



## **2<sup>nd</sup> District May Newsletter, 7/9/18**

### **“Second to None”**

Greetings from Past Commander Kent Long,

Well the Department Convention is over and with it begins a new Legion year. Welcome Dan Metzger as your new Commander for 2018 – 2019. Dan is an Army Vietnam veteran and a Purple Heart recipient. He is from New Knoxville Post 444. Your District 1<sup>st</sup> Vice is Walter “Butch” Meharg an Army Desert Storm veteran from St Marys Post 323. Please give them your support. The district is still in need of a 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice and we need the membership’s help in finding one. Feel free to call me or any other past or present District Officer with any questions about this position and any other position in the District. Contact names, phone, and emails are in the District Bluebook found on the 2<sup>nd</sup> District webpage at [www.alohio2.com](http://www.alohio2.com). Click on contact information then the bluebook directory link. Please help us find this vital link to the District.

Let’s talk about a vital link from the District to the Post. That vital link is communication. The first order of business the Department Commander conducted in the DEC on July 1 was finding out how many District Commanders had email access. There were 3 and they were instructed to find someone in their district as contact. His argument was that news travels too fast today between National, Department, and Districts to rely on the US mail. I have been communicating this action for the past 2 years. Department has the working forms on the Department webpage so the US mail is no longer needed. I am asking that each Post Commander forward their email to Commander Metzger to insure this communication link continues. You can find his email in the link above. Assign a contact person for the post in the event the Commander doesn’t have email. The mail will still come from Department but only in the form of past minutes and results of past events. Please make this a priority.

Let’s talk District conferences shall we. I have been involved with the district now for 6 years and continue seeing the same Post present at these conferences. The last

2 years we have moved 2 of the 4 meetings to Saturday to accommodate those going to church only to see the same faces. I am not certain that the District is aware that our Chaplain is a Minister and happy to announce that he received the Chaplain of the Year award from the Department of Ohio. He schedules his time to attend our conferences. I have to believe that a bad experience was witnessed and that Sunday really isn't the issue for not attending the conferences. I hope the Post will give the district another chance if this is the situation. Legionnaires have given up their family time to travel to Department to sit in a meeting and bring back information for our membership. Hey, I get it. That's their time not mine. This person believes enough in the programs to go for us and represent us for this information. The least we can do is respect them for their service to us. I am asking for the Post to at least send 1 or 2 representatives to the conferences. Really not much to ask if you think about it.

I feel that finally we are getting a Department that will work for the membership. It has been a crazy 2 years at Department and I hope we don't go through that nightmare any too soon. Suzette Heller has been doing a great job filling the Adjutant position. Mike Kennedy, Past 1<sup>st</sup> District Commander, has been hired as Department Programs Chairman. Those at the convention witnessed Mike's professionalisms. Mike has walked in the shoes of every position from the post through the districts and in time will add the workings of the department to his arsenal of knowledge. Mike will work hard for the membership in the Department of Ohio.

Those members close to the department is aware that they are without a finance officer once again. I am not certain of the outcome; however, it was presented to the DEC that perhaps this position will not be filled. Commander Metzger will have more on this in future newsletters. Again Department asked that the Post be patient with the credit checks. Next delivery of credit checks are to be in September according to Adjutant Heller. In the last paragraph I stated that Mike Kennedy will work hard for the Post. Let me share with you his first order of business that will be welcoming to the Post. Mike rescinded the proclamation that Post will not receive monies in excess of boys heading to Boys State. So run your Boys State campaign as normal resting assured that excess monies will be returned to the Post.

In closing I would like to thank the officers and program chairs for a wonderful year. It has been fun and the best part of the last 3 years is meeting you the membership. Thanks for all the support you have given the District. We can't sit on our laurels and expect the veterans to come to us. We are the last culture of

veterans to walk in the door to sign up. The young veterans are not coming in. A change in climate at both the Post and the District must happen in order to sustain membership. I don't have the answer; however, my father as told me: "Possibilities are endless to an open mind."

For God and Country,

Kent Long, Past Commander  
2<sup>nd</sup> District, "Second to None"  
Department of Ohio

## **MEMBERSHIP – MEMBERSHIP – MEMBERSHIP**

We are not yet done with membership for the year. We are not at quota. There are 7 posts in the district that are at quota or higher. Let's all work to reach the quota goal for each post and for the district. The district needs 409 more members as of June 13. We are at 93.22%.

Remind your members that to stay continual in their membership, they must renew by June 30. We need to recruit new members whenever possible. Remember that membership is never ending. When year ends, the next one begins.

Dan,  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander