

THE STATE ADJUTANTS LETTER



KANSAS DEPARTMENT



1314 SW TOPEKA BLVD. TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1886

DECEMBER 2024

FEBRUARY 1 DEADLINE REMINDER: An important date for membership workers. This is the LAST chance to qualify for the Gold Star Club and other awards. ADJUTANTS ARE TO REPORT WORKERS NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 15. Reporting forms were mailed last month, let us know if you need additional copies.

THREE DUES NOTICES have been sent by National Headquarters; the easy ones are in; the rest will require personal contact. Organize membership drives now before everyone gets caught up in Christmas shopping, etc. For those Posts with club rooms/lounges: Your lounge workers should have a list of unpaid members available to them and they should be collecting dues. It does not matter who collects dues -- but they must be collected. Listed below are suggestions on how to collect membership.

1. Divide all unpaid renewals among your membership workers and Post Officers. These people should contact every person on their 'list' this month.
2. Divide your membership workers and Post Officers into teams similar to the above suggestion #1. Perhaps your Post can award a prize to the most successful team and/or individual.
3. Use the 'buddy system' to organize an old-fashioned door-to-door membership drive to seek out new membership, renewals and those who can be reinstated.
4. Ask those who have never helped out on a membership drive to help. Who knows, you might find a permanent membership worker. Ask all your membership to help out by remembering who went to service with them and get them signed up. Ditto for all other veterans including today's active-duty military and the current Guard and Reserve Personnel. Who is a 'new' member? Anyone who did not pay their dues to your Post last year but does so this year. There are over 200,000 eligible veterans in Kansas who still haven't been asked to join.

STATE BOWLING TOURNAMENT: Information and entries for the 78th State Bowling Tournament are being mailed to all past participants and bowling alleys. If your local bowling alley does not receive the information, please contact State Headquarters or Chairman, Mike Cole at 913-680-8680. This year's tournament will be held at Gage Bowl, 4200 SW Huntoon Street in Topeka January 11-12, 18-19 and 25-26, 2025.

TRANSFERS: The Post Transfer section of the Member Data Form must be filled out for all members transferring their membership to another Post. This includes DMS members and is very important because of permanent member ID numbers.

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POST EXCELLENCE AWARD To qualify for the Post Excellence Award, a post is required to achieve excellence in four areas: membership, submission of the Consolidated Post Report (CPR), attaining a 90% renewal rate and community activity. The purpose of this award is membership growth, and increased visibility of the American Legion Family through service through service projects. A post achieving this qualification will have had numerous post members involved in planning and achieving these goals. Many posts are already active in these areas and will qualify without extra effort. Others, however, will need to increase their efforts in one or more areas to qualify for the award. **The standard to be achieved in each area is as follows: Membership:** The Post must attain at least 103% of their membership goal. At least one post officer attends district meetings. **Consolidated Post Report:** CPRs must be submitted by July 1. The American Legion's federal charter requires the submission of an annual report to Congress on activities for the year. MyLegion.org has made it simple for a post to submit its CPR in a timely manner. **90% Renewal Rate:** The post must renew at least 90% of their members that were on the 2024 roster. **Community Activity:** The post must conduct an event that connects the local community with The American Legion post. The objective is to open your doors, welcome the community in, and educate them on what The American Legion is all about and how the post is an asset to the community. Posts do not need to have a physical building to accomplish this. This activity can be held in a park, a community center, or anywhere the post can welcome and interact with the local community. **Certification for the Award:** The district commander responsible for the post will certify a post as having achieved the four specified criteria. The district commander will submit a list of posts meeting the criteria to Department Headquarters. That list should include the post name, phone number, address and commander's name. If possible, accompany the last two criteria with copies of press releases submitted to the local media about the projects to show that the projects were not only accomplished but that an attempt was made to enhance the image of The American Legion through local media. The copy submitted should include a date and time stamp showing receipt by the media outlet.

POSTS INTERESTED IN HOSTING 2025 BASEBALL TOURNAMENTS must notify Headquarters before January 2, 2025.

THE AMERICAN LEGION HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM will be held at 9:00am, March 15, 2025, at American Legion Post # 400, 3029 US Hwy 24 in Topeka. Prior to the State Contest there are ten District Contests scheduled for the winner to qualify for the state contest. Scholarships vary for each District with scholarships given to the top three District Contestants. They then move on to the State Contest where eleven contestants compete for \$1,000; \$500; and \$250 and \$150. The state winner gets an all-expense trip to the National Finals Contest. The three National finalists receive scholarships as follows; 1st Place, \$25,000; 2nd Place, \$22,500; and 3rd Place, \$20,000.

RENEWAL POST CARDS: Department Headquarters will receive a supply of the Membership Renewal Post Cards. These cards can be very effective when sent to delinquent members. Contact Headquarters with the number that you need.

IN ORDER TO AVOID RECEIVING THE NEXT RENEWAL NOTICE ALL PAID MEMBERS' CARDS MUST BE IN THIS OFFICE BY DECEMBER 6, 2024.