

JULY 2025

2025-2026 Dept Officers



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President

Summer Greetings to all our American Legion Family!

Wow, it's hard to believe it's almost August already, summer just seems to be flying by. Hoping everyone is having a safe and fun summer! While we are enjoying our summer picnics and outings don't forget to have one of our "American Legion Family Membership Brochures" on hand or the "At a Glance Brochure," both along with many other types of brochures that are available on our National Website, under the resources tab. <https://member.legion-aux.org/member/resources/recruitment> You never know when the opportunity will arise to spread the word about our mission and programs and share your passion for our organization. I attended Cadet Law for a couple days and hope to go back next year. What an engaging experience for our young adults to attend! They get hands on experience in tactical driving, a shooting range competition, defensive tactics and performing traffic stops. If you can volunteer, even if only for a day or two you should really take advantage of it. Such a memorable experience!

With school just around the corner it's a good time to start working on your Junior Activity Programs and getting your Juniors engaged. Kids listen to other kids and if they are having fun and sharing what they are doing, then you have built-in recruitment! Having regular meetings is a great way to help teach our youth about patriotism, Americanism, Flag Education, etc.... Reach out if you need help getting a junior program started. Our youth can do more than you realize towards our mission, so don't leave them out.

Listen
Encourage
And.
Develop
Everyone
Regularly
Selflessly

Our first planned Leaders Power Hour Zoom is scheduled for Tuesday, August 19, at 7 pm. These zooms are for EVERYONE who wants to learn, ask questions, or come and share info.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82478495278?pwd=IQ8buahHOFT3PMQ9tdg5zoZdvQpaav.1>

Everybody can be a leader, it's not about your station in life or a specific position. I strongly encourage anyone at any level to come to the zoom meeting to learn, ask and teach. This first one will be covering the duties and responsibilities of officers and chairmen and an open Q & A session over anything you want to bring to the table. Please email me with any questions you might already have.

Upcoming Events you don't want to miss!

August 2 @ Sterling Lake, American Legion Family Fun Day

August 16 @ Overland Park American Legion Post #370, DEPT

Homecoming, RSVP needed

September 20 @ Salina, Fall Conference (Stay Tuned for details)

Don't hesitate to reach out if you need anything. Texting or emailing works faster than calling 😊

For God and Country, President Anndi Bownes

anndimb@yahoo.com~620-228-4884

Vice President

Public Relations: Staying Connected and Building Our Brand

As we begin the new meeting year, it's the perfect time to reflect on how we communicate with our members, potential members, and the broader community. Effective communication keeps our Units strong, engaged, and welcoming.

There are many tools available to help share your message: social media platforms, newsletters, websites, Facebook pages or groups, and even branded apparel. Each offers unique ways to keep

everyone informed and involved. Have you taken a moment to make sure your members' contact information—primarily email addresses—are current? Keeping your roster up-to-date ensures no one misses essential news, events, or opportunities to participate. In addition to communication, let's remember the importance of branding. Consistent, professional branding helps the public instantly recognize who we are and what we stand for. Please take a few minutes to review the **American Legion Auxiliary Branding Guide** when you create flyers, social media posts, or any other materials related to our organization. It's an invaluable resource for presenting a unified and polished image.

You can find it here: **ALA Branding Guide**

Together, let's make this year one of strong communication, consistent branding, and continued success for our Units and communities.

Department of Kansas Vice President - Cindy Ward

Email: Cindy.ward2019@outlook.com – Phone (309) 222-7233

Chaplain

I would like to take a moment this month to talk about what I feel is one of the most important services an Auxiliary Unit performs, Draping a Charter. It is a service conducted to honor the service and sacrifice of an auxiliary member who has passed away. The Chaplain and the President lead the draping ceremony. It is customary to leave the charter draped for a period of 30 days. The ceremony to undrape the charter should happen at the monthly meeting following the draping ceremony. Below is the written ceremony for draping a charter and un-draping a charter. These ceremony scripts were taken from the National American Legion Auxiliary website manual of ceremonies. This manual can be downloaded and/or printed from the website. If you need assistance with these ceremonies or any others, please feel free to reach out to me, I would love to help you!

Draping the Charter

Unit President: "We have assembled here at the call of our Maker who has taken from us one of our beloved leaders. We have come to give, by simple token, official expression of the grief of the Unit of _____. Let us first bow our heads in prayer."

Chaplain: (Brief prayer) "Almighty God, who has dominion over life and death, grant to us the grace to remember with love and reverence our valiant and honored departed Member American Legion Auxiliary Manual of Ceremonies 35 (Members). Grant peace and eternal rest to those who have gone before us and make us ready for that last hour. Strengthen and console those in sorrow and bestow upon us Your everlasting blessing. Amen."

Unit President: "We stand before the document which gives our Unit life and being. Under its authority years of devoted service were given by _____, who contributed greatly to its significance, whose service is ended but the results will go on and on for our American Legion Auxiliary and for God and the country which the Auxiliary serves. It is therefore fitting that about our charter we should drape this crepe of black, an expression of the sorrow that is in our hearts and of the mourning of the unit of over its great loss." (drapes the charter). Now we will ask God's blessing for our departed friend and co-worker, then go silently to carry forward the task"

Chaplain: (Brief concluding prayer)

Undraping of Unit Charter

President: We have assembled here to acknowledge the conclusion of our grieving at the loss of a fellow member. Though we move forward from our grief, we continue to remember and celebrate the life of _____. We further acknowledge that we will continue to honor _____ in our continued mission to support and defend our nation and our veterans.

Chaplain: Let us bow our heads. Almighty God, we thank You for the time we had with _____. We cherish the memories and ask for the peace that rests with You. We ask that You guide us in our continued service to our nation and our veterans. AMEN.

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 or by phone at (620) 228-4277. I look forward to a super successful year for the Department of Kansas American Legion Auxiliary!

Historian

July is the month we celebrate our country's birthday and remember America's history. My question to each Unit is:

Do you know your Unit's history?

I encourage each Unit to look into your unique past.

- **Who** are the members that built and supported your Unit's programs?
- **What** has made an impact in the community over the years?
- **Where** has your Unit met?
- **When** did your Unit shine, have District or State officers or submit a history book?
- **How** has your Unit supported Veterans over the years?

As we gear up for the 250th birthday of The United States of America. Discover your Units history. Celebrate your accomplishments and service.

Sonia Wiley
Department Historian



History Flashback

1921 - Membership given to sisters and daughters of WWI vets, so had very young members.

Members signed up at birth were called, "Cradle Roll"

1934 - the Auxiliary Amended the Constitution to divide the ALA into 2 main classes

Senior - over 18

Juniors - under 18

1937 - Girls State started

Cadet Law

The 56th Annual Kansas Cadet Law was held June 15-20, 2025, at the Kansas Highway Patrol Troop J Training Headquarters in Salina Kansas. 34 students completed the week-long event and graduated on Friday June 20 at 2:30 pm.

During the week, students participated in many classroom and hands-on activities related to Law Enforcement including firing range time and gun safety, evasive driving closed course and vehicle safety, scenario based virtual complaint calls, and defense tactical movements. Students completed a defensive/safe driving course and were issued a certificate of completion to help reduce insurance costs for the students and parents.

The students also received lessons in flag etiquette and drill and ceremony all week. Students posted the colors each morning and retired the colors each evening during attendance. The KHP coaches taught the students marching, facing movements, standing at attention, and many other skills.

Every student followed a strict schedule all week with 30 minutes of physical fitness beginning their day. Each evening students participated in fun activities, playing games such as volleyball and wiffle ball, against the coaches for bragging rights. When the students were not in class or participating in hands-on activities they were assigned duties within their living quarters. Those duties included making their bed each morning and keeping their living areas clean and tidy. Students turned in their phones and keys on Sunday during check-in to be kept in a secure place. The KHP coaches handed out their phones each evening for 30 minutes to allow students to check in with family and collected the phones prior to lights out.

On Thursday evening the American Legion and Auxiliary representatives on campus provided the students with an ice cream social. All the students expressed their sincere thanks to the American Legion and Auxiliary for hosting the program while they enjoyed their ice cream treats, and some relax time with their peers!

Kansas Cadet Law was excited to have many special guests visit during the week. Those guests included: George Honn, Dept. of Kansas American Legion Commander; Anndi Bownes, Dept of Kansas American Legion Auxiliary President; George Pogge, Dept of Kansas American Legion Vice Commander; Ed Borring, Dept of Kansas American Legion Area East Commander; Jeremy Ehart, Dept of Kansas National Executive Committeeman; Kristy Ehart, Dept of Kansas American Legion Auxiliary Webmaster; Paula Whatley, Kansas American Legion Auxiliary member; and Kevin Funk, Kansas American Legion member.

Each year representatives from the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary reside on campus with the students. This year the members staying with the students for the week included: Gaylord Sanneman, National Cadet Law Committee Chairman; Rene Castilleja, Kansas American Legion District 2 Executive Committeeman; Laurie Kerns, Dept of Kansas American Legion Auxiliary Chaplain.



Governing Documents



Governing Documents

What are Governing Documents?
Your Unit's Constitution and Bylaws.

Have you reviewed your Unit/District's Governing Documents in 2025? It's a good time to dig them out, dust them off and read through them. Look to see if they are up to date with changes National has made. For example: has the word wife been changed to spouse and has the eligibility dates been changed.

If you need to make updates read through the section on Amending. Each Unit/District will have to **follow what is currently** in your Constitution and Bylaws.

If you are unable to locate a copy, check with the Department Office to see if a copy is on file.

Sonia Wiley
Department C&B Chair

We are asking that all Units and Districts share a copy of their Constitution and Bylaws with the Department C & B Committee. If you already have sent a copy to Department that is wonderful.

Kansas Membership print out click here

Department of Kansas Membership 2025-2026

Trish Ward, Department Membership Chair

Meet Kirby!



Hey ALA Kansas Members!

Our baby eagle Kirby is excited to get us started off on the right wing for membership 25-26. Together we'll watch Kirby grow up and get stronger over the year ...just as our membership will grow and get stronger. Kirby hopes that by August 1, 2026, he will be a fully grown eagle proudly soaring America's skies...and as he soars...so will Kansas by achieving our national membership goal of ...

→ 8,990 ←

So please join in the fun as ALA Kansas ...and Kirby make great things happen in the new membership year! The Central Division has been assigned "Eagles" as its mascot...so Kirby...and Kansas are ready to GO!

2025-2026 Department Awards



- 25% Award By SAL Birthday: 9/15/25 - \$25.00
- 60% Award By ALA Birthday: 11/10/25 - \$60.00
- 85% Award By TAL Birthday: 03/15/26 - \$85.00
- 95% Award By Female Veterans Day: 06/12/26 - \$95.00
- 100% Award By Independence Day: 07/04/26 - \$250.00
- 102% Award By 30 Days Prior to National Convention: 08/01/26

*Finance Gifts are to be used to Advance the ALA mission!

Unit Awards



100% Unit Award

Presented to Units that reach 100% of their 2026 membership goal by January 31, 2026

Award: ALA Key Chain with phone stand and cleaner (2 per unit for unit president and membership chair.

New Unit Award

Presented to units chartered between September 1, 2025, and July 31, 2026

Award: Unit Guidebook & ALA National Constitution & Bylaws from Emblem Sales

Member Awards

Recruit/Rejoin 10

Award: Special gift selected by the National Membership Chair

Presented to: Members who recruit and/or rejoin 10 Senior and/or Junior members. Rejoined members must not have renewed since 2022 or earlier.

Deadline: Members must be entered and paid in ALAMIS member database by June 1, 2026.

Forms: must be received at National HQ by June 6, 2026



Family 3

Award: Special gift selected by the National President

Presented to: Members who recruit 3 New Legion members, 3 New Auxiliary members and 3 New SAL members

Deadline: Members must be entered and paid in the database by June 1, 2026

Forms: must be received at National HQ by June 6, 2026

Department of Kansas – Unit Membership Goals for 2025-2026

1st District 20 Units	Unit	25-26
Topeka	1	39
Atchison	6	64
Leavenworth	23	46
Rossville	31	47
Oskaloosa	36	33
Tonganoxie	41	11
Holton	44	40
Troy	55	18
Leavenworth	94	47
Perry	142	25
White Cloud	154	19
Wathena	161	53
Ozawie	225	128
Effingham	285	13
Topeka	319	11
Winchester	387	28
Topeka	400	161
Mayetta	410	12
Lansing	411	15
Topeka	421	24
1st District Totals		834

2nd District 18 Units	Unit	25-26
Lawrence	14	36
Iola	15	34
Gardner	19	158
Fort Scott	25	18
Garnett	48	20
Olathe	153	166
Paola	156	92
KC Quindaro	199	81
Kansas City	213	77
Baldwin City	228	19
Mound City	248	30
Louisburg	250	183
Blue Mound	279	85
Shawnee	327	138
Spring Hill	350	35
Overland Park	370	278
Moran	385	56
Lenexa	407	40
2nd District Totals		1546

3rd District 16 Units	Unit	25-26
Columbus	3	30
Winfield	10	146
Arkansas City	18	71
Coffeyville	20	60
Girard	26	52
Cherokee	35	52
Erie	102	110
Caney	138	24
Independence	139	77
Howard	149	87
Chanute	170	211
Arma	182	99
Cedar Vale	201	20
Baxter Springs	206	20
Weir	272	10
Pittsburg	394	40
3rd District Totals		1109

4th District 13 Units	Unit	25-26
Emporia	5	121
Yates Center	13	31
Burlington	38	9
Peabody	95	32
Waverly	119	22
Osage City	198	26
Gridley	296	42
LeRoy	313	15
Lebo	323	32
Toronto	325	9
Lincolnton	347	15
Hillsboro	366	81
Allen	389	21
4th District Totals		456

5th District 19 Units	Unit	25-26
Newton	2	111
Wichita	4	81
McPherson	24	200
Whitewater	65	16
El Dorado	81	51
Wellington	90	35
Mulvane	136	131
Lindsborg	140	81
Canton	192	42
Halstead	231	51
Marquette	253	132
Wichita	256	38
Sedgwick	268	67
Witchita	273	76
Witchita	401	13
Andover	406	11
Derby	408	108
Maize	419	38
Wichita	424	30
5th District Totals		1312

6th District 20 Units	Unit	25-26
Salina	62	80
Concordia	76	222
Hunter	77	18
Alton	87	24
Russell	99	22
Natoma	109	37
Belleville	133	9
Kensington	166	23
Ellsworth	174	40
Lebanon	185	15
Scandia	193	90
Holyrood	200	28
Smith Center	220	12
Tescott	255	34
Wilson	262	29
Burr Oak	263	35
Lucas	267	21
Dorrance	334	40
Sylvan Grove	359	10
Esbon	368	20
6th District Totals		809

Department of Kansas – Unit Membership Goals for 2025-2026

7th District 18 Units	Unit	25-26
Macksville	52	13
Anthony	54	29
Hutchinson	68	194
Medicine Lodge	69	27
Pratt	86	10
Isabel	98	15
Larned	106	29
Sterling	128	72
Stafford	131	27
Hardtner	175	14
Great Bend	180	105
Geneseo	241	31
Little River	258	26
Burdett	280	21
Hoisington	286	34
Attila	298	23
Garfield	300	12
Ellinwood	320	23
7th District Totals		705

8th District 11 Units	Unit	25-26
Garden City	9	27
Dodge City	47	47
Ulysses	79	28
Liberal	80	9
Ness City	152	122
Dighton	190	29
Bucklin	269	15
Satanta	276	5
Jetmore	290	18
Copeland	369	12
Utica	380	7
8th District Totals		319

9th District 12 Units	Unit	25-26
Atwood	46	16
Norton	63	75
Oberlin	70	75
Hays	173	35
Wakeeney	197	11
Kirwin	277	9
Logan	281	21
Grainfield	301	26
Jennings	351	27
Bird City	352	21
Agra	357	16
Colby	363	24
9th District Totals		356

10th District 18 Units	Unit	25-26
Seneca	21	41
Washington	91	10
Sabetha	126	13
Barnes	145	34
Marysville	163	175
Blue Rapids	169	21
Centralia	216	22
Clifton	227	130
Greenleaf	235	31
Linn	237	57
Beattie	244	27
Wetmore	282	52
Hanover	306	76
Fairview	322	19
Waterville	332	18
Summerfield	362	35
Powhattan	373	42
Horton	415	18
10th District Totals		821

11th District 12 Units	Unit	25-26
Herrington	12	16
Manhattan	17	161
Alma	32	40
Abilene	39	33
Leonardville	40	34
Junction City	45	110
Clay Center	101	67
Maple Hill	130	30
Wamego	172	23
Westmoreland	186	20
Chapman	240	59
Saint George	260	21
11th District Totals		614

ALA Department of Kansas Unit Membership 2025-2026	
District 1.....	834
District 2.....	1546
District 3.....	1109
District 4.....	456
District 5.....	1312
District 6.....	809
District 7.....	705
District 8.....	319
District 9.....	356
District 10.....	821
District 11.....	614
Dept 58.....	109
Total	8990

Note: If your unit is highlighted, that means your unit achieved its membership goal in 2024-2025

LEGISLATIVE

Legislative_Advocacy_Guide [CLICK HERE](#)



Legislative 2025-2026
Ann Ritacco- Chairman
bearquiltco@yahoo.com

303-523-5202

Utilize The American Legion's Legislative center www.legion.org/legislative, to obtain information on the Legion's priorities, calls for immediate action and connect with representatives.

Call, email, send letters, and visit your elected representatives at the local, state and national levels to advocate for or against legislation.

Sign up for legislative alerts for The American Legion's Grassroots Action Center:

Subscribe to the Legion's Legislative Action Alerts to receive notification when they call on all Legion Family members to take immediate action on a topic:

www.votervoicenet.com/AmericanLegion/Register.

For the last three weeks Kansas has been in the top 5 departments for the grassroots. I would like to see if we can be number 1 for the entire year. All you have to do is send an email message to Congress through the Voter Voice campaigns.

May 13-June 11 July 12-18 July 19-25

Wisconsin 477 Wisconsin 139 Kansas 131

Kansas 473 New York 122 New York 86

Florida 426 Kansas 121 Wisconsin 71

New York 362 Florida 113 Indiana 64

Tennessee 308 Pennsylvania 95 Tennessee 42

Host a Meet the Candidates Night

Invite all candidates involved in a specific election for a question-and-answer session, not a debate. [https://member.legion-](https://member.legion-aux.org/Member/Committees/Legislative/How-to-Host-a-Meet-the-Candidate-Night)

[aux.org/Member/Committees/Legislative/How-to-Host-a-Meet-the-Candidate-Night](https://member.legion-aux.org/Member/Committees/Legislative/How-to-Host-a-Meet-the-Candidate-Night)

The American Legion Auxiliary is a 501(c)(19) nonpro

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 \$_____

KANSAS AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY DAY 2025

Family Fun Day

Activities include: Cornhole, Ladder Ball, Giant Jenga , Uno Flip, 50/50 and more.

FOOD TRUCKS INCLUDING NAK CRUISIN CUISINE WILL BE ON LOCATION.
WITH LOCAL STERLING EATERIES WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE

Amenities at Sterling Lake:

*Swimming Pool (city fee), Sand Volleyball Courts, Tennis Courts,
Splash Pad, Fishing, 2 Playgrounds & a Walking Path*

AUGUST 2, 2025 10AM-2PM
STERLING LAKE, 401 E VAN BUREN ST,
STERLING, KS 67579



THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



DEPT OFFICE EMAILS

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FINANCE DIRECTOR ksaladeptfinance@gmail.com

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