



Oratorical Contestants (Back Row Left to Right) Chase Farha, Paeton McCarty, Gunner Bower, Caitlyn Harman (Front Row Left to Right) Chayne Dessaso, Olivia Miller, Hannah Van Cleave, Mark McAllister

## 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



Oratorical first place winner, Mark McAllister

and money for college.

The 2019 State Champion is Mark McAllister from Americus representing District 4. Mark will represent Kansas during the National contest in Indianapolis April 5-7. He will receive a \$750 scholarship from Kansas Department, plus additional scholarship money from National depending on his performance in the National Contest.

The second place award of a \$500 scholarship went to Chayne Dessaso from Leavenworth, 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 first four winners in this year's contest.

## BOYS STATE APPLICATIONS

The dead line 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 oth-

er 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, Committeeman and Commander at the Post level. He maintains membership in the SAL, 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 fiancé 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.

## COMMANDER

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**Dan Wiley**

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Leavenworth, KS 66048  
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dkwiley@yahoo.com



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 hostility. This would 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 Congressperson 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 Representative. 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 draw-

ing 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 Hastings, 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, Sonia, 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 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 2yrs, 2nd year Committeeman, Vice Commander and Commander for 2 years.

I've served on different committees at both the Dis-

trict 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

## KRUPCO FOR VICE COMMANDER

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 Mooney-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 Committeewoman 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  
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**Pay Online To Renew Your Membership**

**Go To**  
[www.legion.org/renew](http://www.legion.org/renew)

## VICE COMMANDER

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**Chuck Shoemaker**

PO Box 3277  
Shawnee, KS 66203  
(913) 515-4025  
chuckshoemaker@sbcglobal.net



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, 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.

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

## FOOS 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 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. Vice Commander (1 yr.), 8th Dist. Commander (3 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 Commander's 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

# LEADERSHIP COLLEGE MAY 31 - JUNE 2

This year's American Legion Leadership College will take place at Cloud County Community College in Concordia May 31 - June 2.

This year there will a Hands-On Class dealing with mylegion.org being taught by Bryan Page, Fifth District Vice Commander. If you are a Post Commander or Post Adjutant this is a prime opportunity to actually input and make changes to Members of your Post. PLEASE ensure you bring your laptop or iPad to get the full effect of the training.

There will be a Representative from the Gaming Commission and the Alcohol Beverage Control Board to update us on the new laws and regulations dealing with pull tabs and liquor sells within your Posts. An uniformed Post is not a good situation.

We are working on Post Commander and Post Adjutant modules that hopefully be available by ALLC time. We will try and incorporate them with the training that Bryan will be conducting.

Hopefully, we will have another VA Roundtable or Symposium. Everyone really enjoyed being able to ask a pinpoint question to the person that is the expert of that particular Division of The Veterans Hospital/Administration out of the Dole V.A. Medical Center and Veterans

Service Center in Wichita. Michele Steinmetz, Membership Engagement Coordinator from our National Headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana will be presenting modules for Post Commanders and Post Adjutants and other important information for those in attendance.

The American Legion, Auxiliary, and SAL members over the age of 21 are invited to attend the College. An enrollment coupon is provided below for your convenience. Cost of the College this year is \$45.00 per person which includes Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast, lunch, and chicken dinner at Concordia Post 76, and Sunday breakfast. In addition the enrollment fee includes air conditioned dorm housing at the College—attendees must bring their own sheets, pillow, pillow case, blanket, bath soap, towels and personal items.

Check in for the College begins at 3pm on Friday, May 31. Dinner will be available from 5 until 6pm followed by a meeting of the Department Executive Committee. Sessions for all attendees will commence at 8:15am Saturday and 9:00am Sunday, June 1 and 2 with a break for lunch on Saturday and conclusion of the College on Sunday no later than noon.

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## LEADERSHIP COLLEGE REGISTRATION

ENCLOSED IS MY \$45 REGISTRATION FOR THE  
AMERICAN LEGION LEADERSHIP COLLEGE  
MAY 31 - JUNE 2

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Member of \_\_\_\_\_  
Post, Squadron, Unit (circle one)

Post Service Officer Training \_\_\_\_\_ Yes or No

YES, I will need housing at the College

NO, I will not need housing at the College

Mail to: Department Headquarters  
1314 SW Topeka, Topeka, KS 66612

## DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER

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**Dan Bartlett**  
2200 SW Gage  
Topeka, KS 66622  
800-574-8387 ext. 54489  
Dan.bartlett@med.va.gov

Veterans Choice Program (VCP)

The Veterans Choice Program is one of several programs through which a Veteran can receive care from a community provider, paid for by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). For example, if a Veteran needs an appointment for a specific type of care, and VA cannot provide the care in a timely manner or the nearest VA medical facility is too far away or too difficult to get to, then a Veteran may be eligible for care through the

Veterans Choice Program.

To use the Veterans Choice Program, Veterans must receive prior authorization from VA to receive care from a provider that is part of VA's VCP network of community providers. The authorization is based on specific eligibility requirements and discussions with the Veteran's VA provider. VA must authorize care that is needed beyond the scope of the first authorization.

For more information and eligibility about the Veterans Choice Program (VCP) go to: [www.va.gov/opa/choiceact](http://www.va.gov/opa/choiceact)

# 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 super markets, etc. All efforts are to be coordinated with local and area law enforcement officials.

A coupon for ordering a supply of brochures is located 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](http://www.ksamlegion.org) to read it on your computer or mobile device.

## CHILDREN & YOUTH

DeeDee Danin  
dddanin@hotmail.com

Our campaigns for our Youth Programs in Kansas continue forth. I wish to thank all the work and weekends sacrificed to ensure success with our Boys State, Oratorical Competitions emerging from the Post, District, and of course Department levels, as well as our Cadet Law Enforcement Academy. I applaud your dedication and belief in our nation's children. These kids need as much help as you are and are willing to provide them.

When I see in the nation's news how Hollywood's "Rich, Entitled Elitists" attempt to destroy the processes of earning grants and scholarships. Using immoral efforts to lessen school grants available to the more qualified hard-working; however, less fortunate students by giving their own children a foot up insuring admissions into the nation's "Ivy League" schools by using bribes makes me sick; however, we wonder how long this practice has been going on, possibly decades.

This is even more the reason why The American Legion believes and supports the Legion's Children and Youth Scholarship Program! We again must be made aware of our programs importance and ensure every possibility is made to get the word out to the high schools via personal One-on-One meetings with school officials to insure they remember who we are and what we stand for and lastly, that We Love Our Nation and We Love Our Nation's Children!

Lastly, I hope you have had success in getting your District's Children and Youth Reports into Department. I and my two committee members will judge the reports. This year's results will be made public at Department Convention. I am again hoping more submit results instead of just signing the blank report!

**FIRST DISTRICT  
COMMANDER  
JAMES SNYDER  
10899 Blue Spruce Dr.  
Ozawkie, KS 66070  
(785) 865-8393  
VICE CMDR.  
CLINT VAWTER  
14603 S. Topeka Blvd.  
Carbondale, KS 66414  
(785) 836-7191**

Greetings First District,  
Well this will be my last comments as your District Commander. I have really 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

**SECOND DISTRICT  
COMMANDER  
MARRI KRUPCO  
510 E. Main  
Blue Mound, KS 66010  
(620) 224-7354  
VICE CMDR.  
JEFFREY BARBER  
524 Colleen Dr.  
Gardner, KS 66030  
(913) 908-5255**

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, ac-

tive 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 Garnett 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!

**THIRD DISTRICT  
COMMANDER  
GEORGE CULBERTSON  
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VICE CMDR.  
JOHN MELVIN  
202 W. Jefferson  
Arma, KS 66712  
(620) 347-4688**

"LEADERSHIP", what does the word leadership mean? Webster's Dictionary has many examples of the word lead, 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

**FOURTH DISTRICT  
COMMANDER  
RANDY FRANK  
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(563) 419-1474  
VICE CMDR.  
KEITH MELICK  
16607 W 141ST ST  
Olathe, KS 66062  
(913) 271-0580**

As we celebrate the 100th year of our accomplishments take a moment to reflect on your American Legion Journey. Remember what brought you to becoming a member of the largest and greatest Veterans Organization of the United States of America. What activities have you participated in, the legislation that you may enjoy, milestones that the American Legion has established to continue to serve the Veterans.

Now ask yourself have you reached out to the veterans in your community, friends and business associates to come into the fold and enjoy what other veterans have created and what they can enjoy as a member of the American Legion.

May God Continue Bless the American Legion.

"Be the Voice and not the echo...Echo's lose their strength".

Randy Frank  
District IV Commander  
"Answering the Call"

**FIFTH DISTRICT  
COMMANDER  
BRYAN PAGE  
6015 S. Kansas  
Wichita, KS 67216  
(316) 259-1838  
VICE CMDR.  
CHARLES EATON  
21275 SW Meadowlark Rd.  
Douglass, KS 67216  
(316) 648-4072**

Here we are, it the beginning of April and every post should have these four things on their agenda, Membership, Cadet Law, Boys State 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 84.68 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 congratulate 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 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](http://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. BSLA 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 accompany the application which should be postmarked by April 15, 2019 to guarantee a reservation. Applications ARE accepted after the deadline, but space is limited. No refunds after May 17, 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)

(Continued from Page 4) completed. Each post adjutant has been provided the proper form for the report.

This Year the 4th, 5th and 7th District have combined their resources and organized a Central State Camporama which will be held on August 2nd, 3rd and 4th at Marion Reservoir. For a flyer to the event or for additional information please give me a call.

**SIXTH DISTRICT  
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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.

**SEVENTH DISTRICT  
COMMANDER  
JEREMY EHART  
10601 W Snokomo Rd  
Hutchinson, KS 67502  
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VICE CMDR.  
EDIE CRESS  
1597 Avenue R.  
Lyons, KS 67554  
(620) 509-7528**

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.*

**DEPARTMENT  
CHAPLAIN**



**Glenn  
Patterson**



Great Cloud of Witnesses

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God." Hebrews 12:1-2

In the Christian calendar, we are in the Season of Lent. It is a moment in the life of the church that we stop to reflect upon the life of our redeemer, Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the foundation of our faith. As followers of Jesus, who endured the pain and suffering; by His death redeemed all who believe and trust in His love toward the Father.

The writer of Hebrews invites the reader to look to the Great Cloud of Witness that have gone before us.

The American Legion is celebrating the 100th Anniversary of our organization. The American Legion is an organization that is founded upon the principles of helping fellow veterans; to build a solid foundation of support all across America to those who fought and defended the liberties of freedom.

As Christians, follower of Jesus Christ; we also have loved ones, friends and family who helped guide our Christian journey. It is this Great Cloud of Witness that the writer of Hebrews is speaking of. It is by their life and witness that showed you the path to salvation in and through the life of Jesus Christ.

It is in this same line of thought that as veterans; we are also reminded of fellow service personnel, who also showed the way forward in life. Every veteran can call to mind, loved ones, brother and sister in service to our country that guided you and I along the way.

It is exactly this thought as I reflect back upon my early years of service in The United States Marine Corps. Every evening in Basic Training that everyone said their prayers; and offered a "good night" salute to "Chesty Puller". LTG Lewis B Puller, USMC, lived his life as a service to a very grateful nation.

I know my life will always be shaped by the life of "Chesty Puller" and by the love of a redeemer, Jesus Christ. It is this thought that I bring to this great organization; The American Legion. For God and Country, I pledge my life.



**AUXILIARY  
PRESIDENT**  
\*\*\*\*\*  
**Karen Hasting**  
301 S. Taylor St.  
El Dorado, KS 67042  
(316) 320-1628



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 100 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**



**DETACHMENT  
COMMANDER**  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Terry Harris**  
1222 Toles Ave.  
Larned, KS 67550  
(620) 910-7998



What a busy winter it has been. Besides all the posts I have been honored to visit for meals and their varying activities, I have had the honor and privilege to travel to many events with our Department Commander, Dan Wiley. I can't begin to tell you how much of a great time we have had.

I guess the big one this winter was the Lincoln Pilgrimage on February 12. We went to the 7th District Oratorical Contest on February 10 and then my wife and I drove to Commander Wiley's House where we spent the night. We left early on the morning of the 11th for Springfield, Illinois. Once we arrived in Springfield it started raining and I don't think it ever let up until we left for home the evening of the 12th. Anyway, what a great time honoring our 16th President. The weather again was cold, wet and snowing but we managed. It was truly an honor to be there and to partici-

pate in the laying of the Department of Kansas Wreath.

As a Detachment we have met all of our goals set by National. We are sitting a bit above 80%. As we all know, we are now in the tough period for membership. I am hoping that as a Detachment we are able to get that last 20% or so by Detachment Convention. We have some great leaders in the Detachment of Kansas Sons of The American Legion and I know they will do their best.

With District Conventions in March and April, I hope to see a lot of my old friends and make some new ones. It's always a great time to see what other squadrons are doing to keep the interest up and to have fun while helping our Posts, Veterans and our Active Duty Personnel.

Until Next Time, "Please, Always Remember the Mission"

Terry Harris

## SELLENS FOR MASTER-AT-ARMS

I'm Charlie Sellens and I'm a candidate for reelection to a Master-at-Arms position. I earned my eligibility for the American Legion by serving in the U.S. Army from 1962 - 1965. I have the endorsement of Dodge City Post 47 and the District Eight Executive Committee. Importantly, I have the enthusiastic support of my wife, Paula, who is a candidate for Department Auxiliary President.

All three years of my Army service was in administrative positions. I also served two years as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Solomon Islands and worked for the Japanese Foreign Service for thirteen years. Additional administrative credentials come from twelve years employment in county and state administrative positions and a Master in Public Administration degree.

During my current term as Master-at-Arms, I have attended many post, district, and department functions. I attended the National Convention, Department Convention, District and Department Oratorical Contests, Eisenhower Pilgrimage, Cadet Law Program, Big Red One Turkey Run, and Operation North

Pole. As Chairman of the Department Public Relations Committee, I created significant publicity for the American Legion family by writing and releasing numerous news releases. I authored three successful requests for governor's proclamations the latest designating March 15, 2019 as Kansas American Legion Day.

As a member of the D.E.C., I attended and actively participated in all D.E.C. meetings. I'm proud of my contributions on the ad hoc committee charged with developing recommendations to deal with Post 273 issues. I supported efforts to increase membership and advocated for alternative income sources. I emphasized working toward observance of our own constitution and bylaws. Progress has been made, but we have more to accomplish.

I'm asking for your vote for me for a Master-at-Arms position. If elected, I will continue to work toward installing best practices for non-profits in the Department. I will strive to meet members' expectations for transparency and accountability by adherence to our own constitution and by-laws.

# ADJUTANT'S BRIEFS

By Department Adjutant Jimmie L. Foster

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 was 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 Isensee, 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 Steinmetz, 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).

# + TAPS +

Acre, Robert, Jr. (WWII) ..... Osborne  
 Adams, Billy (Korea) ..... Sterling  
 Ahlvers, Dale (Vietnam) ..... Hunter  
 Alkire, Zoland (Korea)..... Topeka #400  
 Anderson, Aynard (Vietnam) Topeka #400  
 Anderson, Dan (Vietnam) ..... Fairview  
 Anderson, Russell (WWII) ..... Seneca  
 Anslinger, Raymond (Korea)..... Atchison  
 Armer, Richard..... Pratt  
 Baier, Gerald (Vietnam) ..... Garden City  
 Baker, Charles ..... Iola  
 Basye, Richard (Korea)..... Hoisington  
 Berry, Vernon (Vietnam) ..... Harper  
 Blackmore, Charlie (Korea)..... Shawnee  
 Blosser, Bill (Korea) ..... Council Grove  
 Bowman, John (Vietnam) ..... Lawrence  
 Breck, Terry (Vietnam) ..... Shawnee  
 Brown, Billy (Vietnam) ..... Blue Mound  
 Brunton, Elliott (Korea) ..... Perry  
 Burenheide, Harold ..... Emporia  
 Bures, Kenneth (Korea) ..... Hanover  
 Burns, Wendall (WWII)..... Shawnee  
 Caldwell, Carl (WWII) ..... Osborne  
 Carlson, William (Korea)..... Lindsborg  
 Cash, Terry ..... Copeland  
 Childs, Harold (Korea)..... Sterling  
 Cizerle, Joe (WWII)..... Arma  
 Clark, Dealton (Vietnam)..... Osborne  
 Clover, Lawrence (WWII) ..... Newton  
 Cope, William (Vietnam)..... Chanute  
 Copper, Donald (WWII) ..... Smith Center  
 Courter, Billy ..... Chanute  
 Crawford, Herbert (WWII) ..... Ottawa  
 Cummings, Robert (WWII) ..... Derby  
 Curran, Samuel (Vietnam) ..... Arma  
 Dalke, Robert (Vietnam)..... Hillsboro  
 Deiter, Richard (WWII) ..... Rossville  
 Delk, Darrel (WWII)..... Troy  
 Doebele, Rodney (Vietnam).... Silver Lake  
 Dorcas, William (Korea)..... Waverly  
 Dreher, Stanley (WWII)..... Iola  
 Driskill, Silas (Vietnam) ..... Cheney  
 Duewell, Dolan (Korea)..... Concordia  
 Dunavan, Lavern (Korea) ..... Hiawatha  
 Durham, Earl (WWII)..... Topeka #58  
 Dutton, Robert (Korea) . Kansas City #199  
 Earle, Gale (Korea) ..... Sterling  
 Eastburn, John (Vietnam).... Independence  
 Ebeling, Leon (Vietnam)..... Dodge City  
 Ellis, Francis (Korea)..... Lawrence  
 Ellis, John (WWII)..... Overland Park  
 Ellis, Norman (Korea)..... Atchison  
 Ensminger, Alden (WWII) ..... Moran  
 Fankhauser, Richard (Vietnam) ...Madison  
 Fast, Harold (Korea) ..... Hutchinson  
 Fast, Melvin (WWII) ..... Burton  
 Ferguson, Clayton (WWII) ..... Copeland  
 Fief, Leon (Korea) ..... Clay Center  
 Fisher, Alan (WWII) ..... Lawrence  
 Foley, Dale (Vietnam)..... Beattie  
 Fredricks, James (Korea) ..... Ottawa  
 Free, George (Vietnam)..... Emporia  
 Fugitt, Howard (WWII) .... Overland Park  
 Funk, Kenneth (Korea) ..... Tampa  
 Gasper, Donald (Korea) ..... Anthony  
 Gawith, Dean (Korea)..... Jennings  
 Gay, Richard (Korea)..... Gardner  
 Gebhardt, Joe (Vietnam) ..... Frontenac  
 Giacoma, Joe, Jr. (Korea)..... Chanute  
 Goff, George (Korea)..... Lawrence

Goupil, Robert (Vietnam) ..... Mayetta  
 Green, Arthur (WWII) ..... Garden City  
 Gugler, Wendell (WWII)..... Abilene  
 Gutierrez, Pedro (Lebanon/Grenada).....  
 ..... Mulvane  
 Hahn, Robert (Korea)..... Overland Park  
 Hamilton, William (Korea) ..... Arma  
 Hammeke, Vernon (Vietnam) .. Ellinwood  
 Hawkins, John (Korea) ..... Beattie  
 Hayworth, Murray (Vietnam) ..... Hugoton  
 Hefner, William..... Concordia  
 Henderson, Daniel (Persian Gulf).....  
 ..... Junction City  
 Hidalgo, Juan (Vietnam) ..... Chanute  
 Higley, William (Vietnam)..... Nortonville  
 Holder, Robert (WWII)..... Harper  
 Hoover, Bernard (Korea) .....  
 ..... Kansas City #199  
 Hruska, Roy (WWII) ..... Overland Park  
 Hunter, Homer (Vietnam) ..... Geneseo  
 Jauken, Hiram (WWII) ..... Bern  
 Jenks, Dan (Vietnam)..... Topeka #421  
 Johnson, Dennis (Vietnam)..... Chapman  
 Johnson, Gary (Vietnam) ..... Chanute  
 Johnson, Harold (Korea)..... Topeka #400  
 Johnson, Marvin (Korea) ..... Lindsborg  
 Kaberline, John (WWII) ..... Topeka #400  
 Kearn, Dennis ..... Concordia  
 Keliher, Robert (Korea) ..... Sterling  
 Kilgore, Stephen (Vietnam)Council Grove  
 Kirk, Harold (Korea)..... Overland Park  
 Kisslinger, John (Korea) ..... Brownell  
 Klema, Anna (WWII)..... Russell  
 Koger, Joel (Vietnam) ..... Olathe  
 Kugler, Roger (Vietnam)..... Lindsborg  
 LaFontaine, Tom (Vietnam)Junction City  
 Lagasse, Larry (Vietnam)..... Concordia  
 Lapierre, Larry (Vietnam)..... Hutchinson  
 Laue, Lester..... Hanover  
 Lawson, Robert (Vietnam)..... El Dorado  
 Lee, Duane (Korea)..... Tescott  
 Lee, Jerrold (Vietnam) ..... Wetmore  
 Leland, Stanley, Jr. (WWII) .... Manhattan  
 Lewis, Clarence (Korea) ..... Highland  
 Lowe, Robert (Korea) ..... Wellsville  
 Lundstrom, Linn (WWII)..... Lindsborg  
 Lutz, Charles (Korea)..... Atchison  
 Lyden, Charlie (Korea) ..... Pittsburg  
 Lytle, Bill ..... Overland Park  
 Malone, Robert (Korea) ..... Great Bend  
 Maloun, Joseph ..... Chanute  
 Marrs, Irvin (WWII) ..... Copeland  
 Marrs, Jim ..... Chanute  
 Massa, Richard (Korea) ..... Pittsburg  
 Matzke, Richard (Vietnam)..... Frankfort  
 McClure, Alton (WWII)..... El Dorado  
 McCue, James (WWII) ..... Hutchinson  
 Melcher, Elmer (Korea) ..... Seneca  
 Miller, Edward (WWII) ..... Colby  
 Mitchell, Kenneth (WWII)..... Lawrence  
 Monigold, Bobby (WWII) ...Valley Center  
 Morelock, James (Vietnam)..... McDonald  
 Morey, Elbert (Korea) ..... Frontenac  
 Morris, Donald (Korea) ..... Pittsburg  
 Murphy, Ellsworth (Korea).. Smith Center  
 Murphy, Harvey (Korea)..... Lawrence  
 Neal, Guy (WWII) ..... Lawrence  
 Nichols, John (Korea) ..... Wathena  
 Nielsen, Harold (Korea)..... Sterling  
 Norton, James (Vietnam) ..... Erie

Oplotnik, Frank (Vietnam)..... Erie  
 Paden, Billy (Korea) ..... Wathena  
 Panter, Fred (Korea)..... Kensington  
 Parolo, John (WWII)..... Arma  
 Peter, Robert (Vietnam) ..... Ellinwood  
 Peterson, Tom (WWII)..... Newton  
 Phillips, Vernon..... El Dorado  
 Pitts, Ralph (Vietnam)..... White City  
 Pulley, Armand, Sr. (Vietnam) ..... Iola  
 Rains, Virgil (Vietnam) ..... Atchison  
 Reeder, Elvis (Korea)..... Moran  
 Reichardt, Leroy (Vietnam) .. Topeka #400  
 Reusch, Jonathan (Persian Gulf).....  
 ..... Independence  
 Richards, Donald (Korea) ..... Greensburg  
 Riedesel, Robert, Jr. (Vietnam) ... Shawnee  
 Robinson, Theodore (Korea)..... Shawnee  
 Rollins, William (Korea)..... Shawnee  
 Rosencutter, John (Vietnam) . Topeka #400  
 Ross, Willis (WWII) ..... Moran  
 Runnebaum, Jerald (Panama) ..... Halstead  
 Rush, Stephen (Vietnam) ..... Osborne  
 Rusher, Thomas (Vietnam) ..... Derby  
 Rutz, Willis (Korea) ..... Abilene  
 Sauls, William (Korea)..... Topeka #400  
 Schomaker, Louis (Vietnam) ..... Frankfort  
 Schumaker, Ron (Vietnam) ... Topeka #421  
 Sedlacek, Louis ..... Hanover  
 Severance, William (WWII) ..... Beloit  
 Shaffer, Malcom (Vietnam) ..... El Dorado  
 Sharpe, Charles (Korea)..... Great Bend  
 Shepard, Dale (WWII) ..... Chanute  
 Sherman, Charles (Korea)..... Garfield  
 Shiffer, Harvey (Vietnam)..... Lebo  
 Shirk, Gerrel (Vietnam) ..... Newton  
 Shobney, Michael (Vietnam) ..... Mayetta  
 Slavik, Elvyn (WWII)..... Kensington  
 Slead, David (Vietnam)..... Lebo  
 Slechta, Norman (Korea) ..... Ellsworth  
 Smith, Vernon (Korea) ..... Sterling  
 Sneegas, Donald..... Lawrence  
 Starling, E. L. .... Overland Park  
 Stattelmann, Conrad, Sr. .... Topeka #400  
 Stewart, Dean (Korea) ..... St. George  
 Stohs, Marvin (WWII)..... Lawrence  
 Strukel, William (Korea)..... Pittsburg  
 Swartz, Sandra (Vietnam) ..... Topeka #421  
 Taylor, Jack (Korea)..... Ellinwood  
 Tearney, John (Wichita) ..... Topeka #58  
 Thorne, August (Korea) ..... Great Bend  
 Tidd, Ronnie (Vietnam) ..... Chanute  
 Tighe, Paul (Korea)..... Chapman  
 Torres, Cecilio (Korea) ..... Shawnee  
 Tucker, Robert (Vietnam) ..... Copeland  
 Turk, Aloysious ..... Hanover  
 Ubrien, Dell (WWII)..... Olathe  
 Van De Kerkhove, Joe (Korea) ... Shawnee  
 Vann, Russell (Vietnam) ..... Ft. Scott  
 Vizner, Ray (Vietnam) ..... Concordia  
 Vogts, Robert (WWII)..... Canton  
 Wallert, Wayne ..... Ellsworth  
 Walters, Norman (Korea)..... Norton  
 Warren, Gregory (WWII)... Overland Park  
 Washburn, Herbert (Korea)..... Chanute  
 Werhahn, Darlenn..... Great Bend  
 Williamson, Dale (WWII)..... Waverly  
 Wittlake, Robert (WWII) ..... Atwood  
 Wollenberg, Loren (Korea) ..... Hanover  
 Wonders, Vernon (Korea)..... Newton  
 Zamora, Michael (Vietnam)..... Topeka #58

## 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.**

## 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 Club, 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.

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**KANSAS SUNFLOWER LEGIONNAIRE**  
**Jimmie L. Foster, Editor**  
Official publication of The American Legion, Department of Kansas and is owned exclusively by The Kansas Department. 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 Committeeman 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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Michelle Johnston: .....membership@ksamlegion.org  
**News deadline is the 15th of March, June, September and December for the next issue.**

**THE AMERICAN LEGION**  
**VA HOSPITAL SERVICE OFFICERS**  
Robert J. 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'Neil VA Medical Center, Topeka  
Local: 785-350-4489, Toll Free: 800-574-8387 Ext. 54489

**KRUPCO FOR VICE COMMANDER**

(Continued from Page 2)

15 of my family members belonging to the Legion family. I was an Auxiliary member from birth until I joined the Legion, then rejoined the Auxiliary when I discovered I could be a dual member. I am a Girls' State Alumna, as is my sister and my daughter.

I will strive to be an accurate source of information and assistance to the districts and posts and promise that if I'm unsure of an answer to your question or solution to your situation, I won't give up until we find that answer or solution together. I have the support of my husband and my family; the endorsement of my Post, my Unit, and the Second District Executive Committee. I now ask for your support and your vote at Department Convention in Hutchinson on May 19, 2019.



**Flag Day**  
**June 14**  
**2019**



**CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION DINNER**

This year's Department Convention will feature a dinner as a means to raise funds for the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. The dinner will be held Saturday evening, May 18 from 6:30 until 8:00 pm in Apollo I of the Atrium Hotel and Convention Center, 1400 N. Lorraine Street, Hutchinson.

The dinner will include: Beef tenderloin tips, chicken breast supreme, an array of vegetables, desserts, ice tea and coffee. Cost is \$30 per person and reservations must be received no later than Wednesday, May 15.

The purpose of the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation is: "To contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual needs of

children and youth through the dissemination of knowledge about new and innovative organizations and their programs." "To make wider, more effective use of the knowledge already possessed by well established organizations to the end that such information will benefit youth and be more adequately used by society."

To make reservations for the Saturday, May 18 dinner please complete and return the coupon on this page to Department Headquarters, 1314 SW Topeka Blvd., Topeka, Kansas 66612. Reservations must arrive by May 15; or telephone your reservations to 785-232-9315. Payment is due no later than May 15 without exception.

**CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION DINNER**  
**MAY 18, 2019**  
**ATRIUM HOTEL, HUTCHINSON, KS**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Post/Unit/Squadron # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Number of dinners to be reserved at \$30.00 each \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is check in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_

Or charge my VISA/Master Card number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: Kansas American Legion**  
**1314 SW Topeka Blvd.**

**"BUCKLE UP, LIGHTS ON & LIVE"**

Please send \_\_\_\_\_ fact sheets to:

Post/Unit/Squadron: \_\_\_\_\_ Please indicate Post/Unit/Squadron No.

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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