Mid-Winter Forum
Hutchinson Post #68, February 2-4

The Mid-Winter Forum offers every member, especially Post leaders and chairmen, the opportunity to learn more about The American Legion, its programs and the direction each program is expected to take if there are any changes being considered, including changes directed by National Headquarters. In addition, the Forum provides information about how and why The American Legion functions in the manner we do as an organization.

This year’s Forum scheduled for February 2-4 will be hosted by Hutchinson Post 68 with events located at 730 W. 4th Avenue in Hutchinson. Friday, February 2, will include a Department Executive Committee meeting at 4 pm. Registration will begin on Friday between 3 to 7 pm at the Post.

On Saturday, February 3, Registration will continue starting at 7:00 am with biscuits and gravy, cinnamon and breakfast rolls, juice and coffee. The formal activities begin with a Joint Legion/Auxiliary/S.A.L. meeting at The Post located at 730 W. 4th Avenue at 8 am. After the Joint Opening the Legion, Auxiliary and the S.A.L. will meet in different rooms and other nearby locations. Leading candidate for National Commander James Lacoursiere from the Department of Connecticut will address and present information to those in attendance. We will have the pleasure of having ALL Three Entities of The American Legion Family represented with Our Own National Vice Commander Ray Vail from The Legion, Our Own National Vice President Trish Ward from The Auxiliary and Our Own National Vice Commander Terry Harris from the Sons of The American Legion in attendance.

Lunch will be Sandwiches with all the trimmings, potato salad, chips and dessert at a price of $8.00. Concluding the day’s meetings, the Post will serve a Roast Beef Dinner with mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, dinner rolls and dessert for $15.00 from 5:30 to 7 P.M. After dinner entertainment will be Karaoke at the Post. For early registration, please mail payments to: Jeremy Ehart, 730 W. 4th Avenue, Hutchinson, Kansas 67501. For tickets and any additional information, please contact Jeremy Ehart at 620-899-0010 or Post Commander Bruce Branson at 620-664-3130.

Sunday’s schedule will begin at 7:00 to 8:00 am breakfast with biscuits and gravy, eggs, sausage, hash browns and breads, Orange Juice and Coffee for $8.00. Registration will open from 7:00 to 8:00 am. At 8:00 am, Commanders Frank will call the Forum back to order before turning the podium over to Department Chaplain Debra Muylaert who will conduct a Four Chaplains Memorial Service at the Post. There will be a wrap-up of reports followed by the Department Sweepstakes Drawing.

The Agenda for the Forum is listed within this publication, it isn’t too early to reserve your room at one of the many hotels in the Hutchinson area.

The contracted Hotels are: Holiday Inn Express located at 911 Porter Street, Telephone number: 620-259-8656, rate is $119.00, and The Fairfield Inn and Suites located at 1111 N. Lorraine Street, Telephone number: 620-259-8787, rate is $129.00. Be sure to tell them you are a part of the Kansas American Legion block in order to receive the reduced rates per room per night.

Failure to ask for The American Legion rate may result in your paying a higher room rate. It’s always better to reserve a room you may have to cancel later than waiting until the last minute to make reservations only to find out the hotel is sold out.

Plan to attend and ask a fellow Legionnaire to attend with you. Hope to see you there!
Hello Legionnaires,
The Department of Kansas American Legion is moving forward!

ATTENTION!!! I have received an email from National Commander Dan Seehafer in regards to Membership. National Commander Seehafer would like to acknowledge those Posts within the Department of Kansas that have reached 100% membership for the 2024 membership year. Each 100% Post commander will receive a personalized letter, autographed picture, and a certificate. We already have several Posts that have accomplished this so let’s make it 100%.

In 2026 there will be a lot happening around the United State and here in Kansas. This will be the 250th Birthday for the United States and the state of Kansas is gearing up for it. The Department has been invited to participate in the planning of events during the celebrations. I will be looking for some individuals that would like to work on the planning and execution of The American Legion’s events. Please reach out to me if you want to help or have any suggestions for activities. The Mid-Winter Forum is coming up soon. The Hotel and meals information is on the Department of Kansas website https://kansaslegion.org. See you there.

The chief condition on which life, health and vigor depend on, is action. It is by action that The American Legion develops our capabilities, increases our energy, and attains the fulfillment of our destiny.

The lines of Communications are always open. Please reach out to your Leadership Teams at the Post/District or Department.

Membership is our Strength. If your District or Post would like me to attend your event, please send me an email DepartmentCommander@kansaslegion.org or call 563-419-1474.

Greetings Kansas Legion Family. I hope everyone had a great Holiday season and an amazing New Year! What an amazing past few months… I want to take a minute to review the last few months in the Department. Most of the Districts had their District Homecomings, it was great going to the different Districts and meeting with everyone. We have some really great leaders within our Department. We had a great show of support for the ALR at both the Big Red One Turkey Run and Operation North Pole where we helped support families on Ft Riley. It was so humbling to help the families during Thanksgiving and to watch the kids with Santa.

This year’s Department holiday party was held at Emporia’s Post #5 in December. A huge thank you to all those who support these programs and all our programs throughout the year, we would not be successful without all the hard work and dedication from our Members. We have a full schedule moving into the next year. Our Department bowling tournament is in Topeka at Gage Bowl the first three weekends of January. Stop by and volunteer your time or just say hello if you’re in the neighborhood! Mid-Winter Forum is in Hutchinson at the Post this year and no doubt it will be another great event. More information is available in this edition of the Sunflower but if you have not reserved your room, you better do so soon! Department oratorical is March 16, 2024, in Manhattan. Hopefully, all your District oratorical chairmen are working hard to speak to the schools and families about the program so we can have a full slate of participants this year in Manhattan. Last year’s oratorical was awesome to watch and I am looking forward to seeing what this year offers. If you have questions about the program, please don’t hesitate to call and ask anytime.

District Conventions are coming soon! I plan to attend all of them and look forward to seeing everyone there. If you have an interest in serving at the District level, this is a great time to contact your District and express your interests. It is so rewarding to serve at different levels within the Department and the friendships you make are priceless. The best part is the networking and sharing of ideas; these ideas could change how you do things at your own Post. Without all your dedicated involvement, projects would not exist. So, thank you to ALL our incredible volunteers we are so fortunate to have in order to continue providing veterans, families, and communities our services in 2024. I would certainly encourage Members of The American Legion Family to join them, get involved by finding the time in our schedules, and lend a hand. It will be worth it… for everyone. As always, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns I am always available for you. If you would like me to attend an event at your Post or District, please let me know. As always, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns please do not hesitate to call anytime. Thank you for all you do for the Legion. I look forward to the opportunity to serve. For God and Country.

CADET LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY

On June 16 up to 30 young Kansans will gather for the 55th annual Cadet Law Enforcement Academy session at the Highway Patrol Training Center in Salina. Sponsored by The American Legion, Legion Auxiliary and KS Highway Patrol, the Academy provides high school students an opportunity to learn methods employed to enforce city, county, state, and federal statues with the goal of instilling a better appreciation for those who enforce those laws.

The Academy is not a recruitment program for law enforcement. Students attending past sessions have had a wide variety of backgrounds, interests, and career plans. However many students considering careers in law enforcement, as attorneys, and government service have attended as a means to solidify their plans to pursue such careers.

Open to both male and female students.

(Continued on Page 9)
Greetings First District:

I hope everyone had a very safe and happy holiday season!

We held our District Christmas party and meeting at Leavenworth Post #94 on December 2, 2023. It was a well-attended meeting and party, and I would like to extend my thanks to Post #94 for sponsoring the event and helping make it a success.

Remember that if a Member has not renewed their membership by now, they are not considered to be in good standing. I encourage all Posts to contact these Members and get those renewals turned in. It may be as simple as contacting them to remind them to renew or just check on their well-being and see if there is something the Post can do to help them. BE THE ONE!!!!!!

The District has several events coming up to mark on your calendars. The District Oratorical Contest will be held February 24, 2024, at North Topeka Post #400 at 10:00 AM. Following the Oratorical, we will be holding the District Executive Board Meeting at Post #400. I encourage all Posts to contact their local High Schools and promote the Oratorical Contest. Remember that home schooled students are also eligible to take part.

Several of us attended Operation North Pole and the Turkey Run at Ft Riley. Both events were a success helping the families of our active duty soldiers have a better Holiday Season.

District is at 82% of it's membership goal for 2024. Please be working your renewal list and Post 58 report. if you have any questions, reach out to your assigned District officer.

Post Adjutants be watching for information from District Adjutant Krupco for “Invitation Only” District Awards Party and reply quickly.

District 2 Holiday party is January 13th starting at 11:30 a.m. at the Louisburg Post. Potluck luncheon with fellowship and games. This party is for the entire District 2 Legion Family.

The District 2 oratorical competition will be held at the Paola Post on February 10th starting at 9:00 a.m., please be talking to your schools finding the youth for Boys State and Cadet Law programs this summer. Not much time left to get existing shooting clubs affiliated with your Post for those shooting clubs to compete in the American Legion Shooting Sports.

Hope everyone had a great Christmas and many blessings for a great 2024.

Your District Commander, Doug Hensley

Happy Holidays District 2!

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Your District Commander, Doug Hensley
Greetings 5th District American Legion Family.

Hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Years. I would like to start off by thanking all my District Officers for visiting all the 5th District Posts and assisting them with membership and the Legion programs. I would also like to thank everyone that helped at the State Fair on September 14th. To recap some things: I attended the Eisenhower Pilgrimage and Department Vice Commander Homecoming on October 14th, enjoyed the camaraderie and fellowship and had a chance to see old friends. The 5th District Homecoming was held at the Thomas Hopkins Post 4, October 21, honoring S.A.L. District Commander John Cintron, Auxiliary President Jean Kimmiau and myself. My program theme this year was Honoring Women Veterans. I would like to thank Post 4 Commander Kenny White and his Legion family staff for hosting and providing a great meal and for Mike Saindon from the Derby 408 S.A.L. for being my Master of Ceremony, what a great guy. Our guest speaker was Career Navy Veteran Laurie Hickel from the Derby Post 408, she spoke about her experiences in the Military as a woman Veteran, we need to support our Women Veterans and help them get more involved in the American Legion. Now that the Holidays are over it's time to get back to work on our membership.

As of December 13th, the 5th District is in 7th place. Remember dues should be collected and submitted by the end of December so the Member does not become delinquent, if not paid by the end of January the Member becomes expired. I encourage Posts to try and put all the Officers and Members to work on a membership team and get the renewals to come in faster and shake the trees a little more to get new Members in the Legion this year. Please Be The One to reach out and call a Member of your Post to see how things are going. The Oratorical Contest will be held in the Derby Post January 27th at 09:00 a.m. Let’s see how many kids we can get to the 5th District Contest, for more information on the Oratorical program and all the Legion scholarships you can look on kansaslegion.org or give me a call. I would like to thank all the Post Legion family Members that participated in the Big Red One Turkey Run on November 18th in Fort Riley and Operation North Pole on December 2. I am sure the Soldiers and families enjoyed all of it. The Mid Winter Forum is February 2-4 at the Hutchinson Post 68, a good time to learn more about the American Legion. I hope to see you there and the 5th District Convention is right around the corner on April 5th and 6th in the Derby Post 408. Now is a good time to look over and review your Post Bylaws to see if any changes are in order to better serve your membership for next year and don't forget about turning in the Post reports to document and take credit for all the good works done from your Post. If any of you are interested in running for a District office please do not hesitate in contacting me, we have many Committees and duties to perform throughout the year. Thank you and Until the next issue For God and Country.

Happy New Year Sixth District! Hope everyone did have a wonderful Christmas. Now that 2024 has started, it is time for us to get our 2024 membership in order. There are many Posts with membership renewals lagging and you need to call your Members and ask them to renew their membership. If you would like to have some help, reach out to your District Officers. We are here to help you.

I attended a Post meeting in late November. Also in attendance were Randy Frank, Department Commander, William Workman, Executive Committee and Lee Axtel, Executive Committee. The reason that this meeting was called was their Adjutant had passed away and no one knew how to process membership. There were renewals that had been received but were not processed and forwarded to the Department. I was able to assist their Commander with processing the membership renewals and forward them to the Department.

At this meeting a question came up that I feel is very important to address. A Member asked the question: “Where do we see the American Legion in 5 years?” Why this question came up is because like a lot of other Posts their Members are getting older and transferring to Post Everlasting. Residing in a small farming community they are having a rough time with keeping their membership roster full. I find this with most of our small Posts in the District after taking a close look at their membership rosters. All of their living Members have renewed their membership. I also looked for Members in Post 58. A lot of those Members in Post 58 do not live close to the Posts that need help. They also asked about a Post that is close by to them. That Post has a small membership total. I said it would be good for them to reach out to that Post. I do feel it is best to have Posts working together to address this issue.

We did have one Post that did have a problem with low membership total. What they did to bring their membership up was to contact their family and friends that they knew had served or are currently serving in the military and recruited them into their Post. Now they are over the 100% membership quota. I do feel this is good information to pass along to all the Posts in the Department of Kansas.

27 April, 2024 will be the Sixth District Convention. The convention will be taking place in Smith Center at the VFW, 620 A Street, Smith Center, KS 66967. At this Convention we will be having a raffle for a $100 gift card that can be used anywhere. Raffle tickets along with instructions are being mailed out to all the Posts in the District. Do not need to be present to win. If you are present you will receive another $25 in cash. Tickets will also be available for purchase at Convention.

Always remember why the American Legion was formed: veterans coming together, putting aside their differences to help fellow veterans, their families and communities.
Hello District 7. I hope you had a great Christmas and a great start to the New Year. Speaking of the New Year, any Members that have not renewed their membership are now expired. Do not fret! There is still time. Please reach out to these Members and urge them to renew their membership to help strengthen your Post and the American Legion. Also, for those of you who have not hit 100% and even those who have, please check for Members in your area that are in Post 58. One advantage that Members have by transferring to a local Post is a savings in dues. Post 58 is $50 a year. Also let them know that by being a Member of an actual Post, their dues will go to benefit that Post. Most Posts have dues of $40 so the Post gets $5 a Member. While that may not amount to much on an individual basis, a Post of 20 Members would get $100 a year, a Post of 100 Members would get $500, and a Post of 500 Members would get $2500. So by transferring their membership to an actual Post, they are not only helping by increasing Post membership, they are also doing their Post to help keep a Post alive. If you need anything, please let me know at districtcommander7@kansaslegion.org. I also hope to see you at Mid-Winter Forum and District 7 Convention. Until next time, take care!

I hope that all is well. I would like to thank you for electing me as your 8th District Commander, and I will work to show that I deserve that honor. During the next few months, I will be making my way out to your Posts to introduce myself to those that I haven’t met yet. This quarter, I would like to concentrate on getting our membership numbers up. The Department has set a goal of 103%, a goal that I sincerely believe that we can make if we all work for it. I look forward to working with each Post in our District to make this a reality. I look forward to seeing all of you in the coming months.

One challenge that I would like to give each Post in our District is this: have at least one contestant for the District Oratorical contest. The last two years, District 8 has had no contestants. I know that there is at least one teenager in each Post’s City that could do this. We need to show them the value of this experience.

I look forward to meeting you all in the coming months. Take care of yourselves and each other, and God Bless!

Happy New Year Legion Family!

I hope you had a very Merry Christmas and/or Happy Hanukkah with your family and friends! God is good all the time, and all the time, God is good! May we always thank Him for Our blessings!

As we begin 2024, I want to issue a challenge, but first, let me give you a Scripture verse to meditate on this year. Deuteronomy 30:19 states, “I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have placed before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants.” In this passage, Moses tells us to “choose life.” Not only must we choose life for ourselves, we must also help others choose life. That’s the purpose of “Be the One.”

National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer calls “Be the One” our primary “mission.” This “mission,” which aims to bring attention to mental health issues and reduce the rate of veteran suicide, helps others to “choose life.”

I believe one of the best ways to do this is to be “watchmen” on the walls, as Scripture puts it. I love the way Isaiah 62:6 says it: “On your walls, Jerusalem, I have appointed watchmen; all day and night they will never keep silent. You who profess the LORD, take no rest for yourselves.” In ancient times, watchmen were stationed on the walls of the city to keep watch and warn of impending harm or danger. Like these watchmen, we must pay attention and be on the lookout for Veterans and others among us who may be suicidal, those who are down or depressed, those with financial or relationship problems, and/or those who need someone to come alongside them and support them with a warm smile, a kind word, or an offer of help. We must never keep silent, and be ever vigilant, like a “watchman” on the walls, to prevent Veterans and others from choosing death.

God is the author of life, not death, so my challenge to you is to be a “watchman” on the wall in 2024. Pay attention and keep watch for those who need someone to care about them and provide support. You may save a life!

Have a blessed and healthy new year! See you at Mid-Winter Forum!
The Sunflower Legionnaire  January/February/March, 2024

ADJUTANT’S BRIEFS
By Department Adjutant Jimmie L. Foster

The Department of Kansas has been able to accomplish a lot of things since the continuing Coronavirus has passed us by. I for one, am glad that 2023 is over and WE can now move into 2024, hopefully being able to pick up and continue to have Legion functions in person and NOT by Virtual means such as Zoom, Skype or by Teleconference. There is nothing like being at a function in person and getting to talk and socialize with other Members.

Membership is ahead of last year’s numbers, but that does not mean we should sit around and rest on our laurels. Membership is EVERYONE’S responsibility, not just a few out of each Post, District or Department.

The National Commander’s Visit of Eastern Kansas was a tremendous success! Many Posts had breakfasts, lunches, dinners and just a social round table meeting with Daniel J. “Dan” Seehafer from the Department of Wisconsin as he toured the State. There was a great interaction with the Members of The American Legion Family and National Commander Seehafer. It was his second visit to the Department of Kansas as he visited as the Leading Candidate.

The 2023 Big Red One Turkey Run and Operation North Pole held at Fort Riley, Kansas were BOTH success stories. Being able to meet and greet Soldiers, Dependents and especially the “Kids” is always a plus!

Do not forget to start making plans to attend the 2024 Mid-Winter Conference which will be held in Hutchinson, Kansas from 2 to 4 February 2024 at Hutchinson Legion Post # 68 located at 730 W. 4th Avenue in Hutchison. Listed within this edition of the Sunflower Legionnaire is the agenda, list of hotels, meals, and other information for this Conference.

We will be fortunate to have in attendance Leading Candidate for National Commander of The American Legion James Lacourse from the Department of Connecticut. James is a great Legislator, and he represents US well. He will be available to discuss issues of The American Legion while he is visiting the Department of Kansas.

The Department American Legion Oratorical Contest is scheduled for Saturday, March 16, 2024, 9:00 A.M. at Manhattan Post # 17. PLEASE show up and support these fine District Contest winners. They will amaze you with their knowledge of Our Constitution and their enthusiasm!

I hope that you and your family had a very Merry Christmas and have a very prosperous New Year. If any of you need any assistance from myself or the Staff of the Department Headquarters, PLEASE do NOT hesitate to ask.

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

Greets Kansas American Legion Family!

This holiday season can be a great time, but may be tough for some. Many of our Veterans and their families go through some tough times, and so please be doing those “Buddy Checks” and “Be The One”!

S.A.L. National Commander Donald “JR” Hall’s slogan this year is “Representing More Than Me.” As “Proud possessors of a priceless heritage”, we represent those Veterans who earned our membership. In everything we do, we must move forward in a manner that honors those we represent.

As S.A.L. National Vice Commander Terry Harris said so well, "The one thing I have learned as a Member of this great organization is that it is not at all about me! Anything I get done is because of someone else." Everyone should bear that in attitude at all times!

The importance of mentoring cannot be overstated. The future of our organization depends on the mentorship of new Members, prospective leaders, and current leaders. Those who have the experience and "been there" have a duty to help train others, as these individuals will most likely lead our great organization into the future. Please consider mentorship activities at whatever level you are at in your organization.

Concerning membership - as of 12/31/2023, any membership renewals that haven’t been transmitted are considered delinquent. Adjutants, please do not sit on memberships that you have received - please turn them in! Renewal online is available, and it is easy! Go to legion.org/sons and hit the Renew button.

For God and Country,
Jim Gallentine
Kansas Detachment Commander

DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER

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

Most American Legion Members are aware that each Legion Post has an appointed Post Service Officer (PSO). The American Legion’s Post Service Officer is a volunteer position within each Post. A PSO serves as a link between the Veteran or dependent and a representative holding American Legion accreditation. An effective PSO understands benefits afforded to Veterans and dependents; however, the PSO is not authorized to file any claims on behalf of the claimant. PSOs serve as valuable resources to Veterans in local Posts to ensure that our Veterans and their dependents receive their earned benefits.

To learn more about veterans and dependents benefits, please join us at this year’s Kansas American Legion College (KALC) scheduled for June 7th through the 9th.

Please click on the link below for information regarding our veterans and dependents’ benefits.

Fact Sheets - Veterans Benefits Administration (va.gov)

Renew Your Membership Online at
legion.org/renew
Appleby, Gary (Vietnam) .............................. Concordia 
Benjamin, Evel (Korea) .............................. Bazine 
Beran, George (Korea) ................................ Derby-Haysville 
Bevan, John (Korea) .................................... Newton 
Bingham, W. (WWII) .................................... Jewell 
Bishop, James (Vietnam) ............................ Wichita #256 
Brogan, Carl (Vietnam) ............................... Arkansas City 
Brown, Robert (Vietnam) ............................ Newton 
Chaffe, Gary (Vietnam) .............................. Newton 
Charles, Carmin (Korea) ............................. Ellinwood 
Charles, Engel (Persian Gulf) ....................... Newton 
Cochran, Guinn (Vietnam) ........................... Newton 
Cook, Edwin (Vietnam) ............................. Halstead 
Cooper, Greg (Vietnam) ............................. Hoxie 
Cowan, Russell, Sr. (Vietnam) ...................... Osage City 
Davis, Eldon (Korea) ................................. Blue Rapids 
Davis, Glen .............................................. Newton 
Decker, T.W. (Vietnam) ............................. Junction City 
Donald, Smith (WWII) .............................. Cawker City 
Eichman, Alfred (Korea) ............................ Wamego 
Farquer, Melvin (Vietnam) ........................... Newton 
Fisher, Norman (Vietnam) ........................... Attica 
Goodman, Fred (Korea) ............................. Ness City 
Gordon, Jay (Lebanon/Grenada) ................. Phillipsburg 
Gould, John (Vietnam) ............................. Rexford 
Hefley, James (Korea) .............................. Baxter Springs 
Herrman, Paul (WWII) .............................. LaCrosse 
Johnston, Harry (WWII) ............................ Blue Rapids 
Kohler, Joseph (Vietnam) ........................... Beloit 
Lanzrath, Donald (Vietnam) ......................... Newton 
Leggs, Ralph, Jr. (Vietnam) ......................... Junction City 
Liggett, John (Korea) .................................. LaCrosse 
Lomax, Vincent (Vietnam) .......................... Pittsburg 
Marino, Charley, Jr. (Vietnam) .................... Arma 
Mattal, Clarence (Vietnam) ........................ Isabel 
McIntire, Gale (Vietnam) ........................... Derby-Haysville 
McIntyre, Donald (Vietnam) ....................... Perry 
McNamara, Ron (Vietnam) .......................... Junction City 
Miller, William (Vietnam) ........................... Valley Center 
Minnich, Frederick (Vietnam) ..................... Leavenworth 
Mitchell, James (Vietnam) .......................... Junction City 
Newman, Larry (Vietnam) .......................... Madison 
Penner, Lawrence (Korea) .......................... Newton 
Ratliff, Jack, Jr. (Vietnam) .......................... Blue Rapids 
Reifschneider, Frank (Vietnam) ................. LaCrosse 
Renken, Floyd (WWII) .............................. Cawker City 
Ringle, Francis (Korea) ............................. Dodge City 
Roberson, Daniel (Vietnam) ....................... Olathe 
Scheaffer, Harold (Vietnam) ....................... Andover 
Seib, Paul, Jr. (Korea) .............................. Ness City 
Siebert, Julian (WWII) ............................. Westmoreland 
Sis, Vincent (Korea) ................................. McDonald 
Slinkard, Robert (Vietnam) ........................ Isabel 
Slusher, Edward (Vietnam) ........................ Osage City 
Vawter, Clint (Vietnam) ............................. Topeka #400 
Walker, Bill (Vietnam) .............................. Arkansas City 
Wapp, William (Vietnam) .......................... Frankfort 
Weeks, Rick (Vietnam) ............................. St George 
Wenger, Alvin (WWII) .............................. Powhattan 
Whitfield, Gregory (Vietnam) .................... Ozawkie 
Wingo, John (Vietnam) ............................. Newton 
Womack, Larry (Vietnam) .......................... El Dorado

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and looking forward to a very Happy New Year!

This is going to be an exciting year for Kansas! We have some great representatives this year and the up-coming year. S.A.L. National Vice Commander for Central Division Terry Harris and AL National Vice Commander Ray Vail has been doing an outstanding job. We are looking forward to our own ALA Vice President Trish Ward to become our National President this year and our own Dan Wiley to become the National Commander soon!! KANSAS IS PROUD.

What a busy month of December. VP Tracy and I attended the VA Gift Shops in Wichita, Winfield, and Topeka together. I went to Leavenworth, and Tracy went to Ft Dodge. I must say everyone did a fantastic job!! A big shout out and thank you to all that participated. It was a big job but I know that the Veterans were very thankful. Keep up the good work!

Operation North Pole was the next event that VP Tracy, Chaplain Kristen and I went to. Santa had some great helper elves this year! A big shout out to the donations of cookies and to all the helpers. Everyone seemed to enjoy the goodies and had a good time. It was Great to see the Children’s faces light up.

Now that all the holiday parties are over and a new year is beginning, time to look forward to a great 2024! Let’s continue to work on membership. We want to have our numbers up and show our support for our incoming National President Trish!

Now that the Holidays are behind us, it is time to move on to 2024. The National History books are changing. This year you will be able to submit a hard copy, but next year it will be digital. I guess we all probably knew that it would be going in that direction eventually. I have always been one to believe if it works don’t fix it. I must admit that I have been a little behind the curve these past few months. I’m still working on a photo album for the Commander as well as a year in photographs for the Department. I would like to be more tech savvy than I am. Old dogs can learn new tricks but at a much slower pace. We enjoyed the Department Christmas Party at Post #5 at Emporia. It was enjoyable visiting with everyone. The food was great, and the live entertainment was special. Looking forward to seeing everyone at Mid-Winter Forum.
DOUG HENSLEY  
FOR MASTER-AT-ARMS  

My name is Doug Hensley, from Miami Post 156, Paola and I am announcing my candidacy for the office of Department Master at Arms for 2024-2025.

I earned my eligibility by service in the United States Army from 1990-1996. I am a current Member of The American Legion with eight continuous years of service.

I have served in various positions in the Post, from Historian to Commander and still stay active by serving Post 156 as Commander. I serve as oversight on all Committees within the Post. I have served as the 2nd District Vice-Commander, and currently serve as Commander. I am currently your Department “Be The One”, S.A.L. and Shooting Sports Committee Chairman as well as serving on the K.A.L.C. and Membership Committees. I am a graduate of the 2022 National American Legion College.

Moving forward I am committed to continue working with the Posts, Districts, and the entire Legion Family, using time and resources as Master at Arms to promote the mission of the Kansas American Legion. I am dedicated to represent the Legion professionally and respectfully while keeping order at Department Meetings, remembering our POW/MIA’s by honoring the missing man’s chair and continue to honor Our Country and its Veterans through dedicated and enthusiastic service through The American Legion.

I have the support of my family, the support and endorsement of Post 156, and I will be seeking the support and endorsement of the 2nd District at the District Convention on March 23, 2024. I am asking for your support at the Department Convention for the Office of Department Master at Arms.

For God and Country
Carl “Doug” Hensley

2024 MID-WINTER FORUM  
HUTCHINSON, KANSAS

Friday, February 2

3 - 7:00 pm Registration ........................................Post # 68
4 pm Department Executive Committee Meeting ......................................Post # 68
5 – 8 pm Chicken Fried Steak Dinner......................................................Post # 68

Saturday, February 3

7:00 am-4:00 pm Registration ........................................Post # 68
7:00-8:00 am Biscuits & Gravy, Cinnamon & Breakfast Rolls...............Post # 68

OPENING SESSION

8:00am Call to Order ........................................ Department Commander Randy Frank
Opening Ceremony ................................................................. Randy Frank
Welcome & Introduction .................................................. Post Commander Bruce Branson
Welcome................................................................. Jon Richardson, Mayor of Hutchinson
S.A.L. Introductions............................................................ James Gallantine
Auxiliary Introductions ....................................................... Cheryl Eastep
Junior Auxiliary Introductions ........................................... Tatum Freeman
American Legion Introductions ........................................... Randy Frank
Leading Candidate for National Commander .............................. James Lacoursiere

S.A.L. & Auxiliary Depart for their Meetings
Director Bill Turner and Deputy Director Eric Rohleder ...... Veterans Services, KCVA

ADJOURN FOR LUNCH AT THE POST

1:00 pm Call to Order ........................................ Department Commander Randy Frank
Door Prize Drawing ............................................................. Jimmie Foster
Legion Riders ........................................................................ Barry Maples
Membership Turn-in ................................................................ Angela Evans
Membership Awards & Prizes ........................................ Angela Evans
Media & Communications ....................................................... Michael Cole
Legislation ............................................................................. Chuck Shoemaker
Candidates for Department Offices ....................................... Randy Frank
4:00-5:30 pm Reception for Visiting National Officers..................... Post # 68
5:30-7:00 pm Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable and Dessert Dinner Available ...................................................... Post # 68
Karaoke.................................................................................. Post # 68

Sunday, February 4

7:00-8:00 am Registration ........................................Post # 68
7:00-8:00 am Biscuits & Gravy, Sausage, Eggs, Hashbrowns Breakfast Available ................................................................. Post # 68

8:00 am Call to Order ........................................ Department Commander Randy Frank
Four Chaplains Service ................................................................ Rev. Debra Muylaert
8:30 am Pledge of Allegiance ................................................ Angela Evans
Legion Family Membership Turn-In .......................................... Angela Evans
Child & Youth Report .......................................................... Leroy Matthews
Americanism Programs:
   Cadet Law Enforcement Academy .......................................... Pat Hewitt
   Boys State ........................................................................... Tom Wierman
   Oratorical ........................................................................... Mike Oppy
   Baseball ............................................................................. Joe Durham
   Scholarships ........................................................................ Mike Oppy
   School Awards & County Government Day ........................ Gary Foos
   Eisenhower ......................................................................... Paul Sanford
Department Sweepstakes Drawing ........................................ Department Staff
Students are encouraged to apply early. Completed applications must include endorsements by a doctor (attesting to the applicant’s physical condition), their high school principal or superintendent, their local American Legion Post Commander or Auxiliary Unit President, and a local law enforcement officer. A sponsorship fee of $300 and application fee of $50 includes housing, meals and supplies needed during the session must also accompany the application and can come from any source (Post, Unit, Squadron, Chapter, a local merchant, parents, etc.).

Applications must be received by March 31.

**KANSAS SUNFLOWER LEGIONNAIRE**

Jimmie L. Foster, Editor

Official publication of The American Legion, Department of Kansas and is owned exclusively by The Kansas Department. Published four times per year. Commander Randy Frank; Vice Commander Angela Evans; Area Vice Commander West Mike Jury; Area Vice Commander East George Honn; Adjutant, Jimmie Foster; Asst. Adjutant Jeff Bond, National Executive Committeeman Dan Wiley; Alternate NEC Jeremy Ehart; Chaplain Rev. Debra Muyllaert; Judge Advocate Joe DeWoskin; Historian Dan Stacy; Masters-at-Arms Ed Boring and Gary Foos.

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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: 888-875-0081 Ext. 56814

Dwight D. Eisenhower VA Medical Center, Leavenworth
Local: 913-758-4297, Toll Free: 800-952-8387 Ext. 52497

Colmery-O’Neil VA Medical Center, Topeka
Local: 785-350-4489, Toll Free: 800-574-8387 Ext. 54489

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**MID-WINTER FORUM MEALS**

**FEBRUARY 2-4, 2024**
**HUTCHINSON POST #68**

**FRIDAY 2 FEB - DINNER:** $10.00

CHICKEN FRIED STEAK, GREEN BEANS, MASHED POTATOES & GRAVY, DESSERT AND SMALL SALAD BAR

**SATURDAY, 3 FEB - BREAKFAST:** INCLUDED IN REGISTRATION

BISCUITS AND GRAVY, CINNAMON ROLLS, AND BREAKFAST ROLLS

**SATURDAY, 3 FEB - LUNCH:** $ 8.00

SANDWICHES WITH ALL THE FIXINGS, POTATO SALAD, CHIPS, AND DESSERT

**SATURDAY, 3 FEB – DINNER:** $15.00

FULL SALAD BAR, ROAST BEEF, MASHED POTATOES & GRAVY, CORN, DINNER ROLLS, AND DESSERT

**SUNDAY, 4 FEB – BREAKFAST:** $ 8.00

BISCUITS AND GRAVY, EGGS, HASHBROWNS, SAUSAGE, AND BREADS

Name_______________________________
Post/Unit/Squadron #______
Address______________________
City_______________  Zip_________

Number of Friday Dinners to be reserved at $10.00 each: _______

Number of Saturday Lunches to be reserved at $8.00 each: _______

Number of Saturday Dinners to be reserved at $15.00 each: _______

Number of Sunday Breakfasts to be reserved at $8.00 each: _______

Enclosed is check in the amount of ________________

Mail to: Jeremy Ehart
730 W 4th Ave
Hutchinson, KS 67501