

Sunflower Legionnaire

The American Legion -



Today's Voice for Today's Veterans & Military

VOL LXXVIII NO. 2

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

October, November, December 2024

NATIONAL COMMANDER

James A. LaCoursiere Jr. was elected National Commander of The American Legion on Aug. 29, 2024, in New Orleans, during the 105th National Convention.

An Air Force veteran, LaCoursiere has been a longtime field representative for the American Legion Department of Connecticut's Soldiers, Sailors and Marines Fund, which financially assists veterans and their families in need.

LaCoursiere has held many leadership positions at The American Legion Post, Department (state) and national levels. He is a member of American Legion Post 91 in Moosup, Conn. He has also served as a national vice commander, Connecticut state commander, and chairman of the national Legislative Commission.

LaCoursiere is married to his wife, Lisa, and has two children (Patrick and



James A LaCoursiere, Jr., National Commander of The American Legion

Meghan), and three step-children (Jason, Kaylene and the late Johnathan).

Born to a military family in Honolulu, Hawaii, LaCoursiere attended Montville High School where he played junior varsity football, varsity football and varsity track.

As national commander, LaCoursiere is strongly committed to raising awareness for The American Legion's Be the One mission to prevent veteran suicide.

Programs and Incentives:

- [National Commander's Incentive Program](#)
- [103 Percent Membership Award](#)
- [Post Excellence Award](#)
- [100% American Legion Family Ribbon](#)

TURKEY RUN / OPERATION: NORTH POLE

The Big Red '1' Turkey Run will be held Saturday November 16, 2024 at Fort Riley. This event provides a turkey and fixings to the families of the Soldier Recovery Unit (formerly the Warrior Transition Battalion), and other military families in need. This year, our goal is to provide food for 600 families. Volunteers are needed to gather food as well as distribute the food at Fort Riley. A list of food items will be coming out shortly. The volunteers will be able to show the face of The American Legion when they load the food into cars for those needing assistance.

In addition to the Turkey Run, the Legion Family is

working to make Operation North Pole great as well, which is scheduled for December 7, 2024. Operation North Pole provides holiday gifts and activities for the families of deployed soldiers, and other military families in need.

Monetary donations may be sent to Department Headquarters. Please make checks payable to: Kansas Department of The American Legion. Please indicate on the check which event you are supporting; Turkey Run, ONP, or both.

For additional information please contact ALR Department Chairman Barry Maples at legionridersdirector@kansaslegion.org or (785) 410-4393.

EISENHOWER PILGRIMAGE

Eisenhower Pilgrimage this year will be at the Eisenhower Museum and Library in Abilene on Saturday, October 12. All members of the American Legion Family are encouraged to participate in this event which is open to the public. Saturday's program will start at approximately 10:30 AM immediately following the Presidential wreath laying ceremony.

A Homecoming luncheon following the Pilgrimage will be held at the Greyhound Hall of Fame 407 S Buckeye Ave, Abilene to honor Department Vice Commander George Honn, Auxiliary Department Vice President Kristen Hens-

ley, and S.A.L. Detachment Vice Commander Matthew Krupco. The cost for the luncheon will be \$18.00 at the door.



President Dwight D. Eisenhower

COMMANDER

Angela Evans

(719) 659-0837

departmentcommander@kansaslegion.org



I would like to say thank you to everyone who worked at the State Fair. It was a big success with new members and ensuring existing members were in a Post verses Post 58. We also were able to reach out to veterans who had numerous questions regarding VA benefits. We will never fully understand the impact we make the 10 days we are at the Fair, but I can assure you that we do make a difference.

In September the National Commander James LaCoursiere traveled across the west side of Kansas meeting members at American Legion Posts and listening to their concerns. Commander LaCoursiere stressed the difference between Buddy Checks and membership related calls. He stressed conducting training on the timing of when and how to make memberships call verses Buddy Checks. He also focused on proposed priority markets to target, by Districts and how do you plan on improving your current renewal rate for traditional members.

The membership committee, along with District Commanders and Vice Commanders participated in the 2nd Annual Membership Workshop in Salina. Your membership team worked through some membership issues such as Post 58, retention and recruiting, Buddy Checks, District leadership roles and goal setting. Once

again, the training proved to be a great way to share ideas and bring the Department together.

District Homecomings have started. This is a great time to visit with your District leadership and share ideas. The Eisenhower Pilgrimage is on October 12th in Abilene at the Eisenhower Museum. Immediately following the pilgrimage across the street, the Vice Commanders/Vice-Presidents Homecoming will take place in the Greyhound Museum and Hall of Fame. More information about both events can be found on our website. Also, on November 16th we will be helping families by giving them meals for Thanksgiving at the Big Red Turkey Run event on Fort Riley. On December 7th we will participate in Operation North Pole as well. One more event to watch for is the Department Holiday Party, in Paola at Post#156 on December 14th. Again, watch for more information to be released soon at <https://kansaslegion.org>.

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

VICE COMMANDER

George Honn

(913) 731-5172

departmentvicecommander@kansaslegion.org



Hello, hope everyone is doing good. With the new membership year in full swing Kansas is looking good. Let's keep up the good work. With that being said, remember that we are still taking renewals for 2024 also. The National Convention is under way, hope we have a good turn out for it. The State Fair is soon approaching. Remember all your Dis-

tricts days to attend. Just a reminder there will be no 2nd Sunday meeting in September being as all the District Commanders and Vice Commanders will be in Salina on the 22nd for the State membership workshop. Truly hope to see everyone there. Thank you for all your hard work let's all pull together and make this a really good year for the State of Kansas.

HISTORIAN

Dan Stacy

departmenthistorian@kansaslegion.org



Greetings to all.

It has been a busy time for me, with all the activities at Our Post and District as well as the National Convention. I must say, I did enjoy the Convention in New Orleans.

Leona was able to go with me this time and we are especially looking forward to our 2025 Convention in Tampa, Florida, as I am sure many of our Legionnaires are as well.

The Eisenhower Pilgrimage is coming up soon and I am looking forward to seeing all of you there. During our National Commander's visit he attended a lunch at Post # 47 in Dodge City where our Deputy US Marshall Charley Meade appointed him as an Honorary Deputy of Dodge City. The turnout for the meet and greet was

well attended. Our Department Commander Angela Evans was in the group traveling with the National Commander as well as Jimmie Foster and Jeremy Ehart. Our Post and District members attending the luncheon was happy to meet everyone and enjoyed the visit. Our District Commander, Christopher Self, had his homecoming on September 29, and the state Officers attended and I'm sure they enjoyed the rib eye steak dinner, I know I did. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at all our upcoming events this year. I want to thank each and everyone of the Legionnaires for all the great work that they do, BE THE ONE.

Sincerely,
Department Historian
Dan Stacy



CHAPLAIN

Rev. Debra Muylaert
departmentchaplain@kansaslegion.org

Greetings Legion Family!
I hope and pray this edition of the Sunflower Legionnaire finds you doing well and blessed by the Lord your God. Please know that I'm your prayer warrior, praying for the Legion and the Legion family often.

As I was preparing for the Eisenhower Pilgrimage recently, I ran across a few interesting facts about 34th President Dwight D. Eisenhower I'd like to share with you. I think you will find them interesting as well. The one thing I noticed in my research was not only did "Ike" believe he was a "deeply religious" man, but his actions as President were also in alignment with his belief.

After he was elected President, he was baptized and joined the National Presbyterian Church. He frequently attended this church with his wife Mamie during the eight years of his presidency. He also began his first Inaugural Address on January 20, 1953, with a prayer he wrote. His emphasis on prayer extended to his cabinet meetings, which

began with a moment of silent prayer. During his administration, the phrase "under God" was added to the Pledge of Allegiance and Congress also adopted "In God We Trust" as our national motto. He often spoke of the importance of religious faith as an "essential foundation stone" for democracy and he supported the American Legion's "Back to God" campaign.¹

A Scripture that comes to mind in pondering the actions of this man of God is Isaiah 26:4: "Trust in the LORD forever, for in GOD the LORD, we have an everlasting Rock." Another one that equally applies here is Psalm 146:5: "How blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God." For President Eisenhower, God was his rock, his help, and his hope. May we follow Ike's lead and look to God as our rock, help, and hope. God bless you as you serve Him! Be the One! Love and blessings to all!

¹Information in this paragraph is from www.eisenhowerlibrary.gov.

STATE FAIR FLAG SET GIVEAWAY

This year marks 38 years of The American Legion's participation at the State Fair in Hutchinson. By registering at Legion booth, fair

participants had a chance to win one of ten US Flag sets. Congratulations to the following winners. Fly Old Glory with pride!

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Dawn Eubanks | Chanute |
| Stephanie Foos | Larned |
| Kelly Hall..... | Lindsborg |
| Bailee Holliman | Salina |
| Joshua Inlow | Cedar Point |
| Gina Johnson..... | Salina |
| William Myers, Jr..... | Medora |
| Patricia O'Brien..... | Lewis |
| Kenny Robertson | Great Bend |
| Frank Yackovid | Emporia |

ADJUTANT'S BRIEFS

By Department Adjutant Jimmie L. Foster

Many of the District and Department Officers have already alluded to their travels to various Events around the Department and State of Kansas in their Articles.

Many Members of The American Legion Family attended the 105th National Convention held in New Orleans, Louisiana from 22 to 29 August 2024. Many of the Elected Kansas Delegates were very busy attending various Commission or Committee Meetings to partake in items that were to be voted on in those Meetings and then reported from that Commission or Commission to the Delegates on the floor of the National Convention.

Also, the Leading Candidate for National Commander James LaCoursiere from Connecticut and Our Own Trail Candidate Dan Wiley from Leavenworth, Kansas, each sent Representatives to the Kansas Caucus. Both, James and Dan Representatives, spoke to the Kansas Delegates and passed out brochures, pins, and pens to those in attendance and encouraged Our Members to support their Candidates for National Commander of The American Legion.

The Convention is not always business oriented, there is some free time to enjoy the host City and their venues. The Department of Kansas went on a riverboat dinner cruise. The menu was Louisiana cajun style. Everyone had a nice relaxing night out on the Lake Pontchartrain. The weather was beautiful.

For those that stayed around until Thursday afternoon witnessed the National Commander take the Oath of Office on the Stage. James LaCoursiere, Jr. from Connecticut swore into his position as National Commander of The American Legion.

James and his Aide, Harold "Butch" Hansen, have already toured the Western Side of the State of Kansas from 22 to 25 September 2024. National Commander Jim visited ten Posts while here in Kansas. A great turnout showed up at each location. There was food galore at each stop and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. I know that National Commander LaCoursiere and his Aide commented that

they would be back if given the opportunity to return!

Next year's 106th National Convention will be held in Tampa Bay, Florida from 22 to 28 August 2025. I know the City of Tampa and the Department of Florida promise to roll out the red carpet for this event. PLEASE start planning now to attend.

Our National Vice Commander is James "Jim" Kellogg from the Department of Minnesota. Jim will be visiting the Department very soon, hopefully 12 to 15 November 2024. We are trying to fine tune the details. Jim will be visiting the Eastern Side of the State of Kansas, basically I-135 and East.

There will be Breakfast, Coffee Stops, Lunch and Dinner Stops. If you are interested and you have NOT already called in or e-mailed that your Post would like to host an Event, PLEASE do so NOW!

The newly elected National President of the American Legion Auxiliary is Our Very Own Trish Ward from the Department of Kansas and the newly elected Sons of The American Legion Commander is Joseph Navarrette from the Detachment of New Mexico.

The 2024 Big Red One Turkey Run is scheduled for Saturday, 16 November 2024. Operation North Pole is scheduled to be held on 7 December 2024. These two events ensure that the Dependents of Our Active-Duty Military has a complete Turkey Dinner for Thanksgiving, and then have a toy or two under their Christmas tree for a memorable Christmas.

The Department Christmas Party Luncheon is scheduled to be held at Paola Post # 156 on 14 December 2024. More details to follow!

It is not too early to start planning to attend the 2025 Mid-Winter Forum, which will be held at Great Bend Post # 180 from 31 January to 2 February 2025.

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).



**FIRST DISTRICT
COMMANDER**

**GEORGE POGGE
(703) 597-9385**

Greetings 1st District American Legion Family.

As we move into the fall season and the 2nd Phase of the membership year 1st District is doing excellent. The District has 10 of 21 Posts over 60% with two over 100%. The Post Commanders and Adjutants are doing an excellent job and we are getting both renewals and new members. The American Legion is working hard for you and the rest of the membership in Washington DC, Topeka, and at the local level and the greater our membership the more effective our efforts will be. I encourage everyone to continue to work hard at completing the effort toward accomplishing our goal of 95% by January.

Now is the best time to get out and talk to your local school administrators and counselors about the tremendous opportunities for their students to realize by attending Boys State, Girls State, Cadet Law, as well as participating in the Oratorical Contest. Another excellent recruiting technique is to encourage previous attendees to talk up the programs amongst their fellow students. The programs are great and well worth the effort to promote.

We are holding our First District Fall meeting at Post 225 on the shore of Perry Lake in Ozawkie the 19th of October followed immediately by the District Homecoming and noon meal, prepared by the Ozawkie Auxiliary. This will be another great opportunity for us to get together

er as a family to continue to plan and train toward a better future for the District. Watch the District Web site for more information and instructions for RSVP, times, and the menu for the day.

This is the time year when the Posts and the District have multiple activities planned which presents multiple opportunities for Post members to get involved. Besides the local Veterans Day activities there will be numerous seasonal activities taking place that reach out to give a hand up and a hand out to those veterans and others in need residing in our communities. Remember the best way to celebrate our service is to continue to serve the community, making it a better place to live and work for all the members. Get out, be visible, create the environment for service, and promote our family as well.

The final District meeting of the year will be held at Leavenworth Post 94 at 1030 the 21st of December followed immediately by the District Christmas party and lunch sponsored by the Post 94 Auxiliary. Watch the District Facebook page for more information and lets get together to celebrate a great year and season with the rest of our Legion family.

From my family to all of you have a safe and happy holiday season and lets keep moving forward.



**SECOND DISTRICT
COMMANDER**

**ANTHONY PANTOJA
(913) 220-1145**

Greetings District 2!

Great showing for the first quarter, now we will be going into the fall and the

holidays will be on us soon. Please continue with the Buddy Checks as well going to legion.org/action to contact our representatives about issues that we need them to act on for our fellow veterans and families. The District had a great showing at the Kansas State Fair it was fun to be able to talk with and help veterans as well family members to learn about the American Legion. Well, as a District we have surpassed the 55% goal for membership and that is great. But there is work to be looked in on Post 58 for members that are in your area so you can not just check on them but try to get them to transfer into your Post, if you need any help feel free to contact me so I can get a list to you to work from. I do know it is hard cause at times they just don't want to get out of their comfort zone so please mention retention. Invite them to your Post to see all that is available for them and how everyone talks and shares with each other. Please don't forget Eisenhower Pilgrimage on October 12th so check the Department website for all the information, that is also our Department Vice Commander George Honn Homecoming Luncheon, that will be a great event to attend. We will have our family fun day November 2nd at the Newton American Legion, I will send out more information on it soon. Also in November 9th we will have our Fall Conference in Paola at Post 156 and I would like to see all groups there so we can talk about Toys for Tots and Children and Youth as well get some ideas on VA&R and other items that are needed for the District. We have the Turkey Run at Fort Riley so we will be busy. Thanks for all your support and don't hesitate to contact me for any help you may need. December is busy with the Department Christmas Party at Post 156 in Paola, KS.



**THIRD DISTRICT
COMMANDER**

**MELVIN EUBANKS
(620) 212-0333**

No article submitted.



**FOURTH DISTRICT
COMMANDER**

**DANNY ROUSH
(785) 640-6511**

Greetings Fourth District Legionnaires,

I hope everyone is doing well and enjoyed their summer. Hard to believe that summer is over and the winter season will soon be here. The next three months have several holidays and I hope that you have a plan to celebrate these holidays. As we approach this time of the year of joyous celebration, we need to remember that for our Veterans this is a tough time of the year. Take the time to reach out and check on your members to ensure that they are not experiencing any issues.

The membership year is speeding along, and I want to congratulate those Posts who met the first target date to be at 50% by September 11th, job well done! The next target date is October 16th to be at 55%, we have several Posts that have exceeded that all ready. As a District we are a little behind where we were last year at this time so keep working those memberships.

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FOURTH DISTRICT

(Continued from Page 4)

Veteran's Day will soon be here and I hope that you have some sort of celebration in your plans. I know many Posts will have a meal, parades and member recognition. This is also a good time to shake the bushes to find those veterans who are not members of the Legion. Take the time to explain and show how your Post is active in the community and what programs the Legion supports.

I mentioned earlier to reach out to veterans whether they are a member of your Post or not to ensure their mental and physical health. Sometimes a phone call or a casual meeting at the coffee shop can make a difference. **BE THE ONE.**

Fourth District Homecoming will be October 26th at Lebo. Social hour at 1100 and meal served at 12. If you haven't done so please contact Wendy Charboneau (760) 583-0835 to RSVP. Cost is \$20 and once again Olpe Chicken House will be catering the meal.

Have a great holiday season with friends and family!

flags along with plaques letting people know of the great works the Legion Family does. Thank you for everyone's help at the State Fair this year. We were able to do new things this year at the fair and will work hard to continue to improve.

District 5 Homecoming will be October 19 with a social hour beginning at 12 followed by a lunch of hand breaded chicken fried steak at 1:00 p.m. Wichita Post 4 just west of Main and Murdock 816 N. Water will host this year. We will hear from Wichita State and Mr. Ehart will speak as well. Everyone is welcome but please make reservation arrangements by calling Kenny White at 316-990-8642. If you have any questions, you can reach out to Mr. White or myself, my phone number is 785-906-0655.

Please join the Legion Family on October 12 in Abilene Kansas for a program covering Dwight D. Eisenhower followed by a luncheon across the street for the Vice Commanders Homecoming, I always end the day with a free veteran's tour of the Eisenhower Presidential Museum.

I am always here if you have any ideas, questions, thoughts about the American Legion. If you need to just talk please don't hesitate to call.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you,
Joe Hulse



**FIFTH DISTRICT
COMMANDER**

JOE HULSE
(785) 906-0655

Greetings Fellow Legion Family Members from all over the State. The State Fair Flag project was very successful thanks to you, the Posts, units and squadrons from all over our great state, we were able to donate 65



**SEVENTH DISTRICT
COMMANDER**

BILL SYKES
(918) 916-9530

No article submitted.



**SIXTH DISTRICT
COMMANDER**

JIMMY STRACHAN
(785) 483-1186

Greetings Sixth District. Hope all did have a good summer.

The 2025 membership year has started. The District as of this writing is as 54.93% with 680 paid members out of 1,238. Let work to make 100% by December 31, 2024.

Sixth District, State Fair Day was September 6, 2024. I will like to thank William Workman, District Vice-Commander and Dewayne Kalavoda, District Sergeant at Arms for giving their time to help me work the booth. Also big thanks go out to Mike Jury, Area West Vice-Commander for giving us a hand during the morning and Anglea Evans, Department Commander for helping during the evening. Also I cannot leave out Joe Hulse for helping us out a couple of times during the day.

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. Meridy with Meridy's Restaurant will be catering our lunch. 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.

Veterans Day
November 11
2024



**EIGHTH DISTRICT
COMMANDER**

CHRIS SELF
(620) 253-2651

No article submitted.



**NINTH DISTRICT
COMMANDER**

JENNIFER CARDER
(785) 657-7079

Hello 9th District, The new membership year has begun, and the District has been doing a fantastic job over the past few months. As we renew our memberships, it's a perfect time to highlight the new "Be the One" campaign. "Be the One" focuses on preventing veteran suicide by encouraging individuals to actively support and assist veterans who might be struggling with mental health issues or suicidal thoughts. The campaign aims to make a meaningful difference by encouraging us to reach out to veterans, offer support, and encourage them to seek help if needed. It emphasizes the importance of listening and providing compassionate understanding, which can be crucial during times of crisis. The core message is that even one person's care and action can have a significant impact, working to reduce the

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NINTH DISTRICT

(Continued from Page 5)

stigma around mental health and fostering a supportive community for veterans. Please mark your calendars for the 9th District Homecoming on October 26th in Hoxie. Social Time begins at 11:00 AM, followed by the program at 11:30 AM and lunch to follow. This is an American Legion Family event, and we hope to see you there. If your Post is hosting an event, please let us know! We'd love to share it District-wide on our social media pages and on the Department pages. If you have any ideas or thoughts on membership, don't hesitate to reach out. Feel free to call or email myself or Sean with any questions, comments, or concerns!

preparing for the "Holiday Season." With that in mind, I would like us all to take a moment and think about a few things that occur throughout this time of year. Besides the revelry, family get togethers, food, and gift giving. I am talking about the loneliness, feelings of abandonment, and deep depression that often happen. There are, after all, two sides to every coin and we have to take the good with the bad. But we can make good come from the bad. Its easy. Just reach out. That's it. Reach out. Make a phone call, send a text message or email, do what we call in law enforcement a "knock and talk". Just go to someone's house that you haven't seen or heard from in a long time, knock on their door and chat. They may be a veteran and they may not be. Who cares? They are a person in need and we may not even know it. Unfortunately, during the holiday season, there always seems to be an uptick in suicides. I've experienced this first hand through the loss of my son-in-law (an Army combat veteran) and the loss of a dear friend and mentor to many of us right here in the Department of Kansas last January.


The American Legion "Be the One" program has been around for a while now. It will continue as a focus of the new National Commander and I know it is a focus of our Department Commander. It is also a focus for me as Commander of District 11. This and realizing that we are truly an American Legion FAMILY and that we all can and should work together especially during this holiday season to "Be the One" to reach out to those who need us. Peace.



**TENTH DISTRICT
COMMANDER**

LARRY ROKEY
(785) 285-2492

No article submitted.



**ELEVENTH DISTRICT
COMMANDER**

ALAN ZEITVOGEL
(785) 410-3163

Greetings Legionnaires, Auxiliary Members, and Sons! I hope this writing finds you all well and



**AUXILIARY
PRESIDENT**

Tracy Kinnick

(316) 655-5122

tracykinnickala@gmail.com



Family is defined as a group of one or more parents and their children living together as a unit. While we may not all be related, or living in the same household, we are a family.

Working together we strive for the same mission and accomplishments for you, our veterans, and others, across Kansas. With all families there are disagreements, and arguments that will arise, let's face it we are all human, and we all have our thoughts and ideas. However, we are adults, it is time to put aside our differences and work together as a family to achieve our mission. I am saddened to hear that many of our family units are arguing, that the energy we use in this situation is energy that we need to put into other areas of service.

We truly need to , find a way to grow and work together as a family. Across the nations some of the most successful departments work together as a family and have amazing accomplishments across their Department, we need to do the

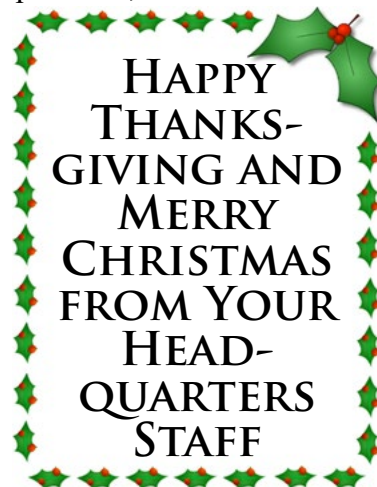
same thing. As I mentioned we all have the same mission, our veterans, families, and active military.

I to put out a challenge to all Posts across Kansas, does your Post have an Auxiliary? If not why? There are many benefits to having an Auxiliary working along with your Post. If you do not have an Auxiliary, reach out to me, I will be happy to share more information with you on how we can work together and grow. Working together is how we will stand above all others. Our heroes need us, with the holidays approaching they will need our support and love. Are you up for the challenge?

Thank you to the Gardner LeRoy Hill Post 19 family for your generous support for the ALA Presidents Project. Speaking of the project, have you seen the 1911 Pistol that is up for grabs? Tickets are moving fast for this pistol, a one of a kind, that you will love to have in your collection. You can reach me at 316-655-5122 or tracykinnickala@gmail.com for any ideas thoughts, or conversations on the ALA and the President's Project!

I hope you take the challenge and support the ALA with our growth and mission. If your spouse is not a member, sign them up today. We have so many options from the holding Unit to the electronic Unit for everyone in our State!

Thank you all for your dedication to our Nation – Tracy Kinnick, 24-25 ALA Dept. President



+ TAPS +

Anderson, Norman, Jr. (Korea).....	Saint George	Marvin, Gayle (Vietnam).....	LaCrosse
Becker, Willis (Korea).....	Sylvan Grove	McAtee, Michael (Vietnam).....	Saint Paul
Bell, George (Vietnam).....	Rossville	McCann, Billy (Korea).....	Arma
Boomis, Billy (Vietnam).....	Independence	McCoy, Chester (Korea).....	El Dorado
Boone, Clifford (Vietnam).....	Conway Springs	Medearis, James (Korea).....	Frankfort
Boyd, Van (Vietnam).....	Junction City	Miller, Darrell (Vietnam).....	Allen
Brandt, Carl (Korea).....	LaCrosse	Miller, Everett (Vietnam).....	Concordia
Bunting, Alfred (Korea).....	Osage City	Miller, Morris (Korea).....	Wathena
Bunting, Nick (Gulf War).....	Burr Oak	Miller, Robert (Vietnam).....	Topeka #400
Cadue, Angie (Korea).....	Horton	Mills, Eric (WWII).....	Ness City
Carrow, Tom (Vietnam).....	McDonald	Moore, Arthur, Jr. (Vietnam).....	Junction City
Cheney, Larry (Vietnam).....	Sylvan Grove	Morrow, Robert (Vietnam).....	Atchison
Clarence, Thrun (Vietnam).....	Sylvan Grove	Moshier, Leland (WWII).....	Manhattan
Clark, George (WWII).....	Minneola	Navarro, Manuel (Korea).....	Manhattan
Clawson, Daniel (Vietnam).....	Manhattan	Nekuda, Jerry (Vietnam).....	Cuba
Cogswell, Edna (Vietnam).....	Vermillion	Newell, Wayne (Vietnam).....	Topeka #400
Crubel, Don (Korea).....	Manhattan	Nitschke, Jerry (Korea).....	Manhattan
Dalcher, Dave (Vietnam).....	Oberlin	Oltjen, Max (WWII).....	Robinson
Dawdy, William (Vietnam).....	Sylvan Grove	Passow, Richard (Vietnam).....	Topeka #1
Day, Nick (Vietnam).....	Cuba	Peltier, James (Vietnam).....	Concordia
Deller, Jane (Korea).....	Osage City	Prockish, Delbert (Vietnam).....	Saint George
Dodds, James (Vietnam).....	Washington	Redick, James (Korea).....	Council Grove
Doebele, Jerry (Vietnam).....	Hanover	Rilinger, Laurence (Vietnam).....	Brownell
Dorsch, Norman (WWII).....	Bird City	Robert, Fritton (Vietnam).....	Topeka #400
Duncan, Curtis (Vietnam).....	Goodland	Rockwell, Dennis (Vietnam).....	Marysville
Eastridge, George (Vietnam).....	Oskaloosa	Schiesser, Donald (Korea).....	Allen
Erickson, Jess (Vietnam).....	Tampa	Searls, Roy (Korea).....	LaCrosse
Estle, Eben (WWII).....	Sabetha	Sherwood, Michael (Korea).....	Sublette
Euler, Jerry (Vietnam).....	Wathena	Sinclair, Harry (Vietnam).....	Iola
Fields, John (Vietnam).....	Pittsburg	Slawson, Edward (Korea).....	Tonganoxie
French, Laird (Vietnam).....	Rossville	Smalley, James (Korea).....	LaCrosse
Gaskill, R. L. (Korea).....	Oberlin	Smith, Daniel (Vietnam).....	White Water
Glaze, Dennis (Vietnam).....	Minneola	Stallbaumer, Lawrence (Vietnam).....	Corning
Goetz, Kenneth (Vietnam).....	LaCrosse	Stettinisch, Ken (Vietnam).....	Barnes
Gudenkauf, Anthony.....	Seneca	Stewart, Norman (Vietnam).....	Arkansas City
Hall, John (Vietnam).....	Independence	Straub, David (Korea).....	Derby-Haysville
Hamel, Francis (Korea).....	Concordia	Strom, Malcom (WWII).....	Dwight
Hardenburger, Charles, Jr. (Vietnam).....	Haddam	Stucky, Leland (Korea).....	Newton
Harmon, Melvin (Korea).....	Hoisington	Succi, Glen (WWII).....	Osage City
Hatfield, Daniel (Korea).....	El Dorado	Sudbeck, Richard (Vietnam).....	Seneca
Hiltgen, Douglas (Vietnam).....	Linn	Thoman, Chris (Vietnam).....	Concordia
Hinkle, Merrill (WWII).....	Wetmore	Thompson, Clarence (Korea).....	Junction City
Holmdahl, Roger (Vietnam).....	Oskaloosa	Tomsu, Paschall (Vietnam).....	Plains
Horinek, Gaylen (Korea).....	Atwood	Towle, James (Korea).....	Osage City
Huggard, John, III (Vietnam).....	Minneola	Triggs, Harold (Korea).....	Florence
Huhn, Louis (Korea).....	Hays	Turk, Clarence (WWII).....	Hanover
Jewell, Robert (Vietnam).....	Iola	Twidwell, Ray (WWII).....	Frankfort
Keaton, Galen (Vietnam).....	Geneseo	Uffman, Delmar (Vietnam).....	Linn
Keller, Robert (Korea).....	Halstead	Vondemkamp, Richard (Korea).....	Seneca
Kennedy, Raymond (WWII).....	Derby-Haysville	Ward, Ronald (Vietnam).....	Isabel
Kenneth, Stewart (Korea).....	Wathena	Weerts, Ralph (Korea).....	Newton
Weishaar, Eugene (Vietnam).....	Wathena	Williams, E. Dean (WWII).....	Concordia
Kralicek, Oliver (Vietnam).....	Sylvan Grove	Williams, Robert (Vietnam).....	Allen
Kruse, Harlen (Vietnam).....	Hanover	Witters, Bill (Korea).....	Anthony
Latham, Darrell (Korea).....	Stockton	Wright, Matthew.....	Rossville
Leewright, Robert (Vietnam).....	Valley Center	Yandell, William (Vietnam).....	Anthony
Lehman, Billy (Vietnam).....	Linn	Yeager, Robert (Vietnam).....	Saint George
Leseberg, Jim (Vietnam).....	Hanover	Zabel, Louis (Vietnam).....	Wetmore
Markvicka, Gerald (Vietnam).....	Manhattan		

DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER

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

Individual Unemployability: A Benefit for Veterans
Understanding Individual Unemployability -

Legionnaires, if you have service-connected disabilities that make it difficult to maintain a steady job, you may be eligible for Individual Unemployability (IU). This benefit allows veterans to receive 100% disability compensation even if their combined disability rating is less than 100%.

Criteria for Eligibility -

To qualify for IU, you must meet the following criteria:

- **Service-Connected Disabilities:** You must have at least one service-connected disability rated at 60% or more, or two or more service-connected disabilities with at least one rated at 40% or more and a combined rating of 70% or more.
- **Inability to Work:** Your disabilities must significantly impair your ability to work and prevent you from maintaining substantially gainful employment.

Seeking Assistance -

If you believe you qualify for IU, it's recommended to seek assistance from a Veterans Service Representative. VSRs can help you understand the application process, gather necessary documentation, and represent your claim.

Remember: Every veteran's situation is unique. It's important to consult with a VSR to determine if you meet the specific IU criteria and get personalized guidance.

Legion VSR Locations in Kansas -

Here are some VSR locations in Kansas where you can get help:

- Leavenworth: 913-758-4297
- Topeka: 1-800-574-8387
- Wichita: 1-888-878-6881 extension 56814

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



DETACHMENT COMMANDER

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 (785) 865-8393
 jim.gallentine@gmail.com



Greetings Kansas American Legion Family!

Joseph Navarrete was elected as National Commander for the Sons of the American Legion at the Annual National Convention held in New Orleans Louisiana. Commander Joseph Navarrete's slogan for his term is "Honoring Our Heritage". This slogan is something that we should all take to heart as we work for the good of the American Legion Family!

Iowa S.A.L. member Mike Monserud was elected S.A.L. Midwest National Vice-Commander. Mike enters the office with a strong record of membership retention and recruitment, and we can look forward to a good year with Mike as National Vice-Commander.

With the strong leadership of National S.A.L. Commander Joseph Navarrete and S.A.L. Midwest National Vice-Commander Mike Monserud, the S.A.L. will have a great year!

The Kansas S.A.L. membership for the 2024-2025 year is on track – the September 11th Goal of 10% has been exceeded, and now pushing forward to the October 16th goal of 25%.

For God and Country,
 Jim Gallentine
 Kansas Detachment Commander

DEPARTMENT CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday, December 14, 2024

Paola Post 156
 5 Delaware St., Paola

Social Hour - 11:00 AM

Lunch - Noon

Name _____

Number in party @ \$15.00 each _____

Children 12 and under \$5.00 each _____

Guest Names _____

Tickets may also be purchased directly from Paola Post 156

Amount Enclosed _____ made payable to:

Paola Post 156

**Mail to:
 Doug Hensley
 334 Lincoln Ave.
 Osawatomie, KS 66064**