

ZACK WHEAT AMERICAN LEGION 624
PATRIOTS DISPATCH
JULY 2024

PRESORT

STANDARD
U.S POSTAGE

SUNRISE BEACH MO

PERMIT#13

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



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Legionnaires,

As I step down from my role as Commander, I am filled with a deep sense of gratitude and pride for the time I have spent serving this remarkable Post. It has been an honor to lead the best American Legion Post in the state, and arguably the country. I want to take this opportunity to reflect on our collective achievements and express my heartfelt thanks to each of you.

Over the past two years, we have accomplished so much together. Our Veterans memorial refurbishment, kitchen transformation, Legion renovations, parking lot resurfacing, and our steadfast support of veterans and their families, our post has truly embodied the spirit and mission of the American Legion. These achievements are a testament to your dedication, hard work, and unwavering commitment to our shared values.

I am particularly proud of our outreach programs with Laurie Care Center, Buddy Checks and Veterans helping Veterans and Widows, which would not have been possible without your support and active participation. Your enthusiasm and willingness to step up when needed have made all the difference.

As I pass the baton to our new Commander, I am confident that he will continue to lead our post with the same passion and dedication. I encourage you all to support him as wholeheartedly as you have supported me. Together, we will continue to build on our successes and accomplish our mission.

As I conclude my tenure, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to my family for their sacrifices, and my wife Jennifer for her incredible support throughout this journey. Her encouragement and understanding have been invaluable, allowing me to serve as I have. I am truly blessed and grateful to have her at my side.

I would also like to extend my thanks to the officers of the Legion, Auxiliary, Sons and Riders that have supported me, and were vital to the success of all these projects and so much more. Your assistance and friendships will be cherished. Thank you again for entrusting me with the honor to command this great Post.

See you at the installation dinner on July 20th!

Austin Teel



Auxiliary Newsletter Input – July 2024

Summer is really here in all its glory!! Please be safe, stay cool, and enjoy every moment the Lake and the Legion have to offer!! Thank you for your continued support to our board and to me as your President as we move into a new and exciting year. This group of dedicated ladies have worked hard to represent you well while promoting the Legion Auxiliary to the best of their abilities. Come and join us as we build relationships and support our Veterans!! You, your friends, and the community are invited on Sunday evenings from 6-7:30pm in the Legion Hall to attend an eight-part series on Americanism, one of the pillars of the American Legion. Our own Jane Boyce is hosting this event as we learn about the founding of our country with an emphasis on the Constitution. Hope to see you there! Here are some upcoming dates to remember:

- Independence Day – Celebrate the birth of our country with your family and friends! Our American Legion will be closed this day.
- 11-14 July – Department of Missouri Conference in St. Louis. I will attend and bring information back for our organization.
- 20 July – Installation Dinner. Sign up and pay \$2 per person at the Patriots Bar. Installation meeting starts at 5pm with dinner at 6pm. Deadline for sign-up is July 1st
- First and third Monday of the month: Game Day at 1:30pm.

REMINDER: Pay your \$40 annual dues by 1 September. After that date, the dues go up to \$45!!

Lisa Seward

Auxiliary President



Son's of The American Legion Squadron 624

I like to thank our board members and regular members for a great year. July 20th is our Installation Dinner and we all need to attend and show our support. The sign-up sheet is at the Patriots Bar. Deadline for sign up is July 1st. Our new Board is as following:

Commander	Paul Henderson
1 st Vice	Jon Smiley
Adjutant	Rich Fisher
Chaplain	Matt Laughlin
Finance Officer	Tony Lombardo
Sgt At Arms	Jim Morton
Historian	Joseph Brunk

Congratulations to our new Board Members. Please attend our next Meeting on 7/3/24 at 630pm to welcome the new and thank the old Board. It has been a great Year.

I want to say thanks to all the people that helped me at my last trip to the Hospital.

Tom Hohnecker

SAL Commander



Summer is here

Elections are done, leadership continues and a NEW year is upon us.

So many dates, too little time. Please look at your emails regarding upcoming events.

I look forward to a smooth transition for all officers.

Don't forget July 20th is the Installation Dinner, sign-up sheets will be at the front bar.

I thank all who took time out of their day to participate in the USO ride and those who are ready for the Legacy Ride.

Bikefest is quickly approaching, reach out to your officers for further details.

Pass the word we have VENDOR space available, contact Candy Barton.

Thank You for all Your Support within the last Year

Director

Bill Meenan

July 2024

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	1 Game & Puzzle Day 130 Shuffelboard 3pm	2 Eboard Meeting 6pm Gen Meeting 7pm Aux Meeting 7pm	3 Wing Night 5-630pm SAL Meeting 630pm	 Post is Closed	5 Auxiliary Spagetti Dinner or Fried Fish 5-6:30pm Music by Fender Benders 4:30-7:30pm	6
7 Americanism / Constitution Class 6pm	8 Shuffelboard 3pm	9 Kitchen & Calendar Meeting 2 pm	10 SAL Dinner BBQ Pork Steak w sides 5-630pm ALR Meeting 630pm	11 Show Me 6pm Kitchen open 430-6pm	12 AUX Open Faced Roast Beef, mashed Taters or Fried Fish&sides 5-630pm Music Starla&Scotty 5-8pm	13
14 Americanism / Constitution Class 6pm	15 Shuffelboard 3pm Game day 130	16 Laurie Care Center 1:30pm Visiting with our fellow Veterans	17 ALR Dinner Chicken pot pie dish 5-630pm	18 Post Rehab 9-12 Show Me 6pm Kitchen open 430-6pm	19 Leg Dinner Salisbury Steak,Rice Corn& Gravy & Fried Fish Fender Bender 430-7pm	20 <i>Installation Dinner Meeting 6pm Dinner 7pm</i>
21 Print Newsletter Americanism / Constitution Class 6pm	22 Folding Newsletter 9am Buddy Checks 1-3pm Shuffelboard 3pm	23 Post rehab 9am-12pm Members, please come out & help keep our post looking good	24 AUX Hamburger/ Cheesburger Night w Fries or Onion Rings 5-630pm	25 Show Me 6pm Kitchen open 430-6pm	26 Riders Dinner Pork Steak 5-630pm	27
28 Americanism / Constitution Class 6pm	29 Shuffelboard 3pm	30	31 AUX Dinner Breaded Shrimp dinner 5-630pm	1 Show Me 6pm Kitchen open 430-6pm	2 Auxiliary Spagetti Dinner or Fried Fish 5-6:30pm Music by Fender Benders 4:30-7:30pm	3
4	5 Shuffelboard 3pm	Notes The Post will be closed on Independence day. Have a safe Holiday Installation Dinner \$2 Sign up at Patriots Bar starting June 1st -30th Department Convention St.Louis 7/11 to 7/14				

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August 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29 Shuffelboard 3pm	30	31	1 Show Me 6pm Kitchen open 430-6pm	2 Auxiliary Spagetti Dinner or Fried Fish w Fries& Coleslaw Music by Fender Benders 4:30-7:30pm	3
4	5 Game & Puzzle day 130pm Shuffelboard 3pm	6 Eboard Meeting 6pm Gen Meeting 7pm Aux Meeting 7pm	7 Wing Night 5- 630pm SAL Meeting 630pm Purple Heart Day Ron Moser 5- 8pm	8 Show Me 6pm Kitchen open 430-6pm	9 AUX Open Faced Roast Beef or Fried Fish w Fries & Coleslaw 5-630pm The Healing Box	10
11	12 Shuffelboard 3pm	13 Kitchen & Calendar Meeting 2pm	14 SAL Dinner BBG Pork steak w.sides 5-630 ALR Meeting 630pm	15 Show Me 6pm Kitchen open 430-6pm	16 Legionairs Dinner Salisbury Steak,Rice & Corn or Fried Fish w. Fries & Coleslaw Music Helen Russell 5-7pm	17
18 Print Newsletter	19 Folding Newsletter 9am Game & Puzzle day 130-3pm Shuffelboard 3pm	20 Laurie Care Center 130pm meetup	21 ALR Dinner Chicken Pot pie 5-630pm Revitalization Meeting 630pm	22 Show Me 6pm Kitchen open 430-6pm Buddy Checks 3- 5pm	23 Riders Dinner Pork Steak w. sides or Fried Fish w.Fries & Coleslaw 5-630pm	24
25	26 Shuffelboard 3pm	27	28 AUX Hamburger Night 5-630pm New Member Orientation 530pm	29 Show Me 6pm Kitchen open 430-6pm	30 Aux Dinner Shrimpbowl & Fried Fish 5-630pm	31
1	2 Game & Puzzle Day 130-3pm Shuffelboard 3pm	Notes				

American Legion Post 624 - GET INVOLVED TODAY!

Activity/Event	Date(s)	Who We Need	What <u>YOU</u> will be doing	Special Skills Needed	Point(s) of Contact
American Legion Post 624 Installation Ceremony and Dinner	Saturday 20 July 6PM	All Legion Units TAL, ALA, SAL, ALR	Supporting your new unit leaders (Legion, Aux, Sons, Riders) by attending the Installation of Legion Officers ceremony and sharing dinner with your fellow members.	Members of all Legion units are invited and encouraged to attend.	Sign up and pay \$2/person registration at the Legion Patriot Bar by 3 July. (Registration fee also covers the dinner)
Kitchen Serving Veterans, our Community and Each Other	Multiple Dinners served all month. Participate in one or more.	All Legion Units TAL, ALA, SAL, ALR	Working in our great American Legion kitchen that serves our members and guests all year long. Food prep, guest service and clean-up. Bring your mad kitchen skills or we will train you!	American Legion dinner nights are fun! Bring your cooking, cleaning, organization, and service skills.	Christy Fischer (913) 708-1760
Local Veteran Visits They are <u>NOT</u> forgotten	Monthly Check calendar for day and time. Meet at the Laurie Care Center	All Legion Units TAL, ALA, SAL, ALR	Making in-person visits to our Veterans in the Laurie Care Center. 2-hour visit each month.	Time and Compassion.	Jamie Slinkard (573) 578-6481
Commander Day Post Revitalization	Monthly Check calendar for day and time.	All Legion Units TAL, ALA, SAL, ALR	Construction, Cleaning, Painting, Landscaping, Organizing, Administrative	Show up at the American Legion post ready to work	Austin Teel (573) 280-7585
American Legion Buddy Checks Be The ONE 22 Veterans across the country take their lives every day. A simple call can make a difference.	On or about the 22nd of EVERY month. Check calendar for day and time.	All Legion Units TAL, ALA, SAL, ALR	Checking on fellow Legionaires with a phone call in-person at the post. A contact information list and a discussion topic card will be provided.	Communication Skills, Listening, Answering Questions. (Bring your charged phone).	Rich Fischer (573) 505-3055
Honor Guard	Ongoing	TAL	Honoring fallen veterans at funerals and celebration of life ceremonies. Performing patriotic ceremonies at the post and other venues.	A calling to honor our fallen Veterans and the military manual of arms (Don't worry, it will come back to you)	Keith Moss (816) 809-6789 Brian Smith (816) 392-8788 Elyse Smith
Post 624 House & Grounds Committee	Every Monday 9 AM	All Legion Units TAL, ALA, SAL, ALR	Maintaining our awesome American Legion post as a member of the House & Grounds Committee. Fixing, maintaining, upgrading, constructing, improving.	All skill levels in Carpentry, Electrical, Electronics, Plumbing, HVAC, Painting, Landscaping, Organizing, Cleaning	Rich Fischer (573) 505-3055
Vets Helping Vets	Ongoing, As-requested	All Legion Units TAL, ALA, SAL, ALR	Assisting fellow veterans and spouses of veterans with general household maintenance and repairs that they may no longer be able to do.	All skillsets needed. Contact the POC and let them know what you can do and you will be added to the call list.	Jim Morton (573) 374-3013 Ron Spry (402) 699-6852
Americanism Committee Americanism is one of the 4 pillars of the American Legion. It is our duty to promote it.	Ongoing Check calendar for day and times	All Legion Units TAL, ALA, SAL, ALR	Join the committee to share your ideas on promoting Americanism in our lake community	Communication Skills, Creativity, Patriotism, Teamwork.	Rich Fischer (573) 505-3055

Installation Dinner

JULY 20, 2024

Meeting 6PM

Dinner 7PM

Menu

Roast Beef

Pork steak

Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Gravy

Salad

Cake

\$2 Sign- up for members starts June 1st at Patriots Bar

Sign Up and Support Your new Executive Board



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 Phone # 573-374-6091, lakelegion.com

LEGION OFFICERS

Commander	John Seward	573-480-0329	Judge Advocate	Karl Wendell	904-263-0501
1st Vice	Jamie Slinkard	573-578-6481	Chaplain	Ted Cone	573-480-2854
2nd Vice			Historian	Karen Wendell	904-364-8863
3rd Vice	Stefanie Lowes	254-228-3617	Service Officer	Brian Smith	816-392-8788
Adjutant			Sgt-at Arms	Rebecca Deuel	254-702-2370
Finance Officer	John Hovey	573-216-2530	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		Finance Officer	Tony Lumbardo	816-806-1103
2nd Vice	Dave Young	816-668-6137	Sgt-at Arms	Jim Morton	573-374-3013
Adjutant	Rich Fisher	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		
2nd Vice	Christy Fischer	913-708-1760	Sgt-at Arms	Tiffany Fox	417-531-2181
Secretary	Cathy Blamy	314-307-0465	Asst. Sgt-at Arms	Jane Boyce	573-286-8507
Treasurer	Deborah Schnoebelen	573-216-1294			

AUXILIARY EXECUTIVE BOARD

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

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS OFFICERS

Director	Tiffany Fox	417-531-2181	Sgt.-at Arms	Jack Littlepage	573-480-0463
Asst. Director	John Seward	573-480-0329	Chaplain	Ted Cone	573-480-2854
Secretary	Michelle Koenigsman	402-657-6005	Judge Advocate	Mike Koenigsman	402-740-7649
Treasurer	Clara Clarke	573-480-2587	Road Captain	John Smiley	
Historian	Jo Rice		Safety	Ron Rice	573-502-9053
Merchandiser	Penny Jost				

WEBSITE: LAKELEGION.COM

Cmdr.: Commander@lakelegion.com

Adjutant: adjutant@lakelegion.com

1st Vice: 1stvice@lakelegion.com

PR: pr@lakelegion.com

3rd Vice: stefanie@lakelegion.com

Auxiliary: auxiliary@lakelegion.com

NO VETERAN LEFT BEHIND



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL NEW OFFICERS

American Legion

Commander: John Seward

First Vice: Jamie Slinkard

Judge Advocate: Karl Wendel

Public Relations: Elyse Smith

Service Officer: Brian Smith

SAL

Commander: Paul Henderson

First Vice: John Smiley

Adjutant: Rich Fisher

Chaplain: Matt Laughlin

Finance Officer: Tony Lombardo

Sgt At Arms: Jim Morton

Historian: Joseph Brunk

ALR

Director: Tiffany Fox

Road Captain: John Smiley

Judge Advocate: Mike Koenigsman

Safety Officer: Ron Rice

Historian: Jo Rice

Merchandiser: Penny Jost

Secretary: Michelle Koenigsman

Rider of the Year: Bob Hanson

AUX

Second Vice: Christy Fischer

2024 CONVENTION SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS / EVENTS (As of 6/10/2024)

THURSDAY, JULY 11

Headquarters Office opens	2:00 - 5:00 p.m.	St. Charles
Education & Scholarship Committee	3:00 - 4:00 p.m.	St. Peters
Sub-Committee	4:00 - 5:00 p.m.	St. Peters
VA&R Committee	5:00 - 6:00 p.m.	Salon A
Past Department Commander Committee (closed meeting)	5:00 - 6:00 p.m.	Illinois
Economics Commission	5:00 - 6:00 p.m.	St. Peters
Credentials Committee	7:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Illinois
Legislative Committee	7:30 - 8:00 p.m.	Soulard
Dept. Executive Committee	8:15 p.m.	Salon E & F

FRIDAY, JULY 12

ROTC Committee	8:00 - 9:00 a.m.	Salon B
Finance Commission	8:00 - 10:00 a.m.	Soulard
Membership	8:00 - 10:00 a.m.	Salon A
History Book Judging	8:00 - 11:00 a.m.	Missouri
Resolutions	9:00 - 10:00 a.m.	St. Peters
Cadet Patrol	9:00 - 10:00 a.m.	Illinois
Convention Committee	10:00 - 11:00 a.m.	St. Peters
Constitution & By-Laws	10:00 - 11:00 a.m.	Boone
Foundation Committee	10:00 - 12:00 p.m.	Soulard
Americanism (Award Review Part 1)	10:00 - 12:00 p.m.	Salon B
Homeland Security	11:00 - 12:00 p.m.	Illinois
Delegate Selection	11:30 - 12:30 p.m.	St. Peters
Children & Youth Committee	12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	Boone
General Session (Committee/Commission Reports)	1:30 - 4:30 p.m.	Salon C & D
Suicide Prevention Training immediately following VA Hospital Representatives	4:00 - 6:00 p.m.	Salon C & D
Americanism (Award Review Part 2)	4:30 - 5:00 p.m.	Salon B
Past Post Commander's Club	4:30 - 5:00 p.m.	Salon A
POW/MIA Committee	5:00 - 6:00 p.m.	Boone
Media & Communication (Newsletter Judging)	4:00 - 6:00 p.m.	St. Peters
Color Guard Competition/Exhibition	5:00 - 6:00 p.m.	TBA
ALR Executive Committee Meeting	5:15 - 6:15 p.m.	Discovery
Family Banquet	6:30 p.m.	TBA

SATURDAY, JULY 13

Past Dept. Commander's Breakfast	7:30 a.m.	Lambert
American Legion Rider General Session	7:30 - 9:00 a.m.	Discovery
A. L. Leadership Training Committee	8:00 - 9:00 a.m.	Salon A
Resolutions Committee	8:30 - 9:15 a.m.	Boardroom
A L General Session (Membership Awards)	9:30 a.m.	Salon C & D
Sons of The American Legion (DEC 8:30 a.m.)	9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Poplar
Memorial Service	11:30 a.m.	Salon C & D
Distinguished Guest Luncheon	12:00 p.m.	Lambert
Navy Club Meeting	12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	Boone
A L Family Joint General Session (Department Awards)	1:30 p.m.	Salon C & D
District Caucuses	4:00 - 5:00 p.m.	TBA
Catholic Services	5:00 p.m.	Discovery
Protestant Services	5:00 p.m.	Boone
Post Service Officer Training	6:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Salon A

SUNDAY, JULY 14

Past District Commander's Breakfast	7:00 a.m.	Lambert
District Cdr/1st Vice Cdr and District Adjutants Training	8:00-9:15 a.m.	Salon E & F
Department Officers & District Commander's Photos	9:30 a.m.	Salon E & F
General Session Reconvenes (Elections)	10:00 a.m.	Salon C & D
D.E.C. Meeting (Ten minutes after General Session adjourned)		Salon E & F

"Meeting Times and Location Subject to Change"



Department Convention

July 11-14, 2024

Hilton Airport

St. Louis, Missouri

IN PERSON

Post Service Officer Training

Saturday, July 13, 2024

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Salon A



LEARN THE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR POST SERVICE OFFICERS (PSO)

1. Study and Learn about Veterans' Benefits Programs:
 - a. Read thoroughly VA's Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors.
https://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book/2023_Federal_Benefits_for_Veterans_Dependents_and_Survivors.pdf
 - b. Attend local Veterans Service Seminars and Veterans events.
 - c. Attend and/or organize American Legion Veterans Service Seminars or events (training and presentations can be requested through the Department Service Officer - DSO).
 - d. Work with your closest accredited representatives to make connections for veteran/claimants.
 - e. Communicate with the Department Service Officers when veterans' benefits questions arise.
 - f. Read and share with Post members, information from Veterans Service Organizations articles.
 - g. Become a VA volunteer! <https://www.volunteer.va.gov/>
2. Get Materials to Help Inform Claimants about VA benefits and Other Topics
 - a. Offer information about filing claims to your Post and/or District members.
 - b. Offer information about filing claims to other veterans in your communities.
 - c. Visit Post and District members when they are hospitalized and let them know if they might be entitled to Compensation or Pension benefits.
 - d. Help claimants obtain evidence to support their claims.
 - e. Let the County Veteran Service Officer know who you are and offer your assistance.
 - f. Always work with an accredited representative
 - g. Do NOT take "claim" paperwork on behalf of a veteran or claimant. Use the interview sheet.
 - h. Empower the claimant to work with accredited representative closest to them or by remote means, such as fax, phone and email.
3. Help Develop and promote veterans' Legislative issues:
 - a. Listen to concerns about veteran's service / benefits issues and develop ideas for solutions.
 - b. Help Post develop veterans' benefits resolutions to present to their District and the Department.
 - c. Keep Post informed about the importance of "grass roots" legislative issues.
 - d. Communicate the Legion's mission and programs to elected public officials when necessary.
4. Discuss the importance of membership at every gathering in which you attend and to veterans outside the Post you may assist or advise.