

THE STATE ADJUTANTS LETTER



KANSAS DEPARTMENT



1314 SW TOPEKA BLVD. TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1886

DECEMBER 2017

FEBRUARY 1 DEADLINE REMINDER: An important date for membership workers. This is the LAST chance to qualify for the Gold Star Club and other awards. ADJUTANTS ARE TO REPORT WORKERS NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 15. Reporting forms were mailed last month, let us know if you need additional copies.

THREE DUES NOTICES have been sent by National Headquarters; the easy ones are in; the rest will require personal contact. Organize membership drives now before everyone gets caught up in Christmas shopping, etc. For those Posts with club rooms/lounges: Your lounge workers should have a list of unpaid members available to them and they should be collecting dues. It does not matter who collects dues -- but they must be collected. Listed below are suggestions how to collect membership.

1. Divide all unpaid renewals among your membership workers and Post Officers. These people should contact every person on their 'list' this month.
2. Divide your membership workers and Post Officers into teams similar to the above suggestion #1. Perhaps your Post can award a prize to the most successful team and/or individual.
3. Use the 'buddy system' to organize an old fashioned door-to-door membership drive to seek out new membership, renewals and those who can be reinstated.
4. Ask those who have never helped out on a membership drive to help. Who knows you might find a permanent membership worker. Ask all your membership to help out by remembering who went to service with them and get them signed up. Ditto for all other veterans including today's active duty military and 80% of the current Guard and Reserve Personnel. Who is a 'new' member? Anyone who did not pay their dues to your Post last year but does so this year. There are over 200,000 eligible veterans in Kansas who still haven't been asked to join.

STATE BOWLING TOURNAMENT: Deadline is December 10. This year's tournament will be held at Royal Crest Lanes, 933 Iowa St. in Lawrence, January 6-7, 13-14, 20-21. Contact Chairman Gary Loucks whose telephone number is 620-794-5561.

TRANSFERS: The Post Transfer section of the Member Data Form must be filled out for all members transferring their membership to another Post. This includes DMS members and is very important because of permanent member ID numbers.

LEGISLATIVE PARTY: Mark your calendar for January 17, 2018 as the date for the Legion's annual Legislative Party. More information is enclosed.

POSTS INTERESTED IN HOSTING 2018 BASEBALL TOURNAMENTS must notify Headquarters before January 2, 2018.

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POST EXCELLENCE AWARD is issued to American Legion Posts that show excellence in membership participation, youth activities, community service, and support to veterans or troops. This award promotes membership growth, demonstrates Legion values to youth, and increases the Legion Family's visibility through community service projects. **Membership** - Post membership must be at least one member greater than the previous year. A Post Officer must attend District meetings. **Youth Activities** - Post must sponsor and actively participate in at least one of the primary youth programs such as Boys State, Legion Baseball, Oratorical Contest, Boy Scouts or Junior Shooting Sports. **Community Service** - Post must organize a community service project which involves Legion Family members. A large range of potential projects exists; a Post could focus on a Children & Youth service or fulfill a strictly local need. A monetary donation may be part of the project, but does not constitute an entire project. **Service to Troops or Veterans** - Post must organize a project supporting troops or veterans which involves Legion Family members outside the Post. Project could include Legion programs like the Family Support Network or Heroes to Hometowns. Or they could simply help a local veteran with needed improvements to a home. A monetary donation may be part of the project, but it does not constitute an entire project.

THE AMERICAN LEGION HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM will be held at 9:00am, March 17, 2018 at American Legion Post #17, 114 McCall Rd, in Manhattan. Prior to the State Contest there are eight District Contests scheduled for the winner to qualify for the state contest. Scholarships vary for each District with scholarships given to the top three District Contestants. They then move on to the State Contest where eight contestants compete for \$750; \$500; and \$250 and \$150. The state winner gets an all expense trip to the National Finals Contest. The three National finalists receive scholarships as follows; 1st Place, \$18,000; 2nd Place, \$16,000; and 3rd Place, \$14,000.

SCHOOL AWARD PROGRAM: Information on the School Award Program is enclosed. This is an excellent program for a Post to be involved with local school(s). Posts reaching quota by February 1, 2018 will receive Medals and Certificates in accordance with Page 5 of the 2018 Membership Campaign and Awards Handbook.

RENEWAL POST CARDS: Department Headquarters will receive a supply of the 2018 Membership Renewal Post Cards. These cards can be very effective when sent to delinquent members. Contact Headquarters with the number that you need.

CONGRATULATIONS: To Jennings for making GOAL and to Fort Scott for making COMMANDERS TARGET. (As of November 21.)

DISTRICT STANDINGS AS OF NOVEMBER 21, 2017: District VIII, 906 - 72.19%; District VII, 1,541 - 69.51%; District II, 3,289 - 68.78%; District IV, 2,738 - 67.32%; District I, 3,620 - 66.65%; District V, 2,607 - 64.50%; District VI, 2,230 - 63.50% and District III, 1,953 - 63.18%. Department Headquarters Post 58 (included in Dept. total) is 966. Total membership is 19,850. Membership last year this date was 21,328. We are BEHIND 1,478 members.

IN ORDER TO AVOID RECEIVING THE NEXT RENEWAL NOTICE ALL PAID MEMBERS' CARDS MUST BE IN THIS OFFICE BY DECEMBER 8, 2017.

THE AMERICAN LEGION CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION: Start planning now to celebrate the 100th anniversary of The American Legion. The centennial events and activities will kick off at the 100th National Convention, August 24-30, 2018 in Minneapolis. The commemoration will last for 15 months. It will continue through the 101st National Convention, August 23-29, 2019 in Indianapolis, and will culminate on Veterans Day 2019. During and leading up to this celebration, every post will be given the opportunity to highlight their unique history. The American Legion 100th Anniversary Observation Committee has developed tools and guides to help posts share their stories. Look for more details in the January/February/March *Sunflower Legionnaire*.

LEGISLATIVE PARTY:

Mark your calendar for January 17, 2018 as the date for the Legion's annual Legislative Party. The Reception will be held on 17 January 2018 at 5:00 P.M., before the Mid-Winter Conference, this year. It was in agreement with the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate that it should be earlier in the year to get the Legislators engaged on Our items that need to be discussed and supported for Veterans and their Families. We will see how many Legislators show up and how the Bills progress through both the Senate and the House this year. Depending on the results of being held earlier, we may revert back to the Wednesday after the Mid-Winter Forum. Location again this year is the CAPITOL PLAZA HOTEL, 1717 SW TOPEKA BLVD., TOPEKA, KS 66612. Several issues important to Veterans and Veterans Benefits are expected to be brought before the Legislature. The briefing for members is at 5:00 pm and the reception for the Legislators begins at 6:00 pm. Reservations of \$20.00 per person may be sent to Department Headquarters, 1314 SW Topeka Blvd., Topeka, KS 66612 using the coupon below.

LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION

Yes, I plan to attend The American Legion Legislative Reception, Jan. 17, 2018 in Topeka. Enclosed is \$ ____ (\$20 per person). Note: please list the name of each attendee.

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

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Zip _____

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