

SUNFLOWERETTE

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS NEWSLETTER

January 2024



From the Desk of the President

- Cheryl Eastep

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and looking forward to a very Happy New Year!

This is going to be an exciting year for Kansas! We have some great representatives this year and the upcoming year. SAL National Vice Commander for Central Division Terry Harris and AL Vice Commander Ray Vail are doing an outstanding job. We are looking forward to our own ALA Vice President Trish Ward becoming our National President this year as well as Dan Wiley becoming the future AL National Commander. KANSAS IS PROUD!

What a busy month of December. J VP Tracy and I attended the VA gift shops in Wichita, Winfield, and Topeka together. I went to Leavenworth, and Tracy went to Ft. Dodge. I must say everyone did a fantastic job. A big shout out and thank you to all who participated. It was a big job but I know the veterans were very thankful. Keep up the good work.

Operation North Pole was the next event that VP Tracy, Chaplain Kristen, and I went to. Santa had some great helper elves this year. Way to go on the donations of cookies and to all the helpers. Everyone seemed to enjoy the goodies and had a good time. It was great to see the children's faces light up.

Not that all the holiday parties are over and a new year is beginning, time to look forward to a great 2024. Let's continue to work on membership. We want to have our numbers up and show our support for our incoming National President Trish.

I hope to see everyone at the upcoming Mid-Winter Forum on **Feb 2-4** in Hutchinson. DEC meeting to be held Friday Evening December 2nd, time, and location TBD. Reminder, DEC meetings are open to all members to attend, this is a great way to learn what the Department of Kansas is working on. This year we will have National Central Division Vice President Carol Robinson join us. Make plans to attend and meet Carol. Registration for the event is \$15.00.

This year I want to work as one TEAM to be a Legion family working on our mission to support our nation's veteran's military and their families. Together we can achieve more. TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK!! As always BE THE ONE!

Your President

Cheryl Eastep

Mid-Winter Forum Hotels:

Holiday Inn Express

Group Name: American Legion

Telephone: (620) 259-8656

Booking Link: bit.ly/AmericanLegionHutch

Rate: \$119/night

Cutoff Date: January 15, 2024

Fairfield Inn & Suites

Group Name: American Legion

Telephone: (620) 259-8787

Booking Link: [Book your group rate for American Legion](#)

Rate: \$129/night

Cutoff Date: January 1, 2024

Marching to the beat of membership

By: Tracy Kinnick, Dept. VP

CIP – Communication Improvement Plan, what is CIP? Each month your district membership chairs, and I hold a call. During this call, we are sharing information, such as issues, and improvement plans to effectively share information with all of our units. One of the biggest issues we face is that ALAMIS is not up to date with information, and members do not participate in the calls, or in their meetings. Information is being missed among many of our members. So, CIP work begins now.

All district membership chairs are asked to work with their units on updating information in ALAMIS. Unit addresses are incorrect, Unit leadership is incorrect, and many members have no contact information except an address. We need to be able to contact our members to share information. I would much rather put our money into our veterans than have letters returned due to incorrect information. Your help is needed to do this. Here is some information on how you can help:

- If you do not have ALAMIS let your district chairperson or me know so we can pull a membership roster of your unit and get it to you.
 1. Use this to work with your members to ensure their information is correct name, address, phone, and e-mail. (we need e-mail addresses)
 2. Reach out to members who have not renewed, is their address wrong and they didn't get the information?
 3. If a member's information is wrong, ensure that you work with them to fill out a membership data form, if you have written access update their information, if you have read access only, fill out the form and send it to the department office to make the change for you. I encourage you to fill out the forms to save your unit from any issues that could arise.
- Get access to ALAMIS
 1. We are working on a form to get out to you as well as to place it on the website to make it easier for you to know which access you want and what level of access you would like.
 2. Once you request access you will need to, check your email for a notice from National about the access. In the meantime, begin working on CIP.

January 3rd at 6:00 PM Central time will be a department-wide Zoom call for all membership district chairs and unit chairs. I highly encourage you all to work to attend that call, if you cannot make the call find someone to be on the call for you so that you can get information and share it.

Transmittal

Units should make a copy of the transmittal that they send to the department. Ensure that you utilize the transmittal number when sending it in, this will help you in a couple of ways:

1. It will allow you to call the department and state that you sent a transmittal on this date and provide the transmittal number. This will allow the department to ensure that you and they are looking at the same transmittal.
2. By keeping a copy of your transmittal, you can utilize your ALAMIS to match up members who have paid their dues to what is in ALAMIS. Please ensure that you do not do this the next day as the transmittal needs to get to the office and input into ALAMIS. If you do not see that your member is still not in ALAMIS in a few weeks, then call the office and inquire.

CREDITS

PUFL money, online membership, and any overage paid by Units will be returned to the Unit when the balance, after all monetary obligations to the Department are subtracted, exceeds \$100.00. PUFL money, online membership, and any overage paid by Units will be returned to the Unit when the balance after all monetary obligations to the Department are subtracted at the close of the Department fiscal year if the balance exceeds one National/Department membership fee (Department Standing Rules, VIII Finance #17.)

Do not hold onto your membership, call the department office to ask what your credit is and send in your membership.

Watch your mailboxes for your unit credit check.

Thank you for everything that you do, I know it takes work, and we can do this.

Teamwork, Makes the Dream Work.

UNIT ALAMIS REQUEST FORM

ALAMIS is the American Legion Auxiliary Membership Information System. This program helps you track membership, run reports, and depending on Access (read/write and full access) you can make changes to membership information.

There can be up to (2) unit members on ALAMIS each year. After your unit elections, please send this form to the ALA Department of Kansas, along with the payment of the level you are requesting. Access is only available for one year and will need to be renewed each year.

1. Read-only access \$10.00 per person (cannot make changes)
2. Read and Write \$15.00 per person (units only) (can make limited changes to information)
3. Full Access \$20.00 per person (units only) (pay your unit memberships without sending into the department, make updates to member's profiles, send a letter to the department requesting access, complete a training, and have a unit credit card)

Please put the names of the individuals needing access to ALAMIS

Unit Name and Number _____

1. _____ Name of Unit member handling membership
Access level 1 2 3 Circle which level

2. _____ Name of Unit President
Access level 1 2 3 Circle which level

ALAMIS access is available on the American Legion Auxiliary National Website. You will get a verification notice from National once your access is completed. You will need your membership number to log on.

This is a vitally important tool for your unit. Please keep a copy of this for your unit records.

For Questions please call your membership chair.

A Fresh Start to a Fresh Year

By Kristen Hensley, Department of Kansas Chaplain

As we begin the New Year, many of us will make resolutions as we begin anew. Many of these resolutions will be things such as losing weight, getting financially stable, organizing our homes, or just focusing on our health. Although these resolutions are all good, many fail because falling into old habits or giving into our own self-doubt is so easy.



We read in Ephesians 4:22-24 (NIV) “You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desire; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”

Sometimes overcoming our own minds and the negative thoughts that plague most of us through the process of change can be the hardest part in reaching our goals. When setting your resolution this year, remember to set progress goals that will help you change your perspective and are achievable. Be realistic in goal setting and plan progress benchmarks to reach at specified intervals. Sometimes when we look at the entire resolution, it becomes overwhelming and impossible for us to achieve. Set smaller goals on the path to your resolution. Then don’t forget to celebrate each benchmark you achieve. In doing this, you will find your attitude and mindset will gradually change with each step in the direction of your full resolution. Set yourself up for success.

Your goals can be for yourself, for your profession, for your participation with your Unit, District and Department. Your goals can be for achieving an Mission, Program, or Leadership. Whatever your goals, remember to take them one step at a time and don’t get discouraged if you stumble. A path to change can sometimes be rocky, and there can be a few skinned knees on this path. Don’t give up and know your Auxiliary Family is here to cheer you on and walk beside you to reach your goals.

Prayer: Father God, please let us reflect on the changes we would like to see in our lives and give us the courage to face the challenges that improvement and change can give us. You are our protector, encourager, and provider. Give us the mindset and attitude that allows us to make the changes in our lives that both give you Glory and allow us to continue to bless our military, veterans, their families, and our communities. Give us the peace that only your presence can give as we come into a new year. Protect us from the negative thoughts and words of others, and ourselves, as we strive to become more like you. In your Holy Name we pray, Amen.

Greetings chairmen,

Kristy is working to ensure that reporting goes smoothly for the membership and you this year. To be able to make that happen she needs information from you to put on the Kansas website.

Please send to her ASAP The following information:

- Program information to be placed on your section of the website.
- Your report forms to be used and don't forget to include your deadline.
- What email address do you want the reports to be sent to? If you are not checking your department, email you are not going to get the reports, so we are asking you what email she should have on your page to ensure that you receive the reports that our members work hard to put together for you.

Submit all forms via Word document or PDF to klehart07@gmail.com

If you need help or have questions let us know, we are more than happy to help you.

Also, as chairmen you CAN write up something on your program to include in Sunflower, I know there are many new and exciting things out there with your programs, so let's share the good news with our members articles may be sent to Kristy at klehart07@gmail.com.

Thanks,
Tracy

UPCOMING EVENTS

Legion STATE BOWLING TOURNAMENT:

Information and entries for the 77th State Bowling Tournament are being mailed to all past participants and bowling alleys. If your local bowling alley does not receive the information, please contact State Headquarters or Chairman, Mike Cole at 913-680-8680.

This year's tournament will be held at Gage Bowl, 4200 SW Huntoon Street in Topeka January 6-7, 13-14 and 20-21, 2024.

Mid-Winter Forum

Fri Feb 2nd 3:00pm - Sun 4th 12:00pm (CST)

American Legion Post, 730 W 4th Ave,
Hutchinson, KS 67501, USA

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

It is not too early to reserve your room. To reserve your meals in advance, use the coupon to the left. The Agenda for the Forum will be posted here as soon as it is available.

Mid-Winter Forum Hotels:

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Group Name: American Legion

Telephone: (620) 259-8656

Booking Link: bit.ly/AmericanLegionHutch

Rate: \$119/night

Cutoff Date: January 15, 2024

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Telephone: (620) 259-8787

Booking Link: Book your group rate for American Legion

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MID-WINTER FORUM MEALS

FEBRUARY 2-4, 2024
HUTCHINSON POST #68

FRIDAY 2 FEB - DINNER: \$10.00
CHICKEN FRIED STEAK, GREEN BEANS, MASHED POTATOES & GRAVY,
DESSERT AND SMALL SALAD BAR

SATURDAY, 3 FEB - BREAKFAST: INCLUDED IN REGISTRATION
BISCUITS AND GRAVY, CINNAMON ROLLS, AND BREAKFAST ROLLS

SATURDAY, 3 FEB - LUNCH: \$ 8.00
SANDWICHES WITH ALL THE FIXINGS, POTATO SALAD, CHIPS, AND
DESSERT

SATURDAY, 3 FEB - DINNER: \$15.00
FULL SALAD BAR, ROAST BEEF, MASHED POTATOES & GRAVY, CORN,
DINNER ROLLS, AND DESSERT

SUNDAY, 4 FEB - BREAKFAST: \$ 8.00
BISCUITS AND GRAVY, EGGS, HASHBROWNS, SAUSAGE, AND BREADS

Name _____

Post/Unit/Squadron # _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Number of Friday Dinners to be reserved at \$10.00 each: _____

Number of Saturday Lunches to be reserved at \$8.00 each: _____

Number of Saturday Dinners to be reserved at \$15.00 each: _____

Number of Sunday Breakfasts to be reserved at \$8.00 each: _____

Enclosed is check in the amount of _____

**Mail to: Jeremy Ehart
730 W 4th Ave
Hutchinson, KS 67501**

2024 Kansas Oratorical Contest

March 16th 9:0am

Manhattan Post #17 114 McCall Rd Manhattan, KS

American Legion / Auxiliary Department of Kansas



ORATORICAL CONTEST

March 16th, 2024 9:00am

Manhattan Post #17
114 McCall Rd Manhattan, KS

Department Competition

1st Place \$1,000 2nd Place \$500

3rd Place \$250 4th Place \$150

The American Legion Oratorical Contest exists to develop deeper knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution among high school students. Since 1938, the program has presented participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities, the history of our nation's laws, the ability to think and speak clearly, and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship. The program has featured numerous politicians and prominent contestants over the years, including former presidential candidate Alan Keyes, national television commentator and talk radio host Lou Dobbs, and former U.S. Vice President Mike Pence.

Contact Department Headquarters at 785-232-9315

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILLIARY SUNFLOWER GIRLS STATE JUNE 2-7, 2024

JOIN US

JUNE 2-7, 2024

University of Kansas in Lawrence, KS

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

SUNFLOWER GIRLS STATE

REGISTRATION

Fee is \$400 per delegate.
Registration forms are located
at www.ksgirlsstate.org

Sponsorships may be available
at your local American Legion
Auxiliary Unit

Democracy in action is a great thing. Teaching democracy in action is even better. ALA Sunflower Girls State is a non-partisan program that teaches young women citizenship and **leadership**. Delegates spend a week of learning, and working together as self-governing citizens. They also learn about public service from guest speakers, elected officials, and expert panels.

OPEN TO ANY HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR GIRL
DURING THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MAY 15, 2024



Email Director Lindsay
Maudlin with any questions:
sunflowergirlsstate@gmail.com



NOMINATE A FRIEND!

2024 Kansas Boys State

Sun Jun 2nd 10:00am - Fri 7th 10:00am (CDT)

Kansas University

2024 Cadet law American Legion

/ Auxiliary Dept of Kansas

Sun Jun 16th 8:00am - Fri 21st 5:00pm (CDT)

Kansas Highway patrol, Salina, KS

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

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

From National

<https://www.legion-aux.org/Scholarships/FAQ>

Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship

Non-Traditional Student Scholarship

James H Parke Scholarship

Samsung American Legion Scholarship

(ALA Girls/Legion Boys State)

Certification of Scholarship by University or College

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