YOUR NEW NATIONAL COMMANDER

Brett P. Reistad was elected national commander of The American Legion on Aug. 30, 2018, in Minneapolis during the organization's 100th national convention. He has been a member of the nation's largest veterans organization since 1981.

STATE BASEBALL CHAMPIONS

In July, 68 American Legion Baseball teams competed in one of 12 Zone tournaments across the great state of Kansas. The top two teams from each Zone then went on to compete in one of three State Championships. The three State Champions for 2018 are: Class ‘A’ Linn County; Class ‘AA’ Iola Indians; and Class ‘AAA’ Salina Falcons.

The Salina Falcons represented Kansas in the National Mid-South Regional Tournament in New Orleans, Louisiana. A special thanks goes out to all the coaches, managers and other volunteers for promoting healthy competition and sportsmanship among our American Legion teams involving more than 1,000 players, coaches, and managers. Special thanks also to all the Area Tournament hosts and to Leavenworth, Sabetha, and Emporia for hosting the State Tournaments this year. (Team Photos on Page 3)

LEGION FAMILY SUPPORTS KANSAS MILITARY FAMILIES

The Tenth Annual Big Red ‘1’ Turkey Run will be held Saturday November 16-17, 2018 at Fort Riley. The Turkey Run is for the families of the Warrior Transition Battalion. These families often find themselves transitioning out of the active military or may remain active.

This year, per information provided from Fort Riley there are 600 families that will need assistance. Volunteers are needed to gather food as well as distribute the food at Fort Riley. A list of food items will be coming out shortly. Many members of the Warrior Transition Battalion have been severely injured, the volunteers will be able to show the face of The American Legion when they load the food into cars for those needing assistance. In addition to the Turkey Run the Legion Family is working on making the WTB Christmas great as well, which is scheduled for December 7-8, 2018. Monetary donations may be sent to Department Headquarters for either the Turkey Run, Operation Christmas or both.

EISENHOWER PILGRIMAGE SET FOR OCTOBER 13

The date for the 38th annual Eisenhower Pilgrimage at the Eisenhower Museum and Library in Abilene is Saturday, October 13. All Posts, Auxiliary Units, SAL Squadrons, the Districts and other Legion Family organizations are invited to attend and participate in this year’s event. Saturday’s program will start at approximately 10:30 AM immediately following the Presidential wreath laying ceremony.

Memorial Roses may be purchased for placement on the wall around Eisenhower’s statue by sending $10 to the Eisenhower Pilgrimage in care of Department Headquarters by October 1. Wreath orders (reserved for Districts and State and National level organizations) also must be ordered by October 8 for $20. Use coupon on page 8 to order roses and wreaths.

The guest speaker will be Captain Mark Oberley (USN).

A Homecoming luncheon following the Pilgrimage will be held at the Greyhound Hall of Fame at 407 South Buckeye in Abilene to honor Department Vice Commander Chuck Shoemaker of Shawnee.

The cost for the luncheon will be $12.50 per person and reservations may be made by using the coupon provided on page 5.
Sonia and I had a great time at the 100th National Convention in Minneapolis. Department has had a great number of successful events since our last Sunflower Legioneer, including a very successful tour of the state with our new National Commander, Brett Reisad. However, instead of recounting those events, I thought most of you might be more interested in some basics that apply directly to you.

We have a website at www.ksamlegion.org. Staff does a great job of keeping the events on the website current. You will also find contact information for Headquarters, an event calendar, District Officer’s contact information and Department Committee Members. It is the first place to look when you are looking for information about our many programs.

We also have a Department Facebook page titled “Department of Kansas American Legion.” Further, we have made a number of videos, each approximately two minutes in length, about happenings in the Kansas Legion and they can be found at “The American Legion Department of Kansas Commander” Facebook page.

In June we started a monthly e-newsletter that is currently being sent out to half our membership. To receive the e-newsletter you must have an e-mail address on file at national with www.MyLegion.org. If you think you have an e-mail address on file and are not receiving the e-newsletter, then you should check to make sure national has your correct e-mail address, and then check your spam folder. I always find my e-newsletter in the spam folder.

The Legion offers a training course where you can learn more about The American Legion titled “Basic Training” and it is available at www.Legion.org/alei.

A big thank you to the Kansas American Legion Riders as they raised over $27,717 from the Kansas Legacy Run to donate to the National Legacy Fund which provides scholarships for children of those veterans who have died or are at least 50% disabled since 9/11/01. This was a record amount for Kansas! Great job Kansas American Legion Riders and Kansas American Legion Family!

Additional thanks to the Kansas Sons of The American Legion. Because of their support, Kansas received two very prestigious awards at National Convention: the highest per capita Child Welfare Foundation donation, and the highest percentage increase in the amount of Child Welfare Foundation donations.

I want to thank everyone that attended the Legion Family Homecoming on August 18, 2018 in McPherson. My thanks to McPherson Post 24 for your excellent hospitality. Thanks also to General Richard B. Myers, USAF Ret., President of Kansas State University and the 15th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for being our guest speaker. President Myers is a proud member of Manhattan Post 17.

As always, I am here to listen and serve you. If you would like for me to attend an event at your Post or District, please let me know. Thank you for what you do! For God and Country!

The upcoming “Children-Friendly Holidays” are upon us very soon! Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas. These are the times to remember our own youth and bestow the best part of our memories onto our children or grandchildren.

As we plan the months, plan events for the kids of our communities. How are we thought of by the neighborhoods? Are we still seen as a bar, or a community asset?

I understand some Posts have little energy to consider fulfilling needs other than general day to day Post activities, let alone holding a Halloween Fall Festivity or Christmas Party, but we can develop a grander reputation when non-Legion people see we care for their children. It’s a great way to build membership to say the least. (If you do hold such activities, give your Post Adjutant a note specifying numbers: kids helped, cost, manhours to be used for your Annual Reports.)

Our Americanism programs are still in strong need of your advertisement and support. Boys State, Girls State, Cadet Law Enforcement Academy, and our Oratorical Contests. We need to create and attain the contacts between all our school counselors, instructors and JROTC administrators.

I know it can be intimidating, but if a “troupe” approaches the schools showing a strong knowledge in our Programs and working as a team, the schools will have greater confidence in what The American Legion Americanism/Children and Youth Programs are all about.

Have confidence and inform the world!

The numbers are in. Congratulations are in order to Districts and Posts that helped the Department of Kansas attain the first membership goal in 2018-2019 of 50% by September 15th. We actually placed 8th in the Legion department rankings by reaching 56.6%. The sobering news is that we are behind last years’ numbers. We hit the ground running. Now we need to step it up to achieve each monthly goal and reach 100% by membership year end.

The 100th American Legion National Convention was held in Minneapolis, the site of the initial National Convention in 1919. The Kansas Delegation, headed by Past Commander Terry Marr, agreed that it was informative, relevant, significant, and fun! Next years’ gathering, August 23rd -29th, will be in our National Headquarters city Indianapolis. If there is time and an opportunity, a rewarding experience awaits attendance.

As in the past, the Districts manned the booths at the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson. Attended the opening day with District III. A good number of Kansas Legion members stopped by to chat. Also spoke to members from surrounding states and from as far away as Texas. We signed several new members in the morning session which were forwarded to the appropriate Posts for processing. In addition to this activity, many fair attendees stopped by to wish us well and relate stories about relatives or friends that served our country. Although our results at signing new members is limited, the exposure that our presence produces is quite valuable in advertising our mission to the public, this by our attractive booth and conversations with the public.

At the Membership Workshop recently held in Indianapolis, the Department of Idaho articulated information on their approach to moving members from the DMS list to local Posts. This has been successful for them. In addition to briefly outlining the plan to the subcommittee on Membership, Idaho previously shared the plan with their neighboring state of Oregon which has instituted same.

In the past our method of utilizing this resource has mostly been by tactics employed at the Post level. Now the Department Membership Committee has been charged with implementing a state-wide plan to effectively increase membership through utilization of the DMS list. The plan will be used going forward to handle this valuable lead generating service.

Another source of recruitment that we often overlook is the member expiration list. Soliciting these members and reminding them of why they were originally members can produce results, as those that frequent these lists can so testify. As a reminder, lists are available on MyLegion.Org. Also, if a Post is contemplating revitalization, please give Paul Sanford a heads up at least 6 weeks prior to the scheduled event for his able assistance.

For those that have not used MyLegion.Org, there is a website with a tutorial that explains how to use the system. It is somewhat lengthy but can be customized for easier viewing. The site is www.members.legion.org/legion/mylegiion.zip. Note: As it is a zip file, there will be a bit of time in opening the file.

Until next time… and For God and Country

Chuck Shoemaker
Transition Care Management
(OEF/OIF/OND)
National Guard, Reserve and Active Duty
WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE VA
Homecoming
Health Care Enrollment: During demobilization, expect a briefing on VA health care and dental benefits, including assistance in completing the VA application for health care enrollment. You will receive official notification of your VA enrollment within 2 weeks. During this time, you are eligible to receive care at any of our 152 VA medical centers. You may also visit one of our Vet centers, located in communities across the country.

Reintegration
Connecting with the VA: You may receive a call from a VA representative to thank you for your service and help connect you with local VA services and benefits. You may request further information to be sent to you electronically or by mail. Post-Deployment Health Reassessment (PDHRA) survey: 3-6 months after you return, you will be asked to complete this survey at your military unit or online, helping identify key areas where you may benefit from VA services. Make an appointment at your local VA to further evaluate any post-deployment concerns.

Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program: Speak to a VA representative at one of these events, which help service members and loved ones connect with local resources before, during, and after deployment.
Welcome Home Events: Each VA Medical Center provides an annual open house to help welcome home our service members and connect each with benefits and services provided on site.

Transition Assistance
National Guard/Reserve coordinators provide additional assistance with applying for and accessing VA benefits. They are assigned to the Office of the Adjutant General in each state. VA Case Managers with Warrior Transition Units (WTU), Community Based WTUs and Wounded Warrior Regiments provide assistance in enrolling in VA health care and rehabilitation programs from VA's Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program.

Next Step
Learn more about how the VA can help YOU take the next step in your career, from career resources to education benefits at www.oefoif.va.gov.

STATE FAIR FLAG SET GIVEAWAY
This year marks 32 years of The American Legion’s participation at the State Fair in Hutchinson. By registering at Legion booth, fair participants had a chance to win one of ten US Flag sets.

Congratulations to the following winners. Fly Old Glory with pride!

AAA State Champions: Salina Falcons
Standing (Left To Right): Cooper Brown, Brady McAfee, Benjamin Driver, Ethan Kickhaef fer, Cason Long, Cade Sterrett, James Richardson, Seth Catania, Brad Dix, Luke Curry
Kneeling (Left To Right): Kade Stover, Brayden Pavey, Zachary Farmer, Ryan Dix, Layne Haddock, Richard Davis, Shelden Perez

AA State Champions: Iola Indians
Standing (Left To Right): Isaac Vink, Kane Rogers, Lance Daniels, Cal Leanord, Ethan Tavarez, Casen Barker
Kneeling (Left To Right): Jackson Aikins, Connor Havillard, Daylon Splane, Derek Bycroft and Blake Ashmore

A State Champions: Linn County Post 248
Standing (Left To Right): Brody Ford, Zach Nickelson, Nick Hathaway, Brance Ware, Joey Ewalt, Evan Peruser, Brady Wiggins
Kneeling (Left To Right): Kaden McKee, Johnny Molina, Graham Hathaway, Brody White, Brock Heide, Gavin Callor
FIRST DISTRICT COMMISSIONER
JAMES SNYDER
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VICE CMDR.
CLINT VATWER
14603 S. Topeka Blvd.
Carbondale, KS 66414
(785) 836-7191

Greetings First District,
As the summer starts to wind down, I hope everyone got to enjoy vacations and kids home from school. But we all know that is great when school starts back! I am glad that I was able to represent 1st District at the National Convention. I have gotten to visit lots of Posts’ been to different Districts, seen several Baseball Games and most of all made new friends.

Now that Fall is here and the new Membership year, we need to start October 1st. Our last due members. We have a Revitalization set up for October 20th at Marysville. Our emphasis will be on Washington, Marshall and Nemaha Counties. There will be a couple more through the Fall. 1st District’s Homecoming will be October 26th at Salina Post 36 at 5:30pm. Executive meeting prior to the Homecoming. The District Christmas Party will be December 1st at Wetmore. More info will be mailed out later. If anyone needs anything don’t hesitate to get a mailed out later. If anyone needs any help setting up I would like to mention, more information will be sent to Post commanders & adjutants, first is homecoming on October 27th in Blue Mound at 5:30 pm, and the annual membership rally in Paola on November 4th at noon. Keep up the good work!

THIRD DISTRICT COMMISSIONER
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VICE CMDR.
JOHN MELVIN
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Arma, KS 66712
(620) 347-4688

Greetings to all from the 3rd District. To continue where I left off in the last issue of the Sunflower Legionnaire telling you of the things made clear to me while serving as Vice Commander of the 3rd District. While traveling last year and again this year, I am amazed to see that many of the people holding an office in the American Legion do not fully understand the duties and responsibilities of the office they hold. As a past employer, I fully understand the need for proper training. Imagine if you will, hiring a person for a position in your organization and training them a job title and expecting them to succeed without proper training. Without training, you are setting them up for failure thru no fault of their own. This is certainly not a good business plan. In the American Legion, failure is just not an option, nor is it acceptable. EVERYONE elects or appointed to a position within the American Legion should have access to the American Legion Officers Guide. This guide spells out the responsibilities and duties of each office within the American Legion. Full understanding of the duties of your office is a great first step towards success. Just as importantly, the outgoing officer should be available to mentor and train the new officer. As with everything else in your day to day life, there is no substitute for experience and it must be passed along to insure the success of the new officer and your Post in general.

This year, I have noticed something else, and that is the lack of structure at some of the meetings I have attended within the District. I guess maybe it is human nature to take the easy way, but it does not make it the right way. The American Legion is the Largest volunteer organization in the world. We exist to serve our Veterans. Veterans are used to having structure in their lives. This especially holds true for the younger Veterans we are trying to attract to the American Legion. Again, the Officers Guide or annual posted for those positions for conducting a proper meeting. Granted, it is a suggested guide, but I feel like these procedures should be followed at every Legion meeting regardless of the number of members in attendance. I firmly believe that having proper procedures and structure at your meetings is the first step to insure that your membership continues to attend. Attendance at meetings leads to participation in Legion functions, participation leads to leadership and leadership insures the success of your Post. Remember, “FAMILY FIRST” and may God bless you all.

SECOND DISTRICT COMMISSIONER
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VICE CMDR.
JEFFREY BARBER
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Gardner, KS 66030
(913) 908-5255

Greetings Second District Legionnaires! First, I would like to send a few thank-you’s; Paola Post 156 for hosting the Second District revitalization, Tom Ault from the Leavenworth VA for coming down to meet with our veterans, the gentlemen that spoke to the group that morning, and of course all of you that were able to attend. Congratulations to Gardner and Fort Scott for reaching 100% membership, you guys are amazing! I was recently made aware of a USN memorial being placed in the Fort Scott National Cemetery, they are still looking for funding assistance, if you would like more information or a Post presentation please contact Daryl Roller at dcrroller@yahoo.com or 913-322-6492. I’m making my rounds to the Posts in the District and have met some great Legionnaires, thank you for welcoming me! I will be heading out to the 3rd District to meet with our friends from the Leavenworth V A for District revitalization, Tom Ault Post 156 for hosting the Second Legionnaires! First, I would like anything don’t hesitate to get a mailed out later. If anyone needs any help setting up I would like to mention, more information will be sent to Post commanders & adjutants, first is homecoming on October 27th in Blue Mound at 5:30 pm, and the annual membership rally in Paola on November 4th at noon. Keep up the good work!

FIFTH DISTRICT COMMISSIONER
BRYAN PAGE
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VICE CMDR.
CHARLES EATON
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Douglas, KS 67216
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5th District in rich in history in the Kansas American Legion with three of the original Posts formed in the state of Kansas. This year we want to recognize all our Posts who have contributed to the success of the greatest Veteran’s organization in the history of the United States of America. The first of these Posts we want to highlight is the Thomas Hopkins Post of Wichita. Post 4, along with Capitol Post of Topeka, Newton, Columbus, Emporia, Atchison, Fredonia, Garden City and Winfield, all of which had charters dated June 16, 1919 and Horton received their charter July 2nd, 1919 are the first 10 Posts chartered in Kansas.

In the early years Thomas Hopkins Post 4 was known as “American Legion Headquarters” because we were the only Post in Wichita and Sedgwick, KS. Once the American Legion decided they needed to start numbering Posts by State instead of Counties is was basically a random toss to see who got number one and so on. That is when the Post number was designated as “Post 4”.

Post 4’s namesake, Lt. Thomas Hopkins was the only officer KIA from Wichita, Lt. Hopkins lost his life on July 18th, 1918 returning under machine gun fire to rescue a fellow young comrade off of concertina wire. As they were returning for cover Lt. Hopkins was shot in neck and spine. Lt. Hopkins died a few days later but the young 20 year old German that shot Lt. Hopkins was all killed by Army Snipers. In the early years Thomas Hopkins Post of Wichita put on a membership drive in order to adequately hold the State Convention. In one week they saw their numbers grow from 105 to 1,200.

Post 4 is very rich in history. When a nation-wide coal strike by United Mine Workers was averted, but the coal miners of Kansas ignored the settlement and walked out of the mines on November 1st, 1919, Kansans throughout the State who were dependent on the Southwest coal fields for their fuel supply were fearful for the long and cold winter just beginning. By November 18th fuel supplies were running low, and Governor Allen took over the operation of coal mines. He called for volunteers from throughout the state to aid in production of coal. The Thomas Hopkins Post of Wichita, in an area which quickly experienced a shortage of fuel called for volunteer miners, and two hundred Legionnaires from Post 4 volunteered to dig coal. By December 15th the Post was able to produce coal and the miners and Legionnaires and other volunteers were out the pits. This is considered one of the first mass volunteering organized by the American Legion.

Another notable bit of History was when Post 4 Commander Craig Kennedy, in June of 1937 was selected to make the flag to pick “The Wichita Flag”. Out of over 100 entries the Wichita Flag was chosen. The artist Cecil McAlister, who lived in South Wichita had his design chosen and as a prize was given $40.00 (about $1400.00 in today’s money). Seamstress, Mary J. Harper (Betsy Ross of Wichita) was selected to make the flag which was adopted on June 14th, 1937 and first raised over City Hall on July 23, 1937 by Mayor T. Walker Weaver. Post 4 birthplace of “The Wichita Flag”.

In 1937, American Legion Thomas Hopkins Post 4 erected a WWII monument to honor Lt. Bleckley and all the World War I Veterans. 2nd Lt. Edwin Bleckley is honored on this monument. Lt. Bleckley was one of four to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor, in the US Army Air Corps in the First World War. He was flown to France and attached to the 50th Aero Squadron, Air Service and was one of the first to volunteer. (Bleckley’s)
parents received his Medal of Honor at a ceremony in Wichita on March 23rd, 1923. Bleckley was the second Wichitan to receive the medal.

The American Legion Thomas Hopkins Post 4 will be celebrating their 100th Birthday on Sunday June 16th, 2019.

I want to begin by thanking Jimmy Strachan, Jeremiah Allen, Gary Foss and Dan Wiley, for their assistance September 15th at the State Fair booth. Couldn’t have done without them. The 6th District didn’t have as good a year recruiting there as last year, but we did get two new members and a transfer.

Due to another Legion command, I am unable to have the District Homecoming during the inaugural ceremony. I have tours to make between now and December. We have the Eisenhower Pilgrimage in Abilene, Veteran’s Day, and the Department Christmas party and 7th District Homecoming on October 6th in Hutchinson just to name a few. If you’re interested in coming to the District Homecoming please email any questions or your RSVP to jimh22@gmail.com.

Also I would like to remind everyone that now is a good time to start going to local schools promoting our Oratorical Contest, Cadet Law, and Boys State programs and making the counselors and principals aware of the available scholarships through The American Legion and these programs.

Lastly, in comparing the current membership reports with those of previous years, I have noticed that our progress is well behind where it has been. Everyone should have at least their Officers and Life Members paid up, which means 7th District should have no “Goose eggs” on our report. Let’s all keep working diligently on membership, in both getting new members signed up and involved in Post activities and keeping those that are already members. Membership is everybody’s responsibility and you should be proud to belong to The American Legion. If any Post needs help in membership please don’t hesitate to call either myself or Vice-Commander Edie Cress and one of us will be glad to help you out, we are here to serve the best we can. Semper Fid.

Sixth District Commander
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Vice Cmdr.
Jimmy Strachan
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(785) 483-1186

Greetings 7th District Legion Family

First let me thank everyone who volunteered to work the fair this year, it went smooth and we had lots of help. Thank you!

We have several things happening from between now and December. We have the Eisenhower Pilgrimage in Abilene, Veteran’s Day, and the Department Christmas party and 7th District Homecoming on October 6th in Hutchinson just to name a few. If you’re interested in coming to the District Homecoming please email any questions or your RSVP to jih22@gmail.com.

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Seventh District Commander
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Vice Cmdr.
Edie Cress
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Greetings from the 8th District.

Time sure is flying again.

I attended the Membership workshop in Indianapolis the first part of August. The Commanders have been homecoming the 18th of August at McPherson. Then the National Convention in Minneapolis. All were very interesting and learning experiences.

School has started and we need to be getting with the schools and teachers and start promoting the programs for the youth.

The National Commander will have made his visits by the time this is printed, I hope everyone was able to attend at least one of his stops. I think we were very honored to have him to tour the western part of Kansas this year.

The Eisenhower Pilgrimage will be October 14th in Abilene. Also the Vice Commanders Homecoming. Last year was my first time to go and what a wonderful experience it was. I encourage everyone to try to go, you will not regret it. Adjutants should have information.

We will have 8th District Commanders Homecoming the 3rd of November at Syracuse Post #27. It will be a luncheon meeting starting at 12 PM Mountain Time. Please mark your Calendars and attend.

Then the Department Christmas Party will be December the 15th at Olathe Post # 153.

Enjoy the fall and help keep the American Legion strong, if you haven’t renewed your membership, get it done. It would be nice to achieve 100%.

May God bless our troops, American Legion and America.

Veterans Day
November 11
2018

National Convention at Minneapolis, Minnesota, was informative as well as entertaining as most of the pictures depict. Kathy Dungan, of Wesson, Mississippi, was elected as the 2018-19 National President of the American Legion Auxiliary. Dungan plans on visiting us at Mid-Winter Forum. A special thanks for all the delegates, alternates, and guests who attended the 98th National Convention. I took my oath as the Department of Kansas President during the inaugural ceremony.

As the 100th Anniversary of the American Legion, I am honored to serve as the Department of Kansas President. We have lots of activities planned for our men and women who are Legionnaires and proudly served our country, so don’t want to miss attending any events.

We distributed “100 year” hat patches at our homecoming and are currently making plans for the birthday celebration.

I want to thank everyone who attended the joint Homecoming for Commander Dan Wiley, Detachment Commander Terry Harris, and myself. It’s great to be a part of a “family” organization, and I look forward to serving with these men (or at least most of the time).

Our Fall Conference was held on September 14 – 15 at McPherson. Chairman Plan of Action reports were given which will be posted on our website along with the report forms. These chairman are some of the most dedicated, hard-working, and creative women I know. It is such a pleasure to work with them which is fitting for our membership theme: Rosie the Riveter and my President’s theme: “Keep ’em Flying”. This theme is special to me as my grandmother, Elsie Remmet and her friend Ethel Kimmery were Rosies, as well as my friend, Virginia Ball.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in Abilene at Eisenhower Pilgrimage and upcoming Homecomings!

“Motivation is the art of getting people to do what you want them to do because they want to do it.”

-- Dwight D. Eisenhower
HISTORIAN
JOE JOHNSTON

Several attempts to make the Department Conventions more interesting have been initiated. One of them was a “Beauty Contest” held at the 1958 convention. Local Posts held contests and each District sent their winner to the Department convention. Each contestant had to be between 17 and 20, single and a daughter or sister of a Legionnaire. In 1960 the contest was dropped.

One District was happy with the outcome while six were unhappy. (In 1958 there were only 7 Districts) The fathers and brothers of the losers were very angry at the American Legion.

Another problem occurred in 1958. A Post in Wichita had planned to host the 1958 Department Convention. At the last minute they canceled out. There was a mad scramble to find another Post and hotel in a short period of time. The Hutchinson Post came to the rescue.

Be sure to read about the “Eric Bean Feed” in The American Legion Magazine.

DEPARTMENT CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday, December 15, 2018
Olathe Post 153
410 E Dennis Ave

Social Hour - Noon
Lunch - 1:00 PM  USO Style Show - 2:15 PM
Mouse Races - 4:30 PM

Name ___________________________ Number in party @ $15.00 each ___
After 5 December $20.00 each ___
Children 10 and under $8.00 each ___

Guest Names ___________________________

Tickets may also be purchased directly from Olathe Post 153

Amount Enclosed ___________________ made payable to Dan Wiley.

Mail to: Dan Wiley,
24801 227th Street
Leavenworth, KS 66048

ADJUTANT’S BRIEFS

By Department Adjutant Jimmie L. Foster

Many of the District and Department Officers have already alluded to their travels to various Events around the Department and State of Kansas in their Articles.

Many Members of The American Legion Family attended the 100th National Convention held in Minneapolis, Minnesota from 24 to 30 August 2018. Many of the Elected Kansas Delegates were very busy attending various Commission or Committee Meetings to partake in items that were to be voted on in those Meetings and then reported from that Commission or Commission to the Delegates on the floor of the National Convention.

Also, the Leading Candidate for National Commander Brett Reistad from Virginia and the Second Leading Candidate Bill Sweet from North Carolina came to the Kansas Caucus bright and early at 7 A.M. Both, Brett and Bill, spoke to the Kansas Delegates and passed out brochures, pins and pens to those in attendance.

The Convention is not always business oriented, there is some free time to enjoy the host City and their venues. The Department of Kansas had a superb dinner and cruise down the Mississippi River. It was a relaxing evening with those visiting, making new friendships and keeping some old ones going.

For those that stayed around until Thursday afternoon witnessed the National Commander take the Oath of Office on the Stage. Brett Reistad from Manassas, Virginia swore into his position as National Commander of The American Legion. (That has a nice ring to it).

Brett and his Aide, Ken Knight, will be touring the Western Side of the State of Kansas from 15 to 19 September 2018. I know some of you will not get notified of his visit to individual Posts, but your District Officers were given that information and instructed to disseminate the information down to ALL Posts, so that each American Legion Member could have the opportunity to visit him on the tour.

Next year’s 101th National Convention will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana from 23 to 29 August, 2019. Indianapolis is the Home of Our American Legion National Headquarters. It is a short drive to Indianapolis, the City of Indianapolis and the Department of Indiana promises to roll out the red carpet for this historical event. PLEASE start planning now to attend.

Our Regional National Vice Commander is Steve Sweet from the Department of Mississippi. Steve will be visiting the Department in the month of November. We are still trying to confirm the exact dates. We will again get the information to the District Commanders to deliver to each Post within their District. Sweet will be visiting the Eastern Side of the State of Kansas, basically I-35 and East. Steve will also be attending our Department Convention in Hutchinson at the Atrium Hotel and Conference Center on 17 to 19 May 2019.

The newly elected National President of the American Legion Auxiliary is Kathy Dungan from the Department of Mississippi and the newly elected Sons of The American Legion Commander is Greg “Doc” Gibbs from the Detachment of New York.

Don’t forget about the 2018 Big Red One Turkey Run on 17 November 2018 at Fort Riley and Operation North Pole on 7 & 8 December 2018. These two events ensure that the Dependents of Our Active Duty Military has a complete Turkey Dinner for Thanksgiving, and then have a toy or two under their Christmas tree for a memorable Christmas.

The Department Christmas Party is tentatively scheduled to be held at Olathe Post # 153 on 15 December 2018.

The Department Legislative Reception will be held tentatively on 16 January 2019 at 5:00 P.M., before the Mid-Winter Conference, again this year. It was in agreement with the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate last year that it should be earlier in the year to get the Legislators engaged on Our items that need to be discussed and supported for Veterans and their Families.

We saw the most attendance last year from Our Legislators show up and attend the Reception and interact with the Members of The American Legion Family. Since we brought the Mid-Winter Forum, It is too early to tell if this idea will work or not.

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).
FOR GOD AND COUNTRY
(Continued from Page 7)
In Classic Reprint Series, this sermon has been reprinted "The National Crisis" delivered in the Church of the Epiphany, Washington, DC; May 17, 1915; by Rev Randolph H McKim, pastor of this church. The text for that morning message was from Gospel of John 18:36; "Jesus answered...If my Kingdom were of this world, them would my servants fight."
As we sit in worship this morning, “a most serious question, confronts us as members of the Christian church. What should be our attitude as Christians men and women in this supreme crisis?” “We do not want war, but still less do we want national dishonor.”
It was the Christian faith that willingly engaged in this terrible war brought by Germany. “The King of Righteousness, the King of Peace; (which justifies the conclusion that there is no just peace that is not based on righteousness) makes war in righteousness and followed by the armies of Heaven.”
For God and Country I serve the Most High Sovereign Lord and Sovereign United States of America.

38th ANNUAL EISENHOWER PILGRIMAGE
Enclosed is our payment for a rose to be placed at the Eisenhower Memorial on Saturday, October 13, 2018.

Purchaser ____________________________________________________________
No. of Roses_________ Amount Enclosed ____________________________
($10 for each rose requested)
Name __________________________ Person Placing the Rose ________________
___________________________ Please appoint an appropriate individual to place our rose.
Address ____________________________________________________________
City/State/Zip _______________________________________________________
Telephone (Day Time) _________________________________________________

RECEPTION & DINNER
Chapman Post #240
Friday, October 12

No. of Dinner Reservations _______ Amount Enclosed ________
($15 per person)
MAIL TO:
KANSAS AMERICAN LEGION
EISENHOWER PILGRIMAGE
1314 SW Topeka Blvd.
Topeka, KS 66612

ABSOLUTE DEADLINE: OCTOBER 5, 2018

2019 Legislative Reception

The legislative reception will be held at the Capital Plaza Hotel, 1717 SW Topeka Ave. in Topeka tentatively scheduled for Wednesday January 16. The reception will begin with a briefing at 5pm and followed by the reception until 8pm.

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

Yes, I plan to attend The American Legion Legislative Reception, Jan. 16, 2019 in Topeka. Enclosed is $____ ($20 per person). Note: please list the name of each attendee.

No, I am unable to attend. Enclosed is my donation of $_____ to help make this American Legion function a success.

Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________________________________________
City_______________________________Zip_____________________________

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

HAPPY THANKSGIVING AND MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM YOUR HEADQUARTERS STAFF

THE AMERICAN LEGION
VA HOSPITAL SERVICE OFFICERS
Robert D. Dole Regional VA Medical Center, Wichita
Local: 316-688-6814, Toll Free: 888-878-6881 Ext. 56814
Dwight D. Eisenhower VA Medical Center, Leavenworth
Local: 913-758-4297, Toll Free: 800-952-8387 Ext. 54297
Colmery-O’Neill VA Medical Center, Topeka
Local: 785-350-4489, Toll Free: 800-574-8387 Ext. 54489

THE SUNFLOWER LEGIONNAIRE
1314 SW Topeka Blvd., Topeka, KS 66612-1886

TO REPORT A CHANGE OF ADDRESS PLEASE CUT THIS FORM, ALONG WITH THE ABOVE ADDRESS LABEL AND SEND IT TO HEADQUARTERS. LIST YOUR NEW ADDRESS BELOW

Mail changes of Address to:
The American Legion, Department Headquarters
1314 SW Topeka Blvd., Topeka, KS 66612-1886

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News deadline is the 15th of March, June, September and December for the next issue.

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