The State Oratorical Contest was held in Manhattan. All contestants recited their orations skill and enthusiasm. The Judges had the difficult task of choosing the top contestants that would receive top honors and money for college.

The 2017 State Champion is Louie Peres from Stilwell representing District 2. Louie will represent Kansas during the National contest in Indianapolis April 21-23. 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 Carson Smith from Wichita, representing District 5. The third place finisher was Jenna Weiss from Little River, representing District 7. She will receive a $250 scholarship.

Department Convention Set for Topeka May 19-21

Ramada Hotel, 420 E. 6th Street, in Topeka will serve as the site of the 99th 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 Ramada toll free at 1-800-432-2424. Room rates for the Convention are $92 and includes a full breakfast buffet.

The Convention is expected to feature a number of speakers including American Legion National Vice Commander Doug Boldt from Nebraska and S.A.L. National Vice Commander Kenneth Yanke from Colorado, 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 and will also be presented. A highlight of the Convention will be the drawing for this Spring’s Sweepstakes with both special prizes available should any of the thirteen winners be present during the drawing on Sunday.

The Convention will (Continued on Page 3)
Greetings! First of all, it has been an honor and privilege to serve as your commander this year. Again, thank you all for your support! It has been a great year for me; however, a very busy one.

We had a great turnout for the Mid-Winter Forum held in Olathe. We were honored to have special guest Denise Rohan and her husband Mike. Denise is the leading candidate to be our National Commander for 2017-2018. Thank you Post 153 for hosting this year. We really didn’t mind the outdoors too much!

The Kansas legislative meeting was held on February 8 at the Capitol Plaza. We had several attending to meet with our representatives to discuss issues with the VA and to prepare for our trip to Washington DC.

Then on to Springfield, IL to the Lincoln Pilgrimage where we meet with the National Commander Charles Schmidt. We toured the Lincoln Library with Charles on Saturday. Then on Sunday, Auxiliary President Claudia Satterlee and I had the honor of laying a wreath on Lincoln’s Tomb.

The National Wahington DC Conference was held February 26 through March 1 at the Washington Hilton. We had Several from Kansas attending and on Tuesday we went to visit our Congressmen and Senators to present our resolutions in person. I believe we had very positive results.

The Kansas Oratorical Finals were held in Manhattan. What a great bunch of teenagers! They were all winners to me. Congrats to Loui Pires from 2nd District as our winner. Good luck at National.

The Olathe Post 153 hosted a 98th birthday party for The American Legion. The 100th birthday of The American Legion is in two more years and national would like for every Post to plan a centennial celebration.

The next two months will be filled with upcoming District Conventions. I plan to visit each District. I hope that everyone attends their convention to support your District.

I hope everyone is planning to attend the Department Convention in Topeka on May 19th to the 21st. I am looking forward to seeing everyone there.

Again, it has been a privilege to serve as your Department Commander this year. I say goodbye in the old Navy adage: Fair winds and following seas. God bless.

TERRY WARNER FOR DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER

I earned my eligibility by serving in the United States Army from 1965 to 1972. I believe it is time for the American Legion, Department of Kansas, to embrace the 21st Century and start appealing to younger Veterans and start using the American Legion Family to increase membership and service and respect to our Veterans.

For too long we have held onto antiquated procedures, although with good intentions, trying to build and maintain an organization using our old methods. The younger Veteran has felt left out and has not desired to be part of an outdated organization.

However, we can’t throw out programs and procedures that are working. We need to update and refocus our time and effort on what does work. We need to draw upon the Sons of the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary as a plus and embrace and help them help us.

We need to work together as a team and stop our infighting and leave our inside politics at the door. We are all Veterans, and our main goal is to serve the Veterans and their families. When we start doing this as a team and eliminate the personal desires, we will start to work together as a team and our membership and outreach to our Veterans will greatly improve.

Remember, we all should be “Blue Hats” helping our Veterans.

I respectively request your vote and support.

TERRY MARR FOR DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

My name is Terrence (Terry) Marr and I am announcing my candidacy for the American Legion Department of Kansas Commander for 2017-2018.

I am a life member of Post 408, Derby-Haysville, Sons of the American Legion member and Legion Rider. I earned my eligibility in the American Legion by serving in the US Air Force and retiring as a Master Sergeant (E-7) after 24 years of active duty service. I currently serve Post 408, Derby/Haysville on the Executive Committee and as Judge Advocate.

I served during 3 war periods; the invasion of Panama and during the Lebanon/Grenada war. I am a Gulf War veteran and deployed during Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Desert Calm, and the liberation of Kuwait.

I currently serve as the Department Vice Commander and previously served as a Post Finance Officer, Adjutant, Commander, District Executive Committee, District Vice Commander, and District Commander. I have served the Department of Kansas on the Land Committee, and have served on the National Security Commission, Aerospace Committee for the past 6 years.

My goals as Department Commander are to increase public awareness and community knowledge of the American Legion and its programs, increase membership, help Kansas reach 100% membership, and help achieve our Department Goal of 45,000 members by 2019. We need to reach out to our Guard, Reserve, and Active Duty military bases and let these men and women know that they are eligible for membership.

I believe in and am committed to the American Legion principles and am willing to take on the additional responsibilities as your Department Commander for 2017-2018.

I have the support of my family, my post, and my District. I would greatly appreciate your support as well. Consider me for your Department Commander, and vote at our Department Convention in Topeka, May 19-21.

A great time was had by everyone at the Mid-Winter Forum in Olathe, and I want to thank everyone for your support. I have made my announcement that I am a candidate for your Department Commander for 2017-2018. I appreciate your support and will appreciate your vote at our Department Convention May 19-21 in Topeka.

I had the pleasure of attending the American Legion Washington Conference in Washington DC the end of February. We met with our Congressmen and Senators from Kansas and let them know our concerns for our veterans, their families, their healthcare, and benefits. There were 14 resolutions we asked them to support and vote into law.

Membership is everyone’s responsibility. Our National Commander has challenged each one of us to recruit at least one new member. I have done my part as well as many other Legionnaires across the state. Each one of us has received a call from the National Vice Commander for the Midwest Region, Doug Boldt of Nebraska. We are all proud of our organization and welcome new members and ideas.

The Department Oratorical Contest at Manhattan Post 17 was awesome. All 8 Districts had a contestant and representation. District 2 had the winner with District 5 as runner up. All contestants did a superb job and all are winners!

We did A Soldier’s Wish presentation to 3 Veterans from Wichita State University on Mar 14. These individuals received laptop computers and accessories. Subway has partnered with The American Legion and Soldiers Wish to make these donations possible to worthy veterans.

I will attend all 8 District conventions and will have a great time meeting and talking to your members at each one. Our District Conventions are an avenue for our leadership to get to know our members and for us to get to know us. We are all approachable! Don’t hesitate to walk up to us, introduce yourself, ask questions, give your concerns, and tell your story!
DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER

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AUDIOLGY SERVICES IN EASTERN KANSAS
VA MEDICAL CENTER (VAMC)
By Dr. Sue Hogan, Program Manager
Audiology/Speech Pathology

Hearing aid technology has improved ‘tremendously’ over the past 10-15 years making hearing aids the best they’ve ever been. Within the Eastern Kansas Health Care System, the audiology department provides hearing aids to Veterans, and this last year alone, over 5000 aids were issued. There is no cost for hearing aids through the VAMC to those Veterans who qualify.

Each campus in Eastern Kansas has Audiology services available. In addition to providing hearing care, our diagnostic hearing testing to identify or rule out medical issues, is available as well as testing available to patients with Vestibular or balance concerns. Both campuses provide direct access, meaning Veterans do not need to be referred by their provider. On the Leavenworth campus, Veterans can call directly to the Audiology clinic to be scheduled for a hearing test. On the Topeka campus, Veterans can walk into the clinic and be seen that day for a hearing test.

Once hearing testing is completed, the Audiologist will discuss the results with the Veteran. If hearing aids are recommended, the style and options available would be decided and hearing aids would be ordered. Once delivered, the maintenance and upkeep is discussed, with repairs and batteries covered for the life of the hearing aids.

To answer questions or schedule an appointment in Leavenworth call (913) 682-2000 ext 2211. To contact Topeka, (785)350-3111 ext 52269. Program manager, Dr. Sue Hogan would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Whether or not a Veteran is interested in hearing aids, a regular hearing test completed every one to two years is recommended for good hearing health.

CLINT WILLIARD FOR DEPARTMENT MASTER-AT-ARMS

My name is Clint Williard, I’m from the 3rd District my Post home is Post 10 in Winfield.

I’m announcing my candidacy for Department master-at-arms for the 2017-2018 year.

I served in the US Army from 1986-1997 therefore earning my eligibility in the American Legion and I’ve been a member for 13 years.

I started my service in 2003 at Post 104 in Harper KS, where I served as Post Vice Commander and then Commander for each one year. I transferred to Post 10 in Winfield in 2011 where I served as 2nd Vice Commander and then Commander for 3 years. I’m a member of the funeral detail, color guard, and the Legion Riders where I served as Road Captain for one year. I’ve participated in parades, funerals, send-offs, and homecomings.

At the District level I’ve served as committee man, Vice Commander and as District Commander. I’ve served as chairman on two committees, civil preparedness and Eisenhower Pilgrimage.

At the Department level, I’ve served as Department Master-at-Arms for the 2016-2017 year. I’m a member of the centennial membership committee.

Should I get the opportunity to become one of the Department Master-at-Arms again for the great state of Kansas, my first priority will be to protect the American Flag and place her in a place of honor and respect at all times. Furthermore, all Department level meetings will be kept in order and I’ll be available to help the Commander and Vice Commander when called upon.

Membership will continue to be a priority as I serve the Department of Kansas. Just as it should be with every single Post and Legionnaire throughout the state of Kansas.

I do have the support of Post 10. I hope to see everyone at the up-coming Department convention in May at Topeka and I would appreciate your vote and support, thank you.

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION
(Continued from Page 1)
conclude on Sunday with a Memorial Service followed by the election of Department Officers for the 2017-2018 membership year. All Legionnaires are encouraged to attend the Convention as a delegate, alternate, or guest. Post Adjutants will be mailed pre-registration materials with their registration form (if registered, 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.

GARY FOOS FOR AREA WEST VICE COMMANDER

Hello Area West Districts 5 thru 8. I am once again running for the position of Area West Vice Commander. I have held this office for the past two years. I would like to continue to be your spokesman in Department as the Area West Vice Commander. I have enjoyed the friendship made the past several and making new friends. I have appreciated the support and trust you have given me over the years as your Area West Vice Commander. For you NEW members in the Area West, below is my eligibility in the American Legion.

I joined the United States Army Reserves in October of 1969 and served until October 1975 earning the rank of Sargent First Class (E7) in three and one-half years. In the meantime I joined the American Legion in 1998 at the American Legion Olin Cole Post #392 in Bazine, Kansas. I became Post Commander in May 2007 and still Post #392 Commander. I served as 8th District Sargent of Arms (2010), 8th District Vice Commander (2011), 8th District Commander (2012-2015) and Area West Vice Commander for the past two years. I have the support of my post and my wife Linda for 48 years in April.

I will work on and help any post that needs help with its membership or any other problems that arise. Membership is the life blood of the American Legion. I will continue to work keeping the control of the Kansas Department of the American Legion with the Department Executive Committee as prescribed in the Constitution and By-Laws. I hereby ask for your vote at the Kansas Department of the American Legion convention at Topeka in May. Thank you for your past support and God Bless the American Legion and The United States of America.

ESZTER BLAIR FOR AREA EAST VICE COMMANDER

My name is Eszter Blair and I am announcing my candidacy for the American Legion, Department of Kansas, Area East Vice Commander for 2017-2018.

I’m a member of Leonard-ville Memorial Post 40 and have been a Legion Member for 14 years. I earned my eligibility in the American Legion by serving in the US Army from 1974 until 1980, first in the Women’s Army Corps (WACs) and then regular Army. From 1980 until 1985 I was with the Army National Guard. During my time I was stationed in California, Germany, Arizona and Georgia.

At the Post level I have worked as Post Finance Officer and Post Adjutant, a position I still hold today. I am also a member of Memorial Unit 40 and the American Legion Riders Chapter 40, Leonardville. I currently serve as the 4th District Assistant Adjutant and have previously served as District Executive Committee Member, District Vice Commander for one year with the double duty of District Commander for two years. Additionally, I am a member of the Twenty and Four, Escalon 35, The Honor Society of Women Legionnaires.

For the past three years my husband David, also a Legionnaire, and I have worked closely with the Warrior Transition Battalion (WTB) at Fort Riley, helping out at the Soldier Family Assistance Center (SFAC), cooking for them during the Wednesday evening Pointman Dinners, having them spend weekends at our home being our “normal” family and listening. These are the soldiers and veterans that we have recruited into our own post as well as posts across this nation as they go home to return to civilian lives.

I am employed by the Department of Defense at Irwin Army Community Hospital, the Big Red One Support Hospital. For the past 14 years I have seen firsthand what our soldiers and their families are going through and I know that we, as a Legion Family, need to make sure that they get the respect and help they need.

Four years ago, as the 4th District Vice Commander, I worked hand in hand with Commander George C. Michaud and brought the 4th District to 100%. For the past 3 years, Memorial Post 40, Leonardville, has grown from 13 members, and being close to being shut down, to over 100% every year. And we are still growing. We are currently at 114% with 49 members, and we are not done.

I would like, as Area East Vice Commander, to be able to help Area East’s Districts to work on membership, not just new recruitment but also retention. The past couple of years, with the double duty of membership and the controversy about life membership, has taken a toll on morale and esprit de corp. As your Area East Vice Commander I would work closely with my District Commanders and Membership Committees to think outside the box and find new ways to keep as well as draw in new membership.

I have the support of my husband David, my family both blood and extended, my Post, and my District Commander and his staff. I request and would appreciate your support and vote as well as my Department Convention in May.

In the words of the Big Red One: NO MISSION TOO DIFFICULT, NO SACRIFICE TOO GREAT, DUTY FIRST!

LARRY HALL FOR DEPARTMENT MASTER-AT-ARMS

Hello and greetings to all Department of Kansas members.

My name is Larry Hall. Most of you know me as Pete. I announced at Mid-Winter Forum in Olathe that I would be a candidate for Department of Kansas Master at Arms. I earned my Legion eligibility in the United States Army and the American Legion from 1966 – 1972, obtaining the rank of Staff Sergeant. I am currently Post Commander of Post 205 in Sublette and have been commander for four years. Before that I was Vice Commander for three years. I am presently Commander of the Eighth District following a year as District Vice Commander. I have been very active in my Post and District.

I am still employed full time but can and will take the time required to satisfy any and all requirements for this position. I have been to Leadership College in Concordia several times and have attended the Leadership School in Indianapolis, Indiana. I attend various Legion functions around the State and will attend National Convention. I ask for your support for the office of Master at Arms and sincerely thank you very much.
Hello First District Family,

This year is moving way too fast and I am having trouble keeping up with events. I want to thank my officers for keeping everything moving along and keeping me out of trouble.

The First District Annual Convention is in Lansing on April 21-23, 2017. Your Post has received the “Call to Convention” and all the other information you need by now. It is going to be a good convention and you will enjoy being there. If your post can’t have a full delegation attending please make sure that at least one delegate attends. You can be that delegate. Make your reservations early. The deadline for getting a Saturday night dinner is April 17.

The First District Oratorical Contest was conducted on February 18 at Topeka Post 1. There were five students competed and First Place went to Graham Gibson, a home school student from Topeka. Second Place went to Olivia Miller of Leavenworth High School and Third Place to Patrick Bircher of Lansing High School. Many thanks to the Legion and Auxiliary of Post 1 for hosting the contest and the dinner they provided following the contest. A District Executive Committee meeting was held following the oratorical contest.

Membership is still lagging behind and anyone who hasn’t paid their dues for 2017 should get paid IMMEDIATELY so we all deserve. If you have not renewed your dues, please do so. Together we can help The American Legion continue to grow, but only by your support.

The Second District Convention is over and new officers for 2017-2018 have been sworn in, also delegates for the National Convention in August 2017 have been elected.

There’s a flag retirement ceremony scheduled for April at Post 48 in Garnett. There will be a biscuits and gravy breakfast from 7:30 AM until 10:00 AM with the retirement ceremony starting 10:00. All posts are encouraged to bring worn flags that need to be retired to Post 48, volunteers are needed for the disposal.

The Department Convention will be held on 19-21 May in Topeka at the Ramada Inn. Make room reservations now to ensure your room. There will be a Department Executive meeting on Friday, 19 May. Posts Adjutants remember the Children & Youth and Post Officers Report is due before convention.

Leadership College will be held in Concordia on June 2, 3, 4. District, Post Commanders, Vice Commanders, Adjutants, and service officers are encouraged to attend this valuable training.

Boys State will be held starting June 4 in Manhattan at K-State University. Applications should be in by April 1. Tuition remains at three hundred dollars ($325).

Cadet Law will start 4 June in Salina, KS and will be conducted by the Kansas Highway Patrol.

The District picnic formerly known as Camporama will be June 10 at Garnett City Park. This is a family friendly event and is a lot of fun.

This will be my last sunflower article as District Commander. I want to thank the District for allowing me to serve as Commander and the best to the incoming officers.

Thank you 3rd District posts for your support this year! Membership between Districts is still close. We still need to reach out a little harder on getting those final renewals. Let’s give the state commander a 100% effort on membership.

I hope to see everyone in Topeka at the state convention. I would like to thank Chanute Post 170 for their work in hosting the 3rd District Convention. I wish the best to the new officers in continuing the success of the 3rd District.

I would encourage all 3rd District posts in supporting our local youth in the many Legion activities available. Let’s support Legion Boys State, Girls State, Cadet Law, Legion Baseball and the numerous other activities the American Legion provides. Finally, let’s continue working membership. These last members are important to the American Legion. Our national officers fight hard for the American Legion membership goals, as well as benefits that we all deserve. If you have not renewed your dues, please do so. Together we can help The American Legion continue to grow, but only by your support.

District IV Family,

As we move forward in the American Legion’s journey to the 100th Birthday let’s remember why and why the Legion moves forward.

Veterans, service members and communities came together in 1919, and 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.

Over the years, the Legion has influenced considerable social change in America, won hundreds of benefits for veterans and produced many important programs for children and youth.

“Be the Voice and not the echo…Echo’s lose their strength”.

Hello 5th District.

2017 is upon us and I hope that everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a safe New Year’s Eve. Membership has always been the big push for the whole state of Kansas and this year 5th District finished out 2016 in 4th place. Not quite as good as last year but I am still proud of the work that all of 5th District has done to achieve 4th place in the standings. I am sure that with 2017 there will come many new challenges for all of us to face but together we will meet each and every one as an American Legion Family. All post commanders remember that if your members have not renewed their membership for 2017 then they will not be allowed in the post until they have a current 2017 card.

February will be here soon and with it comes Sweetheart day A.K.A. Valentines Days and just want to wish all a very Happy Valentines Day. Remember that if a member has not renewed his or her memberships by January 1st then they are delinquent and if after February 1st membership dues are not paid then the member is suspended and can only be reinstated after paying their dues and by a Post vote. Everyone’s membership in the American Legion is so very important when it comes time for our National Commander to go up to Congress and fight for our Veterans rights.

April 1st will be upon us before we know it and that is the date for 5th District Convention, which will be held at Post 24 in McPherson and I hope to see Delegates from all the posts in 5th District there. This is the time for you to vote for the 2017-2018 District officers and your vote is important.

I want to say Thank You to all of 5th District for your support this last year and if there is anything that I can do to help you or your post please do not hesitate to call or email me and I will be there to help. I also have other post officers that are willing to come to your post if you need help I.E. Service Officer or Adjutant to help with membership.

FIFTH DISTRICT COMMANDER
RICK LOWERY
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Wichita 67209
316-347-6503
VICE CMDR.
DEE DEE DANIN
3032 N. TEE TIME
Wichita 67205
316-644-1363

Hello 5th District.

It’s that time of year which conventions are starting. 6th district convention will be Saturday April 8th in Concordia. We will be starting at 8am with the memorial service and than joint session. The last 5 years convention attendance has been low. We need to people to step up and get involved. Our membership in district has been dropping. We need to get out and try to recruit the younger veterans. Show them what the legion is about. Also if you have members that haven’t renewed yet you need to go see them and ask them why. I hope to see you all at convention April 8th.

SIXTH DISTRICT COMMANDER
CHAD LOWELL
1811 N. 132nd Road
Concordia 66901
785-262-7141
VICE CMDR.
PAT HEWITT
595 D St.
Phillipsburg 67661
785-543-7668

SIXTH DISTRICT COMMANDER
TERRY WARNER
505 Washington St.
LaCrosse 67548
785-259-9193
VICE CMDR.
MARK RADKE
1785 Avenue V
Sterling 67579
620-204-8508

Greetings 7th District American Legion Family. I was privileged to travel with Tom Wallsmith, Doug Evans, and Terry Harris, all members of the Sons

(Continued on Page 5)
Since my last communications, things have slowed a bit. I’ve attended the Mid-winter forum in Olathe at Post 153. There were some challenges that weekend but the family once again rallied and proceeded with a productive event, and still had fun. I was pleased to see a good turnout for the S.A.L. meetings and feel that they were productive and educational. That was followed by the Legislative Conference in Topeka which I felt was well attended. As a first timer I was impressed with the entire proceedings and hope to attend more in the future. That was also my first trip to our Headquarters and really enjoyed meeting the staff whom I normally only talk to through phone calls or email. It’s nice to put a face with a voice. Recently I was invited to attend the presentation of Josh Dogs to school children in Ogden, Kansas. What a moving experience that was. There were 21 young boys and girls who received their own Josh Dog and were thrilled. We had one out of its box so they could see and touch it and the reactions were awesome. One young girl commented that our Josh Dog had a flat head, whereupon Alternate NEC Doug Evans explained that he had been in his box for a long time but would recover with lots of hugging and cuddling. In the upcoming Salute will be an article from Detachment Master at Arms Terry Harris covering the Josh Dog experience. I encourage all of you to read that as it’s well written and gives more information about the Josh Dog program. Conventions start in March so my schedule of travels once again escalates. I look forward to seeing a lot of the Family as I visit District Conventions. Until next time be safe, remember our commitment to Veterans and keep working on Membership.

LEADERSHIP COLLEGE JUNE 2-4

This year’s American Legion Leadership College will take place at Cloud County Community College in Concordia June 2-4. There is another event going on during the time of the ALLC, so please contact Department NOW if you need housing other than what is available at the college.

This year National is offering Leadership Education And Development, (LEAD) which is a one-day training session designed to provide professional development training for members at any and all levels. Every member who attends the LEAD sessions will receive a special pin from National Headquarters. A representative from National will present an overview regarding Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation. A special presentation on Public Relations will also be included.

Internal Affairs & Membership will delve into the finer points of Post Operations. The process for developing effective Post membership teams will also be addressed.

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 Barbecue 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 2. 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 3 and 4 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 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 form regarding housing. We cannot guarantee housing will be provided if you do not check the box indicating your need for housing at the College.

LEADERSHIP COLLEGE REGISTRATION
ENCLOSED IS MY $45 REGISTRATION FOR THE AMERICAN LEGION LEADERSHIP COLLEGE JUNE 2-4

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

This year has flown by and May and Department Conventions is just around the corner. I can not wait for the District Conventions to start as I look forward to visiting Districts 3, 7, 8, and 4 this year. Keep working on those memberships please, we are about 1,112 members behind where the Department of Kansas was with membership at this time last year. It saddens me to say that the Department will be taking in several unit charters this year due to those units who have not maintained 10 members. Those Units have been given the opportunities over the last two to three years to bring their membership up to 10 as required by the National Organization. This Department DOES NOT want to lose any members, we want to retain all of you and recruit more. You can never have too many American Legion Auxiliary Members to help run all of the important programs we have in taking care of our Veterans and their families.

Just attended the Junior Conference in McPherson March 11 and those young ladies did a wonderful job. Thank you to all the auxiliary members who stepped up to help make the weekend a memorable experience for all those Junior members who attended. We are all praying for the quick and speedy recovery of Junior Chairman Ferne Anderson’s husband who fell off the roof of their home on Thursday before the Conference and has several fractures.

Congratulations to those
EIGHTH DISTRICT (Continued from Page 5)
District Conventions around the State and we are less than two months from Department Convention which will be held this year at Topeka. I would like to give a huge thank you to all District Officers, District Executive Committee members, various Committee Chairmen, State Officers, and members of the Membership Committee as well as all Eighth District members who helped to make my year as District Commander a success. I would like to see every post work very hard on membership in the upcoming month (or two). Eighth District has been in first place since before the first of the year and it would be great to close strong and finish there. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart and God Bless.

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 26.

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 26 to hand a brochure describing the reasons to drive safely to each motorist as they 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 below 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 2016-2017 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 Terry Marr and ALL Eight District Commanders and District Vice Commanders are available to assist, all you have to do is ASK!

The 2017 Mid-Winter Forum was well attended. Olathe Post 153 did a fine job in hosting the venue. They had one little problem, but everyone worked around that.

Leading Candidate for National Commander Denise Rohan and her husband, Mike from Wisconsin was on hand; as well as Jeff Stoffer and Holly Soria from the Communications and Media Division at Our National Headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana. They gave excellent updates to the 100th Centennial Year coming up in a couple of years.

The Legislative Reception was held in Topeka on February 9 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel. A bunch of Legislators had RSVP’d, but a lot of them did not attend. Those that did attend started to tell me there were three functions going on at the same time, and the Speaker of the House held a vote and many were there for that. We may need to look at either scaling back or trying to reach our Legislators in other methods in the future.

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 dear to their heart. I believe, you can be proud of your elected Senators and Congressman from Kansas.

The 2017 Department Oratorical Contest was held at Manhattan Post 17 and the eight orators were ALL Winners!
**TAPS**

Luft, Vernon (Korea) .......... Waverly
Shaw, Larry (Panama) .......... Topeka #400
Orton, Allen (Korea) .......... Belle Plaine
Thouvenelle, Gerald (WWII) ....... Russell
Hill, Glen (Korea) .......... Concordia
Boutte, John (Vietnam) .......... Concordia
Cook, Richard (WWII) .......... Concordia
Nicholson, Harvey (Vietnam) ...... Ottawa
Bond, Forrest (WWII) .......... Ottawa
McClellan, Gary (Vietnam) ...... Ottawa
Johnson, Robert (Korea) .......... Paola
Saylor, Ted (WWII) .......... Newton
Naccarato, sibio .......... Columbus
Casper, James (Vietnam) .......... Pittsburg
Briney, Bill (WWII) .......... Colby
Studyvin, Clarence (Vietnam) ...... Derby
Shaw, Richard (Vietnam) .......... Winfield
Onken, Jim (Korea) .......... McPherson
Steiner, Anthony (Korea) .......... Newton
Wolfe, Eugene (WWII) .......... Moran
Jones, Armin (WWII) .......... Colby
Whitaker, Norman (Vietnam) ...... Colby
Moore, William (Vietnam) .......... Salina
Marshall, Joe (Korea) .......... Topeka #400
Fisher, Raymond .......... Topeka #400
Shields, Emerson (Vietnam) ...... St. John
Marshall, George .......... Topeka #400
Narvaez, Frank III (Vietnam) ...... Topeka #400
Haid, Delbert .......... Topeka #400
Brower, Bennett (Vietnam) .......... Topeka #400
Kennedy, Joe (Lubbock/Grenada) .... Sedgwick
Higgins, John (Lubbock/Gr.) .......... Junction City
Howard, Indermill (Roger) .......... Junction City
Bartcher, Gary (Vietnam) .......... Howard
Phillips, Steve (Vietnam) .......... Iola
Corke, Kenneth (Vietnam) .......... Goodland
Thompson, William (Vietnam) .......... Ottawa
Wolken, Raymond (Vietnam) .......... Kansas City
Nordeen, Henry (Vietnam) .......... Ottawa
Hay, Donald (Korea) .......... Topeka #58
Chamman, John (Vietnam) .......... Topeka #58
Corbett, Gerald (Vietnam) .......... Topeka #58
Stinchcomb, Charles (Vietnam) ....... Atwood
Braun, Allen (Vietnam) .......... Topeka #58
Schlegel, James (Korea) .......... Norton
Adams, Cornelius (Korea) .......... Salina
Vidrakens, Robert (Vietnam) .......... Salina
Fox, James (Korea) .......... Topeka #58
Herman, Al (Vietnam) .......... Topeka #58
Martin, Lawrence .......... Pittsburg
Hugunin, Vince Jr. (Vietnam) .......... Shawnee
Walker, John .......... Topeka #58
Pelletier, Joe (Vietnam) .......... Alta Vista
Kavanagh, Merle .......... Walnut
Greenwell, Ernest (Vietnam) .......... Winfield
Reynolds, Martin (Vietnam) .......... Winfield
Stroh, Orville (Korea) .......... Ellsworth
Larsen, James (Vietnam) .......... Ellsworth
Peterson, Winston (WWII) .......... Manhattan
Barta, Alwin (Vietnam) .......... Topeka #58
 Lucas
Mettlen, Arvin (Korea) .......... Topeka #58
Peterka, Eugene (Vietnam) .......... Wilson
Stump, Samuel (WWII) .......... Topeka #58
Green, Brinly .......... Topeka #58
Bockover, Cary Jr. (Vietnam) .......... Topeka #58
Erickson, Ross (Vietnam) .......... Topeka #58
Russell, Floyd (WWII) .......... Topeka #58
Mulroy, Eldon .......... Topeka #58
Hunsberger, R. (WWII) .......... Garden City
Egbert, Donald (Korea) .......... Garden City
McBride, Ray Jr. .......... Columbus
Black, Robert .......... Columbus
Hopkins, Harris .......... Columbus
Voorhees, Warren (Vietnam) .......... Allen
Mueller, Paul (Vietnam) .......... Tampa
Burke, Martin (Korea) .......... Colby
Johnson, Ron (Vietnam) .......... Mulvane
Britting, John Jr. (Vietnam) .......... McPherson
Lingafelter, W. (Vietnam) .......... McPherson
Martin, William (Vietnam) .......... McPherson
Fund, Larry (Vietnam) .......... Winfield
Hundertmark, Harry (Vietnam) .......... Garden City
Norman, W. (Korea) .......... Topeka #400
Dial, Frank (Korea) .......... Topeka #400
Kibbee, Bill (Korea) .......... Topeka #400
Fund, Larry (Vietnam) .......... Topeka #400
Wetmore
Daugherty, Donald (Vietnam) .......... Topeka #421
Sprinkle, Clau (WWII) .......... Hill City
Knoopp, Charles .......... Junction City
Ries, Ronald (Vietnam) .......... Junction City
Risberry, Douglas (Vietnam) .......... Chanute
Barnby, G. (Korea) .......... Chanute
Darlington, Chester (WWII) .......... Pittsburg
Howard, Marvin (Korea) .......... Pittsburg
Fitch, F. (Vietnam) .......... Kansas City
Krebelsch, Carl (Vietnam) .......... Manhattan
Fowler, Morris (WWII) .......... Hutchinson
Erhardt, M. (WWII) .......... Manhattan
Bell, Floyd (WWII) .......... Sterling
Richter, Ira (WWII) .......... Manhattan
White, Willis III (Korea) .......... Manhattan
Gleason, James (Vietnam) .......... Manhattan
Mathe, Donald (Korea) .......... Junction City
White, Mary (Korea) .......... Junction City
Fitch, Warren (WWII) .......... Pittsburg
Manis, Jack Jr. (Vietnam) .......... Manhattan
Wilson, Lloyd (Korea) .......... Manhattan
Hurst, Van (WWII) .......... Manhattan
Lloyd, John (Vietnam) .......... Baxter Springs
Pahl, Edwin (WWII) .......... Cawker City
Watkins, Ralph (Korea) .......... Topeka #400
Dotson, Lewis (Korea) .......... Kansas City
 Steele, Floyd (WWII) .......... Kansas City
Byer, Harold (Vietnam) .......... Kansas City
Myers, Gene (Vietnam) .......... Paola
Tharp, Vincent (WWII) .......... Atchison
Blanc, Lee (Korea) .......... Topeka #400
Podlena, William (WWII) .......... Topeka #400
Wilson Holdaway, Bob (WWII) ....... Wellington
Hower, Ronald (Vietnam) .......... Shawnee
Wiebe, Harold (Vietnam) .......... Hillsboro
Stout, Charles Jr. (Korea) .......... Cherokee
Bishop, George (Korea) .......... Manhattan
Vanlender, Maurice (WWII) .......... Manhattan
Shawnee
Martin, John (Vietnam) .......... Lindsborg
Gillisapel, Leroy (WWII) .......... Atchison
Milbourn, Rex (WWII) .......... El Dorado
Russell, Carrol (Vietnam) .......... Manhattan
Dinsmore, Robert (Vietnam) .......... Wichita #25
McGeary, Daniel (Vietnam) .......... Coffeyville
Rush, Ralph (Vietnam) .......... Kansas City
Warner, David (Vietnam) .......... Manhattan
Lansing
Gleason, Charles (Vietnam) .......... Alta Vista
Karsting, Eugene (Korea) .......... Kensington
Rumbaugh, Dennis (Vietnam) .......... Phillipsburg
Fleury, Eldon (Vietnam) .......... Topeka #400
De efficiently, William (Vietnam) .......... Topeka #400
Stanton, Jim Jr. (Vietnam) .......... Winfield
Ratliff, Walter (Vietnam) .......... Kansas City
Andover
Walker, Eugene .......... Kansas City
Ferguson, Arnold (Vietnam) .......... Topeka #400
Bryan, Ted (WWII) .......... Topeka #400
Clawson, William (Korea) .......... Topeka #400
Olson, Earl (Korea) .......... Topeka #400
Kronewitter, James (Vietnam) .......... Hays

**LEGACY RUN (Continued from Page 1)**

For a wreath laying, then on to Post #47 where the riders will be released for the end of the day.

Day 4 will start with a ride through at the Fort Dodge Soldiers Home to show the Veterans our appreciation for their service to our great land. Leaving Fort Dodge, we will take the Highway 400 to Mullinville where we will stop at the Veterans Memorial in the middle of town. Onto Pratt with a stop for fuel then up highway 61 to South Hutchinson. We will stop at the uncompleted Veterans Memorial in South Hutch and place a Memorial Wreath and see if we can get members of the community out to help support that new memorial. Leaving South Hutchinson riding east to Newton and Post #2 to end the 2017 Kansas Legacy Run.

If you are anywhere along this route, please, don’t hesitate to come out. We are always ready to see old friends and meet new ones. The ultimate goal of the KLR is to raise money for the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund. If you would like to turn in your Post, Unit, Squadron, or Chapter’s donation during the run, please meet us at one of the stops. We will also have a travelling trophy this year. The Post, Unit, Squadron, or Chapter that has the largest donation will be able to keep the trophy until the following year. For more information please visit www.kansas-sal.com or contact me, Terry Harris at flstfi 2005@hotmail.com. I will be glad to help in anyway I can. Hope to see you somewhere on the route of the 2017 American Legion Department of Kansas Legacy Run.

**HISTORIAN**

JOE JOHNSTON

The nineteen twenties were called the “Roaring Twenties” and a few of the American Legion members kept them roaring. The Legion has never been invited back to Kansas City since the National Convention in 1921 and there have been some wild times in a few towns in Kansas at Department Conventions in the twenties.

To entice the Department to have the 1925 convention in Emporia, the Chief of Police promised to throw the keys to the jail in the river. National Chapter that has the largest donation will also have a travelling trophy this year. Please meet us at one of the stops. We will also have a travelling trophy this year. The Post, Unit, Squadron, or Chapter that has the largest donation will be able to keep the trophy until the following year. For more information please visit www.kansas-sal.com or contact me, Terry Harris at flstfi 2005@hotmail.com. I will be glad to help in anyway I can. Hope to see you somewhere on the route of the 2017 American Legion Department of Kansas Legacy Run.

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(Continued from Page 5)

who participated in the Ora
torical contest in Manhattan
on March 11. I was not able to
attend as I felt the need to
stay and help the Juniors have
a successful weekend was a
greater one.

Looking forward to seeing
many of you at Districts and
Department Convention. Keep
brining in those members-
ships to help make this an even
greater organization.

DEPARTMENT

CHAPLAIN

Glenn

Patterson

Sovereignty of God

“To the King of ages, immor-
tal, invisible, the Only God, be
honor and glory forever and ever.
Amen” 1 Timothy 1:17

The above passage of script-
ure is a reference to the Sover-
eignty of God. Thee is only one
God who created all things by
His Spoken Word. The Eternal
Word of God is found in the De-
ity of Jesus Christ. (Gospel of
John 1:1)

The concept of the Sover-
eignty of God is full of Authority,
Power and Majesty. There is an-
other concept that is derived from
this first concept of God, that is
the Sovereignty of a Nation.

All who participate in The American
Legion programs ac-
scribe to this principle, the Sover-
ereignty of a Nation. The United
States of America. Everyone who
has worn the uniform of this great
nation, is deeply indebted to the
sacri
ces of the million who have
laid the foundation of This Great
Nation.

There is an old phase that has
been around for a long time:

“Only two defining forces
have ever offered to die for you;
Jesus Christ and the American
G. I. One died for your soul;
the other for your freedom.”

Author: Unknown

The concept is that “one
that you might live a life in
freedom; the other died that you
might live an eternal life through
God’s gift of salvation.

May all who read this, pause
and reflect that we have been
blessed with the freedom
of the sacrifice of the
men who have
laid the foundation of the
American Nation.

Or charge my VISA/Master Card number_____________________

State Golf Tournament

The tournament will be held on
July 15th, and 16th, at Golf
and Wellness Golf Course, 600
W. 13th, Concordia KS. The
tournament is a 36 hole stroke
play tournament with 18 holes
being played both days. Reg-
istration desk will be open at
7:00a.m. and the starting time
is a shotgun start both days at
8:00 a.m.

The tournament is for all
American Legion Members,
SAL, ALR, that are of 21 years
of age and are in good stand-
ing. (Everyone must provide
a paid up membership card at
time of registration.) All new as-
well as experienced golfers are
welcome.

The entry fee is $115.00 for
the tournament. The entry fee
covers all green fees and cart
fees.

All trophies and cash prizes
will be handed out at the con-
clusion of the tournament on
Sunday.

The deadline for entering
this year tournament is July
7, 2017. All entries should be
mailed to Carroll Peppersack,
805 N. Kansas Ave. Frankfort
KS. 66427. If there are any
questions you may contact Car-
roll at Phone # 785-292-4665
or email him at lefthanders-
den@netzero.net

CWF Dinner

This year’s Department
Convention will feature a din-
ner as a means to raise funds
for the American Legion Child
Welfare Foundation. The din-
ner will be held Saturday eve-
ning, May 20 from 6:30 until
8:00 pm in the Grand Ballroom
of the Ramada Hotel and Con-
vention Center, 420 SE 6th Ave, Topeka.

The dinner will include:

Tossed house salad, kabobs
(buffalo, chicken, or vegetarian)
one option only! On a bed of
wild and long grain rice, rolls
and butter, and assorted blend-
ed cheesecakes. Cost is $30
per person and reservations
must be received no later than
Tuesday, May 17.

The purpose of the American
Legion Child Welfare Founda-
tion is: “To contribute to the
physical, mental emotional and
spiritual needs of children and
youth through the dissemi-
nation of knowledge about new
and innovative organizations
and their programs.” “To make
wider, more effective use of the
knowledge already possessed
by well established organiza-
tions to the end that such infor-
mation will benefit youth and
be more adequately used by
society.”

To make reservations for
the Saturday, May 20 dinner
please complete and return the
coupon on this page to Depart-
ment Headquarters, 1314 SW
Topeka Blvd., Topeka, Kansas
66612. Reservations must ar-
rive by May 17; or telephone
your reservations to 785-232-
9315. Payment is due no later
than May 20 without exception.

KANSAS SUNFLOWER LEGIONNAIRE

Jimmy L. Foster, Editor

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West Gary Foos; Adjutant, Jimmie L. Foster; Asst. Adjutant
Jeff Bond, National Executive Committeeman Dave Warnken;
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News deadline is the 15th of March, June, September and
December for the next issue.

THE AMERICAN LEGION

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