

President

Greetings to our American Legion Family!

Got some important information for everyone so definitely share!

Ø **EMAILS**, make sure they are correct. Your unit's ALAMIS user can double check for you. Alternatively, you can check it yourself in your online account at <https://www.legion-aux.org/>. If you haven't already created your member's only account on our national website, then do it today and **get one!** It would take me an entire page to go over the wealth of information and resources that are available to you there and you are missing out on a lot of stuff including the ALA Academy and online classes.

Ø **UNIT PRESIDENTS** if you don't have an email, please get one or get someone reliable that can assist you in receiving unit emails. Make sure the Department Office has it on file. National is going to start sending quarterly emails directly to the youth that you don't want to miss out on!

Ø **Mail** to the Department Office is being delayed, rerouted and even returned due to kinks in the USPS system. I personally saw letters that have the correct address on them with the yellow "return to sender, invalid address" on them. Some letters I saw were originally sent up to 6 weeks ago, please have patience with the Department Office Director, as she is doing the best she can with what mail she gets. It is not just us but an entire American Legion Family problem. It is just as frustrating for all of us across the state. Remember that membership can also be renewed online in their member portal or they can call in to National Headquarters at **(317) 569-4570** with their member ID.

Ø Upcoming Dates

- September 27 District 8 & 11 Homecomings
- September 28 Gold Star Mother's Day
- September 30 Leaders Power Zoom
- October 11 Eisenhower Pilgrimage & Vice President Homecoming, Abilene
- October 25 Homecomings for District's 1,4,5,7,9
- November 1 Homecoming for District 2
- November 8 Homecoming for District 3
- November 15 Homecoming for District 10

Listen
Encourage
And
Develop
Everyone
Regularly
Selflessly

Looking forward to visiting and meeting more members and hearing about what you are doing in your districts and units in these upcoming months! Please reach out and if you

call and I don't answer, leave a voicemail and I will get back to you.

Warmly, and as always For God and Country, President Anndi Bownes

anndimb@yahoo.com~620-228-4884

Leaders Power Zoom Call

Leaders Power Zoom Call that **everyone** is strongly encouraged to attend! Come with your questions, comments and concerns! We want to know what our members need help with, what they know and what they don't know. Do you need help with ALAMIS? Filling out transmittals? Finding specific award or program information? Got questions in parliamentary procedure? Or what kinds of information do you want to see in future zoom calls? Send ahead any questions or comments you already have.

This is not just for officers & chairmen!

Time: Sep 30, 2025 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82405727794?pwd=mTJgX2lP1aYNSarr1h2WZXMxxF23Dv.1>

Vice President

October 2025 – Department of Kansas Vice President Breaking Tradition: The American Legion Auxiliary Welcomes Male Spouses

For 100 years, the **American Legion Auxiliary (ALA)** was a women-only organization, created in 1919 to support veterans, service members, and their families. That changed in **2019**, when delegates at The American Legion's National Convention voted to replace the word "*wives*" with "*spouses*" in the ALA's eligibility requirements. This landmark decision opened membership to **male spouses of veterans and service members**, reflecting the reality of today's military families, where more women are serving and more men are in supportive spouse roles.

Why the Change Matters

- **Inclusivity: Male spouses can now fully participate in the ALA's mission of "Service, Not Self."**
- **Relevance: The change reflects the modern military community and acknowledges the growing number of women veterans.**
- **Growth: Expanding eligibility brings in new members, volunteers, and leaders to sustain the Auxiliary for the future.**

Early Impact

Since September 2019, male spouses nationwide have joined local ALA units. Some have stepped into leadership roles, while others welcomed the chance to serve alongside their veteran families. The shift also prompted the Auxiliary to rethink language and traditions to ensure that all members feel included.

Looking Forward

The ALA's core mission remains unchanged: to support veterans, military families, and communities. But by opening its doors to male spouses, the

Auxiliary has ensured it will remain **relevant, inclusive, and strong** for the next century of service.

Wearing attire with the Auxiliary's logo can spark great conversations in public and continue to help get the word out about our organization, all while attracting more members, volunteers, and donors. To order branded ALA attire, visit Emblem Sales at emblem.legion.org and Lands' End at <https://business.landsend.com/store/ala/>.

Cindy Ward

Dept of Kansas – Vice President

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

Chaplain

Did you know.....A Poppy Tribute is a beautiful way to honor American Legion Members during their funeral service and can be arranged by the American Legion Auxiliary Unit Chaplain. Below are the steps for planning and providing a poppy tribute at the funeral of a fallen service member/American Legion member in your area.

- Visit with the family and get permission to perform a poppy tribute during the service.
- Contact the funeral arranger and let them know you would like to perform a poppy tribute during the service. Be prepared to explain the poppy tribute to ensure the funeral arranger sets aside an appropriate amount of time and can include the tribute in the deceased funeral program.
- On the day of the service distribute poppies to all American Legion family members attending the service as they enter the facility
- The person organizing the poppy tribute should prepare a statement for the people in attendance to give a short description of the poppy and its meaning to the deceased.
- At the beginning of the poppy tribute the organizer and all the American Legion family members will rise and gather around the casket during the graveside service or the urn during a cremation ceremony. The organizer will read the prepared statement.
- Some tributes also include the playing of "The Last Post" and "Reveille" with a two-minute moment of silence between the two titles.
- For a burial the tribute will happen at graveside and at the end of the statement all members will drop their poppies into the grave
- For a cremation the tribute can happen at the site of the memorial service or at the graveside if the family chooses to have a graveside service. The poppies will be laid near the Urn at the memorial service.
- After the poppies have been laid near the urn or dropped into the grave a hand salute is performed, and the ceremony is concluded.

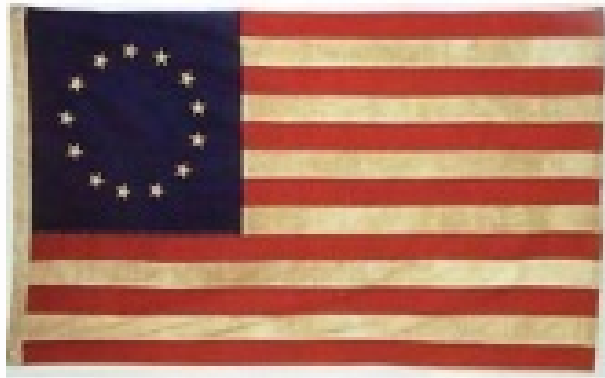
As always, if you have any questions, concerns, or comments please don't hesitate to reach out! My email is lauriedkerns@gmail.com and my cell is (620) 228 – 4277

Laurie

The Basement Brigade will be presenting a plan to the Department Executive Committee on improving storage at Department Headquarter. We have already planned our next workday and will begin going through boxes of history.



Sonia Wiley
Dept. of KS Historian



History Flashback

“The American flag, the "Stars and Stripes," was first flown in battle on September 3, 1777, during a skirmish at Cooch's Bridge, Delaware. Under the command of General William Maxwell, the flag was raised as the Continental Army met British and Hessian troops.

While the flag was officially adopted by the Continental Congress on June 14, 1777, its first public display was on September 3rd of that year.

In summary:

Date: September 3, 1777

Location: Cooch's Bridge, Delaware

Event: The American flag was flown in battle for the first time.

Context: A skirmish during the American Revolutionary War, where General Maxwell's forces fought British and Hessian troops.”

American Legion Auxiliary Historians, Facebook, Sept 3, 2025, Dara Bulterman-Oliver

UPDATED
Constitution, Bylaws,
Standing Rules and Policies

Constitution and Bylaws Committee

We have finished going through the paper Governing Documents on file at the Department office. Next, we will inventory the digital file. When we get the chart complete, we will share so you can know what documents we have and from what year. My goal is to include the chart in the October Sunflowerette. I will have the chart available at Fall Conference to share our progress. Thank you to all the units that have sent/mailed updated C & B to the Department Office. After we know who has documents on file, we will begin working on making sure the documents are current. After going through the paper files, documents range from 1973 to 2024. There are only 15 Units state wide that do not have Governing Documents on file. That is a great starting point.

Sonia Wiley
Department C&B Chair

Units please check the date your Constitution and Bylaws was updated. Anything before 2019 will need to be reviewed and updated. That is when the word wife changed to spouse.

American Legion Auxiliary Department of Kansas



Constitution, Bylaws, Standing Rules and Policies

Update: May 31, 2025

File Version: C_B_KS_2025

Membership 2025-2026

[Kansas Membership print out click here](#)

Join Kirby and the Kansas Membership Team for a zoom call to celebrate and uplift Kansas Membership



ZOOM CALL

everyone's
welcome

When:

Tuesday, October 7, 2025
Note: First Tuesday of the Month

Time:

7:00pm (CDT)

How

Email Membership Chair
Trish Ward

Email To:

tbw_ksaux@yahoo.com

Bring: Ideas, Concerns and Issues and Together...Trish, Kirby, and the team will get them solved!

Department of Kansas Membership 2025-2026

Trish Ward, Department Membership Chair

Hey ALA Kansas Members!



We're off and running with a new membership year. Our baby eagle Kirby has some tips and tricks to help Kansas hit their membership goal. Each month Kirby will be sharing some great ideas to help everyone succeed! Remember...our 2025-20266 Kansas membership goal is:

→ 8,990 ←

✓ Checklist

- Make sure you are on the distribution list at the Department of Kansas to receive the monthly Sunflowerette Newsletter
- Consider getting access to the ALA National Membership database system: ALAMIS.
- Review the Membership Year 2025 roster and engage members who are delinquent. Encourage them to pay back dues and current dues.
- Gather a team of friends...your "Renew Crew" to help with membership efforts. Assign each team member a project to support membership initiatives.
- Every Thursday the Kansas membership report will launch from the Department office. Make sure you are on the distro. Inspect this report each week to make sure everything is in alignment.
- Junior members do not receive renewal notices. Make sure to communicate with the families of Junior members to assure their dues are current.
- Create an "Early Bird" membership discount to encourage membership renewals. Consider discounting membership if paid by a certain date or give a gift to those who participate.
- Sign up to attend an American Legion Auxiliary national Mission Training event. Visit the national website at www.alaforveterans.org for more info

Save the Date

Our next very important milestone date is **November 10, 2025**, which is the American Legion Auxiliary's official birthday! Throw the ALA a birthday party by helping us hit our 60% membership goal. We've got some work to do...so let's get going! Our 60% number to achieve is: **5,394**. We can do it if everyone is on board with membership. Call friends who haven't renewed! Sign up family members who are eligible. And don't forget the kids! Our Junior Members are the future so get them signed up and engaged!



**MAKE A
DIFFERENCE DAY**
NATIONAL DAY OF DOING GOOD

October 25 is national Make a Difference Day! This day gives everyone an opportunity to get involved and support grassroots community projects. Our American Legion Family is committed to supporting veterans, active-duty military and their families so make sure to help a veteran on Make a Difference Day...or any day. Helping to grow our membership assures that we will remain strong, resilient, and positioned for excellence. We need members who share a passion for helping others. Sign up a friend for the ALA on Make a Difference Day!

2025-2026 ALA National President Pam Ray



American Legion Auxiliary member Pam Rae Ray, Department of Illinois became the national president of the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) at the 104th National Convention held Aug 23rd - Aug 28th, 2025, in Tampa, Florida.

Legislative Engagement

When preparing to meet Legislators in-person, preparation is critical; The American Legion offers tips when planning. Take a peek at the YouTube video entitled 'A Legionnaire's Guide to meeting lawmakers'.

<https://youtu.be/OSo3QT8mDDM?si=xXaTarN91JIRVwEG>

- Step 1: Research Your Members of Congress
- Step 2: Be Organized & Assign a Primary Speaker
- Step 3: Develop Your Meeting Plan
- Step 4: Arrive on Time
- Step 5: Remain Flexible
- Step 6: Build Rapport
- Step 7: Focus on Two or Three Issues
- Step 8: Make Your Ask Personal
- Step 9: Thank Them for Their Time
- Step 10: Take a picture! Share it on social media and tag your Member of Congress. Don't forget to submit your contact report to www.legion.org/action.



Save the DATES

Legislative Quarterly Zooms
All times at 7PM EST

October 22nd, 2025
January 29th, 2026
April 8th, 2026

National President Pam Ray

2025-2026 national focus this administrative year is Mission Driven Family Focused, to include not only the families we serve, however the entire American Legion family. President Pam expresses we will continue in the 'Be the One' mission, with an extra focus on our female veterans and their challenges. Read more here: <https://member.legion-aux.org/National-President-focus>

2025-2026 Mission Training

November 15, 2025 – Albany, NY & Minneapolis, MN

January 31, 2026 – Indianapolis, IN & Las Vegas, NV

February 7, 2026 – Atlanta, GA

ALA Mission Training & National Junior Meetings

To register now: [Click here and select your city](#)

Join us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALALegislative>



THAT'S A WRAP!

ALA National Convention, held in Tampa, Florida, had Kansas **LEADING THE WAY** this year! First welcome home, Past National President Trish Ward. Trish's National Convention was truly an epic experience this year, and we thank her for her work and dedication to our organization.

Last year, there was a great amount of buzz about the Merit Medallion Award. Thanks to the dedication and hard work of our members in Kansas, we accomplished the necessary task for this award. The areas of focus are policies, procedures, financials, membership, and discipline policies. We had them all!

A **BIG** thank you to those of you who worked hard to ensure that we met this goal. It is quite amazing what we can accomplish by working together and putting personal interests aside to focus on the mission.

Next was the top award, the National President's Award for Excellence. This award is presented to the department that has led the way for its members by implementing effective programs and demonstrating leadership to our members. From the grassroots calls, interaction with districts, the renew crew, and all of you, we won!

Congratulations to District 3 junior Zoie Crupper for winning the Central Division Juniors Award.

Our newly elected Department of Kansas President Anndi Bownes, as installed with all the other department presidents. **Congratulations to Anndi**, as the torch is passed to you to continue to lead the way, and ride the tide as we move #ksfamily4themission forward!



BE THE ONE



ANNOUNCEMENTS
click on flyers to print out



EISENHOWER PILGRIMAGE

11 October, 2025 Eisenhower Memorial, Abilene

All members of the public are invited to participate in the 45th annual tribute to our 34th President. The Kansas American Legion and Auxiliary sponsor the annual Dwight D. Eisenhower Pilgrimage at the Eisenhower Center in Abilene, Kansas. Saturday's ceremonies will begin with the Presidential Wreath Laying by the Commanding General of Fort Riley at 10:30 AM. The Pilgrimage will follow the Presidential Wreath Laying at approximately 11:00 AM at the Eisenhower statue. For \$10.00, American Legion Family Posts, Units, and Squadrons can have a Memorial Rose laid in their name at the ceremony. For \$20, Districts can have a Wreath laid in their name. Funds from roses and wreaths are used to defray the cost of the Pilgrimage. Please use the form provided to purchase your rose(s)/wreath. The deadline for purchases is October 1.

AMERICAN LEGION **FAMILY HOMECOMING.**

HONORING:

GEORGE POGGE – AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT VICE-COMMANDER
CINDY WARD – DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY VICE-PRESIDENT
MICHAEL WEBER – SAL DETACHMENT VICE-COMMANDER

October 11, 2025 11:00AM

Social, 12:00pm Lunch

Greyhound Hall of Fame 407 S Buckeye Ave, Abilene, KS 67410

\$18.00 (RSVP by October 1) \$20 at the Door

LUNCHEON MENU:

Brisket or Italian Chicken, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, salad, roll, & tea/lemonade



venmo

-or-



George Pogge
\$GeorgePogge6

Make checks payable to George Pogge and mail to 16718 13th St., Lawrence, KS 66044

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

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____

Name	Brisket	Chicken

District Homecoming

Click on flyer to print

AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY HOMECOMING & FALL CONFERENCE

HONORING:

MYRA JOWERS – AMERICAN LEGION DISTRICT 2 COMMANDER

ANN BARNES – AUXILIARY DISTRICT 2 PRESIDENT

RICK MILLER – SAL DISTRICT 2 COMMANDER

November 1, 2025
11:30AM Social, 12:00pm Lunch
Miami Post 156
5 Delaware St., Paola, KS 66071
\$15.00 (RSVP by October 24)

Join us for a delicious meal and to learn more about all of our youth programs!

LUNCHEON MENU:

Beef Chili or White Chicken Chili, Cornbread muffins, Apple Cinnamon Rolls, Chili Fixins, Dessert

Make checks payable to Rick Miller and mail to 2704 W 150th St., Olathe, KS 66061

*Please cut and mail

Names:

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____



THIRD DISTRICT JOINT HOMECOMING

To Honor

Mark Stwalley, District Commander

Debra Carr, District President

Ronnie Rommel, District SAL Commander

Saturday, November 8, 2025

Hosted by

George C. Brown Post 26

144 E. Highway 47

Girard Kansas

Meat Loaf, Loaded Potato Bar, creamed corn,

roll, desert . **\$15/plate.**

Social 4 pm. Dinner 5 pm.

Send checks and reservation to Post 26. ATTN:Mark

RSVP by October 1, 2025 Post # 620-724-9285

Saturday October 25, 2025
Paul Stewart Irwin Post 136
410 SE Louis Blvd
Mulvane, Kansas

5th District Commander Joe Hulse

5th District President Faye Evans

5th District Sons of The American Legion Dan McDowell

RSVP are Required

RSVP by October 16, 2025

Social Hour: Noon
Luncheon: 1 PM
Program to follow
Luncheon:
Lasagna
Spaghetti and Meat Sauce

Name: _____

Post/ Unit/ Squadron: _____

Amount enclosed (\$15.00 per person): _____

Make checks payable to: Squadron 136

Mail to: The American Legion Squadron 136

P O Box 195

Eleventh District Homecoming



Honoring:

Alan Zeitvogel – American Legion Eleventh District Commander
Lois Staley – American Legion Auxiliary Eleventh District President
Randy Porter – American Legion SAL Eleventh District Squadron Commander

Saturday, September 27, 2025

Social time 12:00 to 13:00

Lunch and homecoming activities 13:00 to complete

Pearce-Keller Post 17
114 McCall Road
Manhattan, KS 66502

\$15.00 per person (RSVP by September 20th)

Lunch Menu: Meat Loaf, Au gratin potatoes,
green bean almondine, toss-salad,
Dessert: Sheet cake
Coffee/iced tea/Water

For additional information or RSVP, contact Post 17; 785-776-4556
(Please include the note below on number of meals)

-or-

Make checks payable to American Legion Post 17 and send to
114 McCall Rd Manhattan, KS 66502

-----Return below with reservation-----

Name: _____

Number of Meals _____

Enclosed is my check in the amount of _____

Post/Unit/Squadron: _____





THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY

DISTRICT 8 HOMECOMING

COMMANDER HENK RIJFOGEL

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT MARSHA WEBER

COMMANDER MICHAEL WEBER

SEPTEMBER 27TH 2025

SOCIAL HOUR: 3 to 4

GREETINGS: 4 to 5

SUPPER: 5 to 7

CHARLES EARNETT SCOTT POST #47

801 SOUTH 14TH DODGE CITY, KS 67801

SUPPER MENU: Donations

Fried Chicken, Chicken Tenders, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy

Corn and Dinner Rolls

We will be having a DJ, so bring a list of your favorite music!!!

If you would like to RSVP, please text to any one of us:

Henk: 620-272-6311

Mike: 620-430-0651

Marsha: 620-430-0650

2025-2026 Dept Officers



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anndimb@yahoo.com
620-228-4884



Vice President

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