



# SALUTE

A Detachment of Kansas Newsletter

**Date: January 2026**



---

## Message from the Detachment Commander

HELLO KANSAS SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION!!!

Winter and 2026 have arrived! I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season. Santa did not disappoint at my house, that guy sure spoils Byron. The Leading Candidate for National Commander, Thom Skelley from the Detachment of Texas visited Kansas for Operation North Pole, it was great to spend some time with and learn from him. My deepest thanks to the Hutchinson Post 68 family for doing an amazing job hosting the Holiday Party. Thank you to all that attended, it was great to see you! Marri and I have not had time to utilize our "white elephant" gifts, but we are looking forward to the relaxation! #IYKYK



Each quarter the Detachment Commander has the privilege of submitting an article to the Sunflower Legionnaire. In October, I wrote about the Four Pillars, specifically Children and Youth and Americanism, I then changed a few things and shared that article with the SAL in our SALute. I'm going to continue that conversation this quarter and write about Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. Spoiler alert, next quarter will be National Security.

I will say this again, the Four Pillars are the heart and soul, the past, the present, and hopefully the future of the American legion. Advocating for "Be The One" is just the tip of the iceberg, for the Veterans

Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Pillar. National Commander Dan Wiley was asked to participate in an Oval office ceremony recently where President Trump signed the executive order to remove outdated barriers allowing research into the therapeutic value of cannabis. This is something The American Legion has been fighting for under the VA&R pillar since a resolution was passed in 2016. This research could benefit many veterans and could even play a role in reducing Veteran Suicide. Advocating for veterans benefits and quality health care on capitol hill and at the more personal level by representing veterans with VA claims are a huge part of this very important pillar. To find out even more about VA&R visit the national website at [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org).

I want to make a quick reminder about the Detachment Commander's project, the Kansas Cadet Law program. If you're interested in contributing to this program, please send your checks to the Detachment of Kansas write "Commander's Project" in the memo line, and mail to the Detachment Finance Officer Mike Saindon, 312 E. Tall Tree Rd, Derby, KS 67037.

In closing, thank you for all you do! Your continued membership and service to this organization and all the great things your squadrons do make me proud to be your Detachment Commander.

For God and Country,

Matthew Krupco

Kansas Detachment Commander

---

## Membership Cheers and Tears for the New Year

First the Cheers, thank you for all the Squadrons that have worked hard and hit at least 90% Membership by the 19 December report:

	City	Percentage			
Squadron 44	Holton	92.86	Squadron 174	Ellsworth	100
Squadron 142	Perry	95.65	Squadron 200	Holyrood	100
Squadron 25	Fort Scott	108.33	Squadron 267	Lucas	97.3
				Medicine	
Squadron 350	Spring Hill	100	Squadron 69	Lodge	102.63
Squadron 385	Moran	90.63	Squadron 47	Dodge City	113.89
Squadron 5	Emporia	121.74	Squadron 173	Hays	95
Squadron 13	Yates Center	131.58	Squadron 281	Logan	91.67
Squadron 125	Lyndon	127.27	Squadron 357	Agra	100
Squadron 296	Gridley	90.91	Squadron 181	Frankfort	96.88
Squadron 323	Lebo	Up and running	Squadron 235	Greenleaf	102.5
Squadron 65	Whitewater	93.33	Squadron 237	Linn	100
Squadron 90	Wellington	100	Squadron 12	Herington	100
Squadron 99	Russell	94.12	Squadron 39	Abilene	104.55
				Council	
Squadron 109	Natoma	130	Squadron 121	Grove	100

And the Goose Eggs, remember if you aren't renewed by December 31<sup>st</sup>, you aren't a current member in the New Year.

Squadron 94	Leavenworth
Squadron 193	Scandia
Squadron 86	Pratt
Squadron 106	Larned
Squadron 241	Geneseo
Squadron 280	Burdett
Squadron 63	Norton
Squadron 321	Seldon
Squadron 306	Hanover
Squadron 172	Wamego

---

### Message from the Detachment Vice Commander

Dear Fellow Sons

Congratulations to the **Sons of the American Legion** for reaching **61.77% membership by December!** This milestone reflects the dedication, teamwork, and pride our members show in supporting our Post, our veterans, and our community.

Achieving this level of membership so early in the year is a strong indicator of the commitment within our Squadron. Every renewed and new member represents continued service to the mission of The American Legion and its programs that benefit veterans, youth, and families.

Thank you to all the officers, volunteers, and members who have worked hard to promote membership and encourage participation. Your efforts do not go unnoticed and are truly appreciated.

Let's keep the momentum going as we work together toward 100% membership and another successful year for the Sons of the American Legion. Well done, and keep up the great work!

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Safe travels during this holiday season. Hope to see everyone at the Midwinter Forum in Dodge City.

Your Vice Commander/membership chairman

Michael Weber

620-430-0651

spidercreek220@gmail



---

## Message from the Detachment Adjutant

The **2026 Operation North Pole** provided 204 children of families with the Soldier Recovery Unit and families of deployed soldiers with a gift card and a visit with Santa, compliments of the Kansas American Legion Family.



**Emblem Sales in 2025:** I recently received a report that included information about Emblem Sales metrics and wanted to pass it along.

### Top Highlights: (as of 12 Dec)

- **2025 Total Sales:** Nearly \$15,700,000 in orders
- **2025 Total Flag Sales:** Nearly \$3,400,000 in orders
- **2025 Number of Orders Processed:** Over 99,000
- **Custom Order Drop-Ship Fulfillment Timeframes**
  - o **Uniform Caps** – 6 to 8 weeks
  - o **Name Tags** – 7 to 10 business days
  - o **Shirt Embroidery Personalization** – 4 weeks
  - o **Plaques** – 4 weeks
  - o **Rings** – 10 weeks
  - o **Legion Rider Back Patches** – 3 weeks
  - o **All other items** – on average 2 to 4 weeks

**Your help is needed** to contact Congress and urge them to pass H.R. 2605/S. 1441, the Service Dogs Assisting Veterans (SAVES) Act! This legislation proposes a five-year pilot program for the VA to award grants to nonprofit organizations to provide trained service dogs to eligible veterans, cover the cost of training, and provide lifelong veterinary insurance.

*The American Legion appreciates all the emails you have sent so far.*

*Go to the [Action Center](#) to quickly email a letter of support to your members of Congress and let's maintain Kansas' nationwide lead in contacting out elected representatives.*

**All SAL Members are invited** to attend the Midwest Region Gathering to be held 13-14 Mar 2026 at American Legion Post 112 in Omaha, NE. **The Midwest Region Gathering brings together Sons of The American Legion members for a weekend of learning, connection, and forward momentum. Come share ideas, build new partnerships, and strengthen the mission of supporting our veterans, their families, and our communities.**

**Highlights Include:**

Leadership Development Sessions  
Membership & Training Workshops  
Regional Collaboration Meetings  
Fellowship, Networking, and Social Events

Our own Terry Harris, ANEC/PNVC/PDC will be co-leading a roundtable discussion on Committees, Commissions and other topics. See [SALKansas.org](https://salkansas.org) for the PDF file with more information and the registration form.

I hope that all had a Merry Christmas and/or a Happy Hannukah and I wish you all health and prosperity in the new year. Thanks for all you do and remember to **Be The One!**

Chris Krueger  
Detachment Adjutant

---

**Message from Finance Officer Michael Saindon,**

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 members who are US citizens are 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 support documents and information in a single

envelope deliverable by 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

---

#### **Message from Rick Miller, SALute Editor**

Find out when reports are due and copies to fill out at <https://salkansas.org/>. Also find important events coming like these:

- Mid-Winter Forum - 30 Jan-1 Feb 2026
- Department Oratorical Contest - 7 Mar 2026 - Post 4 Wichita
- National Commander's In-state Homecoming - 28 March 2026 - Post 153 Olathe
- Department Convention - 29-31 May 2026 - Topeka Ramada
- Kansas American Legion Leadership College - 5-7 Jun 2026 - Concordia
- Kansas Legacy Run - 12-14 June 2026

# **Sons of The American Legion**



## **Detachment of Kansas Scholarship Program**

---

**Scan QR Codes Below To See If  
You Are Eligible**

**"Udie" Grant  
\$1000 Scholarship**



**Jay B. Thielen  
\$500 Scholarship**





**NEXT MEETING NOVEMBER 18TH**

## NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

# MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

NOVEMBER 2025

**NEXT TARGET DATE-NOVEMBER 13TH-35%**

**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION**

**ABC**

**EASY AS**

**1 2 3**

**MEMBERSHIP**

1. Recruit one new member to The American Legion  
(Get a "I got One" shirt)
2. Recruit one new member and renew one member to the SAL. (two total)  
(Get our eternal gratitude!)
3. Sign up 3 for the Legion, 3 for the AL Auxiliary, 3 for the SAL  
(9 total)  
(Get a Family Three Pin)

[illegible]

### INDIVIDUAL RECRUITMENT AWARD (IRA)



**EARN THE INDIVIDUAL RECRUITMENT AWARD AND PROUDLY DISPLAY YOUR IRA PIN ON YOUR COVER BY RECRUITING FIVE NEW MEMBERS!**

**VERIFICATION FORMS CAN BE FOUND BY VISITING  
LEGION.ORG/SONS (PUBLICATIONS & FORMS)**

**CLICK HERE** 

## RENEW NOW!

**2025 MEMBERSHIP  
CARDS EXPIRE  
DECEMBER 31ST!**

**SCAN ME** 

**LEGION.ORG/SAL-RENEW**



The Sons of the American Legion,  
Detachment of Kansas introduces a new program  
that will benefit the entire Legion family!



## Get One For The Legion!

This program rewards Sons of the American Legion members for doing the work and supporting the American Legion, while the Legion gets the new members and continues to grow their membership and stay alive and active. ***And the whole American Legion Family benefits:*** Every time the Legion gains a new member, chances are there are family members that are eligible to join the Auxiliary, Sons, Riders and Cruisers.

How it works: Any SAL member (regular, dual, or triple) that recruits a NEW legion member gets a polo shirt courtesy of the Detachment of Kansas. The detachment pays for the shirts and the embroidery. On one side of the shirt, it is embroidered with "Got One For The Legion Family" and on the other side it is embroidered with the SAL logo/emblem. The shirts were designated to be a bright neon color for two reasons: 1) When you know the program and see someone wearing the shirt, you know they signed up a new legion member 2) It is a great conversation starter for people unaware of the program. The shirt color will change each year, but will be a bright color to draw attention to the program.

Go to <https://salkansas.org> to download the submission form!





## Get One For The Legion Submission Form



Recruiting SAL Member Name:		Membership ID #:	
Squadron #		Squadron City:	
Recruiting SAL Member Mailing Address:		Polo shirt size: S-5XL	

New Legion Member Name:		Address:	
Phone:		Email:	
Date Member was signed up:		New Membership ID#:	
Post City:		Post #	
Post Adjutant Approval - Name:		Post Adjutant Membership ID#:	
Signature:		Date:	

Detachment Adjutant signature:		Date:	
--------------------------------	--	-------	--

Email to [det.adj.ks@gmail.com](mailto:det.adj.ks@gmail.com) (preferred) or print and mail to Get One for the Legion, c/o Argonne Post 180, Box 721, Great Bend, KS 67530

2026 Mid-Winter Forum Meals  
January 30-31, February 1<sup>st</sup>  
Dodge City Post #47

Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup>

Dinner: \$15 KC Strip, Baked Potato, Green Beans, Salad

Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup>

Breakfast: Biscuits and gravy, eggs, sausage, hash browns (Free to registered members)

Lunch – On your own (there are food trucks at each location that should be open)

Dinner: \$15 Brisket, pulled pork, smoked sausage, potato salad, pasta salad, baked beans, dessert.

Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>

Breakfast: Community Breakfast at the VFW (\$15 per person).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Post/Unit/Squadron \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Friday Night Dinners to be reserved x \$15: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Saturday Night Dinners to be reserved x \$15: \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed for the amount of: \_\_\_\_\_

Main to:

American Legion Post #47

PO Box 359

Dodge City, KS 67801

**La Quinta Inn & Suites by Wyndham Dodge City**

2400 W Wyatt Earp Blvd, Dodge City, KS 67801  
620-488-6484

**Best Western Plus Country Inn & Suites**

506 N. 14th Avenue, Dodge City, KS 67801  
620-225-7378

**Super 8 by Wyndham Dodge City**

1708 W Wyatt Earp Blvd, Dodge City, KS 67801  
(620) 682-4524

**Hampton Inn & Suites Dodge City**

4002 West Comanche, Dodge City, KS 67801  
(620) 225-0000

**Best Western North Edge Inn**

404 W Frontview, Dodge City, KS 67801  
(620) 371-6441

**Quality Inn**

2000 W Wyatt Earp Blvd, Dodge City, KS 67801  
(620) 471-0690

**Windsor Inn & Suites**

2320 W Wyatt Earp Blvd, Dodge City, KS 67801  
(620) 227-5000

**Comfort Suites**

2700 W Wyatt Earp Blvd, Dodge City, KS 67801  
(620) 801-4545

**Holiday Inn Express & Suites Dodge City by IHG**

201 4th Avenue, Dodge City, KS 67801  
(620) 225-1000

**Towne Place Suites by Marriott Dodge City**