Greetings Kansas American Legion!

I cannot thank you all enough for the hospitality shown to the National Commander, his aide, the Department and District Officers, and I during the National Commander tour of western Kansas at the end of October. You make me proud to be a Kansan, a veteran and your Department Commander. I wish everyone was as kind and courteous, this world would be a much better place.

I also want to thank the Dodge City Legion Family for their hospitality, the food was fantastic, and “Letters from Home” had a great show. Huge shout out to the Independence Legion Family, next time you have mouse races I will try to not win all the prizes! We had a great time, and I’m loving all my loot!

I do have one thing I would like to address that isn’t as positive. In August at Homecoming in Ark City there was an incident and I have been trying to decide how to address the problem. At one point I was thinking of writing a letter to the individuals involved but decided against it. Instead I’m going to give all of us a gentle reminder. We are all volunteers and everyone deserves to be treated with respect. If I was to visit your home and you asked me to remove my shoes at the door, I would do so without hesitating, not because I am a sheep but because I respect the rules of your home. Similarly, if I attend a function and am asked to wear a mask, regardless of my personal feeling about masks I will wear one, out of respect for the individuals hosting the event and the volunteers that are just doing as they are asked when they ask me to wear one. This concept goes much farther than masks, however I’m sure you have figured out it was a mask issue that prompted this gentle reminder to be kind and respectful to the other volunteers in our organization. With that being said, The American Legion Department of Kansas will be continuing to require masks or face shields at all Department functions until further notice; if you are unwilling to adhere to this requirement I will ask that you forgo attending these events until this requirement is lifted.

The Annual Department Holiday Party is Scheduled for December 5th at noon in Great Bend. A flyer and RSVP instructions are included in this eNewsletter. Originally we planned on having this event in Ellsworth but due to some requirements of their County Health Department we had to change the venue. After speaking with Department ALR chairman Roger Beckley it was decided that any money raised over our expenses would be donated to the expansion of the ALR Operation North Pole (ONP) to include the children of National Guard and Reservists here in Kansas. As you know ONP at Fort Riley has been cancelled this year, it is still unclear if we will be able to pull something last minute together for the expansion. If it does not happen the funds we raise this year will be used for
the expansion next year, to possibly 3 or 4 events across the state! If you would like to volunteer to help get this underway please reach out to your Area Directors, all Legion family are welcome to help. In lieu of “white elephant” gifts or any kind of a gift exchange at the party, we ask that you bring one or more UNWRAPPED NEW toy to donate to “Marine Toys for Tots.” Paula, Tom and I look forward to seeing everyone!

One last thing, National Commander Bill Oxford wants us to build “A Foundation for the Future.” With that in mind, I’m going to challenge everyone reading this to either find a good mentor and learn or find someone to mentor and teach. While doing so please keep in mind, there is no sense in recreating the wheel, however improvements are always good, your way is not the only way, and we need to learn from others trials and errors lest we repeat history. You can learn something new every day, all you have to do is try!

For God & Country

Marri Krupco

Notes from the Department Vice-Commander and Membership Chairman

Greetings Legionnaires,

I want to give a huge thank you to the Abilene American Legion family that hosted the Department Vice-Commanders’ Homecoming. We were grateful it was still able to be held in your community, and we could not have done it without your gracious hospitality. I would also like to thank everyone that attended this year’s event, the encouragement and dedication you all show to this great organization is much appreciated. It was a good time with good food, we will always remember this event fondly because of you; so thank you again.

As you may know, The American Legion National Headquarters sets membership target dates, we met the last deadline in September that was set at 50%. The next target date was October 15th, and to meet that target, the Department as a whole would need to meet or exceed 55% of our quota. I am happy to say that we met our goal, we were one of 49 Departments to do so. Our next membership target is November 12th, and we should be at or above 65% of our quota. Our quota as a Department is 23,156 members, as of this writing we have 14,161 members for 2021 which equals 60.97% of our 2021 quota. We need 890 members, either new or renewed, by November 12th to stay on target. I have no doubt we can do it together. Start by going through the stack of unpaid members cards for 2021 and take anyone that you know and give them a call. That’s a start!

With the coronavirus pandemic that is affecting us all, the Buddy Check program is perhaps more important now than ever before. The idea is to connect with veterans who may need assistance but don’t know where to go or who to ask. We should already be reaching out to fellow Legionnaires at this time of the year but now we must do more. It is not enough to simply pick up the phone and call the veterans you know. We need to check on ALL VETERANS in each of our communities to be sure they are safe, feeling okay and have access to health care and services. If we hear of someone in need, we can offer someone a ride, deliver groceries or supplies, or in short we can just be there for them. Some people won’t ask for help; encourage members of your Post to reach out and offer assistance to other veterans in your area. Please be particularly attentive to seniors, a population that is especially vulnerable to the harmful effects of this virus. The important part is to let the veterans in your community know you care and can provide assistance. It is what we do for our battle buddies.
Department Adjutant’s Newsletter November 2020

CONTRACT FOR POST/DISTRICT/DEPARTMENT FLAG SALES: Each American Legion Post within the Department of Kansas is able to sign up with National Emblem Sales to become a part of their Flag Rewards Program. Signing up is very easy. Have your Post Adjutant sign up your Post at: http://emblem.legion.org/flag_rewards_registration.asp it only take a few seconds. Start purchasing your American Flags and other flag items from American Legion National Emblem Sales at www.AmericanLegionFlags.com or you may call them at: 1-888-453-4466. Either option is very quick and easy! PLEASE give National Emblem Sales a try. I believe you will be very happy with their Service and products.

VETERANS DAY IS NOVEMBER 11. If your Post has not already planned a function for this Veterans Day now is the time to organize some type of activity. It is up to us as veterans to remind everyone of the sacrifices made by our nation’s servicemen and women to preserve America’s freedoms. It is fitting also, to honor and show appreciation to those in the National Guard and Reserve Forces. They are the ones who are preserving the peace and freedoms so many fought and died for and we enjoy today. Don’t let this Veterans Day slip by unnoticed in your community.

P.S.: Over 60% of today’s National Guard and Reserve are eligible for membership in The American Legion. The key to success is asking our fellow veterans to join our ranks.

NOVEMBER MEMBERSHIP DRIVE: National Headquarters’ second dues reminder arrived in October. Department Commander Krupco asks each Post to conduct a membership drive this month. Posts must not substitute National’s dues notice for their own membership plan. Posts should form membership teams to contact those who have not renewed their membership and to seek out new members. Knock on doors, organize telephone drives, divide unpaid members’ names among membership workers, etc. Review old Post Rosters for members who may have forgotten to pay their dues in the past. They’re a gold mine of opportunity to re-sign as new members. Do whatever is necessary to collect everyone’s dues now. Remember, every active duty military person is eligible for membership and so are over 60% of today’s Guard and Reserve personnel.

PROCLAMATIONS: Suggested proclamations for Veterans Day, National Education Week and National Family Week are enclosed. All Posts are encouraged to seek local and county adoption for each. Invite the media for signing ceremonies.

ORATORICAL CONTEST: Information is being mailed to all High Schools and Posts and will be in the Sunflower Legionnaire. Over $144,000 in scholarships will be awarded; make sure your community’s students and parents are aware of this opportunity.

EVERY POST has an obligation to provide their members the opportunity to enroll in the free $1,000 accidental Death and dismemberment insurance policy which can increase to $5,000 if the accidental death of a member occurs while attending, participating in, or traveling to or from an official American Legion sponsored event or activity. Members can sign up by calling 800-235-6943 or going to www.thelit.com and clicking on “SIGN UP NOW”.

Jeremy Ehart
Vice-Commander
The American Legion, Department of Kansas
jiehart23@gmail.com
GOLD AND SILVER STARS: Be sure to keep accurate records for all your membership workers and report them to Headquarters. Awards will be sent by Headquarters to every reporting Post. Deadline for qualifying for the Gold Star Club, Silver Star and Century Club and Gold Star with wreath is February 1, 2021. Remember a new member is one who was not a member of your local Post for 2020. If a member dropped out for a year or more and rejoins they are considered a new member and are worth two (2) points, a renewal is one (1) point. Gold Star, Silver Star and Big Team and Go-Getter certification forms are included in the Adjutants Letter.

POSTS WITH A QUOTA OF 50 MEMBERS OR LESS: Adjutants can certify a member to the Gold Star Club if the member signed 60% of the Post’s Quota by February 1, 2021 and is certified to Department Headquarters by February 15, 2021.

STATE BOWLING TOURNAMENT: Information and entries for the 74th State Bowling Tournament are being mailed to all past participants and bowling alleys. If your local bowling alley does not receive the information please contact State Headquarters. This year’s tournament will be held at Flint Hill Lanes, 1519 W. 6th Ave. in Emporia January 9-10, 16-17, 23-24, and 30-31, 2021.

CONGRATULATIONS: To Washington, Burdick, Olsburg, Tampa, Holyrood, Larned and Haviland for reaching QUOTA. (As of October 30.)

DISTRICT STANDINGS AS OF OCTOBER 30, 2020: District VI, 1,006 - 75.58%; District VII, 1,163 – 75.52%; District IX, 761 - 74.39%; District VIII, 603 - 73.09%; District I, 2,816 –71.93%; District V, 2,019 – 69.41%; District II, 2,428 - 68.36%; District IV, 2,067 - .66.48% and District III, 1,280 - 59.40%. Department Headquarters Post 58 (included in Dept. total) is 621. Total membership is 14,764.

IN ORDER TO AVOID RECEIVING THE NEXT RENEWAL NOTICE ALL PAID MEMBERS’ CARDS MUST BE IN THIS OFFICE BY DECEMBER 10, 2020.
DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS
HOLIDAY PARTY

December 5, 2020

Argonne Post 180
1011 Kansas Ave., Great Bend, KS

12:00 p.m. Social Time – 12:30 p.m. Lunch
Entertainment will follow lunch
Please bring a new unwrapped toy for “Toys for Tots”

$20.00 per person; proceeds will go to the expansion of
Operation North Pole to National Guard & Reserve families.
At this time seating is limited, Please RSVP early

Send Reservations to:
Marri Krupco at 510 E Main St, Blue Mound, KS 66010
Tickets may also be purchased through PayPal using mkrupco@gmail.com
Please type Holiday Party in the note area, and select “sending to a friend”

---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------
Name ________________________________
Guest Names______________________________
Post/Unit/Squadron________________________ Number of attendees ______________________
Enclosed is my check in the amount of $_____________ (Payable to Marri Krupco)
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

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

Team Kansas T Shirt $20.00 each

- Youth Small
- Youth Medium
- Youth Large
- Youth XL
- Adult Small
- Adult Medium
- Adult Large
- Adult XL
- Adult 2X +2.00
- Adult 3X +3.00
- Adult 4X +4.00
- +2.00 2x
- +3.00 3x
- +4.00 FOR 4X

Team Kansas Polo $30.00 each

- Youth Small
- Youth Medium
- Youth Large
- Youth XL
- Adult Small
- Adult Medium
- Adult Large
- Adult XL
- Adult 2X +2.00
- Adult 3X +3.00
- Adult 4X +4.00
- No Pockets
- Adult 2X +2.00
- Adult 3X +3.00
- Adult 4X +4.00

Total Number of Shirts

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Checks Payable to:

Ks Commanders Campaign Fund