



State Oratorical Contestants (Left to Right) Carson Smith, Louie Pires, Viridiana Arias, and Chayne Dessaso

## STATE ORATORICAL CONTEST RESULTS

The State Oratorical Contest sponsored by the Kansas American Legion was held on Saturday, March 17 at Pearce-Keller Post #17 in Manhattan. The four 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 Article 2, Section 4.

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 2018 State Champion is Chayne Dessaso from Leavenworth representing District 1. Chayne will represent Kansas during the National contest in

Indianapolis April 13-15. He will receive a \$750 scholarship from Kansas Department, plus additional scholarship money from National depending on his performance in the National Contest.

The second place award of a \$500 scholarship went to Louie Pires from Stilwell, representing District 2. The third place finisher was Carson Smith from Wichita, representing District 5. He will receive a \$250 scholarship. Fourth place went to Viridiana Arias from Dodge City, representing District 8. Viridiana will receive a \$150 scholarship.

In addition, Emporia State University and Tabor College also offer scholarships to the first four winners in this year's contest.

## Department Convention Set for Hutchinson May 18-20

The Atrium Hotel & Conference Center, 1400 N. Lorraine Street, in Hutchinson will serve as the site of the 100th 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 Atrium at (620) 669-9311. Room rates for the Convention are \$78 and includes a full breakfast buffet.

The Convention is expected to feature a number of speakers including American Legion National Vice Commander Byron Callies from South Dakota, Auxiliary Divisional National

Vice President Kansas' own Trish Ward, and S.A.L. National Commander Danny Smith from Nebraska, several of this year's Youth Champions, 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 the 2018-2019 membership year. All Legionnaires are encouraged to attend the Convention as a delegate, alternate, or guest. Post Adjutants will be

mailed pre-registration materials on April 15 (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.



Byron Callies, National Vice Commander

## 2018 KANSAS LEGACY RUN

By Terry Harris SAL/ALR Liaison

We are very excited to bring you The 4th Annual Kansas Legacy Run which will start at Post #68 in Hutchinson on June 7th 2018 and finish up at Derby/Haysville Post #408 on June 10 at around 12:00 Noon. This years run will take us into the central part and eastern part of Kansas with a beautiful ride across Highway 166 across southern Kansas. The run this year will be a little shorter with a few more stops.

After leaving Hutchinson we will stop in Lyons at the Eternal Flame Memorial on the courthouse square. Leaving Lyons we will then make a stop in Lindsborg for a quick cup of coffee and meet the members of the Post. From Lindsborg it's off to Pilsen, KS. and the Father Emanuel Kapaun Memorial. Then Hillsboro, Emporia, and finish the first day at Capitol Post #1 in Topeka.

Friday morning we will leave Topeka and head north on Highway 75 where we will stop in Holton at the Veterans Memorial in Linscott Park. After leaving Holton it's on to Hiawatha with a stop at the Memorial at the Hiawatha cemetery. I hear there is a little surprise waiting to escort us into Hiawatha. Leaving Hiawatha it's on to Atchison where we will be making a stop at the Post. After Atchison it's off to Leavenworth. This years run is going to make a stop at Fort Leavenworth where we will meet with a Gold Star Mom for a special wreath laying. One thing we have to do is get pre approval for each of us that will be going on base. Please contact myself, or Chris Krueger and we will get the necessary information. If you are retired Military or have a base pass, you won't need to get the information to us. After we leave Leavenworth it's off to Olathe and a stop at the Four Chaplains Memorial. After the wreath laying it's on to Post 19 in Gardner for the end of the day.

Day 3 gets a little more energetic. We will leave the hotel down I-35 and turn south at Ot-

tawa where we will then stop in Iola on the court house square to lay a wreath at the memorial. After Iola it's on to Chanute with a stop for a wreath laying. Leaving Chanute it's on to Erie for a Post visit and a stop for lunch. After lunch and our visit with the folks in Erie it's on to Baxter Springs with another wreath laying. Heading west on Highway 166 we will make a stop in Chetopa at their Veterans memorial and then to Coffeyville and the end of the day with riders being released at Post 20. The Members at Coffeyville will be serving a dinner for the riders and would like to have a close count of the people that will be eating at the Post. Please get your RSVP into me as soon as possible.

Day 4 we will leave Coffeyville and head to Winfield where a wreath will be laid at the Vietnam War Memorial. We are in the process of working on a stop at the Soldiers home so we can take the time to thank the residents there for their service to this great land. Leaving Winfield we will then ride to Derby/Haysville Post 408 to end the 2018 Kansas Legacy Run.

If you are interested in riding the Kansas Legacy run, all the registration information is located at [kansasalr.com](http://kansasalr.com). There you will find the Registration Form, The Waiver Form, The Medical Information Form as well as a route map and description of the ride. The Registration Price for the rider is \$50.00 with a passenger or supporter of the ride registering for \$25.00. Please mail all registrations to:

Kansas Legacy Run  
c/o Keena Longstaff  
143 Saline River Road  
Ellis, KS 67637

We hope to see each and every one of you at one of the stops. Come out and join us and help us honor our fallen.

If you have any questions please contact me, Terry Harris @ 620-910-7998 Or Chris Krueger @ 620-792-9763

## COMMANDER

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**Terry Marr**

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We are 3/4ths of the way through the membership year and it has gone so fast. I hope everyone has had a great year so far. I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your support the past year to me as your Department Commander. It's the work YOU do that makes this organization the best, and your hard work and dedication make me look good!

We had a great Department Legislative Reception this year and I believe this was the largest turnout of legislators we have ever had. The timing of the event was changed and coordinated by our Department Adjutant Jimmie Foster, and worked out GREAT. Super Job!

Our Mid-Winter Forum was well attended and we had a great turnout. Manhattan Post 17 was a wonderful host and did a superb job.

We attended the Washington D.C. conference and legislative session where we talked with our Congressmen and Senators and other Representatives and legislators on issues that The American Legion feels are necessary for their support and for the Congress to enact laws concerning these issues.

I also had the opportunity to sit in the room while our National Commander Denise Rohan testified before the Congressional panel. What an honor is was to sit in on the testimony, and very informative on how our process works and to see how well respected The American Legion is amongst our lawmakers.

I also attended our Department Oratorical contest in Manhattan in March. We only had 4 contestants out of 8 districts, but the contestants were all SUPER and

all earned money towards college. If we don't have contestants, we are denying our youth the opportunity for growth.

The American Legion's 99th birthday was March 15th and I hope you all had events at your post to celebrate and possibly have a member recognition and awards ceremony to thank those who do so much for our organization and your local post. If you haven't, there is still time! Show your members you appreciate all that they do.

The National American Legion Leadership College is free to anyone who applies, writes a summary on leadership, and is selected by a board at our Department Committee at Leadership College in June.

If you have attended Leadership College in Concordia, attend again this year and bring a member with you. It is well worth the time and money spent, and we learn so much about our organization. Let's make this the biggest turnout ever for our Leadership College.

The American Legion Extension Institute (ALEI) online Leadership College course has changed. It is now called The American Legion Basic Training Course, is online, and is FREE!

I would encourage EVERYONE to get online and take this course. It can be completed in 2-4 hours and you will receive a completion certificate and pin from National.

Anytime you attend an American Legion Family function, bring a member or non-member who may not have attended any of our functions. Let's spread the word about what we do!

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY - Terry Marr, Department Commander

## CHILDREN

&

## YOUTH

DeeDee

Danin

dddanin@hotmail.com

My take on the Florida school massacre:

Students, parents, and teachers, are rallying Congress to fix the problem. Most blame the National Rifle Association, (NRA); others blame the lacking system; others blame the children themselves because they are seen as spoiled, out of control, have little, or no tolerance for others; having no coping skills to understand someone having a differing opinion than theirs, and those needing stress management, or more; having psychopathic tendencies, or some people- are just plain bad.

Our Founding Fathers, in their combined infinite wisdom, found it so important that when drafting our Constitution, the importance of the Second Amendment was paramount.

"The Classical America" has been replaced by an "Amoral Shift" away from God", causing a system break down in society", (OAN Network). The Liberal belittlement, and voluntary ignorance of our Constitution, and State laws, mandating new laws thus implementing the elimination of all reference to the Judao-Christian moral teachings; teachers using propaganda to influence students" political directions; instruction to report parents to the police if kids are punished; continued indoctrination of youth in all elements of education and life lessons; quickly destroying the principles of Capitalism by promoting the benefits of Socialism, Communism which today is the fastest growing political party in the United States, (Wikipedia/SDS).

We can reverse these lessons if we become involved in our children's lives imprinting "Our" moral guidelines and lessons. Giving love, understanding, nurturing to our children, teaching the value of life and forgiveness. We need to be aware and actively promoting our positive values!

## VICE COMMANDER

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**Dan Wiley**

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Where has the year gone? It's hard to believe that this is the last Sunflower issue before Department Convention, and the year is 85% over.

I've traveled this great State and learned of the successes and struggles of our American Legion Posts. We need to communicate our success stories so other American Legion Posts can improve their programs. For instance, does your Post offer Bingo? Is it struggling? Did you know that Lawrence Post 14 has the most successful Bingo program in the State? Look them up online at [www.Legion14.org](http://www.Legion14.org) and/or go visit on a Bingo night to see how they do it!

We are starting a Department e-newsletter in June. Is your e-mail address on file with National? If not, you will not be getting the e-newsletter. You can check at [www.MyLegion.org](http://www.MyLegion.org).

Did you know we have a Department Website? [www.ksamlegion.org](http://www.ksamlegion.org)! Department staff has been doing an excel-

lent job of keeping it updated!

Check out our Department Facebook Page under "Department of Kansas American Legion." We have plans to do some Facebook live stream videos next year.

I invite everybody to attend Leadership College in Concordia, June 1-3, 2018. This will be a great opportunity to learn more about The American Legion Programs, network, and learn how other Posts handle the same problems that exist in your Post. You will learn new ideas. If you can't make it all weekend then I encourage you to at least attend Saturday.

It has been my honor to serve as your Department Vice Commander for the 288 American Legion Posts across this great State of Kansas. My wife, Sonia, and I have enjoyed meeting so many of you and enjoyed the hospitality of your Posts. As always, I am here to listen and serve you. I appreciate and thank you for what you do!

For God and Country!

## DAN WILEY FOR DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

Dan Wiley, Leavenworth Post #23, announces his candidacy for the office of Department Commander for 2018-19.

Dan earned his eligibility by service in the United States Air Force. He is a Kansas Life Member and has been a member of Leavenworth Post #23 for 26 years. Dan has served at all levels of The American Legion in various capacities from local to national.

Dan is currently serving as your Department Vice Commander. One of his goals this year was to improve our Department's media and social media. Thanks to our staff, the Department Website is more current than it's ever been. Dan is on target to start a Department e-newsletter on June 1, 2018, and developed a Vice Commander's Facebook page to document his Legion activities and travels.

The Department Vice Commander's primary responsibility

is membership. The previous two years the Department finished last or next to last nationally. This year Kansas has significantly improved in membership being as high as 11th nationally. Together we have made great strides in membership, but we still have work to do.

Dan's belief is that membership in The American Legion is about relationships, and relationships are about communication. Dan has spent this past year traveling the State and listening to you and valuing your input, and if elected you will continue to have his ear regarding your needs and ideas for The American Legion.

Dan has the support of his wife, Sonia, the endorsement of his Post, and the endorsement of the 1st District Executive Committee and he asks for your support and your vote at the Department Convention in Hutchinson May 20, 2018.

# LEADERSHIP COLLEGE JUNE 1-3

This year's American Legion Leadership College will take place at Cloud County Community College in Concordia June 1-3.

This year there will be a Hands-On Class dealing with mylegion.org being taught by Bryan Page, Fifth District Vice Commander. 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 ununiformed Post is not a good situation.

We are working on Post Commander and Post Adjutant modules that hopefully be available by ALLC time. We will try and incorporate them with the training that Bryan 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.

There may be other blocks of instruction available. I am still waiting on approval of having Experts from Our National Headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana to provide sessions of the L.E.A.D. Program. Budget restraints will dictate their travel to Concordia.

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 increased this year, \$45.00 per person which includes Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast, lunch, and chicken 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.

Check in for the College begins at 3pm on Friday, June 1. Dinner will be available from 5 until 6pm followed by a meeting of the Department Executive Committee. Sessions for all attendees will commence at 8:15am Saturday and 9:00am Sunday, June 2 and 3 with a break for lunch on Saturday and conclusion of the College on Sunday no later than noon.

Dan Bartlett, Department Service Officer, will hold a refresher course Saturday on the

**(Continued on Page 8)**

## DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER

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**Dan Bartlett**  
2200 SW Gage  
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800-574-8387 ext. 54489

Dan.bartlett@med.va.gov

### Returning Service members (OEF/OIF/OND)

Your service has earned your access to enhanced VA health care benefits. In order to take advantage of these benefits, OEF/OIF/OND Veterans need to enroll in VA's health care system. Don't delay, apply today (www.1010ez.med.va.gov)

### Enhanced Eligibility for Health Care Benefits

Veterans who served in a theater of combat operations after November 11, 1998 are eligible for an extended period of eligibility for health care for 5 years' post discharge.

Under the "Combat Veteran" authority, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides health care services and community living care for any condition possibly related to the Veteran's service in the theater of operations and enrollment in Priority Group 6 unless eligible for enrollment in a higher priority group to:

Combat Veterans who were discharged or released from active service on or after January 28, 2003, are eligible to enroll in the VA health care system for 5 years from the date of discharge or release.

The 5-year enrollment period begins on the discharge or separation date of the service member from active duty military service, or in the case of multiple call-ups, the most recent discharge date.

Combat Veterans, while not required to disclose their income information, may do so to determine their eligibility for a higher priority status, beneficiary travel benefits, and exemption of copays for care unrelated to their military service.

### Who's Eligible?

Veterans, including activated Reservists and members of the National Guard, are eligible if they served on active duty in a theater of combat operations after November 11, 1998, and have been discharged under other than dishonorable conditions.

### Documentation Used To Determine Service in a Theater Of Combat Operations

- Military service documentation that reflects service in a combat theater, or
- Receipt of combat service medals, and/or
- Receipt of combat tax exemption, imminent danger or hostile fire pay

### Health Benefits Under The "Combat Veteran" Authority

- Medical care and medications provided for conditions potentially related to combat service
- Enrollment in Priority Group 6 unless eligible for enrollment in a higher priority group
- Full access to VA's Medical Benefits Package

### Additional Information:

Additional information is available at the nearest VA medical facility. Veterans can also call VA toll-free at 877-222-VETS (8387).

Certain Veterans may be eligible for more than one Enrollment Priority Group. In that case, VA will always place you in the highest Priority Group that you are eligible. Under the VA Health Benefits Package, the same services are generally available to all enrolled Veterans.

Once enrolled, you will receive a personalized Veterans Handbook, which will detail your VA health benefits and provide important information concerning your access to VA health care.

## CHUCK SHOEMAKER FOR DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER

R. C. "Chuck" Shoemaker, a member in good standing of Second District and Peter Smith American Legion Post #327 Shawnee, Kansas, announces his candidacy for Department Vice-Commander for 2018-2019. He earned his eligibility for membership in the American Legion with service in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam era.

He has served as a Post Chaplain, Finance Officer, Service Officer, Adjutant, Committeeman and Commander at the Post level. He maintains membership in the SAL, the MOWW, and the 40 & 8.

He has served as Department Master-At-Arms, National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms (4 years), Second District Vice-Commander and Commander, Chairman of the Department POW/MIA Committee, Chairman of the Department Boys State Committee, Advisor to the Boys' State Academy, and various committee assignments at the District level.

He continues to serve as an Honor Guard member of his post and has participated in numerous civic functions in the Kansas City area.

His professional background includes a career in corporate finance and contracts as a consultant to the banking and credit union industries.

Chuck has the support of his family, his fiancé Pat Willcox, the endorsement of his Post and the endorsement of the Second District Executive Committee. With the Legion's support, he will continue to use his time and resources as Vice-Commander in promoting the mission of the Kansas American Legion.



**Flag Day  
June 14  
2018**

### LEADERSHIP COLLEGE REGISTRATION

ENCLOSED IS MY \$45 REGISTRATION FOR THE  
AMERICAN LEGION LEADERSHIP COLLEGE  
JUNE 1-3

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, Topeka, KS 66612

**FIRST DISTRICT  
COMMANDER  
JAMES SNYDER  
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CLINT VAWTER  
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Carbondale, KS 66414  
(785) 836-7191**

Greetings First District,  
Well, the year is just about over. I want to congratulate those Post's that have made their goal and it's not to late for the rest to still make theirs also. We are about 400 members behind where we were last year so lets finish strong. There has been a lot of ground work done this year on membership and I think it will continue into next year and excel. I hope to see everyone at our District Convention at Marysville Post 163 on April 20-22, 2018. There are lots to cover in the Convention and Marysville is a great place to visit.  
SEMPER FI

**SECOND DISTRICT  
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VICE CMDR.  
MARRI KRUPCO  
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It has been an amazing year so far. The true measure of how the year is going is how we are impacting our communities. We have honored veterans, supported scouting, and presented school programs. We have celebrated youth leaders learning about democracy through Boys State, Girls State and the Oratorical Contest. We make sure Old Glory is raised, lowered and protected. Now we need to take the next step and brag about it.

As we recruit prepare our teams for Legion Baseball and our Cadet Law Candidates, put all of this good stuff in the local paper. You have finished your Consolidated Post Report, let local leaders know what those numbers were and what they mean. And finally invite those veterans you meet for the first time, as well as those who may have drifted away to join us in our mission.

Commander Rohan is quick to point out, the Legion is strongest when it is the Legion Family. Support of and for the Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, and Riders can only help our ability to support our local communities. And growing them can only improve our voice at the State and National level of government.

Especially in times like today where veterans need our voice, invite them to add their voice to the call. Or come back home and help us add to our numbers. The more members we have the more we impact our communities and the louder our voices are heard in Topeka and Washington. Thank you for your service, in the military and after, as well.

**THIRD DISTRICT  
COMMANDER  
DENNIS KRAMER  
PO Box 739  
Winfield, KS 67156  
(620) 222-1425  
VICE CMDR.  
GEORGE CULBERTSON  
883 600th St.  
Iola, KS 66749  
(620) 433-1087**

Hello Third District,  
I am so amazed at the accomplishments of one Legionnaire determined to make his Post better. He goes to all the District functions, attends Conventions, becomes an officer in both his Post and in his District and sets up resolutions, changes by-laws and works to make the American Legion better than it was when he arrived. I am also amazed at how the negativity of one Post member can run collectively throughout his whole organization to create obstacles for success. I am appalled sometimes as what is considered the easy road with a short time 'Atta Boy' success versus the tough call that gives the Post more in quantity, yet without an eligible legionnaire to step up for productive officer's positions

When all the new members are installed. There are always those with grandiose schemes and plans and their talk is heard in restaurants and poker games, but nothing seems to happen even after years of "planning" has passed. This is the tale of two Legionnaires who both are veterans with different visions of what is The American Legion.

You can pledge mutual helpfulness that includes your own drinking buddies as long as you

are not asked for help in cleaning the toilets, or asking for donations, chairing a committee, sponsoring a scout Troup, coaching a baseball team, or going into the community and asking our recently returned Veterans to join the American legion. Many of those things are required of us to be a center of influence in our community. Mutual Helpfulness does not just mean that S.A.L. has this or that activity. It is through mutual helpfulness that the Legionnaire's help that S.A.L. activity any way possible to make it a success. That means serving food, helping with fliers and distributing them with in the community, to other Posts and nearby cities.

Think about it...and ask yourself What Does Mutual Helpfulness mean to you? Some of us would like to think it means helping our Veterans...but how? Mutual Helpfulness should include If you're a legionnaire would you help/step up/volunteer/share/get involved/contribute something other than your dues and showing up at meetings is the minimum. How about attending a district or Department Convention, how about sponsoring a Boys stater or a Cadet Law applicant? How about stepping up to a District position that requires mostly attendance in the beginning. How about going to the Kansas Leadership College in Concordia in June. It is cheap and educational and mostly the best \$45 investment you have ever made in the American Legion. With Mutual Helpfulness On my Mind,

Dennis Kramer Third District Commander.

**FOURTH DISTRICT  
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As the spring 2018 begins we move another step closer to the 100th Anniversary of the American Legion. Let's take a moment to reflect what the young soldiers of Post WWI were thinking as Congress chartered the American Legion in 1919 as a patriotic veteran's organization.

A group focusing on service to veterans, service members

and communities, (the 4 Pillars) the Legion evolved from a group of war-weary veterans of World War I into one of the most influential nonprofit groups in the United States. Membership swiftly grew to over 1 million, and local Posts sprang up across the country. Today, membership stands at over 2.4 million in 14,000 posts worldwide.

I challenge all Veterans to go to the American Legion On Line Extension Institute <https://www.legion.org/alei> and take the Basic Training course (as it is free) to remember the challenges and struggles that our organizations charter members took to establish the American Legion that we are proud members of and take the next step to ensure that our membership continues to grow and our Post's thrive in our communities.

**FIFTH DISTRICT  
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As this year comes to a close with the elections next month, I wish to thank the officers and adjutants of all Posts within the Fifth District for allowing me to work with you and your members this past year. Your positive and earnest willingness to enhance your Children and Youth Scholarships and Membership advancements, as well as looking into your Post By-Law compliances has made this year a "Win" for me as I hope for you also.

I hope to provide assistance in all areas if you will ever need my help.. I've enjoyed working with all of you, so please keep up the good work. We have continued moving up Membership Weekly Reports and the state wide competition is strong. With that same level of hard work and individual concern Fifth District will pull ahead with the next commander. God speed to all and thank you again.

**SIXTH DISTRICT  
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Membership is one of the most important things we do because without it, we don't have an organization. Second, in my opinion, is conventions. Conventions are where policy is set and Post representation is most important. Every year I get complaints about something that occurred at a convention. My first question is always, "was your Post represented?" I usually already know the answer, they were not. Last year's district convention had 9% of our Posts represented. That is unacceptable. Hopefully, by moving it more central in the district this year, that number will improve.

Our District convention will be April 14th at the Huck Boyd Community Center in Phillipsburg. We'll start at 9:00 a.m. and will conclude no later than 5:00 p.m. Past National Commander Mike Helm will be our speaker and we'll hear from some legislators as well. Lunch will be catered. Phillipsburg Post 252 has presented a resolution to split the 6th District into the 6th and 9th Districts. This resolution will be discussed and action taken during the district convention. We'll have door prizes.

The Huck Boyd Center is the home of the C&R Railroad Museum. The museum houses railroad memorabilia and miniature train collection of Bill Clarke, a local photographer and World War II Army veteran. The collection was placed at the Huck Boyd center prior to Bill's death and he enjoyed showing off his collection. Arrangements have been made for attendees to view a train show where one of our local C&R Railroad engineers will run the trains through the 1200 feet of track within the miniature 57 feet long mountain range. There's no admission fee.

Not a convention, but an important event for blue cap Legionnaires is the Leadership College held each year in Concordia at Cloud County Community College. The dates this year are June 1-3. I'm certain  
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there's information in this edition on that as well. Leadership College is geared towards Post Commanders and Adjutants, but all members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

National Convention will be a short 9-12 hour drive (depending on where you live in the District) this year. It will be in Minneapolis, Minnesota August 24-30. We hear it will be one you don't want to miss as it will be the kick off our centennial celebration. Unless you're appointed to a national committee, the most important dates for members to attend are August 28-30. If you haven't experienced a national convention, I encourage you to consider this one.

Congratulations to the newly elected Post officers. No organization operates without leadership and I'm excited several never before elected members have stepped up to the challenge. We always need new ideas and energy, but don't forget the things that are already working in your Post. If you think you can make an activity or event better, go for it. Nothing says we have to do things "because that's the way we've always done it".

As a district we have been in last place on membership for several weeks. Please, please, please renew your membership and/or recruit new members. We seem to be our own worst enemy when it comes to our Post dying by not doing what we need to do. I remember my job in the Army as an NCO was to take care of Soldiers. I've changed that mind-set now to taking care of veterans and I do that by being as active as I possibly can in The American Legion, would you please join me it doing so as well?

to serve as your commander. There is a lot of work still to do to keep up on membership but if everyone pitches in we can do it. Again, thank you for allowing me the honor of being your commander.

**EIGHTH DISTRICT  
COMMANDER  
LARRY OCHS  
PO Box 1460  
Syracuse, KS 67878  
(620) 384-6142  
VICE CMDR.  
CHARLES SELLENS  
513 Andrew  
Dodge City, KS 67801  
(620) 227-3816**

Greetings from the Eighth District.

Spring has sprung and we have many activities going on now in the American Legion.

The District Oratorical Contest was held at Dodge City Post #27. We only had two contestants. I am glad I was a judge because they were both very good. Viridiana Arias from Dodge City was the winner and congratulations goes out to her. The runner up was Ethan Marshall from Cimarron and he will be tough to beat next year. Paula Sellens, Department Auxiliary Chaplain put on a short memorial for Alvin Schugart, who was the district Chairman for many years for the Oratorical contest.

At the mid-winter convention we were reminded of the new basic training program that can be found at [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org). It takes about 2 to 3 hours to complete. I encourage everyone to go on line and take the course. I did and as always learned a lot more about the American Legion's history.

Our District Convention will be held April 13-15th at the Syracuse Post #27. Located at 607 N. Main. We hope you will come and attend the convention and see our newly renovated building. District officers will be elected. We are really proud of what can be done when a small community pulls together and gets things done.

Department Convention will be held in Hutchinson May 18-20th. Make plans now to attend.

May God bless America and the American Legion.

## GARY FOOS FOR AREA WEST VICE COMMANDER

Fellow Legionnaires;

I'm Gary F Foos, currently the Area West Vice Commander for the past three years. It has been an honor to serve as your Area West Vice Commander these past three years. I enjoy meeting new legionnaires, helping Post's with problems that may arise and attending Post functions, such as opening a new Post or dedicating a new building. I am once again announcing my candidacy for Department of Kansas Area West Vice Commander.

I earned my eligibility by serving in the United States Army Reserves, Co. B, 3/353 Regt, 89th Div., Dodge City, Ks. I earned the rank of Sargent First Class (E7) as a Drill Sargent. I am currently Post Commander of Olin Cole Post #392 for eight years. I have also served as 8th District Sargent of Arms, District Vice Commander, District Commander for three years and your Area West Vice Commander for three years.

I have the support of my wife of 49 years (April 4), my family, American Legion Post #392 and the 8th district. I will continue to work hard on membership for Area West and the entire State of Kansas. I would appreciate your vote for Area West Vice Commander at the Department Convention in May.

**HISTORIAN  
JOE JOHNSTON**

I was very pleased to read in this morning's paper that a statue of Dwight D. Eisenhower will be placed on the grounds of the State Capitol. All of us Kansans are proud of Ike and what he accomplished. Ike was one of seven boys, one died in infancy. All of the other five were very successful. The oldest, Arthur was a banker, Edgar was a lawyer, Roy a pharmacist, Earl an electrical Engineer, Milton became president of Johns Hopkins University.

The parents, David Jacob and Ida Elizabeth must have been an exemplary couple to have raised such a family. They were not wealthy by any means, but they sure knew how to raise successful men.

I hope you Post Historians are getting your book ready for the competition at the Department Convention in May.



**AUXILIARY  
PRESIDENT**  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Melissa Burton**  
304 S Bentwood  
Rose Hill, KS 67133  
(613) 644-7349



What a year it has been, I have learned so much from some of you and I hope in turn you have learned something as well. The leadership trainings have all been completed and I want thank our Leadership Chairman Trish Ward and all who have helped to make them a success. Be sure to check out our web site as soon as they are edited you will be able to review them as many times as you wish or use as part of Unit trainings.

I have been very honored to serve as your Department President it has been an experience I shall never forget. I am looking forward to attending the District Conventions and seeing all the great things the Ladies of the State of Kansas have been doing for our active military, their families and our Veterans.

The year is not over yet, we still have time to send in your membership. We still need to contact those members who have not renewed and get them to renew their membership. Remember those new

members, continue to mentor them and work with them so they are not a statistic and will continue to be an active member for years to come.

Reminder membership dues will increase July 1, 2018, and the portion that is submitted to the Department Office is \$20.50. Juniors dues have increased as well, we will now send in \$3.75 to Department Office for our Juniors Dues.

Packets for Units have been mailed out with forms to be completed and sent back to the Department Secretary with your Units Information and Dues. Please make sure to get this completed so information can be sent to National and will be current. These forms need sent to the Department Office no later than April 20, 2018.

Again, I thank you for the honor you granted me in electing me your Department President it has been a pleasure to represent you and the great State of Kansas. I have some awesome memories and fun times to cherish.

## CHARLES SELLENS FOR DEPARTMENT MASTER-AT-ARMS

Charles J. Sellens announces his candidacy for a Department Master-at-Arms position. Sellens earned his eligibility in the American Legion by serving three years in the U.S. Army. He was also a two-year Peace Corps Volunteer and worked for the Japanese Foreign Service for thirteen years.

Sellens has the endorsement of Post 47 in Dodge City and the support of the District Eight Executive Committee. Importantly, he has the enthusiastic support of his wife, Paula, who is a candidate for Kansas American Legion Auxiliary Vice-president.

Charlie has been a member of Dodge City Post 47 for twelve years. He has held offices of Vice-commander, Adjutant, and Service Officer in Post 47. He has been District Eight, Vice-commander, Judge Advocate, and Adjutant. He has also served in

several District Eight Committee Chairmanships. He was formally a member of Dorrance Legion Post 334 and is a current S.A.L. member of Russell Squadron 99.

Charlie has learned appreciation for American Legion programs via participation in numerous Legion activities over the years. He has attended many national, department, and district conventions. He has attended Leadership College trainings, Mid-winter forums, Eisenhower Pilgrimages, and Revitalizations.

Charles Sellens believes that holding any office in the American Legion is a privilege. He thinks that those who seek the distinction must be willing to demonstrate they deserve the honor. Sellens' efforts and accomplishments provide evidence that he is willing to work. He respectfully asks for your vote for a Master-at-Arms position.

**SEVENTH DISTRICT  
COMMANDER  
MARK RADKE  
1785 Avenue V  
Sterling, KS 67579  
(620) 204-8508  
VICE CMDR.  
JEREMY EHART  
6310 Yucca Rd.  
Hutchinson, KS 67502  
(620) 899-0010**

This will be my last article as commander. I want to thank everyone for all your hard work. A very special thanks to Jeremy Ehart for all the hours and miles you have given to bring us into 4th place in the State for membership. It has been a great year and I have been honored



**DETACHMENT  
COMMANDER**  
\*\*\*\*\*  
**Mike Saindon**  
**312 East Tall Tree  
Derby, KS 67037**  
**(316) 993-6416**



Greetings Team Kansas, Wow! It's hard to believe it's already April 2018. Many things have been going on in the first quarter, which, I'm sure many of you participated in. I thank you for your support in the American Legion Family projects. I know that you made the Sons of The American Legion very proud at every event you've been a part of. There are many events ahead of us. I hope each and every one of you can make time to continue your valued participation and support.

Most of the Districts will be having their District Conventions in April. This is an opportunity for you to get involved, not only at the Squadron level, but every District needs the blue cappers to get involved to make their District successful. Everything starts at the Squadron level which is the key to the success of the Sons of The American Legion. That's why we need to make the extra effort to contact our members to get them renewed. We are currently setting around 75% renewal rate. If we make that personal contact, we can get it back up to around 95% or higher. We need this in order to make our 40th continuous all-time high for the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Kansas. Membership begins and ends at the Squadron level. The Squadrons are vital and are the most important level of all

the levels of the Sons of The American Legion. The Squadron is the foundation of the success of our mission and purpose and every member makes a difference.

May 19th brings the Detachment of Kansas Convention that will be held in Hutchinson Kansas. Every Squadron is invited and encouraged to attend this State Convention. There is a lot of valuable information that is shared during the convention and it is when all the Detachment officers are elected. All members of every Squadron has an opportunity to vote for the next year's leaders. I hope to see every Squadron in the state represented at this year's convention.

As this will be my last Sunflower communication, I wanted to thank each and every one of you for your support and giving me the opportunity to serve you as the 2017-2018 Detachment of Kansas Commander. It has been such an extreme honor to serve you. I've have seen many Squadrons doing some outstanding things in support of our four pillars. As I said before, the Squadrons are the foundation of the Sons of The American Legion.

Oh, one more thing! There's always one more thing we can do to support our Veterans, Children and Youth and Community.

Thank you for everything you do!

## 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 25.

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 25 to hand a brochure describing the reasons to drive safely to each motorist as they

## GAYLORD SANNEMEN FOR ALTERNATE NEC

My name is Gaylord Sanneman and I am announcing that I am a candidate for the office of Alternate National Executive Committeeman for the term of 2018 – 2020. It has been my honor and pleasure to serve the Kansas American Legion in this capacity for almost the past two years. I earned my eligibility for the American Legion by serving in the United States Air Force from 1965 to 1969. I am a paid up for life member of the American Legion for 49 years and am looking forward to receiving my 50 year pin next year. I have served the American Legion in many capacities in posts, district and at department levels. I am currently serving at the National level as a member of the National Security Commission. At the Department level I am a member of the Membership Committee, Cadet Law Committee and Chairman of the Centennial Celebration Committee. At the Post level I am the adjutant for the Sons of the American Legion Squadron #2 Newton, Kansas and have held various other positions in the Post. I am a member of the Sons of American Legion, Anavicus, Past Department Commanders organizations and a member of the Forty and Eight. In addition, I am a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. I am active in the Newton Rotary Club where I serve as their secretary and am a member of Trinity Heights United Methodist Church where I serve on the Pastor & Staff Parish Committee. I have the endorsement of the 5th District Executive Committee and my Post #253 of Marquette, KS. I am most appreciative of the support of my wife. I would appreciate your vote and support as it will be greatly appreciated at the Department Convention. Thank you for your consideration in reelecting me as your Alternate National Executive Committeeman.

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 8 for your convenience. All requests must be ordered by the Post Commander or Adjutant, Unit President or Secretary, or Squadron Commander or Adjutant.

## ADJUTANT'S BRIEFS

By Department Adjutant Jimmie L. Foster

The Membership year of 2017-2018 is coming to an end very rapidly!

WE, as a Department, are well behind 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 actually going out and knocking on their door to find out if they are sick, down and out, or have actually forgotten to renew their Membership needs to happen.

Department First Vice Commander Dan Wiley and ALL Eight District Commanders and District Vice Commanders are available to assist, all you have to do is ASK!

The 2018 Mid-Winter Forum was well attended. Manhattan Post 17 did a fine job in hosting the venue.

Leading Candidate for National Commander Brett Reistad from Virginia was on hand; as well as Billy Johnson, The National Membership Director at Our National Headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana. They gave excellent updates to the plans of the 100th Centennial Membership Year that is coming up in less than a year.

The Legislative Reception was changed this year to be held before the Mid-Winter Forum on January 17 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Topeka. The Speaker of The House and the President of the Senate come up with this suggestion to ensure that more Legislators would have the opportunity to attend. I believe, it was one of the most attended Receptions in many years. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and mingling with their Constituent's.

A group of American Legion Family Members attended the Washington, D.C. Conference in late February, and visited with the State of Kansas' United States Senators and Congressman discussing Veterans Issues with them or their Staff. All of the Legislators was very attentive and assured us that they held Veterans and their Families near and dear to their heart. I believe, you can be proud of your elected Senators and Congressmen from Kansas.

The 2018 Department Oratorical Contest was held at Manhattan Post 17 and the four orators were ALL Winners!

Chayne Dessaso from the First District was selected as

the ultimate winner, and will represent the Department of Kansas at the National Contest in Indianapolis, Indiana from 13 to 15 April 2018. I believe, he will do us proud.

Kansas Boys State will be held at Kansas State University in Manhattan from 3 to 8 June 2018. Make sure you have submitted your application, either paper or on-line, to get signed up for this great American Legion Program.

The Cadet Law Enforcement Academy will be held in Salina from 10 to 15 June. This year BOTH Juniors and Seniors can apply and attend. It is also a week later than Kansas Boys State and there should be NO reason that many could attend both events.

The Department Convention of Kansas American Legion will be held from 18 to 20 May 2018 in Hutchinson, Kansas. National Vice Commander Byron Callies from the Department of South Dakota will be the Legion National Guest. Danny Smith, the Sons of The American Legion National Commander from Nebraska and Kansas' Own Trish Ward, the Divisional National Vice President will also be in attendance. Also attending will be Jill Druskis, the National Director of the Americanism Division and Richard Keith, the Director of National Emblem Sales will be updating everyone in attendance on the ins and outs related to the Youth Programs and what is available for ALL Members of The American Legion Family what is available for purchase to show our support.

Right after that, the 2018 American Legion Leadership College will take place in Concordia from 1 to 3 June. The Registration fee will be \$45.00 for your Room and Food. A General Session will give us updates from the Kansas Gaming and Liquor Licensing Agencies, a Post Service Officer Class, a Post Commander and Post Adjutant's Workshop will be presented to those interested. Bryan Page, the Fifth District Vice Commander will be presenting a hands on class on mylegion.org. PLEASE bring your laptop or iPad to get more bang for your buck. Doing it is far better than listening and trying to remember later!

(Continued on Page 8)

# + TAPS +

Adams, Bill (WWII) ..... McPherson  
 Adams, Delbert (Vietnam) ..... Great Bend  
 Albert, Raymond (Vietnam) ..... Cheney  
 Amaro, Archie, (WWII) ..... Leavenworth  
 Anderson, David (Korea) ..... Perry  
 Ball, Leon (Korea) ..... Sabetha  
 Banta, Robert (Korea) ..... Arkansas City  
 Barnes, James (Korea) ..... Hutchinson  
 Barta, Clarence (WWII) ..... Wilson  
 Bartz, Melvin, Jr. (Korea) ..... Blue Rapids  
 Beck, Richard (Vietnam) ..... Erie  
 Beck, William (Korea) ..... Manhattan  
 Beech, Max (Korea) ..... Chanute  
 Behr, Francis (Korea) ..... Hoisington  
 Bennett, Reginald (Korea) ..... Russell  
 Biggs, Bill (Vietnam) ..... Axtell  
 Boeve, Ronald (Korea) ..... Phillipsburg  
 Bohling, Victor (WWII) ..... Concordia  
 Boyd, David (Vietnam) ..... Pittsburg  
 Bright, Alfred (Vietnam) ..... Kansas City #111  
 Brown, Clarence (Korea) ..... Great Bend  
 Brown, James (Korea) ..... Manhattan  
 Brownlee, Glen (WWII) ..... Garden City  
 Buckner, Paul (WWII) ..... Baxter Springs  
 Burdick, Darrel (Vietnam) ..... Overland Park  
 Burns, George ..... Arma  
 Bynum, Billy (WWII) ..... Larned  
 Cadman, Wilson (WWII) ..... Andover  
 Carlson, Noel (Korea) ..... Clay Center  
 Carpenter, Lewis (Vietnam) ..... Andover  
 Carter, James (Korea) ..... Chanute  
 Cassell, Manville (Korea) ..... Salina  
 Castor, Francis (Korea) ..... Kensington  
 Cattaneo, Raymond (Korea) ..... Mulberry  
 Chadbourne, Harvey ..... Leavenworth  
 Christensen, Bill (Vietnam) ..... Overland Park  
 Christie, Bill (Korea) ..... Stafford  
 Clark, John (WWII) ..... Olathe  
 Clubine, Benjamin (WWII) ..... Howard  
 Coats, Gordon (WWII) ..... Burdett  
 Cole, Dick (Korea) ..... Clay Center  
 Cravens, Arthur (WWII) ..... Great Bend  
 Crumrine, John (Korea) ..... Toronto  
 Cunningham, Ronald (Korea) ..... Toronto  
 Cusic, Gene (WWII) ..... Emporia  
 Davis, Benjamin (Vietnam) ..... Hutchinson  
 Davis, Norman (Korea) ..... Jennings  
 De'Bruce, Archie (WWII) ..... Ulysses  
 Dean, William (Korea) ..... Erie  
 Delgado, Hoaquin (WWII) ..... Arkansas City  
 Deming, Alfred (WWII) ..... Hutchinson  
 Demoss, Benjamin (Korea) ..... Walnut  
 Dermont, Roger (WWII) ..... Coffeyville  
 Diehl, John (WWII) ..... Lawrence  
 Diffendal, Charles (Korea) ..... El Dorado  
 Doebbeling, Kenneth (WWII) ..... Ness City  
 Domsch, Theodore (Vietnam) ..... Colby  
 Downs, Glenn (Korea) ..... Lawrence  
 Duncan, Carl (Vietnam) ..... Perry  
 Dunn, Terrence (Granada) ..... Hutchinson  
 Ediger, Edward (Vietnam) ..... McPherson  
 Elliott, Jack (Vietnam) ..... Hutchinson  
 Eshleman, Oscar (Korea) ..... Olathe  
 Eye, Clair (WWII) ..... Larned  
 Fawcett, Willie (Korea) ..... Arma  
 Federick, Raymond (Korea) ..... Wilson  
 Fetcher, Arthur (WWII) ..... Wamego  
 Flentie, Rex (WWII) ..... Centralia  
 Foster, Joseph ..... Overland Park  
 Friess, Donald (Korea) ..... Brownwell  
 Fry, James (WWII) ..... Lawrence  
 Fuesser, William (Korea) ..... Abilene  
 Fullen, Don (Vietnam) ..... Emporia  
 Gardner, Samuel (Korea) ..... Garden City  
 Garnett, Leroy (Vietnam) ..... Emporia  
 Garrett, Charles (WWII) ..... Shawnee  
 Germer, James (Vietnam) ..... Gardner  
 Gibbons, Marshall (Vietnam) ..... Lawrence  
 Glenn, Joy (WWII) ..... Norton  
 Glidden, Herbert (WWII) ..... McPherson  
 Goffrier, William, Jr. (WWII) ..... Andover  
 Goheen, Wilbur (WWII) ..... Hutchinson

Gregory, John (Korea) ..... Topeka #400  
 Greig, Charles (WWII) ..... Emporia  
 Griffin, Dewey (Korea) ..... Colby  
 Gwaltney, Dwight (WWII) ..... Hutchinson  
 Hager, George (Korea) ..... Sterling  
 Hamilton, Robert (Korea) ..... Topeka #400  
 Hansen, Cregg (Vietnam) ..... Derby  
 Harpenau, Joe (WWII) ..... Seneca  
 Harrell, Patrick (WWII) ..... Hanover  
 Hart, Verne (Korea) ..... Manhattan  
 Hastig, Harold (Vietnam) ..... El Dorado  
 Hayek, Lester (Korea) ..... Topeka #1  
 Herber, Larry (Vietnam) ..... Dorrance  
 Hewitt, Ellsworth (Vietnam) ..... Phillipsburg  
 Hicks, Jess (WWII) ..... Topeka #400  
 Himes, William (WWII) ..... Overland Park  
 Hochuli, Sheldon (WWII) ..... Holton  
 Hofer, Francis (Korea) ..... Pittsburg  
 Hoffman, Marvin (Vietnam) ..... Concordia  
 Holder, Kenneth (Korea) ..... Isabel  
 Hollowell, Wayne (WWII) ..... Manhattan  
 Holmes, Rodney (WWII) ..... Geneseo  
 Holoman, Coulee, Sr. (Vietnam) ..... Topeka #400  
 Hood, William (WWII) ..... Pittsburg  
 Horton, Earl (Korea) ..... Arkansas City  
 Hoss, Paul (WWII) ..... Great Bend  
 Hynson, Eugene (WWII) ..... Topeka #400  
 Ikenberry, Carl (Korea) ..... Quinter  
 Jacobson, Byron (WWII) ..... Wamego  
 James, John, Sr. (Korea) ..... Arma  
 Jenkins, Clarence (Korea) ..... Leavenworth  
 Jimenez, John (WWII) ..... Lawrence  
 Johnson, Harld (WWII) ..... Topeka #1  
 Johnson, O (Korea) ..... Arkansas City  
 Johnson, Russell (WWII) ..... Ft. Scott  
 Johnston, Leroy (WWII) ..... Manhattan  
 Jones, Ardis (Korea) ..... Colby  
 Jones, Leslie (Vietnam) ..... Salina  
 Keil, Marvin (Korea) ..... Colby  
 Keim, Robert (Korea) ..... Olathe  
 Kirmer, Robert (Korea) ..... Ft. Dodge  
 Krepps, William (WWII) ..... Hutchinson  
 Kroeker, Alfred (WWII) ..... Great Bend  
 Krokstrom, Hillis (Vietnam) ..... Chanute  
 Kshko, Frank (WWII) ..... Shawnee  
 Kuchera, Joseph (Korea) ..... Concordia  
 Lahar, Bill (Vietnam) ..... Winfield  
 Lawrence, James (Korea) ..... Norton  
 Lawrence, Junior (WWII) ..... Topeka #58  
 Lawrence, Richard (Vietnam) ..... Junction City  
 Ledet, Jefferson (Korea) ..... Salina  
 Lee, Michael (Vietnam) ..... Salina  
 Leitner, Gene (WWII) ..... Oberlin  
 Lewis, Lewis (Korea) ..... Lebo  
 Lewis, Wayne (Vietnam) ..... Mulvane  
 Lindahl, Paul (Korea) ..... Baxter Springs  
 Longberg, Richard (WWII) ..... Wetmore  
 Lowell, Harlan (Vietnam) ..... Kensington  
 Lyddane, Earl (Vietnam) ..... Allen  
 Lyman, Floyd (WWII) ..... Hutchinson  
 Lynch, John (WWII) ..... Shawnee  
 Mans, Anthony (Korea) ..... Hutchinson  
 Marchese, Joseph (Vietnam) ..... Jennings  
 Martin, Merle (WWII) ..... Linn  
 Marvin, Lorenz ..... Oberlin  
 Massek, Harold (Korea) ..... Topeka #400  
 Mattison, Harold (Korea) ..... Salina  
 McAfee, Wayne (WWII) ..... Stafford  
 McCurry, James (WWII) ..... Waverly  
 Medaris, William (WWII) ..... Lawrence  
 Meeker, Bobbie (WWII) ..... Topeka #58  
 Montgomery, John (WWII) ..... El Dorado  
 Mosier, Richard (WWII) ..... Herington  
 Mott, Richard (Korea) ..... Paola  
 Mount, Alan (WWII) ..... Emporia  
 Moure, Richard (Vietnam) ..... Colby  
 Muer, Rollo (Korea) ..... Holton  
 Mullen, Coren (Vietnam) ..... Overland Park  
 Neely, Burle (WWII) ..... Coffeyville  
 New, David (Korea) ..... Independence  
 Newsome, Bob (WWII) ..... Manhattan  
 Norris, Dale (Vietnam) ..... Manhattan

Nothorn, James (Vietnam) ..... Beloit  
 Nuss, Wally (Vietnam) ..... Hoisington  
 Osterhout, George (WWII) ..... El Dorado  
 Palmer, Irl (WWII) ..... Hutchinson  
 Peak, Howard (Korea) ..... Girard  
 Penrod, Michel (Vietnam) ..... Russell  
 Petty, Douglas (Vietnam) ..... Overland Park  
 Pitts, Willis (WWII) ..... Garden City  
 Pogge, Ernest (WWII) ..... Lawrence  
 Pontius, Leland (WWII) ..... Arkansas City  
 Poore, Garland (WWII) ..... Overland Park  
 Potter, Ronald (Korea) ..... Newton  
 Pruitt, Donald (Vietnam) ..... Sedan  
 Pryor, Jack (Panama) ..... Girard  
 Randolph, Leon (Korea) ..... Augusta  
 Reavis, David (Vietnam) ..... Lawrence  
 Reber, John (WWII) ..... Topeka #421  
 Reeves, Max (WWII) ..... Concordia  
 Regnier, Leslie (Korea) ..... Lawrence  
 Reynolds, William (WWII) ..... Leavenworth  
 Ribbing, Larry (Vietnam) ..... Tribune  
 Ristau, Genevieve (WWII) ..... Pittsburg  
 Robins, Robert (WWII) ..... Ellinwood  
 Rodehorst, Albert ..... Linn  
 Rodney, Albert (Vietnam) ..... Topeka #1  
 Ruthstrom, Rodney (Vietnam) ..... Clay Center  
 Ryder, John (Korea) ..... Garden City  
 Schilling, Phil (Vietnam) ..... Bucklin  
 Schumaker, Fred (WWII) ..... Powhattan  
 Sellens, Howard (Korea) ..... Hoisington  
 Severns, Norman (Korea) ..... Marysville  
 Shaw, Jay (Vietnam) ..... Manhattan  
 Shea, Farrell (Korea) ..... Hutchinson  
 Sheely, George (Korea) ..... Pittsburg  
 Sheley, David (WWII) ..... Norton  
 Sheridan, Thomas (Vietnam) ..... McPherson  
 Shipman, Darrel (WWII) ..... El Dorado  
 Sill, Francis, Jr. (Vietnam) ..... Chapman  
 Slack, John (Vietnam) ..... Larned  
 Smerchek, Laurence (Vietnam) ..... Arma  
 Smiley, David (Vietnam) ..... Hutchinson  
 Smith, Ray (Vietnam) ..... Garden City  
 Smith, Walter (WWII) ..... Hoisington  
 Sommer, Anna Marie (Persian Gulf) ..... Manhattan  
 Sossoman, John (Vietnam) ..... Topeka #400  
 Spiva, Orville (Vietnam) ..... Overland Park  
 Spreier, Nolan (Vietnam) ..... Topeka #58  
 Spreier, Robert (Vietnam) ..... Salina  
 Steele, Robert (WWII) ..... Hutchinson  
 Steffy, K. Sam (Korea) ..... McPherson  
 Stotler, Francis (Korea) ..... Iola  
 Stout, Marion (WWII) ..... Bucklin  
 Stout, Robert (Korea) ..... Paola  
 Strawn, Robert (Vietnam) ..... Manhattan  
 Sullivan, Richard (Vietnam) ..... Manhattan  
 Tabbert, Marvin (Korea) ..... Perry  
 Taylor, William (WWII) ..... St. George  
 Thayer, Ed (Vietnam) ..... Hutchinson  
 Theimer, Lloyd (WWII) ..... Colby  
 Thompson, Paul (WWII) ..... Council Grove  
 Thompson, William (WWII) ..... Leavenworth  
 Thresher, E (WWII) ..... Arkansas City  
 Ticehurst, Marshall (WWII) ..... Topeka #400  
 Tilley, Jim (Korea) ..... Ozawkie  
 Trzicky, Jennifer (War on Terror) ..... Wichita #273  
 Tyler, Neal ..... Topeka #400  
 Umscheid, Delbert (Korea) ..... Wamego  
 Urankar, John (WWII) ..... Pittsburg  
 Walker, Ronald (Vietnam) ..... Topeka #400  
 Waterhouse, Bobby (WWII) ..... Burdett  
 Wells, Lawrence (Korea) ..... Newton  
 Wells, Treat (Korea) ..... Mulvane  
 Wendling, Eugene (WWII) ..... Halstead  
 Wienck, Melvin (Korea) ..... Barnes  
 Winter, Allen ..... Mulvane  
 Wipf, Don (Vietnam) ..... Hillsboro  
 Wittenbach, Melvin (WWII) ..... Cawker City  
 Wohler, David (Vietnam) ..... Clay Center  
 Woodring, Ronald (Vietnam) ..... Harper  
 Woods, Ray, Jr. (Vietnam) ..... Overbrook  
 Yahne, Raymond ..... Jennings

## DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN



**Glenn  
Patterson**



Memorial Day 2018 – A Prayer for our Country

In 1775 Ben Franklin made the motion to Celebrate “A Day of Prayer” by the Continental Congress.

“I therefore by leave to move... That henceforth prayers, imploring the assistance of Heaven and its blessings on our deliberations, be held in this assembly every morning before we proceed to business; and that one or more of the clergy of this city be requested to officiate in that service.”

- God Bless America – prayers & reflections for Our Country

Dr. David Ramsay was directly involved in achieving American independence and establishing American government. Not only was Dr. Ramsay a great political leader; he was also known as the surgeon-general of the Continental Army, he is known as an historian of the American Revolution. Dr. David Ramsay penned the History of the United States published in 1816.

Dr. David Ramsay delivered America first-ever Independence Day Oration, July 4, 1778. “Having delivered the first oration that was spoken in the United States to celebrate this great event, I feel myself doubly honored in being again called upon – after a lapse of sixteen years – to perform the same duty...”

Every citizen is perfectly free of the will of every other citizens while all are equally subject to the laws. Among us on one can exercise any authority by virtue of birth. All start as equals in the race of life.

The connection between liberty and happiness is peace. The sovereignty of a nation rest not on laws governed by leaders; the sovereignty of a nation is given by God through the virtues and knowledge of the creator.

American should be motivated with the generous ambition of teaching mankind by our example that the people; can govern themselves to a better degree of freedom. The superior happiness of our country will amply repay us for the blood and treasure which independence has cost.

As a grateful nation we gather around loved ones on Memorial Day to keep that fire of ambition in our hearts; and may that happiness increase and know no end, till time shall be no more.

Reflections from Celebrate Liberty! Famous Patriotic Speeches & Sermons, David Barton

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SUNFLOWER LEGIONNAIRE



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1314 SW TOPEKA BLVD., TOPEKA, KS 66612-1886

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**KANSAS SUNFLOWER LEGIONNAIRE  
Jimmie L. Foster, Editor**

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**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

**LEADERSHIP  
COLLEGE**

(Continued from Page 3)

eight most frequently used VA forms.

Of course the annual migration of the O-Poop-Pah-Doo will gather at the local Pizza Hut for its evening of fun immediately following the DEC meeting Friday.

**Please check the appropriate box in the registration below regarding housing. We cannot guarantee housing will be provided if you do not check the box indicating your need for housing at the College.**

**ADJUTANT'S BRIEFS**

(Continued from Page 6)

It seems that many Members of The American Legion Family have not heard 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).



**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, May 19 from 6:30 until 8:00 pm in Apollo I of the Atrium Hotel and Convention Center, 1400 N. Lorraine Street, Hutchinson.

The dinner will include: Beef tenderloin tips, chicken breast supreme, an array of vegetables, desserts, ice tea and coffee. Cost is \$30 per person and reservations must be received no later than Tuesday, May 15.

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, May 19 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 15; or telephone your reservations to 785-232-9315. Payment is due no later than May 15 without exception.

**CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION  
DINNER  
MAY 19, 2018  
ATRIUM HOTEL, HUTCHINSON, KS**

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

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

Number of dinners to be reserved at \$30.00 each \_\_\_\_\_

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

Or charge my VISA/Master Card number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: Kansas American Legion  
1314 SW Topeka Blvd.**

**"BUCKLE UP, LIGHTS ON & LIVE"**

Please send \_\_\_\_\_ fact sheets to:

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