



# SALUTE

A Detachment of Kansas Newsletter

**Date: April 2025**



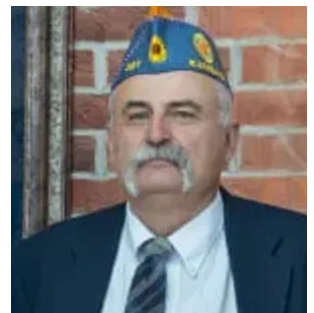
## Message from the Detachment Commander

Greetings Kansas Sons of the American Legion!

This is a busy time of year with important meetings, conventions, reports to be turned in, and events to be organized and attended. While we do all the things we need to do, we should never forget what we are all about. S.A.L. National Commander Joseph Navarrete's slogan for his term is "Honoring our heritage" – this is something that we should all take to heart as we work for the good of the American Legion Family!

Memorial Day will soon be upon us - some of our veterans and their families go through some tough times this time of year, and so please be doing those "Buddy Checks" and "Be The One"!

We are getting down to crunch time for our membership year - so far, we are meeting our goals, but we need to keep pushing to hit the 100% goal. Membership boils down to work - contacting



our members - making those phone calls and renewing relationships. We are strong when our membership is strong!

Renewal online is available, and it is easy! Go to <https://www.legion.org/sons> and hit the Renew button.

For God and Country,

Jim Gallentine

Kansas Detachment Commander

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### Message from the Detachment Vice Commander

HELLO KANSAS SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION!!!!

Spring is here, crappies are biting, grass is growing, flowers are blooming, cows are calving (for Dan Wiley), and Byron is turning one! My weekends are filled with great people and District Conventions. I have already visited Districts 4, 5, and 7. Emporia, Mcpherson, and Ellinwood did an amazing job. The food was fantastic, I think I gained 10 pounds. I plan to attend Districts 1,8, and 10 and look forward to seeing you there! I look forward to working with all the new District leadership.



At Mid-Winter-Forum the Detachment created a committee tasked with developing a plan to manage underachieving and goose egg Squadrons. Due to my position as Vice-Commander I was asked to serve on this committee. The committee has communicated with leaders from Nebraska, Missouri, and Iowa to see what they have been doing. We have decided on a plan based on our research and several lengthy debates. Most of these Squadrons suffer from a lack of leadership and have had issues for years. These Squadrons and their sponsoring Post have received letters of possible charter suspension or even revocation. Let me be honest, this is something I don't want to see. I recommend that these squadrons and post leadership work together to build a program with the strength of the 4 pillars of the American Legion. If your Squadron received one of these letters and have questions or want to discuss it, don't hesitate to reach out, I would be happy to help in any way I can.

The next National Membership goal is 90% by April 9<sup>th</sup>. Kansas is at 84% on March 28! This is the time of year when membership starts to slow. Don't give up, you are all doing an amazing job! Maybe it is time to think outside the box and revitalize your membership team. Have breakfast or lunch together and do some buddy checks with the members that haven't renewed. It would be fantastic if all our squadrons were on the list below!

Congratulations to the following squadrons for reaching 100% membership!

Atchison #6

Perry #142

Silver Lake #160

Topeka #421

Fort Scott #25

Paola #156

Kansas City #213	Blue Mound #279	Winfield #10
Cherokee #35	Lyndon #125	Whitewater #65
Marquette #253	Wichita #273	Derby-Haysville #408
Kensington #166	Ellsworth #174	Dorrance #334
McCraken #59	Medicine Lodge #69	Sterling #128
Great Bend #180	Burdett #280	Hoisington #286
Garden City #9	Dodge City #47	Sublette #205
Colby #363	Marysville #163	Frankfort #181
Linn #237		

31 Squadrons at 100% or better! Keep it going I love adding to this list. As always if you need anything I am willing to help.

Your Detachment Vice-Commander  
Matthew Krupco  
620-224-7355  
[mwksal@outlook.com](mailto:mwksal@outlook.com)

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### Message from the Detachment Adjutant

Greetings, Kansas Sons!



### Complete and return the Squadron Data Report

**Squadron Officers:** The Squadron Data Reports (SDR) have been mailed to the address on file at MyLegion.org. **They are due back to Department by April 15, 2025.**

Usually the notification of Post/Squadron Commander & Adjutants form, along with the Consolidated Squadron Reports are mailed at the same time however, National is having printing delays. The Notification of Officers and the Consolidated Squadron Report will be mailed to the Squadrons as soon as they are received from National.

***Completing and returning the SDR takes only a few minutes and is essential to online renewals being credited properly.***

## Leadership College Survey

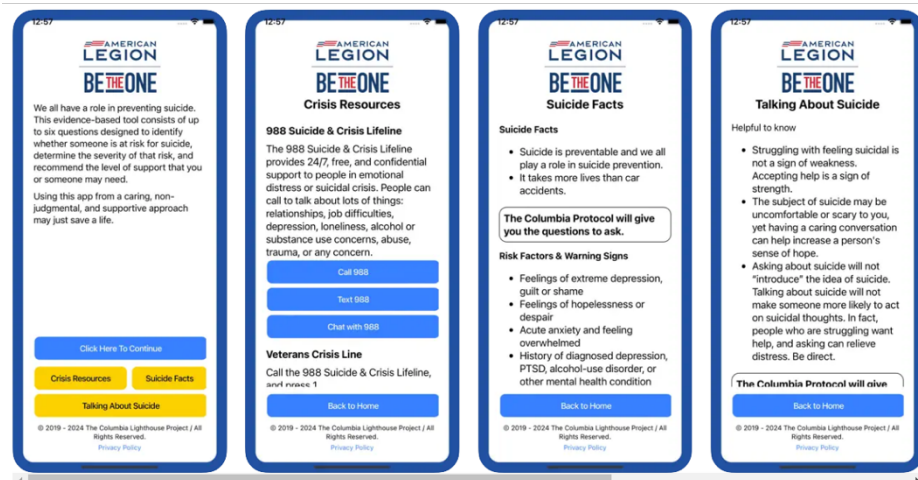
Below is a link for a survey regarding Leadership College...please take the time to fill out the survey, and please forward it to others in your squadron.

Please encourage anyone who has thought about or is thinking about going to American Legion Leadership College to complete it. The Survey is for everyone not just officers.

The survey closes at midnight on April 11th.

[https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_direHy2Xjz4oojs](https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_direHy2Xjz4oojs)

## Be the One app now available to assist veterans in crisis, those around them



The Be the One app, developed by Columbia University and tailored to The American Legion's [Be the One](#) veteran suicide prevention mission, is available via both [Apple](#) and [Google](#). The app uses the Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS), the most evidence-supported tool of its kind. It asks a simple series of questions that anyone can use anywhere to help prevent suicide.

I've downloaded the app and tried it out. It's very easy to use and provides information and options to help prevent suicide.

Columbia Lighthouse Project's Wendy Lakso, who provides Be the One training, encouraged Legion Family members to download the app but said it is a work in progress. "We're going to refine this a little bit more. We can change these questions," she said. "We may drill down a little bit more and say, 'Are you a spouse, are you whatever?' The issue is we don't want to ask too many questions. Because if you're in a situation where you need to get someone help immediately, you're not going to sit and answer 10 questions. We have to try to streamline as best as we can."

Lakso said one of the key aspects of the app is its privacy. "I don't know who you are. I don't have your phone number. I don't know any of that on this app," she said. "That's important to you for you to know as a veteran. I can't track you. All I can know is what location you're in by ZIP code."

The app also provides links to local resources, facts about suicide and hints to talking about suicide.

Tony Cross, the Legion's Be the One program manager, stressed the value of the first resource. "What's really helpful about that app is wherever you're at, it will give you some details about the area you probably don't even know," Cross said. "A lot of times I'll ask a (Legion) post, 'Do you know what's around you?' People don't. That is an incredible app."

**CALL FOR ANNUAL CONVENTION  
OF  
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DETACHMENT OF KANSAS**

**The Annual Detachment Convention of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Kansas, is hereby called, and in conformity with the action of the Detachment Executive Committee, fixing the time and place of this Convention, Saturday, May 31, 2025 at the Ramada Hotel and Convention Center, 420 SE 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Topeka, Kansas, beginning at ~9:30 a.m.**

**The Convention is called for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing year, and for the transaction of such other business as may be brought before it.**

**Representation at the Convention shall be by Squadrons, and in accordance with the provisions of the Detachment Constitution and By-Laws.**

**"Each Squadron shall have representation at the Detachment Convention on the basis of two delegates from each Squadron composed of ten members, and one additional delegate for each additional ten members or major fraction thereof, whose current dues have been received at Department Headquarters thirty (30) days prior to Detachment Convention, and to one alternate for each delegate." All Delegates and Alternates must be duly registered for the Convention.**

**In addition to the above, Past Detachment Commanders are delegates at large to the Detachment Convention, with vote, whose vote shall be exercised with their respective Squadron, provided they are registered for the Convention and present.**

**Each Squadron is entitled to elect a number of alternates equal to the number of delegates to which such Squadron is entitled. Alternates will have the power to vote only in the absence of their Squadron's delegates.**

Two meetings of the Detachment Executive Committee are hereby called. A Pre-Convention DEC meeting will be held Friday May 31, at 4:00 pm in the Madison Room for the purpose of considering Squadrons to be recommended for Charter Revocation to the American Legion Department Executive Committee. A Post-Convention DEC meeting will be held at the close of the Detachment Convention.

All Detachment Officers, Committee Chairmen, & District Commanders are expected to attend the Detachment Convention.

S.A.L. Registration will be available from 1pm to 6pm, Friday, May 31, and Saturday, June 1, 2024 from 7:30am – 12pm in the Ramada Hotel.

Be sure to tell them you are a S.A.L. Delegate when you register.

Thanks for all you do!

Chris Krueger

Detachment Adjutant

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### Message from the Detachment Finance Officer



#### Upcoming dates and events

- May 30-June 1, 2025 Department Convention - Ramada Hotel, 420 SE 6th St, Topeka
- June 1-7, 2025 Boys State
- June 1-6, 2025 Girls State
- June 6-8, 2025 American Legion Leadership College - Concordia, Ks
- June 15-20, 2025 Cadet Law
- June 20-22, 2025 10th Annual Kansas Legacy Run - Info available on [www.kansasalr.com](http://www.kansasalr.com)

#### **2025 Kansas District Conventions:**

April 5, 2025

- District 1....Atchison Post 6

- District 11....Manhattan Post 17

April 12,2025

- District 9,,,,Hays Post 173

- District 8....Dodge City 47

April 26,2025

- District 6....Russell Post 99

- District 10....Seneca Post21

Mike Saindon

Scholarship Charman

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### **Message from Detachment Master At Arms Michael Weber**

Greeting Kansas Sons,

I would like to thank District 3 for a great day for discussion at District 3 convention. I would like to thank Ronnie and Squadron 18 for all they do.

I would like to introduce myself to my fellow Kansas Sons of the American Legion. I am Michael Weber for Dodge City Squadron 47. I earned my eligibility from my grandfather who served in WW II in northern France. While serving, he was honored with a good conduct and purple heart medals. I am seeking the office of Detachment of Kansas Vice Commander in Topeka at convention May 30-June 1 2025. I am asking for your support in this next step to honor my grandfather's service to this great nation.

Your Detachment Master at Arms

Michael Weber

620-430-0651

[spidercreek220@gmail.com](mailto:spidercreek220@gmail.com)

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### **Message from the Detachment Public Relations Chairman**

My fourth and final installment in the Four Pillars series is Children and Youth. When the founders of the American Legion returned from war, they knew one of the biggest needs the country would have is the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual wellbeing of America's youth. This desire to help the orphans of war, and all other children grew into a driving force of the organization. Since almost the beginning of our existence the Sons of the American Legion have taken that mission to heart. We have historically been the largest supporters and donors to what was the Child Welfare Foundation, transformed in 2025 to the Child Wellbeing Foundation. This is so much more than the Oratorical, Baseball, Scouting and other programs under our Americanism Pillar. To learn more please go to <https://www.legion.org/advocacy/youth-support> to learn more about all our Youth Support programs and the amazing good they do.

Rick Miller

Detachment Public Relations Committee Chairman