

September 25, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to announce my intent to run for the office of Department of Kansas Auxiliary Vice President for 2026-2027.

I am currently the Department of Kansas Auxiliary Chaplain and have previously served as the Historian. I gained my eligibility for the ALA from my father who served in the US Navy from 1963-1969 and was a Vietnam veteran. I also gained eligibility through my late husband, Richard W Kerns Jr. who served in the US Navy from 1987-1991 and was a Desert Storm Veteran. He was 100% service connected with a diagnosis of ALS at the time of his death.

I have served my local unit in many officer positions including President, Vice-President, Chaplain, Historian, and Executive Committee member. I have also served my district in officer positions including Historian and Chaplain. I have the support and endorsement of both my local unit, Boerstler-May Unit #170 in Chanute, Kansas and the Third District American Legion Auxiliary.

I volunteer regularly for the shared American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, and Kansas Highway Patrol program Cadet Law. I spend the week each year helping to mentor students during their time at Cadet Law and provide the necessary medical care throughout the week for students as needed due to injury or illness. I am an active member at my local unit, volunteering for projects and meals regularly. I recently completed a restroom refreshment project in the women's bathroom at our local American Legion building including a fresh coat of paint and minor repairs along with updating the decorations.

I am a full-time employee at Neosho Memorial Regional Medical Center Emergency Medical Services where I am a Paramedic and a Captain supervising the blue shift employees. In my role as a Captain/Paramedic it is my responsibility to bring calm to sometimes chaotic situations along with ensuring my staff have all the supplies and equipment they need to be successful in their roles. I am also responsible for reporting statistics related to the types of calls we run each month, quarter, semi-annually, and annually.

As Vice President of the Department of Kansas American Legion Auxiliary, I would take seriously the role of ensuring each district and unit had the supplies and resources necessary to be successful in their membership drives throughout the year.

I look forward to the opportunity to serve as the Department of Kansas American Legion Auxiliary Vice President for 2026-2027.

Sincerely,
Laurie Kerns
Department of Kansas American Legion Auxiliary Chaplain
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