

# Sunflower Legionnaire

The American Legion -



Today's Voice for Today's Veterans & Military

VOL LXXIV NO. 4

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

April, May, June 2021

## ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



*Oratorical First Place, Owen Miller.*



*Oratorical Second Place, Hever Arjon.*



*Oratorical Third Place, Lincoln Gibson.*



*Oratorical Fourth Place, Malik Ngugi.*

The State Oratorical Contest sponsored by the Kansas American Legion was held on Saturday, March 13 at Pearce-Keller Post #17 in Manhattan. The four finalists representing their District were required to give an 8-10 minute prepared oration on the United States Constitution. The contestants were required to give their presentation without any notes, podium, papers, or microphones. They were judged by a panel of five prominent citizens from the Manhattan area. The contestants were judged on several aspects of their presentation including originality, skill in selecting examples, logic, knowledge of subject matter, voice and diction, word selection, and body action and eye contact.

After their prepared remarks the contestants were required to speak on one of four assigned topics selected by National Headquarters. One topic is chosen by drawing from the four choices and each contestant speaks on the same subject. The contestants were required to speak three to five minutes on the assigned topic. This year's assigned topic was Article II, Section 7 of the Constitution. All contestants recited

their orations with skill and enthusiasm. The Judges had the difficult task of choosing the top contestants that would receive top honors and money for college.

The 2021 State Champion is Owen Miller from Pittsburg representing Third District. Normally, the state champion would be sent to Indianapolis to compete at the National Oratorical Contest. However, as there will be no National Oratorical competition this year, all State Champions, including Owen, will receive a \$5,000 scholarship from National in addition to the \$750 scholarship from The Department of Kansas.

The second place award of a \$500 scholarship went to Hever Arjon from Dodge City, representing Eight District. The third place finisher was Lincoln Gibson from Topeka, representing First District. He will receive a \$250 scholarship. The fourth place award of a \$150 scholarship went to Malik Ngugi from Wichita, representing Fifth District.

In addition, Emporia State University and Tabor College also offer scholarships to the first four winners in this year's contest.

## Department Convention Topeka May 14-16

The Ramada Hotel & Convention Center, in Topeka will serve as the site of the 102nd Annual Convention of The American Legion Department of Kansas. Joining the Legion in Convention will be the American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion who will hold their own independent Conventions in addition to two joint sessions involving all three groups.

Now is the time to make housing reservations by calling the Ramada at 785-234-5400. Room rates for the Convention are \$91.00 and includes a full breakfast buffet.

The Convention is expected to feature a number of speakers including American Legion National Vice Commander Bruce Feuerbach from Iowa, Auxiliary Divisional National Vice President Ruth Gott from Michigan, and S.A.L. National Vice Commander Chris Cook from Oklahoma,

several of this year's Youth Champions, and Kansas' Fire and Policeman of the Year.

Various awards for Americanism, Children & Youth, Post Histories, Post Service Officers will also be presented. A highlight of the Convention will be the drawing for this Spring's Sweepstakes with special prizes available should any of the thirteen winners be present during the drawing on Sunday.

The Convention will conclude on Sunday with a Memorial Service followed by the election of Department Officers for the 2021-2022 legionnaires are encouraged to attend the Convention as a delegate, alternate, or guest. Post Adjutants will be mailed pre-registration materials on April 14 (pre-registration is preferred, however "walk-ins" are always welcomed). To attend as a delegate or alternate contact your Post Adjutant to inform them you wish to represent your Post.

## COMMANDER

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**Marri Krupco**

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## VICE COMMANDER

\*\*\*\*\*

**Jeremy Ehart**

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Spring is officially here. However, as a native Kansan I know that around here the seasons don't mean much, we may have all four in one day. My allergies are completely onboard with the season change though, I'm beginning to wonder if I'm simply allergic to oxygen! Spring isn't all about blooms, pollen and sneezes, its also the season for District Conventions and reporting.

Last year the majority of District Conventions were held virtually or cancelled. I'm very excited to be able to visit each Convention in person this year! Having the technology to be able to hold meetings virtually is wonderful, but it will never be as good as actually getting to visit with members across the state. Virtual meetings accomplish the business that needs to be done but completely miss the mark on any camaraderie.

Who likes to do paperwork?! If you just said "Me, Me, I do!" then I hope you are the Post Adjutant, and you have been diligently submitting reports. Each year every Post is required to submit five reports, the list of officers (to Department by June 1), the Service Officer Report (to Department by March 1, if your Post reported having a service officer on the list of officers in June), The Children & Youth report (to the District prior to District Convention), the Post Data Form (to Department by

April 15), and the Consolidated Post Report or CPR (mailed to Department or submitted on MyLegion.org by May 1). Each report covers different areas of the American Legion mission, but they are all important.

Why are they important? I'm glad you asked! The information in these reports is ultimately compiled into statewide and nationwide reports to be submitted to the State and National Legislators. This report shows the Legislators the impact we have on our communities each year, thus making them understand how important of an organization we are. Anytime a Post member does something in support of the American Legion, it's programs, or it's pillars it needs to be reported. Every little bit helps, ask your Post adjutant to show you the CPR so you have an idea of the kind of things that are reported. If we don't toot our own horn no one else will either.

If I miss seeing you at your District Convention I hope to at Department Convention (May 14-16) or Leadership College (June 4-6). Department leadership has some new ideas, and we hope to implement at least a few of them this year at ALLC. As soon as we have a location determined you will be notified so be looking for registration information soon!

For God & Country!

Marri Krupco, Department Commander

As the weather continues to warm, flowers continue to bloom, the State is also beginning to open up. Sports have returned to schools and most social activities are less restricted and the community and state guidelines are now being allowed to come to an end. Kansas American Legion has done a tremendous job of adhering to all the rules and restrictions set by the authorities while still serving our communities, our children and youth, and our veterans. So many Posts throughout the state started doing things never done before to perform critical services for their communities during the last year. As we continue to transition back into what was our regular routine before covid, I wanted to give a big thank you to all those Posts. What you have done in the last year will be remembered in your communities, and it shows what the American Legions values and principles are. Unfortunately, the challenging times are not yet over so we must continue the good work, keep working in the community, and continue checking on our veterans, many of them are still in need whether that be emotional or physical.

As we move forward let us all remind our membership and ourselves of the opportunities to serve our communities, veterans, and youth at our local Posts. It's vital that when a new member joins our ranks, we make them feel appreciated and welcome. With good communication and camaraderie, we can ensure that our members, both new and renewed want to retain their memberships in

The American Legion year after year. Ask your members what their interest are and get them involved with the programs that fall in line with them. When they see and feel the difference they are making in the lives of people they are helping they will help advocate for our programs and activities.

As of the March 18th membership report, all nine Districts are over 90% of their respective quotas for the year. Congratulations to all the District Commanders for making it to this point! Four Districts are over 95%, and we have our first District to reach 100% since 2014, congratulations 7th District Commander Mike Jury for reaching that achievement, I know you and your District officers have been working hard all year. I want to remind everyone that if you sign up a new member between now and May 1st you can be entered into a drawing to win \$500. There are several ways to win, and the total prizes being awarded are \$1,800. Drawing will be held from all the entries at Department Convention, May 14-16 in Topeka. If you know of a potential new member sign them up and send in the entry form to Department Headquarters before May 1st.

It has been my honor to serve as your Department Vice Commander for the last year. I have enjoyed meeting so many of you and enjoyed the hospitality of your Posts. As always, I am here to listen, serve, and look forward to hearing from you. Thank you all for what you do for The Kansas American Legion!

Semper Fi!

**DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER**

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**Dan Bartlett**

**2200 SW Gage  
Topeka, KS 66622**

**(800) 574-8387 ext. 54489**

**dan.bartlett@med.va.gov**

Veterans Benefits Administration Fact Sheets

Please click on link below to find out more information on Department of Veterans Affairs benefits that you, the veteran and your dependent's may be entitled to.

[Fact Sheets - Veterans Benefits Administration \(va.gov\)](http://va.gov)

For questions and further assistance about these programs, contact your American Legion Veterans Service Representative's at the following locations:

Robert J. Dole VAMC and Medical Center, Wichita, KS

Tel: (800) 878-6881 Ext. 56814 or 56815

Tel: (316) 688-6814 or 6815

Dwight D. Eisenhower VAMC, Leavenworth, KS

Tel: (800) 952-837 Ext. 54297

Tel: (913) 758-4297

Colmery-O'Neil VAMC, Topeka, KS

Tel: (800) 574-8387 Ext. 54489

Tel: (785) 350-4489



**DETACHMENT  
COMMANDER**

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**Tom Wallsmith**

**1245 Co. Rd. V  
Levant, KS 67743**

**(785) 443-6095**



Greetings American Legion Family,

This membership year is winding down quicker than we realize. It's been a challenge for membership this year with the travel restrictions and social distancing but once again our Family has risen to the challenge. Congratulations to all who persevered and continued to work membership. Convention season was kicked off with the 9th Districts Conventions on March 20th with Oberlin Post 70 hosting. The hospitality was great. It was good to be able to have a live

Convention again. As April will be busy with Conventions each weekend I encourage members to attend and actively participate in their Districts Convention as it's so important for many voices giving input in the selection of the upcoming Officers to guide our business affairs. All delegates votes count but must be present to vote. I look forward to seeing as many members as possible at the District Conventions I'll be able to attend. God Bless America and our American Legion Family as well as our Veterans.

# ADJUTANT'S BRIEFS

By Department Adjutant Jimmie L. Foster

The Membership year of 2020-2021 is coming to an end very rapidly!

WE, as a Department, are well behind last year's numbers. A concerted effort to either make personal telephone calls to those Members that has not renewed or at a last resort going out and knocking on their door to find out if they are sick, down, and out, or have forgotten to renew their Membership needs to happen.

Department First Vice Commander Jeremy Ehart and ALL Nine District Commanders and District Vice Commanders are available to assist, all you have to do is ASK!

The 2021 Mid-Winter Forum was well attended. Independence Post 139 did an excellent job in hosting the venue.

The Legislative Reception was changed last year to be held before the Mid-Winter Forum on 13 January 2021 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Topeka. The Speaker of The House and the President of the Senate came up with this suggestion to ensure that more Legislators would have the opportunity to attend. Unfortunately, it was cancelled this year due to COVID-19. Hopefully, WE can pick it up in January 2022 and hold Our Legislators feet to the ground, submit and pass House and Senate Bills regarding Veterans issues.

The 2021 Department Oratorical Contest was held at Manhattan Post 17 on 13 March 2021 and the four orators were ALL Winners!

Owen Miller from the Third District was selected as the ultimate winner and would have represented the Department of Kansas at the National Contest in Indianapolis, Indiana, which was ultimately cancelled for safety concerns. The National organization agreed to donate to each Department Winner an outright \$5,000.00 Scholarship in lieu of holding the National Contest. Owen banked \$5,750.00 for a short amount of time expended. Congratulations, Owen!

As of this date, the Cadet Law Enforcement Academy Program is scheduled to be held from 6 to 11 June 2021 at the

Kansas Highway Patrol Training Academy in Salina, Kansas. PLEASE check the Department Website for the up-to-date details. I know that the Junior and Seniors are looking forward to attend this program.

Kansas Boys State which was also scheduled to be held from 6 to 11 June 2021 at Kansas State University has been postponed until 1 to 7 August 2021. PLEASE check the Kansas Boys State of Kansas Website for the most up-to-date information.

The Department Convention of Kansas American Legion will be held from 14 to 16 May 2021 in Topeka, Kansas. National Vice Commander Bruce Feuerbach from the Department of Iowa will be the Legion National Guest. Chris Cook, the Sons of The American Legion National Vice Commander from Oklahoma and Ruth Gott, the Divisional National Vice President from Michigan will also be in attendance.

The 2021 American Legion Leadership College that would normally take place in Concordia at Cloud County Community College from 4 to 6 June 2021 has been changed to another location due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic and Major Construction Projects at CCCC being closed to the public. More details on location and prices to follow as soon as the provisions are finetuned!

Remember that the Kansas Sunflower Legionnaire is now published quarterly. If you are required to submit articles, PLEASE adjust your thought process to the quarterly mode. Articles are due on 15 March, 15 June, 15 September, and 15 December for the following quarterly edition.

If anyone has any questions pertaining to Membership or any of the fine programs within The American Legion, PLEASE do NOT hesitate to call the Department Headquarters for guidance or clarification.

Thank you for being a Member of The Greatest Veterans Organization in the Free World, The American Legion (in my opinion).

**FIRST DISTRICT  
COMMANDER  
DAN WENTLING  
100 N 4<sup>TH</sup> ST  
Mayetta, KS 66509  
(785) 851-8629  
VICE CMDR.  
LARRY WARNER  
PO BOX 8665  
Topeka, KS 66608  
(785) 286-3445**

Greeting First District, Spring has finally arrived! The First District Convention will be held on April 24, 2021 at North Topeka Post #400. We are hoping for a good turnout for the Convention. This will be the last Convention with all 49 Posts and the new Tenth District will be holding elections for their new officers for the 2021-2022 year. If you haven't already done so, please get your reservations in as soon as possible. Other upcoming events include the Department Convention to be held in Topeka May 14-16, 2021 and Cadet Law enforcement Academy to be held in Salina June 6-11, 2021.

Please continue to work on membership. There are members out there that still need to renew their membership and let's not forget the many veterans out there that are eligible to join. We have had some success with our revitalization teams and encourage everybody to continue to work on that 100% or better goal.

It has been a pleasure to serve as your Commander this year. We have endured many hardships this year and will still be recovering from it for some time. It is reassuring that, through it all, the American Legion has persevered and continues helping our veterans. I am looking forward to this next year and all the possibilities it holds. If there is anything the District can do to help your Post, please contact any Officer who will be happy to help. As I have said before, the local Posts are the backbone of the American Legion and the District, Department, and National are there to help

the Posts. Please take care this spring, stay safe, and hope to see you at the Convention!

For God and Country,  
Dan Wentling  
First District Commander

**SECOND DISTRICT  
COMMANDER  
MYRA JOWERS  
725 Fairway Dr.  
Fort Scott, KS 66701  
(620) 215-1286  
VICE CMDR.  
GEORGE HONN  
27940 Lone Star Rd.  
Paola, KS 66071  
(913) 731-5172**

Greetings Second District! Typically, this would be the outgoing District Commander's final article in the Sunflower Legionnaire. Unfortunately, at the time of writing this article Commander Jowers is busy with more important things and asked me to take care of this for her. Some of you may already know, but for those that don't it is my sad duty to inform you that our District Adjutant, Carl Jowers lost his battle with Covid-19 on March 24th. Carl was a 4-way member of the American Legion Family, Post Commander for Fort Scott, and husband to District Commander Myra Jowers, he will be greatly missed.

As the 2020-2021 membership year draws to a close I wanted to thank you for all your hard work. There is still a little to be done before the end of June so don't stop now, besides there is cash to be won for recruiting new members! If you don't know what I'm talking about, ask your Post leadership or contact a District Officer. On behalf of Commander Jowers and myself, I wanted to thank you for allowing us to serve as your District Commander and Vice-Commander this year. We do some amazing things here in the Second District and we should be proud of what we do in support of veterans, active duty, and youth, especially with the challenges this last year has

presented. One last thanks, to Lenexa Post 407, the rest of the District Officers, Past District Commanders, and all the District Chairs for making District Convention a success, this year was very unique and it definitely produced some challenges for Convention. There is still time to sponsor a delegate to Boy's State, Girl's State, and possibly even Cadet Law, let's make sure Second District is well represented. Department Convention is right around the corner, May 14-16, ask your Post leadership how you can be a Delegate to Convention, lets fill our section! I highly recommend Department Leadership College (June 4-June 6) for Post officers or anyone that wants to know more about the American Legion. Please join the new District officers on June 19th at North Garnett Lake for the District Picnic, registration is only \$5 which includes the all-you-can-eat taco bar and is open to all Legion family members! I look forward to seeing you all at one or more of these events.

For God & Country  
Vice-Commander George Honn

**THIRD DISTRICT  
COMMANDER  
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VICE CMDR.  
DAVID STRASBURG  
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Arkansas City, KS 67005  
(620) 688-1425**

Greetings Third District Legion Family,

Thank you for supporting me as your 3rd District Commander this past year. I hope everyone's new year has started healthy for each one of you. This past year has really been a time of change for all of us. Stay safe and healthy.

First off thank you for being a member! Membership is the life blood of our organization. If not for the mem-

bers we couldn't exist. Thank you everyone for helping bring our District out of last place.

March, April, and May is the time of year we elect our officers for the coming year in our organization. If you haven't done so I encourage you to run for a Post, District, or Department Office. Together we can help the Legion to continue to grow, but only by your support.

It's that time of year when Conventions are starting. The 3rd District Convention should be completed as it was to be held March 27 - 28 at Winfield. The Mid-Winter Forum was held at Independence in January and they did an outstanding job! Thanks to the Post 139 Family. This year's District Oratorical contest was held in Erie and hosted by Post 102. Our youth are amazing! After listening to them present their presentations I must say there is still hope for our future leaders.

I encourage all Posts in supporting our local youth in the many Legion activities available. Please support Legion Boys State, Girls State, Cadet Law, Legion Baseball, and the numerous other activities the American Legion provides.

The Officers of the Third District and I wish you and your families a wonderful Spring and coming year!

Until the next issue. "For God and Country".

**FOURTH DISTRICT  
COMMANDER  
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18201 W. 157<sup>TH</sup> TER.  
Olathe, KS 66062  
(913) 271-0580  
VICE CMDR.  
MATT BRANY  
2824 BROOKVILLE DR.  
Manhattan, KS 66502  
(785) 410-8065**

*No article submitted.*

**FIFTH DISTRICT  
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BRYAN PAGE  
6015 S. Kansas  
Wichita, KS 67216  
(316) 259-1838  
VICE CMDR.  
PAUL SANFORD  
109 Southport Ct.  
Newton, KS 67112  
(620) 353-3708**

*No article submitted.*

**SIXTH DISTRICT  
COMMANDER  
JIMMY STRACHAN  
PO BOX 24  
Bunker Hill, KS 67626  
(785) 483-1186  
VICE CMDR.  
HARRY MORRISON, JR.  
324 W 7<sup>th</sup> St.  
Concordia, KS 66901  
(785) 479-0624**

Congratulations go out to the entire 6th District.

Our 6th District membership quota is 95.94%. We are 54 members away from reaching 100%.

For us to make 100% we need to get those members that have not renewed their membership RENEWED! Another way for us to reach 100% is recruit NEW MEMBERS. Quota is tallied from members that paid dues to your Post.

Hope all is doing well with this COVID19 pandemic. Are you are making "Buddy Checks"? Buddy Checks are a good way to get your renewals. 6th District is at the number 4 spot for renewals. I feel the biggest reason why you are having problems with getting your members to renew is lack of one on one communication with your members. Give them a phone call, stop by their house say "HI" ask if they need anything. If the member lives out of town or out of state send them a card. Make the personal contact you will see your membership renewals numbers improve.

17 April, 2021 will be District Convention. Convention

will be held in Concordia at the Citizen Center, location, 109 W. 7th Street.

Memorial Service begins at 0900 followed with a joint session at 1000.

**SEVENTH DISTRICT  
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MIKE JURY  
909 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave.  
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(620) 899-7926  
VICE CMDR.  
BEAU BROUGH  
110 S.E. 10 RD.  
Great Bend, KS 67530  
(620) 617-4480**

Greetings, 7th District, The 2021 year seems to be racing by, and it's an unusual one for sure. I want to thank everyone for the hard work you have put forth with membership! We are 100%. This is the first time in a very long time that District 7 has reached 100%. I want to thank all the Posts that are at 100%. This has been a challenge with what we have had to deal with this year.

With all the Posts starting to reopen, please be safe and bring all your members back safe. I want to thank everyone that came to the 7th District Convention. We had a wonderful time, and it was great seeing everyone that was able to attend. It has been an absolute pleasure and privilege serving as your District Commander for the last year.

Don't forget that Department Convention is May 14-16 in Topeka, Kansas. Don't forget Jeremy Ehart from the 7th District will be running for Department Vice Commander for 2021-2022.



**Flag Day  
June 14  
2021**

**EIGHTH DISTRICT  
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(620) 861-0108  
VICE CMDR.  
DAN STACY  
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Dodge City, KS 67801  
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*No article submitted.*

**NINTH DISTRICT  
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(785) 650-2999  
VICE CMDR.  
ALAN MARIETTA  
302 N. YORK AVE.  
Oberlin, KS 67749  
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*No article submitted.*

**CHILDREN & YOUTH  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Pat Culver  
childrenandyouth1@kansaslegio.org**

The American Legion is concerned about the welfare of our nation's youth, and suicide threatens them. Among adolescents ages 15 to 24 this problem continues to be the second leading cause of death and the second leading cause of death for 10 to 14-year-olds. The Journal of the American Medical Association sites that over 6,200 suicides occurred in 2017 within the age group of 15-24. Familiarize yourself with the warning signs, and you may be able to save a life. Every life is sacred and must be preserved.

Warning Signs of Suicide:

- Abrupt changes in eating habits
- Aggressive behavior
- Changes in sleeping habits.
- Decline in schoolwork.
- Depression
- Drug or alcohol abuse
- Giving away possessions.
- Legal questions about death
- Loss of interest in regular activities
- Loss of energy
- Mood swings and personality changes
- Neglect of personal appearance
- Preoccupation with death
- Previous suicide attempts
- Suddenly happy after long depression
- Talking about life after death.
- Unnecessary and dangerous risk-taking
- Withdrawal from friends or family

One sign may not signal trouble, however, more than one sign lasting two weeks or longer is often an indication help is needed. Take all talk of suicide seriously. Listen carefully and give the person a chance to express his or her feelings. Let him or her know you are concerned and want to help. If you, or someone you know is contemplating suicide, seek help right away. Immediately inform an adult such as a parent, teacher, coach, principal, clergy, counselor, or doctor. Or call a crisis center hotline.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1-800-273-TALK (273-8255) [suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

National Hopeline Network 1-800-442-HOPE (442-4673)

Suicide Awareness Voices of Education [save.org](http://save.org)  
Foundation for Suicide Prevention Text "Talk" to 741741 [afsp.org](http://afsp.org)

# LEADERSHIP COLLEGE

This year's American Legion Leadership College will take place at Independence County Community College in Independence June 4-6.

This year there will a Hands-On Class dealing with mylegion.org being taught by Bryan Page, Fifth District Commander. If you are a Post Commander or Post Adjutant this is a prime opportunity to actually input and make changes to Members of your Post. PLEASE ensure you bring your laptop or iPad to get the full effect of the training.

There will be a Representative from the Gaming Commission and the Alcohol Beverage Control Board to update us on the new laws and regulations dealing with pull tabs and liquor sells within your Posts. An uniformed Post is not a good situation.

We are working on Post Commander and Post Adjutant modules that hopefully be available by ALLC time. We will try and incorporate them with the training that Bryan will be conducting.

Hopefully, we will have another VA Roundtable or Symposium. Everyone really enjoyed being able to ask a pinpoint question to the per-

son that is the expert of that particular Division of The Veterans Hospital/Administration out of the Dole V.A. Medical Center and Veterans Service Center in Wichita.

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 this year is \$80.00 per person which includes Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast, lunch, and dinner at Independence Post 139, 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. Those needing only meals will be \$26.50 per day.

Check in for the College begins at 3:00 PM on Friday, June 4. Dinner will be available from 5:00 PM 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 9:00 AM Sunday, June 1 and 2 with a break for lunch on Saturday and conclusion of the College on Sunday no later than noon.



**AUXILIARY  
PRESIDENT**  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Paula Sellens**

**513 Andrews St.  
Dodge City, KS 67801**

**(620) 227-3816**



Over the past few months, we've experienced an unprecedented shift in our way of life due to COVID-19. While being enormously disruptive and painful, crises also invariably nurture the emergence of great common purpose, solidarity, creativity, and improvisation.

One thing that is certain, we know that adjusting to change can be challenging. Be it planned or unplanned, gradual or sudden, change is inevitable and very much part of being human.

The American Legion Auxiliary has been around for more than 100 years. The organization continues to adapt to the times through flexibility and creative ideas to ensure the mission endures. Volunteers across the country have also had to change the typical way of conducting business to accommodate the changing times with the coronavirus. Working together through these difficult and unprecedented months, everyone has succeeded in continuing the ALA's Legacy of Service Not Self.

Kansas Department staff members have been very effective in navigating the current environment and making the transition to work remotely. I'm pleased at how much they continue to accomplish while being distanced. Finance meetings and DEC meetings have proved successful via

teleconferencing and Zoom meetings both with Department members and National Leaders. It is amazing what can be accomplished when the situation demands it.

These days, many ALA members are finding ways to safely help others amid the COVID-19 global pandemic. From buddy check calls to providing meals to making masks, there's no stopping our members from doing what they do best.

Resilience is in the ALA's nature - we've proven it over and over again in our century-old history. Despite the hardships and changes made during this pandemic, we've continued to serve those who rely on our services in different and unique ways. No matter what crisis we may face as Units, Departments, or as a National organization, we will continue to be a community of volunteers serving veterans, military and their families.

To quote Orison Marden, "Success is not measured by what you accomplish, but by the opposition you have encountered, and the courage with which you have maintained the struggle against overwhelming odds." It has been a pleasure serving as your Department President during the past two years. My heartfelt thanks to the American Legion Family. With your help and support, I can truthfully say, we have had a successful two years.

## BUCKLE UP, LIGHTS ON & LIVE

The Kansas American Legion, in cooperation with the Kansas Department of Transportation and the Governor's Office will make an effort to reduce traffic accidents and fatalities over the Memorial Day weekend. This year's program is

scheduled for Friday, May 28.

This endeavor is in conjunction with the beginning of Memorial Day Weekend, and the theme is "Ditch the distractions, not the car! Just Drive." The goal is to remind motorists to use their seat belts

**(Continued on Page 8)**

### LEADERSHIP COLLEGE REGISTRATION

ENCLOSED IS MY \$80 REGISTRATION FOR THE  
AMERICAN LEGION LEADERSHIP COLLEGE

JUNE 4 - 6

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 Blvd., Topeka, KS 66612

# + TAPS +

Adams, Arthur, Jr. (Vietnam)..... Maple Hill	Hines, Marvin (Vietnam).....Agra	Petrucci, Kenneth (Persian Gulf)..... Pratt
Allen, Charles (Vietnam)..... Garden City	Hohisel, Andrew (WWII).....Belle Plaine	Pfau, Melvin (Korea)..... Goodland
Ames, Donald (Vietnam).....Mulvane	Howe, Richard (Korea)..... Russell	Phalen, Russell (WWII)..... Osborne
Amon, Wayne (Vietnam)..... Topeka #400	Hufford, Duane (Korea)..... Cheney	Phillips, Evan (Korea)..... Wellsville
Anderson, Alden (Korea)..... Hutchinson	Huiett, Thomas (WWII)..... Salina	Phillips, William (WWII)..... Sterling
Barnes, Kenneth (Vietnam).....Louisburg	Hulet, Keith (Persian Gulf).....Overland Park	Pickett, Delmar (WWII)..... Olsburg
Barnhart, Stephen (Vietnam)..... Valley Center	Hynek, Duane (Korea)..... Hanover	Pitts, Wylie (Vietnam)..... Baxter Springs
Bauman, Kenneth (Korea)..... Topeka #400	Ingalls, Harold (WWII)..... Sterling	Pitts, Wylie (Vietnam)..... Baxter Springs
Bell, Roger (Vietnam).....Overland Park	Innes, Raymond (Korea)..... Olsburg	Potenski, Ronald (Vietnam).....Clay Center
Benteman, Frank (WWII)..... Topeka #400	Johnson, Donald (Korea).....Jewell	Ragsdale, Kenneth.....Overland Park
Bezemek, George (Korea)..... Ellsworth	Johnson, Roger.....Mulvane	Ramseyer, Paul (Vietnam)..... Andover
Biberstein, Glenn (Korea)..... Hutchinson	Jones, Jimmie (Panama).....McPherson	Reed, A. (WWII)..... Sublette
Bickel, Mike (Vietnam)..... Hutchinson	Jowers, William (Vietnam)..... Ft. Scott	Regan, James (WWII)..... Frontenac
Birney, James (Vietnam)..... Topeka #400	Karst, Clayton (WWII)..... Hoisington	Rein, Ray (Army)..... Bazine
Blake, Kenneth (Vietnam)..... Topeka #58	Kelly, Larry (Korea)..... Atchison	Rieschick, Claude (WWII)..... Corning
Blythe, Donald (WWII)..... Great Bend	Kemmerer, Robert (Korea).....Jewell	Rietcheck, Alfred (Korea)..... Hoxie
Brackett, Paul, Sr. (Vietnam) ... Baxter Springs	Kidwell, Paul (WWII)..... Clay Center	Rogers, John (Vietnam)..... Atwood
Bray, Robert (Vietnam).....Shawnee	Kilgore, Clifford, Jr. (Vietnam).. Junction City	Rohr, Alfred (Korea)..... Derby
Brewer, William (Vietnam)..... Hillsboro	Kitchen, Jimmy (Vietnam)..... Cheney	Ronnebaum, Gerald..... Topeka #400
Briggs, William (Vietnam)..... Topeka #58	Knop, Welby (WWII).....Louisburg	Ross, Bernard (Korea)..... Topeka #400
Brown, Bernard (Korea)..... Dodge City	Kolle, Norman (Korea).....Clay Center	Schrock, Gene (Vietnam)..... Hutchinson
Brown, Dennis (Vietnam).....McPherson	Kramer, George (Vietnam).....Shawnee	Schuette, Clarence (WWII)..... Topeka #400
Brown, James (Vietnam)..... Dorrance	Krob, Frank (WWII)..... Cuba	Scott, David (Vietnam)..... Brownell
Brumback, James (Vietnam).... Baxter Springs	Lance, Lyle (Korea)..... Sedgwick	Silversmith, John (Vietnam)..... Topeka #400
Bueltel, John (Korea)..... Topeka #400	Landreth, Travis (Vietnam)..... Axtell	Sittingdown, Milton (Korea)..... Ellinwood
Burchett, Charles (Korea)..... Wathena	Larson, Merle.....Lindsborg	Smith, Gerald (WWII).....Beattie
Burger, Rex (WWII)..... Agra	Lauppe, David (Vietnam)..... Emporia	Snow, Charles (Korea).....Girard
Burkhart, Vernon (WWII)..... Yates Center	Laurin, Jerome.....Long Island	Souvannaraj, Keodavong (Vietnam).. Emporia
Carnes, Thomas (Korea)..... Topeka #58	Laurin, Jerome.....Long Island	Spaniol, Billy (Korea)..... Hutchinson
Chapman, Harold (Korea)..... Conway Springs	Lee, Bobby (Vietnam)..... Topeka #400	Speakman, James (Vietnam)..... Little River
Coble, Alton (WWII)..... Howard	Lewis, James (Korea)..... Topeka #400	Spencer, Alfred..... Oxford
Coleman, Donald (WWII)..... Wellsville	Lewis, Michael (Vietnam)..... Derby	Stallbaumer, Bryant (Persian Gulf)..... Seneca
Coomes, John (Korea).....Girard	Lietz, Arnold (Korea)..... Topeka #400	Stanton, Darrell (Korea)..... Logan
Corbet, Craig (Vietnam)..... Yates Center	Long, Elton (Korea)..... Cheney	Steffen, Leon (Korea)..... Burdett
Craven, Michael (Panama)..... Sterling	Lord, Wallace, Jr. (Vietnam).....Marysville	Straub, Albinus (Vietnam)..... Clay Center
Crowell, Rex (Vietnam)..... Howard	Lundgren, Paul (Vietnam)..... Atchison	Stuart, Raymond (Korea)..... Hutchinson
Curry, Harold (WWII)..... Overland Park	MacWilliams, Mark (Vietnam).....Mulvane	Stumpf, Walter (Korea)..... Axtell
David, Paul (Vietnam)..... Long Island	Malsom, Tony (WWII).....Great Bend	Sullivan, William (Vietnam)..... Girard
Davis, Charles (Vietnam)..... Topeka #400	Martinson, Chuck (Vietnam)..... Topeka #58	Swan, Billy (Korea)..... Baxter Springs
DeForest, G. F. (Korea)..... Topeka #400	Matthews, Thurlow (Korea)..... Topeka #400	Tate, Ron (Vietnam)..... Mulvane
Dobbins, Doyle (Korea)..... Sterling	Mavity, Jay (Vietnam)..... Cunningham	Taylor, Charles (Vietnam)..... Topeka #400
Dodge, Alan (Vietnam)..... Hutchinson	Mc Clintick, Patrick (Vietnam)..... Walnut	Taylor, James (Vietnam)..... Junction City
Downey, Charles (Vietnam).....Derby	McBee, Charles (Korea)..... Kansas City #188	Taylor, Larry..... Topeka #400
Drumback, James (Vietnam).... Baxter Springs	McCain, John (Korea)..... Lawrence	Tevis, Richard (Korea)..... Shawnee
Eaglin, John, Jr. (Korea)..... Derby	McCoy, Terry (Vietnam)..... Mulvane	Thompson, La Von (Korea)..... Hutchinson
Evans, Ralph..... Topeka #400	McIntruff, Gerald (Korea)..... Hutchinson	Trevolt, George (Vietnam).....Overland Park
Farthing, Jerry (Vietnam)..... El Dorado	McMullen, Vincent (Grenada/Lebanon).....	Tudor, William (WWII).....Overbrook
Fike, John (Korea)..... Velley Center	.....Mulvane	Turner, James.....Shawnee
Fisher, Ernest (Vietnam).....Overland Park	McMurray, James (Vietnam)..... Lawrence	Vandenber, Louis (WWII).....Overland Park
Fleury, Donald (Vietnam)..... Arma	McTeith, Marvin (Korea)..... Junction City	VanSteenburg, George (Vietnam)..... Mulvane
Gard, Scott (Vietnam)..... Sterling	Meinholdt, Frank (Korea)..... Wamego	Vickers, Bill (WWII)..... Hoxie
Gennett, Donald, II (Vietnam)..... Clay Center	Meyer, John (WWII)..... Hoisington	Vohs, Earl (WWII).....Louisburg
George, Eldon (Korea)..... Lebanon	Miller, Morris (Korea)..... Wathena	Wade, Joel (Vietnam)..... St. George
Gilpin, John (Vietnam).....Girard	Moon, Garold (Vietnam).....Clay Center	Waters, Harold (Korea)..... Hutchinson
Gordon, Ronnie (Vietnam).....Overland Park	Mrstick, Eugene (WWII)..... Jennings	Weaver, Eldon (WWII)..... Hutchinson
Gray, Clarence (Korea)..... Arkansas City	Muncie, Robert (Vietnam)..... Atchison	White, Dean (WWII)..... Tescott
Griffin, Lyle (WWII)..... Newton	Murphy, Don, Jr. (Vietnam)..... Russell	White, Keith (Vietnam).....Louisburg
Hampton, John (Vietnam)..... Osawatomic	Norris, Harold (WWII).....Girard	Wilson, Stephen (Vietnam)..... Salina
Haney, Dale (Vietnam)..... Madison	Orel, Schadel, Jr. (Vietnam)..... Burdett	Winkley, Ken (Korea)..... Hutchinson
Harder, Donald (Vietnam)..... Newton	Otte, Roger (Vietnam)..... Canton	Wittuhn, Yerlyn (WWII)..... Bazine
Harvey, Walter (Korea)..... Topeka #400	Overmiller, Louis (WWII)..... Smith Center	Wosner, Harold (Vietnam)..... Emporia
Healey Ernest (Vietnam)..... Junction City	Page, Frank (WWII)..... Frontenac	Woodruff, Glenn, Jr. (Grenada/Lebanon).....
Heideman, Anthony (Korea).....Corning	Parke, Curtis (Korea)..... WaKeeney	..... Meade
Heiserman, Dale, Jr. (Vietnam)... Topeka #400	Parker, Robert (Korea)..... El Dorado	Woolard, Charles (Korea)..... Wamego
Herrick, Frederick (Persian Gulf)..... Emporia	Paulson, John (Korea)..... Hutchinson	Wooster, Paul (Korea).....Great Bend
Hess, Glen (Korea)..... Topeka #400	Pence, Wayne (Vietnam)..... Topeka #1	Yarrow, Delmar (WWII).....Clay Center
Hesterman, Marvin (Korea)..... Atwood	Perkins, William (Vietnam)..... Hoisington	Yoakam, Tedgar (Korea)..... Arma
Hicks, May (Korea)..... Hoisington	Perry, Don (Korea)..... Lebo	York, Velven (Korea)..... Seneca
Hilton, Dale (Vietnam)..... Hutchinson	Peters, Richard (Korea)..... Lawrence	Young, William (Vietnam)..... Wichita #273

# BUCKLE UP, LIGHTS ON & LIVE

(Continued from Page 6) and headlights throughout the weekend. Observation of all traffic laws, take plenty of rest stops on long trips, watch out for other motorists and motorcyclists, and to drive safely are also stressed.

Complete information for this NO COST program has been mailed to every Post and is available from Department Headquarters. Legion Family members are asked to spend an hour or two at major intersections on May 28 to hand a brochure describing the reasons to

drive safely to each motorist as they stop for a signal light or stop sign. Some Posts choose to place the brochures in service stations, rest areas, convenience stores, and super markets, etc. All efforts are to be coordinated with local and area law enforcement officials.

A coupon for ordering a supply of brochures is located on page 7 for your convenience. All requests must be ordered by the Post Commander or Adjutant, Unit President or Secretary, or Squadron Commander or Adjutant.

# CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION DINNER

This year's Department Convention will feature a dinner as a means to raise funds for the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. The dinner will be held Saturday evening, May 15 from 6:30 until 8:00 pm in the Grand Ballroom of the Ramada Hotel and Convention Center, 420 S.E. 6th Street, Topeka.

Meal choice includes: Chicken Florentine with buttered fettuccine or Pork Roast with roasted potatoes. A tossed garden salad with choice of dressing, honey glazed carrots, rolls and butter, tiramisu, water, iced tea, or coffee service. Cost is \$35 per person and reservations must be received no later than Monday, May 3.

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 15 dinner please complete and return the coupon on this page to Department Headquarters, 1314 SW Topeka Blvd., Topeka, Kansas 66612. Reservations must arrive by May 3; or telephone your reservations to 785-232-9315. Payment is due no later than May 3 without exception.

## “BUCKLE UP, LIGHTS ON & LIVE”

Please send \_\_\_\_\_ fact sheets to:

Post/Unit/Squadron: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

### Mail to:

**Department Headquarters**

**1314 SW Topeka Blvd., Topeka, KS 66612**

## KANSAS SUNFLOWER LEGIONNAIRE

**Jimmie L. Foster, Editor**

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**News deadline is the 15th of March, June, September and December for the next issue.**

### THE AMERICAN LEGION

### VA HOSPITAL SERVICE OFFICERS

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Local: 785-350-4489, Toll Free: 800-574-8387 Ext. 54489

# CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION DINNER

**MAY 15, 2021**

**RAMADA, TOPEKA, KS**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Post/Unit/Squadron # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

Pork Roast \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Florentine \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is check in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_

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