SEPTEMBER 2020

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 on all American Legion Scholarships is available on the Department website ksamlegion.org. Copies may also be obtained from this office. Contact your nearest High School counselor’s office to make sure this information is available to students. 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 and Shooting Sports are available to any qualified student. These are all due February 15. The Sons of the American Legion scholarships are available on their website salks.org/resources. These are also 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 has been canceled this year due to COVID-19.

HOWEVER THE HOMECOMING FOR Department Vice Commander Jeremy Ehart, SAL Detachment Vice Commander James Snyder and Department Vice President Annette Scheaffer will be held on October 17, 2020 at the Abilene National Guard Armory at 12:00pm. Cost of the Luncheon is $15.00. More information and a coupon for ordering is enclosed and in the Sunflower Legionnaire. Reservations are to be sent to Jeremy Ehart, 10601 W. Snokomo Rd., Hutchinson, KS 67502 and deadline for ordering is October 10.

EARLY BIRD AWARDS: September 15 is the absolute deadline to be used in determining the winner of Early Bird awards. 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 this award.

EVERYONE REMEMBER “THE YELLOW POST CARD” from earlier last year asking “you” to call in to verify your Legion information? Well, the final hardbound book has been “finally” published. It is named: American Legion Department of Kansas, 2020 Then and Now Member Publication. We have about 50 of these books available for sale. They are $35.00 in person and $50.00 if mailed. Get yours while they are hot off the press.

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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, to 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 was cancelled this year due to COVID-19.

2017 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: has been canceled this year due to COVID-19.

CONGRATULATIONS: To Mayetta #410, Olpe #342, Eson #368, Garfield #300, Kingman #414 and Rexford #324 for making QUOTA. (As of August 31.)

DISTRICT STANDINGS AS OF AUGUST 31, 2020: District VIII, 458 - 63.39%; District I, 2,300 - 58.75%; District VII, 897 - 58.25%; District II, 2,006 – 56.48%; District V, 1,580 - 54.31%; District IX, 552 - 53.96%; District IV, 1,577 - 50.72% District III, 41.77%; and District VI, 480 - 41.77%. Department Headquarters Post 58 (included in Dept. total) is 480. Total membership is 11,389. Membership last year this date was 10,029. We are AHEAD 1360 members.

IN ORDER TO AVOID RECEIVING THE NEXT RENEWAL NOTICE ALL PAID MEMBERS’ CARDS MUST BE IN THIS OFFICE BY SEPTEMBER 10, 2020.