



SALUTE

A Detachment of Kansas Newsletter

Date: December 2025



Message from the Detachment Commander

HELLO KANSAS SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION!!!

The Holidays are upon us. I hope everybody had a fantastic Thanksgiving! I personally ate more than my pants liked. The picture of my scary dinosaur I tried



to include in the November SALute didn't make it in, so I'm trying again. Like I said last month, the holidays can be a lonely time. With the weather getting colder be sure and check in on your members, family, and friends that you haven't seen in a while. #BeTheOne



I would like to invite you to the Department of Kansas Holiday Party at post 68 in Hutchinson KS on December 13th. It is sure to be good food and bring friends together as it does every year. The flyer is attached below. Please RSVP soon as the deadline is December 1st

I signed up for the USA 250 challenge while at National Convention in August. Life has been busy and I have been counting on my fancy watch to link to my fancy phone and keep track of my activity until I had time to log in and track my progress.

Well...it helps when you make sure these things are set up properly! I sat down over the Thanksgiving holiday to catch up on my progress and there was nothing there! Needless to say I am starting over so if you haven't signed up for the challenge yet, there is still time and we can do this together. For that matter, any Kansas SAL member that completes the challenge will get something special from me! Sign up here <https://www.legion.org/get-involved/community-programs/usa250/challenge>.

There are less than 30 days left of the 2025 membership year and as of November 24th 53% of Kansas SAL have not renewed their membership. Lets get those members contacted and ask them to renew. They joined for a reason, figure out what that was and remind them that it is still important.

For God and Country,

Matthew Krupco

Kansas Detachment Commander

Message from the Detachment Vice Commander

Dear Fellow Sons

Time is flying by and another month has passed us by. We are getting close to the end of the year. We all need to reach out to all members and let them get renewed by December 31.



I would like to congratulate all the squadrons that have reached 100 percent. We still have too many goose egg squadrons it time to reach out and get intouch with those squadron commanders. Let's keep up all the great work pushing forward to the detachments 100 percent goals. All your guys' hard work has renewed 2979 members for a 49.48 percent as of 11/21/2025. We have past december 15th goals but we need to keep it going.

We went to Ft Riley Saturday the 22nd of Nov for the Big Red Turkey run. We assisted in giving out meals for 240 families for a total of over 700 family members. It was a really nice day and lots of stories were told. Know it on December 6 Operation North Pole be sure to get registered to get access to the base. It will be a great time giving all the kids a special gift during this time of year.

I would like to wish you all a Happy Holiday and a Happy New Year

Your Vice Commander/membership chairman

Michael Weber

620-430-0651

spidercreek220@gmail

Message from the Detachment Adjutant

The **2026 Big Red One Turkey Run** served 221 families with the Soldier Recovery Unit and families of deployed soldiers a complete Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings, compliments of the Kansas American Legion Family. Since its beginning in 2008, the Turkey Run has served thousands of meals to these deserving families.



Operation North Pole will take place on 6 Dec 2026 at the clamshell at Fort Riley, starting with setup at 0800 and families coming in at 0900 until 1200.

- Visitors requiring a pass for access to Fort Riley can now apply for passes online. The online pass application is available at: <https://pass.aie.army.mil>. The online pass process can only be utilized by personnel who are US citizens, have a valid state issued REAL ID-compliant driver's license or Identification card, and have a mobile phone.
- After vetting, visitors will be sent a text informing them if their visit has been approved or denied. Approved visitors with a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or identification card may proceed to any of Fort Riley's access control points to be scanned for access. Passes will **NOT** be sent via email to the visitor.
- Passes may be requested no more than 30 days in advance and **are only valid for the purpose of the visit (not to exceed a maximum of 7 days)**. **Online pass applications are only processed during Visitor Control Center operating hours.** It is recommended that visitors submit pass applications 24 hours in advance of their planned visit.

Planning for the 11th **Kansas Legacy Run** continues – the cage run (in cars) was completed in late October, and the room blocks should be set up in early December. The 2026 Run will begin in Junction City on 12 June and end in Dodge City on 14 June 2026. Online and paper registration will be posted in December on <https://kansasalr.com>, along with hotel information. Also – don't forget The British Are Coming!

Your help is needed to contact Congress to urge them to ***Include Section 1092 in the Fiscal Year 2026 National Defense Authorization Act!*** This legislation would update and preserve the Chaplains Hill Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery. Due to unclear language in past NDAA's, Arlington National Cemetery officials have delayed updates and preservation efforts of the memorial. This legislation would ensure that previous mandates for maintaining the memorial are carried out.

The American Legion appreciates all the emails you have sent so far.

Go to the [Action Center](#) to quickly email a letter of support to your members of Congress and let's maintain Kansas' nationwide lead in contacting out elected representatives.

Thanks for all you do and remember to **Be The One!**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Chris Krueger
Detachment Adjutant

Message from Finance Officer Michael Saindon,

Did you know every year the Detachment of Kansas gives out 5, five hundred dollars scholarships and 1, one thousand dollars scholarships.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE? 1. The applicant should be an average or better student scholastically. 2. High School seniors, undergraduate college students, and adults holding High School Diplomas and/or College credits who are enrolled or intend to enroll in an approved Junior College, College, University or Trade School located in the state of Kansas will be considered. 3. The applicant must be the son, daughter, grandson, or granddaughter of a member of the Kansas Sons of the American Legion or a member of the Kansas Sons of the American Legion for the past three (3) consecutive years. (Please attach copy of current year's membership card of the member from whom eligibility is derived.) SAL members who are US citizens are eligible to apply. 4. The applicant may obtain eligibility through a deceased member whose membership was paid up in The Sons of the American Legion in the year of death. (Please attach certification from Squadron Adjutant.)



Application can be downloaded from <https://salkansas.org/resources>

HOW TO APPLY 1. Applications must be received in The American Legion Headquarters, 1314 Topeka Ave., Topeka, KS 66612, by February 15. 2. All requested support documents and information in a single envelope deliverable by USPS. 3. Copy of current membership card in the Kansas Sons of the American Legion or Adjutant's certification.

Please share this information!

Mike Saindon

Scholarship Charman

Message from Terry Harris, Past National Vice Commander

It's that time of year again when Santa heads to Fort Riley for Operation North Pole! This year's event will take place on Saturday, December 6 2025. Operation North Pole at Fort Riley, Kansas, is an annual event organized by the American Legion Family to provide a Christmas Party to children in need, particularly those with parents deployed or in transition. This initiative has been running for over a decade and aims to bring joy to military families during the holiday season. This year's event will have a very special guest. From the Detachment of Texas, Sons of The American Legion, is the Leading Candidate for National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion Thom Skelley. Come and enjoy the families of our military and Meet our next National Commander (if elected).



Thom is a 20-year member of the Sons of The American Legion, earning his eligibility through the service of his father; William M. Skelley Sr. who served from 1941 to 1945 in the Pacific Theater of World War II, and his subsequent honorable discharge.

He has held multiple positions in the Sons at the Squadron, District, Division and Detachment levels as well as serving on the National Children and Youth Committee and as Chairman of the Veterans Employment and Education Commission and Membership and Squadron Activities Committee.

He is a graduate of the National Management Institute, American Legion Extension Institute, American Legion Basic Training course, SAL University Pilot Program and Columbia University "BE THE ONE" training.

Thom has been married to his wife Amy for 25 years and they are the proud parents of two wonderful sons; Nuclear Electronics Technician Evan Skelley, United States Navy and University of South Carolina marketing major Kieran Skelley.

Terry Harris
Past National Vice Commander
Alternate National Exec. Committee

Message from Rick Miller, SALute Editor

There are a lot of flyers at the end of the news letter this month but it is all great information, keep scrolling and check it all out. Scholarships, MidWinter Forum information and more.

Sons of The American Legion



Detachment of Kansas Scholarship Program

**Scan QR Codes Below To See If
You Are Eligible**

**"Udie" Grant
\$1000 Scholarship**



**Jay B. Thielen
\$500 Scholarship**



NEXT MEETING NOVEMBER 18TH

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

NOVEMBER 2025

NEXT TARGET DATE-NOVEMBER 13TH-35%

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

ABC

EASY AS

1 2 3

MEMBERSHIP

1. Recruit one new member to The American Legion
(Get a "I got One" shirt)
2. Recruit one new member and renew one member to the SAL. (two total)
(Get our eternal gratitude!)
3. Sign up 3 for the Legion, 3 for the AL Auxiliary, 3 for the SAL (9 total)
(Get a Family Three Pin)

[illegible]

2,291 / 3,768 (29.73%) Squads Reporting	20,000 Total Members	16 / 614 (2.41%) Devices Reporting
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INDIVIDUAL RECRUITMENT AWARD (IRA)



EARN THE INDIVIDUAL RECRUITMENT AWARD AND PROUDLY DISPLAY YOUR IRA PIN ON YOUR COVER BY RECRUITING FIVE NEW MEMBERS!

**VERIFICATION FORMS CAN BE FOUND BY VISITING
LEGION.ORG/SONS (PUBLICATIONS & FORMS)**

CLICK HERE 

RENEW NOW!

**2025 MEMBERSHIP
CARDS EXPIRE
DECEMBER 31ST!**

SCAN ME 

LEGION.ORG/SAL-RENEW

The Sons of the American Legion,
Detachment of Kansas introduces a new program that
will benefit the entire Legion family!



Get One For The Legion!

This program rewards Sons of the American Legion members for doing the work and supporting the American Legion, while the Legion gets the new members and continues to grow their membership and stay alive and active. ***And the whole American Legion Family benefits:*** Every time the Legion gains a new member, chances are there are family members that are eligible to join the Auxiliary, Sons, Riders and Cruisers.

How it works: Any SAL member (regular, dual, or triple) that recruits a NEW legion member gets a polo shirt courtesy of the Detachment of Kansas. The detachment pays for the shirts and the embroidery. On one side of the shirt, it is embroidered with "Got One For The Legion Family" and on the other side it is embroidered with the SAL logo/emblem. The shirts were designated to be a bright neon color for two reasons: 1) When you know the program and see someone wearing the shirt, you know they signed up a new legion member 2) It is a great conversation starter for people unaware of the program. The shirt color will change each year, but will be a bright color to draw attention to the program.

Go to <https://salkansas.org> to download the submission form or print out the one below!





Get One For The Legion Submission Form



Recruiting SAL Member Name:		Membership ID #:	
Squadron #		Squadron City:	
Recruiting SAL Member Mailing Address:		Polo shirt size: S-5XL	

New Legion Member Name:		Address:	
Phone:		Email:	
Date Member was signed up:		New Membership ID#:	
Post City:		Post #	
Post Adjutant Approval - Name:		Post Adjutant Membership ID#:	
Signature:		Date:	

Detachment Adjutant signature:		Date:	
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Email to det.adj.ks@gmail.com (preferred) or print and mail to Get One for the Legion, c/o Argonne Post 180, Box 721, Great Bend, KS 67530

2026 Mid-Winter Forum Meals
January 30-31, February 1st
Dodge City Post #47

Friday, January 30th

Dinner: \$15 KC Strip, Baked Potato, Green Beans, Salad

Saturday, January 31st

Breakfast: Biscuits and gravy, eggs, sausage, hash browns (Free to registered members)

Lunch – On your own (there are food trucks at each location that should be open)

Dinner: \$15 Brisket, pulled pork, smoked sausage, potato salad, pasta salad, baked beans, dessert.

Sunday, February 1st

Breakfast: Community Breakfast at the VFW (\$15 per person).

Name _____

Post/Unit/Squadron _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Number of Friday Night Dinners to be reserved x \$15: _____

Number of Saturday Night Dinners to be reserved x \$15: _____

Check enclosed for the amount of: _____

Main to:

American Legion Post #47

PO Box 359

Dodge City, KS 67801

Dodge City Hotels: (Next page)

La Quinta Inn & Suites by Wyndham Dodge City

2400 W Wyatt Earp Blvd, Dodge City, KS 67801
620-488-6484

Best Western Plus Country Inn & Suites

506 N. 14th Avenue, Dodge City, KS 67801
620-225-7378

Super 8 by Wyndham Dodge City

1708 W Wyatt Earp Blvd, Dodge City, KS 67801
(620) 682-4524

Hampton Inn & Suites Dodge City

4002 West Comanche, Dodge City, KS 67801
(620) 225-0000

Best Western North Edge Inn

404 W Frontview, Dodge City, KS 67801
(620) 371-6441

Quality Inn

2000 W Wyatt Earp Blvd, Dodge City, KS 67801
(620) 471-0690

Windsor Inn & Suites

2320 W Wyatt Earp Blvd, Dodge City, KS 67801
(620) 227-5000

Comfort Suites

2700 W Wyatt Earp Blvd, Dodge City, KS 67801
(620) 801-4545

Holiday Inn Express & Suites Dodge City by IHG

201 4th Avenue, Dodge City, KS 67801
(620) 225-1000

Towne Place Suites by Marriott Dodge City

2800 W Wyatt Earp Blvd, Dodge City, KS 67801
(620) 371-7171

Regency Inn and Suites

2110 E Wyatt Earp Blvd, Dodge City, KS 67801
(620) 225-2654