

OCTOBER 2016

EISENHOWER PILGRIMAGE will be held in Abilene on October 15. The Presidential Wreath laying Ceremony will be at 10:30am followed immediately by the American Legion and Auxiliary Program. Everyone is encouraged to attend and every Post should be represented. Immediately after the Eisenhower Ceremony, Department Vice Commander Terry Marr will celebrate his Homecoming with a Luncheon at the First United Methodist Church. More information and coupons for ordering a rose and meal tickets is enclosed with the Adjutants Letter.

VETERANS DAY IS NOVEMBER 11. Start making plans for your Post to observe this day honoring the living and the deceased who have served this nation in uniform. The Legion should take the lead in seeing that Veterans Day is observed in every community. Veterans Day presents a golden opportunity to collect renewal members' dues, reinstate those who have dropped out and sign up new members.

ORATORICAL CONTEST: Department Oratorical Chairman Mike Oppy requests that every Post appoint an Oratorical Chairman. A Post Chairman is important to assist the District Chairman, to visit the local schools to encourage students to enter the local contest. Contest information will be mailed to schools and Posts in the next few weeks. This is the largest scholarship program available from The American Legion with over \$138,000 in scholarships awarded including \$18,000 to the National Winner.

MAKE HALLOWEEN A FUN AND SAFE NIGHT. Enclosed is a brochure with suggestions for the community to make Halloween "A Fun and Safe Night."

POST EVENTS CALENDAR: Any Kansas Post can now advertise their upcoming Post activities on the Department's web page. Go to http://www.ksamlegion.org/page/post_events to view the post events calendar. From there, you can create an account by clicking on the "sign up" link. Only one account per Post will be accepted. Once the application is approved, you can use your login information to update the calendar with your Post's activities. Please send an email to Jeff at headquarters@ksamlegion.org to speed up the approval process.

AMERICAN LEGION CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION: The Foundation is continuing the incentive program for each post, unit or squadron donating at least one dollar for each member during the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation's award year.

OLDER WORKERS: The nominating form for The American Legion's Employer of the Year for Hiring Older Workers is enclosed. Nominations are due on January 2, 2017; a Kansas firm will win this prestigious state award. Headquarters relies on you to submit nominations, the winner may as well be from your community; perhaps your employer or firm. Additional copies of this nomination form are available upon request.

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NATIONAL COMMANDER'S INCENTIVE PIN: During the 2016-2017 membership year, National Commander Charles Schmidt will award his National Commander pin to any Legion Family member who obtains 3 new members into the American Legion. A new member is defined as any eligible person joining for the 2017 membership year who was not a member of The American Legion during the 2016 membership year. Each member listed must be eligible for membership in The American Legion. Please forward names of S.A.L. members or Auxiliary members to your detachment or unit for use in their respective incentive programs. To maintain the integrity of the National Commander's pin incentive program, only one pin will be awarded per individual. The certification form for this program may be submitted at any time after August 31, 2016. Upon receipt, national membership staff will confirm the names and mail the pin directly to the person who earned it. Commander Schmidt's pin incentive program will end June 30, 2017, or when supplies are exhausted. A certification form is enclosed with this Adjutants Letter. NEW THIS YEAR is a Commander's incentive pin for signing ONE new member. Certification for this award is also enclosed. Duplicate as necessary. Also enclosed is information on another award. The POST EXCELLENCE AWARD for Posts that show excellence in four areas, membership, youth activities, community service and support to currently serving troops or veterans. Information on the criteria of this award is enclosed and must be submitted to your District Commander for certification.

CONGRATULATIONS: To Macksville for reaching GOAL; and to Olpe for making QUOTA. (As of September 30.)

DISTRICT STANDINGS AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2016: District VIII, 779 - 58.75%; District I, 3,361 - 58.06%; District II, 2,934 - 57.32%; District IV, 2,427 - 55.22%; District V, 2,309 - 55.08%; District III, 1,796 - 55.08%; District VII, 1,287 - 54.37% and District VI, 2,020 - 53.62%. Department Headquarters Post 58 (included in Dept. total) is 825. Total membership is 20,539. Membership last year this date was 20,964. We are BEHIND 3,226 members.

IMPORTANT

NEXT MONTH'S ADJUTANTS LETTER WILL CONTAIN MEMBERSHIP AWARD REPORTING FORMS FOR GOLD AND SILVER STARS, CENTURY CLUB, BIG TEAM AND GO-GETTERS.

IN ORDER TO AVOID RECEIVING THE NEXT RENEWAL NOTICE ALL PAID MEMBERS' CARDS MUST BE IN THIS OFFICE BY OCTOBER 28, 2016.