



SALUTE

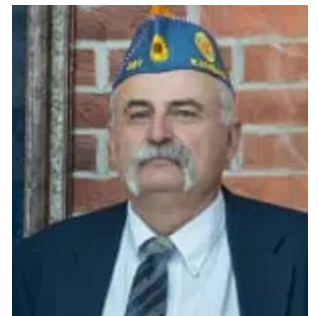
A Detachment of Kansas Newsletter

Date: December 2024

Message from the Detachment Commander

Greetings Kansas Sons of the American Legion!

As we celebrate the holidays with family and friends, we have much to be thankful for, and even more reasons to continue our commitment to our nation's veterans. Buddy Checks and Be The One are so very important. Have you called someone today? Have you followed up on a 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!



As we go about our work, always remember what we are all about. The American Legion Four Pillars gives focus to our great organization - Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth. We are strong when the entire American Legion family works together for our common principles!

This month's SALute has many great articles. Please take time to check out this month's publication!

Jim Gallentine
Detachment of Kansas Commander

Message from the Detachment Vice Commander

HELLO, KANSAS SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION!!!

Thanksgiving is behind us, and I think my pants size increased a couple of inches. I would like to thank my wife, daughter, mother, mother-in-law, sister-in-law, and niece for all the fantastic food. I don't know if I will need to eat the rest of the year!

The Detachment of Kansas was honored to host Sons of the American Legion National Commander Joseph Navarrette on November 15-17, 2024. He lent a helping hand at the annual Big Red 1 Turkey Run at Fort Riley, and we showed him some great Kansas hospitality. I



had the privilege of sitting next to him on the dinner train in Abeline, it was truly a pleasure getting to talk with him and learn a little more about Sons leadership roles.

In an upcoming SALute I will include the form for a National Four Pillar Squadron. In the meantime I will tell you a little about it so you can be working towards earning the distinction. Your Squadron must complete the following four things:

- Donate \$1.00 for Squadron's membership total to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation.
- Donate \$1.00 for Squadron's membership total to The American Legion Operation Comfort Warriors.
- Donate \$1.00 for Squadron's membership total to your home Department's American Legion Boys State Program.
- Host a blood drive or donate \$1.00 for Squadron's membership total payable to the hosting organization of the blood drive.

No matter the size of your squadron, believe me when I tell you your contribution matters. Kansas is 6,000 strong, national is approaching 400,000 members. All contributions, regardless of size, will help all these amazing charities and programs. On a personal note, please hold a blood drive, maybe the Community Blood Center will quit calling me every week! Seriously, hold a blood drive it is an important service to your community, maybe I'll come donate at yours.

National's membership goal for December is 45%. We don't need to talk about it since you already passed it at more than 50%. CONGRATULATIONS KANSAS!!! Remember January 1st you will be expired if your membership card doesn't say 2025 on it. We are at a more than 46% renewal rate which is ahead of the national average, keep up the good work!

Congratulations to the following squadrons for reaching 100% membership!

Kansas City #213	Cherokee #35	Lyndon #125
Dorrance #33	McCraken #59	Medicine Lodge #69
Dodge City #47	Sublette #205	Frankfort #181
Linn #237	Derby-Haysville #408	Ellsworth #174
Whitewater #65		

As I mentioned last month, It is getting awful late in the year to still have goose eggs, we went from 42 squadrons last month to 25 this month with no 2025 membership transmitted. If you need any help at all, please reach out, (mwksal@outlook.com). I'm willing to help any way I can. If you need contact information for Detachment or District leadership in your area that would also be able to assist you, I can help with that as well.

I hope all of you have a blessed and safe holiday season. See you at the Holiday Party on December 14th in Paola.

Your Detachment Vice-Commander
Matthew Krupco
620-224-7355

Message from the Detachment Adjutant

Greetings, Kansas Sons!

Current Legislation to Support

All of us can greatly impact the American Legion's legislative agenda via Voter Voice. You can sign up [here](#), or at <https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home>.



There are several current legislative items to support – here are a couple to consider:

Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act

The American Legion urges the passage of the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act through the Senate this year!

This is a comprehensive veteran's package that includes several important provisions, including:

- **Enhanced Community Care Access:** Veterans will enjoy timely access to healthcare providers in their local communities, reducing long-distance travel and service wait times. This change is particularly vital for those with mobility issues or chronic conditions, and those in rural areas.
- **Support for Home and Community-Based Services:** By raising expenditure caps for non-institutional care and enhancing coordination with the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), more options for long-term care will be made available. This ensures veterans can receive necessary care within the comfort of their own homes.
- **Authority to Award Grants for Mental Health Support to Family Caregivers:** The provision of grants for mental health support will aid caregivers in managing the emotional and psychological toll of caregiving, preserving both our mental well-being and the quality of care we provide.
- **Recognition and Assistance Programs:** Acknowledging organizations and individuals who aid veterans, family members, and caregivers in navigating available programs and services will enhance access to resources.
- **Veteran Directed Care:** The expansion of the Veteran Directed Care program to all VA medical centers, with comprehensive staffing and accessibility, ensures veterans have autonomy in managing their care. This empowers them to customize services to meet their unique needs, significantly enhancing their overall quality of life and that of their caregivers.
- **Gerald's Law:** A provision that provides veterans in hospice care the option of spending their final days at home without losing their VA burial benefits.
- **VET-TEC:** Fully funds the VET TEC educational assistance program to expand high-tech career opportunities for veterans and transitioning servicemembers.

Fulfilling Promises to Afghan Allies Amendment

The American Legion, along with allied groups such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Student Veterans of America, and Blue Star Families, sent a letter to Congressional leadership urging that the *Fulfilling Promises to Afghan Allies Amendment* be included in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025.

We need your assistance getting this Amendment passed - please write or call your member of Congress today!

As veterans serving veterans across the country, we know firsthand the moral and national security imperative of keeping our promises to the Afghan nationals who supported the U.S. mission and were admitted to the United States under emergency circumstances.

CWF gets a new Name!

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation is now called the Child Well-Being Foundation.

On Oct. 6 during the annual Fall Meetings of The American Legion, a motion was made and voted on by the American Legion CWF board of directors to change the name of the foundation to one that encompasses the overall needs of the whole child and all aspects of their physical, emotional, mental and spiritual wellbeing.

The Child Well-Being Foundation will still have the acronym CWF. [Learn more about the foundation.](#)

CWF will continue to provide grants to nonprofits for projects that contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual needs of children. Grants are only given to entities that help U.S. children in a large geographic area; they are not awarded for day-to-day or special operating expenses. Thanks to the generosity of Legion Family and community members, the foundation has awarded over \$21 million in grants since 1954 — giving youth-serving nonprofits across this nation the means to promote and operate their programs, plus educate families and communities about the needs of children.

The 2025 CWF grant recipients were announced during the Fall Meetings. In its 71st year, CWF awarded 13 grants totaling \$852,593 to youth-serving nonprofit organizations.

For more on the CWF name change, click [here](#) or go to <https://www.legion.org/information-center/news/dispatch/2024/october/cwf-gets-a-new-name>.

Thanks to all of you for what you do in your communities to support our Veterans and their families. I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy & Prosperous New Year!

Chris Krueger
Adjutant - Detachment of Kansas
Sons of The American Legion

Message from the Detachment Finance Officer

S.A.L. Detachment of Kansas Scholarships

Did you know every year the Detachment of Kansas gives out 5, five hundred dollars scholarships and 1, one thousand dollars scholarships.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE? 1. The applicant should be an average or better student scholastically. 2. High School seniors, undergraduate college students, and adults holding High School Diplomas and/or College credits who are enrolled or intend to enroll in an approved Junior College, College, University or Trade School located in the state of Kansas will be considered. 3. The applicant must be the son, daughter, grandson, or granddaughter of a member of the Kansas Sons of the American Legion or a member of the Kansas Sons of the American Legion for the



past three (3) consecutive years. (Please attach copy of current year's membership card of the member from whom eligibility is derived.) SAL member who is a US citizen is eligible to apply. 4. The applicant may obtain eligibility through a deceased member whose membership was paid up in The Sons of the American Legion in the year of death. (Please attach certification from Squadron Adjutant.)

Application can be downloaded from <https://salkansas.org/resources>

HOW TO APPLY 1. Applications must be received in The American Legion Headquarters, 1314 Topeka Ave., Topeka, KS 66612, by February 15. 2. All requested supporting documents and information in a single envelope deliverable by the USPS. 3. Copy of current membership card in the Kansas Sons of the American Legion or Adjutant's certification.

Please share this information!

Mike Saindon
Scholarship Charman

Programs of The American Legion

The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program is a gun safety education and marksmanship program that encompasses the basic elements of safety, education, enjoyment and competition. Shooters use the .177 caliber air rifle. Both males and females can participate, through Legion sponsorship; disabled youth are encouraged to join, as competitive shooting is a sport that creates an equal playing field for all competitors. Contact your local Legion post, Sons of The American Legion squadron or Auxiliary unit for information about affiliating as a club or individual.



Air Rifle Competition

The annual 3-Position Junior Air Rifle National Championship is a tournament that begins with postal matches. State and/or regional champions are determined and advance to a qualification round (also a postal match) to determine the athletes who will earn expense-paid trips to compete in the national championship. The national championship is a shoulder-to-shoulder match held each July at the USA Shooting range facilities at Hillsdale College in Hillsdale Michigan.

A Postal Match is a match in which competitor's fire on their home ranges using targets which have been marked for identification. The fired targets are then sent to the American Legion for scoring and ranking for awards.

The American Legion presents its 30th Junior 3-Position Air Rifle Tournament, which provides competitors an opportunity to test their marksmanship ability in competition with other junior competitors throughout the nation.

The Individual Tournament has three phases of competition:

- First Round - State Championships
- Second Round - Qualifications for National Championship
- National Championships

The Team Tournament has two phases of competition:

- First Round - State Championships
- Second Round - For recognition of top teams in the nation

The First Round team tournament is a "paper" match and will be comprised of the top four athletes' individual tournament scores. A club with at least four individuals enters one team; at least eight individuals enters two teams; and so on.

The First Round and Second Round of the Individual Tournament are postal matches whereas the National Championship of the Individual Tournament is a shoulder-to-shoulder competition. The First Round and the Second Round phases of the Team Tournament are postal matches.

The Individual and Team Tournaments will be conducted in accordance with this Official Match Program (OMP) and the 2018-2020 National Standard Three-Position Air Rifle Rule Book 12TH Edition.

Who Can Participate?

In shooting sports, you don't have to sit on the sidelines: Anyone under 18 (or high school seniors no older than 20) can participate. Physical ability and size are no match for mental toughness and discipline in this co-ed skill sport.

Why Shooting Sports?

After demonstrating knowledge of safety techniques, you will join the centuries of Americans who have mastered marksmanship for survival and sport. But the appeal doesn't stop at our nation's borders — the best marksmen from around the globe vie for Olympic gold. In fact, 2002 American Legion Three-Position National Champion Jamie Corkish won a gold medal at the 2012 Olympics. As you become a better marksman, you'll gain responsibility, confidence and self-reliance. To hit your mark, you will also have to improve your ability to concentrate. Plus, you'll develop a skill you can enjoy and hone throughout your life.

What Will We Do?

You'll practice and study with your Legion affiliated club, but get to compete as an individual.

Beginner: Safety First

All participants start with rifle safety and fundamentals. The Legion prides itself on safety. There has never been a rifle-related injury in Junior Shooting Sports Program history. You'll learn the right way to handle, load, aim and fire a rifle.

Intermediate: Build Skills

Once you have mastered the basics, you can take air rifle courses from the National Rifle Association or the Civilian Marksmanship Program through your club. These will help you develop your skills, set personal goals and work to achieve established performance standards.

Advanced: Compete With Others

Your club may hold competitions among its own members, or it may host or attend regional matches. The two basic kinds of competitions are postal and shoulder-to-shoulder. In a postal match, you and fellow participants shoot at targets and then mail them off to be scored. Shoulder-to-shoulder matches are in-person and scored in real-time. The American Legion Junior Three-Position Air Rifle Tournament begins with postal matches. The best 30 junior marksmen from across the country earn an expense paid opportunity to contend for the National Championship in Colorado Springs, Colo. In the same facility where Olympians train, those junior marksmen will compete in a shoulder-to-shoulder match for the title.

How Much Does It Cost?

Some American Legion posts lend participants gear, including rifles, or some equipment. Many charge a registration fee to cover these costs and the cost of the practice facility. Often students are required to provide their own pellets and targets. Contact your local post for detailed information.

When Can I Start?

If your local Legion post supports a Junior Shooting Sports Program, contact them directly to check on practice dates and course schedules. If you have questions, contact americanism@legion.org.

Terry Harris
Alt. NEC

SALute Monthly Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, in this time of holiday season, let us take time to reflect on the blessings you bestow on us and be thankful.

Please bless the men and women who keep this country safe and free on a day-to-day basis and grant your protection upon them and keep at bay the forces that want to harm them.

Please bless their families and give them strength to endure.

It is in your son Jesus name we pray to you.

Amen

Pastor Gregg (Bull) Thompson
State of Kansas S.A.L. Detachment Chaplain



The Big Red 1 Turkey Run

The American Legion Family of Kansas does a great job of caring for our soldiers and their families. Mid-November over 75 members of the Kansas American Legion Family and a very special guest prepared to provide holiday meals for an expected 250 families. It was truly an honor to have Sons of The National Commander Joseph Navarrete with us to help with this event. Fifteen tables manned by three Legion Family members each and more working the floor ended the day delivering 300 meals, and shared a great start to the holiday season with our the families serving at Fort Riley. Riders from the Legion, Auxiliary, and SAL as well as other members all pulled together for this incredible annual event. *Photos below by Terry Harris.*



SALute Editor Notes

Submission deadline for for the SALute is the 20th of each month.

We are always looking for articles about the many good things that the SAL does. If your squadron has had a special event, please send that information to us!

Please email submissions to det.cmdr.ks@gmail.com

Reports

Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR)

This is due July 1st, yearly. If you have not turned in your CSR, please do so ASAP.
The form is located here: <https://salkansas.org/resources>

Squadron Data Report (SDR)

This is due April 15, yearly. If you have not turned in your SDR, please do so ASAP. The SDR is necessary to enable online transmittals.

Up-Coming Events

Department Events

2024-12-14 Department Holiday Party – Paola, KS

2025-01-31 Mid-Winter Conference - Great Bend, KS

National Conventions:

2025-08-22 National Convention - Tampa Bay, FL

2026-08-28 National Convention - Louisville, Kentucky

2027-08-28 National Convention - Kansas City, Missouri

Websites and Resources

KS SAL Detachment Website: <https://salkansas.org/>

KS SAL Detachment Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/kansassal/>

National SAL Website: <https://legion.org/sons>

National SAL Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/americanlegionsons>

National American Legion Website: <https://www.legion.org/>

Membership Online Renewal Website: <https://mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Membership/Renew>

KS ALR Website: <https://kansasalr.com>

SAL Kansas Detachment Officers

Commander: Jim Gallentine (785) 874-8727 det.cmdr.ks@gmail.com

Vice Commander: Matt Krupco (620) 224-7355 mwksal@outlook.com

Adjutant: Chris Kreuger

Finance: Michael Saindon (316) 993-6416 mjsaindon@gmail.com

Master At Arms: Michael Weber

Master At Arms: Jeff Kerns

NEC: Doug Evans

ALT-NEC: Terry Harris

Chaplain: Greg Thompson

Historian: Josiah Wakley

Asst. Adjutant: Gaylord Sanneman

Judge Advocate: Gerald Hammerschmidt

Department SAL Committee: Doug Hensley

Department SAL Committee: Joseph Hulse

Department SAL Committee: Dave Warnken

Department Advisor to the Detachment: Dan Wiley

SAL Kansas District Officers

District 1

Commander: Jeff Kerns blkcldkerns@yahoo.com 785-559-0771 Cell
Vice Commander: Steve Christenberry 785-296-9400
Adjutant: Kevin D Funk kfunk2407@gmail.com 785-554-0193

District 2

Commander: Rick Miller salsquadron153olathe@outlook.com (931) 449-1551
Vice Commander: John Reed jdreed210@gmail.com (913) 206-5857
Adjutant: Troy Shields troysields1@hotmail.com 913-908-3446

District 3

Commander: Ronnie Rommel ronnie.rommel72@gmail.com 620-660-5828 Cell
Vice Commander: David Williams dc58williams@outlook.com 620-432-1605 Cell
Adjutant: Jimmie Trenary 620-506-7720

District 4

Commander: Open
Vice Commander: Open
Adjutant: Open

District 5

Commander: Dan McDowell djmcdowell84@gmail.com (316) 640-7284
Vice Commander: Dale Theisen szmowing482@gmail.com (316) 832-5139
Adjutant: Mike Saindon mjsaindon@gmail.com (316) 993-6416

District 6

Commander: Kelly Pflughoeft kamep5@yahoo.com 785-531-0857
Vice Commander: Shane Haase 785-810-8185
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District 7

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Adjutant: Chris Krueger

District 8

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Vice Commander: Payton Weber Patyonweber@icloud.com 620-789-1788
Adjutant: Ty Weber tyweber510@gmail.com 980-447-3540

District 9

Commander: Monte Lewis montemegg57@gmail.com 785-269-7224 Cell
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District 10

Commander: Mark Wessel mwessel.alr21@gmail.com 785-336-2825 Cell

Vice Commander: Keith Meyerhoff keithwmeyerhoff@gmail.com 785-447-0835
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District 11

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