



SALUTE

A Detachment of Kansas Newsletter

Date: October 2026



Message from the Detachment Commander

Keep the Sons Moving Forward,

As we move into October, I want to talk about several things that are important to the Sons of The American Legion in Kansas: **membership, COTA, Vigil 22, ALF Dog, and communication.**

Membership — Every Member Counts

Membership is more than a number on a report. Every new member gives us another person who can help support our veterans, their families and our communities.

As we work toward our membership goals, don't wait for someone else to ask a potential member to join. **Ask them yourself.** Talk to your family, friends and those in your community who are eligible. One conversation can make a difference.

COTA — Give What You Can

COTA, the Children's Organ Transplant Association, is another program where our support can make a real difference. The SAL has an opportunity to help families facing the tremendous financial challenges that can come with a child's transplant.

Our goal doesn't have to be complicated. **Every squadron can do something.** A small donation from each squadron can add up to make a big difference for a family that needs our help.

Vigil 22 — Lyons, Kansas



On **November 22 and 23**, the Kansas American Legion Family will come together in **Lyons, Kansas, for Vigil 22**.

The 22-hour vigil will be held at the Rice County Courthouse. Members will stand watch in 22-minute shifts over a flag-draped casket.

This is an important opportunity to remember those we have lost and to bring attention to the importance of **Be the One** and reaching out to our veterans and fellow members who may be struggling. I encourage our SAL members to participate, volunteer for a shift, or simply come to Lyons and show your support. **Being there matters.**

ALF Dog — A Program Worth Supporting

I also want to talk about **ALF Dog**. This is a program that gives us another opportunity to make a difference in the lives of children and families.

ALF Dog is about bringing comfort, companionship and a little happiness to children who are dealing with difficult circumstances. Whether it is through donations, fundraising or helping get these dogs where they are needed, our squadrons have an opportunity to support something that has a direct impact on children.

But for this program to succeed, **we have to know about it.**

That brings me to a concern I have heard from members and squadrons: **communication.**

Communication — We Have to Do Better

We have good programs, good people and members who want to help. But if information doesn't get from the top down to the squadrons, our members don't have the opportunity to participate.

ALF Dog is a good example. If squadrons aren't receiving information about the program, upcoming opportunities, fundraising needs or how they can get involved, then we are missing opportunities to help.

Communication has to work both ways. If you have information, **share it.** If you need information, **ask for it.** If something changes, **let the membership know.**

Nobody expects perfection. But we do need to make an effort to keep our squadrons informed and involved.

Moving Forward Together

Membership, COTA, Vigil 22 and ALF Dog all have something in common: **they are about people helping people.**

Let's finish the year strong. Let's bring in new members. Let's support COTA. Let's show up in Lyons for Vigil 22. Let's support ALF Dog. And most importantly, let's make sure our members know what is happening and how they can help.

Communication, participation and teamwork are what will move the Kansas SAL forward.

For God and Country,

Michael Weber

Detachment Commander

Sons of The American Legion — Kansas

Message from Detachment Vice Commander,

Fellow Sons,

September has rolled by so fast. As we move on with membership the Commander and I have reached out to many of you to see how it's going and see what we can do for you. It has been a pleasure speaking with you. To hear the passion that many of you have for our organization is wonderful to hear. The time and devotion that is sacrificed does not go unnoticed. As we move forward this year, please don't hesitate to reach out to your Detachment officers for any concerns or assistance. We are here to help. Let us know if you have an event coming so we can help you promote it. Send us an article on things you have done so we can share it in the SALute. These are the types of fibers that weave us together and make us stronger. The Vice Commander homecoming is October 17th in Abilene. It will be a pleasure to meet you there. As we reach out to squadrons, I challenge Commanders to reach out to your members, do a buddy check and invite them back. If you have not been exercising the re-membership plan now is the time. Let's make some calls it's simple to start a conversation. It can be a simple asking of someone how have you been. Listen and invite them back. Let's keep pushing for a great 2026-2027 year. We are in most districts off to a great start. Let's eliminate the goose eggs now and keep momentum moving. Our goal for 35% is October 14th we are 23% now. If you have renewals let's, get them turned in! Remember we are already renewing for 2027. July In December Out! Thanks for all you do!



For God and Country

Your,

Detachment of Kansas

Vice Commander

Jeff Kerns

Message from the Detachment Chaplin

Please pray with me,

Lord as we go through our life with your guidance. Let us be thankful for your blessings every second of every day that is granted by you.

Thank you for the men and women and K-9's that protect our safety and freedom.

In your son Jesus name we pray. AMEN

Pastor Gregg Thompson

State of Kansas

S.A.L. Detachment Chaplain



★ 22 VETERANS A DAY. ★

22 HOUR VIGIL

22 HOURS TO HONOR. | 22 LIVES LOST EACH DAY.

Join us as we stand together in remembrance, awareness, and hope for our nation's heroes.

TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE.



DATE
NOVEMBER 22, 2026



TIME
STARTING @ 2 PM
– 12 PM
(22 CONSECUTIVE HOURS)



LOCATION
LYONS, KANSAS
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



Every day, 22 veterans die by suicide. That's 22 too many.

This 22-hour vigil is a time to remember those we've lost, support those who are struggling, and raise awareness that suicide prevention works. No one has to face this alone.



BE THE ONE

TO ASK.
TO LISTEN.
TO REACH OUT.
TO SAVE A LIFE.

Small conversations can make a **BIG** difference.

Be the One.

AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS



REACH OUT
Check in on fellow veterans.



LISTEN
A listening ear can save a life.



ENCOURAGE
Support treatment and resources.

CONTACT INFO

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Phone: 1-620-910-7998
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AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS

YOU ARE NOT ALONE.
If you or someone you know is in crisis, help is available 24/7.

988 Press 1 | TEXT 838255



LEARN MORE.
GET HELP.
GET INVOLVED.

www.kansaslegion.org

★ HONOR. REMEMBER. SUPPORT. PREVENT. ★

★ SONS OF ★ THE AMERICAN LEGION

***DID YOU
KNOW?***

★
YOU CAN RENEW YOUR
2027
MEMBERSHIP
ONLINE!



IT'S QUICK AND EASY!



legion.org/sal-renew



**RENEW WITH A
CREDIT CARD**



**USE YOUR
LAST NAME AND
MEMBERSHIP ID**



**UPDATE YOUR
CONTACT
INFORMATION**



**2026 MEMBERSHIP CARDS
EXPIRE **DECEMBER 31ST, 2026.****

★ **DON'T WAIT UNTIL IT EXPIRES – RENEW TODAY!** ★



Support the A.L.F. Dog Project!

Sons of The American Legion • Detachment of Kansas
Helping comfort Kansas children of deployed military service members

Our Goal: Raise \$1,440 to purchase 144 A.L.F. Dogs
Just \$10 per dog — every Squadron contribution helps!

Bring Comfort to a Military Child

The Detachment of Kansas Sons of The American Legion is raising funds to purchase A.L.F. (American Legion Family) Dogs for children whose parent or parents are currently deployed in service to our nation.

These plush dogs are more than a gift. Each one is a reminder that the entire American Legion Family is thinking of these young heroes and appreciates the sacrifices they make alongside their loved ones.

Each A.L.F. Dog Represents the American Legion Family

- The American Legion
- American Legion Auxiliary
- Sons of The American Legion
- American Legion Riders

Each dog proudly wears a red shirt displaying the four American Legion Family emblems and represents love, support, and unity during the difficult time of a parent's deployment.



How You Can Help

We are asking each Squadron to consider donating to help fund this meaningful project. The minimum order is 144 dogs at \$10 each, for a total of \$1,440. If each Squadron contributes \$10, we will be well on our way to making this project a reality.

Together, we can remind these young heroes that they are never alone and that the American Legion Family stands beside them every step of the way.

Donate Today

Send checks to:

Detachment Finance Officer Michael Saindon
312 E Tall Tree Rd
Derby, KS 67037

Questions? Contact ANEC Terry Harris at taharris.sal@gmail.com.