



DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

2015 ALR STATE RALLY



**PAUL SANFORD
NATIONAL VICE
COMMANDER**



**LAURA MOSBY
NATIONAL
VICE PRESIDENT**



**LTC, ROGER T.
AESCHLIMAN**

This year's annual Department Convention is shaping up to be one which should have something for everyone. As published in last month's Sunflower Legionnaire the Convention will be held at the Ramada Inn Downtown, 420 East Sixth in Topeka. Call 800-432-2424 for housing reservations.

Activities begin on Friday, May 15 when registration opens at 1pm. Members of the Department Executive Committee will meet at 4pm and those Legionnaires who qualified for the Gold Star Club are invited to attend their party from 6:30-7:30. Candidates for various Department Offices are expected to have their hospitality suites open during evening.

On Saturday morning, May 16, the Ramada will offer hotel guests a free Breakfast Buffet beginning at 6:30am. Registration opens at 7am, the SAL registration will end at noon. The Convention's Opening Joint Legion, Auxiliary and SAL Session will begin at 7:50am when Adjutant Yunker begins introductions of the Past Department Commanders, Presidents, current officers and other dignitaries. After his introduction Commander Emery McKimmy will preside over the Convention

which will include addresses by National Vice Commander Paul Sanford, Auxiliary Central Division National Vice President Laura Mosby, and Lt. Col. Roger T. Aeschliman. Lt. Col. Aeschliman will present, "American Won!" It is his take on how America actually won the Korean and Vietnam wars.

Presentations of awards to Legion and Auxiliary Youth Champions will be made by DeeDee Danin and Karen Schaeffer. The Commander's Americanism award will be presented to Joseph McGrath of Grantham University and Steve Brown of the Heart of American Patriot Foundation. Included in the award presentations will be the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, James Grayson from Valley Center, and the Fireman of the Year, Charles Friederick from Liberal.

The Convention's Second Session will begin approximately 10am with Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation and Service Officers reports, which will be given by Department VA & R Chairman Pat Culver and Department Service Officer Dan Bartlett who will also present this year's Service Officer of the Year Award.

Each District will conduct Caucuses from noon to 1pm and the Ramada will offer

light lunches as well as their full menu from 11 until 2pm. After recessing for lunch the Convention will reconvene at 1:30pm with the Rules Committee report.

DeeDee Danin, Dept. Children & Youth Director will give her annual report and present the committee's awards. Dept. Finance Chairman Jim Buterbaugh and POW/MIA Chairman Mike Shock will make their respective reports just prior to Vice Commander Ray Vail call for a membership turn-in and Commander McKimmy presents membership recognition awards. The Convention business sessions will then adjourn until Sunday morning.

However adjournment is not the end of Saturday's activities as all candidates for Department Office are expected to open their hospitality rooms and various Convention Committees will consider resolutions, Constitution and By-laws proposals, History Book judging and the Steering and Nominating Committee will meet upon Adjournment. The Annual American Legion Child Welfare Foundation dinner will be held in the Grand Ballroom beginning at 6:30pm (see article on page 1).

After dismissing the Auxiliary and SAL, Commander McKimmy will call the convention to order for its Final Session.

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This year's Kansas American Legion Riders State Rally is being hosted by Post 136 in Mulvane June 12, 13, 14. Many of activities are planned throughout the weekend including the annual Greg "eBay" Hansen Memorial Ride.

Registration will be available on Friday from 4:00pm-7:00pm. At 5:00pm there be a social time and registration will be also available during the social. Those arriving on Saturday may register beginning at 8:00am.

The annual ALR Rally Horseshoe Tournament will begin at 9:00am Saturday. Other games, such as a tug-a-war, race car competition, dunk tank, volleyball, etc. will begin at 10:00am.

The Greg (eBay) Hansen Memorial Ride will depart at

11:15am, it will include a short ceremony at the Winfield Veterans Cemetery. Lunch will begin at 1:00pm, followed by the official State Rally meeting at 2:00pm.

A Silent Auction will take place wrapping up about 3:30pm, with a 50/50 drawing announced at 4:00pm. A free dinner will be served at 5:00pm and the band "Fabulous Flesh-tones" will begin at 6:00pm.

Sunday morning breakfast will be available at the Post at 9:00am. Free shuttle service will be provided from the Post to local hotels running every 30 minutes as required. ALSO NOTE: Preregistration forms are available at <http://www.al136.com/Default.aspx?org=4> Refer any other questions to Doug Lehman, at dlehman4@cox.net, 316-519-4204.

CWF DINNER

This year's Department Convention will feature a buffet dinner as a means to raise funds for the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. The dinner will be held Saturday evening, May 16 from 6:30 until 8:00 pm in the Grand Ballroom of the Ramada Inn, 420 SE 6th St. in Topeka

The buffet dinner will include: Fried chicken, sliced roast beef, mashed potatoes, pepper gravy, country style gree beans, corn O'Brien, rolls, corn muffins, tossed salad, potato salad, ambrosia salad, hot cobbler, coffee, decaf, ice tea, and a gift at the door. Cost is \$35 per person and reservations must be received no later than Tuesday, May 12.

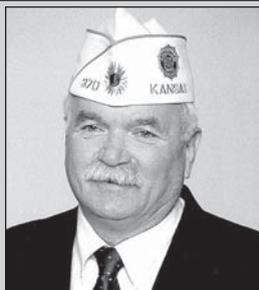
The purpose of the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation is: "To contribute to the

physical, mental emotional and spiritual needs of children and youth through the dissemination of knowledge about new and innovative organizations and their programs." "To make wider, more effective use of the knowledge already possessed by well established organizations to the end that such information will benefit youth and be more adequately used by society."

To make reservations for the Saturday, May 16 dinner please complete and return the coupon on page 8 to Department Headquarters, 1314 SW Topeka Blvd., Topeka, Kansas 66612. Reservations must arrive by May 12; or telephone your reservations to 785-232-9315. Payment is due no later than May 15 without exception.

COMMANDER

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



CHILDREN

&

YOUTH

DeeDee
Danin
dddanin@hotmail.com

VICE
COMMANDER

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



Greetings, fellow Legionnaires!

As my term is nearing an end, I would like to say that it has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your Commander. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity that I will cherish as long as I live. I have enjoyed your hospitality as I stopped by each of your Posts.

All the District Conventions have come to a close. It was great to visit with each of you. We now set our sights on our Department Convention, May 15-17 in Topeka. I hope that you are all planning to attend, share ideas and participate. If you cannot make all the dates, I would appreciate it if you could at least make either the Saturday or Sunday session. Consider bringing a friend with you. Conventions and other events afford us the opportunity to showcase our American Legion to new members who have never attended before.

I also challenge and encourage those who turned out to elect new officers at their Post to take an active role. You can support your officers and Post by volunteering to be on a committee or be a Chairman.

As your Department Commander, I have been looking at ways to not only increase our membership, but also to improve communication with our current members. You will recall that I requested that each Legionnaire recruit one new member this year. When a Legionnaire becomes a member of a local Post, we should engage the member in American Legion activities and programs. It is imperative that we keep the member informed of what our great organization accomplishes, not only in the local community but also at the state and national level.

Several posts need less than 3 members to reach 100%. This should be an almost 'no brainer' situation and easily obtainable. We must all work

together for the good of The American Legion and the Department. If each of us would sign up or renew one member between now and Department Convention, we would easily go over 100%. Let's all do our part and work toward building our membership. Remember, our membership year ends on June 30th, so we only have a little time, just enough time, to make this happen.

I know many of you have come across a veteran who, when asked to join or renew, has balked and said something like, "I wouldn't go to the Legion often enough to pay the dues." Remind them that their dues work every day of the year, even if they only come once or twice. Their dues help fund veterans programs that aid GIs returning from battle. Their dues help keep Children and Youth programs alive, like Boys State, Cadet Law, the Oratorical Program, Legion Baseball and the many scholarship programs that help educate our future leaders. Their dues work far beyond the functioning of the Post.

There are still some of you who have not renewed membership, perhaps due to hardship, or even neglect. I assure you that the Foundation, Pillars and Goals of The American Legion remain the same as when you first joined. If you have not paid your 2015 dues yet, I implore you to please do so and help us reach our goal.

The American Legion Leadership College is in June. Your Post officers, committee chairs and those interested in helping your Post, your community and veterans should attend. You will learn a lot to help keep things running smooth within your Legion family.

Boys State, Girls State and Cadet Law are also coming up in June. These programs are the backbone of Children and Youth, and prepare our future leaders by giving them a hands-

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As a continuation of last month's column, The Carpenter Place

As stated earlier, part of the problem has been poor reporting. I have been working with District Officers to end the reluctance of posts in supplying accurate and complete reports in the form of the Annual Children and Youth Report, and especially the Consolidated Post Report. Without submission of required information, National's documents will not give Kansas the reports containing-viable information for which we are judged nationwide.

The American Legion Riders and Children and Youth are working together to explore avenues in which we can once again provide support to an organization that subscribes to our ideals! By providing life training skills, loving support in a healthy home styled environment, these girls know safety and are thriving. They are being given the opportunity to give of themselves by developing servant's spirits as the help senior citizens in care facilities.

What we can do for these girls is to become surrogate families for these girls. Information will be provided like status reports on the girls, as well as their likes and dislikes so we can communicate and give encouragement. I know your members will find the interaction heartwarming and gratifying to say the least.

May we count on you to interact and give your support?

**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?"

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Greetings Kansas American Legion Family.

The District Conventions are in full swing. We have been to four Districts and as all ways with the American Legion we were very well received. Linda and I want to thank everyone for the warm receptions. I would like to pass on to the Posts about your Post elections and installation of your new Post officers. The Post should try to have some kind of installation service for incoming new officers, it shows the new officers that you are proud and appreciate them. Our Post #182 along with Girard #26, Erie #102, and Pittsburg #64 all go to each other's Posts and take turns installing their Post officers. Its a great way to stay in touch with other Posts, to see old friends, make new friends, and have a meal with each other. You can contact your District Commander or Department officers and I'm sure they would be glad to come to your Post and do your installation for you. The Commander of Chanute Post #170, George Culbertson, invited me to install their new officers and it was an honor to be asked to do that. So, if your Post has never had an installation ceremony I would recommend trying it next year I think your new officers would appreciate it.

I received an invitation from Mr. Joe Burk of Labette Community Collage to attend a 50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War speech at the PSU Veterans Memorial Vietnam Wall. Vietnam War veteran

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

(Continued from Page 1)

Joe Johnston will announce this year's history contest winners and NEC David Warnken will give his National report. Vice Commander Vail and Commander McKimmy will report a summation of their activities during the past year followed by reports from the Chairmen of the Credentials, Resolutions, and Constitution and Bylaws

and former SSgt. USAF Rich Fulton shared his experience of the Vietnam War with those in attendance. It was very informative and it was an honor to have been invited to attend and I thank Mr. Burk and Mr. Fulton for the invitation.

In checking our membership reports I have often thought that we were losing more members than we were gaining each year. Well that's not the case. Last year we lost approximately 1,287 members to taps and so far this membership year we have signed up 1,378 new members thats a plus 81 new. So it looks like we are doing a great job of recruiting but, not keeping our existing members. As it has been said we are losing them out the back door. We have to do a better job in renewing. Every Post and District is different in its location and population base and will have different problems to overcome. In order for Kansas to grow we must find an answer at the Post, District, and Department levels to keep our members. So keep up the good work you are doing and we will come out OK.

I think everyone has been doing a great job this year. We still need those last few renewals so try to contact those who have not payed and get them on the books and not out the back door.

Thanks again everyone for your work and may God bless you all and my He continue to watch over our troops to keep them from harms way.

Convention Committees.

Elections of delegates and alternates to represent Kansas during the National Convention in Baltimore will begin Sunday's wrap up. The Convention will conclude after the election of two Department Masters-at-Arms, Area East and West Vice Commanders, a Department Vice Commander, and Commander.

DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER

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

The VA is HER VA too!

By **Kathy Zima-Sauer**
 EKHCS Women Veterans Program Manager

Women Veterans are one of the fastest growing Veteran populations and the VA Eastern Kansas Health Care System (EKHCS) is working to make sure they know that the VA is her VA too. In 2009 a Women Veterans Program Manager (WVPM) was hired to help expand women's programs and services available at EKHCS to advocate for the needs of Women Veterans.

Women Veterans enrolling with Eastern Kansas has grown from about 2,700 in 2009 to almost 4,000 in 2014. To meet the growing demand for care and services for women, EKHCS opened a new Women's Health Center at its Leavenworth VA Medical Center in September 2014. The new center cares for only women and offers comprehensive primary care services from a trained Women's Health Primary Care Provider as well as specialty care Gynecology services, Mental Health Services, Social Work Services and a variety groups just for women.

The Topeka VA Medical Center also has a Women's Health Center caring for over 750 Women Veterans. VA Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs) also offer comprehensive women's primary care at Junction City KS, Lawrence KS, Ft Scott KS, Wyandotte KS, Emporia KS, Garnett KS, Chanute KS, Seneca KS, and St Joseph MO. A new CBOC is planned to open later in 2015 at Platt City KS. For more information contact Kathy Zima-Sauer, LISW, WVPM, at 1-800-574-8387 #53442.

Women of childbearing age represent about 50% of the Women Veterans enrolled at EKHCS and are eligible for maternity care benefits. These benefits can include pre-natal care, medications, labor and delivery care, infant care for first 7 days of life, nursing bras and breast pumps. Contact Tara Nyquist, RN, WHCN, provides maternity care coordination at 1-800-574-8387 #52204.

In addition to the benefits and services at EKHCS, Women Veterans may be eligible for services through a Vet Center. In 2014, 9.7% of Veterans enrolled into readjustment counseling services provided by the Vet Center program were women. Military sexual trauma counseling is also offered to all veterans. For more information about benefits and services and Vet Center Eligibility call 1-877- WAR VETS or your local Manhattan Kansas Vet Center 785-587-8257 or Wichita Kansas Vet Center at 316-265-0889.

Colmery Donations

Following is a list of donations received thus far for the Harry W. Colmery memorial.

Earl and Shirley Thomason, \$100; Jeanne Haas, \$100; Damon and Laura Christensen, \$100; Chad Lowell, \$50; Colby Post #363, \$100; Colby SAL #363, \$100; Junction City Unit #45, \$148; Charles Swayze, \$100; Garnet Post #48, \$50; Ray Vail, \$100; Larry Ochs, \$100; Louisburg Post #250; \$200; Louisburg Unit #250, \$200; Louisburg SAL #250, \$200; Anna Smith, \$100; Tam-

pa Post #372, \$100; Frontenac Post #43, \$500; Department of Indiana, \$500; Department of Washington, DC, \$100; Department of Maryland, \$100; Department of Colorado, \$100; Department of Louisiana, \$100; Dyke Shannon, \$100; and Neil Tack, \$100.

Contributions are still being accepted, mail to Department Headquarters. Make checks to American Legion Colmery Fund, 1314 SW Topeka Blvd., Topeka, KS 66612. All donations are tax deductible.

COMMANDER'S COLUMN

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on educational approach to law and government. I urge you to support these programs.

I look forward to seeing all of you at Department Convention.

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!

HISTORIAN

JOE JOHNSTON

I recently visited The National WWII Museum in Kansas City. It was quite an experience, I highly recommend it. As I entered I suddenly realized the floor was made of glass and there were thousands of poppies below, actually 9,000 poppies.

There were several galleries that contained various articles of war from countries that fought in the war both allies and central powers. Dozens of rifles, machine guns, a French tank, cannons, mortars, hand grenades, canteens, mess kits, a truck, and an ambulance (both Ford Model T's).

A section of a trench was rather interesting. Hundreds of miles of trenches were dug during WWI. I believe it was the only war that used trench warfare.

I only covered a small part of the museum, you will have to see it yourself to get the full picture.

Did You Know?

Harry Colmery marshaled the Rogers Act of 1931, which funded Hospital Construction and medical services for veterans whose health care needs were not service connected. It was a proposition of more than \$20 million in federal investment, less than two years after the stock market had crashed.

For God and Country.....

By Department Adjutant **Charles M. Yunker**

"To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness"...the final words of the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion. That line in itself established one of the Four Pillars the American Legion was founded upon; the care of veterans, their widows and their orphan children. That is a principle we have nor will ever stray from as long as there is an American Legion.

Many forget, or have never known, The American Legion was formed as an organization that was supposed to die out; after all, World War I was the war to end all wars. Unfortunately there is a valid argument that the Treaty of Versailles merely set the stage for World War II. Regardless, this nation and most nations throughout the world create new veterans every day, so The American Legion isn't about to fade away. In fact our role in the care of veterans and their families is becoming more and more important every day.

For that reason I came up with the phrase "The American Legion, Today's Voice for Today's Veteran and Military." We, The American Legion is the reason the VA is changing for the better; albeit still too slow, but you can bet our National Staff will continue to monitor, expose where necessary, and push for more reform. But that last comment is taking me a bit off course; when I say "Today's Voice" it simply means we are the leader when it comes to all veterans' issues despite what other organizations say or imply. Remember the car rental ads that said "we try harder"? Well we're number 1 because we do while others test which way the wind is blowing.

We're today's voice for today's veteran because we work for every veteran; young, not so young and old geezers like myself. The American Legion works to insure the best possible care is provided to every veteran. We're also today's voice for today's military; on the National level we testify before Congress and lobby for a well-equipped and funded armed forces as well as quality of life issues and pay for our military. On the state level our Legion Riders and many Legion Family members provide work together to make the Ft. Riley Wounded Warrior Battalion a positive experience for those assigned to that unit.

We here in Kansas are blessed to have a very dedicated VA & R staff. Our Veteran Service Representatives and their assistants all are top notch and dedicated to providing every veteran the service they deserve in obtaining earned VA benefits. Bruce Oakley mans our office in Leavenworth at the Dwight D. Eisenhower VA Medical Center along with his assistant Yashica Oakley; telephone toll free 1-800-952-8387, extension 54297, or call locally 913-758-4297. Department Service Officer Dan Bartlett and his assistant Tanya Hayes in The American Legion office located at the Colmery-O'Neil VA Medical Center in Topeka are our most experienced team; telephone 1-800-574-8387, extension 54489 or call locally at 785-350-4489. David Koopmans and Cloyce Smith, Jr. along with Kathy Ann Price in the Robert J. Dole VA Regional Office in Wichita combine to make our newest team, but in no way lack in their dedication to serve those who have served us; telephone 1-888-878-6881 extension 56814 or locally 316-688-6814.

Over the last several years a number of my former shipmates have relied upon two of our VSRs; Dan Bartlett and Bruce Oakley to shepherd or monitor their Agent Orange claims. To quote Mark Crosbie who received little help in his state but was assisted by both Dan and Bruce, "Kansas is a Treasure, I knew I could rely on The American Legion and you guys in Kansas." "I don't know what the Legion pays you two but, it ain't enough!!" Mark's praise, gratitude, and knowledge they helped another veteran is payment enough for Dan and Bruce.

**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: 5,048
Percentage: 96.02%**

I would like to thank all the Posts which have reached 100% by the District Convention this year. Also, the rest of the Posts for getting membership in so as to reach 95% goal by April 8th. We have had a great year so there is no reason to stop now. As of this writing Second District needs 226 members for quota.

I want to thank Anna Smith for attending our District Convention, although the Convention was for one day. We had an informative day and some good reports. Gardner Post 19 was a great host and their Post was a perfect place to hold the Convention, food was great as was the hospitality.

Department Convention is coming up May 15-17 in Topeka. Word is that a dues increase will be voted on. If you have a problem with it, now would be the time to attend the Convention and vote your choice.

Delegates at Second District Convention elected Charlie Grieco Commander; Scott Williams, Vice Commander; Ernie Cooper, Adjutant; Executive Committee, Marri Crupco, Rick Miller, and Harry Dupree. Thanks to those Legionnaires for their service to the Second District.

Thank you for all you have done for The American Legion, God bless America and God bless our troops.

"The burden of war falls on the citizen soldier, who has gone forth, overnight, to become the armored hope of humanity."
Harry W. Colmery

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

**Total Members: 4,303
Percentage: 93.58%**

Hopefully our April showers brought some flowers for all of you! We are down to the final stretch. District Convention is behind us. New officers are in place to carry on the torch of The American Legion.

If you need help with your reports please call me or one of your E Board members. Our reports are vital to The American Legion to report on what you have accomplished.

Please don't forget that Boys State and Cadet Law are fast approaching. These are two programs that benefit our youth in many ways. If you need help raising funds please contact me. Next set of upcoming events include our Department Convention in Topeka and Legion College in Concordia.

This year has gone by fast, but not so fast that we can't take time to smell those flowers! So reach out to your members, shake their hand, have a cup of coffee, remember the past and plan for the future of our American Legion. 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: 4,103
Percentage: 93.40%**

Greetings 5th District. Our District Convention is finished. I would like to thank El Do-

rado Post 81 for doing a great job hosting the Convention this year. We had a good turn-out of Legionnaires attending. It looks good for our district to have so many interested and involved members in attendance. I hope everyone had a good time and learned a lot of good information.

Department Convention is coming soon—May 15, 16, and 17 in Topeka. If you have never attended a state convention please plan to do so. It is always packed with good information, good times, and good friends.

I am sure that all of your posts have Memorial Day services and you are busy planning for them at this time. The services are truly unique to each post.

American Legion Leadership College and Service Officer School is June 5, 6, and 7 at Cloud County Community College in Concordia. It is open to Legion, Auxiliary, and SAL members over the age of 21. It is incredible how much one can learn in three short days, and have fun doing it.

As my year as your District commander draws to a close, I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve you and the district. Your help and hospitality to me on my visits to your posts has been outstanding. I have enjoyed traveling around Fifth District and getting to know you. It has been an incredible year and I am grateful for the experience.

**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: 3,202
Percentage: 93.22%**

Welcome spring time, the season for outdoor activities to unfold.

With the climate getting

warmer and we focus on our families and our community, let us not forget the American forces around the world who are serving this great nation of ours. Let us reach out to the ones they have left at home and invite them to participate in our Post activities.

Most Posts should have a Memorial Day program with their community. Get out and make a showing at these ceremonies, participate and show our pride as Legion Family members. Ask if they are interested in joining and being a part of our family. All of us together can insure the legacy we leave behind as supporters of our veterans, past, present and future.

We wish the Department, District, and local officers all the support that we are able to give to make their year a great success.

**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: 5,715
Percentage: 92.75%**

Well First District, it is almost over. I first want thank each and every one of you who supported me this year. We have had our ups and downs but we did the best we could do.

I do want you to remember that the year is not over and we still need to work on membership. At our District Convention we had a great time and I wish the best to all of next year's officers. Please support them and help in any way you can. The way to make this district better is to all work together.

Lastly do not forget about Department Convention. It is in May in Topeka and should be a great time. I hope to see you all there. Again thanks for a great year and we shall see each other again down the road.

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

**Total Members: 1,302
Percentage: 92.08%**

Hello 8th District. Post elections, and District Convention will be over as of this writing. It's been my pleasure to serve as 8th District Commander for the past three years. It's time for other Legionnaire's to take the reins. My only regret was not being able to meet all the Post Officers and members in the District through these past three years.

Our membership has been up and down in the standings. I THANK all who helped keep it up, especially Vice Commander Dan Stacy for all of his endless effort.

I would like to congratulate Nathan Dowell of Liberal for placing third at the State Oratorical Contest on March 14 at Pearce-Keller Post #17 in Manhattan representing the 8th District. Well done Nathan.

Finally I encourage all new Post and District Officers to attend the American Legion Leadership College at Concordia on June 5th thru 7th. Also, The American Legion Department Convention at Topeka on May 15th thru 17th. Through your attendance at these Legion functions, one learns more about The American Legion programs and how a Legion Post should operate.

Last but not least, I want to THANK all my District Officers and all the Legion members I've meet at Post meetings and District Convention for their support. I will still be involved with the 8th District as a past commander. I am also announcing I will be a candidate for Department Area West Vice Commander and need your support.

Once again I thank all of you and God bless all of you. God bless The American Legion and the United States of America.

**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: 3,707
Percentage: 91.67%**

Hello Sixth District. Let me begin with how much I have enjoyed being your Commander for the past 2 years! I have made some very close friends and have had some wonderful experiences. I wish the 6th District the best of luck in the year to come.

We had a very eventful convention and I wish more posts would take the time to participate. The speakers that were present did an outstanding job. Hays did an awesome job of hosting. Many thanks to all that went into planning and making our convention a success.

As we close in on the end of the year, I would like to congratulate all the posts that have already met or exceeded the goal of 100%. Eleven posts have accomplished that and there are many posts that need less than 10 members to reach that goal. Several with less than 3 needed. There is still time to get your memberships in. Get your renewals taken care of and most will make it. Keeping those members current for consecutive years may be very important to some. Keeping memberships in the pocket for next year is not what is supposed to be done. If you get out and work your membership, 100% is obtainable.

State Convention, being held in Topeka. is approaching fast and I would enjoy seeing a strong contingency from the 6th District present.

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.

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

**Total Members: 2,330
Percentage: 90.66%**

Although I am an old soldier, I will not be fading away. Should any member of The American Legion Family need help or information that I can provide, the door is open or I am only a phone call away.

Thank you all for making one of my goals come true. It has been fun and I have learned quite a lot of things and the experience will never be forgotten. A very big special thank you goes out to all of our District Officers, Executive Committee, Committee Chairpersons, and Past District Commanders. Without their help, support, and leadership the Seventh District would have failed to meet the expectations of our membership.

We had a good turn out for our District Convention in Great Bend and we elected new officers for the 2015-2016 year. I hope you all will work with the new Commander and his staff as you all did with me.

Don't forget the State Convention in Topeka, May 15-17. You do not have to be an officer to attend. The only requirement is you be a member in good standing. With this last statement, I would like to also say that membership is very important and it is not just a one person job. Membership needs to be everyone's job at each Post in the District. With the information I have, dated April 3, we are in last place with 2,302 members or 89.57% of our goal. With 10% more, or 230 members, we would be on top of our goal.

"CENTER OF THE BEST."

SAL Detachment Convention



Kevin Collier SAL National Leading Candidate

The Sons of the American Legion Detachment Convention will be held May 15-17 at the Ramada Inn, 420 East 6th in Topeka. Registration will begin Friday, May 15 from 1-6pm.

Saturday the opening joint session will begin at 7:50am followed by the Distinguished Guest Luncheon at 11:45am. Lunch will be available at the Ramada Inn for other members.

The afternoon session will begin shortly after lunch with reports on the following: rules, finance, member training and development, NEC, children & youth, Children's Miracle, Americanism, public relations, community service, scholarships, legislative, constitution and bylaws, resolutions, web site, districts, squadrons, credentials, and the Commander's Report. Additionally there will be a membership turn in, presentation of awards, and a drawing. The guest speaker will be Kevin Collier, SAL National Leading Candidate for 2015-16, from Alaska.

The Election of Detachment Officers will begin Sunday's wrap up followed by elections of delegates and alternates to represent Kansas during the National Convention in Baltimore. The Convention will conclude shortly after the Installation of Officers.

**Renew Your
Membership
Online at
www.legion.org/renew**

**DETACHMENT
COMMANDER**

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

Greetings Legionaries,

It is already May and it is time for our Department Convention. It has been a pleasure to travel the great state of Kansas and seeing everyone. Getting to know the people who make each Post, Unit and Squadron work and the ones at the District level. Your hard work is what makes the Legion Family Strong. I want to thank each Post I visited for your hospitality. Commander Emery McKimmy and Department President Tonia Ison have been wonderful to work and travel with. It has been a whirlwind adventure from ALLC to the National Convention, Homecomings, and District Conventions, meetings, dinners and

other functions. We helped out at the Turkey Run at Fort Riley and VA Gift Shops. We represented Kansas at the Lincoln Pilgrimage in February. In May we will attend the Truman Pilgrimage in Missouri. A harder working pair to represent our American Legion family I don't think you will find. Thank Emery and Tonia.

I am looking forward to the Department Convention in Topeka and meeting the new Leadership Team for the next year. Thanks to the Legion and Auxiliary Staff in Topeka for all your hard work and dedication in setting up the Convention each year. Hope everyone can attend. See you there.

**AUXILIARY
PRESIDENT**

Tonia Ison
1471 NW Taylor St., Lot 8
Topeka, KS 66608
785-233-2234

Legion Family, it has been an honor to visit District Conventions, the hospitality has been wonderful. The courtesies offered to my husband Jack and I have been awesome. Thank you to everyone! I have met some very wonderful ladies and wonderful Legionnaires, which makes me very proud to be part of the Legion Family.

Department Convention is May 15-17, 2015 and hope many of you will attend. Our special guest is Laura Mosby, Central Division Vice-President, we hope that many of you will attend to meet and greet Laura.

The Legion has a project for a pocket park in downtown To-

peka to honor Harry Colmery who was instrumental in getting the GI Bill passed many years ago. We all as military or military families have benefited by the GI Bill. I challenge all Auxiliary members to donate to this wonderful project; the Legion's goal is to have all donations in by June 1st. I hope we all can be part of this project and get behind our Legion and Sons to make this project a reality. Donation forms have been in the Auxiliary newsletter and are also available on the Kansas American Legion website. Hope to see all of you at Department Convention.

Thank you for all you do for veterans!

GARY FOOS FOR AREA WEST VICE COMMANDER

Fellow Legionnaires,

I am Gary F Foos and I will be a candidate for Department Area West Vice Commander of the Kansas American Legion at the Kansas Department Convention in Topeka, Kansas in May.

I earned my eligibility for the American Legion by serving in the United States Army Reserve, Co B, 3d Bn., 1st Bde., Dodge City, Ks., from Oct. 69 to Nov. 75. I received an Honorable Discharge as a Drill Sergeant with the rank of Sergeant First Class.

I have been a member of Olin Cole Post #392 in Bazine,

Kansas for 17 years. I have been Post Commander for 5 years, I've also been 8th District Vice Commander one year and 8th District Commander for the past three years. I am a member of the First Baptist Church of Bazine and the Wet Walnut Watershed District, serving Lane, Ness, Rush and Barton Counties. I'm a farmer in the Bazine Area.

I have the support of my Post, 8th District and my wife Linda of 46 years. I'm asking for your support for Department Area West Vice Commander for 2015-2016.

Special Youth Awards

This year Department Headquarters encouraged every Post to honor a local youth in their community. Posts were asked to submit the name of a Boy or Girl Scout, a 4-H member, or any young person who distinguished themselves in their hometown through community service. Upon receipt of a nomination Department prepared a Special Youth certificate for the Post to present during an appropriate or special event.

The following Posts honored 100 young people this year:

Abilene, Alton, Andover, Arkansas City, Arma, Atchison, Atwood, Augusta, Bazine, Belleville, Beloit, Blue Mound, Burdett, Cedar Vale, Chanute, Cheney, Clearwater, Clifton, Coffeyville, Colby, Columbus, Corning, Derby/

Haysville, Dodge City, Ellinwood, Ellsworth, Erie, Garnett, Grainfield, Great Bend, Harper, Havensville, Hays, Herington, Hiawatha, Howard, Hutchinson, Junction City, Kiowa, LaCrosse, Lebanon, Lenexa, Leonardville, Liberal, Linn, Little River, Louisburg, Lyndon, Manhattan, Marquette, Marysville, McPherson, Moran, Mulberry, Nicodemus, Norton, Nortonville, Olathe, Overland Park, Oxford, Paola, Peabody, Plains, Plainville, Quinter, Salina, Seneca, Shawnee, Silver Lake, Smith Center, Sublette, Sylvan Grove, Topeka #421, Tribune, Troy #55, Valley Center, Waterville, Wathena, Weir, Wellsville, White City, Wichita #4, Wichita #273, Wichita #422, and Wichita #424.

DARRIN MCMULLEN FOR AREA WEST VICE COMMANDER

Hello fellow Legionnaires,

I would like to announce that I am running for the position of Area West Vice Commander.

Both of my Grandfathers served in WWII, one in the Army and one in the Navy. So I enlisted in the Army National Guard while still in High School and then transferred services to active duty Navy three years later, thus earning my eligibility to the Legion serving in Desert Storm.

I have held several positions in The American Legion at both the Post and District level. At the District level I have

held the positions of Sergeant-At-Arms, Vice Commander, and Commander for the past 2 years. At the Post level, Commander for 5 terms, Vice Commander and Sergeant-At-Arms. I have served on the Kansas Centennial Membership Committee at the State Level and numerous committees on the District and Post level.

I have the support of my wife and family, my Post, and the 6th District.

Thank you very much and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in Topeka.

Winding Up For Baseball Season

American Legions Posts from across the state are registering their Baseball teams for the 2015 season. As in previous years, high school graduates under the age of 20 can play (AA, AAA) for the team they played for last year. New rules for 2015 change the duration of senior (AA, AAA) zone, sub-state and state tournaments from 9 innings to 7.

May 15 is the deadline for teams to register online. Coaches can use their username and password from last year and can use locate and renew teams and players from previous seasons. Background checks are required every year for coaches, managers, and any volunteer staff that interact with the players. Background checks must be completed before Insurance can be purchased. The cost for registration and insurance is: Junior (A) \$435 season, \$500 year; Senior (AA, AAA) \$530 season, \$610 year. Background checks are \$8 each.

More information on American Legion Baseball, including instructions on how to register a team, can be found on the Department webpage (www.ksamlegion.org) under "Programs."

Read This Before You Take Your Next Trip

(Continued from Page 2)

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.

MAX ALBER ANNOUNCES CANDIDACY FOR DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER

Max Alber, Post 258 in Little River, announces that he is a candidate for the office of Department Vice Commander for the 2015-2015 term.

He earned his eligibility for The American Legion by serving in the US Army from 1963-1966. He served in the 7th Army Germany Combat Engineers. He graduated from the 7th Army NCO Academy.

He is a 37 year member of Dwight Lamson Post 258 and has served a Post Commander, Vice Commander, and on the Executive Committee. He has been involved with the Legion's Veterans Day and Memorial Day Color Guard activities since 1966. He served as 7th District Commander from 2009-2010. He has also

served the 7th District as Vice Commander, Executive Board, and Oratorical Chairman. He is Past Department Master-of-Arms and served on the Department Economics Committee. He is a member of 40-8.

He is a 48 year member of the Kansas Masonic Lodge Cornerstone 219, Little River, having served as Master. He is a member of the Lions Club and United Methodist Church, both in Little River.

He is retired and has the time to serve the Department as Vice Commander. He has the support of his family, 7th District American Legion, Dwight Lamson American Legion Post 258, and the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 258.

LEROY MATTHEWS AREA WEST VICE COMMANDER CANDIDATE

Fellow Legionnaires:

I am requesting your support as a candidate for Area Vice Commander West at the Kansas Department Convention in Topeka, May 15-17. I earned my eligibility for The American Legion at Fort Leonard Wood, MO, in the US Army as a Combat Engineer, Heavy Equipment Operator. I moved up through the ranks to First Sergeant and took a Commission as a Maintenance Warrant Officer, Wheel Vehicle and Track with an Honorable Discharge of Chief Warrant Officer 4 (CW4) after 40

years of service in the US Army and the Kansas Army National Guard. (Nov. 1965-Nov. 2005)

I have been a member of The American Legion for over 17 years, serving as Post 104's Adjutant, five years, the Seventh District Vice Commander and Commander. I am a life member of the VFW and NRA. I have the support of my wife Darla of 49 years, my Post, and the Seventh District. I would greatly appreciate your support as well.

"CENTER OF THE BEST"

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**



**Protector – Shield of
Strength**

Memorial Day was known as Decoration Day during the Civil War Era here in America. Today Memorial Day is a Celebration to pause and remember all service personnel who gave their life in defense of this great nation, The United States of America. Decoration Day or

Memorial Day started as an event to honor Union federal soldiers; who had died during the active service, of the American Civil War. Memorial Day was inspired by the way people in the states honored those who died. The Memorial Day (Decoration Day) has been extended to all women and men.

Let those of us who remember the fallen also remember the courage of their service. Courage is from within the human heart. It is fortified by the support of those that we are serving. The Holy Bible, in the Book of Deuteronomy 31:6 says; “Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them (enemy); for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes before you.”

A story of such strength is reflected in the lives of Armed forces personnel from the Revolution War to the conflicts of today. Many of the personnel who gave the ultimate sacrifice found the strength to do so by the scriptures shared by the chaplains and others in their units. The tradition continues to this day.

National and military cemeteries hold the bodies of those who have demonstrated the ultimate sacrifice. We pause to remember them. It is the purpose of this nation and the American Legion to honor God and Country.

**AMERICAN LEGION
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION**

The American Legion Centennial Celebration is not only about honoring the past 100 years of our history, but also preparing to continue our legacy of service. Events and activities at posts all around the world will showcase The American Legion "Still Serving America." The question that we as members of the Department of Kansas need to answer is, what event and/or activity will my Post do to honor our 100 years of history as the greatest veterans organization in the world?

There are currently two activities in our Department that you can participate in for the Centennial Celebration.

The first is remembering a great American Legion leader and a past member of the Department of Kansas of Harry Colmery with a financial donation. Your donation to his memory will be used in the downtown area of Topeka to construct and erect a statue of Mr. Colmery as the writer of the original GI Bill. The pas-

sage of this historic legislation is just one of the many acts that the American Legion was a leader in its almost 100 year history in helping veterans. What an opportunity for us as Kansan Veterans to participate in and recognize a former great Legionnaire.

The other activity that you can participate in is to help the Department Centennial Celebration Committee raise funds for our Department Celebration in year 2018 through 2019 by purchasing a drawing ticket for a special 45 caliber pistol. This pistol was designed and manufactured exclusive for the American Legion Centennial. Tickets will be on sale at the Department Convention or you can contact the Centennial Committee of Jim Arwine, Phil Swartz or Gaylord Sanneman to purchase your tickets. We have 500 tickets for sale at \$20 each and when the tickets are all sold the drawing will take place at the next major Department event.

**Pittsburg
Honors
CMOH
Recipients**



John F. Derby Post 43 of Frontenac, Kansas will again provide the Memorial Day program at the beautiful Veteran's Memorial Amphitheater, located on the PSU Campus, 1909 South Rouse, Pittsburg, Kansas.

This year's program will feature dedication of a large granite tablet honoring the Kansas Veterans who have received the Congressional Medal of Honor. The tablet will be mounted to the entrance wall of the amphitheater and visible to all of the thousands of people that visit the memorial each year.

Legionnaire Robert Serra will read the names of the 44 Medal of Honor recipients. WWII Veteran and Legionnaire Tom Serra will strike the memorial bell as each name is read.

The Pittsburg City Band will provide military and patriotic music. Vietnam veterans will post the flags in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.

The entire Legion Family is invited to attend this once in a life time event. The program will commence at 2:30pm, Monday, May 25. Amphitheater seating provides a excellent view of the events. Contact Don Morey, Commander of Post 43 via email at don@morey.com.

**State American Legion
Golf Tournament 2015**

The tournament will be held on July 18th, and 19th, at Custer Hill Golf Course, 5202 Normandy Dr., Fort Riley, Ks. The tournament is a stroke play tournament with up to a possibility of seven Flights. All previous players will be preflighted and new players will be flighted after Saturday's round.

All players must be registered in Kansas American Legion Tournament. Scores will be taken from Saturday's round. Entry fee is \$125 per team, and includes green fees, golf cart, the fees are \$100 if you have your own cart. Also included is lunch on both days at the conclusion of the rounds as well as range ball before each round both days. All trophies and prize money will be given out at the end of the tournament on Sunday. Players may be on more than one team. Handicap will be on the

Modified Peoria System.

All players 70 years or older (must declare prior to tee off on Saturday) will play from the red tees. (If there are enough 70 plus players they will have their own flight.) All other players will play from the white tees.

Registration will begin both days at 7am with a shotgun start at 9am. All players must have a current Kansas Legion membership card or SAL membership card and be at least 21 years of age.

All team scores will be posted Sunday morning before tee off and all prize money will be awarded upon conclusion of the tournament on Sunday.

If there are any questions you may contact me: Carroll Peppersack, 805 N. Kansas Ave., Frankfort Ks. 66427, Phone No. 785-292-4665, Email lefthandersden@netzero.net



Arnold, Lester (Korea).....	Mayetta
Bailey, Fred L. (Vietnam).....	Hutchinson
Bailey, Raymond (WWII).....	Topeka 400
Bayer, Warren (WWII).....	Manhattan
Bergman, Mark (WWII).....	Shawnee
Blubaugh, Bernard L. (WWII).....	Harper
Bossi, John V. (WWII).....	Arkansas City
Bouley, Earl (WWII).....	Clifton
Bouley, Gilmer (Korea).....	Clifton
Briceland, Robert (WWII).....	Derby/Haysville
Brockmeier, Roy E. (Korea).....	Burdick
Buchanan, Bruce L. (WWII).....	Little River
Busey, Gary (Korea).....	Coffeyville
Bush, Darryl.....	Olathe
Calabrese, Nicholas A. (WWII).....	Topeka 400
Carroll, Carl J. (WWII).....	Topeka 58
Compton, Bill.....	Wichita 401
Cox, Arlie R. (WWII).....	Haddam
Culler, Robert A. (WWII).....	Iola
Daniels, Bill L. (Korea).....	Shawnee
Diesselhorst, Richard D. (Vietnam).....	Caney
Erhard, Thomas A., Jr. (WWII).....	Hutchinson
Estes, Billy D. (Korea).....	Osage City
Ferraro, Pete (WWII).....	Pittsburg 64
Froelich, William M. (WWII).....	Arkansas City
Gardner, Henry E. (WWII).....	Emporia
Garrison, James W. (WWII).....	Girard
Gaston, Donald E. (Korea).....	Beattie
Gehring, Duane G. (WWII).....	Olathe
Gilbert, William (WWII).....	Palmer
Gray, David C. (Grenada/Lebanon).....	Girard
Gum, Gerald (Vietnam).....	Derby/Haysville
Hafenstein, Delmar W. (WWII).....	Osage City
Harper, John A. (WWII).....	Frankfort
Hauser, Patrick (Korea).....	Shawnee
Heffington, Jerry W. (Vietnam).....	Olathe
Helton, William A., Jr. (WWII).....	Chanute
Hensley, Richard L. (Korea).....	Ulysses
Higgs, Robert J. (Korea).....	Holton
Hill, Lawrence E. (Korea).....	Shawnee
Hitt, Cleo B. (WWII).....	Osage City
Horstman, Melvin C. (Vietnam).....	Derby/Haysville
Houk, Joseph B. (Vietnam).....	Moran
Hovey, Robert E. (Korea).....	Topeka 58
Jansen, Clinton W. (WWII).....	Atchison
Jeter, Donald W. (Korea).....	Overland Park
Johnson, Bill (Korea).....	Whitewater
Johnson, Loren (Vietnam).....	Derby/Haysville
Jones, Carnie (Korea).....	Shawnee
Kaufman, Stanley (WWII).....	Topeka 1
Kincaid, Raymond L. (WWII).....	Kansas City 199

Kump, Virgil R. (WWII).....	Jennings
Larson, Charles W. (WWII).....	Overland Park
Long, Vincent L. (Vietnam).....	Topeka 1
Lowery, Sean (Persian Gulf).....	Derby/Haysville
Mark, Glenn J.	Hutchinson
Marsh, James D. (Vietnam).....	Derby/Haysville
McCoy, Robert L. (Korea).....	Whitewater
Medley, C. W. (Korea).....	Winfield
Meeks, Lucy M.	Marysville
Megli, Bobby L.	Hutchinson
Morris, Larry D. (Korea).....	Clifton
Murray, Jack (Korea).....	Shawnee
Navarro, Peter M. (Korea).....	Hutchinson
Newman, Richard (Korea).....	Osage City
Nord, Mervin E. (Korea).....	Marysville
Ogden, Roy T. (Vietnam).....	Mayetta
Oldham, Carvel C. (Korea).....	Cottonwood Falls
Pelletier, Norman L. (Korea).....	Olathe
Place, George L., Jr. (Korea).....	Ellsworth
Prothe, Robert W. (Vietnam).....	Paola
Quick, John H. (WWII).....	Hutchinson
Reif, Donald J. (Vietnam).....	Hoisington
Righter, Carroll (WWII).....	Delphos
Rogers, Paul C. (WWII).....	Shawnee
Rogers, Rodney D. (Vietnam).....	Howard
Rosenquist, William F. (Korea).....	Emporia
Schibneir, John D. (Vietnam).....	Iola
Schmidt, John G., Jr. (WWII).....	Topeka 400
Schroeder, Charles M. (Korea).....	Osage City
Schwerdtfeger, Robert (Korea).....	Ellsworth
Shade, Albert J., Jr. (Vietnam).....	Burdick
Shikles, Jewell (Korea).....	Shawnee
Sisson, Robert D. (Vietnam).....	Overbrook
Smith, J. Stanley (Korea).....	Topeka 400
Sobba, Irvin R. (WWII).....	Fowler
Sobba, Robert L. (WWII).....	Fowler
Stang, Thomas M. (Vietnam).....	Ellsworth
Stephens, James, Sr. (Vietnam).....	Derby/Haysville
Stetler, Bruce H. (Grenada/Lebanon).....	Mulvane
Stewart, Buck D. (Korea).....	Hutchinson
Swensen, Frances A. (WWII).....	Ogden
Thorpe, Ronald D. (Vietnam).....	Coffeyville
Titsworth, William.....	Great Bend
Vette, Henry C. (WWII).....	Colby
Werts, Jack M. (WWII).....	Gridley
White, Merton.....	Topeka 400
Wiederkehr, Lloyd H. (Korea).....	Waverly
Williams, Tom (Vietnam).....	Ozawkie
Winn, Dwight L. (Korea).....	Howard
Young, Calvin R. (WWII).....	Wellington
Zahn, Charles E. (Vietnam).....	Iola

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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**

**CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION
BUFFET DINNER
MAY 16, 2015
RAMADA INN, TOPEKA, KS**

Name _____ Post/Unit/Squadron # _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Number of dinners to be reserved at \$35.00 each _____

Enclosed is check in the amount of _____

Or charge my VISA/Master Card number _____

Expiration date _____ Security Code _____

I cannot attend the dinner but am enclosing my tax deductible donation of _____

**Mail to: Kansas American Legion
1314 SW Topeka Blvd.
Topeka, KS 66612**

**KANSAS
LEGACY RUN**

The Kansas American Legion Riders will hold their first ever In-State Legacy Run. It will be a four day event spanning 1,255 miles. Day 1 starting at Post 256 Wichita, we will head towards Winfield Veterans Home and lay a wreath at the Veterans Cemetery, proceeding on to Coffeyville for lunch. We will also be laying a wreath at the Veterans Cemetery at Ft. Scott. The first night will be in Lenexa.

Day 2 will have us leaving from Lenexa Post 407, with stops at the Leavenworth Veterans Cemetery and lay a wreath. We will stop for lunch at Seneca Post 21 for lunch with the second night's stop at Salina.

Day 3 will have us leaving Salina proceeding to the Veterans Cemetery at Wakeeney and laying a wreath. Lunch will be at Norton. We will be spending the 3rd night in Colby, where we will have a Camaraderie Night at the Colby Post with auctions and other fundraising events.

Day 4 will take us thru Garden City and over to Ft Dodge Soldiers Home where a wreath will be layed at the Veterans Cemetery. The next stop will be in Larned, at their Veterans Memorial to lay a wreath and then proceed to Great Bend Post 180 for the ending of The Kansas ALR Legacy Run.

We encourage all American Legion Family to have a member take their donations to our various stops, which will all be posted on the Kansas ALR website, <http://www.kansas-alr.com>.

Did You Know?

The GI Bill shifted expectations for most American families, making home ownership or a college degree attainable goals. And, it became such an incentive for service, the United States could move to an all volunteer military force, issuing its last draft orders in 1973.

**LEADERSHIP COLLEGE
SERVICE OFFICER
SCHOOL
JUNE 5-7**

This year's American Legion Leadership College will take place at Cloud County Community College in Concordia June 5-7. **There is another event going on during the time of the AALC and Service Officer School, so please contact Department NOW if you need housing other than what is available at the college.**

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 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 3:00 PM on Friday, June 5. Dinner will be avail-

able from 5:00 until 6:00 PM followed by a meeting of the Department Executive Committee. Sessions for all attendees will commence at 8:15 AM Saturday and 8:30 AM Sunday, June 6 and 7 with a break for lunch on Saturday and conclusion of the College on Sunday no later than noon.

Dan Bartlett, Department Service Officer, will hold a refresher course Saturday on the eight most frequently used VA forms.

Flag Education Program will be demonstrated, along with information on other American Legion programs and activities.

Of course 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 below regarding housing. We cannot guarantee housing will be provided if you do not check the box indicating your need for housing at the College.

**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