

"2nd District is Brown Jug Winner"

Good Ole #49

Our district was the only one to win the Brown Jug this year. Hats off to all Post and sincere thanks for supporting the 2nd District's initiative to win the Brown Jug. You all are Second2None!

News From National

Legion urges passage of S. 2193. On Dec. 7, The American Legion and several other veterans service organizations sent a letter to U.S. Senate leadership, urging passage of S. 2193, the Caring for Our Veterans Act of 2017. The intention is to remove confusion over when and how veterans can access community care doctors, and ensure VA remains the coordinator of care for veterans regardless if care is delivered at VA medical facilities or through community care providers.

Don't let America forget "December 7, 1941 – a date which will live in infamy." That famous proclamation from President Franklin D. Roosevelt still stands true today. But as 76th anniversary events take place this week in Pearl Harbor, there is a noticeable shift from the large-scale commemoration activities that occurred a year ago for the 75th remembrance services. This year, fewer media outlets will be in attendance. Fewer guests will be in Hawaii to honor those who defended democracy amid the surprise attack by the Japanese on that Sunday morning so long ago. And, sadly, there will be even fewer Pearl Harbor survivors than in the past. The number of survivors will continue to dwindle every year. But we cannot – we must not – let their heroism fade from the memories of Americans. It is our duty as patriotic citizens to educate future generations on what the Greatest Generation did, starting with repelling the attack on Pearl Harbor. After all, it's embedded in the DNA of our organization, "To

preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars."

Continue hosting Legion Family dinners with your community. For nearly 100 years, The American Legion has served veterans, their families, communities, states and the nation. And this past Veterans Day, National Commander Denise H. Rohan called on the Legion Family nationwide to serve up the biggest and best Veterans Day dinner in history by inviting the whole community to join them at the dinner table. Although Nov. 11 has passed, Legion Family dinners can still be held in conjunction with special events. These events include the Legion's upcoming birthday (March 15), your post's birthday, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving, Christmas and more. A Legion Family Dinner Kit is available at www.legion.org/nalpa/resources to help posts, units and squadrons promote their Legion Family dinners.

News From Department

Mid-Winter is Coming! You are invited to attend the 2018 Mid-Winter Conference! The 2018 Mid-Winter Conference will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel North, 6500 Doubletree Avenue, Columbus, on the weekend of January 19th-21st. The Legion, SAL, and Auxiliary are all together and will have meetings in the same hotel. The conference is focused on training and education of The American Legion and its' programs. Everyone is welcome to attend the conference and any of the meetings/classes offered. Last years' Mid-Winter brought favorable reviews with the training and material presented. This training format was new to the conference and would require monetary support from the membership to continue. The registration fee of \$7 is the result of the training format being requested. New also to Mid-Winter will be the welcome tent with snacks on Friday, Jan 19. We hope to see you there.

Housing

Crown Plaza Columbus North

6500 Doubletree Ave

Columbus, Ohio 43229

By Phone (614) 885-1885 or (800) 996-8916

Select Option #2

Please call for reservations and refer to the AML. Reservation Cut-Off Date – Wednesday, December 20, 2017

News from the District

The District Bowling Tournament was held on Nov 18 at the Fiesta Lanes in Celina Ohio. A District thanks to Gary Cisco for the use of the bowling alley. We would also like to extend our gratefulness to Ron and Becky Fetters and District 2nd Vice Walter “Butch” Meharg for organizing the event. Be sure to thank Gary, Ron, and Becky for putting on a great tournament. We hope to see more participants next year on Oct 20, 2018 for the District Bowling Tournament at the Fiesta Lanes in Celina. The winners of the tournament were; 1st place, Celina Sons #1 (VanGundy Team, 3219); 2nd place, Celina Sons #2 (Cisco Team, 3174); and 3rd place, Celina Legion (Terny Team, 2941). A 50/50 raffle was conducted generating \$260 for the Gift For Yanks program.

District A&G Testing was given in the District schools Nov 6 through Nov 10. The 2nd District winners are the following.

Boys

12th Grade, Cale Brackman, New Bremen Post 241. 11th Grade, Joe Sallas, Ft Loramie Post 355. 10th Grade, Nobel Zhou, Sidney Post 217.

Girls

12th Grade, Kaylin Bledsoe, Van Wert Post 178. 11th Grade, Alexandra Baughman, Sidney Post 217. 10th Grade, Abigail Bonifas, Delphos Post 268.

District Commander Kent Longs’ Homecoming was held on Dec 2 at the Van Wert Post 178 with 60 guests present. We would like to give thanks

to John McJunkin from Post 323 for being the MC on the night. He made it a wonderful family affair with daughter Nicole giving a few words while his son Nathan watched via the internet from Florida. Those present were given a glimpse of Kents’ dark side resulting from expert investigative work by Retired Allen County Deputy and Allen County Commander John Eccard from Post 191. It is assured the he will not be able to show myself the same after that night. A heart-felt thanks to all that came and the many gifts received. He is very grateful to be in the presence of such wonderful people of the 2nd District.

Membership in the District is going very well. As of this posting we are at 81.8% and still in first place in the Department. The membership team would like to extend their thanks to all the Post of the district for contributing to this success. We have some post that have worked their membership diligently and have achieved quota. Those Post are Ohio City Post 346, Waynesfield Post 395, Jackson Center Post 493, and West Mansfield Post 603. All four of these Posts will receive their quota award at Mid-Winter along with any other Post achieving quota prior to Jan 19, 2018. Keep the momentum going. Anyone that has been tracking membership has seen the playing field for achieving the Brown Jug has changed. The membership team had to dissect the new format in order to meet the strategic turn-ins. The overwhelming support of the Posts acquiring an understanding of the format has led to our success in the Department District standings. Membership online is the direction of the future. 25% of our Post in the District is processing their membership online. These Posts are willing to assist any Adjutant in getting online membership set up. The commander and 1st Vice can help find a Post near you.

District Upcoming Events

Feb 4, 2018 – Four Chaplain Service at Saint Marys Post 323.

Feb 3, 4, and 5 – Department Commander Membership Roundup. Regional National Vice Commander Bill Flanagan will be participating.

Feb is District Oratorical month. Virgil Arling, Minster Post 387 is the contact for this event. 419-628-2675

Spring Conference is March 10 at Sidney Post 217, 9 A.M. to Noon.

District Euchre Tournament at Anna Post 446 March 24.

District MyLegion training at St Marys Post 323, Saturday March 31, 1 PM.

2017 is coming to an end and in good fashion. Completing our goal of becoming Brown Jug winners and 1st in membership within the Department of Ohio is a fashionable way to end the year. We must continue the drive for membership all the way through May. Dan, Walter and I have a secondary goal of being 100% by our Summer Convention in May. Look for training to be conducted in the District on the principles learned at Mid-Winter. Until then the District Officers and the Committee Chairs wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

A Christmas Prayer

Eternal God, this joyful day is radiant with the brilliance of your one true light. May that light illuminate my heart and shine in my words and deeds. May the hope, the peace, the joy, and the love represented by the birth in Bethlehem fill my life and become part of all that I say and do. May I share the divine life of your son Jesus Christ, even as he humbled himself to share my humanity. Bless me and the feast that You have provided for me, let me be thankful for the true gift of Christmas, your Son.

Amen.



For God and country,

