



The American Legion
Department of Kansas
E-NEWSLETTER
1314 SW Topeka Blvd
Topeka, KS, 66612-1886



The Voice for Today's Veterans and Military
February 2024

Department Commander
Randy Frank

Department Adjutant
Jimmie L. Foster

Notes from the Department Commander

Hello Legionnaires,

We have transitioned into the second half of the 2024 Fiscal Year with many accomplishments and goals ahead.

The annual Turkey Run and Operational North Pole were a success and our Membership Goal of 18,945 is coming closer and is in sight of obtaining our 100%. The Annual Oratorical Contests have begun. Good Luck to all the contestants. Annual Reports will be due soon and both the Consolidated Post Report (CPR) and Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR) are now available to be completed and submitted on www.myLegion.org.

Currently the Veterans Administration says that there are 180,000 Veterans in Kansas. The Department of Kansas has less than 20,000 and the VFW is a smaller number. This means there are many service members to reach out to.

I have started a new project to attract membership. There is a Program where Cities and Counties can declare themselves as Purple Heart Organizations. I see it as an opportunity to work with our Government Entities and the Local VFW on our communities. This is a project to thank the Purple Heart recipients for their sacrifice and recognize them throughout the State of Kansas. I have prepared a packet to be emailed to anyone that would like to participate. Send me and email requesting the packet at DepartmentCommander@KansasLegion.Org.

I want to let you know that starting on Monday, January 22, those members who renewed their membership for 2024 prior to December 4, 2023, will now be able to take advantage of the multi-year membership option. To do so, these members would just need to go to www.legion.org/renew and they will be able to renew for multiple years. Now is the time for our District Leadership to go to our Local Posts and help them to be SUCCESSFUL!!!!

Remember this year Our National Commander Dan Seehafer will be giving awards to all Post Commanders that make 100%. So far this year I have turned in 28 Post Commanders names for the Awards.

I Challenge every member of the Department of Kansas American Legion to go to their Post Leadership and help them to become 100%.

You can't get it all done yourself. The best leaders are not afraid of picking people who are better than they are and who may one day replace them." Be that Leader or the one your Leader Mentors.

Some of you may have received an email that looked like it came from me but it didn't. If the From Email Address is not DepartmentCommander@KansasLegion.Org please delete as it is SPAM.

The lines of Communications are always open. Please reach out to your Leadership Teams at the Post/District or Department. Membership is our Strength. If your District or Post would like me to attend your event, please send me an email DepartmentCommander@kansaslegion.org or call me at 563-419-1474.

Randy Frank
Commander
Department of Kansas
Departmentcommander@kansaslegion.org
563-419-1474

Notes from the Department Vice-Commander and Membership Chairman

Greetings...I hope everyone is having a great new year. We are entering the second part of our membership year. It is important to reach out to those members who have not renewed. The American Legion's success depends entirely on active membership participation and volunteerism. The monthly impact reports provide a summary of membership, participation and volunteerism making an impact in the lives of veterans, families and communities. Take time to review the membership impact report and the "why you should belong" pamphlet (links are listed below) when sharing why someone should be a member of the Legion. These documents will help you prepare your 30 second elevator speech when sharing the why.

<https://www.legion.org/membership/impact>

<https://www.legion.org/publications/246555/why-you-should-belong>

The American Legion is the nation's largest and most influential organization of U.S. Veterans. Today, it counts 1.6 million Members who support their communities in more than 12,000 Posts worldwide. Membership in The American Legion gives Legionnaires access to discounts on a variety of products and services. Discounts are available through participating providers in auto rental, home services, financial and insurance, medical, moving and relocation, travel and other industries. You can see all the discounts offered to members at [legion.org/discounts](https://www.legion.org/discounts).

We have a done a great job of meeting each of the goals set by National. Let's keep the momentum going and finish strong. Listed below are the target dates, set by National:

President Day	February 14, 2024	85%
Legion Birthday	March 13, 2024	90%
Children & Youth	April 10, 2024	95%
Armed Forces Day	May 15, 2024	100%

Please remember to utilize the Post 58 membership list to help those Posts that need a little extra help, to reach either the minimum of 15 members or maybe the extra push to reach their Post goal. Membership is not just one person's responsibility; it takes all of us to share the importance of The American Legion. As always, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns please do not hesitate to call anytime. Thank you for all you do!!

Angela Evans
Department Vice-Commander
The American Legion, Department of Kansas
departmentvicecommander@kansaslegion.org

Department Adjutant's Newsletter February 2024

LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE: Call 1-800-432-3924 to learn the status of a bill or leave a message for your State Senator or Representative.

RENEWAL TARGET #5: All unpaid and paid members whose membership cards are not received in Topeka by February 15, 2024, will receive a national dues renewal notice around March 1. All Posts are urged to conduct membership drives to help Kansas meet its nationally assigned target. Do not hold members' cards--transmit them to Headquarters at least every two weeks. Please do your part.

SCHOLARSHIPS: Applications for the "Eagle Scout of the Year," "Albert M. Lappin," "Ted and Nora Anderson," "Hugh M. Smith," "Music," "Rosedale," "Charles and Annette Hill" and "Shooting Sports" are available on the Kansas American Legion website www.ksamlegion.org. Click on Programs on the top and then Scholarships. The "S.A.L. Jay B. Thielen Scholarship" and S.A.L. U. S. 'Udie' Grant Scholarship" are available on the S.A.L. website www.kssal.org. These represent \$14,800 in scholarships available to Kansas students. Make sure your community knows about them. Deadline for applying is February 15, 2024.

BOYS STATE will be held on the Kansas State University Campus, June 2 - 8, 2024. Applications have been mailed to all Posts and High Schools and past sponsors. Deadline for applying is April 30; additional applications are available online at www.kansasboysstate.org or by calling 785-550-6492.

CADET LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY: Information on the Cadet Law Enforcement Academy is enclosed with this Adjutants Letter. Dates are June 16 - 21, 2024.

RENEWAL POST CARDS: Department Headquarters has a supply of the 2024 Membership Renewal Post Cards. These post cards can be highly effective when sent to delinquent members. Contact Headquarters with the number that you need.

SERVICE OFFICER REPORTS have been mailed to all Post Service Officers. Reports must be completed and returned to: The American Legion DSO, 1314 SW Topeka Blvd., Topeka, KS 66612 by March 1, 2024. An additional copy is enclosed.

CHILDREN & YOUTH REPORTS are due to your District Chairman no later than your District Convention. Report forms have been mailed to District Chairmen for distribution to Posts.

POST CONSOLIDATED REPORTS will again be sent to the Posts by Department Headquarters. They will be sent to the Post Adjutants shortly.

POST DATA FORM will be enclosed with the Consolidated Report. This report is particularly important as it will contain the information for your Renewal Notices.

STATE CONVENTION: Dates for 2024 are May 31 to June 2, 2024. This year's State Convention will be held at the Ramada Hotel, 420 SE 6th Street in Topeka.

STATE CONVENTION HOUSING: As in the past, Posts who reach or exceed their membership quota by February 15, will be given priority housing at the State Convention. Posts with priority housing status must exercise their option by March 15 after such time housing availability is open to everyone on a first come, first served basis. Priority housing winners will be notified when they start making their reservations.

POST ADJUTANTS be sure to notify Department Headquarters of any changes or corrections in Post Officers or changes in their addresses. Notify Department Headquarters separately from the Member Data form sent to National (Post Officers only).

POST HISTORIES AND SCRAPBOOKS must be certified by their respective District before they can be considered for state and national competition. Certification forms are enclosed; please see that your Post Historian receives it. Outlines are in the Post Officers Guide.

DISTRICT STANDINGS AS OF JANUARY 26, 2024: District II, 2,860 - 88.16%; District VI, 1,098 - 86.66%; District I, 1,964 - 86.22%; District X, 970 - 85.76%; District V, 2,200 - 84.68%; District IV, 2,354 - 84.37%; District IX, 724 – 83.80%; District VII, 1,230 – 80.71%; District III, 1,478 – 79.68% and District VIII, 594 – 78.99. Department Headquarters Post 58 (included in Dept. total) is 846. Total membership is, 16,318. Membership last year this date was 16,283. We are AHEAD 35 members.

IN ORDER TO AVOID RECEIVING THE NEXT RENEWAL NOTICE ALL PAID MEMBERS' CARDS MUST BE IN THIS OFFICE BY FEBRUARY 15, 2024.



Kansas Honor Flight is proud to be in our 13th year of sending Kansas WWII, Korea and Vietnam era veterans on their trip of a lifetime to visit their Memorials in Washington DC in appreciation of their service.

We are now seeing the number of applications we receive is slowing down. Don't be left behind because we very much want to send YOU! So now is the time for veterans who still want to go to fill out an application.

Kansas WWII, Korea and Vietnam era veterans can easily get on the waiting list by applying online on our website. Veterans applying now would likely fly after 2024. (Veterans go in order of applications received, with WWII, Korea era, and veterans with terminal health issues always going to the head of the line.) Kansas WWII, Korea & Vietnam era veterans are eligible to go no matter where they physically served. Veterans can also arrange to go on the same trip with other eligible veterans they know.

There is no cost to the veteran as trips are made possible completely through donations and volunteers. If assistance is needed on the trip, Guardians who pay their own way, will accompany the veteran. Kansas Honor Flight also has volunteer Guardians who pay their own way to assist any veterans who may not have anyone available to go with them.

We need you to apply now to join our wait list so you're not left behind when the time comes for our Mission to successfully wind down. Please share with any eligible veterans you know. Complete information and application is on our website. <https://kansashonorflight.org/>

The House of Representatives has passed several bills aimed at increasing support for Veteran's home care, and now awaits Congress to complete the legislative process of enactment in the Senate. Here are the three bills awaiting enactment.

H.R. 542 the Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act of 2023. The Bill will increase governmental assistance for the cost of homecare for Veterans from 65% to 100% of the cost that would have been incurred if the care was provided by a VA nursing home. It will also ensure additional funding for certain catastrophic illnesses, such as ALS, and in further assisting home caregivers, provide additional home care aides if unavailable in their areas. The bill also makes available services to Native American Veterans.

HR 3848 Housing our Military Veterans Effectively Act of 2023. This bill addresses funding and administration of VA programs related to homeless veterans. Basically the bill ensures per diem payments by the VA to those providing services and temporary housing to homeless veterans. It also increases payment to a certain number of housing entities from 2024 through 2026. Additional benefits of the bill include assistance to veterans by the HUD-VASH program from the Department of Housing and Urban Development which may include many necessities such as food, clothing, and certain technology items, i.e. smartphones. It also allows the VA to work with other organizations to manage the use of VA land for homeless Veterans. Additionally, the VA home loan program will be extended, through 2032, for certain lending fee rates.

HR 3581 COPE Act. A multi-purpose bill, the bill addresses VA subjects such as the family giver program, VA contributions to local authorities that assist in protecting VA facilities from flooding dangers, and a requirement of reports by the VA on information from emergency management leaders, directors or individuals responsible for providing security at VA facilities. Additionally, the bill also extends certain loan fee rates through March 23, 2032, under the VA home loan program. (Guess they really want to extend these loan rates as this provision is also included in HR3848.)

All of the aforementioned bills were forwarded to the senate in December, 2023.. Kansas Legion members are encouraged to make their wishes known to our elected officials regarding these bills.

WIN UP TO \$4600!!



For Posts and for recruiting a new member of The American Legion

It is simple to meet monthly goals, as well as sign up a new member and be entered to win!!

Drawing Rules of the Posts:

1. Every post that meets the monthly Department goal (Aug 20%, Sep 40%, Oct 60%, Nov 80%, Dec 100% of goal) will be eligible to win \$200 for each monthly drawing, for a total of \$1000. Eligible posts will be collected each month from the Department membership list and the drawing will be held during the Second Sunday meetings. The winning Post number will be forwarded to the Department for processing.

Drawing Rules for recruiting new members:

1. Every new member that joins the American Legion between September 1, 2023, and December 1, 2023 (Fall) and February 1, 2024, and May 1, 2024 (Spring) will be eligible to be entered into the drawings to win.
2. A new member is defined as any eligible Legionnaire whose membership was not paid in The American Legion in 2023 that joins a Post in the Department of Kansas other than Post 58.
3. The Recruiter must be a Legionnaire (in good standing), other than the new members, whose membership is paid for 2024 in a Kansas Post. If the recruiter is not listed, the coupon will not be accepted.
4. The coupon below must be included along with a membership transmittal to Kansas Department Headquarters with the National and department portions of the new members card and the necessary dues. If the Post utilized online transmittals at MyLegion.org, the invoice number and date of the transmittal of the new membership must also be included in the coupon and sent to Department Headquarters. All coupons must be received at Department Headquarters office by 4:00pm on December 1, 2023 (Fall) and May 1, 2024 (Spring), to be eligible.
5. One coupon will be drawn during the Mid-Winter Forum (Fall) and one coupon will be drawn during The Kansas Department Convention (Spring) from all entries properly received and will be designated the winner.
6. From the information contained on the winning coupon drawn, \$ 500 will be awarded to the New Member, \$500 will be awarded to the Recruiter, and \$500 to the recruiters Post; for a total of \$1500 for the Fall entries and \$1500 for the Spring entries.
7. The Recruiter with the most New Member coupon entries will earn \$100; for a total of \$200 for the Fall and Springs entries combined.
8. The Post with the most New Member coupon entries will receive \$100; for a total of \$200 for the Fall and Spring entries combined.
9. The Post with the most New Member coupon entries as a percentage of that Posts 2024 Membership Quota will be awarded \$100; for a total of \$200 for the Fall and Spring entries combined.
10. In the event of a tie the \$100 will be split between those that tied.

New Member Drawing Coupon (Print Neatly)

New Members Name _____
New Member's Post City and Post Number _____
Recruiter's Name and Membership Number _____
Recruiter's Post City and Post Number _____
Post Online Transmittal Number and Date _____

New Member Drawing Coupon (Print Neatly)

New Members Name _____
New Member's Post City and Post Number _____
Recruiter's Name and Membership Number _____
Recruiter's Post City and Post Number _____
Post Online Transmittal Number and Date _____

New Member Drawing Coupon (Print Neatly)

New Members Name _____
New Member's Post City and Post Number _____
Recruiter's Name and Membership Number _____
Recruiter's Post City and Post Number _____
Post Online Transmittal Number and Date _____

New Member Drawing Coupon (Print Neatly)

New Members Name _____
New Member's Post City and Post Number _____
Recruiter's Name and Membership Number _____
Recruiter's Post City and Post Number _____
Post Online Transmittal Number and Date _____

New Member Drawing Coupon (Print Neatly)

New Members Name _____
New Member's Post City and Post Number _____
Recruiter's Name and Membership Number _____
Recruiter's Post City and Post Number _____
Post Online Transmittal Number and Date _____

AMERICAN LEGION TEAM KANSAS

ORDER FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

EMAIL _____ **PHONE** _____



T-SHIRTS \$20.00 POLOS \$30.00

	Grey T-shirt	Red T-shirt	Purple Polo	Blue Polo	Blue Polo w/Pocket	Red Polo	Red Polo w/Pocket	Total Shirt	Amount Due
Youth Small									
Youth Med									
Youth Large									
Youth XL									
Adult Small									
Adult Med									
Adult Large									
Adult XL									
Adult XXL +\$2									
Adult XXXL +\$3									
Adult XXXXL +\$4									
Totals									

**Mail / Call / Text
orders and payments to:**

Marri Krupco
510 E Main St.,
Blue Mound, KS 66010
(620-224-7354)

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
KS NATIONAL COMMANDERS CAMPAIGN FUND**

☐

CASH

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PAYPAL

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CHECK

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VENMO

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CASH APP

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ZELLE



*** ACTUAL COLORS MAY VARY.