

JULY 2025

## 2025-2026 Dept Officers



### **President**

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### **Vice President**

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### **Historian**

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913-680-5935



### **Secretary**

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620-724-0245



### **Treasurer**

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### **Sergeant-at-Arms**

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### **Sergeant-at-Arms**

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# **BE THE ONE**

## **President**



### **Greetings to all our American Legion Family Members!**

It is an honor to be elected as your Department Auxiliary President for the upcoming year. I will do my best to represent our great organization with integrity, transparency, and kindness while adhering to our values that include

respect for individual members, truthful open communication and service to God, our country, veterans and their families.

First, I would like to congratulate and give a big KUDOS to PDP Tracy Kinnick and the previous administration for the fun, engaging and successful convention they put on! There was Bungo, delicious snacks and we had a food truck available on site for lunch. That was so convenient that we will be looking at doing that next year. Changes to our C & B and Standing Rules now give us a Department Secretary and a Department Treasurer, which I believe will help make the administrative and financial duties easier to fulfill with 2 people, filling these roles instead of 1. I look forward to the upcoming year working with our officers and chairmen at all levels knowing it will be filled with surprises and challenges.

I am very proud to be our first dual-member President, and I wholeheartedly believe in "Team Kansas" and am excited to be working with 2 wonderful leaders this year. I started off this year attending my District Family Picnic with Legion CMDR George Honn and Detachment CMDR Matthew Krupco, who both are in Second District with me while Detachment CMDR Krupco and I are in the same small unit in Blue Mound.

I was able to attend a ceremony at Sunflower Girls State and pin the incoming Governor and visit with many of the attendees. Almost all the girls I talked to said they would do it again, if given the chance and were sad at its conclusion. What a great program for these young ladies to experience what government is all about and to make life-long friendships. I am excited to attend Cadet Law and see those young people in action in the upcoming days.

With Independence Day coming up, it is a great time to start working membership and participate in activities that will showcase what the ALA is all about and what we do. Don't forget to take pictures and wear your Auxiliary gear, SHOW US OFF! Have fun while promoting our mission and programs. Upcoming Events to be aware of, details and locations to soon be announced.

August 2, Dept American Legion Family Day

August 9, Dept Auxiliary Boot Camp

August 16, Dept American Legion Family Homecoming

September 20, Dept Auxiliary Fall Conference

I am always open to questions, comments or suggestions so please contact me. Thank you for all the volunteer hours you put in and your commitment to "*Spirit of Service, not Self.*" It all makes a difference.

For God and Country, Proud Member President Anndi

## Vice President

### **Welcome to the American Legion Auxiliary: A New Year, A New Vision**

#### **Exciting Plans and Aspirations for the Year Ahead**

As we step into the new year together, I am thrilled to extend a heartfelt welcome to each of you, our valued members of the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA). This year promises to be an exciting journey filled with opportunities to make a meaningful impact through collaboration, innovation, and dedication to our shared mission.

Our organization thrives on the passion and commitment of its members. As we embark on this new chapter, my focus is on supporting you, our Chairman, District Presidents, and units in every way possible. Together,

we can elevate the work of the American Legion Auxiliary to new heights.

## **My Vision for the New Year**

### **Empowering Mission-Related Projects Through Grants**

One of my primary goals this year is to guide and assist our leadership teams in securing funding for mission-related projects. By working hand-in-hand with the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation, we will focus on writing grants that help us fulfill our mission to serve veterans, military families, and our communities. These grants will enable us to initiate impactful projects, expand our reach, and amplify the positive impact we make every day. I encourage all Chairman, Units, and District Presidents to think creatively and identify areas where additional resources can make a significant difference. Together, we can bring these ideas to life. *I will be reaching out to you to see if you would like help writing these Grants.*

### **Strengthening Our Membership**

Membership is the backbone of our organization, and nurturing it is crucial for our growth and sustainability. This year, I want to partner closely with our Membership Chairman in our Units to enhance our efforts in recruiting and retaining Auxiliary Members. By fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment, we can inspire others to join our mission and maintain the vitality of our Auxiliary.

### **Looking Ahead**

The American Legion Auxiliary has always been a beacon of hope and support for those who serve our nation, and this year will be no different. I am confident that with dedication, teamwork, and a shared passion for our mission, we can achieve incredible things together. Let's make this year a testament to what we can accomplish when we unite in purpose and action.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to the American Legion Auxiliary. Here's a year filled with growth, success, and profound impact. I look forward to working with all of you as we bring our vision for this year to life.

With gratitude and enthusiasm,

Cindy Ward – Department of Kansas – Vice President -  
American Legion Auxiliary  
Phone (309) 222-7233  
Email: [Cindy.Ward2019@outlook.com](mailto:Cindy.Ward2019@outlook.com)

## **Chaplain**

Hello Auxiliary Members! I would like to take a moment to introduce myself as your Department of Kansas Chaplain for 2025-26. My home unit is Boerstler-May Unit 170 in Chanute Kansas. I am a gold star wife and live in Humboldt, KS. I work for Neosho Memorial Regional Medical Center EMS full time. I have 3 grown children and 6 grandchildren with another due in September. I served as the Department of Kansas Historian in 2024-25 and have served in offices at both my unit and district level. I serve as the chairperson for the American



Legion Auxiliary Cadet Law program. I am super excited to fulfill the duties of chaplain this year! As chaplain there are many responsibilities I take very seriously. Below is a list of chaplain responsibilities at the unit, district, and department level:

1. Report the names of members who are ill at meetings and present cards for all who are present to sign.
2. Send a sympathy card to the family, and, if possible, visit the funeral home when a member passes away. In some cases, the chaplain may also be assigned to ask the family if they wish to have a funeral dinner.
3. Lead religious services like draping the charter or performing memorials.
4. Visit members and veterans in nursing homes and hospitals
5. Visit members and veterans who are shut-in at home.
6. Stay in contact with Gold Star families and remember them during all holidays.
7. Send cards to members and their families.
8. Volunteer in community projects.
9. Make a prayer and devotional book.
10. Encourage members to send prayers and devotional thoughts so they can be used to make a prayer book.

If your unit or district has any special events or services you would like me to attend, please reach out; I am excited to meet more people all across the state. Also, if there are special birthdays or other events you would love to have a member receive a card from the Department of Kansas Auxiliary please send me the info! You can reach me at **[lauriedkerns@gmail.com](mailto:lauriedkerns@gmail.com)** or by phone at (620) 228-4277. I look forward to a super successful year for the Department of Kansas American Legion Auxiliary!

## Historian

Thank you for your support. I am excited to serve as your Department Historian this year. I am looking forward to learning about your Units and their histories through your history books.

I have been a member of Leavenworth Unit 23 since 2016. I have attended many Department events with my husband, Dan. Over the years, I have served my Unit as President, Vice President, Treasurer, and many committee chairs. At the District level, I have served as President, Vice President, Historian, Treasure and many committee Chairs. I have served on the Department Risk and



Compliance Committee, the Constitution and Bylaws Committee and as Sgt-at-Arms. I have had the honor to serve on the National Constitution and Bylaws Committee this past year. Please feel free to reach out if I can be of assistance this year  
Sonia Wiley-Historian- Email [s.wiley160@gmail.com](mailto:s.wiley160@gmail.com)



#### History Flashback

- ALA was established at the First National Convention of the American Legion in 1919.
- The AL decided to organize their own organization instead of adopting an existing organization.
- The Department of KS was organized by Dept. Adjutant Frank Samuel.
- Department Commander Thomas Lee called the 1st KS Auxiliary Convention in Jan. 1921 in Newton, KS.
- Winifred Calihan of Garden City was elected President
- 181 units the first year
- The rallying slogan was "No Bachelor Post"
- The Auxiliary was organized enough to hold a National Convention in November 1921 in Kansas City, MO.

### Secretary

Hello Everyone.

I am Sue Coester, your 2025-2026 Secretary of Department of Kansas American Legion Auxiliary.

I have been an Auxiliary member since 2006, in good standing, with Unit #26 of Girard, Kansas. I am eligible under my husband.

I have held many offices in my unit, President x5, Vice President x2, Chairman of youth activities at our post, Chaplin, and Vice-President with District #3. I thank you for continued support as your Department Secretary.

Sincerely

Sue Coester

Dept. of Kansas Secretary.

### Treasurer

Hello. I am Jeanne Haas, the Department of Kansas newly elected Department Treasurer. It is my honor to serve as a volunteer of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Kansas in this position. Having worked on the Department Finance Committee and the Department Risk and Compliance Committee allows me some insight into the financial responsibilities of the Department of Kansas. As a volunteer, I will only be in the Department office about once a week, so if you need immediate assistance, please use my personal email at [debra.j.haas@gmail.com](mailto:debra.j.haas@gmail.com). I look forward in working with Department Secretary Sue and Office Director Kelly as we

continue the financial stability of the programs and missions of our organization.

## NEC

Hello Ladies,

I am going to do my column in the newsletter a little bit differently. Since I have several positions, I thought I would do it Q&A style. Call me, email me or text me. If you have a question someone else probably has the same question but is afraid to ask. If I don't have what I think is the correct answer, I will say so and find you the correct answer. I am still learning the VA&R program so questions there will educate us both!

Contact me at:

Sharon Spiker

705 4th St

Wetmore Ks 66550

**sharon\_spiker@yahoo.com**

(There is an underscore between Sharon and spiker) or 785-851-7081

I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

Sharon

## KANSAS LEGION COMMANDER



Well it has been a busy first month as your department commander but it has been fun I am really looking forward to this year. The new membership year will start July 1 for 2026 but let's not forget we can still renew for 2025.

There are a lot of things going on in the next two months if you have something come up and would like me there please call or text and if I am available I will do my best to be there.

Up coming in July erie bean feed always fun time August membership work shop, department commander, detachment commander and Auxiliary president homecoming is August 16th at Post 370 in overland park Kansas Information should be out.

So starting in July let try and get all post off of goose eggs as soon as possible. Thanks for all you do it is an honor to be your department Commander

## KANSAS SAL COMMANDER



## HELLO KANSAS AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY!

I'm honored to be elected as the Kansas Detachment Commander for 2025-2026! I hope that I represent my grandfather well by serving humbly and leading by example. Some of you may not know, but I am also an Auxiliary member, my wife earned my eligibility in your great organization by serving honorably in the Navy. I am very excited for this year and working with not just the Sons membership but with the entire Legion family. The "Get One for the Legion" initiative that the Detachment is launching should help all of us grow our membership. When a Sons member recruits a Legion member they earn a free neon polo shirt. Every new Legion member has the possibility of bringing multiple Auxiliary and Sons members with them. I hope this is just the beginning of all of us working together to grow our family.

For God and Country,  
Your Detachment Commander  
Matthew Krupco

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



# AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY HOMECOMING

## HONORING:

GEORGE HONN – AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

ANNDI BOWNES – DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

MATTHEW KRUPCO – SAL DETACHMENT COMMANDER

August 16, 2025

12:00PM Social, 1:00pm Lunch

American Legion Post 370

7500 W 75th St, Overland Park, KS 66204

Guest Speaker: Leading Candidate for National Commander Dan Wiley

**\$15.00 (RSVP by August 9) \$17 at the Door**

## LUNCHEON MENU:

Meatloaf or chicken, mashed potatoes, corn/green beans, salad, roll, & tea/water



Venmo



Cash App



PayPal



Zelle

-or-

Make checks payable to Matthew Krupco and mail to 510 E Main St., Blue Mound, KS 66010

-----Please cut and mail -----

Name	Meatloaf	Chicken

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_

# American Legion Department of Kansas

## Family Day 2025

**Saturday August 2nd  
Sterling Lake  
-Sterling KS-**

**DETAILS COMING SOON**



### DEPT OFFICE EMAILS

OFFICE DIRECTOR [ksaladeptoffice@gmail.com](mailto:ksaladeptoffice@gmail.com)

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