

Sunflower Legionnaire

The American Legion -



Today's Voice for Today's Veterans & Military

VOL LXXV NO. 2

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

October, November, December 2021

YOUR NEW NATIONAL COMMANDER

Paul E. Dillard was elected national commander of The American Legion on Sept. 2, 2021, in Phoenix during the organization's 102nd national convention. His theme as national commander is "No Veteran Left Behind." He first joined The American Legion in 1969.

A native Texan, Dillard graduated from Whitesboro High School in 1965 before joining the U.S. Navy and serving in Vietnam through four campaigns including the Tet offensive. He later received an honorable discharge as a radarman second class petty officer from the Navy Reserve before attend-

ing Grayson County Junior College and East Texas State University.

Dillard worked several years in the manufacturing business as an engineer, plant manager and director of manufacturing in Tennessee. Upon returning to Texas, he accepted a sales representative position with Sherman Foundry and became its airplane pilot. A career change was made when he and his wife, Donna, began their family and he entered the insurance business specializing in employee benefits and later forming Dillard & Gann Insurance.

As a paid-up-for-life mem-

ber of American Legion Post 265 in Lake Kiowa, Texas, Dillard served as Post commander, vice commander, adjutant and judge advocate. He coached American Legion Baseball for more than 10 years and served as his Post's Boys State chairman.

Dillard served the 4th District as commander and vice commander and served the Department as sergeant-at-arms, Membership & Organization chairman, National Security chairman, Uniformed Organization chairman, Board of Trustees chairman, and he served on the Finance Committee and the Long-Range Planning Committee. He was elected as Department of Texas commander in 2007.

On the national level, Dillard has served as Alternate National Executive Committeeman, consultant to the Insurance Committee,

Distinguished Guest Committee, Children & Youth Committee, and Media and Communications Council. He has served as chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, chairman of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission and chairman of the Legislative Commission. He was elected as national vice commander in 2013.

Dillard married Donna in 1983. They have two sons, William and his wife Allison, and Jonathon and his wife Karri, and two grandsons Jarrett and Lukas. All are members of the American Legion Family. Donna has been an active and dedicated member of The American Legion Auxiliary for several years and has served in numerous positions of leadership at all levels of the organization, including department president in 2017-2018.

LEGION FAMILY SUPPORTS KANSAS MILITARY FAMILIES

The Tenth Annual Big Red '1' Turkey Run has been cancelled this year by Fort Riley.

In addition to the Turkey Run the Legion Family is working on making the WTB Christmas great as well, which is scheduled for December 11, 2021. Monetary donations may be sent to Department Headquarters for Operation Christmas.

Operation Christmas is for the families of the Warrior Transition Battalion. These families often find themselves transitioning out of the active military or may remain active.

This year, per information provided from Fort Riley there are 500 families that will need

assistance. Many members of the Warrior Transition Battalion have been severely injured.

Please make checks payable to: Kansas Department American Legion. In the memo area please put Operation Christmas.

Thank you for all that you do, past present and future for our Veterans and their families. For any information please contact Roger Beckley (Operation Christmas Committee Chairman) at csmoif@yahoo.com 785-212-0179 or Al Longstaff ALR Department Committeeman at northforty@lrmutual.com 620-897-6786 or 620-242-4978.



Paul E. Dillard, The American Legion National Commander

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Greetings Kansas American Legion!

I hope that everyone that attended National Convention this year found it to be fun and informative. I don't think I will ever again complain about how hot it is here in Kansas, 116 degrees was a little much for me and I'm so glad to be home. The American Legion has a new National Commander, Paul Dillard from Texas, and here in the Midwest Region our New National Vice-Commander is Angel Narvaez from Puerto Rico. The National Commander visited the eastern half of Kansas, Sept 19-22, thank you to all the Posts that hosted him. Vice-Commander Narvaez will be visiting the western half of Kansas on November 28 to December 1, we are looking for Posts to host him on his tour so if your Post is in Districts 5-9 please reach out to Department Headquarters and let them know you are willing to host. Volunteering now does not guarantee you will be on the schedule; you will be contacted when the dates are finalized to ensure you are still able to host. The sooner we have a good list of volunteer Posts the sooner we can get a schedule made and disseminated.

I really enjoyed participating in the Golf tournament this year, our team still came in last, but I feel I personally improved. Most importantly everyone had a good time, and the event was a success. Huge thank you to everyone that worked to make the tournament possible including but not limited to Lonny, Karon, Dan, Sonia, James, and Sheila.

The Annual Department Holiday Party is scheduled for December 4th at noon in Winfield. We are still finalizing details, a flyer and RSVP instructions will be released soon, it will be posted on the Department website (kansaslegion.org), the Department Facebook page, and mailed with the November Adjutants letter. As with any event we have had recently, please be courteous to others and stay home if you aren't feeling well or may have been exposed, we are not requiring masks but welcome you to wear one if you choose to do so.

The American Legion has clear missions, put simply we support the four pillars: Veteran's Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children and Youth. We have many programs that fall under these four pillars and we work in a variety of different ways to support and run these programs. To do this we sometimes show support for or against certain legislation, but never a party or individual. Due to our organization being non-partisan, you may find yourself working alongside someone that does not have the same political views as you and believe it or not it's okay to agree to disagree. If everyone saw things exactly the same we would never have innovation and having the right to have your own opinion is part of the American Dream. Don't be the person in your Post that runs off willing volunteers because you can't seem to keep your opinions to yourself. I've

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Despite the heat, we all had a great time at our National Convention in Phoenix Arizona.

Congratulations are in order to Districts and Posts that helped the Department of Kansas attain the first membership goal of 50% before the scheduled target date of September 22nd. With so many Posts and Districts achieving 100% last year, it makes this year our best chance to reach 100% membership as a Department. We can do it, but it takes everyone working those membership renewals, getting new members and transfers and getting them all included in your Post's events, activities and meetings. Remember as card carrying members, that puts us Legionnaires in the forefront of our organization. With that comes a voice and a vote. Also, with that card comes a responsibility to our individual Posts, to our members, and our veterans to make something good happen in The American Legion by getting involved.

One of National Commander Paul Dillard's priorities on membership is to engage our members. Whether they are current members, expired members, or potential members, we need to engage these individuals and show them the value of being a member of The American Legion. One of the ways that Commander Dillard has discussed in engaging members is to contact those 2020 members and offer them the ability to continue their continuous years on their membership. This offer is only

for those members who were last paid in 2020 and did not renew for 2021, they can continue their continuous years if they pay for 2022. With COVID affecting many aspects of daily life over the last year and half, this is an easy way to talk with those 2020 members and show them some good will.

Here is how it would work: Someone contacts a member who was last paid for 2020 (only ones eligible for this offer) and they had 5 years continuous membership at the time. If they were to pay for 2022 their continuous years would now be 6 years. If they would like to also have 2021 as well, the offer would be as normal and they would have to pay for the 2021 year. If they do not care or do not want to get back 2021, but pay for 2022, then the adjustment on the continuous years would have to be made at the Post by filling out a Member Data Form (MDF) to correct the years or the department can correct it within Personify.

As in the past, the Districts manned the booth at the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson. I Attended all 10 days and was able to volunteer with each District. A good number of Kansas Legion members stopped by to chat. We signed several new members during the 10 days which were either delivered directly to Posts or sent to Department for processing. In addition to this, many fair attendees stopped by to wish us well and tell stories about relatives or friends

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DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER

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New Gulf War Presumptive Disabilities For Gulf War Veterans:

The Department of Veterans Affairs will begin processing disability claims Aug. 2 for asthma, rhinitis, and sinusitis on a presumptive basis based on presumed particulate matter exposures during military service in Southwest Asia and certain other areas — if these conditions manifested within 10 years of a qualifying period of military service. VA conducted the first iteration of a newly formed internal VA process to review scientific evidence to support rulemaking, resulting in the recommendation to consider the creation of new presumptions of service connection for respiratory conditions based on VA's evaluation of a National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine report and other evidence. The process concluded that particulate matter pollution is associated with chronic asthma, rhinitis, and sinusitis for Veterans who served in the Southwest Asia theater of operations beginning Aug. 2, 1990, to the present, or Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Syria, or Djibouti beginning Sept. 19, 2001, to the present. VA's review also concluded that there was sufficient evidence to presume that these Veterans have been exposed to particulate matter. "I announced my intent to initiate rulemaking on May 27 to consider adding respiratory conditions to the list of chronic disabilities," said Denis

McDonough, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. "Through this process, I determined that the evidence provided was sufficient to establish presumptions of service connection for these three respiratory conditions. This is the right decision, and VA will continue to use a holistic approach in determining toxic exposure presumptively moving forward." The Southwest Asia theater of operations refers to Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the neutral zone between Iraq and Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, the Gulf of Aden, the Gulf of Oman, the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea and the airspace above these locations. VA will conduct outreach to impacted Veterans and survivors to inform them about their eligibility and will provide information on how to apply. Veterans and survivors who believe they may be eligible for the newly established presumptive conditions are encouraged to apply. They should file a VA Form 21-526EZ if applying for the first time or a VA Form 20-0995 if they are reapplying for these conditions. For more information on the new presumptive conditions, please contact your American Legion Service Representative at the Colmery-O'Neil VAMC Topeka, Kansas (785.350.4489), Dwight D. Eisenhower VAMC Leavenworth, Kansas (913.758.4297), or the Robert J. Dole VAMC Wichita, Kansas (316.688.6814).

ADJUTANT'S BRIEFS**By Department Adjutant Jimmie L. Foster**

Many of the District and Department Officers have already alluded to their travels to various Events around the Department and State of Kansas in their Articles.

Many Members of The American Legion Family attended the 102nd National Convention held in Phoenix, Arizona from 27 August to 2 September 2021. Many of the Elected Kansas Delegates were very busy attending various Commission or Committee Meetings to partake in items that were to be voted on in those Meetings and then reported from that Commission or Commission to the Delegates on the floor of the National Convention.

Also, the Leading Candidate for National Commander Paul Dillard from Texas and the Second Leading Candidate Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola from New York each sent Representatives to the Kansas Caucus. Both, Paul, and Jim's Representatives, spoke to the Kansas Delegates and passed out brochures, pins, and pens to those in attendance and encouraged Our Members to support their Candidates for National Commander of The American Legion.

The Convention is not always business oriented, there is some free time to enjoy the host City and their venues. The Department of Kansas had a superb Mexican dinner at Tony F. Soza – Ray Martinez American Legion Post # 41 prepared by Marine Corps League Ira B. Hayes Detachment # 2. It was a relaxing evening, complete with Disc Jockey Jose' Cortez playing a variety of songs, and with those visiting, making new friendships, and keeping some old ones going.

For those that stayed around until Thursday afternoon witnessed the National Commander take the Oath of Office on the Stage. Paul E. Dillard from Lake Kiowa, Texas swore into his position as National Commander of The American Legion.

Paul and his Aide, Walter

Ivie, have already toured the Eastern Side of the State of Kansas from 19 to 23 September 2021. National Commander Paul visited twelve Posts while here in Kansas. A great turnout showed up at each location. There was food galore at each stop and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. I know that National Commander Dillard and his Aide commented that they would be back if given the opportunity to return!

Next year's 103rd National Convention will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin from 26 August to 1 September 2022. I know the City of Milwaukee and the Department of Wisconsin promises to roll out the red carpet for this event. PLEASE start planning now to attend.

Our Regional National Vice Commander is Angel O. Narvaez from the Department of Puerto Rico. Angel will be visiting the Department from Sunday afternoon, 28 November and depart on Thursday morning, 2 December 2021. We will again get the information to the District Commanders to deliver to each Post within their District. Narvaez will be visiting the Western Side of the State of Kansas, basically I-35 and West.

There will be Breakfast, Coffee Stops, Lunch and Dinner Stops. If you are interested and you have NOT already called in or e-mailed that your Post would like to host an Event, PLEASE do so NOW!

The newly elected National President of the American Legion Auxiliary is Kathy Daudistel from the Department of Kentucky and the newly elected Sons of The American Legion Commander is Michael Fox from the Detachment of California.

The 2021 Big Red One Turkey Run has been Cancelled. Operation North Pole is still scheduled to be held on 11 December 2021. In the event it too gets cancelled we will post it on the Kansas American Legion Website. These two events would normally ensure that the

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Greetings 1st District!

I am sure that all the Posts are working hard to get their renewals for this next year. We need to keep the momentum going, hit our quotas, and keep going! And don't forget to keep working on getting those new members. Just think of where we could be if each of us brought in just one new member!

We will be having a District meeting on October 23rd at Perry Post #142 beginning at 10:00 am. We will have a social hour at 11:30 am followed by the District Homecoming at 12:30 pm. Each Post has been mailed a copy of the Homecoming flyer and there is also a copy on the District Facebook page. If you haven't had a chance yet, please visit our Facebook page, 1st District American Legion Department of Kansas. If you want to see upcoming events happening in the District or if you want to list an upcoming event, this is a very good resource. Once again, thank you for all your hard work 1st District and please have a safe and happy holiday season!

Dan Wentling
Commander

**SECOND DISTRICT
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Hope everyone has had a great summer. Wish I would have had more time to visit more Posts I got sick and then

my wife became ill and I am dealing with that now. From what I can see our membership is doing well keep up the good work and if there is anything any of your District officers can do to help please let us know. A couple dates to remember October 9th district homecoming hope to see you all there, and November 6th membership drive both events are at Miami Post 156 on the 9th there will be social hour beginning at 11am and lunch at noon, for the membership rally there will be an EC meeting at 1030am with lunch being served at noon. Again, thanks for all your support and hope to see you all soon.

George Honn
2nd District Commander

**THIRD DISTRICT
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Greetings Third District:

First and foremost, I would like to think the membership for entrusting me as your District Commander for another year. With all the same officers in place as last year we hope to hit the ground running and make this year one of the best. All your officers are here to help you. Please contact any officers with your concerns or if you need assistance with anything at all.

This year the Third District had the honor of opening the State Fair. I must say opening day is much different than the other days. We were able to overcome some opening set backs but it was a good experience for all the helpers.

It was an honor having the New National Commander visit the East side of Kansas this year. The Third District Posts he was able to visit did an outstanding job of making him feel welcome, Thank You for the job you all did.

As always remember membership is the lifeblood of our

great organization. The Third District was over 100% of the goal last year. Let's work hard and do it again. Do your "Buddy Checks" and make sure you ask a veteran to join our great organization.

If you are able please attend the Third District Homecoming on October 31st at the Chanute Post so you can meet your Legion Family Officers. I hope all members are able to attend a Veterans Day ceremony as there are many scheduled in our District. All the Officers wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas and New Year.

God bless America and all Veterans!

**FOURTH DISTRICT
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Greetings Fourth District. Summer is about over, and membership is heating up. Membership is of upmost importance. Use this time to call your members and do a "Buddy Check" and while talking to them encourage their renewal. Posts should be making it easier by doing the membership online. I know that we haven't been receiving any membership reports from Department since June 30th because of the changes to mylegion.org, but that should all be changing soon. Upcoming events include the District Homecoming which will be at Post 17 in Manhattan, Kansas on October 23rd starting at noon. Come out and meet not only myself but District President Kay Busby and S.A.L. Commander Randy Porter. If your Post is having an event and you would like it to put out District wide let us know we will spread the word and we can even post your event on the 4th District Facebook page. Our District Officers

will be getting out to visit each of our Posts as much as possible to assist you in any way possible. They will also call the Posts if they cannot get out and visit you.

"Moving Forward."
Matthew Burany

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No article submitted.

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Hello 6th District,

Monday September 13 was the District day at the Kansas State Fair booth. We did have help from Department Commander Krupco, Vice-Commander Jeremy Ehart, myself and Jason Sunderland of Ellsworth Post #174. Thank you for all the help that day.

30 October, 2021 will be District Fall Conference will take place at Ellsworth Post 174.

Conference will begin at 0900. Prior at 0800 will be Executive Committee meeting with the Legion and S.A.L.

Lunch will begin at 11:30. Our guest speaker will be Rep. Troy Waymaster 109th District, Kansas House Representative.

30 April, 2022 will be District Convention. Convention will be held at Salina Post # 62.

**SEVENTH DISTRICT
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Greetings 7th District, I want to start by thanking everyone who helped at the Kansas State Fair this year all of our shifts were covered. 2022 membership is now due if you need help please reach out to myself or Vice Commander Evans or any one on our membership team so lets get out and meet our members and families and get them involved in our Post activities. Also, the commanders home coming will be held in Larned at the community center on Oct. 30, 12 pm lunch will be served.

Also anyone who would be interested in being on the 7th District Honor Guard can contact Mike Jury or Angela Evans and we will get you the info you need.

Again I want to thank everyone for their hard work and lets set our goal to reach a 100% two years in a row, I believe we can do this because our team and our Legion Family want to keep The Legion alive so again, Thank you.

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Department Commander Marri Krupco often advises Kansas Legionnaires to try innovative ways of conducting American Legion activities. "Think outside the box," she often says. Following Commander Marri's advice, District 8 does many things in traditional ways but pursues oth-

er goals in innovative ways.

District 8 Legion Family members continued traditional family activities and traditional American Legion activities. They attended church and social functions. They attended American Legion meetings, struggled to find ways to pay both their family and American Legion bills. Several District 8 Chapters of American Legion Riders participated in patriotic events. The District 8 Honor Guard and individual Post honor guards participated in veteran funerals. District 8 Legion family members staffed the American Legion booth at the Kansas State Fair.

More nontraditional activities included Legionnaires from the Dodge City Veterans Council obtaining a grant from the Kansas Creative Arts Industries Commission to showcase veteran artists. They held a show at Carnegie Arts Center in Dodge City. Legion family members expanded the Veterans Art Initiative at Ft. Dodge. Several Posts applied for grants to fund their patriotic activities.

District 8 Legionnaires remembered the 9.11 terrorist attack in nontraditional ways. There was a tree planting ceremony at Dodge City Fire Department Station 1. The first tree was planted at 7:45 a.m. in memory of those who died when the first plane crashed into the World Trade Center. Three additional trees were planted at 8:03, 8:45, and 9:10 to coincide with the other plane crashes.

Dodge City Veterans Council – The Avenue of Flags organized the raising and lower of 486 flags at Maple Grove Cemetery. There was also a memorial service held at Liberty Garden in Dodge City. The service honored those who lost their lives from the 9.11 terrorist attack. Many area veterans, non-veteran patriots, and organizations participated in the service.

The featured speaker was John Tignor, a New York City firefighter on 9.11. He spoke of his personal experiences dealing with the tragedy. Tignor personally obtained and transported the very rare piece of the Trade Center steel to Dodge City for display at Liberty Garden on the east side of Hoover Pavilion.

Yes, Commander Marri, you can always depend on District 8 leading the way for traditional and nontraditional American Legion activities.

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I would like to thank all of the people of the 10th District for manning the booth at the State Fair in Hutchinson. Since we are a new District made up from part of the 1st District, we are starting new on everything. We held our first meeting in June at Axtell, KS and it was well attended. Our second meeting was in Marysville, KS on September 12th. We had the honor of welcoming the National Commander with a luncheon in Marysville, KS on September 22 with a good turnout. I wish to thank the Marysville Post and Ladies Aux. for a wonderful lunch. We will have our District Commander's homecoming and Christmas party on November 20th in Sabetha, KS. I will be sending an e-mail as soon as I know all of the details. Several Commanders and Adjutants do not have current e-mail addresses or phone numbers. My e-mail address is catfish1952@hotmail.com and my phone number is 785-396-4531. I would appreciate if you would call me or e-mail me with an update. Many Commanders and Adjutants are using their wife's e-mail which is fine. WE hope to do great things in the 10th District and I look forward to meeting all of Legion members of the 10th.

**DEPARTMENT
CHAPLAIN**



**Debra
Muylaert**

Greetings in the name of our awesome God!

Most of you don't know me, so I want to take this opportunity as your new Department Chaplain to introduce myself. Some of you who know me may even learn a few things about me you didn't know before.

I was born and raised in Dodge City, but I'm currently living in New Mexico doing missionary work for the Navajo people. I've spent 2 years in New Mexico so far working with the Navajo Brethren In Christ Mission and will be back in Dodge City next year after completion of my third year.

I earned my eligibility in the American Legion through 20 years of service, retiring from the Army in 2002 as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Military Police Corps Regiment. I have been a Legion member for 29 years, serving as a Post chaplain, a Post historian, a district chaplain, and a district historian. I'm currently serving as a chaplain for Post 47 in Dodge City, and I'm also the chaplain for the Eighth District of Kansas. I've held both positions for about 8-9 years.

Many people wonder how I ended up as an ordained minister and a Legion chaplain after spending 20 years as a Military Police officer. Simply put, I traded in my trusty Beretta M9 for the even trustier Word of God. I felt God calling me to retire, attend seminary, and go into ministry. So after retiring from the Army, I attended seminary at Regent University, Virginia Beach, Virginia, earning a Master of Divinity in Practical Theology. Several months after graduating, I was ordained with Harvest Network International, "an intentional church movement" whose leadership

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DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

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said it before and I'll say it again, if what you are getting ready to say, share, or type is not going to benefit those hearing or reading it then you are just stirring the pot, and that is counter-productive to the missions of the American Legion. We live in a time where there is a lot of division in our country, as members of the American Legion Family we have an obligation as stated in the preamble to promote peace and goodwill on earth, we do that by keeping our eyes on the mission and not on our differences.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Vice-Commanders/Vice-Presidents Homecoming in Abilene on October 16th and I'm holding out hope that even though the Big Red 1 Turkey Run was cancelled we will still get to have Operation North Pole. Unfortunately, we sometimes are at the mercy of the venue for our events and don't have the final say if they will happen or not. All we can do is keep trying!

For God & Country

DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER

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that served our country. The exposure that our presence produces is quite valuable in promoting our mission to the public. I, along with many other local residents have stopped by this booth and visited with The American Legion volunteers manning it for several years. This is a tradition now that many of us look forward to every year.

This year's membership contest has been released and was attached to last month's eNewsletter and is posted on the kansaslegion.org website. For more information, look at the information in those two places or call me anytime.

And finally remember, if your Post has any events or activities scheduled, please let me know, my contact information is below and I would love to attend them. Also, don't hesitate to call or email anytime you have questions, comments, or concerns. Thank you all for all you do!

Semper Fi!

Jeremy Ehart



AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Annette Scheaffer

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Hello, Kansas Legionnaires! The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Kansas has had an amazing year so far! In July, two workshops were held regarding Unit Management and Membership in Emporia, Kansas. More than 20 members attended these workshops. For three members, they were first time attendees of any Department conference or meeting.

The month of August brings us to great times of fellowship and celebration with the Department Commander, President, and Detachment Commander's Homecoming on the 14th. It was inspiring to see the American Legion Family come together and celebrate the upcoming year! Thank you to all American Legion Family members who attended.

National Convention was held in Phoenix, Arizona, from August 28 to September 1, 2021. The Auxiliary celebrated its 100th year with streamers, balloons, and music. It was absolutely amazing to be seated seven rows back, directly in front of the main stage! On the big stage, Kansas was well represented. A picture featuring the Department's Little Miss Poppy at the parade in Dodge City was in the National Poppy Chairperson's Report. A picture of the Department's Little Miss Poppy reading the Department of Kansas Constitution & Bylaws at the 2021 Department Convention were included in the Constitution & Bylaw Chairperson's Report. Pictures of Unit Yellow Brick Road posters from Andover Unit 406, Canton Unit 192, Clay Center Unit 101, and Lebo Unit 323 were included in the National Historian's Report. Last, but certainly not least, Kansas had four ladies on the National stage: Kelly Circle, American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters Executive

Director; Jeanne Haas, National Community Service Chairperson; Doris Hammeke, President of the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Foundation; and Trish Ward, National Constitution & Bylaws Chairperson. Congratulations to those who were represented on the stage at National Convention! Even though it was very hot, I believe everyone had a good time and learned much from the experience.

September 18, 2021, the 2021 Department Fall Conference was held in Perry, Kansas, with 57 members in attendance—10 of which were first time attendees to a Department conference. Thanks to the Auxiliary members pulling together and participating, the Fall Conference was a great success! General photos, comments about this conference, and special moments have been posted to the Department's Facebook Page: American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Kansas.

On September 19, 2021, I had the opportunity to discuss veteran affairs issues with The American Legion National Commander, Paul Dillard. While listening to National Commander Dillard speak, I realized that there were a few aspects of our own National President's Project information that fit with his message. After our National President gave us information about caregiver resources, information was given about volunteers being needed for two projects at veteran affairs facilities. These projects are: VA Volunteer Transport Network (www.volunteer.va.gov/VolTransNetwork.asp) and VA Compassionate Contact Corps (<https://blog.va.gov/Vantage/81831/vas-compassionate-contact-corps/>). National Commander Dillard and I fur-

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DETACHMENT COMMANDER

James Snyder

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Greetings American Legion Family,

Some of us was able to attend the National Convention and enjoyed seeing old friends and making new ones. Membership is underway and we have a long way to go. If you are needing help with recruiting new ones or retaining others please reach out to your District Officers or your Detachment Officers. We are here for you. There

are a lot of events coming up this fall with Homecomings and Holiday parties. I will try to attend your events if you send out an invite. It's not too early to start thinking about Midwinter. This is a good time to see what we are doing and pick up on some training. Just remember we are here for the Legion. So in closing, keep getting those memberships turned in and I'll see you on the road.

STATE FAIR FLAG SET GIVEAWAY

This year marks 35 years of The American Legion's participation at the State Fair in Hutchinson. By registering at Legion booth, fair participants had a chance to win one of ten US Flag sets.

Congratulations to the following winners. Fly Old Glory with pride!

- Nathan BahrGrenola
- Ray Burns..... Riley
- Veronica Guerra Wichita
- Sara Martinz..... Ellinwood
- Richard McLeonDighton
- Hugh NicholsonGoddard
- Norbert Riley Wichita
- Duskin Siruta Colby
- Mary Spencer..... Hutchinson
- Phyllis VonAchen..... Wichita



CHILDREN & YOUTH

Pat Culver
childrenandyouth1@kansaslegio.org

The American Legion has long recognized the family as the foundation of this nation. A guiding principle of The American Legion's Children & Youth programs continues to be maintaining the integrity of the family. Since 1972, every U.S. president has declared the week of Thanksgiving as National Family Week. All members of The American Legion Family are encouraged to initiate and engage in local activities during National Family Week that promote, encourage, and celebrate healthy families and communities.

GET INVOLVED and make a difference in an effort to promote National Family Week, Posts, units, and squadrons are encouraged to initiate and participate in activities that promote family strength and integrity. The possibilities are endless.

ADVOCATE for a family strengthening initiative Work with officials at all levels of government to advance a position beneficial to all children and families. And urge local and state government to observe and engage in National Family Week.

PLAN a connection-building event Encourage open dialogue about important community issues during a family summit or commu-

nity meeting. Hold a military family appreciation event to encourage and offer support for military families.

ORGANIZE community-wide efforts in partnership with the local government and other community partners, help organize a family festival that includes fun and safe activities and entertainment for the whole family. Or get involved in established local National Family Week activities.

COORDINATE volunteer projects Work with state and local groups to improve communities through family projects. Invite families to volunteer with community projects.


"National Family Week is a time to be thankful for the family as a national heritage and resource. It is a time to recommit ourselves to the concept of the family – a concept that must withstand the trends of lifestyle and legislation. Let us pledge that our institutions and policies will be shaped to enhance an environment in which families can strengthen their ties and best exercise their beliefs, authority, and resourcefulness. And let us make our pledge mindful that we do so not only on behalf of the individual family members, but for AMERICA."

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

(Continued from Page 5)

also provides licensing and ordination for qualified clergy. I then moved back to Dodge City after a 28-year absence to start a Christian non-denominational house church called Kingdom Harvest. I will resume my duties as the pastor of Kingdom Harvest when I return to Dodge next year.

My desire is not just to be A chaplain but to be YOUR chaplain. Please don't hesitate to call on me for prayer or spiritual guidance. I can be reached at departmentchaplain@kansaslegion.org, or by cell phone at (620) 430-6892. May God bless you and may God bless the American Legion! See you at Mid-Winter Forum!



DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN
Dan Stacy

The American Legion has a long history of supporting our veterans. We can't let our guard down now. We must do all we can to help all our fellow veterans and build upon our history. I have read articles new and old about the demise of The American Legion. I do not believe we will ever diminish as long as we have people that believe in our 4 pillars. I also want to reach out to all our Posts to contact me regarding our department history books. We need more than the one book turned in this past year at Convention. I will ask all our Posts to do all they can to support their Historian. I know we all have stories about our Posts and communities. The State Fair was a success. The American Legion was well represented at our booth. Thank you and may you all be blessed. You may reach out to me if you need any assistance.

ADJUTANT'S BRIEFS

(Continued from Page 3)

Dependents of Our Active-Duty Military has a complete Turkey Dinner for Thanksgiving, and then have a toy or two under their Christmas tree for a memorable Christmas.

The Department Christmas Party is scheduled to be held at Winfield Post # 10 on 4 December 2021. More details to follow!

The Department Legislative Reception will be held tentatively on 12 January 2022 at 5:00 P.M., before the Mid-Winter Conference, again this year. It was in agreement with the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate last year that it should be earlier in the year to get the Legislators engaged on Our items that need to be discussed and supported for Veterans and their Families. We saw the most attendance last year from Our Legislators show up and attend the reception and interact with the Members of The American Legion Family.

Since I brought the Mid-Winter Forum, it is not too early to start planning on attending the 2022 Mid-Winter Forum, which will be held at Salina Post # 62 from 28 to 30 January 2022.

Until next time, continue to support the Greatest Veterans and their Families, in the Greatest Veterans Organization in the Free World, the American Legion (in my opinion).

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

(Continued from Page 6)

ther discussed upcoming legislation that will aid in suicide prevention, among other health related issues for our nation's veterans. These are all worthy endeavors to support!

Thank you to The American Legion, Sons of the American Legion, and the American Legion Riders for all that you accomplish on behalf of the military, veterans, and their families! We are all in this together!

+ TAPS +

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Abbott, George (WWII) Baxter Springs Abrahams, Charles (Korea) ... Hillsboro Addleman, G. R. (Vietnam) Oberlin Allen, Jerry (Korea) Bucklin Allerheiligen, Walter (Korea)..... Marysville Arwine, Joseph (Vietnam) Garden City Ashley, John (Korea) Overland Park Baima, Louie (WWII)..... Arma Barnes, Walter, Jr. (WWII)..... Alma Bartlett, William (Vietnam) Hutchinson Beard, Edward (Korea) Mulvane Becker, Joseph (Lebanon/Grenada) Everest Bennett, Carl (WWII) Pittsburg Bernritter, Jack (Korea)..... Havensville Beye, Melvin (Gulf War) Coffeyville Bloxom, Gene (Korea)..... Emporia Bowers, Michael (GWOT).. McPherson Bradshaw, Walt (Vietnam) Topeka #400 Buffum, Robert (Korea) Overbrook Bunyan, Greg (Vietnam)..... Meade Butts, Wayne (Vietnam)..... Russell Cahoone, James (Korea) Council Grove Campbell, Roland (WWII)..... Arma Cannon, Benjamin (Vietnam) .Pittsburg Caudle, Dennis (Vietnam)..... Lansing Cerny, Ronald (Vietnam) Coffeyville Coatney, Jon Augusta Commons, Bob (WWII)..... Emporia Conine, Ed (Vietnam) Dighton Cottle, Charles (WWII)..... Hutchinson Crumb, Carol (WWII)..... Powhattan Cully, Bob (Korea)..... Chanute Dauber, Norman (Korea) Sterling Depenbusch, Francis (Vietnam)..... Hutchinson Depoy, Joseph (Vietnam) Glen Elder Devers, Lawrence (Vietnam) ..Pittsburg Dittman, Gerald (Vietnam) ...Herington Doherty, Edward (WWII) ...Hutchinson Downer, Richard (Vietnam)..... Garden City Dyer, Lollins (WWII) Shawnee Earp, Kenneth (WWII)..... Horton Fairbairn, Leighton (Vietnam) Garden City Fankhouser, Loy (Korea) El Dorado Fonseca, Ezequiel (Vietnam) ..Shawnee Foster, Morris (Vietnam)..... Grainfield Frazazee, John (Korea) Louisburg Frieden, Joe (WWII) Kiowa Gordon, Robert (Vietnam) Alta Vista Gray, James (Vietnam)..... Allen Gregoire, Maurice (Vietnam).... Lyndon Grieve, Clinton (Korea) Osborne | Griffin, James Colby Groh, Harry (Vietnam)..... Emporia Grossman, Harold (Vietnam) Hutchinson Haig, Douglas (Korea) Emporia Hamilton, William (Korea) Arma Hansen, Corrine (WWII) Greenleaf Hayden, R. W. (WWII) Andover Hayes, Tommy Chanute Heier, Phil (Korea)..... Grainfield Heling, Ferril (WWII)..... McPherson Henry, Thomas (Vietnam).... Topeka #1 Herren, Richard (Gulf War) Alma Hess, Darrell (Vietnam) Gridley Hirsch, Robert (Vietnam)..... Powhattan Hirschmiller, Rick (Vietnam)... Garfield Hogan, Thomas (Vietnam)..... Overland Park House, Robert (Korea) McCracken Huerter, James (WWII)..... Seneca Hull, Hillman (WWII) Troy Hunter, James..... Overland Park Hunter, Ralph (Vietnam)..... Augusta Jackson, Cecil (Korea) Erie Jestmore, Louis (WWII) Overland Park Joyce, Larry (Vietnam) Everest Kendall, Steven (Vietnam)Topeka #421 Kennemer, Bob (Korea) Dighton Knoop, Richard (Vietnam).... El Dorado Kreutzer, Keith (Vietnam)..... Shawnee Lanzrath, Charles (Vietnam)... Newton Latimer, Marvin (WWII) Augusta Lemke, Ronald (Vietnam)..... Augusta Long, Steve (Vietnam) Wichita #424 Loveless, Larry (Vietnam) Sterling Luft, Tom (Panama) Bucklin Maneth, Francis (Korea) LaCrosse Martin, Elden (Korea)..... Frankfort Mayerle, Ronald (Vietnam) Overland Park McGinn, Emmett (Vietnam) .. LaCrosse Melvin, Quinn (Korea)..... Shawnee Meyer, John (Vietnam)..... Louisburg Miller, Alfred (Vietnam) Burdick Miller, Billie (Vietnam)..... Sterling Miller, Charles (Korea)..... Oskaloosa Miller, Craig (Vietnam)..... Dodge City Miller, Douglas (Vietnam) .. Coffeyville Miller, John (Korea)..... Shawnee Miller, Lyman (Vietnam) Shawnee Miller, Roch (Vietnam) Ellinwood Minson, Terry, Sr. (Vietnam)..... Canton Moomaw, Max (Korea)..... Dighton Moon, Clifford (WWII) Dodge City Morehead, Gene (Vietnam)..... Alma Neary, William, Jr. (Vietnam)Frontenac | Neill, Everett (Vitenam)..... Topeka #58 Nelson, Arthur McPherson Novak, Charles (Vietnam) Grainfield Obermeier, Fred (Vietnam) ...Louisburg Perkins, Dale (Vietnam)..... Newton Peterson, Ralph (Vietnam)..... Atchison Phillips, Edgar (Vietnam)..... Louisburg Ray, Robin (Vietnam) Mulvane Reese, Jerry Copeland Richardson, James (Vietnam) Marysville Rickards, Harold, Jr. (Vietnam) .. Derby Roberson, Donald (Vietnam) Arma Roesch, Curtis (Vietnam)..... Grainfield Schlehuber, Charles (Vietnam) Hillsboro Schmitz, Norbert (Korea)..... Axtell Schmitz, Raymond (Korea) Axtell Schmitz, Robert (Vietnam) Mulvane Sears, Harold (WWII)..... Topeka #421 Sheets, Dale (Korea) Horton Sheriff, Donald (WWII) Lawrence Sisk, Lemoyne (WWII)..... Frankfort Smith, Albert (Korea)..... Shawnee Smith, Don (Vietnam) Garden City Snodell, John (Korea) Overland Park Snyder, William (WWII)..... Emporia Strecker, Orval (WWII) Russell Super, Robert (Vietnam) Shawnee Swendson, Gary (Vietnam) Horton Taylor (Korea)..... Liberal Thompson, Leslie (WWII).. Wellington Torres, Angel (WWII) Peabody Torres, Angel (WWII) Peabody Turner, Jack (Korea) Louisburg Tuschhoff, Ray (Korea).. Overland Park Varner, Robert (Korea)..... Oskaloosa Votaw, Merlyn (Vietnam)..... Baxter Springs Waggoner, Ted (Korea) Belle Plaine Wainwright, George (Vietnam)..... Hillsboro Walquist, Wayne (Vietnam) Lyndon Walton, Walter (Vietnam) Valley Center Wellington, Thomas (Vietnam)..... Nicodemus Wienck, Donald Hanover Wilderman, Lawrence (Vietnam)..... Pittsburg Williams, Harold (Korea) Shawnee Wiltfong, Eugene (WWII) Norton Wittman, Wilbert, Jr. (Vietnam). Bazine Woodruff, Frank (Korea)..... Peabody Worley, Howard (Korea)..... El Dorado Young, Donald (Korea)..... Colby Zook, Allen (Vietnam) Pittsburg |
|---|---|---|

VICE COMMANDER'S HOMECOMING

HONORING:

Jeremy Ehart - Department Vice Commander
Marcia Cottrell - Department Auxiliary Vice President
Jim Gallentine - S.A.L Detachment Vice Commander

Saturday, October 16, 2021

Greyhound Hall of Fame

407 South Buckeye, Abilene

Meal provided by Snuffy's Barbeque will be served immediately following the Eisenhower Pilgrimage.

\$15.00 per person

Name _____

Number of Meals : Meatloaf ____ Roast ____

Guest Names _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____ Post/Unit/Squadron _____

Mail to:
Jeremy Ehart
10601 W. Snokomo Rd.
Hutchinson, KS 67502

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

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

LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION

The legislative reception will be held at the Capital Plaza Hotel, 1717 SW Topeka Ave. in Topeka scheduled for Wednesday January 12. The reception will begin with a briefing at 5pm and followed by the reception until 8pm.

Cost of attending the reception is \$25.00 per person and includes cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. Please use the coupon below to let Headquarters and the hotel know how many to prepare for.

Legislative Reception

Yes, I plan to attend The American Legion Legislative Reception, Jan. 12, 2022 in Topeka. Enclosed is \$_____ (\$25 per person). Note: please list the name of each attendee.

No, I am unable to attend. Enclosed is my donation of \$_____ to help make this American Legion function a success.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

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

DEPARTMENT CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday, December 4, 2021
Winfield Post 10
115 W 10th Ave, Winfield

Social Hour - Noon

Lunch - 1:00 PM

Name _____

Number in party @ \$15.00 each _____

Children 10 and under \$8.00 each _____

Guest Names _____

Tickets may also be purchased directly from Winfield Post 10

Amount Enclosed _____ made payable to:

Mail to:
Marri Krupco
510 E Main
Blue Mound, KS 66010