

Sunflower Legionnaire

The American Legion -



Today's Voice for Today's Veterans & Military

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KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

July, August, September 2020

CAMPORAMA WITH US

Camporama remains an economical mini-vacation opportunity for all American Legion Family members. Now in its 48th year, Camporama takes place over the Labor Day weekend, September 4 - 7. The festivities will be held in the Wakefield City Park adjacent to Milford Lake.

Registration is still \$15.00 per adult as it has been for years; for those under 16 and at least 10 years old the charge is \$5.00, and for those under ten, the price is \$2.00. Additionally there is a \$20.00 per camper per night Corps of Engineering fee. Registrations must be made by August 15, by calling the Park Manager at 785-461-5774.

The Wakefield City Park includes individual pads for trailers and campers, plenty of shade trees, water, shower rooms, rest rooms, telephones, etc. If you have a self contained motor home or a pup tent Camporama provides great entertainment opportunities for the entire family including boating, fishing and Frisbee contests, swimming,

card games, horseshoe pitching, and bingo.

Registration begins on Friday, September 4, with free hot dogs available while everyone settles in for a weekend of fun. Registration continues on Saturday and planned activities will include contests, games, supper, and a White Elephant Bingo (please bring prizes).

Sunday will include a pancake feed, church services, more contests and games, a catered supper, prizes and a Camporama Critique. On Monday free coffee and donuts will be available as everyone breaks camp at their leisure.

The Camporama site can be accessed from I-70 by taking exit 295 which is one mile west of Junction City. From I-70 drive north 15 miles on Highway 77 and turn left onto Highway 82 and its just 3 miles to the Registration point.

The Department Camporama Committee members include Chairman Wiley Simhiser of Lehigh, Charles Reinhardt of Salina, and Tom Emerson of Garnett.

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

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Kansas Senate Bill 417

At the end of the 2020 Kansas State Legislative session, a bill that had implications to the Kansas American Legion quietly died in the House.

In February 2020, a bill which is short titled Authorizing the Sale of Alcoholic Liquor by a Class "A" Club to Non-Members of Such Club at Special Events was introduced in the Senate, a hearing held, referred to the Senate's Committee on Federal and State Affairs, and passed in the Senate in March. The bill's purpose was to allow Class "A" Clubs, the American Legion being one, to receive temporary permits to sell alcoholic liquor at private affairs who rent a club's facilities, those intended to be a hall, meeting room, or outside areas such as Shelters or outdoor events. The bill was then sent to the House in March, referred to the Committee on Federal and State Affairs, and died in House committee in May 2020. Given the situation our Posts have endured through the country's recent societal event, many Posts have experienced considerable loss of income, to which the enactment of SB 417 may have provided needed financial relief.

The current sponsor of the bill is not giving up. Kansas Ninth District State Senator Julia Lynn, assistant Majority Leader in the Senate, will pick up the mantle. The Senator has been working with the leadership of Olathe Post #153 to gather support and plan

activities for reintroducing the bill during the next session of the legislature now scheduled for January 11th, 2021. With her leadership and those colleagues that she recruits during the next session, passage would allow Posts to compete with local businesses and facilities that vie for meetings, conventions and other community activities. And we can help.

During the hiatus of the legislature and until the time of the next session, the Senator asks that we seek out local state Senators and Members of the House of Representatives to encourage their endorsement of SB 417 and adds that she is willing to speak to Legionnaires at gatherings to present information and answer questions on the effect of the bill on our organization and community. The Senator can be reached through her office in Topeka.

Although the effect of passage will be of immediate benefit to those Posts operating clubs, others without clubs may look into establishing one when the bill is enacted. In addition, Posts that rent their facilities in communities where there are few other choices may decide to apply for a license, enabling an expanded solicitation of local organization's functions.

For more information, the entire bill may be viewed online.

Chuck Shoemaker
(The Senator is now in the process of joining the Auxiliary.)

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What a turn of events! Ordinarily my last article would have been in April with an orderly procession to the next officers transpiring in May at our State Convention. Of course, due to the on-going battle with Covid-19, the current officer slate continued service and will do so until our rescheduled State Convention, of which the original plan for a two day convention has been changed to now beginning on Friday afternoon, July 31st and ending on the traditional Sunday, August 2nd. Look for considerable information on the event, including schedule and registration, throughout this edition of the Sunflower.

A word about and a grateful acknowledgment to the Kansas Air National Guard. It was very gratifying to our organization that the Kansas Legion Family was invited to stand with the Guard members at several hospitals as a KC-135 Stratotanker flew over in a salute to the first responders and healthcare workers on the front line of the viral pandemic. This was part of the Guard's contribution to Operation Strong, a program announced by President Trump in April to honor the aforementioned heroes and to remind citizens to remain vigilant during the outbreak. If there is a chance to thank a Guard member, thanking them for the invitation and for serving during these perilous times should be the order of the day. An invitation to visit/ join a Post might also be welcomed.

A special recognition is due to the many Kansas American Legion Honor Guards from Posts throughout the state that have continued assisting with memorial services for our fellow veterans. As people have limited time away from the safety of our homes, the Legion Members dedication of serving on the Honor Guard

never waned. Now that the National Cemeteries have reopened, the call for taking part in ceremonies will increase.

And to the American Legion Riders, your commitment to participating in these services through escorts, flag lines and working with law enforcement officials to organize and plan under special circumstances cannot be understated. The Riders truly embody the spirit of The American Legion.

Congratulations to the newly elected District Officers in the Conventions held by virtual conferencing, save one assembled in a traditional fashion and one to be held traditionally in July. Let's realize that the leadership, and our organization, will only succeed and grow by Members "who VOLUNTARILY... performeth... good work...." (Ib) Meeting the dedicated Legionnaires that volunteer their time and energies in making the Posts, Districts, our organization successful has been an uplifting experience. Continue to help them with knowledge, wisdom, AND abiding support. Volunteer time when possible. Continue or make plans to be involved for the Good of the American Legion.

The duty conferred on me has been an honor and experience that will not be forgotten. Thank you to those who provided counsel and advice through my tenure. Pat and I have been blessed to meet so many of you and sincerely appreciate the hospitality we enjoyed during our visits. Especially gratifying was in seeing the results of enthusiastic Member's passions, listening to thoughts and ideas from all the Legion Family, and folks making it fun everywhere we traveled!

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

Greetings Department of Kansas!

It has been an exciting year serving as your Department Vice-Commander I'm looking forward to what the future holds. We have all seen some unprecedented hurdles in the last few months and I am proud to be a Member of this great organization. We have not let the challenges prevent us from completing things that need to be done, instead we found new ways to continue to serve our communities, state and nation.

Although July 1st marks the beginning of the 2021 membership drive, we can still renew those that are expired for 2020. However, don't get hung up on this, when you talk to those 2019 members that didn't renew in 2020 explain to them that if they would like to maintain their continuous years they should pay both years dues, but if continuous years are unimportant to them they can simply renew for 2021. Doing this will get them current until the next membership drive starts in July of 2021. As of June 24, 2020 Kansas was in 41st place in membership which is better than we were last year but we still have a lot of work to do.

This past year I had a few goals concerning Post 58 transfers and new members that join online and the membership committee worked hard developing programs for these issues. Unfortunately, we were not able to get the new programs in place during my term as Vice-Commander, but we did make progress towards this. One key element to making both these programs a success requires some massive changes to the Department website, www.ksamlegion.org. Commander Shoemaker appointed a website redesign ad-hoc committee earlier this year and in the coming year I look forward to working with the committee to improve the functionality of the web-

site and make the necessary changes for the membership programs to work as designed (if I'm elected that is). Declining membership is not the only problem we face in our Posts, but without Members there isn't an American Legion, and that is a big problem!

If you haven't received your 2021 renewal notice in the mail yet, you will within the next few weeks. Save time and a stamp and renew your membership online; this also saves your Post time and money. All you need to do to renew online is go to www.ksamlegion.org. At the top of the page, click on renew. You will need your membership number, last name, and a form of payment. This will also prevent additional renewal notices in the mail. If you do it the old-fashioned way with snail mail, it takes much longer and you might get a renewal notice after you have already paid which is not only annoying for you, but it can also be confusing to everyone involved.

This is a great time to recruit a new member! Joining now gives the new Member a full year before they need to renew and that gives you a full year to show them why belonging to the American Legion is important. So, get out there, recruit new Members and collect renewals for your Post, you never know that new member could be the next Harry Colmery (author of the original G.I. Bill of Rights)!

If your post needs help with a membership plan, reach out to your District representatives, their job is to help your Post succeed. Department officers will also provide support and help wherever/whenever possible. Bottom-line, we are not mind readers, you need to let us know when you're needing a hand.

Have a blessed Summer, For God and Country!

**DEPARTMENT
SERVICE OFFICER**

Dan Bartlett

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I'm passing this on as I did a few years ago in this column as a reminder.

It's not a bad thing to be called an Old Veteran, as you will see. Old Veterans are easy to spot at sporting events; during the playing of the Star-Spangled Banner. Old Veterans remove their hats and stand at attention and sing without embarrassment. They know all the words.

Old Veterans remember World War II, Pearl Harbor, Guadalcanal, Normandy and Hitler. They remember the Atomic Age, the Korean War, the Jet Age and the Moon Landing. They remember the 50 plus Peacekeeping Missions from 1945 to 2005, not to mention Vietnam.

If you bump into an Old Veteran on the sidewalk he will apologize. If you pass an Old Veteran on the street, he will nod or tip his cap to a lady. Old Veterans trust strangers and are courtly to women.

Old Veterans hold the door for the next person always, when walking, make certain the lady is on the inside for protection.

Old Veterans get embarrassed if someone curses in front of women and children and they don't like any filth or dirty language on TV or in movies.

Old Veterans have moral courage and personal integrity. They seldom brag unless it's about their children or grandchildren.

It's the Old Veteran who know our great country is protected, not by politicians, but by the young men and women in the military serving their country.

This country needs Old Veterans with their work ethic, sense of responsibility, pride in their country and decent values.

We need them now more than ever.

Thank God for Old Veterans.

Pass this on to all the Old Veterans you know.

I was taught to respect my elders. It's just getting harder to find them.

Author unknown.

**KRUPCO
FOR DEPARTMENT
COMMANDER**

(Continued from Page 1)

plan to allow new Members to join 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 August 2, 2020.



**NATIONAL
PURPLE
HEART DAY
AUGUST 7
2020**

ADJUTANT'S BRIEFS

By Department Adjutant Jimmie L. Foster

WOW, What a Crazy Year this has been so far!!!

At least WE were able to hold the 2020 Mid-Winter Conference on schedule and in person in Fort Scott.

Right after that the "Sky Began to Fall". Those of US that are old enough to remember that ole' saying have and are wondering when this COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic will end. I know that I sure am!

The Department Convention has been rescheduled for July 31, August 1 and 2, 2020, at the Ramada Hotel and Conference Center located at 420 S.E. 6th Avenue in Topeka, Kansas.

This year, WE will have safety measures in place to ensure that Our Convention Delegates and Guests are hopefully safe and sound from this terrible Virus.

Upon arriving for the Department Executive Committee Meeting on Friday, July 31 at 5 P.M., EACH Person will have their temperature taken electronically and a colored disk will be placed on their Registration/Credentials badge to show that they have complied with the Testing. A different colored disk will be used for each day (so do not try and skip the Test or the Line).

WE will utilize safe distancing while in the Regency Ballroom but should have more than adequate room to keep everyone safe.

Families may set together, but others must keep their re-

quired distance.

If everyone works together, WE will have a Great Department Convention just a couple of months later than normally scheduled.

*** Another Note: There will be NO Candidate Hospitality Rooms this year to help reduce the chance of contacting any unsuspected viruses while in a relaxing environment. ***

The Hotel Restaurant will NOT be Open. WE will have to venture up town for something to eat and drink.

The Children Welfare Foundation Dinner will be held on Saturday, August 1. It will be a plated meal. No Buffets Are Allowed!!!

There will be NO National Guests from ANY of the American Legion Families in attendance this year. They can NOT start traveling again until October 1st.

WE are going to be fortunate to have some of the Youth Award Winners in attendance since High School Graduations are cancelled this year.

Not too bad of a compromise!

The Auxiliary has cancelled their Department Convention this year, but The American Legion and the Sons of The American Legion will hold theirs.

I just ask for Everyone to be flexible, WE will prevail, and "Accomplish the Mission Together".

Hope to see YOU There!

**FOOS FOR AREA WEST
VICE COMMANDER**

Legionnaires:

I am announcing I'm a Candidate for Department Area West Vice Commander for 2020/2021. My health has remained good and I'm HONORED to serve as your Area West Vice Commander this past year.

I earned my eligibility serving in the United States Army Reserves, 89th Division, Co. B, 3d BN, 1st Bde, Dodge City, Ks., earning the rank of Sergeant

First Class (E-7). I served from Oct. 1969 to Nov. 1975 with an Honorable Discharge. I'm currently Post Commander of Olin Cole Post #392, Bazine, Kansas and Finance Officer for the 8th

District. I have Served as 8th District Sargeant of Arms, District Vice Commander and District Commander. I have been a Legionnaire for 23 years and a Paid Up for Life Member.

I will continue to work with District Vice Commanders and Commanders of Area West on membership. We have a NEW opportunity to increase membership with the Legion Act, opening our eligibility to all Veterans. They are out there, we have to work and find them.

I have the support of my Post, the 8th District and my wife.

FOR GOD and COUNTRY
Gary F. Foos

**FIRST DISTRICT
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No article submitted.

**SECOND DISTRICT
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Greetings fellow Legionnaires of the Second District. I hope you are all well. When I wrote the Apr-Jun article, we were just 3 weeks into this Covid-19 pandemic. I don't think any of us thought it would be so disruptive or last this long. Typically, the Dept. Convention would have been done by now and your newly elected Officers would have taken their positions. They are as follows: CMDR elect, Myra Jowers; Vice CMDR elect, George Honn; Adjutant-Finance Officer elect, Carl Jowers; Executive Committee elect, Jeff Winters, Doug Hensley, Leslie Montee. 2021 membership renewal is now open!! I'd like to provide CMDR elect, Myra the opportunity to address you. Thanks, Jeff Barber. Second District Commander.

Second District CMDR elect, Myra Jowers: I am honored to serve as District 2 Commander and look forward to guiding our District

into some positive new directions, focusing on improving communications, and accuracy of information. Of course, membership will always be an ongoing effort for everyone, not just the membership team. The team of officers elected to serve for 2020/2021 will be brainstorming and exchanging ideas amongst ourselves and other Districts throughout the State to find the most efficient and effective ways to serve our members, fellow veterans, and their families while supporting American Legion programs.

Myra Jowers. Second District Commander - Elect.

**THIRD DISTRICT
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Hello 3rd District! Hopefully this is finding you all Corona free from the first round. Some areas of the country are going through round two just when it seems that we are able to start up activities again. I want to thank all of the people who have continued to work membership during the emergency; it hasn't been easy.

Buddy checks are especially important during this time. This may be a particularly good way to get the renewals on membership. These are also good ways to keep our Members who have had to self-quarantine during this crisis up to date on the Legion Post activities.

I want to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Third District Officers for all they have done during this past year. I appreciate what each and every one of you have

done to make my year as District Commander a success.

**FOURTH DISTRICT
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One last Buddy Check as your outgoing District Commander. We have made progress over the last four years with Membership Growth and our Programs and I look forward to the District Convention at Post 17, Manhattan on July 18th, as we will hold an abbreviated meeting with election of officers.

Even with the historic health challenges The American Legion continues to promote the Four Pillars across the country. Many Independence Day celebrations are shortened but never the less celebrated. I ask you to reach out to your Post to recognize our WWII Service members and acknowledge the Posts that are named after a WWII Veteran as we celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the ending of this war. There are many resources on line to help you with this at <https://centennial.legion.org/our-wwii-story>

Remember to "Answer The Call" Randy Frank, District IV Commander.

**FIFTH DISTRICT
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No article submitted.

**SIXTH DISTRICT
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Hope all is doing well with this COVID19 pandemic. Are you are making "Buddy Checks" with your Members? Buddy Checks are a good way to get your renewals. 6th District is still at the bottom for renewals.

May 2 was District Convention. Because of the restrictions we conducted the convention on a conference call. We did have a total of 5 Posts represented on the call and we did have a quorum. With all the restrictions in place we did keep all our officers in place and rolled over our committee member.

It was an honor for me to be invited to Kensington Post 166 on June 4th for their monthly meeting and officer installation. Kensington has a new Post Commander Floyd Gross. I'm sure he will do a great job. It also was nice to see the Commander and Vice Commander from Smith Center Post 220. It's good for everyone when Posts come together to help their area.

September 26 is the date set for 6th District Fall Conference. This year the conference will be held at the VFW in Salina with Salina Post 62 hosting. Will begin at 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM lunch will be served. More information will be sent out as it comes available.

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Greetings 7th District,

As a District we are above Membership numbers from last year, so great job this year even with all the issues that has taken our attention away from working toward our goal. This will be the last notes I write as your District Commander, so I want to say Thank You. Thank You for all the invitations for meals, meetings, installations, and programs I have received the last two years, it has truly been an honor serving You, and the District as your Commander. I wish the incoming Commander Mike Jury and the new slate of officers good luck in the coming years. Thank you again.

Semper Fi!
Jeremy Ehart

**EIGHTH DISTRICT
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No article submitted.

**Renew Your
Membership
Online at**

www.legion.org/renew

Hello 9th District. Welcome to our second year as a District. It has been one heck of a first year so far. First off, I want to thank all of you that renewed your membership this year. I also want to thank the new Members and returning Members. We rode first place in the Department for 18 weeks and am now in second place with a little over 95% of assigned strength. Keep up the good work into 2021.

During the 9th District Convention held via conference call on April 4th, 2020 we elected the 9th District Officers. Those individuals are as follows:

- Ray Palmer, Post 173, District Commander
- Alan Marietta, Post 70, District Vice Commander
- Pat Hewitt, Post 252, Adjutant/Finance Officer
- Sean Hankin, Post 363, Sergeant at Arms
- Charles Posson, Post 63, Chaplain

- Kenneth Craig, Post 252, District Executive Committee
- Gary Erlenbush, Post 63, District Executive Committee
- Monte Lewis, Post 363, District Executive Committee

We are still in need of a District Historian and Judge Advocate. Anyone interested in these positions are encouraged to contact the District Commander.

On behalf of the Officers of the District I want to let you know that we are all here to help you and your Post in any way that we can. I have assigned each officer of the District with 4 or 5 Posts that they will be helping. With this help

we are hoping to get all Posts to 100% as soon as possible. I am also asking you to please keep us updated on your Officers and Post information as things change. You can contact myself and/or our District Adjutant Pat Hewitt anytime. The one thing I want everybody to know is that we are here to help you.

The 2021 membership cards have been mailed out to each Post Adjutant, if you have not gotten yours yet, please let us know.

We are hoping to have a great year and with all of us helping we are sure it will be.

2021 Membership Plan:

1 - Each District Officer will select the lowest percentage Post in their assigned area and with the assistance of the District we will conduct a revitalization to increase membership.

2 - Posts who are at or below 50% of their quota this year will be requested to conduct a revitalization with District support.

3 - All Posts which turn in their Life Members before August 1st will be entered in a drawing. Three places will be paid with 1st prize being \$100.00, 2nd \$50.00 and 3rd \$25.00. Posts submitting Life Members before August 1st will receive one entry for each paid Life Member.

4 - Each Post that turns memberships in before the first Department membership report (Aug. 3rd) will be entered in a drawing for (3) \$25 gift certificates for the membership chairman of the Post. Paid for by the District Commander. This will be to prevent goose eggs.

5 - Each Member that renews online between July 1st and December 31st will be entered into a drawing for their 2022 membership dues being paid by the District.

Does your Post have a Facebook page?

Love it or not, Facebook is an excellent way to communicate with Members. The District has a page which can be found at www.facebook.com/9thdistrictks. Be sure

to like and follow the district page, if you aren't already.

Let us know about Upcoming Events.

We want to know of your Post events. Please send us the information of upcoming events you are planning to 9thdistrictks@gmail.com.

Thanks for all you do and if you ever need to contact any of us please feel free to do so.

**CHILDREN
&
YOUTH**

**Pat Culver
pculver2@swbell.net**

The American Legion has been actively involved with children's issues since the early 1920's. In many instances, The American Legion has been the driving force on behalf of children on the federal, state, and local levels.


During this coronavirus pandemic, we urge each of you to show your community that The American Legion Family is dedicated to America's youth.

Your Post could demonstrate that the American Legion Family is committed to its community and especially its children.

Your Post can host a child or youth themed community event, collaborate on a project with your Summer programs in your city, or ask your local school's what activities they need assistance with. Many Schools are providing lunches daily to the children in their district, perhaps your Post could offer to assist in the distribution the lunches.


Also, as your Post conducts its "Buddy Check" be certain to ask if there are children/grandchildren in the family that need assistance.

Children represent the future of our nation. It is up to us to equip them with knowledge, leadership skills and a commitment to service that they will use as productive adult citizens of the United States.



**AUXILIARY
PRESIDENT**

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**DETACHMENT
COMMANDER**

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I would like to preface this letter with quote: There is no use of worrying about things over which you have no control, and if you have control, you can do something about them instead of worrying.

As you are aware The American Legion National Executive Committee passed a resolution in April cancelling the 2020 National American Legion Convention that was scheduled to be held in Louisville, KY. The resolution included "The American

Legion National Executive Committee strongly urges that the National Sons of The American Legion, the National American Legion Auxiliary, and the National American Legion departments follow a similar course of action, to wit: (1) cancel their 2020 conventions and elections; and (2) maintain the status quo of their officers until next year."

The National American Legion Auxiliary Headquarters released a Weekly Briefing on April 10, 2020. Included was a paragraph advising "The national organization does not have the authority to determine whether departments hold their convention. As the American Legion NEC has stated, we too, "strongly urge all American Legion follow a similar course of action, to wit: (1) cancel their 2020 conventions and elections; and (2) maintain the status quo of their of-

ficers until next year.' This is a recommendation, not a mandate. Please consult your state statutes and Constitution and Bylaws Chairman when making the decision for your department. Whatever decision your department makes, we will respect and support your team."

I began receiving many inquiries concerning not only our Department Convention but District Conventions as well and what was to transpire from that day forward. Some Districts had already had their meeting, but most had put theirs off waiting on direction from Department or Kansas Governor Laura Kelly. In that regard, I contacted National Executive Committee woman Jeanne Haas, National Constitution and Bylaws Chairman Trish Ward, and Department Parliamentarian Sharon Spiker. After considerable deliberating, we came to the conclusion that regardless of what The Kansas American Legion did, we had a responsibility to follow government laws, mandates and executive orders. Our decision was based not on what was essential and non essential but rather what was safe and not safe.

In spite of the lock down, we as an Auxiliary have kept moving forward. We hired a new secretary to replace Marianne who retires at the end of this month

Stacey Spradling, her husband and two children live in Paxico, KS. Stacey
(Continued on Page 7)

I sincerely hope that everyone has managed to stay healthy during our current situation. It sure has been a life changer for a lot of us. It has been odd not being able to travel to our Posts around the State. Hopefully, we can all start doing that again soon. I know that I have sure missed seeing everyone.

Ok, now to business. Does your membership card say 2020? The 2021 cards will be out soon if you haven't already gotten them. Please, we need you! Membership is our life blood and we hate to lose anyone. We also need people to step up into leadership positions. Get your younger Members involved. How else will these you S.A.L. Members learn about our organization if we ignore them. Keep everyone engaged. How can we expect Members to renew if our squadrons don't do anything but collect dues and have meetings. Make it fun.

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.

Make that membership worth something.

On August 1st at the Downtown Topeka Ramada Inn at 420 SE 6th Ave will be our Detachment Convention. This is a personal invitation to each and everyone of you to join in on the fun. This will also give you the opportunity to see what goes on in your organization. Also, we will hold elections for our 2020-2021 Detachment Officers. If you would like to have your voice heard, this is the place to do it.

I've had the honor of serving as The Detachment of Kansas Commander for 2 years. It has been such a privilege and one that I will always remember. There are so many people that I wish I could thank personally for their support, but, it would be impossible to do here. Thank you all!

"Always Remember the Mission"

Until Next Time.

Dan has literally spent countless hours the past three years traveling 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 August 2, 2020.

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

(Continued from Page 6)

joined the American Legion Auxiliary in New Mexico and transferred her membership to Unit #17, Manhattan, KS several years ago. Her outgoing personality and her interest in the mission of our organization, presents an opportunity to excel as the Secretary for our Department.

We have had successful finance and DEC meetings using freeconference call.com. We are currently planning our Fall conference for Sept. 11 and 12 at Post 400 in Topeka.

The Department of KS ALA intends to keep moving forward.

Renew Your Membership Online at

www.legion.org/renew

SWEEPSTAKES SUPPORTS KANSAS' VETERANS, YOUTH

The Spring Sweepstakes provides much needed funding for Kansas Department's state-wide Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation programs as well as Children and Youth programs.

In a partnership with the Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs Office, the Kansas American Legion employs four Veterans Service Officers and their staff to assist veterans obtaining their earned veterans' benefits. Under this program, the American Legion maintains an office in each of the three VA hospitals in Kansas. This important service is available to any veteran, free of charge.

Sweepstakes proceeds also go to the Department Children and Youth (C&Y) fund. Department C&Y pays for the State Oratorical Contest, various scholarships, and the Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) program. These worthy programs could not exist without the generous support of Kansas Legionnaires.

The drawing will held in Topeka, August 2, during the Department Convention.

HISTORIAN


JOE JOHNSTON

The KU KLUX KLAN, was established after the Civil War as a secret fraternity with the aim of reimposing servitude on African Americans after the end of slavery. The second Klan which arose in the 1920's added Catholics, Jews, immigrants and bootleggers to the list. The second Klan was stronger in the North than in the South.

In some states the local Klaverns were closely identified with the Legion, with many Legionnaires belonging to the Klan. A Catholic was picked for the job of Department of Kansas Adjutant in 1924 to show that the Legion in Kansas had nothing to do with the KKK. Which is another reason I'm proud to be a Kansan.

I might add, I am a Catholic, one of my grandmothers was an immigrant and when Kansas was dry the only place you could get a decent drink was from a bootlegger.

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN



Glenn Patterson

✝ ☆ ☾

In 1775 Ben Franklin made the motion to Celebrate "A Day of Prayer" by the Continental Congress.

"I therefore by leave to move... That henceforth prayers, imploring the assistance of Heaven and its blessings on our deliberations, be held in this assembly every morning before we proceed to business; and that one or more of the clergy of this city be requested to officiate in that service."

God Bless America – prayers & reflections for Our Country

Dr. David Ramsay was directly involved in achieving American Independence and establishing American government. Not only was Dr. Ramsay a great political leader; he was also known as the surgeon-general of the Continental Army, he is

(Continued on Page 8)

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, August 1 from 6:30 until 8:00 pm in Grand Ball Room of the Ramada Hotel and Convention Center, Topeka.

The dinner will include: Chicken piccata or smoked sliced pork tenderloin, a fresh vegetable, a choice of tossed, Caesar or wedge salad, cheese cake, water, ice tea, and coffee. Cost is \$30 per person and reservations must be received no later than Wednesday, July 15.

The purpose of the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation is: "To contribute to the physical, mental, emo-

tional 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, August 1 dinner please complete and return the coupon on this page to Department Headquarters, 1314 SW Topeka Blvd., Topeka, Kansas 66612. Reservations must arrive by July 15; or telephone your reservations to 785-232-9315. Payment is due no later than July 15 without exception.

CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION DINNER

AUGUST 1, 2020

RAMADA, TOPEKA, 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 _____

Mail to: Kansas American Legion
1314 SW Topeka Blvd.
Topeka, KS 66612

+ TAPS +

Ahlstedt, Gordon (Korea) Lindsborg
 Baird, Richard (Korea).....Dighton
 Bard, Jack (Korea) Logan
 Barr, Neil (Vietnam)..... Wamego
 Belt, Gary (Vietnam)..... Ellsworth
 Bettega, Frank (WWII) Pittsburg
 Blaske, Elmner (WWII).....Marysville
 Bond, Richard (Vietnam).....Norton
 Bothwell, Gary (Vietnam).....Marysville
 Burford, Johnnie, Jr. (Grenada)..... Lansing
 Butel, John (Korea).....Overbrook
 Butler, Terence (Persian Gulf)Mayetta
 Caliendo, Rebecca (Grenada)Augusta
 Casto, Jack (Vietnam) Topeka #58
 Clark, James (Vietnam).....Overbrook
 Cochren, George (WWII)Holton
 Coday, Calvin, Jr. (Vietnam)..... Moran
 Coffey, James (Korea).....Derby
 Cole, Homer (WWII)..... Pittsburg
 Cox, Marvin (WWII)Augusta
 Cramer, H. Lynn (WWII).....Paola
 Daily, Bryce (WWII)Salina
 Daily, F. Y. (WWII).....Newton
 Dix, Donald (Vietnam).....Emporia
 Dixon, Ronald (Vietnam).....Sterling
 Doudican, Robert (Korea).....Emporia
 Downing, Jerry (WWII).....Colby
 Durham, J. R. (Korea).....Norton
 Elkins, Bradley (Vietnam)Emporia
 Erpelding, Leonard (Korea).....El Dorado
 Eshelbrenner, Albert (WWII).....Frontenac
 Falkenberg, Birgil (Vietnam)Derby
 Ferm, Landvis (WWII)Lindsborg
 Fiedler, Roger (Vietnam)McPherson
 Fiehler, Jerry (Vietnam)Sterling
 File, James (Vietnam)Topeka #400
 Flaming, Kenneth (Korea)El Dorado
 Fry, John (Vietnam)Osage City
 Gibson, Evan (Korea)Salina
 Gierseh, Dennis (Vietnam).....Salina
 Gillespie, Thomas, Jr. (Vietnam)Elkhart
 Glatczak, Raymond (Vietnam).....Centralia
 Gray, James (Vietnam).....Hoisington
 Greenbank, Hubert (WWII) ..Valley Center
 Guthrie, Richard (Vietnam) ..Wichita #424
 Hammeke, Maurice (Korea)Great Bend
 Hansen, Alan (WWII)McPherson
 Hepworth, Earl (WWII).....Topeka #400
 Herrman, Albert (Korea).....Great Bend
 Hill, Kenneth (WWII).....McPherson
 Hoch, Wesley (Vietnam).....Logan
 Holland, Margaret (Korea).....
 Kansas City #199
 Huffman Frank (Korea).....Marysville
 Johnson, Clayton (WWII).....Lindsborg
 Johnson, Dudley (Vietnam)Horton
 Kern, Chester, Jr. (Vietnam).....Geneseo

Kirk, Donovan (WWII).....Sabetha
 Kness, Charles (Vietnam)Osage City
 Konkel, Jim (Vietnam).....Harper
 Lamb, Michael (Vietnam)..Baxter Springs
 Larsh, Duane (WWII)Haviland
 Levingston, Joe (Vietnam).....Great Bend
 Lewis, Jerry, Sr. (Vietnam)Arma
 Lindholm, Leonard (WWII).....Cheney
 Maurer, William (Vietnam).....McPherson
 Miller, Jerry (Korea)Cheney
 Miner, Alden (WWII)Ness City
 Minor, Joe (WWII)Emporia
 Moore, A. D. (WWII)Gardner
 Murray, Donald (Vietnam).....Frontenac
 Musick, Francis (Vietnam).....Topeka #400
 Nelson, Jerry (Vietnam).....McPherson
 Nordling, Joseph (Vietnam).....Osage City
 Olson, Everett (WWII).....Hutchinson
 Pearson, Warren (Korea).....Perry
 Rapp, Ronald.....Ellinwood
 Reed, Ronnie (Vietnam).....Topeka #1
 Rethorst, Robert (WWII)Smith Center
 Rhodes, Richard (Vietnam).....Jennings
 Robison, Dennis (Vietnam).....Pittsburg
 Robison, Lawrence (WWII)...Yates Center
 Robl, Vernon (WWII)Great Bend
 Ryan, Gerald (WWII)McPherson
 Schneider, Ervin (Korea)Hoisington
 Schuessler, JohnHanover
 Schwindamann, William (WWII)
Marysville
 Scoby, Arthur (WWII)Sabetha
 Shearer, Everett (Korea)Frankfort
 Shoemaker, Paul (Korea)Cuba
 Smith, Larry (Vietnam).....Topeka #400
 Snapp, Raymond (Korea).....Wamego
 Spears, Roy, Sr. (Korea).....Sterling
 Stallbaumer, Kenneth (Korea)Seneca
 Starr, William (Korea).....McPherson
 Steiner, James (Vietnam)Great Bend
 Stenzel, Ralph (WWII)Ness City
 Stuhlstaz, Joe (WWII).....Conway Springs
 Swenson, Ernest (Vietnam).....Osawatomie
 Tarum, Melvin (WWII).....McPherson
 Torrez, Louis (WWII)Topeka #400
 Turnbull, Mary (WWII)Hill City
 Underwood, Robert (Vietnam).....Norton
 Vock, Duane (WWII).....Overland Park
 Vonada, Leo (Korea).....Sylvan Grove
 Wade, Thomas (WWII).....Silver Lake
 Wallender, Ray (WWII).....Newton
 Wessel, A. A. (WWII)Frankfort
 White, John, Jr. (Korea)Olsburg
 Whitney, E. W. (WWII)Norton
 Windholz, Wayne (Vietnam).....Russell
 Witthuhn, Verlyn (WWII)Bazine
 Yager, Roger (Korea).....Beloit

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

(Continued from Page 7)

known as an historian of the American Revolution. Dr. David Ramsay penned the History of the United States published in 1816.

Dr. David Ramsay delivered America first-ever Independence Day Oration, July 4, 1778.

“Having delivered the first oration that was spoken in the United States to celebrate this great event, I feel myself doubly honored in being again called upon – after a lapse of sixteen years – to perform the same duty...”

Every citizen is perfectly free of the will of every other citizens while all are equally subject to the laws. Among us no one can exercise any authority by virtue of birth. All start as equals in the race of life.

The connection between liberty and happiness is peace. The sovereignty of a nation rest not on laws governed by leaders; the sovereignty of a nation is given by God through the virtues and knowledge of the creator.

Americans should be motivated with the generous ambition of teaching mankind by our example that the people; can govern themselves to a better degree of freedom. The superior happiness of our country will amply repay us for the blood and treasure which independence has cost.

As a grateful nation we gather around loved ones on Memorial Day to keep that fire of ambition in our hearts; and may that happiness increase and know no end, till time shall be no more.

Reflections from Celebrate Liberty! Famous Patriotic Speeches & Sermons, David Barton

101st ANNUAL CONVENTION SCHEDULE

*** Subject to change ***

FRIDAY, JULY 31

2-6:00 pm	REGISTRATION	Regency Lobby
	All Delegates, Alternates, & Guests must register. Registration badge is ticket to Conv. Floor	
5:00 pm	DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING	
		Regency Ballroom
6:00 pm	Children & Youth Meeting	Regency Ballroom

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1

6:30-9:00am	Continental Breakfast	Hotel Atrium
7:30 am-4pm	REGISTRATION	Regency Lobby
8:30 am	OPENING SESSION (Legion and SAL).....	Regency Ballroom
	CALL TO ORDER.....	Chuck Shoemaker, Department Commander
	Advancement of Colors.....	American Legion and SAL Color Guards
	POW/MIA Chair Drape.....	Bryan Page, POW/MIA Chairman
	Invocation.....	Rev. Glenn Patterson, Department Chaplain
	Pledge of Allegiance	Marri Krupco, Department Vice Commander
	Welcome.....	Michelle De La Isla, Mayor of Topeka
	Legion Youth Champions.....	Pat Culver, Dept. Children & Youth Director
		Robert Clear, Boy Scout of the Year
		Amanda Trowbridge, Cadet Law Academy President
		Dalton White, Boys State Governor
		Jacob Toole, Oratorical Champion
	SAL Introductions	Terry Harris, Detachment Commander
	American Legion Auxiliary Introductions	Paula Sellens, Department President
	American Legion Introductions	Chuck Shoemaker, Department Commander
9:30 am	Dismiss S.A.L. for their Convention	
	Preamble to Constitution.....	Chuck Shoemaker, Department Commander
	Fourth Estate Award (Video Media).....	Ralph Hipp, WIBW, Topeka
	Children & Youth Report	Pat Culver, Dept. Children & Youth Director
	Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation	Pat Culver, Department VA & R Chairman
	Service Officers Report	Dan Bartlett, Department Service Officer
	KCVA Report and Update	Eric Rohleder, KCVA Deputy Director
	American Legion Riders Update.....	Roger Beckley, Department ALR Director
	Membership Recognition	Chuck Shoemaker, Department Commander
		Marri Krupco, Department Vice Commander
	Gold Star Drawing	Chuck Shoemaker, Department Commander
	Announcements	

RECESS FOR LUNCH

11:00-1pm	LUNCH ON YOUR OWN	
	Constitution and Bylaws Committee Meeting	Fountain Room 1
	History Judging's and Historians Association Meeting	Fountain Room 2
	Resolutions Committee Meeting.....	Fountain Room 3
	Rules Committee Meeting.....	Fountain Room 4
	DISTINGUISHED GUESTS LUNCHEON	Dining Room
12:00-1:00pm	DISTRICT CAUCUSES:	
	Dist 1 – Madison Ballroom	Dist 5 – Alcoves 3 & 4
	Dist 2 – Regency Ballroom	Dist 6 – Alcove 5
	Dist 3 – Alcoves 1 & 2	Dist 7 – Fountain Room 2
	Dist 4 – Alcove 6.....	Dist 8 – Fountain Room 1
	Dist 9 – Atrium Area	
1:00 pm	RECONVENE FOR SECOND SESSION.....	Regency Ballroom
	Rules Committee Report. Jim Buterbaugh, Chairman	Convention Rules Committee
	Resolutions.....	Dave Warnken, Convention Committee Chairman
	Constitution and Bylaws	John Melvin, Convention Committee Chairman
	Historians Awards and Presentation	Joe Johnston, Dept. Historian
	NEC Report.....	David Warnken, National Executive Committeeman
	Department Vice Commander Report	Marri Krupco
	Department Commander Report	Chuck Shoemaker
	Adjournment	
	Steering and Nominating Committee Meeting	Convention Stage
6:30 pm	CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION DINNER	Grand Ballroom

(Continued on Page 10)

CONVENTION COVID-19 SAFETY GUIDELINES

- Stay home if you are sick, including with a fever, feel sick or have been around someone that is sick.

- We recommend that you wear a mask while you are attending the convention for the safety and consideration of others. Masks will be provided if you do not have your own mask.

- Hand Sanitizer will be provided at various locations in and around the convention hall, including at the registration table and the entrance to the convention hall.

- All attendees will enter the convention hall through one entrance. Each person will be screened and checked for a fever before being allowed admittance each day. Please maintain 6 feet between yourself and the person in front of you while waiting to enter the hall and while in the hall.

- Seating will be arranged to comply with social distancing recommendations. Please be considerate of others and refrain from physical contact with people outside of your own household.

- We recommend any guest/spouse of a Legionnaire or Son refrain from attending the convention unless they are needed to assist the Legionnaire or Son, however they will not be denied admittance provided they pass the screening process and have properly registered.

- There will not be any hospitality rooms.

- The Child Welfare Foundation dinner and the Past Department Commanders dinner will take place and will meet social distancing requirements.

- Note: per the recommendation of the Governor's office in "Ad Astra: A Plan to Reopen Kansas" we should be in the "Phase Out" portion of the plan during the time of convention, it does not have a restriction upon group sizes or any travel restrictions. It

(Continued on Page 10)

101st ANNUAL CONVENTION SCHEDULE

***** Subject to change *****
(Continued from Page 9)
SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

6:30-9am	Continental Breakfast.....	Hotel Atrium
8:-9:00am	REGISTRATION.....	Regency Ballroom
8:00 am	MEMORIAL & REDEDICATION SERVICE ..	Rev. Glenn Patterson, Department Chaplain
9:00 am	CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE MEETING.....	Fountain Room 3
9:00 am	FINAL SESSION.....	Regency Ballroom
	Sweepstakes Drawing	Chuck Shoemaker, Department Commander
	2021 Membership Turn-In	Marri Krupco, Department Vice Commander
	Bryan Page, Convention Committee Chairman	
Credentials Elections:	District Commanders and Vice Commanders to Department Executive Committee	
	Alternate National Executive Committeeman	
	National Executive Committeeman	
 Department Masters-at-Arms (2)	
	Area Vice Commander East	
	Area Vice Commander West	
	Department Vice Commander	
	Department Commander	
	Announcements.....Chuck Shoemaker, Past Department Commander	
	Benediction	
	Rev. Glenn Patterson, Department Chaplain	
	Retirement of Colors..... Department Masters at Arms	
	Adjournment	

CONVENTION COVID-19 SAFETY GUIDELINES

(Continued from Page 9)

recommends social distancing where applicable. However, it also yields authority to county and local governments.

- Note: Shawnee County currently states in "A Guide to Re-opening Shawnee County, Kansas Addendums to local Health Orders" that mass events should have no more than 2,000 participants or 50% capacity of the venue (which-ever is smaller) and attendees shall respect social distancing and should not congregate in groups larger than 45 unless such groups are separated by 6 or more feet. These guidelines are subject to change and may become more or less restrictive. If this happens the changes will be posted on the website and on social media pages.

POST CONVENTION DEC MEETING ON STAGE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ADJOURNMENT

Renew Your Membership Online at

www.legion.org/renew



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.

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

39th ANNUAL EISENHOWER PILGRIMAGE

Enclosed is our payment for a rose to be placed at the Eisenhower Memorial on Saturday, October 17, 2020.

Purchaser _____
 Post - Unit - Other (Please be Specific)

No. of Roses _____ Amount Enclosed _____
 (\$10 for each rose requested)

Name _____
 Person Placing the Rose

_____ Please appoint an appropriate individual to place our rose.

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone (Day Time) _____

RECEPTION & DINNER
Chapman Post #240
Friday, October 16

No. of Dinner Reservations _____ Amount Enclosed _____
 (\$15 per person)

MAIL TO:
 KANSAS AMERICAN LEGION
 EISENHOWER PILGRIMAGE
 1314 SW Topeka Blvd.
 Topeka, KS 66612

ABSOLUTE DEADLINE: OCTOBER 1, 2020