

SUNFLOWERETTE

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2024



NEW DEPT OFFICE EMAILS

OFFICE DIRECTOR ksaladepthoffice@gmail.com

FINANCE DIRECTOR ksaladepthfinance@gmail.com

From the desk of the President - Cheryl Eastep

March is here! The promise of spring. The dreary winter days are behind us and sunshine and beautiful weather to look forward to.



I hope everyone enjoyed Mid-Winter. Our presenters did a fantastic job, and hopefully, everyone got better knowledge. Thank you to all who made it a success. Special thank you to the Hutchinson Unit for their preparation for making this a success. It was a pleasure to have Central Division National VP Carol T Robinson visit us, she enjoyed her time and thanked us.

The DEC decided to extend the hours for the Office Director to include Fridays. This is to ensure that the office is covered Monday – Friday to

serve you better, our members. There was no change to the Finance Officer in the office her hours remain the same. Office hours are as follows:

Mon – 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Tuesday – Friday 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Reporting...due to your district chairmen now. Remember if you did nothing, report to the chairman that you did nothing. We want to know what you're doing so that we can help Kansas shine.

Our National Vice President Trish Ward, Department VP Tracy attended the Lincoln Pilgrimage in Springfield, Ill. I had the wreath at the tomb along with The American Legion Vice Angela Evans.

I will be attending the conference in Washington DC along with Tracy Kinnick and Parliamentarian Jeanne Haas. We are looking event.

Department VP Tracy Kinnick and I look forward to visiting your conventions. Our schedule is posted in this issue, forward us on meeting times as well as locations ASAP.

Remember Teamwork makes the DREAMWORK! It takes us all to be a success.

God Bless – Your Department President Cheryl Eastep



Kinnick, and I honor of laying a Commander

Department VP forward to the

district any information

to work together

Marching to the Beat of Membership

Tracy Kinnick – Dept. Vice President

Did you know that as an Auxiliary member, you not only support veterans and their families but also have benefits and discounts available to you?

Imagine if you or a fellow unit member were to lose their home in a fire, or tornado? The devastation is hard to imagine if you have not had this occur to you. Yet we have the Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF), members helping members. The AEF fund helps members who fall on hardships. Members can be awarded up to \$3000.00 to help with disaster or hardship assistance. You must of maintained your annual ALA membership for 3 consecutive years to apply for this assistance.



If shopping is your thing, we got you covered. From clothing, auto, beauty, phones and more! The Benefit Hub is full of discounts. Save on traveling, flights, and attractions.

Health, no problem there are benefits that you can sign up for life insurance, health insurance, savings on prescriptions, and more. Visit www.alaforveterans.org, and go to member benefits to see all the great discounts available to you.

Now that you know of a great many discounts and offers to membership, help share the information with your members who have not renewed yet. Also share the benefits available to eligible members.

Our next goal is 85% membership by March 15, 2024. Currently, we are at 71% of our department goal. We can do this. For all units reaching 100% in membership by April 1, 2024, I will have a special drawing for cash for you to use for your program.

Thank you for all your phone calls and dedication to membership, we could not be a department if it were not for you and your dedication to the success of membership.

Spring Awakening

By Kristen Hensley, Department Chaplain

It's finally here! Spring is arriving this month. Let us all rejoice in the promise of brighter and warmer days ahead.

March is such a powerful month in so many ways. For the American Legion Auxiliary, it starts the cycle of nominating and voting in new leadership in our Units and Districts for the coming year. As the current leadership winds down the current year, we can still bring the renewal that we all experience as Spring starts to perk us up from our winter slumbers. Let us grab hold of these renewed feelings to promote the aims and purposes of the American Legion Auxiliary with renewed spirit. We can end this month going out like a Lion working our missions, working membership, and serving our communities and veterans.



As a tree can sprout new buds and growth, let us renew our commitments to service not self. As the vernal equinox approaches on March 20th or 21st, when nature has perfect balance between night and day, let us reflect on making sure we strive for a balanced life, spiritually and mentally, while we fulfill our commitments to our friends, family, missions and selves.



The official flower for March, the daffodil, serves as a symbol of compassion to remind us to cultivate kindness and empathy in our interactions with others. Please speak life into one another to spread joy as the outside world does a good enough job of causing insecurity. Let us celebrate the differences in each other on our approaches and talents that allow us to reach a greater number of people needing our help.

Prayer: Father God, thank you for allowing us to witness your great beauty you create when Spring arrives. Thank you for keeping us safe and warm during the darkness of winter. Thank you for instilling in us a renewed spirit to work towards the missions of the Auxiliary that you have put in our hearts. God bless our Veterans, Military, their Families, and the communities we live in. In your Holy Name we pray, Amen.



LEADERSHIP

Linda Sullivan 917 W Sunrise Drive
Wichita, KS 67217. (316) 619-9834
sullypsy@yahoo.com

Linda Hicks 1523 N. 82nd Terr.
KCKS 66112 (913) 579-8233
lhicks20@kc.rr.com

DISTRICT IMPACT FORMS ARE DUE FROM THE DISTRICT PRESIDENT TO DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS MARCH 1st. UNIT'S SENT YOUR UNIT IMPACT FOR TO YOUR DISTRICT PRESIDENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. AT LEAST SEND NUMBER OF HOURS RELATED TO VETERANS AND NUMBER OF VETERANS SERVED!

I hope everyone enjoyed the Leadership activities at Mid-Winter. I'm still amazed that no drinks were spilled during the yarn ice-breaker!!!!!!

Maybe we are better "yarn ball" players than we realized!!!!!!

Answers to February crossword:

Across: 2. Junior 5. Poppy 8. Initiation 9. Installation 10. Emblem 11. Constitution

Down: 1. District 3. Bylaws 4. Loyalty 5. Chaplain 7. Spouse

Answer to question about the bonding of a Unit Treasurer. When you receive your per capita, conference, and rehabilitation tax there will be an amount for a positional bonding for Unit Treasurer through Department. This is due every 3 years and Department enters the amount, if any to pay.

A packet of important forms was given to each District. Kristy is also putting the packet up on the ALA Kansas website. If you can't download and copy, contact your District President for a copy.

Wichita Robert Dole VA Hospital

Caitlin Hall seeking people willing to share hobbies expertise Mondays 3pm to 4pm.

Christina Vasquez are Art supplies for Rural Veteran

Need Volunteer Drivers, Red Coats, and Escort

Clothes Closet in in need:

Under garments Men and Woman

Large Cans of Coffee

Interest in helping with any of the needs contact.

Linda Wilson Rep for Robert Dole 316-617-0621

Or Volunteer Service 316-685-2221 ext. 57937

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

If you have a Dept Email, please start removing all your info and emails ASAP.
As of 4-8-24 we will no longer have them as we are doing away with HostGator website and getting a new one. Also please make sure that you have a personal email on file as that is what we are going to be using.
If you have any questions, please feel free to get a hold of me anytime. 620-899-0140
Thank you, Kristy Ehart,

Endorsements:

Good afternoon.

District 5 is proud to endorse Tracy Kinnick as Department President for the 2024-2025 year.

She earns her eligibility through her husband Tim Kinnick, Marine. Her and Tim have 6 children and 6 grandchildren.

Tracy has been a member of the Auxiliary since 2015. In that time Tracy has been able to further her leadership skills by serving in many elected officer positions: Unit President, Unit Secretary, Unit Treasurer, Unit Historian, District SGT at Arms, District President, and District Vice President. She is currently serving as Department Vice President, and Department membership chair.

She has served many on many committees and currently serving as National Vice Public Relations Chair for the American Legion Auxiliary, also serving as National Vice Chair Membership last year.

These opportunities Tracy has been given in our organization has allowed her to grow her skills and knowledge to continue to serve our organization.

Thank You.

Jean Kimminau District 5 President

Linda Sullivan District 5 Secretary

Handwritten signatures of Jean Kimminau and Linda Sullivan in cursive script.

December 15, 2023

To whom it may concern:

Members of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156, Paola, Kansas, endorse Kristen Hensley for Department of Kansas American Legion Auxiliary Vice-President for the 2024-2025 Membership year.

Kristen derives her eligibility from her loving husband, Doug Hensley, United States Army Veteran. She is also granddaughter of Retired Airman Edgar E Jones, and Navy Seabee Veteran C.W. (Bill) Powell, daughter of Navy Veteran Russell W Powell, and mother of US Marines Veteran Ethan R Powell. She is also proud to have her 'bonus' son who is currently active duty for the last 10 years in the United States Army, Warrant Officer Sagel T Hensley, who is currently stationed at Fort Riley.

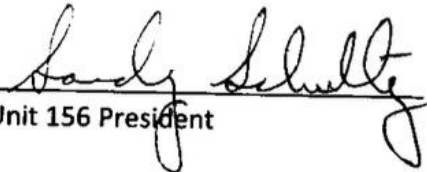
Kristen has been a member since October 2017 and in her time has served in many positions and on several committees. Within her unit, she has served as both *Unit Secretary and Unit President* along with multiple committees. At District level she has served as District Chaplain, District Vice-President/Membership and District President and is currently District 2 C&B Chairman. This year, Kristen has served as Department of Kansas Chaplain and Strategic Planning Committee. She has participated at the direction of National Chaplain Brister Thomas in creating the first ever National Advent Devotional and ensuring the daily devotional was shared on the Department Facebook page for members.

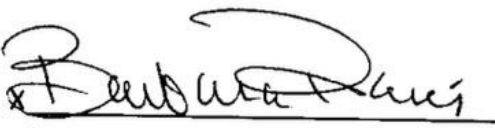
She has been blessed to have strong mentors, such as Jeanne Haas, Linda Hicks, Trish Ward and Paula Sellens. As well as having strong mentors, Kristen has cherished her time in being able to mentor and encourage upcoming leaders for our organization to ensure we have a strong leadership foundation in the future.

Kristen is an avid reader and has worked very hard to learn the functions, protocol, traditions, and direction of the American Legion Auxiliary. Her love for our organization and desire to bring fresh perspective that pays tribute to traditions and protocol but determination to focus us on ideas and events that allows us to remain relevant to future generation is what drives her passion. Her entire goal is to help protect the programs that are greatly needed, so they will still be here when her children and children's children need them.


We thank you for your consideration in electing Kristen Hensley as Department of Kansas American Legion Auxiliary Vice-President for the 2024-2025 membership year.

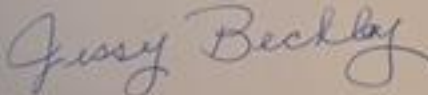
Thank you,

x 
Unit 156 President

x 
Unit 156 Secretary

UNIT 394 AND THE THIRD DISTRICT WOULD LIKE TO ENDORSE
CHERYL EASTEP FOR THE POSITION OF DEPARTMENT OF
KANSAS NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2024-2025.
CHERYL HAS OUR FULL SUPPORT.

DEBRA CARR 
PRESIDENT, THIRD DISTRICT

JESSY BECKLEY 
PRESIDENT, UNIT 394

Laurie Kerns

703 Cherokee Street

Humboldt, KS 66748

620-228-4277

lauriedkerns@gmail.com

Dear Kansas American Legion Auxiliary Officers and Members:

My name is Laurie Kerns and I would like to be your next Kansas American Legion Auxiliary Department Historian. I am a current member in good standing at Boerstler-May Unit 170 Auxiliary in Chanute, Kansas. I gained my membership through the service of both my Father, William J Halda, who served proudly in the US Navy from 1963-1967, and my late husband, Richard W Kerns Jr., who also served in the US Navy from 1987-1991 and is a veteran of Operation Desert Storm.

I am currently serving as my local unit President. I have also served as the Secretary/Treasurer, Historian, First Vice President, and Second Vice President for my local unit. I am the current Chaplin for Third District and have previously served as Historian for Third District.

I regularly attend monthly local meetings, district meetings, and attend as many Department of Kansas meetings and training opportunities as possible. I am the Auxiliary chairperson for the Cadet Law program and attend the week-long program as the medical support person for the students.

I would appreciate your vote as Department Historian for the 2024-2025 year.

Sincerely,



Laurie Kerns

January 22, 2024

Hello,

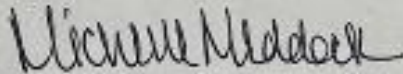
My name is Sharon Spiker and I would like to continue being your National Executive Committee Person. I was given my eligibility from my father's, Past Department Commander Robert "Bob" Swanson, service during the Korean War era.

I have served on most of the committees, as the chairman or member, at the Unit, District and Department levels. I have been a member of the Department Executive Committee since 2006 as an elected member or past president. I have also served as a Unit, District and Department president. On the National level, I have had the privilege of representing Kansas as the National Executive Committee Women during 2010 -2011. I currently serve as president of Mary L. Bair Unit# 44, Holton, and District 1 parliamentarian. As your Department NEC, I am a member of the minutes approval committee.

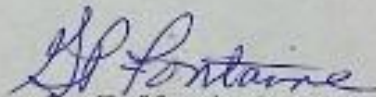
I have the support of my family, and my local American Legion Family, Post and Unit #44.

I look forward to being able to continue representing the Department of Kansas on a National Level.

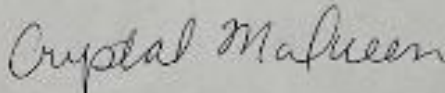
Sharon Spiker



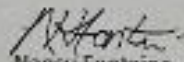
Michelle Meddock, Unit 44 Vice President



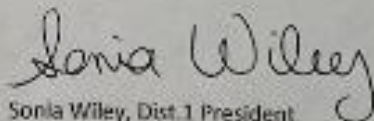
Gary "Pat" Fontaine, Post 44 Commander



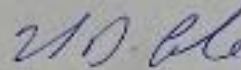
Crystal McQueen, Unit 44 Secretary



Nancy Fontaine, Post 44 Adjutant



Sonia Wiley, Dist. 1 President



Mike Cole Dist. 1 Commander

To Whom It May Concern,

The American Legion Auxiliary Gardner Unit 19 endorses the nomination of Cindy Ward for Chaplain for Department of Kansas for the 2024-2025 American Legion Auxiliary year.

Cindy derives her Auxiliary membership through her grandfather, Perry Ward, United States Army WW2 Veteran and her other grandfather Melburn Brodbeck, United States Army, WW2.

Cindy joined the American Legion in 2015. Since that time she has served as District Historian and District President. She has served on numerous committees at a Unit, District and Department as well as National level. She has served Unit levels in multiple states, as well as District, Department and National Level. She has completed Mission Development Training and ALA Academy online Training.

Cindy has lived in Grove, Oklahoma since 2020 and previously lived in Louisburg, KS.

Cindy works for Techlink Services as the Technical Recruiting Manager.

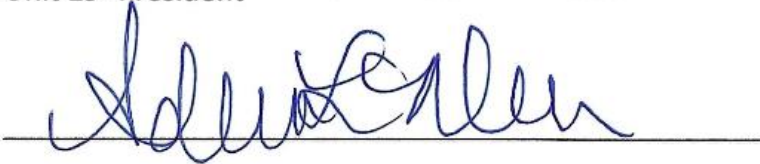
Cindy has the support of Unit 19 as candidate for Department of Kansas American Legion Auxiliary Chaplain Department of Kansas for the 2024-2025 year.



Unit 19- President

2-15-24

Date



Unit 19- Vice President

2-15-24

Date



Trish Ward Leadership Fund



Name:				
Address:				
Phone#:		Email:		
Gear	QTY	Color	\$ Each	Total
Camo Windbreaker		BLK/White		
Small			\$45.00	
Medium			\$45.00	
Large			\$45.00	
Xlarge			\$45.00	
XX Large			\$50.00	
XXX Large			\$50.00	
Cross Body Bag			\$20.00	
Baseball Hat - Mesh			\$25.00	
Ticket Drawing			\$20.00	
Shipping		Check One		
Pick-up @ dept Meeting			Free	\$0.00
Please Ship to me Direct			Flat Rate	\$5.95
			Grand Total	

Mail Order form to:
Trish Ward Leadership Development
2633 Shasten St
Grove, OK 74344

Donations also accepted via:

PayPal:
tbw_ksaux@yahoo.com

Venmo: @Patricia-Ward-25

UPCOMING EVENTS

DISTRICT CONVENTIONS DATES AND WHAT DEPT OFFICERS WILL BE THERE:

March 23rd:

District 3 Coffeyville - President Cheryl

District 2 Shawnee - VP Tracy

April 6:

District 5 - VP Tracy

District 7 - President Cheryl

April 13th:

District 1 Holton - President Cheryl

District 4 Emporia - VP Tracy

April 20th:

District 9 Greenfield - President Cheryl

District 8 Bazine - VP Tracy

April 27th:

District 6 Smith Center - VP Tracy

District 10 Fairview - President Cheryl

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

Applications for 2024 Boys State of Kansas Session Open

January 9, 2024 — The [American Legion Boys State of Kansas](#) is accepting applications for its 2024 session. The event is set to be held Sunday, June 2, through Saturday, June 8, at Kansas State University in Manhattan. This will be the program's 32nd consecutive session at KSU and 86th overall.

Traditionally, Kansas Boys State is for individuals who will complete their junior year of high school in the spring just prior to the start of each session. However, the ALBSK program will again expand the pool of applicants for this year's session to include those who will complete their sophomore year of high school this spring.

The American Legion Boys State of Kansas program provides a relevant, interactive, problem-solving experience in leadership and teamwork that develops self-identity, promotes mutual respect and instills civic responsibility to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to community, state and nation. Boys State is a "learning by doing" political exercise that simulates elections, political parties and government at the state, county and local levels, providing opportunities to lead under pressure, showcasing character and working effectively within a team. It's also an opportunity to gain pride and respect for government, and the price paid by members of the military to preserve democracy.

The cost to attend the Boys State of Kansas program is \$375; however, in many instances, sponsors pay the majority of the fees, with the delegate or his family paying \$50. Those wishing to attend the 2024 session should visit ksbstate.org to apply. The deadline to apply for the 2024 program is Tuesday, April 30; applications are accepted after that date, but on a space-available basis.

Potential sponsors, such as American Legion posts, civic organizations, businesses, clubs and interested individuals should visit ksbstate.org/sponsor-a-delegate. Questions? Contact the ALBSK at info@ksbstate.org or (785) 550-6492.

2024 Cadet law American Legion / Auxiliary Dept of Kansas

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

Kansas Highway patrol, Salina, KS

https://kansaslegion.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/cadet_law_application.pdf

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

<https://www.kslegionaux.org/department-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.

ksaladepthoffice@gmail.com