



SALUTE

A Detachment of Kansas Newsletter

Date: April 2026



Public Service Announcement from the Editor

Make sure you read all the way to the end. Great information about Leadership College to wrap this up.

Message from the Detachment Commander

HELLO KANSAS SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION!!!

Spring is here! Well, it's Kansas so we shall see. I've always been told that kids grow fast and now I'm starting to see that firsthand. Byron had his first haircut and turned from a baby to a little boy in a matter of a few minutes. The National Mid-West Vice-Commander, Chris Casey, from the Detachment of Nebraska visited Kansas for Mid-Winter forum in Dodge City and we were able to take him to Fort Dodge Veterans Home. This was my first trip there, we had a great time listening to some of the veteran's stories. My deepest thanks to the Dodge City Post 47 family for doing an amazing job hosting; the food and hospitality were top-notch. Thank you to all that attended, it was great to see you! I attended the second District Oratorical and watched six phenomenal candidates.



Unfortunately I was unable to attend Department Oratorical. Regardless, these kids always renew my hope for the future generations. We are just starting District Convention season; I will not be able to

attend very many this year as my work schedule currently involves a lot of Saturdays. I will be at yours if I can but won't know until the last minute if I will be able to make it. I was able to attend Second District and want to thank Commander Miller for his hospitality.

This quarter in the Sunflower I wrote about National Security, and I want to share that information with the Sons too, this will wrap up my four-pillars articles. I hope you have maybe learned a little and enjoyed the articles thus far.

To reiterate, the Four Pillars are the heart and soul, the past, the present, and hopefully the future of the American Legion. A big part of National Security centers around supporting our troops. One way we can do that is by supporting Operation Comfort Warriors, a program designed to focus on non-essentials for troops that boost morale, and provide rehabilitation and daily comfort. Find out more at <https://www.legion.org/get-involved/community-programs/operation-comfort-warriors>. In addition to supporting the troops we advocate for a strong national defense which includes adequate funding, something congress doesn't seem to be doing a good job of currently as you can see with yet another partial government shutdown. Contact your senators and representatives to make sure ALL of our troops are getting paid, as well as advocating for all of the American Legion's Legislative Agenda items by going to [legion.org/action](https://www.legion.org/action). Under the National Security pillar The American Legion rededicates all of us to the vital endeavor of sparing no effort in recovering all POW/MIAs. You can find out more about the National Security Pillar at [legion.org](https://www.legion.org)

I want to make a quick reminder about the Detachment Commander's project, the Kansas Cadet Law program. If you're interested in contributing to this program, please send your checks to the Detachment of Kansas write "Commander's Project" in the memo line, and mail to the Detachment Finance Officer Mike Saindon, 312 E. Tall Tree Rd, Derby, KS 67037.

In closing, thank you for all you do! Your continued membership and service to this organization and all the great things your squadrons do make me proud to be your Detachment Commander.

For God and Country,

Matthew Krupco

Kansas Detachment Commander

Message from the Detachment Vice Commander

Dear Fellow Sons

"Get One for the Legion" is more than just a slogan—it's a simple, meaningful way to grow the organization by leaning into the power of personal connection. When a current member invites someone new to join, it's not just about increasing numbers; it's about sharing the purpose, camaraderie, and sense of service that define the Sons of the Legion. Each new member strengthens the legacy, bringing fresh energy while honoring the mission that connects generations.



The added incentive of a free polo shirt is a small but thoughtful way to recognize that effort. It creates a sense of pride and visibility—members aren't just participating, they're representing something bigger than themselves. Wearing the polo becomes a symbol of both recruitment and commitment, reinforcing that growth happens one conversation, one connection, and one new member at a time.

The detachment of Kansas is currently sitting at 84.68 percent which puts us at 5108 total out of 6021 members. Out of those 5108 members 533 are new members and 4575 renewals

This is a great time to reach out to all members and do a buddy check to see if there is anything they might need. Would also be a good time to invite them back and get them engaged in the squadron. Ask them what their interests are.

Michael Weber
Vice Commander/Membership chairman

Message from Finance Officer Michael Saindon,

I want to recognize the outstanding recruiting efforts of SAL408.

Seven of our members have earned a I Got One for the Legion polo shirt for recruiting new members. In 2026, American Legion Post 408 Derby-Haysville gained 18 new Legion members, and SAL408 members were responsible for recruiting 8 of them.



Great job to everyone involved!

Best regards,
Michael Saindon
SAL408 Commander



Message from the Detachment Adjutant

Greetings, Kansas Sons and friends!

Squadron Data Reports were mailed to all Squadrons at their sponsoring Post's address on 20 March 2026 and are due at Department Headquarters by **24 APRIL 2026**. The information provided on this form will be entered at mylegion.org as the contact information for your Squadron. Failure to meet the 24 April deadline may cause your Squadron's first renewal notice to be mailed with incorrect information. We are aware the Squadron Data Report states to return by 9 April; however, we are extending this deadline to 24 April 2026.



Notification of Post/Squadron Commander & Adjutant Form This report was also mailed on 20 March 2026 and is to be completed and returned to Department Headquarters after your Post/Squadron elections, by **1 July, 2026**. The information provided on this form will be entered at mylegion.org as contact information for your Squadron.

Consolidated Squadron Reports are **due by 1 May, 2026**. **Consolidated Squadron Reports may be submitted by the Squadron leadership through your mylegion.org account**. National will notify the Detachment when a Squadron submits their report online. The hard copy blank reports will be mailed soon.

All reports are used at State and National levels to inform our Legislators and Congress what The American Legion accomplishes in our communities each year.

National Commander Testimony:



Recently American Legion National Commander Dan Wiley gave stirring testimony in Congress, advocating for our nation's Veterans and their families. I highly recommend that you watch it [here](#) if you haven't already seen it.

Grassroots Support:

CALL TO ACTION



Legion Family - we are calling on you because you know, the United States Coast Guard is an integral component of our nation's national security and homeland defense. At a time when the United States faces one of its highest levels of risk in decades due to ongoing global events, it is completely unacceptable for Coast Guard members and their families to face the possibility of missing a paycheck.

We call on the 2.5 million members of The American Legion Family to immediately contact their Members of Congress and demand action. The men and women of our Coast Guard MUST BE PAID NOW.

Now more than ever, Congress needs to feel the power of The American Legion Family's 2.5 million voices. Please send a message TODAY to your two U.S. Senators and House Congressional Representative urging them pay our Coast Guard. Go to the [Action Center](#) to send a message to your representatives.

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 our elected representatives.

This last week Kansas fell to **second place** in contacting our elected representatives in Congress – lets work to get back on top!

THIS WEEKS TOP GRASSROOTS DEPARTMENTS:

Wisconsin	248
Kansas	241
Tennessee	233
New York	213
Florida	88

Upcoming events:

- District 1 Convention – 11 April - Topeka Post 400
- District 6 Convention - 25 April- Concordia Post 76
- District 7 Convention – 21 March - Great Bend Post 180
- District 8 Convention – 18 April – Dodge City Post 47
- District 9 Convention – 18 April - Bird City Post 352
- District 10 Convention – 25 April - Frankfort Post 181
- District 11 Convention – 11 April - Abilene Post 39
- Department Convention - 29-31 May 2026 - Topeka Ramada
- Kansas American Legion Leadership College - 5-7 Jun 2026 - Concordia
- Kansas Legacy Run - 12-14 June 2026

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

Chris Krueger

Detachment Adjutant

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!





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

Kansas American Legion Leadership College Schedule

Friday, June 5, 2026

3:00 PM-9:00 PM Housing Area **Registration**, Pick up your packets and room keys. (if staying in dorms)

3:00 PM-5:00 PM YL222 **Membership Meeting**, District Commanders and Vice Commanders will present their District Membership Plans for the year. A printed copy of the plan will be required. Oral presentation should be 5-10 minutes.

5:00 PM-6:00 PM GR201 **Official Legion Family Photographs** - with Jeff Bond – This room will also be open between classes and during lunch on Saturday.

5:00 PM-7:00 PM Cafeteria **Dinner**

6:15 PM-7:30 PM Cook Theater **DEC Meeting**, Open to guests unless in executive session, Districts Commanders should have Time/Date/Location of Homecomings.

8:00 PM-??? Pizza Hut **O-POOP-PAH-DOO**, Come join the fun

Saturday, June 6, 2026

6:30 AM-8:00 AM Cafeteria **Breakfast**

8:00 AM-8:50 AM Cook Theater **KALC Orientation and Legion Family Etiquette, Q & A** - The written and unwritten rules of the American Legion Family, presented by Marri Krupco and Jen Carder.

9:00 AM-9:50 AM Cook Theater **Commander** - This class is great for current and future Post Commanders, learn the basics of running a Post and where you can find more detailed information about post operations, presented by Myra Jowers and Mike Harris.

PA255 **MyLegion.org for Legion & SAL Individuals, Posts, Squadrons, and Districts**- you will be trained on how to register for an account, navigate, and update your personal information and how to use some of the helpful features of the system. Bring a laptop or mobile device that you will use on a regular basis to access myLegion if you can. This will be in a computer lab if you don't have a portable device to bring, presented by Julie Miller and Jim Simpson.

GR204 **Finance Officer 1**- Learn how to stay in compliance with local, state, and federal finance laws that apply to all posts, presented by Eszter Blair and Dave Apgar

GR206 **Chaplain & Historian** – Learn the roles and responsibilities of a Post Chaplain and a Post Historian, presented by Debra Muylaert and Richard Johnson, Dan Stacy and the Kansas Department Historian

GR205 **Post Service Officer 1**- Kansas Office of Veterans Service (KOVs) Overview - This session will cover an update from KOVS and overview of services and locations of the KOVS Offices and how best to interact with them to assist their post members, presented by Trevor Willemsen, KOVS West Supervisor.

GR207 **ALA The Pebble** - Leadership qualities needed to support members in being successful, presented by Tracy Kinnick and Kim Smith

10:00 AM-10:50 AM Cook Theater **Conflict Resolution** – This course focuses on conflict resolution through the lens of servant leadership, emphasizing the importance of empathy, active listening, and collaborative problem-solving to foster trust and unity, presented by Jen Carder and Clarence Frye

PA255 **Adjutant 1** - Learn about reporting, transmission of memberships, minute taking, and your role in assisting other post officers, presented by Julie Miller and Jim Simpson.

GR204 **Finance Officer 2**- Learn how to stay in compliance with local, state, and federal finance laws that apply to posts with club rooms or gaming licenses, presented by Eszter Blair and Dave Apgar

GR205 **Post Service Officer 2**- American Legion Service Offices Overview - This session will provide an overview of how Post Service Officers can best use the Legion Service Offices in Leavenworth, Topeka and Wichita to assist their Post Members, presented by Tim Marlar, Department Service Officer and Jeniffer Clark, Veteran Service Representative

GR207 **ALA Leadership styles** - Identifying your leadership style and how that information can be used to work with others, presented by Anndi Bownes and Kim Smith

GR203 **SAL 101**- Starting out at the Squadron level and learning the basics, presented by Rick Miller and Jeff Kerns

11:00 AM-11:50 AM Cook Theater **Servant Leadership Part 1**- This course will delve into the fundamentals of Servant Leadership and examine how it enhances the American Legion while fostering values of service, integrity, and civic responsibility, presented by Jen Carder and Clarence Frye.

PA255 **Adjutant 2**- A continuation of Adjutant 1 where you began to learn about reporting, transmission of memberships, minute taking, and your role in assisting other post officers, presented by Julie Miller and Jim Simpson

GR205 **Post Service Officer 3**- American Legion Service Offices Panel Discussion This session will allow attendees to learn tips to enhance their role as Post Service Officers by discussing Case Studies and sharing of Best Practices, facilitated by Tim Marlar, Department Service Officer and Jeniffer Clark, Veteran Service Representative

GR204 **Gaming & Bingo**- Learn how to stay in compliance with local, state, and federal finance laws that apply to posts with gaming licenses, presented by Kristen Hensley and Kevin Schasteen

GR207 **ALA ABC's of the Auxiliary** - What is required and what is tradition. Open discussion format with questions and answers, presented by Anndi Bownes and Kim Smith

GR203 **SAL 202**- The bigger picture, How to utilize the resources of district and beyond, presented by Rick Miller and Matthew Krupco.

12:00 PM-1:00 PM Cafeteria **Lunch**

1:00 PM-1:50 PM Cook Theater **VA Panel** – Panel discussion by leaders from the VA Medical Centers, facilitated by Tim Marlar, Department Service Officer

2:00 PM-2:50 PM Cook Theater **Servant Leadership Part 2**- In this second class, students will apply servant leadership principles to real-world Legion programs and initiatives, focusing on member engagement, community outreach, ethical decision-making, and developing future leaders who are

committed to serving veterans, their families, and their communities, presented by Jen Carter and Clarence Fry.

GR205 **Post Service Officer 4-** Post Service Officer 201 training by Department Service Officer Tim Marlar.

GR206 **Social Media – The Good, The Bad, The Ugly** – The benefits and potential risks of an online presence for your post family. Includes a discussion of the prominent platforms, an overview of creating a Facebook page, connecting to Instagram, and monitoring its performance. Proper usage of Legion emblems and branding will also be discussed, presented by Chris Krueger and Rick Miller.

GR203 **SAL Membership workshop** - Not just the tricks and tips, but the more important why and how, presented by Michael Weber and Terry Harris

3:00 PM-3:50 PM Cook Theater **The Legion Family puzzle:** - District and beyond, how it and the different branches of the family all fit together, presented by Mike Cole, and Larry Eubanks.

GR206 **Creating better documents with Microsoft Word** – Do you struggle with creating documents with Word, like meeting agendas, letters, and tables? Do you avoid it altogether? Then this is the class for you! We'll discuss licensing, the user interface, basic document formatting (including Fonts, Paragraphs, and Tabs), and saving in various document formats, presented by Chris Krueger and Rick Miller.

GR205 **Constitution and Bylaws Part 1-** How and why it is important to have your constitution and bylaws up to date and how to do so, presented by Kevin Schasteen and Marri Krupco.

PA255 **ALA Alimas (Part 1)-** The ins and outs of using Alimas from membership to recruitment. Participants will need to bring their login and password for Alimas, presented by Kristen Hensley, Tracy Kinnick and Kim Smith

4:00 PM-4:50 PM Cook Theater **Four Pillars** – Compare the Four Pillars to the Programs connected to them, discuss importance of keeping the four pillars forefront in all things that a Legionnaire does in all their endeavors, presented by Jen Carder and Mike Cole

PA255 **ALA Alimas (Part 2)-** The ins and outs of using Alimas from membership to recruitment. Participants will need to bring their login and password for Alimas, presented by Kristen Hensley, Tracy Kinnick and Kim Smith

GR205 **Constitution and Bylaws Part 2-** Continuation of Part 1 with time for questions, presented by Kevin Schasteen and Marri Krupco.

GR203 **SAL Q&A** - We will bring the experienced folks, you bring the questions, presented by Matthew Krupco, Terry Harris, and Michael Saindon

6:00 PM-7:00 PM Post 76 **Dinner**

7:15 PM-8:30 PM Post 76 **CFW Auction (Donations Needed)**

8:30 PM-?? Post 76 **Karaoke**

Sunday, June 7, 2026

7:30 AM-8:45 AM Cafeteria **Breakfast**

9:00 AM-9:50 AM Cook Theater **District Officer** – The responsibilities, Do's and Don'ts of being a District Officer with an SOP and how this helps posts, presented by Marri Krupco, Jen Carder and James Snyder

10:00 AM-10:50 AM Cook Theater **Membership Recruiting and Retention Forum (Legion Family)** - Round table type discussion including the use of membership impact reports, led by the Outgoing and Incoming Membership Committee

Registration on next page - Also available on SALKansas.org

Kansas American Legion College Registration

Cloud County Community College in Concordia

June 5-7, 2026

Mail to: Department Headquarters

1314 SW Topeka Blvd

Topeka, KS 66612

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Phone & Email

Member of _____ Post, Unit, Squadron, Guest (circle one)

Post Service Officer Training Yes or No (circle one)

YES, I will need meals at KALC for \$50 for the weekend

I wish to attend KALC but will arrange my own meals and lodging – \$5

Total Enclosed