

Sunflower Legionnaire

The American Legion -



Today's Voice for Today's Veterans & Military

VOL LXXIII NO. 3

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

January, February, March 2020

MID WINTER FORUM JANUARY 31 - FEBRUARY 2

The Mid-Winter Forum offers every member, especially Post leaders and chairmen, the opportunity to learn more about The American Legion, its programs and the direction each program is expected to take if there are any changes being considered, including changes directed by National Headquarters. In addition, the Forum provides information about how and why The American Legion functions in the manner we do as an organization.

This year's Forum scheduled for January 31 and February 1-2 will be hosted by Fort Scott Post 25 with Events located at The River Room located at 3 W. Oak Street in Fort Scott. Friday, 31 January, will include a Department Executive Committee meeting at 3 pm. Registration will begin on Friday between 4 to 8 pm at the Boiler Room Brew Haus located at 2 S. National Avenue. A sponsored reception with Karaoke hosted by Post # 248 Commander Kerry Kriley will follow.

On Saturday, February 1, Registration will continue starting at 7:30 am with donuts, juice and coffee. The formal activities begin with a joint Legion/Auxiliary/S.A.L. meeting at The River Room located at 3 W Oak Street at 8 am. After the joint opening the Legion, Auxiliary and the S.A.L. will meet in different rooms in The River Room facility. Leading Candidate for National Commander Paul Dillard from the Department of Texas will address and present information to those in attendance. The American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion currently do NOT have any National Guests scheduled to be in attendance. Lunch will be Sandwiches with all the trimmings and soup from Marsha's Deli at a price of \$8.00. Concluding the day's meetings, the Post will serve a Filet Mignon Dinner from the Fort Scott Elks

for a price of \$25.00 from 5:30 to 7 P.M. After dinner entertainment will be provided by Fort Scott's own Next of Kin Band. For early Registration PLEASE mail payments to: Carl Jowers, 725 Fairway Drive, Fort Scott, Kansas 66701. For Tickets and any additional information, PLEASE contact Carl Jowers at 620-215-1688 or Myra Jowers at 620-215-1286.

Sunday's schedule will begin at 7:00 to 8:00 am with a Continental Breakfast, Orange Juice and Coffee. Registration will open up at 7:30 am. At 8:00 am Commander Shoemaker will call the Forum back to order before turning the podium over to Department Chaplain Glenn Patterson who will conduct a Four Chaplains Memorial Service at the Post. There will be a wrap up of reports followed by the Department Sweepstakes drawing.

The Agenda for the Forum is listed within this publication, it isn't too early to reserve your room at one of the many hotels in the Fort Scott Area. The contracted Hotel is: Sleep Inn and Suites Hotel located at 302 E. Wall Street, Telephone number: 620-223-2555, rate is \$99.00. Other Hotels are the Rodeway Inn located at 101 State Street, Telephone number: 620- 223-0100 and the Travel Lodge located at 2505 US Highway 69, Telephone number: 620-955-4283. Be sure to tell them you are a part of the Kansas American Legion block in order to receive the reduced rates per room per night.

Failure to ask for The American Legion rate may result in your paying a higher room rate. It's always better to reserve a room you may have to cancel later than waiting until the last minute to make reservations only to find out the hotel is sold out.

Plan to attend and ask a fellow Legionnaire to attend with you. Hope to see you there!

BOYS STATE

Each year The Kansas American Legion Boys State provides hundreds of high school students a hands-on opportunity to actively participate in establishing a representative form of government from the ground up. Prior to arriving on the Kansas State University campus which serves as the site of the program, each student (known as Staters) is assigned to either the Nationalist or Federalist "political party" based upon their responses to a questionnaire.

Immediately after arriving in Manhattan and checking-in on Sunday afternoon Staters form city and county governments. The next two days are spent drafting local ordinances, and carrying out the operation of cities and counties; at the same time campaigns for state offices are launched and within days Staters elect officials to their new state; Boys State.

Hands-on activities include writing a state constitution, drafting and passing a budget, establishing a Supreme Court, and enacting laws compatible with today's society and needs. How decisions of the masses affect Staters as individuals is demonstrated by assigning each an occupation and a corresponding computerized bank account: within minutes of passing laws, license fees, taxes etc. Staters can view the "real-life" impact on themselves.

Instruction is provided by Legionnaires, at least one member of the Kansas Highway Patrol, and former Staters who are well versed in the function of representative government. Several elected officials annually visit and address Staters throughout the week. Naturally time is allotted for fun activities during the week such as a "tal-

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CADET LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY

On May 31 up to 50 young Kansans will gather for the 49th annual Cadet Law Enforcement Academy session at the Highway Patrol Training Center in Salina. Sponsored by The American Legion, Legion Auxiliary and KS Highway Patrol, the Academy provides high school students an opportunity to learn methods employed to enforce city, county, state, and federal statutes with the goal of instilling a better appreciation for those who enforce those laws.

The Academy is not a recruitment program for law enforcement. Students attending past sessions have had a wide variety of backgrounds, interests, and career plans. However many students considering careers in law enforcement, as attorneys, and government service have attended as a means to solidify their plans to pursue such careers.

Open to both male and females, all applicants must be high school junior, or senior, or equivalent, with at least a C+ average scholastically and be physically capable of fully participating in all activities during the week long program. Instruction includes firearms and firing range safety, personal defense, law enforcement history

and techniques, pursuit driving on a skid-pad under controlled conditions, practical emergency medical procedures, aircraft use in law enforcement (weather permitting), and the responsibilities of citizens regardless of age.

Primarily classes are conducted by Highway Patrol personnel however representatives of other agencies such as the FBI, KBI, Wildlife and Parks, city and county officials augment the instruction provided throughout the week. Parents and families are encouraged to attend graduation ceremonies on Friday evening, June 7.

Students are encouraged to apply early. Completed applications must include endorsements by a doctor (attesting to the applicant's physical condition), their high school principal or superintendent, their local American Legion Post Commander or Auxiliary Unit President, and a local law enforcement officer. A sponsorship fee of \$300 and application fee of \$50 includes housing, meals and supplies needed during the session must also accompany the application and can come from any source (Post, Unit, Squadron, Chapter, a local merchant, parents, etc.).

Applications must be received by March 31.

COMMANDER

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The New Year is now upon us and as we think about how we will move forward in 2020, a review of some of the highlights over the entire year might be a good starting point.

- The Mid-Winter Forum in February at Dodge City where we enjoyed the hospitality of Post 47 helped kick-start the year as attendees heard from various committees on past results and future plans in their assigned areas. The first DEC meeting of the year also convened to be followed by additional meetings at State functions in the year.

- In May, the 2019 Annual Kansas American Legion Convention was held in Hutchinson bringing together members from around the state. It is a time to share information, elect officers, learn of old and new initiatives, and to provide input into implementing and improving our efforts to fulfill the Legion's mission.

- Shortly thereafter, in June at Concordia, the Leadership College took place which provided for an important experience for attendees. We were fortunate to have Michele Steinmetz, Membership Engagement Coordinator from National, provide an excellent presentation on membership together with classes held on various subjects administered by our own members.

- Then in August Legionnaires attended the 101st National Convention in Indianapolis. Almost one hundred Kansas members made the trip and represented our State. A highlight of the occasion was a private meeting for the delegation with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, a member of Post #4 in Wichita, after his address to the Convention.

Throughout the state, Posts celebrated the 100th anniversary of the American Legion founding with festivities, meals, public speakers, and reminders of the principles on which the organization was formed, that of supporting our veterans. Other events that illustrate the Legion's mission were the Turkey Run and Operation North Pole at Fort Riley, Eisenhower Pilgrimage, the

many escorts the ALR took on during fallen soldiers funerals, Honor Flight coordination and planning, visitation to veterans homes, community projects, help for the homeless, to name a few.

We are fortunate indeed to have members able that undertake projects and make them successful, many assuming the responsibility for years. Without their involvement, these projects would not exist. In order to continue providing veterans and communities our services in 2020, I would certainly encourage members of the Legion Family to join them, get involved by finding the time in our congested schedules, and lend a hand. It will be worth it... for everyone.

The stellar Legion Programs for our Children and Youth are just around the corner; Boys State, Cadet Law, the Oratorical Contest. Information is being sent to the schools which inform them of dates, procedures and the American Legion support of the programs. Legion Districts have committee chairman willing to help with Post recruitment efforts.

The Department Christmas Party was held in Hutchinson Post 68 to the appreciation of more than 100 Legion Family Members. Santa made an appearance (you know who!), a remembrance ceremony for December 7th, a school choir, featured soloist, and a bingo game to raise funds for Children and Youth all made for a great time. And, of course, the delectable meal prepared by the wonderful kitchen staff at the Post. Thank you everyone for attending and to the Post for hosting the event.

Couple of additional events: The State Bowling Tournament will be held at Royal Crest Lanes in Lawrence, January 11-12, January 18-19 and 25-26, the Legislative Party will be on Wednesday, January 15th at the Capitol Plaza in Topeka, and the Mid-Winter Forum in Fort Scott January 31st, February 1st and 2nd. Additional information is on the website.

May the New Year bring health and happiness to all Our Legion Family.

For God and Country!

An important membership date happens this quarter for our membership workers; February 1st is the cut-off date for earning individual membership awards like the gold and silver stars. Legionnaires earning 30 points or more qualify for a gold star and those that earn between 10-29 points qualify for a silver star. A membership worker will earn 2 points for every new member that joins, and one point for every renewal they obtain. The Post Adjutant must have the gold and silver star report to Department Headquarters no later than February 15th. In Posts with a quota of 50 or less, membership workers that sign 60% or more of the Posts total membership will earn a gold star.

With the recent passing of the Legion Act there are a significant number of newly eligible veterans that can now join the Legion. This means it is prime time to earn your place in the Gold or Silver Brigade. Any Legionnaire that recruits 50 or more new members before May 13, 2020 will qualify to be part of the elite Gold Brigade. Gold Brigade enrollees are awarded a variety of Gold Brigade swag, and special recognition for their tremendous

achievement. Legionnaires that recruit 25-49 new members prior to May 13, 2020 earn Silver Brigade status and are awarded special Silver Brigade swag and special recognition for their achievement as well.

There will be several membership awards presented at Mid-Winter Forum. Although we will make sure your Post gets anything you earn regardless of attendance, it would be wonderful to be able to present your Post with the award at Mid-Winter. If you think your Post might have an award be sure to have a representative attend. If you think your Post didn't earn an award, send a representative to Mid-Winter to learn more about the awards that can be earned; either way I look forward to seeing all of you at Mid-Winter Forum in Fort Scott. If not there, then at the District Conventions that will be held in March and April.

If your Post or District is holding an event that you would like me to attend, please don't hesitate to reach out. I am more than willing to come assist with a membership table at your open house, a revitalization, or any other membership drive you are conducting, just ask!

MID-WINTER SWEEPSTAKES

Once again nine lucky Members of the Kansas American Legion Family will share over \$4,600 in prizes with each having the opportunity of increasing their prize award by \$200. Ticket packets have been mailed to all Kansas Legionnaires over the past three months for the Mid-Winter Sweepstakes. Members of the Sons of The American Legion and Auxiliary are welcome to enter the Sweepstakes by requesting tickets from Department Headquarters, 1314 SW Topeka Blvd., Topeka, KS 66612. Although a donation of \$5 for one ticket, \$10 for three, \$25 for six or \$30 for all twelve tickets is suggested, no purchase or contribution is required to enter the Sweepstakes. The revenue from the Sweepstakes will help fund the Department's Veterans Affairs and Children and Youth

Programs. The following prizes will be awarded in the form of certified checks: 1st Prize-\$2,000; 2nd Prize-\$1,000; 3rd Prize-\$500; fourth and fifth prizes @ \$250 each; sixth and seventh prizes @ \$200 each; eighth and ninth prizes @ \$100 each. All taxes are the sole responsibility of the prize winner. All prizes will be awarded. The chance of winning will depend upon the number of entries received and cannot be predetermined prior to the deadline. Winners will be selected in a random drawing during the Mid-Winter Forum in Fort Scott on Sunday, February 2, 2020. Winners need not be present to win and will be notified by certified mail. If a winner is present during the drawing they will be awarded a \$200 bonus. Should a winner be

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DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER

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VA introduces new direct deposit options for Veterans, beneficiaries

Partners with Association of Military Banks of America

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), in partnership with the [Association of Military Banks of America](#) (AMBA), launched the [Veterans Benefits Banking Program](#) (VBBP), available starting Dec. 20.

The program will provide Veterans and their beneficiaries the chance to safely, reliably, and inexpensively receive and manage their VA monetary benefits through financial services at participating banks.

“VBBP offers another way to simplify banking choices to help eligible Veterans select the right bank for themselves and their families,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “The VA and AMBA are proud to provide this opportunity to connect veterans with banks that understand their needs.”

VA’s collaboration with AMBA will leverage its consortium of military-friendly financial institutions that cater to service members. AMBA is the only trade association representing banking institutions specializing in providing services for military personnel, Veterans, and their families around the world. VBBP leverages participating AMBA institutions and banks operating within the gates of installations of all branches of service and National Guard and Reserve components.

“AMBA and its member banks welcome the opportunity to provide our nation’s Veterans additional financial services options to help them achieve greater financial independence, resiliency, and literacy,” said AMBA president and Air Force Veteran Steve Lepper. “We hope that as Veterans recognize the benefits of working with the banks to achieve financial stability, more Veterans, banks and credit unions will join this effort.”

The current available banking options include direct deposit into an existing bank account, electronic funds transfer into a Direct Express pre-paid debit card, and mailing of a paper check for pre-approved beneficiaries. VBBP introduces new financial resources to Veterans and their beneficiaries.

The program is an effort to address the problems some Veterans experience using these payment methods. VBBP offers these VA beneficiaries – including many who have been unable to open bank accounts in the past – the opportunity to deposit their benefit funds directly into existing or new bank accounts offered by participating AMBA member banks.

Neither VA nor AMBA is endorsing any particular bank or requiring Veterans and other beneficiaries to use them. It does not require Veterans who are satisfied with their current financial situation to change how they receive their VA monetary benefits.

All Veterans and beneficiaries who currently receive more than \$118 billion in financial benefits through VA are eligible to access this program. There are approximately 250,000 Veterans and beneficiaries who receive their VA benefits through a pre-paid debit card or paper check who may not have a bank account.

VA’s [Veterans Banking Benefits](#) and AMBA’s [Veterans Benefits Banking Program](#) websites have details for identifying participating banks.

To have your federal benefits electronically transferred to a Veteran’s designated financial institution (e.g. bank), VA beneficiaries interested in changing [direct deposit options](#) can also call 1-800-827-1000 with their relevant banking information.

[VA financial literacy](#) information is an additional resource available to Veterans and VA beneficiaries.

ADJUTANT’S BRIEFS

By Department Adjutant Jimmie L. Foster

The Department of Kansas has accomplished many things across the board this past year and should be proud of your accomplishments. Membership is ahead of last year’s numbers, but that doesn’t mean we should set around and rest on our laurels. Membership is EVERYONE’S responsibility, not just a few out of each Post, District or Department.

The National Vice Commander’s Visit of Western Kansas was a huge success! Many Posts had breakfasts, lunches, dinners and just a social round table meeting with Bruce Feuerbach from the Department of Iowa as he toured the State. There was a great interaction with the Members of The American Legion Family and NVC Feuerbach. He is looking forward to returning as Our Guest at the Department Convention in Topeka at the Ramada Hotel and Convention Center on 15 to 17 May 2020. PLEASE start making your plans to attend now.

The 2019 Big Red One Turkey Run held at Fort Riley, Kansas, on 23 November 2019, was a tremendous success. Six hundred Soldiers and their dependents from the Warrior Transition Battalion and Fort Riley were given items to make up a complete Thanksgiving Dinner. Those that helped out received many unsolicited accolades from those receiving these baskets. The Thank You’s, Hugs, and expressions of appreciation were everywhere. Some couldn’t even get the words out and would turn away for a bit to keep their composure. If you did NOT tear up, or have a lump in your throat, something was wrong with you!

The Commanding General of the First Infantry Division and Fort Riley, Major General John Kolasheski, was in attendance and thanked The American Legion Family in assisting those personnel serving their Country during the holiday season. He stated that many of these Soldiers and their Dependents would not have a complete Thanksgiving meal without Our help. He also stated that there are Fourteen (14) Wounded Warrior Transition Battalions around the Country, and as far as he knew, Fort Riley was the ONLY one to provide this very worthwhile project for the Soldiers and their Dependents.

Many of the same group assisted in Operation North Pole on 13 and 14 December 2019 at Fort

Riley. Approximately 800 hundred Military Members and their Dependents were presented gifts for their individual minor family members at the Clamshell. Each child got to set on Santa’s and Mrs. Claus laps, receive their individual gift and then partake in being served cookies, cupcakes and water from The American Legion Auxiliary Members. There was face painting, mouse races, decorate your own Sugar Cookie and many other events. The Commanding General’s Ceremonial Horse Platoon was also giving rides on sleighs around the Wounded Warrior Transition Battalion Area. There were many heart pounding events that took place during this American Legion function.

A BIG Thank You to Team Members: Roger Beckley, Mindy King, Barry Maples, Terry Harris, Kathy Saindon; Santa Claus Doug Evans and Keith Meyerhoff for hauling the Toys from Wal-Mart to Fort Riley in his Semi Truck and many others for their help and coordination of these two very rewarding American Legion Family events.

The Department Legislative Reception will be held on Wednesday, 15 January 2020, at the Capitol Plaza Hotel at 5 P.M. The cost is \$20.00 per person. This was normally held right after the Mid-Winter Conference, but was changed on the recommendation of Both the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate to allow more Legislators the ability to attend. You can either pay at the door or send your \$20.00 to the Department earmarked “Legislative Reception”. This information was also provided in my Department Adjutant’s Newsletter that is sent out to Each Post within the Department. Check with Your Post Adjutant!

Don’t forget to start making plans to attend the 2020 Mid-Winter Conference which be held in Fort Scott, Kansas from 31 January to 2 February 2020 at The River Room hosted by Fort Scott Post # 25. Listed within this edition of the Sunflower Legionnaire is the Agenda and schedule of hotels and events for this Conference.

We will be fortunate to have in attendance the Leading Candidate for National Commander of The American Legion Paul Dillard from the Department of Texas.

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First of all I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday time. This is a good time to thank everyone for their support and all that you do for the American Legion.

As I look over the membership reports, I find something that is more than a little alarming. I find Posts that have more than 20 new members since July. I find the vast majority of Posts are goose eggs when it comes to new members. What is the problem? Have you taken advantage of the "Legion Act"? In case you forgot, the Legion Act changed the eligibility for membership. If an individual served at least one day on active duty since December 7, 1941 they may join the American Legion. This pool of possible members may not be aware of these changes, but you are. Remember they won't join if you don't ask them.

Some upcoming events are: Mid-Winter Forum at Ft Scott Jan 31 – Feb 2, 2020. First District Oratorical Contest at Post 400 in Topeka, February 15, 2020. First District Executive Committee meeting, Feb 15, 2020 immediately following Oratorical contest. First District Convention Marysville Post 163 April 18, 2020.

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Happy New Year, 2020!!! On behalf of myself and the 2nd District Officers, I hope you all had a Merry Holiday Season with family and friends! Membership

should continue to keep rolling in! Make a phone call to a fellow member/Vet. Send a letter. Knock on a door to see how they're doing. We're family! We're now over mid-way of the 2019-20 season. Upcoming is the Mid-Winter forum in Ft. Scott, KS. January 31 - February 2. There will be a DEC meeting at 3pm on the 31st. Registration at the Boiler Room Brewhaus - 2 S. National Ave. January 31st @ 4-8 PM. Talk to your fellow Post Officers and/or members to carpool. Come see what we do at a Department level and get involved. You WILL find a program that intrigues you! For more information, carljowers@gmail.com / 620-215-1688. After Mid-winter will be the District Oratorical contest in Ft. Scott @ 10am on Feb 15th. February 22nd will be the "Hold Em for Heroes" charity event. Several Post's have combined forces to host this 4th annual charity event with 100% net proceeds going to Veterans Community Project (VCP) in Kansas City. Please contact Kristina.l.harrison@icloud.com / 913-485-0151. This event continues to help eliminate Veteran homelessness. To wrap up, the District Convention will be on March 21st @ Lawrence Post #14 (3408 W. 6th St. Lawrence, KS. 66049). Love to see you at all these events! In the meantime, stay safe and Thank You for Still Serving! jeffabarber@hotmail.com / 913-908-5255

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Season's Greetings Third District. I would like to discuss a few things other than membership in this column. The First, I would like to address is Post activities. Particularly which activity of your Post supports which of the four pillars of the American Legion. I was recently invited to the twenty—eighth annual "Widows Dinner" at Post 26 in Girard. I tried to think which pillar this "Widows Dinner" actually directly supported. I asked Dave Childers, Post 26 Commander, why was this activity started?

His answer was a simple one. He said," Twenty—eight years ago we had a number of members pass away. These members and their wives were very active in the American Legion Family. After the Legion member passed away their wives stopped coming to Post and Unit meetings and activities altogether, we were worried about them."

Taking care of Veterans, their widows and orphans is not an original idea of the American Legion, it is however of such importance to the Legion that two of the four supporting pillars of our organization are dedicated to them.

The second issue that I have to discuss is Post officer duties. These duties are spelled out in the "Officers Manual" and in some of the specific guides pertaining to particular offices for example the Service Officers Guide and the Adjutants Guide. Does your Post have the latest issues of these informative manuals? What happens when the Adjutant dies, does all that paperwork that is suppose to go to Department or National headquarters just set in an "in box?" Where can my Post get help and training in case the unthinkable happens? Be prepared to be mutually helpful. The first way that this will happen is that Post officers should be cross trained in each other's jobs. The second way is if you have previously held that position is to step in until a replacement can be elected or appointed and then help train the new guy. Get in touch with the District officers they are here to help. Doing any or all of these will ensure the smooth continued operation of your Post should the unthinkable happen.

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As we begin the New Year I would like to share with you my 20/20 VISION for District IV.

In order for District IV Department of Kansas to accomplish effective growth, I have written a vision with clear goals:

1. Make the best use of our return to Veterans while being

mindful of our overall responsibilities.

2. Being a great place to belong where the Legion Family is encouraged to be the best they can be.

3. Bringing a range of goals that anticipate and fulfills our veteran's desires and needs.

4. Developing a winning network of partners and building mutual loyalty.

5. Being a responsible overall citizen that continues to make a difference.

Our success depends entirely on active membership, participation and volunteerism. The American Legion belongs to the people it serves and the communities in which it flourishes.

Let's not only tell everyone that we are Proud Legionnaires; let's show them.

Please join in with me and share this 20/20 Vision and help the Department of Kansas American Legion Grow!

Randy Frank, District IV Commander.

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5 October was our District Fall Conference held at Ellsworth Post 174. We did have some very good informational speakers. Up first was the Mayor of Ellsworth Alan Stefek, welcoming the American Legion to Ellsworth. Second was Jeremy Miller with the VA. Jeremy talked about disability ratings
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and did answer questions from the attendees. Jeremy also runs a mobile van unit out of Hays, if anyone would have VA questions I highly recommend you call him. For the afternoon we had a presentation about American Legion programs followed with some membership training.

Following the Conference we held our 6th District Homecoming. Our guest speaker for the evening was Scott Moore, Ellsworth City Administrator. For our meal we did have a roast beef dinner catered by the Ellsworth Steak House and a very good meal it was. For our closing we held a raffle for the National Commander's campaign fund.

Over all we did have a very good turnout, was able to attract members from around the area and State and District officers from all over. I'd like to thank each and everyone that attended.

The District standing for the membership report as of December 18th we have moved down to 7th place with a District quota of 76.83%. Dorrance 334 is the only Post above 100%. December is almost gone, contact your District Officers if you are needing help with your renewals.

District Convention will be April 4th 2020 at Concordia Post 76. Remember it is important to have your Post represented at convention. Each Post that attends can take part in the discussions and vote if needed.

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Hello again 7th District, the Officers of 7th District hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and an even better Christmas. Now it is time to spread that holiday cheer to others. It is time to get the word out about all The American Legion's programs that involve our Children and Youth. Those programs will be coming up in the next several months, and include Cadet Law, Boy's State, Oratorical, and School Awards Programs in your area.

Also a big thank you to all the Posts in the District that has reached 100% so far, also a big thank you to all the members that have worked so hard on membership up to now.

Keep working hard on membership and getting those renewals sent in. Membership has always been the big push for the Department and we want to make sure 7th District finishes high again this year.

Thank you all for all you have done for 7th District and for The American Legion. If there is anything at all the officers or myself can help with please don't hesitate to call or email anytime. See you all at the 7th District convention on March 28th in Great Bend. Expect to see more information and a Call to Convention before then. Keep up the good work 7th District. Semper Fi!

**EIGHTH DISTRICT
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Hello 9th District, I hope all of you have had a fabulous Holiday Season. We are producing our 2nd Sunflower article. I want to personally thank you all for keeping us in First Place in membership percentage for most of this quarter. Without all of your hard work and efforts this could not be accomplished. There are a few Posts that need to get busy and contact their members and get them to renew and with the new membership eligibility change contact potential new members. We are at a great time to regrow our membership numbers.

We had a great Commanders Homecoming in October that was well attended by the entire Legion family. The District has been real busy doing mini revitalization efforts throughout the District. If your Post would like to have one please contact your District representative and he will assist you in

getting this set up.

We are starting into the busy season for the American Legion and we are hopeful that each one of you will assist in any way that you can. Our first Item that will be here after the first of the Year will be the Mid-Winter Forum, it will be held this year in Fort Scott the 31st of Jan to the 2nd of Feb. The next big ticket item will be the District Convention. This year it will be held in Colby and it will be April 4th. We will be looking for some members to step up and become District Officers. If you are interested in any of the District positions please let us know.

We are looking for activities that your Post is planning to do throughout the year. Please get on the District Facebook page or send an email to the District with the information of what the event is when and where and all other pertinent information.

BOYS STATE**(Continued from Page 1)**

ent night" and various sports.

At a minimum Boys State instills citizenship and demonstrates every individual is capable of making a difference. Thousands of lifelong friendships have been forged at Boys State and graduates often receive special consideration when applying for scholarships or employment.

Two Staters will be selected to represent Kansas as Senators during Boys' Nation held at Marymount University in Washington, DC this July. Staters who are the sons or grandsons of a veteran may apply for a Samsung scholarship.

Application and information packets for this year's May 31 - June 5 session have been mailed to every Kansas high school, every Post, and to past sponsors including private individuals, and civic organizations. Fees for the week long course is \$275 per Stater to be paid by the sponsor(s) plus a \$50 fee paid by the student's parents or the Stater himself.

Applicants must be a high school Junior (will be a Senior this fall), be a self starter, involved in extracurricular activities in their school or community, and rank within the top half of their class scholastically. Completed applications must be received by March 31, 2020; Staters and sponsors are encouraged to apply early.

Legionnaires are asked to seek out potential Staters by visiting their local high schools and assist in locating sponsors and co-sponsors for each student. Additional information can be obtained of The American Legion Boys State website at www.ksbstate.org, or by calling toll free 1-866-241-9920.

**CHILDREN
&
YOUTH****Pat Culver****pculver2@swbell.net**

The American Legion has been actively involved with children's issues since the early 1920s. In many instances, the Legion has been the driving force on behalf of children on the federal, state and local levels.

In 1938, April was formally designated as Child Welfare Month (now called Children and Youth Month) and has continued on an annual basis. During this time, we urge each of you to show your community that The American Legion Family is dedicated to America's youth.

You should publicize your programs and activities. Have the Mayor or other local Official issue a proclamation declaring April as Children and Youth Month. Your Post commander should issue a news release proclaiming April as Children and Youth Month and list what the Post will be doing for its annual observance.

Remember programs affecting the children and youth of your community are news!! Invite the news media to your activities and keep them informed.

The American Legion Department of Kansas has several outstanding Children and Youth programs offered:

- American Legion Baseball: A / AA / AAA , entries must be in by June.

- Kansas Boy's State: applications must be in by April 15, 2020

- Cadet Law: applications must be in by March 31.

- Oratorical Contest: the Department Oratorical Contest is March 14, 2020. Check with your District Oratorical Chair member for the time and place of your District contest.

- Scouting: every Post could support a Scout Troop...check it out, many times all they need is a place to meet.

(Continued on Page 7)



AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Paula Sellens
513 Andrews St.
Dodge City, KS 67801
(620) 227-3816



DETACHMENT COMMANDER

Terry Harris
1222 Toles Ave.
Larned, KS 67550
(620) 910-7998



What's In Your Cup?

Every year as the old year ends and the new year begins, people begin thinking of New Years Resolutions. A New Years Resolution is defined as a promise to do something differently in the new year. The start of a new year brings an abundance of fresh beginnings and unique opportunities for self-improvement.

With that in mind, I would like for you to think about the following story and consider adapting your New Years Resolution to consider the American Legion Family and how our behavior affects members of that family.

A story was told of a man carrying a cup of coffee. As he walked someone, accidentally collided with him and the coffee was spilled making a colossal mess. When asked why he spilled his coffee his initial reaction was to blame the person who bumped into him saying that it was his fault that his coffee was spilled. However, truth be told if he carefully analyzed the question he would realize that the coffee was spilled because coffee was in his cup. Whatever the contents of his cup, it would have spilled with any collision. It went on to explain that the collision that took place is just like life and whenever "life happens," we will be shaken. The important thing, however is not to focus on the shake but to pay keen attention to what spills because only the contents of the cup can be spilled from the impact of a collision.

Starting today and continuing daily, I want us to not think of literal cups but to think of ourselves as cups and ask ourselves the question, "What is in my cup?" Whenever we experience a "collision," what intrinsically spills out of us? Under extreme pressure, does the characteristics of the fruit of the spirit spill out of us naturally or does the manifestation of the works of the flesh become more intrinsic?

Does our fundamental reaction consist of harsh words, anger, bitterness, hatred, malice, envy, unforgiveness, etc? Have we become more concerned with our outward appearance and ignoring the contents that are within us and flows out of us without a second thought? When we are overwhelmed by the vicissitudes of life, wouldn't it be more satisfying and pleasing if love, gratefulness, joy, meekness, temperance, humility, and peace spilled out of us?

We all have choices and life is filled with them with every scenario that we are faced with. What will you choose? What fruits will you decide to bear? What contents will you allow to spill out of you when encountering the impact of a collision?

Change is the way of life. Challenge is the aim of life. This New Year, take up the challenge to bring great changes into your life. Happy New Year.

LEGISLAIVE RECEPTION

The legislative reception will be held at the Capital Plaza Hotel, 1717 SW Topeka Ave. in Topeka scheduled for Wednesday January 15. The reception will begin with a briefing at 5pm and followed by the reception until

The holidays are over and it's time to turn our attention back to membership. At the Sons of The American Legion National Convention on August 24, 2019 in Indianapolis the delegates to the National Convention voted to increase national dues effective with the 2021 membership year (June 2020). This is the first increase in national dues since 1982. In anticipation of this the delegates of the state convention of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Kansas, voted to increase state dues at its Detachment Convention on May 18, 2019 in Hutchinson. The dues increase was subsequently approved by the Kansas Department Executive Committee at their meeting on June 1, 2019 in Concordia. Currently each Kansas Squadron transmits \$10 per paid member to Headquarters in Topeka. Effective with the 2021

8pm.

Cost of attending the reception is \$20.00 per person and includes cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. Please use the coupon below to let Headquarters and the hotel know how many to prepare for.

membership year (June 2020) that amount will increase to \$20 per paid member. While many Squadrons may have to raise their member's dues next year to afford the increase in transmittal fee it should be remembered that the transmittal fee is still much less than what the Post sends to Topeka for each Veterans membership. Any questions regarding the increase should be directed to Detachment Commander Terry Harris or Detachment Adjutant Don Culver.

Remember, we have a lot of different events coming up starting with the legislative reception in Topeka on the 15th of January. It would be great to have many of our S.A.L. members there. See the coupon in either the Sunflower or the SALute. Remember Mid-Winter Forum in Fort Scott, January 31-February 2. Always a lot of information exchanged. It is a great chance to have many of your questions answered. A lot of District Conventions coming soon and I will do my best to be at as many as possible. Hope to see you all at these events.

ADJUTANT'S BRIEFS

(Continued from Page 3)

Paul is a great Legionnaire and he will represent US well as The National Commander of The American Legion.

I hope that you and your family have a very Merry Christmas and a very prosperous New Year. If any of you need any assistance from myself or the Staff of the Department Headquarters, PLEASE do NOT hesitate to ask.

Until next time, continue to support the Greatest Veterans and their Families, in the Greatest Veterans Organization in The Free World, The American Legion (in my opinion).

Legislative Reception

Yes, I plan to attend The American Legion Legislative Reception, Jan. 15, 2020 in Topeka. Enclosed is \$____ (\$20 per person). Note: please list the name of each attendee.

No, I am unable to attend. Enclosed is my donation of \$____ to help make this American Legion function a success.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Mail to: Dept. Headquarters
1314 SW Topeka Blvd.
Topeka, KS 66612

+ TAPS +

Alpers, Marion (Korea).....Great Bend
 Arnold, Carl (Vietnam).....Lansing
 Barnes, John (Korea).....Dodge City
 Bates, Emmett (Korea).....Hutchinson
 Bell, Howard (Vietnam).....Cherokee
 Berger, Delvin (Vietnam).....Barnes
 Bertoncin, Robert (Vietnam).....Shawnee
 Bezemek, James (WWII).....Ellsworth
 Boor, Leo (Korea).....Great Bend
 Bournonville, Milton (WWII).....Pittsburg
 Brooks, Ben (WWII).....Mulvane
 Brown, John (WWII).....Columbus
 Brown, Ray (WWII).....Cawker City
 Brulja, Mike (Korea).....Olathe
 Buckbee, Merle (WWII).....Tescott
 Buckman, Jim (Vietnam).....Lebo
 Buckner, Buck (Vietnam).....Hope
 Bush, Dwight (Korea).....Emporia
 Calbert, Ron (WWII).....Newton
 Call, Arthur (WWII).....Augusta
 Casey, Ray (Korea).....Gardner
 Craft, Edward (Korea).....Shawnee
 Davis, Jerry (Vietnam).....Salina
 Devault, Robert.....Hutchinson
 DUEWELL, Dolan (Korea).....Concordia
 Foley, Leslie (Vietnam).....Mulvane
 Fowles, Wilbur (Korea).....Clay Center
 Fredde, Lester (WWII).....Norton
 Frost, Emery (WWII).....Lindsborg
 Fulk, James (WWII).....Mulvane
 Fuller, George (Korea).....Ottawa
 Ganaden, Merle (Korea).....Topeka #58
 Gayer, Lawrence (WWII).....McPherson
 Gillihan, Donald (Korea).....Lawrence
 Gilman, Phil (WWII).....Topeka #58
 Ginther, Carol (WWII).....Phillipsburg
 Glynn, Robert (WWII).....Hoisington
 Greenwood, Ronald (Vietnam).....Wilson
 Grigsby, Charles (WWII).....Pratt
 Grosse, Ben (Korea).....Concordia
 Hadachek, Eugene (WWII).....Cuba
 Hake, Kenneth (Korea).....Tipton
 Hammond, Noble (Korea).....Emporia
 Haug, Arthur (WWII).....Ozawkie
 Havice, Charley (WWII).....Augusta
 Hern, Edward (Korea).....Great Bend
 Hesseltine, James (Vietnam).....Overbrook
 Hiltgen, Robert.....Greenleaf
 Hirt, Donald.....Waterville
 Hoffman, James (Vietnam).....Belle Plaine
 Hoffsommer, Harold (Korea).....Topeka #58
 Holeman, Colwell (WWII).....Moran
 Holt, Jon (Vietnam).....Columbus
 Hostutler, Anna (WWII).....Hutchinson
 Houdek, Marvin (Vietnam).....Concordia
 Howard, Harold (WWII).....Hiawatha
 Johnston, Reneau (Korea).....Concordia
 Jones, David (WWII).....Topeka #58
 Kabriel, Dennis (Vietnam).....Topeka #400
 Kelly, Ross (WWII).....Concordia
 Kesler, Gordon (Korea).....Topeka #400
 Kilgore, Everett (Korea).....Kansas City #199
 Klatt, Leroy (Korea).....Canton
 Klein, Lloyd (WWII).....Belle Plaine
 Kling, Verne (WWII).....Howard

Kohler, Martinus (Korea).....Beloit
 Lawson, Paul (Korea).....Topeka #400
 Lohmeyer, Ronald (Vietnam).....Coffeyville
 Lonnie, Roe (Korea).....Axtell
 Love, Charlotte (Vietnam).....Derby
 Macke, Donald (Korea).....Seneca
 Magnenat, Francis (Korea).....Paola
 Mauck, Clifford (Vietnam).....Topeka #421
 McCall, Richard (Korea).....Newton
 McCarty, James (WWII).....Hutchinson
 McClelland, Donald (Vietnam).....Norton
 McDonald, Francis (Vietnam).....Waverly
 McReynolds (WWII).....Hutchinson
 Melsoni, Charles (Vietnam).....Derby
 Miller, Dwight (Vietnam).....Sedgwick
 Morgan, David (Vietnam).....Hutchinson
 Muir, Donald (Korea).....Stockton
 Myers, Robert (Vietnam).....Frankfort
 Nelson, Harley (WWII).....Chanute
 Nielsen, William (Korea).....Emporia
 Nunn, Mike (WWII).....Andover
 O'Neal, Roger (Vietnam).....Olathe
 Ogle, Kenneth (Korea).....Moran
 Ogleby, Duane (WWII).....Allen
 Palmer, Eddie (Vietnam).....Syracuse
 Parkey, Marvin (Vietnam).....Isabel
 Patterson, Oren (Korea).....Chanute
 Patti, Victor (WWII).....Kansas City #199
 Penrod, David (Vietnam).....Salina
 Peternell, Michael.....Arma
 Phillips, Terry (Vietnam).....Topeka #58
 Polzin, Melvin (Vietnam).....Hoisington
 Purcell, Lawrence (Korea).....Atchison
 Ramirez, George (WWII).....Overland Park
 Ramos, Pete (Vietnam).....Garden City
 Reinecker, Gene (WWII).....McPherson
 Richolson, Philip, Jr. (Vietnam).....Brownell
 Ronnebaum, Virgil (WWII).....Axtell
 Rupp, Phillip (Korea).....Salina
 Rutledge, Sherman (WWII).....Chanute
 Schrock, Billy (Korea).....Hutchinson
 Schultz, Merle, Sr. (Korea).....Topeka #58
 Scribner, Duane (Grenada).....McPherson
 Shrader, Charles (WWII).....Abilene
 Sime, Robert (WWII).....Chanute
 Smith, Carol.....Alta Vista
 Smith, Donald (Vietnam).....Caney
 Smith, Durward (Korea).....Great Bend
 Smith, Robert (Vietnam).....Lawrence
 Soden, Richard (Vietnam).....McPherson
 Soules, Harvey (Korea).....Gardner
 Southworth, Howard (Korea).....Hutchinson
 Standlee, Jerry (Vietnam).....Ellinwood
 Stater, Harry (WWII).....Mulvane
 Stevens, Ernest (Vietnam).....El Dorado
 Summers, Gary (Korea).....Topeka #400
 Thompson, William, Jr. (Vietnam).....Erie
 Turner, Dean (Korea).....Osborne
 Unruh, Robert (Korea).....Canton
 Vogts, Richard (WWII).....Canton
 Walker, Lon (Vietnam).....Newton
 Wells, Lawrence (Korea).....Newton
 Wilson, Charles (Korea).....Silver Lake
 Wilson, William (Korea).....Canton
 Zahnter, Alvin (Vietnam).....Syracuse

CHILDREN & YOUTH

(Continued from Page 5)

If you need additional information, please check ksamlegion.org under "programs".

Shortly after the first of the year, American Legion departments receive copies of the Consolidated Post Report (CPR). This form has been developed to track necessary information about the Legion's overall programs. It is the responsibility of the Post Children and Youth Chair member to report his/her program activities to the individual designated in the Post to complete the Consolidated Post Report. The CPR can be done online at mylegion.org by the Post Adjutant.

HISTORIAN

JOE JOHNSTON

In 1940 the US Army, anticipating involvement in World War II, decided it was time to replace the horse. One hundred thirty five American auto manufacturers were invited to submit plans for a vehicle that would fulfill well-defined requirements. Only three firms, Bantam, Willys-Overland and Ford submitted prototypes. Bantams model was the better one, and all of them deeded a few changes. Being a small company, Bantam could not produce the number of vehicles required, so the two other companies got the orders to build what came to be called the Jeep. Between 1941 and 1945 Willys-Overland built almost 360,000 Jeeps and Ford built 227,000 of them.

Many American companies switched from peace-time to war-time production overnight. It was amazing what our industries did during World War II. We were ill prepared for a war but in a very short time we had what was needed. The building of the Jeeps is only one example.

ORATORICAL CONTEST

This March, nine high school students will compete for scholarship money and the chance to represent Kansas at the National High School Oratorical Championship in Indianapolis. Department Oratorical Chairman Mike Oppy has set the State Oratorical Scholarship Contest for 9 AM, Saturday, March 14 at American Legion Post #17 in Manhattan.

The purpose of The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program "A Constitutional Speech Contest" is to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States among high school students. Other objectives of the contest include the development of leadership qualities, the ability to think and speak clearly and intelligently, and the preparation for acceptance of the duties and responsibilities, the rights and privileges of American citizenship.

Rules and contestant entry forms are available online at www.ksamlegion.org.

District Contests

District I

TBA

District II

TBA

District III

TBA

District IV

TBA

District V

16 February, 1:00 PM
American Legion Post 4
816 N Water St., Wichita

District VI

TBA

District VII

9 February, 1:00 PM
Little River High School
430 Waverly St, Little River

District VIII

16 February, 2:00 PM
American Legion Post 47
803 S. 14th Ave, Dodge City

District IX

TBA

KANSAS SUNFLOWER LEGIONNAIRE

Jimmie L. Foster, Editor

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News deadline is the 15th of March, June, September and December for the next issue.

THE AMERICAN LEGION VA HOSPITAL SERVICE OFFICERS

Robert J. Dole Regional VA Medical Center, Wichita
Local: 316-688-6814, Toll Free: 888-878-6881 Ext. 56814
Dwight D. Eisenhower VA Medical Center, Leavenworth
Local: 913-758-4297, Toll Free: 800-952-8387 Ext. 54297
Colmery-O'Neil VA Medical Center, Topeka
Local: 785-350-4489, Toll Free: 800-574-8387 Ext. 54489

MID-WINTER SWEEPSTAKES

(Continued from Page 2)

unable to be contacted by certified mail, or fails to claim their prize within 30 days of receipt of notice, that winner will forfeit their prize and an alternate winner will be selected in the same selection and notification process. All prizes will be awarded. The odds of winning a prize depends upon the number of entries received by the deadline of 10AM Monday, January 31, 2020

at Department Headquarters or 9AM Sunday, February 2, 2020 at the Mid-Winter Forum at Fort Scott Post 25. Prize winners assume sole responsibility for all taxes. All entrants must be 18 years of age or older. Employees and staff of The American Legion Department of Kansas and the officers and staff of Resource One, their spouses, children and immediate family members are ineligible.

MID-WINTER FORUM FORT SCOTT, KANSAS

Friday, January 31

3 pm Department Executive Committee Meeting The River Room
4 -8:00 pm Registration Boiler Room Brewhaus
5:30-7:00pm Hosted Reception with Karaoke Boiler Room Brewhaus

Saturday, February 1

7:30am-4:00pm Registration The River Room
OPENING SESSION

8:00am Call to Order Department Commander Chuck Shoemaker
Opening Ceremony Chuck Shoemaker
Welcome & Introduction Post Commander Carl Jowers
Welcome Mayor of Fort Scott
National Commander Leading Candidate Paul Dillard
S.A.L. & Auxiliary Depart for their Meetings

Eric Rohleder Deputy Director, Veterans Services, KCVA
Gary Wooten Nebraska Department Commander
Kenneth Wiederholt North Dakota Department Commander
ADJOURN FOR LUNCH AT THE RIVER ROOM

1:00pm Call to Order Department Commander Chuck Shoemaker
Door Prize Drawing Jimmie Foster
Dept. Centennial Celebration Committee Gaylord Sanneman
Legion Riders Roger Beckley
Membership Turn-in Marri Krupco
Membership Awards & Prizes Chuck Shoemaker
Public Relations Rick Miller
Legislation Pat Culver
Candidates for Department Offices Chuck Shoemaker
4:30-5:30pm Reception for Visiting National Officers The River Room

5:30-7:00pm Filet Mignon Dinner Available The River Room
7:00-9:00pm Performance by "Next of Kin" Band ... The River Room

Sunday, February 2

7:30-8:00am Registration The River Room
7:00-8:00am Continental Breakfast The River Room
8:00am Call to Order Department Commander Chuck Shoemaker
Four Chaplains Service Rev. R. Glenn Patterson
8:30 am Pledge of Allegiance Marri Krupco
S.A.L. Introductions Terry Harris
Auxiliary Introductions Paula Sellens
American Legion Introductions Chuck Shoemaker
Legion Family Membership Turn-In Marri Krupco
Child & Youth Report Pat Culver

Americanism Programs:

Cadet Law Enforcement Academy Gaylord Sanneman
Boys State Shane Wilson
Oratorical Mike Oppy
Baseball Steve Queen
Scholarships Mike Oppy
School Awards & County Government Day James Snyder
Eisenhower John Meyeres
Department Sweepstakes Drawing Department Staff