

Sunflower Legionnaire

The American Legion -



Today's Voice for Today's Veterans & Military

VOL LXXV NO. 4

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

April, May, June 2022

ORATORICAL CONTEST WINNERS

The State Oratorical Contest sponsored by the Kansas American Legion was held on Saturday, March 12 at Pearce-Keller Post #17 in Manhattan. The five 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 the Eighth Amendment 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 2022 State Champion is Owen Miller from Pittsburg representing Third District. Owen will repre-



Oratorical First Place, Owen Miller.

sent Kansas during the National contest in Indianapolis April 22-24. He will receive a \$750 scholarship from Kansas Department, plus additional scholarship money from National depending on his performance in the National Contest.

The second place award of a \$500 scholarship went to Ben Rodgers from Gardner, representing Second District. The third place finisher was Jonathan Knapp from Seneca, representing Tenth District. He will receive a \$250 scholarship. The fourth place award of a \$150 scholarship went to Jack O'Malley from Wichita, representing Fifth District. The fifth place award of \$100 scholarship went to Marshall Gibson from Topeka, representing First District (this award was made possible by a personal donation by a member of the Kansas American Legion).

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

Department Convention Topeka June 3-5

The Ramada Hotel & Convention Center, in Topeka will serve as the site of the 103rd 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 Leading Candidate Vincent James "Jim" Troiola from New York and Auxiliary Divisional National Vice President Denise Delaney-Wroten from Indiana, several of this year's Youth Cham-

pions, 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 2022-2023 Legionnaires are encouraged to attend the Convention as a delegate, alternate, or guest. Post Adjutants will be mailed pre-registration materials on May 1 (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.



Oratorical Contestants from left to right: Ben Rodgers, Marshall Gibson, Jonathan Knapp, Jack O'Malley.

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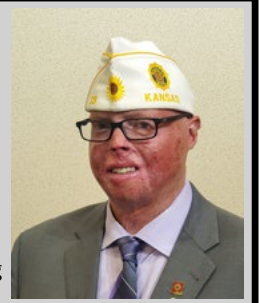
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Greetings Kansas American Legion family!

District Convention season is officially here! I'm looking forward to seeing everyone and talking with the new leadership about their plans for the next year. This is also the time of year that reports are due to District, Department and National, these reports are essential to our organization. Each year every Post is required to submit five reports: the Notification of Post/Squadron Commanders & Adjutants (to Department by June 1), the Service Officer Report (to Department by March 1, if your Post has a service officer), 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). If these reports aren't turned in on time our databases will not have the current leadership on file thus preventing Post leadership access to the membership database and other membership tools, it could also result in renewal notices being sent out with incorrect dues amounts or an incorrect address. Turning these reports in late or not at all will cause inaccurate numbers to be reported to Congress when leadership and staff are lobbying for the items on our legislative agenda. The legislators in our State Capital and Washington DC need to know how much of an impact our organization makes in our communities, state, and nation.

There are many reasons why membership in the American Legion family is important, but I want to briefly talk about one of the most important reasons in my opinion. When our

National Commander, National Staff, or other leaders are testifying in front of Congress every membership we have makes their voices that much louder, that same concept applies at the state level as well. When it comes to legislation that affects veterans in this country, legislators seek our opinion on the matter, that's right, we don't always go to them, frequently they come to us. You can go to legion.org/legislative/agenda to find the current issues that our National leadership is lobbying for with Congress. The American Legion plays such an important role in the passing of veteran's legislation that I have heard and feel comfortable repeating, that if we don't support a veteran's bill, it won't get passed. Even though our National Officers and staff do a phenomenal job in DC, they can always use our support here at home as well. Please do your part by keeping your membership current, be a dual member if you are eligible, and talk to other veterans and their families about membership in the American Legion Family, let's make those voices in DC so loud that legislators can't do anything but listen. You can also visit votervoicenet.com/AmericanLegion/home and contact your representatives directly about the issues our organization is fighting for. Many useful tools can be found at legion.org/legislative to assist you in understanding more about this critical part of the American Legion's mission.

This is most likely my last article for the Sunflower Legionnaire, I want to say Thank You from the bottom of my heart for the privilege of serving as your Department Com-

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Where has the year gone? It's hard to believe that this is the last Sunflower issue before Department Convention and the year is almost over.

As we do finish this membership year let us all remember a few key points. First, membership is Everyone's responsibility! Each one of us know at least one friend, coworker, or a golf buddy that is not a member of The American Legion. The question is why? Why have you not asked that person who is eligible, often times the only reason they haven't joined is because they have never been asked. So let's be sure and ask, show pride in our great organization. Second, it's vital that when a new member does join our ranks, we make them feel appreciated and most importantly wanted and welcome. With good communication and camaraderie, we can ensure that our members, both new, and those with many years want to retain their memberships in The American Legion year after year. Ask 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 organization, and they will want to stay involved with our programs and activities. Good communication at Post level can improve all aspects of the Post including interest in events, attendance, and all other proceedings.

In an effort to continue

improving communication on a statewide level, this would be a great opportunity to remind everyone about our new website kansaslegion.org, a great looking and easy to navigate website. Also we do have several Facebook sites that can be accessed for more information on Department news and Department wide functions, meals, events, and activities. Search "Department of Kansas American Legion" on Facebook to find us. We were fortunate to Live Stream our mid-winter forum sessions this year from Salina so anticipate more of the same in the coming year.

It has been my honor to serve as your Department Vice Commander for the last two years across this great State of Kansas. My wife, Kristy, and I have enjoyed meeting and getting to know so many of you throughout the state. I have enjoyed and appreciate your kindness and hospitality you have shown the two of us. 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!



Flag Day
June 14
2022

JEREMY EHART FOR DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

Jeremy Ehart, from Lysle Rishel Hutchinson American Legion Post #68 is announcing his candidacy for the office of Department Commander for 2022-2023.

He earned his eligibility by service in the United States Marine Corps from 2002- 2006. He is a Paid Up For Life member of The American Legion since 2008, a member of the Sons of The American Legion Squadron 68, and American Legion Riders Chapter 68.

He has served in various Post positions including long time Adjutant and Commander and still stays active by serving Post 68 on various committees. He has served 7th District as an Executive Board officer, Vice-Commander, and Commander for two terms and still serves on several committees for the District. He is currently serving the Department on the Legislative Council, The Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee, as well as the Chairman for the Membership Committee and

also proud to represent Kansas on the National Security Council as well as a graduate of the 2019 National American Legion College. He has had the honor and privilege of serving the last two years as your Department Vice-Commander.

His goals moving forward is to continue working with the Posts, Districts and the entire Legion Family, and to continue using time and resources as Commander in promoting the mission of the Kansas American Legion across the Department. He will continue travelling as Commander, meeting members and listening to your ideas on improving and advancing The American Legion.

He does have the support of his wife Kristy, and son Addison, the support and endorsement of Post 68, and the support of the 7th District. He is asking for your support and vote at the Department Convention for the office of Department Commander for the year 2022-2023.

GARY FOOS FOR AREA WEST VICE COMMANDER

I'm Gary F. Foos seeking reelection for Department Area West Vice Commander office. I earned my eligibility serving in the United States Army Reserves, 89th Division, Co. B, 3rd BN, 1st Bde., Dodge City, KS., obtaining the rank of Sargent First Class from Oct. 69 to Nov. 75 with an Honorable Discharge.

I am currently Post Commander of Olin Cole Post #392 in Bazine, KS., and 8th District Finance Officer. I have held several 8th District Offices to include Sergeant of Arms, District Vice Commander and District Commander for three years. I'm

also currently Department Area West Vice for the past two years. I've been a Legionnaire for 23 years and a Paid Up For Life Member.

I appreciate the support I've received from the 5th thru 9th Districts over the past several years. I enjoy meeting and working with the new District Officers on membership and revitalizing Posts that are struggling with membership within Area West. I will also continue to be a voice on the DEC for the Blue Cap Members of The American Legion.

I have the support of my Post #392, the 8th District, my wife and family.

RANDY FRANK FOR DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER

Randy Frank, Hillsboro Post 366 is announcing his candidacy for Department Vice Commander for the 2022-2023 year. Randy earned his eligibility in The American Legion by honorably serving in the United States Army 1980-1994. He has been a member of the American Legion for 17 years and is a Paid Up For Life (PUFL) member. Some of the positions he has filled are Post Commander, four years as District IV Commander and Area East Vice Commander for the last two years. He has had the honor to serve on the Department of Kansas American Legion Leadership College and POW/MIA committees.

After graduating from the 2018 National American Legion College he authored two resolutions to establish the Kansas American Legion College (KALC) and a resolution to create a budget line item for the KALC. The KALC is scheduled to begin its inaugu-

ral courses after the 2022 Department of Kansas Convention. The KALC is a program that provides Legionnaires the tools and techniques and how to use them as they engage in their positions at all levels of The American Legion.

In 2021 he was appointed as the Kansas State Chairman for the State Funeral for World War II Veterans and completed the tasks in National American Legion Resolution No. 41: State Funeral For The Last World War II Medal Of Honor Recipient. He is also the recipient of the 2021 Woody Williams Award for service to WWII Veterans.

During the last two years he has had the privilege to learn and be mentored by Department Commander Krupco and Vice Commander Ehart. He will continue to take their lead in Membership sustainment and growth.

He has the support of his Post, District IV Leadership and his wife.

MIKE JURY FOR AREA WEST VICE COMMANDER

Mike Jury, Hutchinson Post 68 is Announcing his candidacy for Department Area West Vice Commander for the year 2022 - 2023.

Mike earned his eligibility in The American Legion by serving in the United States Army from 1984 to 1994 and the Army Reserves 1995 to 2005.

Mike has been a member of the American Legion for 20 years with membership in Post 308 in Florence KS. and Post 68 Hutchinson KS.

Mike has served his Post in various positions with in the Post including Sgt at Arms, Executive Board, 1st and 2nd Vice Commander and also Post Commander. Mike has served as District Sgt at Arms, Vice Commander and is in his 2nd year as District Commander.

Mike is also a member of

the American Legion Riders and has held the position of Asst. Director in Chapter 68.

Mike has worked hard the last two years with Post and District membership and takes pride in doing what ever he can to reach the 100% goal set each year.

2020 - 2021 membership year was great, not only did Post 68 hit 111% membership but 7th District also hit 106% membership with 19 Posts in the District reaching 100% or better. I believe more Posts in the West could also reach there membership goal if we work as a Team.

Mike has the support of his Beautiful Lady Sherry Pitts, his Post 68, and 7th District. He now asks for your support and vote at Department Convention in Topeka KS, June 3rd 2022.

**FIRST DISTRICT
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Greeting First District, Spring has finally arrived! The First District Convention will be held on April 9, 2021 at Larner-Seagraves Post #36 in Oskaloosa. We are hoping for a good turnout for the convention. Other upcoming events include the Department Convention to be held in Topeka June 3-5, 2022, Boy's State June 5-11, 2022 at Kansas State University, Leadership College June 10-12, 2022 in Concordia, and Cadet Law Enforcement Academy to be held in Salina June 12-18, 2022.

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

It has been a pleasure to serve as your Commander this year. Our District has worked through some changes this past year and we are continuing to grow stronger as a District. 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, 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 Conventions!

For God and Country,
Dan Wentling
First District Commander

**SECOND DISTRICT
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Greetings, I hope everyone is doing fine. We have some events coming up soon. The Department convention is the first weekend in June hope to see you all there. Sorry about canceling the Star Party this year, I have talked with Jeff Winters and next we will invite all awarded Legionnaires for the previous two years next year.

District #2 is doing good in membership but could be doing better, I know it is hard but we can keep working on it. Hope to see you all at the District convention, Thanks for all you do.

**THIRD DISTRICT
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Thank you all for supporting me as your Third District Commander for the past 2 years. This will be my last article for the Sunflower as my term in office expires. I would like to thank my District Officers, all the members of the Third District, Post Officers, S.A.L, Riders, and Auxiliary for your help and support over the past two years.

By the time you are reading this we will have held the Third District Convention and new officers will have been elected. I wish the best to the new officers in continuing the

success of the 3rd District. Please give them your support.

Let's all support Legion Boys State, Girls State, Cadet Law, Legion Baseball and the numerous other activities the American Legion provides.

Membership is still lagging behind and anyone who hasn't paid their dues for 2022 get them paid IMMEDIATELY so your membership doesn't expire on June 30, 2022.

SEMPER FI!!!

**FOURTH DISTRICT
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Greetings Fourth District. Spring is here but it feels like winter. I know that I am going to say this a lot, but we must continue to work on this hard. And its Membership, membership is of utmost importance. So please if you haven't renewed your membership do it now online with Mylegion.org or stop in at any American Legion post and renew. I am happy to say that the 4th District is sitting in Second in the standings. Use this time to call your members and do a "Buddy Check". Upcoming events include the 4th District Convention on April 9th starting at 9:00 am. That's when the joint session will start. Then we will split off and have our regular convention. There will also be a resolution that will be read at this year's convention, It has to do about splitting 4th District in half. Forming the 11th District. I would like to see as many of you there in Abilene, KS. Department Convention in Topeka June 3-5, Kansas American Legion Boys State is from June 5-11 at Kansas State University. 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."

For God and Country
Matthew Burany
District Commander

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No article submitted.

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Greetings 7th District, I want to start by thanking all the Posts in 7th District for your support and allowing me to serve as your Commander these past 2 years . It
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SEVENTH DISTRICT

(Continued from Page 4)

has truly been an Honor!!

We have been struggling with membership this year but I have faith we can as a team still reach our goal of 100%.

So keep the families as well as your new members involved as much as possible in your Post.

To the Posts that have already met their goal, Congratulations.

Again, thank you, it has been an Honor.

continued traditional 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. District 8 Chapters of American Legion Riders participated in patriotic events. American Legion Riders Chapter 392 from Bazine Post 392 won the Chapter of the Year Award. Alan Hagans was presented the award at the Mid-winter Forum.

Garden City Post 09 Vice-commander and District 8 Veterans Affairs Officer Louis Elchuck continued assisting homeless veterans. His position of Veterans Navigator for the Supportive Services for Veterans Families made him the ideal Legionnaire to fill the District 8 Veterans Affairs Officer position. Veterans in Western Kansas are fortunate to have Louis providing these valuable services.

ADJUTANT'S BRIEFS

By Department Adjutant Jimmie L. Foster

The Membership year of 2021-2022 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 Ten District Commanders and District Vice Commanders are available to assist, all you have to do is ASK!

The 2022 Mid-Winter Forum was well attended. Salina Post 62 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 again this year due to COVID-19 and a lack of Senators and Representatives RSVPing to attend. Hopefully, WE can pick it up in January 2023 and hold Our Legislators feet to the ground, submit and pass House and Senate Bills regarding Veterans issues.

The 2022 Department Oratorical Contest was held at Manhattan Post 17 on 12 March 2022 and the five orators were ALL Winners!

Owen Miller from the Third District was selected as the ultimate winner and will represent the Department of Kansas at the National Contest in Indianapolis, Indiana from 22 to 24 April 2022. Hopefully, since he is a two-time Department Winner, he

will be able to advance to the Championship Round and win himself additional Scholarship monies. Congratulations, Owen!

Kansas Boys State which is also scheduled to be held from 5 to 11 June 2022 at Kansas State University. PLEASE check the Kansas Boys State of Kansas Website for the most up-to-date information.

As of this date, the Cadet Law Enforcement Academy Program is scheduled to be held from 12 to 17 June 2022 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 attending this program.

The Department Convention of Kansas American Legion will be held from 3 to 5 June 2022 in Topeka, Kansas. Leading Candidate for National Commander Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola from the Department of New York will be the Legion National Guest. Denise Delaney-Wrolen, the Central Divisional National Vice President of The American Legion Auxiliary from Indiana will also be in attendance.

The 2022 American Legion Leadership College will take place in Concordia at Cloud County Community College from 10 to 12 June 2022. After the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic and Major Construction Projects at CCCC we are back on schedule at Concordia. More details on location and prices to follow as soon as the provisions are fine-tuned!

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

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When I asked for votes to be elected District 8 Commander, I pledged that if elected, I would perform proper administrative procedures and adhere to the District 8 Constitution and Bylaws. A notable accomplishment was to get District 8 properly registered with the IRS. For the past several years, District 8's bank account used the Kansas Department's EIN and didn't file 990s. I made proper application resulting in District 8 being assigned a federal EIN. I will make the required reports in a timely fashion.

Vice-commander Donna Hernandez and I continued making personal contacts with officers and members of District 8 Posts. The responses we received were gratifying. Donna and I appreciate the efforts our comrades are making to increase membership.

Legion Family members

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No article submitted.



**DETACHMENT
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**AUXILIARY
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Greetings American Legion Family.

It's hard to believe that we are already into the District Conventions. We have gotten to that time of the year where we still need all of those unpaid memberships turned in. Call those members that you haven't seen in a while to see how they are doing. Better yet, stop by and tell them hi. As you are holding the elec-

tions within your Squadron, don't forget to fill out a NEW officers list and the Squadron Data Report. These are very important to the Detachment and National. They help to make transmittals smoother. In closing remember, we are "Proud possessors of a priceless heritage".

James Snyder
Commander
Detachment of Kansas

DAN WENTLING FOR DEPARTMENT MASTER-AT-ARMS

My name is Dan Wentling, I am a member of North Topeka Post #400. At the Mid-Winter Forum in Salina, I announced my candidacy for the American Legion Department of Kansas Master-At-Arms for 2022-2023.

I earned my eligibility through the United States Army, the Army Reserve, and the Kansas Army National Guard for a total of 26 years of service.

I have been very active in my Post and the District. I have served as my Post's Finance Officer, First Vice Commander, and was Post Commander for three years. I have also served as a 1st District Executive Board Member, District Adjutant, District Vice Commander,

and the District Commander from 2020 to 2022.

If elected to be one of the Master-at-Arms, I will, to the best of my ability, be in attendance at all Department functions to keep order during the meetings, protect and place the flag and the POW/MIA drape in their places of honor, and assist the Department Commander and Vice-Commander whenever and however needed.

I do have the support of my wife and the endorsement of my Post and the 1st District Executive Board. I would appreciate your support and vote at the Department Convention in Topeka on June 5th. Thank you and God Bless the American Legion and the United States of America.

Greetings Kansas American Legion Family!

This has been a very busy 1st Quarter of 2022. I had the honor to travel with Commander Krupco to Nebraska's Mid-Year Conference. What a fun time we had there. Nebraskans are as warm and welcoming as Kansans. Then a few weeks later we traveled to Illinois for the Lincoln Pilgrimage. WOW, what an awesome privilege! Memories to never be forgotten.

Mid-Winter Forum was a total success. According to some of our long-time members this was the first time in many, many years all Districts were represented. And about 75% of our District Vice Presidents attended as well. Thank you each and everyone of you for attending! You are the reason for a successful Mid-Winter Forum!!!

We were very fortunate to host Auxiliary National President Kathy Daudistel and had an awesome weekend with her. Fortunately, Mother Nature cooperated most of the weekend with us. A huge Thank You to Units 411, 142, 45 and 153 for hosting us throughout President Kathy's visit. Our "Celebrate Kansas" 100th Birthday was a smashing success with even some of our dual members getting involved in the "style show." If you were not there, you missed a very fun evening. Hopefully you have seen the pictures on our Facebook

pages.

As I announced at Mid-Winter Forum, the Auxiliary will be having their own Auxiliary sessions at Leadership College June 10 - 12 at Cloud County Community College, Concordia, Kansas this year! Mark that weekend on your calendar and plan to attend as we are planning to provide much needed information to everyone. Stay on the lookout for additional information on this as it becomes available.

District Conventions are almost upon us and I am looking forward to attending some of them. Department Vice President Marianne Middleton, Department Historian Cheryl Eastep and I will be splitting the Districts this year. Marianne will be attending Districts 2, 7, 4, 9 and 6. Cheryl will be attending District 10 and I will be attending Districts 3, 5, 1 and 8.

Spring has sprung and hopefully all of our winter weather is behind us. We are looking forward to several months of busy times of seeing old friends and meeting new friends within this wonderful Family. Let us remember all of our Veterans, active duty service members, reservists and their families and keep them all safe and secure.

Safe travels to everyone as we go about our daily support of our Veterans and our Mission of "Service Not Self."

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ONLINE

www.legion.org/renew

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VA will propose adding rare cancers to the presumed service-connected list as related to military environmental exposure.

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs intends to propose adding certain rare respiratory cancers to the list of presumed service-connected disabilities in relation to military environmental exposure to particulate matter.

VA determined through a focused review of scientific and medical evidence there is biologic plausibility between airborne hazards, specifically particulate matter, and carcinogenesis of the respiratory tract, and that the unique circumstances of these rare cancers warrant a presumption of service connection.

Based on these findings, VA's Secretary is proposing a rule that will add presumptive service connection for several rare respiratory cancers for certain Veterans. The cancers under consideration include:

- Squamous cell carcinoma of the larynx.
- Squamous cell carcinoma of the trachea.
- Adenocarcinoma of the trachea.
- Salivary gland-type tumors of the trachea.
- Adenosquamous carcinoma of the lung.
- Large cell carcinoma of the lung.
- Salivary gland-type tumors of the lung.
- Sarcomatoid carcinoma of the lung.
- Typical and atypical carcinoid of the lung.

"This is the right decision. The rarity and severity of these illnesses, and the reality that these conditions present a situation where it may not be possible to develop additional evidence prompted us to take this critical action," said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. "We'll continue to hold ourselves accountable to Veterans to provide more care, more benefits and more services to more Veterans than ever before."

VA intends to focus its rule on the rare respiratory cancers above in Veterans who served any amount of time in the Southwest Asia theater of operations and other locations. VA will invite and consider public comments as part of this process.

Once rule making is complete, VA will conduct outreach to impacted veterans and survivors to inform them about potential eligibility.

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 27.

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 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



CHAPLAIN

Debra Muylaert

departmentchaplain@kansaslegion.org

Greetings in the name of Our mighty and awesome God! Hope you and yours are having a safe, healthy, and blessed 2022!

Spring is here! Praise the Lord! Spring always cheers me up after a cold and dreary winter. And in this day and age of COVID pandemic chaos, who couldn't use a little cheering up?! The pandemic has negatively impacted our children's education, our economy, our relationships, and essentially, our whole way of life. So how are we to view all this and what should be our response? The Bible gives us guidance. Philippians 4:6 says, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God" (NKJV).

The Apostle Paul lays out two things we are to do: don't worry and pray with thanksgiving. Prayer is something we naturally do in bad times, but it may strike you as strange that we are also to give thanks and not worry during troubling times. Notice the words "in everything" in this passage. That means we are to pray with thanksgiving

and not worry in every circumstance, good AND bad. Anxiety is something that has plagued many people during this pandemic, but Scripture tells us not to worry. So, if you're worried, you didn't pray; if you pray, don't worry. Give it to God and leave it with Him. Many people put things in God's in-box for action, then reach back in and pull them out.

And what about giving of thanks? Be thankful during bad times?! Yes! It's a matter of focus. We must focus on what we have and not on what we don't have. If we do that, we can be truly thankful. Even during bad circumstances, there's always something for which we can be thankful. So, pray with thanksgiving and don't worry, and you will have what the Apostle Paul says you will have. Notice verse 7, the next verse in this passage: "And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (NKJV). Peace amid chaos! Now that's something to be thankful for! Happy Spring! See you at Department Convention!

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 10 for your convenience. All requests must be ordered by the Post Commander or Adjutant, Unit President or Secretary, or Squadron Commander or Adjutant.



CHILDREN & YOUTH

Pat Culver
childrenandyouth1@kansaslegion.org

The American Legion has been a strong advocate for children and youth since its inception. This steadfast dedication has never wavered and continues to be a driving force on behalf of children across the country today.

If you have a youth looking for a Youth Programs here are a few with web link and information:

Boy Scouts of America
www.scouting.org

The National Council of the Boy Scouts of America supports more than 300 local councils that provide quality youth programs promoting leadership and teaching decision-making and teamwork skills. The national council provides programs and publications, promotes training, and houses a media center.

Campfire USA
www.campfireusa.org

Camp Fire USA's mission is to build caring, confident youth and future leaders through national development programs delivered to 120 local councils across the nation. Core programs include leadership development, service learning, and mentoring opportunities.

Youth Crime Watch of America

www.ycwa.org

YCWA enables youth to become resources for preventing crime, drug use, and violence in their schools and communities. Youth take ownership for their own programs in schools, neighborhoods, public housing sites, recreational centers, or parks. Youth led programs encourage crime reporting, mentoring and mediation.

Girl Scouts of the USA
www.girlscouts.org

Girl Scouts of the USA

provides research, programs, and resources that help young girls build leadership, decision-making, and teamwork skills. Through advocacy efforts, Girl Scouts informs and educates key representatives of the government about issues important to girls and scouting.

National 4-H Council
www.fourhcouncil.edu

The National 4-H Council provides grants, establishes programs and initiatives, designs and publishes curriculum and reference materials, and creates linkages fostering innovation and shared learning to advance the 4-H youth development movement, building a world in which youth and adults learn, grow, and work together as catalysts for positive change.

National Family Partnership
www.nfp.org

The National Family Partnership shares tools, strategies, and resources to support families and communities in their effort to promote safe, drug-free youth, NEP also sponsors Red Ribbon Week.

National Youth Leadership Council
www.nylc.org

The National Youth Leadership Council's mission is to build vital, just communities through service learning. NYLC is at the forefront of efforts to reform education and guide youth-oriented public policy.

Street Law, Inc.
www.streetlaw.org

Street Law, Inc. provides young people with information about law, democracy, and human rights and provides youth leadership programs in communities and schools nationally and internationally.

LEGION COLLEGE

This year's Kansas American Legion College will take place at Cloud County Community College in Concordia June 10-12.

This year there will a Hands-On Class dealing with mylegion.org being taught by a member of the National Staff. 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 KALC 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 person 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 \$50.00 per person which includes Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast, lunch, and dinner at Concordia Post 76, and Sunday breakfast. In addition the enrollment fee includes air conditioned dorm housing at the College—attendees must bring their own sheets, pillow, pillow case, blanket, bath soap, towels and personal items. Those needing only meals will be \$30 total.

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 11 and 12 with a break for lunch on Saturday and conclusion of the College on Sunday no later than noon.

LEGION COLLEGE REGISTRATION
 ENCLOSED IS MY \$50 REGISTRATION FOR THE
 KANSAS AMERICAN LEGION COLLEGE
 JUNE 10 - 12

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 +

<p>Akers, Richard (Korea)..... Arkansas City Albertini, Ronald..... Arma Allen, John (Vietnam)..... Shawnee Alverado, Raul (WWII)..... Shawnee Amer, Bill (Korea)..... Shawnee Andrewson, Lee (Vietnam)..... Derby Arroyo, Manuel (Vietnam)..... Mulvane Ashbacher, Steven (Vietnam)..... Arma Bailey, Paul (Korea)..... Canton Baker, Alvin (Vietnam)..... Burdett Bartlett, James (Vietnam)..... Atchison Benteman, Leon (Korea)..... Barnes Bergquist, Ronald (Vietnam) Topeka #421 Bernasek, Gene (Korea)..... Axtell Black, Johnnie (Vietnam)..... Rossville Blanton, Darrell, Jr. (Vietnam).... Shawnee Briar, Gary (Vietnam)..... Newton Brough, Gary (Vietnam)..... Junction City Brown, Dale (WWII)..... Barnes Brown, Robert (Vietnam)..... Perry Buchman, Gerald (Vietnam)..... Alta Vista Butler, David (Gulf War)..... Andover Butler, David (Vietnam)..... Independence Bynum, Ronald (Korea)..... Topeka #400 Cannon, Donald (WWII)..... Emporia Cansler, Melvin (Korea)..... Shawnee Carter, Vic (Vietnam)..... Junction City Chartier, Wayne (Korea)..... McPherson Chopp, Chester (WWII)..... Cuba Christenson, John (WWII)..... Lindsborg Clifton, Gary (Vietnam)..... Ellsworth Cooper, Michael (Gulf War)..... Pittsburg Cordell, Farrell, Jr. (Vietnam)..... Gardner Cox, Richard (WWII)..... Colby Crafton, Darrell (Vietnam)..... El Dorado Dalke, John (Korea)..... Hillsboro Danshaw, Ray (Vietnam)..... Topeka #400 Deines, Roderic (Korea)..... Russell Delbert, Faulk, Jr. (Korea)..... Rossville Dole, Robert (WWII)..... Russell Elmer, Siefker (Korea)..... Moran Estes, Ferd (Korea)..... Caney Everhart, Kyle (Korea)..... Wellington Farris, J. D. (Korea)..... Atchison Feden, George (Korea).. Kansas City #188 Fincham, Arthur (Korea)..... Blue Rapids Flear, Charles..... Greenleaf Geiman, Bobbie (Korea)..... McPherson Golley, Becky (Granada)..... Dodge City Gower, George (Vietnam)..... Cheney Grauer, Timothy (Vietnam)..... Marysville Gudenkauf, Richard (Vietnam)..... Topeka #400 Guffey, Willard (WWII)..... Topeka #400 Hall, Roger (Vietnam)..... Jennings Haney, Richard (Granada)..... Madison</p>	<p>Harrison, Donald (Vietnam)..... Colby Harwick, Ralph (Vietnam). Overland Park Hasenkamp, Glenn (Korea)..... Seneca Heaton, Roger (Korea)..... Council Grove Hedberg, Arnold (WWII)..... Marquette Hedges, William (Vietnam)..... Emporia Herrington, Norm (Korea)..... Gardner Hess, Davis (Vietnam)..... Syracuse Hesse, William (Korea)..... Rossville Hiles, Jack (Vietnam)..... Overland Park Hinkle, Willard (Korea)..... Garden City Hogan, Thomas (Vietnam). Overland Park Hosier, Robert (Vietnam)..... Pittsburg Hundley, Steven (Vietnam)..... Derby Imming, Marvin (WWII) ... Overland Park Irwin, Mary (Korea)..... Goodland Jenkins, J. L..... Marysville Johnson, Gary (Vietnam)..... Axtell Jones, Allen (WWII)..... Baxter Springs Kautz, George (Korea)..... Atchison Kenney, James, Sr. (Vietnam).... Rossville Keylon, Thomas (Vietnam)..... Alta Vista Kilgore, Howard (Vietnam)Overland Park Kinder, Johnny (Vietnam)..... Abilene Klenke, Thomas (Vietnam)..... Dodge City Kohn, Michael (Lebanon).... Baldwin City Kuhn, Dale (Vietnam)..... Derby Kunz, Oscar (Vietnam)..... Garden City Lambing, Sue (Panama)..... Derby Landis, Phyllis (Vietnam)..... Hillsboro Lee, Susan (Persian Gulf)..... Mulvane Lichtenhan, John (WWII)..... St. George Lloyd, Morrill (Vietnam) .. Baxter Springs Loder, Leroy (WWII)..... Marquette Lohse, Robert (Vietnam)..... Hanover Lord, Lynn..... Marysville Manning, Gene (Korea)..... El Dorado Martin, William (Vietnam) Baxter Springs Massa, Robert (Vietnam)..... Mulberry McCauley, Robert (Vietnam)..... Pittsburg McIver, Walter (Vietnam)..... Cheney Mendenhall, Terry (Korea)..... Pittsburg Messerli, Richard (Vietnam)..... Newton Miller, Howard (Korea)..... Blue Rapids Mitchell, William (WWII)..... Shawnee Mohr, Clarence (Korea)..... Salina Murphy, George (WWII)..... Sublette Murphy, William (Vietnam)..... Seneca Nelson, Frank (Korea)..... Emporia Nelson, William (Korea)..... St. George Nettels, George, Jr. (WWII)..... Pittsburg Nieman, Vernon (Korea)..... Hannover Norman, Walter (Korea)..... Hillsboro Odom, James (WWII)..... Liberal Oldehoeft, Earl (Vietnam)..... Hanover Park, Robert (Vietnam)..... Shawnee</p>	<p>Payne, Stephen (Vietnam)..... Seneca Petersen, Frankie (WWII)..... Garden City Phelps, Jason (Vietnam)..... Topeka #421 Pike, Lawrence (Vietnam) . Arkansas City Prochaska, Roger (Vietnam)..... Salina Prue, Norman (Vietnam)..... Mulvane Pryor, Ted, Sr. (Korea)..... Mulberry Pursell, Henry (Korea)..... El Dorado Reese, Ralph..... Lindsborg Reinhart, J. D. El Dorado Riggs, Charles (Korea).... Conway Springs Rinke, Charles (Korea)..... Pratt Roberts, William (Vietnam)..... Mulvane Roybal, Kenneth (Panama)..... Syracuse Runnebaum, John (Vietnam)..... Beattie Saving, Robert (Vietnam) Topeka #400 Schinstock, John (Vietnam) .. Yates Center Schoenberger, Russell (Korea).... Emporia Schroder, Richard (Vietnam)..... Overland Park Sheldon, Donald (Korea)..... Ness City Shopteese, Robert (Korea)..... Mayetta Smith, Don (Vietnam)..... Garden City Snow, Bryan (Vietnam)..... Topeka #421 Spruk, George (Korea)..... Pittsburg Stapel, Robert (Korea)..... Topeka #400 Suderman, Ron (Vietnam)..... Hillsboro Tacha, Harold (WWII)..... Jennings Tannehill, Earl (Korea)..... Pittsburg Templin, Edward (Vietnam)..... Mulvane Thielen, Ronald (Vietnam)..... Dorrance Thomas, Eric (Vietnam)..... Junction City Thomas, Lloyd..... Wellington Thomas, Phylis (Vietnam)..... Mayetta Tilton, Harold (Korea)..... Sterling Trenary, James (Korea)..... Arkansas City Troop, Paul (Korea)..... Frontenac Vanetten, Francis (WWII)..... Sublette Vermillion, John (WWII).... Independence Vigil, Samuel (Korea)..... Junction City Vore, Michael (Persian Gulf)..... Mulvane Wallace, Jack (Korea)..... Sublette Webster, Leroy (Korea)..... Westmoreland Weeks, Robert (Korea)..... Perry Wenzel, Karl (Korea)..... Newton Whitaker, Gene (Korea)..... Hoisington Whitaker, Tom (Korea)..... Shawnee Wilborn, Keith (Vietnam)..... Hoisington Williams, Carl (Korea)..... Andover Williams, Karla (Vietnam)..... Andover Wilson, Charles (Vietnam)..... Mulvane Winebrenner, Bobby..... Independence Woodie, William (Vietnam) . Topeka #400 Woodyard, Edward (Vietnam) . Manhattan Yager, William (Korea)..... Lincoln</p>
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DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

(Continued from Page 2)
mander these last two years, it has truly been an honor. I look forward to seeing you at Department Convention, June 3-5, 2022 at the Topeka Ramada. Please give the next Commander and all new Department leadership the support you have given to me. Even though I will no longer be a Department officer I will always still be available to help you in any way that I can, don't hesitate to reach out if the need arises.

For God & Country
Marri Krupco

ADJUTANT'S BRIEFS

(Continued from Page 5)
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).

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, June 4 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: boneless chicken breast with a creamy white cheese sauce or meat loaf with garlic mashed potatoes. A tossed garden salad with choice of dressing, honey glazed carrots, rolls and butter, coconut cream pie, water, iced tea, or coffee service. Cost is \$36 per person and reservations must be received no later than Monday, May 23.

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, June 4 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 23; or telephone your reservations to 785-232-9315. Payment is due no later than May 23 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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Department Headquarters:

1314 SW Topeka Blvd. Topeka, KS 66612, 785-232-9315

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Jimmie L. Foster:.....departmentadjutant@kansaslegion.org

Jeff Bond:.....departmentassistantadjutant@kansaslegion.org

Michelle Johnston:.....membership@kansaslegion.org

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

CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION DINNER

JUNE 4, 2022

RAMADA, TOPEKA, KS

Name _____ Post/Unit/Squadron # _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Number of dinners to be reserved at \$36.00 each _____

Meat Loaf _____ Chicken Breast _____

Enclosed is check in the amount of _____

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

DEADLINE of: 23 May 2022