



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



The Voice for Today's Veterans and Military
March 2024

Department Commander
Randy Frank

Department Adjutant
Jimmie L. Foster

Notes from the Department Commander

Hello Legionnaires,

Your Department Leadership in February attended the Washington Conference in Washington D.C. They met with American Legion Leadership to learn from all the Departments to become a Stronger American Legion.

They also had the opportunity to visit with our Elected Leaders and to discuss the Legislative Agenda which include: Suicide Prevention & Mental Health; Alternative Treatments; VA Healthcare Modernization; PACT Act: Implementation & Oversight; Safeguard Veteran Benefits; Concurrent Receipt; Guard & Reserve GI Bill Parity; GI Bill for Honorable Service; Military Quality of Life; Pay the Coast Guard; Access to healthcare for overseas military and families; Improving the military TAP and Protect the American Flag. You can learn more by going to <https://www.legion.org/legislative/agenda> then go to www.Legion.org/action this where you can have your voice heard by sending a message directly to our Elected Officials.

The Department of Kansas is currently in 26th Place with 89.31% as of 27 February 2024 in Membership. Nationally the Membership numbers are reaching historical marks and Kansas is right with them. Our next Target Date is March 13th with 90% and I know that we can make this goal! Every year the Department Commander is given a worksheet of the Departments expectations. You should know that we have met all, but 2 goals and they are within reach. One is the 90% membership in March and the other is a new Post that will be here soon. More to come later. Congratulations on our current success!

Remember your 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.

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

District Conventions are almost here and there will be some leadership changes. Please continue to work without going leaders to maintain the Successful Membership Drive that we are experiencing.

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.

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...We are in the last few months in the membership year. Post development and revitalization (PD&R) is a way for The American Legion to reassert itself into the local community. If there are communities that do not have a Post within it, post development is a great way for The American Legion to become an asset in the local community. There are times when membership in a local Post has declined and interest in the programs is non-existent. A revitalization effort can help reenergize and breathe life back into a Post so the Post can become viable once again.

Did you ever stop to think what an active American Legion Post means to a community or a neighborhood? Or how much Veterans and young people are being shortchanged if there isn't one? No service officer to help with claims, or hospitalization, or death benefits. No high school students at Boys State or participating in the Oratorical Contest. Most importantly, no place for Veterans to make themselves heard.

The membership staff at the National Headquarters, with the help of Department leadership, can help with any District wide or Post development and revitalization efforts. Whether it is providing timelines and material or actually being on the ground to train and conduct the development and revitalization effort, we are here to assist in those endeavors. If you feel there are communities that would benefit from a District or Post development or your post needs help with revitalization, please read the New Post Start-Up and Revitalization Procedures and contact your [regional membership liaison](#) to discuss ways to accomplish this task. Below are two links to help guide you through a Post or District revitalization. Please reach out if you have any questions.

https://www.legion.org/documents/word/PDR_Procedures310.doc

<https://www.legion.org/documents/pdf/SamplePDRletter.pdf>

We have 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**:

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 March 2024

IMPORTANT NOTICE - POST DATA FORMS

This Form was mailed to Every Post in a separate envelope. PLEASE complete and return this form to your Department Headquarters no later than April 15, 2024. Failure to meet this deadline will cause Your Post's first 2025 Renewal Notices to be mailed to Your Post Members with incorrect information.

STATE CONVENTION – RAMADA HOTEL -TOPEKA – MAY 31, JUNE 1, 2, 2024. Registration is just \$10.00. For this small fee delegates, alternates and guests will be able to attend all business sessions. Registration also includes a souvenir program. Election of your new Department Officers who will lead Kansas during the 2024-2025 membership year will take place on Sunday. All functions will be held at the Ramada Hotel and Convention Center, 420 SE 6th St. in Topeka. Telephone 800-432-2424 for reservations. See Sunflower Legionnaire for more details.

AMERICAN LEGION LEADERSHIP COLLEGE – JUNE 7, 8, 9, 2024 – CLOUD COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE -- CONCORDIA, KANSAS. The American Legion, Auxiliary, and S.A.L. members over the age of 21 are invited to attend the College. Enrollment information, and forms are enclosed. Cost of the College is \$85 which includes Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast, lunch, and dinner at Concordia Post 76, and Sunday breakfast. In addition, the enrollment fee includes air-conditioned dorm housing at the College, attendees must bring their own sheets, pillow, pillowcase, blanket, bath soap, towels, and personal items. Check in for the College begins at 3:00 PM on Friday, June 7. Dinner will be available from 5:00 until 6:00 PM in the Cafeteria followed by a meeting of the Department Executive Committee. Sessions for all attendees will commence at 8:15 AM Saturday and 9:00 AM Sunday, June 8 and 9 with a break for lunch on Saturday and conclusion of the College on Sunday no later than noon. Tim Marlar, Department Service Officer, will hold a Service Officer School Saturday. Please bring your laptop or iPad. **Please check the appropriate box in the registration below regarding housing. We cannot guarantee housing will be provided if you do not check the box indicating your need for housing at the College. There will be “NO” walk-in housing available at the dorm. Cost for those not in dorms for meals ONLY will be \$45.00 per person for ALL meals.**

BUCKLE UP, LIGHTS ON AND LIVE -- FRIDAY, MAY 24: The 2024 Memorial Day weekend begins May 24 and extends thru May 27. Buckle Up, Lights On and Live is our annual effort to save lives on Kansas Highways. This is the 64th consecutive year for this program which is co-sponsored by The American Legion and the Kansas Highway Patrol. Your Legion Post should station Legionnaires at major intersections to hand out brochures which ask motorists to Buckle Up, Turn Their Lights On and Live. The preferred time is between 5:00 and 7:00 on Friday, May 24. Ordering information is enclosed for you to order your supplies.

CHILDREN & YOUTH REPORTS are due before or at District Convention. Be sure your Post is among those counted. We need 100% reporting (even if your Post has nothing to report). We use everyone's combined total in testifying before the Kansas Legislature therefore every hour and every dollar you report counts. We would like to reach 100% reporting this year.

CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES for 50, 60, 70, 75, 80 and 85 year members of your Post have been mailed to your Post by National Headquarters. If your Post did not receive any continuous membership certificates it should have, please send the member's name and member ID to Department along with a note of explanation. Please make certain to file a Member Data Form for any member whose continuous years are incorrect on your roster.

POST CONSOLIDATED REPORTS AND POST DATA FORMS: Consolidated reports have been mailed to all Posts along with the Post Data Form. The Post Data Form contains the information needed for the Direct Billing Notices your members receive. If this information is not correct on the Data Form the renewal notices will be incorrect. Post Data Forms must be received here at Headquarters by April 15. The Consolidated Reports are due back by May 1, 2024. All reports are compiled, and the figures are used to tell our National and State elected officials about the tremendous impact The American Legion has in our communities, state, and nation.

POST COMMANDER AND POST ADJUTANT: Their Names and Addresses must be reported to Department Headquarters as soon as elected. The form was mailed last month. Please complete and return it immediately after your Post's election which is to be held not more than sixty (60) days nor less than fifteen (15) days prior to the Department Convention which begins on June 3, 2024. This year those dates are May 4 and May 19. All Posts are required to report their Post Commander and Post Adjutant even if they have not changed.

FORM 990's: The rules have changed, and all Posts must annually file with the IRS regardless of its gross income. Beginning in 2008 small tax-exempt organizations that previously were not required to file tax returns must file an annual electronic notice Form 990-N, Electronic Notice (e-Postcard) for Tax Exempt Organizations not required to file Form 990 and 990EZ. This filing requirement applies to tax period beginning after December 31, 2006. Organizations that do not file will lose their tax-exempt status thereby making all income and donations taxable.

BASEBALL ENTRY FEES are due now. For a complete breakdown of Team fees and insurance PLEASE see: www.kansaslegion.org/baseball. These amounts made be paid online by May 15. NO fees will be accepted after May 15. Anyone interested in hosting a Zone Tournament should contact their District Baseball Chairman or Department Headquarters.

IN ORDER TO AVOID RECEIVING THE NEXT RENEWAL NOTICE ALL PAID MEMBERS' CARDS MUST BE IN THIS OFFICE BY APRIL 5, 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.
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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

PAYPAL

CHECK

VENMO

CASH APP

ZELLE



** ACTUAL COLORS MAY VARY.