

Sunflower Legionnaire

The American Legion -



Today's Voice for Today's Veterans & Military

VOL LXXVIII NO. 3

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

January, February, March 2025

CADET BOYS STATE

On June 15 up to 30 young Kansans will gather for the 56th annual Cadet Law Enforcement Academy session at the Highway Patrol Training Center in Salina. Sponsored by The American Legion, Legion Auxiliary and KS Highway Patrol, the Academy provides high school students an opportunity to learn methods employed to enforce city, county, state, and federal statutes with the



goal of instilling a better appreciation for those who enforce those laws.

The Academy is not a recruitment program for law enforcement. Students attending past sessions have had a wide variety of backgrounds, interests, and career plans. However many students considering careers in law enforcement, as attorneys, and government service have attended as a means to solidify their plans to pursue such careers.

Open to both male and females, all applicants must be high school junior, or senior, or equivalent, with
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The American Legion Boys State of Kansas provides hundreds of high school students a hands-on opportunity to actively participate in establishing a representative form of government from the ground up. Prior to arriving on the Kansas State University campus which serves as the site of the program, each student (known as Staters) is randomly assigned to either the Nationalist or Federalist "political party." Their party affiliation remains with them throughout the week, the idea being they learn to work together, experience differing points of view and collaboration.

Immediately after arriving in Manhattan and checking in on Sunday morning, Staters form city and county governments. The next two days are spent drafting local ordinances and carrying out the operation of cities and counties. At the same time, campaigns for state offices are launched and within days, Staters elect officials to their new state, Kansas Boys State.

Hands-on activities include writing state laws, drafting and passing budgets, establishing a Supreme Court and enacting laws compatible with today's society and needs. How decisions of the masses affect Staters as individuals is demonstrated by assigning each an occupation and a corresponding computerized bank account. Within minutes of

passing laws, license fees, taxes, etc., Staters can view the "real-life" impact.

Instruction is provided



by Legionnaires, the Kansas Highway Patrol and former Staters who serve as counselors and advisors and are well-versed in the function of representative government. Several elected officials annually visit and address Staters throughout the week. Time is allotted for fun activities during the week, including a talent night and various sports.

At a minimum, Kansas Boys State instills citizenship and demonstrates that every individual is capable of making a difference. Thousands of lifelong friendships have been forged at Kansas Boys State, and graduates often receive special consideration when applying for scholarships or employment.

During the week, two Staters are selected to represent Kansas as senators during Boys Nation, held at Marymount University in Washington, D.C., every summer. Staters who are the sons or grandsons of a veteran may apply for the
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MID WINTER FORUM

The Mid-Winter Forum offers every member, especially Post leaders and chairmen, the opportunity to learn more about The American Legion, its programs and the direction each program is expected to take if there are any changes being considered, including changes directed by National Headquarters. In addition, the Forum provides information about how and why The American Legion functions in the manner we do as an organization.

This year's Forum scheduled for January 31 to February 2 will be hosted by Great Bend Post 180 with Events located at 1011 Kansas Avenue in Great Bend. Friday, 31 January, will include a Department Executive Committee meeting at 4 pm. Registration will begin on Friday between 3 to 7 pm at the Post. The Post will serve a Fried Chicken Dinner with Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, a Vegetable and Roll for \$ 10.00 from 5 to 8 pm.

On Saturday, February 1, Registration will continue starting at 7:00 am with biscuits and gravy, juice and coffee for \$5.00. The formal activities begin with a Joint Legion/Auxiliary/S.A.L. meeting at The Post located at 1011 Kansas Avenue at 8 am. After the Joint Opening the Legion, Auxiliary and the S.A.L. will meet in different rooms and other nearby locations. Trail Candidate for National Commander Jay Bowen from the Department of Colorado will address and present information to those in attendance. Lunch will be Sandwiches and Chips at a price of \$7.00. Con-

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COMMANDER

Angela Evans

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departmentcommander@kansaslegion.org



VICE COMMANDER

George Honn

(913) 731-5172

departmentvicecommander@kansaslegion.org



Greetings.... I hope everyone had a great Holiday season and an amazing New Year. I want to take a moment to review some of the accomplishments from the past few months.

District Homecomings are complete, and District Conventions will begin soon. The committee, for Family Day, planned a great event in Newton at Post 2. We had great support for both the Big Red One Turkey Run and Operation North Pole for the families at Fort Riley. We also had this year's Department Holiday Party in Paola at Post #156 in December. A huge thank you to everyone who organized and supported these events and all our events throughout this last

year. We would not be successful without all the hard work and dedication from our members.

Moving forward, we have some exciting events starting right away in January. Our Department Bowling Tournament is in Topeka at Gage Bowl over the first two week-ends of January. Stop by, volunteer your time or just watch some amazing bowlers.

This year, Mid -Winter is in Great Bend at Post #180 this year, January 31-Feb 2, and no doubt it will be another great event. More information is available in this edition of the Sunflower and on the Department website. If you have not reserved your

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JENNIFER CARDER FOR AREA VICE COMMANDER WEST

My name is Jennifer Carder, from Hoxie Post 221, and I am announcing my candidacy for the office of Department Vice Commander Area West for 2025-2026.

I earned my eligibility by service in the United States Marine Corps from 1996-2000. I am a Paid Up for Life member of the American Legion.

I have served in various positions at the Post level and still stay active by serving Post 221 as Commander. I have served as the 9th District Vice-Commander, and Commander and still serve on several committees. I am currently on the Department Employment and Be the One Committees.

As Vice Commander for Area West, I remain committed to collaborating with Posts, Districts, and the entire Legion Family to uphold and promote the mission of the Kansas

American Legion. I will continue dedicating my time and resources to strengthening communication, meeting with members, and gathering your ideas to enhance and advance the organization. My travels across the western region of the state will remain a priority as I work to build connections and listen to feedback. Additionally, I will focus on sustaining past achievements while partnering with current Department and District Officers to implement innovative ideas that drive progress across the Area and Department.

I have the support of my family, the support and endorsement of Post 221, and the support and endorsement of the 9th District. I am asking for your support and vote at the Department Convention for the Office of Area Vice Commander West.

Hope everyone had a safe and happy Holidays. As the new year rolls in its time to start working membership again. Kansas is now at 72.84%. Kansas needs 1,355 to reach the 80% goal in January. I know it's hard but I believe we can get it done. Hope to see everyone at

Mid Winter Forum on January 31st thru February 2nd. Make sure to get your reservations. It should be a good time. There will be several guest speakers sharing good information.

George Honn
Department of Kansas
Vice Commander

GEORGE HONN FOR DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

Greetings to all Kansas Legionnaires.

I am announcing at this time my intent to run for Department of Kansas Commander for 2025 to 2026.

My qualifications are:
Served United States Navy from 1979 to 1987
Joined the American Legion in 2008

Joined the American Legion Riders in 2008

Became our Chapter Director in 2009 to 2017

At that time I became Post 156 1st Vice Commander

Also at that time I became

Area Director for the Legion Riders and have served on the District Executive Committee, District Vice Commander, District Commander, then held the office of Area East Vice Commander for Two terms, and am currently Serving as the Kansas Department Vice Commander.

Also a recent Graduate of the National American Legion Leadership College.

I hope to get everyone's support.

Thank you for your time and continued support.

JAMES SNYDER FOR DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER

Hello, my name is James Snyder, from Learner-Segraves Post 36 in Oskaloosa. I am announcing my candidacy for the office of Department Vice Commander for 2025-2026 years.

I earned my eligibility serving in the United States Marine Corps from 1984-1989. I am a paid up member of the American Legion with 14 years and a Sons of the American Legion member with 7 years of service.

I have served as Post Commander, Adjutant and Finance Officer which I am currently Adjutant/Finance Officer of Oskaloosa Post and S.A.L. For First District, I held the positions of Sergeant-of-Arms, 1st and 2nd year Committeeman then District Vice Commander 1 year then 2 years as District Commander. I held 1 year as Area Vice Commander East in the past until I was

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CHAPLAIN

Rev. Debra Muylaert
departmentchaplain@kansaslegion.org

Happy New Year my dear Legion family! Hope you had a very Merry Christmas and/or Happy Hanukkah!

Since we have entered the new year, some of you may be thinking of New Year's resolutions. Whether or not you are, a terrific way to begin 2025 is to give praise to our great God. Praising God is not always something we remember to do, but our goal as people of faith, should be to cultivate a lifestyle of praise. Praise, along with thanksgiving, are components of worship. In thanksgiving, we express gratitude to God for His love and goodness to us and to others, for His constant care, and for His many gifts lavished upon us. In praise, we admire and exalt God for who He is and what He does. While all three (praise, thanksgiving, and worship) overlap, in praise, we extol our wonderful God, lifting Him up and magnifying Him. You'll find that worship is so much fuller and richer when you praise the Lord and give thanks for who He is, what He does, and what He gives.

One of my favorite verses on praise is Psalm 22:3: "Yet, You are holy, O You who inhabit the praises of Israel." Think about that for a moment! God takes up residence in our praises! Wow! He truly delights in our praise! If you want to put a smile on God's face, praise will do it! It will help you come near to Him as He comes near to you.

All this being said, praise is not always easy to do when times are tough. But if you praise God in both the good times and the bad, your praise to God will anchor you in the hope and trust of God. Hope must have an object; however, May that object always be God. Hope, therefore, is the perfect theme for the Legion's "Be the One" mission. Many people who are hurting and struggling,

and who may be contemplating suicide, have no hope, or their hope is misplaced in the things and people of this world. We can help them hope in God by coming alongside them and helping them cultivate a relationship with God, strengthened by praise to God.

A great resource to get you started on your journey of praise is "31 Days of Praise" by Ruth Myers with Warren Myers. It contains 31 prayers of praise to our awesome God that you can pray personally or use to craft your own prayers of praise. You'll find it incredibly helpful and delightful. I encourage you to check it out.

Again, Happy New Year! May God bless you in the new year and always! See you at the Mid-Winter Forum!

DOUG HENSLEY FOR DEPARTMENT MASTER AT ARMS

My name is Doug Hensley, from Miami Post 156, Paola and I am announcing my candidacy for the office of Department Master at Arms for 2025-2026.

I earned my eligibility by service in the United States Army from 1990-1996. I am a Paid Up For Life member of The American Legion with nine continuous years of service.

I have served in various positions in the Post, from Historian to Commander and still stay active by serving Post 156 as Commander. I serve as oversight on all Committees within the Post. I have served as the 2nd District Commander, and currently serve as 2nd District Judge Advocate and Historian. I am currently your Department of Kansas Master at Arms, "Be The One", S.A.L., E-Sports, and Shooting Sports Committee Chairman as well as serving on the K.A.L.C. and Membership Committees. I am a graduate of the 2022 National American Legion College.

ADJUTANT'S BRIEFS

By Department Adjutant Jimmie L. Foster

The Department of Kansas has been able to accomplish a lot of things this past year. Hopefully everyone reached out to a fellow Veteran and completed a "Buddy Check". Something as simple as a phone call to see how they are doing actually may save a Veterans life. This time of year is very hard on some Veterans and this will assist them in moving forward and being positive. Keep up the great work!

Membership is a little behind of last year's numbers, but that does not mean we should sit around and rest on our laurels. Membership is EVERYONE'S responsibility, not just a few out of each Post, District or Department.

The National Vice Commander's Visit of Eastern Kansas was a tremendous success! Many Posts had breakfasts, lunches, dinners and just a social round table meeting with James Kellogg from the Department of Minnesota as he toured the State. There was a great interaction with the Members of The American Legion Family and National Vice Commander Kellogg. It was his first visit to the Department of Kansas. Jim will also be Our Guest at the 2025 Department of Kansas Convention in Topeka from May 30 to 1 June 2025.

The 2024 Big Red One Turkey Run and Operation North Pole held at Fort Riley, Kansas were BOTH success stories. Being able to meet and greet Soldiers, Dependents and especially the "Kids" is always a plus!

Do not forget to start making plans to attend the 2025 Mid-Winter Conference which be held in Great Bend, Kansas from January 31 to 2 February 2025 at Great Bend Legion Post # 180 located at 1011 Kansas Avenue in Great Bend. Listed within this edition of the Sunflower Legionnaire is the agenda, list of hotels, meals, and other information for this Conference.

We will be fortunate to have in attendance Trail Candidate for National Commander of The American Legion Jay Bowen from the Department of Colorado. Jay is a great Legionnaire, and he represents US well. He will be

I have the support of my family, the support and endorsement of Post 156, and I will be seeking the support and endorsement of the 2nd District at the District Convention on March 22, 2025. I am asking for your support and vote at the Department Convention for the Office of Department Master at Arms.

For God and Country
Carl "Doug" Hensley

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**FIRST DISTRICT
COMMANDER**

GEORGE POGGE
(703) 597-9385

Greetings to everyone in the 1st District and hope your 2025 Year started out well and safely.

1st District held its Christmas Party on the 21st of December at Leavenworth Post 94. Post 94 were excellent hosts, and the event went very well and was well attended. The Unit 94 Auxiliary always hosts a terrific meal, and everyone enjoyed participating in the activities.

The next three months are going to be busy in the District. We have the District Oratorical Contest coming up on the 22nd of February at Post 400 in Topeka at 10 AM followed by a 1st District Executive Committee Meeting. The Department Oratorical Contest will be held on the 15th of March at Post 400 in Topeka starting at 9:00 am. I strongly encourage getting out and contacting the high schools in your area to promote the contest. Remember to reach out and contact home school students and parents as well. Several of our recent contest winners through National have been home school students.

The Kansas Department Mid-Winter Forum will be held this year 31 January through 2 February at Great Bend Post 180. This is an excellent opportunity for Post and District Officers to get up to date on Department Activities and goals. Information on registration is on the Kansas Department web site.

As a reminder anyone who has not renewed their membership for 2025 by the 1st of January is no longer consid-

ered to be in good standing. This includes participating in and voting at meetings as well as attending functions as a member of the Post. Reach out to these members and remind them that their membership is due, or at least reach out to them and check to see if everything is going well. BE THE ONE to keep them in the family as well as keeping them active and moving forward.

Another recruiting opportunity at the high schools is for Boys State and Cadet Law. Boys State will be held this year on the Kansas State campus in Manhattan 1 through 7 June and Cadet Law at the Kansas Highway Patrol facility 15 through 21 June in Salina Kansas. These are both excellent programs and give the young people who attend the programs excellent insight into how our government functions and how law enforcement functions in the state of Kansas. These programs have a tremendous positive impact on the students that attend and return to their schools' better citizens.

The District Convention will be held this year on 5 April at Post 6 in Atchison Kansas. Make plans now to have delegates from each of the Posts at the Convention and we look forward to seeing you all there.

Thanks to each a every one of you for all you do and let's Keep Moving Forward.

George Pogge
District Commander



**THIRD DISTRICT
COMMANDER**

MELVIN EUBANKS
(620) 212-0333


No article submitted.



**SECOND DISTRICT
COMMANDER**

ANTHONY PANTOJA
(913) 220-1145

No article submitted.



**FOURTH DISTRICT
COMMANDER**

DANNY ROUSH
(785) 640-6511

I hope that you all had a great Christmas with friends and family. Here we are 2025 already and winter has a firm grip on us, but for the good news. As I write this article the 4th District is sitting in the number one position on membership. This is due to the hard work that you all have done in reaching out to your membership for renewals, job well done. While we are number one for now, we need to continue to reach out to those who still need to pay their dues. The next few months will be busy with several events scheduled. District oratorical contest is scheduled for February 8th, 1-3 PM at Emporia. Your schools should have been notified by now but reach out to see if they have anyone interested in this great program. In addition, there will be training on Legion programs in the morning on the 8th open to all members. Our District Convention will be March 22nd at Emporia, hope to see you all there. We still need an Historian and a Sgt at Arms. If you are interested in being a District Officer these positions are

good ones to start with to learn how the District operates. We still need S.A.L. members to step up as District Officers as well. We need to continue to our buddy checks, as winter can be rough on some of our veterans.

Be safe and God bless.



**FIFTH DISTRICT
COMMANDER**

JOE HULSE
(785) 906-0655

Greetings my Fellow Legionnaires, I hope you all had a good time over the holidays. I do need your help with something. Department runs ongoing membership status between all the Districts and publishes those results weekly. I am catching some ribbing because 5th District has been at the bottom of the list since July when the list came out. I have been telling them that we were just giving the other Districts a head start. If you could encourage our fellow veterans to renew and bring a friend to join the Greatest Veterans Association in the World. They could become a member for just over \$4 a month, and we can grow our association like the 5th District did last year. Your help is greatly appreciated.

The Legion calendar is starting to picking up with Department Midwinter in Great Bend, Jan 31-Feb 2. 5th District oratorical contest is Sunday, February 23rd, starting at 1:00 pm at the newest Post in the state, Oxford Vista, 402 S Marston St Wichita. Oxford Vista reminds me that they are already over 100% in membership. We would like to thank them and the Post who sent some of their best members to the Post to get it started. Department Oratorical Contest will be in Topeka at Post 400
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FIFTH DISTRICT

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on the 15th of March starting at 9:00am. The winner will receive a \$1,000 Scholarship and a trip for them and a chaperone to National. 5th District Convention will be in McPherson at Post 24 on March 29 starting at 9am. We will be hearing from the National American Legion Spirit of Service Reservist of the Year. They are a member of Post 136 in Mulvane.

It is time to get out to the high schools and recruit for Boys State in Manhattan June 1-7, Cadet Law in Salina June 15-21, Girls State in Lawrence June 2-7. Please don't forget to encourage the same students to apply for the many Department of Kansas Scholarships available. Some of which we did not have any applicants last year.

This year the Kansas American Legion Leadership College is sending out a survey. We would like input on the classes you would like to take, as well as any suggestions you might have. Please take the time to fill it out.

I would like to thank Post 4 Family for hosting the 5th District Homecoming. They always do a great job. I would encourage your Post to let us know if you would like to host a Department or District event.

Thank you and all the members of the American Legion Family for their time, effort, and financial support of The American Legion Family.



JIMMY STRACHAN
(785) 483-1186

**SIXTH DISTRICT
COMMANDER**

Greetings Sixth District, This is the last month of

2024, meaning January 1, 2025 all unpaid memberships become DELINQUENT, February 1, all unpaid memberships become EXPIRED. As of this writing Sixth District is at 71.41% we are 354 members short of being 100%. Let's start calling and visiting these unpaid members, ask them to pay their dues and bring our District quota up. There is one Post in the District that has a quota of 122.22% all others are 90's% and below.

The Sixth District 2025 Convention will take place April 26 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. Meridy's Restaurant will be catering our noon meal. More details will come as the date gets closer.



BILL SYKES
(918) 916-9530

**SEVENTH DISTRICT
COMMANDER**

No article submitted.



CHRIS SELF
(620) 253-2651

**EIGHTH DISTRICT
COMMANDER**

Greetings to all. I hope that you and your families have an amazing Holiday Season. While it is a joyous occasion for some, others find this a difficult time. I would ask every-

one to make a Buddy Check during the season to make sure that No One is Left Behind. We want our whole family to be with us in 2025.

With Mid-Winter Forum being in Great Bend this year, I hope that District 8 has a strong presence this year. Mid-Winter is January 31st to February 2nd. I hope that all Posts send a representative or two.

District 8 Convention will be on April 12th in Dodge City, Kansas. We will start at 8:30 AM with the Chaplain's Service, then convene that day. If you wish to run for a District office, please feel free to contact me and show up that day!

I hope that 2025 is a great year for everyone. Stay safe and Gob Bless!!



JENNIFER CARDER
(785) 657-7079

**NINTH DISTRICT
COMMANDER**

Happy New Year, Legion Family! I hope everyone had a wonderful fall and holiday season. I know I did! I got to celebrate the Marine Corps birthday and Veterans Day with some amazing people in 9th District!

As we step into 2025, I hope everyone had a holiday season filled with warmth, love, and joy. At the same time, we must recognize that the holidays aren't easy for everyone. For some, this time of year brings feelings of isolation, loneliness, and hardship. This is why Buddy Checks are so important. A simple phone call to check in on your fellow Legion members, veterans, or friends can make a world of difference. Let's take the time to see how our people are doing—because no one should feel forgotten.

Our Legion Family is built on stories of resilience,

compassion, and unwavering support. Let's harness these strengths to uplift one another and extend that same care to the veterans who need it most. Sometimes, being the one person who listens, cares, and reaches out can truly save a life.


Through the Be the One campaign, we can demonstrate to veterans and their families that they're never alone. Let's make 2025 a year filled with connection, understanding, and hope. Together, we have the power to make a difference. Be the one who makes an impact. Be the one who changes a life. Let's do this—together.



LARRY ROKEY
(785) 285-2492

**TENTH DISTRICT
COMMANDER**

No article submitted.



ALAN ZEITVOGEL
(785) 410-3163

**ELEVENTH DISTRICT
COMMANDER**

I would like to quote part of "Post Officer Installation Ceremony."

Installing officer: "My fellow Legionnaires, you have been chosen to fill the various Offices of (Post name and number). I know you will vindicate the trust that has been placed in you. I know you will fulfill every obligation required of you. Familiarize yourself with the duties of your offices and carry out those du-

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ELEVENTH DISTRICT

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ties with the same spirit from which arose the American Legion." ... "Remember the tolerance that animates us as members; remember there is NO RANK among us for we all SERVE as equals."

Now these are just part of the words spoken during the Post Officer Installation Ceremony but, in my eyes, they carry a lot of weight. We are nearing the time of year when we elect new officers from the Post level up through the District level and into the Department level. Please, do not take these elections lightly. Moreover, don't be afraid to run for an open position at any of these levels. I often hear from our younger members that they don't feel they have been in the Legion long enough to run. NOT TRUE! There are no tenure requirements to my knowledge. Don't cut yourself short. As it states above; "Familiarize yourself with the duties of your office..." You do not need to know everything. Use experienced members' knowledge. Use your own life skills and knowledge. THAT IS WHAT THE AMERICAN LEGION NEEDS! We need YOU to bring YOUR younger blood, YOUR ideas, YOUR skill sets, YOUR experience, and YOUR knowledge. If you don't then the Legion will not survive. We made it into OUR Legion based on our skills and ideas. Now you need to make it YOUR Legion and carry us forward.

Think about stepping up into an elected position. Peace.

KANSAS DISTRICTS



Click map to enlarge.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

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room, you better do so soon!

The last Department event I'll mention is the Department Oratorical. It will be held March 15, in Topeka at Post #400. Hopefully all your district oratorical chairmen are working hard to speak to the schools and families about the program so we can have a full slate of participants this year in Topeka. If you have questions about the program, please don't hesitate to call and ask anytime. District Conventions are right around the corner, and I plan to attend all of them and look forward to seeing everyone there.

One of the initiatives our National Commander has this year is Buddy Checks. We consider it our most sacred responsibility to look out for each other and our fellow veterans. Since May 2019, by way of an organization-wide Resolution, Legionnaires conduct Buddy Checks during the weeks of The American Legion's Birthday, March 15, and Veterans Day. Legion Posts also perform this vital function whenever it makes the most sense in their communities. Please take the time to conduct Buddy Checks in your Districts. It is as simple as a phone call. Make sure to document your hours on the Consolidated Post Reports as well. Please use the link below to locate information regarding Buddy Checks.

<https://www.legion.org/advocacy/be-the-one/buddy-check>

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



AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Tracy Kinnick

(316) 655-5122

tracykinnickala@gmail.com



Wow, December was full of activities for our department. Each VA and Veterans home held its annual Gift Shop, serving over 400 veterans and their families! Operation North Pole with gift cards for each child, cookies, games, and more. It was a fun time visiting each gift shop this year working the mission, and meeting veterans across the state.

National Central Division Vice President Rosemarie Hauck visited us, touring the state visiting Operation North Pole, Winfield Veterans Home, Topeka, Emporia, Dodge City, and Holton and more. We participated in art projects with the veterans at Ft. Dodge. Rosemarie was happy with her visit, and even commented that this was her most enjoyable and memorable trip! Thank

you to everyone who helped make this visit a successful visit.

We have raised \$10, 994.50 dollars to date for the president's project. We still need to raise \$29,005.50, but we can do this. I am asking for the American Legion Family to help support this wonderful project in helping veterans across the state. Please consider asking your Legion Post, S.A.L. Squadrons, ALR to make a donation for the American Legion Auxiliary Presidents Project. You can find information on the project by visiting www.lucynt.com.

Happy New Year may you all be blessed in this coming year, and that we as an organization strive to be number one in our mission of serving veterans.



DETACHMENT COMMANDER

Jim Gallentine

(785) 865-8393

jim.gallentine@gmail.com



Greetings Kansas American Legion Family!

This holiday season can be a great time, but may be tough for some. Many of our veterans and their families go through some tough times, and so please be doing those "Buddy Checks" and "Be The One"!

S.A.L. National Commander Joseph Navarrete's slogan this year is "Honoring Our Heritage". Commander Joseph Navarrete emphasizes that we should carry on our why, representing our family's service and the sacrifices they paid to each other

and for each other. Everyone should bear that attitude at all times!

Concerning membership - as of 12/31/2024, any membership renewals that haven't been transmitted are considered delinquent. Adjutants, please do not sit on memberships that you have received - please turn them in!

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

For God and Country,
Jim Gallentine
Kansas Detachment Commander

BOYS STATE 2025 MID-WINTER FORUM HUTCHINSON, KANSAS

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Samsung American Legion Scholarship.

Three hours of college credit is now offered through Kansas State University for a nominal additional fee. A Director's Scholarship in the amount of \$1,500 will also be awarded.

Application and information packets for this year's session, to be held Sunday, June 1 through Saturday, June 7, have been mailed to every Kansas high school and American Legion Post, as well as to past sponsors, including private individuals and civic organizations. The fee for the week-long session is \$325 per Stater to be paid by the sponsor(s) plus a \$50 fee paid by the student's parents or the Stater himself.

Applicants must be a current high school junior or sophomore, be a self-starter, be involved in extracurricular activities in their school or community, and rank within the top half of their class scholastically. Completed applications for the 2025 session must be received by Wednesday, April 30. Staters and sponsors are encouraged to apply early. There are no limits on the number of applications per school.

Legionnaires are asked to seek out potential Staters by visiting their local high schools and assist in locating sponsors and co-sponsors for each student. Additional information can be obtained via the American Legion Boys State of Kansas website at ksstate.org calling (785) 550-6492 or e-mailing info@ksstate.org.

Friday, January 31

3 - 7:00 pm Registration	Post # 180
4 pm Department Executive Committee Meeting	Post # 180
5 - 8 pm Fried Chicken Dinner.....	Post # 180

Saturday, February 1

7:00am-4:00pm Registration	Post # 180
7:00-8:00am Biscuits & Gravy	Post # 180

OPENING SESSION

8:00am Call to Order	Department Commander Angela Evans
Opening Ceremony	Angela Evans
Welcome & Introduction	Post Commander Boe Levingston
Welcome	Cody Schmidt, Mayor of Great Bend
S.A.L. Introductions	James Gallentine
Auxiliary Introductions	Tracy Kinnick
Junior Auxiliary Introductions	Kylie Freeman
American Legion Introductions	Angela Evans
Trail Candidate for National Commander	Jay Bowen

S.A.L. & Auxiliary Depart for their Meetings

Director Bill Turner and Deputy Director Eric Rohleder Veterans Services, KCVA

ADJOURN FOR LUNCH AT THE POST

1:00pm Call to Order	Department Commander Angela Evans
Door Prize Drawing	Jimmie Foster
Legion Riders	Barry Maples
Membership Turn-in	George Honn
Membership Awards & Prizes.....	George Honn
Bowling Committee.....	Michael Cole
Media & Communications.....	Jason Hicks
Legislation	Chuck Shoemaker
Candidates for Department Offices	Angela Evans
4:00-5:30pm Reception for Visiting National Officers.....	Post # 180
5:30-7:00pm Smothered Steak, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Vegetable and Roll Available	Post # 180
Entertainment.....	Post # 180

Sunday, February 2

7:00-8:00am Registration	Post # 180
7:00-8:00am Scrambled Eggs, Hashbrowns, Sausage, Biscuits & Gravy Breakfast	Post # 180
8:00am Call to Order	Department Commander Angela Evans
Four Chaplains Service	Rev. Debra Muylaert
8:30 am Pledge of Allegiance	George Honn
Legion Family Membership Turn-In	George Honn
Child & Youth Report	Leroy Matthews
Americanism Programs:	
Cadet Law Enforcement Academy	Pat Hewitt
Boys State	Kyle Wheatley
Oratorical	Randy Frank
Baseball	Joe Durham
Scholarships	Randy Frank
School Awards & County Government Day	Gary Foos
Eisenhower	Paul Sanford
Department Sweepstakes Drawing	Department Staff

DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER

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

+ TAPS +

The American Legion's Temporary Financial Assistance: A Lifeline for Veterans and Their Families

The American Legion has a long and proud history of supporting veterans and their families. One of the ways they do this is through their Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) program. This program provides a lifeline for veterans who are facing unexpected financial hardship.

What is the TFA program?

The TFA program provides cash grants to veterans and active-duty service members who have minor children living at home. These grants can be used to help with the basic needs of the children, such as:

- Shelter (mortgage or rent)
- Utilities (electric, gas, water, etc.)
- Food
- Clothing
- Medical expenses

The TFA program is a one-time grant of up to \$1,500. It is not a loan, so it does not need to be repaid.

Who is eligible for TFA?

To be eligible for TFA, you must be a veteran or active-duty service member who:

- Has minor children living at home
- Is experiencing a temporary financial hardship
- Meets certain income requirements

How to apply for TFA

You can apply for TFA through your local American Legion Post. The Post will help you gather the necessary documentation and submit your application.

The impact of TFA

The TFA program significantly impacts the lives of veterans and their families. It can help them stay in their homes, keep the lights on, and put food on the table. In many cases, it can differ between a family staying together and falling apart.

The American Legion's commitment to veterans

The TFA program is just one example of the American Legion's commitment to supporting veterans and their families. The Legion also assists with:

- Disability claims
- Employment
- Education
- And more

The American Legion is a powerful force for good in the lives of veterans. If you are a veteran needing assistance, please contact your local American Legion post.

Legion Veteran Service Representatives (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

Acridge, Robert (Vietnam).....	Winfield
Allredge, James (Vietnam).....	Greenleaf
Bahr, Donald (Vietnam).....	Marquette
Breese, Kenneth (Vietnam).....	Saint George
Brunkow, Duane (Gulf War) ...	Topeka #400
Bryson, Eldon (Korea).....	Topeka #400
Buttell, Albert (Korea)	Hanover
Collins, John (Korea).....	Derby
Crist, Harvey (WWII).....	Syracuse
Dreasher, Wendell (Lebanon)	Perry
Duensing, Eldor (Korea).....	Hanover
Eckels, Ronald (Korea).....	Ness City
File, Daniel (Vietnam)	Beloit
French, Larry (Vietnam)	Frontenac
Hagerty, Michael (Korea)	Frontenac
Happy, Robert (Vietnam).....	Topeka #58
Hathaway, Roderick (Vietnam).....	Winfield
Hawkins, Dayton (Vietnam)	Axtell
Heiman, Jerald (Korea).....	Axtell
Honer, Walter (Vietnam).....	Valley Center
Jackson, John (Korea).....	El Dorado
Kamphaus, Ray (Vietnam).....	Junction City
Koch, Charles (Gulf War)	Axtell
Krueger, Fred (WWII)	Stafford
McMichael, Charles (Korea)	Newton
Mersmann, Frank (Korea).....	Osage City
Noll, Bernard (Korea).....	Atchison
Nolte, Andrew (Korea).....	Topeka #400
Polcyn, Richard (Vietnam).....	Russell
Reed, John, Jr. (Vietnam).....	Topeka #400
Rhodes, Danny (Vietnam).....	Frontenac
Schweer, Sherman (Korea)	Valley Center
Shubkagel, Kenneth (Vietnam)..	Marysville
Speake, Bob (Korea).....	Topeka #400
Stramel, Francis (Korea).....	Glen Elder
Trautner, William	Cheney
Turpin, Don (Korea)	Atchison
Westblade, Wayne (Vietnam).....	Syracuse
Wilkinson, Dennis (Vietnam)	Winfield
Williams, Robert (Vietnam).....	Allen

JAMES SNYDER

FOR VICE COMMANDER
(Continued from Page 2)

approached by the Detachment to serve as Detachment Vice Commander which I held for 1 year. I then served for 2 years as Detachment Commander.

I am a 2021 graduate of the National American Legion College. I serve on several Department Committees of which Boys State I enjoy the most. I have been appointed to several National Committees over the past couple of years. Over the past several years, I have been to most of the District Conventions at least once and some of them 2 and 3 times.

If elected I will continue to work membership and help to keep the push going towards the Youth Programs. I have the endorsement of my Post, the First District and my family. Also the support of my Employer which is a S.A.L member.

ADJUTANT'S BRIEFS

(Continued from Page 3)

available to discuss issues of The American Legion while he is visiting the Department of Kansas.

The Department American Legion Oratorical Contest is scheduled for Saturday, March 19, 2025, 9:00 A.M. at Topeka Post # 400 located at 3029 US Hwy 24, Topeka, Kansas. PLEASE show up and support these fine District Contest winners. They will amaze you with their knowledge of Our Constitution and their enthusiasm!

I hope that you and your family had a very Merry Christmas and have a very prosperous New Year. If any of you need any assistance from myself or the Staff of the Department Headquarters, PLEASE do NOT hesitate to ask.

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).

MID WINTER FORUM

(Continued from Page 1)

cluding the day's meetings, the Post will serve a Smothered Steak Dinner with mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, dinner rolls for \$10.00 from 5:30 to 7 P.M. After dinner entertainment will be at the Post. For early Registration PLEASE mail payments to: Boe Levingston, 1011 Kansas Avenue, Great Bend, Kansas 67530. DO NOT MAIL TO DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS. For Tickets and any additional information, PLEASE contact Boe Levingston at 620-282-2553 or the Post at 620-793-5912.

Sunday's schedule will begin at 7:00 to 8:00 am with Scrambled eggs, sausage, hashbrowns, Biscuits and gravy, Orange Juice and Coffee FREE for those that have Registered. All others at a price of \$8.00. Registration will be open from 7:00 to 8:00 am. At 8:00 am Commander Evans will call the Forum back to order before turning the podium over to Department Chaplain Debra Muylaert who will conduct a Four Chaplains Memorial Service at the Post. There will be a wrap up of reports followed by the Department Sweepstakes Drawing.

The Agenda for the Forum is on page 7. It is not too early to reserve your room at one of the many hotels in the Great Bend Area. The recommended Hotels are: Holiday Inn Express located at 3821 10th Street, Telephone number: 620-603-6565. The Best Western Black Angus Inn located at 2921 10th Street, Telephone number: 620-792-3541. The Super 8 Motel by Wyndham located at 911 Grant Street, Telephone number: 620-910-9523. No Block Room Rates have been negotiated. PLEASE contact your Hotel of Choice for the Best Option.

Plan to attend and ask a fellow Legionnaire to attend with you. Hope to see you there!

CADET LAW

(Continued from Page 1)

at least a C+ average scholastically and be physically capable of fully participating in all activities during the week long program. Instruction includes firearms and firing range safety, personal defense, law enforcement history and techniques, pursuit driving on a skid-pad under controlled conditions, practical emergency medical procedures, aircraft use in law enforcement (weather permitting), and the responsibilities of citizens regardless of age.

Primarily classes are conducted by Highway Patrol personnel however representatives of other agencies such as the FBI, KBI, Wildlife and Parks, city and county officials augment the instruction provided throughout the week. Parents and families are encouraged to attend graduation ceremonies on Friday evening, June 20.

Students are encouraged to apply early. Completed applications must include endorsements by a doctor (attesting to the applicant's physical condition), their high school principal or superintendent, their local American Legion Post Commander or Auxiliary Unit President, and a local law enforcement officer. A sponsorship fee of \$300 and application fee of \$50 includes housing, meals and supplies needed during the session must also accompany the application and can come from any source (Post, Unit, Squadron, Chapter, a local merchant, parents, etc.).

Applications must be received by March 31.

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