The Mid-Winter Forum offers every member, especially Post leaders and chairmen, the opportunity to learn more about the American Legion, its programs and the direction each program is expected to take if there are any changes being considered, including changes directed by National Headquarters. In addition the Forum provides information about how and why The American Legion functions in the manner we do as an organization.

This year’s Forum scheduled for February 2, 3, 4 will be hosted by Manhattan Post 17, 114 McCall Road, in Manhattan. Friday, February 2, will include a Department Executive Committee meeting at 2 pm, followed by the Centennial Membership Committee Meeting. Registration will begin on Friday between 4 to 7 pm. Dinner will be served from 5:30 to 7 pm consisting of Spaghetti with hearty Meat Sauce, Chicken Alfredo Sauce, Garlic Bread and Dessert for a modest price of $9.00 and entertainment with “April” in the Lounge at Post 17.

On Saturday, February 3, Registration will continue starting at 7:30 am with donuts, juice and coffee. The formal activities begin with a joint Legion/Auxiliary/S.A.L. meeting at Post 17 at 8 am. After the joint opening the Legion will remain at the Post for its Legion specific meeting, the S.A.L. will meet in the Auxiliary Meeting Room at the Post. The Auxiliary will meet in the Conference Room at the Comfort Suites located at 1020 Hostetler Drive, Manhattan. Leading Candidate for National Commander Brett Reistad from the Department of Virginia, and National Membership Director Billy Johnson from the National Headquarters in Indianapolis, IN, will address and present information to those in attendance. A Membership Work on mylegion.org will be presented by Bryan Page. Lunch will be Sandwiches with all the trimmings, two soups, chips and cookies at a price of $9.00. Concluding the day’s meetings, the Post will serve Meatloaf, Chicken in one of the following hotels: Comfort Suites, 1020 Hostetler Drive, 785-539-9449, rate is $91.00 plus tax; the Bluemont Hotel, 1212 Bluemont Avenue, 785-473-7091, rate is $89.00 plus tax; and the Fairfield Inn and Suites, 300 Colorado Street, 785-539-2400, rate is $91.00 plus tax. Be sure to tell them you are a part of the Kansas American Legion block in order to receive the reduced rates per room per night.

Failure to ask for The American Legion rate may result in your paying a higher room rate. It’s better to reserve a room you may have to cancel later than waiting until the last minute to make reservations only to find out the hotel is sold out.

Plan to attend and ask a fellow Legionnaire to attend with you. Hope to see you there!

AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE

Each year The Kansas American Legion Boys State provides hundreds of high school students a hands-on opportunity to actively participate in establishing a representative form of government from the ground up. Prior to arriving on the Kansas State University campus which serves as the site of the program, each student (known as Staters) is assigned to either the Nationalist or Federalist “political party” based upon their responses to a questionnaire.

Immediately after arriving in Manhattan and checking-in on Sunday afternoon Staters form city and county governments. The next two days are spent drafting local ordinances, and carrying out the operation of cities and counties; at the same time campaigns for state offices are launched and within days Staters elect officials to their new state: Boys State.

Hands-on activities include writing a state constitution, drafting and passing a budget, establishing a Supreme Court, and enacting laws compatible with today’s society and needs. How decisions of the masses affect Staters as individuals is demonstrated by assigning each an occupation and a corresponding computerized bank account: within minutes of passing laws, license fees, taxes etc. Staters can view the “real-life” impact on themselves.

Instruction is provided by Legionnaires, at least one member of the Kansas Highway Patrol, and former Staters who are well versed in the function of representative government. Several elected officials annually visit and address Staters throughout the week. Naturally time is allotted for fun activities during the week such as a “talent night” and various sports.

At a minimum Boys State instills citizenship and demonstrates every individual is capable of making a difference. Thousands of lifelong followers of The American Legion will be educated in the workings of government and the American political system.

Sunflower Legionnaire
The American Legion -
Today’s Voice for Today’s Veterans & Military

VOL LXXI NO. 3  KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN LEGION January, February, March 2018

MID-WINTER FORUM
FEBRUARY 2-4, 2018

AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE

The 47th annual Cadet Law Enforcement Academy will be held in Salina, Kansas on June 10 up to 50 young Kansans will gather for the 47th annual Cadet Law Enforcement Academy session at the Highway Patrol Training Center in Salina. Sponsored by The American Legion, Legion Auxiliary and KS Highway Patrol, the Academy provides high school students an opportunity to learn methods employed to enforce city, county, state, and federal statues with the goal of instilling a better appreciation for those who enforce those laws.

The Academy is not a recruitment program for law enforcement. Students attending past sessions have had a wide variety of back-grounds, interests, and career plans. However many students considering careers in law enforcement, as attorneys, and government service have attended as a means to solidify their plans to pursue such careers.

Open to both male and females, all applicants must be high school juniors, or equivalent, with at least a C+ average scholastically and be physically capable of fully participating in all activities during the week long program. Instruction includes firearms and firing range safety, personal defense, law enforcement history and techniques, pursuit driving on a skid-pad under controlled conditions, practical emergency medical procedures, aircraft use in law enforcement (weather permitting), and the responsibilities of citizens regardless of age.

Primarily classes are conducted by Highway Patrol personnel however representatives of other agencies such as the FBI, KBI, Wildlife and Parks, city and county officials augment the instruction provided throughout the week. Parents and families are encouraged to attend graduation ceremonies on Friday evening, June 15.

Students are encouraged to apply early. Completed applications must include endorsements by a doctor (attesting to the applicant’s physical condition), their high school principal or superintendent, their local American Legion Post Commander or Auxiliary Unit President, and a local law enforcement officer. A sponsorship fee of $300 and application fee of $50 includes housing, meals and supplies needed during the session must also accompany the application and can come from any source (Post, Unit, Squadron, Chapter, a local merchant, parents, etc.). Applications must be received by March 31.
We are half way through the membership year and it has gone so fast. I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas, received the gifts you so deserve, and continue to have a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

Our Department Adjutant and I had the honor of escorting our National Commander Denise Rohan and National Vice Commander Midwest Region, Byron Callies of South Dakota through Kansas on our annual tours. We were well received everywhere we went. I am so proud of our posts and members, and your pride showed as well as these dignitaries toured your posts.

The Eisenhower Pilgrimage was well attended this year and we had a great homecoming lunch for Department Vice Commander Dan Wiley.

Our District Revitalizations had some successes, and then some not so successful. It is the individual Posts’ responsibility to attend the revitalizations and help your posts grow and learn our methods of increasing membership. We are here to help you but cannot possibly do all of the work required to help you help your posts grow. Be proactive and help your posts!

The Big Red 1 Turkey Run, and Operation North Pole at Fort Riley were too-tally awesome. Over 420 families were given full Thanksgiving meals and 763 children received toys! THANK YOU all for participating and donating your time. The looks on the parent’s and children’s faces are priceless and worth every moment we are there!

Our Department Christmas Party was a huge success and once again I would like to thank Wichita Post 256 for hosting the party. Our auction raised $2,668.50 for our Children & Youth fund.

I had the privilege of attending the American Legion National Leadership College in Indianapolis for a week. What a wealth of information I learned and am available to teach whoever needs help in post operations and membership. The college is free to anyone who applies, writes a summary on leadership, and is selected by a board at our Department Committee at Leadership College in June.

The American Legion Extension Institute (ALEI) online Leadership College course has changed. It is now called The American Legion Basic Training Course, is online, and is FREE!

I would encourage EVERYONE to get online and take this course. It can be completed in 2-4 hours and you will receive a completion certificate and pin from National.

I’m looking forward to seeing everyone at Mid-Winter Forum the first weekend in February in Manhattan. We will also have our District Conventions starting up in March and I am looking forward to seeing you all as I attend each convention.

The American Legion birthday is March 15. Around that weekend, have a post recognition ceremony, birthday cake and drinks! Show your members you appreciate all that they do.

Anytime you attend an American Legion Family function, bring a member or non-member who may not have attended any of our functions. Let’s spread the word about what we do!

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

I’ve been thinking about what would be the best gift to give our kids at this time of year. If you give them the best guidance by providing your best personal example, having a sound moral compass, knowing when to say “NO” and standing by your word, being reliable, conscientious and courteous, you’ll win the Golden Halo.

The Boy Scouts knew it best back in the Fifties! Children need to have heroes in their lives. When crises arise, and they need to know what direction to choose. The lessons you taught them will be remembered. Learning from you will make them stronger and surer. By providing guidance to a kid on the street, as well as your own blood, we make ourselves immortal. Be aware and never pass the opportunity to give a little of yourselves, even when you think they could care less! Be a Hero!!!

Coming up soon…. Annual C&Y Reports/CPRs, Boys/Girls State contacts, Oratorical Contest contacts and preparations, and so much more. Don’t forget to get out there and visit the schools. Check out the Kansas Department Scholarships programs as well as National Scholarships. You know!!! There is so much out there for kids that we don’t want to lose them.

Do something for your community without thought of Post gain! Do not forget the Spring Holidays. Arrange for Easter egg contests for the young kids. I just happen to know a crazy lady who loves her Clown, Duck or Bunny costumes. Try a Spring fair with prizes, contests and goodies. Work with your elementary schools to hand out coloring contests. Learn to bring out the youth in yourselves as well!

We intend to keep it alive. We need your help. We need 50 students. Now is the time to act.

I want to remind everybody of what I consider to be the three big state-wide learning opportunities throughout the year. They are Mid-Winter Forum in Manhattan February 2-4, 2018; Department Convention in Hutchinson May 19-21, 2018; and Leadership College in Concordia June 2-4, 2018. Put these on your calendar now. These are opportunities to learn more about The American Legion Program, meet National Officers; network; and participate in the decision making process. You will learn new ideas. If you can’t make it all weekend to these events, then I encourage you to attend on Saturday as you will get the most bang for your time on that day for all three events.

Kansas has a successful year in Membership thanks to the hard work of so many of you! We made our National Goal of 75% prior to December 13, 2017. The latest membership report, prior to the deadline for this article, put us in 17th place Nationally. Remember, we finished dead last the last two years, 55th. What an improvement. Keep up the great work!

As always, I am here to listen and serve you. Thank you for what you do! For God and Country!

**HOW TO AVOID ANOTHER DUES NOTICE**

No one likes to open their mailbox and discover a notice of a past due payment. Avoiding that happening to you with your Legion membership is very easy, but you need to act quickly. Renew online and you will take care of your membership effortlessly.

Simply log onto www.legion.org/renew and follow the prompts. You should consider doing this before February 10, otherwise you will receive another notice for your dues.

It is fast, easy, and secure so don’t wait - renew online now!
FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

The opening line of our National Organization is the statement, “For God and Country we associate ourselves together...”. This Preamble was drafted at the St Louis, MO Caucus, May 8-10, 1919. This preambles was fully adopted in Minneapolis, MN, November 10-12, 1919.

The reason that this preambles was so important is that it focused upon unity, not by state nor by war; but upon the unity of an All Gracious God. “I remember the days of old; I meditate on all your doings; I ponder on the work of your hands.” Psalm 143:5

In an attempt to end the bickering and wrangling, of the St Louis Caucus, the Chair Henry O. Lindsley of Dallas, TX called upon Chaplain John W. Inzer of Alabama to give the opening prayer. Chaplain Inzer responded with all the fervor of an eloquent southern preacher.

“In Chaplain Inzer remarks, reminded the caucus that their mission was as crusader in war; not they were to be crusaders for a world of freedom, democracy and justice. In Chaplain Inzer passion, cried that organization of The American Legion was the most important single event that had taken place in the history of the world since Christ was crucified on Calvary.” - The history of the American Legion in Kansas, by Richard J. Loosebock, Topeka, KS, 1968, p22.

As I write this article, we are just two weeks from the Wonderful Birth of the Savor of the World, Jesus Christ. May this article you read in January 2018 prepare your life as a Crusader for World Peace throughout the nation.

“For God and Country we Associate ourselves together...”

KANSAS BOYS STATE

(Continued from Page 1)
friendships have been forged at Boys State and graduates often receive special consideration when applying for scholarships or employment.

Two Staters will be selected to represent Kansas as Senators during Boys’ Nation held at Marymount University in Washington, DC this July. Staters who are the sons or grandsons of a veteran may apply for a Samsung scholarship.

Application for Information packets for this year’s June 3-8 session have been mailed to every Kansas high school, every Post, and to past sponsors including private individuals, and civic organizations. Fees for the week long course is $275 per Stater, to be paid by the sponsor(s) plus a $50 fee paid by the student’s parents or the Stater himself.

Applicants must be a high school junior (will be a Senior this fall), be a self starter, involved in extracurricular activities in their school or community, and rank within the top half of their class scholastically. Completed applications must be received by March 31, 2018; Staters and sponsors are encouraged to apply early.

Legionnaires are asked to seek out potential Staters by visiting their local high schools and assist in locating sponsors and co-sponsors for each student. Additional information can be obtained of The American Legion Boys State website at www.ksbystate.org, or by calling toll free 1-866-241-9920.

HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

This March, eight high school students will compete for scholarship money and the chance to represent Kansas at the National High School Oratorical Championship in Indianapolis. Department Oratorical Chairman Mike Opdy has set the State Oratorical Scholarship Contest for 9 AM, Saturday, March 17 at American Legion Post #17 in Manhattan.

The purpose of the American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program “A Constitutional Speech Contest” is to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States among high school students. Other objectives of the contest include the development of leadership qualities, the ability to think and speak clearly and intelligently, and the preparation for acceptance of the duties and responsibilities, the rights and privileges of American citizenship.

Rules and contestant entry forms are available online at www.ksam legion.org.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District Contest</th>
<th>Chairman Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17 February, 10:00 AM</td>
<td>Chairman A. C. Byrd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Legion Post 400</td>
<td>141877 Nottingham Dr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3029 US-24, Topeka</td>
<td>Leavenworth, 66048; 913-727-1472</td>
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<tr>
<td>District I</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 February, 9:00 AM</td>
<td>Chairman Rick Miller</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Legion Post 153</td>
<td>7190 E. Sheridan Bridge Lane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>410 E. Dennis Ave., Olathe</td>
<td>Olathe, 66062; 913-393-1474</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District II</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 February, 2:00 PM</td>
<td>Chairman Everett Wilnord</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howard City Cox Building</td>
<td>PO Box 162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 W. Washington St., Howard</td>
<td>67349; 320-734-2318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District III</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 February</td>
<td>Chairman Eszter Blair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methodist Church Community</td>
<td>403 Dixon Ave.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center, White City</td>
<td>Leavenworth, 66048; 913-727-1472</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District V</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 February, 2:00 PM</td>
<td>Chairman Joe Hicks</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Vincent De Paul Church</td>
<td>636 S Highland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>123 N. Andover Rd., Andover</td>
<td>Andover, 67002; 316-295-7340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District VI</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 February, 10:00 AM</td>
<td>Chairman Everett Miller</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Legion Post 76</td>
<td>430 W. 17th St.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>506 Washington St., Concordia</td>
<td>Concordia, 66901; 785-243-1920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District VII</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 February, 1:00 PM</td>
<td>Chairman Max Alber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little River High School</td>
<td>5893 Mass Rd., Andover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>430 Waverly St., Little River</td>
<td>Andover, 67040; 316-295-7340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District VIII</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 February, 2:00 PM</td>
<td>Chairman Charles Sellsen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Legion Post 47</td>
<td>513 Andrews St.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>803 S. 14th Ave, Dodge City</td>
<td>Dodge City, 67801; 316-295-7340</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Greetings First District, I hope everyone got to spend some quality time with family over the Holidays. I want to thank everyone from the Legion, Auxiliary and SAL’s that came to Perry for Revitalization and Homecoming. There was an excellent turnout and we transferred over 40 members from the Department or National list’s. We are more than halfway through the year now. If your dues are not paid then you are not in good standing with the American Legion. We have several events coming up over the next three months that are else where here in the paper, be sure to check them out. First District Oratorical will be held at Post 400 in Topeka on February 17th. Help any member that is ready to help guide our future leaders. If you have someone who is ready to help guide our posts and district in any fashion, help them achieve and they will help our Legion succeed. New leaders means new vision and growth. Let’s find them and get them involved.

Hello Third District, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

These past few months have given me the best education of being a Legion officer that I ever dreamed of experiencing.

The definition of a parliamentary motion, a resolution, terms like Ad Hoc and ex-officio have rocked my boat. Understanding their meaning and living them are two experiences all Legionnaires should have.

Dealing with laws, by-laws and constitutions allows one to be a successful Legionnaire. Ignoring them, allows us to re-examine our desire for freedom and tolerance.

We all come to this Veterans organization for a reason. Sometimes our expectations fall short of the reality of being a contributing part of this family. We are either not allowed to participate or we choose not to. The lucky ones are either those who choose not to, but are mentored and encouraged into stepping up and putting their big boy pants on and become a real Legionnaire (Involved, committed and successful.) The others who are expecting a warm welcome, but experience a cold shoulder, or are not given a job grows in them a feeling of not belonging. They are not contributing and are no longer encouraged or recognized. Soon they are simply ignored, fall away, and are finally not interested in being a Legion Member.

When you are a new member you are at the mercy of the post. If the post has a mentoring program......Involvement, responsibility, and recognition, then new officers can shine, or be shadowed by their Commander or other long term officers because they do not allow their new members the responsibility and the opportunity to succeed or fail. The result is that those new members will go somewhere else to become the best they can become.

We as Legionnaires have a responsibility to become more than what we were given. Our history shows that we are failing, so we must think outside the box of our traditional "group think" and grow our organization with our new members and not just for our new members.

When our average age of our post is 74, we better develop another plan to make our successful post much younger and hopefully under age 50.

We get these younger Veterans because we believe The American Legion is the best Veterans organization in the world; however, we must convince younger Veterans of the same.

We have redistricting decisions to be made in District 3 this month. It is important in this decision that the vote of this district is the vote for growth and prosperity of the entire family within the Department of Kansas. Through Mutual Helpfulness, Dennis Kramer Third District Commander.

There are the normal reasons for Post loss, like death and transfers, or maybe The Old Guard is tired, but refuses to allow in new blood. Whatever the reason, we need to have a welcoming place to come, relax, have conversation, and… “get back to our roots.”

Post members must be eager to get to know one another. I enjoy the opportunity to meet people and make friends... family, and give them a location where simple fun can be had.

“Be the glue, that keeps everybody together.” Communicate between the offices and remind everybody of who was having a birthday that month, a wedding, a new child born, or who was ill, possibly having some problems in their lives.

Insure to keep the Post Chaplains in the know. Make the rounds with the cards. Communications one-on-one, not emails!!! We need to return to a less business-like persona and simply talk to one another. Get to know the interests and activities of our members. All our members-not just the “few” that show up for meetings!

Take advantage of the holidays both religious as well as military. People want to have people greet them at the door. That’s the job of the Commander. He must have a visible persona which shows he and The Legion have an interest in who this visitor/member is walking through their doors. If they are new, the Commander must introduce him to others, or to a mentor whose responsibility is to make that person feel welcome and not forgotten.

Learning to make friends means showing an honest effort to show your warmest hospitality every day! Friendship insures a stable membership roster, and, DON’T FORGET TO SMILE!!!

Happy New Year 6th District! It’s 2018, have you renewed your membership? We’ve been asking since last July, time to get it to your Adjutant.

I had the honor of attending Post 63 (Norton) post home dedication the first part of November. Prior to attending, I
Thanks to Vice Commander Jeremy Ehart for all his hard work and the time he has spent on membership to bring us into second place. I know we hear it all the time but we need to keep at membership, make those calls, knock on doors and send mailers it works. Thanks again Jeremy and I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas.

Greetings, Eighth District. The District homecoming in Garden City was a great success thanks to the work of Commander Donna Hernandez, Ladies Auxiliary, and her fellow comrades in Garden City. The revitalization went well, Department Vice Commander, Dan Wiley presented us with instructions and after we made the contacts it put the eighth district back in first place. We need to continue to work on membership and let’s make 100% for the district. I know that it can be done. Also, on MyLegion.org is an American Legion Education Institute or A.L.E.I. This is an online course that I recommend everyone check out. It is a very good way to familiarize you with the American Legion History, goals and programs. It only takes a short time and I did learn a lot from it.

I did go to the Eisenhower Pilgrimage for the first time and must say it was a very interesting program. I encourage everyone to attempt to get there this next year. I think we had great Veterans Day Events around the District from what I have been told. I am sorry I wasn’t able to attend them all. We had a great dinner here at Syracuse Post #27; meal was done by the Auxiliary and was fantastic. The Veterans Memorial Building group had a rededication to the remodeling of our Post building. A ribbon cutting and we had 25 veterans in attendance. The building came a long ways from being almost condemned a few years ago to what it is today. We will have our District meeting in it April 13-15th, 2018.

We will be in the New Year when this arrives, continue to work with the communities, schools and get our programs out to the children. This will make better citizens out of them and one day they will thank us for doing so. We have the best programs for young adults so let’s get out and get them involved.

Remember Mid-Winter Forum to be held in Manhattan Feb. 2-4, 2018 hope to see many of you there.

Thank you for all you have done for the American Legion, God bless America and our Troops.

Our 2017 was a very busy year! The Sons of The American Legion plays a vital role in many functions within the American Legion Family. Many of those roles include participating in the barbecues for the Veterans, County Fairs at the VA hospitals, Eisenhower Pilgrimage, Christmas gift shops at the VA Hospital, District, Department and Detachment Homecomings, District Revitalization, The Big Red One Turkey Run and Operation North Pole at Fort Riley and Wreaths Across America just to name a few. I can tell you, from personal experience, that being involved in all the above events are very rewarding to both the Veteran and to the Legion Family. If you get an opportunity to participate, it is well worth your time to be part of these events. Someone once told me that, when we hear, we forget, when we see, we remember, but when we do, we understand. So, if you get a chance be a part of it, you too will understand what The American Legion Family is all about.

The Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Kansas reached another huge milestone in 2017. We are very excited to have reached our 39th consecutive year of growth! No other Detachment even comes close to the Detachment of Kansas for the consecutive years of growth. Congratulations to Commander Tom Wallsmith and his team for a job well done in reaching that 39th year of growth milestone! Thank you!

Now it’s time to look forward to 2018 and achieving our 40th consecutive year of growth. The only way we can accomplish this is if each and every one of us pay our dues as soon as possible so we can achieve that 100%. We still have too many Squadrions that are setting below the target while other Squadrions are carrying the load for them. We need each Squadron to step up and carry their own weight. That’s the only way we will be able to attain our 40th year of growth. It is a team effort. The goal is to make 100 percent by May 9, 2018. Membership is our life blood.

As we move forward into 2018, we have many events that I’m requesting each and every one of you to try to participate in as time and your schedule allows. Many of the events coming up are the Oratorical Contest, Mid-winter Forum, Legislation Meetings, District Conventions and Department Convention. Please remember that, when you attend these functions, you please wear your garrison cap or something that shows that you’re a Sons of The American Legion member.

Another important thing to know and remember is that the Sons of The American Legion gives out scholarships. The deadline for applying for these scholarships is February 15, 2018. Be sure to check KSSAL.org for more information and applications for the scholarships.

I hope each and every one of you had a very Merry Christmas and hope you have a very Happy and safe New Year. Please keep working on membership. Do your best to acquire those renewals and to recruit new members.

Remember! There’s always one more thing we can do to support our Veterans, Their Families, Children and Youth and our Community.
I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!! Wow, what a whirl wind time it has been, visiting units, a few homecomings, trainings in each district.

Hard to believe its been seven months since I was elected to serve as your Department President.

I would like to again Thank the Auxiliary members of the State of Kansas for the opportunity to serve as your President this year. I have met many people and seen the great work that is done in our communities for the children, military, their families and most of all for our veterans.

I was able to visit all five gift shops and present a check to each center to use as they need for veterans needs. The job you ladies and gentlemen do to prepare, help the veterans shop, wrap and then ship those gifts to the veterans families is amazing. You ladies and gentlemen ROCK!! Thank you for what you do.

Mid-Winter is around the corner, be ready for more information, this should be a fun filled day and yes, even some training. Look for a flyer with info!

Continue to work on your membership we need to pick up the phone and call those members who have not renewed yet. Do not hold membership get it sent in as soon as possible.

Reminder dues increase for 2019, starting in July 2018, you will start sending to the Department Office $20.50 due to a dues increase vote at National Convention in August 2017 to increase them by $3.00 per year.

2018 Legislative Reception

The reception will be held at the Capital Plaza Hotel, 1717 SW Topeka Ave. in Topeka on Wednesday, January 17. The reception will begin with a briefing at 5:00 PM, followed by the reception which will last until 8:00 PM.

Cost of attending the reception is $20.00 per person and includes cocktails and hors’doeuvres. Please use the coupon below to let Headquarters and the hotel how many to prepare for.

The reception is $20.00 per person. Note: please list the name of each attendee.

No, I am unable to attend. Enclosed is my donation of $________($20 per person). Note: please list the name of each attendee.

Yes, I plan to attend The American Legion Legislative Reception, Jan. 17, 2018 in Topeka. Enclosed is $________($20 per person). Note: please list the name of each attendee.

Name
Address
City Zip

Mail to: Dept. Headquarters
1314 SW Topeka Blvd.
Topeka, KS 66612

Renew Your Membership
Online at www legion.org/renew

KANSAS ALR BACKPACK

Our Legion Riders Constitution and Bylaws changed which deleted the grandfather clause allowing a top post rocker. This change took effect October 22, 2017.

Anyone who is not in compliance with our Constitution and Bylaws will have their membership in the ALR suspended until such time as they are in compliance. If they still fail to comply, their membership in the ALR will be revoked.

Trying to get around the Bylaws by altering a rocker or ribbon is not authorized. We have rules to ensure uniformity. Any top or bottom rockers, patches, or ribbons with any depiction or style of a post, post number, or city designation are not authorized. A military branch designation or service period rocker, patch, or ribbon is authorized to show pride of your military branch or war period affiliation.

As American Legion Riders, we are “in uniform” when we are wearing our ALR vest. Our Constitution and Bylaws state where and how our patches are to be placed on our vests for uniformity.

Post Commanders have overall responsibility for the programs of their post. It is the responsibility of the ALR Chapter Director to ensure that all ALR members are in compliance with our Constitution and Bylaws. Don’t let a select few put a chapter charter in jeopardy. Remember, we are ALL ambassadors for The American Legion.

KANSAS ALR BACKPACK

The Department of Kansas has accomplished many things across the board this past year and should be proud of your accomplishments. Membership is ahead of last year’s numbers, but that doesn’t mean we should set around and rest on our laurels. Membership is EVERYONE’s responsibility, not just a few out of each Post, District or Department.

The National Vice Commander’s Visit of Western Kansas was a huge success! Many Posts had breakfasts, lunches, dinners and just a social round table meeting with Byron Callies from the Department of South Dakota as he toured the State. There was a great interaction with the Members of The American Legion Family and all of those put on a show. He is looking forward to returning to our Guest at the Department Convention in Hutchinson at the Atrium Hotel and Conference Center on 18 to 20 May 2018. PLEASE start making your plans to attend now.

The 2017 Big Red One Turkey Run held at Fort Riley, Kansas, on November 18, 2017, was a tremendous success. Six hundred Soldiers and their dependents from the Warrior Transition Battalion and Fort Riley were given items to make up a complete Thanksgiving Dinner. Those that helped out received many unsolicited accolades from those receiving these baskets. The Thank You’s, Hugs, and expressions of appreciation everywhere. Some couldn’t even get the words out and would turn away for a bit to keep their composure. If they yelled, “Thank you” or have a lump in your throat, something was wrong with you!

The Commanding General of Fort Riley and the First Infantry Division, Major General Joseph M. Martin, was in attendance the Leading Candidate for the 2018 Mid Winter Legislative Conference and schedule of hotels and events for this Conference.

We will be fortunate to have in attendance the Leading Candidate for National Commander of The American Legion Brett Reistad from the Department of Virginia. Brett is a great Legionnaire and he will represent US well as The National Commander of The American Legion.

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ADJUTANT’S BRIEFS
(Continued from Page 6)

Also in attendance will be Billy Johnson, the National Membership Director from Our National Headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana. Billy will provide updates from National headquarters on various divisions.

He will also be presenting numbers and statistics regarding the number of Veterans within the State of Kansas that are eligible to join The American Legion. Most of the time, you just have to ask, to get them to join US.

District Five Vice Commander Bryan Page will be presenting a Workshop utilizing mylegion.org on who, when and where’s the module. If you are a Post Commander or Post Adjutant you should definitely be in attendance. PLEASE plan to attend.

I hope that you and your family have a very Merry Christmas and a very prosperous New Year. If any of you need any assistance from myself or the Staff of the Department Headquarters, PLEASE do NOT hesitate to ask.

Until next time, continue to support the Greatest Veterans and their Families, in the Greatest Veterans Organization in The Free World, The American Legion (in my opinion).

WARNKEN FOR NEC

My name is David Warnken and I am announcing that I am a candidate for the office of National Executive Committeeman for the term of 2018-2020. It is an honor to serve the Kansas American Legion family. As well as serving as the Kansas representative on the NEC, I also serve on the following committees and assignments at the national level:

- Chairman of NEC resolutions subcommittee
- Chairman NEC liaison to the national finance commission
- Vice Chairmen department advisory committee
- Vice Chairman foreign department hearing committee
- Vice Chairman IT oversight committee
- Vice Chairman 100th anniversary observance committee
- Member citizens flag alliance committee
- Lead instructor for the newly elected NEC members during the fall meetings in Indianapolis.

I keep busy, and it is work that I enjoy to bring honor to the Kansas American Legion. Kansas one of the highest respected departments in the entire American Legion and I will do my very best to insure that remains true.

I am proud of my service in the U. S. Navy from Feb 1966-May 1972. I have the endorsement of Lysle Johnson, the National Membership Director from Our National Headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana. Billy will provide updates from National headquarters on various divisions.

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MID-WINTER SWEEPSTAKES

Once again nine lucky Members of the Kansas American Legion Family will share over $4,600 in prizes with each having the opportunity of increasing their prize award by $200. Ticket packets have been mailed to all Kansas Legionnaires over the past three months for the Mid-Winter Sweepstakes. Members of the Sons of The American Legion and Auxiliary are welcome to enter the Sweepstakes by requesting tickets from Department Headquarters, 1314 SW Topeka Blvd., Topeka, KS 66612. Although a donation of $5 for one ticket, $10 for three, $15 for six or $20 for all twelve tickets is suggested, no purchase or contribution is required to enter the Sweepstakes. The revenue from the Sweepstakes will help fund the Department’s Veterans Affairs and Children and Youth Programs. The following prizes will be awarded in the form of certified checks: 1st Prize-$2,000; 2nd Prize-$1,000; 3rd Prize-$500; fourth and fifth prizes @ $250 each; sixth and seventh prizes @ $200 each; eighth and ninth prizes @ $100 each. All taxes are the sole responsibility of the prize winner. All prizes will be awarded. The chance of winning will depend upon the number of entries received and cannot be predetermined prior to the deadline. Winners will be selected in a random drawing during the Mid-Winter Forum in Manhattan on Sunday, February 4, 2018. Winners need not be present to win and will be notified by certified mail. If a winner is present during the drawing they will be awarded a $200 bonus. Should a winner be unable to be contacted by certified mail, or fails to claim their prize within 30 days of receipt of notice, that winner will forfeit their prize and an alternate winner will be selected in the same selection and notification process. All prizes will be awarded. The odds of winning a prize depends upon the number of entries received by the deadline of 10AM Monday, January 29, 2018 at Department Headquarters or 9AM Sunday, February 4, 2018 at the Mid-Winter Forum at Manhattan Post.

2018 MID-WINTER FORUM
MANHATTAN, KANSAS

Friday, February 2
2:00pm Department Executive Committee Meeting ... Post Home
Immediately following the DEC – Centennial Membership Committee...............Post Home
4:00-7:00pm Registration ........................................Post Home
5:30-7:00pm Dinner and Entertainment ...............Post Home
Saturday, February 3
7:30am-4:00pm Registration . .........................Post Home
OPENING SESSION
8:00am Call to Order ..................Dept. Commander Terry Marr
Opening Ceremony ........................................Terry Marr
Welcome & Introduction ..............Post Commander Matt Burany
Welcome ........................................Mayor of Manhattan Linda Morris
National Commander Leading Candidate ..........Brett Reisstad
S.A.L. & Auxiliary Depart for their Meetings
Wayne Bollig ............Deputy Director, Veterans Services, KCV
Billy Johnson ..........Director, Membership Division
Bryan Page ................Workshop on mylegion.org

ADJOURN FOR LUNCH AT POST HOME
1:00pm Call to Order ..................Terry Marr
Door Prize Drawing ...............Jimmie Foster
Public Relations .........................Private DeWitt
Legislation ......................................... Pat Culver
Centennial Membership Committee ....Paul Sanford
Candidate for Department Offices ........................................Terry Marr
5:30-7:00pm Dinner Available ...............Post Home
7:00-9:00pm Music by Denim and Lace Band ....Post Home

Sunday, February 4
7:00-8:00am Registration .......................Post Home
6:30-8:00am Breakfast .....................Post Home
8:00am Call to Order ..................Terry Marr
Four Chaplains Service .................Rev. R. Glenn Patterson
8:30 am Pledge of Allegiance ...............Terry Marr
Legion Membership Turn-In .........Dan Wiley
Child & Youth Report ....................Dee Dee Danin

Americanism Programs:
Cadet Law Enforcement Academy ....Elgin Wahlborg
Boys State .................Chuck Shoemaker
Oratorical ................................Mike Oppy
Baseball .........................Steve Queen
Scholarships .........................Mike Oppy
School Awards & County Government Day ....Dan Wiley
Eisenhower .............................John Meyeres
S.A.L. Introductions ....................Mike Saindon
Auxiliary Introductions ............Melissa Burton
American Legion Introductions ......Terry Marr
Child Welfare Foundation Auction ... Dee Dee Danin & Phil Bass