

# Sunflower Legionnaire

The American Legion -



Today's Voice for Today's Veterans & Military

VOL LXXVII NO. 4

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

April, May, June 2024

## ORATORICAL CONTEST WINNERS

The State Oratorical Contest sponsored by the Kansas American Legion was held on Saturday, March 16 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 Amend-

ment 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 2024 State Champion is Kamela Corbin from Derby representing Fifth District. Kamela will represent Kansas during the National contest in Hillsdale, Michigan in May. She will receive a \$1,000 scholarship from Kansas Department, plus additional scholarship money from National depending on her performance in the National Contest.

The second place award of a \$500 scholarship went to Haven Knapp from Seneca, representing Tenth District. The third place finisher was Zoie Crupper from Howard, representing Third District. She will receive a \$250 scholarship. The fourth place award of a \$150 scholarship went to Garrett Ledford from Olathe, representing Second District. The fifth place went to Izaiah Pearce from Bucklin, representing Eighth District, who will receive a \$100 scholarship.

## Department Convention Topeka May 31 - June 2

The Ramada Hotel & Convention Center, in Topeka will serve as the site of the 105th 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 1-800-432-2424. Room rates for the Convention are \$94.00 and includes a full breakfast buffet.

The Convention is expected to feature a number of speakers including American Legion National Vice Commander Ray Vail from Kansas and Auxiliary National Vice President Trish Ward from Kansas and S.A.L. National Vice Commander Terry Harris from Kansas, several of this year's Youth Champi-

ons, 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 2024-2025. 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 1st Place,  
Kamela Corbin, District 5



Oratorical 2nd Place,  
Haven Knapp, District 10



Oratorical 3rd Place,  
Zoie Crupper, District 3



Oratorical 4th Place,  
Garrett Ledford, District 2



Oratorical 5th Place,  
Izaiah Pearce, District 8

**COMMANDER**  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
**Randy Frank**  
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 departmentcommander@kansaslegion.org



**VICE COMMANDER**  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
**Angela Evans**  
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Hello Legionnaires,  
 St Patrick's Day and the Leprechaun came through the Department of Kansas and helped us with a successfully move on our membership goal. They did not leave the Kettle of Gold, but we are almost there.

The Department of Kansas is currently in 19th Place with 93.34% as of 25 March 2024 in Membership. Nationally the Membership numbers are reaching historical marks and Kansas is right with them.

Every year the Department Commander is given a worksheet of the Departments expectations from National. You should know that we have met all of them to date, and the next 3 goals are within reach.

They are the next two Membership Goals on April 10th for 95% membership and May 15th for 100% membership and the last goal to establish a new Post. Soon we will be starting a new Post in Wichita with more to come. If you have questions or want to be a part of establishing a Post, please reach out to me or Joe Hicks District 5 Commander.

As a reminder, a 3-year membership at the current rate of \$45 per year is available until June 30, 2024.

Membership is a Legion responsibility for every Member. Create teams within your Post and Districts to reach out to the remaining Members.

Remember this year Our National Commander Dan Seehafer will be giving awards to all Post Commanders that make 100%. So far this year I have turned in 51 Post Commanders names for the Awards.

I continue to Challenge every Member of the Department of Kansas American Legion to go to their Post Leadership and help them to become 100%.

District Conventions have started and there will be some leadership changes. Take time to be a part of The American Legion Growth by attending and voting for your Post. Please continue to work with the outgoing leaders to maintain the Successful Membership Drive that we are experiencing.

Many Members of the Department Leadership will be traveling to Indianapolis for the annual Spring Meetings and will bring back what they have learned. More to come.

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 Department-Commander@kansaslegion.org or call me at 563-419-1474.

**HISTORIAN**  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
**Dan Stacy**  
 departmenthistorian@kansaslegion.org



Greetings fellow Legionnaires. We all are part of the history of The American Legion and continue making history every day. Ray Vail was elected National Vice Commander at the National Convention in Charlotte NC on August 31, 2023. Dan Wiley is in the line for National Commander in 2025, if God willing, he will be our

Greetings Kansas Legion Family...I cannot believe it is already March. We are in the last few months of our membership year and what a great year we have had so far. We have consistently ranked in the top 20 each week in regard to Membership. I cannot remember when the last time Kansas was at 92% this early. Thank you to everyone who has worked hard on membership. We still have a few months left so please reach out to those Members who have not renewed. They may be on the fence of renewing, take the time to arm yourself with information so those that have not renewed will have current information regarding what The American Legion provides. Reach out to our Legislative Committee to find out what our State and National elected officials are doing for us. Our current and potential new Members need to know

what The American Legion is doing for them as Veterans.

As a reminder District Conventions are starting, 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.

National Commander when the Convention meets in Tampa Florida in 2025. We will soon be getting a new National Alternate Executive Committeeman. Our current National Commander has completed his Kansas tour. He started at Haysville Derby Post 408 on Monday, September 18. There was a great turnout.



## ANGELA EVANS FOR DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

My name is Angela Evans, from Arden H. McKee Post 128, Sterling and I am announcing my candidacy for the office of Department Commander for 2024-2025.

I earned my eligibility by service in the United States Air Force from 1986-2011. I am a Kansas Department Life Member of the American Legion, and a Member of the Sterling American Legion Auxiliary Unit.

I have served in various positions in the Post, including Adjutant and Commander and still stay active by serving Post 128 as Commander. I serve on various committees within the Post (bar, event, building etc.). I have served as the 7th District Vice-Commander, and Commander for two years and still serve on several committees for the District. I am currently your Department Vice Commander, the Membership Committee Chair, as well as a Member of the National Security Commission, Council Committee. 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 Commander to promote the mission of the Kansas American Legion. I am dedicated to continuing my travels across the State, improving communication, meeting Members, and listening to your ideas on improving and advancing the American Legion. I will also work hard to continue promoting past improvements and advancements while working with current Department and District Officers on implementing new thoughts and ideas throughout the Department.

I have the support of my family, the support and endorsement of Post 128, and the support and endorsement of the 7th District. I am asking for your support and vote at the Department Convention for the Office of Department Commander.

## JAMES SNYDER FOR AREA VICE COMMANDER EAST

My name is James Snyder from Oskaloosa Post 36 and I am announcing my candidacy for the office of Department Area Vice Commander East for 2024-2025.

I earned my eligibility serving in the United States Marines from 1984-1989. I am a current Member of the American Legion with 13 years and a SAL Member with 6 years of service.

I have served as Post Commander, Adjutant and Finance Officer which I am currently Adjutant/Finance Officer of Oskaloosa Post and SAL. I served most of the District positions for First District including 2 years as District Commander. I held 1 year as Area Vice Command-

er East in the past until I was approached by the Detachment to serve as Detachment Vice Commander which I held for 1 year. I then served as 2 years as Detachment Commander.

I am a 2021 graduate of the National American Legion College. I serve on several Department Committees of which Boys State I enjoy the most. I have been appointed to several National Committees over the past couple of years.

If elected I will continue to work membership and help to keep the push going towards the Youth Programs. I have the endorsement of both my Post and District and my family.

## GEORGE HONN FOR DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER

Hello my name is George Honn, from Miami Post 256 in Paola. I am announcing my candidacy for the office of Department Vice Commander for the 2024-2025 years.

I earned my eligibility by serving in the United States Navy from 1979-1987.

I have served in various positions in the Post, including the Adjutant, Vice Commander and Riders Director for 8 years. I have served on the flag etiquette committee with in the Post.

I have also served on the Second District Executive Committee. I have also served as District 2's Vice Commander and Commander. I have been Area Director for the Legion Riders. I still serve on several committees for the District. I am currently the Area East Vice Commander as well as Department Committeeman for American Legion Riders.

Moving forward I am committed to continue work-

ing with the Post, Districts, and the entire Legion Family, Using time and resources as Vice Commander to promote the mission of the Kansas American Legion.

I am dedicated to continuing my travels across the State, improving the communication, meeting Members, and listening to your ideas on improving and advancing the American Legion.

I will also work hard at to continue promoting past improvements and advancements while working with current Department and District Officers on implementing new thoughts and ideas throughout the Department.

I have the support of my family, the support and endorsement of my Post Miami Post 156 and the support and endorsement of the 2nd District.

I am asking for you support and vote at the Department Convention for the Office of Department Vice Commander. Thank you



**CHAPLAIN**  
\*\*\*\*\*  
**Rev. Debra Muyaert**  
departmentchaplain@kansaslegion.org

Greetings Legion Family!

If you were not able to attend the Mid-Winter Forum, you missed a great Four Chaplains Service! The theme was Gold Star Families. Cordelia Clapp of the Pawnee tribe and her granddaughter Olivia and great granddaughter Bryar performed Interpretive American Indian Sign Language to "God Bless America" and "The Lord's Prayer." It was absolutely phenomenal! We also had four phenomenal women who played the wife or mother of each of the Four Chaplains – Angela Evans, Trish Ward, Marri Krupco, and Jeanne Haas. They read

the bios of the Four Chaplains from the perspective of the wife or mother to honor the Gold Star Families left behind because of this terrible tragedy. My sincerest "THANK YOU" to all who assisted me in this service, including my awesome teammate and Department Auxiliary Chaplain Kristen Hensley. Teamwork makes the dream work!

In my message for this service, I mentioned that the Legion's "Be the One" mission is actually a very Biblical concept. The Apostle Paul told Titus to "remind the people ..... to be ready

(Continued on Page 7)



**FIRST DISTRICT  
COMMANDER**

**MIKE COLE**  
**(913) 680-8680**

Greeting First District, Spring has arrived! The First District Convention will be held on April 13, 2024, at Mary L. Blair Post #44 in Holton. We are hoping for a good turnout at the Convention. Would really be great to see at least one Delegate from every Post in the District this year.

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. Spread the good works of your Posts if they know what you do for Veterans, families and the community your membership will grow.

It has been a pleasure to serve as your Commander the past 2 years, please support your next District Commander that same way you have supported me. 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 Officers are there to help the Posts. Please take care this spring, stay safe, and hope to see you at the all the Department events!

Thank you for your service,  
Michael D. Cole  
First District Commander



**SECOND DISTRICT  
COMMANDER**

**DOUG HENSLEY**  
**(913) 314-2306**

District 2 Legionnaires,  
We had a successful District Convention hosted by Peter Smith Post #0327 on March 23rd. I want to be the first to congratulate your incoming District leadership; Anthony Pantoja-Commander, Myra Jowers-Vice Commander, Marri Krupco-Adjutant, David Heck-1 yr ExecBoard, Richard Sobek-2 yr ExecBoard and Kevin Schasteen-3 yr ExecBoard. They will serve you well so please reach out with any questions or needed assistance.

Congratulations to Post 156, 188, 279, 370 and 385 for reaching or exceeding 100% by D2 Convention. Everyone is doing well, District is at 92.91% but keep working on those renewals, Post 58 reports and talking to non-Member Veterans. 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.

We held our annual Awards Party hosted by Earl Collier Olathe Post 153 and recognized 97 Legion Family Members for their efforts in membership, programs and local events supporting The American Legion.

The Department Convention is coming up on May 31st-June 2nd immediately followed by Boys State June 2nd - June 8th and Cadet Law June 16th - June 21st.

Thank you all for your support this past year and for allowing me to serve as your District Commander, it has truly been a great honor and experience.

D2 Commander, Doug Hensley



**THIRD DISTRICT  
COMMANDER**

**RENE CASTILLEJA**  
**(620) 779-2476**

*No article submitted.*



**FOURTH DISTRICT  
COMMANDER**

**Eszter Blair**  
**(785) 447-2577**

Happy Spring to my fellow Legionnaires! This year is going by so fast and it's almost time for our District Convention again. I am very happy with the direction our District is going. We consolidated a couple of Posts and we are working hard to make the District Split in July a smooth transition. Your District Leadership has been working very hard to have good leadership willing to step up and continue with the two new Districts' goals making it a seamless shift. And both new Districts will be there to help each other as needs arise.

As I said, District Convention is at the Emporia Post this year on April 13th. Flyers have gone out in my letter to your Commanders and the Call to Convention was sent out by District Adjutant Barry Maples so please check your email, your snail mail, and lets see you all in Emporia. Again, this is where we will be voting on new officers for both Districts so please come and show your support, maybe even run for a District Position!

Don't forget about Depart-

ment Convention and American Legion Leadership College in June. Details will be on the Department website. These are both great opportunities for everyone to learn more, meet new Legionnaires and to make our Districts even stronger.

Keep up the good work that you all do in the name of the American Legion, god bless!



**FIFTH DISTRICT  
COMMANDER**

**JOE HICKS**  
**(316) 295-7340**

Greetings 5th District American Legion Family. Thank you for supporting me as your 5th District Commander this past year. I would like to start off by thanking our Oratorical 1st place winner Kamela Corbin, a Senior from the Derby High School, Kamela placed 1st in the District Competition January 27th hosted by the Derby-Haysville Post 408 and she continued on to win 1st place in the Department Contest on March 16th at the Manhattan Post 17, what a great achievement. Kamela will move up to the National Contest in Michigan May 17th through 19th, we wish her well. It's that time of year when Conventions are starting. The 5th District Convention will be in Derby, KS, hosted by the John M. West Derby - Haysville Post 408 Saturday April 6th, registration desk will be open on Friday, April 5th starting at 5 pm to 9 pm and Saturday starting at 7:30 am to 11:30 am, please check with your Post Commander to see if you are eligible to be a Delegate from your Post, the Convention meal must be paid in advance, check with your Post Adjutant for de-

**(Continued on Page 5)**



# FIFTH DISTRICT

(Continued from Page 4)

tails. The Department Convention is just around the corner in Topeka KS, May 31 to June 2, hope to see you at one or both Conventions. This is the time of year we elect our Officers for the coming year. If you have not done so and you wish to see some changes or improvements, I encourage you to run for Post or District Office or Committee Chairman, changes can be made only by your participation and support. Post Commanders and Adjutants lets not forget about reporting all your good work this year so as to get credit for everything your Post has accomplished. The 5th District will be chartering a new Post in Wichita this year in the old Masonic home now called Oxford Vista Senior living residences 402 S. Martinson, Wichita KS 67213 just off Seneca St, the Veterans will be a big part of the Oxford Vista retirement home agenda. If anyone would like to learn more about the new Post and details please give me or Department Commander Randy Frank a call. We are still looking for Charter Members to get it started. Please continue to work on membership, give the Members that have not renewed a call, let's not forget them, a phone call or face to face maybe all that it would take to get them to renew. It has been a pleasure to serve as your Commander this year, I would like to wish everyone well and good luck. Until the next issue, For God and Country.

# KANSAS DISTRICTS



Click map to enlarge.

# ED BORING FOR MASTER AT ARMS

My name is ED BORING from Chanute Post 170 and I'm announcing my candidacy for the Office of Master at Arms for 2024 – 2025. I'm currently one of the two for the Department.

I earned my eligibility by my service in the Marine Corps from 1971 – 1976. I then joined the Kansas Army National Guard and retired after 35 years with them at the rank of Brigade Command Sergeants Major. I've been a continuous Member of the American Legion for over 40 years and I'm a P.U.F.L. Member. I'm also a Member of the Sons, Squadron 170 at Chanute, and I'm a Charter Member and the Director for the past 6 years of the Riders at Independence.

I've held different Post positions and I've been the Post Adjutant for the past 6 years at Chanute. I've also been District 3 Vice-Commander as well as serving as the District Commander for 2 years. I've served on different committees at the Post, District, and Department level.

I'm also the current Chairman of our Rural Waterboard, a Member of the Shrine and Past Master of the Masons.

I've the support of my wife of 46 years, Twilla, the endorsement of my Post, and the endorsement of the 3rd District.

I'm asking for your support and vote at the Department Convention in Topeka this June for another year as one of your two Master at Arms.

# 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

(Continued on Page 7)



**JIMMY STRACHAN**  
(785) 483-1186

**SIXTH DISTRICT  
COMMANDER**

No article submitted.



**CHRIS SELF**  
(620) 253-2651

**EIGHTH DISTRICT  
COMMANDER**

No article submitted.



**PAT CAFFREY**  
(785) 396-4531

**TENTH DISTRICT  
COMMANDER**



**MIKE VONDRACEK**  
(620) 285-9373

**SEVENTH DISTRICT  
COMMANDER**

No article submitted.



**SEAN HANKIN**  
(785) 443-0956

**NINTH DISTRICT  
COMMANDER**

No article submitted.

Greetings from 10th District. We had are Oratorical Contest on Feb. 10 at Fischer Community Center in Hiawatha. We had 2 contestants and was well attended. We had a District Meeting after the contest and made final plans for our District Convention on April 26 and 27th. I viewed the Fairview Community Center on the way home with the Fairview Post Members and I think it will work well. Thank you! Pat Caffrey District 10 Commander.

# ADJUTANT'S BRIEFS

By Department Adjutant Jimmie L. Foster

The Membership year of 2023-2024 is coming to an end very rapidly!

WE, as a Department, are a few Members ahead of 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 to remain on track.

Department First Vice Commander Angela Evans and ALL Ten District Commanders and District Vice Commanders are available to assist, all you have to do is ASK!

The 2024 Mid-Winter Forum was well attended. Hutchinson Post 68 did an excellent job of hosting the venue.

The 2024 Department Oratorical Contest was held at Manhattan Post 17 on 16 March 2024 and the five orators were ALL Winners!

Kamela Corbin from Derby, Kansas representing the Fifth District was selected as the ultimate winner and will represent the Department of Kansas at the National Contest at Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, Michigan from 17 to 19 April 2024. Hopefully, she will be able to advance to the Championship Round and win herself additional Scholarship monies. Congratulations, Kamela!

The Department Convention of Kansas American Legion will be held from 31 May to 2 June 2024 in Topeka, Kansas at the Ramada Hotel and Conference Center. ALL of Our National Guests are from the Great State of Kansas this year. National Vice Commander Ray Vail from Arma, Kansas will be the National Guest for the Legion. National Vice President Trish Ward from Louisburg, Kansas will represent

the Auxiliary, and S.A.L. National Vice Commander Terry Harris from Larned will represent the Sons of The American Legion.

Kansas Boys State is also scheduled to be held from 2 to 8 June 2024 at Kansas State University. PLEASE check the Kansas Boys State of Kansas Website for the most up-to-date information.

The 2024 American Legion Leadership College will take place in Concordia at Cloud County Community College from 7 to 9 June 2024. The cost for all meals and two nights' stay in the Dorm is \$ 85.00. To stay in the Dorm for two nights is \$40.00 total. All meals are \$45.00 total. The total price stayed the same as last year. That does not happen very often!

The Cadet Law Enforcement Academy Program is scheduled to be held from 16 to 24 June 2024 at the Kansas Highway Patrol Training Academy in Salina, Kansas. PLEASE check the Department Website for up-to-date details. I know that the Junior and Seniors are looking forward to attending this program.

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

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

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



**DETACHMENT  
COMMANDER**

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**Jim Gallentine**

(785) 865-8393

jim.gallentine@gmail.com



This is a busy time of year with important meetings, conventions, reports to be turned in, and events to be organized and attended. While we do all the things we need to do, we should never forget what we are all about. S.A.L. National Commander Donald "JR" Hall's slogan this year is "Representing More Than Me." Everyone should bear that in attitude at all times in all we do.

Memorial day will soon be upon us - some of our Veterans and their families go through some tough times this time of year, and so please be doing those "Buddy Checks" and "Be

The One"!  
We are getting down to crunch time for our membership year - so far we are meeting our goals, but we need to keep pushing to hit the 100% goal. Membership boils down to work - contacting our Members - making those phone calls and renewing relationships. We are strong when our membership is strong!

Renewal online is available, and it is easy! Go to <https://www.legion.org/sons> and hit the Renew button.

Adjutants, please do not sit on memberships that you have received - please turn them in ASAP!



**AUXILIARY  
PRESIDENT**

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**Cheryl Eastep**

(620) 687-3197

deptpresident@kslegionaux.org



I can't believe my year is almost up already! It has been an honor to serve as the President for the Department of Kansas this year along with Commander Randy and Detachment Commander Jim.

It's been a busy time. I attended the Lincoln Pilgrimage and had the honor of laying a wreath for the State of Kansas with Vice Commander Angela. Then on to Washington DC. The programs were very interesting and several Members got to

go visit with Senator Moran to advocate for our Veterans. It's very important to spread the "Be The One" program as well.

I'm sure everyone has been preparing for their upcoming District Conventions. I am looking forward to my visits. I hope everyone is planning to attend the Department Convention May 31, June 1st and 2nd. Until then, God Bless. And remember: Team Work makes the Dream Work to Be The One!



# DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

(Continued from Page 3)  
to do whatever is good” (Titus 3:1). In other words, be “good-works ready,” or in Legion lingo, be “Be the One” ready. I challenged each of you in the last issue of the Sunflower Legionnaire to be “watchman” on the wall (Isaiah 62:6) in 2024. If we take this challenge seriously and look for opportunities to help our fellow Veterans, their families, and others, and if we reach out in love to

help them, care about them, and provide the support they need to live another day, we will always be “good-works ready.” Then “others ..... may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16). Being “good-works ready” will help us ensure we are “Be the One” ready and enable us to accomplish our mission. To God be the glory!

Happy Spring! See you at Department Convention!

# DOUG HENSLEY FOR MASTER-AT-ARMS

(Continued from Page 5)  
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



## + TAPS +

Akers, Dale ..... Hays  
Arwine, James (Vietnam).....Garden City  
Atlakson, Keith (Korea).....Atchison  
Auer, Donald (Vietnam).....El Dorado  
Baker, Terry (Vietnam).....Quinter  
Banker, William (Korea).....Atchison  
Beavers, Vern (Korea).....Garden City  
Beck, Rudy (Vietnam) ..... Howard  
Beckley, Roger (Vietnam)..... Manhattan  
Broxterman, Charles (Korea)..... Frankfort  
Buggs, Johnny (Vietnam)..... Wichita  
Chism, Michael (Persian Gulf) ..... Shawnee  
Cranmer, Robert (Korea) ..... Ness City  
Cranwell, Larry (Vietnam).....Topeka #400  
Cuer, Jim (Korea).....Bucklin  
Currie, Robert (Vietnam) .....Scandia  
Daulton, Dave, Sr. (Vietnam)..... Arkansas City  
Desanto, Robert (Korea) ..... Manhattan  
Dilli, Kendel-Ra (Vietnam)..... Howard  
Duryea, Dennis (Vietnam) ..... Seneca  
Duwe, Clair (Vietnam)..... Harper  
Ehm, Clarence, Jr. (Vietnam)..... Junction City  
Fishel, Duane (Vietnam) ..... Colby  
Foster, Donald (Korea) ..... Sublette  
Friend, John, Jr. (WWII) ..... Atchison  
Galliart, Dale (Korea) ..... Dorrance  
Glover, Charles (Vietnam)..... Manhattan  
Goldsmith, Raymond (WWII) ..... Lyndon  
Grove, James (Korea) ..... El Dorado  
Haist, James (Korea)..... Concordia  
Harris, Gilbert (Korea)..... Marquette  
Haynes, William (Korea).....Topeka #400  
Helsel, Marvin (Vietnam) .....Pratt  
Howe, Philip (Korea)..... Manhattan  
Isern, John (Persian Gulf) ..... Ellinwood  
James, Jimmie (Vietnam)..... Concordia  
Jones, Rodger (Vietnam)..... El Dorado  
Kaiser, Delmar (Korea)..... Grainfield  
King, Martin (Korea) ..... Arkansas City  
Krahl, Robert (Korea)..... Shawnee  
Kreutzer, Martin (Vietnam)..... LaCrosse

Kruse, David (Vietnam)..... Oberlin  
Larison, Jessie, Jr. (Vietnam) ..... Baxter Springs  
Larmer, Oscar (WWII)..... Manhattan  
Larson, Marvin (Vietnam) ..... Marquette  
Leckliter, Thomas (Vietnam) ..... Howard  
Love, Virgil (Korea)..... Clearwater  
Lovgren, Alvin (Korea)..... Manhattan  
Manderino, Jerry (Vietnam)..... El Dorado  
Martin, Philip (Vietnam)..... Pittsburg  
McCord, Jack (Vietnam).....Topeka #400  
McCoy, Carmond (Vietnam)..... El Dorado  
McDonald, William (Vietnam) ...Derby-Haysville  
Meadows, Cody (Korea)..... Pittsburg  
Menzie, John (Korea)..... Sublette  
Merrick, Paul (Gulf War) ..... Gardner  
Meyer, Wilfred (Vietnam)..... Junction City  
Michaelis, Duane (Vietnam) ..... El Dorado  
Morey, Donald (Korea)..... Frontenac  
Nithman, Leroy (Vietnam)..... Concordia  
Paddock, David (Korea)..... Ottawa  
Perkins, Steven (Vietnam) ..... Atchison  
Rankin, Daniel (Vietnam) ..... Louisburg  
Reiss, Franklin (Vietnam) ..... Atchison  
Rush, Hardie (Vietnam) ..... El Dorado  
Songs, Ray (Vietnam) ..... Manhattan  
Taylor, Fred (WWII) ..... McCracken  
Tegethoff, Richard (Vietnam) ..... Beattie  
Tomlinson, Gerald (Vietnam) ..... McCracken  
Travelute, Harold ..... Hanover  
Tschantz, Thomas (Vietnam) ..... Burlington  
Turner, Fern (WWII)..... Manhattan  
Waelchli, John (Vietnam)..... McCracken  
Weigel, Fred, Jr. (Korea)..... Russell  
Wemmer, Robert (Korea)..... Howard  
Wilson, Joseph (WWII) ..... Manhattan  
Windisch, Larry (Vietnam) ..... Louisburg  
Woods, Jack (Vietnam) ..... Howard  
Woods, James (Vietnam)..... Great Bend  
Worman, Larry (Korea)..... Atchison  
Wulf, Michael (Vietnam) ..... Saint George

# 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 24.

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

has been mailed to every Post and is available from Department Headquarters. Legion Family Members are asked to spend an hour or two at major intersections on May 24 to hand a brochure describing the reasons to drive safely to each motorist as they stop for a signal light or stop sign. Some Posts choose to place the brochures in service stations, rest areas, convenience stores, and super markets, etc. All efforts are to be coordinated with local and area law enforcement officials.

A coupon for ordering a supply of brochures is located on page 10 for your convenience. All requests must be ordered by the Post Commander or Adjutant, Unit President or Secretary, or Squadron Commander or Adjutant.

# Bowling Tournament

The 77th Annual American Legion Bowling Tournament will be held at Gage Bowl in Topeka for 2024. The dates for the tournament are January 6-7, 13-14, 20-21, so reserve your dates now. The tournament features singles, doubles, and team competition. One of the changes this year is that Auxiliary Members will be allowed to bowl in the tournament along with the Legion and S.A.L. Members. The host motel is the Endeavor Inn & Suites, rooms will be \$87 per night. The Hotel offers FREE hot breakfast buffet (served

daily); FREE evening Manager's Reception, receive 2 complimentary beverages per guest (Monday - Saturday, 5PM-7PM); FREE 24-hour coffee and tea served in the lobby; FREE high-speed internet; 24-hour Fitness Room and an Indoor whirlpool. The 2024 entry forms will be going out the first part of May with all the details. Please follow us on our Facebook Page at - Dept of Kansas American Legion Bowling Tournament. If you have any questions, contact Michael Cole at [bowling2@kansaslegion.org](mailto:bowling2@kansaslegion.org) or 913-680-8680.

# SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS

- John Nondorf, Liberal, KS..... \$2,000.00
- John Green, Kansas City, KS..... \$1,000.00
- Judy Glowiak, Manhattan, KS..... \$500.00
- Marten Leimer, Mulvane, KS ..... \$250.00
- Lawrence Randall, Phillipsburg, KS..... \$250.00
- Stanley Harder, Topeka, KS..... \$200.00
- Michael Cole, Leavenworth, KS..... \$200.00
- Richard Spare, Hesston, KS..... \$100.00
- Kenneth Dohm, Lake City, KS ..... \$100.00

# LEGION COLLEGE

This year's Kansas American Legion College will take place at Cloud County Community College in Concordia June 7-9.

This year there will a Hands-On Class dealing with [mylegion.org](http://mylegion.org) being taught by a Member of the KALC Committee. 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 the committee 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 \$85.00 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 \$45 total.

Check in for the College begins at 3:00 PM on Friday, June 7. 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 8 and 9 with a break for lunch on Saturday and conclusion of the College on Sunday no later than noon.

**LEGION COLLEGE REGISTRATION**  
ENCLOSED IS MY \$85 REGISTRATION FOR THE  
KANSAS AMERICAN LEGION COLLEGE  
JUNE 7-9

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



# 2024 KANSAS BASEBALL GUN RAFFLE RESULTS

(Tickets were drawn at the 2024 Mid-Winter Forum in Hutchinson, Kansas)

First Ticket Drawn – Ticket # 1138 – Pat Caferty, Vermillion, KS - Who Chose the Weatherby Orion O/U 20 Gauge Shot Gun

Second Ticket Drawn – Ticket # 0916 – Shawn Carmona, Dodge City, KS – Who chose the Redhead Premier 12 Gauge Shot Gun

Third Ticket Drawn – Ticket # 0617 – Mike Maloney, Emporia, KS – Who chose the TriStar Setter S/T 20 Gauge Shot Gun

Fourth Ticket Drawn – Ticket # 0583 – Curt Welton, Hiawatha, KS – Who chose the Ruger 16953 American 6.5 Creedmor 4+1 Rifle

Fifth Ticket Drawn – Ticket # 1164 – Trevor Tholstrup, Beloit, KS – Who chose the Winchester Repeating Arms 535711289 XPR SR Rifle

Sixth Ticket Drawn – Ticket # 0622 – Kyndra Burgess, Pittsburg, KS – Who received what was left – Bushmaster 0010000BLK QRC 5.56x45mm Rifle

# 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 1 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: roast beef or rosemary oregano chicken breast with mashed potatoes and gravy. Tossed salad with ranch and Dorothy Lynch dressing, grilled squash medley, cherry crisp, rolls and butter, water, coffee, and iced tea. Cost is \$40 per person and reservations must be received no later than Monday, May 20.

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 1 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 22; or telephone your reservations to 785-232-9315. Payment is due no later than May 20 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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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 1, 2024

RAMADA, TOPEKA, KS

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

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

Number of dinners to be reserved at \$40.00 each \_\_\_\_\_

Roast Beef \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Breast \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

DEADLINE of: 20 May 2024