



SALUTE

A Detachment of Kansas Newsletter

Date: May 2025



Message from the Detachment Commander

Greetings Kansas Sons of the American Legion!

As we approach Memorial Day, we are reminded of our commitment to our nation's veterans. As Sons of the American Legion, we are the proud possessors of a priceless heritage.

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 may have gone silent or otherwise 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!



Jim Gallentine

Detachment of Kansas Commander

For God and Country

Message from the Detachment Vice Commander

HELLO KANSAS SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION!!!

Going into my last month as your Detachment Vice Commander, I would like to give a huge thank you to The Kansas SAL. It has been an honor to serve! I just finished a busy District Convention season. I attended districts 1, 4, 5, 7, 8 and, 10. Great people, good food and as always, I felt welcome. You all did an amazing job. I look forward to watching the newly elected leadership do amazing things this coming year in their Squadrons and Districts.



As I mentioned this is my last month as your Detachment Vice-Commander, however, I hope to continue to serve you as Detachment Commander. At the District Conventions I was able to attend I told a little about myself and what I hoped to accomplish if elected. Since I wasn't able to attend all eleven District Conventions and many of you were unable to attend as well, I will take a moment to give you the abbreviated version of my remarks.

My Grandpa, Walter Krupco earned my eligibility in the SAL by serving in the Army Air Corp during World War 2 as an airplane maintenance tech. I have been a member for 7 continuous years and have held the offices of Squadron Adjutant, District Vice Commander, District Commander, Detachment Historian, Detachment Master-at-arms, Detachment Vice Commander, and serve on the National Membership and Squadron Activities Committee. If elected your Detachment Commander I will continue to improve communication and training at all levels of our organization, and hope to emphasize the youth programs within our Legion Family (especially since I now have a one year old son and as of April 23rd I have a grandson, both of which have been SAL members since about 12 hours old). I have the support of my family, my squadron, and my district, I'm asking for your support at Detachment Convention on May 31.

The next National Membership goal is 100% by May 14th. Kansas is at 88% on April 25! As I said last month 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	Olathe #153
Paola #156	Kansas City #199	Kansas City #213
Blue Mound #279	Overland Park #370	Winfield #10
Arkansas City #18	Cherokee #35	Erie #102
Lyndon #125	Whitewater #65	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	Wamego #172	

41 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
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Message from the Detachment Adjutant

Greetings, Kansas Sons!

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

From protecting our borders and state capitals to delivering pandemic aid, supporting local law enforcement, and serving in combat overseas, National Guard and Reserve servicemembers have been increasingly called upon to confront unique and dangerous challenges. They often leave their families and civilian employers for lengthy periods of time, sometimes taking significant pay cuts. Yet, despite all we ask of them and all they contribute, they are often denied a cornerstone benefit of service: the GI Bill.

Currently, National Guard and Reserve servicemembers only earn credit toward their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits when they mobilize and deploy for federal missions. National Guard and Reserve servicemembers activated under state orders do not accrue eligibility for Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits.

The Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act of 2025 (HR. 1423/S. 649) is crucial to rectifying this inequity.



This legislation proposes to count every day spent on weekend drills, annual training, attending military school, participating in an exercise, or responding to a disaster toward GI Bill eligibility. The American Legion firmly believes that every day in uniform counts. Guardsmen and Reservists who serve alongside their active-duty counterparts deserve the same GI Bill eligibility.

The American Legion urges you to contact your members of Congress today and encourage them to support the Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act. Go [here](#) to support passage of this bill.

You can play a valuable part in this effort by contacting your elected representatives via VoterVoice. You can sign up for VoterVoice alerts [here](#).

Action concerning Squadrons with less than 10 active members:

Due to the ongoing issues with “goose egg” and underperforming SAL Squadrons (those with less than 10 current members), a committee was formed at Mid-Winter Forum to address the issue. The committee consists of SAL PNVC Terry Harris, SAL Commander Jim Gallentine, SAL Vice Commander Matt Krupco, SAL Master at Arms Michael Weber, SAL PNC Neal Warnken, SAL District 2 Commander (and dual member) Rick Miller, SAL National Americanism Chairman Gerald Hammerschmidt, and me. The Squadrons in question are perennially lacking in transmitting memberships and negatively impact the efforts of all the Squadrons in the Detachment that are working hard on membership.

Drawing from the procedures of the Detachments of Nebraska and Missouri, and in consultation with American Legion and SAL leadership, the committee decided on a course of action, which is as follows:

1. Send letters to the Post Commander, Post Adjutant, Squadron Commander and Squadron Adjutant for each of the Squadrons in question. Samples of those letters are attached to this email. The letter specifies a date of May 15 to either submit at least 10 memberships, or face revocation of the Squadron's charter. The letter also offers the option of the sponsoring Post submitting the Squadron Only Request for Revocation form. (80 Letters were sent on 19 March)
2. Based on the response or lack thereof, a vote will be held at a special pre-convention SAL DEC meeting on 30 May at 1600 hrs at the Topeka Ramada to take action on revocation of the charters of those Squadrons.
3. The results of that vote will then be presented to the Legion Convention DEC for consideration.

Since the letters were sent, there has been some movement in membership numbers for the Squadrons in question. I have also received a variety of responses – including emails, phone calls, (and one certified letter that was rather critical of

our approach). Most of the responses were positive, although most expressed difficulty in getting members to serve in leadership positions. I assured those that are actively working to improve their Squadron's standing that the Detachment and District leadership is ready to help in any way we can.

We will keep you updated on the progress of this effort, and the actions recommended at the Pre-Convention DEC meeting in Topeka.

I would add that all District Commanders and Adjutants are urged to attend Detachment Convention in Topeka on 30 May – Jun 1.

Detachment Convention – 30 May – Jun 1

(From the Sunflower Legionnaire) The Ramada Hotel & Convention Center, in Topeka will serve as the site of the 106th Annual Convention of The American Legion Department of Kansas. Joining the Legion in Convention will be the American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion who will hold their own independent Conventions in addition to two joint sessions involving all three groups.

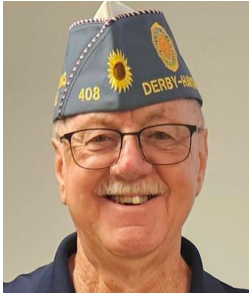
Now is the time to make housing reservations by calling the Ramada at 785-234-5400. Room rates for the Convention are \$94.00 and includes a full breakfast buffet. The Convention is expected to feature several speakers including American Legion National Vice Commander James Kellogg from Minnesota, Auxiliary National President Trish Ward from Kansas, S.A.L. National Commander Joseph Navarrete from New Mexico, and S.A.L. National Vice Commander Michael Monserud from Iowa.

S.A.L. members are encouraged to attend the Convention as a delegate, alternate, or guest. Post Adjutants will be mailed pre-registration materials on May 1 (pre-registration is preferred, however "walk-ins" are always welcomed). To attend as a delegate or alternate contact your Post/Squadron Adjutant to inform them you wish to represent your Post. Please note that Squadrons must have a minimum of 10 members to have a vote at Convention. Please contact me or any of the Detachment officers if you have questions.

Thanks for all you do!

Chris Krueger
Detachment Adjutant

Message from the Detachment Finance Officer



Hello Kansas Sons of the American Legion,

We have done some excellent work giving back to our communities and the National Program, something the SAL is famous for.

The Sons of the American Legion Detachment of Kansas Scholarship Committee met Sunday (3-2-25) to determine the scholarship winners for this year.

The winner of the \$1000 U.S. "Udie" Grant Scholarship is :

Logon B, Newton KS (Newton Squadron 002)

The five winners of the \$500 Jay B Thielen Scholarships are:

Emma H, Seneca KS (Seneca Squadron 021)

Logon B, Newton KS (Newton Squadron 002)

Jerry R, Sedgwich KS (Dorrance Squadron 334)

Daniel B, Topeka KS (Topeka Squadron 400)

Jace P, Wamego KS (Manhattan Squadron 017)

The Detachment of Kansas will also be donating \$5365.00 to the Child Wellbeing Foundation during the Spring NEC meetings.

That is in addition to all the great things all of your squadrons are doing in your communities. Keep up the great work.

Mike Saindon

Scholarship Charman



District one would like to introduce a new squadron from Post 160, Silver Lake. The team started with 16 charter members; they have grown to 26 members already. District officer from the SAL and Legion presented them with their Charter on the 21st day of January. The enthusiasm and passion this group has to helping veterans is exciting.

Welcome Squadron 160

District One

SAL Commander

Jeff Kerns

This month I want to provide a list of upcoming events. Please pay special attention to the Kansas American Legion Leadership College as there will be class specifically targeting SAL.

Kansas Department and Detachment conventions, Topeka, May 30-June 1, 2025

Kansas American Legion Leadership College. Cloud County Community College, June 6-8, 2025

Kansas Boys State, Manhattan, 1-7 June 2025

Cadet Law Academy, Salina, 15-20 June 2025

For more information on these and other events check out the Kansas Sunflower online

<https://kansaslegion.org/wp-content/uploads/Sunflower2025Q2.pdf>

Rick Miller