

SUNFLOWERETTE

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, DEPARTMENT OF KS

March 2025

Website: www.kansasala.org Facebook: www.facebook.com/aladepotokansas

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RIDE THE TIDE FOR VETERANS

MAKE EACH WAVE COUNT

By: Tracy Kinnick, Department President



What a great start to the new year for the Department of Kansas! If you missed the Mid-Winter Forum you missed a great time with hands-on learning and leadership games. Thank you to all of our presenters and members who showed up to make this event a success.

Just like our Eisenhower Pilgrimage the state of Illinois also has a Lincoln Pilgrimage. It was a great event celebrating the birthday of the great President Lincoln alongside many members from the state of Kansas and surrounding states.

As I am preparing to go to Washington DC I am reminded about

our mission of advocating for our veterans, active military, and their families. Attending Washington Days with the American Legion Family is one of my favorite events, as we together march on the hill meeting our representatives from Kansas and discussing the legislative action for our veterans, while also discussing the other issues among our veterans, active military and their families. This is one more WHY for me as a member of this organization. What is yours?



We are just a few short weeks from our goal of 85% membership by March 15. Work with your unit to help renew members who have not renewed, ask your friends and family members to join. Be sure to tell them that they are not expected to attend meetings, or participate in all activities, their membership helps us with a LOUDER voice in DC and we need their membership to continue our mission of advocating change for veterans, active military, and their families. The worst they will say is no, I can't count the times I have been told no, but on the other side, I have been told yes many times.



Will you meet the challenge for membership?

GRASSROOTS CALL February 20, 2025, at 7:00 PM March 18th @ 7:00 PM Budgeting and 990's

Mentor for Auxiliary Success!

By Kristen Hensley, Department Vice-President



Spring is coming and so is election time for Unit positions, District positions and, at the beginning of June, for Department positions. As people transition out of varying roles and begin new ones, this gives those that have held positions to really mentor the members now taking on new ones.

Everyone across our great Department has heard mention of the “lack of depth of leadership” that we have all been experiencing. So, what does that mean, exactly? To put it simply, we don’t seem to have enough people to fill available roles in key officer positions. This seems to be an issue that other Departments also face across our organization and is not unique to Kansas.

In my career, our Core Leadership Team, consisting of five founding and general partners do continuing learning through book studies and implementing those leadership skills and ideals that fit our industry. A few years ago, we all read the book “The Founder & The Force Multiplier” by Adam Hergenrother with Hallie Warner. In this book, they stressed that in any position you hold, it is important to identify and mentor and train two or three people as your potential your ‘replacement’ in any position you hold. This resonated with me on so many levels and could easily be applied to our organization as well.

As years go on, I have witnessed the lack of people reaching out and actively mentoring newer members as they begin their journeys. This has led to a lack of understanding, whether processes, protocol or tradition, loss of historical knowledge, and our younger members refusal to step into roles we need them to take on. All of us can help solve this gap.

I encourage each of you to find at least 2 people, whether in your unit, district or elsewhere in the Department of Kansas, to actively mentor. Utilize ALA Academy and encourage taking these courses, reach out to them answering questions and challenging them to learn something new. Through this mentorship and educations, we will create strong leaders that we all can be proud of, drive participation and recruitment, and secure the future of our Department’s future successes.



Embracing Unexpected Change: A Perspective on Resilience

Life is a journey filled with both joys and challenges, and often, the most difficult moments arise from unexpected change. I have walked alongside many individuals who have faced sudden shifts—loss of a loved one, a medical diagnosis, a job transition, or other unforeseen circumstances. In these moments, the uncertainty can feel overwhelming, yet within the unknown, there is also an opportunity for growth, reflection, and renewal.

The Nature of Unexpected Change

Change is an inevitable part of life, but when it comes suddenly, it can shake the very foundation of our security. We may feel unprepared, anxious, or even resistant. However, embracing adaptability and resilience can help us navigate uncertain times with a sense of purpose and direction.

Finding Strength in Perspective

In times of unexpected change, perspective can be an anchor. It reminds us that we are not alone and that challenges, though sometimes difficult, can lead to personal growth. Through mindfulness, reflection, and support from loved ones or a community, we can find peace even amid chaos. History is filled with stories of individuals who faced abrupt changes—leaders who lost everything and rebuilt, innovators who turned setbacks into breakthroughs—each showing that adversity can lead to new opportunities.

Responding to Change with Grace

When change comes, it is natural to grieve what was lost. Acknowledge your feelings and allow yourself to process them. Seek support from loved ones, mentors, or a professional network. Most importantly, focus on the aspects within your control and take proactive steps forward. Practicing gratitude and self-care can also help maintain a sense of stability during uncertain times.

Embracing the New Path

Though unexpected change is often difficult, it also provides opportunities for new beginnings. It invites us to grow in resilience, deepen our understanding, and experience new possibilities. What may seem like a detour in our plans might actually be leading us to something greater.

If you are facing an unexpected change, know that you are not alone. Each challenge is an opportunity to adapt, learn, and grow. By embracing change with an open heart and a strong mindset, we can navigate uncertainty with confidence and hope.

Remember the time grows near to have your Unit Chaplain Books complete, these should show the prayers, Scriptures, and spiritual community you have provided to your Members, Veterans and Active-Duty Members of the Military and their families. Make these books a Vision of your Unit.

Department of Kansas Chaplain – Cindy Ward

(309) 222-7233 – Email: Cindy.ward2019@outlook.com

LEADERSHIP

Linda Sullivan, Chairman
917 W Sunrise Dr Wichita, KS 67217
316-619-9834 sullypsy@yahoo.com

Linda Hicks
1523 N. 82nd Terr. KCKS 66112
917-579-8233 lhicks20@kc.rr.com

As District Conventions approach, this will serve as a reminder:

Department Representatives will have forms for the District President to fill-out and return with the Department Representative; also the winning History book, winning Prayer book, and winning Poppy entries need to be sent to Department with the Department Representative. Please send any membership and donations to the Department President's Project with them.

Please fill-out and send/give to your District President your new Officers and Chairmen List. If you don't have a chairman for a program, have it sent to your president.

Send in your Direct Billing form to Department by May 1st to avoid incorrect data.

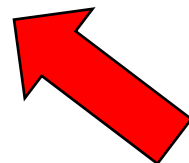
Unit Member of the Year nominations are due to the Leadership Chairman by May 1st. The form is on the website. If you cannot locate it, contact us and we will email it to you.

Impact Forms from your Units to your District should be turned into Department by now.

THESE HOURS AND NUMBERS ARE WHAT THE AMERICAN LEGION USES WHEN THEY GO TO CONGRESS TO GAIN FUNDS FOR OUR VETERANS.

NEWS DATES FOR IMPACT REPORTS

Reporting year January 1st through December 31st



UNITS turn in Impact forms to District President by January 31st

DISTRICT PRESIDENTS combine and turn in Impact forms to
Department Headquarters by February 28th
give a copy to your District Chairmen for their reports

DISTRICT CHAIRMEN turn your complete reports to your
District President for your District's Book of Reports by her deadline.

DISTRICT CHAIRMEN turn in your complete reports to your
Department Chairmen by April 15th

DISTRICT PRESIDENTS turn in your reports to
Department Headquarters by April 15th

LINK to the new Forms

https://www.kansasala.org/_files/ugd/142f8e_75107e9fc53d49ebba14db219d306724.pdf

https://www.kansasala.org/_files/ugd/142f8e_c2fc0f2cb80b441eb0a46c4f8512a149.pdf

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS PROGRAM

CHAIRPERSON:
Ann Barnes

PLEASE CLICK THE LINK BELOW TO SEE MORE INFO

https://4b913bba-70ac-4089-b6cb-a19dc7e0cfac.filesusr.com/ugd/142f8e_d2d6057d62f14946ac47ad5ed7353555.pdf

FROM Anndi Bownes

Here are a few informative resources from the National American Legion

Auxiliary presenters that were given out at Division Mission Training. They talked about the importance of creating partnerships with other organizations to further shared goals of supporting and helping our veterans, active-duty and their families. This information is directly from National Headquarters, I am not taking any credit for it, I am just sharing it in case there are others who will find it as helpful as I did. There is also a handy 1-page QR Code attachment for easy reference for many other great websites and information.

PLEASE CLICK THE LINK BELOW TO SEE MORE INFO

https://4b913bba-70ac-4089-b6cb-a19dc7e0cfac.filesusr.com/ugd/142f8e_d3e8e1d63da548b58d65d2a961bedc00.pdf

February 19, 2025

American Legion Auxiliary
Department of KS DEC

Dear Officers, Chairmen and Members:

It is with regret that I am rescinding my nomination for Department President for the 2025-2026 Administrative Year. This decision was not made lightly. Sometimes life circumstances create a situation where focus and care need to be redirected, and this is what has recently happened.

As some of you know, my father-in-law is currently on hospice and only has a few months left on this earth. When he leaves this place to join our creator, we will be moving my mother-in-law in with us. I will be working with her through her grief, helping her set up a trust that is revocable while she lives, that becomes irrevocable afterwards with checks and balances in place to ensure the continued medical care for Doug's sister who suffered from 9 aneurisms back in 2020, who is completely unable to care for herself. We will also be helping my MIL in disposing of accumulated assets from a 50 yr. marriage and helping her prep and sell their home, transferring what she designates into the trust that will be set up for Karen. This is going to take a great deal of time and effort to help my MIL navigate as well as helping her get established socially in a new town and processing her grief.

Knowing this is on the quickly approaching horizon, I must think what is best for our Department and the Organization as a whole. I have talked through this with two of my mentors and as difficult as it is, I honestly do not think that this is a good time for me to run for Department President, knowing that my bandwidth will already be stretched given the upcoming loss we will be experiencing as well as protecting my MIL from the vultures that are beginning to surface, knowing full well we are getting closer to my FIL's passing.

I do intend, at some point, to run for Department President. It could be next year, in a couple years, etc. but at this time, and under these circumstances, I truly believe in my heart that I am not the best choice at this time for our Department in the manner it truly needs. I pray everyone understands, this was a very difficult decision, nor was it lightly made.

I want to express that this has NOTHING to do with the Auxiliary as a whole, or any rumored problems within the Department of Kansas Auxiliary. I spoke to Pam Ray, incoming National President for 2025-2026, as I did not want her assuming anything negative about our Department based on my withdraw from the election. After explaining my situation, she was thankful I communicated with her as she honestly would have questioned the withdrawal. Please know that I love the ALA Department of Kansas and I will stay involved, assisting and mentoring in any way that I can as time allows. I had to be realistic on my proposed bandwidth to fulfill the requirements of our highest position, so for the sake of protecting my career, continued good health, my family, and the success of the Department of Kansas, I need to withdraw my candidacy for Department President.

Thank you for always supporting, mentoring, and challenging me. I truly am blessed to be surrounded by amazing members and continue to be inspired with what our members achieve. As I have stated, this is not 'never', it is just a 'not-right-now' for the good of the Organization.


Kristen D Henstey - Department Vice President/Membership
American Legion Auxiliary - Department of Kansas



A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families

February 21, 2025

Letter of Intent

To the members of the Department of Kansas American Legion Auxiliary:

I, Anndi Bownes am putting forth my intent to run for the office of Department President for the 2025-2026 year. I am a dual member of the Mooney-Long American Legion Post and Unit in Blue Mound, Kansas. My eligibility comes from my own service in the U.S. Army. I have served on many committees and chairmanships at all levels and have gone up the chain of Officer positions through the District up to Department.

Respectfully, Anndi Bownes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anndi Bownes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Junior Meeting is quickly approaching. It will take place on March 7-8, 2025 at the American Legion Post 36 at 404 Delaware, Oskaloosa Kansas. There is a registration fee of \$5 and a \$5 fee for lunch for all Junior's, Seniors and guest planning to attend. This is an overnight event so you will need to have sleeping bags, pillows and maybe an air mattress because it is a tile floor.

We will gather at 5pm on Friday the 7th to register and get acquainted and then dinner will be at 6pm. Saturday will be our day for business.

Please let me know if you plan to attend.

Sheila Snyder
Department Junior Activities Chair
785-640-7664
sheka111@aol.com

EVENTS

DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS

Auxiliary Juniors Meeting

MARCH 7-8, 2025

REGISTRATION FEE \$5.00
SAT LUNCH FEE \$5.00
FRI 5:00 PM ~ SAT 3:00 PM
OSKALOOSA POST 36
404 DELAWARE OSKALOOSA, KS

**SLUMBER PARTY,
CRAFTS, GAMES, AND MORE**

DON'T FORGET TO BRING A SLEEPING BAG AND PILLOW

MORE INFORMATION:
RSVP TO SHEILA SNYDER
785-640-7664
SHEKA111@AOL.COM

Planning is underway for **ALA Sunflower Girls State!** The 82nd Session will be held June 1-6, 2025, at The University of Kansas.

Registration forms are available now on our website and are due by May 1, 2025. Please use this registration form only to ensure we obtain all the necessary information for a camp involving minors.

The fee is \$425 per delegate. We are asking all delegates to contribute \$25 themselves, so the sponsoring units will only need to contribute \$400. Some units have used a similar model in the past. To stay consistent across all units, please do not ask delegates to contribute more (or less) than \$25.

We are so grateful to the ALA members who continue to be dedicated to working our program year after year!

What do we need from you?

- We need help with recruitment!
 - Please encourage the current high school juniors in your life to submit a registration form!
 - Share our information in your community. We have flyers and brochures to distribute.
 - Do you or someone you know work in a Kansas high school or partner with a home school co-op? If so, we would love to connect!
- We need volunteers at session! If you are available during session and willing to help, please let us know.

What is ALA Sunflower Girls State?

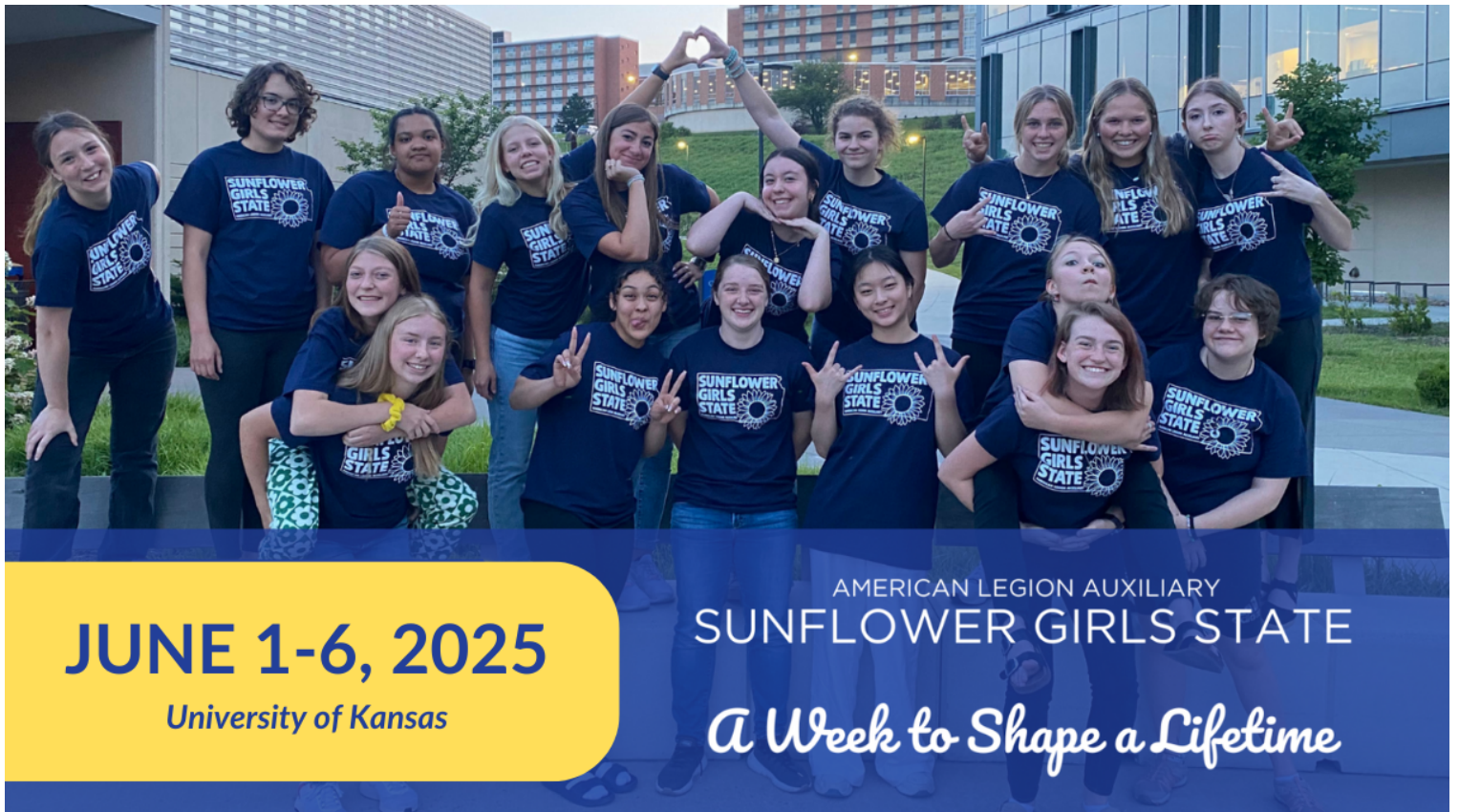
This is a week-long, government-in-action, non-partisan camp that teaches delegates Americanism, citizenship, government, and leadership. Delegates establish city-, county-, and state-level governments, run for office, debate and pass legislation, and hear from leaders at all levels of government from across Kansas.

Who is ALA Sunflower Girls State for?

Our program is for students between their junior and senior years of high school from across Kansas.

Would you like to learn more?

Please visit our website (www.ksgirlsstate.org), find us on social media (Facebook and Instagram), or contact ALA Liaison Pam King by phone (620-222-1835) during the day or Director Lindsay Maudlin by phone (620-728-4072) in the evenings or email (sunflowergirlsstate@gmail.com) for more information.



JUNE 1-6, 2025

University of Kansas

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
SUNFLOWER GIRLS STATE

A Week to Shape a Lifetime

CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW SGS EMAIL BROCHURE (8.5 x 14 in)

https://www.kansasala.org/_files/ugd/142f8e_e8dcb54fffa4700bbdac03a5e4cc582.pdf



THE AMERICAN LEGION

HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

A Constitutional Speech Contest

KANSAS ORATORICAL CONTEST

MARCH 15, 9:00 AM

TOPEKA POST #400 3029 US-24 TOPEKA, KS

FOR MORE INFO GO TO [HTTPS://KANSASLEGION.ORG/201-2](https://kansaslegion.org/201-2)

BOYS STATE OF KANSAS



AMERICAN LEGION

2025

87TH SESSION

JUNE 1ST - 7TH

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY |

GOODNOW HALL

1825 CLAFLIN RD

MANHATTAN, KS 66502

FOR MORE INFO WWW.KSBSTATE.ORG

LEGION NIGHT
JUNE 4, 2025 | 5 P.M.
KRAMER DINING CENTER
1835 CLAFLIN RD
MANHATTAN, KANSAS 66502



KANSAS AMERICAN LEGION/AUXILIARY CADET LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY

JUNE 15-20, 2025

FOR MORE INFO

GO TO THE

**[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.
COM/GROUPS/1049954552588217](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1049954552588217)**



APPLICANTS MUST BE A HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR OR SENIOR WITH A "C" AVERAGE AND BE PHYSICALLY ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN ALL OF THE ACTIVITIES IN THE WEEK-LONG ACADEMY. A VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE IS REQUIRED.