

Sunflower Legionnaire

VOL LXVIII NO. 4

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

JANUARY 2015

WICHITA STATE SEEKS VETERAN EMPLOYEES

Hiring veterans is a good way for any company to find great employees, help the economy, and honor those that volunteer to protect America's freedoms. Wichita State University has launched a brand new veterans recruiting campaign in an effort to attract more veterans to its faculty and staff. The University has removed all restrictions for its veterans preference program. Now veterans preference applies to all positions available at the University.

"Veterans preference guarantees a qualifying veteran an interview for an employment position if they meet all of the minimum requirements for the position and score in the top 25% of the applicant pool."

To qualify, veterans first must have an honorable or explainable general discharge. Secondly, a veteran must have one of the following; have three years of active duty service in the regular service, reserves, or National Guard; have earned a campaign medal; or have a service-connected disability.

To submit for veterans preference you must submit your DD214 'member 4' by mail email, fax or in person at the Human Resources office at Wichita State University. For more information visit wichita.edu/wsujobs.

ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

Department Oratorical Chairman Mike Oppy has set the State Oratorical Scholarship Contest for 9 AM, Saturday, March 14 at American Legion Post #17, 114 McCall Road in Manhattan. Rules and contestant entry forms are available online at www.ksamlegion.org.

Listed below is each District's Chairman, their address and phone number along with the date, time and location of their District contest:

District I Chairman Keith Melick, 2400 S. 17th Terr., Leavenworth 66048, 913-683-8722; Saturday, March 7, Marysville Post #163, 310 N. 19th St., Marysville.

District II Chairmen Rick Miller, 1709 E. Sheridan Bridge Lane, Olathe 66062, 913-782-0621; Saturday, February 28, 10:00 AM, Olathe Post #153, 410 E. Dennis Ave., Olathe.

District III Chairman Everett Wilnerd, PO Box 162, Howard, 67349, 620-374-2318; Sunday, February 22, 2:00 PM, Cox Building, 100 W. Washington, Howard.

District IV Chairman Eszter Blair, 403 Dixon Ave., Green 67447, 785-447-2577; Sunday, February 22, 2:00 PM, Marion Middle School, 125 S. Lincoln, Marion.

District V Chairman Eduardo Mendoza, 412 Twisted Oak St., Derby, 67037, 316-788-5455; Sunday, February 22, 1:00 PM, TBA.

District VI Chairman Chad Lowell, 1511 N. 132nd Road, Concordia, 66901, 785-614-2906; Sunday, February 15, 11:00 AM, Concordia Post #76, 506 Washington St., Concordia.

District VII Chairman Max Alber, PO Box 261, Little River, 67457, 620-897-6225; Sunday, February 8, 1:00 PM, Little River High School, Little River.

District VIII Chairman Alvin Schugart, 13777 BB Road, Bazine, 67516, 785-398-2307; Sunday, February 15, 2:00 PM, Garden City Post #9, Old Armory on South Main, Garden City.

AMERICAN LEGION SWEEPSTAKES

One lucky Legion Family member will win prizes of \$5,000.00 or one of six \$1,000.00 prizes in the Kansas American Legion Sweepstakes. Auxiliary members may enter the Sweepstakes by requesting a sheet of tickets from Department Headquarters.

The Sweepstakes package requests members consider making a donation to benefit the Department Children & Youth programs, no purchase, contribution or other consideration is required to enter the Sweepstakes. Tickets must be separated and submitted to Department Headquarters. **Do not** staple or band tickets.

Winners will be selected in a random drawing during Mid-Winter Forum by Department Commander Emery McKimmy. Winners do not need to be present and will be notified by certified mail. If a winner is unable to be contacted by certified mail, or if a winner fails to claim their prize within 30 days of receipt of notice, that winner will forfeit their prize. That prize will then be awarded to an alternate winner through the same selection and notification process.

All prizes will be awarded. The odds of winning a prize depends upon the number of entries received at American Legion State Headquarters. Prize winners assume sole responsibility for all taxes.

All entrants must be 18 years of age or older. Employees and staff of The American Legion, Department of Kansas or the officers and staff of BBH Graphics, their spouses, children and immediate family members are ineligible.



Past Area East Vice Commander Jim Potts (left) lead the We-Ta-Se Post 410 Color Guard on the field of Arrowhead Stadium for the opening ceremonies prior to the Kansas City Chiefs – New York Jets game in November. Post 410 took part in the Chief's celebration and observance of American Indian Heritage which featured representation from a number of Tribal Nations in Kansas and Oklahoma.

Legion Launches New Career Platform

The American Legion and its allies in veteran employment and entrepreneurship have launched a new web platform to help those who served in uniform translate military skills to job skills, find employment, start businesses and make successful transitions.

Among the key features of The American Legion's Veteran Employment Center are:

- A Veteran Job Search tool, powered by Military.com, which helps veterans find current job listings near them. By entering a ZIP Code, veterans can easily find job listings that fit their skill sets within a chosen distance from home.
- A series of 10 custom-produced videos to help veterans start and succeed in business. The series, "Veteran Video Guide: Starting and Growing a Business," is sponsored by ADP and provides guidance from successful veteran entrepreneurs, including members of the Legion's Business Task Force.
- A listing of American Legion-sponsored or produced veteran career fairs nationwide, with links to registration sites.
- Links to important forms, sites and agency platforms that help veterans in the career search, including USAJobs.gov, the federal government's job-listing site, Department of Labor online tools to understand and calculate Veterans Preference points, and a VA Military Skills Translator.

Additional information in the site includes resume-writing advice from top experts, a portal to Military.com's benefits platform and headlines about The American Legion's advocacy on behalf of veterans seeking civilian careers. The platform – www.legion.org/careers – is one among a growing family of new American Legion web programs, and those soon to appear, dedicated to helping veterans find the support, services and opportunities they seek.

COMMANDER

Emery McKimmy
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 &
 YOUTH**
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I want to start off by saying I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas, and I wish the best of everything for each member of our Legion Family in the year ahead. Now that the holidays are behind us, it's time to refocus ourselves toward The American Legion and all we believe in about this great organization.

Auxiliary members, I must applaud all of your hard work and dedication to the VA Gift Shops. I visited all the VA Gift Shops in December, and was impressed with the care and professionalism displayed in helping our veterans. All the Gift Shops were awesome! Great job, and thank you, ladies!

I want to thank all those who were able to attend the Commander's Christmas Party at Post 400 in Topeka on December 6th. A wonderful time was had by all.

The visits to Indianapolis and Washington, DC, will start soon, and those of us attending will have a lot of information for you at Winfield for Mid-Winter Forum. Speaking of Mid-Winter, that brings me to membership. We need to be mindful and proud of The American Legion, and each of us needs to step up and play a part in retaining and recruiting.

Discharge upgrades

A recent directive to give liberal consideration to requests for discharge upgrades from veterans who say they were kicked out of service because of problems related to PTSD.

Thousands of Vietnam-era soldiers may have been given punitive discharges because they suffered from PTSD before it was recognized as a debilitating medical condition.

The ARBA is the Army's highest level of administrative review for personnel actions taken by lower level organizations, and is comprised of several boards for considering the

First, take a look at your own membership card. If it doesn't say 2015 on it, see your Post Adjutant. Secondly, introduce a friend to the good works of The American Legion. Let them in on the great things you do.

If you know of a veteran who doesn't presently belong to The American Legion, encourage him or her to join. Congress only recognizes numbers, so let's give them NUMBERS! We have a lot of needy veterans, let Congress know that we care.

Before I close, let me ask you: Did you know the Department of Kansas has been the home of one of our Past National Commanders? In fact, this Past Commander is the architect of the GI Bill, the foundation of benefits for veterans. His name was Harry Colmery, and because of his actions, thousands of veterans were able to buy housing, continue their education, and go on to do great things. I invite all of you to look him up, do some research and get to know this great Kansan and Legionnaire.

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!

claims of soldiers and former soldiers who appeal unfavorable information in their personnel records.

Discharge upgrades are important because they are linked to benefits available through Veterans Affairs, such as treating PTSD-related symptoms, according to information provided by the Army.

A class action suit brought by veterans groups, estimated one third of the 250,000 other-than-honorable discharges issued to Vietnam-era veterans may have been PTSD-related.

I recently saw a photo circulated on the internet which completely baffled me. Without quoting it I felt it important to speak on the teachings of culture.

Our military is an effective culture of rules, regulation and directives; it must be. Respect, follow guidelines and orders are paramount or people and treasure are lost. Veterans are only a minute percentage of the nation's population, but our culture understands and adheres to the laws governing them.

Communities also have laws which are created to help everybody. So it is because of my love of country and its communities that I believe in teaching my children to share the same commitment, love and respect our nation and all members equally. It has been proven that the majority of service personnel serve, usually in the same service as their family members. This shows pride and unity, and some understanding of what to expect. They also share solemn oaths to their nation and God.

As veterans we must continue to educate our children so our law abiding culture will continue. When the culture of our nation declines, and the simple rules given us by God are discarded, we end up in chaos and the simple truths of life make no sense.

We are coming up on the New Year and our Mid Winter Forum. You will be receiving the Annual Reports for all your Posts. Make blank copies and keep track of those who are lapse in returning them to you. Hand them out during your District conference and let's make this a 100% reporting this year!

Greetings Kansas Legionnaires

My wife Linda and I have had the opportunity to attend several events across the state these last two months. We have completed all eight membership revitalizations, the last being the 4th District in December. I do hope that we have more Post member participation in next year's revitalization. Those Districts that had the most help involved received the best results in getting new and renewed members in to the Posts.

So you should start working on that part of your plans for next year now and hopefully we will see better results and faster for next year. I all so got to attend all eight Commanders Dinners and meet and visit with Legion members all across the state. I really enjoyed meeting with every one.

We, along with Master-At-Arms Bob Munson and his wife, were invited to attend an event at the Baxter Springs Post #206 where the Post Commander Tommy Eldridge recognized the service of two police officers for their work in the community and presented a 93 year old a 65 year member award for his service to the Legion.

I all so had the pleasure to attend the opening of the veterans gift shop at the Winfield VA Retirement center. The veterans I had the opportunity to help seemed so glad to be able to have the gifts. The Ladies Auxiliary does such a good job funding and servicing these gift shops. We can't thank them enough for what they do for The American Legion.

The Department Commander's Christmas Dinner party was another great time. A very good meal and the white elephant gift exchange was a

lot fun for all. The Department Commander and I were invited to the Mound City Post #248 for their Christmas dinner and white elephant gift exchange thanks to all the members and Commander Kenny Schmitz and Dave Ebb for a great evening of fun friendship.

It has been a very busy two months but a very enjoyable time.

I know every one will continue to stay on top of the of the membership to get their Districts and our Department average up to where it needs to be. It has been an up hill battle and will continue to be one. Past Department Commander Sanneman returned after going out knocking on doors on one of our revitalizations and told the host Post that he had just got them two new members. They asked, "HOW DID YOU DO THAT???" "Well," he answered, "I knocked on their door and asked them to join, its that simple-just ask-but first you must go out and knock on that door."

Lets all do just that between now and Mid-Winter, go out and talk to that person who has not renewed his membership and get him back into the Legion.

I look forward to seeing ever one at Mid-Winter this year. God bless everyone and may God continue to bless our troops and keep them safe.

**Pay Online To
 Renew Your
 Membership
 Go To
www.legion.org/renew**

**DEPARTMENT
SERVICE OFFICER**

Damon Christensen
PO Box 192
Concordia 66901
785-243-4330



**New Members Appointed to VA Advisory
Committee on Minority Veterans**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced the appointment of five new members to the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans. The committee was chartered Nov. 2, 1994, and advises the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on the needs of the nation's 4.7 million minority Veterans with respect to compensation, health care, rehabilitation, outreach and other benefits and programs administered by the VA. The committee assesses the needs of Veterans who are minority group members and recommends program improvements designed to meet their needs. The committee members are appointed to two of three-year terms. Minority Veterans comprise nearly 21 % of the total Veteran population in the United States and its territories.

In addition to working closely with the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans, VA is improving its services for Veterans who are minority group members:

- Establishing the Office of Health Equity Research & Promotion, which assesses health equity and health disparities within the health care system to ensure adequate policies are in place to reduce disparities in vulnerable minority Veteran populations.
- Funding projects focused on Pacific Rim Veterans, including Spinal Cord injury outreach and treatment in Hilo, Kona, Maul, Molakal, and Kaula; leveraging telehealth technology to provide clinic based tele-mental health care on the island of Kaula.
- Conducting a 3-year project through VA's Office of Rural Health to establish a collaborative National Native Telehealth Training and Consultative Service which aids in the replication of tele-mental health clinics for use by rural Native American Veterans.

I want to thank the Legion Family for allowing me to serve you as your Department Service Officer for the last eight years. At the close of the Mid-Winter Forum in Winfield I will be stepping down. I do thank you for all of your support you have giving me.

MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT

It's no secret that while it gives basic protection against health care costs, Medicare won't cover all your medical expenses. To help cover some of the items that Medicare does not cover, many members, just like you, have chosen the group Medicare Supplement Plan endorsed by your Department of The American Legion.

Other great reasons for choosing the Legionnaire Insurance Trust plans:

Legionnaire Insurance Trust regularly monitors the program.

The excellent value the plans provide for the price—the group Medicare Supplement plans have a competitive group rate (these plans are not available to the general public).

The convenience and exceptional service whenever you need it—whether you're preparing to enroll, have questions about your benefits, and especially when it comes to efficient claims payment with no hassles—get answers to your questions over the phone or online.

Where can you get more information on selecting a Medicare Supplement plan? You will receive prompt, personal and responsive service from courteous customer service representatives ready to answer your questions. Call 1-800-247-1771 (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. EST). Or visit our website <http://www.thelit.com/medicare-supplement>

REMINDER

There is still time to nominate people for the various Employment Awards. The awards include, The Employer of Veterans Award, Employer of Older Workers Award, Enhance the Lives of Disabled Persons, and the Employment Service Awards.

A more detailed explanation for each award appeared in the last issue of the Sunflower. These awards are also available on our website, www.ksamlegion.org under the heading "Awards."

HISTORIAN

JOE JOHNSTON

Francis Scott Key was on a British ship during the attack of Ft. McHenry. He was on the ship as part of a U.S. delegation to negotiate a prisoner release. Key was kept on the ship until the attack was over to prevent him from telling the Americans their plans. He was so impressed by the bravery of our forces and the sight of the American flag at dawn the next day that when he was released he wrote a poem, "Defence of Fort McHenry."

Key wrote the poem to fit the beat of a British song. "To Anacreon in Heaven." One historian says the song was a sly reference to drinking and sex. Whether this is true or not, it is our national anthem and has been since President Herbert Hoover signed it into law in 1931.

The hundredth anniversary of The American Legion will be in 2019. If you would write a short history of your Post, when it was chartered, who it was named after, some of the interesting happenings, etc. Send it to me (PO Box 33, Cawker City 67430) and I'll send it to the National Historian.

For God and Country.....

By Department Adjutant Charles M. Yunker

If you've been a reader of the Sunflower Legionnaire for more than a year you are aware that when I added the title "For God and Country" to my column my intention was to examine and explain each segment of the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion which begins with those same words. Admittedly I have strayed from that task in recent months but I intend to return to it in the future. But first I want to acknowledge those who gave us that Preamble.

Sadly our founders are no longer with us but their impact and the tools they laid out for us still serve us well. Much like the United States Constitution, the Constitution and By-laws of The American Legion was crafted by very gifted and visionary individuals. And they didn't just stop with the Preamble or the Constitution and By-laws; they gave us programs that have touched the lives of millions. American Legion Baseball, Boys State and Boys Nation, our High School Oratorical Contest, the US Flag Code, the VA, and the original G.I. Bill of Rights just for starters. All can be traced directly back to the efforts of our nation's World War I veterans who organized the first Congressionally chartered veterans organization.

One of the first steps of the organization was to recognize service to our nation in the military regardless of where you served. During the Paris Caucus our founders didn't forget those back in America who kept them supplied with everything they needed in the trenches. They realized whether you were drafted or volunteered more often than not you had little to say about where you were stationed. If you served honorably during the Great War you were eligible for membership. A veteran is a veteran regardless of gender, race, color, creed, or where they served.

Many already know the only change to the Preamble was the addition of the letter "s" after World War II broke out. Like many I agree our nation's WWII veterans were our "Greatest Generation".....but don't forget an excellent generation before them, the founders of The American Legion gave them the tools to take America from a war-time to a peace-time economy by helping them help the nation to avoid a recession or perhaps even returning to the pre-war depression.

They did it by providing the original GI Bill of Rights, also known as the Serviceman's Readjustment Act of 1944. Never before had so much been included in one piece of legislation. Critics advised the Legion to work to get the various programs in the GI Bill passed one at a time, but the Legion resisted that advice.

According to author P.B. Pitkin: The bill called for 10 essentials, the first five of which were brand new and made the GI Bill a genuine revolution.

1. Educational opportunity.
2. Vocational and on-the-job training.
3. Readjustment allowances (unemployment compensation).
4. Loans to aid the veterans in purchasing a home, farm or small business.
5. Review of discharges (a provision that was to become increasingly important.)
6. Adequate hospitalization.
7. Prompt settlement of disability claims.
8. Mustering-out pay. (Eliminated from the GI Bill of Rights following its enactment separately by Congress).
9. An effective Veterans' employment service.
10. Concentration of all veterans functions in the Veterans Administration, which was given top priority, second only to the armed forces, in obtaining the personnel needed for efficient operation.

A column or two could be dedicated to how some of the ten items have fared, but that's not the purpose of this column. My intention this month is to remind every member that like the Preamble to the Constitution of the Sons of the American Legion begins.....they, every Legionnaire, should be a "Proud possessor of a priceless heritage" that was provided by our founders.

**SECOND DISTRICT
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**Total Members: 4,356
Percentage: 82.86%**

Happy new Year! It is hard to believe that 2015 is upon us already. Not all dues have been paid for 2015 yet, so check to see if you are up to date. If not, please send in your renewal. Thank you.

Now your Post should be working your programs, and getting the reports together for the 2014-15 year. Oratorical will be held at Olathe Post 153. Contact Rick Miller at 913-449-1551. Date: February 28, at 10 AM.

Now is the time to get your Children and Youth programs, Boys and Girls State, baseball, and Cadet Law. At the first of this year your Post was sent information on selecting a special Children & Youth of your community, any youth who is involved in your community service youth groups ie: 4-H as "Citizen of the Year." Not many Posts in the 2nd have sent your selection as of this writing.

In coming months we will be busy with Oratorical Contest, All Star party in March, Mid-Winter for Department, District Convention March 28 at Gardner Post 19 in Gardner. Hope to see a good turnout for a one day Convention. Now is a good time to start compiling your reports.

I do not have to mention membership as 2nd District is in first place. Keep that membership coming in. As of this writing 2nd District has Gardner Post 19 and Fort Scott Post 25 with 100%. Great! There are a few Posts that are close with just needing 2-3 members.

Charlie Grieco and I are ready to help you in any way on the membership.

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

**FIRST DISTRICT
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**VICE CMDR.
GARY JACKMAN**
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**Total Members: 5,036
Percentage: 81.73%**

Hello 1st District, I hope everyone has had a blessed and very enjoyable holiday season. Now is the time that we are on the down swing of the year, it is hard to believe that it is almost over. As we start the New Year I want to encourage everyone to keep up with the membership. We have been doing extremely well but we can do better. All it is going to take is everyone, no matter what level, to pick up the phone and get the renewals and then most important, just ask. If everyone asks one veteran a day to be part of our organization we will meet our goal quickly.

We have a very busy time ahead of us with first Mid-Winter forum in February. This is being held in Winfield, I encourage many to attend. Then on March 7th we have our District Oratorical being held in Marysville. Each Post should receive a letter on the details. Then we finish up the year with our District Convention in April in Marysville. Lastly do not forget to get your volunteer numbers to your Adjutant so that reports can get done and lets all work on getting candidates for Boys State, Girls State and Cadet Law. Let us show the Department why we are the 1st District.

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**VICE CMDR.
TOM TSCHANTZ**
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620-490-0647

**Total Members: 3,687
Percentage: 80.19%**

The holidays have come and gone and the American Legion Family did so many good things this past season. From the WTB Turkey Run closely followed by the toy distribution to the Christmas Shops at the VA in Leavenworth and Wichita, to the many Toy Runs we participated in we should all be proud of what we have accomplished!

With the New Year comes a whole new list of opportunities. The Membership Drive we did the first weekend of December was successful. We were able to transfer in new members to many Posts as well as working on renewals. But we still have a ways to go so keep working on your membership lists!

February 6-8 is the Mid-Winter Forum in Winfield. We hope to see many of our District members there. And we will be drawing for the whole pig during the Convention so be sure to turn in your money to us soon!

On Sunday, February 22, we will have our District Oratorical in Marion KS. It will be at the Jr High School from 2:30-5:00 pm. Now is when you all need to be contacting your local high schools and getting the word out. I have brochures as well as the topics they are covering this year. Please contact myself or Vice Commander Tom and we will get them out to you.

District Convention is in Manhattan at Post 17 this year on April 25, mark your calendars. We will have more out on that in the following months. Thank you again for all that you do and God bless!

**EIGHTH DISTRICT
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DAN STACY**
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**Total Members: 1,129
Percentage: 79.84%**

Happy New Year 8th District, hope all had a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year.

As we start a new year, it's time to plan marking your calendars for up coming American Legion events. FIRST is Mid-winter Forum in Winfield on February 6-8; American Legion Legislative Party in Topeka on February 11; 8th District Convention in Dodge City on April 17-19; American Legion State Convention in Topeka on May 15-17 and American Legion Leadership College at Cloud County Community College, Concordia on June 5. I recommend all Post Officers attend these events to keep yourself and your Post members informed on what is going on in The American Legion.

It's also time to make contact with your local school, if you haven't done so, about The American Legion Youth Programs. Such as, the Oratorical Contest with District in February and State Contest in March; Boys and Girls State, Cadet Law in June. Our youth are the future of our country. These programs will help direct and build character for those who participate in these programs. Just ask someone who has attended one of these programs or better yet, ask them to go with you to share their experience.

Finally the 8th District needs to continue working on membership. We have been third for sometime. We are about 100 members behind of last year at this time. We need to step our effort on renewals for 2015.

I congratulate Jetmore and Scott City for being at 100%. There are veterans out there who are not aware of The American Legion programs. Ask your membership to recruit at least one new member for 2015.

Have a Happy New Year. God bless The United States of America and The American Legion.

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**Total Members: 3,215
Percentage: 79.50%**

Hello Sixth District, I hope all had a Merry Christmas and a great beginning to the 2015. As this new year begins let us focus not only on recruiting new members, but retaining and re-signing our past members. The Sixth District is lagging behind in membership and we need to pick up our efforts. To get to 100 percent by Mid Winter is going to be a stretch, so I am challenging all members of the 6th to either find a new member or get a past member to renew his/her membership.

With some recent events taking place in our District, I am reminded that reaching out to fellow Legionnaires in times of need goes a long way to their recovery. A simple call to find out how someone is doing after an illness or loss can go a long way. Remember those that are going through tough times and do what you can. Keep them in your prayers.

As always I thank you for what you have done in the past and what you will do in the future. God bless the USA, Kansas, and you.

**FIFTH DISTRICT
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TERRY MARR**
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Wichita 67216
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**Total Members: 3,424
Percentage: 77.94%**

I would like to thank everyone for the phone calls, e-mails, cards, and prayers for my recovery since returning home from the hospital. All were gratefully appreciated.

I would like to wish everyone a **HAPPY NEW YEAR!** We have a new opportunity to push membership and reach our Post and District goals. Keep contacting your members who have not renewed. Let them know how much they mean to you and your Post. Tell them all of the great things your Post has done in the past year and ask them to join in with their fellow veterans. Recruit new members. Ask current members to look around for new members—family members, neighbors, people at church—they are everywhere. Fifth District needs a boost in membership to get us out of seventh place.

Keep in mind that you need to be looking for a Boy Scout of the Year and/or a Firefighter or Policeman of the Year to honor. Be on the lookout for Boys' State, Girls' State and Cadet Law candidates. Oratorical Contest is coming up soon, so when you contact the schools about these programs, don't forget to mention Oratorical and its scholarship opportunities.

Remember to put Mid-Winter Forum on your calendars. More information will be coming soon.

Keep e-mailing me your Post activities, projects and fundraisers. Pictures and fliers are GREAT, too. These will be posted on our Fifth District Face Book page. Help me let everyone know the wonderful things your Post family is doing.

**SEVENTH DISTRICT
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785-222-2651

**Total Members: 2,003
Percentage: 77.94%**

Last month marks the half way point of our 2015 membership drive. My Christmas wish for the new year was that all 32 Posts in our District be at 80% by the end of December 2014.

As many of you know, The American Legion has been a long time standing icon for many small towns and larger cities in the state of Kansas. Its leadership and membership have worked hard to be what it is today. Every year we try and get new memberships and sometimes we forget the renewals. Don't forget the renewals. Of we can keep the renewals many of them will help you get new members. New members are great, don't get me wrong, we have 72 at last report, but keeping the members you have is one of the main keys to keeping your Post open.

Remember, one of our main goals is to talk to and encourage all military service veterans in the District to join or rejoin who are not current members of an American Legion Post. Several small towns in our District still need members to help keep their Post active. Tell them what we are all about. What we have to offer and what we can do for them as members of The American Legion Family. Every Post in our District has something to offer all its members regardless of its size or location.

On behalf of all the District Seven Officers, the Executive Board and their families, we wish each and every American Legion member and their families a very prosperous and Happy New Year. Thank you for your time, efforts, and service. "CENTER OF THE BEST."

**THIRD DISTRICT
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CLINT WILLIARD**
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**Total Members: 2,616
Percentage: 76.16%**

Wishing all my Third District Posts and Officers a very safe and productive 2015!!

All Posts should have their membership running at a good pace by now, but our numbers are not reflecting this! I know this time of year, with the holidays and first of year taxes, are a burden on all of us, BUT, our support which we owe to our veterans has to have some sort of priority. Please work your areas and get those renewals turned in as soon as possible. Hopefully we can have our numbers up by Mid-Winter Forum.

The Revitalization committee did a tremendous job working out of Independence November 5th-8th. We owe them all a tip of the cap I want to thank my Vice Commander Clint and his group that worked the west side of our District, job well done. The committee left us some tools to work with to help us increase our membership, let me know if I can be of any assistance.

A special thanks to Post 139 for hosting the Homecoming for us and also I want to thank all of the Department, District, and local officers that made the trip to Indy to help us enjoy the evening.

Committee members, be looking for District E-board post card soon. Winfield will host Mid-Winter this year and I hope that Third District will be well represented to support them.

Thanks to our military and their families for their sacrifices for us during the Holiday seasons. God Bless you all, America's finest!!!

Law Enforcement Officer and Firefighter of the Year

The American Legion gives its National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award and National Firefighter of the Year award to well-rounded individuals who have exceeded the duty requirements expected in their positions. The recipients also must have demonstrated a distinct pattern of community service, coupled with professional achievement. These awards, which especially take into account heroic acts, are presented annually at The American Legion's National Convention.

The Cadet Law Enforcement Academy Committee is accepting nominees for these awards. Nominees must be sent to Department Headquarters by January 31.

Criteria for the National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award: Nominees must be U.S. citizens and living, active, full-time and paid, sworn law enforcement officers entrusted with full authority and the

powers of arrest and must be assigned to or fully recognized by municipal, county, district, or state police; highway patrol; sheriff's office or as a sworn federal law enforcement officer (FBI, Secret Service agent, U.S. Marshal, National Park Police, U.S. Capitol Police, etc.). Military police officers or investigators are eligible if they are state law enforcement certified. Nominees must also reside and be assigned or attached for duty in the nominating Department.

The Fire Fighter of the Year Award: Nominees must be active firefighters and U.S. citizens. Emergency medical technicians (EMTs) are eligible only if they are certified firefighters. Nominees must also reside and be assigned within their nominating Department's state. Posthumous awards for both the Law Enforcement Officer and Fire Fighter will be acceptable only if the nominee's death occurs after the Department's selection.

LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD KIDS IN KANSAS

By Adjutant Chuck Yunker

The Marine Corps used to advertise they were looking for a few good people; this year Department has been looking for a few good kids by asking Post Commanders to nominate one or more scouts, 4-H members, or just an outstanding young person in their community.

So far only 31 out of 297 Posts have taken the time to nominate one or more good kids in their community for the "Special Children & youth Certificate" available from Department Headquarters.

Surely there is at least one good kid in every community; especially your community. The Posts that have taken advantage of this opportunity to honor a young person are: Arma, Atchison, Augusta, Belleville, Clearwater, Columbus, Corning, Dodge City,

Ellinwood, Ellsworth, Garnett, Grainfield, Harper, Havensville, Hays, Hiawatha, Howard, LaCrosse, Lyndon, Marquette, Marysville, Moran, Nortonville, Olathe, Peabody, Plainville, Salina, Shawnee, Silver Lake, Topeka 421, and Valley Center.

If your Post/community is missing----ask your Post Commander why? Don't let your Post be like one that recently told a parent "We don't sponsor the Oratorical Contest."

Sponsor the Oratorical Contest???? What is there to sponsor? When a young person of parent asks about the contest give them Department's phone number if you haven't read the needed information that has been provided in the Sunflower Legionnaire.

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!

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	12/01/2014 MEMBERS	PERCENT	
1. TOPEKA 400	1116	929	83.24%	Speed shifted into high gear, & into first.
2. HUTCHINSON	946	773	81.71%	Tried to make it into 1st, but still in.
3. OLATHE	922	752	81.56%	Out of 1st. Can they retake the lead?
4. MANHATTAN	794	639	80.48%	Moved up one more place.
5. SHAWNEE	671	540	80.48%	Blinked and lost two positions.
6. EMPORIA	596	472	79.19%	Shifted out of fourth gear and 4th place.
7. TOPEKA 1	843	624	74.02%	Passed 3. Didn't like last place.
8. MULVANE	503	371	73.76%	Holding on to 8th.
9. OVERLAND PARK 1224	900	900	73.53%	Foot off the gas. Down from 7th.
10. JUNCTION CITY 539	372	372	69.02%	Slipped back into last place.

KAL 200-499

POST LISTINGS	QUOTA	12/01/2014 MEMBERS	PERCENT	
1. KC # 199	231	211	91.34%	Barely holding on to the lead.
2. GREAT BEND	339	306	90.27%	Making a move for first place.
3. TOPEKA # 421	210	181	86.19%	Still going strong; moves up 2 spots.
4. PAOLA	220	189	85.91%	Lets up on the gas and loses 2 places.
5. LOUISBURG	213	182	85.45%	Losing focus but still in the Top Five.
6. HAYS	453	383	84.55%	Holding steady in 6th place.
7. WELLINGTON	254	211	83.07%	Still nipping at the heels of # 173
8. DERBY-HAYSVILLE 323	267	267	82.66%	Can't break out of the 8th position.
9. MARYSVILLE	329	268	81.46%	With a burst of speed jumps 4 positions.
10. CHANUTE	454	369	81.28%	Battling to stay in the Top Ten.
11. CONCORDIA	469	379	80.81%	Pacing themselves: Holds on to 11th place.
12. WICHITA # 4	254	205	80.71%	Rockets by 8. Top Ten in sight.
13. OZAWKIE	318	256	80.50%	Unable to hold onto 12th.
14. MCPHERSON	399	314	78.70%	Gaining momentum and 4 places.
15. LAWRENCE	467	362	77.52%	Hits the gas and moves up 4 spots.
16. IOLA	213	165	77.46%	Slips in the turn and loses 2 places.
17. EL DORADO	316	244	77.22%	Cruising in 17th place.
18. ARKANSAS CITY	415	320	77.11%	Blow out! Falls 8 positions.
19. COFFEYVILLE	252	194	76.98%	Loses 4 places in the pits.
20. PITTSBURG # 64	377	290	76.92%	Hesitated and let 4 get by.
21. NEWTON	361	272	75.35%	Still struggling to break the Top 20.
22. ERIE	213	160	75.12%	Passed one on the inside.
23. SALINA	466	347	74.46%	Missed a shift and drops 1 position.
24. WICHITA # 401	428	312	72.90%	Plays it safe and holds position.
25. CLAY CENTER	214	155	72.43%	Fakes to the inside and passes # 10.
26. WINFIELD	407	291	71.50%	Couldn't stop # 101 from getting around.
27. LEAVENWORTH # 23 459	313	313	68.19%	Moves up another position.
28. INDEPENDENCE	243	165	67.90%	Gaining confidence. Moves up 2 positions.
29. GARDEN CITY	282	188	66.67%	About to make a move on # 137.
30. WICHITA # 273	248	161	64.92%	Avoids # 256 and moves up 1 spot.
31. WICHITA # 256	262	170	64.89%	Billowing smoke, heads into the pits.
32. ATCHISON	297	185	62.29%	Can't get traction. Stays in 32nd place.
33. CHAPMAN	299	177	59.20%	Still bringing up the rear.



**DETACHMENT
COMMANDER**

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



Greetings Legionnaires,
 Happy New Year, as 2014 fades into a memory we now must focus on the opportunities of 2015. Our Legion year is about half over, as a Legion family we have accomplished some great things. Helping our soldiers and their families at Fort Riley. Supporting children and the youth programs in our communities and across the state. Assisting Veterans in the Veterans Hospitals and care facilities. All the work that is needed at your Post to keep things running.

We have done a lot but there is still more to be done in the coming year. It is time to let the schools know what the American Legion does and what we can do for the students. Talk to the school Guidance Counselors about the scholarships available from the Legion, Auxiliary and the Sons and how to apply. Ask if they have students who would like to be part of the Oratorical Contest. Would the school be interested in having a Flag Etiquette program? How many Posts donate flags to be flown

on the schools flag pole? The youth of America are our future the American Legion needs to help guide them in the right direction.

The Active Duty Soldiers and their families still need our help. Keep the care packages coming, goodies from home will help boost morale. Even a smile and a thank you for your service goes a long way. Any time you can spend visiting a Veteran at VA or care homes is always appreciated. Donations are always needed and very welcomed from coffee and crystal light to clothes and toiletries for the homeless Vets. Ask at any of the VA's for a list of items needed.

Be active in your local post, attend the meetings to see what needs to be done. Run for an office at the post level. Think about moving into a district office or running for state office. The American Legion needs leaders.

Hope everyone can attend the mid-winter form this year I am looking forward to seeing everyone.

KANSAS SUNFLOWER LEGIONNAIRE
Jeff Bond, Editor

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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**



**Celebrating the New Year
2015 – In God We Trust**
“Jesus Christ the Same yes-
terday, today, and forever.”
Hebrew 13:8

As your Department Chaplain I want to offer you words of comfort as we greet the New Year 2015. I have had the privilege of greeting the new year for 63 years. I admit that

I have not always known what the year held in store for me and my family. I must say that each year was different than the year before and filled with new adventures in life.

I have purposed in my life to always look to the Heavenly Father to guide me in my journey through-out life. I offer the same thought to each of you as you embark upon the New Year 2015. I do not know what the future holds for you and your family; but I can calmly assure you that I know one in whom to place your trust and confidence. “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” Hebrews 13:5

I am truly grateful for the privilege and the honor of serving this great nation. I look back to the “founding fathers” for their devotion and character to lead this great nation for the past 239 years. I offer this prayer from General George Washington who in 1783 penned these words, “let us go forth to lead this land that we love, that God would have you in His holy protection, that He would incline the hearts of the citizens... to entertain a brotherly love and affection one for another... and finally that He would most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, without an humble imitation of whose example we can never hope to be a happy nation.”

The guiding principle and prayer of this nation has been, is now, and shall ever be “In God We Trust.” It is for God and Country we associate ourselves together.

**AUXILIARY
PRESIDENT**

Tonia Ison

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

785-233-2234



Legion Family,
We hope you and your families had a wonderful holiday season and thank you to all who attended the Department Christmas Party. We all had a wonderful time with the white elephant gifts and the delicious food.

Mid-Winter Forum is in Winfield, Kansas on February 7-8, 2015. The Department Auxiliary has been chosen to host a National Leadership Training presented by two National Chairmen. The training will be held on February 7, 2015 from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. We have several interesting topics that will be discussed. The topics were listed in your November newsletter. The training will be very beneficial to all members. Please

make your plans to attend. Our location for Mid-Winter Forum is the First United Methodist Church 1000 Millington Ave. Winfield, Kansas, just 1 ½ blocks east of the Legion Post Home. Lunch is available at the Legion Post Home or area restaurants.

Please turn in your membership regularly and please do not hold until all members in your Unit have paid. Our Vice-President, Jeanne Haas, is working very hard to encourage all the Districts to have met 50% of their goal by January 1, 2015. Several Districts still have a few goose eggs. We must all help our Units and Districts to eliminate these goose eggs! Thank you for all you do for all veterans.

Upgrade Discharge for PTSD

(Continued from Page 2)

“other than honorable” discharges.

Components of the Review Boards Agency include the Army Board for Correction of Military Records, the Army Discharge Review Board and

the Army Grade Determination Review Board.

Contact an American Legion Service Officer for more information about Discharge reviews.

+ TAPS +

**HEALTH CARE
SCAMS**

Here’s how they work:

You see an ad on TV, telling you about a new law that requires you to get a new health care card. Maybe you get a call offering you big discounts on health insurance. Or maybe someone says they’re from the government, and she needs your Medicare number to issue a new card.

Scammers follow the headlines. When it’s Medicare open season, or when health care is in the news, they go to work with a new script. Their goal? To get your Social Security number, financial information, or insurance number.

So take a minute to think before your talk: Do you really have to get a new health care card? Is that discounted insurance a good deal? Is that “government official” really from the government? The answer to all three is almost always: No.

Here’s what you can do:

1. Stop. Check it out. Before you share your information, call Medicare (800-MEDICARE), do some research, and check with someone you trust. What’s the real story?

2. Pass this information on to a friend. You probably saw through the requests. But chances are you know someone who could use a friendly reminder.

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

Please report identity theft. If you suspect identity theft, act quickly. 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. The FTC operator will give you the next steps to take. Visit ftc.gov/idtheft to learn more.

Achatz, Lester (Vietnam).....Ellinwood	Johnson, Bradley R. (Vietnam).. Overland Park
Aimo, John, Jr. (Korea).....Emporia	Johnson, Daniel H. (Vietnam).....Russell
Allison, George M. (Korea).....Topeka 400	Kelley, John H. (Korea)..... Junction City
Althouse, Frank D. (Korea).....Sabetha	Kenaga, Wayne C. (WWII)..... Andover
Anderson, James G. (Vietnam).....Wichita 401	Kesler, Melvin L. (WWII).....Powhattan
Armstrong, Marvin A. (WWII).....Pittsburg 64	King, David L. (Vietnam).....Olathe
Baldwin, Robert O. (WWII).....Waverly	Klaus, Walter (WWII).....Hays
Barbour, Lucien (Korea).....Winfield	Kline, Donald M. (WWII).....Winfield
Baxa, Donald D. (Korea).....Cuba	Klose, Albert (WWII)..... Hillsboro
Bentley, Robert F. (WWII).....Leonardville	Kolterman, John W. (Korea).....Russell
Bishop, Rex M. (Korea).....Emporia	Kraft, Donald (WWII)..... Overland Park
Black, Harold T. (WWII).....Topeka 58	Kramer, John H. (Lebanon/Grenada)Manhattan
Blevins, Jack E. (WWII).....Topeka 400	Krogman, Leonard (WWII).....Seneca
Brockman, Henry (Vietnam).....Beattie	Lacey, Floyd (WWII).....Holton
Broxterman, Donald (Korea).....Corning	Lange, Ernest (WWII)..... Marysville
Bryan, Sylvan C. (WWII).....Osage City	Lange, Lawrence H. (WWII).....Pittsburg 64
Burd, John (WWII).....Almena	Leach, Jim (Vietnam).....Erie
Burger, Dale R. (Vietnam).....Clay Center	Lewis, John W. (Vietnam).....Topeka 421
Castorena, Alfred M., Jr. (Vietnam) Coffeyville	Liermann, Lawrence L., Jr. (WWII).....Winfield
Chappell, Ray (Korea).....Garden City	Lind, Robert D. (Korea).....Iola
Clark, Ray C. (WWII).....Sharon Springs	Long, Gordon (Vietnam).....Mulvane
Clifton, Keith F. (Korea).....Paola	Louder, Seth S.Russell
Copple, Edward J. (Korea).....Winfield	Lux, William E. (Korea).....Ozawkie
Coty, John L. (Vietnam).....Manhattan	Madron, Meryin O. (Korea).....McPherson
Crabb, Jack W. (Korea).....Overland Park	Mai, Alex R. (WWII).....Russell
Cramer, Charles (WWII).....Topeka 58	Maxwell, ChesleroyFredonia
Cramer, Ernest E.Topeka 400	McCoy, Earl A. (Vietnam)..... Andover
Creed, L. P. (WWII).....El Dorado	Melton, James E. (Korea).....Emporia
Cromwell, Jay R.....Lincoln	Miller, Robert E. (Vietnam).....Topeka
Crouch, L. C. (WWII).....Topeka 400	Mindrup, Bernard J. (Korea).....Norton
Cumpton, Eugene L. (Korea).....Topeka 400	Moddelmog, Robert E. (Vietnam) .Moundridge
Daily, Herman (WWII).....Wichita 273	Morgan, M. Kenneth (WWII)..... Dwight
Dannebohm, Robert (Korea).....Ellinwood	Moyer, John F. (Vietnam).....Wichita 256
Davidson, Denzel (WWII).....Pittsburg 64	Nelson, Alvie C. (WWII).....Lindsboro
Dickson, Clifford (WWII).....Wichita 273	Nicks, William H. (WWII).....Shawnee
Donley, Lawrence (WWII).....Winfield	Nowlin, Beverlee (Korea).....Wichita 424
Drinkgern, Milford W. (Korea).....Marysville	Patton, Larry M. (Korea).....Manhattan
Duncan, Theodore B.Manhattan	Pritchard, Clyde L. (Vietnam).....Russell
Eberle, William J. (Korea).....Glen Elder	Reed, Claude J. (WWII).....Arkansas City
Edwards, Eugene O. (Vietnam).....Emporia	Riek, Loren C. (Vietnam).....Clay Center
Ehrhart, Leo F. (Korea).....Topeka 400	Rivera-Rios, Jose L. (Korea).....Ogden
Elvin, Clifford O. (Korea).....Marquette	Robinson, Dana (WWII).....Clay Center
Emperley, Doyle E. (WWII).....Topeka 400	Rombeck, Raymond P.Topeka 400
Essmyer, Robert P. (Korea).....Olathe	Roth, Bill (Korea).....Dighton
Feldkamp, Reinhold B. (WWII).....Sylvan Grove	Rothwell, David A. (Vietnam).....Topeka 400
Fields, Arthur M. (Korea).....Topeka 58	Schmale, Merle (Korea).....Palmer
Fox, David (Vietnam).....Ozawkie	Schmidt, James L. (WWII)..... Hillsboro
Frauen, James E. (WWII).....Topeka 58	Schneider, Lawrence (WWII).....Great Bend
Frey, Fred W. (Vietnam).....Bern	Schoming, Harold (WWII).....McPherson
Garcia, Lucas (WWII).....Emporia	Schwartz, Kenneth (WWII)..... Ft. Scott
Garrett, Douglas M. (Vietnam).....Gridley	Shepard, Dale (Korea).....Dwight
Gilmore, Joseph A. (WWII)..... Junction City	Sill, Lenore C. (WWII).....Burdick
Gilmore, Leo S. (WWII).....Pittsburg 64	Smith, George E., Jr. (Vietnam)..... Junction City
Goeckel, Leo (WWII).....Hanover	Sowder, Nell V. (WWII).....Toronto
Goeken, Norman F. (WWII).....Colby	Staab, Norman G. (WWII).....Russell
Goff, William T. (Korea).....Topeka 400	Stoffel, Sylvester J. (Korea).....McPherson
Gooden, Richard G. (Korea).....Topeka 400	Stout, Stanley B. (WWII).....Anthony
Green, Alice (WWII).....Pittsburg 394	Swafford, Bob L.Emporia
Griggs, William E. (Korea).....Manhattan	Tabor, Leon R. (WWII).....Liberal
Gunter, Emil R. (WWII).....Baldwin City	Taylor, Dale G. (WWII).....Alma
Hagen, Russell (Korea)..... Junction City	Teasdale, Ken (Vietnam).....Leavenworth 23
Hall, Lyle W. (WWII).....Ozawkie	Tegethoff, Calvin (WWII).....Ottawa
Hamilton, Robert W. (WWII).....Hugoton	Thompson, Ronald D. (Vietnam).....Lansing
Hardin, Walter G. (Vietnam).....Manhattan	Toman, Gilbert J., Jr. (Vietnam).....Halstead
Harris, Anton A. (WWII).....Clay Center	Vangundy, Myron (WWII).....Emporia
Heiman, Regis L. (Korea).....Topeka 400	VanHercke, Edward J. (WWII).....Shawnee
Hendrickson, Henry (Korea).....Topeka 400	Vanleeuwen, Max A. (Korea).....Wichita 422
Hermensen, Alvin B. (WWII).....Topeka 400	Varellman, John W. (Korea).....Burdick
Herrell, Paul (Korea).....Arma	Vian, Morman W., Jr. (Vietnam)..... Andover
Hill, Richard B. (Korea).....Coffeyville	Vincent, Gary V.Abilene
Hill, Wallace M. (WWII).....Newton	Vossen, Donald E.Ellinwood
Hoch, John A. (Vietnam).....Wilson	Walker, Leo L. (WWII).....Topeka 400
Hoeting, Delmer, L. (Korea).....Cawker City	Walls, Richard E. (Korea)..... Andover
Hooper, William E. (WWII).....Hill City	Wee, Richard D. (Korea).....Stafford
Hudson, Oscar E. (WWII).....Topeka 58	Whelpley, Robert (WWII).....McPherson
Hudson, William J. (Vietnam).....Emporia	Whiteman, Russell (WWII).....Topeka 58
Hunter, Elmo D. (Korea).....Olathe	Windisch, Kenneth W. (WWII).....Paola
Ingermanson, Clayton A. (WWII).....Salina 62	Winter, Rudolph (WWII).....Palmer
Jackson, Melvin L. (WWII).....Clifton	Woodard, Robert W. (Vietnam)..... Junction City
Jensen, Francis A. (WWII).....Mayetta	Zinn, Robert E. (Persian Gulf).....Emporia

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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**

WINFIELD GEARED UP AS MID-WINTER HOST

Winfield Post #10, 115 W. 10th, will serve as host for the Mid-Winter Forum February 6-8. Registration for both the Legion and SAL will be at the Post Home beginning Friday evening from 4 until 7pm. This year's Forum will feature Kelli Johnson from the 451st Expeditionary Sustainment Command (USAR), National Commander Candidate Dale Barnett, and Ian DePlanque, the deputy director of the American Legion's Legislative commission, as well as Committee Representatives representing major Legion programs which will occur in the near future.

Everyone is encouraged to arrive on Friday evening in time for registration beginning at 4pm at the Post Home. At 6pm on Friday, Post #10 will offer a buffet for \$10.00 featuring chicken fried steak, grilled chicken breast, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetables, coleslaw, and rolls.

On Saturday a \$6.00 breakfast buffet is available at the Post. Registration will open at 7:30am and the Forum will begin at 8:00am. Registration is \$7 per person and includes Sunday morning's breakfast. Saturday's lunch includes sloppy joes, potato salad, and baked beans.

Post #10 will offer a dinner on Saturday for \$12.00 which includes pork loin, escalloped potatoes, peas and carrots, rolls, salad, and cake.

On Sunday, breakfast will be served at the Post which includes scrambled eggs, sausage, biscuits and gravy, hash browns, fruit, orange juice, and coffee until the forum begins. The breakfast is free to registered Legionnaires and SAL members; Auxiliary members who register with the Auxiliary may purchase breakfast tickets for \$6.00.

At 8:00am on Sunday Commander McKimmy will call the Forum to order before turning the podium over to Department Chaplain Glenn Patterson who will conduct a Four Chaplains Service. After the service an auction benefiting the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation will be

held followed by a review of Americanism programs.

The Forum will conclude with the Sweepstakes drawing (see article on page 1). The Post will offer a \$6.50 sandwich bar with side dishes for those wishing to have lunch before returning to their home. ED NOTE: Most will wish to eat before they arrive home, so why not support an American Legion Post?

Following are the Headquarters Hotels for the Forum. Be sure to tell them you wish to reserve a room in The American Legion block in order to

receive the reduced rate.

EconoLodge By Choice Hotels, 1710 Main Street, Winfield, Kansas, Telephone: 1-620-221-9050, Rates: Single \$59.99 Double \$64.99.

Super 8 Motel, 3803 South Pike Road, Winfield, Kansas, Telephone number: 1-620-229-8888, Rates: Standard \$69.99, Suites \$89.99.

Comfort Inn At Quail Ridge, 3803 South Pike Road, Winfield, Kansas, Telephone: 1-620-221-7529, Rates: Doubles and King \$83.99.

2015 MID-WINTER FORUM WINFIELD, KANSAS

Friday, February 6

4 -7:00 pm Registration Post Home
6:00-9:00pm Dinner Post Home

Saturday, February 7

7:30am-4:00pm Registration Post Home

OPENING SESSION

8:00am Call to Order Dept. Commander Emery McKimmy
Opening Ceremony Emery McKimmy
Welcome & Introduction..... Post Commander
Welcome Mayor Merrill Gordon
Dept. Centennial Celebration Committee Gaylord Sanneman
451st Expeditionary Sustainment Command USA..... Kelli Johnson
National Commander Candidate..... Dale Barnett
SAL & Auxiliary Depart for their meetings
8:30am Public Relations Mike Anthony
10:30am Americanism Mike Buss

ADJOURN FOR LUNCH AT POST HOME

1:00pm Call to Order Emery McKimmy
Door Prize Drawing Chuck Yunker
Children & Youth Mike Buss
Membership Awards & Prizes..... Emery McKimmy
Special Children & Youth Certificates..... Chuck Yunker
Membership Turn-in Ray Vail
Legion Riders Don Behrens
Candidate for Department Office..... Emery McKimmy
Legislation..... Ian DePlanque
Centennial Membership Committee Paul Sanford
3:00-9:00pm Dinner Available..... Post Home

Sunday, February 8

7:00-8:00am Registration..... Post Home
6:30-8:00am Breakfast..... Post Home
8:00am Call To Order Emery McKimmy
Four Chaplains Service Rev. R. Glenn Patterson
8:30 am Pledge of Allegiance Raymond Vail
Legion Membership Turn-In..... Raymond Vail
Child Welfare Foundation Auction Dee Dee Danin & Keith Melick
Cadet Law Enforcement Academy Elgin Wahlborg
Boys' State Chuck Shoemaker
Oratorical Mike Oppy
Baseball..... Keith Melick
Scholarships Eduardo Mendoza
School Awards & County Government Day Dan Wiley
Eisenhower..... John Meyeres
SAL Introductions..... Doug Evans
Auxiliary Introductions Tonia Ison
American Legion Introductions Emery McKimmy
Sweepstakes Drawing