Notes from the Department Commander

Fellow Legionnaires:

Now that the Governor has removed the executive order for the state’s reopening plan, it will be up to the individual county health officials to determine which phase is appropriate in their area, phases becoming a guideline as opposed to mandatory. Because of the shift in the State’s strategy, each Post will be making plans for welcoming back our Legion Family members and guests. Health officials strongly recommend that social distancing continue including staying apart six feet, wearing face masks in public, and avoiding crowds. Check with the county for further guidelines in your locale.

On May 19th, the Kansas Air National Guard held flyovers as a salute to the hospitals in four (4) cities for their dedication and work with the coronavirus pandemic. In each city, Emporia, Manhattan, Topeka and Lawrence, the Guard, including Kansas American Legion Family members who were invited by the Guard to participate, stood with medical personnel in honoring their service as a KC-135 Stratotanker flew over the hospitals. We appreciate the request to stand with the Guard as they continue “Operation Kansas Strong” and look forward to future events.

Over the past two months, traditional District Conventions gave way to virtual communication methods. At present, eight of the nine Districts have conducted necessary business and held elections for 2020/2021 officers, one District convening in Manhattan on July 18th. Each Convention was quite successful, completing the meetings in less than half a day, succeeding despite some phones not muted (this last point mentioned only for future electronic usage information).

Has anyone ever asked you, as a Member of the Kansas American Legion, the following question: “What does the Legion do?” National Commander Bill Oxford has set as one of his goals a 100% generation and submission of the Consolidated Post Report (CPR), a report that will answer that question and is arguably the most important report we generate. The information from the report reflects what we do and is reported to Congress by the National Commander as substantiation for our 501(c)(19) Congressional designation. Following are the District percentages of Post’s that have currently submitted this year’s report:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dist. #1</td>
<td>59.2 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dist. #2</td>
<td>37.9 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dist. #3</td>
<td>39.1 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dist. #4</td>
<td>48.8 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dist. #5</td>
<td>44.8 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dist. #6</td>
<td>63.3 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dist. #7</td>
<td>53.3 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dist. #8</td>
<td>47.8 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dist. #9</td>
<td>44.4 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL:</td>
<td>50.2 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
At this writing the percent of ALL Legion Posts sending CPR’s to National is 27%. We are doing great but still have some to go. Every Post will have been active over the year in at least one area included on the report, and should generate and submit it. The Commanders target date is **July 1st**. For ease of transmission and those that have the capability, the report can be submitted on-line and accessed at LEGION.ORG.

Being a Member of the Kansas American Legion, part of the world’s largest Veterans Service Organization, has given us a sense of pride through our service to communities and Veterans. We should also be proud of the status of Our National Organization and what they do. An example.

On May 20\textsuperscript{th}, the American Legion, through the effort of Commander Oxford, beseeched the White House to “fix” the orders given National Guard members called to duty in the COVID-19 national crisis. The call-up length of orders fell one day short of the 90-day requirement that allowed “many benefits including home loans, education and retirement” for those called to serve.

On May 28\textsuperscript{th}, President Trump tweeted that federal orders for Members of the National Guard would be extended through the middle of August. In his tweet the President said “The men and women of the National Guard have been doing a great job fighting the Coronavirus. This week, I will extend their Title 32 orders through mid-August, so they can continue to help States succeed in their response and recovery efforts.” A salute to Commander Oxford and The American Legion!

Thank you for all you do for the good of the American Legion.

**STAY SAFE, BE WELL!**

For God and Country,

*Join the American Legion…and you join a Family!*

RC "Chuck" Shoemaker  
Commander  
Department of Kansas  
The American Legion  
chuckshoemaker@sbcglobal.net

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**Notes from the Department Vice-Commander and Membership Chairman**

June is the last month before we begin the 2021 membership drive; that does not mean that Legionnaires can’t renew for 2020 after June 30\textsuperscript{th} though. Starting now, when you reach out to those that haven’t yet renewed for 2020, go ahead and try to collect dues for 2021 as well. This will turn those late renewers into Early Birds! Perhaps your Post can offer some kind of incentive for a member to be an Early Bird, some ideas would be a discount on the following years dues or enter them into a drawing to win something cool. A lot of Posts already offer special incentives for members that renew early, like a free meal or drink ticket. Regardless of what your Post decides to offer (if anything) be sure all members know about it, membership is not only the membership team’s responsibility, it’s everyone’s responsibility.

You might be wondering why membership is everyone’s responsibility instead of only your Post’s membership team’s, after all we all have our roles to play, right? This month I’ve decided to take a minute to give you a few reasons.
Every year the American Legion National Commander testifies before a joint session of the House & Senate Committees on Veterans Affairs. This is our opportunity to tell the lawmakers of the United States what they should be doing for the veterans and active duty in our country, along with other legislation that affects one of our four pillars (Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth). The more members the National Commander has behind their voice the louder they are. The American Legion Auxiliary and The Sons of The American Legion members count too, so if you can be a dual member, be one, let yourself be counted twice! Membership is all our responsibilities!

What would happen to your post if something happened to you? Find, recruit, and train someone to do what you do. That doesn’t mean you won’t be needed or wanted anymore it just means that the program you are in charge of will continue on after you are gone. Everyone has different interests, you may have to recruit a new member into your post that is interested in the program you lead in order for you to have someone to train that wants to learn. Membership is all our responsibilities!

Occasionally even when you love something you can get burned out on it. When we recruit new members, we are providing potential program workers. This is beneficial to your Post, community, and our programs, but once you train the “new guys” maybe then you will feel comfortable sharing the load and can take a much-deserved break. Just not for too long, you are still needed too. Membership is all our responsibilities!

Bottom line, The American Legion can do a lot of good things in our communities, state, and nation; but only if we have members.

For God and Country,

Marri Krupco
Department Vice-Commander
The American Legion, Department of Kansas
mkrupco@gmail.com

Department Adjutant’s Newsletter June 2020

JUST 3,082 MORE MEMBERS are needed to reach 24,941 (our Nationally assigned goal). Contact your un-renewed members and mail every available 2020 membership to Headquarters as soon as possible.

POST OFFICER SHEETS NEEDED: If your Post has not sent Department Headquarters the names of its 2020-21 officers yet, please see that it does now! All Posts who report their officers by June 1; file a Service Officer report by March 1, 2021; a Children & Youth report by District Convention and a Post Consolidated report by May 1, 2021 will receive a 100% Reporting Certificate. If you have a yellow mark on your envelope we have not received a Post Officer Sheet from your Post. We must have this form even if there are no changes. Post Adjutant’s packets and membership cards will be delivered or mailed in the next two weeks. Make sure we have your Adjutant’s correct name and address for these all important mailings.

2021 MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN: Officially gets underway July 1, 2020. The new membership cards have been mailed to every Post in the last couple weeks. Don’t forget to transmit your Post’s Officers
and Life Member cards to Headquarters immediately and all others at least every two weeks, more often if necessary.

**ATTENTION:** Early Bird will be determined by your Post’s membership transmitted and received at Department Headquarters as of September 15.

**BASEBALL:** has been canceled this year.

**STATE GOLF TOURNAMENT** will be held at Great Life Golf and Fitness at Shawnee Country Club in Topeka, September 26, 2020. For further information contact State Golf Chairman Lonny Cook, 785-286-2134, email kickaron01@sbcglobal.net

**NATIONAL CONVENTION** has also been canceled this year.

**OLD RECORD CARDS:** Department retains record cards for three years before disposing of them. They are available to Posts upon request. Many Posts use them to find prospective members as well as several other uses. The 2016 record cards are now available upon request--hurry they will be disposed of in September.

**CONGRATULATIONS:** To Leavenworth #23, Canton, Cawker City and Scott City for making QUOTA. (As of May 29.)

**DISTRICT STANDINGS AS OF MAY 29, 2020:** District IV, 3,168 - 95.48%; District IX, 1,061-94.65%; District I, 3,994 - 93.45%; District V, 3,008 - 93.16%; District II, 3,659 - 92.99%; District III, 2,140 - 90.52%; District VII, 1,633 - 90.32%; District VIII, 985 – 88.32 and District VI, 1,369 - 88.15%. Department Headquarters Post 58 (included in Dept. total) is 957. Total membership is 21,859. Membership last year this date was 23,533. We are BEHIND 1,674 members.

Post or District Legion events will be advertised on each midmonth Kansas Legion newsletter. Email event information or flyers to kansaslegionnewsletter@gmail.com by the 12th of the month to insure inclusion in the midmonth newsletter.
Centennial Coin Raffle

Win a piece of American Legion History!

One person will win three

American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coins

1 Uncirculated $5 Gold Coin ($463 value)
1 Uncirculated Silver Dollar ($57 value)
1 Uncirculated Clad Half Dollar ($31 value)
($551 total value)

Tickets $5
5 tickets for $20

11 tickets for $40

To purchase tickets online contact: Jeremy Ehart at 1-620-899-0010 or jjehart23@gmail.com; or Marri Krupco at 1-620-224-7354 or mkrupco@gmail.com
WANTED

VETERANS OF THE HEARTLAND

For inclusion in photo book including short bio and recap of service and post-military careers and activities.

Book given to those participating free of charge

Absolutely no solicitation of any kind

⇒ Project self-funded by Kansas entrepreneur as appreciation to veterans
⇒ Contact must be initiated by veteran to participate
⇒ Additional copies will be offered on-line with proceeds, after production costs, donated to heartland honor flights

⇒ A one-two hour personal visit to take pictures and gather notes for bio
⇒ Participants asked to approve bio and photos before publication

⇒ If interested, contact Marshall Rimann
  mrimann@gmail.com or 816-830-0705