

ZACK WHEAT AMERICAN LEGION POST 624
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JANUARY 2026

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



Table of Contents

- Page One: Commander's Note
- Page Two: Auxiliary Note
- Page Three: SAL New's & ALR New's
- Page Four: Phone Roster
- Page Five: January Calendar
- Page Six: February Calendar
- Page Seven: 2026 Event & Entertainment Schedule
- Page Eight: Honor Guard



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Commander Newsletter Input – January 2026

Happy Month!! I hope all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year with your family and friends and I pray God's Blessings upon you all as we start 2026!! As we start this new year, I wanted to remind every member of some of the daily interactions Americans have with our Armed Forces. So let's talk about some cool things the military has done in the last century that my daughter Larissa, a member of this Post passed on to me. Did you know that the US Air Force owns and operates our entire GPS constellation? Anyone who uses Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter uses technology enabled by the Air Force. The ability to take a phone out of your pocket and instantly know where we are at any time has changed how Americans travel on a daily basis. As a component of that, the US Navy protects global communications and web access. Grey-hulled ships floating on the high seas serve to protect what is underneath the water and hidden from plain sight. 99% of global communications flow through undersea fiber optic cables. The Armed Forces also act as a homeland and global first responder for disaster relief. The Army Corps of Engineers helped drain New Orleans and repair infrastructure after Hurricane Katrina in 2005, along with the 70,000 additional Soldiers sent to the area to assist in disaster relief. The Army and Air Force use their planes and Soldiers on the ground to assist in fighting wildfires. The Air Force has a specialized unit that leads all airborne search and rescue missions along with the US Coast Guard with over 150,000 "saves" under their belt since 1974. Army research labs have provided critical breakthroughs for military and civilian purposes-from sports concussions to world-class prosthetics after the Boston Marathon bombing. Who played football in your youth? Did you know that the Army created the technology for the helmets used today from Middle School to the NFL? They used research from traumatic brain injuries, increasingly caused by improvised explosive devices, and applied that to children and adults who suffer similar injuries from repeated exposure to contact sports like football and hockey. The Army has contributed to more advanced technology like better helmets for those contact sports and created and built world-class prosthetics for those who need them. This is just a small sampling of what the Armed Forces have contributed to the daily lives of American citizens. However, regardless of everything the military has done, their greatest asset will always be their people. People just like you who stood up and volunteered to serve the Nation. To those Veterans who grace the halls of our Post, we thank you, we honor you, and we cherish the sacrifices you made for us all!! God Bless you and may God continue to Bless the United States of America!!

John Seward
Commander
American Legion Post 624



January 2026 Newsletter Input

At our November Monthly Meeting we voted for our American Legion Auxiliary to fund and manage the construction of a new Breeze Way on the front of our American Legion building. The project is now complete and we should all be proud of this contribution to our American Legion. It looks very pretty. This addition will provide shelter from the weather as well as enhance our American Legion's current beauty. In weeks to come a plaque will be posted dedicating our donation and a dedication ceremony will take place at our next opportunity. Thank you to everyone for working so hard and contributing to our efforts so that we may provide this gift to our American Legion.

The Auxiliary hosted and catered the New Comers Lunch on November 19th for approximately 50 people. We served hot ham and cheese paninis, pasta salad, back by popular demand tomato basil soup and homemade warm apple crisp and ice cream made by members of the Auxiliary. We received a very nice Thank You note from the New Comers contact thanking us for our efforts on a job well done. Great job!!

Several of us had a lot of fun and great friendship at our Christmas Party. We had a lot of tasty treats and goodies and many wonderful and thoughtful gifts were exchanged. We had a wonderful time.

The Auxiliary hosted and catered the Lake West Chamber of Commerce Networking Breakfast on Friday, December 5th for approximately 40 people. Thank you again to Mike K. for the recommendation and endorsement. We served buffet style biscuits and gravy, sausage, bacon, pancakes, scrambled eggs and yummy sweets. Thank you to those that got up early and made this event possible. Great job!!

The Auxiliary hosted and catered our Christmas Dinner Friday, December 12th. Thank you to everyone that donated to help make our dinner possible. We served approximately 130 people Ham, Turkey, Shrimp Cocktail and all our other delicious Christmas favorites. We all had a wonderful time eating, drinking, dancing, singing and Celebrating Christmas!!

The Kitchen will be closed January and February for dinners. It will be open on Saturdays for the Turkey Shoot. If you would like to volunteer the first Saturday of the month please sign up in the Kitchen.

I hope everyone has a Merry Merry Christmas. God bless each of you...

Lisa Seward
Auxiliary President



Sons Newsletter Input January 2026

Hoping everyone had a safe and happy holiday season. The sons will have the January meeting on the 7th. We will not host a meal on Wednesday again until March. But we will be in charge of Lunch one Saturday a month during Turkey Shoot. Please continue to support the turkey shoot every Saturday and Queen of hearts on Friday night to support our legion. Off we go to a great new Year.

Paul Henderson



Chapter 624 ALR Riders,

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.

I am wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Our next official meeting will be in March 2026.

Enjoy the Ride

Mike Koenigsman

Chapter 624 ALR Director



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

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			0

WEBSITE: LAKELEGION.COM

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 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



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 Mission Stables any time after 9am Calendar Meeting 11am Game Day 1:30pm Shuffleboard 3pm	5 Post Activity Meeting 5:30 Legion & Aux E-Board Meeting 6pm General Meeting 7pm	6 Post Activity Meeting 5:30 Legion & Aux E-Board Meeting 6pm General Meeting 7pm	7 Sons Meeting 6:30pm	8	9 Queen of Hearts 4:30-6:30	10 Turkey Shoot Lunch Provided by the Sons 11am-2pm
11 Shuffleboard 3pm	12 Shuffleboard 3pm	13	14 No Riders Meeting	15	16 Queen of Hearts 4:30-6:30	17 Turkey Shoot Lunch Provided by the Riders 11am-2pm
18 Print Newsletter	19 Fold Newsletter 9am Game Day 1:30pm Shuffleboard 3pm	20	21	22 No organized Veterans visit to Laurie Care Center this month	23 Queen of Hearts 4:30-6:30	24 Turkey Shoot Lunch Provided "Potluck Style" 11am-2pm
25 Shuffleboard 3pm	26 Shuffleboard 3pm	27	28	29	30 Queen of Hearts 4:30-6:30	31 Turkey Shoot Lunch Provided by the Legion 11am-2pm

The Kitchen will be closed January & February for dinner. It will be open Saturday mornings for the Turkey Shoot.
Please follow us on Facebook for Kitchen Updates.

February 2026

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



Tentative 2026 Event & Entertainment schedule (Subject to Change)

- January & February - no scheduled Events
- March – Wing Night starts up again (3/4)
 - -Cowboy (3/6)
 - St. Patrick's Day Pup Crawl (3/14)
 - Kyle Lee Wiles & The Fender Benders
 - -The Healing Box (3/27)
- April – Legion Mouse Races & Auxiliary Silent Auction (TBD)
 - Kyle Lee Wiles & The Fender Benders (4/10)
- -Helen Russell (4/24)
- May - Memorial Day Breakfast & Ceremony (5/25)
 - Kyle Lee Wiles & The Fender Benders (5/1)
- -Marcus Words (5/22)
- -ALR – National ROMP Meeting (TBD)
- June- Sign up starts for American Legion Golf Tournament (held in August)
 - Auxiliary Garage Sale (TBD)
- -Kyle Lee Wiles & The Fender Benders (6/5)
 - Ron Mosier (6/19)
- July – Kyle Lee Wiles & The Fender Benders
- -Astro Katz (7/24)
- August – Ron Mosier (8/7)
 - -Kyle Lee Wiles & The Fender Benders
- September – Bike Fest (9/15-20)
 - -Kyle Lee Wiles & The Fender Benders
 - -ALR Veterans Memorial Ride (TBD)
 - -Cowboy (9/4)
 - -Starla & Scotty (9/11)
- October – Oktoberfest with Legion Mouse Races & Aux Silent Auction (TBD)
 - -Kyle Lee Wiles & The Fender Benders (10/9)
 - Helen Russell (10/23)
- November – Veterans Day Breakfast & Ceremony (11/11)
 - -Kyle Lee Wiles & The Fender Benders (11/13)
 - -Starla & Scotty (11/20)
 - -Thanksgiving Dinner (TBD)
- December – Christmas Dinner (TBD)
 - -Kyle Lee Wiles & The Fender Benders (12/4)
 - -The Healing Box (12/18)



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 a final salute."

