



2nd District February Newsletter, 1/23/18

“Second to None”

Greetings from the Commander,

Wow! It was an exciting weekend at the Mid-Winter Conference in Columbus, OH. 2nd District was officially awarded the coveted Moonshine Jug for being the only District over 80% of renewed membership by November 15, 2017. The Jug was presented by the National Commander, Denise Rohan and Department Commander, Stanley Pleasant. I can't express my sincere gratitude enough to the district Posts for your support in achieving this award. This presentation marked the 49th time 2nd District has earned this prestige's award. Look for a celebration party in April.

Well as of 1/22/18 the 2nd District is at 86.56% and again we are well above the Department goals set for February which is 85%. Our next goal is to go into the Department Convention holding the green lantern signifying 1st place in the Department for membership. I know we as a district are capable of this goal. You have just proven it can be done. Beside the Jug award, 4 Posts were also identified for achieving quota. They are Harvey Lewis Post 346, Ohio City; Wayne Post 395, Waynesfield; Sherer Post 493, Jackson Center; and West Mansfield Post 603, West Mansfield. These posts will be receiving money from Department and the District for their membership efforts. Please have a member from the post be present at the 3/10/18 District Conference in Sidney at Post 217 to be recognized and receive your Certificate of Achievement and money awards.

The National Commander, Denise Rohan, proved to those present at the banquet why she was selected as Commander of the largest veteran organization in the world. Her project of “Family First” resonated with all present. We should be reaching out to the families of the deployed veterans in our communities and not wait for them to make contact with us. Her experience has shown that the helping hand of the local post is the blessing that they have been praying for. She has seen in here travels what a wonderful embrace when a post knocks on the door and offers assistance. I am asking each of the post in 2nd District to search their community for families that have a spouse deployed and reach out to them to offer any kind of assistance. This compassion follows the values that we cite in the Preamble to the American Legion Constitution, “to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state, and nation;” and “to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.”

National Commander Rohan and her husband Mike are also instructors at the American Legion University with many of the program's contents written by them. It was inspiring listening to her and Mike's philosophy on proven attraction of members in my conversation with them. One big NO NO they expressed is, NEVER invite a new member to a Post meeting. They aren't ready to be part of the Post's business. It is best to adapt them slowly to the working of the Post through an event. We owe it to the new member to find their strengths and weaknesses so they can become a positive asset. They have found on occasions in their trails, throwing a new member into an uncomfortable position only led to have them run away and not seen again. It is wrong to feel a member is obligated to be a functional member of the Post at the start of their membership – even if they feel eager. Bring them in slowly.

They also let me in on their philosophy for how to attract membership. How is the Post perceived in the community? What form of media do you use to bring awareness to the Post contribution to the community? They use the sponsorship of several blood drives throughout the year as number 1 because of the free publicity that comes from being a sponsor. Secondly, they make the businesses aware of all the Post contributions to the community, both monetary and events. Downtown businesses were not aware of all the contributions the American Legion gives to their community. They found funding for their programs come from unique agencies that have budgeted funds not knowing where to contribute – funeral homes in their community like to support local organizations. Learn all you can about the American Legion and the contributions you give to the community. All the contributions should be made public each month so the membership can be proud to express their association. “You wouldn't want to buy a car from a salesperson that didn't know anything about the car?” “How can you sell the Legion not knowing anything nationally and locally?” These are questions from Commander and Mike Rohan to me and now I propose them to you. The new pamphlet “Why Should I Belong” is full of the information from National leaving the post to disseminate locally. Perhaps select sections from the pamphlet and your monthly contributions to the community and add in the post newsletter to start educating the members of the post is a start. The outcome will be expanding your sales base to attract members. Another program that is viewed yearly is the 888 holding post. Commander Rohan embraced them instead of pushing them away. Remember “Family First” and her reaching out. She sees the 888s' as orphans looking for a home as she considers them homeless. Their post works diligently to find a home for each member. Let's view the 888s' as Orphans. Commander Rohan has given us a gift and it is up to us in how we use this philosophy.

Next I want to share where the Department is finally bringing closure to post credit issue. The calculations are complete and checks will be sent around the 2nd week of February. A special DEC meeting is scheduled at Department for January 27 at 10:00 AM to explain the process. This is an open meeting with only members from the DEC and Finance being covered for travel expense. I will post the minutes from this meeting once they are published. Keep in mind that there may be post in the district with the calculations showing payment to department as well. Anyways, closure has come to the post credits' issue.

The Past Department Commanders Roundup is scheduled for Saturday, February 3, 2018. Be sure to view the upcoming events section below for more information on this event.

For God, Country, and the American Legion.

Kent Long, Commander,
2nd District, Second to None
Department of Ohio

Upcoming events in the District:

Feb 3 has been scheduled for the **Past Department Commanders Membership Roundup**. I have chosen the following post as stops for the roundup. Sidney, Celina, Van Wert, Lima, Wapakoneta, and Bellefontaine. Past Department Commander Glenn Hickman will be making the stops escorted by 2nd District 1st Vice Dan Metzger. Dan will be meeting Glenn at Sidney Post 217 at 9:00 AM. I am asking each post in the counties to get any cards for turn-ins to these selected posts. I am requesting those posts processing online to email 1st Vice Dan at dmetzger@nktelco.net with the count you have processed from 1/22/18 to 2/3/18. Also any cards mailed if delivery to the stops are not practical. No post in Hardin County was selected as a stop because they are exceptionally working membership by my measure.

The approximate times for stops are: Sidney Post 217, 9:00 AM; Celina Post 210, 9:45-10:15; Van Wert Post 178, 10:45-11:15; Lima Post 96, 12:00-12:30; Wapak Post 330, 13:45-14:15; Bellefontaine Post 173, 15:15 to 15:30. Allow for a +/- 30 minutes for arrival at these stops.

Feb 4 is the District 4 Chaplain Service at St Mary's Post 323 starting at 1:30. This is an exceptional service directed by our District Chaplain Jim Fast.

Next District Conference is on 3/10/18, at Sidney Post 217. Please mark your calendar and send a representative from your Post to bring back informative news to your post. A few of your comrades has given up their time to gather this information. Please make it a point of interest to be presence so this presented information is being brought back locally to better inform the veterans in your community.

3/17/18 is the date for the District Euchre Tournament at Anna Post 446 at 2 PM.

3/31/18 is the date for MyLegion training being held at St Mary's Post 323. This training will be for those needing an understanding of the program and its' use as a tool to make life easier for the Post Adjutants. Please come to the training with your access user name and password.

This can be achieved by going to the website MyLegion.org and print off the authorization form. You can also get access by calling national.

*Gifts for Yanks – I would like to have Post send monies to Paul Maurer, 06247 State Route 219, New Knoxville, OH 45871. Paul will list the Post for recognition and report the District's contribution to Department.

We are a half way through the Legion year and the District is in need of following positions in 2018 – 2019: 2nd Vice, Finance Officer, Sgt-At-Arms Please comb your Post for a prospect for these rewarding positions.

Please get your events to John McJunkin so he can get them posted on the website. This is free advertisement to the Post. Hope to see you at the events and especially at the next conference.

Great Job!! Please keep up the great effort turning in memberships. Two weeks ago, 12 posts sent in renewals for 60 plus memberships. Last week 11 posts recorded 102 renewals. The district needs to be 85% by February 14. We have already achieved this goal. The National Commanders round-up is scheduled for Saturday, February 3 starting at Sidney Post at 9:00am. They will then travel to Celina, Van Wert, Lima, Wapakoneta and Bellefontaine. If you are not able to get the membership cards to one of these turn-in locations, please send them in or go online to get them processed in a matter of 2 to 3 days. You can contact me at 419-753-2029 and we will make arrangements to get them picked up. Now let's get 90% plus.

The Legion Family can use your help along with the Veteran, sign up their wives for the Auxiliary and sons (of all ages) for the S.A.L. Commander Kent and I would very much love to be the first district to achieve 100% membership for all 3 organizations by April 1 in the Department. I know we can do it. Let's get it done.

Thanks to all for the great effort of every member.

Dan,
1st Vice Commander