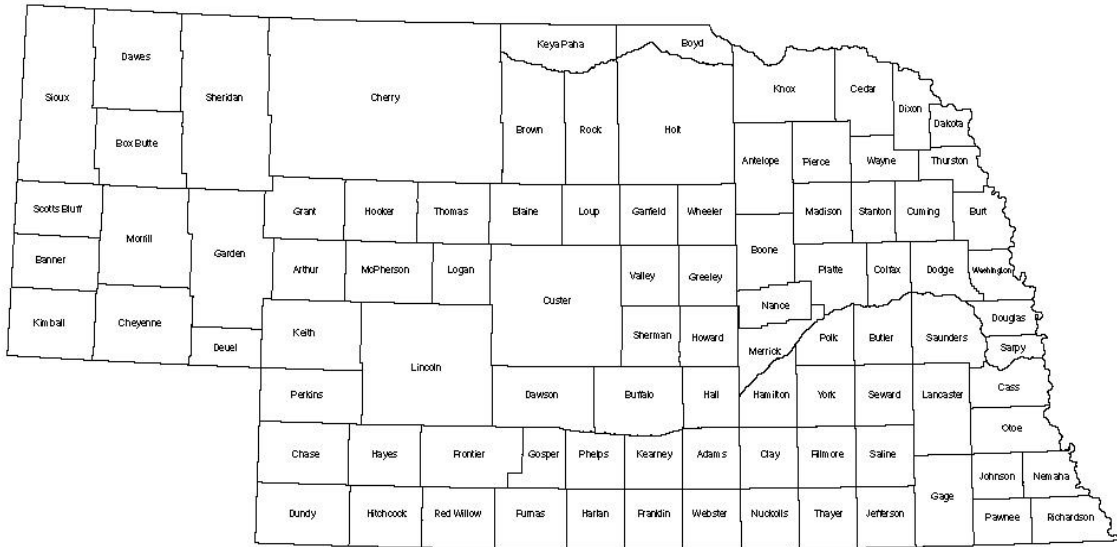


NEBRASKA

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY



DISTRICT 11 HISTORIES

FILLMORE, GAGE, JEFFERSON, SALINE, THAYER, YORK

In celebration of 100 years of
American Legion Auxiliary

1919 - 2019



DISTRICT 11 DEPARTMENT AND DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENTS

MARION CHALOUPKA	1979 - 1980
BONNIE DUMLER	1990 - 1991
MARVA KASL	2008 - 2009
DEBRA ALBERS	2016 - 2017

PAST DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

IRENE SOKOLIK	1955 - 1957
SYLVIA McLAUGHLIN	1957 - 1959
MARGARET SMEJDIR	1959 - 1961
GOLDIE BECKER SCHMIDT	1961 - 1963
BETTY HOLLE	1963 - 1965
FLORENCE SCHWEER	1965 - 1967
MRS. WARREN NOBLE	1967 - 1969
ALMA KOVAR STRAIN	1969 - 1971
MARIAN CHALOUPKA	1971 - 1973
MRS. RAYMOND BROWN	1973 - 1975
MARION CHALOUPKA	1975 - 1976
MABEL McMAHON MOSER	1976 - 1978
LORENE BEHREND	1978 - 1980
MAUREEN PAVLIK	1980 - 1982
BONNIE DUMLER	1982 - 1984
PAULINE LONG	1984 - 1986
MRS. BERNARD MORAVEC	1986 - 1988
HELEN KOTTAS	1988 - 1990
MRS. ALFRED BENKER	1990 - 1992
BERNICE KUCERA	1992 - 1994
ALICE VIESELMAYER	1994 - 1996
MARVA KASL	1996 - 1998
FRIEDA BAILEY	1998 - 2000
MARY JO HOFTS	2000 - 2002
NORMA WEIMER	2002 - 2003
LISA MOORE	2003 - 2005
VICKI OZENBAUGH	2005 - 2007
LUCILLE CAPEK	2007 - 2009
DEBRA ALBERS	2009 - 2011
SHARON BROZOVSKY	2011 - 2013
ANN WAGNER	2013 - 2015
JUDY BESPALC	2015 - 2017
VICKI OZENBAUGH	2017 - 2019

FILLMORE COUNTY

WILLIAM SULLIVAN UNIT 218, EXETER

The William Sullivan American Legion Auxiliary Unit 218 was chartered on April 22, 1930 by National Secretary Gwendolyn W. Macekulowall and National President Mary Virginia Macrae. It was countersigned on May 2, 1930 by Department President Louna Hahn and Department Secretary Irene Fleming. Charter members were: Esther Arnot, Ada M. Biba, Gertrude A. Clinton, Iva Bickert, Bertha Houzvicka, Helen Cardan, Merle H. Koehn, Rica Crane, Edna S. Lonsdale, Freda Gillan, Anna Krejci, Evelyn Mitchell, Cora E. Mitchell, Iva A. Smith, Veronica Storn, Anna Wilson, and Elizabeth Sullivan (widow of William Sullivan). Current Gold Star members are Jane Kaiser and Sharon Dyer.

2018 Goal--76 with 71 paid as of February 11, 2019 for 93.42%

LIEUTENANT EARL FORBES UNIT 21, FAIRMONT

ALA Unit 21 was named after 2nd Lieutenant Earl Forbes. He was born on March 16, 1890. Lieutenant Forbes was a member of the 20th Aero Squadron in the First Day Bombardment Group. He was killed in action over Pierrepont on September 26, 1918 and was buried in St. Mihiel Cemetery in France. He was officially credited with one victory. There's a monument honoring him at the Fairmont Cemetery.

2018 Goal--104 with 77 paid as of February 11, 2019 for 74.04%

SLOAN BOLTEN UNIT 68, GENEVA

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 68 of Geneva was chartered in 1947. National President Mrs. Norton H. Pearl signed the Charter on May 20, 1947 and Nebraska Department President Evelyn Mitchell signed it on May 29, 1947. Charter members were: Mrs. Matthew Rock, Mrs. Will Baroch, Mrs. Fred Kenney, Mrs. J. K. Waring, Mrs. Sarah E. Wilson, Mrs. Cora M. Smith, Mrs. Cynthia M. Will, Mrs. Cora Ashton, Mrs. Emma P. Sloan, Mrs. Lillian Sloan, Mrs. Hannah Gilmore, Mrs. Mary Parris, and Regena M. Rock.

2018 Goal--19 with 13 paid as of February 11, 2019 for 68.42%

H.S.S.K. UNIT 240, MILLIGAN

Seventeen ladies eligible for membership in the American Legion Auxiliary tried for a state charter in May 1922 to organize an Auxiliary to the H.S.S.K. American Legion Post #240 in Milligan, Nebraska. Due to one name on the charter that did not qualify (her brother's duration in the Army was too short), the request was denied by State headquarters. Three names on this list were Gold Star Sisters.

The Post #240 was organized in March of 1920. They hosted entertainment at Skrivanek's Pavilion on April 25, 1925, inviting ladies who were eligible for membership for an Auxiliary to the American Legion. That gathering aroused interest, so another charter application was sent on June 12, 1925 with 16 names. A state charter was issued on July 8, 1925 and was signed by Mrs. Genie McGlasson, Department of Nebraska President. The ladies elected officers and wrote their by-laws. Twenty-three 23 names appeared on the charter: Mrs. Joseph Bors, Secretary-Treasurer; Mrs. Frank Mehuion, President; Mrs. Maymie A. Laun; Mrs. Anna Kotas; Mrs. Anna Suda; Mrs. Edward Chudly; Mrs. Maltilda Koas; Mrs. Emma B. Krupicka; Mrs. Mary Smrha; Mrs. Barbara Krupicka; Mrs. Marie Hrdy, Vice-President; Vlasta Kolar; Rose Kathleen Slezak; Emilye Koca; Mrs. Tom Harpham; Mrs. William

L. Hamouz; Mrs. James Jarolinek; Mrs. James F. Kassik; Mrs. Frank Stych; Libbie H. Krupicka; Mrs. Ada Klima; Mrs. Alma Kolar; and Anna L. Kolar.

The letters H.S.S.K. were derived from the four Milligan boys who gave their lives during World War I. They were James Houska, Edward Slezak, James Svec, and Frank B. Koca. Mothers of these boys were Gold Star Mothers: Anna (Matejka) Houska, Marie (Joseph) Slezak, Marie (Vaclav) Svec, and Marie (Vaclav) Koca. The bodies of Edward Slezak and Frank B. Koca were brought to Milligan for burial in 1920. James Houska and James Svec remain buried in France.

Unit 240 currently have three Gold Star Sisters that are honored every year at the Gold Star Tea. They are Dorothy Skrivanek, Arlene Kassik, and Betty Soukup. Current officers are: Diane Jansky, President; Crystal Vavra, First Vice President; Adrienne Capek, Second Vice President; Dorothy Skrivanek, Chaplain; Vicky Thompson, Historian; Arlene Kassik, Sgt. at Arms; Rose Filipi, Ass. Sgt. at Arms; Vicky Thompson, Secretary; Lucille Capek, Treasurer; Carol Capek, Junior Counselor; Mary Johnson, Executive Board; Adrienne Capek, Executive Board; Rose Filipi, Executive Board.

2018 Goal--156 with 114 paid as of February 11, 2019 for 73.08%

FRANKLIN UNIT 193, OHIOWA

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 193 in Ohiowa was chartered May 14, 1927. The application was submitted April 12, 1927 with the endorsement of the Franklin Post 193 Commander W. A. Neiss and attested by W.C. Pflug, Post Adjutant. Nebraska Department President, Vernice C. LaSelle, of Chappell, Nebraska gave the second endorsement on April 21, 1927. The application had 13 signatures, which were: Ellen M Weiss, President; Mamie A. Pflug, Secretary; Mollie Dittmer, Treasurer; Martha Sieckman (Tobias), Elsie Schroll, Historian; Mary A. Muir, Sarah A. Muir, Adaline McFarland (Vice President), Myrtle Goodman, Sergeant at Arms; Olive J. McFarland, Ann Walker, Tesa Eppler, and Ruth I. Stetina (Bruning). There were 35 charter members. The Legion Post and Unit were named for the township in which Ohiowa is located--Franklin.

At the organization meeting on April 11, 1927, the officers were elected and by-laws discussed. Dues were set at \$1.00. At the next meeting on April 26, the second Thursday of each month was decided on as the regular meeting day. Six new members were received. At the May 12, 1927 meeting it was approved to make four poppy wreaths to be placed on the deceased World War Veterans graves on Decoration Day. Membership was just as important in the early years as at the January 12, 1928, meeting a contest was initiated. Two captains were selected (Rose Lynn and Myrtle Goodman) and the contest would run until May 1. The losing side would then treat the winning side. Also, the signing of newborn daughters was popular as at the October 9, 1930 meeting the members moved to present the infant daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Charles Sieckmann a membership to the Auxiliary.

Current officers are Vicki Ozenbaugh, President; Jan Holtmeier, Vice-President; Sue Gilbert, Secretary; Darcy Nun, Treasurer; Barb Dunse, Chaplain; Jodi Wolfeich, Historian; and Betty Remter, Sergeant at Arms.

2018 Goal--50 with 35 paid as of February 11, 2019 for 70.00%

SHICKLEY UNIT 164, SHICKLEY

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit #164 is one of the "younger" Units in District 11. It was chartered in 1975 with 20 members. Richard Hendrickson (current President Loree Hendrickson's uncle) was the Legion Post Commander who provided the first endorsement for the charter on February 17, 1975. Elected officers were Catherine Carlson, President, who was a former fourth-grade teach in Shickley; Nancy Steider, Secretary; and Nancy Wilkins, Treasurer, who was a long-time art teacher in Shickley. Of the 20 original members, four or 20 percent are still members. They are lola Barney, Delores Johnson, Shirley Krause, and Nancy Wilkins.

Unit 164 has had four Gold Star members: (sisters) Dorothy Jacque, Lois Witt Price, and Ferne Stolzenburg; (widow) Susan Gergen.

Special activities over the last 44 years include hosting a sandwich and pie supper on Memorial Day; beginning an annual Veterans Day Program at the school; hosting the Blood Drive twice a year; sponsoring a Youth Benefit to raise funds for various youth programs; sponsored floats for American's Bicentennial, Shickley's Centennial and Quasiquicentennial. They also hosted a "mini-museum" of Veterans uniforms and other artifacts for the 125th.

Unit 164's efforts resulted in two awards for 2018--lola Barney received the Department of Nebraska Unit Member of the Year and the Unit received the Northwest Division's Outstanding Education Program.

2018 Goal--39 with 26 paid as of February 11, 2019 for 66.67%

GAGE COUNTY

BARNESTON UNIT 356, BARNESTON

February 4, 1931

2018 Goal--33 with 28 paid as of February 11, 2019 for 84.85%

BITTING-NORMAN UNIT 27, BEATRICE

The Bitting-Norman American Legion Auxiliary Unit #27 received a temporary charter May 13, 1922 and received the permanent charter January 18, 1923. Chartered members number eighty-one. Officers were Mrs. J.E. Lang, President; Mrs. C. Rothenberger, Vice President; Mrs. Wm. H. Kilpatrick, Jr., Secretary; Mrs. Glen Howard, Treasurer; Mrs. Goldie N. Brandt, Press Correspondent. Dues for senior members was \$2.50 and junior member \$1.00.

Bitting-Norman is named for Arthur Bitting and Andy Norman. Arthur left Beatrice with Company C for Camp Cody, New Mexico in July, 1917. He left the United States for overseas in September, 1918. He was killed in action in France. Sgt. Andy Norman was born in Norton, Kansas. He was enlisted in the Nebraska National Guards at Beatrice on February 11, 1916. He, also, left Beatrice with Company C for Camp Cody, New Mexico in July, 1917. He left the United States on September 16, 1918 and served overseas until July 5, 1919. He was honorably discharged at Camp Dodge, Iowa on July 12, 1919 and arrived in Beatrice on July 13, 1919. He died in Beatrice on July 23, 1919.

Gold Star members from World War I were: (mothers) Mrs. Lucy Wilson, Mrs. Alice Purdy, Mrs. Maggie Cole, Mrs. Rose Chavet, Mrs. Etta Poe, Mrs. Ella Lawson, Mrs. Josie Day, Mrs. Letta Gray, and Mrs. J.D. Norman; (widows)

Mrs. Emma Wilson-Olsen, Mrs. Sadie Haney, Mrs. Mabel Buchanan, and Mrs. Grace Sisco; (sisters) Meole Wilson, Mrs. L.C. Crittenden, and Mrs. Adam Hohbein.

Gold Star members from World War II were: (mothers) Mrs. F.W. Buckley, Mrs. Emma Hiatt, Mrs. F.W. Messmore, Mrs. Linda Mumford, Mrs. August Neuman, Mrs. Edward Nydegger, Mrs. Wm. Pitcaithley, Mrs. P.M. Theis, Mrs. Lucy Walker, Mrs. Maude Wittulski; (widows) Mrs. Robert Fulton-Williams, Mrs. Virginia Legate-Heffelfinger, Mrs. Harvey Langley-Kollekowski, Mrs. E.F. Lepp, Mrs. Roy Larimore, Mrs. Donella Hawkins-Marquardt, and Mrs. Paul Mumford; (sisters) Mrs. Iomogene Theis, Mrs. C.R. Brott, Mrs. Clarke Butcher, Mrs. Leota Beerenstrauch, and Miss Edith Johnson.

2018 Goal--217 with 178 paid as of February 11, 2019 for 82.03%

SPOBOW UNIT 253, CORTLAND

April 2, 1957

2018 Goal--45 with 37 paid as of February 11, 2019 for 82.22%

LIBERTY UNIT 346, LIBERTY

The ALA Unit 346 of Liberty, Nebraska was chartered on April 9, 1927 with eighteen charter members. The members were eligible for membership due to their relationship to World War I military service veterans. The charter members were: Tracy Acton, Mildred Andrews, Irma Borden, Opal Dishman, Alda Dosch, Hazel M. Dosch, Loree Douglasm Mabel L. Gibler, Nellie Young Huntington, Vera lane, Edna Loomis, Marie McBride, Ella Reis, Georgia Shafer, Hannah Sharp, May Huntingtin Stahl, Opal Welch, and Mildred Young. The Unit was active until the mid-1930's. During the Great Depression, ALA Unit 346 lost their charter due to inactivity and lack of funds.

On January 10, 1947 (not quite twenty years after their first charter), the Unit received another charter with thirty-one members. Most of these women were spouses of World War II service Veterans while others were mothers, sisters, and close relatives of the Veterans. They were: Mildred Andrews, Clara F. Bachenberg, Clara Elinor Bachenberg, Helen Balcer, Mary Louise Black, Mildred Black, Marguerite Bowhay, Edna Clark, Marjorie Clark, Wilma Clark, Amolia Fehlhaber, Florence H. Harden, Olive L. Hinman, Nancy Holman, Opan Hroch, Elsie Huntington, Ruby J. Larimore, Evelyn Moore, Opan Moore, Helen M. Payne, Margaret F. Roberts, Helen A. Ruyle, Audrey Searcey, Myrtle Searcey, Barthula Seley, Isabelle Sparks, Enna Sutter, Hellen F. Sutter, Gael M. Thompson, and LaFaughn Wranosky. Current membership as of the beginning of 2019 include seventeen members.

2018 Goal--27 with 21 paid as of February 11, 2019 for 77.78%

ODELL UNIT 321, ODELL

Chartered January 24, 1948

2018 Goal--32 with 25 paid as of February 11, 2019 for 78.13%

FISHER UNIT 367, VIRGINIA

May 4, 1960

2018 Goal--45 with 33 paid as of February 11, 2019 for 86.67%

ANDERSON UNIT 25, WYMORE

The American Legion applied for a temporary charter on July 31, 1919 and it was granted by the National Headquarters on August 19, 1919. Anderson Post is named after its benefactor's son, Clifford Anderson. Clifford died from influenza in 1918, and was the first Wymore boy to die during World War I. Bert Anderson, Clifford's father, died in 1950 and left his estate to the Wymore American Legion Club, giving it a financial boost.

The Auxiliary was started shortly after the American Legion Club was started in the early 1900s after World War I and at some point disbanded. The second charter was in 1940. Then on July 29, 1947 several friends met on Vera Crowley's front porch and decided to start the Auxiliary once more.

The Charter for the American Legion Auxiliary, Anderson Unit #25, Wymore, Nebraska was granted and duly signed October 2, 1947 by the following National officers: Ruth Hutton, National President and Gwendolyn W Macowell, National Secretary. Our Charter was countersigned on November 6, 1947 by Helen Magnuson, State President and Dorothy Sutter, Department Secretary. Mary Sturmer "Gage County Chairman" explained the Legion Auxiliary duties. This group decided to hold election of officers and the following were elected: President, Vera Closs; Vice President, Wilma Laughlin; Secretary, Millie Shaw; Treasurer, Mayme Chapman; Sgt of Arms, Jeanne St. Clair; Color Bearer, Helen Loftis; Corresponding Secretary, Sophia Forke; Membership Chairman, Vera Crowley.

At that time, they had eight Gold Star Members. Through the years, the Gold Stars grew to 39 with only five currently living.

2018 Goal--99 with 80 paid as of February 11, 2019 for 80.81%

JEFFERSON COUNTY

MELVIN-LEE UNIT 198, DAYKIN

The American Legion Auxiliary Melvin-Lee Unit #198 is an active Unit since it was chartered in 1946. According to the minutes, Melvin-Lee Unit 198, the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Nebraska was signed by 34 eligible members on February 13, 1946 and was chartered March 21, 1946. Charter members were: Pauline Strothman, Loris Schwisow, Darlyne Jarchow, Katie Drees, Reva Jarchow, Doris Roesner, Elfrieda Schmitt, Lorna Hinzman, Evelyn Strothman, Lula Henry, Florence Strothman, Sylvia Griffin, Mary Moody, Berniece Houser, Mary Klostermeier, Ramana Jarchow, Dora Schmidt, Alvina Jordening, Minnie Schwisow, Adelaide Schwisow, Ann Jarchow, Marie Crawford, Wilma Strothman, Gladys Strothman, Ella Moody, Emma Houser, Irma Hummel, Ida Jodening, Kathryn Kellow, Kary Nickel, Viola Mussman, Alvina Schwisow, Lillian Schmidt, Rosa Schmitt.

First elected officers were: Pauline Strothman, President; Reva Jarchow, Vice President; Loris Schwisow, Secretary; Darlyne Jarchow, Treasurer; Doris Rosener, Historian; Sylvia Griffin, Sergeant-at-Arms; Lula Henry, Chaplain; Berniece Houser and Mary Moody, Executive Committee; Florence Strothman, Poppy Chairman; Freda Schmitt, Rehabilitation Chairman; and Pauline Strothman, Publicity Chairman.

At the very beginning of the Legion charter, the Legion decorated the graves of veterans of all wars with poppy wreaths made by the Auxiliary. According to the first minutes of the Legion Post 198, Arthur C. Strothman,

Commander of the 11th District in the State of Nebraska, called a meeting of several ex-servicemen in the latter part of November 1945 in Daykin. The proposed name Melvin-Lee was adopted in honor of the first two men of the Daykin community giving their lives in World War II.

Melvin Drees died serving his country on November 23, 1942. He was born November 2, 1918 at Daykin. He responded to his country's call to join the armed forces on January 5, 1942. He was stationed at Camp Roberts in California before he went overseas with General McArthur's Forces to Australia. On October 1, 1942, he was with the troops sent to New Guinea, where he served in Company M of the Machine Gun Platoon that supported a rifle company in the Buna Campaign. He died in action on the battlefield. He was buried in the United States Armed Forces Cemetery at Finschhafen, New Guinea. Following the war his body was re-interred in the United States National Cemetery in the Philippine Islands.

Lee E. Klostermeier died serving his country on November 13, 1944. He was born June 1, 1919 at Clatonia, NE. He was called into service for his country on April 16, 1942, where he reported to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He was then sent to the Field Artillery Replacement Training Center at Camp Robert, California and Camp Stoneman, California. He later was transferred to Camp Bowie, Texas, and was sent overseas in January 1943. He served with the 631st F.A. Battalion on the Italian Battlefield until he was killed. Lee was buried in the United States Military Cemetery, Mt. Beni Pietramala, Italy. Lee's body was re-interred in the Evergreen Home Cemetery in Beatrice on July 18, 1948.

2018 Goal--34 with 30 paid as of February 11, 2019 for 88.24%

FAIRBURY UNIT 24, FAIRBURY

Unit 24 was first chartered as Unit of Jefferson County on May 20, 1922. The document was signed by Edith Irene Hobart, National President; Pauline C Curnick, National Secretary; and countersigned by Minnie Freewau Penney, Department President; and Leah McClure Ball, Department Secretary. The charter members were: Mrs. E.I. Hatfield, Bessie M. Blakesley, Mrs. Blanche Stutevoss, Ruth Vanier, Mrs. Nelle W. Moon, Mary E. Neville, Mrs. Irene LeRoy, Rose M. Schramm, Mrs. Julia F. LeRoy, Ada C. Lardner, Mrs. Mildred L. Fouts, and Viola Calder.

On October 2, 1922 another document was received and signed by Edith Irene Hobart, National President; Pauline C. Curnick, National Secretary; and countersigned by Lilla a. Warriar, Department President and Leah McClure Ball, Department Secretary. Again the name was Unit of Jefferson County.

The last document was dated November 10, 1954 and signed by Bess Lainson, National President; Jane Gault Rishwarth, National Secretary; and countersigned by Almina r. Boblits, Department President; and Mary G. McVicker, Department Secretary. This document showed the name changed to Fairbury Unit 24. The first Unit President was Mrs. T.I. Hatfield and 56 president's later, it is Mrs. Margaret Junker.

Velma Swett of Endicott was a Gold Star Sister. Her brother, Dallas Folkner, was killed in the Korean War.

2018 Goal--18 with 14 paid as of February 11, 2019 for 77.78%

JANSEN UNIT 358, JANSEN

Chartered April 24, 1936

2018 Goal--26 with 23 paid as of February 11, 2019 for 88.46%

SCHOPP-EWING-NISPEL UNIT 243, PLYMOUTH

An organizational meeting for the purpose of establishing a Women's Auxiliary to the Schopp-Ewing-Nispel American Legion Post 243 was held in December, 1947. Fifteen names appeared on the charter application: Florinee Alders, Florence Bartels, Godlie Becker, Opal Blauser, Irene Christ, LaVeda Christ, Marilyn Hagemeyer, Edith Knoche, Inez Verneda Koepff, Alivna Lammel, Majorie Pohlmann, Lometa Rohlfing, Esther Schenansbruber, Aletha Sellenrick, and Meerna Wells. The Charter was issued on January 27, 1948 and was signed by National President Ruth Hutton and countersigned by Department President Helen Magnuson. It was received on February 3, 1948.

In January, 1948, the first regular meeting was held with District 11 Auxiliary President Mrs. Porter Dodson, presiding. The Constitution and By-Laws were adopted and election of officers was held: President, Merna Wells; Vice-President, LaVeda Christ; Secretary, Opal Blauser; Treasurer, Marilyn Hagemeyer; Historian, Mary Metcalfe; Chaplain, Verneda Koepff; and Sergeant at Arms, Edith Knoche. There were 19 members. Today (2019) there are 89 members, including 11 juniors.

The first fundraiser was held on February 12, 1948. Lunch was served at the Legion's Bingo party, consisting of pie and coffee. Prices were 15 cents for a piece of pie and 5 cents for a cup of coffee. It was passed at a later meeting that whoever did not furnish pie for a lunch "should pay the amount of a pie, 60 cents." Another way to raise funds was through the rental of dishes, silverware, and small appliances, with the initial rental of dishes and silverware at one cent per item.

The first Armistice Day dinner was served on November 11, 1949 and included chili (20 cents), hamburgers (15 cents), pie (15 cents), coffee (5 cents), and pop (5 cents). The Unit changed to a hot beef sandwich in 1979 and has held the Veterans Day dinner every year since 1949 except 1994 (the old auditorium was razed to build a new one and no facilities were available to accommodate the event). Since 1950, the Unit has sponsored a high school junior girl to attend Girls State.

ALA Unit 243 has five deceased Gold Star Mothers: Mary Schopp, Otilia Ewing, Ida Schneider, Eva Boeckner, and Carolina Nispel. The Legion Post 243 was named in honor and memory of three of these women's sons: Schopp-Ewing-Nispel. Currently Unit 243 has one Gold Star Mother, Marvel Meints.

Unit Historian, Frances Gakemeier, wrote this history (and more) for the Auxiliary's Diamond Jubilee in 1995. She ended her history with the following:

"As the Historian carefully replaced the Unit's preserved minutes and Histories, some now yellowed and crisp from age, she was reminded of the love that God instilled in the hearts of the dear women of the American Legion Auxiliary who have served in utmost dedication for the welfare of the veteran and our great nation--and she bowed her head in prayer."

2018 Goal--89 with 89 paid as of February 11, 2019 for 100%

CAMPBELL-KLEIN UNIT 349, STEELE CITY

The Campbell-Klein American Legion Auxiliary Unit 349 was formed on March 22, 1928. There were 15 members from different communities that came together to form the Auxiliary. Private Roe E. Campbell served in the United States Marine Corps Company K, 5th Regiment and died on November 9, 1918 resulting from wounds received in battle in France. He graduated from Steele City High School in 1918. Elmer Klein served in the United States Army Company 11, 3rd Batalion 163rd DB and died in service at Ft. Dodge, Iowa.

The first officers were: Mrs. Delmar Meyers, President; Mrs. Earl Riddle, 1st Vice; Mr. Leonard Payne, 2nd Vice; Mrs. Glen Riddle, Historian; M. J. J. Harges, Secretary; Mrs. L. L. Earhart, Treasurer; Mrs. L. L. Davis, Sgt. of Arms; Mrs. Albert Hance, Chaplain, and Maxine Earhart, Pianist.

In World War II, three families lost their sons. Three women served in World War II. During World War II eight men in the US Army Corps, one in Marines, ten in the Navy, and thirty in the Army served and all were from Steele City.

Poppies made their appearance in Steele City on Saturday, May 5, 1928. They were not a "Red Tag bot and worn indifferently but as an emblem of sacrifice to be worn in reverence and understanding" for the boys who didn't come back.

2018 Goal--29 with 25 paid as of February 11, 2019 for 86.21%

SALINE COUNTY

CRETE UNIT 147, CRETE

Chartered September 7, 1922

2018 Goal--71 with 58 paid as of February 11, 2019 for 81.69%

HAWES-WOOD UNIT 212, DE WITT

Chartered May 11, 1929

2018 Goal--125 with 92 paid as of February 11, 2019 for 73.60%

AUGUST-VANEK UNIT 264, DORCHESTER

August-Vanek American Legion Auxiliary Unit #264 received a temporary charter on January 2, 1922 with the following names appearing on the application blank: Cora August, Juanita Stiegelmar, Marie Mares, Martha O'Leary, Mary Schuerhoff, Emma Ward, Emma Hromas, Ruby Hansen, Clara Sehnert, Gladys Stansberry, Dorothy August, Helen Grosscup, Edna Lint, Mary Freeouf, and Mrs. RayWard. The 15 charter members paid dues of \$1.00 each. Mrs. Emil Hromas was elected president. By December, 1922 the membership increased to 22. The Unit was formed when a committee from the Legion explained the need of the Auxiliary's assistance as helpmates to accomplish the wants of the ex-servicemen and to promote the principles of the Legion.

On June 12, 1972, the Dorchester Jr. Legion Auxiliary #264 became active. Charter members were Cathy Axline, Susie Freeouf, Doris Hohensee, Sandy, Jeanie and Judy Kasl, Karen Krovohlavek, Debbie, Connie and Lorie Kubes, Judy Mariska, Connie and Kathy Skalak, and Sue and Ruth Spanyers.

2018 Goal--110 with 92 paid as of February 11, 2019 for 83.64%

FORD-BANKA UNIT 183, FRIEND

The Auxiliary applied for a charter on December 22, 1930 (ten years after the Legion Post 183 was organized). Post Commander McShane gave the first endorsement. Chris Roush was adjutant. Second endorsement by Maud Cochran, Department President and third endorsement by National Secretary, Walloul. Charter members were Edit McShane, President; Agnes Cooper, Secretary; Mabel Miner, Treasurer; Lulu Easley, Gladys Wolfe, Alvina Roush, Blanch Eurich, Nora Scheidt (all of Friend, NE). The all time high was 183 in 1993. Gold Star members were (mothers) Alice Mead, Fern Shunk; (sisters) Edit Gifford, Betty (Mead) Field; Agnes Cooper, Florence Roesor, and Evelyn Kornick. The charter was issued January 2, 1931.

2018 Goal--101 with 85 paid as of February 11, 2019 for 84.16%

RENNIE-DALE-CHESTER UNIT 258, SWANTON

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit #258 was first chartered April 13, 1922, under the name Rennie Unit 258. There were 12 members who signed the application for the charter: Mrs. Charles Brenn (Western, NE), Mrs. H.E. Clark, Mrs. Louis Essman, Mrs. L. Ellermeier, Mrs. D.R. Ellermeier, Miss Nellie Harris, Mrs. John McEntaffer, Mrs. Ladislav Placek, Mrs. G. E. Staley, Mrs. William Tachovsky, Mrs. Henry Slama, and Mrs. J.G. Reid (DeWitt, NE). The officers elected were Mrs. H.E. Clark, President; Mr. G.E. Staley, Secretary; Mrs. Gerald Reid, Treasurer; and Mrs. John McEntaffer, Chaplain. The Unit was disbanded in 1924.

After World War II, the Unit rechartered on January 14, 1947. The Charter application was signed by 27 members under the name of Rennie-Dale-Chester Unit 258. There were two Gold Star Mothers Mable Nickles and Margaret Rahe and Gold Star Sister Anna Soukup. Other charter members were Helen Lautenschlager, Faye Lautenschlager, Jennie Prazak, Clara Tachovsky, Sylvia Sukovaty, Lena Staley, Clara Prokop, Emma Stirba, Elsie Hermsmeier, Emma Harris, Mae Joura, Darlene Rahe Schlake, Libbye Jiskra, Mary Placek, Betty Stirba, Mildred Slepicka, Deloris Placek Barta, Olga Tyser, Stella Korbek, Ethel Jirka, Margaret Joura Hervert, Darlene Hawes, Evelyn Yost, and Olga Pivonka.

Other Gold Star members have been Delverna Henk, Barbara Holtmeier, Darlene Rahe Schlake, Betty Rahe Schlake, Dorene Rahe Filip, Doris Rahe Ahl, and Elaine Rahe Shandera.

The first chartered name, Rennie, was in honor of Rennie Caldwell, who lost his life in the first World War. The second charter for Rennie-Dale-Chester included Dale Rahe and Chester Nickels who were World War II casualties. The current President is Susie Homolka.

2018 Goal--67 with 58 paid as of February 11, 2019 for 86.57%

TOBIAS UNIT 311, TOBIAS

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit #311 applied for a charter in October of 1947. The charter was issued January 2, 1948. The first meeting was held in the Horney Building in Tobias with 10 members present. The County ALA President was in attendance to give support for the newly organized unit. A temporary president was assigned until the following officers were elected that same day: Sarah Hawkins, President; Ruth Ceclre, Vice-President; Margaret Markey, Secretary; Viola Bartels, Treasurer; Irene Patracek, Chaplain; Helen DuBois, Sergeant at Arms;

Vera Blattspieler, Historian. The following members were also present at the first meeting: Aana Sabatka, Thelma Kastil, and Lydia Baxa.

The first meetings were held at the Tobias Fireman's Hall, with lunch being served each meeting. One of the first fund raisers was to sell lunches at the Legion Halloween Dance. It was decided to begin the formation of a Constitution and By-Laws to be adopted at a future meeting. Meetings were held in the afternoon of the third Friday of each month. ALA dues began at \$2.00 per person.

2018 Goal--32 with 18 paid as of February 11, 2019 for 56.25%

WESTERN UNIT 255, WESTERN

Chartered March 26, 1946

2018 Goal--46 with 21 paid as of February 11, 2019 for 45.65%

LOUIS-MILAN UNIT 101, WILBER

2018 Goal--95 with 93 paid as of February 11, 2019 for 97.89%

THAYER COUNTY

LOYALTY UNIT 194, ALEXANDRIA

Chartered March 16, 1925

2018 Goal--42 with 38 paid as of February 11, 2019 for 90.48%

DURHAM-MAMMEN UNIT 166, BRUNING

Chartered May 10, 1956

2018 Goal--60 with 38 paid as of February 11, 2019 for 63.33%

REMMER VOSS UNIT 329, CARLETON

Remmer Voss American Legion Auxiliary Unit 329 of Carleton, Nebraska was chartered January 14, 1935 with 15 members. Nine names were added during the month the charter was left open, making a total of 24 members. The first officers were: Mrs. Jennie Lietsch, President; Mrs. D. E. Berkey, 1st Vice President; Mrs. A.V. Henderson, 2nd Vice President; and Mrs. Besse Leff, Secretary-Treasurer.

In 1940-41 the Unit had five Gold Star member. The Unit was named for Remmer Voss, who was stationed in France, June 4, 1918, as a member of the 355th Infantry where he was in the St. Mihiel drive when he was wounded. He died of his wounds in action on September 15, 1918 and his body was returned to Carleton August 12, 1921. He was Thayer County's first casualty; hence, the naming of Remmer Voss.

Since being chartered, Unit 329 has had 30 different presidents with the longest serving being Waunda Kerwood, 1984 to 2000; and Nancy Heinrichs, 2001 to present. Present membership is 50 Senior and Junior members with three members over 70-plus years of membership.

2018 Goal--50 with 46 paid as of February 11, 2019 for 92.00%

DAVENPORT UNIT 335, DAVENPORT

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit #335 in Davenport was formed on April 4, 1949. Initially, the American Legion in Davenport was formed in 1919 as Post 166 with the name of Van-Dain-Nic, which were the first letters of the last name of young men from Davenport that were killed in action. However, the Post had to disband in 1929 because the members from their charter were off to war. The Post then reorganized in September of 1947 as Davenport Post #335.

When the Auxiliary Unit was chartered, there were 40 names on the Charter. Dues were \$2.00 and the first officers were Eleanor Koinzan, President; Roma Bailey, Sr. Vice President; Doris Gilbert, Jr. Vice President; Dina Doll, Secretary-Treasurer; Ruby Lonsdale, Historian; Gladys Johnson, Chaplain; and Eileen Row, Sergeant at Arms. Since that time, the Unit has had 27 presidents (with some serving several times) and two members have served as Department Presidents. Bonnie Dumler, 1990-1991, and Debra Albers, 2016-2017.

During the first years a Fall Festival was held in September and members took turns serving the canteen. Comforters were made for the Veterans Home, as well as sewing carpet rags and donating to the USO. Two members attended the Department Convention in Grand Island in February, 1950 and wrote the Constitution and Bylaws that month as well. The same year, Unit #335 sent a girl to Girls State.

Members wrote to Veterans in Korea. In the early 50's a talent show was held to help with the March of Dimes. Other fund raisers were card parties in the spring, a style show, and Box Socials.

By the early 60's, the membership was 34 Seniors and 5 Juniors. The Juniors helped distribute 600 poppies. Members were asked to memorize the Preamble to the Constitution and a breakfast was held when new officers were installed. When the Department of Nebraska had a Foreign Relations Chairman, the Unit held a supper serving foreign dishes. In 1973 a Juniors group was organized.

Unit #335 continues to contribute to the programs on the District and Department level. The first Monday of each month is the meeting date. Current officers are Sharon Littrel, President; Dorothy Boss, Vice President; Sherry Burger, Secretary; and Chris Fehr, Treasurer.

2018 Goal--49 with 45 paid as of February 11, 2019 for 91.84%

HALFMAN UNIT 352, DESHLER

Halfman American Legion Auxiliary Unit #352 in Deshler, Nebraska was chartered in 1929. There were 31 charter member. The American Legion Halman Post #352, Deshler, Nebraska was named for the first World War II casualty, William Halfman. He was born October 23, 1891 and died April 28, 1918. He was a member of Co. A 10 U.S. Infantry. He died from the flu while stationed in Wisconsin.

The first meeting of Halfman Unit #352 was held September 26, 1928. Dues were set at \$1.00 (25 cents to National, 60 cents to Department, and 15 cents for the Unit). The first officers were: Rose Kehres, President; Esther Rodenburg, Vice President; Alice Pickering, Secretary; Elsie Lingelbach, Treasurer; Eva Sittler, Chaplain; Pauline Herriein, Historian; Ruth Nunnenkamp, Sergeant at Arms.

Gold Star members over the years have been: Bertha Fintel, Emma Fisher, Pauline Werner, Lucille Meyer, Matilda Neuhart, Minnie Osborn, Viola Presnell, Lorene Seamans, Velma Siebold, Martha Tamme, Barbie Hoins, Judy Jaspersen, Orva Lee Holland, and Debra Holland. The Unit has always paid the dues for our Gold Star members and Debra Holland is the only Gold Star member as of July, 2018.

A new Legion Hall was opened in 1966, but it was destroyed by a tornado in 2003.

2018 Goal--104 with 95 paid as of February 11, 2019 for 91.35%

SAXTON UNIT 180, HEBRON

Chartered September 7, 1922

2018 Goal--39 with 22 paid as of February 11, 2019 for 56.41%

YORK COUNTY

DAVIDSON-NEUJAHN UNIT 13, GRESHAM

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit #13 of Gresham was chartered on August 28, 1922 with 38 members. The Unit currently has three Gold Star members and one past Gold Star member. The Unit was started to support the Legion Post and our servicemen. The name, Davidson-Neujahr, is to honor two servicemen who lost their life in service. Earl Davidson was the first local person to die in action during World War I. His body was never returned but buried in a cemetery north of the Marne River in France. The Post was inactive for several years, but was reactivated in May of 1946. It was renamed to include Darrell Neujahr's name, who was the first local serviceman killed in action in World War II.

2018 Goal--105 with 92 paid as of February 11, 2019 for 87.62%

RONALD PORTER UNIT 341, MC COOL JUNCTION

Chartered April 18, 1975

2018 Goal--27 with 1 paid as of February 11, 2019 for 3.70%

BOLTON UNIT 19, YORK

Chartered April 16, 1929

2018 Goal--123 with 77 paid as of February 11, 2019 for 62.60%

DISTRICT 11 MEMBERSHIP TOTALS

2018 Goal--2384 with 1896 paid as of February 11, 2019 for 79.53%

OLDEST CHARTERED UNIT in DISTRICT 11

Davidson-Neujahr Unit 13 - Gresham - August 28, 1922

YOUNGEST CHARTERED UNIT in DISTRICT 11

Ronald Porter Unit 341 - McCool Junction - April 18, 1975