

September 2025

President

Greetings to our American Legion Family!

Summer is about to be over and I for one will be looking forward to lower temperatures, well honestly anything below 80 degrees would be nice!

It's about that time for Fall Conventions and Homecomings, with Department Fall Conference happening in Salina on September 20. An RSVP is not required but is being requested to help with preparations and lunch. And thanks to some resourceful members you can take advantage of a special ALA rate at the Quality & Inn Suites in Salina, but there is a deadline to reserve your room. Take advantage of the special rate by September 5th! For those who bring someone new, there is a special drawing for you and your guest! We are also encouraging you to bring your juniors! We will be having a breakout activity for them and what better way to teach them more about our programs and what important work we do then involving them.

Are you one of those who doesn't know about the Grassroots Newsletter to support our American Legion Legislative Efforts? It is not as scary as it sounds, and it is so easy to sign up! You can be a member of any part of the American Legion Family. It's very easy to sign up and only takes a few clicks, and you will be sending your support to congress. As our Dept Legislative Chairman Ann Ritacco mentioned last month, Kansas is in the top supporting states. Make your voice heard and sign up, let's support her goals to keep that going and improve on it. Flyer has links. If you aren't already receiving the National e-newsletter I highly encourage you to sign up for it.

1. Go to alaforveterans.org
2. Search at the top for e-news
3. Click on one of the editions and it will open up in constant contact and at the top it will say "join our email list."
4. Or try this QC Code😊

National Convention is upon us and what an exciting time for Kansas, we have National President Trish Ward hosting her convention and National Commander Elect Dan Wiley going in! Remember you can catch it live on the website. <https://www.legion-aux.org/meetings/national-convention>
Looking forward to visiting and meeting more members and hearing about what you are doing in your units this fall!

Warmly, and as always

For God and Country, President Anndi Bownes



Vice President



September 2025 – Department of Kansas Vice President

A New Year, A New Reporting Process for Volunteer Service

Congratulations on the beginning of the 2025–2026 year! As we step into this exciting new term, the Department is implementing an essential change to the way Units, Districts, and the Department as a whole report volunteer service.

Starting this year, volunteer reporting will now follow a **January through December calendar year**. This new process is designed to streamline tracking, ensure consistency across all levels, and more effectively demonstrate the impact of our service.

To make this successful, it is vital for each Unit and District to **work closely with their Members** to collect and organize information on:

- **Volunteer Hours contributed**
- **Dollars Spent supporting programs and activities**
- **Number of Veterans Served through our efforts**

Accurate reporting not only strengthens our ability to showcase the value of our service but also ensures that every act of kindness, service, and dedication is counted.

To assist in gathering this information, a **Volunteer Tracking Form** is available at:

□ www.kansasala.org/dept-forms

Together, we can continue to make a lasting impact in the lives of Veterans, their families, and our communities.

Additionally, if you or any of your Units are hosting events or activities and would like to invite me, I would love the opportunity to attend and support your efforts in person.

Wishing you a successful and rewarding year!

Cindy Ward

Cindy Ward – Department of Kansas Vice President

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

Chaplain

Hello Everyone! Can you believe the summer is nearly over and the cooler fall season is coming up fast. This year is already flying by for me, I imagine it is for some of you, too. Have you started on your Unit Chaplain Prayer Book yet? Maybe you are new to the role of Chaplain at the unit or district level and are unsure how to start or what to include. Here are some suggestions to get your book started!

Begin collecting favorite prayers/poems from your members each month

Your members' favorite bible verses can be included in the prayer book

Pictures are encouraged to add to the prayers/poems/bible verses

Building a prayer book takes some thought and time, starting now and adding to it each month when members bring items to include makes it a bit easier! There are no specific requirements for a Unit or District Prayer Book. I have seen some beautiful embroidered and sewn book covers and I have seen some beautifully decorated 3 ring binders used as prayer books. Please use your creative talents to build something that reflects your unit or district. Remember to bring your Unit Prayer Books to your district meetings and both the unit and district books should come to Department Convention for all the members across the state to admire.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or if your unit or district would like me to attend a function in your area. Please call or text me at (620) 228-4277.

Laurie Kerns

Historian

Students used to think of August as part of summer but for most kids school is back in session by mid- August. As we prepare for fall, it is time to start working on your Unit/District History Books. I am attaching 2 links to the National web site which shares information on creating a History book; The Scoring page and How to write your narrative. There is also a Junior History Book Contest, so encourage your juniors' to start working on a history book.



https://member.legion-aux.org/cmsdesk/ALA/media/PDF/Departments/Dept_Senior_History_Contest_Scoring.pdf

<https://member.legion-aux.org/Member/Resources/History/How-to-Record-Your-Department-History>

Unit History Books are taken to your District Convention for judging. District winners go to Department Convention for judging.

The Basement Brigade began working on organizing the

basement of Department Headquarters. A special thank you to Marcia Catrell for joining Marsha Weber and myself on our first workday. This will be an ongoing project this year, so look for updates throughout the year



History Flashback

Edith Hobart

Edith Hobart was the first ALA national president (1921-1922). She had also been the Department of Ohio's first president. Hobart sought the national presidency during the Auxiliary's first National Convention in 1921. She was one of 10 women who ran in the election. She remained active and involved in the ALA after completing her term as national president. Prior to taking national office, Hobart was known for following her enlisted son to military

NEC

HELLO!

I would like to introduce you to an agenda form that is used on the National level and is being used more on the Department and District level. It is called Consent Agenda. It is used to make meetings go quicker so items of importance have time to be discussed. It's a long read but could make your meeting more productive.

American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ~ REFRESHER REVIEW

THE CONSENT AGENDA: A TOOL FOR IMPROVING NONPROFIT
GOVERNANCE

The American Legion Auxiliary utilizes the consent agenda in the course of conducting the business meetings of the National Executive Committee. A consent agenda, also called a consent calendar in Roberts Rules of Order, is a standard good governance practice utilized by large organizations to expedite its business proceedings. The main purpose of a consent agenda is to bundle into a single action item the routine procedures, administrative details, and self-explanatory matters that the board normally approves without discussion or debate. A consent agenda allows the board to approve such items together without discussion or individual motions.

Because questions or comments on these items are not allowed during the meeting, utilizing a consent agenda frees up valuable time for the board to discuss more substantial agenda items.

A consent agenda is a single item on the board's meeting agenda, typically the first action item, and is voted upon with a single vote – a vote to approve the consent agenda by unanimous consent. Unless a board member feels that an item should be discussed and requests the removal of that item ahead of time, the entire package is voted on in one motion without additional explanations or comments.

A typical consent agenda contains items that are routine or procedural and generally noncontroversial.

Typical consent agenda items include routine matters such as the approval of the minutes; committee appointments requiring board ratification or confirmation; approval of proposals or reports with which the board is familiar; reports provided for information only; correspondence requiring no action; minor changes in a procedure; routine revisions of a policy; confirmation of conventional actions that may be required in an organization's bylaws; and other matters historically adopted without controversy. Such items are combined into one action item for approval – the consent agenda.

The use of the consent agenda requires that the board be provided with the consent agenda and materials pertinent to the consent agenda in advance of the board meeting.

Items on the consent agenda are not discussed individually. At the beginning of the meeting, the chair will if a voting member wishes, remove any removed from the consent agenda and discussed individually. If a voting member believes an item on the consent agenda warrants full board discussion, she may request its removal, and the chair will remove the item from the consent agenda. The chair then determines whether to take up the matter immediately or place it on the regular meeting agenda. If there are no items to be removed or when there are no further items to be removed, the numbers or titles of the remaining consent agenda items are read. The chair then states: "If there is no objection, these items will be adopted." After pausing for any objections, the chair states "As there are no objections, these items are adopted. Adopting a consent agenda does not require a show of hands, your silence by not objecting is giving consent.

If clarification of a consent agenda item is needed by an individual, the clarification should be requested before the meeting. The item would not be pulled from the consent agenda if an individual question can be answered prior to the start of the meeting.

We are asking that all Units and Districts share a copy of their Constitution and Bylaws with the Department C & B Committee. If you already have sent a copy to Department that is wonderful.

UPDATED Constitution, Bylaws, Standing Rules and Policies

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](#)

Department of Kansas Membership 2025-2026

Trish Ward, Department Membership Chair

Meet Kirby!



Hey ALA Kansas Members!

Our baby eagle Kirby is excited to get us started off on the right wing for membership 25-26. Together we'll watch Kirby grow up and get stronger over the year ...just as our membership will grow and get stronger. Kirby hopes that by August 1, 2026, he will be a fully grown eagle proudly soaring America's skies...and as he soars...so will Kansas by achieving our national membership goal of ...

→ 8,990 ←

So please join in the fun as ALA Kansas ...and Kirby make great things happen in the new membership year! The Central Division has been assigned "Eagles" as its mascot...so Kirby...and Kansas are ready to GO!

2025-2026 Department Awards

25% Award	By SAL Birthday: 9/15/25 - \$25.00
60% Award	By ALA Birthday: 11/10/25 - \$60.00
85% Award	By TAL Birthday: 03/15/26 - \$85.00
95% Award	By Female Veterans Day: 06/12/26 - \$95.00
100% Award	By Independence Day: 07/04/26 - \$250.00
102% Award	By 30 Days Prior to National Convention: 08/01/26



*Finance Gifts are to be used to Advance the ALA mission!

Unit Awards

100% Unit Award

Presented to Units that reach 100% of their 2026 membership goal by January 31, 2026

Award: ALA Key Chain with phone stand and cleaner (2 per unit for unit president and membership chair.



New Unit Award

Presented to units chartered between September 1, 2025, and July 31, 2026

Award: Unit Guidebook & ALA National Constitution & Bylaws from Emblem Sales

Member Awards

Recruit/Rejoin 10

Award: Special gift selected by the National Membership Chair

Presented to: Members who recruit and/or rejoin 10 Senior and/or Junior members. Rejoined members must not have renewed since 2022 or earlier.

Deadline: Members must be entered and paid in ALAMIS member database by June 1, 2026.

Forms: must be received at National HQ by June 6, 2026



Family 3

Award: Special gift selected by the National President

Presented to: Members who recruit 3 New Legion members, 3 New Auxiliary members and 3 New SAL members

Deadline: Members must be entered and paid in the database by June 1, 2026

Forms: must be received at National HQ by June 6, 2026

Department of Kansas – Unit Membership Goals for 2025-2026

1st District 20 Units	Unit	25-26
Topeka	1	39
Atchison	6	64
Leavenworth	23	46
Rossville	31	47
Oskaloosa	36	33
Tonganoxie	41	11
Holton	44	40
Troy	55	18
Leavenworth	94	47
Perry	142	25
White Cloud	154	19
Wathena	161	53
Ozawie	225	128
Effingham	285	13
Topeka	319	11
Winchester	387	28
Topeka	400	161
Mayetta	410	12
Lansing	411	15
Topeka	421	24
1st District Totals		834

2nd District 18 Units	Unit	25-26
Lawrence	14	36
Iola	15	34
Gardner	19	158
Fort Scott	25	18
Garnett	48	20
Olathe	153	166
Paola	156	92
KC Quindaro	199	81
Kansas City	213	77
Baldwin City	228	19
Mound City	248	30
Louisburg	250	183
Blue Mound	279	85
Shawnee	327	138
Spring Hill	350	35
Overland Park	370	278
Moran	385	56
Lenexa	407	40
2nd District Totals		1546

3rd District 16 Units	Unit	25-26
Columbus	3	30
Winfield	10	146
Arkansas City	18	71
Coffeyville	20	60
Girard	26	52
Cherokee	35	52
Erie	102	110
Caney	138	24
Independence	139	77
Howard	149	87
Chanute	170	211
Arma	182	99
Cedar Vale	201	20
Baxter Springs	206	20
Weir	272	10
Pittsburg	394	40
3rd District Totals		1109

4th District 13 Units	Unit	25-26
Emporia	5	121
Yates Center	13	31
Burlington	38	9
Peabody	95	32
Waverly	119	22
Osage City	198	26
Gridley	296	42
LeRoy	313	15
Lebo	323	32
Toronto	325	9
Lincolnton	347	15
Hillsboro	366	81
Allen	389	21
4th District Totals		456

5th District 19 Units	Unit	25-26
Newton	2	111
Wichita	4	81
McPherson	24	200
Whitewater	65	16
El Dorado	81	51
Wellington	90	35
Mulvane	136	131
Lindsborg	140	81
Canton	192	42
Halstead	231	51
Marquette	253	132
Wichita	256	38
Sedgwick	268	67
Wichita	273	76
Wichita	401	13
Andover	406	11
Derby	408	108
Maize	419	38
Wichita	424	30
5th District Totals		1312

6th District 20 Units	Unit	25-26
Salina	62	80
Concordia	76	222
Hunter	77	18
Alton	87	24
Russell	99	22
Natoma	109	37
Belleville	133	9
Kensington	166	23
Ellsworth	174	40
Lebanon	185	15
Scandia	193	90
Holyrood	200	28
Smith Center	220	12
Tescott	255	34
Wilson	262	29
Burr Oak	263	35
Lucas	267	21
Dorrance	334	40
Sylvan Grove	359	10
Esbon	368	20
6th District Totals		809

Department of Kansas – Unit Membership Goals for 2025-2026

7th District 18 Units	Unit	25-26
Macksville	52	13
Anthony	54	29
Hutchinson	68	194
Medicine Lodge	69	27
Pratt	86	10
Isabel	98	15
Larned	106	29
Sterling	128	72
Stafford	131	27
Hardtner	175	14
Great Bend	180	105
Geneseo	241	31
Little River	258	26
Burdett	280	21
Hoisington	286	34
Altica	298	23
Garfield	300	12
Ellinwood	320	23
7th District Totals		705

8th District 11 Units	Unit	25-26
Garden City	9	27
Dodge City	47	47
Ulysses	79	28
Liberal	80	9
Ness City	152	122
Dighton	190	29
Bucklin	269	15
Satanta	276	5
Jetmore	290	18
Copeland	369	12
Utica	380	7
8th District Totals		319

9th District 12 Units	Unit	25-26
Atwood	46	16
Norton	63	75
Oberlin	70	75
Hays	173	35
Wakeeney	197	11
Kirwin	277	9
Logan	281	21
Grainfield	301	26
Jennings	351	27
Bird City	352	21
Agra	357	16
Colby	363	24
9th District Totals		356

10th District 18 Units	Unit	25-26
Seneca	21	41
Washington	91	10
Sabetha	126	13
Barnes	145	34
Marysville	163	175
Blue Rapids	169	21
Centralia	216	22
Clifton	227	130
Greenleaf	235	31
Linn	237	57
Beattie	244	27
Wetmore	282	52
Hanover	306	76
Fairview	322	19
Waterville	332	18
Summerfield	362	35
Powhattan	373	42
Horton	415	18
10th District Totals		821

11th District 12 Units	Unit	25-26
Herrington	12	16
Manhattan	17	161
Alma	32	40
Abilene	39	33
Leonardville	40	34
Junction City	45	110
Clay Center	101	67
Maple Hill	130	30
Wamego	172	23
Westmoreland	186	20
Chapman	240	59
Saint George	260	21
11th District Totals		614

ALA Department of Kansas Unit Membership 2025-2026

District 1.....	834
District 2.....	1546
District 3.....	1109
District 4.....	456
District 5.....	1312
District 6.....	809
District 7.....	705
District 8.....	319
District 9.....	356
District 10.....	821
District 11.....	614
Dept 58	109

Total 8990

Note: If your unit is highlighted, that means your unit achieved its membership goal in 2024-2025

ANNOUNCEMENTS

click on flyers to print out

KANSAS STATE FAIR

5-14 September 2025

Come visit our booth at the Kansas State Fair. Each day of the fair, our booth will be hosted by a different one of our eleven Kansas American Legion Districts.

Meadowlark Building

Kansas State Fairgrounds

Hutchinson, KS

Fri, Sept. 5 8th District

Sat, Sept. 6 4th District

Sun, Sept. 7 6th District
Mon, Sept. 8 .. 10th District
Tues Sept. 9 9th District
Wed, Sept. 10 .. 5th District
Thu, Sept. 11 ..11th District
Fri, Sept. 122nd District
Sat, Sept. 13 3rd District
Sun, Sept. 141st District



ALA Department Fall Conference

Saturday September 20, 2025

**Salina Leslie W. Kreps Legion Post #62
1108 West Crawford, Salina KS 67401**

Lunch is being provided by our hosting unit.
Donations for lunch are **WELCOME!**
(Sloppy Joe's, Potato Salad, Chips, and Cookies)
Please RSVP by September 15 to aid in planning.

Send to Brenda Christie by
email bchristie2@yahoo.com or mail
743 Banner Circle, Salina KS 67401

**Senior Registration is \$15 and Juniors are \$5
Starts at 9 am**

Special Room Rates at Quality Inn & Suites

2110 W Crawford Street, Salina KS 67401
785-404-6247 ask for the American Auxiliary Rate
2 Queen Beds-\$89.99 (before taxes)

Online-

<https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/BO43Q6>

Limited Availability

TO QUALIFY FOR DISCOUNTED RATE Reserve by SEPT 5th

Can't wait to see you there!





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.

45th ANNUAL
EISENHOWER PILGRIMAGE

Enclosed is our payment for a rose or wreath to be placed at the
Eisenhower Memorial on Saturday, October 11, 2025.

Post, Unit, and/or Squadron: _____
Post / Unit / Squadron Number, City

No. of Roses _____ Amount Enclosed _____
(\$10 for each rose requested)

WREATH - DISTRICT LEVEL OR HIGER

District or Department _____
(\$20 for one wreath)

Name _____
Person Placing the Wreath

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone (Day Time) _____

RECEPTION & DINNER

Chapman Post #240

Friday, October 10

Social Hour: 6:00 PM Dinner: 7:00 PM

No. of Dinner Reservations _____ Amount Enclosed _____
(\$25 per person)

Persons Attending Dinner

MAIL TO:
KANSAS AMERICAN LEGION
EISENHOWER PILGRIMAGE
1314 SW Topeka Blvd.
Topeka, KS 66612

ABSOLUTE DEADLINE: OCTOBER 1, 2025

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1314 SW Topeka Blvd.
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ABSOLUTE DEADLINE: OCTOBER 1, 2025

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