



SALUTE

A Detachment of Kansas Newsletter

Date: November 2025



Message from the Detachment Commander

HELLO KANSAS SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION!!!

Fall is upon us, the leaves are falling, the weather is cooler, Thanksgiving is just around the corner! I even had a "scary dinosaur" visit my house on Halloween! Along with all these great changes come shorter days and less sunlight and limited outdoor or social activities due to the potential of bad weather or road conditions, all of which can lead to isolation and depression.



This time of year buddy checks are more important than ever. Everyone tends to stay home and stay inside for their physical safety, allowing their mental health to suffer. I'm not saying people should take chances and get out when the weather or roads are bad, I'm saying there are other ways to continue to feel connected, via phone calls, video chats, email, snail mail, drop-shipping care packages to friends, the possibilities are near endless. Bottom-line, be there for each other, stay connected and engaged with your community, don't wait for someone to reach out to you, "Be the One" for someone else.

The American Legion's Be the One mission to prevent Veteran Suicide started in late 2020. As time has passed more and more resources have become available at [betheone.org/resources](https://www.betheone.org/resources) including training, event planning assistance, and other media and brochures. Those days that are not favorable to getting out and about are perfect for participating in the online training. The more you know the more you can help someone in need, and that is true for veterans and civilians alike.

Don't let the cooler weather and shorter days slow you down. Unfortunately, I have a schedule conflict and will not be able to help with the Turkey run on November 22nd this year. But I will see you at Operation North Pole on December 6th and the Department Holiday Party in Hutchinson on December 13th. Thank you for all you do for the SAL and for your communities.

For God and Country,

Matthew Krupco

Kansas Detachment Commander

Message from the Detachment Vice Commander

Dear Fellow Sons,

Another month has passed and it's time to start writing. Last month the Detachment worked itself into sitting in 4th place in the midwest region with 2398 members renewed with a total of 39.75 percent for yearly totals - GREAT JOB FOR ALL YOUR HELP GETTING US TO THIS POINT. So for all of you that don't know, National sets our goals throughout the year. The goal for the month of November is 35% by the 15th, and we have already reached that goal. Let's set our goals to be at 50 percent by December 1st. I am positive we can reach that goal at the rate we are going. We need all your help in reaching a 100 percent goal this year. I have been busy working the membership roster (expired members) and have sent out about a thousand emails, and within the next couple of weeks about 2,100 reminder mailings will be going out to the rest of those expired members. Lets all remember who earned our eligibility to this great organization and keep it moving forward.



Remember for you that are planning on going to the Big Red One Turkey Run you need to get approval to get on base. Here is the link <http://pass.aie.army.mil>

Wishing everyone a happy holiday and safe travels,

Your Detachment Vice Commander / Membership Chairman

Michael Weber

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620-430-0651

Message from the Detachment Adjutant

Big Red One Turkey Run: As I prepare this article the government shutdown is still going on and could have impacts for the Turkey Run if it continues. However, in talking with Barry Maples, ALR Department Chairman it appears that the Turkey Run will go on as scheduled. Keep an eye on the Detachment SAL and Department ALR Facebook page, SALKansas.org, or KansasALR.com for more information as it becomes available.



Legislative Impact: *You are helping to make a difference in promoting legislation to help our Veterans!* Check out the numbers from VoterVoice.net:

October Department VoterVoice Activity		
Kansas	2124	10.2%
Wisconsin	1641	7.9%
New York	1259	6.1%
Florida	1209	5.8%
Tennessee	1108	5.3%
Texas	808	3.9%
California	679	3.3%
Ohio	677	3.3%
Pennsylvania	675	3.3%
Virginia	631	3.0%

In October, a total of 20,731 messages were sent nationwide. Of those, Kansas took the top spot again with 2,124 messages sent, or 10.2% of the overall total - nearly 500 more than the #2 Department!

Let's register even more Sons in Kansas to increase the number of voices advocating for Veterans on the Hill! Go to <https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/Register>

Pay Our Troops!

The American Legion is asking the American Legion Family to contact Congress to urge them to pass the **Pay Our Troops Act!** This legislation ensures that members of the Armed Services will be paid in the event of a government shutdown.

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.

Government Shutdown Information: (Excerpted from the American Legion Legislative Weekly)

The American Legion's Government Affairs office is working diligently to keep the Legion Family updated on news related to the government shutdown, which has been in effect since October 1. The most recent vote in the Senate on 10/22 failed 54-46.

On October 14th, The American Legion participated in a joint press conference with other MSO/VSOs to call on Congress to open government and pass the Pay Our Troops Act. You can watch Executive Director Mario Marquez's remarks [here](#).

Click [here](#) to watch National Commander Dan Wiley discuss the impact of the shutdown.

You can visit the Department of Veterans Affairs website to view the VA contingency plan [here](#). It breaks down what services are impacted by the shutdown, as well as what services are operating as normal.



VETERANS FIELD GUIDE TO GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN



The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is committed to provide quality, consistent care and services to Veterans, families, Caregivers, and Survivors. VA's mission allows no exception to this standard even when operations are limited by the absence of appropriations (commonly known as a "Government shutdown").



SERVICES TO VETERANS NOT IMPACTED:

-  VA Medical Centers, Outpatient Clinics, and Vet Centers will be open as usual and providing all services.
-  VA benefits will continue to be processed and delivered, including compensation, pension, education, and housing benefits.
-  Burials will continue at VA national cemeteries. Applications for headstones, markers, and burial benefits processing will continue.
-  The Board of Veterans' Appeals will continue decisions on Veterans' cases.
-  Call Centers: VA's primary call center (1-800-MyVA411) and the Veterans Crisis Line (Dial 988, Press 1) will remain open 24/7.
-  Suicide prevention programs, homelessness services, and caregiver support will continue.



SERVICES TO VETERANS IMPACTED:

-  VA will cease providing transition program assistance and career counseling.
-  Call Centers: VA's GI Bill (1-888-GIBILL-1) and National Cemetery Applicant Assistance (1-800-697-6947) hotlines will be closed.
-  VA benefits regional offices will be closed.
-  Public Affairs and outreach to Veterans will cease, including social media, VetResources emails, and responses to press inquiries.
-  No grounds maintenance or placement of permanent headstones at VA cemeteries.
-  Applications for pre-need burial at VA cemeteries will not be processed.
-  No printing of new Presidential Memorial Certificates.
-  No outreach to state, county, tribal, municipal, faith-based, and community-based partners by VA Central Office.



HAVE A QUESTION? CALL US!

The one number all Veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors can use to access VA resources 24 hours-a-day, 365 days-a-year.

1-800-MYVA411 (1-800-698-2411)

In the event of a prolonged shutdown, VA will continue to review and update its plan in conjunction with the applicable legal requirements and circumstances. Please visit www.whitehouse.gov/omb/ or www.VA.gov for updated information.



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Download the VA Welcome Kit www.va.gov/welcome-kit/
Subscribe to #VetResources www.va.gov/vetresources/
Veterans Crisis Line: Dial 988, then Press 1
Call 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411) or visit <https://www.va.gov/contact-us/>

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

Chris Krueger

Detachment Adjutant

Message from Finance Officer Michael Saindon,

Did you know every year the Detachment of Kansas gives out five - \$500 scholarships and 1 - \$1,000 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 Rick Miller, SALute Editor

The first half of this membership year has flown by. Please take a moment and share what is going on in your Squadron or District as it might spring some new ideas for others.

Recently we had a great Detachment Executive Board meeting in Hutchinson. On top of keeping up with some of the latest business items we also got to celebrate some awesome awards earned across the Detachment. One of the finest was earned by our Detachment Historian Josiah Weakly. He was able to present a memory book to the PDC Jim Gallentine. In return Josiah was recognized for his National Award winning History book.



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