

The Fleet Reserve Association (FRA) is a veterans service organization (VSO) headquartered in Alexandria, VA and is chartered by Congress. The FRA is the only VSO comprised of active, reserve, retired and all others who served honorably – at least one day – as enlisted members of the United States Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard. Primary goal is advocating an adequate defense of the United States stressing quality-of-life issues of the above personnel with particular emphasis on Articles Ten and Thirty Eight of the U.S. Code.

Mo-Kan Branch 161, FRA, a subordinate to the FRA located in metropolitan Kansas City, was established to support the above. This fraternal organization consists of like-minded individuals who assist its members, auxiliary and surviving spouses concerning earned benefits. Secondary activities include donating time, useful items and money to less fortunate individuals in the community, such as: Hospitalized and homeless veterans, widows, orphans, abused kids and others in need. Branch 161 also awards and recognizes a few who want to succeed in life.

Membership levels and requirements:

- 1) Regular dues-paying-voting members must have served honorably in the enlisted ranks of the United States Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard.
- 2) Dues-paying-voting members of the Auxiliary are outlined in Section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code: Spouses, parents, grandparents, children, grandchildren and siblings, including step, of FRA members.
- 3) Honorary members of the FRA are those who are not eligible for regular membership, but over time, have performed an extraordinary service to the FRA or Auxiliary, was recommended, and subsequently approved by delegates assembled at a National Convention of the FRA. President Harry Truman was an honorary member of the FRA and Mo-Kan Branch 161. Other honorary members: Dan Tucker; Anita DiCapo; Anthony Champagne.
- 4) The Honorary Board of Mo-Kan Branch 161, FRA is comprised of individuals who routinely donate time, money or useful items for local endeavors. Assignment must be recommended and approved by the regular membership. Both honorary and honorary board members can serve on committees and advise on matters concerning activities and disbursement of donations. Current Honorary Board includes: James Welch; Karen Combs; Debbie Palmer; Pat Searcy; Sharon Meyer; Mark Stuerman.
- 5) Friends of the Fleet is a group of individuals connected through family, friendship networks or social media who occasionally contribute to the charitable causes and attend events sponsored by Mo-Kan Branch 161; who want to be assured that 99 percent of their gift will be applied to the purpose intended. A Friend of the Fleet must be recommended by another “Friend” or one of the above members. Branch 161 does not solicit donations from total strangers. Friends of the Fleet helping Mo-Kan Branch 161 are too numerous to tabulate.

Mo-Kan Branch 161 Fleet Reserve Association is a not-for-profit corporation chartered in Missouri and is a 501(c)(4) exempt veterans organization as described in the Internal Revenue Code Section 170(c)(3). Since more than 90 percent of its members are classified as “War Veterans” donations for local charitable causes are tax deductible. Meetings are normally held the first Wednesday of each month at 13137 Wornall Rd. Kansas City, Missouri.