Sunflower Legionnaire

The American Legion - Today's Voice for Today's Veterans & Military

VOL LXXX NO. 2 KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN LEGION October, November, December 2026

EISENHOWER PILGRIMAGE

The Eisenhower Pilgrimage is an annual commemorative event held in Abilene, Kansas, to honor the legacy of General Dwight D. Eisenhower. This solemn tradition occurs every year on the Saturday closest to Eisenhower's birthday. The pilgrimage serves as a powerful tribute to the 34th President of the United States—the only U.S. commander-in-chief who claimed Kansas as his home state. The multi-decade tradition brings together hundreds of veterans, military supporters, and civic groups on the expansive campus of the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum. It is a collaborative effort uniting the entire American Legion family. This year's pilgrimage will be at the Eisenhower Museum and Library in Abilene on Saturday, October 17.

Dwight D. Eisenhower, May 26, 1959

TURKEY RUN / OPERATION: NORTH POLE

The Big Red '1' Turkey Run will be held Saturday November 21, 2026 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 5, 2026. 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.

Jay Bowen - National Commander of The American Legion

MEET THE NEW NATIONAL COMMANDER

A retired chief warrant officer three, Bowen worked in radar and missile maintenance on HAWK and Patriot systems. His 20-year Army career included service in Operation Desert Shield.

Following his military service, Bowen worked in the private sector in roles including distribution management and telecommunications engineering. He built a preventive maintenance program for baked beans manufacturer Bush Brothers & Company. He later worked in federal defense contracting. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Southern Arkansas University, graduating summa cum laude, and a Master of Arts degree from Webster University.

Bowen has held numerous leadership positions within The American Legion at the post, district, department (state), and national levels. A Paid Up For Life Member of Neal Thomas Jr.-Centennial Post 209 in Colorado Springs, Colo., he is a Past Commander of the Department of Colorado. At the national level, he has served as Chairman of the Veterans Employment and Education Commission, Chairman of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission, and Chairman of the Membership and Post Activities Committee, among other roles.

As national commander, Bowen emphasizes The American Legion's mission of service through his theme, "Be Part of the Solution (B.P.O.T.S.)," encouraging members to engage actively in their communities, support veterans, and their families, and advance the organization's legislative priorities. He is a staunch advocate for The American Legion "Be the One" mission to prevent veteran suicide.

Bowen and his wife, Jackie, have two sons and four grandchildren, all members of The American Legion Family. Their oldest grandson recently married a very nice lady with three sons, so they are now great-grandparents.

COMMANDER

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George Pogge

(703) 597-9385

departmentcommander@kansaslegion.org

As I sat here writing up the things that we have done over the past quarter and the things that we need to do over the next quarter, I took a look at all the activities that are coming up and what they truly represent not just to our state but to our Legion Family. I also contemplated why I am writing an article and what I really want to say. We have coming up the Veterans Day celebration as well as our Kansas Department Family Christmas Party on the 12th of December. The Riders will be doing the Turkey Run and Operation North Pole for the families of deployed soldiers at Fort Riley. Some of us are going to National Fall Meetings and we all have District Homecoming events coming up. We also all have membership challenges, and we been given goals to meet in order to continue to make our Posts and Districts stronger.

It just didn't seem, though, that this should be a discussion of what we were doing. It should rather be a discussion on why we are doing these activities, why we are trying to make our Post stronger by increasing our membership, and why it is important to continue to embed ourselves more strongly into our communities.

This year, our nation will mark two anniversaries of extraordinary significance: the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the 25th Anniversary of the Attacks of September 11, 2001. These milestones, separated by more than two centuries, speak to the same truth, that America survives and thrives because Americans step forward when their communities and their Country need them most.

For the American Legion Family of the Department of Kansas, these anniversaries are more than historical markers. They are reminders of our mission, our responsibilities, and the vital role that strong, community focused Posts play in preserving the ideals that define our nation. They are also reminders that this nation rises from the ashes stronger than the events that were meant to break us. These actions are the physical grit and determination of the true American Spirit and strength. With this same determination to overcome, we deliver our programs to our veterans, military, children and youth and our communities.

In 1776, the Declaration of Independence articulated a bold vision: that free people could govern themselves, defend their liberties, and build a nation rooted in shared purpose. This cornerstone document of what we are as aa nation is not simply a relic of the past, it is a living promise that each generation must uphold and carry out by example.

As Legionnaires and part of the American Legion Family, we are uniquely positioned to help Kansas communities reflect on the meaning of this anniversary. Our programs, ceremonies, youth initiatives, and civic engagement efforts all reinforce the principles of liberty, unity, civic responsibility, and service. These values are not abstract concepts; they are the foundation of our organization and the reason our Posts matter.

The 250th Anniversary offers us an opportunity to lead, to educate, to commemorate, to inspire, and set the example. It is a moment to remind our communities that patriotism is not passive. It is active, intentional, and rooted in service: service to the community, state, and nation.

Twenty five years ago, our nation faced a moment of profound tragedy and extraordinary courage. The attacks of September 11, 2001, changed the course of American history and shaped the service of millions of veterans, first responders, and families.

For many Kansas Legionnaires, 9/11 is not distant history. It is part of our lived experience: a day that influenced deployments, careers, and the missions we carried out around the world. The anniversary is a time to honor those we lost, those who served, and those who continue to bear the weight of that day.

It is also a reminder that the spirit of service did not end in 1776. It did not end in 2001. It continues today in every community where Legionnaires step forward to support veterans, strengthen families, and uphold the values that define our nation.

Both anniversaries point to a shared message: America endures because Americans serve; and when they return, they continue to serve. They serve in our communities, in our schools, in our local governments, as first responders, and as an integral part of the fabric of our communities.

That is exactly what strong, active, community focused American Legion families do.

• They preserve the ideals of 1776 by teaching patriotism and civic duty.

• They honor the sacrifices of 9/11 by supporting veterans, first responders, and families.

• They strengthen communities through visible, meaningful engagement.

A viable Post is not defined by its building or its size. It is defined by its membership, its mission, and its impact. When Posts are active, present, and connected to their communities, they become essential pillars of civic life — just as the founders envisioned and just as the heroes of 9/11 demonstrate.

The American Legion Family, including Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and S.A.L. is uniquely equipped to lead Kansas communities through these historic anniversaries. Together, we can:

• Host commemorations that educate and inspire;

• Support veterans and families with programs that reflect our values;

• Partner with schools, civic organizations, and local leaders; and

• Promote patriotism, unity, and service across generations.

The American Legion Riders most exemplify the strength of the family and its effectiveness. This is truly a family organization and focuses on commitment, performance, and community action as a family. When their activities are focused on exemplifying the four pillars and the community aspect of the American Legion, their voice is resounding and their actions are truly exemplary.

These anniversaries are not just opportunities to look back. They are opportunities to look forward to strengthening our Posts, grow our membership, and reaffirm our commitment to serving God and Country. As we continue to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the 25th Anniversary of 9/11, we are reminded that America's story is written by those who keep moving forward. The American Legion has always been part of that story. And in Kansas, we will continue to lead with pride, unity, and unwavering dedication.

This is our moment to recommit to the mission that has guided us for more than a century: Strengthen our Posts. Grow our membership. Increase our engagement. Serve our communities. Honor our nation.

The anniversaries and the activities ahead are a part of how we answer the call us action, and a community focused American Legion Family, stronger together will be ready to answer that call.

George Pogge

VICE COMMANDER

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Ed Boring

(620) 332-9942

departmentvicecommander@kansaslegion.org

Hello Legionnaires,

The new membership year has started and we are off to a great start. We had a very interesting trip to Indianapolis. We had three van loads with 15 members attending the Annual Membership Conference where our annual membership goals were set. We had many conversations and discussions on how to reach our 2026-2027 goals. Thanks to the excellent work of the membership committee, we have a plan. Please contact your District leadership to see how your Post goals came about and their guidance.

During August the Commanders Homecoming was held at Post 4 in Wichita. This was a great event and was well attended. Post 4 did an excellent job.

At the end of August and beginning of September the National Convention was held in Louisville, KY. Kansas had members of the ALR join the Legacy Run and the Convention was attended by a large group of the Kansas American Legion Families. Here we were able to network with other Legionnaires from around the Country and exchange ideas that work well and not so well. I feel what we discussed will be of help to meet our goals.

The Kansas State Fair was well attended by each of the Districts. It was very hot again this year but we had a large amount of people stopping by the booth and speak with the volunteers manning the booth. Thank you to the volunteers and showing your Legion Pride.

District Commanders will be holding their Homecoming within the next couple of months. I am going to try and attend as many as possible. However, when 3 or 4 are held on the same day it makes it very difficult to attend them all. I'll do my best to attend what I can. I would like to invite everyone to attend the Vice Commander's Legion Family Homecoming that will be held at noon, October 17, 2026, which also includes Laurie Kerns, the American Legion Auxiliary Department Vice President and Jeff Kerns, the S.A.L. Detachment Vice Commander. We are hosting the homecoming at the Greyhound Hall of Fame, which is directly adjacent to the Eisenhower Memorial in Abilene.

As always, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns I am available for you. If you would like for me to attend an event at your Post or District, please let me know. As always call me anytime if you have any concerns. I look forward for the opportunity to be of service. Thank you for everything You do for the American Legion. For God and Country.

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 107th National Convention held in Louisville, Kentucky from 27 August to 3 September 2026. 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, Leading Candidate for National Commander John "Jay" Bowen from the Department of Colorado and Trail Candidate Matthew Shuman from the Department of Arizona, each sent Representatives to the Kansas Caucus. Both, Jay and Matthew's 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 had a superb sliced Brisket and pulled chicken dinner at Shawnee American Legion Post # 193 in Louisville prepared by Mission BBQ Smokehouse Catering Company. It was a relaxing evening, complete with Members telling jokes, and with those visiting, making new friendships, and keeping some old ones going.

For those that stayed around until Thursday afternoon witnessed the National Commander take the Oath of Office on the Stage. John "Jay" Bowen from the Department of Colorado swore into his position as National Commander of The American Legion.

Jay and his Aide, Marvin Weaver Jr. will be touring the Western Side of the State of Kansas from 1 to 4 November 2026. National Commander Jay will visit as many Posts as possible while here in Kansas. A great turnout showing up at each location would be wonderful. There is normally food galore at each stop and we hope everyone enjoys themselves. I know that National Commander Bowen and his Aide have commented that they are looking forward to visiting the Posts and the Legion Family Members here in Kansas!

Next year's 108th National Convention will be held right here in our back yard in Kansas City, Missouri from 26 August to 2 September 2027. I know the City of Kansas

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AREA VICE COMMANDER WEST

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Jennifer Carder

(785) 657-7079

departmentawvicecommander@kansaslegion.org

Stronger Through Learning -

Military service teaches us that training is never complete. Just as we prepare for evolving challenges in the military, we must also embrace continuous education within The American Legion. This growth helps us become more effective leaders and advocates for veterans and their communities.

Leadership in The American Legion goes beyond titles; it requires overseeing finances, conducting meetings, recruiting members, and advocating for legislation. These roles demand knowledge and a commitment to learning.

Ongoing professional development strengthens individual members and boosts membership engagement. Well-organized meetings and clear communication foster involvement, while training equips us to welcome new members, resolve conflicts, and prepare future leaders. Investing in our development is vital for the organization's future.

A great starting point is The American Legion's online Basic Training course. This official training program is available to officers, members, Legion College applicants, and anyone interested in broadening their understanding of the nation's largest veterans service organization.

Basic Training helps members better understand The American Legion's history, structure, mission, programs, and guiding principles. It provides a common foundation so Legionnaires can see how their work at the Post level connects to the organization's broader mission.

The course is especially valuable for new members and newly elected officers, but experienced Legionnaires can also benefit from reviewing the material. Even those who have served for many years may discover programs, resources, or organizational information they did not previously know.

Posts can encourage every new member to complete Basic Training as part of the welcoming process. Officers and committee members can also complete it together and discuss how the information applies to their responsibilities. Establishing this shared foundation can improve communication, encourage involvement, and help members recognize the many ways they can contribute.

After completing Basic Training, members can enhance their skills through The American Legion's Training Tuesday webinars held on the last Tuesday of each month. These sessions, lasting 60 to 90 minutes, are designed for Post commanders, adjutants, and other leaders and cover practical topics for immediate application at various levels.

Though recordings are available for those who can't attend live, it's crucial to apply what you learn. Members should consider what ideas can be applied in their Posts, how to improve processes, and who else could benefit from these insights. A culture of continuous learning can be built by including brief training topics in meetings, encouraging completion of Basic Training, sharing recorded sessions, and involving experienced members in mentorship. View training as preparation for better service rather than criticism.

The question is not whether we already know enough to serve. The better question is: What can we learn today that will help us serve someone better tomorrow?

Legionnaires can access the Basic Training course, Training Tuesdays, National American Legion College information, service officer training, and additional learning opportunities through the American Legion Training Center.

AREA VICE COMMANDER EAST

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Melvin Eubanks

(620) 212-0333

departmentaevicecommander@kansaslegion.org

Greetings Kansas Legionnaires,

First, I would like to say with deepest sympathy to the Eldridge Family and 3rd District who lost a valued Member and Officer. Sergeant of Arms Tommy Eldridge has passed on to Post Everlasting. Tommy was a very dedicated Legionnaire and will be sincerely missed among our ranks.

This year marks a truly historic milestone—the 250th Anniversary of our nation's founding. The freedoms we enjoy today did not come without sacrifice. Generation after generation, Americans have answered the call to defend our Constitution and the ideals expressed in the Declaration of Independence. As Members of the American Legion, we are proud to honor those who served, remember those who gave everything, and continue to support the veterans, active-duty service members, and families who carry that legacy forward.

That is why I want to talk about something that is extremely important to the future of our American Legion and that is keeping our current members active, involved, and connected. Recruiting new members is very important. Bringing Veterans into the American Legion is important. But getting a member to sign up is only the beginning. Membership is not just a number on a roster. Our real challenge is making sure Members are Active and feel like they are part of something important after they join. We need to make our Post a place where Members want to be. That means having regular activities, not just meetings. Meetings are necessary, but they shouldn't be the only time we see one another. We need to create opportunities for our Members to get to know one another—not just as Legionnaires, but as friends.

Don't just ask someone to become an Officer. Ask them to become part of something. We need to remember that not every member wants to be an officer or sit on a committee but would be willing to assist in other ways. Such as help with meals, youth programs, Honor Guard, or just a fundraising event at your Post. All those contributions are valuable to your Post and give them a reason to show up and get involved. An important part of keeping members active is by giving them an opportunity to contribute. We should also remember that keeping members active doesn't mean leaving their families behind. Make it a family affair. Our families are an important part of our success. Work with your Legion Families, The Sons of the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary. Invite spouses, children, grandchildren, and friends to appropriate events. Let them see what the American Legion is all about. When families become familiar with their Post they become part of the Legion Family, and those relationships can last for generations.

And when someone does volunteer, thank them. A simple "We appreciate you" can mean more than we realize. We should also make every effort to recognize members who consistently participate. At meetings, dinners, ceremonies, and community events, let's recognize the people who are putting in the work. Recognition encourages participation.

Fellow Legionnaires, keeping our current members ac-

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KANSAS DISTRICTS

Click map to enlarge.

FIRST DISTRICT COMMANDER

ED GUNNELS
(913) 680-8212

Hello 1st District.

Hope everyone is doing well. Hope everyone is ready for fall and some good football. 1st District was well represented at the State Fair. I want to thank those that attended the Fair. Membership percentages are looking good in 1st District. I will be sending out membership information to all Post Commanders to help with keeping your current members and gaining new members. Let's keep up the good work and keep encouraging your members to renew. Without their membership the American Legion cannot support our veterans, their families and the other programs provided by the American Legion. I would like to see as many Posts in the District reach 75% by the end of September, 80% by the end of October and finally 100% by the end of the year. Mark your calendars for 1st District homecoming is 10 October 2026 at Post 400 in Topeka. I want to thank Post 400 for hosting our Homecoming. Please join us for some good food and fellowship with our legion family. We are looking for new ideas to bring the 1st District together as a Family, planning activities to bring us closer together. If you need help with membership please contact myself or your District Vice Commander. If you have a story of success for membership please share with your fellow Commanders and Adjutants within the District.

1st District Convention on April 10, 2027, Mayetta Post 423.

Once again thank you for supporting 1st District, American Legion Department of Kansas.

SECOND DISTRICT COMMANDER

KEVIN SCHASTEEN
(913) 638-7865

Greetings District 2.

We are off to a great year in the first quarter. I hope everyone is doing well and enjoyed summer, and ready for some nice cooler fall weather. I wanted to thank everyone that showed up and worked at the Kansas State Fair. Lots of fun was had and we were able to help several veterans and their families. Don't forget the District Homecoming on November 7th in Paola starting at 11:00. We will follow up in the afternoon with Our Fall Conference. You all have put in a great start to membership. Keep working Post 58 and let's get those members into our Posts. Make sure we continue to do our Buddy Checks. Let's keep going and show what District 2 can do. Don't forget about the Eisenhower Pilgrimage and Vice Commander Homecoming in Abilene on October 17th. Make sure and get out to the local festivals in the area and make our presence known. Volunteer and let people see what we really have to offer. If you know of an event at a Post please share it to the District Facebook page so that we all can support each other. No one can do it alone, so don't be afraid to ask for help. Feel free to contact me anytime. Thank You for allowing me to serve you.

THIRD DISTRICT COMMANDER

PAUL GRANTHAM
(620) 506-1106

Greetings Fellow Legionnaires from the 3rd District Team!

The past few months have been extremely busy.

The 3rd District Legion Family Homecoming is Saturday October 10th at Post 18 in Ark. City.

Everyone is welcome. Please come if you can.

The Department of Kansas had a great presence at the National Convention held in Louisville, KY this year.

The Department Commander and Officers did a fantastic job making the arrangements and coordinating key events during the Convention. A hardy well done to all, especially Jimmie Foster!

The 3rd District had several Members of the Legion Family attending and participating in the various

classes and workshops as well as social functions including "splicing the mainbrace" in the hospitality room.

The hydraulic sandwiches were excellent!

Our day at the State Fair was slow on recruiting members, however the exposure to the public was excellent.

We continue to focus our efforts to R&R (Renewal & Recruitment) of Members of the American Legion Family.

Ark. City Post 18 is hosting a car/bike show Friday September 25th, 2026 at the Kansas Veterans Home in Winfield.

Entry is free for everyone and the residents of the home are the judges.

We will be supporting the September 22nd activities in Lyons, KS, bringing awareness and the prevention of our fellow veterans that are commiting suicide at an alarming rate.

It is with a heavy heart that I bring the sad news of our 3rd District Sgt. at Arms, Tommy Eldridge, passing away September 18th. The Department Chaplain is sending a card to the family.

As the daylight hours grow shorter please allow extra time when traveling to locations, Be keenly aware of fatigue, animals, pedestrians, road conditions, and other drivers when driving.

Paul Grantham
3rd District Commander

FOURTH DISTRICT COMMANDER

CLARENCE FRYE
(757) 477-3403

Hey There District 4! We are off to a pretty good start for the 2027 Membership year. Let's keep it going! November is Each One Bring One month, so every Legionnaire bring a new member or a renewal member to your meeting, an event like breakfast, Bingo, Nut Fry or burger night to join or renew their membership.

What is going on in the 4th District this quarter? District 4 Homecoming is Sunday, October 11th at 12:00PM at Post 5 in Emporia. Meet & Greet 12:00, Chow and Greetings 1:00-2:30-ish. Post 5 is located at 2921 W. 12th Avenue. I

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FOURTH DISTRICT

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do hope you consider attending. Celebrate 2026, Rally for 2027! Meet other Post, District and Department leaders there. Gather some ideas, forge the future for your Post, Legionnaires, Legion Family and Community!

The Eisenhower Pilgrimage is October 17th , immediately followed by the Legion Family Homecoming for the Vices (Commanders and President) at the Greyhound Museum in Abilene, Kansas.

Buddy Checks and Veterans Day. During the week of 8-14 November, schedule your Buddy Checks. Reach out to those that you haven't heard from in a while, maybe to someone who recently experienced a difficult decision or situation. Celebrate Veterans Day at your local school, park or at your Post. Make it meaningful for all veterans and their families.

A couple of Shout Outs: Gilbert-Poppe Post 347 in Lincolnville is hosting a Fish and Nut Fry on October 17th at 6:00PM. If you haven't been to Lincolnville, I highly encourage you to be there and show your support. Woodson County Post 13 in Yates Center (YC) AND Ball-McComb Post 5 in Emporia have breakfast on the 2nd Saturday. YC Will do it in October and November for the rest of this year, but Emporia is every month.

I know there are more events, but I have limited space here…I think. I plan to send out a whole list of District 4, so if you have something going on, please email me at districtcommander4@kansaslegion.org so I can add you.

HOOZAH!

FIFTH DISTRICT COMMANDER
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JERRY GARDINIER
(316) 259-1740

No article submitted.

SIXTH DISTRICT COMMANDER

STANLEY BRITT
(785) 577-2957

Hello to the 6th District Legion Family,

It's an honor to serve as your 6th District Commander. I would like to introduce the Officers of 6th District. As I mentioned last quarter, more information:

Stan Britt, 6th District Commander Post 62 Salina

William Workman Jr., Vice-Commander Post 109 Natoma

Kenny Heald, Adjutant Post 57 Beloit

George Martin Jr., Finance Officer Post 174 Ellsworth

Scott Schultz, Sergeant at Arms Post 99 Russell

Everette Ford, Historian Post 76 Concordia

Vernon Christie, Chaplain Post 62 Salina

Marjorie Higgins, 3-year Executive Committee Post 76 Concordia

Lee Axtell, 2-year Executive Committee Post 62 Salina

Larry Eubanks, 1-year Executive Committee Post 76 Concordia.

I had the opportunity to attend the Membership Workshop in Indianapolis. The presenters did well delivering the plethora of information covered. Everyone left with an abundance of great information. Well worth the learning experience. The Department Membership Workshop in Mc Pherson was informative as well and wasn't a repeat.

The 6th District now has a Facebook page. For access 6th District, Department of Kansas American Legion Working on a website.

Thank you to all that helped with the booth at the State Fair. Your time was greatly appreciated.

When possible, make 3 or 4 buddy check calls each month be the one!

Stan Britt
6th District Commander
districtcommander6@kansaslegion.org

SEVENTH DISTRICT COMMANDER

BASIL PEPPERD
(316) 648-7427

Hello everyone,

I hope everything in your Post is working well. I know there are always difficulties at every level of our organization, but use other Legion family members or other officers and you will make it through.

I hope everyone that went to National Convention had a good time and brought back some useful knowledge.

Some terrible news for the 7th District and the American Legion Family was the passing of Michael Haas. He was a very active Member for us and an all-around great guy. He will be deeply missed.

We will now be getting into the part of the year where there are plenty of District Homecomings that can be attended. 7th District Homecoming will be November 7th at the Great Bend Post. Times will be from 11 to 2. I hope you all can attend.

Now that summer has passed it is really time to work on membership. Our organization cannot function without members. Please get out there and beat the bushes and get us more members.

EIGHTH DISTRICT COMMANDER

ED LEWIS
(620) 482-6140

No article submitted.

NINTH DISTRICT COMMANDER

SEAN HANKIN
(785) 443-0956

Greetings Ninth District!

The seasons are changing. Day time is shorter and the temperatures are noticeably cooler! I hope everyone enjoyed their summer and is doing well in your communities!

We had a wonderful State Fair and I would like to thank the folks from District 9 who helped out supporting the American Legion, talking with people from across the State and exchanging ideas about keeping The American Legion an important Veteran Service Organization. I appreciate you being there and your willingness to travel. Thanks very much for taking the time to make the day a success!

Our next big event will be Homecoming for District 9. This day will honor the District 9 Auxiliary President Dolores Gallentine, District 9 S.A.L. Commander Monte Lewis, and myself as District 9 American Legion Commander. Homecoming will be on October 10, 2026 at the Colby American Legion Post

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NINTH DISTRICT

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363, 1850 W. 4th, in Colby. A social hour will start at 12:00 am and lunch will be served at noon. We are asking $20.00 dollars to cover the cost of the meal. You can check the District 9 Facebook page for information. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

I am looking forward to the fall season and to see you at Homecoming. Thank you for all you do for The American Legion!

Sean F. Hankin, Commander, District 9

TENTH DISTRICT COMMANDER

LARRY ROKEY
(785) 285-2492

Greeting to all Legionnaires in District 10. I hope this finding each of you in great health and hoping everyone had a safe and wonderful 4th of July celebrating our great Nations 250th birthday. I have been busy within the District. I have visited 12 Posts in July and August, I attended Powhattans Post July 19th for their ice cream social. The homemade ice cream and cake was delicious, I also enjoyed meeting and talking to Post Members Auxiliary Members and Citizens of Powhattan. August 5-9, I attended National Membership Workshop at Indianapolis IN. It was an awesome experience, On August 15th I attended Department Commanders Homecoming at Wichita Post 4 it was great to see so many familiar faces and talk on new ideas for membership and on AI. I attended a meeting at Linn and Clifton, I am eager and looking forward to working with them. The 9th of September I'm attending a membership dinner at Linn they have 100% again this year. Congratulations to Linn Post; I'd also like to congratulate Fairview on 100% membership as well. I have been talking to Vice Commanders on membership, let's strive to make 100% membership for 2027 in District 10. Post Commanders, Vice Commanders talk to your Legion Members who have not renewed yet, also every member in each Legion Post in District 10 talk to members who hasn't renewed, talk to young veterans get them to join the American Legion. I would like to see District 10 at 100% or even 110% for 2027. September 12th I will be attending a Department Workshop in McPherson on membership. September 16th District 10 has the American Legion booth at the State Fair in Hutchinson. Eisenhower Pilgramage is coming up in October I'm asking each Post to donate a rose for President Eisenhower. I will be attending to place a wreath on his grave also. Homecoming is November 14th at Linn. I invite all Legion Members to attend the District Meeting and the dinner following. I also encourage all Posts to keep doing the Buddy Checks with the heat coming back also please check on Spouse's of Veterans they are a very important part of the Legion family as well. Also don't forget if your Post is putting on an event please let me know I will attend and even help out. The District is here to support as well as help each and every Post in District 10. I closing I remind each if you school us back in session and harvest will soon be starting so drive safe.

Sincerely
Larry D Rokey
Commander
District 10

ELEVENTH DISTRICT COMMANDER

BARRY MAPLES
(785) 410-4393

Greetings to the Eleventh District, I pray everybody is doing well. Congratulations go out to Phillip Gard Dwight Post 289 for reaching 100% membership quota. Good job and keep it up. The membership year has just started. The number one goal for this year is to work with all the Posts in the District with membership. There are several Posts with low membership numbers, and I will be reaching out to them to find out how our District Officers can help. The Eleventh District state fair booth day was September 13. There were six members working at the booth. We handed out many information pamphlets on the Legion, and registered many for the flag drawing. Thanks go out to all that worked at the booth, everyone did have a good time doing it. Always remember why The American Legion was formed. Veterans set aside their differences and come together to help veterans, their families and communities. The District Homecoming is scheduled for 10 October 2026 being held at Manhattan Post 17 from 4 to 6 pm.

Barry Maples
Commander, Eleventh District

KANSAS DISTRICTS

Click map to enlarge.

AREA EAST VICE COMMANDER

(Continued from Page 4)

tive is everybody's responsibility. It is the responsibility of our Officers. It is the responsibility of our committees. But most importantly, it is the responsibility of each one of us. Let's make all American Legion Posts a place where members feel welcome. Let's make it a place where members feel needed. Let's make it a place where members can build friendships. Let's make it a place where families feel welcome. And let's make sure our community knows that when the American Legion says, "We will serve," we mean it.

The future of all Posts will not be determined only by how many names are on our membership roster. It will be determined by how many of those members are involved. Turn Membership into Participation. I would like to challenge Every Member of the American Legion to not just renew your membership. "Renew your involvement". Attend a meeting, go to a Post activity and bring a fellow Legionnaire with you, volunteer for one project or attend a community event wearing your Legion cap. By being active your Post would be busier, friendships would grow, membership would be stronger, and our community would see an American Legion that is active, visible, and committed to service. Ask what you can do to help. You don't have to do everything, but if Every Member did one thing, we would accomplish a tremendous amount.

The American Legion has a long history of service. We are here to support veterans and their families. We are here to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice. We are here to support our youth. We are here to promote Americanism. And we are here to serve our communities. Those missions give us a reason to stay active.

Melvin E. Eubanks
Department of Kansas
Area East Vice Commander

DETACHMENT COMMANDER

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Michael Webber

spidercreek220@gmail.com

Keeping the Sons Moving Forward -

As we move into October, I want to talk about several things that are important to the Sons of The American Legion in Kansas: membership, COTA, Vigil 22, ALF Dog, and communication.

- Membership — Every Member Counts

Membership is more than a number on a report. Every new member gives us another person who can help support our veterans, their families and our communities.

As we work toward our membership goals, don't wait for someone else to ask a potential member to join. Ask them yourself. Talk to your family, friends and those in your community who are eligible. One conversation can make a difference.

- COTA — Give What You Can

COTA, the Children's Organ Transplant Association, is another program where our support can make a real difference. The S.A.L. has an opportunity to help families facing the tremendous financial challenges that can come with a child's transplant.

Our goal doesn't have to be complicated. Every Squadron can do something. A small donation from each Squadron can add up to make a big difference for a family that needs our help.

- Vigil 22 — Lyons, Kansas

On November 22 and 23, the Kansas American Legion Family will come together in Lyons, Kansas, for Vigil 22.

The 22-hour vigil will be held at the Rice County Courthouse. Members will stand watch in 22-minute shifts over a flag-draped casket.

This is an important opportunity to remember those we have lost and to bring attention to the importance of Be the One and reaching out to our veterans and fellow members who may be struggling.

I encourage our S.A.L. members to participate, volunteer for a shift, or simply come to Lyons and show your support. Being there matters.

- ALF Dog — A Program Worth Supporting

I also want to talk about ALF Dog. This is a program that gives us another opportunity to make a difference in the lives of children and families.

ALF Dog is about bringing comfort, companionship and a little happiness to children who are dealing with difficult circumstances. Whether it is through donations, fundraising or helping get these dogs where they are needed, our squadrons have an opportunity to support something that has a direct impact on children.

But for this program to succeed, we have to know about it.

That brings me to a concern I have heard from Members and Squadrons: communication.

- Communication — We Have to Do Better

We have good programs, good people and members who want to help. But if information doesn't get from the top down to the Squadrons, our Members don't have the opportunity to participate.

ALF Dog is a good example. If Squadrons aren't receiving information about the program, upcoming opportunities, fundraising needs or how they can get involved, then we are missing opportu-

(Continued on Page 12)

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

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Kristen Hensley

deptpresident@kslegionaux.org

As I reflect on the past few months, there have been a number of changes. Some I believe are good for the Legion Family as a whole, such as the eligibility change that recently occurred for the American Legion Auxiliary, and some have been very painful.

We have had some changes in the Family with the loss of several of our dear members. The loss of Michael Haas was devastating and sudden. The loss of Past Department President Bonnie Boyer, and this past week, the loss of Tommy Eldridge was hard. Monthly, Post Families seem to lose Members leaving holes in our hearts and the Legion Family as a whole.

With every change, there is pain, there is adjustment and there is breakthrough. Whether it is an operational change, eligibility change, or a loss of those we value, these adjustments are hard. With the grit, determination, support and courage within the Department of Kansas American Legion Family, we conquer and persevere.

During these times of changes and loss, this is when the Family is most important. No matter what specific entity you belong, the love and support everyone shows each other is what makes us strong.

This past Spring, a hailstorm happened in our area. After he heard about how bad our town was from my best friend, Marri Krupco, Joe Dewoskin called me to check on me knowing Doug was out of town and would not be home for some time. He worried about someone trying to take advantage of me during a time of stress and navigating insurance and wanted to do what he could to help guide me and make sure I worked with a great contractor. Something as simple as just checking in on me and giving me some direction meant more to me than anyone could imagine. This is the power of this Family. I was seen. I was noticed. And… the Family showed true care for my well-being, giving me the strength to navigate a tough circumstance.

When change occurs, and when loss strikes, this Family takes care of each other and that, my friend, is where our true strength and power lies. Not only are We the One for those we serve… We Are also The One for each other and those that choose to join this Family.

On October 3rd, the Department of Kansas American Legion Auxiliary will be holding our Fall Conference at the Dodge City Post. The cost to attend is $15.00 registration with the Post providing lunch for $15.00/person. Thank you to Chris Self from the Dodge City Post for preparing the meal for this Conference. Fall Conference is held annually for the Department Auxiliary, however anyone is welcome to attend as a guest to learn about more about the Auxiliary. This is where program chairmen distribute the program goals and direction for this administrative year following the National Convention. If you wish to attend as a guest, please send me an email to kristen.d.hensley@gmail.

(Continued on Page 12)

DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER

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

Collaborating with Local Resources to Support Veterans

By Timothy Marlar

The mission of every American Legion Post in Kansas is unwavering: to serve and support veterans. While Posts are pillars of advocacy and assistance, their impact multiplies when they collaborate with local community resources, ensuring veterans receive comprehensive support tailored to their diverse needs.

Kansas communities are rich with organizations—nonprofits, government agencies, healthcare providers, and educational institutions—that offer vital services to veterans. By forming strategic partnerships, Posts can connect veterans to housing assistance, mental health counseling, job placement, food security, and more. The foundation of these partnerships is proactive networking and open communication.

One effective strategy is hosting quarterly resource fairs at the Post. Invite representatives from local VA clinics, workforce centers, legal aid, and mental health organizations to meet veterans and Legion Members. These events not only introduce veterans to valuable services but also build trust among community partners. Engaging county veteran service officers and faith-based organizations can also reveal resources that might otherwise go unnoticed.

Collaboration with local schools and universities presents another avenue for support. Posts can facilitate scholarships, mentorship programs, and career development workshops, helping veterans transition to civilian life or pursue further education. Collaboration is reciprocal: Posts can offer their spaces as safe venues for support groups, wellness activities, or town halls. By sharing facilities and promoting each other's initiatives, the network of support grows stronger.

No single organization can meet all veteran needs. When American Legion Posts actively partner with local resources, they ensure no veteran falls through the cracks. By maximizing each group's strengths and working together, Posts honor and support those who have served. Keeping our doors and minds open to collaboration allows Kansas Posts to be the bridge connecting veterans to the comprehensive support they deserve.

Key Actions for Posts:

- Host quarterly resource fairs with VA clinics, workforce centers, legal aid, and mental health organizations.
- Establish a point-of-contact list and a shared calendar with community partners.
- Coordinate mentorship and scholarship programs with local schools and universities.
- Offer Post facilities for support groups, wellness activities, and town hall meetings.
- Promote partners' events and cross-share outreach materials to extend reach.

Suggested Community Partners to Invite:

Local VA clinics and Vet Centers

KANSASWORKS (workforce centers)

Legal aid and pro bono clinics

Veteran Officer of Veteran Services (KOVS)

Faith-based and civic organizations

Colleges and universities (career services/VA offices)

ADJUTANT'S BRIEFS

(Continued from Page 3)

City and the Department of Missouri promise to roll out the red carpet for this event. PLEASE start planning now to attend.

Our National Vice Commander is Hugh Holmes from the Department of South Dakota. Hugh will be visiting the Department very soon. We are trying to fine tune the details. Hugh 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 Dr. Carol May Grout from the Department of Massachusetts, and the newly elected Sons of The American Legion Commander is Thomas "Thom" Skelley from the Detachment of Texas.

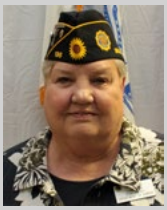
The 2026 Big Red One Turkey Run is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, 21 November 2026. Operation North Pole is tentatively scheduled to be held on 5 December 2026. We are still waiting on Fort Riley leadership for final approval. These two events ensure that the Dependents of Our Active-Duty Military 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 Newton Post # 2 on 12 December 2026. More details to follow!

It is not too early to start planning to attend the 2027 Mid-Winter Forum, which will be held at Arkansas City Post # 18 from 5 to 7 February 2027. Even if You are thinking about attending, I suggest you make you make a Reservation NOW at one of the Hotels there and if Your plans change You can cancel Your Reservation. Pay a couple of dollars more when making Your Room Reservations that allow You to cancel the day before by 6 PM without any penalty.

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).

HAPPY THANKSGIVING AND MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM YOUR HEADQUARTERS STAFF



CHILDREN & YOUTH

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Pat Culver

childrenandyouth1@kansaslegion.org

The American Legion has long recognized the family as the foundation of this nation. A guiding principle of The American Legion's Children & Youth programs continues to be keeping the integrity of the family. Since 1972, every U.S. president has declared the week of Thanksgiving as National Family Week. All Members of The American Legion Family are encouraged to start and engage in local activities during National Family Week that promote, encourage, and celebrate healthy families and communities.

GET INVOLVED and make a difference to promote National Family Week, Posts, Units, and Squadrons are encouraged to start and take part in activities that promote family strength and integrity. The possibilities are endless.

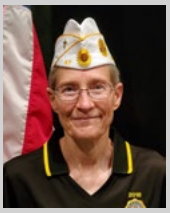
ADVOCATE for a family strengthening initiative Work with officials at all levels of government to advance a position beneficial to all children and families. And urge local and state government to see and engage in National Family Week.

PLAN a connection-building event Encourage open dialogue about important community issues during a family summit or community meeting. Hold a military family appreciation event to encourage and offer support for military families.

ORGANIZE community-wide efforts in partnership with the local government and other community partners, help organize a family festival that includes fun and safe activities and entertainment for the whole family. Or get involved in setting up local National Family Week activities.

COORDINATE volunteer projects Work with state and local groups to improve communities through family projects. Invite families to volunteer with community projects.

"National Family Week is a time to be thankful for the family as a national heritage and resource. It is a time to recommit ourselves to the concept of the family – a concept that must withstand the trends of lifestyle and legislation. Let us pledge that our institutions and policies will be shaped to enhance an environment in which families can strengthen their ties and best exercise their beliefs, authority, and resourcefulness. And let us make our pledge mindful that we do so not only on behalf of the individual family members, but for AMERICA."



CHAPLAIN

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Rev. Debra Muylaert

departmentchaplain@kansaslegion.org

Greetings Legion Family! I hope and pray this article finds you doing well and in good health. My constant prayer for you, my Legion brothers and sisters, is that you are abiding in the peace, love, and strength of the Lord!

I've been pondering the recent passing of two of our Legion Riders – Michael Haas and Joe Noble – and it has been heartwarming to see the outpouring of love and support for not only the families of these two great Legionnaires, but also, for each other in the Legion Family. The Apostle Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 1:3-4, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God." Bottom line – God comforts us so we can comfort others. I've been watching this passage lived out in the lives of my Legion brothers and sisters, and it truly brings a smile to my face. Grief is such a difficult thing to bear, but remembering that God is the Divine Comforter can help us heal.

I was reading an Our Daily Bread devotional article recently by Nancy Gavilanes that really spoke to me, and I'd like to share a portion of it with you. It says, "As we read the Psalms, we see that David experienced sorrow, fear, and grief as well as divine comfort. In Psalm 30, he writes, 'I called to you for help, and you healed me' (v. 2). 'Weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning' (v. 5). God turned David's 'wailing into dancing' and 'removed [his] sackcloth and clothed [him] with joy' (v. 11). When we're feeling overwhelmed with sorrow, loss, or pain, let's turn to the God of all comfort, who is close to the broken-hearted, and give thanks to Him as David did: 'LORD my God, I will praise you forever' (v. 12)."

Be encouraged and be blessed! The God who comforts and heals broken hearts will comfort and heal you! Keep looking up and seek Him. He will not leave you nor forsake you. See you at the Eisenhower Pilgrimage!

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ONLINE

www.legion.org/renew

+ TAPS +

Anderson, Arlen (Vietnam) ..... Newton
Bahner, Darrel (Vietnam) ..... Silver Lake
Ball, Clarence (Vietnam) ..... Atchison
Bare, William (Vietnam) ..... Frankfort
Bazil, Glen (Korea) ..... Emporia
Becker, Raymond (Vietnam) ..... Everest
Bennington, Barry (Korea) ..... St John
Berry, Melvin (WWII) ..... Sylvan Grove
Billiard, Billy (Korea) ..... Arma
Birk, Billy (WWII) ..... Wamego
Brockish, Richard (Vietnam) ..... Wamego
Carothers, John (Vietnam) ..... Anthony
Chapin, Stanley (Korea) ..... Oberlin
Charest, Randell (Vietnam) ..... Concordia
Chesnut, Robert (Korea) ..... Andover
Coker, Gary (Vietnam) ..... Caney
Cook, Douglas (Panama) ..... Lansing
Cross, Dennis (Vietnam) ..... Sylvan Grove
Curless, Allen (Vietnam) ..... Allen
Dick, Ralph (Korea) ..... Isabel
Donley, Lester (WWII) ..... Kingman
Dunne, Edward (WWII) ..... Manhattan
Evans, Robert (Korea) ..... Marysville
Fairbank, Richard (Vietnam) ..... Brownell
Fricke, James (Vietnam) ..... Lansing
Fromme, Tamina (Vietnam) ..... Bucklin
Fry, Andee (Vietnam) ..... Copeland
Funke, Gary (Vietnam) ..... Rossville
Gibson, Terry (Vietnam) ..... Highland
Gravenstein, James (Korea) ..... Topeka #400
Gray, John ..... Derby-Haysville
Haas, Michael (Persian Gulf) ..... Sterling
Hajny, Nolin (WWII) ..... Esbon
Hamman, Donald (Vietnam) ..... Emporia
Hanes, Raymond (Vietnam) ..... Agra
Harding, John (Vietnam) ..... Emporia
Hasenkamp, Joe (Vietnam) ..... Axtell
Hoover, Ronnie (Vietnam) ..... La Crosse
Horinek, Anthony (Korea) ..... Atwood
Hubbard, Ronald (Vietnam) ..... Marysville
Hula, Harold (Korea) ..... Topeka #58
Hushbeck, Thomas (Korea) ..... Newton
Hutfles, Orville ..... Wetmore
Hyde, John (Vietnam) ..... Derby-Haysville
Jackson, Theodore (Vietnam) ..... Valley Center
Jensen, James (Vietnam) ..... Junction City
Johnson, Lloyd (Korea) ..... Mc Pherson
Johnson, Michael (Korea) ..... Minneola
Kastens, Howard (Korea) ..... Anthony
King, William (Vietnam) ..... Manhattan
Kingman, Kenneth (Vietnam) ..... Topeka #400
Koch, Steve (Vietnam) ..... Axtell
Koskiinen, Charles (Lebanon/Grenada) ..... Rossville
Law, Clair (Vietnam) ..... Manhattan
Livingston, David (Persian Gulf) ..... Baxter Springs
Lynn, Richard (Vietnam) ..... Cuba
Macarthur, Bruce (Vietnam) ..... Topeka #400
Marley, Frank (Vietnam) ..... Arkansas City
Martin, J (Persian Gulf) ..... Attica
Matthes, Dick (Vietnam) ..... Topeka #58
Matzke, Roger (Vietnam) ..... Silver Lake
McConnaughhay, David (Vietnam) ..... Valley Center
McDonald, Gary (Korea) ..... Arma
McLin, Marshall ..... Silver Lake
McQuillan, Charles (Vietnam) ..... Baxter Springs
Meade, Charles (Vietnam) ..... Dodge City
Merlau, Edson (Vietnam) ..... Hoisington
Merrill, George (Korea) ..... Beattie
Miller, Douglas (Vietnam) ..... Mc Pherson
Nelson, Keith (Korea) ..... Larned
Nelson, Leonard (Vietnam) ..... Mulvane
Nickelson, William (Vietnam) ..... Pittsburg #64
Oehm, Raymond (Korea) ..... Marysville
Oppy, Michael (Vietnam) ..... Manhattan
Penka, Fred (Vietnam) ..... Dighton
Pfister, Stephen (Vietnam) ..... Manhattan
Phillips, Loren (Korea) ..... Mc Pherson
Polzin, Thomas (Vietnam) ..... Hoisington
Prideaux, Robert (Vietnam) ..... Arma
Quigley, George (Vietnam) ..... Junction City
Rowan, Donald (Vietnam) ..... Topeka #58
Schmelzle, Robert (Vietnam) ..... Axtell
Schmidt, Curtis (Vietnam) ..... Ellinwood
Schmitz, Cyril ..... Seneca
Scott, Alan (Vietnam) ..... Dighton
Scott, Dean (Vietnam) ..... Hoisington
Scoville, Robert (WWII) ..... Manhattan
Seel, Herbert (Vietnam) ..... Topeka #400
Seele, Ivan (Korea) ..... St George
Seifert, Timothy (Lebanon/Grenada) ..... Osborne
Sharer, Gary (Vietnam) ..... Newton
Shaw, Granville (WWII) ..... Topeka #58
Skucius, Thomas (Vietnam) ..... Cuba
Sloop, Richard ..... Seneca
Smith, Eldred ..... Marysville
Stanton, Dale (Korea) ..... Frankfort
Steiner, Leon (Vietnam) ..... Hoisington
Steuber, Neal (Korea) ..... Sylvan Grove
Steward, James (Vietnam) ..... Andover
Stewart, Jimmie (Korea) ..... Garden City
Strait, Dennis (Vietnam) ..... Concordia
Strieby, James (Korea) ..... Atchison
Stultz, John (Vietnam) ..... Mc Pherson
Thomas, Jerry (Vietnam) ..... Topeka #400
Unruh, Joe (Korea) ..... Mc Pherson
Urban, Melvin (Korea) ..... Ellinwood
Vasseur, Donna (Korea) ..... Manhattan
Volesky, Jackie (Korea) ..... Marysville
Walker, Johnny (Vietnam) ..... La Crosse
Warnow, David (Vietnam) ..... St George
Webb, Dan (Vietnam) ..... Baxter Springs
Welch, Donnie (Vietnam) ..... Arkansas City
Whitehorse, Barbara ..... Baxter Springs
Williams, Larry (Vietnam) ..... Halstead
Wright, Joseph (WWII) ..... Mulvane

DETACHMENT COMMANDER

(Continued from Page 8)

nities to help.

Communication has to work both ways. If you have information, share it. If you need information, ask for it. If something changes, let the membership know.

Nobody expects perfection. But we do need to make an effort to keep our Squadrons informed and involved.

Moving Forward Together -

Membership, COTA, Vigil 22 and ALF Dog all have something in common: they are about people helping people.

Let's finish the year strong. Let's bring in new members. Let's support COTA. Let's show up in Lyons for Vigil 22. Let's support ALF Dog. And most importantly, let's make sure our Members know what is happening and how they can help.

Communication, participation and teamwork are what will move the Kansas S.A.L. forward.

For God and Country,
Michael Weber
Detachment Commander
Sons of The American Legion — Kansas

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

(Continued from Page 8)

com. The Conference starts at 9:30am sharp, with scheduled end time at or before 3:30pm. We will be celebrating the end of the fundraising for NVCAF and starting the Fundraising for National Auxiliary Emergency Fund. I cannot wait to share the total raised for National Veterans Creative Arts Festival in future publications. Thank you to the entire Department Legion Family that participated and helped make this initiative a success.

The National Auxiliary Emergency Fund is a program of the Auxiliary that provide emergency funds to Auxiliary Members and Units in times of need. It is the embodiment of members taking care of members. Members and units suffering financial emergencies, whether they are due to natural disaster or any other big loss. This helps Units get reestablished should storms, fires, or floods wipe away their physical location and supplies, by providing funds to replace them. The fundraiser for this program will end at Mid-Winter Forum.

KANSAS SUNFLOWER LEGIONNAIRE

Jimmie L. Foster, Editor

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Department Headquarters:
1314 SW Topeka Blvd. Topeka, KS 66612, 785-232-9315

Department Headquarters Email Addresses:
Jimmie L. Foster:.....departmentadjutant@kansaslegion.org
Jeff Bond:..... departmentassistantadjutant@kansaslegion.org
Michelle Dennison: .....membership@kansaslegion.org

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

STATE FAIR FLAG SET GIVEAWAY

This year marks 40 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!

Deb Cunningham .....Salina
Linda Donnelly ..... Elmo
Wilma Fast ..... Hutchinson
Landon Gibson..... Wichita
Linda Humphrey ..... Bison
Nancy Kent ..... Hutchinson
Steve Lies.....McPherson
Henry McVay ..... Wichita
Paul Shaw..... Wichita
Cecil Smith.....Manhattan

DEPARTMENT CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday, December 12, 2026
Newton Post #2
400 S. Spencer Rd.

Social Hour - Noon **Lunch - 1:00 PM**

KC Strip, baked potato, salad, bread,
and cherry cheese cake

Name _____

Number in party @ $25.00 each _____

Guest Names _____

_____

_____

Amount Enclosed _____ made payable to:

Newton Post 2

Mail to:
Paul Sanford
109 Southport Ct.
Newton, KS 67114