

SUNFLOWERETTE

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS NEWSLETTER

JULY 2023



Greetings members,

I hope everyone is having a great summer so far, and that you have a fun and safe Independence Day.

My team and I are working together to have a successful and fun year so mark your calendars! Fall Conference will be held in Pittsburg at Post 64 on September 16, 2024, keep your eyes open for more information.

I started my year at Cadet Law where I helped to present Diplomas to the cadets. I had the honor of pinning the incoming Sunflower Girls State Governor McCall.

I hope those that attended Leadership College this year enjoyed the presentations a learned a lot. If you have any recommendations for the next year, please let me know. We hope to continue creating a great learning environment for the ALA at Leadership College.

I plan to be at the Legion Family picnic in Hutchinson on July 22, 2023. I hope to see everyone there.

Until then, may God bless us, our troops, and the USA.

Be The One,

Your President, Cheryl Eastep

Tracy Kinnick Department Vice President Membership

MARCHING TO THE BEAT OF MEMBERSHIP is my theme this year. As we continue to look to the future of this organization, we need to stay on **BEAT** with membership. Each district will be assigned an instrument.

The first district to achieve 100% membership, I will wear a shirt at the Department Conference, with their instrument on it. More information to come on challenges at Fall Conference in Pittsburg on 9/16/23.

This time of year is challenging for units as they need to be clear with new members. If you are signing up as a new member, you need to clearly tell that member that renewal notices will start arriving in September for the 2024 year. We do not want to hold memberships or lose a member because we did not clearly tell them that National sends renewals in September.

What are the roles and responsibilities of the membership chairperson:

- 1- Provide leadership for the growth of the membership program.
- 2- Department Membership will work with District Membership chairs, District Membership Chairs work with the units in their district to communicate the importance of membership and recruitment.
- 3- Regularly communicate with membership chairpersons.
- 4- Respond to questions about membership. If you don't know the answer do not provide an answer unless, you are positive.
- 5- Join the National Membership Facebook Group, there is a lot of information being shared on the page that will help you.
- 6- Attend meetings and participate.
- 7- Participate in quarterly Zoom calls for the department.
- 8- Provide Department Chairperson with a monthly status report on your progress: send it to deptvicepresident@kslegionaux.org
- 9- Submit your year-end report by May 1st, 2024, to me.
- 10- PROMOTE the ALA membership program.

Although the Membership Chairperson has responsibility, I want to make it clear that Membership is **EVERYBODY'S** responsibility.

Should you have any questions as always, reach out to me via email, phone, or text.

Independence Day and Mardi Gras Spirit of Unity, Freedom, and Gratitude

By Kristen Hensley, Department Chaplain



In keeping with the theme of Mardi Gras, I wanted, this month, to focus on the similarities between the 4th of July and Mardi Gras. The historical significance of Independence Day, commemorating the birth of a nation and the pursuit of freedom. Similarly, Mardi Gras represents a temporary liberation from societal norms and an opportunity for self-expression. The spiritual aspects of freedom,

liberation of the soul, breaking free from limitations, and embracing one's true essence are peppered throughout both celebrations.

Both Independence Day and Mardi Gras have a focus on community and unity in both celebrations. 4th of July brings people together to honor the collective values and ideals of a nation. Likewise, Mardi Gras fosters a sense of camaraderie and togetherness, with parades, parties, and shared experiences. These occasions remind us of the importance of unity, fostering connections, and transcending difference to create a harmonious community.

On Independence Day, people express gratitude for the freedoms they enjoy, and the sacrifices made to secure them. Similarly, Mardi Gras encourages revelers to appreciate life's blessings, including joy, abundance, and the spirit of celebration. Both have spiritual significance in the feeling of gratitude, and its ability to shift our perspective, and its transformative power in cultivating a deeper sense of fulfillment.

One other similarity, is that both holiday's, show that this great Nation can transcend differences. Both the 4th of July and Mardi Gras offer opportunities to transcend differences and embrace inclusivity. These celebrations bring together individuals from diverse backgrounds, fostering a sense of belonging and acceptance. So is it with the Kingdom of God. We all come from all walks of life, from different cultures, and different backgrounds, but we are all children of God.

Prayer: Father God, as we celebrate this Nations Independence Day, please let us remember, the sacrifices the American Soldiers, Sailors, and Airmen have made to ensure we remain a free nation, unified under God and under a unified banner, from all walks of life, so that we may live our lives in peace, with liberty and justice for all. Amen

2023-2024 Department of Kansas American Legion Auxiliary Officers

President – Cheryl Eastep deptpresident@kslegionaux.org 620-687-3197

Vice President – Tracy Kinnick deptvicepresident@kslegionaux.org 316-655-5122

Sec / Treas – Sue Coester deptsecretarytreasurer@kslegionaux.org (620) 724-0245

Chaplain – Kristen Hensley deptchaplain@kslegionaux.org (913) 638-9724

Historian – Dorothy Wahl depthhistorian@kslegionaux.org (620) 762-0081

NEC – Sharon Spiker deptnec@kslegionaux.org (785) 851-7081

ALT NEC – Paula Sellens deptnec2@kslegionaux.org (620) 255-9339

Department Office

1314-B SW Topeka Blvd Topeka, KS 66612 785-232-1396

Carol Roush, Office Director departmentoffice@kslegionaux.org



MyAuxiliary

MEMBER PORTAL

My Auxiliary Member Portal

Developed with ALA members in mind, the My Auxiliary member portal is a go-to location for members-only content: forms, national committee information and documents, policies and procedures, training information, how-to resources, and downloadable recruitment tools.

My Auxiliary also offers members the option of paying dues online and updating their name, mailing address, or phone number at any time. To access this portal, members must have an account. Any member who does not already have an account will have to create one. Only current members can establish My Auxiliary portal accounts. Former members, and those who let their membership lapse, cannot access this portal or their member profile until they've reinstated their ALA membership. We'd love to help you reinstate your ALA membership - call National Headquarters at (317) 569-4570 today! We're open Monday-Friday, 8AM-4:30PM EST.

If you are having difficulties connecting to the national website, the problem could be your internet browser. Try updating your browser, or download a different one (Chrome, Safari, or Firefox are best). If you still need additional help accessing the My Auxiliary portal, please contact the help desk at alamishelp@alaforveterans.org

Using My Auxiliary, members can now access the following information about themselves:

- The unit they belong to
- Member ID number
- Join date
- Their membership category, such as PUFL, Life Member, Honorary Life Member
- When their membership expires
- Whether they are due for renewal
- Their prior years' dues paid
- Their donation history

Members can also take the following actions in the member portal that were not previously possible:

- Pay dues for the current year and the previous year
- Print a current year membership card
- Print membership cards from previous years
- Update contact information
- Add additional addresses (such as a seasonal address) - even adding Starting and Ending Dates
- Opt out of national and department publications and mailings (via Communications Tab)

Program Highlight – Child Welfare Foundation

By Kristen Hensley, Child Welfare Foundation Liaison

For thousands of American Children, each day is a challenge, marked by pain, prayer, and perseverance. Many of these children require specialized care. Some face years of expensive medical treatment and physical therapy. Others may want someone in their corner to prevent abuse or advocate for their well-being.



Child Welfare Foundation is part of the American Legion Children and Youth Program. Founded in 1954, this fund's mission is to help youth-serving organizations across the Nation to promote and operate their programs, plus educate families and communities about the needs of children.

Contributions have assisted juveniles with autism, osteogenesis imperfecta, and hydrocephalus. The funds have also been used in educating parents about the danger of Reye's Syndrome, educating doctors about gastrointestinal disorders in infants and protecting neglected and abused children. Foundation grants have given aid to families of children with craniofacial anomalies, spinal tumors, and Huntington's disease. The Foundation has provided fun activities for children fighting cancer during treatment and has provided flights to children that are far from necessary treatment facilities. Children with Down Syndrome, juvenile diabetes, multiple sclerosis, and retinal degeneration also benefit from this Foundation.

A repository of funds was developed from individuals who wished to contribute to the betterment of children in America. The foundation considers hundreds of requests each year and allocates grants based on need. Unfortunately, many worthy requests are turned down because of lack of funding, leaving children in this country to suffer.

The good news is that you can help. Included in this newsletter is the CWF Banner Program. If Posts/Units/Squadrons send in \$1 for every member (member count as of June 1, 2023), this will help funding tremendously. For any Post/Unit/Squadron that participates, they will receive a banner ribbon to attach to their Post/Unit/Squadron flag! I would love to see Units across Kansas participate in this program and help the children of our great Nation! For more information, visit us at <http://www.cwf-inc.org/>



American Legion Child Welfare Foundation

"Dedicated to the betterment of all children"

100% Per Capita Banner Program

Request Form

2023 – 2024

Each American Legion post, American Legion Auxiliary unit, Sons of The American Legion squadron, American Legion Riders chapter or Eight and Forty salon donating at least one dollar for each member during the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation's award year (1 June - 31 May) may receive a beautiful banner/streamer.

To qualify for the 2023-2024 year a post, unit, squadron, riders, or salon must donate one dollar per member based upon its official membership total from their national organization as of June 1, 2023. The post, unit, squadron, riders, or salon has from June 1, 2023, to May 31, 2024, to submit this form, **along with the donation**, to the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation.

Post, unit, squadron, riders, or salon name	<input type="text"/>		
Address	<input type="text"/>		
City	<input type="text"/>	State	<input type="text"/>
		Zip	<input type="text"/>
Post, unit, squadron, or salon membership total as of June 1, 2023:	<input type="text"/>		
Total enclosed: \$	<input type="text"/>		

Banner Request Form

Send completed form to:
American Legion Child Welfare Foundation
PO Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206

ALL REQUEST FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY May 31, 2024

LEADERSHIP

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

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

Weee'rre back!

And we are ready to string the beads of Leadership to assist you in having a fabulous, successful year!!

Just a few reminders to start off the year:

Please make sure you have returned your Unit's Officers and Chairpersons list to your District President. There should be on the list at least one person who is willing to share emailed information with your Unit.

If you haven't downloaded or printed off the new correct transmittal form, at least change the amount to send in from \$20.50 to **\$28.00** on any old transmittals you have. Don't forget to **alphabetize** the names by last name.

Consider doing an audit of your Unit's treasurer's books. Make sure the bank statement matches the checkbook balance. Make sure your 990 has been filed.

1873

150TH ANNUAL OLD SOLDIERS & SAILORS

2023

REUNION

July 10-15, 2023 ~ Erie, Kansas

REUNION SPONSORED BY GEORGE L. HENDRICKS AMERICAN LEGION POST 102 & MAINSTREET MEMORIES

HONORING VETERANS PAST & PRESENT

MONDAY, JULY 10

PICTURE SCAVENGER HUNT
Entry forms available at Roney's Drug Store, City Hall and White Plumbing
Sponsored by the Erie Area Chamber of Commerce
Submit entries at White Plumbing by Thursday - one entry per family
MEDALLION SCAVENGER HUNT
Monday - Friday Noon (First Clue at Breakfast)

TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY JULY 11-12

**43rd ANNUAL AMERICAN LEGION IPRA
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP RODEO**
TWO PERFORMANCES - July 11, 8 p.m., July 12, 8 p.m.
88, 89, 90 17th Ave - 88-89 - 75, 90 CBL, COWBOY 9000 Ave
88-89 TR 21000 Ave, 88-89
Stock Contractor's Fee \$10 & 2000 - \$18.75
Bookings: Wednesday, June 21 at 9 a.m. (ET)
Bookings: Sunday, July 2 at 9 a.m. (ET)
Erie Area Chamber of Commerce Phone: (620) 427-7882

OUTDOOR ARENA
BENCHWORK CONTRACTOR ADMISSION 210 CHILDREN 4-13 BY
MARCH 31ST 500-507 - 5000-5000 - CALL 620-427-7882
TOP GROSS 500 DURABOX CHAMPION CHALLENGE
MEN'S & WOMEN'S WINNERS OF EVENTS EACH NIGHT WILL DRAW FOR 500

Co-sponsored by IPRA & M&S OPEN - Provided and used Travel Cards Accepted
And Beers Publicly Available - 123 MAIN

THURSDAY, JULY 13

5:30 p.m. PULLED PORK SANDWICHES/HOT DOG MEAL (City Park)
Sponsored by the Erie Area Chamber of Commerce
6:00 p.m. AMERICAN LEGION CHILDREN'S EVENTS (City Park)
Ages 1-18 - Cash Prizes to Winners of Each Event
Turtle Races - Bike Races - Sack Races
7:00 p.m. DINOSAUR PARK CHILDREN'S EVENTS
Near City Park
7:00 to 10:00 p.m. KIDS NIGHT SWIM
After Kids Games

FRIDAY, JULY 14

6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. 30 DELTA PSI SORORITY
In front of Peter's - Breakfast and Dessert
7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Annual Automotive Swap Meet & Flea Market
302 S. Grant St. - Craft Vendors Welcome, Inside and
Outside Stalls Available
Call JANA Simmons 620-432-1932
8:00 p.m. COURTHOUSE LARIN
FREE BEAN FEED
1200 pounds of Navy Beans
In Memory of Wally Harbo and Robert Campbell
They were loyal and dedicated Legion members.
8:00 to MIDNIGHT BEER GARDEN
Downtown Erie
7:00 to 10:00 p.m. FREE INFLATABLES
Toppers to Towne - Sponsored by Pete's Corp.
7:00 to 10:00 p.m. DOUBLE TAKE
Free Concert - Downtown Erie (Bare & Cleveland Rock)
10:00 p.m. FREE FIREWORKS - Visible from Main Street
Baskets and T-Shirts on Main Street Friday
10:00 p.m. STREET DANCE
After Fireworks - Main Street

SATURDAY, JULY 15

7:00 to 10:00 a.m. 30 DELTA PSI & MASONIC LODGE #79 BREAKFAST
At Erie Federated Church - Pancakes, Sausage, Biscuits & Gravy
7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Annual Automotive Swap Meet & Flea Market
302 S. Grant St.
7:00 a.m. RUN FOR FUN REGISTRATION
Register 402 W. 4th Street (Erie Elementary School)
7:30 a.m. REUNION RIVER RUNWALK
5 Kilometers - Medals to Top Three Winners in Each Division
Men's & Women's Divisions: 12 & Under, 13-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49,
50-59, 60 & Over - Entry Fee: \$10 (\$20 for those plus \$5 per person)
No SHIRT - Sponsored by Erie High School Cross Country Team
8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. CAR AND TRUCK SHOW - Roney's Addition
Check in from 8:00 a.m. until Noon, Entry Fee \$10
For Additional Information, Call (620) 423-4103
8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. ENGINE SHOW - Roney's Addition
For Additional Information, Call (620) 423-4103
8:00 a.m. ARTS & CRAFTS (Erie City Park)
For information, what: mainstreetmemories@gmail.com
8:30 a.m. READING OF THE NAMES AT MEMORIAL WALL
10:00 a.m. TEE TIMES - REUNION GOLF CLASSIC
PROSPER RIDGE GOLF COURSE - Call (620) 244-2434 to register
Two Men Divisions, \$40 per person - Call (620) 258-1443
BEFORE PARADE - MAIN STREET
Picture Scavenger Hunt winners announced

10:30 p.m. DOWN MAIN STREET

BIG PARADE

2023 THEME: HONORING VETERANS PAST & PRESENT
All entries meet at 300 block North Main by 9:30 a.m. for registration.
Prizes: \$25 for Best Organization, Commercial, Best Family, Army,
Judge's Choice, Best Youth, Best Parade, Best Antique, Golf Cart or Side-by-Side
11:11 a.m. FLYOVER ABOVE MAIN STREET - OPI VETERANS
NOON BBQ CONTEST
Open to Public - \$10 per plate, Erie City Park
12:30 p.m. CIVIL WAR RE-ENACTMENT
West End of City Park
AFTERNOON - BAGS ACROSS MAIN STREET
Carn-Hole Tournament, Call (620) 433-2814 for more info.
5:30 p.m. ALL ERIE HIGH SCHOOL REUNION HAPPY HOUR
Tully's Function Junction, 10300 Highway 59
6:30 p.m. ALL ERIE HIGH SCHOOL REUNION MEAL
Tully's Function Junction - RSVP July 7
erimes17@gmail.com for additional information
8:00 p.m. YOUTH RODEO - TUMBLE I RODEO PRODUCTIONS
7TH ANNUAL LET THE MISS BUCK
BOOKS OPEN JULY 5
WALK TROTS (5 & Under) FEE FREE (6-4 Years Old)
JUNIOR MISS (9-11 Years Old) SENIORS (12-14 Years Old)
For Additional Information Or Entries, Call (620) 313-0321
Entry Fee: \$60

MEM-ERIE MUSEUM HOURS

Hours the Museum will be open during Reunion week will be:
Friday - 1-3 p.m.; Saturday - 11 a.m. until 7:17
Museum located at southwest corner of Main and 4th Streets

Schedule of the Old Soldiers & Sailors Reunion will subject to change



AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY DAY

ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS AND ADULTS

For kids:

Bounce houses
Balloon animals
Board games
Face painting
Sidewalk chalk
Water balloons
Candy prizes

For adults:

Cornhole tournament
Door prizes
Horsehoes
Picture booth
Military displays
Motorcycle displays
Karaoke

SATURDAY
JULY 22

10AM - 8PM

730 W. 4th

Hutchinson, KS



HAWAIIAN LUAU THEME



The American Legion Family Homecoming



HONORING:

RANDY FRANK- AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT COMMANDER
CHERYL EASTEP- AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT
JIM GALLETINE- AMERICAN LEGION SAL DETACHMENT COMMANDER

August 12, 2023

12:00 pm Social Hour; 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm Meal and Program

Shelton Beaty, American Legion Post 18
115 East Washington Ave, Arkansas City, KS
\$15.00 per person (RSVP by August 1, 2023), \$17.00 at the Door

Keynote Speaker – LTG (R) Perry Wiggins

Luncheon Menu:

Brisket
Cowboy Beans, Potato Salad, and Cole Slaw
Dinner roll with Butter and Desert

For Additional information or to RSVP, contact Randy Frank; 563-419-1474
(Please include the note below on meal selection)

-or-

Make checks payable to Randy Frank and send to
211 Floral Drive, Hillsboro, KS 67063

-----PLEASE CUT AND MAIL-----

NAME(S) _____

NUMBER OF MEALS _____

ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK IN THE AMOUNT OF _____

POST/UNIT/SQUADRON # _____