

Sunflower Legionnaire



VOL LXVIII NO. 5

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

FEBRUARY 2015

American Legion Joins Public in Effort to Honor GI BILL Author Harry W. Colmery



Department Commander Emery McKimmy and other Legionnaires joined Governor Sam Brownback and numerous State and City officials in announcing the construction of a statue and park to honor Past National Commander Harry W. Colmery. The American Legion and the Downtown Topeka Foundation was joined by members of the Colmery family during a news conference announcing the park honoring PNC Colmery will be included the current renovation of the Capitol City's downtown.

Credited with authoring the GI Bill of Rights which permanently changed the face of the United States, Colmery was a prominent Topeka attorney and powerful influence in the early history of in the American Legion. His contributions and leadership also extended into the development of Topeka and Kansas after World War I, and his skill in the legal profession was well versed and successful well beyond the state's borders.

Funding for the park and

statue depends upon private funding and will rely heavily upon the American Legion Family for the statue while corporate America will be asked to contribute to make the park a reality. A link to donate to the statue has been established on Department's website at www.ksamlegion.org.

Commander McKimmy's remarks made during the announcement are below. You are encouraged to read Adjutant Yunker's column on page 3 for more information.

Harry Colmery Press Conference Speech

"We are here today to garner support, to honor a Kansan who made it his mission to honor countless others by securing benefits for Veterans who might have otherwise been forgotten. That Kansan was Topeka lawyer, World War One Veteran and American Legion Past National Commander Harry W. Colmery, the father of the GI Bill of Rights, considered to be one of the most important bills in American military, econom-

ic, social and political history.

Remembering what it was like coming home from the Great War and seeing his fellow Veterans out of work, poor and destitute, and failed promises of assistance by the Government, Harry Colmery fought diligently for the rights of Veterans coming home from World War Two.

His handwritten pages on Washington's Mayflower Hotel stationary became the first draft introduced into Congress on January 10th, 1944 as the Servicemen's Readjustment Act. This revolutionary bill provided for education, loan guarantees, unemployment, and other benefits for returning veterans.

A single quote by Harry Colmery summed up The American Legion's legislative goal: it is, "the duty, the responsibility, and the desire of our grateful people, to see to it that those who serve actively in the armed services in this War, not

(Continued Page 3)

AMERICAN LEGION 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.

(Continued Page 7)

CADET LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY

On June 8 up to 50 young Kansans will gather for the 45th 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 juniors, 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-pan under controlled conditions, practical emergency medical procedures, aircraft use in law enforcement (weather permitting), and the responsibilities of citizens regardless of age.

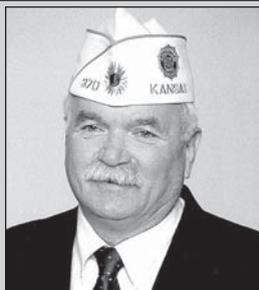
Primarily classes are conducted by Highway Patrol personnel however representatives of other agencies such as the FBI, KBI, Wildlife and Parks, city and county officials augment the instruction provided throughout the week. Parents and families are encouraged to attend graduation ceremonies on Friday evening, June 13.

Students are encouraged to apply early. Completed applications must include endorsements by a doctor (attesting to

(Continued Page 6)

COMMANDER

Emery McKimmy
8902 Slater St.
Overland Park, KS 66212
913-649-5881



CHILDREN

&

YOUTH

DeeDee
Danin
dddanin@hotmail.com

VICE
COMMANDER

Raymond Vail
PO Box 152m
Arma, KS 66712
620-347-4892



Greetings, Department of Kansas Legion Family! I want to thank all of you for your work in membership. As you know, it is our voice and our communication with our government leaders. The greater the numbers, the more likely they will listen and support us.

I want to thank DeDe Danin and Anna Smith for their hard work and diligence this past year in getting help for a number of people in need. Their dedication resulted in several thousand dollars being raised for those who needed a helping hand.

The annual Department Bowling Tournament is over, and it sure was a good one, tough for some, but overall, a nice time was had by all. You know, Legion Bowling is just one of the many things hosted by The American Legion. Whenever you start talking about the great things we do, you come up with opportunities for new members of the Legion Family.

National Vice Commander Paul Sanford will be touring Kansas February 2-5. It would be great if we could have good turnouts and membership turns at every stop. The schedule for this visit has been published and we are grateful to the posts that have graciously consented to host a stop.

Make plans now to attend the Department Mid-Winter Forum at Post 10 in Winfield, February 6-8. We are expecting the lead candidate for National Commander, Dale Barnett, to drop by for a visit, and it's a great opportunity to get together and share information and ideas with your fellow

CHAPLAIN'S COLUMN

(Continued from Page 7)

May we who follow, devote our lives to the level of sacrifice for our nation as the millions of men and women who have so faithfully served this great nation. It is for this purpose that we the American Legion continue to remain an organization of support to all who have served. For this purpose that we associate ourselves together for God and Country.

Kansas Legion Family members.

Your District Oratorical Contests are coming up this month, and the winners will move on to the Department Oratorical Contest on March 14 at 9 am, at Post 17 in Manhattan. If you have never been to an Oratorical Contest, let me tell you, it is time well spent. The enthusiasm and knowledge shown by these bright young future leaders is outstanding. I am so glad The American Legion affords this scholarship opportunity for these young people.

In the upcoming months we are going to be very busy with Legion Posts birthday parties, District conventions and ultimately, the Department Convention in Topeka in mid-May. Posts should be getting reports ready to submit to the District Chairmen. I highly recommend starting now, because the District conventions start the last weekend of March and go through the month of April.

My year has been very busy, but very gratifying and certainly one where I have been welcomed all over the state of Kansas. With just a few months left on my term as your Commander, let me just say that it has been an honor and a privilege traveling around the state, meeting all the veterans and serving you. It is humbling to know what you have done for all of us, thank you for securing and preserving our freedom.

Let us never forget our service members still in harm's way, and those still missing in action. God Bless America, God bless our Troops, and **GOD BLESS YOU!**

This is the time to remember last year's needs and plan for this year's completion, and if not successful, start now for the following year so you are on target and not lost to all those many interruptions in our lives! That's what New Year Resolutions are good for - keeping us on target! Okay, now let's get on with another year of Children and Youth programs and deadlines! Yeah!

Mid-Winter Forum is just around the corner; I hope you have turned in your sweepstakes tickets to Department and were ready for the Auction! C&Y Programs are vitally important for our children and families. If you did not participate this year, plan for next. It's vitally important and besides, there are great rewards. This year's MWF I will not "harass" you with the ABSOLUTE REQUIREMENT of getting your Annual Reports prepared and turned in. **DISTRICT COMMANDERS**, thank you for your support, let's insure ALL are turned in at District Conventions!

Then comes all District Oratorical Competitions. Your District Oratorical chairs are doing a great job handling the many details of this great competition. Our kids deserve your attention so insure you support the event either on local or state level. Mr. Oppy and I are definitely expecting ALL Districts to participate this year at Department level Saturday, March 14th. Will see you there!

We are all still awaiting the Scout, 4-H member or Future Farmer of the Year nominations! We have many programs, because there are so many occasions to recognize all those special people out there who make a real difference in our lives and communities! Take a moment and think of those who really deserve to be recognized, jot down their name and get it into Department. Every Post should be able to find at least one submission.

Greetings Kansas Legionnaires. The holidays are over, now we can all settle down and get back to normal.

We are starting a new year, The Mid-Winter is over and the Districts Conventions are coming up with leadership changes. So I want to say thank you to everyone for what you have done the past year. We have been pushing hard on memberships and retentions these last couple of years and I know that it has been hard at times but there is a reason for all the madness. National is setting a goal for The American Legion and to reach that goal we must try to hold up our end of the deal. To do that all the Kansas Posts, Districts, and Department needs to work together and that's where the membership revitalizations come in to play. They pull everyone together so we can all work for the common good of all.

The revitalizations are not hard but they do take some time and a little work on everyone's part. All that we have ever asked is that there is someone from each Post be present and take the work sheets back to their Posts and contact those veterans and try to get them

back into The American Legion's membership. There is a lot of unseen work from many people to put these revitalizations together and it's sad to see all that work and material go to waste when no one shows up to help. I have heard some say that they don't have time for anything else from all the membership work required from them. Well that's true and I don't see it changing any time soon. Membership is the life blood of our organization and that's how we are able to help as many people as we do and it keeps The American Legion the largest and best veterans' service organization in the world.

All District Commanders should start working on getting together your membership teams now and be ready for the up coming membership revitalization's.

We will be going into the District Conventions in a few months and I am looking forward to seeing everyone there. Let's have a great year and hit the ground running. I know we will all do our best to keep Kansas American Legion strong and moving forward.

Again thank you all for everything you do.

POST COMMANDERS
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This certificate is awarded to all **POST COMMANDERS** who lead their Posts to a 2015 membership increase by November 12, 2014, by exceeding their Post's previous year's final membership. Following are the list of Commanders by District.

Dist. 1 Mike Parker, Highland #358; **Dist. 2** NONE; **Dist. 3** Tommy Eldridge, Baxter Springs #206; **Dist. 4** Jack Bernitter, Havensville #333; Mike Mowat, Herington #12; Christopher Anderson, Leonardville

#40; Jayson Massey, Lyndon #125; and Mark Osmundson, Madison #124; **Dist. 5** Artie Ihrig, Valley Center #73; Roland F. Caffee, Wichita #422; and Melvin G. Finuf, Wichita #424; **Dist. 6** Evert O. LaCoe, Beloit #57; Paul D. Kuchera, Lincoln #165; Kenneth Craig, Phillipsburg #252; and Kenneth D. Bracelin, St. Francis #137; **Dist. 7** Orel A. Schadel, Jr., Burdett #280 and Bernie Albers, Cunningham #114; **Dist. 8** NONE.

DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER

Dan Bartlett
 2200 SW Gage
 Topeka, KS 66622
 800-574-8387 ext. 54489
 Dan.bartlett@med.va.gov

As the newly assigned Kansas American Legion Department Service Officer, I want to extend my appreciation and gratitude to Adjutant Yunker and the Executive Committee for their confidence in me to hold such an important position within our organization.

With this position I now join an elite group of American Legion National Department Service Officers; these American Legion National Service Officers are located in every state in the United States to include; The District of Columbia, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Philippines, Guam and The American Samoa's.

As a new member of the National Department Service Officers, the standards set forth under Article II read as follows:

Preamble: For the good of our profession and The American Legion, we associated ourselves together for the following purposes:

To promote high standards of professionalism, to conduct

and efficiently carry out the duties, the exchange of information and experience of our profession.

To mutually present to The American Legion National Veterans Affairs Rehabilitation Commission suggestions, constructive criticism, and recommendation for the improvement of The American Legion's great tradition of service to our veterans, sick and disabled, their widows and orphans.

In closing, as we Kansas American Legion members move forward and as your Department Service Officer, I am looking forward to hearing and listening to any constructive criticisms and recommendations for the improvement that may aid and assist in the service to our organization, our veterans and their dependents.

Please feel free to contact me any time by email or phone. dan.bartlett@va.gov or 785.350.4489 or 1.800.574.8387 Ext. 54489.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

The following is a list of issues and Bill numbers when possible that should be of interest to every veteran and their families, and posts. There is no legislative carryover from last year, so only bills introduced this year are considered. Several veteran related bills have already been introduced and the hot topic of this year is set to be introduced soon. As legislators have until February 11 to introduce new bills, this list is not a complete list of veterans' related bills for the 2015 session.

Charitable raffles: While Kansas voters chose to make raffles legal in the November 2014 election, the details of how raffles will be regulated in Kansas has yet to be determined. Legislators must draft and pass the statutes regulating

these raffles for this new law to come into effect. These statutes will determine when a raffle license is required, how much a license costs, if and how raffles are taxed, and if tickets must be purchased from a licensed distributor.

SB 41: Should allow Kansas residence who are in federal service, including those serving in the US military, as well as their spouses and dependents, to vote by fax or electronic mail if they cannot vote in a timely manner by regular mail.

HB 2006: Would commission a new distinctive license plate for disabled veterans. Vehicles with this plate would be allowed to park free at any public parking facilities that uses parking attendants or in any metered handicapped parking space.

(Continued Page 8)

**Harry Colmery
 Press Conference
 Speech**

(Continued from Page 1)

only shall not be penalized as a result of their war service, but also that, upon their return to civil life, they should be aided in reaching that place, position, or status, which they normally had expected to achieve, had the war service not interrupted their careers."

The Legion's message was quickly adopted by millions across our great land but the bill was not without its detractors. It would take six months of heated debates on both sides of Congress before the final draft of the bill would reach President Roosevelt's desk. And Harry Colmery was there to see it signed into law. President Roosevelt said the bill "gives emphatic notice to the men and women in our armed forces that the American People do not intend to let them down." And it did not let them down, The American Legion, Harry Colmery and his World War I generation used the GI Bill to give the World War II veterans the tools they needed to become the "Greatest Generation."

We are here today to announce that the time to honor Harry W. Colmery is long overdue. The American Legion is delighted to be a part of the revitalization of Kansas Avenue. We ask for the support of all veterans and Kansans who have directly or indirectly benefited from the GI Bill to help build a lasting memorial to a man who made it his life's work to remember not only his fellow veterans, but all veterans to come.

Let's make the Harry W. Colmery Memorial Park a reality, and a tribute to the legacy of a true hero of Kansas."

Contributions can also be mailed directly to Department Headquarters by sending donation checks to: American Legion Colmery Fund, 1314 SW Topeka Blvd., Topeka, Kansas 66612. All contributions are tax deductible. The list of donations will be published in the Sunflower Legionnaire.

For God and Country.....

By Department Adjutant Charles M. Yunker

There isn't a person alive in the United States who hasn't benefited either directly or indirectly from the original GI Bill of Rights. While that may seem to be a brash statement I believe it is true. Every person, man, woman and child living in America owes Past National Commander Harry W. Colmery and The American Legion a debt of gratitude.

You've probably heard the GI Bill helped America transition from a war driven to a peace time economy---I mentioned it in last month's column---but have you ever thought about how it changed the entire landscape and cultural atmosphere in America and yes, much of the world. The bill established that a veteran is a veteran regardless of race, color, creed, gender, etc., facts you've heard before. But that precedent didn't stop with the GI Bill; it was used in the Brown v. Board of Education case and in every civil rights bill since 1944. It literally changed the face of a nation, somewhat slowly in some aspects but it transformed America nonetheless. And it has effected how each of us lives.

It empowered returning GIs to attend college, trade school, or to start a small business, and to buy a home. College and Universities had to expand in order to accommodate the increase in students, new homes sprung up everywhere creating demand for skilled labor and

higher wages across the nation. In short it created a new middle class. Even if a veteran didn't take advantage of their earned benefits they, along with non-veterans, benefited by the expanding economy. Instead of people striving to become a part of the middle class or being successful enough so their children might be able to reach that level, they were the middle class saving so their children could go to college and become more successful than they were.

I've always said that anyone who used the GI Bill owes The American Legion their annual dues. It goes way beyond that; as I've tried to convey in this column, each of us owe Harry E. Colmery and the World War I generation who pushed for the passage of the Serviceman's Readjustment Act of 1944 a debt of gratitude we'll never be able to pay.

We can however pay homage to Past National Commander Colmery and his generation by contributing to the park being established in his adopted hometown of Topeka. See page one of this paper for details and please consider making a donation so we can make this long overdue honor a reality. A link to donate to the statue has been established on Department's website at www.ksamlegion.org.

It's the least we can do for a gentleman who always put the welfare of his fellowman and his country first.

VA Announces Single Regional Framework under MyVA Initiative

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced it is taking the first steps under the MyVA initiative to realign its many organizational maps into one map with five regions to better serve veterans.

The new regions under the MyVA alignment will allow VA to begin the process of integrating disparate organizational boundaries into a single regional framework to enhance internal coordination.

VA's new regional design utilizes state boundaries to divide the country into five regions. Each organization within VA will begin work to ensure

their structures are aligned within this framework by the end of June 2015.

Veterans are already seeing the impacts of changes made through the MyVA initiative. For example, at the suggestion of VA employees, the Department has made improvements to VA call center operations, to allow call center agents to suspend or resume certain benefit payments at the request of the veteran, which eliminates additional steps typically required of veterans. Also at the suggestion of employees, VA is working towards piloting improved signage in certain facilities.

**SECOND DISTRICT
COMMANDER
RALPH SCHNEIDER**
5141 Lucille Lane
Shawnee Mission 66203
913-927-4915
**VICE CMDR.
CHARLES GRIECO**
7933 Oakview Dr.
Lenexa 66215
913-208-8734

**Total Members: 4,731
Percentage: 89.99%**

Greetings from number one in membership from the 2nd District.

Now that 2014 is well over and underway our Post needs to get back to making sure 2nd District stays in first place and on top of the membership. Charlie Grieco and I will be happy to come to your Post and help your membership chairman make some calls to those who have to be reminded. We have found this to be successful in having to renew and also find out if the member is having some problems that The American Legion may be able to help them with, possibly with VA appointments or what is needed.

Our District is a few members behind what we were last year at this time. Fort Scott 25, and Gardner 19 are at 100% and I expect those Posts that need less than five members to be 100% by the Department Mid-Winter. That can happen with a little time spent on the phone. We want to make our Department Commander proud of his 2nd District.

Now is the time of the year to work on the accomplishments of your Post for those reports to Department and National. This information is needed in helping to persuade the legislators to act favorably on legislation for the veterans. You can start by visiting the schools and if possible, talk to the students or their counselors about the youth programs available to them such as Boys and Girls State and Cadet Law. The Oratorical Contest will be at Post 153 in Olathe at 10 AM on Saturday, February 28.

The Second District Membership/Gold Star Party will

be held at the Olathe Post on March 7. Invitations will be sent to the members each Post has sent to the Second District Adjutant Ernie Cooper, so Post 153 will know how many will attend.

The Second District Convention at Gardner Post 19 will be March 28. The Convention will be one day long.

God bless America and God bless our men and women in harms way.

**FIRST DISTRICT
COMMANDER
GEORGE GRIMM**
114 W. Kansas Ave.
Lansing 66043
913-727-5287
**VICE CMDR.
GARY JACKMAN**
304 NE Mimosa Lane
Topeka 66617
785-220-2392

**Total Members: 5,387
Percentage: 87.42%**

Hello 1st District. As you are reading this we are either at Mid-Winter or it is just completed. At this point we are in 2nd place in membership and growing quickly. Myself and all the District officers will be contacting you to see what we can do to help. Please do not be afraid to ask. Let's see how many Posts can be entered for the money competition.

In March we will be hosting the District Oratorical in Marysville. The date is the 7th of March at 10am. Please make sure we all participate with our high schools and get a contestant. These names have to be to the District Chairman Keith Melick by Feb 28th, his number is 913-683-8722 and email kmelick@kc.rr.com.

After that we will be having our District Convention also in Marysville. All Posts will receive an agenda and info letter shortly. It will be a great event for training on the Four Pillars and Membership. I encourage all Posts to have representation there. The more the merrier.

One last thing, is let's stay hot during these cold days on getting our membership we are the best of the best.



**FOURTH DISTRICT
COMMANDER
ESZTER BLAIR**
403 Dixon Ave.
Green 67447
785-447-2577
**VICE CMDR.
TOM TSCHANTZ**
209 Miami St.
Burlington 66839
620-490-0647

**Total Members: 3,977
Percentage: 86.49%**

Happy February to all! We made it past the Holidays with only cold air to show for it. We didn't get a White Christmas, but that's ok!

We are going into the final five months of this year non-stop. Events coming up to mark on your calendars include the District Oratorical on February 22, Sunday, at the Marion Jr High School from 2:00 to 5:30 pm. Then we have the Department Oratorical on March 14th at Manhattan Post 17. And then the District Convention is on April 25th, again at the Manhattan Post. It is going to be very busy.

Membership is coming along great! We are solidly in 3rd place and only have 2% separating us from 1st place. That includes 12 Posts at 100% or more and another 10 with less than 10 needed. So pull up your bootstraps and get it going! All of your District Officers are working hard to help any way they can. Just give them a call or call me. I am always here if you need me.

And a gentle reminder that the Post Reports are going to be due soon. We will be here if you need help with any of the reports. Last year we had a good turn-in of reports from all of our Posts, I would like to see an even better turn-in this year! Be safe in your travels, keep our soldiers and veterans in your prayers and God bless.

**EIGHTH DISTRICT
COMMANDER
GARY FOOS**
7848 AA Rd.
Bazine 67516
785-398-2553
**VICE CMDR.
DAN STACY**
1106 W. McArtor
Dodge City 67801
620-430-0750

**Total Members: 1,209
Percentage: 85.50%**

Hello 8th District; Seems like I just wrote an article for the Sunflower and here it's time to write another one. As you read this we'll have been one month into 2015. Our membership standings have dropped to 4th place as of this writing, but we're only 83 members behind at this time last year. The 8th District has three post over 100% and has signed up 45 new members for 2015. We're only 214 members from reaching 100%. It is doable, if we all work to be 100% for 2015.

As our world seems to grow smaller and hearts become discontent, so it is in the 8th District (not all). I hear from Legionnaires about problems within their posts. Remember as a Legionnaire it is your duty and obligation to attend and support your Legion meetings. The sermon at church this Sunday (Jan. 11) was from 1 Peter 4:7-11. As pastor Mark Durham (SAL #392) read it out loud, it spoke to me as a Legionnaire, that the same principle can and should apply to all. I ask that all read it, whether you believe or not. As legionnaire's we have an obligation to abide by the Constitution and Bylaws, including myself. Remember the first four words of the Legion Preamble to the Constitution, FOR GOD AND COUNTRY.

February being the month of love, be sure to tell your Family, Wife and of course those Veterans who have served or are serving in our Armed Forces, that they are LOVED. Hope to see all at Mid-Winter Forum or some other Department function.

God Bless the United States of America & The American Legion

**SIXTH DISTRICT
COMMANDER
DARREN McMULLEN**
604 E. Lincoln
Norton 67654
785-871-7054
**VICE CMDR.
RAY PALMER**
2520 General Lawton
Hays 67601
785-650-2999

**Total Members: 3,436
Percentage: 84.97%**

NO ARTICLE RECEIVED

**HISTORIAN
JOE JOHNSTON**

In 2019 The American Legion will celebrate 100 years of dedicated service to the veterans and their survivors, the children and youth, and our country. I have found the history of the Legion, especially the early days, to be rather fascinating. Knowing a little of the history of our great organization will cause you to be more dedicated and when you ask someone to join, you will be able to tell them about the Legion and why they should belong.

Most libraries have books about The American Legion. If your local library does not have the book you want, ask for it and the librarian will find it for you. "The American Legion" by Thomas A. Rumer is a very good book, another one is "History of The American Legion in Kansas" by Loosbrock. The internet has a lot of information on the subject.

I hope your Post and District Historians are working on your history books. The rules and regulations are in the Officers Guide. If you need any help call me. My phone number is 785-412-0547.

**FIFTH DISTRICT
COMMANDER
HAROLD SCHEAFFER
14414 SW Phyllis Rd.
Rose Hill 67133
316-733-0804
VICE CMDR.
TERRY MARR
6131 S. Ellis St.
Wichita 67216
316-640-4633**

**Total Members: 3,721
Percentage: 84.70%**

Good work, Fifth District! You put out extra effort, sent in 107 membership renewals, and moved our District up in the rankings too. Keep up the good work. We still have a way to go, but we are coming on strong. Cheney Post 295 joined the 100% club. We now have 4 Posts in this enviable position, with three more above 95%.

5th District Oratorical Scholarship competition is Sunday, February 22 at 1:00 p.m. Reflection Ridge Post 424 is the host. Plan to attend and be impressed by the knowledge and enthusiasm shared by our contestants.

If you have not already done so, contact your area schools about the Boys State, Girls State, and Cadet Law programs. Time is running short, so make your contact soon.

The 2015 Legislative Reception is February 11 at the Capital Plaza Hotel in Topeka. This is an excellent way to meet with your legislators and let them know of your concerns.

Many Posts will hold Legion Birthday Parties in March. Make your plans now. Send a flier to me (schaf1@cox.net) and I will post it on our face book page (5th District Kansas American Legion). We have a good following and it is a great way to let people in know what your Post is doing.

By the time this is printed, Mid-Winter Forum will probably be over. For those who attended, it was good to see you. I hope you got some valuable information from the meetings. It is always fun for me meeting and talking with everyone.

**THIRD DISTRICT
COMMANDER
STEVE AEMISEGGER
609 S/ 12th St.
Independence 67301
620-330-0503
VICE CMDR.
CLINT WILLIARD
25134 52nd Road
Atlanta 67008
620-243-2700**

**Total Members: 2,852
Percentage: 83.03%**

Greetings Third District. Where has time gone?? It seems like only yesterday that I was elected your Commander and now District Convention is just around the corner.

I hope the winter treated you all well. I have had the pleasure of seeing a lot of you along the trail of Southeast Kansas in the past few months.

Mid-Winter is in the past and I hope all of you will continue to work hard on membership and stride to be 100% by Department Convention in May.

Third District Convention will be hosted by Post 10 in Winfield March 27-29th. I hope that you will plan to attend. Post 10 has a couple events planned for Friday the 27th that should get your interest. There will be the annual "Hot Damn" golf tournament at Winfield CC starting a 10 am, also there will be a sporting clay shoot in Belle Plain also at 10 am. These events are for all family members to enjoy, so grab your clubs or your shotgun and join the fun.

I realize that we are in a rural area and spread out across a large area here in SEK, but we still need to work together on membership. Many small Posts are struggling to survive and we all can help out by attending their events and meeting, so check in your area for times and try to make an appearance to enjoy fellowship within the District.

This time of year we are in need of new officers and committeemen to assist with the operations of the District. Please consider helping out by throwing your name in the hat at the March Convention.

Hope you all have a good spring!! God Bless our troops! Bring them home safe!

**SEVENTH DISTRICT
COMMANDER
LEROY MATTHEWS
PO Box 321
Harper 67058
620-896-2065
VICE CMDR.
TERRY WARNER
505 Washington St.
LaCrosse 67548
785-222-2651**

**Total Members: 2,118
Percentage: 82.41%**

To all Post Commanders, Adjutants, and members: The Seventh District of The American Legion, Department of Kansas will stand in Convention at Great Bend, Post #180, at 1011 Kansas Ave., in Great Bend on April 11, 2015 for the purpose of transaction of business and election of officers for the coming year. An Executive Board meeting will be held at 8:00 AM with the Convention starting promptly at 9:00 AM. Registration and lunch fees BDL.

Authorized delegates from each District Post with less than 25 members is two, plus one, for each additional 25 members or fraction thereof. All members of the Executive Committee shall be delegates to the Convention, with votes to be exercised with their respective Posts. A quorum shall exist when 10% of the District Posts are represented.

The following elections will be held: (a) Delegates and Alternates, 2015 National Convention; (b) Committee Representatives, 2015 State Convention; (c) One Executive Committee person (three year term); (d) One District Vice Commander; and (e) One District Commander. Anyone desiring consideration for any of these positions should apply by letter to be presented at the District Convention.

Any Post wanting to host the 2016 District Convention should submit their request in writing to the District Commander. This is a once a year opportunity to understand the impact The American Legion has on local communities and veterans of the Seventh District. I strongly encourage every member to attend this District Convention. "Center of the Best."

Applications Accepted for 2015 National Veterans Wheelchair Games

World's largest annual wheelchair sports event for disabled U.S. Veterans

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is accepting applications for the 2015 National Veterans Wheelchair Games. Registration began in early January and will close April 15.

The National Veterans Wheelchair Games is a sports and rehabilitation program for military service Veterans who use wheelchairs for sports competition due to spinal cord injuries, amputations or certain neurological problems. Each year, hundreds of disabled Veterans travel from around the country to compete in the Games, which is the largest annual wheelchair sports event in the world. With them, they bring the fighting spirit and tenacity that defines the Veterans of our Armed Forces.

"I encourage all eligible Veterans to take this opportunity to prove yet again that disability does not mean inabil-

ity," said VA Secretary Robert McDonald.

Competitive events at the National Veterans Wheelchair Games include air guns, archery, basketball, bowling, field events, hand cycling, a motorized wheelchair rally, nine-ball, power soccer, quad rugby, slalom, softball, swimming, table tennis, track, trapshooting and weightlifting. Athletes compete in all events against others with similar athletic ability, competitive experience or age.

The 2015 National Veterans Wheelchair Games will take place in Dallas, Texas, from June 21-26. The Games are co-sponsored by VA and Paralyzed Veterans of America, VA's partner in this annual event since 1985. For more information, please visit www.wheelchairgames.org and follow VA Adaptive Sports on Twitter at @VAAdaptiveSport.

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Tonia Ison

**1471 NW Taylor St., Lot 8
Topeka, KS 66608**

785-233-2234



Legion Family,

It is time for all of us concentrate on membership. We need to contact those members in our units who have not renewed. Maybe a phone call to see if they have forgotten or maybe the member would like to visit with someone. We need to make contact with those members, please contact them and let them know how important there are to your unit. We will have a membership turn-in at Mid-Winter but please do not hold membership. District Conventions will be starting soon. Have you thought about running for an office or maybe being a District Chairman? We

need members to get involved in Leadership. Thank you for returning your report forms to your Districts, I know we will have 100% reporting. Legislative Party is February 11, 2015; if you plan to attend please turn in your registration to the Department American Legion. The cost is \$20.00. We need to speak with our legislators and let them know what is needed for our Veterans. We hope to see many of you at Mid-Winter Forum in Winfield, Kansas February 7-8, 2015.

Thank you for all you do for our Veterans, they need us to advocate for them.

KAL 500 AND 200-499

Headquarters has held a "KAL 500" membership race among Posts with a Quota of 500 or more. Posts earn \$20 lap money at the first of each month from August to December with the Post in first place in January being awarded \$100.

Two years ago Headquarters began conducting a "KAL 200-499" membership contest for

Posts with Quotas in the 200 to 499 range. The prize money is the same as the KAL 500.

In the past, monthly results have only been sent to the Posts. In each case the monthly report includes a short message or comment (none of which is intended to insult anyone; rather to "tease" Posts into trans-

mitting members.) That is in the past as it's been decided to publish the monthly standings in the Sunflower Legionnaire. The idea is to encourage members to pay their dues in order to help their Post advance. Following are the Posts, their Quota, Total Members, Percentage, and encouraging comments.

\$200.00 Prize Money! For KAL 500 and KAL 200-499

LAP MONEY BONUS - Each Post in front on each of the five reporting dates: Aug. 1, Sept. 1, Oct. 1, Nov. 2 & Dec. 1, earns \$20.00. Winner on Jan 2 wins \$100.00.

CONTEST DATES - AUGUST 1, 2014 THRU JANUARY 2, 2015

KAL 500:

POST LISTINGS	QUOTA	1/01/2015	MEMBERS	PERCENT	
1. TOPEKA 400	1116	1000	89.61%	Held on for the win! Congratulations.	
2. MANHATTAN	794	708	89.17%	Cut to the inside and into 2nd. Good race.	
3. OLATHE	922	812	88.07%	Pushed hard all the way.	
4. EMPORIA	596	516	86.58%	Into overdrive and into 4th place. (Passed two)	
5. HUTCHINSON	946	805	85.10%	Overheated a bit? Slipped out of second.	
6. SHAWNEE	671	567	84.50%	Still blinking and down one place.	
7. MULVANE	503	414	82.31%	Slipped by one on last lap.	
8. OVERLAND PARK	1224	969	79.17%	Foot back on the gas, passed one.	
9. JUNCTION CITY	539	413	76.62%	Out of last place.	
10. TOPEKA 1	843	631	74.85%	Lost traction and spun out on last lap.	

KAL 200-499

POST LISTINGS	QUOTA	1/02/2015	MEMBERS	PERCENT	
1. KC # 199	231	228	98.70%	Held on for the win! Congratulations!!	
2. TOPEKA # 421	210	202	96.19%	Moved into second on the last lap.	
3. DERBY-HAYSVILLE	323	308	95.36%	Late charge to the front result in 3rd place.	
4. HAYS	453	429	94.70%	Good push on last lap passed two.	
5. GREAT BEND	339	312	92.04%	Shifted into overdrive but wasn't fast enough.	
6. MARYSVILLE	329	301	91.49%	Another burst of speed jumped 3 more positions.	
7. LOUISBURG	213	194	91.08%	Still not quite focused, down 2 more places.	
8. WICHITA # 4	254	230	90.55%	Made it into the Top Ten.	
9. PAOLA	220	196	89.09%	Still off the gas a bit, down 5 more.	
10. CHANUTE	454	398	87.67%	Battled all the way to stay in the Top Ten.	
11. WELLINGTON	254	222	87.40%		
12. ATCHISON	297	256	86.20%		
13. OZAWKIE	318	273	85.85%		
14. ARKANSAS CITY	415	352	84.82%		
15. COFFEYVILLE	252	213	84.52%		
16. IOLA	213	179	84.04%		
17. ERIE	213	179	84.04%		
18. CONCORDIA	469	394	84.01%		
19. NEWTON	361	302	83.66%		
20. LAWRENCE	467	386	82.66%		
21. EL DORADO	316	259	81.96%		
22. MCPHERSON	399	326	81.70%		
23. PITTSBURG # 64	377	307	81.43%		
24. CLAY CENTER	214	172	80.37%		
25. WINFIELD	407	325	79.85%		
26. SALINA	466	371	79.61%		
27. WICHITA # 273	248	196	79.03%		
28. WICHITA # 401	428	337	78.74%		
29. INDEPENDENCE	243	190	78.19%		
30. LEAVENWORTH # 23	459	338	73.64%		
31. GARDEN CITY	282	192	68.09%		
32. WICHITA # 256	262	174	66.41%		
33. CHAPMAN	299	186	62.21%		

Many made a good late charge. The race is over but the membership year is NOT – Not until everyone reaches 100%. Time to make an extra effort by reaching out to those who haven't renewed.

CADET LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY

(Continued from Page 1)

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 en-

forcement officer. A sponsorship fee of \$300.00 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.



DETACHMENT COMMANDER

Doug Evans
PO Box 747
Canton, KS 67428
620-628-4855



Greetings Legionnaires,

I have seen the Kansas Legion Family do some amazing things when we work together. Here is another opportunity to help with the children of our deployed soldiers.

The Detachment of Kansas has been in contact with Ann Domsch of Operation Military Kids in Kansas. She alerted us to the fact that approximately 250 children are feeling the effects of a parent's deployment at Ft. Riley. She has offered to assist us with distributing GI Josh dogs to these children. GI Josh is a kit given to children of a deployed soldier, it contains a stuffed Josh dog and a book to

help with the separation.

In support of this effort, an order form was sent out to Sons Squadrons in Kansas to encourage their support of this project. To date we have been able to raise enough money to purchase 110 GI Josh dogs. We need 250 by May to give to the children at Ft. Riley. We could use a little help in making our goal. We appreciate anything you could do to help. Up to now response has been good but we have a ways to go. Please get with your Sons Squadron to order or contact NEC Steve Ward PO Box 610 Louisburg Ks, 66053 steve-ward1004@yahoo.com

KANSAS SUNFLOWER LEGIONNAIRE

Jeff Bond, Editor

Official publication of The American Legion, Department of Kansas and is owned exclusively by The Kansas Department. Published nine times per year. Members' subscriptions are included in dues, all other subscriptions \$10 per year. Commander Emery McKimmy; Vice Commander Raymond Vail; Area Vice Commander East Gene Sayers; Area Vice Commander West Dave Hazelwood; Adjutant, Charles M. Yunker; Asst. Adjutant, Jeff Bond; National Executive Committeeman Dave Warnken; Alternate NEC Elgin Wahlborg; Chaplain R. Glenn Patterson; Judge Advocate John O. Sanderson; Historian Joe Johnston; Masters-at-Arms Robert Munson and Jim Arwine.

Department Headquarters:

1314 SW Topeka Blvd. Topeka, KS 66612, 785-232-9315

Department Headquarters Email Addresses:

Charles Yunker: yunker@ksamlegion.org; Jeff Bond: headquarters@ksamlegion.org; Anna Smith: finance@ksamlegion.org; Margie Thibault: margiet@ksamlegion.org; Michelle Johnston: membership@ksamlegion.org; Denise Crossman: sunflower@ksamlegion.org.

News deadline is the 15th of each month for the next issue.

THE AMERICAN LEGION VA HOSPITAL SERVICE OFFICERS

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

**DEPARTMENT
CHAPLAIN**



**Glenn
Patterson**



**Four Chaplains
Remembered**
In the Christian community there is a saying that goes something like this: "God is Good, All the Time – All the Time, God is Good". The bases for this statement are from Romans 2:4, "...do you not know that it is the Goodness of God that leads us into Salvation."

I know that each of us can look at our own lives and wonder where in the world is our God. We often fret and worry and complain that God is not there. That is not true, and in the depth of your own heart you know that as well.

I want to offer words of wisdom and comfort for this New Year 2015. The God that I serve is above and beyond any that I could ever imagine. The God of Abraham and Jacob is the God Almighty.

The reason that I can affirm Romans 2:4 is that I am able to see the "goodness" of God in my everyday life. The explanation is not that I am worthy, it is because of the "goodness" of God that I can count on Him.

During the month of February the American Legion community pauses to reflect and remember the devotion and sacrifice of the Four Chaplains stationed aboard the American Transport ship Dorchester sailing across the North Atlantic, February 2, 1943.

We name these Chaplains so that they may never be forgotten in the books of history; that their lives will be forever remembered. They are Chaplain (LT) George L Fox, Methodist; Chaplain (LT) Alexander D Goode, Jewish; Chaplain (LT) John P Washington, Roman Catholic; and Chaplain (LT) Clark V Poling, Dutch Reformed.

The sacrifice of these chaplains and the men aboard the USS Dorchester constitute one of the purest spiritual and ethical acts a person can make. In their devotion these men of God captured the best of what a military chaplain strives to be.

(Continued Page 2)

CHARITY FRAUD

Here's how it works: Someone contacts you asking for a donation to their charity. It sounds like a group you've heard of, it seems real, and you want to help.

How can you tell what charity is legitimate and what's a scam? Scammers want your money quickly. Charity scammers often pressure you to donate right away. They might ask for cash, and might even offer to send a courier or as you to wire money. Scammers often refuse to send you information about the charity, give you details, or tell you how the money will be used. They might even thank you for a pledge you don't remember making.

Here's what you can do:

1. Take your time. Tell callers to send you information by mail. For requests you get in the mail, do your research. Is it a real group? What percentage of your donation goes to the charity? Is your donation tax deductible? How do they want you to pay? Rule out anyone who asks you to send cash or wire money. Chances are, that's a scam.

2. Pass this information on to a friend. It's likely that nearly everyone you know gets charity solicitations. This information could help someone else spot a possible scam.

Want to know more? Sign up for scam alerts at ftc.gov/subscribe.

Please report scams. If you spot a scam, please report it to the Federal Trade Commission. Call the FTC at 877-FTC-HELP (877-382-4357) or TTY 866-653-4261. Go online: ftc.gov/complaint

Your complaint can help protect other people. By filing a complaint, you can help the FTC's investigators identify scammers and stop them before they can get someone's hard earned money. It really makes a difference.

**AMERICAN
LEGION
BOYS STATE**

(Continued from Page 1)

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 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 June 1-7 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 \$260.00 per Stater to be paid by the sponsor(s) plus a \$40.00 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, 2013; 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.

**SPECIAL CERTIFICATE OF
MOST DISTINGUISHED SERVICE**

This special certificate is awarded to all POSTS who reach a membership increase for 2015 by November 12, 2014, by exceeding the Post's previous year's membership, as shown by membership at the close of the books June 30, 2014. Following is the list of this year's recipients by District.

Dist. 1 Dillon-Bales, Highland #358; **Dist. 2** NONE; **Dist. 3** Francis Rolland Romack, Baxter Springs #206; **Dist. 4** Havensville-Onaga, Havensville #333; Carey Mc-

Claren, Herington #12; Memorial, Leonardville #40; Osage County, Lyndon #125; and James-Sill-Brown, Madison #124; **Dist. 5** Smith & Phipps, Valley Center #73; Grasslands Estates, Wichita #422; and Reflection Ridge, Wichita #424; **Dist. 6** Beloit, Beloit #57; Lincoln, Lincoln #165; Bennie R. Slick, Phillipsburg #252; and Harry Stephenson, St. Francis #137; **Dist. 7** Frederick A. Browne, Burdett #280 and Carter-Luce, Cunningham #114; **Dist. 8** NONE.

+ TAPS +

Allderson, Michael W. (Gren/Leb) Junction City Ally, Dean A. (WWII)..... Mulvane
Armstrong, Kenneth R. (Vietnam) Junction City Ayers, Jarrod E. (Vietnam)..... Winfield
Bailey, Terry L. (Vietnam)..... Mulvane
Barta, Ronald V. (Vietnam)..... Geneseo
Baxter, Charles (WWII)..... Manhattan
Beat, John H. (Korea)..... Wichita 4
Beckwith, Phillip E. (WWII)..... Topeka 400
Bellomy, David B. (Vietnam)..... Chapman
Berry, Larry E. (Vietnam)..... Yates Center
Bishop, Chester L. (WWII)..... Iola
Black, James (Korea)..... Chapman
Bolte, Johnny C. (Vietnam)..... Lincoln
Botts, Clarence E. (Korea)..... Lawrence
Botz, Richard (Vietnam)..... Topeka 58
Bradford, Bobbie T. (Korea)..... Topeka 58
Bretthauer, Elmer E. (Vietnam)..... Olathe
Buckman, Ralph D. (Vietnam)..... Sterling
Butler, James A. (Korea)..... Junction City
Cane, Dan (Korea)..... Mulvane
Chartier, Loren A. (Vietnam)..... Chapman
Cheasbro, David M. (WWII)..... Paola
Clark, Bob L. (WWII)..... Oakley
Cleland, Shirley D. (Korea)..... Seneca
Cleveland, Gary D. (Korea)..... Manhattan
Cobler, Larry L. (Vietnam)..... Topeka 400
Collins, Elmer R. (WWII)..... Concordia
Conkey, Lester (WWII)..... Norton
Cruz, Hector Luis (Vietnam)..... Manhattan
Degenhardt, Don (Vietnam)..... Hoisington
Deibler, Darrell C. (Korea)..... Manhattan
Eastwood, Glenn D., Jr. Overland Park
Elliott, Leland W. (Korea)..... Manhattan
Essmyer, Robert P. (Korea)..... Olathe
Fiene, Chester L. (Vietnam)..... Kensington
Finuf, Melvin G. (Vietnam)..... Wichita 424
Fisher, Gerald L. (Vietnam)..... Cuba
Fladung, John R. (Korea)..... Olpe
Focht, Charles L. Kanopolis
Ganaden, Rudy V. (Korea)..... Overland Park
Garrison, Ray (WWII)..... Norton
Gurtler, Harold (Korea)..... Beattie
Hamm, Charles V. (WWII)..... Topeka 1
Hanshaw, Keith R. (Korea)..... Augusta
Hardin, Walter G. (Vietnam)..... Manhattan
Harding, Curtis J., Jr. (WWII)..... Topeka 400
Harshfield, Warren E. (WWII)..... Wichita 401
Hays, Robert F. Wichita 4
Hefner, Joe (Korea)..... Topeka 400
Heidebrecht, Carmon R. (Korea)..... McPherson
Henley, Otto, Jr. Kansas City 188
Hess, Hazen D. (Korea)..... Winfield
Hightower, Gerald E. (Korea)..... Mulvane
Holloway, Benny L. (Korea)..... Cuba
Holt, John F. (Vietnam)..... Louisburg
Jacquinet, Napoleon T. (Vietnam)..... Girard
Jarboe, Ealph E. (WWII)..... Arkansas City
Johnson, Richard E. Holyrood
Jones, Herbert (Korea)..... Wichita 273
Jordan, Ralph A. (Vietnam)..... Arkansas City
Judd, Ronald W. (Vietnam)..... Baxter Springs 206
Kaufman, Owen R. (Vietnam)..... Moundridge
Kieffer, Douglas (Vietnam)..... Clifton
King, Johnnie L. (Korea)..... Arkansas City
King, William R. (Korea)..... Winfield

Krunker, John (WWII)..... Arma
Land, Daniel F. Shawnee
Lange, Ernest (WWII)..... Marysville
Lisher, Melvin (Korea)..... Lawrence
Luedke, Wayne L. (WWII)..... Iola
Lundquist, Marvin C. (WWII)..... McPherson
Lust, John W. (WWII)..... Moran
Magnat, Gerald C. (Vietnam) Kansas City 188
Mann, Howard L. (Korea)..... Overland Park
Matel, Stan (Vietnam)..... Rossville
Matthes, William P. (Vietnam)..... Concordia
Mettlen, Richard L. (WWII)..... McPherson
Miller, Eldon L. (Vietnam)..... Kensington
Miller, George (WWII)..... Wichita 401
Mitchell, Raymond E. (Vietnam)..... Galena
Mohwinkle, Milton L. (WWII)..... Topeka 400
Morris, William L. (WWII)..... Winfield
Morton, Samuel K. (Vietnam)..... Mulvane
Nott, Gary L. (Vietnam)..... Ozawkie
O'Toole, Donald J. (WWII)..... Topeka 400
Parker, Philip E. (Korea)..... Clay Center
Pester, George (Korea)..... Emporia
Phye, Tommy J. (Vietnam)..... Harper
Plummer, Vernon (Korea)..... Erie
Porter, Albert D. (WWII)..... Chapman
Rand, Charles (WWII)..... Clifton
Redmon, Don Rossville
Rice, Norman (WWII)..... Andover
Richardson, James (Vietnam)..... Louisburg
Roberts, Harold C. (WWII) Baxter Springs 206
Roberts, Ora S. (Korea)..... Arma
Roesky, Emil (Korea)..... Coffeyville
Ryan, Donald E. (Vietnam)..... Norton
Salazar, Martin (WWII)..... Kansas City 188
Sandella, Mike Columbus
Schlegel, Wesley P. (Korea)..... Ness City
Schmidt, Leo J. (WWII)..... Great Bend
Schultz, Elden A. (Korea)..... Kanopolis
Schulze, Gene (WWII)..... Winfield
Seele, Melvin G. (Gulf War)..... St. George
Sherbert, Dwight (Vietnam)..... Linn
Showalter, Gary (Vietnam)..... Kansas City 199
Smith, James K. (WWII)..... Topeka 400
Smith, John L. (Vietnam)..... Louisburg
Spanier, Bob L. (Korea)..... Atchison
Spence, Joe B. (WWII)..... Bucklin
Standley, Roland (WWII)..... Osborne
Stephens, Edward C. (Vietnam)..... Colby
Stueve, James F. (Korea)..... St. George
Suther, Henry (WWII)..... Frankfort
Swisher, Donald J. (Korea)..... Beloit
Tann, Francis F. (WWII)..... Topeka 1
Taylor, Rick Salina 62
Thielbar, Melvin H. (WWII)..... Oberlin
Tipton, George A. (Vietnam)..... Topeka 400
Toler, Calvin (WWII)..... Shawnee
Trayford, Ronald E. (Korea)..... Overland Park
Verbrugge, Jan (Vietnam)..... Manhattan
Wachin, John W., III (Vietnam)..... Manhattan
Wagner, Richard W. Brownell
Walker, Harold E. Wichita 273
West, Win L. (WWII)..... Winfield
Whitten, Thomas W. (Vietnam)..... Coffeyville
Wilkes, Thomas R. (WWII)..... Overland Park
Withers, Robert D. Colby
Woollard, Phillip E. (Vietnam)..... Coffeyville

Nonprofit Organization
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 RUSSELL, KANSAS
 Permit No. 26

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SUNFLOWER LEGIONNAIRE



Mail changes of Address to:
 THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS
 1314 SW TOPEKA BLVD., TOPEKA, KS 66612-1886

**TO REPORT A CHANGE OF ADDRESS
 PLEASE CUT THIS FORM, ALONG WITH THE
 ABOVE ADDRESS LABEL AND SEND IT TO HEAD-
 QUARTERS. LIST YOUR NEW ADDRESS BELOW**

2015 Legislative Reception

The reception will be held at the Capital Plaza Hotel, 1717 SW Topeka Ave. in Topeka on Wednesday February 11. The reception will begin with a briefing at 5pm and followed by the reception until 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 how many to prepare for.

Legislative Reception

Yes, I plan to attend The American Legion Legislative Reception, Feb. 11, 2015 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**

Locations for 2015 State Baseball Tournaments Set

The three sites have been chosen for the Kansas American Legion State Baseball Tournaments. Post 24 in McPherson, KS has been awarded the contract for the senior class AAA tournament. The class AAA tournament is to be played at the Grant Sports Complex in McPherson from 29 July to 1 August. Post 363 in Colby is to host the senior class AA tournament on 29 July to 2 August. The junior class A tournament is to be hosted in Salina on 22-26 July.

In other baseball news, despite expected changes to senior American legion baseball eligibility, player eligibility remains the same as last year. Resolution 46 passed by the National Executive Committee in 2011 mandated that participants in all American Legion youth programs be limited to Junior High and High School students effective 2015. Resolution 46 was rescinded in May 2014. High school graduates are allowed to participate in the 2015 baseball season provided they do not turn age 20, or older, during the 2015 calendar year.

If you are interested in sponsoring an American Legion Baseball team contact Department Headquarters for a packet or visit ksamlegion.org for more information. Registration must be completed by May 15.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

(Continued from Page 3)

HB 2077: Exempts disabled veterans from property tax of up to two of their vehicles. Only veterans that are eligible for compensation from a service connected disability of 100% from the Veterans Administration qualify.

HCR 5007: A proposed amendment to the Kansas state constitution that allows the legislature to limit valuation increases for property that is owned by and occupied by a Kansas residents that are disabled veterans eligible for compensation from a service connected disability of 100% from the Veterans Administration.

VETERANS TOWN HALL MEETINGS SET

Rudy Klopfer, Director of the Veterans Affairs Eastern Kansas Health Care System, invites all veterans, and their families to a Veterans Town Hall. Feedback on the quality and accessibility of healthcare at the Veterans Affairs Eastern Kansas Health Care System is encouraged.

There will be two Town Hall meetings. One meeting will be at the Colmery-O'Neal Veterans Administration Medical Center, 2200 Gage Blvd., Building 1 in Topeka. This Town Hall will be on Monday, February 23, at 3 PM.

The second Town Hall will be held on Thursday, February 26, at 3PM in Leavenworth, 4101 S. 4th St. Trafficway Please go to the Schwarzkopf Conference Room in the Main Hospital Building of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Veterans Administration Medical Center.

These meetings are designed so actual veterans, along with their families, may address any concerns, suggestions, etc. of the quality and accessibility of healthcare provided to our veterans.

Home Depot Grants Available to Posts, Legionnaires

Improvement projects at American Legion posts and necessary home repairs for veterans in need are eligible to receive grants from The Home Depot Foundation, a longtime supporter of The American Legion. The Home Depot Foundation announced at National Convention last summer that it is dedicating no less than \$1 million for American Legion projects throughout the country.

The Home Depot Foundation grants provide American Legion posts with funds and volunteer help to fix the little things that make huge differences: weatherizing windows, insulating attics, interior and exterior painting, installing new ceiling tiles, replacing fans and replacing flooring. Additionally, these grants provide an opportunity for Legion posts to aid veterans in need of home repairs. For one example, on Veterans Day, Home Depot volunteers made repairs to the St. Louis home of a Vietnam War veteran. A similar effort made a life-changing difference for a veteran couple in Idaho. The Home Depot Foundation and The American Legion have teamed up hundreds of other projects in communities everywhere.

There are two options for applying for the funds:

1. Community Impact Grants provide up to \$5,000 in The Home Depot gift cards for any project to be completed by The American Legion and/or community volunteers. Team Depot volunteers are not involved in these projects, but these grants are a great option for engaging your Legionnaires and community.

2. Team Depot Grants fund volunteer projects that utilize Team Depot, The Home Depot's associate-led volunteer force, along with volunteers from your American Legion post. Legionnaires are encouraged to apply for both grants offered by The Home Depot Foundation, but only one at a time. To review guidelines for eligible improvement projects and both application processes, go here.

Legionnaires are encouraged to contact their local The Home Depot stores and ask for the Team Depot captains who can assist with grant applications. It is important to note that applying for a grant does not guarantee approval.

To see if your improvement project qualifies, and to apply for a grant, go to homedepot-foundation.org/page/grants

Questions should be directed to Scott Miller, Deputy Director, Strategic Alliances at smiller@legion.org or (317) 630-1220.