



Sons of the American Legion
Detachment of Kansas Convention
Topeka Ramada Hotel
May 30, 2026

The Detachment of Kansas convention was called to order by Commander Krupco at 0945 hrs.

The colors were saluted in place.

Invocation was given by NEC Doug Evans.

POW/MIA Chair drape was placed by Master at Arms Dan McDowell.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, led by Vice Commander Michael Weber.

The Preamble to the SAL Constitution was recited.

The Blue Star Banner was recognized by Commander Krupco.

Commander Krupco declared the convention convened.

Adjutant Krueger called the roll of Detachment and District officers, and Squadrons in attendance.

Adjutant Krueger announced that we have a quorum, with 18 Squadrons in attendance.

Commander Krupco introduced guest Wyanette Harris.

Rick Miller 153 Olathe made a motion to dispense with reading of the minutes, second by Mike Saindon 408 Derby-Haysville, passed by voice vote.

Gerald Hammerschmidt 173 Hays gave the rules report. He also detailed changes that should be made to the agenda.

Adjutant Chris Krueger 180 Great Bend made a motion to hold all approvals of reports until after all have been given and approve them all with one vote. Second by Jeff Freed 76 Concordia, passed by voice vote.

NEC Doug Evans 192 Canton gave the NEC report.

Committee Reports:

Finance: Michael Saindon 408 Derby-Haysville gave the report. 25-26 budget is \$96,000, coming in ~\$4,000, under budget. Proposed budget for 26-27 is \$100,053.00, and Mike will take it to the DEC meeting at KALC next weekend.

Children and Youth: Doug Evans 192 Canton gave the report. He passed the hat and raised \$670.

Americanism: Gerald Hammerschmidt 173 Hays gave the report.

Public Relations: Rick Miller 153 Olathe gave the report.

ALR/Web Site: Chris Krueger 180 Great Bend gave the ALR and SAL web site reports.

VA&R: Jeff Kerns 400 Topeka gave the report.

Membership report, turn in, awards: Vice Commander Michael Weber 47 Dodge City gave the report. He mentioned we currently are at 44th nationally, the membership goal, our current number and compared to 2025. He also handed out membership awards.

Scholarships: Michael Saindon 408 Derby-Haysville gave the report. He mentioned that we had many applications this year, more than in past years. He detailed the recipients of the various scholarships – 1- \$1,000 Udie Grant 5-\$500 Jay Thielen. He advocated for creating a new scholarship in honor of Don Culver. Terry Harris 180 Great Bend mentioned that Neal Warnken has the resolution in hand and will present it at the 2027 convention.

Legislative/Veterans Affairs: Jeff Kerns 400 Topeka gave the report.

Resolutions / Constitution & ByLaws: Terry Harris 180 Great Bend detailed the proposed By-law change for national convention. Motion to approve by Mike Saindon 408 Derby-Haysville, second by Jeff Freed 76 Concordia, passed by voice vote.

Member Training: Jeff Kerns 400 Topeka gave the report.

The convention adjourned for lunch at 1105.

The convention re-convened at 1300.

Commander Krupco was excused to visit the Auxiliary Convention, and Vice Commander Michael Weber 47 Dodge City took the chair.

Vice Commander Michael Weber 47 Dodge City asked Kansas American Legion NEC Jeremy Ehart to come to the podium to introduce American Legion National Vice Commander Jerry Landkamer. NVC Landkamer greeted the convention and congratulated all with 100% memberships and on our community service.

Mike Saindon 408 Derby-Haysville made a motion to accept all committee reports, second by Jeff Freed 76 Concordia. Motion passed by voice vote.

Commander Krupco returned from the Auxiliary Convention and took the chair.

District Reports:

District 1: Steve Christenberry 400 Topeka gave his report.

District 2: Rick Miller 153 Olathe gave his report as outgoing SAL District Commander.

District 3: No report.

District 4: No report.

District 5: Dan McDowell 136 Mulvane gave his report.

District 6: No report.

District 7: Bob Deister 68 Hutchinson gave his report.

District 8: Kyle Krout 47 Dodge City gave his report.

District 9: Chris Krueger 180 Great Bend gave the report sent by Jim Gallentine 351 Jennings.

District 10: Mark Wessel 21 Seneca gave his very brief report.

District 11: Jace Phillips 17 Manhattan gave the report, filling in for his grandfather Randy Porter.

Rick Miller 153 Olathe moved to accept all district reports, second by Jeff Freed 76 Concordia, passed by voice vote.

Credentials Report: Judge Advocate Gerald Hammerschmidt 173 Hays gave the report on Squadrons represented. A total of 28 delegates were duly registered for the convention. Chris Krueger 180 Great Bend moved to accept, second by Rick Miller 153 Olathe, passed by voice vote.

Unfinished Business:

- Mike Saindon 408 Derby-Haysville asked about the Blue Brigade jackets. Commander Krupco related that National is still looking for a vendor.
- He also informed the new District Commanders to get their Leadership lists into Department.
- Mike Saindon 408 Derby-Haysville made a motion to offer a pink polo shirt for the 2026-2027 GOFTL shirts, starting 1 July 2026. Second by Jeff Freed 76 Concordia, passed by voice vote.
- Jeff Kerns 400 Topeka brought up the Run Toto Run pins.

New Business:

- Terry Harris 180 Great Bend reported that Nov 22 in Lyons – The 22 A Day Vigil will be held for 22 hours starting at 2:22 pm. 22-minute shifts until 1200 on 23 Nov. More information to come. This an American Legion Family event.

Commander's Report: Commander Krupco gave the Commander's Report. Terry Harris 180 Great Bend asked to approach and stated that Matt had given the shortest Commander's Report on record and said he would finish it. Harris went on to commend Matthew for his dedication to the American Legion Family and praised the job he did. Terry Harris 180 Great Bend moved to accept the report, second by Chris Krueger 180 Great Bend, passed by voice vote.

Detachment Elections:

Commander: Terry Harris 180 Great Bend Nominated Michael Weber 47 Dodge City, second by Doug Evans 192 Canton. Gerald Hammerschmidt 173 Hays moved that nominations cease, and the Adjutant cast a unanimous ballot for Michael Weber 47 Dodge City, second by Mike Saindon 408 Derby-Haysville. Detachment Adjutant Krueger cast a unanimous ballot for Michael Weber 47 Dodge City for Detachment Commander.

Vice Commander: Doug Evans 192 Canton nominated Jeff Kerns 400 Topeka for Vice Commander, second by James Snyder moved that nominations cease, and the Adjutant cast a unanimous ballot, second by Mike Saindon 408 Derby-Haysville. Passed by voice vote. The Detachment Adjutant cast a unanimous ballot for Jeff Kerns 400 Topeka for Detachment Vice Commander.

Adjutant: Hammer appointed Matthew Krupco 279 Blue Mound as temporary Adjutant. Mike Saindon 408 Derby-Haysville nominated Chris Krueger 180 Great Bend for Adjutant, second by Bob Deister 68 Hutchinson. Gerald Hammerschmidt 173 Hays moved that nominations cease, and the Detachment Adjutant cast a unanimous ballot, second by Terry Harris 180 Great Bend, passed by voice vote. The temporary Detachment Adjutant cast a unanimous ballot for Chris Krueger for Detachment Adjutant. Gerald Hammerschmidt 173 Hays then rescinded the temporary Adjutant appointment.

Finance Officer: Gerald Hammerschmidt 173 Hays nominated Michael Saindon 408 Derby-Haysville,

Second by Jeff Freed 76 Concordia. Doug Evans 192 Canton moved that nominations cease, and the Detachment Adjutant cast a unanimous ballot, second by Terry Harris 180 Great Bend, passed by voice vote. The Detachment Adjutant cast a unanimous ballot for Michael Saindon 408 Derby-Haysville for Detachment Finance Officer.

Master At Arms: Terry Harris 180 Great Bend nominated Dan McDowell 136 Mulvane, Doug Evans 192 Canton second.

Neil Herrs nominated Mark Wessel 21 Seneca, Mike Saindon 408 Derby-Haysville second. Gerald Hammerschmidt 173 Hays moved that nominations cease, and the Adjutant cast a unanimous ballot, second by Jeff Freed 76. The Detachment Adjutant cast a unanimous ballot for Dan McDowell 136 Mulvane and Mark Wessel 21 Seneca for Detachment Masters At Arms.

NEC: Gerald Hammerschmidt 173 Hays nominated Doug Evans 192 Canton, Second by Mike Saindon 408 Derby-Haysville. Michael Weber 47 Dodge City moved that nominations cease, and the Detachment Adjutant cast a unanimous ballot, second by Kyle Krout 47 Dodge City, passed by voice vote. The Detachment Adjutant cast a unanimous ballot for Doug Evans 192 Canton for Detachment NEC.

Alt NEC: Mike Saindon 408 Derby-Haysville nominated Terry Harris 180 Great Bend, Second by Michael Weber 47 Dodge City. Doug Evans 192 Canton moved that nominations cease, and the Detachment Adjutant cast a unanimous ballot, second by Michael Weber 47 Dodge City, passed by voice vote. The Detachment Adjutant cast a unanimous ballot for Terry Harris 180 Great Bend for Detachment Alt NEC.

National Convention Delegates were selected:

1. Steve Ward 250 Louisburg
2. Mike Saindon 408 Derby-Haysville
3. Doug Evans 192 Canton
4. Jim Gallentine
5. Gerald Hammerschmidt 173 Hays
6. Matthew Krupco 279 Blue Mound
7. Lyle Larson 68 Hutchinson
8. Chris Krueger 180 Great Bend
9. Jeff Kerns 400 Topeka
10. Alan Gardinier 136
11. Troy Shields 327 Shawnee
12. Michael Weber 47 Dodge City
13. Neal Warnken 68 At Large Hutchinson.
14. James Snyder 36 Oskaloosa
15. Michael Cole 36 Oskaloosa
16. Rick Miller 153 Olathe

- Alternates:
 - Chuck Shoemaker 408 Lenexa
 - Byron Krupco 279 Blue Mound
 - Dan Wiley 23 Leavenworth

Adjutant Krueger will confirm whether Steve Ward plans to attend national convention.

Chris Krueger 180 Great Bend moved to accept the delegates, second by Freed 76 Concordia, passed by voice vote.

The new officers were sworn in by PDC Marri Krupco.

For the Good:

District 10 Family Day in Blue Rapids at the park – 27 June – Sat.

Canton USA 250 celebration 3 July.

American Legion Family College

Mike Saindon 408 Derby-Haysville moved to adjourn, second by Rick Miller 153 Olathe. Passed by voice vote.

Commander Weber adjourned the meeting at 1443.

Respectfully submitted,

D. Chris Krueger

Adjutant

Detachment of Kansas

Sons of the American Legion