



SALUTE

A Detachment of Kansas Newsletter

Date: June 2025



Message from the Detachment Commander

Greetings Kansas Sons of the American Legion!

The month of June is a busy time with events and meetings for our Legion Family. As we go about our activities, let us always be mindful of the veterans that paid the price for our freedom and our way of life in this great country.

Buddy Checks and Be The One are so very important. Have you called someone today? Have you followed up on a Legion Family member that needs someone to talk to? We are family, and heart-felt caring for each other is something we need to actively do. I encourage you to make that phone call or contact today. That one phone call could make all the difference. Yes, YOU can be the One!

As I write this, my time as SAL Detachment Commander for Kansas is drawing to a close. It has been a humble honor to serve as commander of this great detachment. Much more importantly, it is the members and leadership at all levels of this organization that make things happen, and achieve the goals of this organization. It is this teamwork that we can all be proud of!



Jim Gallentine

Newest Past Detachment of Kansas Commander

For God and Country

Message from the newly elected Detachment Commander

HELLO KANSAS SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION!!!

Well...If you are reading this you must have elected me as your Detachment Commander. Thank you for having the faith in me to perform this duty, I will do my best to meet and exceed your expectations.

I'm looking forward to representing us at events across the State over the next year. If work allows, I plan to attend Legion night at Boy's State on June 4th and maybe even swing by Cadet Law sometime the following week. Any member is welcome to visit these programs and learn more about them, if you have an interest in doing so, feel free to reach out, we have to let staff know to expect you. I have always found that it is easier to recruit a youth to attend one of these programs if you know a little about them, how better to learn than to visit.

This year's Kansas Legacy Run will start at Salina Post 62 on June 20th and end at Lindsborg Post 140 on June 22nd. It includes stops at 7 Legion Post, the Topeka VA Hospital to visit with the Veterans there, and special wreath laying ceremonies at the Leavenworth National Cemetery, Fort Riley Cemetery, and the Kansas Veterans Cemetery, where we will lay a wreath at Roger Beckley's grave. The ride will benefit the Veterans and Children's Foundation (VCF) (A Foundation of Hope). For more information on the ride visit www.kansasalr.com, for more information on VCF visit www.legion.org/vcf. We can accomplish so much more as an organization if we work together, please, if you have the availability, meet the Legacy Run at one of it's stops and support the Legion Riders.

I am hoping the Detachment will be able to start a few new initiatives to recognize the hard work each of you put in within your communities and our organization. Plans for them are already in the works and we will be putting information out about them as soon as the details are ironed out, so stay tuned!

As the outgoing Vice-Commander I will give one last membership update, the next one will be from your new Vice-Commander! Thank you again for trusting me to serve as your Vice-Commander and now Commander. The next National Membership goal is 105% by July 22nd. Kansas is at 91.97% on May 28!

Congratulations to the following squadrons for reaching 100% membership!

Atchison #6	Rossville #31	Perry #142
Holton #44	Silver Lake #160	Topeka #421
Gardner #19	Fort Scott #25	Olathe #153
Paola #156	Kansas City #199	Kansas City #213



Blue Mound #279	Overland Park #370	Lenexa #407
Winfield #10	Arkansas City #18	Cherokee #35
Erie #102	Chanute #170	Lyndon #125
Whitewater #65	Wellington #90	Marquette #253
Sedgwick #268	Wichita #273	Derby-Haysville #408
Concordia #76	Kensington #166	Ellsworth #174
Dorrance #334	McCraken #59	Medicine Lodge #69
Pratt #86	Isabel #98	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	Manhattan #17	Wamego #172
Chapman #240		

49 Squadrons at 100% or better! Keep it going. As always if you need anything I am willing to help.

Your Detachment Commander

Matthew Krupco

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Message from the Detachment Vice Commander

Commander, fellow Sons, and distinguished members of the American Legion Family,

I am truly honored and humbled to accept the position of Vice-Commander of the Detachment of Kansas for the 2025–2026 membership year.

First and foremost, I want to thank each and every one of you for placing your trust in me. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to continue serving this organization that means so much—not only to me but to my family and the communities we support.

The Sons of The American Legion has always stood for service, patriotism, and honoring the legacy of those who have worn the uniform. My commitment to those values remains stronger than ever, and I look forward to working side by side with our leadership, our squadrons, and each member to grow our impact across the state.

I would also like to recognize the mentors and fellow officers who have guided and supported me throughout my journey—from Squadron Commander to District Commander, to now this new role. Your encouragement and example have helped shape the leader I strive to be.

Together, let's continue to strengthen our programs, engage new members, and ensure that our mission thrives for future generations.

Thank you again for this incredible honor. I'm ready to get to work.

Your Detachment Vice Commander,

Michael Weber

Message from the Detachment Adjutant

Greetings, Kansas Sons!

This month, I'm urging everyone to support the Major Richard Star Act. Here's more information on it, from the American Legion Advocacy Alert:

We need your support to ensure the Major Richard Star Act has support in the House and Senate!



Currently, **combat-injured veterans face a reduction in their retirement pay** for every dollar of disability compensation they receive.

The Major Richard Star Act aims to rectify this by allowing combat-injured veterans to receive both their earned retirement pay and disability compensation without offset.

Your action in advancing this crucial legislation is essential and greatly appreciated. Contact your legislator today by going to <https://www.votervoice.net>!

The 10th Annual Kansas Legacy Run begins June 20:

The back roads of north central and northeast Kansas will be filled with the sound of motorcycles from June 20-22 as the Kansas Legacy Run rolls through. The Run will visit eight Legion Posts in large and small towns, from Manhattan's beautiful Post 17 to Rossville's vibrant and eclectic Post 31.

We will lay a wreath honoring local veterans and KIA's at six very different memorials, from the simple granite marker honoring Camillus O'Grady, a young man from Greenleaf who was killed aboard the USS Oklahoma during the Pearl Harbor attack, to the breathtaking memorials at Wamego and Washington County.

This year will include a first, as the Run will go on to Fort Riley to lay a wreath at the base cemetery. This is a great honor for us to be able to go on base! (note that riders must have helmets, long sleeve shirts, pants, over the ankle boots and full finger gloves to go on base.)

Posts in Greenleaf and Topeka will provide lunch on Friday and Saturday, and the Run will conclude at the beautifully renovated Post 140 in Lindsborg.

Registration is still open for SAL, Auxiliary and Legion members and their passengers, as well as supporters at <https://kansasalr.com> – we hope you join us for this momentous Run!

Again this year, the funds raised on the Kansas Legacy Run will benefit the American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation (VCF). The VCF delivers needed aid for military and veteran parents who face unexpected financial hardships that threaten the stability of their homes. These one-time Temporary Financial Assistance grants are used to cover housing, utilities, food and other basic needs for families with minor children at home. The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation also trains the organization's department and post-level accredited veteran service officers who are continuously working more than 750,000 benefits claims for disabled veterans and their families, free of charge.

P.S. We have a new high in sponsor donations – join us at the end of the Run to find out how much!

Thanks for all you do!

Chris Krueger

Detachment Adjutant

Message from the Detachment Finance Officer



Hello Kansas Sons of the American Legion,

We are right on track to meet our budget for this year and are set to have a strong budget approved for next year when the Legion DEC convenes in Concordia at the Kansas American Legion Leadership College. One of the highlights will be an exciting new recruiting award for aimed at the SAL assisting the Legion in membership, which you all know builds the pool for our own membership. More to come next month.

Mike Saindon

Scholarship Charman

June is full of a lot of change. One of the biggest is new leadership for the coming year.

Detachment Commander	Matthew Krupco
Detachment Vice Commander	Michael Weber
Detachment Adjutant	Chris Krueger
Detachment Finance Officer	Mike Saindon
Detachment Masters at Arms	Jeff Kerns
	Dan McDowell

We also have a great list of committee chairs to help keep programs running. If you want to help with any of these or even join the committees, here is your team.

Finance	Mike Saindon
Membership	Michael Weber
Public Relations	Rick Miller
Constitution and bylaws	Terry Harris
Children and youth	Doug Evans
Community Service	Greg Thompson
Scholarships	Mike Saindon
Resolutions	Terry Harris
Americanism	Gerald Hammerschmidt
VA&R	Jeff Kerns
Legislative	Jeff Kerns
Member Training	Rick Miller

As we ramp up for National convention also be on the look out for any of these officers, as they can get you one of our cool “Run Toto Run” fundraising pins to wear. A little SAL flair.

Fraternally yours,

Rick Miller