



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



The Voice for Today's Veterans and Military  
December 2025

Department Commander  
George Honn

Department Adjutant  
Jimmie L. Foster

## Notes from the Department Commander

Greetings, All. Hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving. With a successful Big Red "1" Turkey Run behind us December starts off with Operation North Pole, I hope we have a good turn out just like we did for the Turkey Run.

Friday night, December 5th at 5 pm. at Manhattan Post 17 there will be a Reception being held for the Trailing Candidate for National Commander Matthew Shuman from the Department of Arizona. He is looking forward to meeting everyone. I hope to see everyone there.

Then on December 13th, Hutchinson Post 68 will be hosting the Department Christmas Party. Social Hour starts at 11 a.m. and Lunch at Noon.

Kansas is still in 8th place in Membership for the Nation. We are 6th in the Midwest Region. The Midwest Region is still in 1st place. We are now coming up on the hardest time of year to get Renewals so let's not slack off. I know it's hard, but I know we can do it. December 10th is the next target date for 75% for National. Kansas is really close.

Let us not forget about Legion.org. Kansas is still leading in emails submission to Our Legislators in Washington, D.C. Great Job Everyone!

In closing, if I do not see You before then, I want to wish Everyone a very Merry Christmas and even a Happier New Year.

Thank you for all your support.  
George Honn  
American Legion Department of Kansas  
Commander

## **Notes from the Department Vice-Commander and Membership Chairman**

As we move well into the holiday season there have been a number of significant activities taking place as well as even more coming up. The most significant recently was the Annual Big Red One Turkey Run sponsored by the Kansas American Legion riders. Barry Maples and his staff did an excellent job planning, organizing, promoting, and conducting the activity again this year. Everyone I talked to that came through the event was most appreciative of the food and gift cards that they distributed. The event went well and Thank You to all the ALR Chapters that participated.

I was also blessed to participate in the Lansing Mayors Christmas Tree lighting again this year. I mention this only because I know across the state many other Posts, Squadrons, Units, and Chapters were also blessed with the opportunity to do so in their respective communities. As community members they were also able to participate in many Thanksgiving day activities with other members, strengthening their respective community bond. Thanks to everyone who participated.

Coming up are even more significant community activities. Operation North Pole is the next significant activity again planned and organized by the great Riders Chapters, led by Barry Maples, in Kansas. The families and especially the dependent of our great soldiers currently deployed from Ft Riley benefit tremendously and greatly appreciate the resources and morale support derived from this activity, especially the dependent children. Let's get out to Ft Riley and support this great annual event.

Coming up as well is the Annual Christmas event at Hutchison Post 68 the 13th of December. This promises to be as great event, as it is every year. I hope to see everyone there.

The most important event is Christmas, what it means to our Legion family, and what it means to all of your families. It is a time to get together, reflect on the values and hopes that bring all our individual families together as well as the moral and ethical values of the heritage and culture of our American Legion family. I believe we maintain our strength and strong connection as a family from our belief that these values are and will remain important, regardless the strong influence to change or adapt. I sincerely pray all of you have a safe and prosperous Christmas season, a safe and Happy New Year, and as always, Keep Moving Forward.

George Pogge  
Department Vice-Commander

# Notes from the Department Adjutant

**FEBRUARY 1 DEADLINE REMINDER:** An important date for membership workers. This is the LAST chance to qualify for the Gold Star Club and other awards.

**ADJUTANTS ARE TO REPORT WORKERS NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 15.** Reporting forms were mailed last month, let us know if you need additional copies.

**THREE DUES NOTICES** have been sent by National Headquarters; the easy ones are in; the rest will require personal contact. Organize membership drives now before everyone gets caught up in Christmas shopping, etc. For those Posts with club rooms/lounges: Your lounge workers should have a list of unpaid members available to them, and they should be collecting dues. It does not matter who collects dues -- but they must be collected. Listed below are suggestions on how to collect membership.

1. Divide all unpaid renewals among your membership workers and Post Officers. These people should contact every person on their 'list' this month.
2. Divide your membership workers and Post Officers into teams similar to the above suggestion #1. Perhaps your Post can award a prize to the most successful team and/or individual.
3. Use the 'buddy system' to organize an old fashioned door-to-door membership drive to seek out new membership, renewals and those who can be reinstated.
4. Ask those who have never helped out on a membership drive to help. Who knows, you might find a permanent membership worker. Ask all your membership to help out by remembering who went to service with them and get them signed up. Ditto for all other veterans including today's active-duty military and the current Guard and Reserve Personnel. Who is a 'new' member? Anyone who did not pay their dues to your Post last year but does so this year. There are over 200,000 eligible veterans in Kansas who still haven't been asked to join.

**STATE BOWLING TOURNAMENT:** Information and entries for the 79th State Bowling Tournament are being mailed to all past participants and bowling alleys. If your local bowling alley does not receive the information, please contact State Headquarters or Chairman, Mike Cole at 913-680-8680. Due to NO Bowling Alleys being available as normal, this year's tournament will be held at Little Apple Lanes, 515 Richards Drive, in Manhattan on July 11-12 and 25-26, 2026.

**TRANSFERS:** The Post Transfer section of the Member Data Form must be filled out for all members transferring their membership to another Post. This includes DMS members and is very important because of permanent member ID numbers.

**POST EXCELLENCE AWARD** to qualify for the American Legion's Post Excellence Award, a Post is required to achieve excellence in four areas: membership, submission of the Consolidated Post Report (CPR), attaining a 90% renewal rate, and community

activity. The purpose of this award is membership growth, exposure of American Legion values to the community, and increased visibility of the American Legion Family through service projects. A Post achieving this qualification will have had numerous Post Members involved in planning and achieving these goals. Many Posts are already active in these areas and will qualify without extra effort. Others, however, will need to increase their efforts in one or more areas to qualify for the award. The standard to be achieved in each area is as follows:

**Membership:** The Post must attain at least 103% of their membership goal. At least one Post Officer attends District Meetings.

**Consolidated Post Report:** CPRs must be submitted by July 1. The American Legion's federal charter requires the submission of an annual report to Congress on activities for the year. MyLegion.org has made it simple for a Post to submit its CPR in a timely manner.

**90% Renewal Rate:** The Post must renew at least 90% of their members that were on the 2025 roster.

**Community Activity:** The Post must conduct an event that connects the local community with The American Legion Post. The objective is to open your doors, welcome the community in, and educate them on what The American Legion is all about and how the Post is an asset to the community. Posts do not need to have a physical building to accomplish this. This activity can be held in a park, a community center, or anywhere the Post can welcome and interact with the local community.

**Certification for the Award:** The District Commander responsible for the Post will certify a Post as having achieved the four specified criteria. The District Commander will submit a list of Posts meeting the criteria to Department Headquarters. That list should include the Post name, phone number, address and Commander's name. If possible, accompany the last two criteria with copies of press releases submitted to the local media about the projects to show that the projects were not only accomplished but that an attempt was made to enhance the image of The American Legion through local media. The copy being submitted should include a date and time stamp showing receipt by the media outlet.

**POSTS INTERESTED IN HOSTING 2026 BASEBALL TOURNAMENTS** must notify Headquarters before January 2, 2026.

**THE AMERICAN LEGION HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM** will be held at 9:00am, March 7, 2026, at American Legion Post # 444, 402 S. Martinson Street in Wichita. Prior to the State Contest there are eleven District Contests scheduled for the winner to qualify for the state contest. Scholarships vary for each District with scholarships given to the top three District Contestants. They then move on to the State Contest where eleven contestants compete for \$1,000; \$500; and \$250 and \$150. The state winner gets an all-expense trip to the National Finals Contest.

The three National finalists receive scholarships as follows; 1st Place, \$25,000; 2nd Place, \$22,500; and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, \$20,000.

**RENEWAL POST CARDS:** Department Headquarters will receive a supply of the Membership Renewal Post Cards. These cards can be very effective when sent to delinquent members. Contact Headquarters with the number that you need.

**IN ORDER TO AVOID RECEIVING THE NEXT RENEWAL NOTICE ALL PAID MEMBERS' CARDS MUST BE IN THIS OFFICE BY DECEMBER 5, 2025.**

## **Department Adjutant's Upcoming Important Dates**

Operation North Pole December 6 2025, Ft Riley Base, KS

Following Candidate for National Commander Matthew Shuman visit, dinner & reception Dec 5, Post 17 Manhattan, then attending Operation North Pole.

December 13 Holiday party in Hutchinson post 68

Mid-Winter Conference 30 January 1 February 2026 Dodge City, KS

National Commanders in State Homecoming March 28 2026, Olathe, KS

Department Convention May 29-31 2026, Topeka, KS

Boy State Manhattan May 31- June 6 2026

Cadet Law Salina June 1-6 2026

Kansas American Legion College Concordia June 5-7 2026

Kansas Legacy Run June 12-14 2026

Department Bowling Tournament, Little Apple Lanes Manhattan July 11-12 & July 25-26  
2026

2026 Mid-Winter Forum Meals  
January 30-31, February 1<sup>st</sup>  
Dodge City Post #47

Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup>

Dinner: \$15 KC Strip, Baked Potato, Green Beans, Salad

Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup>

Breakfast: Biscuits and gravy, eggs, sausage, hash browns (Free to registered members)

Lunch – On your own (there are food trucks at each location that should be open)

Dinner: \$15 Brisket, pulled pork, smoked sausage, potato salad, pasta salad, baked beans, dessert.

Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>

Breakfast: Community Breakfast at the VFW (\$15 per person).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Post/Unit/Squadron \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Friday Night Dinners to be reserved x \$15: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Saturday Night Dinners to be reserved x \$15: \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed for the amount of: \_\_\_\_\_

Main to:

American Legion Post #47

PO Box 359

Dodge City, KS 67801

Friday Dinner and Saturday Breakfast will be at Post 47. Saturday Dinner will be at VFW Post #1714.

**The Sons of the American Legion,  
Detachment of Kansas introduces a new program  
that will benefit the entire Legion family!**



## **Get One For The Legion!**

This program rewards Sons of the American Legion members for doing the work and supporting the American Legion, while the Legion gets the new members and continues to grow their membership and stay alive and active. ***And the whole American Legion Family benefits:*** Every time the Legion gains a new member, chances are there are family members that are eligible to join the Auxiliary, Sons, Riders and Cruisers.

How it works: Any SAL member (regular, dual, or triple) that recruits a NEW legion member gets a polo shirt courtesy of the Detachment of Kansas. The detachment pays for the shirts and the embroidery. On one side of the shirt, it is embroidered with "Got One For The Legion Family" and on the other side it is embroidered with the SAL logo/emblem. The shirts were designated to be a bright neon color for two reasons: 1) When you know the program and see someone wearing the shirt, you know they signed up a new legion member 2) It is a great conversation starter for people unaware of the program. The shirt color will change each year, but will be a bright color to draw attention to the program.

Go to <https://salkansas.org> to download the submission form!





## Get One For The Legion Submission Form



|  |  |                           |  |
|--|--|---------------------------|--|
| Recruiting SAL Member Name:            |  | Membership ID #:          |  |
| Squadron #                             |  | Squadron City:            |  |
| Recruiting SAL Member Mailing Address: |  | Polo shirt size:<br>S-5XL |  |

|                                |  |                               |  |
|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--|
| New Legion Member Name:        |  | Address:                      |  |
| Phone:                         |  | Email:                        |  |
| Date Member was signed up:     |  | New Membership ID#:           |  |
| Post City:                     |  | Post #                        |  |
| Post Adjutant Approval - Name: |  | Post Adjutant Membership ID#: |  |
| Signature:                     |  | Date:                         |  |

|                                |  |       |  |
|--------------------------------|--|-------|--|
| Detachment Adjutant signature: |  | Date: |  |
|--------------------------------|--|-------|--|

Email to [det.adj.ks@gmail.com](mailto:det.adj.ks@gmail.com) (preferred) or print and mail to Get One for the Legion, c/o Argonne Post 180, Box 721, Great Bend, KS 67530

**DINNER AND RECEPTION  
FOR MATTHEW SHUMAN,  
CANDIDATE FOR NATIONAL COMMANDER  
DECEMBER 5, 2025  
MANHATTAN POST#17  
114 MCCALL RD MANHATTAN KS**



**MENU WILL BE A "BUILD YOUR OWN PASTA BAR"  
CATERED BY OLIVE GARDEN CONSISTING OF:**

- SPAGHETTI
- MEATBALLS
- ITALIAN SAUSAGE
- CHICKEN
- SALAD
- BREADSTICKS
- CAKE FOR DESSERT
- FETTUCINE
- ALFREDO SAUCE
- MEAT SAUCE
- MARINARA SAUCE

**PRICE WILL BE \$20.00 PER PLATE.**

**MATTHEW WILL ALSO BE AT OPERATION NORTH POLE,  
DECEMBER 6, 2025 @ FORT RILEY.**

**AMERICAN  
LEGION**

