

SUNFLOWERETTE

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2023



From the desk of the President – Cheryl Eastep

October already! The leaves are turning, nights are getting cooler, and I am feeling bonfires and sweatshirts are around the corner. This is the season for pumpkins, apples, and cider, after an extremely hot summer we had I am sure that everyone is ready for it!



Thank you to everyone who attended the Fall Conference in Pittsburg. We had 48 registered guests. I hope everyone had a good learning experience and enjoyed themselves as well. Thank you to the committees for your hard work getting information out.

Now it is time for District Homecomings. Congratulations to all the District Presidents, enjoy your day.

I am looking forward to escorting our National President Lisa Williamson during her visit on October 12, 13, and 14th. She will be the guest of honor at the Eisenhower Pilgrimage as well as the guest speaker for the vice's homecoming. I hope many of you plan to attend. Ensure that you look through the Sunflower as her stops are listed, as well as the District Homecomings. Get your RSVP's in.

Let's work hard to get memberships in as early as possible this year. Sign up new members, we want to be number one this year and cheer our incoming National President Trish Ward at National. Don't forget to fill out your 10 plus 3.

We have a very busy year ahead of us. I appreciate your support and remember...

TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK! And we are **ALL A TEAM.**

Your Department President,
Cheryl Eastep



ALA DEPT OF KANSAS OFFICERS AT FALL CONFERENCE

Marching to the Beat of Membership – Tracy Kinnick Department VP

Whew...what an amazing Fall Conference. Thank you to everyone who spent time at the membership table. Everyone had great questions during the conference that I want to share with all of our department.



1. Why do I not have access to ALAMIS?
 - a. There are a few reasons why you do not have access, if your unit did not submit your name, and pay for ALAMIS access you will not have access. If you applied/ asked for FULL Access, you may need to complete your required training before you have access. If you need to pay for access or double-check your names, you can call me to see who has access or reach out to Carol at the Department office.
2. My unit membership due's did not change.
 - a. Membership dues increased Nationally as well as for our Department for the 2024 year, if your unit did not submit a change form, your membership dues did not go up. You can still change your rates, there is a \$30.00 charge for this change, however keep in mind that renewal notices are currently going out and your current rate listed in ALAMIS is what will be on those renewals. If you want to know your unit rates, do not hesitate to call, I have that information readily available to answer for you.

These two questions were the most asked questions during the fall conference.

What are we up to? We are hosting monthly Zoom calls with district presidents and vice presidents to discuss membership, ask questions, and share success stories. These calls will be open to all unit membership chairs on the following dates: November 6th, 2023 @ 7:00 PM, February 5th, 2024, at 7:00 PM, and May 6th, 2024 at 7:00 PM. Reach out to your district chairperson to ensure you get invited to these calls.



Our first National goal is December 7, 2023, for our Department to be at 75% membership. This is 100% doable, if everyone renews their membership now, and units **DO NOT HOLD MEMBERSHIPS!** Send them in ASAP. Not only will this help your unit, but the district as well. We want to sit up front for our National Vice President Trish Ward, as well as be upfront for her convention in Tampa, Florida! We can do this. Pay your dues online at www.alaforveterans.org or call (317) 569-4570 with your member ID ready and pay over the phone, it is that simple.

Just ask, you never know who will tell you yes to joining our organization. Have you asked your friends and family members? You might be surprised by who will tell you yes.

Email, call, or text with any questions that I can help you with. Membership is everyone's responsibility! We can do this. deptvicepresident@kslegionaux.org 316-655-5122

Let the Harvest Begin

By Kristen Hensley, Department Chaplain

October is a month that most associate with Halloween and all things spooky. However, Celtic Pagans celebrate a Holiday called Samhain or Celtic New Year. This is a celebration of the harvest and at the end of the month, the coming of winter.



Throughout the year, members plant seeds of inspiration and encouragement within our Units

and Post families as well as in the hearts of those we are recruiting. Let us focus on our own harvest in getting members involved, plug new members into programs that they

can be passionate about. Contact members you haven't heard from in awhile and invite them back. Everyone wants to feel needed, missed, and important. Reach out and connect with each other. Our harvest can be additional loving hands working our missions to Veterans, Active-Duty Military, their families, and our communities.

Prayer: Father God, please give us the desire to reach out to those we haven't heard from in awhile and let them know we miss them. Give us the words to encourage new friends in pursuing their mission-based passions. Let us be excited to spread inspiration and the love we have for our Kansas Legion Family as a whole. Amen.

Be a Part of Department of Kansas

Chaplain Prayer Book!

This year, if you would like to submit a prayer, devotional, or inspirational message to be featured in the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Kansas Chaplain Prayer Book, please send your entries to:

American Legion Auxiliary Dept of Kansas
c/o Kristen Hensley, Chaplain
334 Lincoln Ave
Osawatomie, KS 66064

~OR~

Email them to deptchaplain@kslegionaux.org

Arriving no later than May 15, 2024

Please include your name, Unit number, District number and city/state which will be featured in whatever you submit

The District with the most qualified entries will receive a Certificate at 2024 Department Convention

Please remember, the American Legion Auxiliary does not discriminate based on religion, creed, beliefs. People of all beliefs are welcome to submit as we serve a nation of varying beliefs.

Criteria for being selected to be featured:

- Must not cause division and have an overall positive or supportive theme (spreading hope not hate). Must not be discriminatory or divisional.
- Must not be judgmental in nature.
- Must not be offensive to societal norms.

With this year's Theme "Teamwork Makes the Dreamwork", your leadership team is working hard to bring a sense of healing, inclusion and camaraderie throughout the Auxiliary Family across our great state. Submissions should reflect this theme.

Thank you for your work, time, and caring of this Nation's heroes. May you find blessings today and everyday.



Kristen D. Hensley - Chaplain
American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Kansas

LEADERSHIP

You are a proud member and leader of the Kansas American Legion Auxiliary!!!!
Be proud of where you are from!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Become a leader in Kansas Trivia!!!!!!

DO YOU KNOW?

The smallest State Park in Kansas is _____.

The geographical center of the contiguous United States is near _____, Kansas.

The Peace Treaty between the United States government and the major Western Native American Tribes in 1867 near _____, Kansas.

Kansas is home to the deepest _____.

Kansas is home to the largest _____.

Lucas, Kansas has the _____, built by Samuel Dinsmoor. It is in great shape, as Dinsmoor had a secret formula for the making of _____.

You could dig a really big hole if you operated _____, found in southeastern Kansas.

Kansas has its own Vincent van Gogh painting, "Sunflower", located on the worlds largest easel near _____, Kansas.

Along Highway 400 near _____, Kansas, you will find the political folk art work of M.T. Liggett.

Answers in next month Sunflowerette

Answers from Sept:1-M, 2-C, 3-M, 4-M, 5-C, 6-C, 7-C, 8-C, 9-C

Department of Kansas District 7 Homecoming

Saturday, September 30th, 11 am

Post 180 Great Bend, KS

Michael
Vondracek
District 7
TAL
Commander



Nora
Tyson
District 7
ALA
President



Rick
Munsch
District 7
SAL
Commander



The meal is \$8. Checks may be sent and made payable to American Legion Post 180
PO Box 721, Great Bend, KS 67530 with
attention to Boe Levingston

There will also be a 50/50 raffle

Eighth District Homecoming



Honoring:

Christopher Self – District 8 Commander

Marsha Weber – District 8 Auxiliary President

Michael Weber – SAL District 8 Commander

September 30th, 2023

15:00 Social, 16:00 Dinner

American Legion Post #47

801 South 14th Avenue, Dodge City, KS

Dinner Cost: \$15.00

Dinner Menu

Ribeye steaks, baked potato, green beans, salad and dessert

For additional information or to RSVP, please contact Christopher Self (620)253-2651 or email at cself1976@gmail.com.



District 4 Family Homecoming



OCTOBER 7, 2023

Social Hour - 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Lunch and Program - 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Harold "Skinny" Spatz
American Legion Post 323
9 E. Broadway, Lebo, Kansas

Join us in honoring:

District 4 Commander Eszter Blair
District 4 American Legion Auxiliary President Carol Roush
District 4 Detachment Commander Randy Porter

\$20.00 per person (RSVP no later than September 28, 2023)

Catered by Chicken House, Olpe, Kansas

RSVP or need additional information

Contact Clarence "Frenchie" Frye (757) 477-3403 or at cmcfrye@gmail.com

Make check payable to American Legion Post 323 and mail to

American Legion, P. O. Box 204, Lebo, KS 66856

Name _____

Number of Meals _____ Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____

Name(s) of Guest(s) _____

Post/Unit/Squadron _____



DISTRICT TWO LEGION FAMILY HOMECOMING

OCTOBER 7, 2023

FELLOWSHIP BEGINS AT 4:00PM WITH DINNER/PROGRAM AT 5:00PM

HOSTED BY:

THE AMERICAN LEGION MIAMI POST 156
5 DELAWARE STREET, PAOLA, KS 66071

JOIN US IN HONORING DISTRICT 2 LEADERSHIP:

TAL COMMANDER – DOUG HENSLEY – *PAOLA*
ALA PRESIDENT – CINDY WARD – *PAOLA*
SAL COMMANDER – JOHN REED – *LOUISBURG*

PLEASE RSVP NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 30TH

\$12.00/PERSON IN ADVANCE (BY SEPTEMBER 30TH) OR \$15.00/PERSON AT THE DOOR

BE THE ONE

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT, DOUG HENSLEY, AT (913) 314-2306.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE AND MAIL (NOTATING "DISTRICT 2 HOMECOMING"
IN THE MEMO) TO:

AMERICAN LEGION POST 156
PO BOX 126, PAOLA, KS 66071

**THIS IS THE LAST STOP ON THE "MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN DISTRICT 2"
PASSPORT/SCAVENGER HUNT RIDE!**

FOR INFORMATION ON RIDE, CONTACT DAVID HECK AT (316) 207-8650
OR VISIT THE "AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS – DISTRICT 2"
FACEBOOK PAGE

NAME: _____

OF MEALS _____ ENCLOSED CHECK AMOUNT: \$ _____

NAME OF OTHERS ATTENDING: _____

POST/UNIT/SQUADRON: _____ CITY/STATE: _____

NATIONAL PRESIDENT LISA WILLIAMSON VISIT TO KANSAS



THURSDAY OCTOBER 12

8:30AM - 10:30AM BREAKFAST AT OLATHE POST 153
11:30 AM - 1:30PM LUNCH AT THE TOPEKA POST 400
2:30 PM - 3:30 PM MEET AND GREET EMPORIA POST 5
6:30PM - 8:30PM DINNER MULVANE POST 136

FRIDAY OCTOBER 13

8:30AM - 10:00AM MEET/ GREET NEWTON POST 2
11:00AM - 1:00PM LUNCH HUTCHINSON POST 68
6:00PM DINNER AT CHAPMAN POST 420

SATURDAY OCTOBER 14

8:30AM - NOON EISENHOWER PILGRIMAGE
NOON - 2PM GUEST SPEAKER AT DEPT. VP HOMECOMING
4:30PM - 7:00PM DINNER AT GREENLEAF POST 235

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 153
OLATHE KANSAS WELCOMES
ALA NATIONAL PRESIDENT
LISA WILLIAMSON



Join us for a

Breakfast Buffet

prepared by American Legion Riders Chapter 153



Scrambled Eggs
Pancakes
French Toast
Biscuits & Gravy
Bacon
Fresh Fruit
OJ / Coffee / Water

Thursday Oct. 12, 2023

8:30 - 10:00 am

\$10

**All You
Can Eat**



Pay by cash / debit credit* at the event, or pay by \$10 check made out to **ALR153 Olathe KS**. Mail checks to address below, **ATTN Paul McBride** by October 1, 2023

***Debit/Credit charge will total \$10.30**



Olathe American Legion
410 E Dennis Ave. Olathe, KS 66061



The American Legion Family Homecoming



HONORING:

ANGELA EVANS- AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT VICE-COMMANDER
TRACY KINNICK- AMERICAN LEGION AUXILLARY DEPARTMENT VICE-PRESIDENT
MATTHEW KRUPCO- AMERICAN LEGION SAL DETACHMENT VICE-COMMANDER

October 14th, 2023 - 12:00 pm

Greyhound Hall of Fame
407 S Buckeye Ave, Abilene KS
\$15.00 per person (RSVP by October 1st), \$17.00 at the Door.

Luncheon Menu: Baked Chicken Breast and Roast Beef
Mashed Potatoes with Gravy
Green Beans
Dinner roll with Butter and Desert

For Additional information or to RSVP, contact Angela Evans; 719-659-0837
(Please include the note below on meal selection)

-or-

Make checks payable to Angela Evans and send to
720 W Commercial St, Lyons, KS 67554; or VENMO to Angela-Evans-165, include meal selection in the notes

-----PLEASE CUT AND MAIL-----

NAME(S) _____

PLEASE CIRCLE CHICKEN OR ROAST BEEF & NUMBER OF MEALS ____

ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK IN THE AMOUNT OF _____

POST/UNIT/SQUADRON # _____

43rd ANNUAL
EISENHOWER PILGRIMAGE

Enclosed is our payment for a rose or wreath to be placed at the
Eisenhower Memorial on Saturday, October 14, 2023.

Purchaser _____
Post - Unit - Squadron or Other (Please be Specific)

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

DISTRICT LEVEL OR HIGER

No. of Wreaths _____ Amount Enclosed _____
(\$20 for each rose requested)

Name _____
Person Placing the Wreath

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone (Day Time) _____

RECEPTION & DINNER

Chapman Post #240

Friday, October 13

No. of Dinner Reservations _____ Amount Enclosed _____
(\$20 per person)

Persons Attending Dinner

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

ABSOLUTE DEADLINE: OCTOBER 1, 2023



5th District

The American Legion Family Homecoming

HONORING:

Joe Hicks - AMERICAN LEGION DISTRICT 5 COMMANDER

Jean Kimminau - AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DISTRICT 5 PRESIDENT

John Cintron - 5th DISTRICT AMERICAN LEGION SAL COMMANDER

Saturday, October 21, 2023

American Legion Post #4 - 816 N. Water, Wichita, KS 67203

12 Noon - Social Hour - 1:00 pm Meal & Program

Program - Honoring Women Veterans

LUNCHEON MENU:

Meatloaf - Mashed Potatoes - Green Beans - Salad - Desert
Coffee - Tea - Water

\$15.00 per person - Please **RSVP** by October 15, 2023

For additional information or to RSVP

Contact: Kenny White at 316.990.8642 or Joe Hicks at 316.295.7340

(Please include the information note below on meal section.)

Make checks payable to American Legion Post #4

Mail to: American Legion Post #4, 816 N. Water, Wichita, KS 67203 Attn. Jim Smith

----- PLEASE CUT AND MAIL -----

NAME(S) _____

NUMBER OF MEALS _____

ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ _____

POST / UNIT / SQUADRON # _____

PLEASE PRINT

1st District Homecoming



HONORING:

Michael Cole – 1st District Commander

Sonia Wiley – District 1 Auxiliary President

Jeff Kerns – SAL 1st District Commander

October 21, 2023

10:30am District Meeting - 11:30 Social Hour - 12:00 Luncheon

American Legion Post 142

410 Perry Pl. , Perry, KS 66073

Guest Speaker: TBD

\$15.00 (RSVP by October 13, 2023)

LUNCHEON MENU:

Provolone Chicken, Cheesy Potatoes, Green Beans, Roll, and Dessert,

For additional information or to RSVP, contact: Michael Cole (913) 680-8680 Use @Michael-

Cole-1964 to send money via Venmo (include a note with whom the RSVP is for) -or-

Please Make checks Payable to Michael Cole and mail to 918 Josela Court, Leavenworth, KS 66048

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

Names: _____

Number of Meals _____ **En closed is my check in the amount of \$** _____

Post/Unit/Squadron _____

SAVE THE DATE

Homecoming

DISTRICT 10

November 18, 2023

Hosted by

UNIT #282 - WETMORE



Upcoming Events

Vice and District Homecoming
Dist. 7 & 8 Sept 30th see flyers above.

Dist. 2 & 4 Oct 7th see flyers above.

Dept Vice Family Homecoming

Sat Oct 14th 12:00pm - 3:00pm
Grey Hound Hall, 407 S Buckeye Ave,
Abilene, KS 67410, USA

Angela Evans TAL Vice Commander,
Tracy Kinnick, ALA Dept Vice President
Matthew Krupco, the S.A.L. Detachment Vice
Commander

Dist. 1 & 5 Oct 21st see flyers above.

Dist. 3 Oct 29th Chanute Noon

Dist. 10 Nov 18th see flyer above.

Dist. 6 & 9 TBA

Please go to this link on the Dept Website for more info

<https://www.kslegionaux.org/departement-calendar>

If you want to have the sunflowerette and the weekly membership report email to you, please make sure you have your email on

record with carol at dept office.

departmentoffice@kslegionaux.org