

Sunflower Legionnaire



VOL LXVIII NO. 6

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

MARCH 2015

Department Convention Sweepstakes

Thirteen more lucky members of the Kansas American Legion Family will share a minimum of \$6,250 or over \$7,000 in prizes with each having the opportunity of increasing their prize award by \$200.* Ticket packets are scheduled to be mailed to all Kansas Legionnaires this month for the Department Convention Sweepstakes. Members of the Sons of The American Legion and Auxiliary are welcome to enter the Sweepstakes by requesting tickets from Department Headquarters, 1314 SW Topeka Blvd., Topeka, KS 66612.

While a donation of \$5 for one ticket, \$10 for three, \$15 for six or \$20 for all twelve tickets is suggested, no purchase or contribution is required to en-

ter the Sweepstakes. The revenue from the Sweepstakes will continue to help fund the Department's Veterans Affairs and Children and Youth Programs.

Winners will be selected in a random drawing during the Department Convention in Topeka on Sunday, May 17. Winners need not be present to win and will be notified by certified mail. *If a winner is present during the drawing they will be awarded a \$200 bonus.

Should a winner be unable to be contacted by certified mail, or fails to claim their prize within 30 days of receipt of notice, that winner will forfeit their prize and an alternate winner will be selected in the same selection and notification process.

All prizes will be awarded. The odds of winning a prize depends upon the number of entries received by the deadlines of 10am Thursday, May 14, at Department Headquarters or 9am Sunday, May 17, at the Convention to be held at the Ramada Inn, 420 E. 6th St., Topeka, KS. Prize winners assume sole responsibility for all taxes.

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

MID-WINTER SWEEPSTAKES RESULTS

Department Headquarters would like to thank everyone who took part in this year's Mid-Winter Forum Sweepstakes.

The following members' names were drawn during Sunday's session of the Mid-Winter Forum: Two Hundred dollar winners were---Edward Gaddis, Topeka; Andrea Crunkhorn, Fairfax, VA; Robert Enright, Olathe; James Day, Herington; and Steve Thomas, Arkansas City.

Two Hundred-Fifty dollar winners included Donald Grumbein, Garden City; Roy Mazingo, Gridley; Steve Erikson, Olathe; Tommy Pearson, Clearwater; and Melvin Nutsch, Byron, NE.

The Five Hundred dollar winner was Edgar Auernheimer of Goessel, and the One Thousand dollar winner is John Gorman of Shawnee Mission. This year's Mid-Winter Forum Sweepstakes Grand Prize Winner of Two Thousand Five Hundred dollars is Terrance Price of LaMarque, TX.

Congratulations to each winner and again a big thank you to everyone who entered the Sweepstakes.

DISTRICT CONVENTIONS

Beginning the last weekend of this month and continuing each weekend throughout April Districts will meet in Convention for the purpose of conducting its business and electing officers for the 2015-16 membership year which begins on July 1. Each District is required to elect Representatives to the Department Convention's Constitution and Bylaws, Resolutions, Credentials and Rules Committees, and the District's Delegates and Alternates to the National Convention in Baltimore, Maryland later this year.

Every Legionnaire is encouraged to attend their District's Convention as a delegate, alternate, or guest representing their Post. Interested members should notify their Post they wish to serve as a Delegate or Alternate to their District or the Department Convention, or both.

The dates, and host Posts and Headquarters Hotel/Motel of each Convention are as follows:

District I – Marysville Post 163, April 10-12, Oak Tree Inn, 1127 Pony Express Hwy. 785-562-1234.

District II – Gardner Post 19, March 28, Super 8, 2001 E. Santa Fe, 913-856-8887.

District III – Winfield Post 10, March 27-29, EconoLodge, 1710 Main St., 620-221-9050.

District IV – Manhattan Post 17 April 25, Super 8, 200 Tuttle Creek Blvd., 785-537-8464.

District V – El Dorado Post 81, April 25, Super 8, 2530 W. Central Ave., 316-321-4888.

District VI – Hays Post 173, April 18, Americas Best Value Inn, 2524 Vine St., 785-625-2511.

District VII – Great Bend Post 180, April 10-12, Best Western Angus Inn, 2920 10th St., 620-792-3541.

District VIII – Dodge City Post 47, April 17-19, Americas Best Value Inn, 2200 W. Wyatt Earp Blvd., 888-315-2387, 620-227-8146.

Representatives of Department Headquarters and either the National Executive Committeeman or Alternate National Executive Committeeman will attend each Convention. In addition, candidates for various Department offices are expected to visit most District Conventions as they seek support for their election during the May Department Convention in Topeka.

District Conventions provide an outstanding opportunity for members learn what Posts in the same area do in their communities, to share success stories of what has worked for their Post, and exchange ideas how to improve Post operations and programs. District Conventions also provide an excellent venue to make or renew friendships. Friday evenings are generally reserved for socializing in preparation for Saturday's business sessions. Sundays normally begin with a Memorial Service followed by a final business session and elections. Some Districts also conduct special events on Friday such as membership workers' parties or golf tournaments.

STATE ORATORICAL CONTEST MARCH 16

Manhattan Post 17, 3121 Shaffer, will serve as the Host Post for this year's Department Oratorical Contest, on Saturday, March 14 beginning at 9 AM. The American Legion Family and public are invited to attend our organization's most lucrative scholarship pro-

gram. High school students from around the state will begin the competition by presenting their 8 to 10 prepared orations. Prepared orations must be the original work of the contestant and whose subject must be on some phase of the U.S.

(Continued Page 6)

POST ELECTIONS

As a 'grassroots' organization The American Legion's Post elections are the most important in the organization. All Posts are required to conduct annual Post Officer elections and this year all Post elections must occur between March 15 and April 30.

Article VIII of the Department By-Laws, Section 5 states: "The officers of each Post shall be: A Post Commander; one or more Post Vice Commanders; a Post Adjutant; and such other officers as the Post shall determine. The Post Commander and Vice Commander or Vice Commanders, shall be elected by secret ballot, and shall hold office for a period of one year, or until their successors have been elected and qualified. Other Post Officers may be selected or appointed as each Post may determine. Annual Post elections shall be held at a regular meeting not more than sixty days nor less than fifteen days prior to the Department Convention and said Post Officers shall be installed prior to the Department Convention."

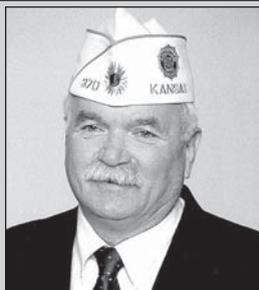
Please note Article VIII Section 5 also requires newly elected Post Officers to be installed prior to the Department Convention. The Department Convention is scheduled to be called to order on Saturday, May 15 therefore the not before March 15 nor later than April 30 dates stated earlier.

Article VIII Section 5 of the Department By-Laws continues by stating: "All vacancies in Post offices shall be filled in a manner to be determined by such Post and shall hold office for the unexpired term. Each Post Finance Officer shall be bonded for twice the amount of the funds likely to come under his control. No bond is to be less than \$200."

Although the Bylaws only require the Finance Officer to be bonded and bonds are not to be less than \$200; Department Headquarters recommends everyone (officers and employees) who handle any of the Post's funds be bonded to twice the amount that person would normally have access to at any given time.

COMMANDER

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



**VICE
 COMMANDER**

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



CHILDREN

&

YOUTH

DeeDee

Danin

dddanin@hotmail.com

Greetings, Department of Kansas Legion Family! I want to take this opportunity to thank all the hard working Legion Family members who do so much to keep us and our programs alive, and to remind everyone of why we exist in the first place.

The American Legion was founded in March, 1919, as a service organization of veterans for veterans. We are here to fight for their rights and benefits. One person who exemplified this was fellow Kansan and Past National Commander Harry W. Colmery, the father of the GI Bill of Rights. Through his efforts, millions of veterans from WWII to the present have benefits for home loans, health and education that they otherwise wouldn't get. The Department of Kansas is sponsoring a fund drive to create a memorial park in honor of Harry Colmery, and we are asking every Legionnaire, businessman and Kansan to help us in this effort. Please see the article below for more details. Let's honor this true American hero!

Grantham University is also sponsoring a letter drive to have Harry Colmery awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and they are looking for your support. I ask everyone to go to www.AwardForFreedom.com and fill out the forms to send to the President and our Congressional leaders. It doesn't cost anything and is a great tribute to a truly deserving hero.

As we approach the Legion's 96th birthday this month, it

is my hope that every Post in the Department of Kansas has plans to celebrate. I have received some invitations and look forward to spending time with my fellow Legion Family members.

This past month has been very busy for me. February started with the tour of our National Vice Commander and fellow Kansan Paul Sanford. We visited posts all around the state and enjoyed the company of many fine Legionnaires. Thank you to all the posts that hosted the tour.

Just after the tour, the Department's Mid-Winter Forum was held in Winfield. I was pleased to see the great turn-out and the camaraderie of Legionnaires from all across the state. The leading candidate for next year's National Commander, Dale Barnett, was there to present his platform and was well received. It was a great success.

After Mid-Winter was over, I was honored to represent the Department at the annual Lincoln Pilgrimage to Springfield, Illinois. It is a very humbling experience to lay a wreath at the tomb of our 16th president, a man who did so much to preserve our freedoms and to reunite a divided country.

Then it was off to Washington as part of the delegation to Capitol Hill. I enjoyed working diligently with National Commander Mike Helm and the rest of the delegation to ensure that our veterans have a voice, and making sure that voice is heard in Congress.

Greetings Kansas Legion Family.

The first part of the year was slow but the second half is picking up. This month the Department Commander Emery McKimmy and myself had the pleasure of taking National Vice Commander Paul Sanford through parts of Kansas for his Kansas tour. We visited 17 Posts in three and a half days and met so many good people and ate so much we could hardly move. We would like to thank all the Legion Family for a great time and for the warm and friendly receptions we received at every stop we made, every one was absolutely great.

Right after the National Vice Commander's tour we had the Mid-Winter Forum held at Winfield Post #10. I do believe it was the largest turn out for some time. By the show of hands there were many there for the first time and that was good to see. The auction this year, as all ways, was a big success. We raised over \$4,000 for the Child Welfare Fund, everyone should be very proud of that. I do hope someone will send in their letter of intent to Department Headquarters so we can have these positions filled,

We held our Legislative Reception in Topeka Feb. 11th and that was, I believe, a big success. We had a great turn out on the Legion side and the Legislative as well.

Every one I talked with on both sides said they enjoyed the opportunity to meet each other in an open forum like that. At

the meeting there were several bills presented that we as veterans and citizens need to stay aware of so stay in touch with your local representatives so they know we care about our laws and how they effect us as veterans.

The District Conventions are coming up in just a few weeks. Everyone should try to attend their District meetings. It's very important you support your Districts and the officers, they are there to help you. The same is true for Department Convention coming up this May in Topeka so start making your plans now so you can get your rooms reserved early.

Our membership is slowly coming up, we still have a ways to go. It seems this time of the year it gets more difficult to get some people to renew their membership. These are the middle of the road people we have to work harder to get them to come join our American Legion Family. This middle of the road holds true for some of our Posts. They just need that little nudge to get them on the right side. I know every one has heard this many times before but just give these Posts a call or better yet stop by and see them for that could be just the push they need.

I do want to say thank you to every one for what you do for our American Legion.

May God bless you and may He continue to watch over our service men and women and keep them safe.

HELP MAKE COLMERY PARK A REALITY

As part of a larger effort to renovate and modernize Topeka's down town, we have the opportunity to honor a great Kansan and Legionnaire. Harry W. Colmery was a prominent Topeka attorney and a Past National Commander. But Harry's greatest achievement was crafting the

most ambitious, impactful and successful piece of legislation in the history of this great nation. The Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 which is commonly known as GI Bill of Rights lead to the creation of the middle class, prevented a post WWII depression, and codified the idea that America

owes her veterans proper medical care for wartime injuries and help transitioning into the civilian workforce.

The Harry W. Colmery Memorial Park will feature a life-size bronze statue of Harry and two effigies, one of military personel and one of greatful veterans.

Contributions can 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.

The Districts Oratorical Contests are now on the move with the Department contest following fast. I often think of how many members per Post we have in our eight Districts. Now I wonder how many youngsters of age in all the high schools in the entire state of Kansas we have. Astronomical!

Then I wonder how many Districts have been consistent in providing a candidate for the Department Oratorical Contest who hopefully can go on to compete in the National Competitions. Do we have such records?

I would love to find these figures and use them to provide a special recognition of that special District and that Post which have shown such devotion for their communities' children.

I know everybody hears the words about just how special these programs are, but do they honestly hear? Do they hear the value of the words? Can they take these words to heart and act on them?

In the more rural areas of our state, there are kids who may have a deep desire to achieve something more for themselves. An opportunity to compete for scholarships like ours could be just the ticket to help them, let alone teaching them of our Nation's processes and our peoples' rights and responsibilities in keeping our country as our fore fathers intended it to be.

Districts, get more involved in what your Posts are doing and urge them on in supporting our Children and Youth programs. Districts will not encumber Posts, but they will support them and motivate them onward!

DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER

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

What Is Military Sexual Trauma?

Both women and men can experience sexual harassment and sexual assault during military service. VA refers to these experiences as "military sexual trauma" or MST.

MST includes any sexual experience where you were involved against your will. Some examples are:(1) Someone touched or grabbed you sexually without your consent, (2) someone said things about your body or sex life you found offensive and threatening,(3) you were physically forced into sex (4) you were pressured into sex by threats or promises of better treatment (5) someone had sex with you when you could not give consent (for after you used alcohol or drugs).

It doesn't matter who the perpetrator was, and it doesn't matter whether you were on or off base/post, or on or off duty. If you had experiences like this during your military service, it's considered MST.

The Department of Veterans Affairs offers health care free of charge for both mental and physical problems related to MST. You do not need to be service connected (have a disability rating from VA) and you do not need to have proof that the MST happened.

For more information contact: (Female and male counselors available). MST Coordinator VA Eastern Kansas Healthcare System, Gary Napier MS, APRN/CNS at (785)350-3111 Ext.52068 or gary.napier3@va.gov. For the MST Coordinator Robert J. Dole VAMC Wichita, KS contact Josephine Oldham at (316)685-2221 Ext.57897 or josephine.oldham@va.gov.

For more information: Visit the MST Resource Homepage on the VA Intranet: at <http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/msthome.asp>

**JAMES STALEY
 MASTER-AT-ARMS CANDIDATE**



This is to introduce James E. (Jim) Staley as a candidate for Master-at-Arms for Department of Kansas for 2015-2016.

His eligibility for membership is his service to his country in the Army National Guard from January 1968 thru September 1973. He is a 38-year member of the American Legion, Alonzo F. Dexter Post #101 in Clay Center, KS. He

has been Stg.-at Arms of his local Post, has attended the past three National Conventions as part of the Kansas delegation, participated in the parades at the National Conventions, and has attended several District and Department meetings during his years of membership. He has served on firing squads and served as color guard at various events for his local Post.

Jim has the support of his family, his local Post Alonzo F. Dexter #101.

Jim would appreciate your support as a candidate for Master-at-Arms. Thank you in advance for your support.

CANTEEN BOOKS

Canteen contributions help veterans in our VA hospitals purchase necessities, and for out patient veterans to purchase meals at the hospital. Anyone may contribute, individuals, Posts, Units, SAL Squadrons, or ALR Chapters.

The following have made donations, please note these are Posts unless otherwise indicated.

Up to \$25: Alta Vista, Hunter, Overland Park, and Pittsburg.

\$25 up to \$50: Allen, Beattie, Cawker City, Fairview, Garnett, Goodland, Marion, Ness City, White City, and Winchester.

\$50 up to \$100: Agra, Arma, Augusta, Atwood, Barnes, Baxter Springs, Burlington SAL, Caney, Canton, Concordia, Copeland, Copeland SAL, Derby/Haysville, Dodge City, El Dorado, Emporia ALR, Erie, Greenleaf, Gridley, Halstead, Havensville, Haviland, Herington, Herington ALR, Herington SAL, Herington Unit, Hiawatha, Highland, Howard, Jennings, LaCrosse, Lansing, Lindsborg, Little River, Marquette, Medicine Lodge, Norton, Olathe, Olpe, Osage City, Oskaloosa, Powhattan, Rossville, Salina, Seneca, Sixth District, Spring Hill, St. George, Sterling, Sublette, Sylvan Grove, Syracuse, Tampa, Ulysses, Westmoreland, Wetmore, White City, Whitewater, and Winfield.

\$100 up to \$300: Attica, Baldwin City, Bazine, Blue Mound, Clay Center, Coffeyville, Columbus, Dighton, Ellinwood, Frankfort, Hanvoer, Hays, Hillsboro, Holton, Kansas City #199, Liberal, Long Island, Lyndon, Marysville, McPherson, Oberlin, Ottawa, Sabetha, Silver Lake, Wakeeney, Wichita #256, Wellington, and Yates Center.

Recognition was given at Mid-Winter Forum for Bazine who donated the most per capita, and to Marysville for donating the largest total amount. Donations are accepted at Headquarters year round.

To date donations total \$7,198. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

For God and Country.....

By Department Adjutant Charles M. Yunker

According to VA statics I've always been the average age of Vietnam veterans; which means there are a lot of recently retired veterans many of whom are looking for something to do. That discription fits many Legion Riders who have used the Rider program to get involved with their Post. More so, they have used the Rider program to reach out to assist our newest veterans.

Recently someone pointed out Vietnam veterans are directly responsible for the out pouring of support for today's servicemen and women. Truer words were never spoken. Vietnam veterans were not going to allow today's veterans to experience the treatment many of them experienced.

Thus the origin of a new slogan I hope catches on, "The American Legion - Today's Voice for Today's Veterans and Military." I came up with that while thinking about House Bill 2228 which I was recently priviledged to testify in support for today's veterans.

House Bill 2228 would bring Kansas law into compliance with Federal law which requires states to grant all veterans, their spouses, and dependent children in-state tuition rates. You would think it would be a no-brainer yet there are those working to water the bill down.

If HB 2228 is not inacted into law every veteran, including Kansas residents, will not be allowed to use their GI education benefits in Kansas!

Veterans who do move to Kansas will spend more per semester on food, housing, clothing, entertainment, etc. without even factoring in the 7x multiplier usually used to compute financial impact of something. Besides, without the in-state tuition rate, how many veterans will come to Kansas to pay of out of state rates?

Please contact your State Representative and Senator to tell them to support HB 2228 as passed out of the Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security Committee.

Now back to my, "The American Legion - Today's Voice for Today's Veterans and Military." As I say I hope it catches on. I'd like to ask my fellow Vietnam veterans (cross out that era stuff - we all served under the same flag; some in Vietnam, some not. That was over 40 years ago). Let's all take care of today's veterans and military by getting involved with our local Posts and help build a stronger American Legion for today's veterans and military.

**KEITH MELICK CANDIDATE FOR
 DEPARTMENT AREA EAST
 VICE COMMANDER**

Hello fellow Legionnaires. My name is Keith Melick and I am announcing my candidacy for Area East Vice Commander. I am a member of Post 23 in Leavenworth Kansas.

I earned my eligibility for the Legion by serving in the US Army from 1986-2010. I served in many military installations around the world to include a tour in the Gulf War, OEF and OIF. I retired as a senior NCO from Leavenworth KS.

I joined the Legion in 2000 and since then I have served at the Post level in positions from Executive Board, Vice Commander and currently on my 4th year as the Commander. I also serve as the Post Baseball Chairman. At the District level

I have served as District Baseball Chair, Oratorical Chair, Executive Board, Vice Commander, and Commander in 2013-2014. At the Department level I am currently the Chairman for the Legion Baseball program. On the national level I am currently on the VA&R Commission.

I have the support of my Post, and most importantly my wife of 25 years. If elected I will work diligently with all the District officers to make the 1st-4th Districts the top in membership in the state. I look forward to your support in May at the Department Convention in Topeka. Any questions feel free to call me or email me.

**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: 4,867
Percentage: 92.58%**

Legionnaires of Second District, greetings. As of now the District is leading in Department membership with a few Posts at 100%, and some that just need five or less to reach the goal. I checked on mylegion.org and some Posts have had too many members go to Post Everlasting and will need to sign up new members to make goal.

Charlie Grieco and I went to the Mid-Winter Forum in Winfield, the weather and meetings were great. District 2 was short on representatives of only five Posts showing. A lot of good information was brought there from the National American Legion. National Commander leading candidate Dale Barnett was in attendance, and it is asy to see why he will be a great leader for out Leigon. The Child Welfare Foundation Auction brought in a grant total of \$4,000. A great weekend and great Post host.

Now is the time to be working on those applications for Boys and Girls State, and the Cadet Law Enforcement Academy. They need to be turned in by March 31. The Oratorical Contest was held on February 28 at the Olathe Post. Winners will be listed in next month's column. Thanks to Rick Miller and his Olathe Post for holding this event.

This is also a good time to get ready for Post elections of officers. If you cannot serve as an officer you can volunteer to serve on a committee.

It is getting close to the District Convention to be held at Gardner Post 19 on March 28th in Gardner for the one day. Please come.

God bless America and God bless our troops.

**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: 5,550
Percentage: 90.07%**

Hello 1st District. The year is quickly coming to a end and now is the time for a lot of activities. I first want to thank everyone for the support of the District so far and all of your hard work.

In Membership we are maintaining in second place but with a little more effort we can overtake first place. Remember just ask and they will come.

We had a great Mid-Winter Forum in Winfield, it was great to see so many different people there.

Next is the District Oratorical competition in Marysville on the 7th of March. I hope everyone has gotten the names to chairman Melick for those competing. If you have never been to a Oratorical Contest it is something to see.

After that we are having our District Convention also in Marysville April 10-12 a lot will be going on with training and new elections on Saturday the 11th make it a day for all to come out and see what goes on.

Lastly it has been a good year for the District I hope that we can continue to go strong so we end strong if you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me.

Iwo Jima Reunion (Continued from Page 8)

Reservations are due by Sunday, April 16. Contact Don Klein by calling 620-727-1029, write him at 409 E. Adams, Sterling, KS 67579, or email at donald7@centurylink.net using Iwo Jima RSVP for the subject. It is very important to amke your meat dish selection with your reservations so there will not be a shortage of food. If you find you will have more guests coming after you have made your reservation, please call and let us know.

**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: 4,126
Percentage: 89.73%**

A big thanks to all of our Legion Family for their outstanding work this year so far. Membership standings have us solidly in third place but nipping on second. Our Ladies Auxiliary is back in first place. We have about 470 members to go for 100%. So keep knocking on those doors!

Department Oratorical is coming on March 14th at our Manhattan Post 17. Baseball season is soon upon us so please get your paperwork in early so the background checks won't hold up your teams. Fourth District has four new teams this year, great job!

It's time for reports to be submitted. First one is the Post Service Officers Report due on March 3. Please get them sent in to Department. If you need help please don't hesitate to call myself or Vice Commander Tom. Next is the Children and Youth, and then finally the Post Consolidated Report. All of these reports are very important not just to report on the accomplishments of your Posts but all of the numbers add up and National uses these statistics to show Congress and the world what we are doing. Again, please call us if you need help.

And now is the time Posts need to send in their Boys State and Cadet Law candidates. These are great programs that benefit our youth. If you need help obtaining sponsorship money please call us! Again thank you all for all that you do for our soldiers and veterans, God Bless!

**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: 3,913
Percentage: 89.07%**

What a great time we had at Mid-Winter Forum in Winfield. We reconnected with old friends and made new ones. There was a suicide prevention program as it relates to Kansas. Guest presenters from National gave programs on Public Relations, Americanism and Legislation.

Many Posts are hosting parties for the 96th birthday of The American Legion. If your Post is having a party, or if there is one near you, make an effort to attend. I look forward to attending as many of the parties as I can fit into my schedule.

Keep in mind that your Post Service Officer reports are due by March 3, 2015. Children and Youth Reports are due to the District Chairmen before District Convention. Post Consolidated Reports and Post Data Forms are being sent to the post adjutants soon. These reports are very important for the operation of your Post and for information for renewal notices.

To help fund the Oratorical Contest, Fifth District is sponsoring an Oratorical Scholarship drawing for a handgun. There are a limited number of tickets available, so contact a District Officer to get tickets for your Post members before they are all gone. The drawing for the winner will be held at District Convention. You do not need to be present to win but the winner must meet all legal requirements.

**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: 3,568
Percentage: 88.23%**

Hello Sixth District. First let me appologize for not having an article in last months paper. It was an oversight during some personal issues.

I would like to encourage all to attend the Sixth District Convention. It will be held April 18th in Hays, KS at the Post Home. We are looking forward to a great Convention. Americas Best Hotel has a special rate for the Convention.

Keep working your membership, we are nowhere near where we need to be. I know it can be frustrating at times, but keep on being persistant. Our organization is a great one! One to be proud of and continue to do what we can to make it even better and stronger.

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.

**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: 3,018
Percentage: 87.86%**

Hello spring, good bye winter!! We hope. With spring upon us we must concentrate on membership. We are running out of time to reach our goal.

(Continued Page 5)

DISTRICT THREE

(Continued from Page 4)

Congratulations to Baxter Springs, Walnut, and Pittsburg 394 for reaching 100%!! We have several other Posts that are within 30 of reaching that goal. let's go get them before Convention time.

Our Convention will be held March 27,28, and 29 at Post 10 in Winfield. Post 10 has a lot of activities scheduled and we hope we will have a good turn out for the activities. The District is looking for some volunteers to fill offices and committees for the upcoming year and need your support. If anyone is interested in serving contact me or my Vice Commander Clint and we will help you get started!

It has been a rewarding time to serve as your Commander, have made a lot of new friends and enjoyed the fellowship that goes with the territory. I have learned that it takes all of us to fulfill our obligation to our past, present, and future veterans. I would also like to say, "Thank You," to all our Department officers and staff for all they do in keeping us where we need to be. They have been very accommodating when called upon for assistance.

With Conventions and elections just around the corner we must concentrate on getting the best people in place for us to succeed. Remember that our District will be privileged to have Ray Vail running for Department Commander for the year 2015-2016. He has been an avid supporter on membership in our area and I know that we can help him achieve his goals as Department Commander with an ample supply of effort on our part.

Hope to see you all at Conventions, God bless America and our troops.

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

**Total Members: 1,232
Percentage: 87.13%**

Hello 8th District.

Spring is almost here, but old man winter is sticking around. Mid-Winter Forum is over (got sick, had to come home early).

The Department Executive Committee acted on a couple of issues involving the 8th District. The D.E.C. went into Executive Session to hear a membership expulsion appeal which was remanded back to Garden City Post 9.

The D.E.C. cancelled Garden City's American Legion Rider Chapter. I want to remind all American Legion, Legion Auxiliary and Son's of the American Legion members that there is a Constitution and Bylaws that all have to abide by.

This years 8th District Oratorical Contest winner is Nathan Dowell of Liberal. Nathan was sponsored by Liberal Post #80.

This was Nathan's 2nd year of competition and will be back next year, well done Nathan. It's also time for Post's to get their Cadet Law, Boys and Girls State candidates signed up by the March 31st deadline. A reminder that 8th District Convention is April 17-19 at American Legion Post #47 at Dodge City. Make your hotel reservation at America's Best Value Inn, 2200 W. Wyatt Earp, Dodge City, Ph. #620-227-8146. Ask for American Legion, 8th District rate. Also, the Americanism and Children & Youth Report mailed to each Post, needs to be turned in at District Convention. Make your plan's NOW to attend 8th District Convention. We need everyone's participation.

GOD BLESS THE AMERICAN LEGION & the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

**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: 2,229
Percentage: 86.73%**

This is a wake up call to all members in our District. Your 2014 membership is no good at any American Legion Post. As of February 1, 2015, your membership is suspended with no privileges except that of reinstatement by Post vote and payment of dues. Take a look in your wallet, hopefully you will find a membership card for 2015. If not, please send in your renewal now. After nine months of working membership it is time to move on with our other programs.

All Posts that can, should be working on their Children & Youth programs for Oratorical, Boys and Girls State, Cadet Law Academy, and baseball, just to mention a few. There are many more to look at that a Post can support.

With the District and State Conventions coming up we also have the Consolidated Post Report, the Annual Post Date Report, and the Post Officer Certification Report to file in a timely manner. Last year our District had several Posts that did not file all or any of these reports, or were extremely late in filing. No reports or late reports cause problems at Department and National Headquarters. There is a reason for the time line on these reports. If you need help with any of these reports call me.

In the January 2015 American Legion Dispatch, page 7, article: "Post Excellence Award Continues." This is good news for any Post that has 100% or better on membership. This program honors Posts that show excellence in membership participation, youth activities, community service, and support to veterans. Meet all of the criteria listed in the article and send me the information for certification as soon as you can. "CENTER OF THE BEST."

RAY VAIL CANDIDATE FOR DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

Fellow Legionnaires,

I am Raymond Vail and I will be a candidate for Department Commander of the Kansas American Legion at the Kansas Department Convention in Topeka, Kansas this coming May 2015.

I earned my eligibility for The American Legion by serving 3 years in the U.S. Army with an honorable discharge at the



rank of E-5. I have been a member of The American Legion for 29 years and a life member of Post 182 in Arma, Kansas where I have held various offices including First Vice Commander for two years, Commander for three years, and as Adjutant for the last five years. I am a dual member with the Sons of the American Legion and a member of the 40 and 8. At the District level I held several offices including Third District Commander. At Department I have held the offices of Master-At-Arms and this year I am the Department Vice Commander. I have been a member of the Department Centennial Membership Committee from its beginning and this year I have been on the National Americanism Committee.

I have the support of my Post and my wife Linda of 44 years who has been with me on every membership revitalization all across Kansas.

The Department and District Officers, along with Post members, have worked hard the last three years on membership for our Department, that is why I am asking for your continued support as the Department Commander for the 2015 and 2016 year.

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Tonia Ison

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

785-233-2234



Legion Family,

We had a wonderful attendance at Mid-Winter Forum for the National Leadership Training. We had in attendance 81 ladies. It was an awesome training. We had many compliments and ladies stated we needed more trainings, our goal is to provide more in-depth training in the future. Chaplain Claudia and Chaplain Patterson did an outstanding job on the Four Chaplain's service. Thanks to both of our Chaplains.

It is time for Legion birthday parties and District Conventions; make sure you attend your District Conventions and perhaps you could run for a

District Office we need more involvement from our members and Units.

We are behind in membership but we know everyone is working hard. We suggest each Unit get a committee to call those members who have not renewed, sometimes just a little nudge from a member with a personal phone call or visit is all that is needed for that member to renew. Please let them know how important they are to your Unit. If we all work together we can make our membership goal.

Thank you for all you do for our veterans.

**DON'T FORGET
NEXT MONTH
IS
CHILDREN &
YOUTH MONTH**

ORATORICAL CONTEST (Continued from Page 1)

Constitution.

The second half of the contest begins with the random drawing of one of four possible constitutional topics. Contestants are aware of the four possible topics and are given 5 minutes of prep time before

being escorted to the stage to deliver their 3 to 5 minute oration on the topic drawn. Each contestant speaks on the same assigned topic.

Points are awarded based upon strict criteria outlined in the judge's instructions which

include specific deductions for speaking too long or too short during both portions of the contest. The top orator will be eligible to represent Kansas at the National Oratorical Contest in Indianapolis next month; transportation and housing for the contestant and a chaperone are provided by National Headquarters. The first place scholarship at the National Contest is a \$18,000 scholarship; second place receives a \$16,000 scholarship and third place is awarded a \$14,000 scholarship.

Kansas' first, second and third runners up are awarded state scholarships and most contestants are awarded scholarships on the District level, with some Posts also offering scholarships.

ROBERT MUNSON DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER CANDIDATE

My fellow Legionnaires, I am requesting your support as a candidate for Department Vice Commander.

I served in the United States Navy for 30 years, enlisting in 1961 and retiring in 1991 as a Command Master Chief. During those years, one full year was served in Vietnam on river patrol boats, four years as a Navy diver, and 17 years at sea on various ships.

I moved to Pittsburg, Kansas with my wife Cheryl in 2010 and became an active member of Post #64 where I served as Commander for two terms. While Commander in 2014, I brought the Post membership to 100% for the first time in 26 years. I am also currently serving on the Centennial Membership Board. I have served as

the Third District Vice Commander and Commander. I am currently serving the Department as Master-At-Arms. I am a dual member of the Sons of the American Legion as well. I am also the Post Service Officer and have established a monthly visit from a certified Veterans Service Officer for all veterans needing assistance with their benefits. We have helped over 584 veterans in the past four years. I am very active with the Heros Home Network and have taken training in crisis intervention and suicide prevention for those suffering from PTSD.

I have the support of my Post, the Third District D.E.C., and my wife Cheryl. It would be a great honor to have your support as well. Thank you.

HAROLD W. SCHEAFER MASTER-AT-ARMS CANDIDATE

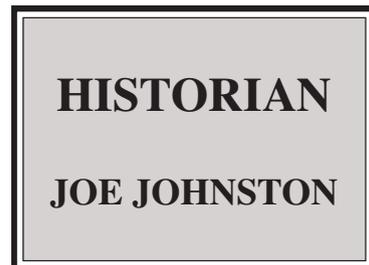
My fellow Legionnaires, I am writing to you to announce my candidacy for Department Master-At-Arms for 2015-2016.

My eligibility for Legion membership was earned by serving in the United States Air Force during the Viet Nam era. I used my GI benefits to attain degrees in Business Administration, Business Education, and Counseling. I taught school in Rose Hill for 27 years before retiring.

I am currently serving the American Legion as Fifth District Commander. I have also served as District Five Vice-Commander and as Committeeman for three years. At the local level, I have held the positions of Post Commander, Post Adjutant, Post Finance Officer, and Post Service Officer. I am a member of the Centennial Membership Com-

mittee for the Department. I have helped during revitalizations in several Districts during the last two years. I find it exciting to bring the benefits of Legion membership to new and renewing members. In Fifth District, my e-board and I have pushed this year's membership to where it has been consistently above where it was at the same time last year. I have tried to increase communication among the Posts in my District with periodic e-mails of important information and use of a Facebook page to let everyone know about events within the District.

My wife, Karen, and I have been married for 44 years. I have her support, as well as the support of our daughter. My local Post and the Fifth District e-board also support me in this endeavor. I would greatly appreciate your support as well.



Harry W. Colmery, a Topeka attorney and past National Commander of The American Legion, wrote The Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, otherwise known as the GI Bill. He was deeply moved by the plight of many of his fellow WWI veterans and decided that he would see that it would not be the fate of the WWII veterans. The GI Bill guaranteed a veteran up to a year of unemployment insurance, on the job training, a loan for a home, farm, or business, or a college education. The GI Bill is still being offered with a few changes.

Funds are being raised to honor the legacy of Harry W. Colmery by building a memorial park in his honor in downtown Topeka. I believe that all Kansas Legion members, especially those who have taken advantage of "one of the best laws ever passed," should make a donation to this project. I would not have been able to attend college if not for the original GI Bill.

Send your donation to Harry W. Colmery Memorial Park Fund, c/o American Legion Department Headquarters.

GEORGE GRIMM CANDIDATE FOR MASTER-AT-ARMS

Fellow Legionnaires, my name is George Grimm and I am announcing my candidacy for Department Master-At-Arms. I am a member of Post 23 in Leavenworth Kansas.

I earned my eligibility for the Legion by serving in the US Army from 1969-1989, serving in many military installations around the world. I joined the Legion in 2003. Since then I have served at the Post level in positions from Executive

Board, Vice Commander, and Commander. At the District level I have served as Executive Board, Vice Commander and am currently the First District Commander.

I have the support of my Post, and most importantly my wife. I look forward to your support in May at the Department Convention in Topeka. Any questions feel free to call me or email me.



DETACHMENT COMMANDER

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



Legionnaires, It was good to see everyone who attended the Mid -Winter Form in Winfield. The Sons had a good turnout to see National Sons Commander Mike Moss. Hopefully everyone learned a lot about Commanders Moss's Building Bridges programs as well as the workings of the Detachment of Kansas. Mid -Winter is a good time to encourage members to step up and take leadership roles in both the Districts as well as the Detachment. Both the Legion and the Auxiliary appeared to have a good turnout for their meetings. Many stayed for the Memorial Service and the

Closing Session. Child Welfare was the big winner in the auction. Thanks to all the bidders. A personal thanks to everyone who filled my golden plunger for Special Olympics Polar Bear Plunge.

Commander Emery Mc Kimmy, President Tonia Ison and I represented the Kansas American Legion Family at the Abraham Lincoln Pilgrimage in Springfield Illinois. National Commander Mike Helms, National President Janet Jefford and National Sons Commander Mike Moss also laid Wreaths at the Lincoln Tomb. What a Honor to be at this impressive ceremony.

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**



SEASON OF LENT
 “May my prayer be set
 before you like incense; may
 the lifting up of my hands be
 like the evening sacrifice.”
Psalm 141:2

The background of this passage of scripture is from the Psalmist David; it is a request for protection of the “wickedness” in the world. The “wickedness” in the world is the absence of the Presence of God.

Wickedness is the tool of the evil presence in our world. The tools of Satan are “doubt, despair and disbelief”. These are the tools that cause one to doubt their belief in God.

I want to take this opportunity to invite the readers to examine the words of the Psalmist David to hear and ask for God’s protection upon your life; and that of this great nation called, The United States of America”. As fellow Legionnaires we know what it means to be under authority. As Christians, there no difference in that we willing submit our lives; to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

There have been many times in David’s life that he experienced the danger of the evil threat to his life. The difference in David is the Courage that he received from the having God in his life. David was not perfect; yet David is referred to as the “Man after God’s own Heart”.

As an organization devoted to “God & Country” may each of us devote our lives to being a follower of Jesus Christ this Season of Lent.

“Totally love Him, who gave Himself totally for your love.” St Clare of Assisi

**Availability of the New American
Legion "Citizenship Outreach Guide"**

Helping lawful immigrants prepare for citizenship and assimilation into American society has been a longstanding and proud tradition of The American Legion since our founding. Legion Posts are recognized for having a leadership role in community betterment, and as such, are well suited to provide a welcoming and trusted space for immigrant communities. In Washington D.C. last fall, National Commander Helm met with the Chief of Staff for the Office of Citizenship at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), the government agency that oversees lawful immigration into the United States. Commander Helm returned from that meeting extremely enthused at the opportunities available to Legion Posts in local communities throughout the nation for engaging in close collaboration with USCIS to promote and support the naturalization process for immigrants seeking the lawful path to citizenship.

To that end, the Americanism Commission is proud to announce availability of a newly developed Citizenship Outreach Guide that is conveniently accessible under the Americanism section of the Publications webpage on the Legion website at www.legion.org/publications. The guide is chocked full of ideas, guidance and web links to online information and resources for collaborating with USCIS in the planning of naturalization activities. National Commander Helm and the Americanism Commission urge you to share this with your district and post commanders, and further ask that you strongly encourage them to become actively involved.

You are also invited to encourage your Posts or Districts having an event in their community to share their story with national headquarters staff by emailing immigration-citizenship@legion.org. Thank you for your support of this important outreach initiative. Assimilating immigrants seeking the lawful path to citizenship into American culture and life stream is in the best interest of our communities, states and nation.

For God and Country,
RICHARD W. ANDERSON
 National Chairman, Americanism Commission

**Read This Before
You Take Your
Next Trip**

Any time we get on the road an emergency could happen. Being hospitalized away from home in a distant location can be a frightening and unsettling experience. Once the initial emergency is over additional complications may arise such as, “how do I get my self and my car back home?”

This is why The Legionnaire Insurance Trust created the Emergency Assistance Plus Program. The EA+ Program offers a comprehensive package of benefits that consists of 4 major parts: medical assistance, medical evacuation, assistance for companions and travel assistance. EA+ is on call for you 24 hours a day 7 days a week so you will always be able to access help from anywhere in the world.

For additional information on EA+ and how it can be yours, visit <http://www.TheLIT.com/Emergency-Assistance-Plus> or call 1-800-235-6943 and one of our representatives will be happy to assist you.

**Legislative
Update**

As the 2015 legislative session continues new bills have been introduced. The following is a list of the Kansas Department’s top Legislative priorities listed in order of importance. Every legionnaire is encouraged to contact their State level legislators on all of these issue. Remember, personal contact is always more effective. Please note the list indicates if the Department is for or against the bill.

HB 2228 (FOR) Allows active duty military and veterans to pay in-state tuition, as well as their spouses and dependents. See the Adjutant’s column “For God and Country” on page 3 for details.

HB 2291 (NEUTRAL at this time) This is the bill on charitable raffles we have been expecting as a result the November 2014 ballet. We support this bill as long as it excludes small local non-profit raffles from registration fees and taxation. Similarly it must ad-

(Continued Page 8)

**GENE SAYERS DEPARTMENT
VICE COMMANDER CANDIDATE**



I would like to introduce myself – I am Gene Sayers and I will be a candidate for Vice Commander for the Department of Kansas this coming May 2015 at the Department Convention.

I earned my eligibility for the American Legion by serving in the United States Army from 1976 to 1984. I was honorably discharged with the rank of Staff Sergeant, E6. I have been a member of the American Legion for over 31 years

and a life member of the VFW. I have been a member of the Lawrence Brunswick Post 240 Chapman where I have held various offices from Commander to Sergeant-At-Arms. I am currently the post First Vice Commander. I am also a member of the Sons of The American Legion Squadron 240. At the District Level, I held Commander from 2012 to 2014. I am currently the Department Area East Vice Commander and a member of the Centennial Membership Committee where I have had the opportunity to work with all eight Districts with membership.

I have the support of my Post and the Fourth District D.E.C.

I ask for your support at the Department Convention for 2015-2016 for Vice Commander for the Department of Kansas.

+ TAPS +

Area, Donald L. (Vietnam).....	Havensville	Jones, Buck (Korea).....	Chanute
Barndollar, Pratt (WWII).....	Coffeyville	Kling, Loren E. (WWII).....	Howard
Barta, George J. (WWII).....	Jewell	Knopp, Richard E. (Korea).....	Topeka 58
Bastin, John H. (Vietnam).....	Emporia	Land, William A. (Korea).....	Topeka 400
Bell, Dana T. (WWII).....	Topeka 1	Laporte, William (WWII).....	Winfield
Bobby, L. Babcock (Vietnam).....	Arkansas City	Law, Glenn R. (Korea).....	Hutchinson
Broxterman, Thomas A. (Vietnam).....	Topeka 400	Lawrence F. Jay (WWII).....	El Dorado
Burns, Harold (Vietnam).....	Garden City	Lewis, Warren L. (Vietnam).....	Arkansas City
Bush, Duane D. (WWII).....	Isabel	Loupee, Donald E. (Korea).....	Hutchinson
Childers, Don (WWII).....	Garden City	Lowe, William H. (WWII).....	Pittsburg 64
Chiles, Laurin H. (WWII).....	Stafford	Maxwell, Bobby (Vietnam).....	Wichita 273
Choitz, Harry W. (Korea).....	Ellsworth	McGinnis, Robert H. (Korea).....	Kansas City 199
Christians, Albert E. (Korea).....	Lindsborg	McGowan, Ed (Korea).....	Arkansas City
Coke, Ernest H. (WWII).....	Havensville	Meineke, Jack D. (WWII).....	Wichita 401
Conley, George C.	Clearwater	Middleton, Eugene C. (Korea).....	Lansing
Conner, Bobby L. (Korea).....	Burdett	Mills, Gilbert W. (Vietnam).....	Arkansas City
Copeland, James L. (Korea).....	Manhattan	Mills, William R. (WWII).....	Lenexa
Courtney, Conrad (WWII).....	Olathe	Mull, Gerald W. (Vietnam).....	Garden City
Crispin, Jack D. (WWII).....	Topeka 1	Munsch, Gerald D. (Korea).....	Ness City
Croucher, Melvin L. (WWII).....	Osage City	Muzzy, Bruce H.	Lawrence
Cuda, Don W. (Vietnam).....	Hutchinson	Nicklin, Robert C. (WWII).....	Hutchinson
Deckert, Delbert E. (Korea).....	Salina 62	Pasia, Joe (WWII).....	Topeka 400
Dice, John (WWII).....	Wakeeney	Peters, Roger (Vietnam).....	White City
Dimick, Raymond E. (Vietnam).....	El Dorado	Pflughoeft, Kenneth E. (WWII).....	Ellsworth
Dinger, William J. (WWII).....	Topeka 400	Potter, Thomas M. (Vietnam).....	Hutchinson
Dix, Warren G. (WWII).....	Burdick	Rawlings, Milton E. (WWII).....	Junction City
Dressen, Joseph L. (WWII).....	Wichita 424	Reese, Frank R. (WWII).....	Lindsborg
Dulaney, Rex O. (WWII).....	Winfield	Rempel, Lee E. (WWII).....	Peabody
Dulos, Tommy G. (WWII).....	Hutchinson	Rivas, Daniel (WWII).....	McPherson
Foerschler, William (WWII).....	Chapman	Roof, Donald B. (WWII).....	Manhattan
Fowler, William E. (Vietnam).....	Topeka 1	Russell, Richard (Korea).....	Manhattan
Frakes, Ellis (WWII).....	Girard	Schmatjen, Claude J. (Korea).....	Goodland
Frakes, Perry W. (WWII).....	Girard	Schulze, Gene (WWII).....	Winfield
Frehe, Edward L. (WWII).....	Seneca	Sesher, Charles (Korea).....	Chanute
Fuqua, Conlon A.	Howard	Shearer, Dale (WWII).....	Norton
Gerety, Ralph (Korea).....	Nortonville	Shell, Carl L. (WWII).....	Junction City
Gleaves, Allen R. (Korea).....	Baxter Springs	Slane, William S. (WWII).....	Chanute
Gochenour, Leslie H. (WWII).....	Kansas City 188	Snodgrass, Dale L. (Korea).....	Mount Hope
Good, Harold E. (WWII).....	Olathe	Sprout, Charles J. (Korea).....	Wichita 424
Graham, Walter L. (WWII).....	Emporia	Stahl, Robert E. (WWII).....	El Dorado
Grant, Richard G. (Persian Gulf).....	Pittsburg 64	Stebbins, Carl N. (Vietnam).....	Junction City
Gunter, Charles W. (Korea).....	Hillsboro	Stringfellow, Jack L. (Korea).....	Pittsburg 64
Helus, Paul F. (WWII).....	Ellsworth	Stoughton, William E. (Korea).....	Hutchinson
Henson, Owen M. (WWII).....	Topeka 1	Teare, Max E. (Korea).....	Garden City
Hinds, Robert (Korea).....	Ottawa	Twarog, John (WWII).....	Girard
Hostetler, Alvin W. (WWII).....	Girard	Wacker, Leo F.	Leavenworth 23
Howell, Richard B. (WWII).....	Overland Park	Warden, Dale M. (WWII).....	Liberal
Isabell, James R. (WWII).....	Kansas City 199	Wee, Richard D. (Korea).....	Stafford
Jacquinet, Napoleon T. (Vietnam).....	Girard	Wiese, Leroy F. (WWII).....	Linn
Jenkins, Leslie R. (Korea).....	Hutchinson	Wilson, Jack D. (Korea).....	Chanute
Johanning, Joe B. (WWII).....	Hutchinson	Zamrippa, Frank S. (Persian Gulf).....	Bazine

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**

BOWLING TOURNAMENT RESULTS

The Little Apple Lanes in Manhattan was the site of the 68th annual American Legion Bowling Tournament. The total number of entries were 87 teams, 185 sets of doubles, 370 sets of singles, and 350 all events, with a total prize fund of \$8,706 including jackets for each division champion.

Newton's James Brockman's 2214 scratch all-events won him the Dr. Elfert Memorial Trophy.

First place team was Just Like Old Times from Emporia; second was Wayne & Larry's Sports from Lawrence; third was Hot Shots from Junction City; and fourth was Lincoln Street Lanes 1 from Wamego.

First place doubles was Mickey Smith/Daniel Dick from Tecumseh; second was Bart Riddle/Kirby Cain from

Topeka; third was Gary James/Jack O'Connor from Wichita; and fourth was Gary Klassen/James Carr from Hillsboro.

The first place singles was John Bousman from Lenexa; second was Larry Carter from Topeka; third was Leo Perry from Topeka; and fourth was Justin Thompson from Lawrence.

The first place handicap all-events was J. D. Goldsmith from Hutchinson; second was Daniel Dick from Tecumseh; third was Jacob Loucks from Emporia; and fourth was Lennie Sill from Emporia.

The 2016 Tournament will be held the first three weekends in January in Wichita at Seneca Lanes. And the 2017 Tournament will be held in Topeka at Gage Center.

Sterling to Host Iwo Jima Reunion

The upcoming event of the Walt Vincent Iwo Jima Reunion and Dinner was founded by the late Walt Vincent, an Iwo Jima veteran and Purple Heart recipient, in 1996. Several years ago the committee began inviting other World War II veterans to the reunion. Last year the invitation was extended to all veterans. The reunion will be Saturday, May 2 at the Arden H. McKee American Legion Post #128, 108 E. Garfield in Sterling. The door will open at 4 PM for conversation, refreshments, and viewing of war/military memorabilia. All veterans are invited and encouraged to bring personal memorabilia.

Colors will be presented at 6 PM followed by the serving of dinner. The meal will cost \$12 per person at the door. The menu will be tossed salad, choice of baked smothered steak OR fried chicken, potato, green beans, bread, and dessert, coffee, or tea. Food substitution available upon request in advance.

(Continued Page 4)

QUICK, EASY AND SECURE

Quick, easy and secure describes renewing your membership online directly with National Headquarters. In addition to immediately stopping those pesky reminder notices from National, renewing online insures uninterrupted delivery of your subscription of The American Legion Magazine, this newspaper, and you can print a receipt of your payment.

Don't worry, your Post will still receive its portion of your annual dues. Every two weeks National sends Department Headquarters a list of the latest members who renew online and within a few days your Post will receive a credit memo to use with transmitting other members' dues. If it should become necessary, Department will issue your Post a check at the end of the membership year.

To get your new membership card simply take the receipt you printed to your Post, or you can wait for the Post to mail your card to you (shouldn't take more than 3 weeks after you renew online).

You may renew online by logging onto www.legion.org/renew.

Legislative Update

(Continued from Page 7)

equately prevent the establishment of a raffle industry that would out compete the smaller non-profits.

HB 2154 (FOR) Allows private sector employers to establish a veterans hiring prefer-

ence. Currently it is not legal for a private corporation to have a formal veterans hiring preference program. This bill would make these programs legal.

Leadership College June 5-7

This year's American Legion Leadership College will take place at Cloud County Community College in Concordia June 5-7.

The American Legion, Auxiliary, and SAL members over the age of 21 are invited to attend the College. An enrollment coupon is provided below for your convenience. Cost of the College is the same as it has been for years, \$40.00 per person which includes Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast, lunch, and Bar-b-que dinner at Concordia Post 76, and Sunday breakfast. In addition the enrollment fee includes air conditioned dorm housing at the College—attendees must bring their own sheets, pillow, pillow case, blanket, bath soap, towels and personal items.

Check in for the College begins at 3pm on Friday, June 5.

Dinner will be available from 5 until 6pm followed by a meeting of the Department Executive Committee. Sessions for all attendees will commence at 8:15am Saturday and 8:30am Sunday, June 6 and 7 with a break for lunch on Saturday and conclusion of the College on Sunday no later than noon.

The annual migration of the O-Poop-Pah-Doo will gather at the local Pizza Hut for its evening of fun immediately following the DEC meeting Friday.

Please check the appropriate box in the registration form below regarding housing. Department cannot guarantee housing will be provided if you do not check the box indicating your need for housing on the College campus.

LEADERSHIP COLLEGE REGISTRATION

ENCLOSED IS MY \$40 REGISTRATION FOR THE AMERICAN LEGION LEADERSHIP COLLEGE

JUNE 5-7

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Member of _____

Post, Squadron, Unit (circle one)

Post Service Officer Training _____ Yes or No

YES, I will need housing at the College

NO, I will not need housing at the College

Mail to: Department Headquarters
1314 SW Topeka, Topeka, KS 66612