

Sunflower Legionnaire

The American Legion -



Today's Voice for Today's Veterans & Military

VOL LXXIV NO. 3

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

January, February, March 2021

MID WINTER FORUM INDEPENDENCE POST #139, JANUARY 29 - 31

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 29 - 31 January 2021 and will be hosted by Independence Post 139 with Events located at The Memorial Hall Building located at 410 N. Penn Avenue in Independence. Friday, 29 January, will include a Department Executive Committee Meeting at 3 pm. Registration will begin on Friday between 3 to 6 pm at The Memorial Hall Building located at 410 N. Penn Avenue. Karaoke hosted by Independence Post # 139 located at 1531 W. Main Street will follow.

On Saturday, 30 January, 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 Memorial Hall Building located at 410 N. Penn Avenue at 8 am. After the joint opening the Legion, Auxiliary and the S.A.L. will meet in different rooms in The Memorial Hall Building. National Vice Commander Bruce Feuerbach from the Department of Iowa 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 will be available at a price of \$8.00. Concluding the day's meetings, the Post will serve a Cajun Dinner consisting of Gumbo, Jambalaya, Red Beans and Rice, Salad, Bread, and a Dessert. We will also have Ham or Turkey and Mixed Vegetables

for those that don't prefer Cajun for a price of \$10.00 from 5:30 to 7 P.M. During and After dinner entertainment will be Mood Music. For early Registration PLEASE mail payments to: Steve Aemisegger, P.O. Box 252, Independence, Kansas 67301. For Tickets and any additional information, PLEASE contact Steve Aemisegger at 620-330-0503.

Sunday's schedule will begin at 7:00 to 8:00 am with a Continental Breakfast, Orange Juice, and Coffee. Registration will open at 7:30 am. At 8:00 am Commander Krupco 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 Memorial Hall Building. 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 is not too early to reserve your room at one of the many hotels in the Independence Area. The contracted Hotels are: Comfort Inn and Suites Hotel located at 3000 W. Main Street, Telephone number: 620-332-2222, rate is \$89.00 (Single) and \$93.00 (Double). The Microtel Inn located at 2917 W. Main Street, Telephone number: 620-331-0088, rate is \$79.00 (Single) and \$83.00 (Double). The Super 8 Motel located at 2800 W. Main Street, Telephone number: 620-331-8288, rate is \$57.00 (Single) and \$68.00 (Double). Be sure to tell them you are a part of the Kansas American Legion block 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 is 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 "talent night" and various sports.

At a minimum Boys State includes
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CADET LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY

On June 6 up to 50 young Kansans will gather for the 50th 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 un-

der 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 11.

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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VICE COMMANDER

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Greetings Kansas American Legion!

I would like to send a huge Thank You out to the Great Bend American Legion Family. Your hospitality during the Department Holiday Party was greatly appreciated. I wish we would have been able to have a bigger crowd, but this does not seem the year for that. I also want to thank everyone that attended and share that Toy's for Tots was incredibly grateful for your generosity. With so many things being cancelled this year, I'm just glad we could still hold this event. As other organizations that we partner with for many of our events decide what they are comfortable with doing, I hope that we are able to hold more things this coming year.

We do have Mid-winter Forum coming January 29-31, 2021 in Independence. I know the Legion Family in Independence is working hard to make sure we can meet safely and have a great time. Matthew & I look forward to seeing everyone there, so make sure to mark your calendar and get that room reserved. More information about the Forum can be found at ksamlegion.org, in the Adjutants letter, and right here in the Sunflower Legionnaire.

District Conventions are right around the corner! I plan to attend all of them if I'm allowed and look forward to seeing you there! Now is the time to reach out to current District Leadership and let them know you are interested in being active at the District level and request more information on doing so. Being an active part of the District can be very rewarding. Until you go out and meet those other Posts in your District, you just don't know what you are missing.

Speaking of being active, as I meet Legion Family across our state, I get asked the same question over and over. That question is, "How do we convince young Veterans like yourself to join and once we do how do we get them active?" I have a few thoughts on that to share with you.

1. Thank you for grouping me in the young category, I fear that classification is nearing its end for me!

2. Remind yourself that they may not think the way you do. When you have a younger Veteran coming to meetings and other events, remember they want to be heard. If they feel that their ideas are falling on deaf ears, they will stop giving them, they will quit participating, and they will quit renewing.

3. Change can be good. Granted, they do not need to recreate the wheel, but try their ideas for improvement. Not everything has to be done the same way it has always been done. Hearing the words, "This is how it's always been done," tells them that there is not room for them and their ideas in our organization.

4. Keep it clean and politic free. Most young Veterans and their families spend a significant amount of time on social media and the internet. Any webpage or social media account belonging to your Post needs to reflect the Four Pillars of the American Legion. This means partisan politics has no place there and neither does lewd comments or foul language. This younger generation will also do "social media background checks" (I refer to this as Facebook stalking) on individuals they know are involved with organizations before they get involved

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Here's to a happy and healthy 2021 to everyone reading this! I'm sure you all are with me when I say I hope the New Year brings in a very new year.

We are halfway through the 2021 membership year. The first three target dates were successful meet for the Department and we were going strong, we just barely missed the last target date in December that was 75% of our quota. The next target is January, I believe we can easily hit that mark with just a little work on our parts.

This edition of the sunflower I thought I would mention one big factor to the recruitment success of new members, that is the cooperation with local city, county and regional organizations. Seems the Posts that are called upon to perform or assist with various community activities, such as parades, Memorial Day Re-

membrances, recurring festivities, and other local events do pretty well in membership overall. Some Posts have been participating in these various functions for years while others are fairly new to the opportunity. It might help your Post, and membership to periodically visit with city councils, police departments, or attend town meetings to determine if assistance is needed during these events. Of course, volunteers are always an issue but if the resources are available, getting our name in front of the public has always been beneficial.

I enjoy hearing from everyone across the state, and look forward to further conversations about all that concerns our Veterans and family members. I am hear to listen, serve, and help all that I can. Thank you for belonging to The American Legion.

Semper Fi!

DETACHMENT COMMANDER

Tom Wallsmith
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 Levant, KS 67743
 (785) 443-6095



GREETINGS TEAM KANSAS,

As I write this there are only 3 days left in 2020. I'm sure we're all ready to greet the new year. I hope you all had a good Christmas and are maintaining your health. I had a quiet one with no travel involved. We did have the Department Christmas Party with a good turnout. Argonne Post 180 in Great Bend did great as our host and we had the opportunity to each adopt one of the Veterans for Christ-

mas who was at Fort Dodge Soldiers Home to help the ALA with their program of support to Veterans. This was great since we weren't able to go there to help them with the Christmas Store this Year.

As we close out this year, I'm proud of the membership this year for all the work to maintain the membership renewals and recruitment with the limits placed on all of us for gathering size. We're ending this year

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DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER

Dan Bartlett**2200 SW Gage
Topeka, KS 66622****(800) 574-8387 ext. 54489****dan.bartlett@med.va.gov****Apply for VA Health Care**

Eligibility for VA Health Care depends on several factors:

- VA has rated you for a service-connected disability
- You received a purple heart or are a former Prisoner of War
- You are a combat Veteran who separated within the last 5 years
- You are eligible for Medicaid benefits
- Your family income is below the income threshold
- You served in Vietnam, Southwest Asia during the Gulf War, or Camp Lejeune during certain periods of time

Preparation

Collect the following information:

Discharge Papers (DD-214 member 4 copy or equivalent)

Your most recent tax return

Social security numbers for yourself and your dependents

Account numbers for insurance programs you are enrolled in

Your VA Disability Rating Decision (if applicable)

Application

Apply by completing the health care application form (VA Form 10-10EZ) in one of these ways:

Visit online at <https://www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application>

Call 877-22-8387 (press 1); M-F, 8am-8pm EST

Print out and mail the completed form to Health Eligibility Center (2957 Clairmont Road, Suite 200, Atlanta, GA 30329)

Or in person at a local VA Medical Center

If approved, take steps to access the benefits you are eligible for:

Review the priority group assignment and personalized benefits book mailed to you by VA after enrollment

Contact your local VA Medical Center in your area to set up an appointment

Make an appointment to obtain your Veterans Health Identification Card (VHIC)

**MARRI KRUPCO FOR
DEPARTMENT COMMANDER**

Marri Krupco, Blue Mound Post 279 is announcing her candidacy for Department Commander for the 2021-2022 year.

Marri earned her eligibility in the American Legion by honorably serving in the United States Navy 1998-2002. She has been a member of Blue Mound's Mooney-Long Post 279 for 21 years and has been the adjutant for 11 years. Marri has served in various District offices in The American Legion, as well as Department Vice-Commander. She is also a member of The American Legion Auxiliary and is active with her Unit and serves on committees at the District level. She has the privilege of serving on the Department's Legislative Council and The National Security Council.

Marri is currently serving as

Department Commander and is seeking a second term; this year has been a year of unprecedented firsts and being elected to a second term would be another. The following is why she feels serving a second term would be beneficial to the Department. Department Leadership College in Concordia where new Department leadership meets with the new District leadership for the first time since elections to talk about membership plans was cancelled. The National Membership Workshop and National Convention, both great places to collaborate with the Membership Team and Legion Family, were both cancelled. The 2020-2021 term started 2 ½ months late, it has taken a little while for things to get started as nothing

(Continued on Page 8)**ADJUTANT'S BRIEFS****By Department Adjutant Jimmie L. Foster**

The Department of Kansas has not been able to accomplish a lot of things due to the Coronavirus this past year. I for one, am going to be glad that 2020 is over with and WE can now move into 2021, hopefully being able to pick up and have Legion functions in person and Not by Virtual means such as Zoom, Skype or by Teleconference. There is nothing like being at a function in person and getting to talk and socialize with other Members.

Membership is ahead of last year's numbers, but that does not 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 Commander's Visit of Western Kansas was a huge success! Many Posts had breakfasts, lunches, dinners and just a social round table meeting with James W. "Bill" Oxford from the Department of North Carolina as he toured the State. There was a great interaction with the Members of The American Legion Family and National Commander Oxford. It was his second visit to the Department of Kansas due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the rolling over the National Officers for another year.

The 2020 Big Red One Turkey Run and Operation North Pole normally held at Fort Riley, Kansas did not take place due to the Coronavirus as planned.

The American Legion Family is looking forward to super events in 2021. I know the kids are revved up and ready to go, both big and small.

Due to holding Legislative Sessions virtually for the time being, The Department Legislative Reception was not held either. This does not mean that you should not contact Your State and National Legislator/s. Contact them and let them know that The American Legion is still active and counting on them to pass items that are critical to the lives and well-being of ALL Veterans in the State of Kansas. Hold them accountable!

Don't forget to start making plans to attend the 2021 Mid-Winter Conference which be held in Independence, Kansas from 29 to 31 January 2021 at The Memorial Hall Building located at 410 N. Penn Avenue in Independence. Listed within this edition of the Sunflower Legionnaire is the Agenda, list of hotels, meals, and other information for this Conference.

We will be fortunate to have in attendance National Vice Commander of The American Legion Bruce Feuerbach from the Department of Iowa. Bruce is a great Legionnaire, and he represents US well. He will be available to discuss issues of The American Legion while he is visiting the Department of Kansas.

I hope that you and your family had a very Merry Christmas and have 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).

**FIRST DISTRICT
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VICE CMDR.
LARRY WARNER
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Topeka, KS 66608
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Greetings First District:
I hope everyone made the best out of these trying times and had a very safe and happy holiday season. Hopefully, there is a light at the end of this tunnel and we can celebrate more prosperous and fruitful times.

We held our District meeting at Leavenworth Post #94 on December 19, 2020. It was a well-attended meeting and I would like to extend my thanks to Post #94 for sponsoring the event and helping make it a success.

I would like to congratulate Post #37 Corning, Post #91 Washington, Post #154 White Cloud, Post #161 Wathena, Post #169 Blue Rapids, Post #235 Greenleaf, Post #257 Vermillion, Post #410 Mayetta, and Post #423 Mayetta for all achieving 100% of their 2021 goals. I'm sure there will be congratulations for more Posts in the near future for making their goals.

If a Member has not renewed their membership by now, they are not considered to be in good standing. I encourage all Posts to contact these Members and get those renewals turned in. It may be as simple as contacting them to remind them to renew or just check on their well-being and see if there is something the Post can do to help them.

The District has several events coming up to mark on your calendars. The District Oratorical Contest will be held February 13, 2021 at North Topeka Post #400 at 10:00 AM. Following the Oratorical we will be holding the District Executive Board meeting at Post #400. I encourage all Posts to contact their local High Schools and promote the Oratorical. Remember that home schooled students are also eligible to take part. The Department Oratorical will be held March 13, 2021

at Manhattan Post #17 at 9:00 AM. The District Convention will be on April 24, 2021 at North Topeka Post #400. It is not too early to start planning on attending. Every Post should have Delegates at the Convention to represent them. I look forward to seeing you there!
For God and Country,
Dan Wentling

**SECOND DISTRICT
COMMANDER
MYRA JOWERS
725 Fairway Dr.
Fort Scott, KS 66701
(620) 215-1286
VICE CMDR.
GEORGE HONN
27940 Lone Star Rd.
Paola, KS 66071
(913) 731-5172**

Here's hoping everyone's Holiday season was filled with joy and peace surrounded by friends and family.

Thankfully, 2020 is coming to an end followed by new beginnings and hopefulness. Hopefulness for a better future is a welcome attribute to get us off our duffs and get our mental wheels turning, but these must lead to positive actions.

We, in District 2, are ready to forge forward, embracing new ideas along with the tried-and-true methods to bring back delinquent Members, recruit new Members and engage and celebrate our existing Members, hoping and expecting to become more productive Posts during 2021.

We are ready to make up for lost time, getting back into participating in all of the Legion activities missed in this most unusual year we have just experienced.

By all means, we still must stay safe by whatever means dictated as we move through the vaccines, inauguration and new policies and conditions to be confronted.

Together, we can still make a difference in the lives of our friends, families, fellow Veterans and community.

For GOD and Country.
Myra Jowers
Second District Commander.

**THIRD DISTRICT
COMMANDER
ED BORING, SR.
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VICE CMDR.
DAVID STRASBURG
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Arkansas City, KS 67005
(620) 688-1425**

Greetings Third District Legion Family,

First off thank you for being a Member! Membership is the life blood of our organization. If not for the Members we couldn't exist. If you see the weekly membership report from State HQ you will see we are in 9th place. This is not a true reflection of where we really are. We have some Posts which have not submitted their paid memberships. Why? Until that membership renewal gets submitted the Member will continue to receive a notice they haven't paid and aren't current. We are doing a disservice to our membership by holding their paid dues. This causes our Members to feel we don't care about them. I remember it was always said as leaders we take care of our Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, and Marines. When I receive a complaint that a Post hasn't submitted dues they received I don't see us taking care of our Members.

We have a few of the District Posts doing the buddy wellness checks. A phone call or post card letting Members, and past Members, know we are thinking of them and we are here to assist during this pandemic will go a long ways. Be safe and we will all get through this together.

Feel free to ask any of the District Officers for assistance when it comes to membership. Remember membership is the backbone of the American Legion!

Until the next issue. "For God and Country".

**FOURTH DISTRICT
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VICE CMDR.
MATT BRANY
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No article submitted.

**FIFTH DISTRICT
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(316) 259-1838
VICE CMDR.
PAUL SANFORD
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Newton, KS 67112
(620) 353-3708**

Hope all is doing well with this COVID-19 pandemic. Are you are making "Buddy Checks" with your Members? Buddy Checks are a good way to get your renewals. 5th District is still struggling to move up in the district standings. With the Covid-19 restrictions affecting our Post it has been very challenging for us All. Some Posts have taken this opportunity complete long overdue maintenance will others have done their best to remain relevant within their community. During this period we have seen one Post give up their Post Home and another acquired one. John M. West American Legion Post 408 Derby Haysville Officially opened their door on Jan 2nd and would like to thanks Members from various Post who aided in the efforts to make the event possible.

Congratulations go out to Wichita Post 4, McPherson Post 24, Clearwater Post 93 and Cheney Post 295 for achieving 90% or better membership goal.

**SIXTH DISTRICT
COMMANDER
JIMMY STRACHAN
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Bunker Hill, KS 67626
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VICE CMDR.
HARRY MORRISON, JR.
324 W 7th St.
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No article submitted.

**SEVENTH DISTRICT
COMMANDER
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VICE CMDR.
BEAU BROUGH
110 S.E. 10 RD.
Great Bend, KS 67530
(620) 617-4480**

Greetings 7th Dist. I hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Year, 2020 has been a challenge for all of us with covid-19. A lot of our Posts have had to shut down or change how we go about our daily business.

As of last Friday 7th District is still in first place in membership at Department so keep up the good work with renewals and signing up new Members.

If any Post in 7th dist. Needs help please feel free to give me a call.

I look forward to seeing you all in 2021.

**EIGHTH DISTRICT
COMMANDER
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VICE CMDR.
DAN STACY
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Dodge City, KS 67801
(620) 430-0750**

No article submitted.

2021 MID-WINTER FORUM INDEPENDENCE, KANSAS

Friday, January 29

3 pm Department Executive Committee Meeting Memorial Hall Bldg
3 -6:00 pm Registration Memorial Hall Bldg
6-7:30 pm Hosted Reception with Karaoke Independence Post # 139

Saturday, January 30

7:30am-4:00pm Registration Memorial Hall Bldg
OPENING SESSION
8:00am Call to Order Department Commander Marri Krupco
Opening Ceremony Marri Krupco
Welcome & Introduction Post First Vice Commander Jamie Roberston
Welcome Louis Ysusi, Mayor of Independence
National Vice Commander Bruce Feuerbach
S.A.L. & Auxiliary Depart for their Meetings
Gary Wooten Nebraska Department Commander
Kenneth Wiederholt North Dakota Department Commander
Eric Rohleder Deputy Director, Veterans Services, KCVA
ADJOURN FOR LUNCH AT THE MEMORIAL HALL BLDG
1:00pm Call to Order Department Commander Marri Krupco
Door Prize Drawing Jimmie Foster
Legion Riders Roger Beckley
Membership Turn-in Jeremy Ehart
Membership Awards & Prizes Marri Krupco
Media & Communications Michael Cole
Legislation Pat Culver
Candidates for Department Offices Marri Krupco
4:30-5:30pm Reception for Visiting National Officers Memorial Hall Bldg
5:30-7:00pm Cajun or Ham/Turkey Dinner Available Memorial Hall Bldg
Dinner Music by The One Man Acoustics Memorial Hall Bldg
7:00-10:00pm Karaoke by Davie Ward Independence Post # 139

Sunday, January 31

7:30-8:00am Registration Memorial Hall Bldg
7:00-8:00am Continental Breakfast Memorial Hall Bldg
8:00am Call to Order Department Commander Marri Krupco
Four Chaplains Service Rev. R. Glenn Patterson
8:30 am Pledge of Allegiance Jeremy Ehart
S.A.L. Introductions Tom Wallsmith
Auxiliary Introductions Paula Sellens
Junior Auxiliary Introductions Hattie Burgio
American Legion Introductions Marri Krupco
Legion Family Membership Turn-In Jeremy Ehart
Child & Youth Report Pat Culver
Americanism Programs:
Cadet Law Enforcement Academy Gaylord Sanneman
Boys State Tom Wierman
Oratorical Mike Oppy
Baseball Steve Queen
Scholarships Mike Oppy
School Awards & County Government Day James Snyder
Eisenhower John Meyeres
Department Sweepstakes Drawing Department Staff

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

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with that organization.

5. They have children, many of them young. Referring to the item above, they want to be sure the people that are going to be around their children will be appropriate role models. Again, this means lewd comments, foul language, and even politics should not be on your page. If you feel you must share these things do it privately, and not on a public forum.

6. Again, they have children, and those little curtain climbers are the stars of their lives. Make your events kid friendly. If they can't bring their kids, a lot of them won't come. For that matter, hold events for the kids, they will bring the parents, and then you can get them involved.

7. Last, they aren't looking for us. You have to go looking

for them. This applies to Veterans of all ages, current Members, and potential Members. Carry some blank business cards. After you make initial contact, tell them there is an event coming up soon and you want to send them more information on it. Try to get their phone number, e-mail, mailing address, or whatever they feel comfortable providing, and then follow-up no more than two days later. Everyone enjoys feeling wanted, but they don't enjoy feeling harassed, so don't overdo it.

I hope these tips will give you something to consider. Maybe it's time to make a few changes in your recruitment strategy. Whether it's for membership or getting them involved, it's all the same ideas.

For God & Country

**NINTH DISTRICT
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VICE CMDR.
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Well 9th District, it has been one heck of a Year. I know that everyone is definitely looking forward to the new year. We have had to cancel numerous events this year and are hoping that things will get back to normal soon. It is time to start thinking about nominations and selection of Officers for the next year. Please make sure that you get your officer data sheet filled out and turned in. The District Convention for this year will be at Oberlin Post 70 on the 20th of March. If we still cannot have group meetings at that time we will do it by teleconference just like we did this last year. More will be sent on this in the next month. Finally, like everybody else, I am going to talk about membership for a minute. Last year we were in first place for 13 weeks and this year we have not made it to that place yet. Please, get with your Members and see why they have not renewed their memberships yet. This is also a good way to do a Buddy Check and see how they are doing. The District Leadership is always available to help if you need it. Please give your District Officer assigned to your Post a call anytime. They are here to help you and to let me know that you need help. Thanks again for all you do for your Post, Community, State and Nation. Without you the American Legion will not continue as the Great Organization that is is. As always you can contact me at anytime. District Commander Ray

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

Celebrated as "Children & Youth Month" since 1938, April is the perfect time of year for Legionnaires to demonstrate that the American Legion Family is committed to its community, and especially its children. Posts can host a child- or youth-themed community event, invite a subject-matter expert to present at a meeting, collaborate on a project with a local school, or any number of other activities. Children represent the future of our nation. It is up to us to equip them with knowledge, leadership skills and a commitment to service that they will use as productive adult citizens of the United States.

Here is a list of The American Legion Youth Programs:

Kansas Boy's State - ksbstate.org (deadline April 15, 2021)

Baseball - ksamlegion.org/page/content/programs/baseball (deadline May 15, 2021)

Shooting Sport - Registration online at: <https://www.legion.org/shooting>

Cadet Law - ksamlegion.org/page/content/programs/cadet-law-enforcement-academy (Deadline March 31, 2021).

Oratorical - The Department Oratorical will be March 13 at Manhattan Post 17.


Check with your District Oratorical Chairperson for the time and place of your District contest.

DETACHMENT COMMANDER

(Continued from Page 2)

with 62.5% membership which exceeds the January 21 goal of 60%. We are however struggling with 19 Squadrons having no membership reported. Last year at this time we had 12 with no membership reported.

I wish all of you a Happy New Year and a safe one. Thanks for all you do for our Veterans, their families, communities, State and Nation. Keep up the good work, what you do makes a difference to a lot of people.




**AUXILIARY
PRESIDENT**

Paula Sellens

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Many of us are anticipating 2021 because it will no longer be 2020. By any measure,

2020 was a rough year. The COVID-19 virus interrupted our lives in many ways.

Conventions, programs, and meetings were cancelled. We were compelled to re-adjust our many programs for serving Veterans and their families.

I received many calls in 2020 relating to problems in various Units. Each time, the problem was described in detail, then came the salient question, "What can we do?" I would be asked.

My answers were usually the same. "What do your Unit constitution and bylaws say?" I would ask in the way of an answer. "Your constitution and bylaws includes the fundamental principles that outline the purpose, structure, and limits of your Unit. You

should be able to find the answer to your question there."

To say it another way, constitutions and bylaws are the governing documents upon which the Units operate. The constitutions and bylaws will describe the duties and responsibilities of all officers and Members. They will provide guidance for dealing with situations in which officers and Members fail to abide by their duties.

Make it a New Year's resolution to become familiar with your constitution and bylaws. If you don't have a copy, there is likely a copy on file at The American Legion Auxiliary Department in Topeka. If your review reveals that your governing documents are outdated, there will be provisions for amending them. But always, call me with your specific problems. I'm always ready to help.

+ TAPS +

Adrian, Gerald (WWII)..... Colby	Froetschner, Roland (Korea)..... Larned	Meyer, Jimmie (Korea)..... Hutchinson
Albright, Alvin (Korea)..... Hutchinson	Gaede, Robert (Korea)..... Newton	Millard, Jerry (Vietnam)..... WaKeeney
Aldridge, Gary (Vietnam)..... Lawrence	Garard, David (Vietnam)..... Erie	Morris, David (Vietnam)..... Independence
Alison, E. W. (Korea)..... Halstead	Gaston, Max (WWII)..... Marysville	Morton, Robert (Korea)..... Emporia
Allderge, Gerald (Vietnam)..... Washington	Gentleman, Merton (WWII)..... Glen Elder	Mount, Edwin (Vietnam)..... Lawrence
Allen, Jack (Vietnam)..... Junction City	Gillette, Charles (Korea)..... Ottawa	Mueller, James (Vietnam)..... Greenleaf
Anderson, Lewis (WWII)..... Overland Park	Gilman, Edward (Vietnam)..... Dorrance	Muzyka, George (Vietnam)..... Overland Park
Antisdel, Richard (Vietnam)..... Lyndon	Giorza, Fred (WWII)..... Overland Park	Myers, Ronald (Vietnam)..... Atchinson
Arrowsmith, Ronald (Vietnam)..... Halstead	Glauser, James (Vietnam)..... Overland Park	Nichols, John (Korea)..... Overbrook
Baldauf, Bill (WWII)..... Hutchinson	Gold, Thomas (Korea)..... Wetmore	Nicklin, Dennis (Vietnam)..... Hutchinson
Barnett, Carl (Vietnam)..... Rexford	Grant, David (Korea)..... Overland Park	Oberle, Victor (Korea)..... Great Bend
Barrett, Donald (WWII)..... Topeka #58	Gray, William (Korea)..... Pittsburg	Olson, Clyde (WWII)..... McPherson
Barta, Richard (Vietnam)..... Lucas	Green, John (WWII)..... McPherson	Onasch, John (Vietnam)..... Overland Park
Bashaw, William (Grenada/Lebanon)..... Gridley	Griffie, Joseph (Vietnam)..... Great Bend	Oppenlander, Gary (Vietnam)..... Junction City
Bashaw, William..... Gridley	Gross, Frederick (Vietnam)..... Junction City	Owen, Keith (WWII)..... El Dorado
Bechtel, Norbert (Vietnam)..... Hutchinson	Gualtieri, Paul (WWII)..... Overland Park	Padilla, Robert (Grenada/Lebanon)..... Mayetta
Bentley, David (Vietnam)..... Emporia	Gugenahan, William..... Marysville	Paulv, Paul (Vietnam)..... Brownell
Bergstrom, Arvid..... Cuba	Haase, Lloyd (Korea)..... Ellsworth	Peirson, John (Persian Gulf)..... Medicine Lodge
Blanchat, Bill (Korea)..... Harper	Hall, Clayton (WWII)..... Whitewater	Peters, Ervin (WWII)..... Bird City
Bollig, Julius (WWII)..... WaKeeney	Hammel, Elroy (Korea)..... Overland Park	Peterson, Leon (Vietnam)..... McPherson
Bosetti, Gus (WWII)..... Frontenac	Hansen, John (Vietnam)..... Junction City	Picazo, Efraim (Vietnam)..... Garden City
Boswell, R. E. (WWII)..... Overland Park	Harper, Leonard (WWII)..... Lebo	Pinick, Daryl (Korea)..... Havensville
Bowers, Monte (Korea)..... Lawrence	Haverkamp, Melvin (Korea)..... Seneca	Poffenbarger, George (Korea)..... Yates Center
Bowker, William (Korea)..... Chanute	Heiman, Lambert (Vietnam)..... Seneca	Ragsdale, James (Korea)..... Hutchinson
Boyle, Terrance (Vietnam)..... Topeka #400	Helvey, Jim (Vietnam)..... Overland Park	Rasmusson, Steven (Vietnam)..... Lyndon
Brackney, Kenneth (Korea)..... Ness City	Henderson, Annette (Vietnam)..... Wichita #4	Rausch, Joe (Vietnam)..... Yates Center
Brax, Gene (Korea)..... Lindsborg	Henderson, Gregory (Vietnam)..... Belle Plaine	Reeder, Daryl (Korea)..... WaKeeney
Briery, Harm (WWII)..... Hoxie	Hill, Robert (WWII)..... McPherson	Reider, John (Vietnam)..... Overland Park
Brill, William (Korea)..... Sedgwick	Hines, Marvin (Vietnam)..... Agra	Rein, Clifford (Korea)..... Garden City
Brott, Larry (Vietnam)..... Coffeyville	Holtgraves, Donald (WWII)..... Overland Park	Rice, Orville, Jr. (Korea)..... Mayetta
Brown, Thomas (Vietnam)..... Yates Center	Jackson, Robert (Vietnam)..... Junction City	Rieth, Garold (Vietnam)..... Hanover
Brumbaugh, Keith (Vietnam)..... Topeka #58	Jefferis, Robert (Korea)..... Shawnee	Robertson, Neighl (Vietnam)..... Howard
Brumley, C. E. (Korea)..... Topeka #1	Jenks, John (Korea)..... Overland Park	Roney, Lawrence (WWII)..... Mulvane
Buczinski, Larry (Vietnam)..... Great Bend	Johnson, Billy (Vietnam)..... Hutchinson	Ronnebaum, Wilfred (Korea)..... Seneca
Bueltel, John (Korea)..... Topeka #400	Johnson, Earl (Korea)..... Junction City	Rose, Clarence (Vietnam)..... Coffeyville
Burgess, Anthony (Lebanon/Grenada).....	Johnson, Garland (Korea)..... Hutchinson	Rottinghaus, Adrian (Korea)..... Seneca
..... Junction City	Johnson, Kenneth (WWII)..... Burdick	Rube, Leroy (WWII)..... Hoisington
Burkett, Jim (Vietnam)..... Osage City	Karst, Arthur (WWII)..... Hoisington	Ruff, Lawrence..... Logan
Cassel, Donald (Vietnam)..... Olsburg	Keating, Joe (Vietnam)..... Hutchinson	Rush, Kenneth (WWII)..... Gardner
Cederberg, John (Korea)..... Oberlin	Keller, Charles (Vietnam)..... Troy	Sanders, Glenn (WWII)..... Protection
Chaplin, Donald (Korea)..... Howard	Kennett, Jay..... Leavenworth	Schremmer, Kenneth (Vietnam)..... Hoisington
Charlton, Willie (Persian Gulf)..... Leavenworth	Ketter, Lawrence, Jr. (Korea)..... Topeka #400	Shaffer, John (WWII)..... Hutchinson
Clark, Fred (WWII)..... Macksville	Kirk, Randall (Vietnam)..... Bucklin	Shannon, Lonnie (Vietnam)..... Axtell
Clark, Junior (Korea)..... Wamego	Kling, Norman (Korea)..... Overland Park	Sheen, Jack (WWII)..... Emporia
Clarke, Donald (Korea)..... Yates Center	Kneisley, Kevin (Vietnam)..... Hiawatha	Shields, Will, Jr. (Vietnam)..... Overland Park
Clews, Earl (Korea)..... WaKeeney	Knighton, Donald (Korea)..... Overland Park	Smith, Marlin (Vietnam)..... Kensington
Click, Tommy (Vietnam)..... Baxter Springs	Kohake, Leonard (WWII)..... Seneca	Snook, Lloyd (Vietnam)..... Russell
Collins, Zack (Vietnam)..... Hutchinson	Korthanke, Philip (WWII)..... Robinson	Southworth, Jim (Korea)..... Hutchinson
Conrick, James (Korea)..... Overland Park	Koster, Dale (Vietnam)..... Garden City	Springer, Robert (Korea)..... Hanover
Cooper, Dewayne (Vietnam)..... Emporia	Kubie, Harvey (WWII)..... Overland Park	Stanley, John (Vietnam)..... Oberlin
Cottengim, Charles (Vietnam)..... Overland Park	Kuhman, Ervin (Korea)..... Oberlin	Steckman, Clifford (Korea)..... Russell
Craft, Jerry (Vietnam)..... Sedgwick	Ladd, Ralph (Vietnam)..... Shawnee	Stimpert, Waldo (Korea)..... Bucklin
Creighton, Neal (Vietnam)..... Junction City	LaFond, Donald (Korea)..... Lawrence	Stratford, William (Vietnam)..... Hutchinson
Criger, Jim (WWII)..... Howard	Lang, Helmut (Vietnam)..... Shawnee	Stull, Bill (Vietnam)..... Hutchinson
Cummings, Lon (Korea)..... Howard	Leinweber, Ned (Vietnam)..... Blue Rapids	Swanson, Wesley (Korea)..... Newton
Cundiff, Gregory (Grenada/Lebanon)..... Oberlin	Lemon, Meryl (Korea)..... Hutchinson	Sylvester, Elgene (Korea)..... Wamego
Darnall, Byron (Vietnam)..... Mayetta	Lentell, Ernest (WWII)..... Council Grove	Theel, William (Korea)..... Topeka #400
DeForest, Charles (Korea)..... El Dorado	Lesovsky, Marion (WWII)..... Cuba	Thomas, Keith (Vietnam)..... Cuba
Defur, Melvern (Vietnam)..... Waverly	Lewis, James, Sr. (Korea)..... Bucklin	Troxel, Wendell (Korea)..... Moran
Degener, Wellington (Vietnam)..... Topeka #400	Lewis, Jerry, Sr. (Vietnam)..... Arma	Tubach, Ray (Vietnam)..... Larned
Detwiler, Dick (WWII)..... Kensington	Lind, Robert (Korea)..... Hutchinson	Veach, Ralph (Korea)..... Derby
Dewell, Hal (Korea)..... Bucklin	Lindblade C. R. (Korea)..... McPherson	Walt, Albert (Korea)..... Ness City
Dody, Donald (WWII)..... Newton	Loeffler, Alan (Panama)..... Marysville	Warren, Gerald (Korea)..... Overbrook
Dossett, Vernon (Korea)..... McPherson	Lord, Delbert (Vietnam)..... Howard	Wasinger, Kenneth (Vietnam)..... Ness City
Dougan, Dennis (Vietnam)..... Chanute	Loving, Burl (WWII)..... Garden City	Wasinger, Paul (WWII)..... Ness City
Dreier, Richard (Vietnam)..... Topeka #400	Ludwig, Robert (Korea)..... Hoisington	Wells, William (Vietnam)..... St. George
Dunnaway, Carl (Vietnam)..... Perry	Luerman, John (Korea)..... Hoisington	Wenger, Louis (WWII)..... Powhattan
Dyer, Jon (Vietnam)..... El Dorado	Mann, William (Vietnam)..... Coffeyville	Wilkens, Harlan (Korea)..... Hutchinson
Ebberts, Larry (Vietnam)..... Shawnee	Martin, Robert (Korea)..... McPherson	Williams, Dallas (Vietnam)..... Topeka #58
Elmore, Bruce (Korea)..... McPherson	Masters, Richard (Korea)..... Chanute	Wilson, Richard (WWII)..... Newton
Engle, Alfred (Korea)..... Arma	Mayer, Andrew (Korea)..... Frankfort	Winkler, Edward (Vietnam)..... Topeka #400
Everhart, Lawrence (Vietnam)..... McPherson	McCabe, John (Vietnam)..... Pittsburg	Withrow, Charles (Persian Gulf)..... Junction City
Exon, Robert (Korea)..... Topeka #1	McLaren, Tom (Korea)..... Chanute	Woodward, Harold (Vietnam)..... Pittsburg
Flach, Paul (Vietnam)..... Topeka #58	McVay, James, Jr. (Vietnam)..... Erie	Wooton, Harold (WWII)..... Topeka #1
Forsberg, Donald (Korea)..... Logan	Menhusen, Albert (Korea)..... Wamego	Wright, Dennis (Vietnam)..... Sterling
		Ziegler, Richard (Vietnam)..... Mulvane
		Zink, Martin (Korea)..... Hutchinson

BOYS STATE

(Continued from Page 1)

still 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 June 5 to 12 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, 2021; 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.

KRUPCO FOR DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

(Continued from Page 3)

has been as it was before. Some new ideas are finally starting to come to life, and she would like the opportunity to see them to fruition. Last, having continuity in the organization's leadership, could prove to be advantageous through the changing times we are currently living in.

The Website Ad-hoc Committee has begun to make some big changes that will be greatly beneficial to the Department, Districts, Posts, and Members. Marri's plans include continuing her work with this committee to ensure that the Department website becomes a user-friendly source of information, striving for improved communication and information sharing between all levels and branches of The American Legion Family. Without our membership our organization will cease to exist; therefore, Marri will continue to work with the Vice-Commander and the rest of the Department Membership Team to develop more efficient ways for new members to join or transfer into local Posts.

Marri has the support of her husband Matthew, and the endorsement of her Post and Unit. She now asks for your support and vote at Department Convention in Topeka on May 16, 2021.

CURRENT AND PENDING CONGRESSIONAL VETERANS LEGISLATION

The veterans and citizens living in the state of Kansas are very fortunate to have a highly respected U.S. Senator serving as Chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee among many other senatorial assignments. Jerry Moran's advocacy for the well being of veterans through quality healthcare and benefits continues to be a top priority in his service to our state.

Recently, at his direction, the Senator's office organized a Zoom meeting in which participants from various VSO's, advocates and other organizations were asked to voice opinions on veteran's issues in order to help the Senator focus on ways to improve veteran's care through legislation. This approach assisted with the development and implementation of two recent acts.

The John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019 -

This act establishes updates for areas including a plan for transitioning VA Health Care for a period of one year to any army, navy or air servicemember. It provides grants to suitable entities for a period of 3 years for the provision of suicide prevention services to veterans and their families. If clinically appropriate, a grant must be provided, for a person receiving suicide prevention services, for mental care assessment or services. The VA must enter into an agreement with a nongovernmental entity to assess the effectiveness of the VA's suicide prevention and mental health projects. And a plan is to be developed for improving the VA Mental Health Medical Workforce. The bill was signed into law by President Trump 17 Oct 2020.

VA Mission Act 2018 -

An intention of the bill is to enable veterans to access health care without experiencing long delays prior to receiving treatment. In addition, it ensures a continuity of care and services, and/or determines a lapse or difficulty in accessing same, coordinating treatment and health care from multiple facilities, and providing necessary care and services through the Veterans Community Care Program (VCCP). The VA will utilize VCCP services for the veteran when the necessary services are not available at the VA, a full-service facility is not in the veteran's state, or the veteran was eligible under the Veterans Choice Program criteria. VCCP services are obtained through Veterans Care Agreements (VCA's) with non-VA health providers, where it is not feasible, and considering factors that may not be practicable such as medical condition, travel involved, medical services required, to provide care for the veteran. The President signed the bill into law 6 June 2018.

(On a personal note, when helping a WW-II Veteran with health care in 2019, the services of VCCP were most appreciated in multiple locations. Scheduling was efficiently handled, paperwork at a minimum, medical personnel very professional, and local services available.)

Other bills having been introduced among many in Congress are: SB.4910/ Adjusting the regulation of certain grants during a covered public health emergency to homeless veterans.

SB.4900/ Requires a pilot program implementation by the DOD and VA on activities under the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) for a reduction in suicide among veterans. We have suggested that non-VA mental health providers be among those developing the program.

SB.4852/ A bill that authorizes transfer of coronavirus and relief funds by the Committee on Veterans Affairs to improve educational systems pursuant the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Assistance Act of 2017.

SB. 4166/ Requires the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to get medical opinion for veterans who die with service-connected disabilities, who have COVID-19, to determine if service-connected disability was the principal or contributing cases of death. The Act may be cited as the "Ensuring Survivors Benefits during COVID-19 Act of 2020.

The Kansas American Legion is grateful to Senator Moran and his staff for their concerns and tireless efforts on the behalf of our country's veterans.

KANSAS SUNFLOWER LEGIONNAIRE

Jimmie L. Foster, Editor

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THE AMERICAN LEGION

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