SUNFLOWERETTE

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, DEPARTMENT OF KS DECEMBER 2024

Website: www.kansasala.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/aladeptofkansas

DEPT OFFICE EMAILS

OFFICE DIRECTOR <u>ksaladeptoffice@gmail.com</u> FINANCE DIRECTOR <u>ksaladeptfinance@gmail.com</u>



RIDE THE TIDE FOR VETERANS

MAKE EACH WAVE COUNT By: Tracy Kinnick, Department President

Gather your sweaters, coats, hats, and gloves we are entering our winter season here in Kansas. As many of us prepare for our holiday season, let us pause to remember those who will not be

home for the holidays and those alone. This is the time to BE the ONE and reach out to veterans as the holiday season is one of depression for many.

Here are a few ways to help:

- Adopt a military family with a deployed parent.
- Host a holiday meal for veterans who are alone.
- Visit your local VA and bring cheer.
- Participate in your local VA Gift shops.
- Take meals to your veteran neighbors.

It does not take much to put a smile on someone's face who may be having a difficult time this holiday season. Be sure to share with us by tagging #alaridethetide to share what you do this holiday season for our veterans and their families.

Grassroots calls are growing! Join us on December 11th at 7:00 PM for All About Reporting. How do we report, where do we find information, and WHY we report. Department Convention last year, it was asked why we can't change reporting to help districts with early conventions. We heard you. At the chairman's Zoom call, it was decided to change reporting and move to a calendar year of January to December.

- Units have reports to District Chairs by Jan 31st.
- District Chairs have reports to Department Chairs by February 28th.

Yes, we realize that some may have already reported January and February hours, that's ok, do not report the hours you already reported. Start where you left off. . Don't forget to use #alaridethetide to help us see what you have done!

Merry Christmas and Happy New year!



Grassroots 12/11 7:00 PM:

The Department Office is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81544485383?pwd=8dtAau7IdL4PQDADvo3Xsfm6BkAWss.1

Meeting ID: 815 4448 5383

Passcode: 675703

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Passcode: 675703

Find your local number: <u>https://us06web.zoom.us/u/kelO0IP8YP</u>





Membership and Changing Culture By Kristen Hensley, Vice-President/Membership



As we are in full swing of our renewal period with the American Legion Auxiliary, it may be time to take stock of reasons why units could be struggling. This time of year, is incredibly busy within our organization as well as in many peoples personal and professional lives. In my career, this is the time of year that we take inventory and assess our Company's assets to prepare for

tax preparations. This allows us to review each asset we have, quantify losses, see if there are repairs that need to be done, etc. It reminded me of the need to review our assets within the Department of Kansas American Legion Auxiliary.

The Departments Auxiliary Assets are not tangible items; they are the units and members that make up the Department. We need to evaluate why units are struggling, what has caused the slide, decreasing member engagement, etc. and is there anything we can do to 'repair' it.

Over the course of this year, I have received feedback from across our Department, a common issue that keeps popping up and that is, our current culture. When our great organization was founded in 1919, the ratification of allowing women to vote had not been completed. The ratification did not happen until 1920. The organization was developed geared towards women who stayed at home, tended to their families, husbands and homes.

Fast forward to 2024 and at least 75% of working aged women work outside the home with at least half of them being the largest financial contributor to their household. The days of being able to volunteer whenever they like is long gone. I hear so many times people don't get involved in their units because "everything that is done is done during the day when I'm at work". Being a working woman with a career, I have experienced this same issue, even more so than most, given the District and Department positions I have held through the years. I was once told; I need to do something about my job. This was both inappropriate and I did not like the feeling of having to choose between my volunteer activities or the livelihood that contributes 50% to feed, clothe, shelters us, and pays for all the volunteer activities we are able to participate in. In comparison with this narrative, my husband has never had anyone tell him this, as it is understood and expected that members of other Legion entities, no matter the position, work outside the home. So, what can we do to change this viewpoint when it comes to the Auxiliary?

I encourage every member, unit, district, and department to take stock on how we present volunteer opportunities to our members. What adjustments can we make? Do you make meeting times, locations, events, etc. that encourage participation for working families? Encourage career holding members to bring their leadership skills to the Auxiliary at all levels. The future success of this organization will be dependent upon the skills of members in the workforce. Encourage their participation without asking them to sacrifice what is keeping the roof over their head and food on their family's tables. You might be surprised at the amazing members and their insight we will all gain with real-world leadership skills that can propel our organization into the future.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS MEMBERSHIP TRANSMITTAL FORM EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2024

DATE:
UNIT #:
NAME:
DISTRICT:
CITY:
YOUR TRANSMITTAL #:
TRANSFERS:
CHECK #

REPORT SUMMARY				
ТҮРЕ	QTY	RATE	AMT. PD	
SENIOR (NEW-CURRENT)		\$ 28.00		
PRIOR		\$ 28.00		
PUFL		NONE	\$-	
JUNIOR (NEW-CURRENT)		\$ 3.75		
JR. PRIOR		\$ 3.75		
SUBTOTAL				
ENTER CREDIT HERE				
TOTALS				

Complete information below for each member - attach additional pages as needed.

MEMBERS SENIORS JUNIORS NAME (LAST, FIRST, MI) PRIOR DATE OF CURRENT NEW RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP # NEW PUFL YEAR BIRTH (Alphabetical) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NO Has any of the membership information already been entered online? YES, explain.

CONTACT PERSON:	HOME PHONE:	
ADDRESS:	CELL PHONE:	
CITY, STATE, ZIP	EMAIL:	

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. MAKE SURE TO SEND COPY OF APPLICATION VERIFIED FOR ELIGIBILITY BY POST FOR ALL NEW MEMBERS.

2. JUNIOR APPLICATION MUST HAVE A DATE OF BIRTH LISTED.

3. PUFL (VIM) APPLICATIONS ARE SENT TO NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS.

4. PLEASE PUT ALL PUFL (VIM'S) ON THE FIRST PAGE OF THE TRANSMITTAL FORM.

5. PLEASE PRINT ALL NAMES IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER BY LAST NAME ON ALL TRANSMITTAL FORMS AND SEND TO:

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS 1314B SOUTH TOPEKA BLVD TOPEKA, KS 66612-1817 (785-232-1396)

<u> Chaplin Notes – December</u>

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Most people do not feel like they are naturally grateful. They will say thank you to a stranger who holds the door for them, a teacher who helps their child, a coworker who helps them, or a family member who forgives them for burning supper.

Most people find it easy to show gratitude when someone has done something kind, helped them, or at the very least cut them some slack. But having a general sense of gratefulness is harder. Can you relate to one of these situations?

As we gather with our families for the upcoming holidays, we should think more deeply about what we are grateful for. Let's move past the trivial and embrace the many blessings, God's divine providence, and His gift of salvation as our "most thankful for "this Holiday season.

We need to spend some time thanking our Active Service Members, locally and overseas, their Family members who support them at home as they are by themselves, our Veterans, Gold-Star Parents who are without their loved ones, and finally each other.

Please come together and connect with share a meal, a card, a gift, or a phone call. Reach out and let each other know that they have not been forgotten and that we appreciate all that they do.

Civil Air Patrol (USAF Auxiliary Birthday	December 1
Giving Tuesday	December 3
Rosemarie Hauck – ALA Central Division National Vice President Visit	December 6 – December 8th
Operation: North Pole	December 7
National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	December 7
US National Guard Birthday	December 13
Department Christmas Party – Paola Post	December 14 at 12pm
National Wreaths Across America	December 18
Hanukkah Begins	12/25 – 1/2/2025
Christmas Day	December 25
Kwanzaa	12/26 – 1/1/2025
New Years Eve	December 31

Department of Kansas - Chaplin - Cindy Ward

<u>Cindy.ward2019@outlook.com</u> – Phone (309) – 222-7233

Happy Holidays! I hope this note finds everyone enjoying your holiday season. Thanksgiving was fabulous for myself and my family, both personally and with my American Legion Auxiliary family. I have some fun and interesting items to include in my unit History book and am looking forward to receiving notes and pictures from members across the state about all the great things you are doing locally! Please remember to work on those History books at the unit and district levels, if we don't record it, it's like it never happened! I am so excited to show off all of the activities the Department of Kansas Auxiliary has completed this year, and a completed History book is the perfect way to get it done! I sincerely hope each one of you enjoy the remaining holiday season and get to ring in the new year with those you adore!

Laurie Kerns

Department of Kansas American Legion Auxiliary Historian

Hi all

I know there has been some questions among the units and districts about gift shop dates. know its getting late but here they are:

Dec 1 at 1 Leavenwor	th Cherie Thor	nas 913-682-425	9 <u>chrtcrozin@aol.com</u>
Dec. 2-4 Topeka	Kristi Lusk	785-554-9458 <u>ic</u>	<u>el8y@sbcglobal.net</u>
Dec. 2-4 Winfield	Sue Boyd	316-491-7172	obiesue2@gmail.com
Dec.12-13 Wichita	Linda Wilson	316-617-0621	linda681117@yahoo.com
Dec. 7-8 Ft. Dodge	Marcia Weber	620-430-0650	mweber4402@gmail.com

Please reach out to your units. I get calls almost daily with questions of how they can help or send money. Also please send stories and or pictures to share with the Central Division Chairman. It would be nice to see something from Kansas in the next national newsletter. You ladies do amazing things. let's give other departments ideas for them to use!

Thank you for all you do!!

Happy Holidays

We are between Thanksgiving and Christmas, so we are deep in our busiest season for helping our Veterans. Thank you to everyone who helped or provided gifts and money for our gift shops. There have been some shifts in the VA&R committee. Linda Wilson and I have changed positions. Reports, pictures, comments and questions all need to be sent to me at spiker@yahoo.com (that's an underscore_). I have been sending out information that I have gotten from the National and the Central Division Chairman to the district chairman. I hope they are passing it on. I plan to share some of this information in this newsletter. This month I want to share with you part of a message from our National Chairman Coral Grout.

Hello Everyone!

I just returned from a meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation. The Board approved one application for a Unit to support a local VA Facility Veterans Creative Arts Program/Competition. The ALA has supported this program for many years and the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee each year works at the National Festival.

Perhaps you've seen the final performance on Public Television around November 11th each year. An average of 130 VA Facilities participate in the Veterans Creative Arts Program which culminates in the festival every spring.

The ALA Foundation supports Unit and Department involvement in the festival through grants in the amount of \$2500. If three Units want to work together on a project, that means you can apply for \$7500. So, what can you do with the funds? You can purchase art supplies, jewelry supplies, music, and other items to support your local VA Facility and the veterans who are interested in participating. The winners may be chosen to attend the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, which will be held between May 11 through 18 in Indianapolis, IN.

Examples of approved grants over the past few years include: Department of Vermont to support marketing and implementation at the VA White River VCAF; New York Unit 1524 to provide awards and recognition to participants at the Syracuse VA Medical Center; and the Department of Nebraska to purchase art supplies and certificates for the Grand Island VA Medical Center's VCAF.

As VA Facilities are restarting many programs following COVID, these funds can be a real boost to jumpstart something wonderful for veterans!

The application is easy, yet only a total of 10 applications have been submitted over the past several years. If you are concerned about completing the paperwork, don't be!! The staff at the Foundation in Indianapolis (alafoundation.org/grants) can help so check out the website. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at cmgrout@comcast.net

There are two deadlines for submission of applications --- December 20th and March 20th. The money is there! Please apply!

Thank you for all you do for our Veterans. Send me pictures and stories of what you have going on so I can pass it on for others to use for inspiration.

Sharon Spiker

LEADERSHIP

Linda Sullivan 917 W Sunrise Dr Wichita, KS 67217 316-619-9834 sullypsy@yahoo.com Linda Hicks 1523 N. 82nd Terrace Kansas City, KS 66112 917-579-8233 lhicks20@kc.rr.com

The Leadership Linda's wish all a joyous Holiday Season!!





Reporting year January 1st through December 31st

UNITS turn in Impact forms to District President by January 31st

DISTRICT PRESIDENTS combine and turn in Impact forms to <u>Department Headquarters by February 28th</u> give a copy to your District Chairmen for their reports

DISTRICT CHAIRMEN turn your complete reports to your District President for your District's Book of Reports by her deadline.

DISTRICT CHAIRMEN turn in your complete reports to your Department Chairmen by April 15th

> DISTRICT PRESIDENTS turn in your reports to Department Headquarters by April <u>15th</u>

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON:

La Veta Darbro 107 W 5th St., Longton, KS 67352 (620)642-7253 Email: lavetadarbro@gmail.com

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Claudia Satterlee 619 College #101, Winfield, KS 67156 (620)221-9491

Jesse Mueller 1401 E Patriot Ave., Apt 11-203, Derby, KS 67037 (316)644-1970 jmueller.alaks@gmail.com

The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Kansas Strategic Planning Committee meets quarterly, or when needed, to review, revise, and measure outcomes set forth in the Kansas Strategic Plan. Each district now has a Strategic Planning Chairperson, who's responsibility it is to develop strategic plans for the district, then participate in developing the Department of Kansas Strategic Plan.

The Kansas Strategic Plan was developed from the directives set forth from the ALA National Plan of work. Five goals and action plans have been identified for successful growth.

1. Membership - Renew, Retain, Recruit, Revitalize = Growth & Success

2. Improve Visibility – Dream & Do

- 3. Enhance & Highlight Vision & Mission
- 4. Leadership Responsibilities Defined
- 5. CIP = Communication Improvement Plan

STATEGIC PLANNING INFORMATION:

CONGRATULATIONS!! YOU'RE A NEW UNIT OFFICER &/OR COMMITTEE CHAIR

CONGRATULATIONS!! YOU'RE A NEW DISTRICT OFFICER &/OR COMMITTEE CHAIR

ALA HEALTHY ALL STAR UNIT CHECK SHEET

MONTHLY OBLIGATIONS & MILITARY OBSERVANCES

HEALTHY ALL STAR UNIT CERTIFICATE (pending)

Education and Scholarship Committee

Debbie Carr, Chairman Committee Members: Sheri Jacobs 223 N. Chevenne Ave. Bartlesville, OK 74003 (918)440-4437 debrajcarr@gmail.com

and P.O. Box 153 Dresden, KS 67635 (785)475-2481 sljacobs24@hotmail.com

Anne Werner 601 1st St. **Axtell, KS 66403** (785)548-5133 wernera@usd113.org

Purpose: The purpose of the Education Committee is to promote quality education for children—especially for military children-and adults. Standing Rule #6, Mission Outreach Programs

Promote quality education for children, especially for military children, and adults.

- Participate in ALA's Give 10 to Education. •
 - Present a Give 10 to Education certificate to members who donate at least 10 items to schools.
- Participate in Teachers Appreciation Week. .
 - Contact local Parent Teacher Organizations or schools to see what your unit could sponsor or donate (e.g., donating doughnuts to your local schools).
 - Show your appreciation to teachers by designing and presenting certificates of appreciation.
 - Provide Teacher Survival Kits with fun and helpful items such as candy and snacks, tea bags or coffee, restaurant gift cards, or items for the classroom.
 - Participate in American Education Week, held every November.
 - Recognize school administrators and staff with special treats.
- Encourage schools to participate in Month of the Military Child and Purple Up! Day in April to honor their students who are military children.
 - Sponsor a Purple Up! Day on April 15 in your school by providing purple items for students to wear.
 - Present the Military Child Table at your school, unit meeting, or at your post. 0
 - Sponsor a party for the military children in your school. 0

Encourage schools to invite veterans to speak in their classrooms.

- Work with your American Legion post to participate in Veterans in Community Schools. •
- Ask the teacher(s) to have their students make cards for the veteran. •
- Work with the teacher(s) to prepare students to ask questions of the veteran. •

Support and promote the Education Program and scholarship opportunities of The American Legion Family.

- Promote the American Legion Auxiliary's scholarships. •
- Promote The American Legion's scholarships by visiting https://www.legion.org/scholarships to learn more about the • Legion's scholarship opportunities.

Provide scholarships for students who desire a college education.

Work with your unit to create a scholarship. •

•

- Ask schools to allow you to do a bulletin board about scholarship opportunities within The American Legion Family. •
- Publish information in your local newspaper, libraries, and on your unit's social media. •
- Host a "Scholarship Night" Zoom meeting to inform students and parents about Legion Family scholarship • opportunities.
- Start a partnership with a local college to provide their students with scholarship information. •
 - Ask the local Board of Education to host a "Scholarship Workshop" in their schools.
 - Work with the schools to invite college administrators to speak.
 - Have volunteers assist students with scholarship applications. 0

Support legislation that establishes new scholarship opportunities.

- Support The American Legion's efforts by signing up for legislative alerts at https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home.
- Contact your representatives and ask them to support scholarship opportunities, particularly those for veterans, military, and their families.

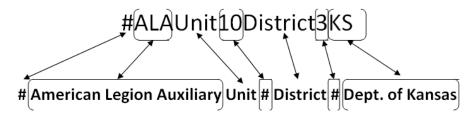
Deadlines/Important Dates

- November 18-22, 2024: American Education Week
- March 1: National scholarship applications due
- March 1, 2025 UNIT REPORTS due to District Chairs
- March 15 DISTRICT REPORTS due to DEPARTMENT CHAIR & DISTRICT PRESIDENT for the District Book or Reports
- April 15: Purple Up! Day for Military Children
- May 5-9, 2025: Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 15: Department chairmen reports due to division chairmen; cc: national chairman
- June 1: Awards submissions due

TAKE PICTURES, LOTS AND LOTS OF PICTURES OF ALL YOUR ACTIVITIES!

National LOVES IT when we include photographs with our reports! Email them to me at <u>debrajcarr@gmail.com</u> to include in the report next spring.

Please photograph and email those photos of your activities to me throughout the year. I will put them in a special file, tagged with your Unit and District Numbers on them so that they can be more easily sorted when it's time for reports. You can even tag them yourself to make sure it gets done. *For example*, if Unit 10 of District 3 sent me a photo of Education Week activities, they would name (right click and select "rename") it:



Let's make President Tracy proud by earning as many awards as we can. Let's show off how well we work the programs in Kansas! Ride the Tide for Veterans and their families!

Gift Shop

COLMERY O'NEIL HOSPITAL GIFT SHOP 2024 Dates-December 2-4

We are working on plans for the Gift Shop at Colmery O'Neil Hospital, and we sincerely hope you are planning your boxes of gifts. Gifts should be shipped to arrive at the hospital **no later than November 18**. We will store the boxes until the hospital opens for Gift Shop. Send all the checks to Department.

Here are some suggestions for gifts that are most readily accepted, **gift cards**, jewelry, makeup, electronics, curling irons, headphones, small tools, towel sets, throws, stuffed animals, dolls, toys and electronic games. We can always use Balls, (basketballs, footballs, soccer balls, Volleyballs. This year we are asking **NOT** to send **clothing**, apart from Sweatshirts and Hoodies in all sizes. We especially need gifts for little boys and girls and both sexes for teenagers.

GIFT Cards are an easy and perfect gift for all. You just need to make sure they are easily accessed to all States. **We do not need <u>knitted hats</u>**, gloves, scarves, shoes and flip flops.

PLEASE SHIP ALL BOXES DIRECTLY TO VOLUNTEER SERVICES, AMERICAN LEGION AUXILARY, COLMERY O'NEIL HOSPITAL, 2200 GAGE BLVD, TOPEKA, KS 66622. <u>PLEASE MARK ALL YOUR BOXES "GIFT SHOP" SO</u> <u>THEY WILL BE DELIVERED TO THE RIGHT PLACE.</u> It is most important that you enclose a list of all gifts, giving the price and the total value. This is important to us in making our report to the Department. Please enclose the name of the person to receive the acknowledgement. We do try to acknowledge all boxes or money received but unless we have your name and address as well as the Unit, we cannot do this. **PLEASE DO NOT SEND USED ARTICLES, EVERYTHING IN THE GIFT SHOP MUST BE NEW.** <u>PLEASE DO NOT SEND LARGE,</u> **HEAVY OR BULKY ARTICLES THAT ARE HARD TO PACK FOR MAILING. Our packing facilities are limited,** and we cannot handle large items. Items NOT CHOSEN by the veterans are pictures, picture frames, books, purses, photo albums, large or small novelties and <u>NOTHING GLASS</u>.

We would suggest that you send items that are more "individual" instead of things like vases, pictures, and other items that are general gifts. Most patients want to send something to his or her mother, wife, or others that are personal. In selecting gifts to be sent, ask yourself "Is this something I would give to my own family?" If not, it probably is not something the patients would select. They have the same requests for gifts that we do. I know you would spend more on a gift for your own family but use this as a guideline in the selection of your gifts.

WE DO APPRECIATE YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS. If your Unit would like to contribute to the postage of mailing these gifts, your check would be appreciated. PLEASE make all checks payable to American Legion Auxiliary Department of Kansas, Ear mark them **for Colmery O'Neil Hospital.** Send them to Department Headquarters. DO NOT MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE VA Hospital.

A lot of HELP IS NEEDED for the GIFT SHOP. We will need Volunteers to shop with the Veterans, wrap gifts, help with mailings, and other general tasks around the shop. Please let us know if you might be available to help. YOU ARE SO IMPORTANT IN MAKING THE GIFT SHOP A SUCCESS. All Auxiliary, Legion and SAL Members are important for the success of our Gift Shop!

If you have any questions, please let me know. My phone number is 785-554-9458.

Krysti Lusk	Lois Icenogle	Donna Allen
VAVS Representative	VAVS Deputy	VAVS Deputy

Planning is underway for ALA Sunflower Girls State! The 82nd Session will be held June 1-6, 2025, at The University of Kansas.

Registration forms are available now on our website and are due by May 1, 2025. Please use this registration form only to ensure we obtain all the necessary information for a camp involving minors.

The fee is \$425 per delegate. We are asking all delegates to contribute \$25 themselves, so the sponsoring units will only need to contribute \$400. Some units have used a similar model in the past. To stay consistent across all units, please do not ask delegates to contribute more (or less) than \$25.

We are so grateful to the ALA members who continue to be dedicated to working our program year after year!

What do we need from you?

- We need help with recruitment!
 - Please encourage the current high school juniors in your life to submit a registration form!
 - Share our information in your community. We have flyers and brochures to distribute.
 - Do you or someone you know work in a Kansas high school or partner with a home school co-op? If so, we would love to connect!
- We need volunteers at session! If you are available during session and willing to help, please let us know.

What is ALA Sunflower Girls State?

This is a week-long, government-in-action, non-partisan camp that teaches delegates Americanism, citizenship, government, and leadership. Delegates establish city-, county-, and state-level governments, run for office, debate and pass legislation, and hear from leaders at all levels of government from across Kansas.

Who is ALA Sunflower Girls State for?

Our program is for students between their junior and senior years of high school from across Kansas.

Would you like to learn more?

Please visit our website (www.ksgirlsstate.org), find us on social media (Facebook and Instagram), or contact ALA Liaison Pam King by phone (620-222-1835) during the day or Director Lindsay Maudlin by phone (620-728-4072) in the evenings or email (<u>sunflowergirlsstate@gmail.com</u>) for more information.

