

# SUNFLOWERETTE

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS NEWSLETTER

April 2024



## NEW DEPT OFFICE EMAILS

OFFICE DIRECTOR [ksaladeptoffice@gmail.com](mailto:ksaladeptoffice@gmail.com)

FINANCE DIRECTOR [ksaladeptfinance@gmail.com](mailto:ksaladeptfinance@gmail.com)

## NEW DEPARTMENT WEBSITE

[www.kansasala.org](http://www.kansasala.org)

From the Desk of the President

Cheryl Eastep

Spring is finally here! April brings the promise of everything starting fresh again. It is my favorite time of year. It is also time for District conventions. I hope everyone has received their reports and is ready. VP Tracy Kinnick and I look forward to visiting your districts. I know District Presidents and officers are working hard for successful conventions. While we visit your conventions, we will have packets to help you with all the information that needs to be turned into the department after your elections. When at your conventions we will carry back to the office your elected officials for National Convention. We hope this helps ease all the information and improve communication on what should be completed after district conventions.

I recently had the opportunity to go to Washington Days on the Hill, I enjoyed my visit and the opportunity to further advocate for our veterans, their families, and our military. It is an eye-opening experience into the battle we continue to fight for our veterans.

Membership is the backbone of our organization. We have been working very hard for a few months on a membership audit of the current membership. We found 133+ members who were not entered into the ALAMIS system. For those units that have been having issues and reaching out, we hope that this has eased the issues that you were facing with membership.

Reminder: Email addresses are changing; all department email addresses will be no more as we transition to a new website.

Department Office: [ksaladeptoffice@gmail.com](mailto:ksaladeptoffice@gmail.com)

Department Finance: [ksaladeptfinance@gmail.com](mailto:ksaladeptfinance@gmail.com)

Department President: [cjeastep55@yahoo.com](mailto:cjeastep55@yahoo.com)

Department VP/ Membership: [tracykinnickala@gmail.com](mailto:tracykinnickala@gmail.com)

Department Chaplain: [kristen.d.hensley@gmail.com](mailto:kristen.d.hensley@gmail.com)

Department Historian: ksdots@yahoo.com  
Department NEC: Sharon\_spiker@yahoo.com  
Department Parliamentarian: debra.j.haas@gmail.com

Please note that our Office Director has sent a letter of resignation to the DEC and me that was dated March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024. If you should need anything or have questions reach out to me or any other officer.

TEAMWORK does make the DREAMWORK! Let's strive to all work together as a team.

God bless our troops, God bless the USA, and may God bless every one of us.

Your President, Cheryl Eastep

## Marching to the Beat of Membership

Tracy Kinnick – Dept. VP

Recently I had the honor to attend Washington are no words to express the emotions you feel hill in person, doing what we joined this advocate for our veterans, together with our Family.

We have talked many times about our why. to the American Legion Auxiliary? While on the ability to talk to Senator Moran and Senator better quality of living, pay, and addressing the of the American Legion Family to Be the One,



Days in DC. There when you are on the organization to do, American Legion

Why do you belong hill and having the Marshall, about number one mission reminds me of why I

joined this organization. To fight and ensure that my husband, my family members, and my friends who served and are currently serving, get from our Nation the respect, and quality of life that they deserve.

You see it isn't about a title, it isn't about me or you, it is all about us fighting for them, for their quality of life, for their families. It was said by Commander Seehafer that while the soldiers are away fighting for our freedom, they should not have to worry if their family back home is suffering if they have what they need while they are away. They need to know that their family is going to be okay. Not only have they left their families to take care of our Nation, but they are also fighting for us, while we enjoy the things that life has to offer, they leave behind their lives, families, and friends. That is our role in this organization, that is exactly who we are.

So, when we think about our why, think about what they did for us, and in turn let us ensure that we are doing that for them.

How does this relate to membership? Easy, this is what we do. **We advocate for veterans, active duty, and their families.** Our goal and our mission are to improve their quality of life. The best way to do that is with our membership, to increase our membership is to increase our voice. As we grow our voice, we in turn are louder with our representatives in DC. That is how we advocate and that is why we must continue to grow our organization. When we open our hearts, open our minds, and work together, can we build and grow in turn we can do amazing life-changing things.

We do not have to always agree, we do not have to be friends, and we need to know our why. Stay focused on your why and help our veterans, their families, and active military. Join me on the hill next year to fight and grow our voice so we are loud and proud in DC for the days, months, and years to come. Our membership is so much more than ourselves. It is them, the heroes of our Nation who fight for us, join me in reaching out to those who have not renewed, sign up new members, and work in your communities showing them that we are so much more. Share your WHY, and show your WHY.





## Forgiveness and Protection

By Kristen Hensley, Chaplain



As I sit back and reflect about this time of year, I can't help but remember myself as a little girl, excited to wear my new pastel colored frilly dress, that the skirt would fly out wide when twirling, and the squeaky sound my new patten leather shoes would make as I bounced holding my mothers hand going into our Church Sanctuary to celebrate Lent and the Easter Holiday. I also remember going to my childhood best friend's house to celebrate Passover with her family. Learning all the symbolism in the courses of food that is served during that evening, the readings and Hebrew songs was invaluable to me as I grew up. I was truly blessed to be given the opportunity to celebrate both these Holidays for two different faiths.

This month, Christians celebrate the life, crucifixion, conquering of death, and ascension into Heaven of Jesus, while taking away all our sins we have committed, and those we were yet to commit with him. Through these events all believers were washed clean of the thoughts, actions, and behavior that would have made them fall short of God's law and admittance into Heaven.

In Judaism, this is a celebration dates to Old Testament times during the plagues God visited upon the Egyptians for the enslavement of God's people (Israelites). With the last plague, Israelites were instructed to mark their doors with lambs' blood to protect their families from the plague that put to death the first-born of every family. This sign on the door allowed the Angel of Death to 'pass over' those homes. This plague ended with the Israelites freedom from slavery and their 40-year wandering in the desert until they were delivered to the Promised Land. God loved his people so much that he saved them from a life of abuse and torment at the hands of slavers.



Both celebrations remind me to shake off and forgive as Jesus forgave us when he was crucified, raised from the dead, and then took away all of our sins from these acts. It also reminds me to protect those that may be oppressed and suffering whether within their own minds or in their situations and give them grace, understanding, and some support. None of us are perfect, and we were never intended to be. We do the best we can while sprinkling little blessings where we can. In this season, please forgive others, forgive yourself, and work hard to help your fellow neighbor. In this, we can be the change we want to see in the world around us.

**Prayer:** Father God, we come to you today to ask your forgiveness for falling short of the mark in our conduct, thoughts, and behaviors. We strive to live a life that is good and productive. Please give peace to the minds of those suffering from PTSD, anxiety, depression, and many other mental torments. Please let us forgive people as Jesus forgave those that crucified him. Let us be the light in the world that allows your love to flow through us to those that need you the most. In your Holy Name, Amen.



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

Department of Kansas  
Junior Activities Report  
Form 2023-2024

Hello Junior Chairman! Reporting time is upon us. National is requesting reports in narrative form and photos. Tell us about what your juniors are doing! We want to hear about it all!

Tell us if your Juniors participated in events such as, Poppy distribution days Memorial Day or Veterans Day activities, fundraising events, or any other American Legion Family events. Include as many details as you can.

In order to better serve the Junior Program, we would like to hear from you about what we can do to better the program. Please include any thoughts you have about the Junior Activities Program overall, and what can be done to strengthen and encourage it.

Things we'd like to know for reporting:

- Does your unit have a Junior Program?
- How many juniors participate?
- How many senior members participate?
- How many juniors are working on the patch program?
- How many patches have been earned?
- Have any of your juniors attended any training or conferences?
- Did your juniors attend or assist in helping at any other events, such as of those mentioned above?
- Any Junior Activities or Juniors themselves promoted in the media?
- Money spent on your junior program \_\_\_\_\_? Mileage \_\_\_\_\_? Hours \_\_\_\_\_?

Things we would like to know for our department program:

- Does your unit know how many junior members you have?
- Do you have junior members but no Junior Activities Leader?
- Is your unit leadership aware that youth SAL members can work the patch program?
- Is your unit leadership aware of the ALA National Academy Junior Courses?

Go ahead and include any other suggestions, comments and don't forget to add any photos and anything else you want to. Contact information is below for any help you might need and where to return your report.

Thank you for your work in the promoting of our Junior Activities Program!

Junior Activities Chairmen Anndi Bownes  
PO Box 38  
Blue Mound, KS 66010  
[anndimb@yahoo.com](mailto:anndimb@yahoo.com)  
620-228-4884

Co-Chairmen Sheila Snyder  
10899 Blue Spruce Drive  
Ozawkie, KS 66070

Welcome to Spring! That means it is Poppy time!

Now is the time to order your poppies! Please make sure you use the most recent recent order form (dated June 2023). Our poppy workers are busy filling orders, but you need to order now to be sure you have them in time.

Poppy posters need to be taken to your district conventions to be judged and the winners will be sent on to be judged by department. Last year one of our department winners also placed first in central division and won a \$50 prize. Wouldn't it be great to have more this year?

Now is also the time to start planning for National Poppy Day. Remember that this is a way to honor veterans and support our veterans making the poppies.

Pam King

Poppy chairman

LEADERSHIP

Linda Sullivan  
(316) 619-9834  
sullypsy@yahoo.com

Linda Hicks  
(913) 579-8233  
lhicks20@kc.rr.com

- Don't forget to send in your UMOY (Unit Member of the Year).
- The attached Officer/Chairmen form need to be sent to your District President after Unit elections.
- The Direct Billing form needs to go to Department by May 1st.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
DIRECT BILLING UNIT DATA FORM

IT IS MANDATORY THAT EVERY UNIT RETURN THIS FORM TO DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS EVERY YEAR, EVEN IF THERE IS NO CHANGE TO THE INFORMATION PROVIDED PREVIOUSLY. This information is provided to the National Auxiliary every year in order to be printed on the yearly membership renewal notices that go to the members of the unit. THIS INFORMATION IS DUE TO DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS BY MAY 1. Mail this form to: American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Kansas, 1314-B SW Topeka Blvd., Topeka, Kansas 66612; or E-Mail: ksaladeptoffice@gmail.com.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ UNIT #: \_\_\_\_\_ DISTRICT #: \_\_\_\_\_  
DUES: Senior dues of the unit are: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Junior dues of the unit are: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

DUES REMITTANCE ADDRESSES:  
"Remit to" Member for Member Dues: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Unit President: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Unit Vice President: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Unit Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please note we are requesting each Unit to submit either one (1) or two (2) members email addresses as we will be sending information and reporting information via email to Units with email addresses.

If you DO NOT have internet access, please indicate here that you need hard copies mailed to your Unit and who they need to be sent to.

Name:  
ADDRESS:

RETURN TO YOUR DISTRICT PRESIDENT

**UNIT OFFICER AND CHAIRPERSON LIST**

**Unit Presidents please report the following information to the incoming District President by JUNE 1 of each year.**

If your unit has not appointed anyone for all of the below officer and/or chairpersons, the unit president's information will be inserted for that position in order to receive all correspondence necessary for your unit. Please make sure that the information provided below is correct, for it will be published by the Department of Kansas.

UNIT NAME AND NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ DISTRICT: \_\_\_\_\_

**UNIT OFFICERS:**

OFFICER POSITION	OFFICER NAME	ADDRESS, CITY, AND ZIP CODE	PHONE NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS
President				
Vice President				
Secretary				
Treasurer				
Chaplain (3)				
Historian (3)				
Sgt-At-Arms				



RETURN TO YOUR DISTRICT PRESIDENT

**UNIT CHAIRPERSONS:**

CHAIRPERSON POSITION	CHAIRPERSON NAME	ADDRESS, CITY, AND ZIP CODE	PHONE NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Advisory (1)				
ALA Girls State (2)				
Americanism (2)				
(AM) Oratorical (2)				
Audit (1)				
Auxiliary Emergency Fund (3)				
Cavalcade of Memories (1)				
Children and Youth (2)				
(CY) Cadet Law (2)				
Community Service (2)				
(CS) Eisenhower Pilgrimage (2)				
Constitution and Bylaws (3)				
Education and Scholarship (2)				

**RETURN TO YOUR DISTRICT PRESIDENT**

Finance (1)				
Junior Activities (2)				
Leadership (3)				
Legislative (2)				
Membership (3)				
National Security (2)				
Past Presidents Parley (1)				
Poppy (2)				
Public Relations (3)				
Strategic Planning (1)				
Technology (1)				
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (2)				

1. Kansas Standing Committees via Department Bylaws, Article 4-Appointment of Committees, Section 2 (2020).
2. Mission Support Committees via Department Bylaws, Article 4-Appointment of Committees, Section 2 (2020).
3. Member Support Committees via Department Bylaws, Article 4-Appointment of Committees, Section 2 (2020).

Last updated: July, 2021

**If you have a Dept Email, I hope that you have remove all your info that you need as of 4-8-24 we will no longer have them as we are doing away with HostGator website and getting a new one. Also please make sure that you have a personal email on file at dept as that is what we are going to be using from here on. Please send your email to [ksaladeptoffice@gmail.com](mailto:ksaladeptoffice@gmail.com).**

**Thank you for all of you patient and understanding.**

**Kristy Ehart**

The new C&B is on the new website under  
**PROGRAM FORMS**

# **American Legion Auxiliary Department of Kansas**



## **Constitution, Bylaws, Standing Rules and Policies**

Update: February 3, 2024

File Version: C\_B\_KS\_02.3.24



# Trish Ward Leadership Fund



Name:				
Address:				
Phone#:		Email:		
Gear	QTY	Color	\$ Each	Total
Camo Windbreaker		BLK/White		
Small			\$45.00	
Medium			\$45.00	
Large			\$45.00	
Xlarge			\$45.00	
XX Large			\$50.00	
XXX Large			\$50.00	
Cross Body Bag			\$20.00	
Baseball Hat - Mesh			\$25.00	
Ticket Drawing			\$20.00	
Shipping		Check One		
Pick-up @ dept Meeting			Free	\$0.00
Please Ship to me Direct			Flat Rate	\$5.95
			<b>Grand Total</b>	

**Mail Order form to:**  
**Trish Ward Leadership Development**  
**2633 Shasten St**  
**Grove, OK 74344**

**Donations also accepted via:**

**PayPal:**  
**tbw\_ksaux@yahoo.com**

**Venmo: @Patricia-Ward-25**



# **UPCOMING EVENTS**

## **DISTRICT CONVENTIONS DATES AND WHAT DEPT OFFICERS WILL BE THERE:**

March 23rd:

District 3 Coffeyville - President Cheryl

District 2 Shawnee - VP Tracy

April 6:

District 5 Derby- VP Tracy

District 7 Great Bend- President Cheryl

April 13th:

District 1 Holton - President Cheryl

District 4 Emporia - VP Tracy

April 20th:

District 9 Greenfield - President Cheryl

District 8 Bazine - VP Tracy

April 27th:

District 6 Smith Center - VP Tracy

District 10 Fairview - President Cheryl

# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILLIARY SUNFLOWER GIRLS STATE JUNE 2-7, 2024

## JOIN US

## JUNE 2-7, 2024

University of Kansas in Lawrence, KS

### AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

# SUNFLOWER GIRLS STATE

#### REGISTRATION

Fee is **\$400** per delegate.  
Registration forms are located  
at [www.ksgirlsstate.org](http://www.ksgirlsstate.org)

Sponsorships may be available  
at your local American Legion  
Auxiliary Unit

*Democracy in action is a great thing. Teaching  
democracy in action is even better. ALA Sunflower  
Girls State is a non-partisan program that teaches  
young women citizenship and **leadership**.  
Delegates spend a week of learning, and working  
together as self-governing citizens. They also learn  
about public service from guest speakers, elected  
officials, and expert panels.*

OPEN TO ANY HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR GIRL  
DURING THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

### REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MAY 15, 2024



Email Director Lindsay  
Maudlin with any questions:  
[sunflowergirlsstate@gmail.com](mailto:sunflowergirlsstate@gmail.com)



**NOMINATE A FRIEND!**

f ALA KANSAS GIRLS STATE

@KSGIRLSSTATE

http://www.ksgirlsstate.org

# 2024 Kansas Boys State

Sun Jun 2nd 10:00am - Fri 7th 10:00am (CDT)

Kansas University

## Applications for 2024 Boys State of Kansas Session Open

**January 9, 2024** — The [American Legion Boys State of Kansas](#) is accepting applications for its 2024 session. The event is set to be held Sunday, June 2, through Saturday, June 8, at Kansas State University in Manhattan. This will be the program's 32nd consecutive session at KSU and 86th overall.

Traditionally, Kansas Boys State is for individuals who will complete their junior year of high school in the spring just prior to the start of each session. However, the ALBSK program will again expand the pool of applicants for this year's session to include those who will complete their sophomore year of high school this spring.

The American Legion Boys State of Kansas program provides a relevant, interactive, problem-solving experience in leadership and teamwork that develops self-identity, promotes mutual respect and instills civic responsibility to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to community, state and nation. Boys State is a "learning by doing" political exercise that simulates elections, political parties and government at the state, county and local levels, providing opportunities to lead under pressure, showcasing character and working effectively within a team. It's also an opportunity to gain pride and respect for government, and the price paid by members of the military to preserve democracy.

The cost to attend the Boys State of Kansas program is \$375; however, in many instances, sponsors pay the majority of the fees, with the delegate or his family paying \$50. Those wishing to attend the 2024 session should visit [ksbstate.org](https://ksbstate.org) to apply. The deadline to apply for the 2024 program is Tuesday, April 30; applications are accepted after that date, but on a space-available basis.

Potential sponsors, such as American Legion posts, civic organizations, businesses, clubs and interested individuals should visit [ksbstate.org/sponsor-a-delegate](https://ksbstate.org/sponsor-a-delegate). Questions? Contact the ALBSK at [info@ksbstate.org](mailto:info@ksbstate.org) or (785) 550-6492.

# 2024 Cadet law American Legion / Auxiliary Dept of Kansas

Sun Jun 16th 8:00am - Fri 21st 5:00pm (CDT)

Kansas Highway patrol, Salina, KS

[https://kansaslegion.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/cadet\\_law\\_application.pdf](https://kansaslegion.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/cadet_law_application.pdf)

## 8<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL PASSPORT RIDE

JUNE 29<sup>TH</sup> 2024

ALL BIKES AND VEHICLES WELCOME

**\$20 PER PASSPORT**

REGISTRATION 9:15 AM

ALL BIKES OUT AT 10:30 AM

100 MILE RIDE

SILENT AUCTION

DELTA ECHO 5.56

RAFFLE

Sponsored by



AMERICAN LEGION 156  
PAOLA KANSAS  
5 DELAWARE STREET

Please go to the New Dept Website [www.kansasala.org](http://www.kansasala.org) for more info!

# From National

<https://www.legion-aux.org/Scholarships/FAQ>

**Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship**

**Non-Traditional Student Scholarship**

**James H Parke Scholarship**

**Samsung American Legion Scholarship  
(ALA Girls/Legion Boys State)**

**Certification of Scholarship by University or College**

If you want to have the sunflowerette and the weekly membership report email to you, please make sure you have your email on record with at Department office.

[ksaladeptoffice@gmail.com](mailto:ksaladeptoffice@gmail.com)