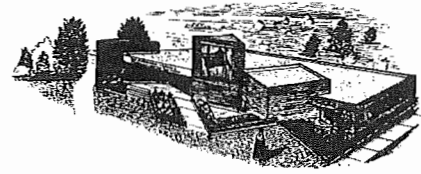


THE STATE ADJUTANTS LETTER



KANSAS DEPARTMENT



1314 SW TOPEKA BLVD. TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1886

MARCH 2017

As the 2017 legislative session continues new bills have been introduced. The following is a list of the Kansas Department's top Legislative priorities listed in order of importance. Encourage legionnaires to contact their State level legislators on these issues. Remember, personal contact is always more effective.

HB 2038 would exempt Kansas residents who are veterans or current members of the armed forces from paying fees charged by the Secretary of State for the initial incorporation of:

- A for-profit or foreign corporation;
- A nonprofit organization;
- A limited liability company;
- A limited partnership; or
- A limited liability partnership.

HB 2112 would make the following residents eligible for medical assistance: military veterans, their spouses, or dependent children, and the spouse or dependent child of a deceased military veteran whose income does not exceed 138% of the federal poverty level.

HB 2132 would make pre-employment drug screening mandatory for all new employees at the Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs Office (KCVAO).

HB 2147 Native American veterans domiciled on tribal lands during their periods of active military service may have been exempt from paying state income taxes on their military income, but may have had state income taxes improperly withheld from their military income; This bill would commission a study to determine the number and identity of individuals effected and the cost to settle claims by Native American veterans', or their survivors.

HB 2174 would require any veteran applying for a disabled veteran license plate to provide satisfactory proof to the director of vehicles that their disability, condition or impairment is permanent in nature.

HB 2175 would require a notice, both written and oral, be supplied to veterans prior to entering any transaction regarding veterans' benefits. The notice would read "Kansas law provides that veterans are not required to apply for any benefits or entitlements through a particular agency or company. Veterans may request assistance in applying for benefits from a veteran service officer accredited by the US Department of Veterans Affairs or the Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs Office or any veteran service organization recognized or approved by the US Department of Veterans Affairs to assist claimants under 38 USC 5902".

HB 2175 would also require veterans, upon entering into a transaction, to sign a written notice stating "I understand that entering into this transaction does not guarantee acceptance for veterans' benefits and may delay or make me ineligible for certain veterans' and other federal benefits."

HB 2196 Requires funds collected from the veterans benefit lottery game tickets go directly to the indicated fund for immediate use instead of collecting in the state treasury until the end of the year.

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HB 2257 would provide for the issue of distinctive license plates for recipients of the Army of occupation medal or the Navy occupation service medal.

HB 2261 would exempt all sales of tangible personal property purchased by or on behalf of a 501(c)(19) veterans service organization, for the purpose of providing reintegration, health and financial support for military, veterans and their families and all sales of any such property by or on behalf of such organization for such purpose.

CADET LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY: Applications are due March 31. For additional applications or more information contact Department Headquarters or our website www.ksamlegion.org.

BOYS STATE: Applications are due March 31. The 2017 session marks the 80th Anniversary of this outstanding program. Boys State DVD's are available free of charge to Posts and a video is available on the website. This twelve minute video highlights activities during the week of Boys State and features testimonials from several of the States themselves. They are both excellent recruitment tools for your Boys State Coordinator. You can order your copy or additional applications by calling the Boys State Office toll free at 866-241-9920 or online at www.kansasboysstate.org.

POST ELECTIONS are the most important in the Legion. Elections of Post Officers must be held not more than sixty days or less than fifteen days prior to the Department Convention which begins on May 20, 2017. This year those dates are March 21 and May 5. Elect responsible and qualified leaders who will represent you and your Post. Names and addresses of those elected must be reported to Department Headquarters as soon as elected. A form is enclosed. All Posts are required to report their officers even if they haven't changed.

MEMBERSHIP AWARDS: Legionnaires have until May 1 to be certified for "Go-Getter" and "Big Team (10 new members and 25 new members respectively). These awards cannot be sent out correctly unless we have updated figures in this office. Certification forms are available at Department Headquarters for the "Gold Brigade" (50 or more NEW members) and the "Silver Brigade" (25 to 49 NEW members). Certification forms for the Gold and Silver Brigade are due at Department Headquarters May 1, 2017.

DISTRICT CONVENTIONS: Attend and elect good officers who will represent your District in the 2017-2018 membership year. Dates and locations for this year are: **District I** - Lansing, April 21-23; **District II** - Shawnee, March 25; **District III** - Chanute, March 24-26; **District IV** - Manhattan, April 23; **District V** - McPherson, April 1; **District VI** - Concordia, April 8; **District VII** - Hoisington, April 1; **District VIII** - Liberal, April 7-9.

CONGRATULATIONS: To Tescott and Conway Springs for making GOAL; and to Wetmore for making QUOTA. (As of February 22.)

DISTRICT STANDINGS AS OF FEBRUARY 23, 2017: District VIII, 1,115 - 84.09%; District V, 3,472 - 82.82%; District I, 4,678 - 80.81%; District IV, 3,539 - 80.52%; District VII, 1,899 - 80.23%; District III, 2,611 - 80.07%; District II, 4,076 - 79.62% and District VI, 2,982 - 79.16%. Department Headquarters Post 58 (included in Dept. total) is 1,256. Total membership is 25,628. Membership last year this date was 28,579. We are BEHIND 2,951 members.

IN ORDER TO AVOID RECEIVING THE NEXT RENEWAL NOTICE ALL PAID MEMBERS' CARDS MUST BE IN THIS OFFICE BY APRIL 18, 2017.