ORATORICAL RESULTS

The State Oratorical Contest sponsored by the Kansas American Legion was held on Saturday, March 14 at Pearce-Keller Post #17 in Manhattan. The three 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 2020 State Champion is Jacob Toole from Washington representing District 1. Jacob will represent Kansas during the National contest in Indianapolis April 17-19. 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 Hannah Van Cleave from Erie, representing District 3. The third place finisher was Hever Arjon from Dodge City, representing District 8. He will receive a $250 scholarship.

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

Department Convention
Topeka May 15-17

The Ramada Hotel & Convention Center, in Topeka will serve as the site of the 101st Annual Convention of The American Legion Department of Kansas. Joining the Legion in Convention will be the American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion who will hold their own independent Conventions in addition to two joint sessions involving all three groups.

Now is the time to make housing reservations by calling the Ramada at 785-234-5400. Room rates for the Convention are $89.00 and includes a full breakfast buffet.

The Convention is expected to feature a number of speakers including American Legion National Vice Commander Bruce Feuerbach from Iowa, Auxiliary Divisional National Vice President Ruth Gott from Michigan, and S.A.L. National Commander Leading Candidate Michael Fox from California, 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 2020-2021 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.
First, a SALUTE to all the Posts, Districts, S.A.L., Riders, and Auxiliary for organizing and taking part in assistance programs in your cities and counties, exemplifying the principles and ideals of the American Legion. What you are doing to help with critical services will long be remembered and appreciated by your communities.

At this writing it goes without saying that we are living in times unprecedented. Our lives have been disrupted by an event that has been thrust upon us, certainly not anticipated or welcomed. As everyone is aware, our routine activities are no longer. Plans that were made with our families, friends, posts are either rescheduled, postponed hopefully to a date determined later, or cancelled. The Department Headquarters in Topeka is officially closed although work continues off site. We will all need a modicum of understanding, ingenuity, resourcefulness and patience to get through the times ahead. In the sincere wish that this article finds all Kansas Legion Family members safe and well, following the guidelines established by the CDC and other agencies is our best way of staying healthy.

In March, a party of Kansas American Legion members made an annual trip to Capitol Hill in Washington DC to meet with Senators and Representatives for the purpose of discussing legislation that affects our Veterans. The Congressional representatives and staff made time for Legion representatives from all states to meet and ask questions on bills before Congress and to obtain information on how the legislation was progressing. I would like to use this column in explaining the purpose of a few bills which are fully supported by the American Legion and information shared at the Legislative meeting.

Senate Bill S.2950 Veterans Burn Pits Exposure Recognition Act 2019. As millions of veterans have been exposed to airborne toxic elements from burn pits, the American Legion supports this act to establish a presumption of exposure. This will beget a legislative movement toward medical treatment for illnesses such as Parkinson’s, neurologic disorders and certain types of cancer.

Registers of illnesses need to be made for tracking dependents that may contract disease from an affected veteran.

Senate Bill S. 785 Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019, Suicide Prevention. The military’s rate of suicide is 1.5 times the general population. 18-34 year old veterans have the highest suicide rates. Military veterans over 55 years old have the highest count. An estimated 20 veterans die by suicide daily, of these most were not in the care of the VA. The Legion supports increasing funds to support the VA’s effort in the mental health area and recommends that a joint effort with state organizations be formed to assist in the Integrative Health and Wellness Program. Promotion of activities such as employment of mental health professionals, counselors, and other staff personnel that work with PTSD candidates will create an avenue of aid for our afflicted veterans.

Senate Bill S. 314/H.R. 3224 Deborah Sampson Act 2019/2020. The purpose of the legislation is to increase access to the Department of Veteran (Continued on Page 5)

Spring is finally here! Trees are budding, flowers are starting to bloom, and practically our entire Nation is quarantined. All Kansas children are now being homeschooled, and all sporting and social events have been cancelled. Our nation, state, and communities need us now more than ever. We need to lead by example and adhere to the guidelines set by the authorities, but that does not mean we do nothing.

In the March eNewsletter I discussed the importance of Buddy Checks, these continue to be of vital importance. The COVID-19 pandemic leaves many of our members stuck at home alone, and that can get lonely and depressing very quickly. I challenge every Kansas Legionnaire to pick up the phone and call on a different member each day. Let them know that they are not alone and there are resources to help them if they are in need. Many local businesses are delivering to assist in minimizing potential exposure, and community service organizations like churches and Legion Posts have healthy volunteers willing to do shopping and other essential errands for those that are at higher risk. We need to bridge the gap between those in need and the volunteer services, that starts with making those phone calls.

Unfortunately, our current members are not the only people affected by this crisis. When you are deciding who to call, be sure to include current members, expired members, members of the Auxiliary, Sons members, and non-members. We are an organization meant to serve the residents of our communities regardless of their service to our country. The goal of these calls is to save lives by meeting needs of others, whether those needs are emotional or physical.

As membership chair, I’m asking you to not concentrate on new members and renewals instead use that energy to come to the aid of others. If we happen to get a few new members and renewals in the process that will just be an unintended silver-lining. Please do everything you can to keep your family safe in this crisis.

For God & Country!

MARRI KRUPCO FOR DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

Marri Krupco, Blue Mound Post 279 is announcing her candidacy for Department Commander for the 2020-2021 year.

Marri earned her eligibility in the American Legion by honorably serving in the United States Navy 1998-2002. She has been a member of Blue Mound’s Mooney-Long Post 279 for 20 years and has been the adjutant for 10 years. Marri has served in various District offices in The American Legion. She is also a member of The American Legion Auxiliary and is active with her Unit and serves on committees at the District level. She has the privilege of serving on the Department’s Legislative Council and The National Security Council.

Marri is currently serving as Department Vice-Commander and Membership Chairperson. In these roles she has held several Membership Committee meetings where a plan to make transfers from Post 58 to a local post in a more efficient manner was developed. A plan to allow new members to join (Continued on Page 7)
Veterans Justice Outreach Program

There are many veterans out there that are homeless, suffering from mental health issues or both. Some are arrested or imprisoned for actions that could have been related to mental health.

Each Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center has a Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist who works with the court system and local law enforcement to assist justice-involved veterans. Their mission is to ensure that these veterans have timely access to VA mental health and substance use services, and other VA services and benefits as appropriate. In addition, they work with local legal service providers, such as legal aid organizations, law school clinics, and private firms providing pro bono service, to help veterans get help with civil legal needs like child support and landlord/tenant matters.

The mission of the Veterans Justice Programs is to identify justice-involved Veterans and contact them through outreach, in order to facilitate access to VA services at the earliest possible point. Veterans Justice Programs accomplish this by building and maintaining partnerships between VA and key elements of the criminal justice system.

VA cannot provide legal services. For legal assistance, visit State Side Legal's help page or contact the nearest VJO specialist, who may know of community legal assistance resources.

With questions about the VJO national program, contact Katie Stewart, MSW, LCSW, national coordinator. If you or someone you know is a justice-involved Veteran, email the VJO specialist nearest you for assistance accessing VA health care services. Visit the Justice for Vets site to learn more about Veterans Treatment Courts.

December 2019

Veterans Treatment Courts and other Veteran-focused courts served by VA Veterans Justice Outreach Specialists

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) Program is a prevention-focused component of VA’s Homeless Programs Office (HPO), whose mission is to end homelessness among Veterans. Since the program was founded in 2009, VJO Specialists at every VA medical center have provided outreach to justice-involved Veterans in various settings, including jails and courts. As of December 2019, VJO Specialists report serving in 561 Veterans Treatment Courts (VTCs) and other Veteran-focused court programs across the U.S. The number of these courts has grown significantly since June 2016, when VJO Specialists reported serving in 461 courts.

What is a Veterans Treatment Court?

The VTC model is based on the drug and mental health courts that have existed for nearly 30 years. Unlike traditional criminal courts, the primary purpose of a VTC is not to determine whether a defendant is guilty of an offense, but rather to ensure that he or she receives treatment to address unmet clinical needs. Several factors distinguish VTCs from drug and mental health courts, most notably their focus on

(Continued on Page 9)
The survival of your Post and the American Legion is up to all of us. As we say in Field Artillery “Fire For Effect”.

“Answering the Call”

FIFTH DISTRICT COMMANDER BRYAN PAGE 6015 S. Kansas Wichita, KS 67216 (316) 259-1838 VICE CMDR. PAUL SANFORD 109 Southport Ct. Newton, KS 67112 (620) 353-3708

No article submitted.

Sixth District Commander JIMMY STRACHAN PO Box 24 Bunker Hill, KS 67626 (785) 483-1186 VICE CMDR. HARRY MORRISON, Jr. 324 W 7th St. Concordia, KS 66901 (785) 479-0624

No article submitted.

Seventh District Commander JEREMY EHART 10601 W Snokomo Rd Hutchinson, KS 67502 (620) 899-0010 VICE CMDR. MIKE JURY 909 W, 2nd Ave. Hutchinson, KS 67501 (620) 899-7926

Greetings 7th District, The 2020 year seems to be racing by, and it’s an unusual one for sure. With all the Post activities being canceled or postponed it’s a perfect time to reach out by phone to all our members, make sure they are doing ok and they have the necessities to live. Offer to help them shop or go to the store for them if they need something and don’t want to get out themselves. Now is not the time to just close the doors and cut off contact, especially for the older ones that may not have a family or many friends to check on them.

As of right now the 7th District Convention is rescheduled for May 2nd, in Great Bend and the meeting will be called to order at 9:00 am, so I hope to see you all there. It has been an absolute pleasure and privilege serving as your District Commander for the last two years. Keep working membership, keep in contact with all your members even though your post may be closed for a while, and thanks for all you do! Semper Fi.
DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

(Continued from Page 2)

Affairs Medical Care for women Veterans. The growing number of female veterans, most of whom are not in VA health care, should be receiving treatment as obtained by those that are. Currently the two bills noted above are in a state of compromise and must take into account specific healthcare needs of women, care in the VA now considered to be gender-oriented. In addition, women veterans should have access to community care that the VA does not offer.

Senate Bill S. 21/H.R. 367 Pay our Coast Guard Act 2019/2020. When a government shutdown occurs, the Coast Guard continues service without pay. This is the only branch of service that experiences loss of pay creating an unacceptable financial situation for the servicemen and women. During the recent shutdown, the American Legion stepped up and provided $1,000,000 to Coast Guard families. The Legion supports any bill that continues payment in line with compensation policies for other branches of service.

Another bill for consideration and supported by the American Legion is S.2857 Protect Veterans’ Education and Taxpayer Spending Act which would ensure veterans and their families receive the highest quality education when using their GI Bill. Additionally, S. 4625 Protect the GI Bill Act, referred to the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs and sponsored by Kansas Senator Jerry Moran, would protect GI benefits to students whose schools have closed and lost their eligibility to conduct operations.

Bills and resolutions also receiving the support of the American Legion include care and services for Gold Star Families, Full Funding a Superior National Defense, helping to end Veteran Homelessness, and the continuing belief in legislation to protect The American Flag.

By contacting our Senators/Representatives, we can show our backing and appreciation in voting for all of these important measures.

The Legion’s Legislative Commission also welcomed the new National Legislation Director Melissa Bryant to the organization and she may be reached at mbryant@legion.org.

In a recent edition of the National American Legion publication Dispatch, Commander Bill Oxford included an observation pertaining to support for our Legion programs, i.e. Shooting Sports, Boys State, Legion Baseball. His view was that none of these programs can be successful without the involvement, dedication and support of the membership. “People make our programs work!” he exclaimed. How right he is.

Volunteering for the “Good of the American Legion” enables our organization to be the most admired and effective VSO in the world. We are blessed to include in our ranks men and women concerned with the well being of our Veterans. However, we will experience difficulty in administering our programs and services when the individuals performing tasks that make it all work are no longer able. The result is that our Mission suffers the consequences, and Veterans that have come to rely on our services may face hardships affecting their families and themselves.

Here is an example of member involvement that is somewhat typical of our posts in general. A certain post has a large number of members and has been chartered for many years. The number of officers and committee persons that volunteer time to keep the post functioning fluctuates. However, as a percentage of post membership, the average number of volunteers account for only 4.6%. True that the post is operating with these volunteers but how much more could they accomplish if additional members were to step up? Wouldn’t our programs and services increase in effectiveness with increased participation allowing attention to areas that have been neglected? No matter the percentage number in your post, increased attention to services by increased involvement enhances our services.

Going forward, let us be sure that our membership knows of opportunities to serve our posts, districts and Veterans. When a new member joins the Legion, determine how their talents can augment current activities and give them an opportunity to make a difference. Everyone enjoys the benefits received in being a member, not the least of which is fellowship, camaraderie, and individual and family benefits. Do recall the words of a great statesman who appealed to us during his service to our country, and I paraphrase, “Ask (…), ask what you can do for the Legion.”

In times of crisis the American Legion has been there; hurricanes, floods, national emergencies. Today, as before, our Kansas American Legion Family continues service to communities throughout the state, helping the elderly and infirmed, providing vital transportation of goods, offering assistance when requested by local and state organizations, and making funds available, when able, to neighborhood programs.

“To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation.” Our ACTIONS provide confirmation of adherence to this phrase in the Preamble to our Constitution. Thank you for YOUR service. BE SAFE, BE WELL! For God and Country

CHILDREN & YOUTH
Pat Culver
pculver2@swbell.net

With what is happening in the world today with the COVID-19 crisis. The American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) may be tasked to help our children of active duty servicemembers or American Legion members. This maybe a good time for the Districts and Posts of Kansas to consider donating to the TFA program of The American Legion.

Here is a little history on Temporary Financial Assistance:

Since 1919, The American Legion has been committed to the health and welfare of our nation’s veterans and their families. Born out of this desire to serve, The American Legion established a form of direct aid to veterans’ children in 1925: Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA). This landmark program continues to be unique on the field of social work today.

Through TFA, an American Legion post can call upon the national organization for cash assistance to help maintain the basic needs of children of active-duty servicemembers or American Legion members. Non-repayable grant are awarded to eligible families with a child in need when all other resources have been exhausted.

American Legion Endowment Fund:

The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation is a 501c(3) organization. Funds for the operation of Temporary Financial Assistance program are provided from a share of the earnings of the Endowment Fund.

In 1925, World War 1 veterans, widows and children continued to struggle to return to a regular life after the war. The members of The American Legion aware of the grave responsibilities entrusted to them by those who had served, acted.

More than 900,000 Legionnaires, American Legion Auxiliary members and other U. S. citizens joined the campaign, raising nearly 5 million to establish the American Legion Endowment Fund.

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More than 900,000 Legionnaires, American Legion Auxiliary members and other U. S. citizens joined the campaign, raising nearly 5 million to establish the American Legion Endowment Fund.
I have heard it said that “The dull period of the life of an event is when it ceases to be news and begins to be history.” For the most part, that statement may be true; however, there are some things that will remain with us forever. With this article for the newsletter, I would like to reflect on my current tenure as Department President for the American Legion Auxiliary.

It was the year of 1919: People were reading L. Frank Baum. The iconic writer released his 13th book in the Oz series, The Magic of Oz. The theme for Department this year is: The Yellow Brick Road, 100 Years of Service to Veterans and Their Families. I have asked that units create a “Yellow Brick” time line to be displayed at Department Convention.

Arts and crafts decor has reigned supreme. My project this year is the National Creative Arts Festival. For the past three years, I received grants from The Community Foundation of Southwest Kansas and an ALA Foundation grant to work with the veterans at Fort Dodge. Nationwide, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities use the creative arts as one form of rehabilitative treatment to help Veterans recover from and cope with physical and emotional disabilities. Across the country each year, Veterans enrolled at VA health care facilities compete in a local creative arts competition. The competition includes categories in the visual arts division that range from oil painting to leatherwork to paint-by-number kits. In addition, there are categories in writing as well as the performing arts of dance, drama and music. Local creative arts competition first place winning entries advance to a national judging process and first, second and third place entries in each category are determined. On February the 28th, I attended a Veterans’ Art Show at Robert J. Dole VA Hospital. I was in awe in the talent and perspective from our veterans suffering from PTSD.

Following the Great War in 1919, the men and women of the armed forces banded together in the American Legion which formed in March of 1919 to carry forward their services to the country in peacetime. The establishment of an Auxiliary to The American Legion was provided for by the first National Convention of the American Legion in 1919. The mission was, and still is, to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. The first Auxiliary convention was held in Newton, KS, January 10-11, 1921 and the first National Convention of the Auxiliary was held in Kansas City, Missouri in 1921. Mrs. Winifred Calihan, Garden City, was the first President of the Kansas Auxiliary, and the Department office was set up in the Topeka office of the American Legion. The result was the American Legion Auxiliary, the largest and most influential women’s organization of its kind.

In closing, on August 20, 2019, the American Legion Auxiliary published a statement that “The American Legion has voted to extend membership in the American Legion Auxiliary to male spouses of U.S. veterans and service members.” The Auxiliary’s mission is undaunted and will continue in the future as others have in the past.

Where does one begin to write this month? We have sure had our world turned upside down. Keep watching for all the District Convention changes as well as any other events in the future. We sure don’t know what will happen, but please be aware.

This Corona virus has reminded me of a couple different things that the American Legion Family has been asked to do. I feel that now is the right time. Buddy Checks! Remember those? Not only should our Veterans be checking on each other, but what about the members of your Post, Unit, Squadron, or Chapter? What about that member you haven’t seen in awhile? Or that member that hasn’t renewed their membership? Have we done a “Buddy Check” to see if they need some help or to make sure that they are okay? In these times, I promise, it would be greatly appreciated. We all want to know that someone cares. So, give it a thought and reach out to that person be it a Veteran or a member of your American Legion Family.

We are winding down on our current membership year and hopefully will have Department Convention coming in May. I look forward to seeing each and every one of you in Topeka. If you are a member and have never been to The Detachment Convention, here is your chance. We had some big items on our agenda last year that were passed by the voting membership of The Sons Of The American Legion. If you aren’t there, you can’t vote. Check with your District Commander and see what is on the agenda.

This will be my last article for the Sunflower. I have enjoyed writing for each and every one of you and hope you have enjoyed it too. Please, take care of you and yours. God Bless The American Legion Family, God Bless our Active Duty military members, God bless our Veterans and God Bless America!
DAN WILEY FOR NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dan Wiley, Leavenworth Post #23, announces his candidacy for National Executive Committee Member for 2020-22.

Dan earned his eligibility by active duty service in the United States Air Force. He is a Kansas Life Member and has been a member of Leavenworth Post #23 for 28 years and is a dual member of the Sons of the American Legion. Dan has served at all levels of The American Legion in various capacities.

Dan most recently served as your Department Commander in 2018-19. Dan is proud of everything accomplished during his year as Commander, but attributes those successes to those who provided ideas and worked together as a team.

Dan has literally spent countless hours the past three years developing the State and listening to you and valuing your input. He understands what it means to work together as a team. If elected you will continue to have his ear regarding your needs and ideas for The American Legion, and he will take those ideas to the National level where he will work with others to continue to improve The American Legion and the four pillars upon which it rests.

Dan has the support of his wife, Sonia, the endorsement of his Post, and the endorsement of the 1st District Executive Committee and he asks for your support and your vote at the Department Convention in Topeka May 17, 2020.

KRUPCO FOR DEPT. CDR.
(Continued from Page 2)
online directly into a Post instead of being redirected to the National website was also developed. These plans are in the process of being put into action and if elected Marri will continue to work with the new Vice-Commander and membership team to ensure these plans move forward.

As Department Commander, Marri will work closely with the newly appointed Website Development Committee to ensure the membership committee’s plans are implemented. Members of all generations are now using the internet to find needed information, our website is our digital store front, and we need to ensure it is relevant and user friendly. Marri has no intention of eliminating conventional ways of communication but will work diligently to assist in the improvement of the Department website so it can be the “go-to” source of information and communication for the Department.

Marri has the support of her husband Matthew, the endorsement of her Post and the 2nd District Executive Committee. She now asks for your support and vote at Department Convention in Topeka on May 17, 2020.

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 22.

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 22 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 7 for your convenience. All requests must be ordered by the Post Commander or Adjutant, Unit President or Secretary, or Squadron Commander or Adjutant.

ADJUTANT’S BRIEFS
(Continued from Page 3)
American Legion, will be updating everyone in attendance on the new items available for purchase and those items that can be used as fundraisers for ALL entities of The American Legion.

The 2020 American Legion Leadership College that would normally take place in Concordia at Cloud County Community College has also been cancelled due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic due to the College being closed to the public.

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).

“BUCKLE UP, LIGHTS ON & LIVE”

Please send fact sheets to:

Post/Unit/Squadron:

Address________________________________________________

City______________________________________________________Zip______________

Mail to:
Dept. Headquarters
1314 SW Topeka Blvd.
Topeka, KS 66612
Abernathy, David (Vietnam) .......................................Leavenworth #94
Adolph, Clarence (Korea) ..........Marysville
Alley, Charlotte (Panama) ..........Mulvane
Anderson, Bill (WWII) ..........Pittsburg
Anglen, Aubrey (Korea) ..........Pittsburg
Bacon, Robert (Korea) ..........McPherson
Bain, Donald (Vietnam) ..........Lisburg
Ballenger, Ronald (Vietnam) ..........Wamego
Bange, Sylvester (Korea) ..........Colby
Banks, James (Vietnam) ..........Burlington
 Bartholomew, Clarence, Jr. (Vietnam) ..........Chanute
 Beahler, Ralph (WWII) ..........Cheney
 Beers, Bobby (Korea) ..........Olathe
 Bell, Roy (Korea) ..........Seneca
 Bergstrom, Lee (WWII) ..........Clifton
 Bezemek, James (WWII) ..........Ellsworth
 Bland, Cecil (Korea) ..........Topeka #400
 Boeh, Robert (Korea) ..........Dwight
 Boesker, Leland (Korea) ..........Canton
 Bohrer, Leslie (Vietnam) ..........Shawnee
 Bond, Edgar (Vietnam) ..........Topeka #58
 Bonebright, Ira (Vietnam) ..........Conway Springs
 Bright, Charles (WWII) ..........Cheney
 Buck, Alvin (Vietnam) ..........Hutchinson
 Burnett, Leland (WWII) ..........Overland Park
 Burns, Vere (WWII) ..........Moran
 Cannon, Donald (Vietnam) ..........Chanute
 Cherry, Gary (Vietnam) ..........Ottawa
 Chubb, Richard (Vietnam) ..........Pittsburg
 Clemann, Joe (WWII) ..........Topeka #400
 Coggins, Kenneth (Vietnam) ..........Blue Rapids
 Cooper, Errol (WWII) ..........Shawnee
 Cooper, Richard (WWII) ..........Hutchinson
 Cottrell, Donald (WWII) ..........Perry
 Cranston, John (WWII) ..........Colby
 Croucher, Melvin (WWII) ..........Osage City
 Cummings, Maurice (Vietnam) ..........Vigorn
 Hutchinson
 Daffern, Joe (Vietnam) ..........Ellinwood
 Dalquest, Donald (Vietnam) ..........Lawrence
 Darro, Lance (Vietnam) ..........Hutchinson
 Davidson, Roy (WWII) ..........Louisburg
 Day, Gary (Vietnam) ..........Topeka #400
 Drodry, Carrol (Vietnam) ..........Ottawa
 Duensing, Leroy (Korea) ..........Hanover
 Edmiston, Leon (Vietnam) ..........Burlington
 Egan, Larry (Vietnam) ..........Mulvane
 Egger, Clement (WWII) ..........Shawnee
 Eichman, James (Korea) ..........Jewell
 Evans, Dean (Korea) ..........Lebo
 Feldhausen, George (Korea) ..........Frankfort
 Fitzgerald, Mark (Vietnam) ..........Ozawkie
 Ford, George (WWII) ..........Lebo
 Foster, William, Jr. (Vietnam) ..........Mulvane
 Frazier, Donald (WWII) ..........Clay Center
 Fricks, William (Vietnam) ..........Colby
 Garrison, Ed (Vietnam) ..........Topeka #421
 Giggy, Thomas (WWII) ..........Harper
 Gilfoyl, Gregory (Vietnam) ..........Ottawa
 Grandon, James (Korea) ..........Mulvane
 Hackett, Charles (Korea) ..........Topeka #400
 Hale, James (Korea) ..........Mayetta
 Hamm, Garg (Korea) ..........Perry
 Hanel, Eugene (Korea) ..........Cuba
 Hargett, William (WWII) ..........Copeland
 Hargis, Sidney (WWII) ..........0358
 Hartman, Chester (Korea) ..........Halstead
 Hartshorn, Art (Korea) ..........Pittsburg
 Hatcher, John (Korea) ..........Ellinwood
 Haws, William (Korea) ..........Smith Center
 Heischmidt, Morris (WWII) ..........McPherson
 Houghton, Edward (Korea) ..........Topeka #400
 Hughes, Robert (Vietnam) ..........Dodge City
 Hujing, Jimmie (Korea) ..........Lindsborg
 Hutchinson, Cliff (Vietnam) ..........Emporia
 Jones, Robert (Korea) ..........Topeka #400
 Jones, Robert (WWII) ..........Washington
 Joss, David (Vietnam) ..........Topeka #400
 Juarez, Ronita (Vietnam) ..........Dodge City
 Kester, Steven (WWII) ..........Yates Center
 Knous, Carl (Vietnam) ..........Garden City
 Koehler, Carl (Korea) ..........Hannover
 Koehn, Wayne (Vietnam) ..........McPherson
 Koester, Eugene (Vietnam) ..........Chanute
 Kos, Ross (WWII) ..........Marysville
 Lander, Leroy (Korea) ..........Ulysses
 Leak, Duane (Korea) ..........Colby
 Leonard, Ralph (WWII) ..........Shawnee
 Lilly, W Dale (Vietnam) ..........Osage City
 Lippert, Herman, Jr. (WWII) ..........Clay Center
 Lips, Walter (WWII) ..........Clay Center
 Lock, Billy (Vietnam) ..........Erie
 Lohmeyer, Arnold (WWII) ..........Palmer
 Lowrance, Herbert, Jr. (Vietnam) ..........Mulvane
 Mackey, William (WWII) ..........Hutchinson
 Marez, Alan (Vietnam) ..........Ellsworth
 Martin, Eldon (WWII) ..........Topeka #400
 McConnell, Chuck (Vietnam) ..........Topeka #400
 McElgun, Marvin (Korea) ..........Topeka #58
 McEchern, Roger (Korea) ..........El Dorado
 McGee, James (WWII) ..........Burlington
 McGinnis, William (Vietnam) ..........Seneca
 McIlver, Walter (Vietnam) ..........Cheney
 Meier, Roger (Korea) ..........Hutchinson
 Meierhoff, Thad (Vietnam) ..........Hillsboro
 Michel, Wilmer (WWII) ..........Hays
 Morlan, Lorin (WWII) ..........Topeka #400
 Moyer, Jack (Korea) ..........McPherson
 Myers, Mele (WWII) ..........Topeka #400
 Myers, Robert (WWII) ..........Topeka #58
 Newell, Gerald (Vietnam) ..........Clifton
 Newman, Verner, III (Korea) ..........Lawrence
 Nill, Bob (Korea) ..........Ellinwood
 Norman, John (Korea) ..........Waverly
 Nowlin, Gary (Vietnam) ..........Ellsworth
 Odenland, Donald (WWII) ..........Clay Center
 Olson, James (Vietnam) ..........Beattie
 Padgett, Jack (Vietnam) ..........Topeka #400
 Parker, Darrell (Korea) ..........Glen Elder
 Parker, Woodie (Vietnam) ..........Topeka #400
 Payne, Philip (Vietnam) ..........Harper
 Phillips, Edward (Korea) ..........Topeka #400
 Pinamonti, William (Vietnam) ..........Pittsburg
 Pizar, Farrell (Korea) ..........Hutchinson
 Poore, Larry (Vietnam) ..........Overland Park
 Ray, Ritchie (Vietnam) ..........Norton
 Reavis, Kenneth (Korea) ..........Wamego
 Reb, John (WWII) ..........Topeka #400
 Reed, Bobby (Vietnam) ..........Chanute
 Roberts, Billy (WWII) ..........Topeka #58
 Rogers, Harold (WWII) ..........McPherson
 Rogers, John, Jr. (WWII) ..........Pittsburg
 Samp, Craig (Vietnam) ..........El Dorado
 Saunders, Lawrence (Vietnam) ..........Olathe
 Schultz, Darrel (Vietnam) ..........Howard
 Scott, Ronald (Vietnam) ..........Topeka #400
 Sheldon, Douglas (Korea) ..........Goodland
 Shelton, Lesley (Korea) ..........Troy
 Sloat, Frank (Vietnam) ..........Emporia
 Smith, Harvey (Korea) ..........Lebo
 Smith, Marland (Korea) ..........Emporia
 Smith, Walter (Korea) ..........Louisburg
 Sooby, Dennis (WWII) ..........Lawrence
 Spence, Leon (Korea) ..........Chanute
 Stange, Herb (Korea) ..........Hutchinson
 Steinle, Elmer (WWII) ..........Russell
 Stevens, Marvin (Vietnam) ..........Topeka #400
 Stoltz, Joseph (Vietnam) ..........Topeka #400
 Stotts, Dennis (Vietnam) ..........Emporia
 Switzer, Lloyd (Korea) ..........Ottawa
 Thompson, V Ray (Vietnam) ..........Beloit
 Thomson, Harold (WWII) ..........Derby
 Toledo, Jerry (Vietnam) ..........Topeka #58
 Umbach, John (WWII) ..........Whitewater
 Urban, Richard (WWII) ..........Ellsworth
 Wake, Fred, III (Vietnam) ..........Leavenworth #94
 Wasson, William (Persian Gulf) ..........El Dorado
 Wayman, George (Vietnam) ..........Derby
 Wehner, Melvin (Korea) ..........Lawrence
 Wenger, Gerald (WWII) ..........Topeka #400
 Whalen, Larry (Korea) ..........Erie
 Willhaus, Harvey (Korea) ..........Sterling
 Williams, Aaron (Lebanon) ..........Leavenworth #94
 Williamson, Jerry (Vietnam) ..........Derby
 Wilson, Ronald (Vietnam) ..........Hutchinson
 Wilson, Zane (Vietnam) ..........Osage City
 Wise, Bobby (Vietnam) ..........El Dorado
**DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER**  
*(Continued from Page 3)*

Veteran defendants and the involvement of volunteer Veteran mentors who provide non-clinical support to Veteran participants. VTCs reflect the communities that choose to start them, and there is considerable variation among the courts in both participant eligibility criteria and operational processes.

What is VA’s role in these courts?

VTCs are initiated, funded, and operated by local governments, rather than by VA. However, VA directly supports VTCs through the participation of its VJO Specialists as members of VTC treatment teams and through the health care services it provides to Veteran defendants, most of whom would otherwise receive care at county expense. The Specialists assess Veteran defendants’ treatment needs, link Veterans with appropriate VA treatment services, and (with the Veterans’ permission) provide regular updates to the court on their progress in treatment. VA’s role in a VTC is limited to the treatment-related aspects of the court process; VA does not decide which Veteran defendants should be admitted to a VTC or define the level of offenses (e.g., misdemeanor vs. felony) that a VTC would accept. VJO Specialists work closely with justice system partners as they plan new VTCs, informing the partners about VA services that would be available to Veterans defendants locally or regionally. However, as with all VJO-related services, the Specialists do not advocate specifically for the use a particular model or set numerical targets for desired VTC growth. Instead, they help communities plan to meet the needs of justice-involved Veterans using approaches that best fit local circumstances.

For more information, contact:

Katie Stewart, National Coordinator, VJO; Katharine Stewart@va.gov, (202) 461-5863

Contact information for each VJO Specialist is available at: http://www.va.gov/homeless/vjo.asp

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**KANSAS SUNFLOWER LEGIONNAIRE**  
**Jimmie L. Foster, Editor**

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

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**THE AMERICAN LEGION**  
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Colmery-O’Neil VA Medical Center, Topeka  
Local: 785-350-4489, Toll Free: 800-574-8387 Ext. 54489

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**CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION DINNER**

**MAY 16, 2020**

**RAMADA, TOPEKA, KS**

**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 16 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 13.

- 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 reservations for the Saturday, May 16 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 13; or telephone your reservations to 785-232-9315. Payment is due no later than May 13 without exception.

**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.

Topeka, KS 66612