

# 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](mailto:deptvicepresident@kslegionaux.org)
- 9- Submit your year-end report by May 1<sup>st</sup>, 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. 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:sullypsy@yahoo.com)

Linda Hicks  
1523 N. 82nd Terr.  
KCKS 66112  
(913) 579-8233  
[lhicks20@kc.rr.com](mailto: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 &amp; 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  
Stock open Wednesday, June 21st 9 a.m. - 12  
Stock Close Sunday, July 2nd 9 a.m. - 12  
Erie Area Chamber of Commerce Phone: (620) 427-7882

**OUTDOOR ARENA**  
BOWLING CONTRACTOR ADMISSION 210 CHILDREN 4-12 BY  
MATCH BEING 50-50 - 5000-10000 - CALL IN 25-10TH 2100-2107  
TOP 5000 GRC DURABOX CHAMPIONS CHALLENGE  
MEN'S & WOMEN'S WINNERS OF EVENTS EACH NIGHT WILL DRAW FOR 5000

Co-sponsored by IPRA & REUNION - Provided food and drinks for all attendees  
and those people applying - 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 Jock 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 three (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, email: 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 remains limited \$10 per person  
**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 (5-11 Years Old) \$5/NOIRS (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 7:00  
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 # \_\_\_\_\_