



# SALUTE May 2020

## A Detachment of Kansas Newsletter

Greetings Team Kansas,

Another month is behind us and 2020 is quickly moving forward. Hopefully you and yours have stayed safe and healthy with everything we have going on. I know it's been tough to stay at home but if it prevents you from becoming sick, then it's a good thing. I've been going to work through this "pandemic" and so far so good. Let's hope when we come out on the back end of this virus we can all say the same.

We have another membership year quickly coming to an end. Have you contacted the members of your Squadron that haven't renewed? I've said it before, and I'll say it again, membership is what drives our organization. The more members, the more we can do. The Detachment of Kansas relies on memberships to be able to support the programs of the Sons of The American Legion. Also, check on your members and make certain that they have everything they need at home. Make sure they are healthy and just show them that we care. Please, take the time to do this. I'm sure it will be greatly appreciated.

Have you filled out your Consolidated Squadron Report? It's that time to get them to Adjutant Culver. There is an online version of the CSR at [legion.org](http://legion.org). The S.A.L. is making every effort to go green and do annual forms online, the CSR is one of them. Last year only 21% nationally were received. These numbers are very important and justify our existence to Congress and also to your community. Remember, every Squadron does something. Please, take the time to fill out your Consolidated Squadron Report.

Remember, our Detachment convention has been postponed from May 16 to August 1, 2020 and will be held at the Ramada Inn Downtown Topeka, Ks. This year it would be nice to see you there. The Convention gives you the opportunity to let your voice be heard. We will also elect officers for the upcoming member year. Please, take the time to come to Topeka.

In closing, take care of yourselves, your families, your Legion Family members and check on those you haven't heard from in a while.

Until Next Time, "Always Remember the Mission".

***Terry Harris***

Commander, Detachment of Kansas 2019-2020

[Flstfi\\_2005@hotmail.com](mailto:Flstfi_2005@hotmail.com)

# *Notes from the Detachment Vice-Commander And Membership Chairman*

Greetings Team Kansas,

I hope this finds all of you in good health. This shutdown by State Governor caught me by surprise. I wasn't aware they had that much power over our daily lives. I've mostly viewed them as figure heads for ceremonies. I'm also having trouble wrapping my mind around the concept that Government could decide what defines an essential business. I thought that if a business owner was providing a service that their customers were paying for it was therefore essential. I know as a business owner it's very essential to me especially. I hope that all of those who were forced to close their doors get all of our support and business at the earliest opening. That's my vent thanks for putting up with it.

Our membership continues to move forward. Some people are talking about the added difficulty in achieving membership under these conditions. I recognize that thought but I think we want to avoid that becoming a recognized trend. I know for The Detachment of Kansas this is an annual event at this time of the year for the past 4 years. We have achieved the 90% goal and can make the 100% with continued effort on the part of all Squadrons. As of the April 24 report 67 of 126 Squadrons are at or beyond the 90% goal some considerably beyond. Congratulations to those Squadrons. We have an additional 31 Squadrons between 80% and 90% and 15 Squadrons between 70% and 80%. As I review the numbers and break them into categories I maintain my optimism for a successful membership year. Are we facing new challenges this year, of course we are, but not without the needed tools to get the job completed. Remember the time tested tool with the most success is personal contact. Granted we may not be able to use one on one personal contact in the flesh but we have more tools for communication. Use your phones and the other media tools available to you. Get your membership chairperson to publish a list to other members and encourage them to pick members they are most familiar with and call them to encourage renewals. We know that renewals are the most reliable source for membership.

Until next time Keep up the good things you do for our Veterans and Families, do "Buddy Checks" and stay on task for membership.

Respectfully,

***Tom Wallsmith***

Sons of the American Legion

Vice-Commander, Detachment of Kansas 2019-2020

[wacuma2016@gmail.com](mailto:wacuma2016@gmail.com)

# Detachment Adjutant's Notes:

## **RE-SCHEDULED: Department/Detachment Convention:**

This year's Department/ Detachment Convention will be held at the Ramada Hotel and Convention Center, 420 SE 6<sup>th</sup> Street, in Topeka, ~~May 15-17~~ **JULY 31- AUGUST 2**, 2020. **The S.A.L. Convention will be held Saturday, August 1, 2020.** The S.A.L. is invited to the Department Joint Opening Session Saturday morning at 8:00 AM and then will be dismissed about 9:30 to attend the S.A.L. Convention. The "Call to Order" for the S.A.L. Convention will be at 10:00 AM. All Squadrons are encouraged to send delegates to the annual Convention and be part of choosing the Detachment leadership for the 2020-2021 year. Registration desk for all delegates will be right outside the main ballroom of the hotel. Be certain you identify yourself as a S.A.L. delegate. If you fail to register you will not be allowed on the Convention floor.

**Consolidated Squadron Reports** have been mailed to all Squadrons. Be certain your Squadron completes one and returns it to:

Don Culver , 225 S. Willow Dr., Derby, Ks 67037

All Squadrons have something they can report..!! Donations...volunteer hours, etc. More on this in this month's SALute.

## **Memorial Day:**

On Monday, May 25, countless cemeteries across our country will be filled with Flags on our Veterans graves. Be certain you and your Squadron are part of this annual remembrance. Most families have "traditions"...this is your opportunity to make Memorial Day one of your family traditions. Take your kids and grandkids with you when your Post puts out the flags for Memorial Day. And, if your Post conducts a Memorial Service take those same children with you and let them see and learn the meaning of Memorial Day. Most family traditions are priceless... consider adding Memorial Day to your families list.

❖ *Has your Squadron submitted its 2020-2021 Officers List to Headquarters??*

The blank form is in this issue of the SALute.

As always, if I can be of help feel free to contact me.

***Don Culver***

Adjutant, Detachment of Kansas

[dlculver@swbell.net](mailto:dlculver@swbell.net)

# 2020 District Conventions

The dates and locations listed below represent the most up to date information available. Please be aware conventions could change date, location, or be cancelled at any time due to coronavirus (COVID-19) concerns. Headquarters will continue to keep this list updated.

Beginning in March and continuing each weekend throughout April, American Legion Districts will meet in Convention for the purpose of conducting its business and electing officers for the 2020-21 membership year which begins on July 1. Each District is required to elect Representatives to the Department Convention's Constitution and Bylaws, Resolutions, Credentials and Rules Committees, and the District's Delegates and Alternates to the National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, August 28 - September 3, 2020.

## District I

COMPLETED

## District II

COMPLETED

## District III

COMPLETED

## District IV

\* Manhattan Post 17, July 18

## District V

COMPLETED

## District VI

COMPLETED

## District VII

COMPLETED

## District VIII

\* Teleconference, May 18

## District IX

COMPLETED

\* Change

## Cancelled Events

The following Department events have been cancelled for the 2020 calendar year due to coronavirus (COVID-19) concerns by the host facility:

- Boys State
- Cadet Law Enforcement Academy
- Leadership College (Concordia)

As of 5-04-2020

# **REMINDER:**

## **CONSOLIDATED SQUADRON REPORT (CSR)**

The Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR) blank forms are forwarded to each Detachment and/or Department in March of each year for distribution by the Detachment/Department to the various Squadrons. **It is one of the most important documents your Squadron can complete.** The data gathered from these reports is combined with that of other Squadrons and compiled into a single report used by The American Legion, which is subsequently sent to Congress. This report is to show Congress the difference/impact our American Legion Family makes in our communities.

Although not every Squadron is able to participate in all aspects of Americanism, Children and Youth and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, the key is to report all that the Squadron has accomplished during the current membership year. Counties, Districts and Detachments are also urged to submit a CSR.

The report is a single page and two copies along with a cover page with instructions. The original and second copies are to be forwarded on to Detachment Headquarters by the date the Department/Detachment specifies which is June 15, 2020. The last copy is retained by the local organization. Detachments shall forward the National copy on to National Headquarters to be received no later June 30, 2020.

The CSR is the basis by which the National Awards under the programs of Americanism, Children and Youth, and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation are determined each year.

### **CONSOLIDATED SQUADRON REPORTS:**

**The S.A.L. Consolidated Squadron Report forms for 2019-2020 have been mailed to all Kansas Squadrons.** Department Headquarters in Topeka mailed them out the week of 3-05-20. Every Squadron is encouraged to record their volunteer hours and donations on the CSR form. Instructions are contained on the cover of the form.

The cut-off date for receipt of these forms at National is June 30, 2020. No reports will be accepted after that date as the final report will be published for all Sons of The American Legion nation-wide. Every member of the S.A.L. in Kansas does something good ... REPORT IT using the CSR form.

**Please Note: Keep your Squadron copy and mail the other 2 copies as noted below.**

**Kansas Squadrons and Districts should mail their completed forms to:**

**Detachment Adjutant Don Culver no later than June 15, 2020.**

Don Culver 225 S. Willow Drive Derby, Kansas 67037

Last year only about 1/3 of our 126 Kansas Squadrons turned in completed Consolidated Squadron Report Forms ... Please insure YOUR Squadron submits a completed CSR form this year.!!

***What your Squadron has done this year IS IMPORTANT !!!***

# *What Donations and Hours Can I Put on the Americanism Section of the Annual Consolidated Squadron Report?*

- (1) You can claim any cost associated with Boys or Girls State
- (2) You can claim any hours associated with the program
- (3) You can claim any cost associated with the 5 Star/10 Ideals program
- (4) and the hours associated with the program.
- (5) You may claim the total number of flags donated, large or small to any organization
- (6) and the cost of those flags that you presented.
- (7) and the number of hours spent giving out or placing those flags.
- (8) Your squadron may claim the amount of money that they donate to scholarship funds, individual scholarships, or Legion and/or Legion Auxiliary Sponsored scholarships.
- (9) Hours on education programs not listed Above.
- (10) You may claim any cost associated with the Oratorical Contest
- (11) and all hours associated with the contest.
- (12) Your squadron may claim any costs associated with the Color Guard program
- (13) and the hours associated to your squadron.
- (14) You may claim the cost of Flag Education Programs
- (15) and the number of hours associated with this program.
- (16) You may claim the Cost/Donation to other organizations for Community Service. The following items should be classified under All costs/donations to any of the above mentioned programs such as sports teams not mentioned before or donations to fire departments, rescue squad, police departments, police athletic organizations, donations to your Posts and Legion Auxiliaries, donations to any veterans organizations, donations to all medical research programs or hospice and hospital programs, donations made to schools in your community or head start programs, donations to any community food cellars, community shelters or charitable organizations
- (17) and the number of hours associated with this program.
- (18) You may claim the cost associated with Scouting,
- (19) and the number of hours associated with this program.
- (20) You may claim the cost associated with The Junior Shooting Sports Program
- (21) and the number of hours associated with the program.
- (22) You may claim the cost of American Legion Baseball
- (23) and the hours associated with the program.

- (24) Any Other Teams Sponsored you may claim the cost with the program (25) and the hours associated with the program.
- (26) Blood Drives you may claim the cost (27) and the hours of associated with the blood drive.
- (28) You may claim any costs associated with the National Emergency Fund (N.E.F.) (29) and the hours associate with the program.
- (30) You may claim any costs associated with The Legacy Scholarship Fund (31) and dollars invested.
- (32) Other Americanism Projects Not Listed Above you may claim cost associated with the program Hours And Donation Not Covered Above (33) and the hours associated with the program.

You may claim any donations and hours, in this section that you haven't claimed before, in the sections listed above. If you have any doubts as to what you may claim, ask yourself this question. "Does the program that you spent time and/or money on pertain to the good of the Community, State, or Nation?"

You may, also, list any donations to Toys for Tots or similar programs, in your communities.

Remember to make sure you sign all forms, put the appropriate title, if required, and date the forms.

Remember to make sure you put The Number of Members Of Your Squadron, The Prior Year and The Current Year on the Form. If not cannot be used.

If you use the online form you must print the form and send the copies into the Detachment by June 15, 2020.

Failure to do this will result in eliminating your hard work from being judged, on the National level and the Detachment level, as well.

***If you still have questions, after following this guideline, feel free to contact Gerald Hammerschmidt for more help. Email at [ghammers@eaglecom.net](mailto:ghammers@eaglecom.net).***

# All Squadrons in the Detachment of KANSAS can now process membership online

This feature utilizes electronic payment methods via MySAL.org, and eliminates the need for Squadron Officers to send the National and Detachment portion of the (3-part) membership cards and paper-checks to the Department/Detachment Headquarters office.

If you are currently a MySAL.org user, just select the "Process Membership" option in the left-menu. The attached instructions should help you navigate through this new feature.

If you are NOT a MySAL.org user, go to [www.MySAL.org](http://www.MySAL.org) and sign-up by completing the "Squadron Authorization Form". Please print the attachment(s) for instructions and more details.

If you experience any problems or issues, Customer Support can be reached by calling 1-800-433-3318 or by email: [MyLegion@Legion.org](mailto:MyLegion@Legion.org).

Justin McKay  
The American Legion  
MyLegion Department Services, IT



**THE AMERICAN LEGION**  
VETERANS • DEFENSE • AMERICANISM • YOUTH

## **NOTE:**

**Individuals CANNOT process or renew on-line at this time, ONLY Squadrons.**

**If you have any questions please contact our Department Membership Secretary Michelle at 785-232-9315, or Detachment Adjutant Don Culver.**

## **Also,**

**Squadron On-Line Transmittals are an optional feature and not mandatory at this time.**

**Additional info /instructions can be found on our web page [www.salkansas.org](http://www.salkansas.org) under the Membership Tab**

# National Dues Increase

At the Sons of The American Legion National Convention on August 24, 2019 in Indianapolis the delegates to the National Convention voted to increase national dues effective with the 2021 membership year (June 2020). This is the first increase in national dues since 1982.

In anticipation of this the delegates of the state convention of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Kansas, voted to increase state dues at its Detachment Convention on May 18, 2019 in Hutchinson. The dues increase was subsequently approved by the Kansas Department Executive Committee at their meeting on June 1, 2019 in Concordia.

Currently each Kansas Squadron transmits \$10 per paid member to Headquarters in Topeka. Effective with the 2021 membership year (June 2020) that amount will increase to \$20 per paid member.

While many Squadrons may have to raise their member's dues next year to afford the increase in transmittal fee it should be remembered that the transmittal fee is still much less than what the Post sends to Topeka for each Veterans membership.

Any questions regarding the increase should be directed to Detachment Commander Terry Harris or Detachment Adjutant Don Culver.



# S.A.L. District Officer Contacts

*Got a question...??    Need a contact in your District...??*

## **District 1**

Commander:	Kyle Scheitler	kascheitler@gmail.com
Vice Commander:	Keith Meyerhoff	keithwmeyerhoff@gmail.com
Adjutant:	Phillip Mueller	phillip.s.mueller@gmail.com

## **District 2**

Commander:	Chris Hicks	royalsfan1980@gmail.com
Vice Commander:	Matthew Krupco	nflmwk@hotmail.com
Adjutant:	Troy Shields	troyshields1@hotmail.com

## **District 3**

Commander:	Russell Caulkins	BigRuss67337@yahoo.com
Vice Commander:	Ronnie Rommel	ronnie.rommel72@gmail.com
Adjutant:	Jimmie Trenary	jimmietrenary1968@kanokla.net

## **District 4**

Commander:	Randy Porter	bightmeagain2@yahoo.com
Vice Commander:	John Trotter	johnet3@gmail.com
Adjutant:	Harvey Eccles	hecclles@yahoo.com

## **District 5**

Commander:	Brian Simpson	simpsy408@gmail.com
Vice Commander:	Steve Zimmerman	szmowing482@gmail.com
Adjutant:	Don Culver	dlculver@swbell.net

## **District 6**

Commander:	L. Reilly	barlrangus@ruraltel.net
Vice Commander:	Andy Phelps	lazyaqtr@wilsoncom.us
Adjutant:	Damon Christensen	damoncc@nckn.com

## **District 7**

Commander:	Brent McInnis	mcinnisbrent1@gmail.com
Vice Commander:	Gerald Postlewaite	jpost21@cox.net
Adjutant:	Chris Krueger	chrisk153@gmail.com

## **District 8**

Commander:	John Hall	jwh121@yahoo.com
Vice Commander:	Joshua Ledbetter	redneckjm83@gmail.com
Adjutant:	Larry "Pete" Hall	dr_tr_outlaw@yahoo.com

## **District 9**

Commander:	Scott Hartzog	sthartzog@hotmail.com
Vice Commander:	Jim Gallentine	jim.gallentine@gmail.com
Adjutant:	Tom Wallsmith	wacuma2016@gmail.com

*Contact your District Officers and ask how you can get involved..!!!*

# Upcoming Events/Dates:

May 1-3, 2020

- ~~S.A.L. Spring NEC Meeting and NMI Training Classes ... Indianapolis - CANCELLED~~

June 11-14, 2020 CANCELLED

- ~~Kansas Legacy Run, beginning in Great Bend and ending in Abilene, traveling almost 900 miles to raise funds for The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund~~

May 25, 2020

- Memorial Day

July 1, 2020

- *Updated 2020-2021 Squadron Officer lists are due to Headquarters in Topeka*

July 31-August 2, 2020

- **Re-Scheduled : was originally May 15-17, 2020**
- Department Convention ... Topeka ... Ramada Inn ... 420 SE 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Topeka
- S.A.L. will meet Saturday, August 1, 2020 immediately following the Joint Opening Session

August 28-Sept. 3, 2020 CANCELLED

- ~~The American Legion National Convention ... Louisville, Ky~~
- ~~S.A.L. National Convention Aug. 28-30~~

October 10-11, 2020

- S.A.L. Fall NEC Meeting and Detachment Commanders Forum ... Indianapolis

November 11, 2020

- Veterans Day



**We understand both of these are impacted by the current events due to the VIRUS. Do the best you can to get the info to Headquarters as soon as feasible.**

## **Squadron Elections**

It's just about that time of year again for all Squadrons to elect their Officers for the upcoming year. Article VII, Section 5, of the Detachment of Kansas By-Laws specifies that Squadrons will conduct annual elections and those elections shall be held during a regular meeting not more than 60 days or less than 15 days prior to the Detachment Convention, and said officers shall be installed prior to the Detachment Convention. This year's Detachment Convention will be held on Saturday, May 16, 2020 in Topeka. All Squadrons should complete the Squadron Officers Report Form and forward to Headquarters in Topeka... even if there are no changes from last year!! The 2020-2021 SQUADRON OFFICER Form is enclosed in this month's SALute for your use. Please insure your Squadron completes and sends this form to Headquarters. It is due to Topeka by July 1, same as every year. Something new: A place on the form has been added for the e-mail address of your officers. Please be sure to complete this line(s) also. Take the time to complete this form following your Squadron elections and forward to Headquarters ... Do Not leave it in your briefcase. Fill it out and send it in. Very Simple. It is difficult to communicate if we can't get ahold of you.

## **S.A.L. District Conventions/Elections**

March and April are the months for all Districts to conduct their District Conventions. Sons of The American Legion Districts are expected to conduct their District Conventions and elections the same weekend as their American Legion District Convention. Please make certain you submit your new S.A.L. District Officers listing to Headquarters immediately following your convention/elections.



**THIS SHEET DUE TO HEADQUARTERS BY JULY 1**

**2020-2021 S.A.L. SQUADRON OFFICERS LIST**

THE OFFICERS OF \_\_\_\_\_ SQUADRON # \_\_\_\_\_ DISTRICT # \_\_\_\_\_

**MAKE SURE EACH OFFICERS NAME, COMPLETE ADDRESS,  
PHONE NUMBER and E-MAIL IS COMPLETED**

**COMMANDER:** Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**FIRST VICE-CMDR:** Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**SECOND VICE-CMDR:** Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**ADJUTANT:** Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**FINANCE OFFICER:** Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**CHAPLAIN:** Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**SGT.-AT-ARMS:** Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**HISTORIAN:** Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**AMERICAN LEGION ADVISOR:** Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**MEETING DATE & TIME** \_\_\_\_\_

**ANNUAL DUES** \_\_\_\_\_

**SQUADRON'S PERMANENT ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

WE'VE HAD COMPLAINTS ABOUT DETACHMENT MAILINGS NOT BEING RECEIVED OR SENT TO THE WRONG PERSON. BY RETURNING THIS FORM WE WILL HAVE THE CORRECT INFORMATION FOR OUR RECORDS.

**PLEASE FILL OUT AFTER YOUR ELECTIONS OF NEW OFFICERS AT THAT MEETING  
AND FORWARD THIS FORM TO HEADQUARTERS**

# Communication Tools:

- Detachment of Kansas web site: [www.salkansas.org](http://www.salkansas.org)
- Detachment of Kansas Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/kansassal>
- S.A.L. National web site: [www.legion.org/sons](http://www.legion.org/sons)
- S.A.L. National Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/americanlegionsons>

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## Future National Conventions

Louisville, KY — August 28-September 3, 2020 CANCELLED

Phoenix, AZ August 27-September 2, 2021

Milwaukee, WI August 26-September 1, 2022

Charlotte, NC August 25-31, 2023

New Orleans, LA August 23-29, 2024

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**Does your membership card say *2020* on it...?**

**If not, your membership has expired.**

**Please be sure to renew your dues...**

**Then be sure it gets transmitted to Topeka.**



*Memorial Day, May 25, 2020*