

ZACK WHEAT AMERICAN LEGION POST 624
PATRIOTS DISPATCH
DECEMBER 2025

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The American Legion Zack Wheat Post 624
P.O. Box 61, 852 American Legion Road
Sunrise Beach, MO 65079

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Commander Newsletter Input –December 2025

Happy Month!! As December winter weather and Christmas approaches, we all look forward to the holidays with our friends and families!! What a great time of year to reconnect with your children and grandchildren around the fireplace or Christmas tree. My spouse Lisa loves this time of year and puts up somewhere in the neighborhood of 15 trees around our home and each room has 1-3 trees in it. Our home is turned into a Christmas wonderland from Thanksgiving to New Years!!! It is tons of work but she loves every minute of it and how the kids light up when they enter our home! She is a Christmas blessing to us all!! December is also the month we remember Pearl Harbor and our Nation's entry into World War II. In President Roosevelt's speech to members of the Senate and House of Representatives, he stated, "Yesterday, December 7th, 1941 – a date which will live in infamy – the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan." He stated many other things but closed with, "No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory." Many Americans these days don't think much about things like Pearl Harbor and many of our grandchildren were not around when we were attacked on 911. To them it is some piece of history from America's past no more significant than westward expansion or any other boring thing to them they learn in school about our history. That is where you as a Veteran can make a difference in the lives of our youth. You lived these events that shaped our Nation and stood the watch to protect our freedoms and way of life. Share your stories this Christmas with you family and friends. Tell them about your experiences in combat and peacekeeping operations and let them know what it means to be an American and serve the Nation! You have a great legacy of selfless service and devotion to our country and to the men and women you served with. Be The One to make a difference in the lives of your family, your friends, and your community!! May you have a wonderful and joyous Christmas and New Year! God Bless you all and may God continue to Bless the United States of America!!

John Seward
Commander
American Legion Post 624



Auxiliary Newsletter Input December 2025

Halloween, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years Eve, New Years Day – Wow!!!

A spooky group of members handed out Patriotic & Halloween candy and treats to nearly 300 children at the Ozark Chapel Trunk or Treat event on Friday, October 31st. The outpour of donated candy from our members and others was overwhelming. Your support was outstanding. Thank you so very much for supporting our efforts and helping make many, many children happy. Thank you so much!!

The Auxiliary hosted and catered our Veterans Day Breakfast on Tuesday, November 11th. What another great event for us. We served approximately 150 people biscuits & gravy, pancakes, sausage and scrambled eggs. Thank you so very much to Dean from Buttonwood Farm for donating the eggs. Remember Dean donated the Hog for our Hog Roast as well. We had several delicious items in our Bake Sale and made approximately \$40. Thank you to our "Lean but Mean" team that continues to deliver. Thank you also to Rich for setting up our serving station and Matt who demonstrated his talents preparing our scrambled eggs. Total Teamwork!! Thank you to everyone that continues to make this a great day.

The Auxiliary hosted and catered the MU Extension group on Wednesday, November 12th. Thank you, Mike K., for the recommendation and endorsement. Once again, our Team knocked it out of the park. We served approximately 45 people Chicken Fettucine Alfredo, Beef and Spinach Ravioli, Breadsticks, Salad and Auxiliary homemade Apple Crisp with Ice cream. Our Team did an outstanding job!!! Super proud of our efforts. Thank you to everyone who helped with this event!!

The Auxiliary hosted and catered our Thanksgiving dinner on Friday, November 14th. Thank you to everyone for your generous donations to this event and our Christmas dinner. Thank you, Dean, from Buttonwood Farms for his extremely generous donation of turkeys. We had a fun night with music and dancing, great food, with great Legion Family Spirit.

The Auxiliary will be hosting and catering the New Comers Lunch on November 19th. We usually begin at 9:00am. Please sign up in the Kitchen.

The Auxiliary will be hosting and catering the West Side Chamber of Commerce Breakfast on Friday, December 5th. Thank you again to Mike K. for the recommendation and endorsement. I heard that they love our Pancakes. Looking forward to serving this group again this year. Please sign up in the Kitchen to volunteer to help with this event. Thank you!!

You can now sign up and purchase your Auxiliary hosted Christmas Dinner tickets. Tickets are \$3.00. You must present your ticket to eat dinner that night. This process helps us determine the amount of needed food, ensure everyone fairly pays for their meal and help offset the cost of the meal. We look forward to serving our Christmas dinner on Friday, December 12th.

The Auxiliary has agreed to work the Kitchen for the Turkey Shoot the first Saturday of each month. Please sign up in the Kitchen to volunteer.

Thank you for being a member of the Auxiliary and supporting our Veterans and Community. Each of us has something to contribute and make a positive difference. Thank you for doing your part...

Lisa Seward
President Auxiliary 624



Sons Newsletter Input December 2025

The sons of American legion would like to thank everyone for the great season of Show Me The Money. We will see everyone again in the spring. We are having the Turkey shoot every Saturday starting at noon. We will have our meeting on 3rd of December. The sons will not have a meal in December.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

Paul Henderson



Chapter 624 ALR Riders,

Hope everyone had a wonderful Veteran's Day. The Post breakfast and ceremony was awesome as always. Also, I was lucky enough to attend the Camdenton High School Veteran's Day breakfast. If you have not attended in the past, I highly encourage you to attend next year. They do an incredible job supporting our Veterans.

The City of Laurie and specifically Police Chief Nienhuis would like to thank the Riders for their generous donation to complete the installation of the Handicap Swing in the Laurie City Park. We have one more unofficial event this year. If you are attending the Legion Christmas party, the Riders will be meeting after dinner to celebrate. We will meet in the Auxiliary room. We will be doing a Gift exchange/game. If you want to be a part of the gift exchange, bring a wrapped item of \$20 – 25 value. You do not have to bring a gift to join us for some fun.

On behalf of the Riders Officers, I want to thank everyone that has supported and participated in the events, rides and community projects we have completed this year.

The riding season is winding down. Although it doesn't seem like it with the great weather in October and November. Please be diligent of other vehicles, deer and leaves on the road. Have a wonderful Holiday Season.

Our next official meeting will be in March 2026.

Enjoy the Ride

Mike Koenigsman

Chapter 624 ALR Director



December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Post Activity Meeting At 5:30pm before our Tuesday meeting we will conduct our Post Activity Meeting. This meeting will be our "Go to" meeting for anything that relates to our Legion. Topics could include Bike Fest, Oktoberfest, Mouse Races, Pub Crawl & more. Please join us if you would like to get involved and know more about our Legion.						
	1 Mission Stables any time after 9am Calendar Meeting 11am Game Day 1:30pm Shuffleboard 3pm	2 Post Activity Meeting 5:30 Legion & Aux E-Board Meeting 6pm General Meeting 7pm Aux Christmas Party 7pm	3 Legion Wing Night 5- 6:30pm Son's Meeting 6:30pm	4	5 Aux Spaghetti & Meatballs, Meatball Subs, Ravioli 5- 6:30pm Queen of Hearts 4:30-6:30	6 Turkey Shoot Lunch Provided by the Auxiliary 11am-2pm
7	8 Shuffleboard 3pm	9	10 Son's Grilled Pork Steaks 5- 6:30pm Riders Meeting 6:30pm	11	12 Christmas Dinner 5-7pm Fender Benders 4-7pm Queen of Hearts 4:30-6:30	13 Turkey Shoot Lunch Provided by the Son's 11am-2pm Army/Navy Game
14 Print Newsletter	15 Fold Newsletter 9am Game Day 1:30pm Shuffleboard 3pm	16	17 Aux Hamburgers 5-6:30pm	18 Laurie Care Center Veterans Visits 1:30pm	19 Aux Breaded Shrimp Dinner 5-6:30pm Ethan Jackson 5- 8pm Queen of Hearts 4:30-6:30	20 Turkey Shoot Lunch Provided by the Rider's 11am-2pm
21	22 Shuffleboard 3pm	23	24 Kitchen will be closed Post will close at 6:00pm	25 Post Closed 	26 Kitchen will be closed for dinners until March Post will be open	27 Turkey Shoot Lunch Provided "Potluck Style 11am-2pm
28	29	30	31 Post open 	The Kitchen will be closed January and February for dinner. It will be open for some Saturday mornings for the Turkey Shoot. Please follow us on Facebook for Kitchen Updates.		

January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Post will be open 	2 Queen of Hearts 4:30-6:30	3 Turkey Shoot Lunch Provided by the Auxiliary 11am-2pm
4	5 Mission Stables any time after 9am Calendar Meeting 11am Game Day 1:30pm Shuffleboard 3pm	6 Post Activity Meeting 5:30 Legion & Aux E-Board Meeting 6pm General Meeting 7pm	7 Son's Meeting 6:30pm	8	9 Queen of Hearts 4:30-6:30	10 Turkey Shoot Lunch Provided by the Son's 11am-2pm
11	12 Shuffleboard 3pm	13	14 No Riders Meeting	15	16 Queen of Hearts 4:30-6:30	17 Turkey Shoot Lunch Provided by the Rider's 11am-2pm
18 Print Newsletter	19 Fold Newsletter 9am Game Day 1:30pm Shuffleboard 3pm	20	21	22 Laurie Care Center Veterans Visits 1:30pm	23 Queen of Hearts 4:30-6:30	24 Turkey Shoot Lunch Provided by the Auxiliary 11am-2pm
25	26 Shuffleboard 3pm	27	28	29	30	31 Turkey Shoot Lunch Provided "Potluck Style 11am-2pm"
				The Kitchen will be closed January and February for dinner. It will be open for some Saturday mornings for the Turkey Shoot. Please follow us on Facebook for Kitchen Updates.		



The American Legion Zack Wheat Post 624
P.O. Box 61, 852 American Legion Road
Sunrise Beach Missouri 65079
Phone # 573-374-6091, lakelegion.com

LEGION OFFICERS

Commander	John Seward	573-480-0329	Judge Advocate	Karl Wendell	904-263-0501
1st Vice	Ron Naber	309-363-8696	Chaplain	Ted Cone	573-480-2854
2nd Vice	Rich Fischer	573-505-3055	Historian		
3rd Vice			Service Officer	Brian Smith	816-392-8788
Adjutant	Austin Teel	573-280-7585	Sgt-at Arms	Rebecca Deuel	254-702-2370
Finance Officer	Jamie Slinkard	573-578-6481	Asst. Sgt-at Arms	Ray Lacroix	303-263-8592
			Public Relation	Elyse Smith	816-392-1828

LEGION EXECUTIVE BOARD

Jim Morton		573-374-3013	Tom Boyce		573-723-0222
Tom Hohnecker		913-488-4580	Dale Hanke		402-660-0025
Austin Teel		573-280-7585			

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION OFFICERS

Commander	Paul Hendersen	618-514-8202	Chaplain	Matt Laughlin	573-746-0131
1st Vice	John Smiley	303-419-8033	Finance Officer	Tony Lombardo	816-806-1103
2nd Vice			Sgt-at Arms	Jim Morton	573-374-3013
Adjutant	Rich Fischer	573-505-3055			

LEGION AUXILIARY OFFICERS

President	Lisa Seward	573-480-6656	Chaplain	Shirley Dull	573-374-1912
1st Vice	Betty Hovey	573-216-2305	Historian	Michelle Koenigsman	402-657-6005
2nd Vice	Christy Fischer	913-708-1760	Sgt-at Arms	Clara Clarke	573-480-2587
Secretary	Cathy Blamy	314-307-0465	Asst. Sgt-at Arms	Kandy Bills	303-883-1241
Treasurer	Deborah Crider	816-454-5476			

AUXILIARY EXECUTIVE BOARD

Nancy Hodges		816-835-5333	Membership	Michelle Koenigsman	402-657-6005
Donna Engelbert		573-216-4230	Fundraising	Christy Fischer	913-708-1760
Sheila Spry		573-410-2775			

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Nancy Hodges		816-835-5333	Membership	Michelle Koenigsman	402-657-6005
Donna Engelbert		573-216-4230	Fundraising	Christy Fischer	913-708-1760
Sheila Spry		573-410-2775			

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS OFFICERS

Director	Mike Koenigsman	402-740-7649	Sgt.-at Arms	Anthony Ewen	314-882-2021
Asst. Director	John Smiley	303-419-8033	Chaplain	Ted Cone	573-480-2854
Secretary	Michelle Koenigsman	402-657-6005	Judge Advocate	John Withee	314-607-6406
Treasurer	Clara Clarke	573-480-2587	Road Captain	Tiffany Fox	417-531-2181
Historian	Jo Rice	573-505-1375	Safety	Ron Rice	573-502-9053
Merchandiser	Michelle Koenigsman	402-657-6005			

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WEBSITE: LAKELEGION.COM

Cmdr.: Commander@lakelegion.com

Adjutant: adjutant@lakelegion.com

1st Vice: 1stvice@lakelegion.com

PR: pr@lakelegion.com

Auxiliary: auxiliary@lakelegion.com

SAL: sal@lakelegion.com

ALR: alr@lakelegion.com

NO VETERAN LEFT BEHIND





What it means to be a member of the Honor Guard

There's a moment at every service when time seems to stand still. The rifles have fired their final volley. The air is still. And then, the soft, mournful notes of *Taps* begin to drift across the cemetery.

When that last note fades into silence, and the flag is carefully folded and presented, something special happens — a quiet peace fills the air. The family feels a sense of closure, knowing their loved one has received the honor, dignity, and respect they earned through their service and sacrifice to our country.

It's in those moments that the true meaning of our mission as an Honor Guard comes to life. We are there to ensure that no veteran's service is forgotten, that no family leaves without knowing their sacrifice was honored."

"If hearing this touches your heart — if you've ever felt that pull of pride and gratitude when you see the flag being folded or hear the sound of *Taps* — I invite you to join us. Come be a part of our Honor Guard family.

Contact the Honor Guard Commander or Captain, Austin Teel at 573-280-7585; Keith Moss at 816-809-6789 stop by Zach Wheat Post 624

"We honor those who served... with their final salute."

