



National Commander Visit
By Amanda Washburn

National Commander Denise Rohan of Wisconsin visited Nebraska on March 8. Rohan had the opportunity to tour Victory Apartments, speak to the Offutt Air Force Base Airmen Leadership Class, tour the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency at Offutt, and visit the Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home. A banquet was held in her honor that evening at Cascio’s Steakhouse, with over a hundred American Legion Family members attending. Thank you to everyone who made this a memorable trip for the Commander.



Washington Conference
By Amanda Washburn

Twenty-eight members of The American Legion Family stormed Capitol Hill during the annual Washington Conference held in February. Family members spoke with Nebraska’s Senators and Representatives about The American Legion’s legislative agenda for the upcoming year. Contact National Executive Committeeman Bill Crosier if you wish to know more on the Senators and Representatives stances on the priorities.



National Nonprofit Appoints Six Nebraska State Board Members

State Funeral for World War II Veterans is pleased to announce the appointment of the following distinguished leaders to the Nebraska State Board of Directors: William Crosier, James Costello, Douglas Frahm, Karl Frederickson, Wade Graft, and Michael Reimers. They will serve with Nebraska State Chair, Fred Craigie.



The sole mission of the national non-profit is to petition the President to designate a single state funeral for the last remaining Medal of Honor recipient from World War II, as a final salute to the 16 million men and women of the Greatest Generation who served in our armed forces from 1941 to 1945. “I worked hard to identify strong candidates for the Nebraska State Board all over the state. The Greatest Generation could not be more deserving of this honorable final salute and all of us in Nebraska are going to do best to be at the forefront of this effort,” said Craigie.

Nebraska provided many brave soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen to protect our nation during World War II. Five WWII Medal of Honor recipients were from Nebraska, including Private Robert Booker for his gallantry near Fondouk, Tunisia in April of 1943. “The National Board of Directors joins me in welcoming this outstanding group of gentlemen who will serve with honor on the Nebraska State Board,” said Bill McNutt, Co-Founder and Chairman. “It is passionate and successful leaders such as these men that will enable us to achieve our mission.” State Funeral for World War II Veterans exists to convince the President of the United States to designate a single state funeral for the last Medal of Honor recipient from World War II, as a final salute to the 16 million men and women of the Greatest Generation who served in our armed forces from 1941 to 1945. For more information on how to join us in this mission please visit www.worldwar2salute.org.

American Legion Couple Honored
By Amanda Washburn

Ken and Adeline Hanel, of West Point, were recently awarded the West Point area Community Service Award. Ken has held various positions within the Nebraska American Legion. He has been Post 70 Commander, District 3 Commander and Vice Commander, and he is currently the Area A Vice Commander. Adeline has been right there with him going up the ladder on the Auxiliary side of the family. Adeline has been the Unit 70 President and is currently serving as the District 3 President.




The two of them enjoy giving back to the community and assisting wherever they can with programs like County Government Day, American Legion Baseball, and Boys’ and Girls’ State. They volunteer at local nursing homes and at the Norfolk Veterans Home. They help put up the flags at local cemeteries and speak at various events. The Nebraska American Legion is proud of their accomplishments, their service, and their dedication.

Sailing Away to 100%

2018 Membership Goal: 31,000 March 20th Total: 24,284 - 91.12%


District 13-93.06%	District 7-92.78%	District 3-92.77%	District 1-92.37%	District 2-92.07%
District 6-92.02%	District 11-91.99%	District 9-91.35%	District 15-90.90%	District 12-90.72%
District 8-89.96%	District 5-89.60%	District 4-88.89%	District 10-88.57%	





Commander's Corner

Jim Costello
Department Commander



My fellow Legionnaires: Spring is almost here!!!

It is time for us to start completing our Bucket List. First and foremost is MEMBERSHIP. Per the last Membership report from National, we have fallen to 15th place. We are going the wrong direction with our goal of 31,000 Legion members. We all need to work within our Post to contact the Legionnaire's that have not paid their 2018 dues. 178 Post have not reached the 90% target number for March. I want our Area Vice- Commanders and District Commanders to contact your Posts and work with them in getting their membership numbers over 90%. Our Membership transmittals are 1,545 less than last year at this time. We need to start contacting our members today. Do not wait for that dues payment to come in the mail. Be proactive call and visit that Legionnaire.

March 8th National Commander Denis Rohan was in our State. Commander Rohan visited the Victory Apartments in Omaha, visited Offutt AFB meet/greet with the 60 members of the Airmen Leadership Class and toured the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency Lab, and visited the Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home in Bellevue. After a busy day we had a social/banquet for Commander Rohan at Cascio's. I want to thank everyone who attended the banquet. A good time was had by all.

National Commander Denise Rohan's theme is "Family First" and her fundraising project is the Temporary Financial Assistance program and the Legion's Service Officer Program. I encourage our Post, Districts, and Areas to donate and support our National Commander's programs. The TFA program has been and continues to directly benefit children within our state.


I celebrated our 99th Birthday of The American Legion with Papillion Post 32, Norfolk Post 16, Kearney Post 52, Dorchester Post 264, and Beatrice Post 27.

Let's talk District Conventions. I attended nine Conventions and Senior Vice-Commander Lyle Bartels attended the other five. Our District Commanders conducted excellent Conventions and they were very informative.

I want to remind everyone that Department Convention will be held at the Kearney Ramada June 22-24. The Department Executive Committee Meeting will be Thursday, June 21 starting at 1:00 p.m. and will reconvene on Friday, June 22 at 10:00 a.m. The Nebraska American Legion Family Joint Session will be held Friday, June 22 at 1:00 p.m. Rooms are \$79.00 a night and I suggest you start calling pretty soon. Their number is 308-237-3141. We hope to see lots of The American Legion Family members in attendance.

As I have said in the past. Our State Membership goal for this year is 31,000 Legion members. The GOAL IS OBTAINABLE. RETAIN, RENEW & RECRUIT.

“WE ARE THE BACKBONE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION”



Straight Talk

Philip Dittbrenner
Department Service Officer



Serving the veteran and their family is an honor. This time I want to talk about the veterans that should or could have been service-connected, but passed on before that was done. This situation usually comes about when the spouse of a veteran comes to the service officer for burial benefits and we find that the death was in some way related to their service.

There are many things that can arise, but I will talk about two that stick out. Vietnam veterans that were boots on ground, or in the inland waterways are presumed to be exposed to herbicides (Agent Orange). Over the years the list of medical conditions that are related to that exposure has changed, and conditions that were not eligible for service connection may now eligible, or a Navy ship may be added to the list of ships that are now eligible.

Here is an example, it is 1995, and Joe who comes in because he has ischemic heart condition and feels that it is related to his exposure to Agent Orange from when he was a medic in Vietnam. The VA tells him, no service connection, as the condition is not a presumptive condition for Agent Orange exposure at this time.

So, he forgets about it and dies in 2010 of his heart condition. When his spouse comes in to talk about burial benefits, she finds out that the condition was listed as a presumptive years ago but they were not aware that the VA had added the condition to the list. Now she can file a claim for service connected death and start to receive benefits.

Another condition that is overlooked is ALS, Lou Gehrig's disease. We as veterans are twice as likely to get ALS as compared to our civilian counterparts. ALS is a presumptive condition for service members that served at least 90 days of continuous active duty. I often mention this when I give talks, as I am sure there are widows of veterans that have passed from ALS that may be eligible for benefits. We want to serve them on behalf of the sacrifice of their departed loved one.

The bottom line is that we, as veterans, need to keep up to date on any benefits that we may be entitled to, not only for us, but for our family.

Get to know your service officer, and talk to them about any issues or concerns that you may have.

The American Legion Speakers Bureau is looking to update and add to its members. If you or someone you know would like to be included, please contact Amanda at 402-464-6338 or afwashburn@windstream.net

NEBRASKA AMERICAN LEGION

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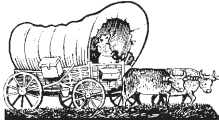
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Area A Vice Commander.....Ken Hanel, West Point
Area B Vice Commander.....George Cyboron, Boelus
Area C Vice Commander.....Dick Binder, Minden
Area D Vice Commander.....Roxanne Sones, Rushville
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Service Officer.....Philip Dittbrenner, Beatrice
National Executive Committeeman.....Bill Crosier, Kearney
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Dist. 2.....Ken Meyer, Creighton
Dist. 3.....Daryl Harrison, Thurston
Dist. 4.....Larry McCracken, Alliance
Dist. 5.....Marv Donnelly, Hershey
Dist. 6.....Rich Lemmerman, Marquette
Dist. 7.....Robert Ball, Hooper
Dist. 8.....Michael Sheridan, Omaha
Dist. 9.....Tyre Nelson, Curtis
Dist. 10.....Jesse Green, Hastings
Dist. 11.....Rodney Rose, Roca
Dist. 12.....Bonnie Brewer, Elmwood
Dist. 13.....Kevin McKinney, Tecumseh
Dist. 15.....Wade Graft, Lincoln

The Cornhusker State



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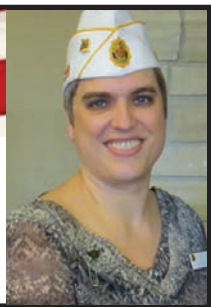
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It's History

Jennifer Salak
Department Historian





Each month as I develop the Historian column, I try to come up with topics that are interesting and appeal to Legionnaires across the state. Some months I write about Department programs like Cornhusker Boys State or Junior Law Cadet, other months I write about National initiatives such as the upcoming Centennial Celebration or the Veterans Memorial online database. Some months I flip through Nebraska Legionnaire newspapers from 70, 80 and 90 years ago and pick out nuggets of information and turn those into a crossword puzzle to make it fun and interesting. Each time I write something, I never know if I am going to spark a memory for someone. But that is exactly what happened with last month’s crossword puzzle.


If you recall, the nugget I chose from March 1938 (80 years ago) was that “Leonard Olney of Stamford was the first applicant for the Cornhusker Boys State received by the Department Committee. Olney is being sponsored by the Stamford Chamber of Commerce. Incidentally, he is the son of Commander Henry Olney of the Stamford Post.” This entry brought back fond memories for Gayle Woodruff, a lifetime member of Stamford Post 233. A couple of weeks ago I received a very nice handwritten letter from Mr. Woodruff who explained to me with much excitement that Henry Olney was his uncle and Leonard Olney was a first cousin. Gayle went on to say that after graduating from Stamford High School in 1939, Leonard served in the U.S. Army in World War II and again in Korea. Leonard’s older brother, Vincent, graduated from Stamford High School in 1937 and also served in World War II as a co-pilot and pilot of a B-24 bomber. Vincent was subsequently shot down over Romanian oil fields and was a POW of the Romanian Government. You can read more about Lt. Olney at www.450thbg.com/real/biographies/450/olney.shtml.

Gayle himself was drafted at age 18 and received basic training at the Infantry Training Center, located at Fort McClellan, Alabama. Fort McClellan interestingly was featured in the March 2018 issue of the National Legion magazine for the health issues veterans who were stationed there are now facing (www.legion.org/magazine/241272/long-shadow-fort-mcclellan).

In addition to his cousin, Gayle’s son, Tommy, also attended Boys State in June 1965 thanks to the generosity of the Stamford Chamber of Commerce and Legion Post.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Woodruff for taking the time to write me a personal letter and for sharing his family’s story. It reaffirms for me that those aren’t just words to search for in a crossword puzzle or a blurb in an article, but rather is someone’s family member or a fond memory. I would also like to thank you Mr. Woodruff, and members of your family, for your dedicated service to our nation.

We have received a new shipment of Centennial Celebration Coins. They are \$10.00 a coin or \$12.00 a coin if you want them mailed to you. Send your check to Department Headquarters with “Centennial Coins” in the memo or call us for more information.



Department Convention Program

It’s time to start putting together our Department Convention Program and the Department is selling space in the program for individuals or businesses to advertise. Please distribute around your community businesses to garner support. All ads and payment must be received before June 8, 2018. The program is 8.5 x 5.5 in size. Please contact Amanda at Headquarters.

\$10.00	Page split into eight sections
\$20.00	Page split into four sections
\$30.00	Page split into two sections
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Legion Caps 101: Pins on Hats and Care/Maintenance

By Adjutant Dave Salak

At one of the District Conventions I attended, a gentleman told me he was informed by someone at National that it was okay to wear an American flag pin on the left-side of the Legion hat. I had never heard of any exception to the wearing of pins on the left-side, so I contacted National for clarification. The following is what I received from National regarding the Legionnaire hat:

“There has been absolutely no change or exception to the wearing of pins or other items on the left-side of the Legion cap.... including American flag pins. Section 8(j) of the US Flag Code is specific about the wearing of a flag lapel flag pin on the left lapel near the heart, however, Legion regulations standardizing the use of lettering, insignia, etc., on the official American Legion cap, as based on Resolution No. 58, adopted by the National Executive Committee, April 30-May 1, 1964, remains unchanged, and as you know, may be referenced on pages 42-43 of the 2017 Post Officers Guide and Manual of Ceremonies. “

So, in short, our regulations state no pins are to be affixed to the left-side of the hat.

Hats get dirty and need to be cleaned now and then. The cleaning process is quite simple. Remove all pins and other items attached to the hat. Pour a cap full of Woolite Extra Delicate Laundry Detergent into a container then add cold water. I use a Tupperware container. Put your hat in and let it soak for a couple minutes. Using your hands, kneed the hat in the water for a few minutes. If your hat is really dirty, you can use a soft bristle brush too, but be gentle. Next, rinse the hat under the faucet in cold water. Place the hat on a like-colored towel to dry. Bingo - a fresh, clean hat.



POW/MIA

Donald Nelsen
POW/MIA Liaison



Once again, my mind tells me I need to do an article on PTSD. This is a continuing event that has occurred for over a year. I don’t really know where to begin or where to end or what will be the middle part, I just feel I need to try. To begin let me assure all that I am not a professional or expert, just a former service member who has been around long enough to see World War I Veterans, World War II Veterans, Korean War Veterans, Vietnam Veterans, Gulf War Veterans, War on Terror Veterans, and others. There are many places one can go to get help such as your local County Veteran Service Officer or the Veterans Affairs Office or just type in PTSD on your computer and you will find a wealth of advice.

It seems the majority of former service personnel try, right or wrong, to take care of these issues themselves. They know that there is something not right or bothering them but manage to adjust to the best of their ability. We can sit out there and say "You need to go see a doctor or get professional help", but most of us, we just ignore the advice and keep on our way.

I do not know how the World War I troops were when they mustered out of the service, but I do know most of the World War II troops came back home and continued their lives just as they were before they left. Many of you have heard about the Navy man who got off his ship in San Diego, took the train nearest to home, then jumped on a bus, got off and walked down the street to his home, entered his folks house, hugged his mother and sat down for supper. The rest of the story is he or she started a life working for ten or twelve or fourteen hours a day for at least six, if not seven days a week. When you keep super busy, it does not give your mind much time to remember that what you are avoiding. How much different is this from our younger veterans lives today, or many of our younger citizens. It seems they want to work five days a week and maybe not over 40 hours a week. The Vietnam Veterans came home and pretty much put their old military clothes in their duffel bag and threw it in the dumpster. The one really good thing which came out of this was the support our military has received since those days, because we decided no one will be treated as many- I should say most of us were. We do need to say some communities went out of their way to welcome home their Vietnam Veterans, but they were way in the minority.

We need to be reminded that one of the most important items is the support that we as The American Legion Family give all our Veterans.

When you look up PTSD on your computer you will see that the support today’s veteran receives makes a world of difference. The War on Terror veterans need to be applauded for their meetings they are having throughout the country to help those in need. The loss of life through suicide of over twenty veterans a day is unacceptable, and we need to do all we can to help them.

As we travel down this path of life, we need to look forward and backward to try to make our world a better place to live. No one ever said life is easy, it takes a lot of hard work and there are many peaks and valleys to cross. We need to work together and keep reminding ourselves to help others, chances are they have more problems than us. Working together like The American Legion Family does makes many tasks easier and more rewarding.





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Chaplain's Corner

Dr. William Jackson, Jr.
Department Chaplain

Common sense. Now where and how does that phrase ring a bell?!?!
 Oh, yes! It was some sort of notion passed on by well-meaning sycophants—self-styled smart people—who dreamed up that idea to fool the willing into thinking they knew NOTHING! That’s right: playing others so as to make them feel...well...stupid. Sounds kind of like Jesus’ encounter with Pharisees and Seduces ploy to reduce worshipping God to upholding mere rabbinical statutes (Matthew 23:23).
 So why this drivel about good sense versus smarts, or shall we say, ego-driven awareness? Well...look around this once great nation of ours, where patriotism, Americanism, morality, and ethics appear to take a back seat to hedonism (i.e., unbridled search for pleasure), sexual freedom of expression (i.e., homosexuality, bisexuality, transgenderism, etc.), and an unwholesome expression of the “me’s” (Proverbs 12:23).
 You mean, you’ve never heard of fools touting their self-glorifying praises of how things ought to be (Job 30:8)? Allow me to enlighten you. A fool, or one who knows EVERYTHING, cannot be told anything they don’t already know. Why? It’s because he or she is “wise in their own eyes” (Isaiah 5:21).
 Now, going back to that common-sense idiom, do you see how this great nation of ours has succumbed to the false platitudes—over done morality and ethics—of so-called sincere prophets of a new society where EVERYONE may live to their hearts content. Really? Does good actually get along with bad? Is white black? Who else has walked on water after Jesus did?
 The thing is: as Legionnaires, we have a duty to our community, state, and nation, as proscribed by our Four Pillars, and that we recite in our Preamble during post meetings. Are we to abandon our principles of God, family, and country because someone’s ideal of democracy permits total self-expression without regard to the One who helped make this nation great....at least...at one point in our history?
 So, what do we do about returning common sense to its rightful stature of God’s will for all of His creation, and wrest it from fools? We all appreciate democracy, but when it permits unhampered self-expression in difference to God’s will, where’s the sense of it? If the Lord knows what is right, what’s wrong with our keeping to His notion of good sense (James 1:5)?
 If there is to be any common sense remaining for our nation, we’ve got to remember why we’re here, and what’s expected of us, especially as Legionnaires (Micah 6:8).

Send Bible questions to:

* Email - wcjdoc@gmail.com

* Facebook - American Legion Nebraska Department Chaplain

* Twitter - NE Dept Chap

* Instagram -williamcjacksonjr

Legislative Day at the Capitol

By Amanda Washburn

On Friday, February 2, 110 people attended Legislative Day at the State Capitol hosted by the Nebraska Veterans Council. Those in attendance represented The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary, the Disabled American Veterans, the Vietnam Veterans of America, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Nebraska Department of Veterans Affairs, the Nebraska Veterans Coalition, and County Veteran Service Officers. During Legislative Day, State Senators speak to the group and inform them on the different bills they have proposed for the session and other business pertaining to veterans and active duty military. The day serves as an avenue for the veteran service organizations members to talk to their senator and see how he or she is planning to vote.


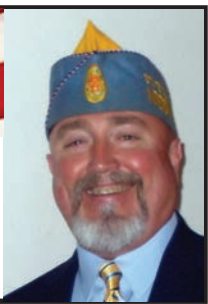


This year Senator Brewer invited the Legislative Day participants to sit in the balcony of the Senate Chamber and be introduced to the Senators.
 The priority bills for the Nebraska Veterans Council this year are LB 827, LB 497, LB 498, LB 169, and all bills that pertain to compact changes for military spouses.

Lewis Dennis of Coleridge

By Amanda Washburn

Lewis Dennis of Coleridge wasn’t your normal Civil War veteran. Sixty-five years before he died, he had his funeral preached in his home town. Dennis enlisted in the US Army in the Illinois infantry Company I in 1861. During the Battle of Stone River in Tennessee, he was shot in the hip with a “minie ball”. Confederate soldiers took the wounded Union soldiers to a local barn to try and fix their wounds. With over 3,000 casualties from this three-day battle, it was decided that he was killed in action and a telegram was sent back to his family.
 Dennis was sent to a parole camp in Columbus, Ohio in July of 1863 and was exchanged as a prisoner of war in September of that same year. Instead of returning home, he continued to fight with his regiment. During the next few months Dennis was shot again in the same side and was taken to a hospital in Nashville. While there, Dennis got to shake hands with President Abraham Lincoln. Dennis also sent his parents a letter to let them know that he was indeed alive and would be returning home soon.
 In September of 1864 Dennis was discharged from the Army and returned to Nebraska. Dennis put up a homestead shack and lived between Coleridge and Ponca. He farmed the land there with his family for the rest of his life. Lewis Dennis died in April of 1929 and is buried in Coleridge.

S.A.L. Notes

Karl Frederickson
Detachment Commander

Greetings to all members of the Department of Nebraska, American Legion Family.
 The month of April is designated as “Children & Youth Month” by The American Legion. What is your Squadron doing to support the Pillar of Children & Youth? At my home Squadron South Omaha 331 we recently held a “Burger Nite” dinner event for the Omaha South High Powerlifting team and hosted over 40 team members and coaches for an “all you could eat” dinner. Department Commander Jim Costello, Department President Kathy Mazur, and myself each spoke and handed out information about what The American Legion has to offer our young men and women. This included information on Boys State, Girls State, American Legion Baseball, Junior Law Cadet, and the Oratorical Contest. This was a great event. Squadron 331 also donates to and supports American Legion Post 331 Baseball, we have \$2,000.00 earmarked for 4-\$500 scholarships. We have earmarked funds to sponsor 1 young man to Boys State, we donate to and support Post 331 events including a Children’s Christmas Party and Easter Egg Hunt. I am citing these as examples of what a Squadron can do to positively impact our Children & Youth and urge every Squadron in Nebraska to do likewise.
 I attended 3 District Conventions in February and March including District 8, District 15 and District 7. I have to say it was rather disappointing to see the lack of Sons attending. Post Commanders, I have and will continue to urge you to get your Squadrons involved attending the District and State Conventions. These are great events with lots of valuable information about what is going on and is a great way to network and make new friends. Fellow Sons, get out and get involved!

Squadron Consolidated Reports should be arriving to each Squadron across Nebraska. This is our report card that we use to compile information about what we are doing to positively impact our Veteran’s, Children & Youth, and communities. Please make sure your Squadrons gets this filled out and sent to headquarters before the end of May. Regardless if your Squadron only did or held one event we need that information! Every volunteer hour, every donated dollar, regardless of the amount, adds up and is valuable information about the positive impact The American Legion Family has!
 Our annual Department Convention will be in Kearney June 22-24, 2018. Our DEC meeting will be Friday evening June 22. The Detachment Convention will open Saturday morning June 23. That afternoon the Detachment will be holding a golf outing at Meadowlark Hills. Sunday the new Detachment officers will be elected, and our convention will close. Fellow Sons plan on attending this convention, we will be doing many good things for our American Legion Family and having fun doing it. Keep those dates open! We will have more information about the golf outing next month.
 Membership. The Detachment membership this year is running a little behind last year’s pace. We still have over a dozen squadrons with “0” behind their names. We need your support, so get those memberships turned in! Our membership goal is to achieve an all time high this year so please get those last members renewed. As it stands, any member who has not renewed his dues is not eligible for NEF support. With spring coming, the likelihood for severe weather is on the rise. Don’t let your opportunity to be able to utilize this valuable resource slip away by not paying your Squadron membership dues.

In closing, please remember to say a prayer for all our men and women in uniform standing in harm’s way. Military, police, firefighters, first responders. Are we not blessed to live in a country where you can pick up the phone and call for help, and someone will come to your aid? Remember them and their families in your prayers.
 Nebraska Sons, We are Proud, We are Purpose-Driven, We are Patriotic, We are Passionate about The American Legion Family of Nebraska!

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Thoughts from the Finance Committee
By Daniel Stramel, Chairman

Greetings from the Finance Committee. We continue to focus on four key points that has been touched upon in articles throughout 2017 - managing income/ expenses, the use of our General Investment Fund, our membership, and benefits of financial benefactors.

Our fiscal year 2016/2017 net income was \$4,624.83. You may think “well that’s pretty good, at least we are not in the red”! Not so fast, we had to withdraw \$159,000 from the General Investment Fund to balance the budget. In year fiscal year 2015/2016 & 2014/2015 the withdrawals from the General Investment Fund were \$52,500 & \$60,000, respectively.

Department increased dues by \$5.25 (effective January 2018). As part of the Department dues increase, Districts will receive \$.35 per member (increased from \$.10) beginning in 2018. Your membership helps support the various programs sponsored by Department, Districts, and Posts. Thank you for helping to make it all possible.

Our finances are directly related to membership. In Nebraska, over the past three years, we have experienced an average of 5% decline per year in membership. On a National level the decline is closer to 20%. The ongoing support of our Department is compromised because of this decline. This is approximately a \$27,000 decline in revenue. The DEC is offering financial incentives to current members and Posts for helping in the efforts of increasing members. For more information about the new Membership Award program ask your District and Post Commanders.

As you might guess, the decline in members does not have the same correlation with Department expenses. Our expenses continue to increase in much the same manner as our own personal household expenses increase year after year. This is due largely to the silent thief called inflation. Dave Salak, Department Adjutant, Mark Novak, Finance Officer, and Sandy Steinkamp, Administrative Assistant all do a splendid job in keeping our expenses at the bare-bone minimum. The General Investment Fund is used to fill in the gap between income and expenses. Expenses have exceeded income for many years, (an average of \$90,500 per year over three years). With an approximate current balance of the General Investment Fund of \$742,613, you can see we cannot continue to depend on this resource to fill in the gap between income and expenses.

As with many other organizations, we cannot depend on membership dues and current assets alone to sustain the programs we support. Current Revenue Enhancement programs, i.e. return mail labels, lottery, calendars, etc. that many of you support does help to provide working capital each year. Your on-going support of these programs is appreciated. The unfortunate fact is we still fall short. Other financial gifts are imperative for long-term sustainability. Picture it - we currently have approximately 28,000 members in Nebraska. If just half the members gave \$20 each this could supplement our financial resources by \$248,400 in just one year. Another means of giving is by making Department a beneficiary for part of your estate. Example: You have a life insurance policy that pays \$5,000 at your death. You could designate 5% or \$250 of that policy to be paid to the Nebraska American Legion. If just 6,210 members took this path, our Department could benefit by \$1,552,500 over the next 20 years (using median age of members). These are two ideas that are relatively painless, but could go a long way in keeping alive the purpose of the Department of Nebraska (outlined in our Preamble of Constitution of The American Legion). Give some thought as to how you can help ensure we are here for future generations.

The Finance Committee holds two regular meetings each year. In a continued effort to provide transparency, our meetings are open for members to attend as listening guests. If you would like to attend a meeting to learn more about the financial details of our Department, contact Department headquarters for meeting dates.

Brothers Together Again
By The Omaha World Herald

On June 19, 1944, death separated Julius and Ludwig Pieper, identical twins from Creston, Nebraska. A mine tore apart LST-523, the flat-bottomed Navy cargo ship they both served on, just offshore from the newly established Normandy beachhead. The brothers, age 19, died along with more than 200 other U.S. servicemen.

The body of Ludwig — known as “Louie” to friends and family — was recovered and buried beneath a white cross at Normandy American Cemetery. But no one ever found Julius, known as “Henry.” His body was lost with the ship, which sank to the bottom of the English Channel.



Henry and Louie were born in South Dakota on May 17, 1925. The family moved to a farm near Creston when they were 8 years old. They graduated from high school there in 1942 and got railroad jobs in Lincoln. They didn’t stay long. Though only 17, Henry and Louie enlisted in the Naval Reserve in Omaha on Feb. 27, 1943. The twins completed radioman’s school in Chicago that November and were assigned to LST-523 together. It was part of the fleet carrying soldiers and supplies across the English Channel on D-Day, June 6, 1944. Thirteen days later, the ship struck the mine in the midst of a violent storm. Two other LSTs in the convoy sent small boats to rescue survivors before they died in the cold sea.

Years later, Henry and Louie’s names were etched on a memorial in the Creston cemetery. The town’s American Legion Post was named in their honor, and the town museum has a display about them.

In recent years a teenager from Ainsworth, Nebraska, has revived their memory through a high school history project that has grown into something more. After six months of work, Taylor and Flynn visited Normandy. They toured the cemetery and battlefield, including Omaha Beach, and Taylor delivered a eulogy for the twins at Louie’s grave. In the course of their research, Taylor and Flynn learned that Henry’s remains had been linked to a grave in Belgium and might eventually be identified.

But no one from the military had ever told the Pieper family about the excavation of the wreck of LST-523 by a French salvage group in 1961. Divers had found several sets of remains — including those of a sailor in the ship’s radio room, where Henry would have been when the ship hit the mine. They turned over the remains to U.S. authorities in Europe.


It’s not clear why Henry wasn’t identified at the time. He was buried at Ardennes American Cemetery and Memorial in Neuville, Belgium, on Sept. 8, 1965, in a grave marked “Unknown.”

Fifty years later, a historian with the POW/MIA Accounting Agency studied the file and realized that the remains inside could probably be identified. In April, they were disinterred and sent to the Offutt laboratory.

Dental and chest X-ray records helped to confirm his identity, said Katie Skorpinski, a forensic anthropologist at the Offutt lab. A DNA match wasn’t necessary. The Lawrences, Taylor and Flynn learned the news a few days before Thanksgiving.

They are still at the lab. Navy officials are scheduled to visit Mary Ann and Susan this month. They have already asked that Henry be buried at Normandy, with his brother. A date hasn’t yet been set.

Full article can be found at http://www.omaha.com/news/military/they-wanted-to-be-together-nebraska-twins-killed-in-will/article_3dfb0edd-578f-53e2-9a6c-97903276faca.html




We’re working to better serve the men and women who bravely served us.

CNAs in our veterans’ homes now start at \$14.04/hr, with paid training and great state benefits.

Locations:
Grand Island Veterans’ Home
Norfolk Veterans’ Home
Eastern Nebraska Veterans’ Home (Bellevue)
Western Nebraska Veterans’ Home (Scottsbluff)

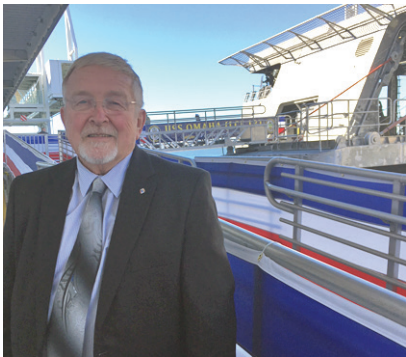
NEBRASKA
VETERANS’ AFFAIRS



EOE/M/F/VET

Legionnaire in the Spotlight

James A. Lukasiewicz



Anchors Aweigh for the commissioning of the U.S. Navy's newest warship the USS Omaha held in San Diego, California. It was attended by local veteran James A. Lukasiewicz and his wife Maryann of Omaha. Jim is an active member of the Fort Calhoun American Legion Post #348. Lukasiewicz was among the 500 invited guests to attend the commissioning ceremony at Broadway Pier. His Nebraska Pride was on display again the same as when he too was a U.S. Navy sailor. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy at age 17 right out of high school in Farwell, Nebraska. He graduated boot camp and was stationed aboard the USS Bexar as a Radioman 2nd Class.

He was sent on tour in the Pacific Ocean. The USS Bexar APA-237 Transport vessel took Marines over to Okinawa and, due to many assignments of the vessel, they took troops into the Congo River to Lagos, Nigeria. President Sukarno was their guest on this APA.

The other ports they were assigned to were Pearl Harbor, Okinawa, the Philippine Islands, Hong Kong, China, Indonesia, and Cape Town Africa. He crossed the Atlantic Ocean through the Panama Canal and back to San Diego. It was truly a historic event, a world cruise. This APA was truly applauded by the U.S. Navy for its accomplishments. Jim was honorably discharged from the U.S. Navy in 1961.

Just recently Lukasiewicz retired, while still serving his country, from the US Post Office as a rural postal carrier out of Elkhorn. This was his second retirement. Fifteen years prior he retired after 42 years as an accountant from Mutual of Omaha Insurance. His wife Maryann and Jim still call Omaha home. Their five children, their spouses and 10 grandchildren, chose to call Omaha home, after college degree's found them employment in the Washington County and nearby Omaha area.



“Legionnaire in the Spotlight” is a new section each issue. Please send in submissions to Amanda at afwashburn@windstream.net or mail them to Headquarters. Please limit them to 1,000 words and two pictures. Please call Amanda at 402-464-6338 with any questions.

National Poppy Day – Friday, May 25, 2018



Poppy Day is celebrated in countries around the world. The American Legion brought National Poppy Day® to the United States by asking Congress to designate the Friday before Memorial Day, as National Poppy Day.

On May 25, wear a red poppy to honor the fallen and support the living who have worn our nation's uniform. **EVERYONE CAN HELP**

Anyone can participate in National Poppy Day®. Here are a few simple ways:

- Download the Communications Toolkit from www.legion.org/poppday/toolkit, which is full of valuable instructions.
- Ask your local government to sign a Poppy Day Proclamation.
- Wear a red poppy all day and tell everyone why.
- Distribute poppies to friends, co-workers and family and tell everyone why.
- Collect donations at your workplace to give to Poppy Program
- Enter the American Legion National Poppy Day® Contest with entries due by April 25, 2018. Complete rules on www.legion.org/poppday/contest.
- Tell the story on Facebook of who you are wearing your poppy to remember or support on National Poppy Day. Don't forget to tag us! #PoppyDay #LegionFamily
- Accept a poppy and make a donation if you see a member of The American Legion Family in your neighborhood distributing poppies.
- Enter the American Legion National Poppy Day® Contest with entries due by April 25, 2018. Complete rules on www.legion.org/poppday/contest.

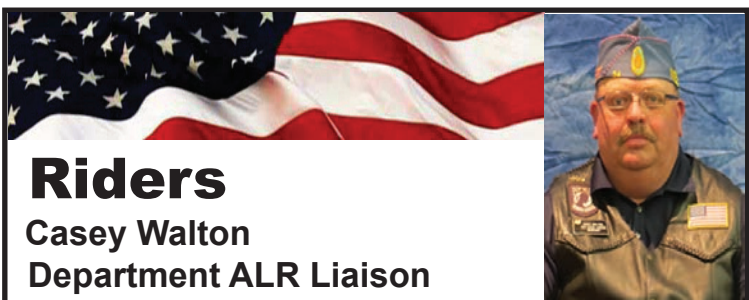
Let's share the word about this very important day with our friends and families and continue to find ways to promote the American Legion Family's Poppy Program.

New Benefit for Legionnaires

As we age, our likelihood to fall increases and the outcome of those falls becomes more serious. Statistics show that people age 75 and are four to five times more likely than those age 65 to 74 to be admitted to a long-term care facility for a year or longer. And among older adults, falls are the leading cause of both fatal and nonfatal injuries. Because of the associated risk with falling, we felt it was imperative to offer a solution that can help you or a loved one get access to care.

The Philips Lifeline Medical Alert Services provides a suite of assistance services so you can choose the service that best fits your needs. The HomeSafe system offers standard service for help at the push of a button or the AutoAlert option offers advanced fall-detection capability. And the newest system – GoSafe mobile system– gives you the freedom to go wherever you want, knowing you'll still have fast access to help 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Systems are all available at monthly rates, with no contract.

All services are provided by Philips Lifeline, America's #1 medical alert service provider since 1974. Philips Lifeline founded the medical alert service industry with one mission: to help seniors live independently and confidently. For more information, visit us online at www.TheLIT.com or call 1-855-495-4356.



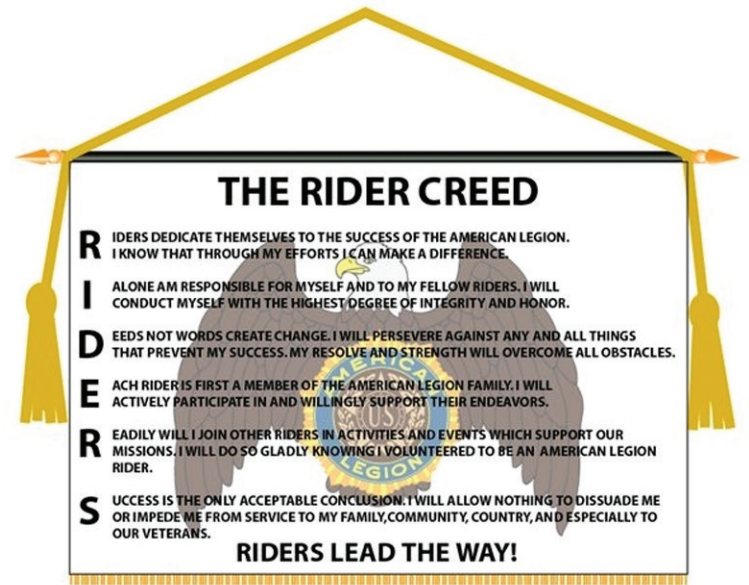
Hello Legion Family I hope all is well in your world. Spring is just around the corner and the motorcycles are getting more chrome and accessories put on them to prepare for the summer riding season.

This will be an exciting year with several things going on state wide. Two things this year on my bucket list. Is to attend the Regional Romp in Cheyenne Wyoming on June 7-10 and to ride in the Legacy Run on August 19-23 both will be a lot of fun.

We are currently changing our way of communication from the State Legion Riders web site to the Nebraska State Legion Riders Facebook page we will be posting all the upcoming events on Facebook. If anyone wants anything put on the page, please contact me or any of my 3 assistant Liaisons and we will be glad to add the information.

One thing I would like to happen this year is a memorial ride across Nebraska starting at Omaha Forest Lawn Cemetery Soldiers Lot, to Omaha National Cemetery, to the Nebraska Veterans Cemetery in Grand Island, to Fort McPherson National Cemetery in Maxwell, and end at the Nebraska Veterans Cemetery in Alliance. This will take you to all the Veterans Cemetery's in Nebraska. You can join in anywhere along the route an also drop out anywhere. Alliance to the Regional Romp in Cheyenne is not far and then from Alliance to the Sturgis Bike Rally is close as well. Anyone interested in helping with this run please contact me with ideas.

In closing, I will leave you with the Riders Creed.



From the Children & Youth Committee

By Don Suchy, Chairman

Here it is already March. We had our Mid-Year Conference in North Platte and made plans for the upcoming year for Children and Youth.

We have two new members on the Children and Youth committee, they are Donald Nelson from Valentine and Lisa Shore from Wilber. I would like to welcome both of these new members to our Committee.

April is Children and Youth month for The American Legion Family, so this is time to plan a special day for your event at your Legion Post. If you would like some information on how to host your own Fun Day at your Post, just give me a call and I would be glad to give you the information. Call 402-326-0463 or email donfarms@aol.com.

The three main areas of concern on Children and Youth this year are: Child Safety, Child Well Being, and Family Emphasis.

The Committee would like to thank you for your support you have given the Children and Youth Programs such as the Child Welfare red pigs, and the pop tabs collection. Every penny counts.

If you have any question on Children and Youth feel free to give me a call.

Valparaiso will hold their Children Youth Day on April 28 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. You are all invited to come out and have some fun and get some ideas for your Post.





Alberts, George C., Gothenburg, WWII
Anderson, Harley O., Papillion, Korea
Anderson, Tim W., Holdrege, Vietnam
Andree, Arnold D., Dakota City, Vietnam
Austin, Daniel, Ogallala, Vietnam
Babutzke, Marlin, Plainview, Korea
Bachman, Vernor R., Ashland, WWII
Ballenger, David W., Elsie, Vietnam
Bargmann, Merle C., North Platte, Korea
Barnt, Gerald D., Ord, WWII
Bean, Joel A., Kearney, Persian Gulf
Blome, Ed, Norfolk, Korea
Bond, Jack D., North Platte, Korea
Booth, Jack, Lincoln, Korea
Bowser, Leroy E., Fort Calhoun, WWII
Boyum, Earl H. Jr., Omaha, Korea
Briggs, Rick J., Columbus, Vietnam
Broeder, Lyle G., Hershey, Korea
Bruha, Dale F., Crete, Korea
Brumels, Randall L., Norfolk, Korea
Burger, Kenneth, Liberty, Korea
Burnham, Lester, WWII
Butler, James, Chadron, Korea
Cadwalader, Roy D., Grand Island, WWII
Carlson, Stephen A., Winside, Vietnam
Churchill, Bruce F., Swanton, Korea
Clausen, Gunnar B., Columbus, Korea
Clingenpeel, Russel K., South Sioux City, Korea
Cohagen, Edwin E., Elwood, Korea
Colin, Ronald L., Lincoln, Vietnam
Condon, James L., Lincoln, Vietnam
Contreras, Phillip, North Platte, WWII
Deans, Bernard E., Chadron, WWII
Debus, Peter C., Lincoln, WWII
Dietz, John Jr., Lincoln, Korea
Dillon, Orin R., Edgar, WWII
Doyle, James B., Omaha, Korea
Earsom, Richard C., Holdrege, WWII
Easton, Carl G., Lincoln, WWII
Eddy, Dale E., Grand Island, WWII
Einfalt, James E., Gering, Vietnam
Eisenhauer, Delton L., Syracuse, Korea
Elliott, Hanson S., Columbus, Korea
Engel, Gerald F., Grant, Korea
Erdman, Paul M., Benelman, WWII
Evans, David R., Lincoln, Vietnam
Felthauser, Lloyd, Millard, WWII
Flemings, William H., North Omaha, Vietnam
Flerbie, Donald E. Sr., North Omaha, Vietnam
Franzen, Bill, Gothenburg, Korea
Frymire, Clifford, Grand Island, Korea
Fuhrman, Verne E., Norfolk, Korea
Garber, Darrel A., Pierce, Vietnam
Geiser, Robert L., Thedford, Vietnam
George, Kenneth W., North Platte, Korea
Gerberding, Harold, Deshler, WWII
Gorham, Thomas J., Lincoln, WWII
Graff, Donald L., Grand Island, WWII
Green, Byron E., Bayard, SAL
Greguras, Edward, Dwight, Vietnam
Gulbranson, Harold A., Gretna, Korea
Hansen, Paul E., Bennet, WWII
Hansen, Wayne M., Dorchester
Harding, Clifford J., Benson, SAL

Harrison, Norman, Grand Island, Korea
Haviland, Jay D., Milford, WWII
Hawkins, Charles T., Fort Calhoun, Korea
Hoffschneider, James H., Lincoln, Vietnam
Iske, Richard D., Loup City, Vietnam
Jackson, William, Hastings, WWII
Janecek, William, Dodge, Korea
Jarecki, Leonard L., Omaha, Korea
Johnson, Lyle L., North Platte, Korea
Johnson, Marie J., Morse Bluff, WWII
Jones, Edwards, Plattsmouth, WWII
Jones, William E., Falls City, Korea
Jonson, Alvin L., Pierce, Korea
Jorgensen, Eugene P., Lincoln, WWII
Juranek, Donald E., Lincoln, Korea
Justa, Orland E., Crete, WWII
Kadlec, Vernon L., Beatrice, Vietnam
Kai, Paul H., Oakland, Korea
Kasson, Jason, Gibbon, SAL
Kavanaugh, LaVern F., Lincoln, Korea
Kellner, Cyril L., Weston, WWII
Kelley, James F., Omaha, WWII
Kennedy, Warren R., Wahoo, Korea
Kesselring, Clint, Sidney, Vietnam
King, Jay, Chadron, Vietnam
Kort, Keith E., Blue Hill, Vietnam
Kotas, Jim F., Milligan, WWII
Krogman, Walter O., Lincoln, WWII
Kuhr, Jack W., Blair, WWII
Lahowetz, Max Edward, Minden, WWII
Langemeier, Richard W., Scribner, Korea
Lavicky, Val G., Dwight, Vietnam
Leininger, Tommy L., Fremont, Korea
Levine, Terry L., North Platte, Vietnam
Lindhorst, Robert, Columbus, Korea
Lowe, Robert B., North Platte, Korea
Lucas, Virgil D., Grand Island, Vietnam
Luebe, George H., Pierce, Korea
Lutjens, Lloyd, Platte Center, Korea
Martinez, Pete L., Lincoln, WWII
Martinson, Russell O., Syracuse, Korea
Matthews, George A., North Platte, WWII
McClain, Richard, O'Neill, WWII
McCoy, Roger A., Ainsworth, Vietnam
McDonnell, Charles, Omaha, WWII
McGinnis, Thomas A., Falls City, WWII
McGrath, C. D., Grand Island, Korea
McMullen, Gerald, Brewster, Korea
McManaman, Joseph M. Spalding, Korea
Meehan, Joe, Hallam, WWII
Meyers, Richard L., Bennet, Korea
Miller, Hollis, York, WWII
Miller, Richard P., Saint Paul, Korea
Miller, Thomas E. Dr., North Platte, Korea
Molczyk, Ray, Spalding, WWII
Mommens, William, Seward, Vietnam
Moseman, Dwain, Wausa, Korea
Muller, Henry C., Benson, Korea
Murphy, James V., Weeping Water, Vietnam
Neiden, Max L., Lincoln, WWII
Niday, Dale A., Western, Korea
Nielsen, Andy J., Lincoln, WWII
Nielsen, Robert E., Aurora, WWII

Ochsner, Armond J., Sutton, Korea
Olson, David G., Hartington, Vietnam
Pallas, Milton, Thurston, Korea
Palmer, Tommy, North Platte, Vietnam
Parolek, Bernard J., Fremont, Korea
Paulsen, Willis G., Lyons, Vietnam
Penner, Stephen C., Bennington, Vietnam
Peters, Aaron, Scribner, WWII
Phillippe, Warren R., Ashland, WWII
Pollock, James, W., Fort Calhoun, WWII
Powell, Norman L., Lincoln, WWII
Redinger, Franklin D., Fairfield, Korea
Reznicek, Norbert, Howells, WWII
Richardson, Clinton W., Superior, SAL
Richardson, Donald E., Ainsworth, Korea
Riekenberg, Lawrence F., Beatrice, Korea
Rihaneck, Stanley, J., Thurston, Korea
Ringland, Harvey G., Bennet, Vietnam
Robb, Lloyd, Ogallala, Vietnam
Robinson, DeLoyce, North Platte, Korea
Rowe, Richard A., Loup City, WWII
Sassen, James W., Grand Island, WWII
Scharf, John F. Sr., Curtis, Vietnam
Schneider, John R., Brule, Vietnam
Scholz, Harold K., Omaha, WWII
Schutte, Marion, Lawrence, Korea
Searcey, Russell, Barneston, WWII
Sheffield, Woody M., North Platte, Korea
Sherman, Robert E., Lincoln, WWII
Siddall, Emmett R., North Platte, Vietnam
Siefres, Beatrice, Korea
Six, Charles E., Edison, Korea
Smith, Dana W., Havelock, WWII
Staley, Norbert J., Morse Bluff, WWII
Stark, Boyd D., Alliance, Korea
Stetina, Ronald, Ohiowa, SAL
Steyer, Raymond H., Gering, WWII
Stock, William S., Wauneta, SAL
Storm, Lyle, Lyons, WWII
Straub, Charles L., Lincoln, WWII
Swartzel, Larry H., South Sioux City, Vietnam
Swihart, Lloyd D., Superior, SAL
Szatko, George, Greeley, Korea
Temple, James R., Maxwell, WWII
Theye, Dennis D., Lincoln, WWII
Trummer, Harold M., Omaha, WWII
Tuttle, Buddy L., Aurora, WWII
Vampola, Ernest, Dwight, Korea
Vinson, Dennis O., Pierce, Korea
Vogt, Don, Dannebrog, Korea
Waechter, Marlin G., Stanton, WWII
Warren, Floyd L., Havelock, Vietnam
Watsek, Albert W., Humboldt, WWII
Welch, Kenneth D., Callaway, Korea
West, Briggs O., Norfolk, SAL
William, Kipper W., Lincoln, WWII
Williams, George I., Papillion, WWII
Williams, Oris, Friend, WWII
Willman, John A., Bertrand, Korea
Winberg, Larry L., Doniphan, Vietnam
Woepfel, Rodger, Bartlett, Vietnam
Woitzel, Robert E., Ashland, WWII
Wright, Robert L., Wauneta, WWII
Zeisler, Robert A., Jackson, Vietnam

Sons of The American Legion Membership
As of March 15, 2018

District	2017 Members	2018 Members
1	285	218
2	528	482
3	206	196
4	378	309
5	115	123
6	1,363	1,198
7	693	530
8	1,017	868
9	251	208
10	268	262
11	970	945
12	257	157
13	147	126
15	160	171
Total	6,638	5,793

Events Calendar

April

- 1 Easter
- 13-15 National Oratorical Contest

May

- 7-10 Spring Meetings - Indianapolis, Indiana
- 28 Memorial Day - Office Closed

June

- 3-9 Cornhusker Boys' and Girls' State
- 18-22 Mens & Womens Junior Law Cadet
- 21-24 Department Convention - Kearney



You are invited to the **50th** Wedding Anniversary of Doug and Mary Ann Boldt on April 21, 2018 at the Callaway Community Center starting at 5:00 p.m. Greetings from 5-6 Supper at 6:00 p.m With a program to follow at 7:00 and a dance immediate after the program. Rooms at Callaway Callaway Motel, 308-836-2226 Chesley Lodge, 308-870-4611 Stony Brook Inn, 308-870-1495 Winsome Inn, Arnold 308-858-2462 Boarders Inn, Broken Bow 308-872-6428

Let your presents be your gift.

Did you know you can read the Nebraska Legionnaire online at www.nebraskalegion.net?

If you would rather receive the Nebraska Legionnaire by email or view it online, send in this form. The email and online edition of the newspaper is usually available a week or so before the paper arrives in your mailbox. All we need from you is your email address.

____ I no longer wish to receive a printed copy of the Nebraska Legionnaire.

Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Member ID: _____

Mail this form to The American Legion, PO Box 5205, Lincoln, NE 68505 or you can email the information to afwashburn@windstream.net



Bennington Post 266 gave four documentaries about the Vietnam War to Bennington High School in honor of all Vietnam Veterans. Pictured (L to R) Post Finance Officer Sally Habrock, Post Adjutant Steve Botos, and William Deardoff.



The Gretna American Legion Riders Chapter 216 presented a \$500 check to the Gold Star mothers to be used for supplies and meals for the residents at Victory Apartments. The Riders also held a 60s and 70s themed dance at the Post to raise money to buy supplies for Quilts of Valor for their Post members.



The Bob Belsky and William Janecek families presented Dodge American Legion Post 122 with their husbands/fathers casket American flag for display and storage. Pictured above Janecek family, below Belsky family.



Genoa Post 144 presented Bennie S. Rinkol a certificate for 70 years of continuous membership in The American Legion. Pictured (L to R) Bennie S. Rinkol and Post 144 Commander, John Buhl.



Jeanie Costello of Bellevue Post 339 represented the Department of Nebraska by laying a wreath at the Women's Memorial at Arlington Cemetery during Washington Conference.



South Omaha Squadron 331 celebrates their 2017-2018 Child Welfare Banner. Each member received a CWF Challenge Coin. Pictured (L to R) Bill Peters, Doug Kleymann, David Locke, Squadron 331 Commander Al Kalskett, Pat Zymola, Post 331 Commander Stan Kurtzuba, Brian Kurtzuba, Detachment Commander Karl Frederickson.



Crete Post 147 held a raffle during their American Legion birthday party on March 6. There were 16 items including this Post 147 teddy bear. All proceeds went to Operation Comfort Warriors. Pictured (L to R) Adjutant Robert Lorenz and Kim Johnsen.



Omaha Chapter 1 presented a check for \$4,200 to Javelan to purchase service dogs for veterans with PTSD. The money was raised during their Poker Run, The Corndog Classic, in honor of the late Robert Swanson.



DeWitt Post 212 held their membership recognition dinner on November 10, 2017. Receiving a 50-year certificate for membership was Roland Jack Garrison. Pictured (L to R) Roland Garrison and Post Commander Glen Pieper.



The Elwood Post 290 and Unit 290 presented continuous membership certificates to Legion and Auxiliary members. Pictured front row (L to R) Rawlin Hagan, 50 years, Charlene Remmenga, 50 years and Jerry VonLoh, 45 years. Back row, Post 290 Adjutant Mel Divis, Unit 290 President Maria Atterberry, and Post 290 Commander Duane Kelly. Not pictured, Terry Evans, 40 years, Steve Thuernagle, 45 years, Carlton McClendon, 40 years and R.J. (Joe) Marrs 50 years.



Dannebrog Post 241 presented Russ Powers with a certificate for 50 years of continuous membership. Pictured (L to R) Russ Powers and Post 241 Commander Leanna Obermiller.



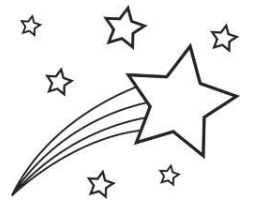
On February 10, eight Norfolk ALR members created a flag line at the entrance of a funeral for a Norfolk Post member. They were also part of a combined Color Guard with the Norfolk VFW Post 1644. Pictured are the Legion Riders standing guard.



The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Nebraska

The Star

April/May 2018



Wear R.E.D. Fridays!

With the last of the District Conventions approaching, I wish to thank all the Districts for their courtesies to the Department Officers and Chairmen who attended your Spring Conventions. We appreciate the feedback we received, which goes to improve how Department can better serve our members.

Last month, I was able to attend the National Executive Committee meeting in Indianapolis with our NEC Woman, Deb Albers. Elsewhere in the paper, Deb will talk about the information we received at that meeting. Afterward, we were grateful to travel on to Washington, DC to meet up with the rest of the Nebraska Legion Family delegation. I say grateful because our flight and connecting flight to DC were anything but smooth.

On Monday morning, I attended the VA&R meeting. They stressed that the VA Hospital system needs

to remain the main point of service to our veterans. One problem they are trying to solve is transfer of medical records between facilities. Not all computers in the DoD, VA Medical system, and the Choice system are able to communicate with each other. In the afternoon, I attended a National Security session where talk was on cyber security. On Tuesday, the delegation met with Nebraska's Congressmen and Senators to speak to them about veterans' priorities.

Back to Nebraska. April and May both prove to be very busy months. April, of course, is Children and Youth month with the focus on Military Children. What plans has your unit made to celebrate and inspire the children and young people of your communities? This would be a great opportunity to promote one of the missions of the ALA, and maybe draw some younger members to the organization.

Most of the districts are having their Boys and Girls State Orientations during April. Encourage your delegates to attend one of these orientations. If an orientation in another district is closer or at a better time for a delegate to attend, there is nothing wrong with them going to the orientation that is more convenient. The important thing is to attend, and to thoroughly read the packet of materials they receive. Over the past eight years as a "Floor Mom" at Girls State, I don't know how many times I heard, "I didn't know..."

Your unit end-of-year reports are due to Department by April 20. The narratives are important for the program chairmen to be able to report to their Divisional and National Chairmen the unit activities that go into implementing the programs. The impact report – the numbers – are important to me to be able to report to National our efforts. These are the numbers that last year showed the ALA



Together



Kathy Mazur
Department of Nebraska President
American Legion Auxiliary
2017-2018

provided \$1.9 billion in volunteer time and monies spent for our veterans, children, and communities. That amount was with only about 60% reporting. Imagine how much more it would have been with 100%. Get your reports in, ladies!

May 25, 2018, is National Poppy Day. The red poppy is nationally recognized as a symbol of the sacrifice of service by the men and women in

uniform since WWI. We wear a poppy to honor those who have served our country.

If your unit officer election is in May, don't forget to forward new officer names to department.

"TOGETHER WE CAN"
- work together to inspire and empower those we come in contact with.
Kathy Mazur, Department President

CHILDREN & YOUTH

The theme for the month of April is CELEBRATE CHILDREN. However, even though the month is designated for doing something for our children and youth, it should be done all year long.

Look at the young people in your community. Do you award them for being heroes or tell them you are proud of their good deeds? Are you helping to reinforce or teach them about being a patriotic American, being proud of our flag and country, and respecting our military and

veterans for all they have done for us? Has your unit contacted a military child or conducted a Kids are Heroes 2 program?

This is what our job is. We have a commitment to our young people showing by our actions that we truly believe in them and the American Legion motto "For God and Country."

Let our youth know that we love them and are willing to protect them so they learn from us what is right, true, and just. Hopefully, they then will show that love and understanding to

others.

Remember, April 20 is the due date for your reports to be submitted telling about what you have done for Children and Youth --- including the dollars spent, the number of volunteers who participated, and the number of hours volunteered. Every number counts, and we want to count yours.

Diana Langer
C & Y Chairman

LEGION FAMILY STORMS THE HILL

At the National Convention in Reno, the American Legion Auxiliary National Executive Committee approved a budget without the Washington Conference being addressed. This change eliminated monetary support for the Conference, making a huge savings in the budget. The change provided that the National Executive Committee would meet the weekend before the Conference in Indianapolis.

While there were no Auxiliary meetings in Washington, members were allowed to attend meetings of the various Commissions of the American Legion.

As your National Security Chairman, I attended the National Security Commission meeting. The main speaker in the morning was an amazing lady --- Ann Mills Griffiths of the National League of Families of POW --- who talked about the repatriation of the remains of POW/MIAs. She has worked for the League the past 40 years. In the afternoon, we were informed



about cyber security in which simple breeches have a great cost.

This year, against all odds, the Nebraska Legion Family Delegation numbered twenty-four members who stormed the hill on Tuesday of the Washington Conference to meet with Senators Deb Fischer and Ben Sasse and Congressmen Don Bacon, Jeff Fortenberry, and Adrian Smith. We were able to express to them the legislative needs of our Veterans.

Issues included:

- Protecting the Flag
- Supporting VA's suicide prevention efforts
- Creating a lifetime electronic health record
- Fully funding our national defense
- Supporting those who care for wounded veterans

- Continuing funding programs to end Veterans' homelessness
- Instituting gender-specific health care for Women Veterans.

Auxiliary members attending the conference and representing Nebraska "On the Hill" were Department President Kathy Mazur, NEC Debra Albers, National Leadership Committee member Virginia Nelsen, NWD Poppy Chairman Barb Washburn, NWD Junior Activities Chairman Amanda Washburn, Pam Sevick, Starla Landkamer, Mary Lee Tisdale, and Megan Landkamer.

Debra Albers
NEC

APPRECIATING OUR VETERANS



Hampton Unit 141 decorated rocks that will be used at their Memorial Day Dinner and Veterans Day Coffee. The veterans can each select a rock if they choose to do so.



Hampton Unit 141 tied 12 fleece blankets for the Nebraska Veterans Home in Grand Island.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Please send articles and pictures for future editions of "THE STAR" to Lorene Bartos, Editor at 7441 San Mateo Lane, Lincoln, NE 68516 or email to: ALATheStarNE@yahoo.com. Send photos as jpg attachments. Material for the next issue needs to be submitted by May 10, 2018



FROM THE SECRETARY’S DESK

The units should have received a newsletter by now. In the newsletter, you will find:

- A letter from the President
 - Report form
- Membership Information for Department Convention
- Past President Parley
 - Unit Member of the Year
 - Salute to Servicewomen
- A note from our Historian
- A message from Constitution and Bylaws
- A reminder from the Education Chairman

Make sure you read them; they have important stuff for your information.

I am working on filing your Form 990Ns, so be patient. I will send you a copy of the filing before the end of March. If I do not file your unit’s 990, please let me know. I need a representative from the following units to contact me at the office about their 990s:

Elmwood	Dalton	Juniata
Lindsay	Bristow	Wilcox
Colon	Winnebago	Fremont

Thanks for your attention to this time-sensitive matter. Keep your memberships flying in.

Lisa Moore
Department Secretary

AMERICANISM

The year has gone by so quickly; and, by the time this article reaches you, your reports about what you did to promote Americanism in the community should have been sent to me so I can complete my year-end report by May 15th.

I know that many of you have done special events in your communities that are worth noting --- whether it be special flag ceremonies, celebration of patriotic holidays, or supporting the Legion in their Americanism Program, etc. I need a short story and pictures from you so that I can include them in the report I am going to submit by June 1st as we try for the “Best Department Americanism Award.”

Thank you for all that you do!!

Sharon Scott
Americanism Chairman

2018 DISTRICT 11 CONVENTION IS A GREAT MEMORY!

Thank you to President Tammy Packer and Wilber Unit #101 for providing a wonderful venue for the 54 ladies who attended. Everything went well, and our District was honored to have all the Department officers present --- as well as Honorary Junior Department President Katelyn Babula.

Dorchester Unit #264 placed first in the centerpiece contest, with second place going to Friend Unit #183. Prayer Book first place went to Deshler Unit #352, and second place went to Dorchester Unit #101. Congratulations!

VETERANS IN NEED (Commander Rod’s and my project) will be receiving \$519 from the “History of American Soldier” picture raffle and \$673 from the auction. The winner of the picture was Macy Due from Cordova. A BIG THANK YOU to all who sold raffle tickets, bought raffle tickets, donated an auction item, and/or bought an auction item. Our Department President’s March netted \$90.50 for Department President Kathy’s project.

District 11, you are awesome!

Vicki Ozenbaugh
District 11 President



Pictured are newly-elected District 5 President Vicki Colson, outgoing President Diane Donnelly, and Department Vice President and installing officer Beverly Neel.

ELEMENTARY STUDENTS, AUXILIARY COME TOGETHER WITH VALENTINES FOR VETERANS

HAPPY VALENTINE’S DAY TO THE VETERANS RESIDING AT THE NORFOLK VETERANS HOME!!

The American Legion Auxiliary Sucha Unit #302 of Leigh contacted the Leigh Elementary School about making VALENTINES FOR VETERANS.

Valentines designed by students, kindergarten through 6th grade, were picked up by the Auxiliary. What creativity the students showed in designing their Valentines and the Valentine messages they wrote.

Orma Tyser was the VALENTINES FOR VETERANS chairperson and delivered them to the Norfolk Veterans Home. The American Legion Auxiliary wishes to thank the Leigh Elementary students for the awesome job they did on their Valentines and all of their teachers and the office staff for their cooperation and willingness to participate in the VALENTINES FOR VETERANS event. THANK YOU, EVERYONE, FOR MAKING THIS A HEARTFELT EVENT!

Pictured are all of the awesome “Valentines For Veterans” designed by the Leigh Elementary students. They were delivered by the A.L.A. Sucha Unit #302 of Leigh to the Norfolk Veterans Home so all the veterans would have a special day.



NEC MEETING IN INDIANAPOLIS

NEC Debra Albers and Alternate NEC Kathy Mazur attended the National Executive Committee meeting in Indianapolis at the end of February. After opening the meeting in regular form and greetings being rendered, members of the National Executive Committee tackled the Consent Agenda. Debra Albers asked to remove Nebraska William Egle Unit #281 from the list of Charter Cancellations as their cancellation process is not yet complete. Sixty-nine units were cancelled. The list of National Appointment changes were approved.

The National Travel Reimbursement Policy was updated by the finance committee and approved. The National Policy for Electronic Communications, Internet, and Social Media Policy was updated and reviewed by the National Audit Committee and was approved by the NEC. The ALA endorses the use of Social Media, but expects that certain standards be upheld. A resolution making online-printed ALA membership cards as valid as preprinted cards was passed.

Reports were given by ALA Foundation Board President Linda Boone and National Finance Committee Chairman Peggy Thomas. National Audit Committee Chairman Pamela Jackson gave the results of the 2017 External Audit by Mike

Alerding CPA. Reports were given by the National President and Chairmen.

A program on Fiduciary Stewardship was given by Mike Alerding, CPA.

Points of Interest from the meeting:

- Marta Hedding, National Treasurer, will be retiring in the summer and will be replaced by Sarah Regal.
- The National American Legion Auxiliary staff will be moving into the 25 year old purchased building after the wiring is updated after the National Convention.
- 7 % of the membership has paid dues online during the past year, and 200 members have joined online since the beginning of this year. Staff is available for members to pay multiple memberships by phone.
- Many members have participated in the online courses 101, 201 and 301. 401 will be online in March.
- In 2019, the American Legion will be Celebrating 100 years: what is your state doing to commemorate this?

Deb Albers
NEC

SERVICE TO VETERANS

2018 - 2019 Centerpiece and Tray Favor Assignments							
Month	Gr. Island V.A. Med Center 10 Cntrpc	Gr. Island Veterans Home 215 Tray Fav	Bellevue Eastern NE VA Home 24 Cntrpc	Norfolk VA Home 20 Cntrpc	Western NE Home 13 Cntrpc	Western NE Home 90 Tray Fav	Omaha VA Med Center 75 Tray Fav
April	#38 Ord	#141 Hampton	#264 Sr. Dorchester	#307 S. Sioux City	#133 Culbertson	#133 Culbertson	#354 Pleasant Dale
May	#19 York	#251 Arcadia	#353 Louisville	#307 S. Sioux City	#12 Chadron	#12 Chadron	#28 Beaver City
June	#257 Eustis	#310 Gibbon	#288 Farnam	#264 Sr. Dorchester	#288 Farnam	#160 Polk	#232 Malmø
July	#194 Alexandria	#194 Alexandria	#3 Lincoln	#175 Jackson	#57 Hyannis	#57 Hyannis	#264 Jr. Dorchester
August	#66 Bruning	#364 Naponee	#154 Blair	#322 Monroe	#166 Bruning		#364 Naponee
September	#130 Arnold	#377 Wilcox	#222 Shubert	#357 Brunswick	#7 Alliance	#243 Plymouth	#232 Malmø
October	#38 Ord	Girl State	#156 Burchard	#372 Bellwood	#10 Morrill	#183 Friend	#222 Shubert
November	#96 Arapahoe	Girl State		#283 Platte Center	#17 Sidney	#17 Sidney	#253 Cortland
December	#108 Ashton	#209 Franklin	#156 Burchard	#127 Craig	#200 Bayard	#133 Colbertson	#222 Shubert
January				#327 Bellwood	#7 Alliance		#371 Valparaiso
February				#283 Platte Center	#7 Alliance	#7 Alliance	
March		#218 Exeter					
Service to Veterans : Vicki Colson 308-289-4836 or colson.vicki@yahoo.com							

JEANS NEEDED FOR QUILTS FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

Mary Harrison, a member of Lincoln Unit 3, makes jean quilts for homeless veterans. The jeans are donated to her by everyone she knows, and she doesn’t care if they are blue denim, corduroy, tan, name brand, or an off brand.

Mary cuts them into squares, sews them together, backs them with material that she purchases, and then hand-ties them. Sometimes, she has help with the tying. She then adds a circle to one square that says, “Thanks for your service” and delivers them to the VA in Lincoln so that they can be distributed.

Mary could use your help with old jeans --- she is running out of donations. If you have old jeans to get rid of, children’s or adults’, Mary can use them. You can drop them off at the Department Headquarters, and she will pick them up there.

VETERANS BABY SHOWER - SUNDAY, MAY 6, 2018

National Women’s Health Services of the VA is having a Baby Shower for 36 families (28 in Omaha, 5 in Lincoln, and 3 in Grand Island) who are expecting an arrival in 2018. Donations are needed by April 27th, 2018. Anything and Everything Baby including: Baby blankets, diapers, lotion, wash, baby wash clothes and towels, onesies, socks, clothes, pacifiers, and teething rings

Donations can be sent/delivered to Omaha Voluntary Services:
Omaha VA Medical Center / % Kari Bealer, VS Manager / 4101 Woolworth Avenue / Omaha, NE 68105

Thank you for your donations!



CANDIDATES FOR DEPARTMENT OFFICES - 2018-2019

KATHY MAZUR
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE
COMM. WOMAN



Kathy is a 43-year member of Leonard Conley Unit 216 in Gretna. Her eligibility in the Auxiliary is through her father, Leonard Koch, who served in the Army during World War II.

Kathy has served in the various offices and chairmanships in her Unit, County, District and Department --- most recently serving as Department President.

Kathy, along with her mother, sister, and daughter, is very involved in her unit's activities. She has also volunteered eight years at Girls State as a Senior Counselor; and has been a regular attendee at Department Mid-Year Education Conferences and Summer Conventions for 18 years. She has attended eight National Conventions (serving as a delegate to seven) four National Department Leadership Conferences, four Mission Training Sessions, the 2018 NEC meeting, and the 2018 Washington DC Conference.

Kathy is a graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a degree in Business Education and now substitute teaches. She is a member of St. John Vianney Catholic Church in Millard where she volunteered as a teacher and coordinator in the Children's Religious Education program for 20 years, serves as a Eucharistic Minister, and is a member of the choir.

Kathy and her husband Garry have three children – Joshua, Lindsay, and Michael. All are members of the Gretna American Legion Family.



BEVERLY A. NEEL
DEPARTMENT
PRESIDENT



Auxiliary members --- thank you for your years of continuous membership and support of the American Legion Family. Each member has demonstrated her skills, shared her talents, and given unselfishly to the principles by which we are organized. Unit members are the foundation of our organization and where you see the Auxiliary in action.

Knowing that, I come to you today to seek the position of Department President and to ask you to join me along this journey to grow our organization in membership, leadership, and participation.

There is no title that will endear one greater pride than that of "Unit Member." A title does not provide greater access, greater recognition, or greater visibility. Those who know me well know that my favorite location in conferences and conventions is the back of the room to observe, listen, and learn. And, trust me, there is a lot out there to learn even after 38 years in the Auxiliary.

I am a member of Roy Reed Unit 252 of Windside, and my eligibility is through the sacrifices provided by my father, John James Gallop, Sr., WWII; my brother, Warren Gallop, Vietnam era; my husband, Robert "Bud" Neel, Vietnam era through Desert Storm; and our son, John Grayson Neel, Iraq. We are well invested in the principles of our organization; and, yes, we are "family" oriented.

I have served several chairmanships and held office on the Unit, District and Department levels. Most I can offer is a listening ear, a caring heart, an extended hand, and a dedication to seeing our organization grow through membership, leadership, and friendship.

ELIZABETH PAES
DEPARTMENT VICE
PRESIDENT



Elizabeth Paes' eligibility for the American Legion Auxiliary comes from her husband's 21-year service in the United States Air Force. Gerald served twice in the Vietnam campaign. He served as a B-52 Navigator, Electronic Warfare Officer, and Intelligence Officer before his retirement from the Inspector General's office at San Bernardino, California in 1977.

She married Jerry in August of 1975 and is a friend to his four children, grandmother of eight, and great-grandmother of five. All the children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren live in the Papillion/LaVista, Nebraska area.

Elizabeth has always been active as a volunteer in the community and church. As a 26-year PUFL member of the American Legion Auxiliary, she served as Unit President, County President, District Vice-President, District President, Poppy Chairman, Finance Committee, Finance Chairman, Department Chaplain, and Department Historian. She served on the Butler County Health Care Systems Future Generations Board of Directors, Saunders County Thrivent Financial Chapter, member of the Board of Edensburg Lutheran Church, and is currently serving on the Village of Prague Zoning and Planning Committee.

Elizabeth asks for your support as she runs for Department of Nebraska Vice President.

BARBIE MEYER
DEPARTMENT
HISTORIAN



I am currently seeking the office of Department Historian and have been a member of the Legion family for more than 20 years. I am a member of Miller Unit 351, where I have served every office except secretary/treasurer. I presently serve as Unit Chaplain. My Unit and District have endorsed my candidacy for this office.

My eligibility is through my husband, Larry --- a US Army veteran of Vietnam and American Legion and Sons of the American Legion member.

On the District level, I served 2 years as Vice President and 2 years as District 6 President. I also was a member of the Department Membership committee when serving as Vice President. I also served as ALA Deputy Representative at the Grand Island VA Medical Center.

On the Department level, I served as Department Membership Chairman for 2 years and attended 2 National Membership/Leadership conferences in Indianapolis. During that Chairmanship, I was awarded Northwestern Division Membership Chairman of the Year at the National Convention held in Reno, Nevada.

During my present term as Department Chaplain, I attended the Mission Leadership Training Conference in Minneapolis and will be attending my 6th National Convention there in August.

In seeking the important office of Department Historian, I will capture and document activities and events in the upcoming year, highlight past histories, and encourage the Legion family to preserve their memories in honor of our veterans.

My husband and I live on a farm at Riverdale, where we raise sheep and cattle and are both retired from our "real jobs." We are both very active in several veterans' organizations and enjoy helping veterans and youth.

I want to thank you for your support and encouragement!

PAT WISEMAN
DEPARTMENT
CHAPLAIN



Pat Wiseman's eligibility is through the service of her late husband Bill during the Vietnam era.

Pat is a member of Buckland Unit #97 at Homer, in District 3. She is 45 year member and just upgraded to a PUFL.

Pat has served as Unit President, Dakota County President and Vice President, 4 years as District 3 President and also Vice President. For Department, she has been on the County Government committee, Americanism Chairman, Leadership Chairman, a senior counselor at Girl's State and Girl's State President. She is an American Legion Rider and presently serving as Secretary/Treasurer.

Pat is a member of St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Emerson and is on the church council. She is a 45-year member of the Homer Homemakers and a lifetime member of the NRA and Nebraska Bowhunters. She has been a Boy Scout leader and took Woodbadge training.

Pat had many family members who have served or are active in the military. Her dad served in WWII and was on the USS Menard at Okinawa. Her oldest son has been in the Iowa National Guard for 30 years and served on NATO orders. Her youngest son has been full time Army for 14 years. Her granddaughter and husband are in the Air Force and have deployed to Afghanistan. Another grandson is a member of the Nebraska National Guard.

Pat is firm believer in the "For God and Country" motto and asks for your support as she runs for Department Chaplain.



LEFT: The Milford American Legion Auxiliary recognized three members for their longtime membership in the organization on February 19th. Beth Naylor of Milford, Shirley Rediger of Milford, and Davanie Niefert of Kansas were honored for their membership of 70, 55, and 30 years, respectively. The three women were unable to attend the ceremony, but were represented in the photo on the left by (from left) Deanna Portz, Nebraska Department President Kathy Mazur, and Milford Auxiliary President Kathy Eberly.



LEFT: Valparaiso Unit 371 was proud to present 7 continuous membership certificates at the American Legion Birthday celebration. Standing are Roseanne Koranda (50 years) and Patty Hudkins (50 years). Seated are Rose Cadek (25 years), Margaret Masek (25 years), and Rae Ann Mastny (50 years). Not pictured were Peggy Vrana (50 years) and Sally Sisel (67 years).

NEBRASKA AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY-
MUSIC MOVES MEMBERSHIP TOP 13 HITS IN NEBRASKA

District	Musical Name	2018 Goal	Total	% of goal
9	Neat Noisemakers	693	637	91.92%
2	Terrific Trebelmakers	2185	1959	89.66%
13	Tender Troubadours	730	650	89.04%
11	Smiling Sopranos	2380	2096	88.07%
1	Wonderful Overtones	1590	1399	87.99%
5	Fun Femail Fugue	865	757	87.51%
7	Silly Serenaders	2093	1824	87.15%
3	Tempo Turners	1090	949	87.06%
4	Funky Falsettos	770	664	86.23%
8	Awesome Altos	2038	1752	85.97%
10	Truthful Tenors	1495	1256	84.01%
12	Triangle Tuners	1893	1582	83.57%
6	Stylish Strummers	2702	2257	83.53%
500 Online Octaves		*34	*35	*102.94%
TOTAL		20,558	17,817	86.67%



What have you done this year in Membership? Did you have a membership dinner? Add new members? Please let me know! Fill in the membership portion of the end-of-the-year reports or email me at: angiefoster214@gmail.com.

CHAPLAIN’S CONNECTION

F
GOD
R

The nature of a flower is to wait patiently for spring. Flowers don’t worry or complain about every little thing. The nature of a flower is an example to all. When wind and rain threaten, a flower stands straight and tall. Prayer: O God, you pour out the Spirit of grace and love. Deliver us from cold hearts and wandering thoughts, that with steady minds and burning zeal we may worship you in spirit and truth. In your heavenly name, Amen Song: “Let There Be Peace on Earth.” Please continue to send prayers for President Kathy’s prayer book and National

President Diane’s book, also. Send your submittals to me. Also available for your Unit Year-End Reports are Chaplain and Historian pages. They were distributed at the district conventions and other events. These will need to be filled out and sent to Department Headquarters for our Year-End Reports for Department and National. 1st Place District Prayer books are to be mailed to me after your convention. Also, please send me the names of living Gold Star wives, mothers, and sisters. Thank you and bless you! Barbie Meyer, Department Chaplain 12455 Riverdale Rd. Riverdale, NE 68870

DATES TO REMEMBER

APRIL - Children & Youth Month

- 1 Easter
- 7 District 1 Convention - Gordon
- 7 Girls State/Boys State Orientations by District
- 20 Postmark deadline for Unit Annual Reports to Dept.
- 22-28 National Volunteer Week - Thank you volunteers!

MAY

- 10 Girls State/Boys State Orientations by District
- 15 Articles due for the June issue of “The Star”
- 13 Military Kids Day - Wear Purple
- 25 Mothers’ Day
- 25 National Poppy Day
- 28 Memorial Day - Department Headquarters closed

Future Planning

- June 3-9, 2018 American Legion Auxiliary Cornhusker Girls State, Lincoln
- June 21-24, 2018 Department Convention, Kearney
- August 24-30, 2018 National Convention - Minneapolis, MN

MUSIC OF THE HEART



For those of you who know me, you know that my career centers on long-term care of our elderly --- and my heart is with hospice, the loving process of my mantra of ‘comfort and joy’ until they get their big promotion. Recently, I was at the bedside of just such a person and began visiting with his daughter about the ‘friends’ who this man knew and loved throughout his life and who flat-out deserted him when he moved into the home.

Living in a nursing home is hard; working in them is hard; and visiting residents of them is hard. Why? Because life is hard, particularly at the end --- and this man’s ‘friends’ evidently think that shutting him out of their lives will keep them from growing old and sick. Even my own husband will not come visit me at work because he’s “afraid he’s going to catch ‘old’”! At least he can admit it.

I’ve heard all the excuses. “What if he doesn’t know me?” (big deal, you know him!). “That place stinks” (so do you, sometimes). “That place is full of crazy people who scare me”(just imagine how you scare them?). “That place depresses me” (just let that one sink in a minute).

So, what does this lecture have to do with music? Everything! Music is the magic key that unlocks the diary of our lives and opens up memories and emotions long since forgotten. I had a lady who was nearly blind and deaf ask “Could you yell the Lord’s Prayer into my ear?”

I haven’t heard it in so long I’m afraid I’ve forgotten it.” When I cupped my hand over her ear and recited the prayer, she began to cry and say it with me. When I sang it into her ear, she began to smile a smile I have rarely seen. I told her pastor of this, and now he never hesitates to recite the old prayers, liturgies, and hymns into her right ear --- which has changed this woman’s life considerably. She will one day be ready for her big promotion with a full and satiated heart, anxious to rest with her Lord.

With today’s technologies, there is no excuse not to arrive at the side of your friend or loved one with a portable music player (don’t forget earphones for the hard of hearing) and watch their face as the memories are unlocked! Sometimes it’s a hymn, but very often it’s just some old-time ‘hay-kicking’ music that you enjoyed together at dances of days gone by. If they don’t respond right away, don’t be discouraged --- some parts of the brain may be locked away deeper than others. But, don’t you doubt for a minute that they aren’t appreciating your presence and your time --- and they feel the love you are sharing. If they are confused and display behaviors, just sit quietly with them and don’t take it personally. The more time you spend, the more comfortable they will become and the richer both of your hearts will be for it.

How I hope you do this. Jean Vackiner RN, Music Chair



A Gold Star Ceremony was conducted by Acting Chaplain Louise Nichols at the District 8 Convention. Pictured (L-R) are Charlene Marchand and Louise Nichols, two Gold Star Sisters who were in attendance.

CONGRATULATIONS, LOTTERY WINNERS!

March 1, 2018	\$50.00	Kristie Kemnitz	Niobrara
March 2, 2018	\$50.00	Trisha Robertson	Beemer
March 3, 2018	\$50.00	Morgan Butcher	Mitchell
March 4, 2018	\$50.00	David Hladky	Yankton KS
March 5, 2018	\$75.00	Lou Kresha	Osceola
March 6, 2018	\$50.00	Donna Dobish	St Paul
March 7, 2018	\$50.00	Marilyn Hanson	Omaha
March 8, 2018	\$50.00	Arlene Gabelman	Neligh
March 9, 2018	\$50.00	La Shell Hunter	Lincoln
March 10, 2018	\$50.00	Denise Ochsner	Fairmont
March 11, 2018	\$50.00	Randall G Capek	Tobias
March 12, 2018	\$75.00	Judith Schwab	Nebraska City
March 13, 2018	\$50.00	Doris Burns	Omaha
March 14, 2018	\$50.00	Joan Lueckenhoff	West Point
March 15, 2018	\$50.00	Albert Bartek	Valparaiso
March 16, 2018	\$200.00	Jan Steenson	Wolbach
March 17, 2018	\$50.00	Arnold Krebsbach	Lawrence
March 18, 2018	\$100.00	Virginia Johnson	Sutton
March 19, 2018	\$75.00	Raymond Jacobsen	Windside
March 20, 2018	\$50.00	Bill Goeden	West Point
March 21, 2018	\$50.00	Crys Bauermeister	Pierce
March 22, 2018	\$50.00	Joanna Faber	Holstein
March 23, 2018	\$50.00	Julie Addison	Wayne
March 24, 2018	\$50.00	Donna Boston	Lincoln
March 25, 2018	\$50.00	Jackson Post 175	Jackson
March 26, 2018	\$75.00	Michelle Jacobsen	Fremont
March 27, 2018	\$50.00	Sandra Dunkel	Broken Bow
March 28, 2018	\$50.00	Alvena Jacobsen	Manhattan KS
March 29, 2018	\$50.00	David City Post 125	David City
March 30, 2018	\$50.00	Mary Engelmeyer	West Point
March 31, 2018	\$50.00	Ruth Hietbrink	Sterling

2018 AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY CORNHUSKER GIRLS STATE ORIENTATIONS

If a Girls State delegate cannot attend the orientation in her district due to date or distance, she may attend one that is more convenient. Questions: Ashlyn Wilkes at 308-353-6053 or ashlynmg@gmail.com Nicole Vance at 712-490-0702 or ziegl30@yahoo.com Kristi Nohavec at 402-416-9380 or kristi.nohavec@gmail.com

District	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
1	April 22, 2018	1pm	Valentine American Legion Post
2	April 22, 2018	1pm	Neligh American Legion Post
3	April 22, 2018	1:30pm	Emerson Hubbard High School
4	May 6, 2018	1pm	Potter American Legion Post
5	April 7, 2018	2pm	Hershey High School
6	April 8, 2018	1pm	Centura Public School
7	April 15, 2018	2pm	Valparaiso American Legion Post
8	May 20, 2018	2pm	Omaha American Legion Post 1
9	April 15, 2018	2pm	McCook E Free Church
10	April 22, 2018	3pm	Minden-Windmill
11	April 22, 2018	2pm	Wilber American Legion Post
12	April 15, 2018	2pm	Hickman Comm. Center
13	April 29, 2018	2pm	Tecumseh American Legion Post
Lincoln	May 6, 2018	2pm	Lancaster Extension Education Center



You are invited to the **50th** Wedding Anniversary of Doug and Mary Ann Boldt on April 21, 2018 at the Callaway Community Center starting at 5:00 p.m. Greetings from 5-6 Supper at 6:00 p.m With a program to follow at 7:00 and a dance immediate after the program. Rooms at Callaway Callaway Motel, 308-836-2226 Chesley Lodge, 308-870-4611 Stony Brook Inn, 308-870-1495 Winsome Inn, Arnold 308-858-2462 Boarders Inn, Broken Bow 308-872-6428 Let your presence be your gift.



CORRECTION

In the last issue, Oconto Membership Chairman Judy Struempfer was incorrectly listed as Christ-anna Johnson in the Mem-ber-ship Awards picture.

In Memoriam

*Notices received February 10, 2018
to March 10, 2018*

Patricia A McKinney ..	Tecumseh	2
Joan M Weber.....	Lincoln.....	3
Jean Morris	Genoa.....	144
Marvene Wurst	Milford.....	141
June Schuster	Gretna.....	216
Doris V Ahl	Swanton	258
Willia Rabstajnek	Table Rock.....	289
Lenore Alt	Shelby	296
Lorraine M Nissen.....	Osmond.....	326
Betty Ringler	Fort Calhoun	348
Rosella Seracey	Barneston	356
Dora Johnson	Long Pine.....	260
Faye Ehrlich	Elkhorn	362

