

Sunflower Legionnaire

The American Legion -



Today's Voice for Today's Veterans & Military

VOL LXXVIII NO. 1

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

July, August, September 2024



Angela Evans, Department Commander



George Honn, Department Vice Commander

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION ELECTION RESULTS

Angela Evans was elected Department Commander during the closing session of the 106th Annual State Convention in Topeka on June 2nd.

Commander Evans earned her eligibility by service in the United States Air Force from 1986-2011. She is a 20-year member currently with Post #128 in Sterling, a Kansas Department Life Member, and a Member of the Sterling American Legion Auxiliary Unit.

George Honn was elected Department Vice Commander and earned his eligibility serving in the United States

Navy from 1979-1987. He is a 16-year member currently with Post #156 in Paola.

Mike Jury was elected as Area West Vice Commander. Mike will be available to respond to requests for assistance from Posts in Districts V, VI, VII, VIII, and IX. He is a 22-year member currently with Post #68 in Hutchinson.

James Snyder was elected Area East Vice Commander and will assist Posts in Districts I, II, III, IV, X and XI when called upon to do so. He is a 15-year member currently with Post #36 in Os-kaloosa.



Mike Jury, Area West Vice Commander



James Snyder, Area East Vice Commander

SUPPORT AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

Hall of Fame players are not made overnight. When I was growing up, I used to listen to the St. Louis Cardinals, and the Kansas City Royals on the radio and on Saturday watch the game of the week on NBC T.V. Yogi Berra, Ted Williams, Stan Musial, Lou Boudreau, Bob Gibson, Frank Robinson, Brooks Robinson, Don Drysdale, Harmon Killebrew and Pee Wee Reese are just a few of the hall of famers who played Legion ball.

American Legion Baseball has a deep tradition in MLB baseball all you have to do is look at the hall of fame. 87 players who have been enshrined in the hall of fame were American Legion players.

Kansas American Legion baseball had their first fund raiser last year although we didn't get the results we hoped for, we know what we did wrong, and we hope to have another one in the future. We are a growing program and not afraid to try new things. Our 15 and under League didn't take hold this year but we had a lot of interest from towns about trying it next year. American Legion baseball has been contacted by a few cities about Legion Softball for girls something we are going to explore.

2024 kicked off this year during Memorial Day weekend and we had teams playing in tournaments in Missouri, Nebraska and Kansas.

We made some changes for our Zone and State Tournaments as we are having our Junior Zones and States on separate weekends of our Senior Tournaments which will allow our senior teams to do dual rostering which allows a younger player to move up to our senior teams. Department of Kansas American Legion Baseball is

our face book page where we share information about teams and tournaments so feel free to look and join if you want to.

With your help we hope to keep increasing the word of how great Kansas American Legion baseball is. If your town has a team, please remind them of the scholarship KALB offers to our senior players. We will be sending a team to Missouri in August for Regionals which we hope will win and advance to the American Legion World Series in Shelby, NC in August.

Feel free to reach out to myself and Commissioners Bryant Evans from Lyons and Scott Martin from Topeka about any questions you might have. Visit our Department webpage at kansaslegion.org/baseball, we will update our scores after each round after every game during our State Championships.

BASEBALL TOURNAMENTS

Class A

State Championship
Topeka - July 26-29

Class AA

State Championship
Concordia - July 26-29

Class AAA

State Championship
Topeka - July 19-22

Mid-South Regionals

AR, KS, LA, MS, MO, OK, TN
Washington, MO
August 7-11

World Series

Shelby, NC - August 15-20

COMMANDER

Angela Evans

(719) 659-0837

departmentcommander@kansaslegion.org



I am so humbled by all the support I have received since the Department Convention. I am very excited to represent each of You and the State of Kansas as your Department Commander. It has already been a fun and busy month. On June 2nd I had the honor to attend the opening ceremonies for this year's Boys State as well as attending the talent show; what a gifted group of young men. The same week, I attended the ALA Sunflower Girls State Inaugural and presented the newly elected Governor and Lieutenant Governor with their caps.

KALC was held June 7-9th in Concordia and was a huge success, we had approximately 120 attendees from all three American Legion Families. I also had the opportunity to spend a few days at Cadet Law. The coaches from Kansas Highway Patrol did an amazing job with this year's attendees. We had approximately 32 students attend Cadet Law from all over the State of Kansas. The largest class since 2020. The same week as Cadet Law, the Legion Riders completed the Kansas Legacy Run on June 23rd; the riders raised over \$18,700 supporting the Veterans and Children's Foundation, with more donations still arriving.

July, August and September will be very busy with July 4th activities, Department Commanders/President Family Homecoming August 10th in Hutchinson, National Convention, State Fair, and the Department Golf Tournament September 21st in Topeka. Information for all these events, including event flyers and RSVP forms can be found on the Department website at www.kansaslegion.org.

I would like to know what you and your Post have scheduled so I can attend as much as possible. Please email me at departmentcommander@kansaslegion.org or you can call me at 719-659-0837. You can see pictures of these events, and follow what the different Post's and Districts are doing, at the Department of Kansas American Legion Commander Facebook page.

As always, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns I am always available for you. If you would like for me to attend an event at your Post or District, please let me know. Thank you for all you do for the legion. I look forward to this coming year and the opportunity to serve. For God and Country!

Aim High, Fly-Fight-Win
Angela Evans



AMERICAN LEGION DAYS at the State Fair

Contact your District Commander if you're interested in volunteering to represent the American Legion at the State fair this September.

Fri, Sept. 6..... 6th District
Sat, Sept. 7.....2nd District
Sun, Sept. 8... 10th District
Mon, Sept. 9.... 7th District
Tues Sept. 10... 3rd District
Wed, Sept. 11 ... 1st District
Thu, Sept. 12... 8th District
Fri, Sept. 13..... 5th District
Sat, Sept. 14 9th District
Sun, Sept. 15 ... 4th District

VICE COMMANDER

George Honn

(913) 731-5172

departmentvicecommander@kansaslegion.org



Well I hope everyone is enjoying their summer so far. I would like to thank all the Legionnaires for there support this coming year. I think we can make it great year. Now that we are into the new membership year let's see how fast we can get all Posts off of goose eggs, and

I would love to every Post be in every drawing this year. A group of us will be attending membership work shop at the end of the month. Hopefully we can learn some new ideas and bring them back with us. Thanks again for all your support and lets make this a great year.

HISTORIAN

Dan Stacy

departmenthistorian@kansaslegion.org



Greetings to all. The Department Convention went well as we elected new officers for 2024-2025. New resolutions were passed. One major resolution was for our Chaplain to be presented for the high office of National Chaplain. Another resolution was passed to form The American Legion Cruisers for the Department of Kansas.

The KALC at Concordia was very informative. The attendees had the opportunity to

attend various programs such as the duties of the Chaplain, the duties of the Historian, the presentation on Media and Communications, and numerous other sessions.

We are looking forward to Department Commander Angela Evans's homecoming party on August 10, 2024, at Hutchinson Post # 68. I am looking forward to the National Convention in New Orleans, LA.

CHAPLAIN

Rev. Debra Muylaert

departmentchaplain@kansaslegion.org



Hope everyone is having a great summer! For this issue of the Sunflower Legionnaire, I just want to express my humble and sincere thankfulness to the Legion Family for your endorsement at the Department Convention for National Chaplain. When/if my time comes, I will do my best to represent Kansas well and make you all proud. Most of all, however,

I will do my best to honor our God and make Him proud. To Him be the glory! Again, a great big heartfelt "THANK YOU!" Also, remember to extend some "blue ribbon" encouragement to a fellow veteran or veteran's family member who needs to know that someone does indeed care about them. Be the One! Love and blessings to all!

AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY HOMECOMING

The Homecoming Celebration for Department Commander Angela Evans, Auxiliary President Tracy Kinnick, and S.A.L. Commander Jim Gallentine will be held Saturday, August 10th at Hutchinson Post # 68 located at 730 W. 4th Avenue.

The festivities will begin at 11:00 AM with a Social Hour. Tickets are \$ 15.00 per person by August 5 (\$ 17 at the door)

and include lunch.

Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes with Gray, Green Beans, Dinner Roll with Butter and Dessert will be served.

For additional information or to RSVP, contact Angela Evans at (719) 959-0837. Or mail in the coupon to in this edition make checks payable to Angela Evans, and mail to address indicated on the coupon or VENMO to Angela-Evans-165.

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 was held in Topeka, June 2nd, during the Department Convention.

SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS

- Richard G. Lawrenz, Gardner, KS..... \$ 2,500
- Robert Smith, Pomona, KS..... \$ 1,000
- Edward H. McKay Jr., Olathe, KS..... \$ 500
- Leonard A. Lingle, Overland Park, KS..... \$ 200
- Douglas M. Slawson, Paola, KS..... \$ 200
- Richard E. Houston, Olathe, KS..... \$ 200
- Marri I. Krupco, Blue Mound, KS..... \$ 200 **
- Danny B. Custer, Hoisington, KS..... \$ 200
- Patrick D. Arnold, Wichita, KS..... \$ 100
- Roger Blecha, Hutchinson, KS..... \$ 100
- Henry Sipple, Leavenworth, KS..... \$ 100 **
- Zachary D. Feldhausen, Burlington, KS..... \$ 100
- Leroy D. Tholstrup, Concordia, KS..... \$ 100

** \$200 Bonus for being present during the drawing

ADJUTANT'S BRIEFS

By Department Adjutant Jimmie L. Foster

Now, that the 105th Department Convention is behind US, and WE have a New Slate of Department Officers to lead US into and through the 2024-2025 Membership Year it is time to keep finding Veterans that want to join Our Great Organization.

The Delegates of the Convention were given the opportunity to hear their National Leaders from ALL three Entities of The American Legion Family. It was a Kansas American Legion Family Affair, as ALL Our National Leaders were from the State of Kansas. National Vice Commander Ray Vail from Arma, Kansas, American Legion Auxiliary National Vice President Trish Ward from Louisburg, and S.A.L. National Vice Commander Terry Harris from Larned, Kansas enlightened US with a vast amount of knowledge about their individual Organizations and thanked the Department of Kansas American Legion Family for their support and camaraderie.

Boys State was held from 2 to 8 June at Kansas State University. Every Stators was happy to be able to attend in person this year. They were well educated and initiative-taking young Adults representing their individual Cities and Towns across the State of Kansas very well.

The Kansas American Legion College (KALC) was held from 7 to 9 June in Concordia was also well attended and those there was eager to learn new things to help Our Organizations continue to march forward. All the presenters did a superb job of making it interesting and informational. This year it was again open to ALL entities of The American Legion Family – Legion, Auxiliary and Sons!

At the D.E.C. (Department Executive Committee) Meeting many topics were on the agenda. The biggest was the presentation and approval of the Department Budgets for the Operation Year 2024-2025 by Department Finance Committee Chairman Jim Buterbaugh.

The Information Letter has been mailed to those that were selected as Delegates and Alternates to the 2024 National Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana. National Staff has worked hard to ensure that those attend-

ing will be rewarded with informational and fun times for The American Legion. Make sure you pay close attention to the submission dates. These dates are non-negotiable by Department and National for contract purposes.

The Kansas Cadet Law Program was held from 16 to 21 June 2024 at the Kansas Highway Patrol Academy in Salina. They had a fair number of Cadets attend this year. Each year the Boy's State and Cadet Law Programs give me continued faith that some of our youths are on the right track for the betterment of Our Country!

The Erie Bean Feed is scheduled from 19 & 20 July 2024 in Erie, Kansas. This is the 151st Year for the Soldiers and Sailors Ceremonies. This will be their Sesquicentennial, and they are anticipating a huge crowd. It you have never attended be sure to put it on your calendar.

The Department Commanders Homecoming Luncheon will be held on August 10 at Hutchinson Post # 68. A clip out is on the last page of this Sunflower Legionnaire.


The Kansas State Fair is a go again this year. Each District is responsible for staffing the Booth for a day. PLEASE contact your District Commander or District Adjutant to assist in promoting The American Legion for those attending the State Fair. It is always a fun and rewarding experience!

The State Golf Tournament will be held on 21 September at Great LIFE Golf and Fitness, Berkshire Country Club in Topeka. Gather up your Team and enjoy the fun and camaraderie.

The Department Vice Commanders Homecoming will be held in conjunction with The Eisenhower Pilgrimage in Abilene, Kansas on 12 October 2024. There is also a clip out on the last page of this Sunflower Legionnaire. PLEASE plan to attend.

The Big Red Turkey Run is scheduled to be held on 16 November 2024 and Operation North Pole is scheduled to be held in December 2024 this year on Fort Riley, a definite date is awaiting approval. If you have never attended one of these

(Continued on Page 7)



**FIRST DISTRICT
COMMANDER**

GEORGE POGGE
(703) 597-9385

It has been a busy and rewarding quarter for the District. Elections were held in Holton and a great leadership team is now in place for the 2024-2025 year. The Department Convention in Topeka was a responding success followed immediately by Boys State, Girls State, and the Dept Leadership College in Concordia. The Training Committee continues to put together a great training program for Kansas Legionnaires both as individuals and as Post, District, and State leaders.

1st District through Post 411 Lansing did have a young man attending Boys State selected to attend Boys Nation this year. Congratulations to for selection to Boys Nation.

Cadet Law had a great and full group attend the Academy for an excellent experience provided by terrific instructors and mentors by the Kansas Highway Patrol. Thanks to all the Posts who selected and sponsored Cadet attendance.

Kansas ALR organized another Great Legacy Run through southeast Kansas again this year in which members of the District participated. Over forty-eight bikes participated in the run and raised over \$15,000 toward Veterans and Children's Foundation. We will add these funds to others and members of Kansas ALR will present them as part of the National Legacy Run contribution at the National Convention this year.

Membership is again the hot topic for the year. Get members renewed and new members signed up early. Encourage to the greatest extent possible current members to

renew online and to take advantage of the 3-year membership option. It is quick and easy and makes the Post Adjutants work that much easier. Get those manual renewals and new memberships into Department often and early so they can get processed. If a new member opts to enroll themselves online watch the Post 58 new memberships and get them transferred to your Legion Post and active as soon as possible.

Post reports are the second critical task. Complete them and get them in early. Tell us the remarkable story about what your Post is doing, new leadership, and other information about your Post. The important part is to turn them in complete and on time.

Events coming up are the District meeting at the Kansas National Guard Museum, Forbes Field in Topeka on 27 July sponsored by the great leadership of Topeka Post 1. Everyone in the District is welcome to attend. The National Convention is 23 through 30 August.

I am looking forward to visiting everyone in the District sometime this year. If there is an event you want me or other District staff to attend do not hesitate to let us know. Going to be a great Legion year.



**SECOND DISTRICT
COMMANDER**

ANTHONY PANTOJA
(913) 220-1145

Hello, my name is Anthony Pantoja, I am honored to be your District 2 Commander for the next year, please feel free to reach out to me so we can talk.

Let's continue with "Be The One" and try our best to continue to get new members even though we are all trying to get young members into

the American Legion. We can mention the E-Sports about either use of a PS5, Xbox, laptops, or the use of a tower with a monitor. Don't hesitate to reach out so we can talk because I am also learning about this and it does sound fun. I visited the Warrior Zone last year with Commander Doug Hensley, did see several veterans/soldiers having their time playing or relaxing during this time. Also mention the American Legion Cruisers.


Also continue with the Buddy Checks especially during this time of year since Summer just started with this heat is only going to get hotter during the months ahead. I want to thank every Post in this District for your help and support for this upcoming year.



**THIRD DISTRICT
COMMANDER**

MELVIN EUBANKS
(620) 212-0333

No article submitted.



**FOURTH DISTRICT
COMMANDER**

DANNY ROUSH
(785) 640-6511

Greetings Fourth District Legionnaires,

As you know the District split officially 1 July, with that comes new challenges. We have all new District officers who are learning their duties and responsibilities as we enter the new membership year. We ended last year strong, and I know we will continue

to meet membership goals. Each County has a District officer assigned and by now they should have reached out to you.

Ronald Reagan once said the nine most terrifying words in English language are, I'm from the government, and I'm here to help. Seriously your District officers are here to help and assist you in helping you achieve your goals. Number one as usual is membership by the time you read this the membership year will be in full swing. Reach out to those members who have let their membership expire to try and get them back into the Post.

We still have two vacancies within the District; Historian and one Sergeant-at-Arms. If you'd like more information as to what's involved reach out to your District representative or you can contact me at District-commander4@kansaslegion.org. In addition to these vacancies the S.A.L. is needing District officers as well.

Enjoy the summer, be safe



**FIFTH DISTRICT
COMMANDER**

JOE HULSE
(785) 906-0655

Growth in the American Legion! Here in the Fifth District, we have 34 more members than we did the year before. Retaining and growing membership is always an ongoing challenge, but I am confident that we will be able to accomplish similar results next year. The report we get from Department does not tell the story correctly due to what we will call Legion math. The S.A.L. had growth at well, let's please do what we can to help the A.L.A. membership. We would like to see
(Continued on Page 5)

FIFTH DISTRICT

(Continued from Page 4)

growth across the Fifth. You are doing great things in your Posts. People want to be a part of our Posts whether your membership is 4 or 400. Your actions have helped the American Legion grow.

We are trying to do things to help spread the word too. Examples of this are new signs going up on 281, the American Legion Highway that goes from Mexico to Canada, the 64 flags at the State Fair recognizing the Posts and Units that donated them, as well as are working on American Legion personalized License plates from the State like the K-State and KU Alumni plates the state issues. If you have any ideas on how we can help the American Legion let me know, 785-906-0655.

The American Legion Service officers at the Wichita VA have had approximately 8,352 appointments, received 9,135 phone calls and 1,044 walk ins this year. Please take a moment to thank Jennifer Clark, Adam Santiago, Kathy Prue, Hazel Pagan, and Tim Marlars when you see them. If you need help or have a fellow service member that needs help please call 316-688-6814. I was pleased to see the Wichita VA Hospital Director, Michael D. Payne at Leadership College this year, let's do what we can to see the relationship grow.

We have a lucky date this year at the State Fair Friday the 13th of September. If you would like to volunteer, please give me a call or swing by the booth and say hi.

Lastly, I would like to thank you for allowing me to serve you this upcoming year. If you need anything my phone number is 785-906-0655 and my email address is firstks@yahoo.com



**SIXTH DISTRICT
COMMANDER**

JIMMY STRACHAN
(785) 483-1186

Greetings, Sixth District

The 2024 membership year is coming to a close and we are about 90 members short of making 100%. As a reminder the members that fail to pay dues, their contentious years will go to -0-. They can keep those years if they pay their dues for 2024 and then July 1, we will be the starting the 2025 membership year and those dues need to be paid before December 31, 2024. If not paid before February 1, 2025 your American Legion membership is expired and you will have no privileges.

Did have to revoke a Post Charter and was able to get approved to have the paid members transferred over to another Post. The reason to revoke the Post Charter was as I stated in my Sunflower article in January, was members transferring to Post Everlasting and no one was processing membership and they all expired. As of yet I have not wrote off those unpaid members. I did reserve a room in their local Community Center and sent their roster entire roster an invite to come see me so I can address this issue with hope to have dues collected and transferred over to another Post. With membership dropping it is important to have dues collected and processed. I feel that is more important than keeping the membership at 15 and above.

Sixth District, State Fair Day is September 6, 2024. Need volunteers to work the booth. If you can work a couple of hours that will be great! There will be parking passes available for the ones working the booth. Three passes are available and will be shar-

ing the passes as needed. Also there are fair passes available to use after your shift. Get in touch with me if you can work the booth.

The Sixth District 2025 Convention will take place in Russell at the Fossil Creek Hotel Convention Center. The Hotel is located off I-70, exit 184 and Highway US 281. I am told the American Legion will have discounted room rate for Friday and Saturday night. More details will come as the date gets closer.




**SEVENTH DISTRICT
COMMANDER**

BILL SYKES
(918) 916-9530

District 7 Legionnaires.

We have had just finished a successful Department Convention, where our own Angela Evans was elected Department Commander, and this years Department Leadership College. Now its time for myself and the new Vice Commander, Loxi Sykes to get out and meet you all. We expect to visit all 28 Posts in our District to talk and get to know you, help with your problems, and assist with recruiting and retention. She will also be attending the Annual National Membership Workshop July 25-28 at National Headquarters. Keep working on reports; Post Election reports and Consolidated Post Reports are all due and past due, but we are only at about 25% reporting. Our District placed 8th of 10 Districts last year with 89.24% of our membership goal; I know we can do better this year. A few upcoming events are August 10 Department Commander Evans Homecoming at Hutchinson Post #68; August 23-29 National Convention in New Orleans; September 6-15 State Fair, our Districts day is Monday September 9, let me

know if you can help man the Department booth that day; September 28 District 7 Commander Bill Sykes' Homecoming at Hutchinson Post #68; also September 28 Auxiliary National Vice President Trish Ward's Homecoming at Post #4 in Wichita; October 12 Department Vice Commander George Honn's Homecoming is at the annual Eisenhower Pilgrimage in Abilene; November 16 is the annual Big Red One Turkey Run at Fort Riley and in December Operation North Pole is also at Fort Riley. If I can help you in any way please call or text me at 918-916-9530, williammsykes@yahoo.com or Vice Commander Loxi Sykes at 620-474-4363, loxi-sykes@yahoo.com.



**EIGHTH DISTRICT
COMMANDER**

CHRIS SELF
(620) 253-2651

I hope that everyone is having a great start to their summer. The new Legion year is upon us. Membership cards are being mailed out to the Posts or delivered personally. Please work to get our members reupped and keep recruiting! This last year saw the State reach 97% of its membership goal, and we are going to do everything to get our District and Department to 100% this year. With our National Executive Committee member Dan Wiley running for National Commander, the best way that we can support him is to get our membership to 100%.

Some important dates for the next 3 months: Independence Day is coming right up, and I hope that all Posts have some sort of event to commemorate this. Our Department Commander Ange-


(Continued on Page 6)

EIGHTH DISTRICT

(Continued from Page 5)

la Evans is having her Homecoming on Saturday, August 10th in Hutchinson at 12 PM. I would like to see at least our Post Commanders come out in her support. District 8 Day at the State Fair is Thursday, September 12th. If you are interested in participating, please contact me so I can put you on the roster. On Sunday, September 29th at 1 PM will be by the District 8 Homecoming in Dodge City. The plan right now is ribeye and the fixings. I will send flyers out to the individual Posts about this when the date gets closer.

I would like to visit every Post in the next 4 months to (re)introduce myself and offer my support. Please email me at cself1976@gmail.com with a good date that I can do so; I appreciate this. Keep up the good work, take care of yourselves and each other, and God Bless.



ALAN ZEITVOGEL
(785) 410-3163

**ELEVENTH DISTRICT
COMMANDER**

Greetings to all of my Department of Kansas Legion Family but especially to all of the Legionnaires, Auxiliary Members, and Sons of the American Legion who are now an integral part of the new 11th District! I am very proud and honored to represent you all as the Commander of the 11th District. As a Legion member of Post 17, an Auxiliary member of Unit 17, a Sons member of Squadron 17, and the Director of ALR Chapter 17 when I say "Family" it holds a great meaning to me. I truly aim to make the 11th District a Family with renewed focus on "Veteran's helping Veteran's" and this means their family members, too. For without our family those of us veterans could not have done what we did. They are so important. I would like to introduce the new 11th District Officers: Vice Commander Matt Burany, Adjutant/Finance Officer Barry Maples, 1 Year Executive Matt Hutzenbiller, 2 Year Executive Will Ravenstein, 3 Year Executive Joe Ellison, Judge Advocate Dan Hammond, Chaplain, Darryl Jewell, Sgt-At-Arms Jim Staley, and Sgt-At-Arms Carol Zeitvogel. This fine team will work hard to make the 11th District the "Pride of the Flint Hills!" For all of the Post Commanders and Adjutants of the new 11th, please reach out to me or any new District officer and give us a good contact number and email as well as a good date and location of your meetings. We want to update out-dated information for Department and so that we can come visit with you. I look forward to a fantastic year and some exciting new ventures for us. Stay well.



**AUXILIARY
PRESIDENT**

Tracy Kinnick
(316) 655-5122
tracykinnickala@gmail.com



Greetings members of the American Legion Auxiliary. I would like to take a moment to thank Cheryl Eastep and her administration for a job well done. The Department Convention was a success, with many Constitution and Bylaw changes, new District officers, a new District 11, lots of Mardi Gras, and a little dancing! Thank you to everyone who helped make the convention a success!

I am honored to be elected as your 2024 – 2025 American Legion Auxiliary Department of Kansas President. We have many adventures to look forward to this new year, with new beginnings, friendships, and challenges, we will make each wave count.

My theme this year is Ride the Tide for Veterans, make each wave count. If you have ever watched the waves hit the beach you notice that they arrive in various sizes, some are big, or small, they hit the beach softly, or they crash onto the beach. In this organization, we have highs and lows. As we move into a new administration, will you join me in changing the words "It is what it is" and change our mindset to "It is what we make it"? Imagine what that could do for our organization. There are many possibilities and

ways to change the mindset from "it is what it is" to "it is what we make it" with each wave we encounter along our journey.

I tried to think of a project that would not help one veteran, two veterans but hundreds of veterans across the state. Two years ago, I saw an interactive gaming machine from Lucynt Interactive (www.lucynt.com). As soon as I saw these interactive systems, I knew that was the project I wanted to work on for our veterans in Kansas. To help raise funds for this project we currently have two drawings, one for a cash prize, the other for a unique pistol. (See attached flier for more information.) We will have a wreath auction at the fall conference, a basket auction at Mid-Winter.

I hope to continue the work on improved communication for all members of the A.L.A. To make this a success I need your help to ensure that your information is up to date and that you have an email address in ALAMIS. That would help us greatly to ensure that you get much-needed information.

Should you ever have any questions do not hesitate to contact me. I am here for you and with you through every wave we encounter.



JENNIFER CARDER
(785) 657-7079

**NINTH DISTRICT
COMMANDER**

No article submitted.



LARRY ROKEY
(785) 285-2492

**TENTH DISTRICT
COMMANDER**

No article submitted.

DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER

Timothy Marlar
(888) 878-6881 ext. 56814 timothy.marlar@va.gov

The Department of Kansas American Legion Stands By You: Dedicated Staff Ready to Assist!

Legionaries, did you know The American Legion has a team specifically dedicated to helping you navigate the VA claims process? Our service officers are accredited professionals with the expertise to ensure you receive the benefits you deserve.

Help in Leavenworth:

- Josh Martin
- John Sholey
- Didi Ferguson

These dedicated individuals are stationed at the Dwight D. Eisenhower VA Medical Center and can be reached by phone at 1-800-952-8387 extension 54297 or 1-913-758-4297.

Supporting Veterans in Topeka:

- Dan Bartlett
- Tanya Hayes

Located at the Colmery-O'Neil VA Medical Center, Dan and Tanya are ready to
(Continued on Page 7)



DETACHMENT COMMANDER

Jim Gallentine

(785) 865-8393

jim.gallentine@gmail.com



Summer is upon us, and a great many events are planned and to be enjoyed. As we celebrate our nation's independence of 248 years, we should never forget the sacrifices that have kept our great nation free.

At present, we are 97.03% of goal for 2024 - we need only 180 members to reach the 100% goal. We are 82 members short of our ending membership year 2023. With hard work and solid membership planning on all levels, these goals can be achieved - we are so very close to making it happen! Renewal online

is available, and it is easy! Go to <https://www.legion.org/sons> and hit the Renew button.

As proud possessors of a priceless heritage, may we always remember the "why" of we do what we do, and make good on that priceless heritage. Please keep up the communication with "Buddy Checks" and make good on "Be The One"!

S.A.L. National Commander Donald "JR" Hall's slogan this year is "Representing More Than Me." Everyone should bear that in attitude at all times in all we do.

ADJUTANT'S BRIEFS

(Continued from Page 3)

events, you have deeply missed out. Both Events will literally touch your heart when the Soldiers and their families hugs you and breaks down in tears when they receive their Turkey and all the fixings or a gift for their child/children during the Christmas Holidays.

I know it is a little early but plan to attend the 2025 Mid-Winter Conference in Great Bend, Kansas from 31 January to 2 February 2025. Great Bend is ready and waiting to show Everyone a Great Time. Trail Candidate for National Commander Jay Bowen from the Department of Colorado is scheduled to be in attendance. Plan to attend!

Until next time, continue to support the Greatest Veterans and their Families, in the Greatest Veterans Organization in The Free World, The American Legion (in my opinion).

DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER

(Continued from Page 6)

assist you. Contact them at 1-800-574-8387 extension 54489 or 1-785-350-4489.

Wichita's American Legion Team:

- Jennifer Clark
- Adam Santiago
- Kathy Prue
- Tim Marlar
- Hazel Pagan

Our service officers at the Robert J. Dole VA Medical & Regional Office Center are here for you. Call them at 1-888-878-6881 extension 56814, or dial directly at 1-316-688-6814.

Remember, these services are completely free. Don't hesitate to reach out - our team is here to advocate for you and ensure you receive the full range of benefits you've earned through your service.

Let The American Legion stand by you!

+ TAPS +

Acton, Ronald (Korea).Kansas City #188
 Alexander, Jack (Korea) Topeka #1
 Bailey, Kenneth (WWII)..... Oskaloosa
 Bartlett, James (Vietnam)..... Manhattan
 Becker, Franklin (Vietnam).... McPherson
 Brake, Darrel (Vietnam)..... Topeka #400
 Brooke, John Topeka #400
 Campbell, Bob Clearwater
 Carey, Donald (Vietnam) Topeka #400
 Chumley, Ralph (Korea)Phillipsburg
 Clulo, James (Korea) Oskaloosa
 Clyde, Hill (Vietnam).....Junction City
 Conley, Joe (Korea) Rossville
 Degand, Mike, Jr. (Vietnam)Topeka #400
 Deller, Jane (Korea) Osage City
 Dillon, Steven (Vietnam) Topeka #400
 Dodds, James (Vietnam) Washington
 Dodds, William (Vietnam) Gardner
 Edwards, David (Vietnam)Baxter Springs
 Everett, John (Vietnam) Topeka #400
 Ferguson, Norlan (Vietnam) ..McPherson
 Folsom, Frank (Korea)..... Lenexa
 Fraser, Mike (Vietnam) Gardner
 French, Laird (Vietnam)..... Rossville
 Fritton, Richard (Vietnam).. Topeka #400
 Frye, Leroy (Korea) Osage City
 Goetz, Kenneth (Vietnam)LaCrosse
 Griswold, Charles (Vietnam) ..Marysville
 Griswold, Dale (WWII) Newton
 Hammes, Claton (Persian Gulf).....
 Topeka #400
 Harrington, Phillip (Korea) Frankfort
 Heslet, Rovell (Vietnam) Rossville

Higgins, Wilfrid (WWII) McCracken
 Hinkle, Merrill (WWII)Wetmore
 Hood, Greg (Vietnam) Concordia
 Hull, Dale (Korea)El Dorado
 Hundley, Walter (Korea) McPherson
 Jenkins, Robert (Vietnam)
Kansas City #188
 Kester, Melba (Vietnam)..... Garden City
 Lalumondier, Carl (Vietnam)..... Lenexa
 Lambert, Roger (Vietnam)Pittsburg
 Latham, Dan (Vietnam) Russell
 Latham, Peter (Korea)..... Rossville
 Leseberg, Jim (Vietnam) Hanover
 Lewis, Addison (GWOt) McPherson
 Loy, B. W. (Vietnam) McPherson
 Luckman, George (Korea) Lenexa
 Mantz, Leo (WWII) McPherson
 Marino, Charley, Jr. (Vietnam) Arma
 Miller, Stephen (Vietnam)..... McPherson
 Montoya, Devine (Korea) Concordia
 Moore, Robert (Vietnam)..... McPherson
 Nelson, Harold, Rev. (WWII) McPherson
 Nicholson, Gerald (Vietnam).....
 Derby-Haysville
 Norquay, Arthur (Korea)..... Lenexa
 Olsthoorn, Gerald (Korea)
 Derby-Haysville
 Oshel, Michael Lenexa
 Parker, David (Vietnam) Olsburg
 Parks, Melvin (Vietnam).....
Kansas City #188
 Plumer, David (Korea).....Louisburg
 Plummer, Benjamin (Korea)El Dorado

Porter, Jimmy (GWOt)..... Arma
 Pringle, Steven (Persian Gulf)
Junction City
 Rahija, Joseph (Korea).Kansas City #188
 Redding, Billy (Korea).....Waverly
 Riesen, FrankieMarysville
 Rilinger, Laurence (Vietnam)....Wetmore
 Romine, Leroy (Korea)..... Harveyville
 Saia, Jimmy (Vietnam)..... Arma
 Smith, Billy, Jr. (Korea) McPherson
 Sorell, Richard (Vietnam) Manhattan
 Spence, Dwight (Korea)..... McPherson
 Stanphill, Jimmy (Korea).....El Dorado
 Stone, Marvin (Vietnam) Arma
 Street, William (Vietnam) Stafford
 Strobel, Dale (WWII).....Hiawatha
 Stuenkel, William (Korea) Andover
 Tompson, Donald (Vietnam)....El Dorado
 Trammell, Ray (Vietnam)Pittsburg
 Turk, Clarence (WWII)..... Andover
 Unruh, Don (Korea)..... McPherson
 Vondemkamp, Richard (Korea) Seneca
 Wade, Thomas (WWII)..... Arma
 Wally, Rons (Korea)..... Arma
 Wichman, Kenneth (Vietnam) .. Rossville
 Williams, Donald (Korea)... Topeka #400
 Woelk, Larson (Korea)..... Newton
 Wood, Carroll (Vietnam)Derby-Haysville
 Zabel, Louis (Vietnam)Wetmore
 Zwadyk, John (Vietnam).....
Kansas City #188

LEGION FAMILY HOMECOMING

Saturday, August 10, 2024

11:00 AM - Social Hour

Hutchinson Post #68
730 W. 4th Ave.

RSVP

Name _____

Post//Unit/Squadron _____

Guest Names _____

No. of Meals (\$15 each by Aug 5): _____
(\$17 each at the door)

Enclosed is my check in the amount of _____

Please Make checks Payable to:
Angela Evans

Mail to:
720 W. Commercial
Lyons, KS 67554

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

44th ANNUAL

EISENHOWER PILGRIMAGE

Enclosed is our payment for a rose / wreath to be placed at the Eisenhower Memorial on Saturday, October 12, 2024.

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

Wreath (District Level or Higher) Amount Enclosed _____
(\$20 for each rose requested)

ORGANIZATIONS PRESENTING A ROSE / WREATH

Post # / Unit # / Squadron #, City

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

ABSOLUTE DEADLINE: OCTOBER 1, 2024

EISENHOWER RECEPTION & DINNER

Chapman Post #240

Friday, October 11, 2024

Social Hour: 6:00 PM Dinner: 7:00 PM

No. of Dinner Reservations _____ Amount Enclosed _____
(\$25 per person)

Persons Attending Dinner

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

ABSOLUTE DEADLINE: OCTOBER 1, 2024