in 13th place!

Buckeye Boys State orientations coming up for our District:

First one, May 10th 7:30 pm at the New Bremen Post.

Final one, May 17th 7:30 pm at the St Marys Post.

Make sure your boys make it to one of these.

Summer convention July 7-9, please make your housing arraignments as soon as you can.

See you Sunday May 21st in Van Wert.

For God and country,

Ken Schutz

2nd District Commander

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2ND DISTRICT SECOND TO NONE

1st Vice newsletter for May

This is the meeting minutes from the last Department Membership meeting for 2016 – 2017 membership year.

DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING VIDEO CONFERENCE

Department First Vice-Commander Stanley Pleasant called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

First Vice-Commander Pleasant opened the meeting speaking on the current membership standings and congratulating District 10 with being the only quota District in the Department thus far and having qualified for the “Race-To-The-Top.” He then spoke on National’s May target date and the 100% target and how we will not meet the target but we need to keep working the membership program. Commander Pleasant then allowed District 1st Vice Commander William Keller to speak on the upcoming training being held in District 9. Vice Commander Keller stated that he was excited for the training being put on by Department Membership Director Graven and Membership Assistant White. He is encouraged by the response he has received and is expected relatively large attendance. Vice Commander Keller spoke on the need to stick to the basics of mylegion and social media as those attending the class are not well-versed in either and jumping into more advanced training will only discourage them. He has found that the aspect that those he has spoken with are curious about is the rumored upcoming ability to pay membership online through myLegion.org.

Director Graven then spoke on the National Commander’s Recruitment pins. One pin is awarded to any submitted member who has signed up one member. A second pin is available for current members who have signed up three members or more. Director Graven then reiterated the requirements approved at the most recent Department Executive Committee concerning the shipment of 2018 membership cards. He stated that the 2017 blank and unpaid membership cards will not be required and are not wanted at Department Headquarters. As a replacement requirement, the annual Post Consolidated

Report must be completed and turned in to receive the next year's membership cards.

Department Vice Commander Pleasant also added that even if the reports aren't submitted by the deadline that the report will still need completed even if submitted late to receive the cards.

Adjutant Simons then addressed the progress of the mylegion pay online switch and stated that no further movement has been made but that National has said they are on schedule to launch for the 2018 year. He stated that Posts will need to be set up with online banking capabilities and that the switch will be highly encouraged but not required. He informed that National expects to have the Department set up as being able to pay membership through myLegion in July. This would allow Department to pay the membership of those Posts who fail to make the switch on mylegion mitigating the need to ever mail membership cards to national Headquarters.

Adjutant Simons then presented drafted sample probationary letters for Posts that fall under the minimum requirement of 25 members. He stated that this would just be enforcing a policy from the past. The first letter would be from the Department Adjutant directly to the Post informing them that they do not qualify for any delegates at Department or District conventions and that they will be placed on a one-year probation at which point they must meet the 25 member minimum or face possible suspension/revocation of charter. The second letter would be to the District leadership informing them of recommended actions and their rights as District leadership pertaining to these Posts.

Commander Chapman then included the exact sections of the National and Department Constitution and By-Laws providing the authority to take necessary action on substandard Posts.

Director Graven then asked every District to contact Department Headquarters within the month to go over the 2017 District Activities Funds to correct any possible overspending after discovering that several counties had applied their caps to the District accounts and they were in danger of owing money.

Department Commander then congratulated District 7 Vice Commander Jim Volgares on reaching 3rd place on the membership report representing a major turn-around in the District from many previous years of neglect and welcomed him back post-op for a recent health condition.

Commander Chapman then spoke on the surprising and disheartening revelation that has since come forward concerning the new policy requiring the completion or the required but not accountable Consolidated Post Report Form and discussions he has had, and that Director Graven has had, with several Posts saying that they have no idea what the Consolidated Post Report is and that they have never completed one.

Vice Commander Pleasant then called for any new or unfinished business and with none being presented the meeting was adjourned at 7:31pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Graven, Membership Director

So you can see the culture of how the American Legion is changing its way dealing with membership and the need to be in contact with the District, Department, and National for local Post through the internet is growingly important to the future of membership in the American Legion. I have to tell you that there were some 1st vice's in the Department membership committee that grumbled at first only to say now that they didn't realize the information they were missing not having connection. Snail mail is still available but the emphasis is getting connected only because time and cost is lost through snail mail. For 2017 – 2018 membership year I am looking for at least an email for all the committee heads in the District. Hope to see you at the Convention, Van Wert Post 178, May 21, 2017.

For God, Country, and the 2nd District Department of Ohio,

Kent Long,
1st Vice Commander