



# SALUTE

July 2020

## A Detachment of Kansas Newsletter

Greetings Team Kansas,

I've taken a bit of time recently to realize how quickly 2 years can fly by. I was elected your Detachment Commander 2 years ago and what a ride it has been. I have had the honor of getting to know a lot of our members around the state. I have been privileged to be able to help many of you start your Squadrons and then sit back and watch them grow. I've been invited to many different fund raisers, food events, and just plain good times at many American Legion Posts. I've had the honor of representing you in Indianapolis, Indiana. I've been able to attend not only The Eisenhower Pilgrimage, but the Truman and Lincoln Pilgrimage as well. I was honored to represent the Detachment of Kansas at the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the St. Louis Caucus that finalized the establishment of The American Legion. It has been such an honor to serve as your Detachment Commander.

I have also been privileged to have served with some of the best American Legion members in the State of Kansas. A special shout out goes to my very good friend Dan Wiley. It has been a lot of fun serving with you my friend. I hope we can continue to help lead the way. I have also had many great Sons of The American Legion members helping to guide me on my journey. We've had great officers during my tenure that have done everything they can to help our Detachment succeed. I would also like to thank each and every member for all of your hard work. The job we do for our Veterans is remarkable to say the least. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

Please remember, we still have a ways to go to reach our membership goal. Please, don't forget those that haven't renewed. I'm sure you could contact them and get them back onboard. We need them, as I'm sure your Squadron needs them.

In closing, please come to our Detachment Convention on August 1<sup>st</sup> at the Downtown Ramada Inn in Topeka, Ks. This will give you the opportunity to elect our new officers and maintain the course of our organization. Hope to see many of you there.

This isn't a good bye. I will just see you down the road.

Until Next Time, "Always Remember the Mission"

***Terry Harris***

Commander, Detachment of Kansas 2018-2020  
[Flstfi\\_2005@hotmail.com](mailto:Flstfi_2005@hotmail.com)

# *Notes from the Detachment Vice-Commander And Membership Chairman*

Greetings Team Kansas,

This will be my last communication for June. In 4 weeks, we'll be meeting in Topeka to hold our Convention and elect the Officers for the upcoming membership year 2020-2021. I hope we generate a strong attendance as this is you the members opportunity to have your voices heard in the selection of Officers and other matters brought forward during the Convention. I encourage any member interested in taking on a leadership position at any level of our American Legion Family to step up and let it be known. We're in need of new thoughts and ideas to maintain our growth in membership and in the programs we support.

Thanks to dedicated members continuing to work on membership we managed to increase membership by 100 in the month of June under very restricted circumstances. Truly amazing, all deserve a hearty Thank You!!! As a Team we have achieved a 93.35% level. We still have time to continue to the 100% goal to break the cycle started the past few years. As we start into the new membership drive remember to continue to get renewals from those who haven't yet. Our renewal rate so far is 86.25% which has been the level for a number of years. I have mentioned in past communications that we need to put as much or more effort on retention as recruiting.

Thank You all for your continued dedication to membership and the great work you do to support our programs and the service you provide to our Veterans their Families our Local Communities, State and Nation. Until next month stay safe keep up the good work you do and hope to see you in Topeka.

Don't forget the "Buddy Checks" and stay on task for membership.

Respectfully,

***Tom Wallsmith***

Sons of the American Legion

Vice-Commander, Detachment of Kansas 2019-2020

[wacuma2016@gmail.com](mailto:wacuma2016@gmail.com)

# Detachment Adjutant's Notes:

## 2021 Membership Cards:

National Headquarters began printing the 2021 S.A.L. Membership cards on Friday, May 29. Headquarters in Topeka received them June 23<sup>rd</sup> from Indianapolis. They were all then mailed to each Squadron Adjutant of record by Headquarters in Topeka on June 24 & June 25. All the packets had tracking numbers so Headquarters can know when and where it was delivered.

If your Squadron does not yet have its new cards you should contact membership secretary Michelle at Headquarters in Topeka and she can tell you who they were sent to and when the Post Office delivered them.

## Membership:

Team Kansas...

**REMINDER:** The 2019-2020 Membership Year is winding down. However, *it's not over yet !!* Your hard work on membership this year is to be commended. You achieved all the National Membership Target dates except the 100% target. Once again I ask that you please get with the Officer handling your Squadron membership and insure that he/they have transmitted all membership, both new and renewals, and that none are in a box, on a desk, or in a briefcase. It all adds up, and gets Team Kansas that much closer to the 100% goal. You can, and I believe will, still achieve the 100% goal.

## RE-SCHEDULED: Department/Detachment Convention:

This year's Department/ Detachment Convention will be held at the Downtown Ramada Hotel and Convention Center, 420 SE 6<sup>th</sup> Street, in Topeka, ~~May 15-17~~ **JULY 31- AUGUST 2**, 2020. **The S.A.L. Convention will be held Saturday, August 1, 2020.** The S.A.L. is invited to the Department Joint Opening Session Saturday morning at 7:50 AM and then will be dismissed about 9:15 to attend the S.A.L. Convention. The "Call to Order" for the S.A.L. Convention will be at 9:30 AM. All Squadrons are encouraged to send delegates to the annual Convention and be part of choosing the Detachment leadership for the 2020-2021 year. Registration desk for all delegates will be right outside the main ballroom of the hotel. Be certain you identify yourself as a S.A.L. delegate. If you fail to register you will not be allowed on the Convention floor.

❖ *Has your Squadron submitted its 2020-2021 Officers List to Headquarters??*

The blank form is in this issue of the SALute.

As always, if I can be of help feel free to contact me.

**Don Culver**

Adjutant, Detachment of Kansas  
[dlculver@swbell.net](mailto:dlculver@swbell.net)

**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, August 1, 2020, at the Downtown Ramada Inn Hotel and Conference 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.

A meeting of the Detachment Executive Committee is hereby called and 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, July 31, and Saturday, August 1, 2020 from 7:30am – 12pm in the Ramada Inn Hotel.

**Be sure to identify yourself as a S.A.L. delegate when you register.**

# Convention Guidelines and Requirements for Covid-19 Safety

Kansas Department of the American Legion

To: 2020 Department Convention Attendees July 31 – Aug 2, 2020

From: Covid-19 Ad-hoc Committee

Date: 06/26/2020

Re: Convention Guidelines and Requirements for Covid-19 Safety

## Comments:

- Stay home if you are sick, including with a fever, feel sick or have been around someone that is sick.
- We recommend that you wear a mask while you are attending the convention for the safety and consideration of others. Masks will be provided if you do not have your own mask.
- Hand Sanitizer will be provided at various locations in and around the convention hall, including at the registration table and the entrance to the convention hall.
- All attendees will enter the convention hall through one entrance. Each person will be screened and checked for a fever before being allowed admittance each day. Please maintain 6 feet between yourself and the person in front of you while waiting to enter the hall and while in the hall.
- Seating will be arranged to comply with social distancing recommendations. Please be considerate of others and refrain from physical contact with people outside of your own household.
- We recommend any guest/spouse of a Legionnaire or Son refrain from attending the convention unless they are needed to assist the Legionnaire or Son, however they will not be denied admittance provided they pass the screening process and have properly registered.
- There will not be any hospitality rooms.
- The Child Welfare Foundation dinner and the Past Commanders dinner will take place and will meet social distancing requirements.
- Note: per the recommendation of the Governor's office in "Ad Astra: A Plan to Reopen Kansas" we should be in the "Phase Out" portion of the plan during the time of convention, it does not have a restriction upon group sizes or any travel restrictions. It recommends social distancing where applicable. However, it also yields authority to county and local governments.
- Note: Shawnee County currently states in "A Guide to Re-opening Shawnee County, Kansas Addendums to local Health Orders" that mass events should have no more than 2,000 participants or 50% capacity of the venue (whichever is smaller) and attendees shall respect social distancing and should not congregate in groups larger than 45 unless such groups are separated by 6 or more feet. These guidelines are subject to change and may become more or less restrictive. If this happens the changes will be posted on the website and on social media pages.

**All Convention attendees will be expected to comply with the above.**

# 2020 District Conventions

The dates and locations listed below represent the most up to date information available. Please be aware conventions could change date, location, or be cancelled at any time due to coronavirus (COVID-19) concerns. Headquarters will continue to keep this list updated.

Beginning in March and continuing each weekend throughout April, American Legion Districts will meet in Convention for the purpose of conducting its business and electing officers for the 2020-21 membership year which begins on July 1. Each District is required to elect Representatives to the Department Convention's Constitution and Bylaws, Resolutions, Credentials and Rules Committees, and the District's Delegates and Alternates to the National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, August 28 - September 3, 2020.

**District I**  
COMPLETED

**District II**  
COMPLETED

**District III**  
COMPLETED

**District IV**  
\* Manhattan Post 17, July 18

**District V**  
COMPLETED

**District VI**  
COMPLETED

**District VII**  
COMPLETED

**District VIII**  
COMPLETED

**District IX**  
COMPLETED

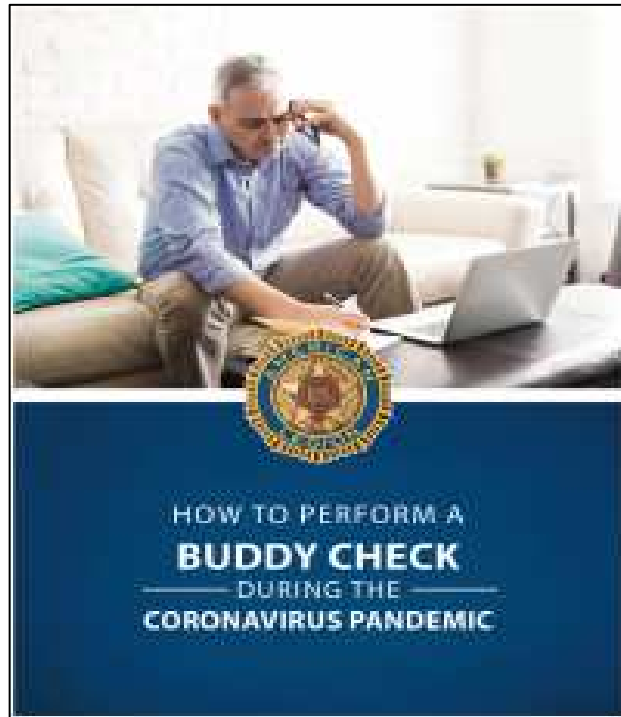
\* Change

## Cancelled Events

The following Department events have been cancelled for the 2020 calendar year due to coronavirus (COVID-19) concerns by the host facility:

- Boys State
- Cadet Law Enforcement Academy
- Leadership College (Concordia)
- Baseball

# How to Perform a Buddy Check



**This downloadable toolkit provides guidance to execute an effective Buddy Check program, specifically during the pandemic but usable year-round. Included are tips about how to find local veterans who may be in need, and sample scripts for callers.**

**To Download go to: [www.legion.org/publications](http://www.legion.org/publications) and look under the Membership tab.**



**The American Legion Family**

# 2021 Membership

*Yes...It's that time of the year.  
**Renewal Time...for All of US..!!***



All Squadrons have been mailed their 2021 Membership Packets.

Several things All Squadrons should be doing now:

1. Collect 2021 renewal dues from your Squadron Officers
2. At your July Squadron meeting collect 2021 dues from those in attendance
3. Make a 2021 Membership Transmittal to Topeka
4. Do the above in JULY and let's see if we can eliminate all "Goose-eggs" by August 1
5. Continue to reach out to those members that did not renew last year (2020)...

- *It's never too Late ..!!*
- *Collect their dues for 2020.*
- *Let them know we need them as members*
- *Be sure to Thank them for renewing.*





# All Squadrons in the Detachment of KANSAS can now process membership online

This feature utilizes electronic payment methods via MySAL.org, and eliminates the need for Squadron Officers to send the National and Detachment portion of the (3-part) membership cards and paper-checks to the Department/Detachment Headquarters office.

If you are currently a MySAL.org user, just select the "Process Membership" option in the left-menu. The attached instructions should help you navigate through this new feature.

If you are NOT a MySAL.org user, go to [www.MySAL.org](http://www.MySAL.org) and sign-up by completing the "Squadron Authorization Form". Please print the attachment(s) for instructions and more details.

If you experience any problems or issues, Customer Support can be reached by calling 1-800-433-3318 or by email: [MyLegion@Legion.org](mailto:MyLegion@Legion.org).

Justin McKay  
The American Legion  
MyLegion Department Services, IT



**THE AMERICAN LEGION**  
VETERANS • DEFENSE • AMERICANISM • YOUTH

## **NOTE:**

**Individuals CANNOT process or renew on-line at this time, ONLY Squadrons.**

**If you have any questions please contact our Department Membership Secretary Michelle at 785-232-9315, or Detachment Adjutant Don Culver.**

## **Also,**

**Squadron On-Line Transmittals are an optional feature and not mandatory at this time.**

**Additional info /instructions can be found on our web page [www.salkansas.org](http://www.salkansas.org) under the Membership Tab**

# S.A.L. Dues Increase

At the Sons of The American Legion National Convention on August 24, 2019 in Indianapolis the delegates to the National Convention voted to increase national dues effective with the 2021 membership year (June 2020). This is the first increase in national dues since 1982.

In anticipation of this the delegates of the state convention of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Kansas, voted to increase state dues at its Detachment Convention on May 18, 2019 in Hutchinson. The dues increase was subsequently approved by the Kansas Department Executive Committee at their meeting on June 1, 2019 in Concordia.

Currently each Kansas Squadron transmits \$10 per paid member to Headquarters in Topeka. Effective with the 2021 membership year (June 2020) that amount will increase to \$20 per paid member.

While many Squadrons may have to raise their member's dues next year to afford the increase in transmittal fee it should be remembered that the transmittal fee is still much less than what the Post sends to Topeka for each Veterans membership.

Any questions regarding the increase should be directed to Detachment Commander Terry Harris or Detachment Adjutant Don Culver.



A copy of the revised Detachment Dues Transmittal Form is attached for your use.

**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Squadron #** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, **Kansas**

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

To: Department Finance Officer, The American Legion  
1314 S.W. Topeka Blvd., Topeka, Kansas 66612-1886

Dues for 20\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ New and \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal Members @ **20.00** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Add shortage from previous transmittal \_\_\_\_\_

Less credit from previous transmittal \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Transmitted by Check # \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Squadron Officer

**LETTER OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

Squadron Officer, Sons of The American Legion.

\_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, Kansas

This will acknowledge receipt of your Dues Transmittal of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_

containing \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as National and Department Dues for \_\_\_\_\_ New and \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal

members of your Squadron, together with \_\_\_\_\_ "Detachment Record Cards". Your total

Squadron membership is now \_\_\_\_\_ . Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Thank You,

**RETURN ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle Johnston, Membership Secretary  
membership@ksamlegion.org  
785-232-9315

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Always fill out return address**

Revised June

# S.A.L. District Officer Contacts

*Got a question...??    Need a contact in your District...??*

## **District 1**

Commander:	Ross Snyder	snydizzal@gmail.com
Vice Commander:	Keith Meyerhoff	keithwmeyerhoff@gmail.com
Adjutant:	James Snyder	jjaws111@aol.com

## **District 2**

Commander:	Chris Hicks	royalsfan1980@gmail.com
Vice Commander:	Matthew Krupco	nflmwk@hotmail.com
Adjutant:	Troy Shields	troyshields1@hotmail.com

## **District 3**

Commander:	Ronnie Rommel	ronnie.rommel72@gmail.com
Vice Commander:	Chris Perkins	perkinschrisw@johndeere.com
Adjutant:	Jimmie Trenary	jimmietrenary1968@kanokla.net

## **District 4**

Commander:	Randy Porter	bightmeagain2@yahoo.com
Vice Commander:	John Trotter	johnet3@gmail.com
Adjutant:	Harvey Eccles	hecclles@yahoo.com

## **District 5**

Commander:	Brian Simpson	simpsy408@gmail.com
Vice Commander:	Steve Zimmerman	szmowing482@gmail.com
Adjutant:	Don Culver	dlculver@swbell.net

## **District 6**

Commander:	L. Reilly	barlrangus@ruraltel.net
Vice Commander:	Andy Phelps	lazyaqtr@wilsoncom.us
Adjutant:	Damon Christensen	damoncc@nckn.com

## **District 7**

Commander:	Brent McInnis	mcinnisbrent1@gmail.com
Vice Commander:	Gerald Postlewaite	jpost21@cox.net
Adjutant:	Chris Krueger	chrisk153@gmail.com

## **District 8**

Commander:	Michael Weber	spidercreek220@gmail.com
Vice Commander:	Dan Stacy	dstacy.am.legion@gmail.com
Adjutant:	Jerry Stotler	jstotler@unitedwireless.com

## **District 9**

Commander:	Scott Hartzog	sthartzog@hotmail.com
Vice Commander:	Jim Gallentine	jim.gallentine@gmail.com
Adjutant:	Tom Wallsmith	wacuma2016@gmail.com

*Contact your District Officers and ask how you can get involved..!!!*

# Upcoming Events/Dates:

July 1, 2020

- *Updated 2020-2021 Squadron Officer lists are due to Headquarters in Topeka*

July 31-August 2, 2020

- **Re-Scheduled : was originally May 15-17, 2020**
- Department Convention ... Topeka ... Ramada Inn ... 420 SE 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Topeka
- S.A.L. will meet Saturday, August 1, 2020 immediately following the Joint Opening Session

August 28-Sept. 3, 2020 CANCELLED

- ~~The American Legion National Convention ... Louisville, Ky~~
- ~~S.A.L. National Convention Aug. 28-30~~

September 26, 2020

- Department Golf Classic ... GreatLIFE Golf & Fitness, Topeka (Shawnee Country Club)
- For additional info contact Lonny Cook 785-286-2134, or Gaylord Sanneman 620-290-3482

October 10-11, 2020

- S.A.L. Fall NEC Meeting and Detachment Commanders Forum ... Indianapolis

November 11, 2020

- Veterans Day



**We understand both of these are impacted by the current events due to the VIRUS. Do the best you can to get the info to Headquarters as soon as feasible.**

## **Squadron Elections**

It's just about that time of year again for all Squadrons to elect their Officers for the upcoming year. Article VII, Section 5, of the Detachment of Kansas By-Laws specifies that Squadrons will conduct annual elections and those elections shall be held during a regular meeting not more than 60 days or less than 15 days prior to the Detachment Convention, and said officers shall be installed prior to the Detachment Convention. This year's Detachment Convention will be held on Saturday, May 16, 2020 in Topeka. All Squadrons should complete the Squadron Officers Report Form and forward to Headquarters in Topeka... even if there are no changes from last year!! The 2020-2021 SQUADRON OFFICER Form is enclosed in this month's SALute for your use. Please insure your Squadron completes and sends this form to Headquarters. It is due to Topeka by July 1, same as every year. Something new: A place on the form has been added for the e-mail address of your officers. Please be sure to complete this line(s) also. Take the time to complete this form following your Squadron elections and forward to Headquarters ... Do Not leave it in your briefcase. Fill it out and send it in. Very Simple. It is difficult to communicate if we can't get ahold of you.

## **S.A.L. District Conventions/Elections**

March and April are the months for all Districts to conduct their District Conventions. Sons of The American Legion Districts are expected to conduct their District Conventions and elections the same weekend as their American Legion District Convention. Please make certain you submit your new S.A.L. District Officers listing to Headquarters immediately following your convention/elections.



**THIS SHEET DUE TO HEADQUARTERS BY JULY 1**

**2020-2021 S.A.L. SQUADRON OFFICERS LIST**

THE OFFICERS OF \_\_\_\_\_ SQUADRON # \_\_\_\_\_ DISTRICT # \_\_\_\_\_

**MAKE SURE EACH OFFICERS NAME, COMPLETE ADDRESS,  
PHONE NUMBER and E-MAIL IS COMPLETED**

**COMMANDER:** Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**FIRST VICE-CMDR:** Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**SECOND VICE-CMDR:** Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**ADJUTANT:** Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**FINANCE OFFICER:** Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**CHAPLAIN:** Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**SGT.-AT-ARMS:** Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**HISTORIAN:** Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**AMERICAN LEGION ADVISOR:** Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**MEETING DATE & TIME** \_\_\_\_\_

**ANNUAL DUES** \_\_\_\_\_

**SQUADRON'S PERMANENT ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

WE'VE HAD COMPLAINTS ABOUT DETACHMENT MAILINGS NOT BEING RECEIVED OR SENT TO THE WRONG PERSON. BY RETURNING THIS FORM WE WILL HAVE THE CORRECT INFORMATION FOR OUR RECORDS.

**PLEASE FILL OUT AFTER YOUR ELECTIONS OF NEW OFFICERS AT THAT MEETING  
AND FORWARD THIS FORM TO HEADQUARTERS**

# Communication Tools:

- Detachment of Kansas web site: [www.salkansas.org](http://www.salkansas.org)
- Detachment of Kansas Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/kansassal>
- S.A.L. National web site: [www.legion.org/sons](http://www.legion.org/sons)
- S.A.L. National Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/americanlegionsons>

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## Future National Conventions

Louisville, KY ~~August 28-September 3, 2020~~ CANCELLED DUE TO CORONAVIRUS  
Phoenix, AZ August 27-September 2, 2021  
Milwaukee, WI August 26-September 1, 2022  
Charlotte, NC August 25-31, 2023  
New Orleans, LA August 23-29, 2024

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**Does your membership card say *2020* on it...?**

**If not, your membership has expired.**

**Please be sure to renew your dues...**

**Then be sure it gets transmitted to Topeka.**



***Be sure you celebrate SAFELY...!!***