

September 3, 2025

RE: Statement of Intention to Run for Department Office 2026-2027 Administrative Year

Dear Honored Department of Kansas American Legion Auxiliary Executive Committee and all Members across the state of Kansas,

I regret that I cannot be with you in person today. Due to local Post obligations that required my direct involvement, I was unable to delegate my duties.

First, I want to thank you for the outpouring of support I received this past spring when I withdrew my candidacy. Family obligations, including the loss of my father-in-law and the care of aging parents, required my full attention. Your encouragement during that time meant more than I can say. As I weighed these responsibilities against the demands of serving as a Department Officer, I knew stepping back was the right choice for the organization. Now, as life returns to balance and stability, I am ready to step forward once again.

I am officially announcing my intent to run for Department of Kansas American Legion Auxiliary President for the 2026–2027 administrative year.

Rather than listing every role and accomplishment, I want to share my leadership philosophy, because I believe that defines me more than any title. Leadership is not about command—it is about trust, accountability, and mentoring future leaders.

A leader trusts her team to do the work that is assigned to them. Instead of being authoritative, they work on a system of accountability. Being demanding and bullying to those you lead, stifles growth by breeding discontent and quiets the sharing of creative ideas that can aid in outreach and delivery.

When obstacles stand in the way of achieving goals, Leaders help their team members navigate the rocky terrain to reach their targets. Leaders don't 'take control', they guide and mentor the team to success. This approach allows your team to grow in both skill and knowledge, as well as builds confidence in attaining higher roles. When a team member stumbles, a Leader walks beside them and helps steady them on their path to learning.

A leader sets the goals and the expectation, then they get out of the way. Leaders understand that there is more than one way to reach objectives, but you must have the courage to look at multiple angles and trust your team. By doing this, you will have a full understanding on the strengths of each person on your team, along with weaknesses that can be strengthened with mentoring and pairing them with the correct mentor to help strengthen specific areas. You must leave room for people to fail. To fail means First Attempt In Learning (F.A.I.L.).

I also believe deeply in celebrating each person's uniqueness. None of us connects with every veteran or every member in the same way, but together, our diversity of personalities and strengths allows us to reach farther and serve better.

This philosophy has guided my professional life as well. In October 2020, two gentlemen bought a small mobile home park (20 lots) in Lacygne, KS and contracted with me to manage this single

property. Fast forward to 2025 and now the company spans 6 states (KS, IA, ID, TN, MO, LA) and 27 Properties with a total of 1500+ families living in our communities. In 2022 I was made a limited partner, with the entire company being developed under this leadership philosophy and focus on accountability. We went from a property worth approximately \$200K to now having a \$60M Real Estate Portfolio Owned and this year the company purchased two separate franchises to add to the overall worth of the company. We did this by putting right people in right seats and celebrating what makes each of us unique in approach and skills and making sure the board was not composed of people that were cookie cutter versions of each other. It takes courage, trust, and faith in your team achieve this type of success.

If elected as your Department President, I will bring this same servant-leadership approach to help our Auxiliary thrive, develop future leaders, and position our Department for long-term success.

Thank you for your trust and consideration.

God Bless,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kristen D Hensley". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Kristen D Hensley | Paola Unit 156 | District 2