ORATORICAL RESULTS

The State Oratorical Contest sponsored by the Kansas American Legion was held on Saturday, March 16 at Pearce-Keller Post #17 in Manhattan. The eight finalists representing their District were required to give an 8-10 minute prepared oration on the United States Constitution. The contestants were required to give their presentation without any notes, podium, papers, or microphones. They were judged by a panel of five prominent citizens from the Manhattan area. The contestants were judged on several aspects of their presentation including originality, skill in selecting examples, logic, knowledge of subject matter, voice and diction, word selection, and body action and eye contact.

After their prepared remarks the contestants were required to speak on one of four assigned topics selected by National Headquarters. One topic is chosen by drawing from the four choices and each contestant speaks on the same subject. The contestants were required to speak three to five minutes on the assigned topic. This year’s assigned topic was the first amendment.

All contestants recited their orations with skill and enthusiasm. The Judges had the difficult task of choosing the top contestants that would receive top honors and money for college.

The 2019 State Champion is Mark McAllister from Americus representing District 1. The third place finisher was Chase Farha from Wichita, representing District 5. He will receive a $250 scholarship. Fourth place went to Paeton McCarty from Colby, representing District 6. Paeton will receive a $150 scholarship.

In addition, Emporia State University and Tabor College also offer scholarships to the top four winners in this year’s contest.

BOYS STATE APPLICATIONS

The deadline for applications for this event is fast approaching. Legion posts and individual members have been the first avenue for providing the fee for attendance. A reminder that if a high school junior, soon to be senior, is having an issue with the registration fee, there are organizations that have helped students attend in the past. Some of those are the Elks, Shiners, Lyons, Moose, and others including associations such as Fire Fighters, Unions and other philanthropic organizations. Relatives have also assisted. Some students have taken jobs and earn the fee. One other avenue is to contact the Boys State office in Wichita at 866-241-9920 for possible assistance. Deadline is April 15th.

Department Convention
Hutchinson May 17-19

The Atrium Hotel & Convention Center, 1400 N. Lorraine Street, in Hutchinson will serve as the site of the 100th 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 Atrium at (620) 669-9311. Room rates for the Convention are $74 and includes a full breakfast buffet.

The Convention is expected to feature a number of speakers including American Legion National Vice Commander Steve Sweet from Mississippi, Auxiliary Divisional National Vice President Teresa Isensee from Wisconsin, and S.A.L. National Commander Leading Candidate Danny Bolt from Virginia, 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 will also be presented. A highlight of the Convention will be the drawing for this Spring’s Sweepstakes with special prizes available should any of the thirteen winners be present during the drawing on Sunday.

The Convention will conclude on Sunday with a Memorial Service followed by the election of Department Officers for the 2019-2020 membership year. All Legionnaires are encouraged to attend the Convention as a delegate, alternate, or guest. Post Adjutants will be mailed pre-registration materials on April 15 (pre-registration is preferred, 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.

SHOEMAKER FOR DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

R. C. “Chuck” Shoemaker, a member in good standing of Second District and Peter Smith American Legion Post #327 Shawnee, Kansas, announces his candidacy for Department Commander for 2019-2020. He earned his eligibility for membership in the American Legion with service in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam era.

In addition to serving as Department Vice Commander, he has served as a Post Chaplain, Finance Officer, Service Officer, Adjutant, Committeeeman and Commander at the Post level. He maintains membership in the S.A.L., the MOWW, the 40 & 8, and Gardner Chapter #19 Legion Riders.

He has served as Department Master-At-Arms, National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms (4 years), Second District Vice-Commander and Commander, Chairman of the Department POW/MIA Committee, Chairman of the Department Boys State Committee, Advisor to the Boys’ State Leadership Academy, and various committee assignments at the District level.

He continues to serve as an Honor Guard Member of his post.

His professional background includes a career in corporate finance and is a contract consultant to the banking and credit union industries.

Chuck has the support of his family, his fiancée Pat Willcox, the endorsement of his Post and the E-Board’s endorsement from Second District and the Second District Convention. By working with the posts, districts and the Legion Family, he will continue to use his time and resources as Commander in promoting the mission of the Kansas American Legion.
The American Legion needs your help! The LEGION act is a bill that exists before Congress that would open up our membership by declaring December 7, 1941 to present as a period of hostile. This will make all veterans eligible to join The American Legion. The acronym LEGION stands for “Letting Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service Act.” What can you do? Contact your Congressman by e-mail, phone, or letter and politely and ask them to not only support the LEGION Act, but to also co-sponsor this Act. I can’t stress enough how important it is that you contact your Senators and Representatives. Please help us.

March 15, 2019 was The American Legion’s 100th birthday. We had a great Department Birthday Party hosted by the Kansas American Legion Auxiliary at Manhattan Post 17 immediately following the Department Oratorical Contest on March 16, 2019. We had 8 awesome contestants (one from each District) at the Department Oratorical Contest. All were worthy of winning!

A Reminder that if you sign up a new member between now and May 13, the new member, you, and your post are eligible to win $500 each! Somebody is going to win the money! There will be a drawing from all of the entries at Department Convention, May 17-19, 2019 in Hutchinson. If you know of a prospective new member, sign them up, and send in an entry form to Department Headquarters.

I want to thank Karen Hastig, the Kansas American Legion Auxiliary President, and Terry Harris, the Kansas Sons of the American Legion Detachment Commander for their support and camaraderie this past year. It has been a great year! Commander Terry traveled with me to a great number of events!

It has been my honor to serve as your Department Commander for the 280 American Legion Posts across this great State of Kansas. We accomplished our goal of increasing communication and visibility with such things as the e-newsletter, Kansas Connection videos, and our media press releases.

My wife, Sonya, and I have enjoyed meeting so many of you and enjoyed the hospitality of your Posts. If I have not made it to your Post or to an event hosted by your Post, please contact me, and I will be there in the future. I will be around a long time supporting The American Legion Family after my term is done! As always, I am here to listen and serve you. I appreciate and thank you for what you do!

For God and Country!

Snyder for Area East Vice CDR

Greetings Legionnaires, My name is James Snyder and I’m running as a candidate for the position of Area East Vice Commander. I earned my eligibility serving in the US Marines. I’ve been a member of the American Legion and Sons of the American Legion Riders for 8 years. At the post level I’ve served as Adjutant for 5 years and Commander for 2 years. At the District level I’ve been Sgt-at-Arms for 2 yrs, 2nd year Committee- man, Vice Commander and Commander for 2 years. I’ve served on different committees at both the District and Department levels. I have attended the ALLC for the last 5 years and represented the Department at the past 4 National Conventions. I’ve worked closely with the current Department Vice Commander and Commander on our membership goals and how to improve them.

If elected I will continue to work with the incoming Department Vice Commander in our efforts to meet our membership goals for Districts 1-4. Thank you for considering me for this position.

James Snyder, SEMPER FI

Pay Online To Renew Your Membership

Go To

www.legion.org/renew

Snyder for Area East Vice CDR

Greetings Fellow Legionnaires! My name is Marri Krupco, and I am a candidate for Department Vice-Commander.

I earned my eligibility in the American Legion by honorably serving in the United States Navy 1998-2002. I have been a member of Blue Mound’s Mooneye-Long Post 279 for 19 years and have been the adjutant for 9 years. In 2010 we almost lost our charter; we were able to revitalize the post and ended the year at 180% membership. I am also a member of our Auxiliary Unit and was instrumental in getting it rechartered in 2011. In June 2018 our post sponsored a SAL squadron and I led the charge in getting that accomplished.

I have served as District 2 Executive Committee- woman for three years, then as the Vice-Commander, and am currently serving as the District Commander. As the District Vice-Commander and Commander, I also served on the Department Executive Committee and have attended every DEC meeting since being sworn in. I have attended National Convention, and served on the Constitutional Amendments Convention Committee, a truly educational experience. As District Commander I have visited 23 of the 25 posts in my district, several of them multiple times, and we have led Department in membership all year. Membership efforts are one of the Department Vice-Commander’s major responsibilities, not only do I understand how important membership is, I am prepared to help anywhere I am needed to assist Kansas in meeting it’s goal.

The American Legion family is in my blood with at least (Continued on Page 8)

Krupco for Vice Commander

Wow! Where has the year gone? Seems like only yesterday that I stood in front of the 2018 Convention, raised my hand with others, and began serving our Legion as Vice Commander.

In that capacity, it has been a privilege to have travelled throughout the state, and although living in Kansas most of my adult life, visited posts and towns that had not previously been seen. Meeting the dedicated Legionnaires that volunteer their time and energies in making the posts, districts, our organization successful has been an uplifting experience. One can only marvel at the participatory programs that are planned, organized and implemented for the wellbeing of our members.

And speaking of participatory programs, a great number of events conducted by posts and districts involve members from each of the Legion Family. The teamwork between the Legion, the Auxiliary, S.A.L., and the Riders truly is central to facilitating an effective outcome for the tasks at hand. It has been inspiring to see the results of such collaborative efforts working toward the common goal of supporting our Veterans.

This year once again our programs gained National attention. Representatives from Indianapolis attended the Eisenhower Pilgrimage and reported on the event in The American Legion Magazine. The North Pole Initiative again played host to the National folks. These events were also covered locally and, in some instances, other portions of the state thanks to our continuing effort to raise awareness of Legion happenings to the general public.

To be sure to mark your calendars to attend Leadership College in Concordia May 31st, June 1st and 2nd. Participating from National will be the National Membership Marketing Coordinator with invaluable information in recruitment. Attendees enjoy the camaraderie, seeing old friends, and sharing information on operational issues and duties. A registration form is included in this issue.

The duty conferred on me has been an honor and experience that will not be forgotten. Meeting our membership, seeing the results of enthusiastic member’s efforts, listening to thoughts and ideas from everyone, made it fun! My fiancé Pat and I have been blessed to meet so many of you and sincerely appreciated the hospitality we enjoyed during our visits.

Thank you for your service and for what you do for the Kansas American Legion.

For God and Country

Vice Commander

FOR AREA WEST VICE CDR

I am announcing I’m a Candidate for Department Area West Vice Commander for 2019-2020. 2018 was a year full with uncertainties with my health, but with GOD’s healing hand, your prayers and friendships, Life is looking better. It was good to see a lot of you at Mid-Winter Forum.

I earned my eligibility serving in United States Army Reserves, 89th Division, Co B, 3d BN, 1st Bde, Dodge City, Ks., to Rank of Sargent First Class (E-7), From Oct. 1969 to Nov. 1975 with an Honorable Discharge. I’m currently Post Commander of Olin Cole Post #392, Bazine, Ks.

I have held several 8th District Offices starting with Sargent of Arms (1 yr.), 8th Dist. Finance Officer and Department Area West Vice Commander (2 yr.). I’ve been a Legionnaire for 20 yrs. and a Paid Up for Life Member.

My Goal, if elected, is to visit with Area West District Commander’s and Vice Commanders’ and let them know I’m available when ever and where ever the need arises to help them increase the American Legion Membership as my time permits. We need to stop the declining membership and put petty differences behind us and move FORWARD.

I have the support of my Post, the 8th District and my Wife of 50 yrs. on April 4th.

For GOD and COUNTRY

Gary F. Foos Foos Western Commander

Vice Commander
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 24. 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 24 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 supermarkets. All efforts are to be coordinated with local and area law enforcement officials.

A coupon for ordering a supply of brochures is located on page 8 for your convenience. All requests must be ordered by the Post Commander or Adjutant, Unit President or Secretary, or Squadron Commander or Adjutant.

GET YOUR SUNFLOWER ONLINE

Save the Department some cash and help the environment by opting out of your printed copy of the Sunflower Legionnaire. Digital versions of the Sunflower are posted to the Department web page a week before hard copies begin to hit mailboxes. Use the coupon on page 5 to opt out of your quarterly paper copy of the Sunflower. Visit www.ksamlegion.org to read it on your computer or mobile device.
Greetings First District,
Well this will be my last comments as your District Commander. I have truly enjoyed visiting your posts and events over the past 2 years. Our membership is still not where we as a District and Department was hoping for but I know you will continue to bring in new members and continue to retain the old. If you ever need anything don’t hesitate to get a hold of your District officers. That is what we are here for.

SEMPER FI

Greetings Second District!
As the 2018-2019 membership year draws to an end I wanted to thank you for all your hard work. We have managed to stay the lead district in membership all year and that is no easy task. There is still a little work to be done before the end of June so don’t stop now, besides there is cash to be won for recruiting new members! If you don’t know what I’m talking about, ask your post leadership or contact a District officer. I also wanted to thank you for allowing me to serve as your District Commander this year. I have had an amazing time meeting the Legionnaires, Sons, and Auxiliary members in our district, I was able to visit almost every post and am so glad I had that opportunity. We do some amazing things here in the Second District and we should be proud of what we do in support of veterans, active duty, and youth. One last thanks, to Gardner Post 19, District Vice-Commander Barber, District Adjutant Russell, and all the District Chairs for making District Convention a success. There is still time to sponsor a delegate to Boy’s State, registration deadline is April 15th, let’s make sure second district is well represented. Department Convention is right around the corner, May 17-19, ask your post leadership how you can be a delegate to convention, lets fill our section! I highly recommend Department Leadership college in Concordia (May 31-June 2) for post officers or anyone that just wants to know more about the American Legion. Please join the new district officers on June 22nd at North Garnet Lake for the District Picnic, registration is only $5 which includes the all-you-can-eat taco bar and is open to all Legion family members!

“LEADERSHIP”, what does the word leadership mean? Webster’s Dictionary has many examples of the word leader, leader and leadership depending on the context of how these words are used. As for myself, I believe that the word leadership means, “to have the ability to bring out the best in those around you”. I hope that I have achieved that definition.

Many of you are aware that I reluctantly accepted the office of your 3rd District Commander. I just didn’t feel like I was qualified for the office and part of me still believes that. Looking back over the past year, I find myself very grateful to the members of the 3rd District for giving me the opportunity to serve and represent you. During my travels over the past year as 3rd District Commander and as a member of the Department Executive Committee, I was able to get a much deeper look into what the American Legion represents. I was fortunate to meet and learn from a lot of really great people in the American Legion and the legion families. Many of these people I now consider to be friends instead of just acquaintances.

As my term comes to an end, I want to sincerely say thank you for your support, and the vote of confidence shown to me over the past year. I can only hope that during my term in office I was able to make a difference within the District. I have great confidence in the newly elected officers of the 3rd District and I hope that you give them the same level of support shown to me over the past year.
Respectfully,
George Culbertson

GREETINGS THIRD DISTRICT

Greetings Third District! It was my privilege to be your District Commander for the past 2 years. I have enjoyed every minute of my term. The American Legion is a powerful organization. We have managed to exceed our membership goals and that is a testament to the hard work of our members and all the District Officers for 2018-2019. We have reached our goals, and Post elections. Each of these areas deserve your best efforts so I will discuss each item individually.

First, let’s talk about membership. As a District we are setting at 84.6% percent with only 90 days till the end of the current membership year. With it getting more and more difficult to reach out and win those missing members to our side it is not impossible. With the weather getting better and the ride conditions improving, we should use that advantage of our Legion Riders and organize a membership ride. We need to encourage those posts like Cheney Post 295 and Valley Center Post 73 who have exceeded over 100% of their 2018/2019 membership post, or the 6 posts who are over 90% for the year. With the elections of new officers let’s bring new life and ideas on how we can reach our goals for 2018-2019 and better our performance in 2019-2020.

Next, let talk about Cadet Law, many posts throughout the district has earmarked the district has earmarked money to sponsor our young men and women to Cadet Law. The Cadet Law Enforcement Academy, a program co-sponsored by the Kansas American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and the Kansas High Patrol will be held at the Highway Patrol Training Center in Salina, Kansas from June 2 thru June 7 of 2019. The Academy is open to High School Juniors and Seniors. During the week, students participate in firearms training and range safety, personal defense tactics, pursuit driving on the driving range, perform vehicles stops, fly in Highway Patrol aircraft and receive generalized law reinforcement and legal training. Although the official deadline for applications is March 31st, According to Department we can continue to recruit quality applicants past established date. The student fee is $50 for the entire session and the sponsoring posts will pay the balance. The application is available at www.ksamlegion.org.

Sending a young man to Boys State is a two-fold investment. Clearly it is an investment in a young man who is heading into his senior year with plans for college and beyond. Boys State is also an investment in the future of your community, state and nation. The best teacher is often experience. Learning leadership in the classroom is often too theoretical. Boys State is a practical opportunity to learn leadership skills through role play civic exercise. Colleges and Universities recognize Boys State graduates as advanced and dedicated young men. For this reason the Boys State College Fair attracts top tier schools who recruit Boys State participants. Finally, Boys State is simply fun. The connections made with other Boys State graduates will last a lifetime, and provide social and professional benefits for years to come. The total fee for the 2019 session of Boys State is $325. In most situations a delegate or his family pays $50 and a sponsoring organization pays the remaining $275. Both fees must be received by the deadline which is April 15, 2019 to guarantee a reservation. Applications ARE accepted after the deadline, but space is limited. No refunds after March 19, 2019! Additional information and applications can be found at http://kansasboysstate.com

Finally, as we move into the month every post should be holding nominations and elections of new officers. These elections must be held not more than 60 days or less than 15 days prior to Department Convention. Between March 19 and May 3rd. Names and address of those elected must be reported to District and Department as soon as elections have been (Continued on Page 5)
Greetings legionnaires. The 7th District is moving along nicely however we need a little extra push at a few of our posts. We need to start doing mini revitalizations and post activities to get those last few members paid and back involved into our posts. Keep building our posts by adding new members and reaching out and transferring members in your area back into your post. A big thank you to all posts that have achieved 100% quota this year, job well done.

The Department Convention is quickly approaching and will be held in Hutchinson on May 17th, 18th, and 19th. I hope to see a strong showing from 7th District. It is that time of year when posts around the state are electing new officers and it would be a good idea for all the new officers from your post to attend the Department Convention. American Legion Leadership College will be held in Concordia on May 31st, June 1st and 2nd. This would be another good opportunity for new officers to learn about the various positions and job descriptions.

Post consolidated reports are due soon and the information should be used to compile news articles to submit to your local newspaper, TV or radio stations. Remind the public of who we are and how much we do for the local communities and Veterans. It’s also a good reminder for our members of why they volunteer and just how many lives they can help make better. Semper Fi!

EIGHTH DISTRICT COMMANDER
DONALD MARSHALL
PO Box 587
Cimarron, KS 67835
(620) 855-0420
VICE CMDR.
JAMES SCHNELLBACHER
PO Box 416
Sublette, KS 67877
(620)-861-0108

No article submitted.

SEPTEMBER 9 TH DISTRICT COMMANDER
JEREMY EHART
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Hutchinson, KS 67502
(620) 899-0010
VICE CMDR.
EDIE CRESS
1597 Avenue R.
Lyons, KS 67554
(620) 509-7528

We continue to struggle with membership. Please remember that Department has an incentive happening that will result in someone winning $500. Not only that individual, but their post and recruit as well.

Our District Convention will be April 6th in Phillipsburg. This is an important event as we will be electing District officers for the new Ninth District as well.

The Ninth District will come online July 1, 2019 and will include the counties of Phillips, Rooks and Ellis west to the Colorado state line.

The next large event I’d encourage you to attend is the Department Convention in Hutchinson May 17-19. Conventions are where decisions are made and representation is paramount if you agree or disagree with what is happening in our organization.

This past year, The American Legion Auxiliary has kept ‘em flying and continued with our slogan: We Can Do It! As a result, we have accomplished a lot this year while recognizing our Rosie the Riveters across Kansas. Thanks to the Sellens, we have a “Rosie Proclamation”. We have concentrated on leadership and communication while incorporating technology while working membership. Our success is due to the individual contributions of our members.

On March 16, The American Legion Kansas Family was proud to recognize the eight district contestants at the Department Oratorical Contest. These young men and women gave stimulating, patriotic speeches on the Constitution of the United States. As Jimmie Foster pointed out, “We didn’t have any losers; we had eight winners!”

Following the oratorical contest, we celebrated The American Legion’s 100th Birthday. When reflecting back on the history, legionnaires have to be proud of their accomplishments. The G.I. Bill has made a positive impact on millions of lives through the years and will continue for generations to come. In addition, Legion programs inspire our youth, including, but not limited to, Boys Scouts, Cadet Law, Legion Baseball, Oratorical Contest, and Boys State. These programs continue to change the lives of young men and women. How can anyone be anything but PROUD to be associated with such a great organization that has the potential to have a positive impact on the lives of so many Americans.

Happy 100th Birthday! It has been an honor to serve as The American Legion Auxiliary President of Kansas this year. I have enjoyed traveling around Kansas to attend various events and meeting members. Working with Commander Dan Wiley, Detachment Commander Terry Harris, and Junior ALA President Brianna Burton has been enjoyable. I am now looking forward to seeing everyone at Conventions.

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves Together…

Karen Hasting, ALA Dept. of KS President, 2018-19

Online only
Sunflower Legionnaire

I no longer wish to receive a printed copy of the Sunflower Legionnaire. I am aware that an electronic version is available online at ksamlegion.org.

Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________
City __________________ Zip ______
Mail to: Dept. Headquarters
1314 SW Topeka Blvd.
Topeka, KS 66612
The Membership year of 2018-2019 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 Chuck Shoemaker and ALL Eight District Commanders and District Vice Commanders are available to assist, all you have to do is ASK!

The 2019 Mid-Winter Forum was well attended. Dodge City Post 47 did a fine job in hosting the venue. Leading Candidate for National Commander Bill Oxford from North Carolina was on hand; as well as Jeff Stoffer, The Media and Communications Director at Our National Headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana. Also, Holly Soria, Visual Arts Manager of The National Magazine was in attendance. They gave excellent updates to the plans of the 100th Centennial Membership Year and the 101st National Convention that will take place in Indianapolis, Indiana from 23 to 29 August 2019.

The Legislative Reception was changed this year to be held before the Mid-Winter Forum on January 16 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Topeka. The Speaker of The House and the President of the Senate come up with this suggestion to ensure that more Legislators would have the opportunity to attend. I believe, it was one of the most attended Receptions in many years even though the Governor decided to give her State of the State Address earlier that same evening. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and mingling with their Constituent’s.

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 were very attentive and assured us that they held Veterans and their Families near and dear to their heart. I believe, you can be proud of your elected Senators and Congressmen from Kansas.

The 2019 Department Oratorical Contest was held at Manhattan Post 17 on 16 March 2019 and the eight orators were ALL Winners! Matt McAllister from the Fourth District was selected as the ultimate winner, and will represent the Department of Kansas at the National Contest in Indianapolis, Indiana from 5 to 7 April 2019. I believe, he will do us proud.

Kansas Boys State will be held at Kansas State University in Manhattan from 2 to 7 June 2019. Make sure you have submitted your application, either paper or on-line, to get signed up for this great American Legion Program.

The Cadet Law Enforcement Academy will be held in Salina from 2 to 7 June. This year BOTH Juniors and Seniors can apply and attend. It is the same week as Kansas Boys State, hopefully there will be a great attendance at both Programs. The Kansas Highway Patrol Academy in Salina sets the date for this Program as they book their facility and utilize Troopers as instructors for their Program.

The Department Convention of Kansas American Legion will be held from 17 to 19 May 2019 in Hutchinson, Kansas. National Vice Commander Steve Sweet from the Department of Mississippi will be the Legion National Guest. Clint Bolt, the Sons of The American Legion Leading Candidate from Virginia and Teresa Iseeny, the Divisional National Vice President from Wisconsin will also be in attendance. Also attending will be Kevin Bartlett, the National Judge Advocate of The American Legion will be updating everyone in attendance on the proper authorized documents in accepting a New Member into The American Legion and the authorized use of the Name and the Emblem of The American Legion so that you, your Members or Post don’t violate the Federal Trademark and Copyright Laws.

Right after that, the 2019 American Legion Leadership College will take place in Concordia from May 31 to 2 June. The Registration fee will be $45.00 for your Room and Food. A General Session will give us updates from the Kansas Gaming and Liquor Licensing Agencies, a Post Service Officer Class, a Post Commander and Post Adjutant’s Workshop will be presented to those interested. Michelle Steinnmetz, Membership Engagement Coordinator will be the facilitator this year updating MyLegion.org and other programs of The American Legion.

Remember that the Kansas Sunflower Legionnaire is now published quarterly. If you are required to submit articles, PLEASE adjust your thought process to the quarterly mode. Articles are due on 15 March, 15 June, 15 September and 15 December for the following quarterly edition.

If anyone has any questions pertaining to Membership or any of the fine programs within The American Legion PLEASE do NOT hesitate to call the Department Headquarters for guidance or clarification.

Thank you for being a Member of The Greatest Veterans Organization in the Free World, The American Legion (in my opinion).
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**LEADERSHIP COLLEGE**

(Continued from Page 3)

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 below regarding housing. We cannot guarantee housing will be provided if you do not check the box indicating your need for housing at the College.

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**HISTORIAN JOE JOHNSTON**

Because The American Legion magazine is doing a great job of giving the history of the national organization, I decided to concentrate on the Department of Kansas.

Many men in the American armed forces in World War I were foreign-born and could not speak or understand English. Some that were born here could not read or write.

The early leaders of the Legion believed that an educated citizenry is necessary for a democracy to work. Together, the Legion and the National Education Association began American Education Week.

An experienced educator, Frank Sullivan was elected Department Commander in 1933. In his travels across the state he emphasized the need for education. Sullivan organized The American Legion Schoolmasters Clubs, a group of Legionnaires who were teachers. At the National Convention at Miami in 1934 he told state leaders of the club and at the convention a St. Louis a year later the national organization would endorse this idea. Shortly several states formed similar clubs. Another example of the leadership of the Department of Kansas.
KANSAS SUNFLOWER LEGIONNAIRE
Jimmie L. Foster, Editor

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Published four times per year. Members’ subscriptions are included in dues, all other subscriptions $10 per year. Commander Dan Wiley; Vice Commander Chuck Shoemaker; Area Vice Commander East Rick Miller; Area Vice Commander West Leroy Matthews; Adjutant, Jimmie Foster; Asst. Adjutant Jeff Bond, National Executive Committee Dave Warnken; Alternate NEC Gaylord Sanneman; Chaplain R. Glenn Patterson; Judge Advocate Joe DeWoskin; Historian Joe Johnston; Masters-at-Arms Dennis Kramer and Charles Sellens.

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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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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

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