



SALUTE

A Detachment of Kansas Newsletter

March 2026



HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICAN LEGION



Message from the Detachment Commander

HELLO KANSAS SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION!!!

Squadron and District elections are just around the corner. I want to thank everyone that served in a leadership position this past year. The success of the SAL is largely due to your excellent leadership and faithfulness to the missions of our organization. Please remember that even when someone else has been elected to fill your current position your job is still not done, you should be continuing to mentor and train your successor. An effective turnover of leadership is imperative to our continued success.



Thank you in advance to those being elected to new leadership roles. I know you will bring fresh ideas for success in your squadrons and districts and I look forward to the changes and advancements you will bring. I caution you in making too many changes all at once, tradition is important too and previous leadership will be a great resource for you. However, don't let the saying, "This is how we have always done it." stop you from expanding the horizons of our organization.

My work schedule over the next few months is expected to include a lot of Saturdays. I hope to make it to as many district conventions as I can but if I don't make it to yours, know that I would rather be with you than at work! I hope to see you all at Detachment Convention May 29-31, 2026. We presented a number of "Get one for the Legion" polos at Mid-winter Forum in Dodge City and I hope to have many more of them to present at Convention so keep up the good work.

For God and Country,
Matthew Krupco
Kansas Detachment Commander

Message from the Detachment Vice Commander

Dear Fellow Sons

I would like to congratulate all the squadrons that have reached their 100 percent goals. The detachment of Kansas currently has 4883 members renewed out of 6032 this puts us at 80.95 percent of our goal of 100 percent. Our 2026 renewal percentage is only 74.39 percent. We are falling short of renewal goals. We all need to reach out to all members to see what we can do to assist them to get renewed. I was encouraged to read the national constitution by laws for the sons. I pulled an article and section from the by laws for everyone's information on where members that have not paid as of January 1st and their privileges of the Sons of the American Legion. We all need to start the final push to make our 100 percent goal to show our support for our national commander Dan Wiley of Kansas. Let's BE THE ONE



Here is a section I pulled from the national bylaws for your info.

Section 4. A member whose dues for the current year have not been paid by January 1st shall be classed as delinquent. If their dues are paid on or before February 1st, the member shall be automatically reinstated. If the member is still delinquent after February 1st, the member shall be suspended from all 13 Sons of The American Legion National Constitution and By-Laws privileges. If the member is still under such suspension on June 1st of such year, their membership in the American Legion shall be forfeited. A member so suspended or whose membership has been so forfeited may be reinstated to active membership in good standing by a vote of the Squadron and payment of current dues for the year in which the reinstatement occurs; however, the Squadrons, Detachments, and the National Organization may waive the provisions hereof, upon payment of dues for the year in which reinstatement occurs, with reference to former members who have been prevented from the payment of dues by reason of active military service.

Your Detachment Vice Commander
Michael Weber
spidercreek220@gmail.com

Message from Finance Officer Michael Saindon,

Detachment of Kansas Sons the American Legion scholarship committee would like to thank every member that helped us with getting the information out on the scholarships. We offer five \$500 scholarships and one \$1000 scholarship. This year our applications grew from 8 applications in 2025 to 10 applications in 2026, that has to do with the effort that each one of you have put in on getting the word out. There have been years that we received zero applications for scholarships, so this is a great improvement thank you so much for the work you've done.



Michael Saindon
Detachment Scholarship Chairman

Membership Heroes

Congratulations to all of the 90% and above Squadrons.

Two Districts are at 90% or above - District 4 is 101.89% and District 10 is at 91.78%

Squadron	City	Pct	Sqdn	City	Pct
KS-0006	Atchison	100.00	KS-0174	Ellsworth	100.00
KS-0044	Holton	92.86	KS-0200	Hollyrood	100.00
KS-0142	Perry	130.43	KS-0267	Lucas	97.30
KS-0225	Ozawkie	90.72	KS-0334	Dorrance	92.21
KS-0025	Fort Scott	108.33	KS-0059	McCracken Medicine	95.12
KS-0153	Olathe	103.70	KS-0069	Lodge	102.56
KS-0350	Spring Hill	100.00	KS-0131	Stafford	91.67
KS-0385	Moran	90.63	KS-0241	Geneseo	102.38
KS-0407	Lenexa	92.31	KS-0047	Dodge City	113.89
KS-0018	Arkansas City	102.70	KS-0063	Norton	108.33
KS-0035	Cherokee	100.00	KS-0173	Hays	100.00
KS-0170	Chanute	93.86	KS-0281	Logan	91.67
KS-0005	Emporia	147.83	KS-0301	Grainfield	100.00
KS-0013	Yates Center	131.58	KS-0321	Selden	100.00
KS-0095	Peabody	91.43	KS-0351	Jennings	100.00
KS-0125	Lyndon	127.27	KS-0357	Agra	100.00
KS-0296	Gridley	90.91	KS-0021	Seneca	94.03
KS-0323	Lebo (New)	100.00	KS-0181	Frankfort	96.88
KS-0024	McPherson	90.06	KS-0235	Greenleaf	102.50
KS-0065	Whitewater	93.33	KS-0237	Linn	100.00
KS-0090	Wellington	106.67	KS-0306	Hanover	100.00
KS-0136	Mulvane	95.24	KS-0012	Herington	125.00
KS-0408	Derby-Haysville	91.91	KS-0032	Alma	94.44
KS-0099	Russell	94.12	KS-0039	Abilene	104.55
KS-0109	Natoma	130.00	KS-0101	Clay Center	100.00
			KS-0121	Council Grove	110.00

Message from the Detachment Chaplain

Please pray with me,

Dear Lord, as we come to you today in prayer. Let us be forever thankful for the blessing you bestow on us, every second of every day.

Let us pray for the men, women and K-9's that keep our country safe and free.

We ask your blessing on their families and help them through the lonely times.

Most of all Lord, let us be thankful for your son Jesus Christ, our savior, as it is his name we come to you in prayer. Amen

Pastor Gregg Thompson
S.A.L. Chaplain Detachment of Kansas

Message from the Detachment Adjutant

Greetings, Kansas Sons!

A mixed report on Veteran suicide: (Excerpted from Legion.org)

A recently released National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report notes that veterans experiencing mental health, substance use or homelessness, and those with easy access to firearms were at a higher risk of suicide.

The recently released 2025 U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' [National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report](#) showed that while the total number of veterans who died by suicide slightly reduced from 2022 to 2023, the overall rate of veteran suicides increased over that period.

From 2022 to 2023 – the most recent year for which data is available – suicides among veterans dropped from 6,442 to 6,398 suicides. And the average number of veteran suicides per day fell slightly, to 17.5 in 2023 from 17.6 in 2022.

However, the rate of suicides per 100,000 veterans rose during the same period in both the male and female population. For women, the rate rose from 13.7 to 13.9, and for men, it rose from 37.3 to 37.8.

The report also showed that 61 percent of veterans who died by suicide in 2023 were not receiving VA health care in the last year of their life. For veterans receiving VHA in the previous year or year of their suicide, the suicide rate dropped from 40 percent to 39 percent from 2022 to 2023.

“Veteran suicide has been a scourge on our nation for far too long,” VA Secretary Doug Collins said in a press release. “Most veterans who die by suicide were not in recent VA care, so making it easier for those who have worn the uniform to access the VA benefits they have earned is key.”

Also noted in the report is that suicide rates are elevated for veterans aged 18 to 34 years, and those with certain risk characteristics. Those include:



- **Mental Health Issues or Substance Use:** Among veterans in VHA care who died from suicide in 2023, 60.9 percent had a VHA mental health or substance use disorder diagnosis, while 39.1 percent did not.
- **Head Trauma/Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI):** Research shows increased suicide ideation, attempt and death rates among people who have experienced head trauma. In each year from 2001-23, suicide rates for veterans in VHA care were elevated for those with a TBI. In 2023, the suicide rate was 77.6 per 100,000 for those with a recent diagnosis of TBI, which was 94.3% higher than for those without a diagnosis.
- **Unsecured Firearms:** Unsecured firearms in the home increase the risk of suicide death. In 2023, firearms were involved in 73.3 percent of veteran deaths by suicide, compared to 52.9 percent of suicides of non-veteran U.S. adults.
- **Homelessness:** In 2023, the suicide rate among veterans in VHA care with diagnoses of homelessness was 146 percent higher than for those without diagnoses of homelessness.

From American Legion National Commander Dan Wiley: In a recent visit to South Carolina, Kansas' own American Legion National Commander Dan Wiley addressed a joint session of the state legislature. His message centered around "Winning the War Within". "Our main goal is to reduce the stigma associated with mental health, so people reach out and get the help that they need and deserve", Wiley said. He also highlighted the American Legion's **Be The One** mission. "We call it Be the One, be the one to make a difference is our primary mission at the national level. It is our number one concern. We have partnered with Columbia University on something called the Columbia protocol to basically educate people about mental health issues and encourage people to reach out to our veterans to let them know it's ok not to be ok," he added.

*The American Legion's **Be the One** veteran suicide prevention mission seeks to reduce the stigma associated with mental health treatment, providing free suicide prevention training and empowering everyone to take appropriate action when a veteran or servicemember may be at risk. Learn more or signup for one of our virtual Be the One training sessions at betheone.org.*

Grassroots Support:

This month, the American Legion is urging all to continue contacting your elected representatives to pass The Major Richard Star Act. This legislation would ensure that combat-injured retirees can receive both their Department of Defense retirement pay and the disability compensation earned through their sacrifices.

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.

Once again, Kansas led the way in contacting our elected representatives in Congress – keep up the good work!

TOP GRASSROOTS DEPARTMENTS

Kansas	173
Tennessee	168
Wisconsin	128

Upcoming events:

- Department Oratorical Contest - 7 Mar 2026 - Post 4 Wichita
- National Commander's In-state Homecoming - 28 March 2026 - Post 153 Olathe
- District 1 Convention – 11 April - Topeka Post 400
- District 2 Convention – 14 March - Gardner Post 19
- District 3 Convention – 13-15 March - Independence Post 139
- District 4 Convention – 14 March - Hillsboro Post 366
- District 5 Convention – 21 March - McPherson Post 24
- 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
- American Legion Family Day – 25 April – Various Posts
- 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

Message from Rick Miller, SALute Editor

Find out when reports are due and copies to fill out at <https://salkansas.org/>.

As we are getting closer to the end of the membership year start reaching out and making sure all of your members you haven't seen in a while are doing okay.

It is also time for house cleaning, make sure you are gathering up all your accomplishments and stats to fill out the Consolidated Squadron Report, then make sure you share those numbers with the Post for their report.

And most of all start planning for the coming year. It is going to be HUGE this year as we have so many events this spring and summer:

- March 15th – American Legion Birthday
- May 25th – Memorial Day
- June 14th – Flag Day
- July 4th – 250th Birthday of the United States
- September 7th – Labor Day
- September 15th – SAL Birthday

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



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