Notes from the Department Commander

Fellow Legionnaires,

I’m one month in and I still don’t think words can express how serving as your Department Commander makes me feel. My heart is full, and I will do everything in my power to not break the trust you have placed in me to lead the Kansas American Legion. Full disclosure, it doesn’t seem that long ago I sat in the back of my first Department Convention watching everything that was happening on the stage and I said to myself, “Nope, that will never be me!” Obviously, I had no idea what I was talking about because here we are! Not long ago an acquaintance asked me, “Well what are your plans after Department Commander, National Commander?” First I don’t think they understand the logistics of that but I just laughed and responded, “My plans are to serve in whatever capacity the American Legion needs me to serve in, and if someone more capable of doing the job comes along I have no problem stepping aside, because it’s not about me, it’s about what is best for the organization.” I want to encourage everyone reading this to do just that; step-up and serve where you are needed, even if it is out of your comfort zone. The only thing you are certain to fail at are the things you never try to do, and if someone ridicules you for trying perhaps they need to step-up and show you how it is done.

I want to take a moment to thank Col. Andrews for speaking at the Kansas American Legion Family Homecoming, it was truly an honor for you to have joined us. I also want to thank Shelton Beaty American Legion Post 18 Family in Arkansas City for the phenomenal job they did hosting the event. Lastly, I want to thank everyone that attended and those that wanted to attend but couldn’t because of the limited seating. I can assure you Paula, Tom, and I had a wonderful celebration because of each of you and your support.

I’m sure most of you are aware that many events are still being cancelled at the National, Department, District and even Post levels. As of right now there are two Department events on the horizon, the Department Vice-Commander/Vice-President Family Homecoming in October that I’m sure Jeremy will tell you all about, and the Department Golf Classic. The Department Golf Classic will be held on September 26th at the Shawnee Country Club in Topeka and flyers for sponsorship opportunities and for team registration are included in this newsletter. Last year the number of teams that played was down quite a bit from the previous year, this year we need to bring that number back up. With that in mind, I know for a fact that the 4th District is sponsoring a team and I would hate for the 4th District to make all the other 8 Districts look bad. I heard through the grapevine that the 3rd District was considering it, but in this case it’s not just the thought that counts. On behalf of the 4th District (they don’t know I’m doing this) I’m challenging the other Districts to
send a team to the Golf Tournament! Please know that there will be some good golfers at this
tournament, but there will also be some beginners and some not-so-good golfers too, regardless of
your skill level you are encouraged to participate.

One last thing, we are still planning on having a Department Christmas Party, the details will be
finalized very soon, and flyers will be sent out. I’m still holding out hope that the experts will figure
COVID-19 out and we will be able to get back to normal but if we aren’t then it will probably be
similar to the Homecoming situation with limited seating. If you want to attend be sure to keep your
eye out for the flyer and RSVP fast!

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve you as Department Commander.

For God & Country

Marri Krupco

Notes from the Department Vice-Commander and Membership Chairman

Please Legionnaires,

It is already September and I'm sure I'm not alone when I say I have really missed participating in
our normal events these past six months. The next few months are also full of cancelled events
such as the State Fair, Camp-o-Rama, Eisenhower Pilgrimage and the Big Red 1 Turkey Run. Soon
it will be November and time to observe Veterans Day. Start by visiting veterans in the VA hospital or
retirement home, decorate veterans graves, make a care package for overseas, make thank you
cards or letters, support veteran owned businesses near you, or hang a flag. I urge each Post to
hold a special celebration to recognize their members if possible, I understand some Posts are not
meeting in person so it's important to call your members, especially around Veteran's Day. A simple
phone call just to let your member know you are still there and care, could just brighten up their day.

I do have good news, even though the Eisenhower Pilgrimage was canceled, the Family
Homecoming for the Department Vice-Commander, Department Vice-President, and Detachment
Vice-Commander will still be ongoing, just at a new venue. It will still be held October 17th, still be a
luncheon from 12:00-2:00 pm, menu will be BBQ for 15.00 per person catered by Knackies from
McPherson. It will be held in Abilene at the National Guard Armory located at 619 N Rogers Street. It
will mirror the Department Commanders Homecoming that was held August 29th for safety
procedures, and limited sitting due to COVID-19 restrictions, so please RSVP by October 10th.

In the 2019-2020 membership year we failed to renew 2,188 members statewide. We made up
some of those members with DMS transfers, and new members but wasn’t enough to make up for the
shortfall in renewals. As of right now our membership for 2020 is 22,260 with a quota of 24,941,
which means if we as a group cannot renew or retain any more members for 2020 we stand to lose
2,681 more. As we are all working memberships for 2021 we shouldn’t forget, we can still take
memberships for 2020 as well. I understand this is an unusual year with many unknown and
unforeseen circumstances but we can’t forget our members; now is the time to pick up the telephone
to call, text, or email them. If you don’t reach out you will never know which of them are in poor
health or good health, need assistance with VA benefits, want to attend meetings or events but have
no transportation, are homebound or lonely and could use a visit or phone call. Remember we are all
veterans continuing to serve each other and our country.

Semper Fi!
Department Adjutant’s Newsletter 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.

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, Esbon #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.**

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.
The American Legion Family Homecoming

HONORING:
JEREMY EHART – AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT VICE-COMMANDER
ANNETTE SCHEAFFER – DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY VICE-PRESIDENT
JAMES SNYDER – SAL DETACHMENT VICE-COMMANDER

October 17th, 2020  12:00pm
Abilene National Guard Armory
619 N Rogers Street, Abilene, KS
$15.00 (RSVP by October 10th)

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, seating may be limited, RSVP quickly

LUNCHEON MENU:  BBQ BY KNACKIES
Brisket and Ham
Cheesy Potatoes, Coleslaw, Baked Beans
Cupcakes, Water/Tea, Pink Lemonade

For additional information or to RSVP, contact: Jeremy Ehart 620-899-0010
Use jjehart23@gmail.com to send money via PayPal (include a note with whom the RSVP is for)

- or -
Please Make checks Payable to Jeremy Ehart and
send to 10601 West Snokomo Rd Hutchinson, KS 67502

----------------------------------------Please cut and mail----------------------------------------
A Little Background...
For 100 years, The American Legion has been the “go to” Veterans’ Service Organization in support of veterans, active duty military and their families. Through our core outreach programs, which include Children and Youth, Legislative advocacy and Americanism, we reach those who are at greatest need via a grassroots support network of nearly 300 American Legion posts located throughout Kansas.

Please Support Us!
Proceeds from the tournament will go to support the programs and services of The American Legion Family in Kansas.

About our Event
Saturday, September 26, 2020 at
GreatLIFE Golf & Fitness at Shawnee Country Club
913 S.E. 29th Street • Topeka, KS 66605

Four Person Scramble (Flighted)
Double Shotgun Start at 9am & 1:00pm
Cost: $80.00/person • $320.00/team
Includes Green Fees, Cart, Range Balls, Luncheon, Gift Certificate & Hole in One Prize

On Course Events: $20.00/player
Closest to the Pin (Men & Women)
Longest Drive (Men & Women)
Longest Putt (Men & Women)
Silent, and 50/50 Auctions

FLIGHT PAYOUTS
First: $240
Second: $140
Third: $100

Deadline for Entry: September 18, 2020
Luncheon by: Starts at 12pm
Luncheon Caterers

• Pulled Pork
• Smoked Baked Beans
• Homemade Cole Slaw
• Homemade BBQ Sauce

** SPECIAL HOTEL RATES AVAILABLE **

For More Golf Classic Information Contact:
Gaylord Sanneman: 620-290-3482
Lonny Cook: kickaron01@sbcglobal.net
765-286-2134

About the Course
The course was designed by Donald J. Ross. From the standpoint of play, the course has remained essentially the same since it was first opened, complete with the subtle challenges that typify the designer’s work. The opening holes are challenging, but Donald Ross designed the first third of the course to be comparatively simple and non-punishing, essentially the “warm-up holes.”

A variety of mature trees, flowers, and rolling hills give the golf course its unique appeal. This very narrow course was constructed on rolling terrain. The fairways are narrow and tree lined. Water hazards come into play on some holes. The back-to-back par fours from number nine through number twelve are among the longest and most challenging in the Midwest. The eighteenth hole was designed to be a match play tie-breaker; its severely sloped putting surface gives the edge to the golfer making the most skillful approach shot. The course measures 6,389 yards from the back tees and plays to a par-71. The course rating is 72.4 and the slope rating is 125.
Join Us!
For nearly a century, The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion and since 2007 American Legion Riders have worked steadfastly, side by side, promoting patriotism and national security while supporting youth and advocating for veterans and active-duty military.

While members of The American Legion Family are individually unique, collectively we are a multi-million member powerhouse of caring advocates dedicated to service. You and your family can join us!

Eligibility Information

The American Legion

If you have served federal active duty in the United States Armed Forces since December 7, 1941, and have been honorably discharged or are still serving - you are eligible for membership in the American Legion!

*Because eligibility dates remain open, all active duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces are eligible to join The American Legion at this time, until the date of the end of hostilities as determined by the government of the United States.

**U.S. Merchant Marine eligible only from December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946 (WWII)

American Legion Auxiliary

Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary shall be limited to the grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses and direct and adopted female descendants of members of The American Legion, and to the grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of all men and women who were in the Armed Forces of the United States during any of The American Legion eligibility periods and who died in the line of duty during such service, or who, having received an Honorable Discharge, died after service. A woman who is eligible for American Legion membership is eligible to join the American Legion Auxiliary under her own service.

Sons of The American Legion

All male descendants, adopted sons and stepsons of members of The American Legion, and such male descendants of veterans who died during Service during the eligibility periods as defined by The American Legion eligibility requirements, or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service, shall be eligible for Membership in the Sons of The American Legion.

For More Information
The American Legion • 1314 SW Topeka Blvd. Topeka, KS 66612 • 785-232-9315
www.ksamlegion.org

What We Do and Why We Matter

The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. It is the nation’s largest wartime veteran’s service organization, committed to mentoring youth and sponsor ship of wholesome programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow service members and veterans.

We Make a Difference in Kansas

- Legislative Advocacy for Veterans and Veterans’ Issues
- American Legion Baseball
- American Legion Boys State
- Care and Support for Veterans and their Families
- Help and Comfort to Veterans in VA Facilities
- American Legion Auxiliary Girls State
- Distribution of Memorial Poppies
- Care and Financial Support to Children of Veterans
- Scholarship Opportunities for Children of Veterans
- Awareness of Veterans’ Health Issues and PTSD
- Financial Support to Wounded Warriors
- End Veteran Homelessness Initiatives
- Family Support Networks
- Emergency Financial Support to Veterans
- Flag Etiquette and Advocacy
- Youth Activities and Education
- Americanism and Get Out the Vote
- POW / MIA Initiatives
- Veteran Suicide Prevention and Awareness

...and so much more

American Legion
Department of Kansas
2020 Golf Classic

Great Life
at Shawnee Country Club

September 26th, 2020
4 Person Scramble • Luncheon
On Course Events • Prizes
American Legion Department of Kansas
2020 Golf Classic Sponsor Opportunities

Prizes needed for tournament:

On-course game prizes can be golf related or men/women prizes, they typically have a $20.00 to $30.00 value, sometimes more. Each player pays $20.00 to play the on-course games.

- Closest to the Pin (2 for Men – 2 for Women)
- Longest Drive (2 for Men – 2 for Women)
- Longest Putt (2 for Men – 2 for Women)

We will have a silent auction to raise additional money for our Veterans and need items for our players to bid on.

Most of all we need GOLF TEAMS! Last year we had fewer players and did not raise as much money, please help spread the word!

Participants do not have to belong The American Legion Family!

Hole Sponsorships (Signs) are: $200.00 for a business advertising. $100.00 for an individual

We would appreciate all the help we can get to make this tournament successful and be able to help our veterans.

All donations (monetary or otherwise) should be sent or delivered to Department Headquarters, 1314 SW Topeka Blvd., Topeka, KS 66612. Call Lonny & Karon Cook with any questions: 785-286-2134.

YOUR DONATIONS MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Name: ___________________________ Phone: ___________________________
Address: __________________________
Amount Enclosed: $_____________________
Information to put printed on your sign (if applicable):

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
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

Drawing to be held at Department of Kansas Leadership College in June 2021 (need not be present to win)

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
AMERICAN LEGION
TEAM KANSAS
ORDER FORM

Name ____________________________

Address ____________________________

City __________________ State ______ Zip __________

Post# __________________ Phone # __________

Mail orders/payments to Jeremy Ehart 10601 W Snokomo Rd Hutchinson KS 67502

Team Kansas T Shirt $ 20.00 each

- Youth Small
- Youth Med
- Youth Large
- Youth XL

+ 2.00 2X
+ 3.00 3X
+ 4.00 FOR 4X

Team Kansas Polo $ 30.00 each

- Adult Small
- Adult Med
- Adult Large
- Adult XL

+ 2.00 2X
+ 3.00 3X
+ 4.00 FOR 4X

Total Number of Shirts _______________________

Total Due _______________________

Cash ☐ Check ☐ Credit ☐ Other ☐

Checks Payable to: Ks Commanders Campaign Fund
DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS IV DISTRICT HOMECOMING

Commander Keith Melick
President Marcia Cottrell
SAL Commander Randy Porter

- SATURDAY, 3 October 1200-1500
- Host: Post 365 Hope Ks

Program starts at 1330
Finger foods for the homecoming then stick around for a benefit BBQ with the post starting at 1600
RSVP TO: Commander Melick
913-271-0580
Kelemel0817@gmail.com