



SALUTE

A Detachment of Kansas Newsletter

Date: January 2025



Message from the Detachment Commander

Greetings Kansas Sons of the American Legion!

This holiday season can be a great time, but may be tough for some. Many of our veterans and their families go through some tough times, and so please be doing those "Buddy Checks" and "Be The One"!

SAL National Commander Joseph Navarrete's slogan this year is "Honoring our heritage". Commander Joseph Navarrete emphasizes that we should carry on our why, representing our family's service and the sacrifices they paid to each other and for each other. Everyone should bear that in attitude at all times!

Concerning membership - as of 12/31/2024, any membership renewals that haven't been transmitted are considered delinquent. Adjutants, please do not sit on memberships that you have received - please turn them in!

Renewal online is available, and it is easy! Go to <https://www.legion.org/sons> and hit the Renew button.

This month's SALute has many great articles from our SAL leadership. 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!!!!

2024 is done! It has been a great year for me personally with the birth of my son, Byron. I love every moment I spend with him! Now we are in 2025, does your Sons of the American Legion card say 2025 on top? Byron's and mine do. As always renewals are my big push "Leave no member behind" reach out and check in on them and invite them back.



A great way to recognize the membership work horses in your squadron is the Individual Recruitment Award (IRA). This is the easiest of the awards, if you recruit 5 new members you are eligible. The New Member "Blue Brigade" Recruiter Award is for members that recruit 30 or more, this also puts you in the running for National recruiter of the Year. These forms can be found at www.salkansas.org, go to the drop-down menu, click membership and scroll to the award form you wish to submit. The National Vice Commanders have the IRA pins with them, I would love to take some away from them.

The next National Membership goal is 60% by January 15th. Congratulations Kansas, we are at 63% and are cruising to a fantastic year! Keep working the renewals, we are currently at 59% there is plenty of room to chase down 100%

Congratulations to the following squadrons for reaching 100% membership!

Kansas City #213

Blue Mound #279

Cherokee #35

Lyndon #125

Whitewater #65

Derby-Haysville #408

Ellsworth #174

Dorrance #334

McCraken #59

Medicine Lodge #69

Hoisington #286

Garden City #9

Dodge City #47

Sublette #205

Frankfort #181

Linn #237

Unfortunately, even with the new year here, we still have 18 squadrons with a Goose egg problem. Additionally, there are 18 squadrons "not in good standing" and need a few more members to reach 10 and get back in good standing. National has been putting pressure on your Detachment Leadership team for the last couple of years to do something with our squadrons that struggle every year, even pushing for suspensions or pulling charters. Don't let it come to that, let's work together, remember your WHY and save your squadron.

Your Detachment Vice-Commander

Matthew Krupco

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Message from the Detachment Adjutant

Greetings, Kansas Sons!

The Department of Kansas American Legion Mid-Winter Forum offers every member, especially Squadron leaders and chairmen, the opportunity to learn more about The Sons of the American Legion, its programs and the direction each program is expected to take if there are any changes being considered, including changes directed by National Headquarters. In addition, the Forum provides information about how and why The Sons of the American Legion functions in the manner we do as an organization.



This year's Forum scheduled for January 31 to February 2 will be hosted by Great Bend Post 180 with Events located at 1011 Kansas Avenue in Great Bend. Friday, 31 January, will include a Department Executive Committee meeting at 4 pm. Registration will begin on Friday between 3 to 7 pm at the Post. The Post will serve a Fried Chicken Dinner with Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, a Vegetable and Roll for \$10.00 from 5 to 8 pm. On Saturday, February 1, Registration will continue starting at 7:00 am with biscuits and gravy, juice and coffee for \$5.00.

The formal activities begin with a Joint Legion/Auxiliary/S.A.L. meeting at The Post located at 1011 Kansas Avenue at 8 am. After the Joint Opening the Legion, Auxiliary and the S.A.L. will meet in different rooms and other nearby locations. Trail Candidate for National Commander Jay Bowen from the Department of Colorado will address and present information to those in attendance.

Lunch will be Sloppy Joes and Chips at a price of \$7.00.

Concluding the day's meetings, the Post will serve a Smothered Steak Dinner with mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, dinner rolls for \$10.00 from 5:30 to 7 P.M. After dinner entertainment will be at the Post. Sunday's schedule will begin at 7:00 to 8:00 am with Scrambled eggs, sausage, hashbrowns, Biscuits and gravy, Orange Juice and Coffee FREE for

those that have Registered. All others at a price of \$8.00. Registration will be open from 7:00 to 8:00 am. At 8:00 am Commander Evans will call the Forum back to order before turning the podium over to Department Chaplain Debra Muylaert who will conduct a Four Chaplains Memorial Service at the Post. There will be a wrap up of reports followed by the Department Sweepstakes Drawing.

For early Registration PLEASE mail payments to: Cmdr Boe Levingston, Box 721, Great Bend, Kansas 67530. DO NOT MAIL TO DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS. For Tickets and any additional information, please contact Boe Levingston at 620-282-2553 or the Post at 620-793-5912.

The Agenda for the Forum is available to download at www.kansaslegion.org. it is not too early to reserve your room at one of the many hotels in the Great Bend Area. The recommended Hotels are: Holiday Inn Express located at 3821 10th Street, Telephone number: 620-603-6565. The Best Western Black Angus Inn located at 2921 10th Street, Telephone number: 620-792-3541. The Super 8 Motel by Wyndham located at 911 Grant Street, Telephone number: 620-910-9523. No Block Room Rates have been negotiated. PLEASE contact your Hotel of Choice for the Best Option.

Plan to attend and ask a Son or Legionnaire to attend with you. Hope to see you there!

Current Legislation to support:

All of us can greatly impact the American Legion's legislative agenda via Voter Voice. You can sign up at <https://www.votervoicenet.com/AmericanLegion/home>.

The American Legion calls on Congress to take immediate action to help the thousands of homeless veterans across this nation. Passing the ***Housing Unhoused Disabled Veterans Act*** is an essential first step to help address this issue. With its broad bipartisan support, this bill would exempt veterans' disability benefits from counting towards their income when determining their eligibility for housing assistance through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Disability compensation is counted as income when determining eligibility for housing assistance programs through HUD. As a result, many disabled veterans are priced out of these programs because of their disability benefits.

It is long overdue for federal agencies to treat VA disability payments like other federal agencies such as the I.R.S. For years, the I.R.S. has instructed veterans not to include disability compensation in their gross income. The ***Housing Unhoused Disabled Veterans Act*** would significantly improve the lives of many disabled veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, by expanding their accessibility to HUD's housing programs. Congress can make a profound difference in the lives of many of our fellow veterans most at risk this holiday season.

We ask that you contact your member of Congress on H.R. 8340.

Message from the Detachment Finance Officer

SAL408 Derby-Haysville hosted its 6th annual Christmas for Kids. This where the kids play games and win tickets. There over 20 games for all the kids to play. Then they take the tickets and go buy toys with them. This year SAL408 gave out approximately \$3500.00 in toys. This is free of charge to all the kids.

We also provide cookie, drinks and face painting for the kids.

And this year Santa joined SAL408.



Programs of The American Legion – Boys State and Boys Nation

Boys State

American Legion Boys State is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for U.S. high school students. A participatory program in which students become part of the operation of local, county and state government, Boys State was founded in 1935 to counter the socialism-inspired Young Pioneer Camps. The program was the idea of two Illinois Legionnaires, Hayes Kennedy and Harold Card, who organized the first Boys State at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield.



American Legion Auxiliary sponsors a separate but similar program for young women called Girls State.

At Boys State, participants learn the rights, privileges and responsibilities of franchised citizens. The training is objective and centers on the structure of city, county and state governments. Operated by students elected to various offices, Boys State activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law-enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, choruses and recreational programs.

Legion posts select high school juniors to attend the program. In most cases, individual expenses are paid by a sponsoring post, a local business or another community-based organization.

Boys State programs currently exist in all Legion departments in the United States except Hawaii. As separate corporations, Boys State programs vary in content and method of procedure, but each adheres to the same basic concept: teaching government from the township to the state level.

For more information:

Please review [eligibility and dates](#) to find a program and contact information in your state.

Boys Nation

Two representatives from each of the 49 Boys States represent their state at Boys Nation in Washington, where the young leaders receive an education on the structure and function of federal government.

The first Boys Nation – then called Boys Forum of National Government – convened at American University in Washington in August 1946. The 1946 American Legion National Convention adopted the event as an official youth activity. Three years later, it became American Legion Boys Nation.

At the event, each delegate acts as a senator from his Boys State. The young lawmakers caucus at the beginning of the session, then organize into committees and conduct hearings on bills submitted by program delegates.

Senators learn the proper method of handling bills, according to U.S. Senate rules. Participation in the political process is emphasized throughout the week, including organization of party conventions and nominating and electing a president and vice president.

The week of government training also includes lectures, forums and visits to federal agencies, national shrines, institutions, memorials and historical sites. On Capitol Hill, Boys Nation senators meet with elected officials from their home states.

Since Boys Nation began in 1946, a number of its graduates have been elected to public office, including presidents, congressmen, state governors and state legislators. Many others have been inspired to work for the campaigns of individuals seeking public office.

Terry Harris, Alt. NEC

Thank you for all you do to support the Legion and Sons programs for each of the four pillars. In the next four issues I will try to highlight one of the pillars. This month is Americanism and what is more American than when we fly our flag. When the flag is to be flown at half-staff. Days in the year that the flag is to be flown at half-staff include Memorial Day (May), Peace Officer Memorial Day (May), Patriot Day (Sept. 11), National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service (October) and Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day (Dec. 7).

The flag is to be flown at full-staff on Armed Forces Day, Flag Day, Independence Day and Labor Day. "Unless your state governor or the president of the United States has a half-staff proclamation issued, the United States flag is to be displayed at full staff," said Ann Byars, youth education and civics manager for the National Americanism Division, during The American Legion's virtual Training Tuesday session May 24.

Want to be notified when the flag is to be flown at half-staff?

Sign up for the Flag Alert e-newsletter at legion.org/newsletters for notification when the U.S. flag is to be displayed at half-staff.

Rick Miller

UPCOMING EVENTS or Deadlines

31 Jan – 2 Feb 25 – Mid Winter Forum Great Bend

15 Feb 25 Due date for most Department or Detachment Scholarships

<https://kansaslegion.org/scholarships>

February District Oratorical Contests check <https://kansaslegion.org/201-2>

15 Mar 25 – Department Oratorical Contest Topeka Post 400

31 Mar 25 Due date for Cadet Law Applications

30 Apr 25 Due date for Boys State Applications