

ZACK WHEAT AMERICAN LEGION POST 624
PATRIOTS DISPATCH
FEBRUARY 2026

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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's Newsletter Input – February 2026

Happy Month!! We are halfway through the Winter and headed toward Spring!! Soon we will see our Snowbirds headed back to the Lake and our Post!! We can't wait to see you again!! As we move into February, we remember the Four Chaplains who died rescuing civilian and military personnel as the American troop ship SS Dorchester sank on 3 February 1943, in what has been referred to as one of the worst sea disasters of World War II. The Dorchester, a civilian liner, had been converted for military service in World War II as a troop transport of the War Shipping Administration. The ship left New York on 23 January 1943, enroute to Greenland, carrying approximately 900 as part of a convoy of three ships escorted by Coast Guard Cutters Tampa, Escanaba, and Commanche. During the early morning hours of 3 February, the vessel was torpedoed by the German submarine U-223 off Newfoundland in the North Atlantic. The Chaplains helped the other Soldiers board lifeboats and gave up their own life jackets when the supply ran out. The Chaplains joined arms, said prayers, and sang hymns as they went down with the ship. These four Chaplains paid the ultimate sacrifice for their fellow Soldiers and Sailors on the Dorchester. What an honor they provided to the men who survived that night and to our Nation!! That is why we pause each 3rd of February to remember them! It should also remind us to treat each other at our Post and in our community with dignity, respect, and kindness! Each of these Chaplains were a different faith...one Catholic Priest, one Jewish Rabbi, one Methodist Preacher, and one Reformed Church Minister. They are somewhat like the four entities at our Post...Legionnaires, Sons, Riders, and Auxiliary. Think how much we could accomplish for our Veterans and Community when our four entities join arms and work together for the good of all!! Each of our members or our Fathers/Mothers/Husbands/Spouses served the Nation when called. Each person at our Post deserves our honor for service to the Nation and now our Post and community!! Let us all remember these Four Chaplains and be kind, thoughtful, caring, and respectful to everyone we meet at our Post!! We can and will make a difference in their lives!!

God Bless you all and may God continue to Bless the United States of America!!

John Seward
Commander
American Legion Post 624



The Auxiliary hosted and catered our Christmas Dinner Friday, December 12th. Thank you to everyone that donated to help make our dinner a huge success. We served approximately 180 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!! Our auxiliary team was small but mighty with four volunteers in the Kitchen. Thank you to members of the Legion that came in to help. Together we did an amazing and rewarding job!!

The Auxiliary supported the Army-Navy football game on Saturday, December 13th by serving lunch from the Kitchen. Legions throughout the country participated in the event to bring us together and increase awareness of our Be The One campaign which focuses on addressing veteran suicide. Through our support we donated approximately \$300 to the Legion that will support future Be The One projects.

Our good friend Dean from Buttonwood Farms generously donated 10,800 eggs to the Kitchen. Crazy!! Scrambled eggs will be added to the breakfast lineup for future events. What a treat!! And many yummy desserts will be made by the Auxiliary. Thank you, Dean, for continuing to support the efforts of the Auxiliary!!

We will not be having our February Calendar Meeting, Auxiliary Eboard Meeting or Auxiliary General Meeting due to many of our volunteers being unavailable. We will begin our normal Meetings in March which are reflected on the March Calendar.

Our Legion Birthday tickets will be on sale at the Patriot Bar beginning Friday, February 20th for \$3.00 each. You must have a ticket to enjoy the Legion Birthday dinner on Friday, March 20th. In order to ensure we have enough food and help in the Kitchen to prepare and serve our dinner, the cutoff date for purchasing tickets is Monday, March 16th. Thank you helping us serve you better.

The Auxiliary members that volunteer to work in the Kitchen do an amazing job. In the last year the Auxiliary has added additional dinners, catering events, special dinners and special events to our Kitchen schedule with the same volunteers. With that said, when the Kitchen reopens in March you will notice a slight change to our current dinner calendar. The Legionnaire's and Sons will continue to offer their dinner on the first and second Wednesday of each month. The Auxiliary will no longer serve a Wednesday dinner but instead will serve dinners on Thursdays and Fridays. Also beginning in March, the back Lake View Bar will be open to accommodate those that wish to come to the Legion but don't want to participate in the Thursday activities in the front Patriot Bar. The Auxiliary will continue to serve a great lineup of dinners each month.

Also, due to the low number of volunteers in the Kitchen we sometimes need to change the dinner that is reflected on the calendar. When this happens, we do our best to communicate the change via Facebook or the Highway 5 sign. We welcome anybody to volunteer in the Kitchen. The Kitchen Schedule is located in the Kitchen on the white dry erase board. Thank you!!

The Auxiliary will be working the Kitchen during our St. Patrick's Day Pub Crawl on Saturday, March 14th. This is our third year to participate in this event. We will serve a lineup of "Grab n' Go" menu items. Our Legion has become "one of the favorite stops" on the Crawl. Come out and join the fun!! Contact Christy Fischer if you would like to help or volunteer in the Kitchen. The schedule is located in the Kitchen on the white dry erase board.

Thank you for doing your part. See you in March!!
Lisa Seward
Auxiliary President



Sons Newsletter Input February 2026

Hope everyone had a safe holiday season. The SAL will have our February meeting on the 4th of Feb. We will be planning our march meal, if you have input please be there. The sons will be covering the kitchen for turkey shoots on 24 of January and 14th off February please help if you are available.

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.

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

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



February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Game Day 1:30pm Shuffleboard 3pm NO-Mission Stables-any time-after 9am NO-Calendar Meeting 11am	3 Legion Meeting 6pm Legion General Meeting 7pm No-Post Activity Meeting 5:30 No-AUX-E Board No-AUX General Meeting	4 Sons Meeting 6:30pm	5	6 Queen of Hearts 4:30- 6:30	7 Turkey Shoot Lunch Provided "Potluck Style" 11am-2pm
8	9 Shuffleboard 3pm	10	11 No Riders Meeting 6:30pm	12	13 Queen of Hearts 4:30- 6:30	14 Turkey Shoot Lunch Provided by the Sons 11am- 2pm 
15 Print Newsletter	16 Fold Newsletter 9am Game Day 1:30pm Shuffleboard 3pm	17	18 Laurie Care Center Veterans Visits 1:30pm	19	20 Legion Birthday Tickets for \$3.00 each go on sale Queen of Hearts 4:30- 6:30	21 Turkey Shoot Lunch Provided by the Riders 11am- 2pm
22	23 Shuffleboard 3pm	24	25	26	27 Queen of Hearts 4:30- 6:30	28 Turkey Shoot Lunch Provided by the Legion 11am- 2pm
				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.		

March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Mission Stables any time after 9am Calendar Meeting 11am Game Day 1:30pm Shuffleboard 3pm	3 Post Activity Meeting 5:30 Legion & Aux E-Board Meeting 6pm General Meeting 7pm	4 Legion Wing Night 5-6:30pm Sons Meeting 6:30pm	5	6 Aux Mardi Gras Shrimp Boil Dinner 5- 6:30pm Music By Cowboy 5-8pm Queen of Hearts 4:30-6:30	7 Turkey Shoot Lunch Provided by the Auxiliary 11am-2pm
8	9 Shuffleboard 3pm	10	11 Sons Dinner 5- 6:30pm Riders Meeting 6:30pm	12	13 Aux St Patrick's Day Dinner 5- 6:30pm Queen of Hearts 4:30-6:30	14  Food served throughout the Crawl by the Auxiliary Fender Benders 6- 9pm No Turkey Shoot
15	16 Deadline to purchase Legion Birthday Dinner tickets Game Day 1:30pm Shuffleboard 3pm	17	18 No Wednesday dinner will be served. Join us Thursday instead. Please see Auxiliary Newsletter for details.	19 Aux Sandwiches & More Lineup Dinner 4:30- 6:30 Laurie Care Center Veterans Visits 1:30pm	20 Legion Birthday Dinner Mix & Mingle/Awards 4-5pm Dinner 5pm Queen of Hearts 4:30-6:30	21 Turkey Shoot Lunch Provided by the Riders 11am- 2pm
22 Print Newsletter	23 Fold Newsletter 9am Shuffleboard 3pm	24	25 No Wednesday dinner will be served. Join us Thursday instead. Please see Auxiliary Newsletter for details.	26 Aux Sandwiches & More Lineup Dinner 4:30- 6:30	27 Aux Breaded Shrimp Dinner 5-6:30pm Healing Box 5- 8pm Queen of Hearts 4:30-6:30	28 Turkey Shoot Lunch Provided by the Legion 11am- 2pm Last Turkey Shoot 
29	30	31				

Tentative 2026 Event & Entertainment schedule (Subject to Change)

- February – Chili Cook off (2/8)
- 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 – Show Me The Money (4/2)
 - Legion Mouse Races & Auxiliary Silent Auction (4/11)
 - 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)
- 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)
 - ALR – Missouri Legacy Rally (6/18-21)
- July – Kyle Lee Wiles & The Fender Benders (7/10)
 - Astro Katz (7/24)
- August – Ron Mosier (8/7)
 - Kyle Lee Wiles & The Fender Benders (8/14)
- September – Bike Fest (9/15-20)
 - Kyle Lee Wiles & The Fender Benders (9/18)
 - ALR Veterans Memorial Ride (9/18)
 - Cowboy (9/4)
 - Starla & Scotty (9/11)
- October – Oktoberfest with Legion Mouse Races & Aux Silent Auction (10/10)
 - 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 (11/13)
- December – Christmas Dinner (12/11)
 - 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."





Super Bowl Chili Cook Off
Sunday, February 8, 2026

Doors Open at 1:00pm
Chili & Table Ready by 3:00pm
Judging at 4:00pm
Eat after Judging

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SAVE THE DATE

MARCH 14TH
2026

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CRUISE & CRAWL

More information
coming soon.



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