



The American Legion
Department of Kansas
E-NEWSLETTER
1314 SW Topeka Blvd
Topeka, KS, 66612-1886



THE Voice for Today's Veterans and Military

Department Commander
R.C. "Chuck" Shoemaker

October 2019

Department Adjutant
Jimmie L. Foster

Notes from the Department Commander

Fellow Kansas Legionnaires:

There sure is an abundance of activities occurring throughout the Kansas American Legion Family organization, to wit,

- District Homecomings scheduled on 3 of the 4 weekends in October.
- 100th Birthday Celebrations at posts chartered in the year the Legion began and those observing the 100 years of the American Legion's existence.
- Fund raising events designed to help our Veterans.
- Local and community affairs in which we participate.
- Dinners and dances, Texas Hold-ems, Bingo.
- American Legion Rider Poker Runs to raise money for various programs.
- Post meetings, membership drives, life celebrations, Honor Guard tasks.

to name a few.

In reviewing the above, a couple of thoughts come to mind.

To accomplish the goals of the above, people are needed. And, of course, in order to be successful, it will take participation by the membership. If you are already involved in any of the activities, thank you for your service! If you have been reluctant to get involved, don't be. You WILL be welcomed.

Additionally, many, if not all the activities are posted on Facebook, the social media of choice. Not everyone is a fan, and there are members that are not connected through the internet. Remember the old forms of communication when necessary; phone calls, US mail, newsletters, word of mouth, notices in the posts. They still can be effective methods of communication.

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I spoke of the new National Commander's goal of 100% CPR reporting by Departments this year in the last E-Newsletter. Just a reminder the ability exists to enter data at any time, thereby avoiding any last-minute information gathering. Instructions for this procedure are available on mylegion.org.

The Eisenhower Pilgrimage will take place in Abilene October 12th, this year at 9:30 a.m. Since 1982 we have honored our Kansan Son in a ceremony attended by Legionnaires and the public. Afterward, make plans to attend the Legion Vice Commander, Auxiliary Vice President, and the SAL Vice Commander Homecoming, immediately following the ceremony, at the Greyhound Museum across from the Eisenhower Library. A flyer is included in this email.

Thank you for all you do for the Kansas American Legion and Veterans!

For God and Country
Chuck Shoemaker
Department Commander
The American Legion, Department of Kansas
chuckshoemaker@sbcglobal.net

Notes from the Department Vice-Commander and Membership Chairman

The Department Membership Team has been working diligently on this year's Department membership plan. The plan is designed to assist posts in the recruiting and retention of members; we hope to take a little of the work load off your shoulders. I will be holding a membership meeting for all District Officers following the Homecoming Luncheon in Abilene on October 12th (approximately 2pm). After this luncheon the District officers will be in contact with each post so we can start putting this plan into action. I am asking the Posts to please make every effort to welcome the District representatives and allow ample time for them to explain the first stage of the membership plan.

Over the last few years myself and the other Legionnaires on the membership team have made many contacts across the nation, many of which are in Departments that are currently very successful on the membership front. We asked questions, took notes and did our research. The plan we have developed was built from this newly gained knowledge. We are not recreating the wheel; we are making some adjustments for it to be a smoother ride. I apologize for being vague, but the team and I feel personal contact needs to be made with each post to ensure adequate understanding of the plan.

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This year the Eisenhower Pilgrimage will start an hour early, it is at 9:30 am on October 12th at the Eisenhower museum in Abilene, there is a flyer with details of the event attached to this newsletter. When we complete our memorial service honoring President Eisenhower, we will be asked to turn our attention to the dedication of the new museum building. Afterwards those planning on attending the Vice-Commanders/Vice-President luncheon will go across the street to the Greyhound Hall of Fame, a flyer for the luncheon and how to RSVP is also attached. All District Officers or representatives with a post assigned to them will then be encouraged to stay for the above-mentioned membership meeting. The membership team and I are very excited to finally be kicking off the new plan!

For God and Country,

Marri Krupco
Department Vice-Commander
The American Legion, Department of Kansas
mkrupco@gmail.com

Newsletter Event Submission

The current Department E-Mail Newsletter is sent on the first of each month, to those who have registered email addresses at National, will continue as before. Beginning in the month of September and continuing each month thereafter, a second mass email will be distributed on the 15th of each month.

In the month that a Sunflower edition is generated, the 15th emailing will include that months' edition. In months that **do not** include the Sunflower, the emailing will include announcements or flyers of future events planned by posts or districts.

As there is a limit on the number of announcements or flyers that can be sent, each 15th emailing will contain no more than 10- 8"X 11" notifications. Those posts or districts desiring to have events included in the mailing must submit the information by the 10th of each month. Events should be emailed to Carl Jowers at kansaslegionnewsletter@gmail.com.

Newsletter Registration

Please forward this newsletter to other Legion Family members who may not receive it. Encourage them to sign up for the Kansas Legion newsletters and the Sunflower at

[Kansas eNewsletter Subscribe.](#)

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Department Adjutant's Newsletter October 2019

EISENHOWER PILGRIMAGE will be held in Abilene on October 12. The Presidential Wreath laying Ceremony will be at 9:30am followed immediately by the American Legion and Auxiliary Program. Everyone is encouraged to attend and every Post should be represented. Immediately after the Eisenhower Ceremony, Department Vice Commander Marri Krupco will celebrate her Homecoming with a Luncheon at the Greyhound Hall of Fame. More information and coupons for ordering a rose is enclosed with the Adjutants Letter. For the Homecoming send \$15.00 per person to Marri Krupco, 510 E. Main St., Blue Mound, KS 66010.

VETERANS DAY IS NOVEMBER 11. Start making plans for your Post to observe this day honoring the living and the deceased who have served this nation in uniform. The Legion should take the lead in seeing that Veterans Day is observed in every community. Veterans Day presents a golden opportunity to collect renewal members' dues, reinstate those who have dropped out and sign up new members.

ORATORICAL CONTEST: Department Oratorical Chairman Mike Oppy requests that every Post appoint an Oratorical Chairman. A Post Chairman is important to assist the District Chairman, to visit the local schools to encourage students to enter the local contest. Contest information will be mailed to schools and Posts in the next few weeks. This is the largest scholarship program available from The American Legion with over \$138,000 in scholarships awarded including \$18,000 to the National Winner.

POST EVENTS CALENDAR: Any Kansas Post can now advertise their upcoming Post activities on the Department's web page. Go to [http://www.ksamlegion.org/page/post events](http://www.ksamlegion.org/page/post%20events) to view the post events calendar. From there, you can create an account by clicking on the "sign up" link. Only one account per Post will be accepted. Once the application is approved, you can use your login information to update the calendar with your Post's activities. Please send an email to Jeff at headquarters@ksamlegion.org to speed up the approval process.

AMERICAN LEGION CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION: The Foundation is continuing the incentive program for each post, unit or squadron donating at least one dollar for each member during the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation's award year.

OLDER WORKERS: The nominating form for The American Legion's Employer of the Year for Hiring Older Workers is enclosed. Nominations are due on January 2, 2020; a Kansas firm will win this prestigious state award. Headquarters relies on you to submit nominations, the winner may as well be from your community; perhaps your employer or firm. Additional copies of this nomination form are available upon request.

MAKE HALLOWEEN A FUN AND SAFE NIGHT. Enclosed is a brochure with suggestions for the community to make Halloween "A Fun and Safe Night."

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NATIONAL COMMANDER'S INCENTIVE PIN: During the 2019-2020 membership year National Commander Bill Oxford will award his National Commander pin to any Legion Family member who obtains 3 new members into the American Legion. A new member is defined as any eligible person joining for the 2020 membership year who was not a member of The American Legion during the 2019 membership year. Each member listed must be eligible for membership in The American Legion. Please forward names of S.A.L. members or Auxiliary members to your detachment or unit for use in their respective incentive programs. To maintain the integrity of the National Commander's pin incentive program, only one pin will be awarded per individual. The certification form for this program may be submitted at any time after August 31, 2019. Upon receipt, national membership staff will confirm the names and mail the pin directly to the person who earned it. Commander Oxford's pin incentive program will end June 30, 2020, or when supplies are exhausted. A certification form is enclosed with this Adjutants Letter. Duplicate as necessary. Also enclosed is information on another award. The POST EXCELLENCE AWARD for Posts that show excellence in four areas, membership, youth activities, community service and support to currently serving troops or veterans. Information on the criteria of this award is enclosed and must be submitted to your District Commander for certification.

CONGRATULATIONS: To Kiowa, St. Francis and Rexford for making QUOTA. (As of September 25.)

DISTRICT STANDINGS AS OF SEPTEMBER 26 2019: District 11, 2,360 - 57.97%; District 1, 2,637 - 57.69%; District IX, 691 - 57.25%; District VI, 933 - 56.82%; District VII, 1,058 - 56.07%; District IV, 1,927 - 54.24%; District V, 1,820 - 52.27%; District VIII, 563 - 51.32 % and District III, 1,201 - 46.14%. Department Headquarters Post 58 (included in Dept. total) is 445. Total membership is 13,635. Membership last year this date was 14,306. We are BEHIND 671 members.

IMPORTANT

NEXT MONTH'S ADJUTANTS LETTER WILL CONTAIN MEMBERSHIP AWARD REPORTING FORMS FOR GOLD AND SILVER STARS, CENTURY CLUB.

IN ORDER TO AVOID RECEIVING THE NEXT RENEWAL NOTICE ALL PAID MEMBERS' CARDS MUST BE IN THIS OFFICE BY OCTOBER 8, 2019.

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Upcoming Events

September 29 – October 2, 2019. National Commanders Tour of Eastern Kansas. Starts at Mulvane Post.

October 5, 2019

Ø Fourth District Homecoming @ Manhattan Post, Starts at 2 pm. Email randyfrank@csema.com for more information.

October 5, 2019

Ø Sixth District Homecoming @ Ellsworth Post, Starts at 4 pm. Email slim_1960@hotmail.com for more information.

October 12, 2019

Ø Eisenhower Pilgrimage, Abilene
Ø Department Homecoming for Department Vice-Commander, Department Auxiliary Vice-President and Department SAL Vice-Commander event will be at the Greyhound Hall-of-Fame following the Eisenhower Pilgrimage. See below flyer for more details

October 19, 2019

Ø Ninth District Homecoming @ Grainfield Manhattan Post, Starts at 10 am. Email c.ray.palmer@hotmail.com for more information.

October 19, 2019

Ø First District Homecoming @ Topeka Post 400. Starts at 5 pm. Email clintv@aol.com for more information.

October 26, 2019

Ø Seventh District Homecoming @ Hutchinson Post, Starts at 11 am. Email jeremyjehart@yahoo.com for more information.

October 26, 2019

Ø Fifth District Homecoming @ Wichita Post 4, Starts at 4 pm. Email bpage@aaa-alliedgroup.com for more information.

October 26, 2019

Ø Second District Homecoming @ Gardner Post, Starts at 6 pm. Email jeffabarber@hotmail.com for more information.

November 23, 2019. Big Red One Turkey Run, Fort Riley

December 7, 2019. Department Christmas Party, Hutchinson

December 13-14, 2019. Operation North Pole, Fort Riley

February 1-2, 2020. Mid-winter Forum, Fort Scott Post 25. Email carljowers@gmail.com for more information.

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National Commander's Tour of Kansas

Post	#	Date	Stop Type	Time In	Time Out
Mulvane	136	29-Sep	Dinner	7:00 PM	9:00 PM
El Dorado	81	30-Sep	Breakfast	7:30 AM	9:00 AM
Winfield	10	30-Sep	Lunch	11:45 AM	1:15 PM
Independence	139	30-Sep	Dinner	6:00 PM	7:30 PM
Coffeyville	20	1-Oct	Breakfast	7:30 AM	9:00 AM
Pittsburg	64	1-Oct	Reception	10:30 AM	11:30 AM
Moran	385	1-Oct	Lunch	12:45 PM	2:15 PM
Lebo	323	2-Oct	Breakfast	7:30 AM	9:00 AM
Topeka	1	2-Oct	Reception	10:00 AM	11:00 AM
Leavenworth	23	2-Oct	Lunch	12:15 PM	1:45 PM
Gardner	19	2-Oct	Dinner	6:00 PM	7:30 PM

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**DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS
INVITES YOU TO THE
38th ANNUAL EISENHOWER PILGRIMAGE
200 SE 4th St., Abilene, KS 67410
Saturday, October 12, 2019 9:30 am**

Enclosed is payment for a rose to be placed during the Eisenhower Memorial Service.

Purchaser_____

Post/Unit (Jr. or Sr.)/Squadron/Chapter/District/Other (Please be Specific)

No. of Roses (\$10 each) _____ District Wreath (\$20) _____ Amount Enclosed_____

Name(s) of Person Placing the Rose _____

-or-

Check here if you cannot attend and would like us to appoint an appropriate individual to place your rose_____.

Immediately following our Memorial Service will be the dedication of the new museum.

Department Vice-Commanders/Vice-President Homecoming will be at the Greyhound Hall-of-Fame following the dedication. See Event Flyer for more information or to RSVP.

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PRE-PILGRIMAGE RECEPTION & DINNER

Chapman Post #240

Friday, October 11 6:00 pm

*****Seating limited, RSVP required*****

No. of Dinner Reservations _____ Amount Enclosed_____ (\$15 per person)

**MAIL TO: KANSAS AMERICAN LEGION EISENHOWER PILGRIMAGE 1314 SW
Topeka Blvd., Topeka, KS 66612**

ABSOLUTE DEADLINE TO ORDER A ROSE OR RSVP IS OCTOBER 1, 2019

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