

SEPTEMBER 2016

CANTEEN COUPONS: The need for Canteen Coupon Books continues to rise. More and more veterans rely on the generosity of Post, Units, Squadrons and individuals to purchase personal items and even light meals when hospitalized or while waiting for appointments at VA Medical Centers. See enclosed form and mail your Post's contributions to Department Headquarters.

SCHOLARSHIPS: Information will be mailed to all Posts and High Schools in October. Please DO NOT allow this valuable information to lay idly in your Post Home. Contact your nearest High School counselor's office to see if they received the information. Don't deprive a young person in your community the opportunity these programs offer. Have copies available at your Post Home for interested students and let members know they are available. The Hugh A. Smith, Ted and Nora Anderson, Albert M. Lappin and Rosedale Scholarships are available to children of Legion or Auxiliary members. The Charles and Annette Hill is for descendants of Legion and Auxiliary members. The Music, Shooting Sports and Hobbie LPN are available to any qualified student. These are all due February 15. The Sons of the American Legion scholarships will be available on their website KSSAL. These are all due February 15. The Eagle Scout of the Year is available to Eagle Scouts who are either members of Troops sponsored by Legion Posts or the son or grandson of Legion members is due March 1. The Oratorical Contest information will be mailed to the Posts and Schools after District locations and contests are finalized.

EISENHOWER PILGRIMAGE AND HOMECOMING FOR VICE COMMANDERS AND VICE PRESIDENT: Enclosed is the information for this year's Eisenhower Pilgrimage scheduled for Saturday, October 15 in Abilene. All Posts are encouraged to have someone at the Eisenhower Center to place their Post's Memorial Rose, however Department will furnish a representative for your Post should no one be available from your Post. Deadline for ordering a Memorial Rose or District Wreath is October 1.

Immediately after the Eisenhower Ceremony Department Vice Commander Terry Marr, SAL Detachment Vice Commander Michael Saindon and Department Vice President Melissa Burton will celebrate their Homecoming. Cost of the Luncheon is \$15.00. More information and a coupon for ordering are in the Sunflower Legionnaire. Reservations are to be sent to Department Headquarters and deadline for ordering is October 1.

COFFEE CUPS AND EARLY BIRD AWARDS: September 15 is the absolute deadline to be used in determining the winner of Coffee Cups and Early Bird awards. Coffee Cup Certificates are awarded to the Post or Unit with the greatest percentage of membership compared to the same time last year. Early Bird are awarded to Posts reaching or exceeding 75% by the September 15 deadline. Only those memberships received at Department Headquarters by September 15 will count towards those awards.

BE SURE TO CHECK THE ENCLOSED SCHEDULE FOR NATIONAL COMMANDER CHARLES SCHMIDT'S TOUR OF KANSAS, SEPTEMBER 25.

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FREE INSURANCE: As previously reported there have been a few changes to the free Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance program. It is now called LegionCare and while it still pays \$1,000 for an Accidental Death or Dismemberment, if the accident occurs while attending or traveling to and from an American Legion event or activity the benefit increases to \$5,000. However every member desiring coverage under the group must enroll, or re-enroll in order to extend or begin the term of their individual coverage under the group policy. Enrollment forms are available and enrollment can be accomplished or verified at 1-800-235-6943 and on the website www.theLIT.com. Make sure your members have this information. The No-Cost AD&D policy is just one benefit of your American Legion Membership. There is no obligation to purchase additional coverage.

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL: Congratulations to our three State Champions: Class 'A' Arkansas City; Class 'AA' Larned and Class 'AAA' Ottawa. A special thanks goes out to all the coaches, managers, and other volunteers for promoting healthy competition and sportsmanship among our American Legion teams involving more than 2,000 players, coaches and managers. Special thanks to all the Area Tournament hosts and to Great Bend, Fort Scott and Great Bend for hosting the State Tournaments this year.

2013 MEMBERSHIP CARDS are available for those Posts requesting them. Many Post Adjutants wish to keep the actual Department record cards as a permanent record. A request to Department Headquarters and the cards will be mailed to you. They are a great source of names of those who have dropped out and will rejoin if asked.

THE BIG RED '1' TURKEY RUN: The Ninth Annual Big Red '1' Turkey Run will be held Saturday November 19, 2016 at Fort Riley. The Turkey Run is for the families of the Warrior Transition Battalion. These families often find themselves transitioning out of the active military or may remain active. This year per information provided from Fort Riley there are 700 families that will need assistance. Volunteers are needed to gather food as well as distribute the food at Fort Riley on November 19, 2016. A list of food items will be coming out shortly. Many members of the Warrior Transition Battalion have been severely injured, the volunteers will be able to show the face of The American Legion when they load the food into cars for those needing assistance. In addition to the Turkey Run the Legion Family is working on making the WTB Christmas great as well, which is scheduled for December 16 & 17 2016. Monetary donations may be sent to Department Headquarters for either the Turkey Run, Operation Christmas or both. Please make checks payable to: Kansas Department American Legion. In the memo area please put either Turkey Run or Operation Christmas. Thank you for all that you do, past present and future for our Veterans and their families. For any information please contact "Bill Ryan (Turkey Run /Operation Christmas Committee Chairman) at blastedsign@cox.net 316-727-4611 or Al Longstaff ALR Department Chairman at northforty@lrmutual.com 620-897-6786 or 620-242-4978.

DISTRICT STANDINGS AS OF AUGUST 23, 2016: District VIII, 648 - 48.87%; District I, 2,761 - 47.69%; District V, 1,928 - 45.99%; District II, 2,310 - 45.13%; District VII, 1,047 - 44.23%; District IV, 1,931 - 43.94%; District VI, 1,548 - 41.09% and District III, 1,303 - 39.96%. Department Headquarters Post 58 (included in Dept. total) is 707. Total membership is 14,183. Membership last year this date was 17,056. We are BEHIND 2,873 members.

IN ORDER TO AVOID RECEIVING THE NEXT RENEWAL NOTICE ALL PAID MEMBERS' CARDS MUST BE IN THIS OFFICE BY SEPTEMBER 13, 2016.